The Botswana
GAZETTE

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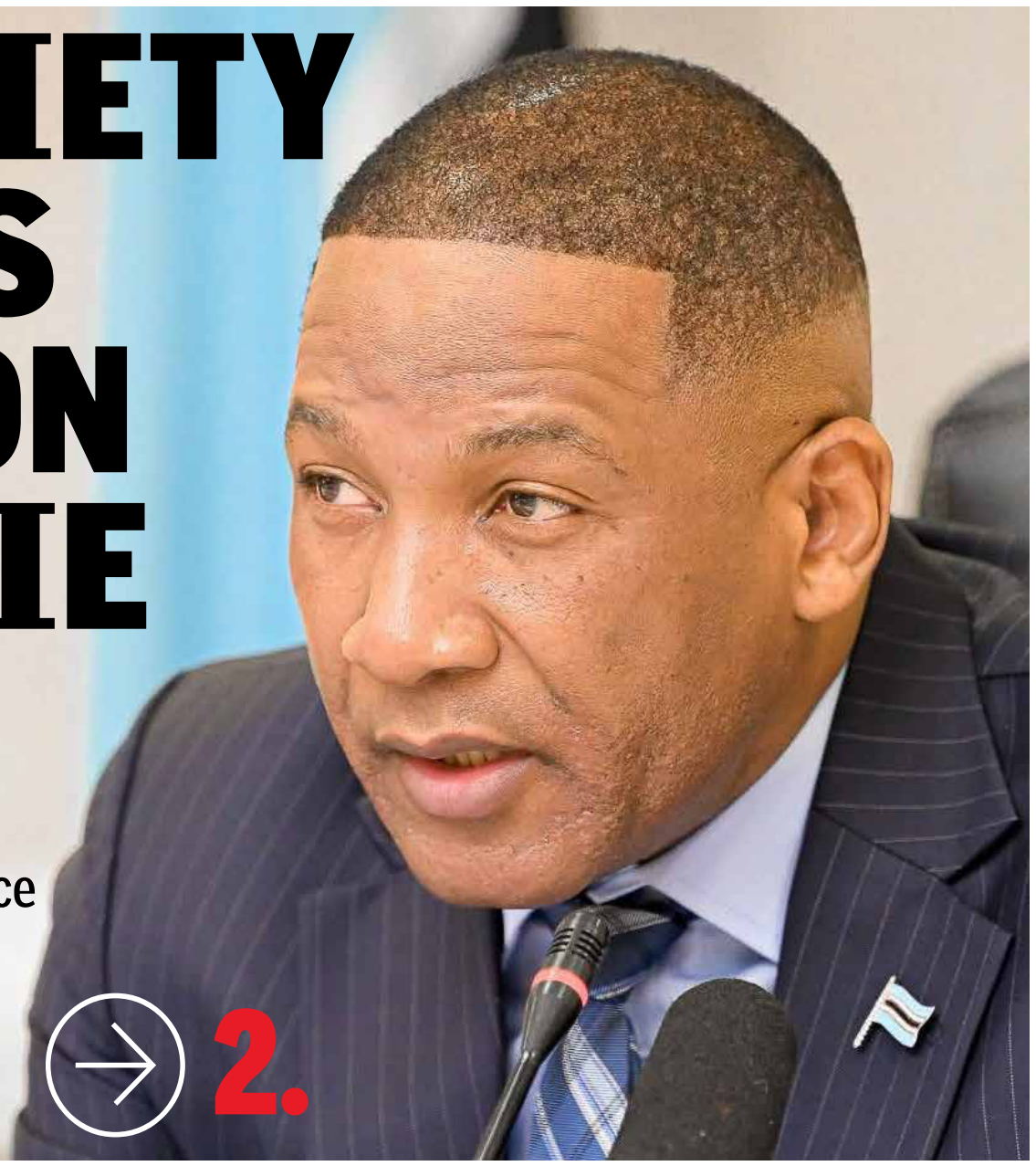
Mohwasa Confirms P15M BOPEU Deal 4.

LAW SOCIETY DEMANDS ACTION ON P100BN LIE



The Law Society of Botswana (LSB) has called for urgent accountability over the controversial P100 billion case, warning that continued defence of questionable conduct, without corrective intervention, undermines legality and public confidence.

2.

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LSB DEMANDS ACTION ON P100BN LIE

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GAZETTE REPORTER

The Law Society of Botswana has demanded immediate accountability in the P100 billion case, warning that failure to address alleged misconduct threatens the rule of law and public confidence.

The appeal comes after South African media reported that Bridget Motsepe, one of the accused, filed a P68 million claim for legal costs following Botswana's costly apology, despite many citizens believing the matter had been settled.

PUBLIC TRUST IN THE JUSTICE SYSTEM

Speaking at the opening of the 2026 legal year, Law Society Chairperson Lesedi Moahi delivered a stark assessment of recent events involving key state institutions and prominent litigations, saying the legal fraternity and wider citizenry could no longer accept silence or half-measures.

"Public trust in the justice system depends not only on courts, but also on law-enforcement and security agencies," Moahi said in his address. "Recent events involving the Directorate on Corruption and Economic Crime and the Directorate of Intelligence and Security Services have raised serious public concern."

STOLEN P100BN

Moahi's remarks alluded to a series of legal and political controversies that have shadowed Botswana's justice sector in recent years. Among these is the so-called P100 billion case, in which allegations of massive financial wrongdoing and money laundering were levelled against high-profile figures before being dismissed as baseless by courts. The fallout from that saga, which forced a formal apology and raised questions about investigative conduct and institutional accountability, has continued to reverberate across political and legal circles.

Moahi singled out the matter involving Ambassador Bridget Motsepe as a striking example of the wider problem, noting that it "required presidential intervention and a public apology" yet "beyond that apology, however, the public has not been taken into confidence. There has been no transparent accounting of institutional failure or clarity on corrective action."

PROLONGED SILENCE

The Law Society chair warned that "public trust cannot survive prolonged silence", signalling that ongoing delays in explaining what went wrong or how similar episodes will be prevented in the future were untenable.

"We call for a public account of what went wrong, what remedial steps have been taken, and how recurrence will be prevented," Moahi said, urging citizens and civil society to join in pressing for accountability.

CONTINUED DEFENCE OF QUESTIONABLE CONDUCT

Moahi did not spare the Office of the Attorney General, which he described as central to ensuring legality within government. "These obligations cannot be divorced from the Office of the Attorney General, the principal legal adviser to Government. Continued defence of questionable conduct, without corrective intervention, undermines legality and public confidence alike," he said, underscoring the Society's concern that legal counsel within government was sometimes perceived as shielding controversial conduct rather than correcting it.

The Law Society's renewed push for transparency comes at a time of renewed scrutiny of the intelligence agency and its leader, following a series of questions at Ntlo ya Dikgosi by the former President Ian Khama. Khama accused the state of shielding wrongdoers.

Boko's Judicial "Headhunting" Irks Law Society

The Law Society of Botswana (LSB) has raised alarm over recent judicial appointments, saying it may pursue legal action against the government for skipping the standard public advertisement process

GAZETTE REPORTER

The Law Society of Botswana (LSB) has expressed serious concern over recent judicial appointments, warning that it is considering taking legal action against the government for bypassing the usual advertising process.

Traditionally, vacancies are advertised publicly, allowing qualified lawyers and legal scholars to submit applications. The Judicial Service Commission (JSC) then reviews applications, conducts interviews, and assesses the candidates' suitability. After the vetting process, the JSC submits its recommendations to the President, who formally appoints judges.

Speaking during the official opening of the legal year 2026 yesterday, LSB chairperson Lesedi Moahi raised serious concerns about recent judicial appointments saying they have seriously eroded trust in the justice system.

LSB accused Chief Justice (CJ) Gaolapelwe Ketlogetswe of betraying its trust over what it describes as secretive and irregular judicial appointments, further threatening to withdraw its nominated member from the commission.

WORSENING OF THE SITUATION

Moahi said the situation worsened in December 2025 when, according to the Society, the JSC reverted to practices it had understood to have been abandoned.

"A meeting of the commission was convened urgently by a late-night call to members of the JSC, scheduling it for the following morning, culminating in the appointment of a judge without any prior advertisement of the position," Moahi said.

"This occurred notwithstanding the undertaking by the CJ Ketlogetswe upon assumption of office that judicial and quasi-judicial appointments shall be made with prior advertisement to all deserving candidates, in the interest of transparency and fairness, to continue upholding public confidence," he said.

According to Moahi, the Society was "totally perturbed" by the developments, adding that the latest events had deepened concerns it has raised for some time.

"This position was communicated to our members only for derogation without prior notice to occur to the shock of everyone. This unexplained departure has gravely betrayed our expectations and damaged the relationship between the Law Society and the Administration of Justice," he said.

One of the appointments under scrutiny by the Society is that of Mmako Abram, who was recently named to the High Court bench.

LEGAL REDRESS

As a result, Moahi said the Society has resolved to seek legal redress to set aside the appointment. The LSB further demanded the establishment of clear rules and regulations governing the appointment of judicial and quasi-judicial officers.

"While we await response to our demand, the Society is actively considering, amongst other steps, withdrawing its nominated member from the JSC until this issue is resolved satisfactorily," he said.

The chairperson of the Law Society of Botswana Attorney Lesedi Moahi during the official opening

Butterfly's Lawyer Shocked By State Claims

Welheminah Maswabi's lawyer, Unoda Mack says government misled the public after a minister claimed the DIS agent "Butterfly" had lost her defamation case

GAZETTE REPORTER

Lawyer Unoda Mack, who represents Directorate of Intelligence and Security (DIS) agent Welheminah Maswabi, popularly known as "Butterfly," has expressed shock and disbelief at government claims that his client has lost her defamation case against the State.

Mack said the assertion by government was false, insisting that Maswabi's case is still alive and scheduled for hearing on March 2, 2026.

"I struggled to reconcile that statement with the truth and recent events, but all I can say is that it was a lie that Maswabi lost the case, and I was shocked to hear a minister of state saying this," Mack said in an interview.

STATE REJECTS APOLOGY, COMPENSATION

The remarks follow a recent response by Assistant Minister of Communications and Innovation Shawn Nthaile, who was standing in for the Minister of State President, Defence and Security in Ntlo ya Dikgosi.

Responding to a question from Bangwato Paramount Chief Kgosi Ian Khama regarding Maswabi's situation, Nthaile said government would neither apologise to nor compensate the intelligence operative.

"The government will not apologise to Butterfly," Nthaile told the House. "First, Maswabi will not be compensated as the court did not find that the State or its institutions acted unlawfully towards her, nor did it award any damages arising from her claim."

Nthaile further stated that Maswabi had already lost her defamation case.

"It is however important to clarify that Ms Welheminah Maswabi pursued her own defamation claim against the State and several institutions through the courts. The matter was fully heard by the High Court in Lobatse and was dismissed in its entirety, with costs," he said.

LAWYER DISPUTES GOVERNMENT VERSION

Mack flatly rejected the minister's account, maintaining that the matter has not been concluded.

"The case is due on March 2, 2026. It has not been dismissed, and no final determination has been made," he said.

He added that portraying the matter as concluded misleads the public and prejudices his client.

"It is deeply troubling when senior government officials make statements that are plainly incorrect about active court proceedings," Mack said.

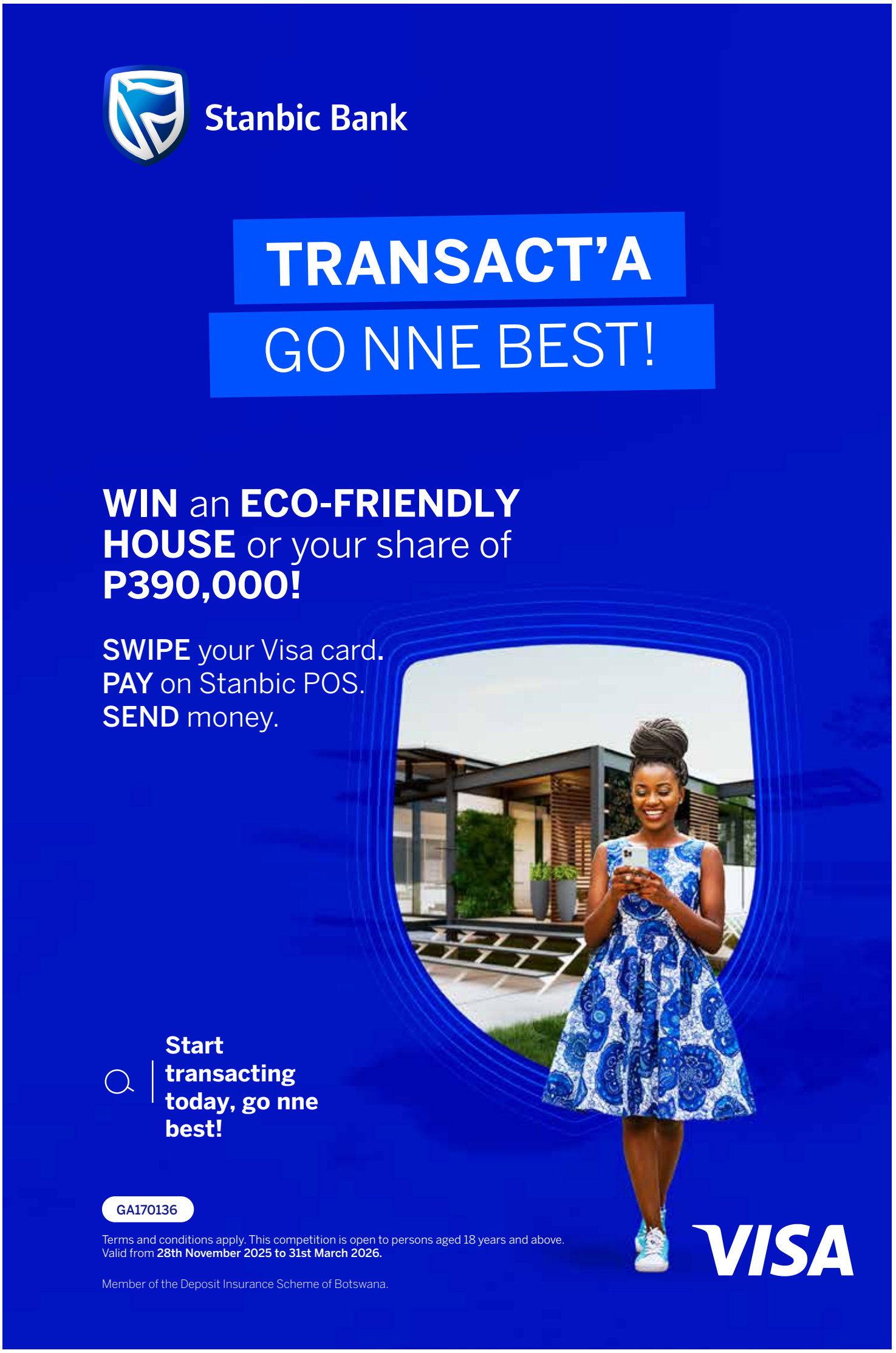
BACKGROUND TO THE DISPUTE

Maswabi has been at the centre of a long-running legal and public dispute with the State following her fallout with the Directorate of Intelligence and Security, where she previously served as an agent and later got reinstated. She has alleged mistreatment, victimisation, and reputational harm, and has pursued multiple legal avenues seeking redress.

Directorate of Intelligence and Security (DIS) agent Welheminah Maswabi, popularly known as "Butterfly,"

HAS THE STATE SOMERSAULTED?

After President Duma Boko elaborately narrated the torture, harassment, and hostility he attributed to the state apparatus against what he described as an innocent citizen, expectations were raised that the government was sympathetic and likely to apologise and compensate her, especially when contrasted with the conciliatory treatment extended to a co-accused foreign national, Bridget Motsepe.



Mohwasa Confirms P15M BOPEU Deal

The Minister of State President, Moeti Mohwasa, has confirmed that BOPEU owes him P15 million, while rejecting any allegations of impropriety or links to Motsamai's subsequent appointment

SESUPO RANTSIMAKO

While confirming the contract deal with BOPEU's investment arm, Babereki Investment, for which he is owed P15 million, the Minister of State President Moeti Mohwasa has dismissed allegations linking him to any impropriety, calling claims by veteran unionist Johnson Motshwarakgole "deliberately misleading".

Motshwarakgole, a consultant of the Manual Workers Union, alleged on Monday that Mohwasa was still owed P15 million from a transaction involving former BOPEU president Andrew Motsamai. He suggested that Motsamai's subsequent appointment in government may have been a reward for facilitating the deal, which was later cancelled by BOPEU president Masego Mogwera, who succeeded Motsamai. Mogwera refused to comment, stating that her contract prevented her from speaking on BOPEU matters following her departure.

Minister of State President Moeti Mohwasa

MOHWASA RESPONDS

Mohwasa confirmed that his company had been contracted to raise funds for BOPEU's investment arm, Babereki Investment, under an arrangement that entitled him to a three percent commission, amounting to P15 million, a matter he said was now before arbitration. However, he firmly rejected any suggestion of impropriety or that the deal influenced Motsamai's appointment.

> Mohwasa has dismissed allegations linking him to any impropriety, calling claims by veteran unionist Johnson Motshwarakgole "deliberately misleading"

"The issue he raised has no relevance to the matters for which the press conference was convened. I believe he is deliberately trying to mislead the public," Mohwasa said, questioning why the allegation was introduced in an unrelated forum.

WHY THE ISSUE WAS RAISED

Motshwarakgole said he raised the matter to highlight what he described as Motsamai's questionable character and alleged misuse of influence in business dealings. He argued that Motsamai's appointment was particularly concerning given that other public servants had been waiting for promotion. Motshwarakgole maintained that the press conference was an appropriate platform to expose what he termed a "pattern of compromised union leadership."

MOTSAMAI DECLINES TO COMMENT

Contacted for comment, Motsamai said he could not discuss the matter, noting he left BOPEU eight years ago. "I exited the union long ago and cannot recall the details. The union leadership is better placed to speak on current matters," he told The Botswana Gazette.

Efforts to get a comment from Babereki Investment chairperson Otto Itumeleng were unsuccessful as he requested to be called back after 15 minutes but did not take calls.

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No End in Sight for Dark Days

According to a newly released BPC brief, Botswana continues to grapple with a worsening electricity crisis, as domestic power generation struggles to meet national demand

(Pic:Monirul Bhuiyan/PRESS PHOTO)

GAZETTE REPORTER

An internal update from Botswana Power Corporation (BPC) shows improvements at the Morupule A and B plants, but a broader reliability challenge persists, leaving the national grid vulnerable to instability.

RELIABILITY ISSUE PERSISTS

According to the BPC brief, mean time to repair at Morupule A and B has dropped from 30–50 days to just 12 days, and operational periods between failures have increased to an average of 120 days. However, units that have not yet undergone remediation continue to suffer forced outages and short-duration "pit-stop" maintenance interventions.

"Reliability challenge persists on units that have not yet undergone remediation; as a result, forced outages and short-duration (pit-stop) maintenance interventions will continue to be undertaken based on plant condition," the update states.

Morupule A and B together met 85.68% of local electricity demand during the period, with solar contributions from the Mmadinare Independent Power Producer plant adding 7.90%, and imports from Eskom accounting for the remaining 6.42%. Emergency power plants at Orapa and Matshelagabedi contributed just 0.9%, while solar plants in Bobonong, Phakalane, Shakawe, and Mmadinare provided 5.4% of total generation.

ELECTRICITY GENERATION DECLINES SHARPLY

Official data from Statistics Botswana shows a steep decline in overall electricity generation. In Q3 2025, the Index of Electricity Generation (IEG) fell to 144.3, down 38.6% year-on-year from 235.1 in Q3 2024, and down 4.5% from Q2 2025. Domestic generation fell by 28,684 MWh, largely due to operational setbacks at Morupule A and B.

IMPORTS SURGE AS SHORTFALL PERSISTS

The shortfall in domestic output has led to a sharp rise in electricity imports, which jumped 120.7% year-on-year to 521,003 MWh, and 15.3% from the previous quarter. The surge highlights Botswana's growing reliance on external sources to meet its energy needs.

> "Reliability challenge persists on units that have not yet undergone remediation"

CITIZENS FACE CONTINUED ENERGY INSECURITY

Without rapid investment in plant remediation and diversified energy infrastructure, Botswana faces prolonged power insecurity. Despite improved maintenance metrics, heavy reliance on aging coal-fired plants and imported electricity continues to leave homes and businesses at risk of load-shedding, threatening daily life and economic growth.

Promised P56 Billion Up in Smoke

Tataki Mine, recently reopened with promises to inject P56 billion into Botswana's economy, has been placed under provisional liquidation just months later

GAZETTE REPORTER

The much-anticipated revival of Tataki Mine, formerly Tati Nickel Mine, which was expected to inject P56 billion (US$4.2 billion) into Botswana's economy over the next decade, is now facing an abrupt halt following a High Court order.

COURT ORDERS PROVISIONAL LIQUIDATION

Lobatse Judge Reuben Lekorwe directed that Tataki Mining Company (Pty) Ltd be placed under provisional liquidation. The order, issued after a petition by Grindwell (Pty) Ltd t/a Discovery, appointed Kopanang Tshekiso as provisional liquidator with broad powers over the company's operations and accounts. The liquidation proceedings are scheduled for further hearing on 20 March 2026.

Under the court order, the provisional liquidator may continue or discontinue the business, terminate or uphold contracts, and assume full control over the company's bank accounts, excluding current directors and signatories.

PROMISES VS REALITY

The mine, situated near Matsiloje in the North East District, had been projected to contribute 1.5 percent to Botswana's GDP, create 400 direct jobs and 3,000 indirect positions, and serve as

a cornerstone for the country's critical minerals industry. Global Critical Resources (GCR) Corporation, a U.S.-based firm, acquired the Phoenix mine from the liquidated Tati Nickel Mining Company last year for US$15 million, promising an investment of US$200 million over the next decade.

At the official reopening, GCR Executive Chairperson Cevdet Caner described Tataki as a "world-class operation" set to produce nickel, cobalt, copper, platinum-group metals, and precious metals. Caner emphasised value addition, skills transfer, and sustainable partnerships with local communities, noting that investing in critical minerals is "essential for Botswana's future."

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL IMPACTS

The liquidation casts serious doubt on the promised P56 billion revenue and leaves the fate of early employees and local contractors uncertain. Analysts warn that Tataki's collapse could undermine investor confidence in Botswana's critical minerals sector, potentially delaying the economic diversification the country has long pursued.

For Francistown and the wider North East region, the promise of jobs, industrial growth, and technology transfer now hangs in limbo. The case raises pressing questions about due diligence, corporate governance, and the sustainability of large-scale foreign-led mining ventures in Botswana.

UNCERTAIN FUTURE

Once hailed as a symbol of Botswana's mining resurgence, Tataki Mine now faces an uncertain future. With the provisional liquidation in place, the P56 billion economic dream appears increasingly at risk, highlighting how quickly grand announcements and lofty projections can unravel.

ConCourt Can Wait, Say Lawyers

The Law Society of Botswana warns the government against rushing a standalone Constitutional Court, citing urgent issues

GAZETTE REPORTER

The Law Society of Botswana (LSB) has cautioned government against rushing to establish a standalone Constitutional Court, arguing that while such a court may be desirable in principle, more urgent and foundational problems within the justice system demand immediate attention.

Speaking at the opening of the 2026 Legal Year, LSB Chairperson Lesedi Moahi said the current push risks exaggerating both the necessity and the function of a Constitutional Court, at a time when the judiciary is grappling with deep-seated structural challenges.

"While a standalone Constitutional Court is desirable in principle, the urgency currently being advanced risks overstating both its necessity and its function, particularly when weighed against pressing challenges within the justice system, including infrastructure decay, understaffing, administrative inefficiency, and unresolved concerns regarding judicial appointments," Moahi said.

His remarks come amid government's drive to introduce constitutional amendments that would pave the way for a separate Constitutional Court, a move that has already attracted strong resistance from sections of the legal fraternity and civil society.

EXISTING COURTS WELL CAPACITATED

Moahi emphasised that Botswana's existing courts have historically demonstrated the capacity to handle complex constitutional matters.

"A Constitutional Court does not exist to create law. Law-making authority rests with Parliament, which under Botswana's constitutional arrangement is the supreme law-making body. The role of a Constitutional Court is to interpret the Constitution, adjudicate constitutional disputes, and safeguard constitutional supremacy," he said.

He warned that misconceptions about the purpose of a Constitutional Court were beginning to shape public discourse, potentially creating unrealistic expectations about what such an institution can achieve.

"It is therefore important that public discourse properly contextualises the function of such a court. Many constitutional questions have arisen before and have been competently addressed within the existing court structure, which has historically risen to the occasion. Constitutional safeguards remain firmly in place," Moahi added.

CIVIC EDUCATION

Beyond institutional design, the LSB chairperson stressed the need for broad-based civic education before any constitutional changes are pursued.

"We call for public education on proposed constitutional amendments or constitutional review to precede any amendment process, thereby ensuring that the citizens are able to endorse or reject such amendments based on an informed understanding, free from emotional, religious or partisan considerations," he said.

The LSB argue that dilapidated court infrastructure, staff shortages, delays in case management, and unresolved questions around judicial appointments pose a far greater threat to access to justice than the absence of a standalone Constitutional Court.

Deposit & Lending Interest Rates

For the month of February 2026

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

Lending Rates	Nominal Interest Rates (%)	Average Effective Interest Rate (%)
MoPR	3.50%	3.50%
Access Bank Botswana Prime Lending Rate	7.16%	7.16%
Mortgage Facility	From ABB Prime +0.5% to ABB Prime +10%	From ABB Prime +0.50% to ABB Prime +10%
Overdraft Facility (Revolving Credit Lines)	From ABB Prime +1.0% to ABB Prime +20%	From ABB Prime +1% to ABB Prime +34.9%
Credit Card	Up to 32%	Up to 37.1%
Lease Loans	From ABB Prime +1% to ABB Prime +10%	From ABB Prime +1% to ABB Prime +10%
Unsecured Personal Loans (excluding overdrafts, mortgage and credit cards	From ABB Prime +1% to ABB Prime +25%	From ABB Prime +1% to ABB Prime +28.1%
Other Long-Term Loans	Not Available	

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

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

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Selebi Phikwe Branch	- 263 1000
Palapye Branch	- 494 1000
Maun Branch	- 682 0000
Ghanzi Sales and Service Centre	- 659 8800
Molepolole Sales and Service Centre	- 592 3050
Letlhakane Sales and Service Centre	- 298 5011
Kanye Sales and Service Centre	- 544 6300
Shakawe Sales and Service Centre	- 687 5244
Mahalapye Sales and Service Centre	- 474 9399
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FMD Threatens Botswana's P300M Beef Trade

Delayed disease reporting threatens Botswana's prized beef exports, as FMD raises fears across farms, markets and borders

BONGANI MALUNGA

Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) cases have been confirmed, with additional suspected infections recorded in two district control zones (6B and 3C), raising alarm within Botswana's beef industry. The Ministry of Lands and Agriculture has warned that delays in reporting cases have heightened the risk of wider transmission, placing the country's lucrative beef exports under threat. Authorities have since intensified surveillance and control measures in affected areas to curb the spread of the highly contagious livestock disease.

JEOPARDIZING A P300M MARKET

The outbreak could jeopardize Botswana's approximately P300 million beef trade with the European Union (EU), one of the country's most valuable export markets. Under EU regulations, the detection of FMD typically triggers an immediate suspension of beef imports from affected countries, pending disease containment and verification. Any disruption would have significant economic implications for farmers, abattoirs, and allied industries that rely heavily on export revenues.

PREVIOUS SUSPENSIONS

Botswana has previously faced export suspensions from the EU following FMD detections, which took months to resolve and caused considerable financial strain. New cases now threaten to undo years of market recovery and could undermine investor and buyer confidence, potentially delaying the resumption of exports even after the outbreak is contained. Industry experts warn that even minor reporting lapses can have disproportionate consequences for trade relationships built over decades.

PROMPT REPORTING ESSENTIAL

The ministry has urged farmers and stakeholders to promptly report suspected cases, stressing that early detection is critical to limiting losses and restoring market confidence. Movement restrictions of livestock have been enforced in the affected control zones, while veterinary teams continue investigations to determine the extent of the outbreak. Officials maintain that strict adherence to biosecurity protocols will be key to protecting both the national herd and Botswana's standing as a reliable beef exporter.

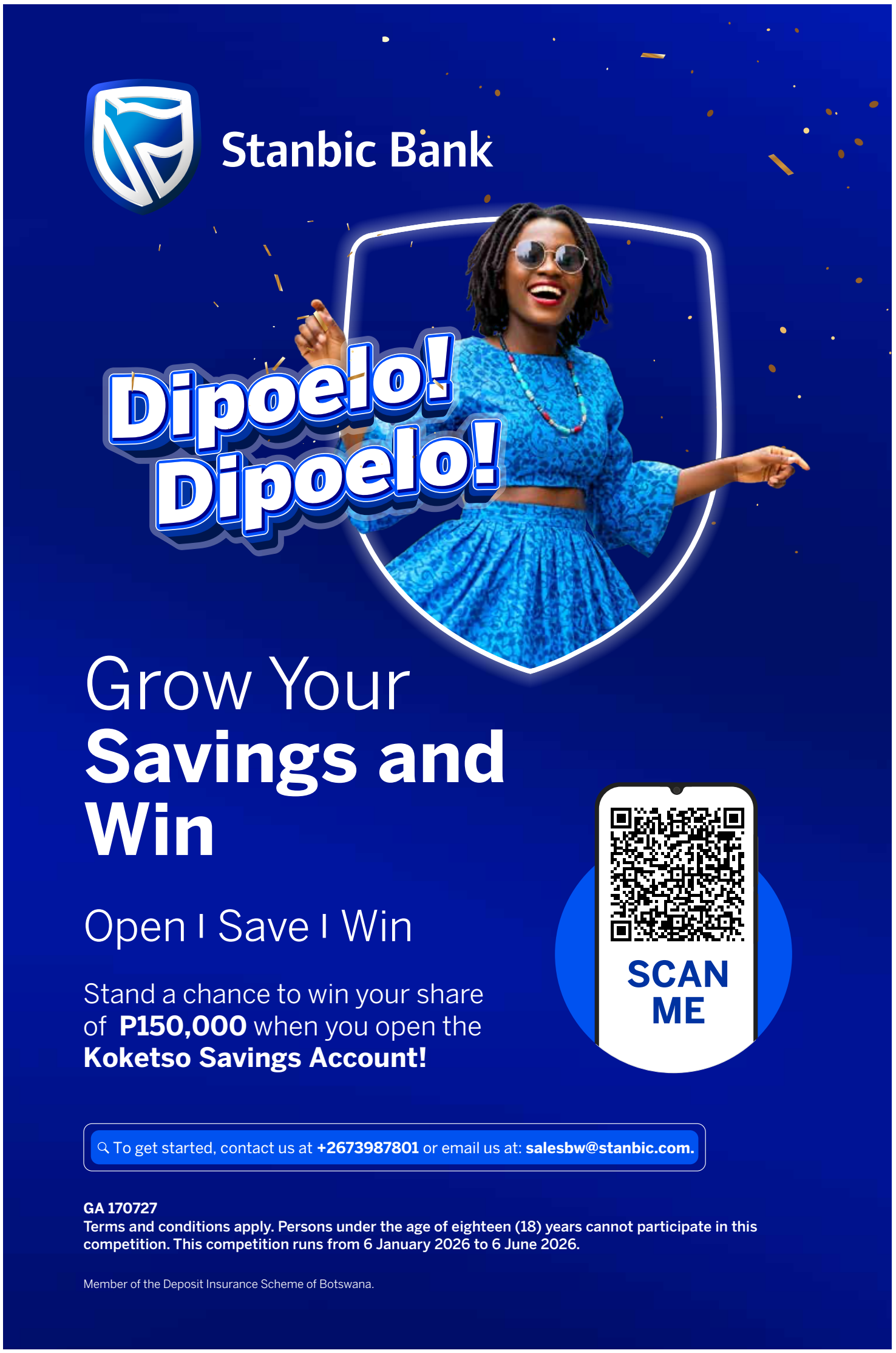
EXPERT'S VIEW

Reached for comment, cattle Farmer and interim vice president of the Botswana Brahman Breeders Society on his personal capacity, Molefe Seitei stated that it would be unfortunate if delayed reports persist given that government response teams will be required to undertake countless physical animal inspections and sample testing at the country's only EU registered laboratory in Sebele.

BIGGEST RISK

"Our biggest risk is the South African FMD epidemic, if just one animal gets infected in the green zone which currently has no functional cordon fence, we will be closed out of the EU and other markets like China until all animals are culled and restocked. Government has been too relaxed with cordon fences maintenance and border fences," Seitei told this publication.

Seitei also stressed that, "the government should also create buffer zones along its borders with countries that experience frequent FMD out breaks as biosecurity layers."



Growing Rift Threatens Labour's United Front

Cracks are beginning to show within Botswana's labour movement, with trade unions increasingly taking their disputes to the public arena, trading sharp accusations that threaten to undermine the long-cherished spirit of worker solidarity

BONGANI MALUNGA

In recent weeks, union leaders have openly accused one another of betrayal, weakness and cosying up to government, a development that marks a sharp departure from the traditionally united front presented by organised labour, particularly during periods of wage negotiations and industrial action.

At the centre of the growing tension are disagreements over strategy, engagement with government and the direction of the broader workers' movement.

In recent weeks, union leaders have openly accused one another of betrayal, weakness and cosying up to government, a development that marks a sharp departure from the traditionally united front presented by organised labour, particularly during periods of wage negotiations and industrial action.

The Botswana Public Employees Union (BOPEU), Botswana Doctors Union (BDU) and Botswana Nurses Union (BONU) have recently come under scrutiny, accused by Botswana Manual Workers Union (BMWU) Chief Executive Officer, Robert Rabasimane, of aligning too closely with government positions.

UNITED FRONT NOW FRACTURED

This growing perception of partiality comes a few months after the Botswana Local Labour and Allied Health Workers' Union (BLLAHWU) exited the national trade union collective. Observers now warn that the once-unified front of unions advocating for workers' rights appears fractured, with key organisations reportedly adopting a pro-government tone in negotiations and public statements.

CREDIBILITY THREATENED

Critics argue that this shift threatens the credibility and bargaining power of the labour movement, raising concerns about whose interests these unions are ultimately representing. The fragmentation risks undermining collective efforts to tackle wage disputes, working conditions, and broader labour reforms, leaving workers in a vulnerable position as unions grapple with internal divisions.

CHANGE OF TONE

Speaking at a press conference on Monday, Rabasimane took aim at BOPEU, BDU and BONU, accusing the unions of adopting a tone that aligns with the employer's position. He cited their failure to support the trade union collective's opposition to the appointment of former BOPEU president Andrew Motsamai as Secretary of the Public Service Bargaining Council (PSBC) as evidence of this shift.

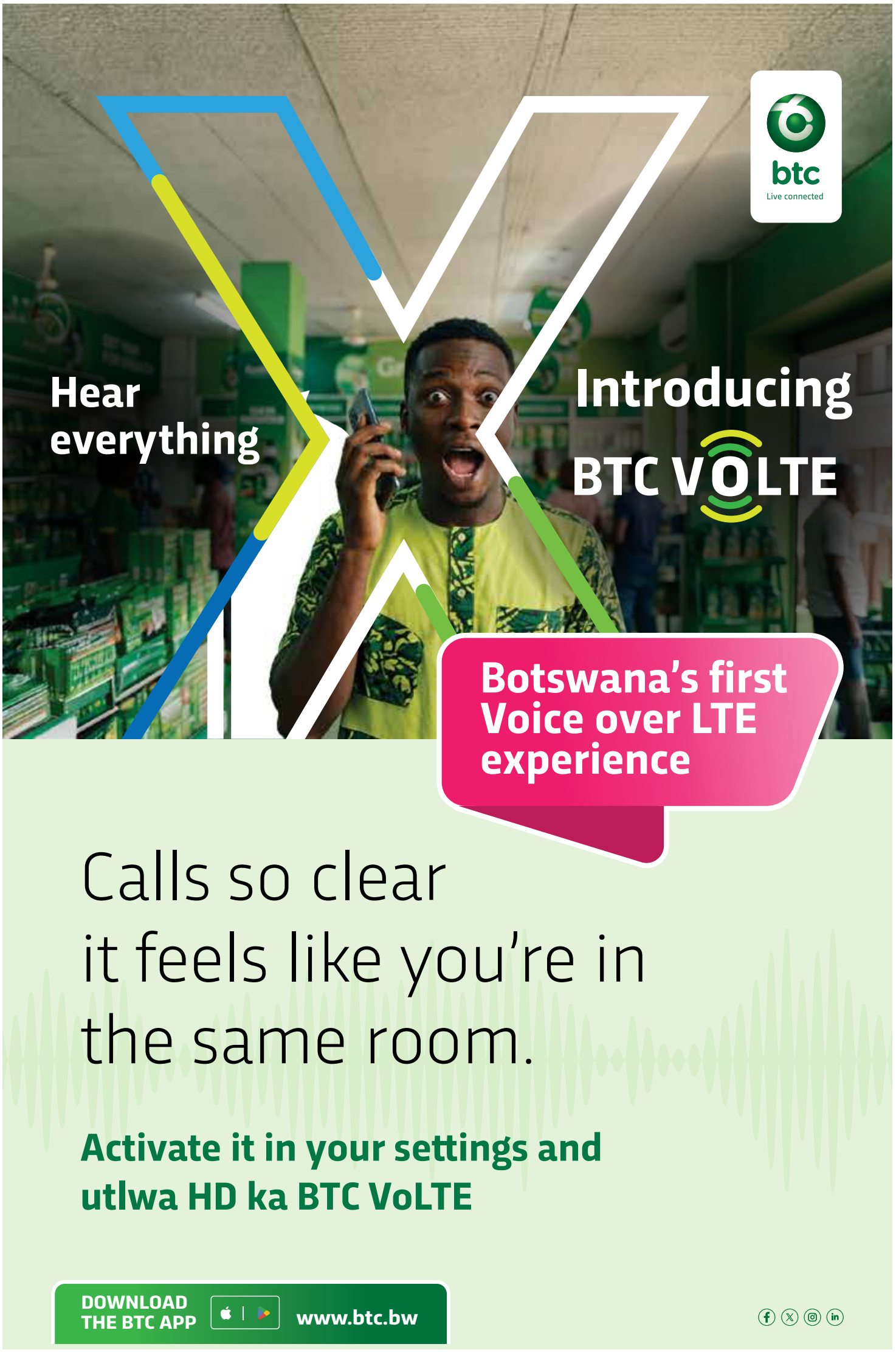
CONFLICTED

"BOPEU stated that they are conflicted since Andrew Motsamai is their former president. Of recent we have not been able to express ourselves in the presence of other trade unions because we have noticed that their position and utterances mirror those of the employer. The BOPEU president's views sound pro-government, the same applies to the Botswana Doctors Union president. BONU has also been on the fence without declaring their stance," Rabasimane alleged.

UNBOTHERED

Reached for comment, Botswana Nurses Union (BONU) Secretary General Onkemetse Ndulamo told The Botswana Gazette that the union is currently focused on more pressing matters. "As a union, we have taken note of Rabasimane's comments. However, we have no comment at this time as BONU is fully engaged in addressing issues affecting our members (nurses) and working to enhance their professional growth," Ndulamo said.

Last week, BDU released a statement confirming that they have held fruitful talks on staff welfare with the government after years of being at loggerheads.



MISA Flags Growing Media Tensions

The Media Institute of Southern Africa Botswana Chapter (MISA) has warned that recent developments risk undermining early gains made toward press freedom following Botswana's 2024 General Election.

In a statement issued last week, MISA Botswana acknowledged the new administration's initial steps to foster a more open and consultative media environment, but cautioned that emerging patterns of hostility toward the media and alleged interference in editorial processes now threaten those reforms.

EARLY OPTIMISM

Speaking in an interview, Thomas Nkhoma, chairperson of MISA Botswana, said the organisation was initially encouraged by the government's engagement with the media sector soon after the elections.

He cited the convening of a Media Consultative Forum, following discussions with the Botswana Editors Forum and MISA Botswana, as well as the establishment of a Media Law Review Task Team that consulted stakeholders across the country on legal reform, media sustainability and the impact of technology.

Nkhoma said these consultations had a tangible outcome, culminating in the drafting of the **Draft Media Bill of 2025**, which he described as a major milestone for the sector and a key reason the media fraternity felt optimistic about the new administration's direction.

According to Nkhoma, the process marked a shift away from confrontation and toward candid engagement between government and the media.

PRESIDENCY REMARKS

That optimism, Nkhoma said, has since been overshadowed by statements from senior government figures, most notably President **Duma Boko**, who publicly criticised the media for what he described as widespread misinformation.

Nkhoma said remarks suggesting that a large proportion of media reporting was fake represented a turning point in the relationship between government and the press.

He said when such statements come from the highest office in the land, they erode public trust in journalism and legitimise hostility against reporters.

PRESSURE ON JOURNALISTS

Nkhoma said the rhetoric has had a chilling effect within newsrooms, with journalists increasingly feeling pressure to self censor.

He added that journalists have been subjected to online harassment, including the publication of personal information, raising concerns about their safety and ability to report freely.

While criticism of the media is legitimate in a democracy, he said concerns should be addressed through established professional and legal mechanisms rather than public condemnation by state officials.

STATE MEDIA

MISA Botswana has also raised concern over reports involving Radio Botswana broadcaster Letumile Montsosa and the Masaasele morning programme.

Nkhoma said MISA's inquiries indicated that Montsosa had been instructed to stay away from work following a broadcast linked to coverage of the Constitutional Court.

He said the incident raised fears of political interference in state media and attempts to control how issues of national importance are discussed.

MEDIA LAW REFORM

Nkhoma said the **Draft Media Bill of 2025** represents a significant departure from previous legislation governing the media sector.

He criticised earlier laws that required journalists to be registered and granted ministers extensive powers over media structures, arguing that such provisions undermined press freedom and editorial independence.

Under the draft bill, the media would move toward self regulation through independent institutions such as a Media Council, a Media Ombudsman and a Media Appeals Committee. These bodies would be composed of journalists, civil society representatives and members of the public, rather than political appointees.

The draft bill also provides explicit protections for journalistic sources and whistleblowers, a provision Nkhoma said is critical for investigative journalism and democratic accountability.

He described the proposed framework as progressive and said it could rebuild trust between government and the media if implemented in good faith.

DEMOCRATIC ROLE

Nkhoma warned that weakening media independence poses serious risks to Botswana's democracy.

He said the media plays a central role in providing checks and balances, facilitating public debate and holding those in power to account.

MISA Botswana has called on government to reaffirm its commitment to press freedom, protect journalists from intimidation, ensure transparency in editorial decisions within state media, and accelerate legal and policy reforms to safeguard media independence and sustainability.

DEPOSIT RATES

Type of Deposit Account	Nominal Interest Rate	Actual Interest Rate	Minimum Opening Balance
	(Lowest -Highest)	(Lowest -Highest)	(Pula)
Current	NIL	NIL	
Savings			
Sesigo	1.75% - 2.75%	1.76% - 2.78%	200.00
Ordinary	1.75% - 1.75%	1.76% - 1.76%	50.00
SAYE	1.25% - 2.00%	1.26% - 2.02%	200.00
Fixed Deposits			
3 months	0.80% - 1.00%	0.80% - 1.00%	1,000.00
6 months	1.40% - 1.75%	1.41% - 1.76%	1,000.00
12 months	1.85% - 2.20%	1.87% - 2.22%	1,000.00
24 months	2.25% - 2.55%	2.27% - 2.58%	1,000.00
Over 24 months	3.35% - 3.80%	3.40% - 3.87%	1,000.00
PRIME LENDING RATE	8.01% 8.01%	8.01% 8.01%	

LENDING RATES

Lending Rates	Nominal Interest Rate	Average Effective Interest Rate
MoPR	3.50%	3.50%
Prime Lending Rate	8.01%	8.01%
Mortgage Facility	Prime to Prime + 5.00%	Prime to Prime + 5.12%
Overdraft Facility (Revolving credit lines)	N/A	N/A
Credit card	N/A	N/A
Eezi Auto	Prime +3.50% to Prime +5.50%	Prime +3.56% to Prime +5.64%
Lease Loans	N/A	N/A
Unsecured Personal Loans (excluding overdraft, mortgage and credits cards)	Prime +12% to Prime +22%	Prime +12.68% to Prime +24.36%
Other Long - Term Loans	N/A	N/A

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BDU Dismisses 'Specialist Shortage' at SKMTH

The Botswana Doctors Union has dismissed claims of specialist shortages at SKMTH, blaming private interests for driving misinformation

SESUPO RANTSIMAKO

The Botswana Doctors Union (BDU) has dismissed claims that Sir Ketumile Masire Teaching Hospital (SKMTH) is facing a shortage of specialist doctors following government's move to decongest Princess Marina Hospital (PMH), accusing some private practitioners of deliberately spreading misinformation to safeguard their business interests

GOV'T MOVES TO DECONGEST PMH

BDU president Kefilwe Selema told The Botswana Gazette that reports suggesting patients transferred from PMH are failing to access specialised care at SKMTH are misleading and unnecessarily alarmist.

Last week, Minister of Health Dr Stephen Modise announced that SKMTH would be operationalised as a fully-fledged public hospital, a move aimed at easing congestion at PMH and improving service delivery. Soon after the announcement, questions emerged over whether SKMTH has sufficient specialist doctors to handle the increased patient load, with claims that some patients were being referred back to PMH.

Selema said such claims misrepresent the reality on the ground.

"Patients transferred from PMH are still being seen by the same specialists who were treating them there," Selema said. "There is no shortage of public specialist doctors."

ALLEGATIONS DRIVEN BY PRIVATE INTERESTS

Selema alleged that the claims are being driven by private doctors who operate at SKMTH under chair-renting arrangements for their own private practices.

"These allegations are coming from private doctors who rent chairs at SKMTH. They are peddling misinformation to create panic and to pressure government because they fear losing business," he said.

According to Selema, government's previous reliance on outsourcing specialist services was largely due to space and equipment constraints at PMH, not because of an absence of qualified public doctors.

"Outsourcing was temporary. It was never because government lacked capable specialists," he said, adding that the state has spent heavily on outsourcing over the years.

NO SHORTAGE OF PUBLIC DOCTORS

Selema further clarified that private doctors working under chair-renting or contractual arrangements are not government employees and therefore cannot automatically treat public patients under the new setup.

"If they wish to continue assisting, they must renegotiate their contracts with government," he said. "This is a contractual issue, not a shortage of doctors."

He warned that conflating the two only serves to mislead the public and undermine confidence in the health system.

PRIVATE DOCTORS VOICE CONCERNS

An anonymous private doctor who previously operated under a chair-renting arrangement acknowledged that the transition has brought challenges.

"Some of us had contracts that facilitated access to specialised care," the doctor said. "With SKMTH now fully operational, there are adjustments around scheduling and resources. I wouldn't say there is a shortage, but both doctors and patients are adapting.

> "These allegations are coming from private doctors who rent chairs at SKMTH. They are peddling misinformation to create panic and to pressure government because they fear losing business"

BDU SUPPORTS SKMTH OPERATIONALISATION

Selema said the BDU fully supports the operationalisation of SKMTH, an initiative the union has long advocated for.

"We will not oppose a policy that strengthens public healthcare simply to satisfy private interests," he said. "Our priority remains public healthcare and the wellbeing of patients."

Zone 6B FMD-Affected Farmers in the Dark

Farmers in the FMD Zone 6B say government's outbreak announcement has left them uncertain about whether their cattle will be culled or vaccinated

SESUPO RANTSIMAKO

Farmers in Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) Zone 6B say they have been left in a state of anxiety and uncertainty following government's recent announcement of a new outbreak, with livestock owners still unsure whether their cattle will be culled or spared.

The concerns were raised after Acting Minister of Lands and Agriculture Dr Edwin Dikoloti confirmed the outbreak during a weekend meeting at Jackalas No.1. While the announcement acknowledged the presence of the disease, farmers say it fell short of providing clear guidance on the next steps.

CLUELESS

Zone 6B Farmers' Association chairperson Master Asale Sigwele told The Botswana Gazette that the lack of clarity has revived painful memories of previous outbreaks in which large numbers of cattle were destroyed.

"Farmers are in the dark. The Minister did not tell us what will happen next, whether cattle will be culled or not," Sigwele said. "In previous outbreaks, cattle were culled, so naturally farmers are worried that the same approach may be taken again."

Sigwele said the timing of the outbreak has made the situation even more distressing, as many farmers in the zone only rebuilt their herds recently following the devastating 2022 FMD outbreak.

"People are still recovering from the last outbreak. Most of the cattle that are in this area were restocked about two years ago after the 2022 FMD, and now they are facing the possibility of losing everything again," he said.

NO COMMUNICATION

He added that the absence of detailed communication from government is preventing farmers from planning and making informed decisions about their livelihoods.

"We need urgent clarity from government on whether the strategy this time will be vaccination or culling. Without that information, farmers are left speculating and living in fear," Sigwele said.

> "Most of the cattle that are in this area were restocked about two years ago after the 2022 FMD, and now they are facing the possibility of losing everything again"

POOR INTERVENTIONS

The association chairperson also questioned the effectiveness of government's FMD prevention and control measures, noting that outbreaks continue to recur within short periods despite interventions.

"While we acknowledge that government is taking some action, it is clear that the measures are not yielding lasting results," he said.

Sigwele revealed that farmers had previously proposed a preventative solution involving the allocation of horticulture plots along the riverbanks between Botswana and Zimbabwe, arguing that this would encourage fencing on both sides of the river and help curb cross-border livestock movement.

"Unfortunately, we have never received a response from government on this proposal," he said.

PAINFULL MEMORIES

During the 2022 FMD outbreak in Zone 6B, a total of 10,219 cattle were culled as part of the disease control exercise, a figure that still looms large in the minds of affected farmers.

Meanwhile the Ministry of Lands and Agriculture spokesperson Neo Lenkopane told this publication that cattle in Zone 6B will not be killed but only vaccinated.

Industrial Court to Operate Within General Court System

Botswana will integrate the Industrial Court into the national justice system, strengthening enforcement powers and elevating labour disputes to civil case status

BONGANI MALUNGA

The Chief Justice Gaolapelwe Ketlogetswe has announced plans to imminently incorporate the Industrial Court into the country's mainstream justice system, a move aimed at streamlining the delivery of justice.

Confirming the development at the Opening of the Legal year on Tuesday, he stated that the decision seeks to place all justice delivery structures under a single judicial framework, strengthening coherence and efficiency within the legal system.

FORMAL AND AUTHORITATIVE PLATFORM

According to Chief Justice Ketlogetswe, the integration will ensure that employment-related disputes are accorded the same legal standing and authority as civil cases. This shift is expected to provide a more formal and authoritative platform for resolving labour matters, benefiting both workers and employers. By aligning the Industrial Court more closely with the broader justice system, the government aims to reinforce confidence in the handling of labour disputes.

> "Government has taken a position to incorporate the Industrial Court into the justice system in order to bring all justice delivery structures under one roof"

ALL UNDER ONE ROOF

Speaking at the opening of the Legal Year 2026, Chief Justice Ketlogetswe stated that, "Government has taken a position to incorporate the Industrial Court into the justice system in order to bring all justice delivery structures under one roof."

ENHANCING LEGAL AUTHORITY

The incorporation will also enhance the Industrial Court's legal authority, enabling it to enforce its own orders without requiring cases to be elevated to higher courts for validation. This change is expected to reduce delays, improve access to justice and strengthen enforcement mechanisms in employment-related cases. The move represents a significant reform in Botswana's judicial landscape, with implications for labour relations and the overall administration of justice.

"My DIS Was Better"-Khama

Denies DIS failures under his watch, saying abuse of office emerged after 2018

SESUPO RANTSIMAKO

Former president and Bangwato paramount chief, Kgosi Ian Khama IV *Photo Credit: Social Media*

Former president and Bangwato paramount chief, Kgosi Ian Khama IV, has rejected claims that administrative flaws existed within the Directorate of Intelligence and Security (DIS) during his tenure, insisting the agency's deterioration only began after he left office in May 2018.

QUESTIONS SPARK PUBLIC DEBATE

Khama's comments came in response to enquiries from The Botswana Gazette following a series of questions he raised at Ntlo ya Dikgosi. During the session, he highlighted what he described as flawed procedures and administrative shortcomings within DIS, sparking public debate. Some commentators questioned whether such weaknesses may have existed during his presidency or whether his concerns were primarily directed at the current DIS leadership, particularly Director-General Peter Magosi.

'NO COMPLAINTS DURING MY TENURE'

The former president was unequivocal in defending his record.

"During my presidency, nothing regarding flawed procedures or administrative misconduct ever came to my attention," Khama said. "It is only after my departure from office in May 2018 that abuse of office began to surface."

Khama expressed concern that despite early signs of administrative decline after his exit, no decisive action was taken to correct the problems, allowing them to worsen over time.

ALLEGATIONS RAISED AT NTLO YA DIKGOSI

At Ntlo ya Dikgosi, Khama raised multiple issues concerning DIS operations, including a fabricated affidavit connected to the Butterfly case, fraternization between superiors and subordinates, favoritism based on intimate relationships, and what he described as illegitimate suspensions.

> "It is only after my departure from office in May 2018 that abuse of office began to surface."

In recent years, DIS has come under heightened scrutiny over its governance, operations, and role within Botswana's democratic framework. Khama's remarks have amplified calls for transparency and administrative reform within the intelligence sector.

CALL FOR LEADERSHIP CHANGE

Khama confirmed to The Botswana Gazette that his questions were largely directed at the leadership of the current DIS Director-General Peter Magosi, whom he said should be removed from office.

GOV'T CITES CLASSIFIED OPERATIONS

Efforts to obtain comment from the DIS were unsuccessful. Responding on behalf of the Minister of State President at Ntlo ya Dikgosi, Minister of Communications and Innovation David Tshere declined to provide detailed answers to Khama's concerns, citing the classified nature of intelligence operations.

Govt Finally Gives in to Doctors' Demands

The Botswana Doctors Union says relations with government have entered a "new phase" following long-standing disputes over working conditions, emergency call duties, and compensation

GAZETTE REPORTER

The government has agreed to several long-standing demands from doctors, signaling a major shift in relations with the Botswana Doctors Union (BDU) after years of disputes over working conditions, emergency call duties, and compensation.

In a media briefing, BDU said relations with government have entered a "new phase of constructive engagement" following a period of sustained tension that previously included legal battles and disruptive policy changes within the public health sector.

"These engagements have fostered renewed trust, collaboration, and a shared commitment to strengthening Botswana's healthcare system," the union said.

A key milestone emerging from the improved relationship is the commencement of Job Effectiveness Descriptions (JEDs) for specialist doctors. BDU highlighted that the absence of structured JEDs has historically contributed to poor working conditions, unclear career progression, and high attrition rates among specialists.

EXTENDED INTERNSHIP

Botswana Doctors Union president, Dr Kefilwe Selema

The union also welcomed government's decision to extend medical internships from one year to two years, including a mandatory community health rotation. BDU said this measure will strengthen primary healthcare and better prepare young doctors for independent practice.

In addition, BDU reiterated its support for a National Health Insurance (NHI) scheme, noting that it would improve access, efficiency, and sustainability if designed inclusively.

EMERGENCY CALL COMPENSATION DISPUTES

Negotiations on emergency call compensation have remained a key sticking point for years. BDU had previously adopted a one-call-per-doctor-per-month stance, reflecting widespread dissatisfaction among doctors. Government responses, including litigation and the introduction of shift work, further strained relations and exposed systemic weaknesses in the healthcare sector.

STRUCTURAL CHALLENGES AND PROCUREMENT GAPS

Beyond emergency calls, the union has raised concerns about structural challenges undermining public healthcare. Chief among these are procurement inefficiencies that have caused persistent shortages of essential medicines, consumables, and equipment.

"These inefficiencies, governance gaps, and lack of transparency have directly affected service delivery and patient outcomes," BDU said, stressing that ordinary Batswana relying on public healthcare have borne the brunt of these failures. The union called for procurement reforms anchored in transparency, accountability, and value for money.

BDU also criticised the heavy reliance on private sector referrals for services that could be provided in public facilities if adequately resourced. Routine referrals for procedures such as caesarean sections, the union noted, have drained the health budget, weakened public sector capacity, and limited opportunities for skills development.

ONGOING NEGOTIATIONS OFFER HOPE

Comprehensive health sector negotiations resumed on January 26, 2026, involving BDU, government, and other health unions. Talks are focusing on remuneration, workloads, working conditions, and staff retention, with both sides expressing optimism that reforms will ultimately improve patient care nationwide.

Govt Evicts Private Security, Cleaners Firms by April

The government will absorb thousands of outsourced security, cleaning, and gardening workers into permanent, pensionable roles by 1 April 2026

GAZETTE REPORTER

The government is preparing a major shake-up of the public service, moving to absorb thousands of low-paid workers currently employed by private companies in security, cleaning, and gardening roles into permanent, pensionable government employment.

DPSM ORDERS FULL INSOURCING

In a directive issued by the Directorate of Public Service Management (DPSM), all ministries and departments have been instructed to prepare for the full implementation of insourcing from 1 April 2026. The move effectively signals the end of outsourced security and cleaning contracts across the public sector.

The directive, signed by DPSM Director Gaone Macholo and dated 26 January 2026, follows Directive No. 7 of 2025, which reinstated insourcing as official government policy after years of reliance on private contractors.

TEMPORARY WORKERS

Under the new order, all temporary employees working as cleaners, gardeners, and night watchmen will be absorbed into the public service on a permanent and pensionable basis once their contracts expire. Ministries have been instructed to extend contracts ending before 1 April 2026 until 31 March to ensure a smooth transition.

"This supersedes our previous communication," Macholo said, urging ministries, departments, and agencies (MDAs) to urgently submit data required to operationalise the policy shift.

PRIVATE SECURITY COMPANIES

While cleaners and gardeners will be absorbed automatically, private security companies are under closer scrutiny. MDAs must provide detailed information on all existing security contracts, including the number of active contracts, expiry dates, and contracts previously extended under Directive No. 7 of 2025.

The move is widely seen as a precursor to phasing out outsourced security services, long criticised for exploitative labour practices, low pay, and weak accountability.

The government plans to retain outsourcing only where it proves efficient and cost-effective.

MINISTRIES GIVEN TIGHT DEADLINE

MDAs have just two days, until 28 January 2026, to submit detailed staffing and budget projections. Required data includes the number of temporary employees on payroll, new positions to be created, and budgetary requirements for salaries, medical aid, and pension contributions.

The compressed timelines have raised concerns within government, with sources saying ministries are scrambling to quantify the financial implications of absorbing thousands of workers who have long existed on the margins of the public service.

Last year, the Minister of State President Moeti Mohwasa confirmed that the government is phasing out outsourcing of security, cleaning, and gardening services. Workers absorbed under the new framework are expected to earn around P4,000 per month.

Announcement

BDC

BDC Appoints Mr Oteng Keabetswe As Substantive Managing Director

29 January 2026. Gaborone, Botswana.

The Board of Botswana Development Corporation (BDC) is pleased to announce the appointment of Mr. Oteng Keabetswe as the Corporation's substantive Managing Director, effective 1 February 2026. He has been serving as Caretaker Managing Director since August 2025.

Mr Keabetswe's appointment marks the culmination of a six-month caretaker period during which he provided steady leadership and strategic direction to the Corporation. The appointment reflects the Board's confidence in his leadership acumen, strategic judgement, and demonstrated ability to advance BDC's mandate as Botswana's leading investment and development finance institution.

During his tenure as Caretaker Managing Director, he led a deliberate strategic repositioning of BDC towards becoming a more impact-driven, catalytic investment company, anchored by large-scale projects designed to deliver measurable economic and social returns. Under his leadership, the Corporation strengthened its focus on transformative investments aligned to national development priorities and long-term economic competitiveness.

Notably, Mr Keabetswe oversaw the establishment of the Unity Healthcare Botswana Partnership Fund, a targeted response to national shortages of essential medicines and healthcare supplies, designed to strengthen local supply chains and health security.

He further led the execution of over P600 million capital recycling transactions, unlocking capital from mature industries and non-strategic assets for redeployment into higher-impact domestic investments. Over the same period, BDC deployed USD 10 million to Letshego Holdings through an impact facility structured to expand inclusive finance, programme lending and enterprise development.

Under Mr Keabetswe' s leadership, BDC will remain firmly focused on investments that elevate private-sector development, enable transformative industry-level interventions, and strengthen Botswana's long-term economic resilience & competitiveness.

END

Remembering Kgosi Banika: The First Female Member of Ntlo ya Dikgosi

Kgosi Rebecca Banika broke one of the most enduring barriers in Botswana's traditional governance system when she became the first woman to take a seat in Ntlo ya Dikgosi, a space long regarded as the preserve of men

BONGANI MALUNGA

Kgosi Rebecca Banika of Pandamatenga, a revered traditional leader and a pioneering figure in Botswana's chieftaincy breathed her last breath last week. She is remembered first, among her many qualities, as the first woman to take a seat in Ntlo ya Dikgosi.

Kgosi Banika's historic entry in 2000 did more than mark a personal achievement; it redefined possibilities for women within chieftaincy and reshaped national conversations about gender, culture and leadership. Years after her pioneering footsteps, Kgosi Banika's name still stands as a symbol of quiet courage, determined service and a legacy that continues to inspire new generations of women to claim their rightful place in the country's traditional and public institutions.

OVERCOMING A CHALLENGING BATTLE

Beyond her historic appointment, Kgosi Banika is widely celebrated for her instrumental role in guiding her community through one of the most challenging legal battles in recent memory. When a long-standing land dispute threatened the rights and livelihoods of her people, she took bold steps to ensure justice. Kgosi Banika challenged the Chobe Land Board's decision to reserve only 458 hactares of land to the Pandamatenga community instead of the rightful 2500 hactares.

VICTORIOUS

Under her leadership, her community courageously took the matter to court, challenging the government and ultimately securing recognition of their claims in 2023. Her steadfast advocacy demonstrated her deep commitment to fairness, the rule of law and the protection of her people's rights.

FONDLY REMEMBERED

Colleagues and community members remember her not only as a formidable leader but also as a compassionate figure who listened to her people and fought tirelessly for their welfare. Kgosi Banika was a voice of reason and courage. She showed that leadership is about service, courage and standing up for what is right, no matter the odds. Kgosi Banika leaves behind a legacy that transcends titles and accolades. She will be remembered as a trailblazer for women, a protector of her community and a symbol of principled leadership that continues to inspire generations of Batswana. Kgosi Mosadi Seboko of Ramotswa has hailed Kgosi Banika as "a pioneer who demonstrated that women can lead. She paved the way for all of us."

SUBJECT TO AN INTERNATIONAL CASE STUDY

Beyond Botswana, Kgosi Rebecca Banika's leadership has attracted international attention, prompting a case study by the University of Ghana. The project, titled "Women and Political Participation in Africa: A Comparative Study of Representation and Role of Female Chiefs," is funded by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation and examines the role of female traditional leaders across Africa. According to reports from Ghana, Kgosi Banika's pioneering tenure as the first woman chief in Pandamatenga is being studied alongside other female leaders in Ghana, Liberia, and South Africa, highlighting how women in traditional authority positions influence governance, community development and women's empowerment.

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Letlhomame Plaatjie 4.8 | Tinashe Maunge 4.7 | Taropafadzwa Vumbunu 4.7 | Asele Setshogo 4.7 | Lelentle Gaborone 4.7 | Jemimah Abbey 4.65 | Letlotlo Mpipi 4.65

Penelope Makgekgenene 4.6 | Kristen Keelediwe 4.6 | Aisha Hlomani 4.55 | Thero Amogelang 4.55 | Faith Mokgosi 4.5 | Amuchilani Peter 4.5

Historical Academic Perfomance
Cambridge International Examination

Year		Subject		
		English	Mathematics	Science
2025	Legae Average	4.1/5.0	4.1/5.0	4.2/5
	International Average	3.4/5.0	3.2/5.0	3.3/5.0
2024	Legae Average	4.0/5.0	3.8/5.0	4.1/5.0
	International Average	3.4/5.0	3.2/5.0	3.3/5.0
2023	Legae Average	3.9/5.0	3.9/5.0	4.3/5.0
	International Average	3.4/5.0	3.2/5.0	3.3/5.0

Year		Subject		
		English	Mathematics	Science
2022	Legae Average	4.9/6.0	5.1/6.0	5.4/6.0
	International Average	4.0/6.0	3.9/6.0	3.9/6.0
2021	Legae Average	6.0/6.0	4.8/6.0	6.0/6.0
	International Average	3.8/6.0	3.7/6.0	3.8/6.0

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NEWS BRIEFS

BONGANI MALUNGA

BDF launches military justice system

The Botswana Defence Force has launched a military justice system aimed at promoting fairness, accountability, and discipline within the armed forces. The initiative is intended to strengthen the rule of law by ensuring that all members of the military are subject to a clear, transparent, and consistent legal framework. The military justice system will operate under the Office of the Judge Advocate General, which will be responsible for overseeing legal proceedings, providing legal advice, and ensuring that military trials and disciplinary processes adhere to established legal standards.

Through this system, the Botswana Defence Force seeks to enhance professionalism, protect the rights of service members and reinforce ethical conduct across all ranks. According to Chief Justice Gaolapelwe Ketlogetswe, the introduction of the system underscores the Defence Force's commitment to upholding justice, good governance and accountability, while maintaining operational effectiveness and discipline within the military. BDF Commander General Mpho Mophuting also hailed the move as aligning with modern standards.

MoH moves to clear surgical backlog

The Ministry of Health has announced plans to tackle a long-standing surgical backlog affecting patients across the country. According to the Ministry, as many as 70 patients are currently awaiting surgical procedures, with orthopaedic cases being the most urgent. To address the delays, selected surgical services will be temporarily relocated from Princess Marina Hospital to Sir Ketumile Masire Teaching Hospital.

The move is expected to reduce patient congestion at Princess Marina Hospital while ensuring that patients receive timely surgical care. Ministry officials stated that this initiative forms part of broader efforts to strengthen Botswana's healthcare system and improve service delivery. The Ministry has also indicated that additional measures, including increased staffing and extended operating hours, may be introduced to further accelerate the reduction of the surgical backlog.

PUBLIC NOTICE

TENDER NUMBER: 0015/2025-2026

PROCUREMENT, SUPPLY, INSTALLATION AND COMMISSIONING OF A GAS CHROMATOGRAPHY MASS SPECTROMETRY ANALYSER AND LIQUEFIED PETROLEUM GAS TESTING EQUIPMENT FOR THE BOTSWANA ENERGY REGULATORY AUTHORITY FUEL TESTING LABORATORY

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 211: General Supplies
Sub Code 09: Laboratory Equipment, Spares and Accessories e.g Test tubes, Benson Burners e.t.c).
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 **20th 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.

BERA
BOTSWANA ENERGY REGULATORY AUTHORITY
Regulating for Energy Security

www.bera.co.bw

The Botswana Gazette
BUSINESS NEWS

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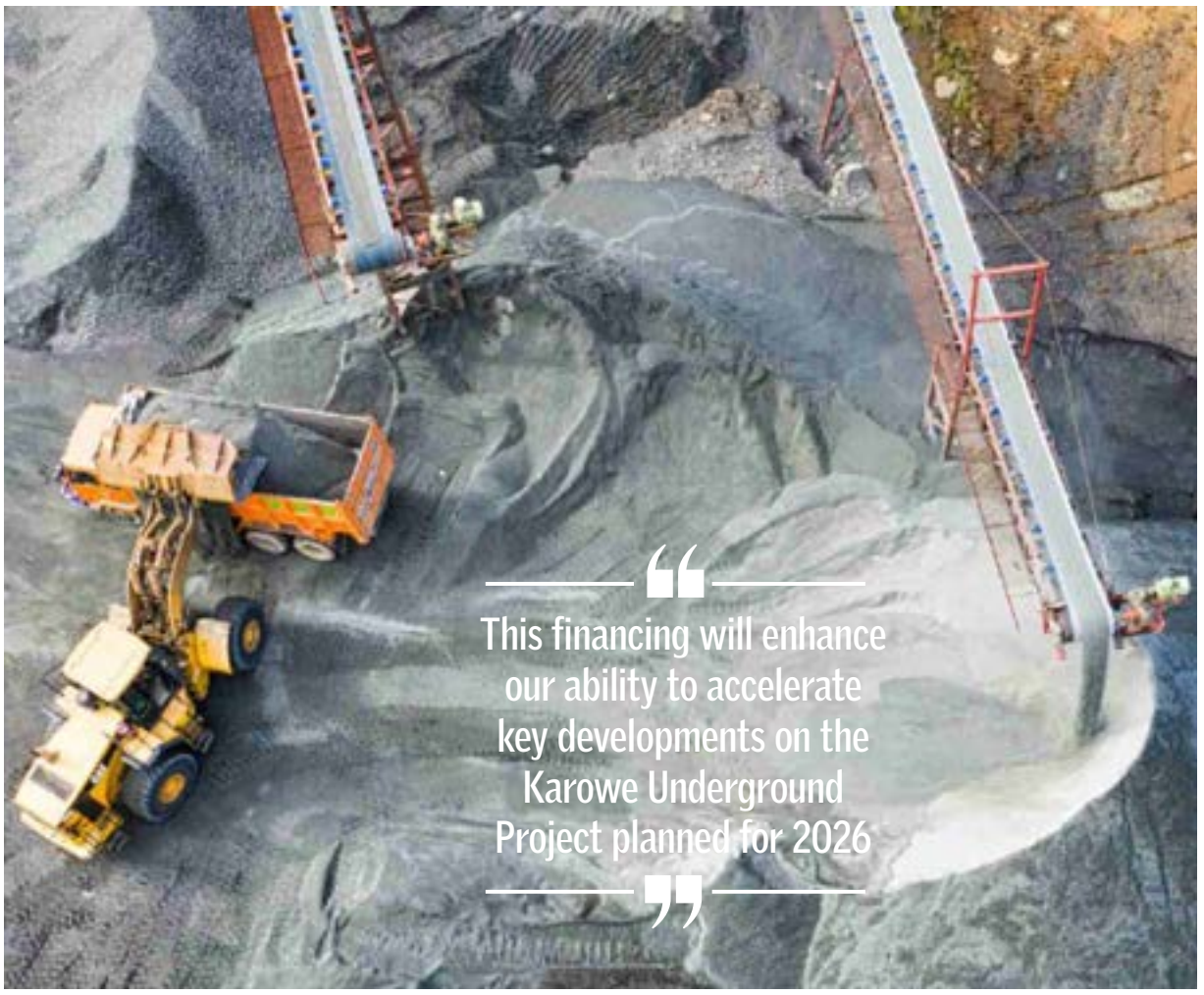

Lucara Raises Funds for Karowe Expansion

Oversubscribed financing strengthens plans for Karowe's underground expansion in Botswana

GAZETTE REPORTER

Lucara Diamond Corp., a Canada-listed diamond producer, has closed a previously announced non-brokered private placement that raised gross proceeds of 165.0 million Canadian dollars, the company said. The financing, first announced on January 9 and increased on January 14, 2026, was upsized following what Lucara described as strong investor demand.

The company operates the Karowe Diamond Mine in Botswana, which it owns outright and which is known for producing large, high-quality Type IIa diamonds.

INVESTOR DEMAND

According to Lucara, the private placement was oversubscribed and attracted participation from institutional investors across several regions, as well as the Lundin Family Trusts. William Lamb, Lucara's president and chief executive, said the response underscored confidence in the company's plans.

"We are very pleased with the outcome of the recent oversubscribed private placement, which included participation of a number of institutional investors from around the world as well as the Lundin Family Trusts," Lamb said.

SHARE ISSUANCE

Under the transaction, Lucara issued 1,031,250,000 common shares at a price of $0.16 per share, resulting in total gross proceeds of $165.0 million. The company paid a finder's fee of $2.5 million to select firms, including BMO Nesbitt Burns Inc., Haywood Securities Inc., Leede Financial Inc., Canaccord Genuity Corp. and Pareto Securities AB. The fee did not apply to the Lundin Family Trusts' participation.

All shares issued under the private placement are subject to a four-month statutory hold period in line with Canadian securities regulations.

PROJECT FUNDING

Lucara said the proceeds will be used primarily to address a liquidity shortfall and to allow the company to continue advancing the Karowe Underground Project, while it seeks longer-term project financing. Planned uses include shaft equipping, conveyance commissioning, lateral development, extraction and drill horizon development, as well as general working capital and corporate purposes.

"This financing will enhance our ability to accelerate key developments on the Karowe Underground Project planned for 2026," Lamb said.

The company said it expects full financing for the underground project to be achieved through a combination of operating cash flows, the private placement, additional debt financing and ongoing engagement with existing lenders. Lucara is also considering alternative debt options, including a potential bond issue, and has mandated Clarksons Securities AS and Pareto Securities AB as advisers.

REGULATORY APPROVAL

Lucara relied on a financial hardship exemption under Section 604(e) of the Toronto Stock Exchange Company Manual to complete the transaction without shareholder approval, an exemption that the exchange has accepted.

Car Purchases Decline in 2025 Q3

New transport data shows households pulling back on car purchases as freight volumes and rail revenues grow

TLOTLO KEBINAKGABO

While Botswana grapples with ongoing economic pressures, new official data suggests that household buying power is under strain, even as freight activity through the rail network strengthens.

According to the Transport and Infrastructure Statistics Brief, Quarter 3 2025, first-time motor vehicle registrations declined notably during the period. In Q3 2025, a total of 10,324 motor vehicles were registered for the first time, representing an 8.6 percent decrease from the 11,296 vehicles recorded in the previous quarter — a trend pointing to reduced consumer spending capacity.

VEHICLE TRENDS

Passenger cars dominated new registrations, accounting for 72.7 percent of the total, followed by vans at 9.1 percent. Japan remained the primary source of imported vehicles, contributing 66.8 percent of all first-time registrations, with 99.5 percent of these being used vehicles. South Africa ranked second at 22.4 percent, although the majority of vehicles from that market were brand new, at 73.3 percent. Vehicles originating from Botswana made up just 4.2 percent of total registrations.

The report shows that used vehicles continued to outweigh new ones, with passenger cars accounting for 83.7 percent of all used vehicle registrations. Trailers and trucks each represented 4.4 percent, while vans constituted 3.9 percent.

"At 34.3 percent, passenger cars made up most of the brand new first-time registered motor vehicles in the quarter," the report states, adding that "vans followed at 27.2 percent."

BRAND SHARE

Honda led first-time vehicle registrations during the quarter, accounting for 20.6 percent of the total, nearly all of which were passenger cars. Toyota and Mazda followed closely, contributing 18.9 percent and 18.0 percent respectively. July recorded the highest number of registrations, at 35.1 percent of the quarterly total, with August and September accounting for 33.8 percent and 31.1 percent.

RAIL FREIGHT

In contrast to slowing vehicle purchases, rail freight activity expanded. A total of 242,067 net tonnes of goods were transported by rail during the quarter, a 12.7 percent increase from the previous quarter. Imports formed the largest share at 33.3 percent, followed by exports at 28.4 percent and local traffic goods at 27.1 percent.

Rail freight revenue rose by 13.8 percent to P60.5 million. "The largest amount of revenue generated this quarter came from the movement of local traffic goods accounting for 29.2 percent," the report notes.

Pull quote:

"Revenue generated from the goods transported this quarter increased by 13.8 percent, from P53.2 million generated in the previous quarter to P60.5 million."

Floods Test Botswana's Grain Heartland

Recent heavy rains disrupt northern farms as planting windows shrink

Botswana's northern grain belt is facing one of its most severe agricultural shocks in recent years after intense rainfall delivered nearly half a season's worth of precipitation in just one week, triggering widespread flooding in Pandamatenga and surrounding areas.

TLOTLO KEBINAKGABO

Botswana's northern grain belt is facing one of its most severe agricultural shocks in recent years after intense rainfall delivered nearly half a season's worth of precipitation in just one week, triggering widespread flooding in Pandamatenga and surrounding areas.

"Our infrastructure could not handle the flooding that happened," said Ryan Neal, an executive member of the Pandamatenga Commercial Farmers Association in a recent recorded interview with SEZA Botswana. "Some of our most productive farms were completely under water, and the rest were affected."

Pandamatenga remains critical to national food security, contributing 47 percent of Botswana's total crop production, largely sorghum, millet, beans, wheat, and chickpeas. The region is further supported by 90,000 metric tonnes of grain storage silos, making it a strategic pillar of the country's food supply system.

CROPPING CLOCK

The flooding has struck at a decisive point in the cropping calendar, forcing farmers into difficult choices as planting windows narrow.

"Sorghum is now a problem," Neal said. "The opportunity for high yields is decreasing day by day. The latest we can plant sorghum is towards the end of February, otherwise we will not receive any yields."

Waterlogged fields and delayed land preparation mean some producers may abandon sorghum entirely, turning instead to shorter-cycle crops such as sunflower or beans, weather permitting. Others may choose not to plant at all.

"Some vegetable farmers won't even plant," Neal noted. "There's simply too much damage to the fields. Potato production will be under severe stress this year.

OTHER AGRICULTURAL NEWS

In related agricultural developments, the National Development Bank (NDB) has secured a US$10 million (approximately P133 million) loan facility from the Arab Bank for Economic Development in Africa (BADEA) to support seasonal input financing for farmers in Pandamatenga and Mosisedi.

"These areas are central to national food security and play a vital role in reducing Botswana's reliance on food imports," said NDB Chief Executive Officer Ogone Madisa. "Ring-fencing the funds for farmers directly supports rural livelihoods and economic resilience."

The partnership also strengthens the long-standing relationship between BADEA and NDB and lays the groundwork for future cooperation in climate-resilient agriculture, green financing, and infrastructure development.

Botswana Diamonds Expands Copper Push

AI-led analysis secures eight new licences as the miner broadens its focus beyond diamonds

John Teeling, the chairman of Botswana Diamonds, said the expanded analysis had delivered "exceptional results."

GAZETTE REPORTER

Botswana Diamonds (BOD), listed on London's AIM market and the Botswana Stock Exchange, has been awarded eight new prospecting licences covering about 7,000 square kilometres in north-western Botswana, marking a significant expansion of its exploration footprint.

The licences, valid until December 31, 2028, were granted following an extensive assessment of the company's Botswana-focused exploration database, which spans roughly 95,000 square kilometres and includes 375,000 line kilometres of geophysical data.

AI ASSESSMENT

Botswana Diamonds said the areas were selected using advanced artificial intelligence tools applied to its exploration database, the second largest in the country. The analysis identified strong prospectivity for copper, with additional potential for gold and other critical minerals.

The same proprietary technology has previously been used in diamond exploration, where it highlighted six previously unreported kimberlite-prone areas. The company holds licences over those areas and is best known for its KX36 diamond discovery.

MARKET CONTEXT

The move into copper reflects what the company described as weakness in the global diamond market, alongside rising demand for copper and other energy-transition metals. Botswana Diamonds noted that Botswana continues to offer a stable operating environment with significant geological potential.

Copper activity in the country has increased in recent years. MMG and Sandfire Resources are operating newly discovered copper mines, while exploration is also being carried out by companies including Cobre Ltd, which has a joint venture with BHP, as well as Kavango Resources, Galileo Resources and Aterian plc.

NEXT STEPS

Botswana Diamonds said it has begun initial discussions with potential partners regarding joint ventures to advance exploration across the newly awarded licences. It is also planning close-interval geophysical and geochemical surveys to define drill targets.

At the same time, the company said it continues to monitor conditions in the diamond market and the allocation of capital to its diamond projects.

John Teeling, the chairman of Botswana Diamonds, said the expanded analysis had delivered "exceptional results."

"Following the highly successful identification of kimberlite-prone ground, which led to the discovery of six previously unknown anomalies, we extended our analysis to copper and related minerals," he said. "The outcomes were outstanding."

Mr. Teeling added that diamonds remain central to the company's long-term strategy, despite current market conditions.

"The mission of Botswana Diamonds was and still is diamonds," he said. "But the market environment for diamonds is poor at present."

As businesses across Botswana battle difficult trading conditions, Sefalana Group Managing Director Chandra Chauhan has warned that consumers are under intense pressure, making price increases increasingly hard to justify. Presenting the Group's half-year results, Chauhan said many businesses in the country are struggling, reflecting the broader economic slowdown.

Consumers Under Pressure as Sefalana Holds Line

Sefalana Group Managing Director Chandra Chauhan says consumers are under severe strain as the regional economy weakens, even as the Group records solid revenue growth and remains profitable through disciplined cost control and long-term investments.

TLOTLO KEBINAKGABO

As businesses across Botswana battle difficult trading conditions, Sefalana Group Managing Director Chandra Chauhan has warned that consumers are under intense pressure, making price increases increasingly hard to justify. Presenting the Group's half-year results, Chauhan said many businesses in the country are struggling, reflecting the broader economic slowdown.

"At the moment, the consumer is really, really struggling out there, and increasing prices is going to be very, very difficult," he said, noting that passing higher costs on to customers could render businesses uncompetitive. The results presented cover the period up to 31 October 2025, and Chauhan cautioned that conditions had not improved up to January, with the Group expecting a tough second half of the trading year.

PROFITS UNDER PRESSURE

Despite the challenging environment, Sefalana remained profitable. The Group reported a profit before tax of P197 million, down 10 percent on the prior period. Chauhan said the decline was not unexpected given prevailing economic conditions and rising input costs.

He attributed the Group's resilience to decisions taken years ago to diversify and invest beyond its traditional operations. "It is those investments that we made during that period that are seeing us through," he said, adding that while profits were down, the Group was still "making reasonably good profit and still standing strong."

COST MANAGEMENT MEASURES

To mitigate pressure on margins, Sefalana implemented careful cost reduction and expenditure management. Chauhan said third-party supply cost increases were limited wherever possible, while the main cost increases stemmed from deliberate decisions to support lower-paid staff.

Electricity tariffs also weighed heavily on operations, with the cost of the increase in electricity alone anticipated to rise by between 18 and 20 percent during 2025. These pressures, he said, further constrained the Group's ability to absorb costs without affecting prices.

WAGES AND WORKERS

A significant focus of the period under review was staff remuneration. Chauhan said all employees continue to be paid above the minimum wage, emphasising the Group's intention to engage government on wage-related matters.

Sefalana had committed to reaching a P4,000 wage threshold over three years, beginning in 2025. In that year, lower-paid employees received an increment of 23 percent, with similar increases initially planned for 2026 and 2027. However, Chauhan said the Group was now uncertain whether it could fully achieve this target given current trading conditions.

REVENUE AND OUTLOOK

Despite the pressures, Sefalana reported revenue of P5.8 billion, its highest reported half-year result, representing a 9 percent increase on the prior period. Chauhan said this top-line growth, against regional inflation of between 3 and 5 percent, indicated market share penetration.

The Group also created employment for an additional 632 people over the past 12 months, bringing total staff numbers to 8,555, with under 1 percent non-citizen employment.

Looking ahead, Chauhan said the Group remained optimistic that a turnaround would occur as both the public and private sectors implement initiatives to revitalise the economy.

Keabetswe Confirmed at BDC

What the confirmation of a new Managing Director means for how Botswana's development capital will be deployed and why it matters to businesses and consumers

Botswana Development Corporation (BDC) has confirmed Oteng Keabetswe as its substantive Managing Director, effective 1 February 2026, as the Corporation shifts towards a more catalytic investment role in support of Botswana's economic transformation.

Keabetswe's confirmation follows a six-month caretaker period during which BDC moved away from a balance-sheet-driven approach towards an impact-led investment model aimed at mobilising larger pools of capital, attracting private sector partners and delivering measurable outcomes in priority sectors.

STRATEGIC SHIFT UNDERWAY

Established in 1970, BDC is the Government of Botswana's principal investment arm, mandated to promote industrialisation, private sector growth and economic diversification. In recent years, the Corporation has acknowledged the need to adapt to tighter global financial conditions, domestic funding constraints and growing expectations for development institutions to demonstrate tangible impact.

Vice Chairman Rizwan Desai said the appointment reflected performance and the need for disciplined execution. He said the Board expected faster capital deployment and clearer economic outcomes.

Botswana Development Corporation (BDC) has confirmed Oteng Keabetswe as its substantive Managing Director, effective 1 February 2026, as the Corporation shifts towards a more catalytic investment role in support of Botswana's economic transformation.

FOCUS ON IMPACT AND CAPITAL EFFICIENCY

During his caretaker tenure, Keabetswe oversaw initiatives aligned with national development priorities, including the establishment of the Unity Healthcare Botswana Partnership Fund to support local manufacturing, supply chain localisation and domestic production of essential medicines.

BDC also executed more than P600 million in capital recycling transactions to improve balance sheet efficiency and redeployed capital into higher-impact domestic investments. In addition, the Corporation deployed USD 10 million in Letshego Holdings through a structured impact facility aimed at expanding access to inclusive finance.

Keabetswe said the confirmation marked a move from strategy to delivery, with a focus on food security, healthcare supply chains, industrial manufacturing, energy and infrastructure.

"BDC cannot be relevant if our impact is not felt in the real economy," he said. "Our task now is execution. That means mobilising capital at scale, backing sectors that create sustainable jobs, and ensuring that every pula deployed delivers maximum development and economic return for the country. We will be judged on outcomes, not intentions, and that is appropriate."

Budget 26: Doing More with Less

The Mainstreaming of Decoupling

Botswana cannot grow by spending more and consuming more. Budget 26 must mark a decisive shift toward efficiency, outcomes and economic growth that uses fewer resources, not more.

DOUGLAS RASBASH

SHIFTING WAVES

Economic thinking moves in waves. There was a time when growth meant expansion. More land cultivated. More roads built. More minerals extracted. More energy consumed. Economist Kenneth Boulding described this era as the cowboy economy, a world of open frontiers where progress simply meant doing more.

Botswana's development story was born in that wave. In the early decades of independence, roads, dams, schools, clinics and power stations were precisely what development required. Infrastructure was progress. Spending was growth.

> Efficiency, not expansion, is now the engine of economic growth.

SPACEMAN ECONOMY

The world has moved on. Resources are constrained. Water is scarce. Energy is costly. Climate risk is real. Modern economies no longer grow by using more. They grow by using less, more intelligently.

Boulding called this the spaceman economy, where success is measured by efficiency, productivity and the ability to separate economic growth from resource consumption. Here lies the uncomfortable truth. Botswana is still budgeting as if it lives in the cowboy economy.

BUDGET MOMENT

Budget 26 is the moment for the Second Republic to acknowledge that the economic model itself must change.

Last year's budget named many of the right problems. Unemployment. Gender violence. Digitisation. Energy. Infrastructure. But it defined none of the outcomes. Twelve months later, basic questions remain unanswered. Did unemployment fall. Did gender violence decline. Did digitisation improve services. Did energy and water use become more productive.

A budget that measures spending rather than results cannot answer these questions.

DECOUPLING

Budget 26 must mainstream a concept rarely heard in budget speeches. Decoupling.

Decoupling means an economy grows without proportional increases in energy use, water use, transport volumes, imports or government size. It shifts focus from how much is produced to how efficiently it is produced.

It is not megawatts generated but energy consumed per unit of GDP. It is not litres of water used but water used per pula of GDP. It is not kilometres of road built but how efficiently goods and people move. It is not the size of government but the value generated per civil servant.

Botswana does not currently measure any of this.

ENERGY BLINDSPOT

How many kilowatt hours does Botswana use to produce one pula of GDP. We do not know. Yet generation capacity is expanding without clarity on what problem is being solved.

Water is even more urgent. Botswana is one of the most water stressed countries in the world. Research suggests more than 270 litres of water are required to produce a single unit of GDP, among the highest globally. Yet there is no national target to improve water productivity across agriculture, mining, households or industry.

OUTCOMES FIRST

A performance budget does not start with ministries and allocations. It starts with outcomes.

By the end of the financial year, government should be able to say youth unemployment fell because programmes were tied directly to job creation. Gender violence declined because funding was linked to policing, prevention and victim support. Services moved online and citizens experienced the difference. The economy used less energy and water per unit of GDP.

> Botswana must stop measuring how much government spends and start measuring what actually changes.

These are outcomes, not activities.

NDP REALITY

NDP12 was designed for a fiscal envelope that no longer exists. Diamond revenues are under pressure. Deficits are rising. Resources are limited. Pursuing every project spreads funding too thinly to create impact anywhere.

Budget 26 should announce a rapid review and prioritisation of NDP12 so that only projects that clearly improve national outcome indicators are funded. This is not retreat. It is focus.

DIGITAL LEAP

Digitisation is the fastest governance reform available. Botswana ranks poorly on global e Government measures. Within one year, licensing, tax, registration, procurement and permits could be online.

Digitisation reduces administrative costs, improves transparency, speeds up business creation and improves service delivery. Few capital investments can match this impact.

EMOBILITY

Electric mobility is the clear-

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est expression of decoupling. Botswana spends billions importing fuel. That money leaves the economy. Electric vehicles shift spending into domestic electricity, much of it solar, keeping value inside Botswana.

This transition reduces imports, improves energy security, lowers transport costs, cuts the price of goods and food and creates new industries. It is not just a transport issue. It is an economic strategy.

STATE LIMITS

The developer state model has reached its limits. It was built for an era when government had to build and operate everything. That era has passed. Botswana now has private capital, pension funds and skills. Yet government still acts as operator rather than enabler.

This structure has become a drag on growth.

RIGHT SIZING

Fiscal pressure is increasing. Wage bills and recurrent expenditure consume a growing share of the budget. If government does not deliberately right size itself, it will eventually be forced to do so abruptly.

Right sizing is economic maturity. Decoupling applies to government too. Better services must be delivered with fewer processes, fewer layers and smarter systems. Digitisation makes this possible.

FINAL SHIFT

Budget 26 should be judged by whether Botswana reduces the electricity, fuel, water and administrative effort required to produce each unit of GDP while increasing the proportion of government services delivered online.

This budget must tell citizens what will change, not what will be bought. Botswana must grow by using less, not more. Efficiency is now the engine of growth.

> Growth that uses fewer resources is no longer optional.

That is the shift from cowboy to spaceman. That is the mainstreaming of decoupling.

Economic thinking moves in waves. There was a time when growth meant expansion: more land cultivated, more roads built, more minerals extracted, more energy consumed. This was the era the economist Kenneth Boulding described as the cowboy economy a world of open frontiers where progress simply meant doing more. Botswana's development story was born in that wave. In the early decades of independence, building roads, dams, schools, clinics and power stations was precisely what progress required. Infrastructure was development. Spending was growth. But the world has moved into a different wave of economic thinking. Resources are constrained. Water is scarce. Energy is costly. Climate risk is real. Economies no longer grow by using more. They grow by using less, more intelligently. Boulding called this the spaceman economy — where success is measured by efficiency, productivity and the ability to decouple economic growth from resource consumption. And here lies the uncomfortable truth: Botswana is still budgeting as if it lives in the cowboy economy.

ICON	DECOUPLING AREA	KPI (INTENSITY MEASURE)	CURRENT BASELINE	BUDGET DIRECTION
⚡⚡	Electricity	kWh per US$1,000 GDP	193 kWh	⬇ Reduce 25%
🚗🚗	Transport Energy	kWh fuel per US$1,000 GDP	609 kWh	⬇ To 300 kWh by 2036
💧💧	Water	Litres per US$1,000 GDP	11,460 L	⬇ Reduce 30%
💻💻	Digital Governance (UN OSI)	Online Service Index (0–1)	0.274	⬇ Double by 2030
🗳️🗳️	E-Participation (UN EPI)	E-Participation Index (0–1)	0.170	⬇ Triple by 2030
🏛️🏛️	Governance Intensity	Staff per US$1bn GDP	7,800	⬇ Reduce 30–40%

Budget 26 is the moment for the Second Republic to acknowledge that the economic model itself must change. Last Year's Budget Named the Problems — But Measured None. Last year's budget spoke eloquently about unemployment, gender violence, digitisation, infrastructure,

energy and culture. But it never defined what success would look like. Twelve months later, we cannot answer simple questions. Did unemployment fall? Did gender violence reduce? Did digitisation improve? Did government become more efficient? Did energy use become more productive? Did water use become more efficient? The budget must answer these questions and cannot continue to measure how much is spent, not what changes because of it.

Budget 26 Must Introduce: Decoupling. Budget 26 must mainstream a concept rarely heard in budget speeches: decoupling. Decoupling means an economy grows without proportional increases in Energy use, Water use, Transport Produced, Imports, Government size and administrative complexity. It is not MWh of energy generated but energy consumed per unit of GDP, similarly it is not water consumed, but water used per unit of GDP; It is not km or roads nut net tons of good and passenger transported per km of road. It is not the size of government -, but civil servants per billion pula of GDP produced and so on. The linkage between resources consumed and economic output is crucial by utterly neglected aspect of Botswana Governance, and it must change. The most advanced economies in the world now grow GDP while reducing resource intensity. Botswana has never measured this and actually do the opposite. Energy Intensity - How many kilowatt-hours does Botswana use to produce one pula of GDP? We do not know. Yet we are adding gigawatts of power generation. To achieve what exactly? A performance budget would set a target to reduce energy intensity of GDP within a year. Water Intensity, a recent paper noted that we need 273 litres of water to produce a one unit of GDP. One of the highest in the world. Botswana is one of the most water-stressed countries in the world. Yet we do not measure how many litres of water are used to produce one pula of GDP. Agriculture, mining, households and industry depend on water. But there is no national target to improve water productivity.

FROM INPUTS TO OUTCOMES

The performance budget does not start with ministries and allocations. It starts with what must change in society. By the end of the next financial year, government should be able to say: Youth unemployment fell because programmes were tied directly to job numbers. Gender violence declined because funding was tied to policing, victim support and prevention metrics. Botswana's global e-Government ranking rose sharply because real services moved online. The economy used less energy and less water per unit of GDP because efficiency targets were set. Small busi-

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nesses started faster because regulation was digitised. Internet access expanded. Logistics costs fell. Citizens experienced better services. These are outcomes. Not activities.

WHY NDP12 MUST BE REVIEWED AND PRIORITISED

NDP12 was designed for a fiscal envelope that no longer exists. Diamond revenues are under pressure. Deficits are rising. Resources are limited. Continuing to pursue every project spreads funds too thinly to create impact anywhere. Budget 26 should announce a rapid review and prioritisation of NDP12 so that only projects that clearly improve national outcome indicators are funded. This is not retreat. It is focus.

Digitisation: The Fastest Governance Reform Available. Botswana ranks poorly in global e-Government performance. Within one year, licensing, tax, registration, procurement and permits could be online. Digitisation would reduce administrative costs, improve transparency, enable business creation, reduce corruption, improve service delivery and create digital jobs. Few capital projects can match this impact.

eMobility: The Practical Expression of Decoupling. A rapid transition to electric mobility perfectly illustrates the new economic model. Botswana spends billions importing fuel. That money leaves the economy. Electric vehicles shift that spending into domestic electricity — much of it solar — keeping value inside Botswana. This transition improves GDP by reducing imports, creates jobs in charging and maintenance, improves energy security, reduces household transport costs, lowers the cost of goods and food, and drives diversification into green technology. Very few policies achieve so much across so many fronts. Budget 26 should elevate eMobility from a transport topic to a national economic strategy.

The Developer State Model Has Reached Its Limits. Botswana's public sector was designed for a very different era when government had to build, own and operate almost everything because nobody else could. That era has passed. Today Botswana has pension funds, banks, private capital, skilled professionals and access to global markets. Yet government is still structured as if it must personally deliver every service and manage every process. What was once a driver of development has become a drag on it. The developer state model has outlived its usefulness.

Right-Sizing Government Is an Economic Necessity. Botswana's fiscal position is tightening. Diamond revenues are volatile. Deficits are widening. Recurrent expenditure and the wage bill consume an ever-growing share of the budget. This is not sustainable in a slower-growing economy. If Botswana does not deliberately and intelligently right-size government, it will eventually be forced to do so abruptly and painfully by its creditors. Countries do not choose austerity. They are pushed into it. Right-sizing government now is an act of economic maturity, not weakness. Decoupling Applies to Government Too Botswana must learn to deliver better services with fewer processes, fewer layers, fewer delays and ultimately a leaner administrative structure. Digitisation makes this possible. Simplification makes this possible. A shift from government as operator to government as enabler makes this possible. Savings from this reform can be redirected into programmes that create jobs and measurable outcomes.

- The Ten Actions Budget 26 Should Announce
- Introduce outcome-based budgeting across all ministries.
- Review and reprioritise NDP12 within 90 days.
- Launch a national e-Government acceleration programme.
- Introduce energy intensity of GDP as a national metric.
- Introduce water intensity of GDP as a national metric.
- Declare a national eMobility transition plan.
- Link all infrastructure spending to GDP and job metrics.
- Digitise business processes within one year.
- Right-size administrative government.
- Publish annual national outcome indicators.
- Budget 26 — Decoupling KPI Snapshot

Budget 26 should be judged by whether Botswana reduces the electricity, fuel, water and administrative effort needed to produce each unit of GDP — while sharply increasing the proportion of government that works online.

> This budget must tell citizens what will change, not what will be bought. Botswana must grow by using less, not more. Efficiency is now the engine of growth.

The Messages Citizens Should Hear. This budget is about what will change, not what will be bought. Botswana must grow by using less, not more. Efficiency is the new engine of growth. NDP12 must fit the resources we actually have. eMobility and digitisation are economic strategies. Government must shrink so outcomes can grow.

The Key Take Away from Budget 26 is that Botswana will no longer measure how much government spends; Botswana will measure what changes because government spends. That is the shift from cowboy to spaceman. That is the mainstreaming of decoupling. And that is what must define Budget 26 if the Second Republic is to be more than a change of faces and speeches.

EMMA WAREUS' NEW LANE AT MUB

She didn't return to pageantry to relive a crown, she came back to rewire the system. At Miss Universe Botswana (MUB) 2026, power shifted quietly from spectacle to structure

GOSEGO MOTSUMI

At the official crowning of Miss Universe Botswana 2026, something quieter and arguably bigger happened. Emma Wareus, Miss World Africa 2010, stepped into a newly created role: Honorary President of Miss Universe Botswana. No sash. No executive power. Just responsibility.

"Titles are not the end of the story. They are the beginning of a responsibility," Wareus said at Protea Hotel, setting the tone for what this role is really about. Her appointment positions her as a moral compass — a bridge between organisers and contestants, and between intention and action.

INSIDE EMMA'S NEW LANE

Wareus was deliberate in defining her space. "I am not here to replace the leadership, nor to overshadow it. I am here to serve as the guardian of the values, as the voice of experience," she said. In an industry often rattled by controversy and online noise, her role introduces lived experience where it's been missing most.

Her message to contestants landed softly but firmly: "You may always approach me… I am here to be your sister, your advocate, your confidant. The crown is not the destination. It is just the launch pad." In other words, no queen should feel unsupported on a platform built to empower her.

> "The crown is not the destination. It is just the launch pad"

A NEW FORMAT, A NEW TEMPO

This cultural reset aligns with structural changes already underway. Miss Universe Botswana Coordinator Safie Sekgwa confirmed that, starting in 2026, titleholders will reign before competing internationally, prioritising leadership, preparation and community impact.

To enforce this, Dabilo Moses, newly crowned Miss Universe Botswana 2026, has been appointed to allow adequate training ahead of the global competition in Puerto Rico this November.

"Preparations for the next queen after Moses are ongoing, audition dates will be announced and the grand finale will be in December this year in Francistown," Sekgwa Added.

CALLING OUT THE COMMENT SECTION

Wareus didn't dodge the elephant in the digital room. "We cannot build confidence in public and dismantle it in the comment section," she warned, calling cyberbullying what it is: cruelty dressed as critique.

ACCOUNTABILITY

Kgalalelo Lesetedi, founder of Mrs Botswana and PR Officer for the Pageantry Council, reinforced the shift. "This crown is not new territory for you… with it comes responsibility — to self, to the brand, and to the nation," she told Moses. Her call was firm: resolve issues internally, protect legacies, and stop confusing correction with cruelty.

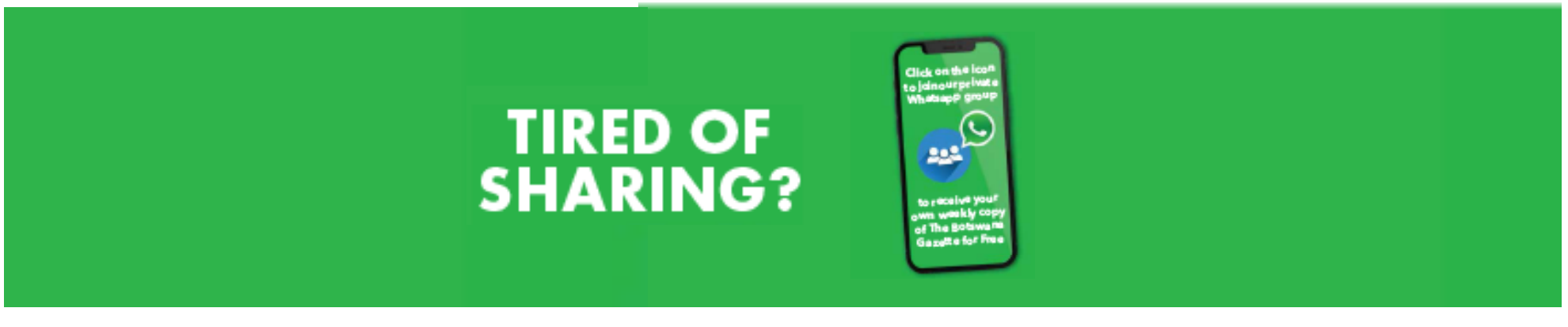
She said the Pageantry Council's role is not to police queens through headlines nor to manage issues through public opinion but to listen, guide, resolve, and to protect the integrity of the industry.

"When matters are taken prematurely to the public space, the damage does not only affect the brand management; it affects you as well; the queens. Reputations are fragile, legacies are long, and sadly the internet never forgets," she said.

"Please work hand in hand with all structures supporting your reign. The crown does not separate you from the brand."

WHY THIS MOMENT MATTERS

Pageantry, Wareus reminded us, is not just performance. "Pageantry at its best is not a spectacle, it is infrastructure for dreams."



Soft Vocals, Hard Truths

Songbird, Stephanie Johnson is turning real-life love stories into the most honest R&B moments

GOSEGO MOTSUMI

If Valentine's Day had a plot twist, Stephanie Johnson would be singing it. The Botswana-based R&B/Soul artist has built a quiet but steady radio presence with Serenity and Lerato. Now, just days before lovers exchange roses and filtered affection, she's dropping "I Got a Man", a song that side-eyes romance and asks the uncomfortable question: what happens when love isn't clean?

R&B THAT FEELS LIKE A CONFESSION

Her debut single, Serenity, is a soft-spoken anthem of hope. "It's meant to inspire people to keep going and have faith, even when life feels heavy," she told Time Out.

Then came Lerato, featuring Uth ThaMeek — a love-soaked meditation on falling, floating, and feeling too much.

Together, they form the emotional spine of her upcoming EP: a project she describes as "a journey through a spectrum of emotions."

VALENTINE'S, BUT MAKE IT MESSY

Her third single, I Got a Man, arrives on 5 February, deliberately timed to drop before Valentine's day.

"It's about being caught between two people, your committed partner and someone else who has a strong, irresistible effect on you. It explores temptation and how desire can make situations complicated," she explained.

"I chose to release it just before Valentine's Day because it taps into a side of love that many people experience but don't often talk about: the pull of guilty pleasures and the choices that come with them. I wanted to speak on the sneaky link culture we see today.

WHY R&B, WHY NOW

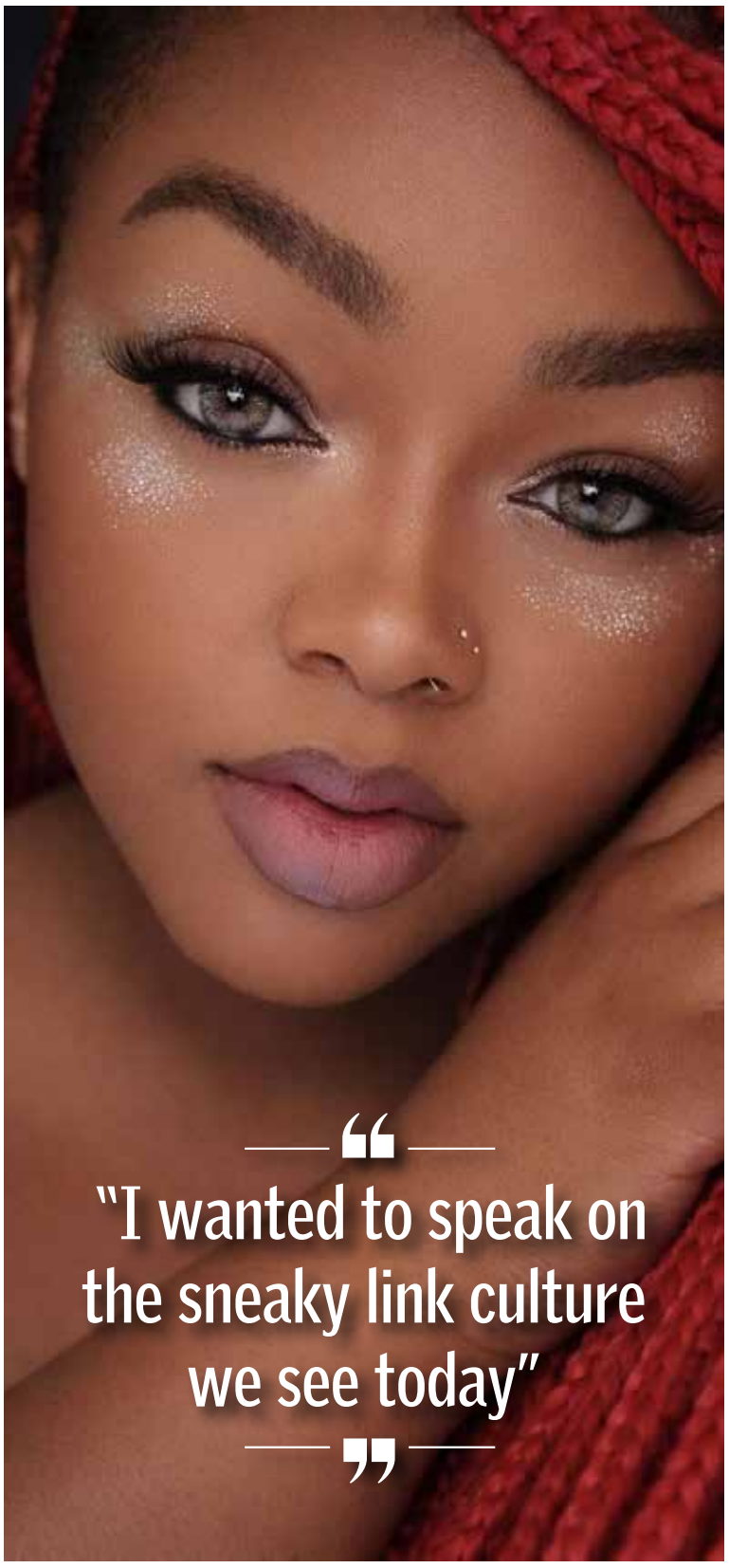
For Johnson, R&B isn't a trend, it's a truth serum.

"It allows me to tell stories that connect emotionally and spark a range of feelings in listeners."

She believes Botswana's R&B scene is growing, slowly but sincerely and she's part of the proof.

FROM CHILD STAR TO SOUL STORYTELLER

Singing since age four and performing professionally by fourteen, Johnson has shared creative space with artists like Oatsdona, BK Proctor and Cici. Now, working on her debut EP with X808X Records, she's setting her sights beyond borders — exporting Botswana's feelings, one honest song at a time.



Why 'Keep Him Safe Works' Everywhere

When local stories are told through a universal lens, they don't need subtitles. Keep Him Safe, selected for the Nevada Women's Film Festival, shows how deeply rooted truths can resonate anywhere, proving that authenticity, not explanation, is what carries a story across the world

GOSEGO MOTSUMI

The most powerful stories don't shout where they're from, they let you feel it. Keep Him Safe, a local short film now officially selected for the Nevada Women's Film Festival, understands that rule perfectly. It arrives in at the film fest not waving a cultural flag, but holding up a mirror.

The premise is deceptively simple: an older sister and her younger brother share a meal. Then the boy says something he's been carrying alone. What follows is not spectacle, but reckoning — the kind that lands in your chest and refuses to move.

For producer, writer and co-director Nikita Neo Mokgware, the international selection was immediate validation. "Feedback in my industry is everything; you need to know what works and what doesn't, and now I will be getting that from an international perspective," she said in an interview.

ROOTED AT HOME, READABLE EVERYWHERE

Mokgware was intentional about telling a Botswana story without over-explaining it. "I was trained to tell local stories through a universal lens," she explained. The emotions — fear, protection, silence, love — do the heavy lifting. Geography becomes secondary.

That approach is precisely why the film resonated with the women-led, socially conscious Nevada Women's Film Festival. Mothers, sisters and caregivers across cultures recognised themselves in the older sister's impossible choice. "Women commented on how the film resonated with them… that they too would do anything to protect," Mokgware notes.

REFUSING THE AFRICAN CLICHÉ

Crucially, Keep Him Safe rejects the visual shortcuts often expected of African cinema. "We refused to make the set and production design 'African'," she says. No masks. No animal prints. Just a modern Batswana home — because universality begins with honesty.

MAKING IT ANYWAY

Shot on a no-budget, one-day schedule, the film exists because its creators chose momentum over permission. That urgency is now part of its DNA — and its global appeal.

Actress Palesa Molefe who is a part of the film sums it up simply: "Botswana's creatives are taking over the world."

> "I was trained to tell local stories through a universal lens"

WHY THIS MATTERS

When Keep Him Safe screens in Nevada this March, it won't be representing Botswana by translating itself — it will do so by trusting that human emotion travels faster than context ever could.

When Setswana Hit the Algorithm

Kago Africa The Poet spoke and the internet leaned in. With viral poems, she proves that authenticity still travels faster than trends

GOSEGO MOTSUMI

Some content begs for likes. Kago Africa The Poet simply arrives. Her viral Setswana poem, "Tlherra mfereye," didn't explode because it was engineered for TikTok, it moved because it sounded like home. Familiar. Untranslated. Unapologetic.

Born Kago Kgosimore, the poet is less interested in numbers than resonance. And resonance, right now, is winning.

THE MOMENT POETRY CHOSE HER

Kago's love affair with poetry started long before algorithms existed. "My journey with poetry began during my primary school years… that moment stayed with me," she told Time Out, recalling watching a friend rehearse a poem for June 16 commemorations.

What began as curiosity became instinct.

> "Kago is currently working on her debut poetry collection, A Licking Fire, alongside her first spoken word poetry musical"

"Over time, poetry became the only way I truly express myself."

A SCENE THAT'S VERY MUCH ALIVE

Contrary to the idea that poetry is niche or fading, Kago insists the opposite is true.

"The poetry space in Botswana is actually quite impressive at the moment… the diversity and dedication within the community are encouraging to see."

The audience is there. The voices are multiplying. The forms are evolving.

TRUTH WITHOUT A MEGAPHONE

Kago's poems don't march, they mirror. Writing in Setswana isn't framed as protest, but honesty.

"I see it primarily as telling the truth, my truth."

And somehow, that softness hits harder.

ORAL TRADITION, DIGITAL AFTERLIFE

Setswana poetry has always lived in the mouth before the page. Carrying it online feels urgent to Kago.

"It means celebrating my mother tongue at a time when it feels like it is slowly becoming almost extinct."

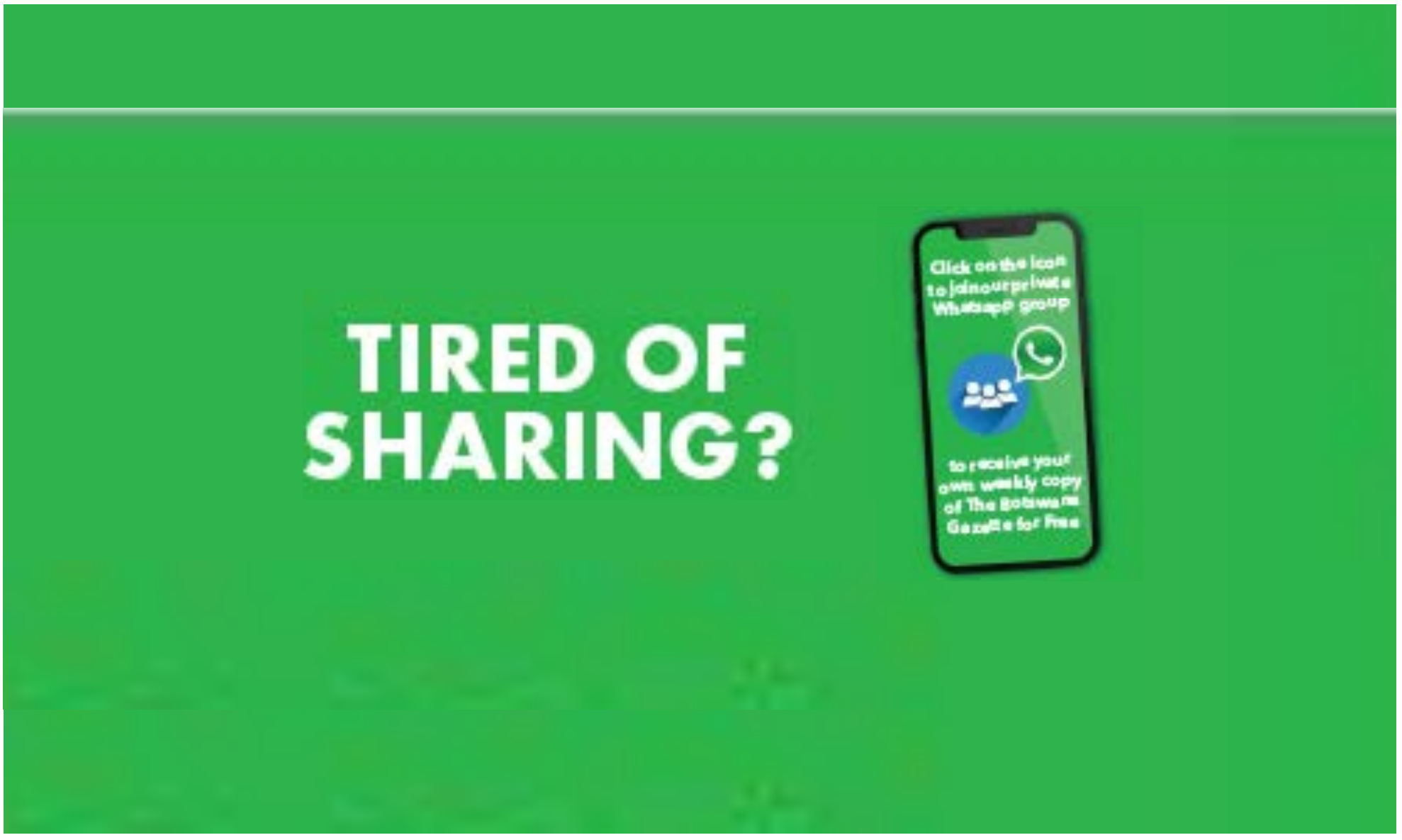
By blending English and Setswana, she calls her work both preservation and evolution.

"Once the work exists in the digital space, it gains a sense of permanence. It will always be there."

WHAT COMES NEXT

Kago is currently working on her debut poetry collection, A Licking Fire, alongside her first spoken word poetry musical, set for release on 5 February 2026, following its private listening session.

Future generations won't have to imagine Kago's voice. They'll just press play.



Simonsvlei Serves Lifestyle in a Glass

In an era where how we gather matters as much as what we drink, Simonsvlei's new Mimosa arrives as a symbol of modern celebration —easy, intentional and unapologetically stylish

GAZETTE REPORTER

The room at Luna Rosa didn't just clink with glasses, it hummed with a shift in how people socialise. Simonsvlei officially launched its ready-to-serve Mimosa, and in doing so tapped into a growing desire for pleasure without performance.

Crafted for modern consumers who value flavour, flair and flow, the Mimosa blends sparkling wine with bright citrus notes, landing squarely in the sweet spot between convenience and class. No bar theatrics. No elaborate rituals. Just a clean pour and a reason to linger.

"We are excited about this new offering, and we want people to make Simonsvlei Mimosa their everyday drink," said Banyana Marobela, On-Con Executive at Lengau Liquor Distribution Company.

THE RISE OF EASY ELEGANCE

From brunch tables to sunset socials, the Simonsvlei Mimosa positions itself as more than a beverage — it's a lifestyle cue. It speaks to a generation redefining luxury not as excess, but as ease. Premium, yes — but approachable. Stylish, without trying too hard.

Whether it's a garden party, rooftop gathering or curated lifestyle event, the Mimosa slips effortlessly into moments where connection matters more than complication.

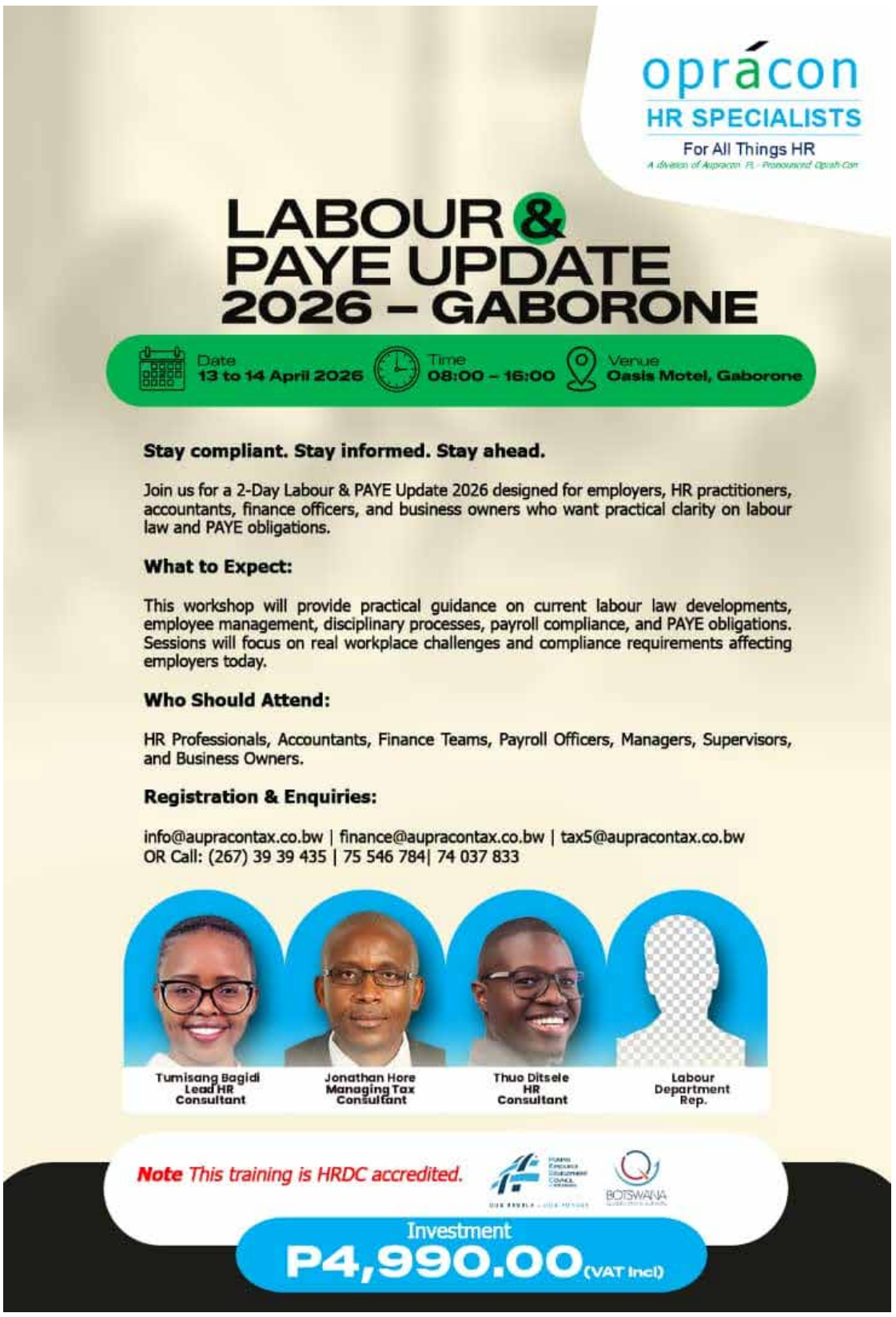
A BRAND WATCHING THE ROOM

With this launch, Simonsvlei strengthens its footprint in the lifestyle bubbly category, signalling an understanding of evolving tastes. The brand's plans to activate the Mimosa through experiential events and partnerships across food, fashion and entertainment suggest a future where drinks don't just accompany culture — they participate in it.

> "We want people to make Simonsvlei Mimosa their everyday drink"

WHY THIS SPARKLES NOW

In a time obsessed with optimisation, Simonsvlei Mimosa offers something radical: pause, pour and enjoy.



RESPONSIBILITY INNOVATION CO-OPERATION

DEVELOPMENT BOTSWANA (Pty) LTD

VACANCIES

1. **Site Engineer* 3**: 5 years' post qualification experience. BSc/B.Eng. Civil Engineering or Construction Management. Proven track record in quality control and project management. ERB or equivalent is preferred.
2. **Technician* 8 (all trades)**: 6 +years' experience in real estate or construction environment with trade credentials including safety and health.

Email a detailed CV, with two (2) contactable referees to the Human Resources Manager hr.bw@ricdevelopment.co.bw

Whilst RIC is an equal opportunity employer, preference will be given to citizens.

CLOSING DATE: 06 FEBRUARY 2026.

For more information, contact: The Human Resource Manager, P O Box AE 314 AEH, Gaborone, Tel:3118122.

Note: RIC will respond to candidates shortlisted for interview only.

DATA PROTECTION BREACHES ATTRACT FINES OF UP TO P50 MILLION

Edwin Duta
Lead IT Consultant, Opracon IT Specialists

It starts small. A phone number scribbled on a notebook, a photocopy of an identity document left on a desk, and a WhatsApp group sharing clients' details. Under the Data Protection Act No. 18 of 2024 (Act) which commenced on the 14th of January 2025, any of these could cost an organization up to P50 million. This is not a warning for the future; it is the law now. Across the country, businesses, institutions and individuals continue to collect and handle personal information as if nothing has changed. Names, identity numbers, medical records, employment details, banking information, CCTV footage and digital databases are being stored, shared and exposed often without consent, safeguards or accountability.

FINES

What many do not realize is that the Data Protection Act has teeth. Section 83 of the Act provides for an administrative fine not exceeding P50 000 000, or in the case of an undertaking, four per cent of the total worldwide annual turnover of the preceding financial year, whichever is higher. These fines apply where the basic principles for processing personal data are breached. According to the Act, processing of data as defined in Section 2 includes "operation or set of operations which is performed on personal data or on sets of personal data, whether or not by automated means and includes collection, recording, organization, structuring, storage, adaptation or alteration, retrieval, consultation, disclosure by transmission, dissemination or otherwise making available, alignment or combination, restriction, erasure or destruction."

According to the Act, personal data, which is the data of individuals held by in most cases companies for whatever reason including personal information of employees, must only be used for the purpose for which it was acquired from the owner of the information (data subject per the Act). In other words, if an employer, service provider or any other organization obtains personal data, they must use it (otherwise called processing in the Act) in such a way that the rights and freedoms of the data subject are not infringed. Improper sharing of data, giving access to people who have no genuine reason to access information or any misuse is prohibited by the Act and per the above-mentioned section such misuse gives rise to hefty P50 million administrative fine. This fine can be levied upon the offender by the Information and Data Protection Commission, the statutory corporation set up to enforce compliance with the Act.

If you collect personal data, you are already impacted by this Act. Crucially, ignorance offers no protection. Claiming "we did not know" will not undo a breach, stop an investigation or reduce the administrative fine. The law expects data controllers and data processors to understand their duties and to put practical safeguards in place. These safeguards include limiting access to personal data, securing physical and electronic records, obtaining lawful consent of using personal data for other non-call activities such as marketing, training staff on the law and ensuring that data is not kept longer than necessary. Failure at any of these points can trigger enforcement of the administrative fines.

BEWARE

The fines are not designed to punish accidents alone. They are meant to stop carelessness and reckless handling of personal information. In a digital age where data can be copied, forwarded, leaked or sold in seconds, the harm caused by one breach can be permanent. Beyond fines, the damage does not end. Reputations collapse. Trust evaporates. Legal claims follow. Customers leave and institutions struggle to recover. The Act marks a turning point. Botswana has drawn a hard line in the sand. Personal data is private, valuable and protected by law. The question every organization should now be asking is simple and urgent. If we were investigated today, would we survive the fine?

Contacts: You may contact us at +267 759 336 30 or +267 393 9435 or tax7@aupracontax.co.bw. This article is general, and written advice or training is recommended if decisions are to be made. If you require to join our free IT WhatsApp groups or to know more about our services, please send us a text/WhatsApp on the number above.

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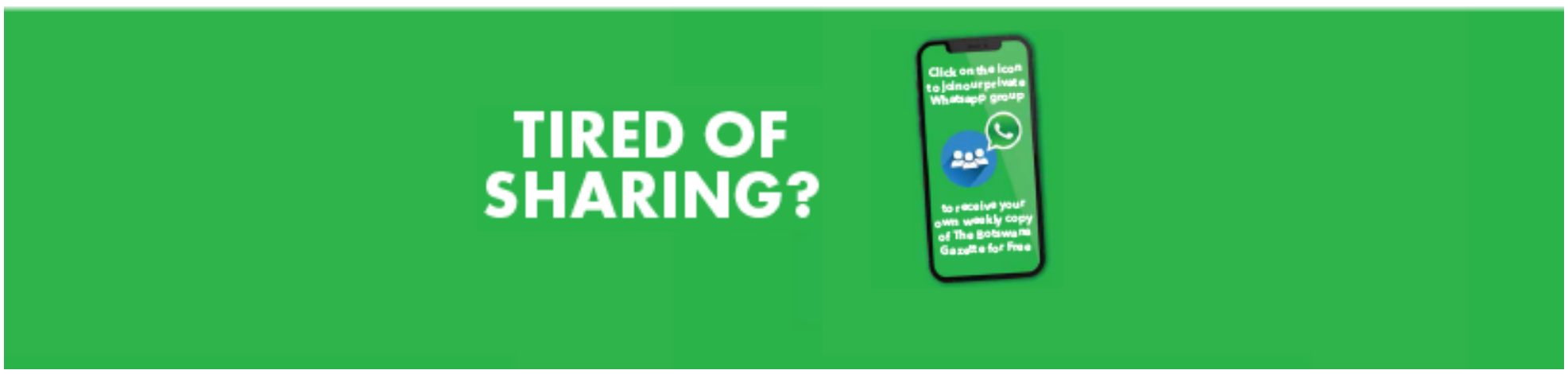
IT SPECIALISTS
Consulting & Training



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

CASE NO. CVHGB - 003424 - 23

In the matter between
STANBIC BANK BOTSWANA LIMITED **Plaintiff**
and
BONNIE BONNO THABOLO **Defendant**

NOTICE OF SALE IN EXECUTION

BE PLEASED TO TAKE NOTICE THAT pursuant to a Judgment granted by the above Honourable Court on the 24th May 2024 the following immovable property of the abovementioned Defendant will be sold by means of public auction to the highest bidder by **Deputy Sheriff O. Mothibi** as follows:

DATE OF SALE : Friday 06th March 2026
VENUE : Lot 26467 Gaborone
TIME OF SALE : 1000 hours
TERMS OF SALE : All participating bidders are required to make an upfront payment of BWP 10 000.00 directly to the undersigned Attorneys, refundable only to those who did not succeed in the sale. Only cash or bank guaranteed cheques will be accepted. The detailed conditions of sale are available for inspection at the undersigned Attorneys' offices.

PROPERTY TO BE SOLD : The Defendant's title rights and interest in a certain piece of land being Lot 26467, Gaborone situate at Gaborone West measuring 493m² (Four Hundred and Ninety Three Square Metres) held under Deed of transfer No. 1378/2007 dated 12th July 2007 made in favour of Bonnie Bonno Thabolo together with developments therein, being a master ensuite, two bedroom 1 fitted, bathroom (toilet & shower), sitting room, dinning room, valenda plus bachelor pad, paved with electric fence.

DATED AT GABORONE ON THIS 27TH DAY OF JANUARY 2026.

COLLINS CHILISA CONSULTANTS
Attorneys • Notaries • Conveyancers

COLLINS CHILISA CONSULTANTS
Plaintiff's Attorneys
Plot 4858, Lecha Close
Off Marakanelo Way
Extension 11
P O Box 45136
GABORONE
[Cell No. 72234419/77636760]

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

CASE NO. CVHGB - 003513 - 24

In the matter between
STANBIC BANK BOTSWANA LIMITED **Plaintiff**
and
DIMPHO MONYAMANE **Defendant**

NOTICE OF SALE IN EXECUTION

BE PLEASED TO TAKE NOTICE THAT pursuant to a Judgment granted by the above Honourable Court on the 04th August 2025 the following immovable property of the abovementioned Defendant will be sold by means of public auction to the highest bidder by **Deputy Sheriff U. Chilisa** as follows:

DATE OF SALE : Friday 06th March 2026
VENUE : Lot 15168, Tlokweng
TIME OF SALE : 1000 hours
TERMS OF SALE : All participating bidders are required to make an upfront payment of BWP 10 000.00 directly to the undersigned Attorneys, refundable only to those who did not succeed in the sale. Only cash or bank guaranteed cheques will be accepted. The detailed conditions of sale are available for inspection at the undersigned Attorneys' offices.

PROPERTY TO BE SOLD : The Defendant's title rights and interest in a certain piece of land being Lot 15168, Tlokweng, situate on Lot 8986, Tlokweng (Cadastre 3) in Batlokwa Tribal Territory measuring 403m² (Four Hundred and Three Square Metres) held under Notarial Deed of Cession No. MA 174/2022 dated 28th day of February 2022 made in favour of Dimpho Monyamane, together with developments therein, being sitting room, kitchen, 3 bedrooms, bathroom with toilet, parking lot, screen wall with electric fence.

DATED AT GABORONE ON THIS 27TH DAY OF JANUARY 2026.

COLLINS CHILISA CONSULTANTS
Attorneys • Notaries • Conveyancers

COLLINS CHILISA CONSULTANTS
Plaintiff's Attorneys
Plot 4858, Lecha Close
Off Marakanelo Way
Extension 11
P O Box 45136
GABORONE
Deputy Sheriff U J CHILISA
[Cell No. 71594008/74770666]

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

CASE NO. CVHGB - 003911 - 24

In the matter between
STANBIC BANK BOTSWANA LIMITED **Plaintiff**
and
JOYCE MOTHUPI **Defendant**

NOTICE OF SALE IN EXECUTION

BE PLEASED TO TAKE NOTICE THAT pursuant to a Judgment granted by the above Honourable Court on the 20th March 2025 the following immovable property of the abovementioned Defendant will be sold by means of public auction to the highest bidder by **Deputy Sheriff U. Chilisa** as follows:

DATE OF SALE : Friday 13th March 2026
VENUE : Lot 20721, Palapye
TIME OF SALE : 1000 hours
TERMS OF SALE : All participating bidders are required to make an upfront payment of BWP 10 000.00 directly to the undersigned Attorneys, refundable only to those who did not succeed in the sale. Only cash or bank guaranteed cheques will be accepted. The detailed conditions of sale are available for inspection at the undersigned Attorneys' offices.

PROPERTY TO BE SOLD : The Defendant's title rights and interest in a certain piece of land being Lot 20721, Palapye, situate at Palapye in the Bamangwato Tribal Territory measuring 1 204m² (One Thousand Two Hundred and Four Square Metres) held under Memorandum of Agreement of Lease No. FT TL 221/2013 registered in favour of Joyce Mercy Mothupi dated 8th day of April 2013, together with developments therein, being 4 blocks, each block with open plan kitchen, 2 bedrooms and common bathroom, screen wall, electric fence, motorized gate and parking lot.

DATED AT GABORONE ON THIS 27TH DAY OF JANUARY 2026.

COLLINS CHILISA CONSULTANTS
Attorneys • Notaries • Conveyancers

COLLINS CHILISA CONSULTANTS
Plaintiff's Attorneys
Plot 4858, Lecha Close
Off Marakanelo Way
Extension 11
P O Box 45136
GABORONE
Deputy Sheriff U J CHILISA
[Cell No. 71594008/74770666]

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

Case No: CVHFT-000 639/19

In the matter between:
STANBIC BANK BOTSWANA LIMITED **Plaintiff**
and
DOREEN KELEBOGILE SOKWE **Defendant**

NOTICE OF SALE IN EXECUTION – IMMOVABLE PROPERTY

BE PLEASED TO TAKE NOTICE that pursuant to a writ of execution issued out of the above Honourable Court in the above matter, the following property of the Defendants will be sold by public auction to the highest bidder by **Deputy Sheriff BATHUSI BILLY** or an Auctioneer duly appointed by the Deputy Sheriff.

DATE OF SALE : Friday, 6th March 2026;

VENUE : Tribal Lot 5946, Tatisiding;

TIME OF SALE : 1100 hours;

PROPERTY TO BE SOLD : A certain piece of land being Tribal Lot 5946, Tatisiding, situated at Tatisiding in the Tati Tribal Area, measuring 1073 m² (One Thousand and Seventy Three Square Metres), which property is held under Notarial Deed of Cession of Lease No. FT MA 214/2011 registered in favour of **DOREEN KELEBOGILE SOKWE** dated the 21st October 2011, with some developments thereon being two (2) bedroomed house, sitting room, kitchen, toilet and bathroom, screen wall, electric fence, ceramic tile, water and electric available.

TERMS OF SALE : strictly Cash or Electronic Fund Transfer, otherwise detailed conditions of sale may be inspected at the Plaintiff's Attorneys' offices or the Deputy Sheriff's office.

DATED AT FRANCISTOWN ON THIS 12TH JANUARY 2026.

COLLINS CHILISA CONSULTANTS
Attorneys • Notaries • Conveyancers

COLLINS CHILISA CONSULTANTS.,
Plaintiff's Attorneys, Plot 400, Moffat Street
P.O. Box 484, Tel. 2412761
FRANCISTOWN.
Deputy Sheriff Bathusi Billy
Cell No. 71607940/74777581

PRESIDENTIAL JUDO OPEN SETS STRONG STANDARD

The inaugural Presidential Open Judo Championship delivered strong participation, rising competitive standards and renewed confidence in institutional partnerships as key drivers of sport development in Botswana

TLOTLO KEBINAKGABO

The inaugural Presidential Open Judo Championship, held over the weekend at the University of Botswana Indoor Sports Centre, has been hailed as a major success by the Botswana Judo Federation (BJF), marking a significant step forward for the growth of the sport in the country.

Speaking in a telephone interview after the competition, BJF General Secretary Anastacia Linda Masingizane said the Federation was encouraged by both the scale and quality of the event.

"We consider the Presidential Open Judo Championship to have been a highly successful inaugural event," Masingizane said. "Participation was strong, and almost all affiliated clubs were represented, which speaks to the growing interest and confidence in judo nationwide."

BROAD CLUB REPRESENTATION

The championship attracted 187 athletes competing across multiple categories, with all affiliated clubs represented except Letlhakane Judo Centre. A notable highlight was the participation of Selibe Phikwe Re Ba Bona Ha Judo Club, established in April 2024, which took part in its first-ever competition.

"For a club that is less than a year old to participate at this level is a very important milestone," Masingizane said. "It shows that our development efforts are beginning to bear fruit, particularly at grassroots level."

COMPETITIVE GROWTH EVIDENT

According to the Federation, the level of competition was both encouraging and highly competitive, reflecting steady improvement in athlete preparation across age groups. Veterans were also part of the competition, reinforcing judo's inclusivity.

"Athletes demonstrated improved execution of techniques, better contest management and increased confidence on the tatami," Masingizane noted. "The inclusion of veterans is also a reminder that judo truly is a sport for all."

The championship further carried added weight as it served as the first selection and qualification platform for the AUSC Games, scheduled for December in Maputo, Mozambique, for cadet athletes aged 15 to 17.

"This raised performance standards significantly, because athletes were competing for more than medals — they were competing for national selection," she said.

INSTITUTIONS AND PARTNERSHIPS

Minister of Sport and Arts Jacob Kelebeng, addressing the competition, emphasised the strategic importance of hosting the event at the University of Botswana, describing the venue as central to the future of sports development.

"Hosting this championship at the University of Botswana Indoor Sports Arena is both symbolic and strategic," Kelebeng said. "It highlights the central role that institutions of higher learning must play in the development of sport in our country."

He said partnerships between universities and sports federations provide athletes with access to quality facilities, sports science support, medical services and academic pathways.

"Sustainable sports development cannot be achieved in isolation," the Minister said. "It requires coordinated investment in infrastructure, coaching education, talent identification, research and governance."

PATHWAY TO EXCELLENCE

Kelebeng said events such as the Presidential Open Judo Championship are critical platforms for talent identification and inspiration, particularly for young athletes aspiring to represent Botswana internationally.

"You are the pride of our nation," he told athletes. "As you step onto the tatami, remember that you carry the hopes of your families, communities and country."

The Federation believes the smooth organisation, strong spectator interest and positive athlete engagement demonstrate that judo is steadily positioning itself as a competitive and inclusive sport within Botswana's broader sporting landscape.

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

CASE No. CVHFT 000 726/22

In the matter between
BUY 'N' BUILD (PTY) LTD — **PLAINTIFF**
And
GEAR UPS INVESTMENTS (PTY) LTD — **FIRST DEFENDANT**
MOWAD DEKA — **SECOND DEFENDANT**
EDAH IREEN MURIMA — **THIRD DEFENDANT**

NOTICE OF SALE IN EXECUTION

BE PLEASED TO TAKE NOTICE that pursuant to a judgment of the above Honourable Court, the following property will be sold by Public Auction by Deputy Sheriff **UYAPO MAFIKA** to the Highest Bidder:

DATE OF SALE : 31st March 2026
TIME : 10:30 a.m.
VENUE : Lot 14806, Satellite, Francistown
PROPERTY TO BE SOLD : Piece of land being Lot 14806, Satellite, Francistown

SITUATE : in Satellite Township Francistown;

MEASURING : 405m² (Four Hundred and Five Square Meters.) which property is held under Deed of Fixed Period State Grant No. FT 76/2019 registered on the 14th day of February 2019 made in favour of Edah Ireen Murima.

The property consists of fitted kitchen, sitting room, master bedroom ensuites, three bedrooms with fitted wardrobes, guest bathroom fitted, 2 and half with two bedrooms, bathroom and shower, two shades (car park), screen wall and some improvements therein.

CONDITIONS OF SALE : Detailed conditions of sale may be inspected with Deputy Sheriff Uyapo Mafika on cell No. 71696997 / 3165097

CONDITION OF SALE : Cash or Bank guarantee cheques

DATED AT FRANCISTOWN ON THIS 27TH DAY OF JANUARY, 2026

MMOHE ATTORNEYS
ATTORNEYS, NOTARIES & CONVEYANCERS

DEPUTY SHERIFF UYAPO MAFIKA
C/O M MMOHE ATTORNEYS
Plot No. 3936, Peolwane Street
Minestone
P.O. Box 1860
FRANCISTOWN

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

CASE NO. CVHFT 000 000 134-25

In the matter between:
STANBIC BANK BOTSWANA LIMITED — **PLAINTIFF**
And
MUKAMBA RUKURO — **DEFENDANT**

NOTICE OF SALE IN EXECUTION

BE PLEASED TO TAKE NOTICE that pursuant to a judgment of the above Honourable Court, the following property will be sold by Public Auction by Deputy Sheriff Bathusi Billy to the highest bidder as follows:

DATE OF SALE : 6th March 2026
TIME : 10.30 p.m.
VENUE : Magistrate Court, Broadhurst, Gaborone
PROPERTY TO BE SOLD : 1x1 Nissan Navara Pick UP Diesel
Registration No. : B 612 BTM
Year Manufacture : 2023
Colour : White

TERMS AND CONDITIONS : Cash or Bank electronic transfer. Detailed conditions of sale may be inspected with Deputy Sheriff Bathusi Billy on Cellphone No. 74 777 581 (Mascom)

DATED AT FRANCISTOWN ON THIS 29TH DAY OF JANUARY 2026.

LOWA ATTORNEYS
ATTORNEYS, NOTARIES & CONVEYANCERS

LOWA ATTORNEYS
Plaintiff's Attorneys
Unit 16, Haskins Building
Plot No. 469/70, Blue Jacket Street
P .O. Box 3537
FRANCISTOWN
Tel: 2412300/78541541/73966100

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

BOTSWANA HOSTS AFRICA BADMINTON

Continental championships arrive in Tlokweng as Botswana readies athletes and infrastructure for a week-long test

GAZETTE REPORTER

Botswana will host the Badminton All Africa Championships from February 9 to 15, 2026, with matches scheduled at Royal Aria in Tlokweng. The event, sanctioned by the Badminton Confederation of Africa, brings the continent's top players to Botswana at a time when the sport is seeking wider regional visibility.

According to the Botswana Badminton Association (BBA), preparations for both competition and hosting duties are nearing completion.

TEAM PREPARATIONS

The BBA Public Relations Officer, Thobo Tshosa, said Team Botswana's build-up has followed a structured and extended programme. Speaking in a telephone interview, he noted that athletes have been in intensive preparation since early 2025, combining local training camps with regional competitions.

"Most notably, the team is currently in Hyderabad, India, for a High-Performance Training camp (15th January – 5th February)," Tshosa said. "India is a global powerhouse in badminton, and this exposure is specifically designed to give our players a competitive edge just days before the championships begin."

He added that the squad had responded well to the demands of the programme and was in good physical condition ahead of the tournament.

SELECTED SQUAD

Botswana has named a nine-player team for the championships. The men's squad consists of Tefo Kabomo, Godknows Ketlhabanetswe, Tshepo Perekisi, Tumelo Moilwa, and Tsamorena Kgosidialwa. The women's team includes Keletso Ntebela, Tsholofelo Willie, Tebogo Ndzinge, and Tessa Kabelo.

The team will compete under the guidance of coaches Oreeditse Thela and Keita Fukuda.

HOSTING READINESS

Beyond the athletes, Tshosa said operational preparations had entered their final stage. With less than a week before the opening matches, attention has shifted to logistics and technical requirements.

"Our administrative and technical teams are working around the clock to ensure every detail, from transport to court officiating, meets continental standards," he said.

WIDER SIGNIFICANCE

Hosting the championships marks a notable moment for Botswana sport, placing the country at the centre of African badminton for a full week. Tshosa said the association views the event as an opportunity to showcase local organisational capacity while encouraging public support for the national team.

"To our fans: come out in February and be the 'extra player' for Team Botswana," he said.

Botswana Bowling Association Reflects On Tenure

As the elective Annual General Meeting boils for the weekend, the Botswana Bowling Association reflects on a historic year of youth development, international representation, and governance achievements

GAZETTE REPORTER

As the Botswana Bowling Association (BBA) prepares for its elective Annual General Meeting this weekend at the Gaborone Club situated in Village, Gaborone the Association is celebrating unprecedented milestones in nurturing young talent. Under the "Re Ba Bona Ha" programme, BBA has focused on talent identification and cross-border competition exposure, a move that has already borne fruit.

"For the first time, Botswana participated in the Bowls South Africa Junior National Championships, entering teams in the U18 and U25 categories," said Vice President Marea Modutlwa in a interview. "This demonstrates our commitment to developing bowls across all age groups."

The year also saw historic individual achievements. Peo Ramodise of Orapa Bowling Club and Edwin Nyoka Jr, both 19, made headlines by claiming national titles. Nyoka became the youngest ever Club and National Singles Champion, while Ramodise dominated the 2025 Masters Tournament, a competition limited to the top eight singles champions from affiliated clubs nationwide. Their success earns them the honor of representing Botswana at the World Bowls Championship of Championships in Australia and the World Bowls Junior Indoor Championships in Hong Kong in late 2026.

In youth tournaments on home soil, Ramodise and Nyoka were joined by Jordan Davids and Thabile Keorotse, who lifted the U18 Boys and U18 Girls trophies, respectively. "We are seeing young players turn talent into opportunities, and this momentum will continue in 2026," Modutlwa added.

REGIONAL PARTICIPATION GROWTH

The association has also increased its presence in regional and international competitions. Botswana bowlers competed in Namibia, South Africa, and Cyprus, with a record 50 players participating in Mafikeng's BowlsUp event alone. For the first time, two women's teams competed at the Bowls South Africa Nationals Championships, an event sanctioned for official world rankings. Seniors were not left behind: Botswana fielded a team at the 2025 Atlantic Senior Fours Tournament, marking the country's debut in World Bowls Over-55 events.

"Participation in these tournaments provides invaluable experience and positions Botswana as an emerging force in African bowls," Modutlwa said.

> "We are seeing young players turn talent into opportunities, and this momentum will continue in 2026."

CAPACITY BUILDING INITIATIVES

Behind the competitive success lies a focus on governance and capacity building. Kudzani Chaba graduated from the Advanced Sports Management Course, while four bowlers—Binkie Gaborutwe, Chinky Sinombe, Boikhutso Mooketsi, and Kabelo Ngwako—completed a week-long Sports Administration Course hosted by the Botswana National Olympic Committee.

Modutlwa herself was appointed to the Athletes Commission of World Bowls and selected into the Commonwealth Sport Women Leaders Programme, where a £5,000 grant will support community development and leadership initiatives, particularly for girls.

"These programs empower both athletes and administrators, ensuring bowls is sustainable and inclusive," she said.

Future Strategic Priorities

Looking ahead, the association aims to broaden participation and enhance strategic growth. Plans for 2026 include entering three teams in the Bowls South Africa Junior National Championships, introducing bowls to the disciplined forces, and expanding the reach of short mat bowls—a low-maintenance version of the sport suited for schools and remote communities.

"The goal is to create an environment where young players can transform talent into opportunity while fostering safe, inclusive spaces for girls and youth athletes," Modutlwa said.

The new Constitution of the Association, still awaiting approval from the Registrar of Societies, is expected to strengthen governance and accountability. "We are committed to a more inclusive model that ensures every member's voice is heard," she emphasized.

BTA Links Junior Rise to Packed Calendar

Botswana's junior tennis players are showing impressive results both regionally and internationally, thanks to a busy competition schedule

TLOTLO KEBINAKGABO

Botswana's junior tennis players have delivered a string of notable performances on regional and international courts, a trend the Botswana Tennis Association (BTA) links to an increasingly busy competition calendar.

The most prominent recent example came late last month at the Australian Junior Open, where Ntungamili Raguin reached the last 16 in his first Grand Slam appearance. His run ended after a high-level contest against the tournament's world No. 3, Brazilian Louis "Guto" Miguel, who won 6–4, 6–3.

Along the way, Raguin defeated two Top-30 ranked junior players, competed at the ANZ Arena and represented Botswana on one of junior tennis's biggest stages. The campaign marked a rare milestone for a young Motswana player competing at that level.

AUSTRALIAN BREAKTHROUGH

BTA head of public relations and marketing Tshephang Tlhankane described Raguin's performance as a significant learning experience rather than a finished product.

"This is a major step forward for Botswana tennis and a powerful learning experience at the highest junior level," Tlhankane said. "His recent performance paves the way for more Batswana tennis players."

He added that the showing carried symbolic weight beyond individual results. "It encourages our players to work hard and believe that they too can make it," he said. "It encourages us to tighten our structures so that we can grow another Grand Slam player from the comfort of our tennis centre and export them to the world."

DEPTH EMERGING

Beyond Australia, the BTA points to broader junior progress over the past year, particularly at regional competitions. According to Tlhankane, a demanding calendar has helped sharpen competitive edge and confidence.

"You take the likes of Lebone Tlape and Tinashe Phatshwane — the two shook the tournament at the zonals we hosted in January," he said. "Their presence was definitely felt and made a lot of players uncomfortable."

At the same zonal event, Botswana's Under-14 girls won a silver medal, while the boys reached the singles quarterfinals and the doubles semifinals. Reene Sebego advanced to the semifinals of the individual tournament, and the Under-14 boys added another silver medal in doubles.

> "Keeping players busy helps them work on and improve their game significantly."

BUSY CALENDAR

Tlhankane attributed these outcomes to sustained exposure to competition rather than isolated success. "Keeping players busy helps them work on and improve their game significantly," he said, noting the emphasis on hosting and attracting high-level tournaments in Botswana so local players can benefit.

While results vary by event and age group, the recent run of performances suggests a junior pipeline gaining experience — and visibility — through consistent competition rather than short-term bursts.

13 YEAR OLD NKELE'S DOUBLE NATIONAL CALL-UP

At 13, Boitlamo Nkele earns rare junior–senior selection as Botswana table tennis names 2026 squads.

GAZETTE REPORTER

Thirteen-year-old table tennis player Boitlamo Nkele has earned a rare double call-up to both the Botswana Table Tennis Association (BTTA) junior and senior national teams, following a standout weekend performance that confirmed her status as one of the country's fastest-rising prospects.

"What makes Nkele's rise even more remarkable is how quickly it has happened," BTTA said in a statement. "She started playing table tennis in August 2022, and in just over two years, she has climbed rapidly through the ranks to emerge as one of the country's leading young players."

Nkele, who represents Bontleng/Ithuteng, finished ranked number one in the junior categories and delivered eye-catching performances against senior opponents, producing a series of upsets. BTTA said her fearless approach and composure impressed selectors and resulted in what the association described as "double stripes"—selection at both junior and senior level at just 13.

EARLY EXPOSURE

According to BTTA, Nkele's progress has been steady rather than sudden. She has already represented Botswana internationally, competing at the inaugural ITTF Africa Youth Championships in 2024 and at the WTT Youth Contender Dammam 2025.

"She already boasts international exposure and medals," the statement said, noting that the Dammam event provided experience against some of the continent's and world's best young players.

Her development has also been recognised off the table. Nkele is a beneficiary of the Botswana National Olympic Committee Solidarity Scholarship for the 2025/2026 period, a programme aimed at supporting athletes on a high-performance pathway as they balance school, training and competition.

Hailing from Bontleng township, Extension 16, her story has been highlighted by BTTA as an example of how talent and opportunity can intersect at grassroots level.

SENIOR SELECTIONS

In separate developments, BTTA has concluded its senior national team selection trials, confirming players who will represent Botswana at elite international competitions during the 2026 season.

The trials, featuring men's and ladies' singles categories, were marked by intense competition and improved playing standards, with junior athletes again pushing senior contenders.

In the men's singles category, Boago Malobela (NHABE) finished first, followed by Tshireletso Samuel (BDF) in second, earning automatic selection. They will join Bakang Maloka to form the men's elite squad for 2026. Kola Modisathebe (D-T-T-C) placed third, with Mompati Chabe (BDF) fourth.

In the ladies' singles, Emmah Lelatisitswe (NHABE) topped the standings. Nkele finished second, joining rank-one Tshepiso Rebatenne, while Tsholofelo Gaokgalemelwe (BDF) and Salome Matlhatsi (BDF) completed the top four.

NEXT STEPS

BTTA Vice President for Technical Affairs Kabo Mosarwe said the trials were encouraging.

"The selection process was very competitive, and we were particularly impressed by the level of competition from the junior athletes, who pushed the senior players," Mosarwe said.

He added: "We are finalising the appointment of the technical team that will oversee the preparation of the selected athletes, and an announcement will be made soon as we prepare for international competitions in 2026."

With selections complete, BTTA said its focus now shifts to structured training programmes and international exposure as part of its elite performance strategy.

TIRED OF SHARING?

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