The Botswana
GAZETTE



29.
Ezra Neethings Is Booked, Busy And Borderless

WEDNESDAY
11 FEBRUARY 2026
SINCE 1984

37 Released Inmates Refuse Reintegration

3.

GOVT'S P378B BUDGET "FANTASY"

Econsult economists have slammed the proposed P378 billion development budget under the draft National Development Plan 12, calling it unrealistic and unimplementable

2.



Boko Proposes Signal Jammers in Prisons

President Duma Boko has proposed installing cellphone jammers in prisons to curb illegal phone use

3.



GOVT'S P378B BUDGET "FANTASY"

Econsult economists have slammed the proposed P378 billion development budget under the draft National Development Plan 12, calling it unrealistic and unimplementable



GAZETTE REPORTER

Government's proposed P378 billion development budget under the draft National Development Plan 12 (NDP12) has been described as "a fantasy," with economists warning that the figures are neither implementable nor financeable under current fiscal conditions.

In its latest Economic Review for the fourth quarter of 2025, Econsult says the draft NDP12 Public Investment Plan (PIP), which spans five years from 2025/26 to 2029/30, exposes deep flaws in the government's budgeting approach and unrealistic political expectations.

"The proposed PIP of P378 billion over the five years from 2025/26 to 2029/30 is a fantasy," Econsult states. The economic consultancy firm adds, "This level of proposed spending is completely unrealistic, and could not possibly be implemented or financed."

FIGURE BEARS NO RELATION TO FISCAL REALITY

Under the draft plan, government proposes a development budget of P54.24 billion for the 2026/27 financial year. However, Econsult argues that such a figure bears no relation to fiscal reality and risks undermining overall budget sustainability.

"Realistically, a sustainable overall budget for the 2026/27 financial year cannot include development budget financing of more than around P17 billion, unless recurrent spending is drastically reduced through workforce cuts," the review notes.

The consultancy firm expresses hope that the proposed figures will not appear in the final 2026/27 budget, which is scheduled to be presented on 9 February.

> "The proposed PIP of P378 billion over the five years from 2025/26 to 2029/30 is a fantasy"

CONTEST ON DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS SPENDING

Beyond the headline numbers, Econsult challenges the widely held political view that Botswana's budget should allocate a larger share of spending to development projects. According to the review, this argument ignores basic budget arithmetic and long-term fiscal realities.

"Over time, the proportion of the budget devoted to recurrent spending has to rise, and that for development spending to fall," Econsult explains. "Every development project generates new, permanent recurrent spending commitments, such as road maintenance, teachers' salaries, and operational costs."

MAJOR STRUCTURAL WEAKNESS

The development budget itself is singled out as a major structural weakness in public finances. Econsult says past development spending has been "incredibly inefficient and wasteful," with projects often poorly designed, badly implemented, and selected without proper economic justification.

"There have been too many low-return, low-impact projects adopted that cannot possibly generate economic gains," the review states. "Too many development projects act as a drag on growth rather than boosting growth."

Econsult argues that the core challenge is not increasing development spending, but radically improving its quality. This requires proper project appraisal, screening, and prioritisation within a realistic budget ceiling.

"For budget sustainability and boosting economic growth, the development spending budget must become both smaller and much more effective," the review says. It warns that without reform, ambitious plans like NDP12 risk becoming fiscally damaging rather than transformative.

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Boko Proposes Signal Jammers in Prisons

President Duma Boko has proposed installing cellphone jammers in prisons to curb illegal phone use

GAZETTE REPORTER

President Duma Boko has proposed the installation of cellphone jammers in Prisons and correctional facilities as a measure to combat the persistent problem of illegal cellphone use and smuggling.

The suggestion came after Prison Commissioner Mokento highlighted the issue as one of the leading challenges facing the country's correctional system. Speaking at the Prisons Service Senior Officers' Conference yesterday, Commissioner Anthony Mokento said that contraband phones have enabled criminal activities within prisons.

Responding to the commissioner's concerns, President Boko urged the service to explore solutions to reinforce prison security. "To counter some of these challenges, you may need to be innovative and consider the idea of cellphone jammers as an effective deterrent," he said.

> "To counter some of these challenges, you may need to be innovative and consider the idea of cellphone jammers as an effective deterrent"

NEED FOR CAREFUL PLANNING

Experts, however, have cautioned that while jammers may block signals within prison walls, their deployment requires careful planning to avoid interference with emergency communications and surrounding communities.

The proposal if effected may spark debate over balancing inmate management, security, and legal considerations surrounding communication restrictions.

The Prisons department recently integrated intelligence, monitoring, and staff training to tackle smuggling networks, among others challenges. Mokento said there are several proposals they have submitted to the ministry for consideration.

37 RELEASED INMATES REFUSE REINTEGRATION

The Prisons and Correctional Service has raised concern after 37 recently released inmates refused to return to their families, prompting fears of repeat offending

GAZETTE REPORTER

The Prisons and Correctional Service Commissioner Anthony Mokento has revealed that around 37 recently released inmates have flatly refused to reconnect with their families or participate in reintegration programs.

Speaking at the Prisons Service Senior Officers' Conference yesterday, Commissioner Mokento said efforts to reintegrate the 37 ex-prisoners have so far been unsuccessful, as they appear unwilling to participate in established family and community support channels.

This disengagement could leave them vulnerable to roaming streets without structured support, heightening the risk of recidivism.

"About 37 of the recently released inmates have refused to participate in reintegration, but efforts are underway to trace them and reconnect them with their families and reintegration committees," Mokento said.

DEEP CONCERN

The prisons service is deeply concerned that these individuals, by cutting ties with their families or the reintegration network, are missing critical anchors that help prevent re-offending.

Officials described the situation as among the most pressing challenges facing the correctional system. Under Botswana's Offender Reintegration Strategy, released inmates are expected to work with Community Based Reintegration Committees, which help them settle back into society and reduce the likelihood of returning to crime. The programme has seen thousands of inmates reintegrated with relatively low re-offending rates when support mechanisms are embraced.

FAMILY SUPPORT KEY

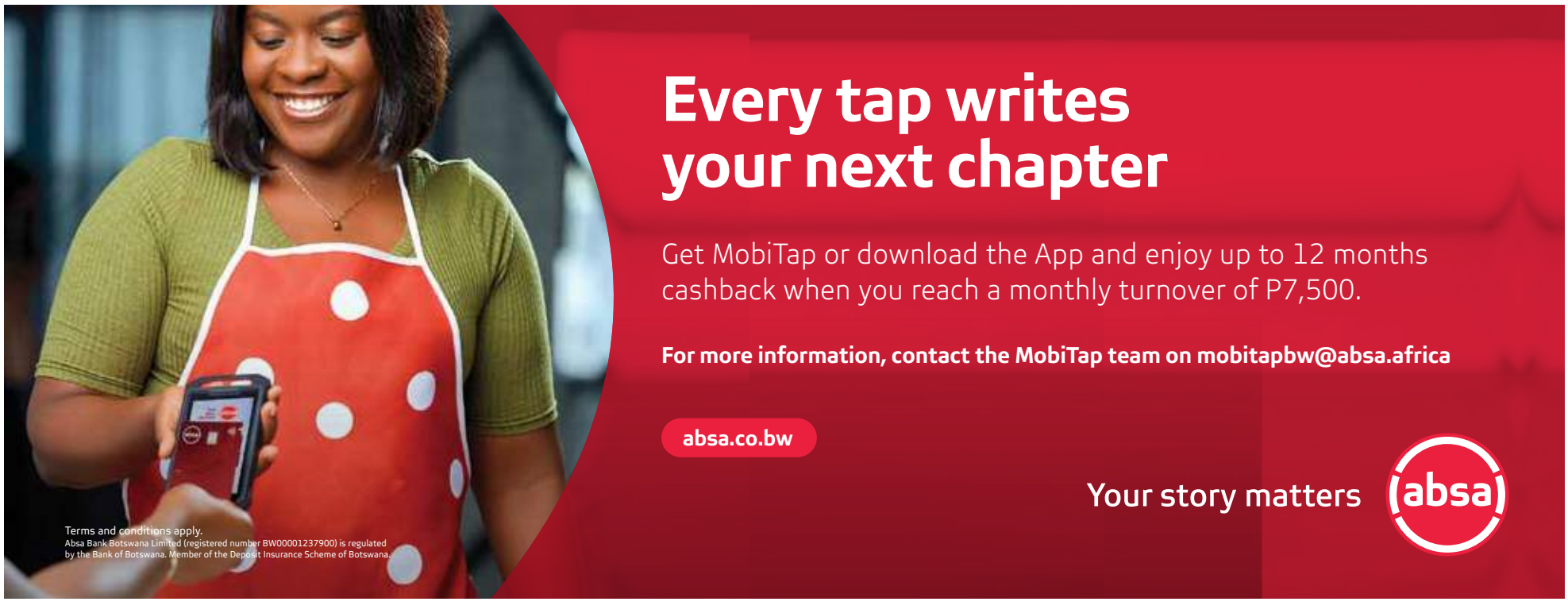
Research shows that family support plays a crucial role in the reintegration process, helping former inmates with housing, financial assistance, and emotional stability, all factors linked to reduced recidivism. In studies of reentry outcomes, lack of family involvement has been associated with higher chances of re-offending, as released individuals often face social isolation and economic instability without support networks.

BARRIERS TO REINTEGRATION NOTED

Experts note that for some inmates, longstanding stigmas, discrimination, and fractured relationships with relatives make reintegration harder.

In Botswana, advocates for reintegration have also called for legal reforms to reduce barriers to employment and community acceptance for ex-offenders. Recent government discussions have included reviewing employment restrictions and combating social stigma that hampers former inmates' ability to rebuild their lives.

Commissioner Mokento however assured President Duma Boko that they will do all in their power to follow up on the ex-offenders.



UK Shuts Door on Botswana Beef

The UK has imposed an immediate ban on Botswana's fresh beef following a confirmed outbreak of foot-and-mouth disease



GAZETTE REPORTER

The United Kingdom (UK) has slammed the door on Botswana beef, imposing an immediate ban on imports of fresh bovine meat following a confirmed outbreak of foot-and-mouth disease (FMD). The latest move threatens a key export market and raises fresh questions about biosecurity controls.

Britain's Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) said the restriction takes effect from 4 February 2026, covering all fresh beef produced in Botswana on or after 30 December 2025. The decision follows Botswana's notification to the World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH) of an FMD outbreak confirmed on 29 January 2025.

"Until the extent of the outbreak in Botswana is clarified, imports into Great Britain of fresh bovine meat processed on or after 30 December 2025 will be temporarily restricted," Defra said. It added, "This is a precautionary measure to protect animal health in Great Britain."

OUTBREAK EXPANDS CONCERNS

The outbreak was confirmed in Zone 6b, an area already barred from exporting fresh beef to the UK due to a previous FMD incident in 2022. Authorities have since reported further suspicions of disease in Zone 3c, deepening concerns and prompting tougher action from London.

Defra said an official veterinary alert, OVS note 2026/02, was issued on 30 January 2026, instructing that consignments of fresh bovine meat and untreated animal by-products be held pending assessment. Following that review, Britain applied a "closing date" of 30 December 2025 to Botswana's export listings, effectively shutting down fresh beef imports.

"As a result of this change, imports of fresh bovine meat produced in Botswana on or after that date are now restricted," the Defra spokesperson added.

BAN EXTENDS TO INDIRECT SHIPMENTS

The ban also captures consignments routed through South African cold stores, a common logistics pathway for Botswana beef entering the UK market. Defra warned that these shipments are equally subject to the restriction, closing a potential loophole.

While Botswana remains technically listed for exports of fresh meat from other ruminants such as sheep and goats, those products are not eligible for import because the country lacks approved residue control programmes for those commodities. Exports of affected animal by-products (ABPs) are also prohibited, as Botswana has no ABP establishments approved to export to Great Britain.

> "Our veterinary services are responding and we are engaging with international partners to demonstrate control and transparency"

BLOW TO BOTSWANA'S BEEF INDUSTRY

The move is a blow to Botswana's beef industry, long prized in the UK for its disease-free status and premium quality. Industry sources say the restriction risks disrupting supply chains, hurting export revenues, and putting pressure on producers already grappling with drought and rising costs.

An official in Botswana, speaking on condition of anonymity, said authorities were working to contain the outbreak and restore market access. "Our veterinary services are responding and we are engaging with international partners to demonstrate control and transparency," the official said.

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Panda Farmers Allay Food Shortage Fears

Pandamatenga commercial farmers have reassured the nation that food supplies remain secure despite heavy crop losses caused by recent floods, saying replanting efforts are underway ahead of the end of the ploughing season

SESUPO RANTSIMAKO

The Pandamatenga Commercial Farmers Association (PCFA) has sought to allay fears of a potential grain shortage in the upcoming harvest season, insisting that farmers are racing against time to replant crops damaged by recent floods, despite limited government assistance.

Severe flooding in the Pandamatenga farming area submerged more than 8,000 hectares of crops, affecting key staples such as sorghum, maize, sunflower, onions, tomatoes and beans. The flooding raised widespread concern about food security, given the region's critical role in Botswana's grain production.

Speaking in an interview with The Botswana Gazette, PCFA spokesperson Ryan Niel said farmers remain optimistic that all affected fields will be replanted before the ploughing season ends next week.

"We know many Batswana are concerned about food security, but we are back in operation and working hard to replant the affected fields before the ploughing season ends next week," Niel said.

FARMERS MOVE AHEAD WITHOUT WAITING

Niel explained that while government support was promised following the floods, commercial farmers could not afford to wait for assistance to materialise due to the narrow planting window.

"As private entities, we cannot wait. The government has indicated it will help, but that support may take time to reach us," he said. "We appreciate the little assistance already provided, such as the use of an excavator to help with drainage, but it is not enough to cover the scale of replanting required."

He added that farmers began replanting immediately after floodwaters receded, using their own resources to salvage the season.

FOOD SECURITY ASSURANCES

Niel reassured the public that there is no need for panic ahead of the yield season, stressing that farmers are committed to restoring production levels.

"We are fighting to plant all the fields affected by the recent floods, and we are committed to ensuring a good harvest," he said. "Our biggest concern now is the quelea birds. Because we planted late, some crops will be more vulnerable to bird damage."

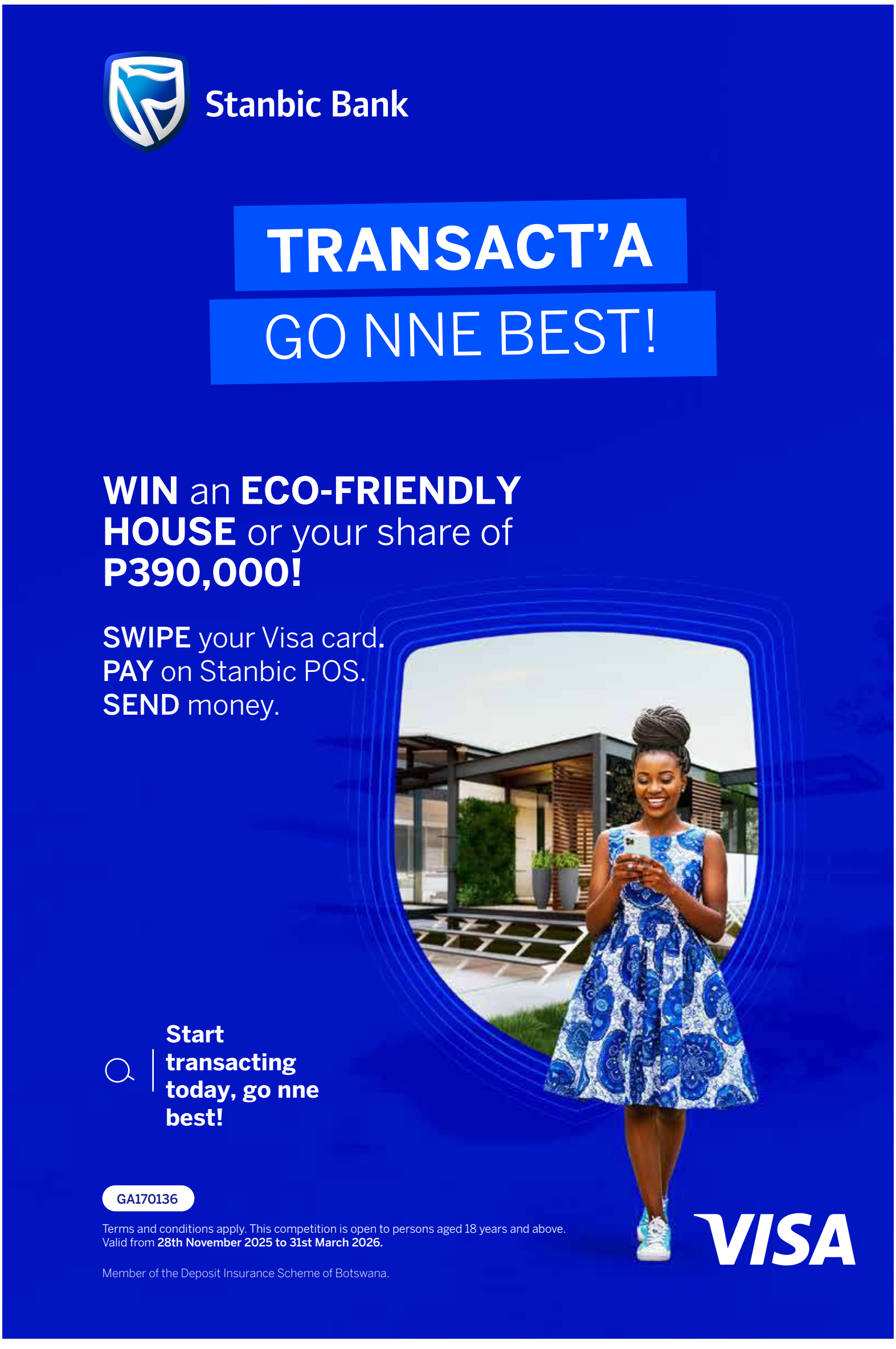
Quelea birds are a recurring threat to grain production in Botswana, particularly when planting is delayed, as crops mature during peak infestation periods.

GOVERNMENT ASSESSING DAMAGE

Acting Minister of Lands and Agriculture Dr. Edwin Dikoloti recently visited Pandamatenga to assess the extent of the damage. He told farmers that government assistance would be provided once assessments are completed and suitable interventions identified.

The Pandamatenga commercial farming area is widely regarded as Botswana's largest grain-producing region and is often referred to as the country's "food basket." Estimates suggest the farms contribute between 80 and 90 percent of Botswana's locally produced cereals, making recovery efforts crucial to national food security.

Despite the challenges, PCFA maintains that with swift replanting and favourable weather conditions, farmers can still deliver a meaningful harvest this season.



Rising Prices Loom for Goods and Food

Batswana should brace for rising prices as goods and food costs are set to increase this year

GAZETTE REPORTER

Batswana should brace themselves for increases in prices of goods and food items as Botswana's economy is expected to record a modest rebound in 2026. Lingering uncertainty in the global diamond market and unresolved questions over De Beers' future ownership continue to weigh heavily on the outlook.

This warning is contained in Business Monitor International (BMI)'s latest Country Risk economic review for Botswana, which revised the country's 2026 real GDP growth forecast down to 2.3% from a previous estimate of 2.7%.

The downgrade follows revisions to 2025 growth data after stronger-than-expected economic performance in the third quarter of last year raised the statistical base. BMI now estimates Botswana's economy grew by 0.9% in 2025, a sharp upward revision from an earlier forecast contraction of 3.3%. The improvement was largely driven by a strong rebound in diamond trading and mining activity after prolonged weakness.

DIAMOND SECTOR DRIVES RECOVERY

Real GDP expanded by 8.2% year-on-year in the third quarter of 2025, ending six consecutive quarters of contraction. The surge was underpinned by an 88.1% jump in diamond trading and a 39.5% increase in mining and quarrying output, following the resumption of De Beers' diamond production in Botswana. De Beers had temporarily halted production in the second quarter of 2025, while the Jwaneng mine was closed for maintenance throughout the fourth quarter.



However, BMI cautions that the recovery remains narrow and externally driven. Non-mining real GDP grew by just 1.6% year-on-year in the third quarter of 2025, reinforcing concerns that growth momentum outside the diamond sector remains weak.

"The upturn in 2026 will be heavily dependent on the diamond cycle and stabilisation in mining activity, rather than a broad-based recovery," BMI noted.

MINING INVESTMENT REMAINS KEY

Mining is expected to remain the main engine of growth in 2026, supported by continued operations at De Beers' mines and a ramp-up in coal mining activity.

Additional support is expected from selective projects under the government's 12th National Development Plan (NDP12), which prioritises infrastructure development, mining support, and economic diversification. Copper-related investments, buoyed by elevated global prices and renewed exploration, are also expected to contribute.

RECOVERY REMAINS FRAGILE

Despite this, BMI warned that investment gains will remain modest. High diamond inventories, subdued global demand, and uncertainty surrounding De Beers' ownership structure are likely to keep discretionary mining investment cautious, while tight liquidity conditions continue to constrain private sector capital spending outside mining.

> "The upturn in 2026 will be heavily dependent on the diamond cycle and stabilisation in mining activity, rather than a broad-based recovery,"

Government consumption is expected to remain supportive, contributing 0.6 percentage points to growth in 2026.

Private consumption, meanwhile, is projected to contribute just 0.1 percentage points to growth, restrained by rising inflation and tight credit conditions. Inflation climbed from 1.1% in July 2025 to 3.9% in December and is expected to average 4.4% in 2026, remaining within the Bank of Botswana's target range.

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Debswana Pension Fund
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Carlton House, Fairgrounds
Gaborone, Botswana
Private Bag 00512, Gaborone, Botswana
Tel: +267 361 4288 Fax: +267 393 6239

DPF
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FIRST AND FINAL CALL FOR BENEFICIARIES - DEATH BENEFITS CLAIMS

Mmila Fund Administrators has received notifications regarding pension Death Benefits for Debswana Pension Fund members listed below. Investigations of these notifications are ongoing with the known family members. In order to ensure that all possible dependents and/or beneficiaries are accounted for, Mmila Fund Administrators wishes to give NOTICE to any unknown potential dependents and/or beneficiaries of the deceased members. Family members who have been contacted should ignore this notice.

Respondents are required to contact Mmila Fund Administrators no later than 14 days from date of publication of this notice.

Full Name	Member Status	Date of Death	Place of Residence
David Morake	Pensioner	07.11.2025	Tonota / Orapa
Mmoni Gadilatolwe	Pensioner	11.09.2025	Orapa / Palapye
Robson Dick	Pensioner	11.12.2025	Orapa/ Borolong
George Jamara	Active	30.11.2025	Orapa / Palapye
Daniel Modise	Pensioner	05.11.2025	Jwaneng
Kebonyemodisa Morwaagole	Pensioner	15.09.2025	Jwaneng / Pitseng

Contacts:
Mmila Member Relations Office: Gaborone: +267 373 5257 | Jwaneng: +267 588 4849 | Orapa: +267 290 2323
Mmila Member Relations and Investigations Coordinator: +267 7614 9610 or Fax to +267 395 6982

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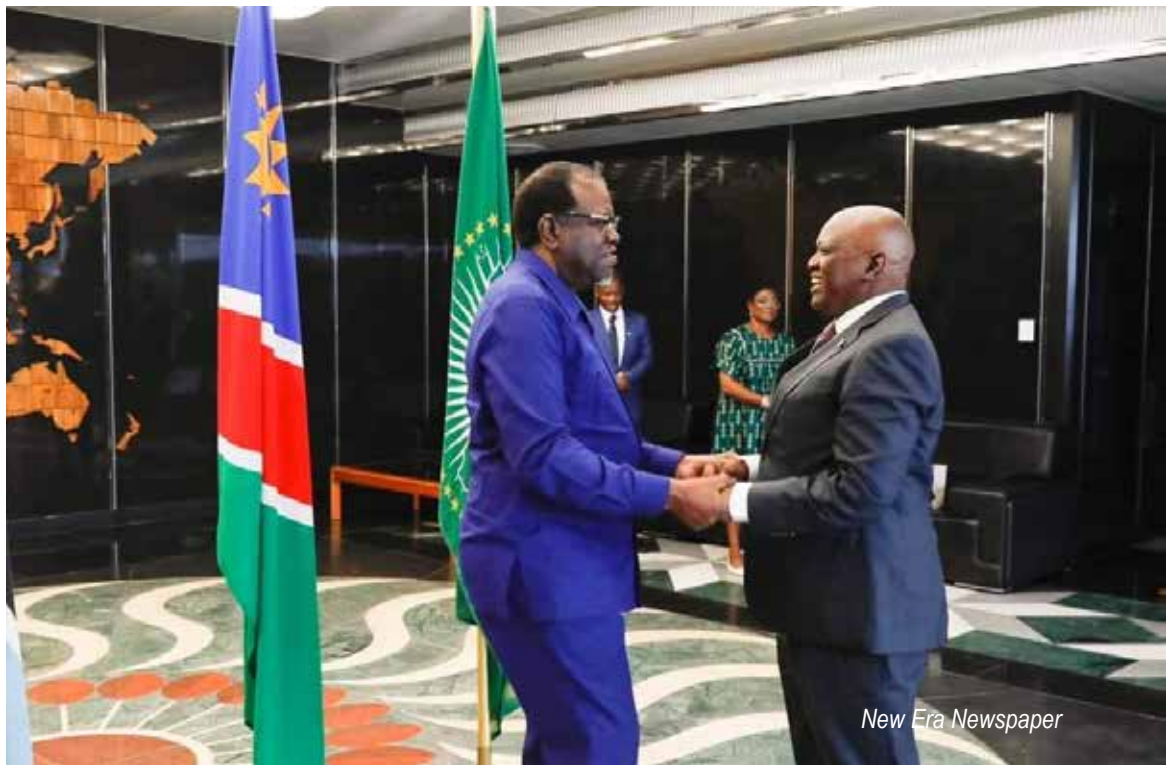
New Era Newspaper

Masisi Clashes with Namibian Rights Group

Former President, Mokgweetsi Masisi clashed with Namibian activists over the "shoot-to-kill" policy, as the Namibian Lives Matter Movement accused him of justifying killing Namibians

SESUPO RANTSIMAKO

The Namibian Lives Matter Movement (NLMM) has dismissed a recent public lecture by former president Mokgweetsi Masisi as political rhetoric, accusing him of dishonesty and insensitivity toward Namibian concerns.

On Monday, during a University of Namibia public lecture on Namibia–Botswana relations, Masisi denied the existence of Botswana's controversial "shoot-to-kill" policy, insisting that it had been eradicated when he assumed office. He also argued that, contrary to popular belief, law enforcement officers in Botswana have been killed during anti-poaching operations, not only Namibians.

> "He denies that the shoot-to-kill policy exists when he knows very well that it does"

MOVEMENT LABELS LECTURE A PR EXERCISE

Responding to inquiries from The Botswana Gazette, NLMM chairperson Sinvula Mudabeti described the lecture as a public relations exercise akin to the rhetoric that, in their view, contributed to Masisi's electoral defeat in Botswana.

"Masisi is known for saying one thing in public and doing the opposite in reality. This is the same PR stunt he has always relied on," Mudabeti said.

DENIAL UNDERMINES CREDIBILITY

Mudabeti accused Masisi of denying the existence of the "shoot-to-kill" policy despite evidence to the contrary, arguing that such denial undermines his credibility.

"He denies that the shoot-to-kill policy exists when he knows very well that it does," Mudabeti said. "That alone shows he is dishonest and unreliable."

CALLS FOR JUSTICE DISMISSED AS "NOISE"

The movement also criticized Masisi's characterization of Namibian calls for justice as "noise," describing the remarks as dismissive and disrespectful.

"How can genuine demands for fairness, justice and respect be referred to as noise?" Mudabeti asked. "He went too far."

INSENSITIVE COMMENTS ON NCHINDO BROTHERS

Mudabeti further described Masisi's comments on the deaths of the Nchindo brothers as insensitive. Tommy Nchindo, Martin Nchindo, and Wamunyima Nchindo were shot and killed on 5 November 2020 by members of the Botswana Defence Force along the Chobe River while fishing. The trio, accompanied by their Zambian friend Sinvula Munyeme, were reportedly suspected of poaching.

"As a movement, we find his remarks deeply troubling," Mudabeti said, questioning whether Masisi would have made similar statements if Namibian forces had killed Botswana citizens.

ACCUSATIONS OF JUSTIFYING KILLINGS

He accused Masisi of framing the shootings as payback for the deaths of Botswana law enforcement officers, effectively justifying the killing of unarmed Namibians.

"He is essentially justifying the gunning down of innocent and unarmed Namibians as revenge," Mudabeti said.

LACK OF RESPECT FOR NAMIBIA

Mudabeti also criticized Masisi for failing to acknowledge Namibia's contributions to Botswana's development, while highlighting Botswana's role.

"We are happy that Masisi is no longer the president of Botswana," Mudabeti said. "His views are now merely personal opinions and do not reflect the position of the Botswana government, and we will treat them as conjecture."

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The incumbent will be responsible for the following:
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- Act independently and exercise their powers in a manner that is impartial and not influenced by inappropriate considerations.
- Ensure that the Fund is financially sound, responsibly managed and governed in accordance with its Rules and the applicable legislation.

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The candidate should possess:
- A degree, preferably a Master's degree in Investment Management, Risk Management, Actuarial Science or equivalent qualifications such as Chartered Accountant, Chartered Finance Analyst or Fellow Risk Manager.
- Certificate Qualification in Retirement Funds.
- Basic knowledge of the NBFIRA Act, Retirement Funds Act, Trust Act and any other relevant Legislation.
- Ability to understand strategic issues, accept legal duties, liabilities and responsibilities of a Trustee.
- Sound knowledge of corporate governance, sufficient time and commitment to fulfil the role.
- At least five (5) years working experience in pensions/financial services or risk environment.
- Should be well vested in pension, investments and insurance issues.
- Understanding of matters relating to Anti-Money Laundering/Counter Terrorism Financing and Counter Proliferation Financing (AML/CFT/CPF).
- At least five (5) years' experience of Board membership/Trusteeship.
- The individual must be of good standing to be approved by the Non Bank Financial Regulatory Authority (NBFIRA) to be a Trustee.

Board Tenure – The Independent Trustee will hold office for a three (3) year period.

Please respond by sending your detailed Curriculum Vitae (CV) and certified copies of your educational certificates. In addition, provide two (2) recent (not more than two years) references to attest to experience in pension fund related matters. The documents should be sent to:

E-mail Submissions	moeletsith@alexforbes.com cc ntsomengc@alexforbes.com
Contact No.	+267 3651975 or +267 3651951

Please note that only shortlisted candidates will be contacted.

Closing Date: **18 February 2026 at 1700hrs.**

Headquarters: Tsholetsa House, Plot 4705/6, Botswana Road. Private Bag BO 298, Gaborone, Botswana.
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Pressure Mounts On Boko Over Dikoloti

As the Leader of Opposition, Dumelang Saleshando calls him to appoint a substantive minister amid growing Agric sector challenges

SESUPO RANTSIMAKO

Pressure is mounting on President Duma Boko to either formally appoint Dr. Edwin Dikoloti as the substantive Minister of Lands and Agriculture or replace him altogether, as prolonged uncertainty in the ministry unfolds.

Dr. Dikoloti has been serving in an acting capacity since March 2025, following the death of former Minister Dr. Micus Chimbombi. The acting appointment was intended to ensure continuity while the President considered a permanent replacement.

LEADERSHIP VACUUM

Following Monday's post-Budget speech, opposition leader Dumelang Saleshando linked setbacks in the agricultural sector to the lack of decisive leadership.

According to Saleshando, "being in an acting capacity diminishes the sense of permanence and invariably reduces the appetite for long-term planning that the office requires," he said.

He continued: "The prolonged acting role may signal reservations from the President about Dikoloti's ability to serve as a full minister".

Saleshando cited ongoing challenges in the ministry, including the recent Foot and Mouth Disease outbreak and the aftermath of natural disasters in Pandamatenga, noting that a full minister is needed to assert leadership and drive solutions.

INTERNAL COALITION DYNAMICS

Political analysts suggest that delays in appointing a substantive Minister of Lands and Agriculture are linked to internal coalition dynamics. The ministerial post was reportedly reserved for the Botswana National Front (BNF) under the ruling coalition agreement, while Dr. Dikoloti serves as an independent, creating a political impasse that has prolonged his acting tenure.

FARMERS JOIN CALLS FOR SUBSTANTIVE LEADERSHIP

Farmers' groups have also expressed concern over the prolonged acting status. Kokorwe Farmers Association secretary-general Willy Mokgatle said the sector suffers from the lack of permanent leadership.

"Dr. Dikoloti currently lacks the authority to fully implement proposals or make major decisions. We feel the sector is not being given the priority it deserves. We would welcome a substantive minister with whom we can engage meaningfully on sector matters and key decisions," Mokgatle said.

Cattle farmer and interim vice president of the Botswana Brahman Breeders Society, Molefe Seitei, echoed these sentiments. Speaking in his personal capacity, Seitei said the acting appointment reflects political expediency rather than stability.

"Such a ministry needs a minister who is stable and certain about their position in order to lead comfortably and make meaningful decisions. Farming is a long-term investment and requires institutional memory for meaningful interaction with farmers," he said.



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ADDENDUM No: 001/2026

BATHROOMS REVAMP FOR BOTSWANA SAVINGS BANK (BSB) HEAD OFFICE

REFERENCE No: BSB/HC/016/2025-2026

QUESTION NO:	QUESTION	RESPONSE
1	Floor 1 – 6 Bathrooms Designs	See appendix A for detailed design for both female and male bathrooms. Note that height of room is 2800mm.
2	Ground Floor DRTS Bathrooms layout	See appendix B for a detailed floor plan with dimensions. Note that height of room is 2800mm. Visuals to replicate design for floor 1 – 6, as seen on the 3D visuals.
3	Basement Bathrooms Layout	See appendix c for a detailed floor plan with dimensions. Note that height of room is 2800mm. Visuals to replicate design for floor 1 – 6, as seen on the 3D visuals.
4	Is Designer required for **Availability of key personnel** under **Stage Two – Technical Evaluation on the ITT**?	With BSB sharing designs, the Designer is therefore dropped from the technical evaluation under Availability of key personnel.
5	Is **Submission of Detailed Proposal** under **Stage Two – Technical Evaluation on the ITT**?	With BSB sharing designs, a detailed proposal will therefore not be required.
6	Extension of closing time for submission of tender offers.	The closing time for submission of tender offers is therefore extended from 1000hrs on 13th February 2026, to 1000hrs on 17th February 2026.

NB: Kindly note that all other conditions remain the same in the original ITT.

Regards,

Manager, Procurement

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Mmila Fund Administrators

Ikanye Mmila!



REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

RFP No. MFA/AUDIT/2026/001

PROVISION OF INTERNAL AUDIT SERVICES TO MMILA FUND ADMINISTRATORS (PTY) LTD

Mmila Fund Administrators (Pty) Ltd (Mmila) is seeking services for the provision of internal audit services as a corporate governance requirement, as well as a regulatory requirement.

The Request For Proposals (RFP) is open to companies that have the requisite qualifications, background, and relevant experience in similar work. The scope, terms, and conditions of the service are given in this RFP Document.

The RFP documents containing details of the requirements will be sent electronically on weekdays upon receipt of proof of payment of a non-refundable fee of **BWP2,000.00**

The proof of payment must be sent to tmorapedi@mmila.co.bw and a copy to stsie@mmila.co.bw with a request for the RFP Document to be sent via email.

Payment should be made to:

Account Name: Mmila Fund Administrators
Branch Code: 064967
Reference: Company Name

Branch Name: Fairgrounds
Account No: 9060003662611

Queries or inquiries related to this RFP may be addressed to the Accounts Officer at **Tel:+267 373 5261** or email to tmorapedi@mmila.co.bw by **17 February 2026.**

Sealed Bids marked RFP No.: **MFA/AUDIT/2026/001: REQUEST FOR THE PROVISION OF INTERNAL AUDIT SERVICES AT MMILA FUND ADMINISTRATORS** shall be submitted not later than **13 March 2026, at 10h00** at the following physical address:

Mmila Fund Administrators
Plot 64511, Fairgrounds Office Park
Email: tmorapedi@mmila.co.bw

RFPs shall be opened at **10h15 on 13 March 2026** at the MFA head office at the above address, in the presence of bidders or their representatives who choose to attend.

Mmila Fund Administrators reserves the right to accept or reject any bid and is not bound to accept the lowest or any bid or assign reasons for the acceptance or rejection of any bid.

Service Excellence Assured

Gaborone Office: +267 395 6966 +267 74 500 058 | Jwaneng Office: +267 588 4849 +267 74 500 116 | Orapa Office: +267 290 2323 +267 74 500 097
Email: info@mmila.co.bw

FMD Threatens BMC's Financial U-Turn



BMC's recent 31% revenue surge is at risk as a Foot and Mouth Disease outbreak threatens Botswana's livestock sector

BONGANI MALUNGA

The Botswana Meat Commission's (BMC) hard-won financial recovery is now facing the risk of an abrupt reversal following a recent outbreak of Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD).

The outbreak has raised alarm within government circles, with Vice President and Minister of Finance, Ndaba Gaolathe, warning that urgent intervention is needed to contain the disease.

REMARKABLE TURNAROUND

BMC, which had recently marked a remarkable turnaround with a 31% increase in revenue, could see its progress stalled if the outbreak is not swiftly managed. Gaolathe noted that the FMD outbreak not only threatens livestock health but could also disrupt meat exports, undermine investor confidence, derail job creation and erode the financial stability that the commission has worked diligently to restore. The government is reportedly under mounting pressure to implement effective control measures to safeguard both the livestock sector and the broader economy.

> The BMC has recently secured beef export agreements with the United Arab Emirates, the Democratic Republic of Congo (valued at US$4 million) and China

POSITIVE RESULTS

Presenting the 2026-2027 National Budget Speech, Finance Minister Gaolathe highlighted that the revival of the BMC is yielding positive results. He noted that the state-owned enterprise has cleared P698 million in arrears which had affected relations with local farmers and achieved a 31% increase in revenue, reaching P1.04 billion compared to the previous year.

URGENT ACTION NEEDED

"These developments will generate sustainable jobs, revitalise rural economies, and position BMC as a commercially sustainable, export-oriented enterprise. It is therefore imperative that we resolve the FMD situation urgently, so that we do not lose the hard-earned gains that have the potential to transform our economy," Gaolathe emphasised.

NEW DEALS UNDER THREAT

The BMC has recently secured beef export agreements with the United Arab Emirates, the Democratic Republic of Congo (valued at US$4 million) and China. The prospective China deal is expected to be finalised through a P1 billion investment from a Chinese firm, marking a significant boost to BMC's export portfolio and revenue prospects.

However, these gains remain vulnerable to animal health risks, as outbreaks of FMD can trigger the immediate suspension of operations if detected within a 10-kilometre radius of export abattoirs, potentially disrupting production and international market access.



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- Strong work ethics
- Service-oriented and passionate about health services

Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted.
Deadline: 24 February 2026

De Beers Dilemma: To buy or not?

Econsult's latest 2025 quarterly economic review warns that while a larger share could protect national interests, fiscal constraints and diamond sector dependence make the move risky

GAZETTE REPORTER



Botswana faces a complex decision over whether to increase its shareholding in De Beers as Anglo American moves to sell its 85 percent stake in the diamond giant as part of a broader corporate rationalisation and restructuring.

This is according to local economic think tank Econsult's latest 2025 quarterly economic review.

Econsult notes that the sale process has been slow, reflecting several complications, including the weak and uncertain outlook for the global natural diamond market, De Beers' recent financial losses, and a lack of clarity over the Government of Botswana's (GoB) intentions. Under existing agreements, Botswana has the right of first refusal should Anglo proceed with the sale.

UNCERTAINTY OVER BOTSWANA'S APPROACH

Anglo American is believed to favour a direct sale to new owners rather than a public listing on a major stock exchange. While GoB has publicly indicated its interest in being a buyer, Econsult points out that it remains unclear whether this would involve a modest increase from its current 15 percent stake, the acquisition of a controlling interest of 35 percent plus one share, or a full buy-out of Anglo's holding.

"Determining the best approach from Botswana's perspective is a complex issue, with sharply differing views both inside and outside the country," Econsult says. The review highlights that the International Monetary Fund has already advised GoB against increasing its stake in De Beers, citing Botswana's precarious fiscal position and its already high dependence on diamonds.

KEY CONSIDERATIONS FOR BOTSWANA

Econsult outlines several key considerations. First, the primary objective should be the revival and restructuring of De Beers to meet current challenges and the future demands of the global natural diamond industry. The question, economists argue, is which ownership coalition would be best placed to achieve this.

Second, Botswana is financially constrained and lacks the fiscal space to fund a large acquisition from its own resources. Borrowing to finance a share purchase would amount to a leveraged buy-out, which Econsult warns would be "difficult and risky" given existing debt pressures.

Third, the review notes that Botswana already enjoys an effective economic interest of about 50 percent in De Beers, far exceeding its direct 15 percent shareholding. "The financial case for buying additional shares has not been clearly demonstrated," Econsult argues.

Finally, economists stress that Botswana's overarching economic challenge remains diversification away from diamond mining, not deeper concentration in the sector.

EVALUATING THE VALUE OF ADDITIONAL SHARES

Econsult's breakdown of De Beers' valuation shows mining operations accounting for an estimated 70–75 percent of value, Element Six technology contributing 15–20 percent, with exploration and trading each accounting for 5–10 percent. Given this structure, the review questions how much additional economic value Botswana would gain by increasing its shareholding beyond current levels.

> "Under existing agreements, Botswana has the right of first refusal should Anglo proceed with the sale

Instead, Econsult suggests that GoB should prioritise building a strong and diverse ownership coalition, potentially involving producing-country governments, mining experts, luxury goods marketing specialists, and well-capitalised financiers.

"Beyond this," the review says, "it is questionable whether the potential gains would outweigh the substantial risks if these are not widely shared among new owners."

Botswana-Led Group Leads De Beers Race -Anglo CEO

The regional consortium featuring Botswana, Angola and Namibia has steered clear of bidding rivals in the battle for a controlling stake in mining giant De Beers

BONGANI MALUNGA

The Botswana-led regional consortium aiming to secure a controlling stake in global mining giant De Beers has positioned itself ahead of rival bidders, Anglo American Chief Executive Officer Duncan Wanblad has indicated.

Wanblad suggested that the eventual purchase is likely to involve a public-private partnership, pointing to a buyer structure that would include both government and private sector entities.

President Duma Boko has stated in previous international media interviews that Botswana's regional consortium with fellow diamond producers Angola and Namibia requires additional private funding with Middle Eastern support earmarked to ease the funding process. Last year Botswana enlisted the assistance of the Oman Investment Authority (OIA) which has interests in African diamond mines, notably gold mining in Burkina Faso.

LIKELY TO BE CONCLUDED THIS YEAR

Speaking on the potential transaction in an interview with global publication, Financial Times on Monday, Wanblad stated that the sale process is likely to be concluded this year. The Anglo chief revealed that the second stage of the bidding process is on the cusp of completion.

PREFERRED BUYER

"We are relatively far advanced in the sale process. (The preferred buyer) will probably be a consortium (composed of both government and private entities). Botswana is the key determinant here because they are a key shareholder in the business. The timeline for finalising the sale process will depend on the timing of financing, more than anything else," Wanblad was quoted as saying.



REASONABLE ALLOCATION

Meanwhile, Angola's National Director of Mineral Resources, Paulo Tanganha told global news outlet Reuters that his country's allocation in the regional consortium will be 20-30%. According to Tanganha, the Angolan government believes that taking majority ownership within luxury commodities is dangerous given the current market conditions. The country asserts that its portion is sustainable to their economy.

Govt Ponders Private Investment in BPC

Botswana eyes power sector reforms, learning from African peers, to attract private investment and boost efficiency in electricity generation


(Pic:Monirul Bhuiyan/PRESS PHOTO)

BONGANI MALUNGA

The Botswana government is exploring private investment into the Botswana Power Corporation (BPC) after initiating a feasibility study to assess the unbundling of power generation assets currently held by the state-owned enterprise.

The study will examine various unbundling models aimed at separating generation assets from other BPC functions, a move that could improve efficiency, enhance transparency and attract private sector involvement into electricity generation.

Presenting the 2026-2027 National Budget Speech on Monday, the Vice President and Minister of Finance, Ndaba Gaolathe stated that once the feasibility study is concluded, its findings will be reviewed to inform policy decisions on the most viable unbundling model to pursue. The study will examine whether the splitting of the state owned entity's power generation, transmission and distribution into independently managed parts is a viable option.

> "Once completed, the government will consider the findings and provide policy direction on the most viable model to pursue"

THE MOST VIABLE MODEL TO PURSUE

"The study aims to determine the preferred unbundling model, outline the necessary institutional and governance arrangements, and evaluate the legal, regulatory and financial implications of the proposed restructuring," Gaolathe said. "Once completed, the government will consider the findings and provide policy direction on the most viable model to pursue, guided by objectives ensuring energy security, improving electricity affordability and increasing private sector participation in the power sector."

GUIDE FUTURE REFORMS

The outcome is expected to guide future reforms in the power sector, as Botswana seeks to strengthen energy security, reduce financial pressures on state utilities and create an environment conducive to private sector investment.

BENCHMARKING

Botswana is keen to follow in the footsteps of other African nations that have privatised aspects of their power generation sectors. These countries have implemented such arrangements mainly through two models: Independent Power Producers (IPPs) and Public–Private Partnerships (PPPs). Nations such as Nigeria, South Africa, Kenya, Uganda, Ghana and Tanzania have adopted the unbundling of their power utilities.

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Parameter	Parameter Details
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VACANCIES ANNOUNCEMENT

With over 30 years of experience in Botswana's tourism industry, Uncharted Africa Safari Co. operates eight safari camps across the Makgadikgadi Pans and Okavango Delta, supported by its Operations Office in Francistown. We invite suitably qualified, motivated, and results-driven individuals to apply for the following positions across our camps and support departments.

Uncharted AFRICA SAFARI co.
Jack's Camp • San Camp • Safaris & Expeditions
Planet Baobab • Camp Kalahari

CAMP OPERATIONS

CAMP MANAGER X 2 (JACK'S CAMP & SAN CAMP)

Role Purpose
Overall responsibility for camp operations, ensuring exceptional guest experiences, strong staff leadership, effective administration, and full compliance with company, statutory, and environmental standards.

Key Responsibilities
- Lead and manage day-to-day camp operations in line with UA brand standards.
- Deliver consistently high-quality and personalised guest experiences.
- Oversee administration, procurement discipline, expenditure control, and stock management.
- Manage staff performance, development, discipline, morale, and HR compliance.
- Ensure compliance with Safety, Health & Environmental (SHE) standards and emergency procedures.
- Oversee food quality, hygiene, menu execution, and coordination with the Head Chef.
- Coordinate maintenance of infrastructure, vehicles, utilities, and equipment.
- Build and maintain relationships with communities and external stakeholders.

Minimum Requirements
- Degree in Tourism, Hospitality, or Business-related field.
- Minimum 5 years' experience in a similar role in a 4/5 star lodge/camp environment.
- Proven leadership and financial management experience.
- Valid driver's licence.

Assistant Camp Manager x 2

Role Purpose
Supports the Camp Manager in daily operations and assumes full responsibility in their absence.

Key Responsibilities
- Support and oversee daily camp operations and service standards.
- Maintain cleanliness, presentation, and operational quality across all areas.
- Assist with stock control, staff leave, overtime, and reporting.
- Support guest hosting, Front of House oversight, and guest feedback management.
- Promote SHE compliance and environmentally responsible practices.

Minimum Requirements
- Degree in Tourism, Hospitality, or Business-related field.
- Minimum 3 years' experience in a similar role.
- Valid driver's licence.
- Strong leadership and organisational skills.

Front of House Host x 5

Role Purpose
Ensures a seamless, welcoming, and high-quality guest journey from arrival to departure.

Key Responsibilities
- Welcome guests and conduct camp orientations.
- Coordinate arrivals, departures, and guest activities.
- Monitor accommodation, dining, and public areas for service standards.
- Manage guest records, shop stock, and in-camp sales documentation.
- Support Front of House staff training and development.

Minimum Requirements
- Diploma in Hospitality, Tourism, or related field.
- 2–3 years' Front of House or guest services experience.
- Strong communication and coordination skills.
- Valid Food Handler's Certificate (or willingness to obtain).

Assistant Food & Beverage Manager x 1

Role Purpose
Supports delivery of high food and beverage service standards across camps.

Key Responsibilities
- Monitor food quality, menu compliance, and service standards.
- Support beverage management, storage, and equipment standards.
- Assist with stock control, purchasing coordination, and cost control.
- Support staff training and departmental action plans.
- Ensure hygiene, health, safety, and environmental compliance.

Minimum Requirements
- Diploma in Culinary Arts.
- Valid Food Handler's Certificate.
- Minimum 5 years' food and beverage experience in a similar role.
- Valid driver's licence.

Head Chef x 1

Role Purpose
Leads kitchen operations to deliver consistent, high-quality meals.
Key Responsibilities

- Oversee food preparation, menu execution, and dietary requirements.
- Manage kitchen staff, daily planning, and performance.
- Control food ordering, stock, wastage, and supplier quality.
- Maintain hygiene, safety, and cleanliness standards.

Minimum Requirements
- Culinary Diploma.
- Valid Food Handler's Certificate.
- Minimum 5 years' kitchen management experience.
- Strong leadership and cost-control skills.

Chef x 4 / Staff Chef x 8

Role Purpose
Prepare meals for guests or staff while maintaining hygiene and efficiency.

Key Responsibilities
- Prepare meals according to menus and dietary requirements.
- Maintain kitchen cleanliness and food safety standards.
- Monitor food usage and minimise wastage.
- Support Head Chef or Camp Manager as required.

Minimum Requirements
- Culinary Certificate or relevant training.
- Valid Food Handler's Certificate.
- 1–3 years' relevant experience.
- Good teamwork and organisational skills.

CONCESSION & MAINTENANCE

Concession Manager x 1

Role Purpose
Oversees concession operations, assets, infrastructure, logistics, and environmental management.

Key Responsibilities
- Manage concession infrastructure including roads, airstrips, boreholes, and solar systems.
- Coordinate logistical and operational support to camps.
- Monitor concession budgets and expenditure.
- Maintain asset registers, stock takes, and maintenance action plans.
- Liaise with communities, regulators, and external stakeholders.
- Support conservation and SHE compliance initiatives.

Minimum Requirements
- Degree in Project Management, Logistics, or related field.
- Minimum 5 years' management experience.
- Strong financial, technical, and leadership skills.

Back of House / Maintenance Manager x 3

Role Purpose
Ensures all camp infrastructure and assets are safely and reliably maintained.

Key Responsibilities
- Oversee maintenance of buildings, vehicles, generators, and solar systems.
- Implement preventative maintenance schedules.
- Supervise maintenance staff and contractors.
- Manage maintenance documentation and budgets.
- Ensure SHE compliance and emergency readiness.

Minimum Requirements
- Technical qualification in maintenance or engineering field.
- Minimum 5 years' maintenance management experience.
- Strong planning and supervisory skills.

Maintenance Electrician x 2

Role Purpose
Maintains electrical systems to ensure reliable power supply.

Key Responsibilities
- Perform electrical installations and repairs.
- Maintain generators and solar equipment.
- Diagnose faults and attend to outages.
- Maintain tools and comply with SHE standards.

Minimum Requirements
- Trade Certificate / NCC in Electrical Installation.
- 3 years' relevant experience.

Maintenance Plumber x 2

Role Purpose
Maintains plumbing systems across camp infrastructure.

Key Responsibilities
- Install and repair plumbing systems and fixtures.
- Perform preventative maintenance.
- Maintain plumbing tools and materials.
- Support general maintenance projects.

Minimum Requirements
- Trade Certificate / NCC in Plumbing.
- 3 years' relevant experience.

PROJECTS DEPARTMENT

Projects Manager x 1

Role Purpose
Plans and manages construction and capital development projects from inception to handover.

Key Responsibilities
- Develop project plans, budgets, and schedules.
- Manage procurement and contractor coordination.
- Monitor progress, quality, risks, and costs.
- Ensure SHE compliance and proper handover to operations.

Minimum Requirements
- Degree in Project Management or related field.
- Minimum 10 years' experience (5 at senior level).
- PMP / PRINCE2 certification an advantage.
- Valid driver's licence.

Projects Supervisor x 1

Role Purpose
Supervises site-level project execution and quality control.

Key Responsibilities
- Supervise artisans and contractors on site.
- Coordinate daily work schedules and materials.
- Monitor workmanship and safety compliance.
- Report progress and risks to management.

Minimum Requirements
- NCC qualification in an artisan trade.
- Minimum 6 years' experience.
- Valid driver's licence.

Industrial Carpenter x 2

Role Purpose
Responsible for the construction, repair, and maintenance of structural woodwork, furniture, fixtures, and camp infrastructure to required quality, safety, and durability standards across operations and projects.

Key Responsibilities
- Construct, install, and repair wooden structures, furniture, decking, doors, frames, fittings, and fixtures.
- Read and interpret technical drawings, measurements, and specifications accurately.
- Carry out preventative maintenance and repair works on camp structures, furnishings, and fittings.
- Select appropriate materials and ensure efficient material usage to minimise wastage.
- Operate, maintain, and safely use carpentry tools, machinery, and equipment.
- Support construction, renovation, and development projects as required.
- Work collaboratively with other artisans (steel, plumbing, electrical) on integrated projects.
- Ensure all work complies with Safety, Health & Environmental (SHE) standards and company procedures.

Minimum Requirements
- NCC or Trade Certificate in Carpentry or a related field.
- Minimum 5 years' experience in industrial, construction, or camp-based carpentry.
- Ability to work from drawings and take accurate measurements.
- Strong attention to detail, finish, and workmanship quality.
- Physically fit and able to work in remote environments.
- Valid driver's licence is an added advantage.

PROCUREMENT, WORKSHOP & OPERATIONS

Procurement Manager x 1

Role Purpose
Manages procurement and supply chain operations across the business.

Key Responsibilities
- Manage sourcing, purchasing, and delivery of goods and services.
- Develop procurement plans and cost-saving initiatives.
- Negotiate and manage supplier contracts.
- Oversee logistics, warehousing, and inventory systems.
- Manage procurement budgets and staff.

Minimum Requirements
- Degree in Supply Chain Management, Procurement, Logistics, or related field.
- Minimum 5 years' procurement management experience.
- Strong negotiation and financial skills.
- Valid driver's licence (PrDP – Goods an advantage).

Procurement Officer x 1

Role Purpose
Supports procurement operations and supplier coordination.

Key Responsibilities
- Process purchase orders and track deliveries.
- Maintain procurement records and documentation.
- Support stock control and inventory tracking.
- Liaise with departments on procurement timelines.

Minimum Requirements
- Diploma or Certificate in Supply Chain, Procurement, or Business Administration.
- 2–3 years' experience in procurement or logistics support.
- Strong administrative and computer skills.

Warehouse Clerk x 1

Role Purpose
Manages receiving, storage, and issuing of stock.

Key Responsibilities
- Receive, inspect, and record deliveries.
- Store and issue stock accurately.
- Maintain bin cards and inventory records.
- Assist with stock counts and dispatches.

Minimum Requirements
- Certificate or Diploma in Stores or Logistics.
- 1–2 years' warehouse experience.
- Physically fit with strong attention to detail.

Relief Stores & Admin Clerk x 1

Role Purpose
Provides stores control and administrative support.

Key Responsibilities
- Maintain stock records and documentation.
- Support stock counts and reconciliations.
- Process stores and procurement paperwork.
- Provide general administrative support.

Minimum Requirements
- Diploma in Business Administration, Stores, or Logistics.
- 1–2 years' relevant experience.
- Strong organisational and record-keeping skills.

Seamstress x 1

Role Purpose
Supports operations through garment repairs and fabric production.

Key Responsibilities
- Repair and alter uniforms and fabric items.
- Measure, cut, and prepare materials.
- Operate and maintain sewing equipment.
- Maintain clean workspace and usage records.

Minimum Requirements
- Certificate in Tailoring, Clothing Design, or Textile Studies (preferred).
- Minimum 2–3 years' sewing or tailoring experience.
- Ability to work independently with attention to detail.

APPLICATION DETAILS

Interested candidates should submit:

- Comprehensive CV only
- Cover letter
- References

Email: careers@unchartedafrica.com

Postal Address: P O Box 173, Francistown, Botswana

Physical Address: Plot 31253, Somerset West Industrial, Francistown, Botswana

Closing Date: Positions will remain open until filled.

Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted.

Uncharted Africa Safari Co. is an equal opportunity employer. Citizen candidates meeting requirements will be given priority.

BOSETU Flags Teachers' Workload Intimidation

BOSETU warns against illegal teacher workloads, urging educators to resist intimidation and report violations of the 2009 Education Register

BONGANI MALUNGA

The Botswana Sectors of Educators Trade Union (BOSETU) has raised concern over reports that regional education officers and school management teams are coercing teachers into accepting workloads that exceed the limits set out in the 2009 Education Register (ER).

In a memo released to general membership last Friday, the union said teachers have complained of being intimidated by senior officials to take on overcrowded classes and additional teaching periods beyond what is legally prescribed.

BOSETU noted that the situation has been worsened by a steady increase in the number of learners per class, placing undue pressure on educators and negatively affecting the quality of teaching and learning. The union expressed alarm that such practices not only violate the ER but also compromise teachers' wellbeing and professional effectiveness.

RESIST AND REFUSE

BOSETU urged teachers to resist and refuse workloads that fall outside the provisions of the 2009 ER, which stipulates a teacher-to-student ratio of 1:30. The union emphasized that no educator should be compelled to teach classes exceeding this limit. BOSETU further warned that any instructions forcing teachers to take on classes with more than 30 learners should be reported immediately to the union.

Complaints from members

"The union has, of recent, been inundated with reports and complaints from members, once again, that there are attempts from education regional officers and school managements to coerce educators (teachers) to take workload, in terms of the number of classes and the number of periods/lessons, that are more than the maximums that are prescribed by the 2009 Education Register," the union underlined.

PROTECTING TEACHERS FROM INTIMIDATION

It reaffirmed its commitment to protecting teachers from intimidation and ensuring that education authorities adhere to existing regulations governing workload and classroom management.



BOTSWANA BUREAU OF STANDARDS BOBS

NOTICE OF CANCELLATION

TENDER NO. BOBS/2025-2026/06/SER: PROVISION OF SECURITY SERVICES TO BOTSWANA BUREAU OF STANDARDS HEAD OFFICE BUILDING, WEIGHBRIDGE OFFICE AND FRANCISTOWN OFFICE FOR A PERIOD OF THREE (3) YEARS.

Prospective bidders are informed that Botswana Bureau of Standards has resolved to cancel the above - cited tender. The decision was made pursuant to Regulation 66:4 (f) of the Public Procurement Regulations of 2023.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your interest in doing business with BOBS. You may request a refund for the purchase of the bidding document.

Any inconvenience caused is highly regretted.

For any information, please contact Procurement Unit at tenders@bobstandards.bw +267 364 5415 or 364 5410.

M. Moswang

For /Managing Director

Late FMD Detection Raises Spread Fears



Late detection of FMD in Zone 6B raises fears of wider spread, as veterinary authorities warn that untagged livestock and prior movements could have helped the virus cross into other zones

SESUPO RANTSIMAKO

The late detection of Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) in Zone 6B has raised fears that the outbreak may have already spread to other parts of Botswana, officials say.

Acting Director of the Department of Veterinary Services (DVS), Dr. Kobedi Segale, told farmers in Jackalas No. 1 over the weekend that preliminary investigations suggest FMD may have been present as early as November 2025. The delayed identification increases the risk of wider transmission.

LIVESTOCK MOVEMENT POSES MAJOR RISK

Dr. Segale highlighted that cattle movements prior to the outbreak's detection may have facilitated the spread of the disease beyond Zone 6B. "The department only intensified surveillance after realizing that cattle had been moved across different zones during the suspected infection period," he said.

> "Some livestock might have moved while already infected but not yet showing symptoms, so it is critical to trace these animals"

CHALLENGES IN TRACKING INFECTED ANIMALS

Efforts to trace potentially infected livestock have been hampered by inadequate identification systems. Many cattle in Zones 6B, 3C, and 6A lack ear tags or zonal branding, making it difficult for veterinary teams to track movements or identify affected herds.

"Some livestock might have moved while already infected but not yet showing symptoms, so it is critical to trace these animals," Dr. Segale explained. "Without proper identification, establishing transmission routes and containing the outbreak becomes very challenging."

GOVERNMENT RESPONSE

The FMD outbreak in Zone 6B was officially confirmed last month following laboratory tests in Jackalas No. 1. The affected area was immediately declared an infected zone. Authorities imposed strict livestock movement restrictions, suspended the issuance of movement permits, and deployed veterinary teams to conduct surveillance, clinical inspections, and sample collection.

Dr. Segale said monitoring has been ramped up in neighboring zones to assess whether the disease has spread further. Disinfection points have been set up at strategic locations, while awareness campaigns continue to educate farmers on biosecurity measures and the importance of early reporting.

CALL FOR IMPROVED LIVESTOCK IDENTIFICATION

Emphasizing the importance of proper identification, Dr. Segale urged farmers to ensure all livestock are tagged and branded. "Without reliable identification systems, controlling FMD becomes significantly more difficult, especially when outbreaks are detected late," he said.

Saleshando Sounds Alarm Over Botswana's Debt Outlook

Opposition leader warns Botswana's debt may surpass required limits, raising concerns over fiscal stability, borrowing costs and economic growth prospects

BONGANI MALUNGA

The Leader of the Opposition (LOO), Dumelang Saleshando, has raised serious concerns about Botswana's mounting debt as the nation's debt-to-GDP ratio is on track to exceed the statutory ceiling of 40% by 2027.

Saleshando highlighted that the rapid accumulation of public debt poses significant risks to the country's fiscal stability, potentially constraining government spending and undermining long-term economic growth.

A GRADUAL INCREASE

The LOO made the remarks in the immediate aftermath of the Vice President and Minister of Finance, Ndaba Gaolathe's 2026-2027 National Budget Speech on Monday. Gaolathe revealed that Botswana's debt-to-GDP ratio is expected to increase to 38.77% of GDP in March 2026 rising to 44.6% by March 2027. In 2024 the country's debt-to-GDP ratio stood at 29.87% later rising to 33.02% of GDP in 2025.



PUBLIC DEBT

"During the 2025/2026 financial year, the budget was largely financed through the domestic market. In this regard, as at December 2025, total public debt, including sovereign guarantees, amounted to P90.03 billion. This comprised P55.98 billion in domestic debt (P51.89 billion in Government borrowing and P4.09 billion in publicly guaranteed debt) and P34.06 billion in external debt (P29.47 billion in Government loans and P4.59 billion in publicly guaranteed debt)," Gaolathe stated.

CORRECTIVE MEASURES NEEDED

In a televised sideline interview, Saleshando cautioned that if corrective measures are not swiftly implemented, Botswana could face increased borrowing costs, reduced investor confidence and limited fiscal space to fund essential social and developmental programs. Saleshando's remarks come amid growing opposition debate over the government's borrowing strategy and the sustainability of national debt in the face of rising economic pressures.

ECONOMIC PICTURE WORSENED

"The big question is whether or not the economic picture has improved in 2026 compared to 2025. Has the government been able to use the national budget to advance promises they made to Batswana? In short, the VP's numbers show that the situation has worsened.

There is a statutory ceiling which dictates that our debt levels should not exceed 40% of GDP, what was outlined is that for the first time in our history we are swamped with debt and we are likely to seek more debt to overcome this problem. Internationally based lenders are not too keen to assist Botswana because unlike in previous years we are unable to repay debts consistently," Saleshando remarked on Monday.

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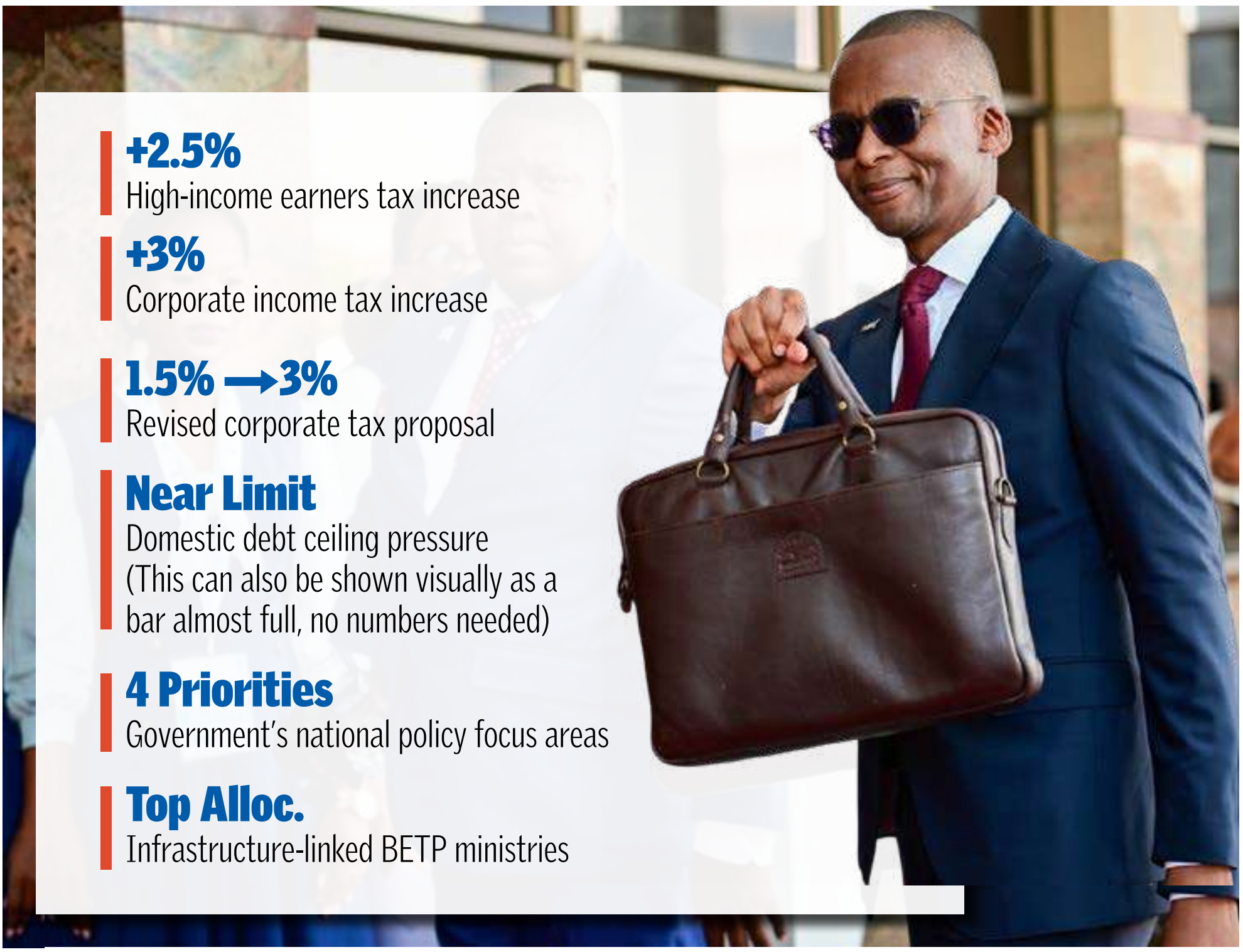


Tax Hikes Hit Homes, Firms

Botswana's 2026/2027 budget signals higher taxes for high income earners and corporates, tighter controls on public spending, and a renewed push toward private-sector-led, export-driven growth, according to analysis presented at an FNB seminar in Gaborone

TLOTLO KEBINAKGABO

The government is intensifying its focus on "strengthening of domestic revenue mobilization," a move that will directly affect households and businesses. High income earners are expected to face a 2.5 percent tax increase, while corporate taxes will rise by 3 percent, revised upward from the initially proposed 1.5 percent in the previous financial year.

Innocent Keoagile, a quantitative analyst with FNB Botswana, when unpacking the 2026/2027 budget speech yesterday during the FNB budget review seminar warned that "SMEs, brace yourselves for higher taxes in the coming financial year," adding that households must also "embrace ourselves for higher taxes as the government is moving to increase in high income earners taxes by 2.5 percent."

The measures form part of a broader effort to stabilise government revenues amid growing fiscal pressures.

SPENDING EFFICIENCY PUSH

Another core fiscal strategy is public expenditure efficiency. Keoagile noted that "there has been a lot of concerns about revenue leakages in the public sector," particularly linked to weaknesses in project implementation and earlier delivery models.

To address this, government plans to refine its project planning, project execution, as well as a project selection framework. These reforms, aligned with public finance management reforms, aim to ensure fiscal sustainability and confront "issues around corruption, which has been one of the revenue leakages for the country."

DEBT QUALITY FOCUS

Debt management also featured prominently. With the domestic debt limit almost reached, the government is prioritising what Keoagile described as "accumulating the right kind of debt."



The focus is on avoiding "accumulating debt that's more expensive," while carefully assessing the right options and the right methods to plug the budget deficit outlined in the budget speech.

EXPORT-LED GROWTH

The Ministry of Finance outlined four national priorities, led by supporting an export led growth and diversified economy. Keoagile said this theme has "been emerging quite heavily" across policy documents, signalling government's intention to "step back and allow the private sector to lead the economic development."

SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT EMPHASIS

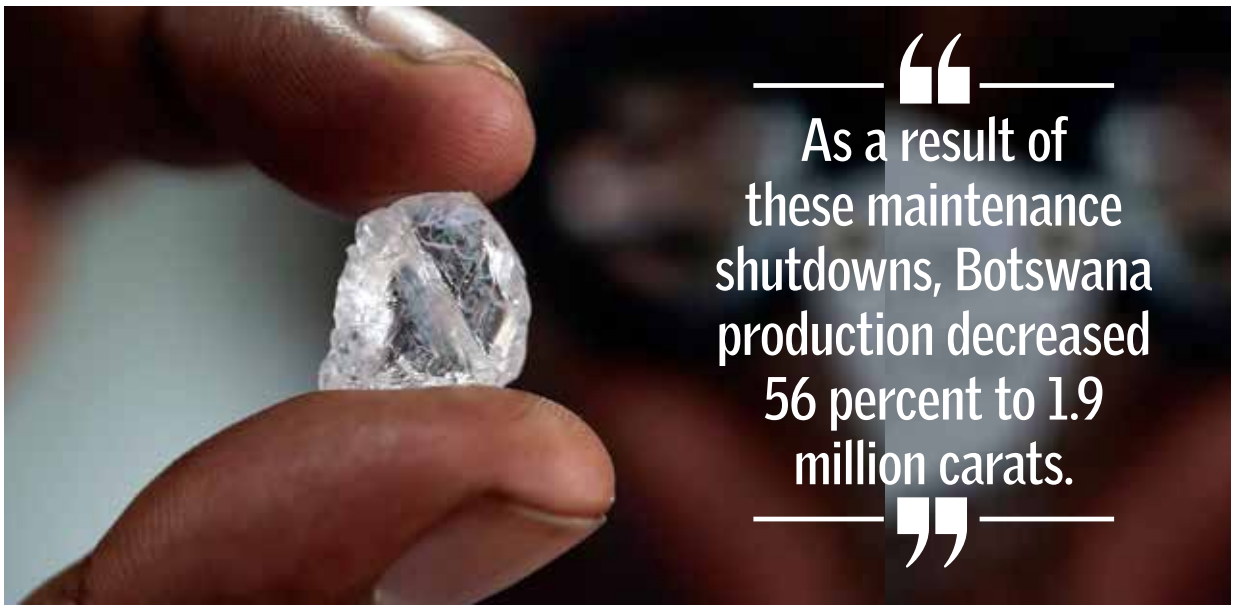
Human capital and social development remain central to the budget's direction. In line with Vision 2036, government has increased new born babies allowances, old age pensions, and vocational training allowances, ensuring that "this particular aspect, or the social aspect, is not left behind when this new journey begins."

INFRASTRUCTURE INTEGRATION DRIVE

The final priority centres on integration of key infrastructure development, with a strong emphasis on crowding in the private sector. This focus is reflected in the development budget, where ministries driving the BETP initiative received the largest allocations—an indication, Keoagile noted, that "the government is very intentional in terms of infrastructure development."

De Beers Diamond Output Falls

Maintenance shutdowns and trading challenges slow production across multiple regions



GAZETTE REPORTER

Rough diamond production at De Beers fell 35 percent to 3.8 million carats in the fourth quarter, largely due to maintenance shutdowns at the Orapa and Jwaneng mines, according to Anglo American plc's production report for the quarter ended December 31, 2025.

"As a result of these maintenance shutdowns, Botswana production decreased 56 percent to 1.9 million carats," the report stated. "Jwaneng was offline as planned for the entire quarter after optimising plant utilisation ahead of this maintenance period, while Orapa conducted a maintenance shutdown in October. The operations will continue to prioritise cost management by maintaining a balance between optimal plant throughput and maintenance downtime."

REGIONAL PERFORMANCE

In Namibia, production declined 21 percent to 0.5 million carats due to scheduled maintenance on two vessels and extended in-port time to install a next-generation subsea crawler on the Benguela Gem. Earlier in the year, two vessels were decommissioned as part of a strategic response to industry conditions.

South African production decreased 10 percent to 0.5 million carats following planned plant maintenance. By contrast, Canada's Gahcho Kué mine produced 0.9 million carats after accessing new ore from the latest cut following its initial waste stripping phase.

TRADING CONDITIONS

Rough diamond trading remained challenging amid ongoing industry, geopolitical, and tariff uncertainties. Sales from three Sights in Q4 2025 totaled 5.9 million carats (5.4 million carats consolidated), generating $571 million in revenue, compared with 4.6 million carats (4.3 million consolidated) and $543 million in Q4 2024.

"The full year consolidated average realised price declined by 7 percent to $142 per carat, primarily driven by a 12 percent decrease in the average rough price index and the impact of stock rebalancing initiatives, partially offset by stronger demand for higher value stones across the year as a whole," the report noted. The Q4 realised price was affected by a higher proportion of lower-value stones sold, with stock rebalancing actions resulting in an equivalent 25 percent year-on-year price decline.

OUTLOOK REVISED

Anglo American revised De Beers' 2026 production guidance to 21–26 million carats, down from 26–29 million, reflecting the challenging market. The group is also conducting an impairment review of De Beers' carrying value to assess potential impacts of diamond market conditions.

OPERATIONAL STRENGTH

Despite lower output, the mining business delivered strong operational performance, producing in line with prevailing levels of demand.

Botswana Savings Bank	TENDER NO: BSB/PU/ICT/014-2025/26 TENDERING PROCEDURES	TENDER NOTICE AND INVITATION TO TENDER

TENDER REF NO: BSB/PU/ICT/014-2025/26

A SERVICES CONTRACT FOR THE RENEWAL OF ENDPOINT PROTECTION SERVICES (2-YEARS CONTRACT) TO BOTSWANA SAVINGS BANK

Sealed Tender offers are invited from Local 100% citizen owned companies.

The procuring entity is Botswana Savings Bank ICT & MIS Department, Gaborone.

Bidding method: Open Domestic Bidding

Bidders who are to be considered for award of the contract should be appropriately licensed to trade and or supply the services tendered for, and in possession of requisite documentation to trade and or supply such services according to the laws of Botswana and must be 100% citizen owned entities.

Bidders who are domiciled in Botswana must, to be considered for the award of the contract, be registered with the Public Procurement Regulatory Authority in the following categories: Code,

Code: 120 ICT Technical Support Services
Sub code(s) :06-ICT Security Management and maintenance Services

All applicable citizen economic empowerment schemes such as Local Procurement Scheme (LPS), Citizen Economic Empowerment Programme (CEEP) and Economic Diversification Drive (EDD) shall be considered for evaluation and awarding purposes.

The physical address for collection of tender documents is:

Procurement Department
Botswana Savings Bank Headquarters
Plot 53796, Kagiso Mall, Tshomarelo House, Floor Number 4
Gaborone

Documents shall be accessed from the below link:

www.bsb.bw/news&resources/downloads.php

with effect from 11th February 2026. Tender documents shall be available both in soft copies and hard copies. Bidders interested in receiving soft copies shall share email addresses and proof of payment upon payment of the tender fee to **procurementunit@bsb.bw**

A non-refundable fee of P400.00 shall be paid by interested bidders before collection of tender documents. Youth-owned companies shall purchase the tender at half price. Payment shall be made at any of the following Botswana Savings Bank branches and or ATMs: BSB Headquarters, Rail Park, Palapye, Mahalapye, Molepolole, Serowe, Hukuntsi, F/town and Maun; Old Naledi and Kanye ATMs, at the following Account details:

1) Acc Name: Other Income
Acc No: 1415-1-03-35-24-00-0000
Reference no: Bidder's Company Name

A One-Envelope procedure will be followed.

Parts of each tender offer communicated on paper shall be submitted as one (1) original marked original, plus two (2) copies.

Queries relating to the issue of these documents may be addressed to procurementunit@bsb.bw at **Tel +267 3670162/3/0148 Fax No +267 395 2608** at least (7) days before tender closing date; Copied to emagogwe@bsb.bw No queries shall be allowed thereafter.

The closing time for receipt of tender documents is **1000hrs on 16th February 2026**.

Tender offers received after closing date, telegraphic, faxed or emailed submissions will not be accepted. Late tenders will be rejected and returned unopened to bidders.

Names and addresses of bidders should be reflected on the envelopes.

The physical address for tender submission is:

Botswana Savings Bank (BSB) Plot 53796, Tshomarelo House 4th Floor Tender Box, Kagiso Mall, P O Box 1150, Gaborone Botswana.

Tender opening shall be available both online and physical. A link shall be provided 2 days later from the bid closing date on the BSB website.

Tender documents not correctly packaged and labelled as indicated above will not be accepted.

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

Notwithstanding anything in the foregoing, Botswana Savings Bank is not bound to accept the lowest or any tender offer, nor incur expenses in the preparation thereof.

Procurement Oversight Unit
Botswana Savings Bank

Contact Us Now on: 367 0100
or Visit a BSB branch near you for more information
www.bsb.bw

Lesedi 2025

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Khoemacau Expands Copper Operations

Botswana's largest copper project aims to boost production, jobs, and local industry through a $900 million investment



Botswana's Minister of Minerals and Energy, Bogolo Kenewendo, emphasized the expansion's broader economic impact.

GAZETTE REPORTER

The Khoemacau Copper Mine in Botswana is moving forward with a major expansion expected to raise annual copper production to 130,000 tonnes, with associated silver output exceeding four million ounces. The development will extend ore supply through three new mines at Zone 5 North, Mango, and Zeta North-East, alongside the construction of a new 4.5 million tonnes per annum processing plant. Once completed, total milling capacity at Khoemacau will surpass 8 million tonnes annually.

Total capital expenditure for the project is estimated at $900 million (over BWP 13 billion), including pre-2026 spending. First copper concentrate from the expansion is expected in the first half of 2028.

EMPLOYMENT IMPACT

During construction, the project is anticipated to create roughly 5,500 jobs across employees and contractors. Upon full commissioning in the second quarter of 2028, Khoemacau will support a permanent workforce exceeding 4,000 employees.

LOCAL INDUSTRY

Botswana's Minister of Minerals and Energy, Bogolo Kenewendo, emphasized the expansion's broader economic impact. "We expect that you will capacitate and help Botswana-based businesses to meet the standard of the services you require, because we look at the opportunity of an expansion project like this as an anchor to industrialization and to development in the economy," she said during the project launch at Zone 5 near Toteng.

Kenewendo highlighted the government's value and supply chain program, encouraging companies to source locally and stimulate domestic production. She noted that contractors establishing operations in Botswana would benefit other mines as well.

ECONOMIC SIGNIFICANCE

The minister described the expansion as transformative, positioning Khoemacau as Botswana's largest copper mine and contributing approximately 6 percent to national GDP. She underscored the project's role in diversifying Botswana's mining industry while supporting economic growth and improving community livelihoods.

MMG, the mine's operator, announced that studies are already underway to further increase output beyond 200,000 tonnes per year through operational optimization and development of additional resources.

INVESTMENT CONFIDENCE

Minister Kenewendo attributed MMG's commitment to Botswana's stable fiscal and regulatory environment, foreign investment policies, and robust legal framework. "As the Government of Botswana, we remain committed to maintaining Botswana as an attractive destination for foreign direct investment—one that benefits not only investors, but all Batswana," she said.

DEBSWANA

CHIEF LEGAL & GOVERNANCE OFFICER

Debswana is a globally recognised diamond mining company jointly owned by the Government of Botswana and the De Beers Group. As a major contributor to Botswana's economic development, Debswana is committed to responsible mining, strong corporate governance, and long-term value creation for stakeholders and communities. In support of this mandate, the organisation invites applications from accomplished, principled, and ambitious professionals with high emotional intelligence to join its leadership team as **Chief Legal & Governance Officer.**

Job Purpose

Reporting to the Chief Executive Officer, the Chief Legal and Governance Officer will lead the development and execution of an integrated Legal, Governance and Corporate Services strategy aligned to Debswana's Strategic Business Plan. The role provides expert legal and governance counsel to the Board and Executive, ensures compliance with statutory and governance frameworks, and champions ethical leadership, accountability, and institutional integrity across the organisation.

The Job

The position will, inter alia, be responsible for the following:

- Providing strategic legal and governance leadership aligned with Debswana's business objectives.
- Advising the Board, its Committees, and Executive on complex legal, regulatory and governance matters.
- Overseeing corporate governance frameworks, policies and committee structures to ensure compliance and best practice.
- Identifying and managing legal risks, including oversight of litigation, contracts and commercial transactions.
- Protecting and managing the organisation's intellectual property portfolio, including, trademarks, patents, copyrights and proprietary assets.
- Providing expert legal advisory and representation on complex commercial transactions, regulatory matters and disputes.
- Leading Board and Executive Committee secretarial functions in line with statutory requirements.
- Managing departmental budgets, talent development and performance management.
- Ensuring compliance with safety, health, and environmental requirements within the function.
- Building strong relationships with internal and external stakeholders to support business outcomes.

The Person

The right candidate will possess the following:

- A Bachelor's Degree in Commerce (BCom) / Accounting / Risk Management / Bachelor of Laws (LLB) / Chartered Secretary (ACIS, FCIS) or equivalent Business degree.
- A Management Development Program.
- At least 12 years post qualification experience with at least 4 years at Senior Management level.
- Legal background at a senior level is essential.
- Solid knowledge of governance and proven expertise at a senior executive level is essential.
- Strong leadership capability with experience in managing professional teams and resources.
- Proven track record in advising Boards and Executives on governance, compliance and strategic legal matters.

Key Competencies

- Strong legal judgement and governance expertise.
- Strategic thinking and business acumen.
- High ethical standards, integrity and accountability.
- Excellent stakeholder engagement and influencing skills.

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

Closing Date: 24 February 2026

For enquiries: Contact 3975917 / 3915503

PEOPLE CONNECTIONS
connecting people and business

Gaolathe Sweeping Tax Reform

Government data show declining revenue ratios as authorities outline legislative and administrative overhaul

GAZETTE REPORTER

Botswana's government has signaled a renewed push for comprehensive tax reform, citing weakening revenue performance and the need to modernize the country's tax administration.

REVENUE PRESSURE

Delivering the 2026/2027 budget speech on Monday, the Minister of Finance and Vice President, Ndaba Gaolathe, said the case for reform had become increasingly urgent. He referenced the 2025 Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development report, which shows Botswana's tax-to-GDP ratio fell by 0.4 percentage points, from 13.8 percent in 2022 to 13.4 percent in 2023. The figure remains below the African average of 16.1 percent and well under the Southern African Customs Union average of 20.5 percent.

"These comparatively low levels of domestic revenue mobilisation highlight the necessity of modernising the country's core tax systems," Mr. Gaolathe said, pointing to under-taxed activities, compliance gaps and the need to broaden the tax base.

GLOBAL COMPARISONS

The minister cited international experience to illustrate potential gains from sustained reform. Morocco, he said, raised its tax-to-GDP ratio to 28.5 percent in 2023 through measures that strengthened tax administration and compliance, broadened the tax base, rationalised exemptions and digitised tax declarations.

"Botswana has already embarked on a similar reform trajectory," he said.

VAT CHANGES

A central plank of that trajectory is the Value Added Tax (Amendment) Act of 2025. According to Mr. Gaolathe, the law introduces VAT on remote services and mandates electronic invoicing, aligning Botswana with international practice. He said implementation was progressing, supported by stakeholder consultations and system upgrades to register and support compliance by remote service providers.

The rollout of electronic invoicing, anticipated in April 2026, is expected to enable real-time transaction monitoring, strengthen compliance, reduce leakages and improve revenue assurance as part of a broader digital transformation of tax administration.

LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

Beyond VAT, the government is advancing a multi-year legislative and operational reform program. During the February sitting of Parliament, four bills are set to be tabled: the Value Added Tax Bill (2025), the Income Tax Bill (2025), the Customs Amendment Bill (2025) and a new Tax Administration Bill (2025).

> "These comparatively low levels of domestic revenue mobilisation highlight the necessity of modernising the country's core tax systems."

Mr. Gaolathe said the review aims to modernise and harmonise the tax framework, simplify procedures and ensure alignment with the new Tax Administration Act.

RATE PROPOSALS

The minister also addressed proposed tax rate changes first announced in the 2025 budget, including a 1.5 percent increase in corporate income tax and the top personal income tax bracket. He said government paused implementation after receiving stakeholder feedback, particularly on the definition of top earners.

"Government took this feedback seriously," he said. The revised proposal sets the top-earner threshold at P400,001 and above per year, attracting an additional 2.5 percent tax. Further proposals include a 3 percent increase in the corporate income tax rate and a reduction in the zero-rated VAT list to raise the effective VAT rate. Details will be debated in Parliament.



Government Bets on Private Sector

Budget speech sets out export-led growth plan centred on agriculture, manufacturing and investment reform

GAZETTE REPORTER

Government is positioning the private sector as the central driver of Botswana's push toward a diversified, export-oriented economy, according to Finance Minister and Vice President Ndaba Gaolathe.

"Government is steadfast in its resolve to advance the private sector as a central driver of a diversified, export-oriented economy and sustained economic resilience," Gaolathe said while delivering the 2026/2027 budget speech on Monday.

He said the strategy is anchored in deepening private sector participation, enhancing enterprise competitiveness and accelerating the growth of scalable firms with export potential.

AGRICULTURE REPOSITIONED

Agriculture is being shifted from subsistence production and import dependence to a modern, export-oriented agro-industrial sector. Under the Botswana Economic Transformation Programme (BETP), 26 agriculture projects are being implemented, focusing on crop and livestock production, processing, cold-chain infrastructure, logistics and market access.

"Through clustering, processing hubs, and integrated logistics, Botswana aims to convert its land, water and farmer base into competitive exports," Gaolathe said, identifying meat, horticulture, nutraceuticals and high-value crops as priority products.

As an example, he said one BETP agriculture-based cluster is scheduled to make its first confirmed export of moringa to Germany in February 2026. He said the shipment would generate income for local farmers, validate the cluster-based model and demonstrate Botswana's ability to meet stringent international quality standards.

MANUFACTURING FOCUS

Manufacturing is being strengthened as the link between primary production and exports. Gaolathe said 22 manufacturing projects have been prioritised under BETP, covering assembly-based manufacturing, resource-based heavy industry, clean technologies and precision manufacturing.

"These projects link agriculture, mining and energy into higher-value goods," he said, adding that the objective is to retain value within Botswana, deepen supply chains and create skilled employment. He said the shift would move the economy up the value chain while reducing vulnerability to external shocks.

He also reported progress in special economic zones. Four advanced factory units are under construction at the Sir Seretse Khama International Airport SEZ, representing a combined investment of P714 million. In addition, a grain dryer and related facilities are being developed at the Pandamatenga SEZ at a cost of P63 million to support agro-industrial value chains.

INVESTMENT STRATEGY

The Revised National Investment Strategy (2025–2030), scheduled for completion by March 2026, will guide inclusive and geographically balanced growth. Gaolathe said the strategy will decentralise investment through district-specific profiles and local economic development approaches.

TRADE ACCESS

On trade, Gaolathe said Botswana has completed its National AfCFTA Implementation Strategy in July 2025. He said the framework identifies areas of comparative advantage and priority value chains to strengthen trade under the agreement.

"This milestone strategically positions Botswana to tap into the vast African market of 1.3 billion people," he said.

Why the BPL Is Hard to Sell

This column examines how culture, brands, and markets intersect in Botswana's economy. Each instalment explores why some of the country's most familiar products and institutions struggle to translate relevance into real commercial value, and what strategic shifts could change that.

BLACMARC GROUP

The Sleeping Giant Paradox. The Botswana Premier League has passion, history, and cultural relevance, yet struggles to convert that into commercial value. This column argues that the problem is not football, but how the BPL is positioned, packaged, and sold to business. There is a paradox at the heart of Botswana's commercial landscape that should trouble every CEO, CMO, and brand strategist. It is the paradox of the Botswana Premier League. How can a product that commands deep emotional loyalty, dominates weekend conversations, and reflects the country's cultural identity struggle to attract sustained commercial investment?

> Modern brands do not buy minutes. They buy stories, data, and communities.

This is not a football problem. It is a brand and product problem.

For decades, the league has tried to sell ninety minutes of football. Modern brands do not buy minutes. They buy stories, data, communities, and platforms. Until the league reframes what it is actually offering, it will remain one of the most undervalued media assets in Botswana.

Globally, the most successful sports properties learned this lesson early.

The 1992 formation of the English Premier League was not driven by sporting ideals but by commercial clarity. Clubs realised they were surrendering their most valuable asset their broadcast and commercial rights. By centralising ownership and controlling production, they transformed themselves from football teams into entertainment businesses. The result was a league that moved from modest broadcast fees to multibillion pound annual media deals.

The lesson is simple. You cannot monetise what you do not control.

Formula One offers a second example. For decades it was a technically brilliant but commercially narrow sport. Liberty Media changed that by recognising that Formula One was not selling cars racing in circles. It was selling human drama. Through narrative driven storytelling, personality building, and behind the scenes access, it expanded its audience dramatically. Brands that would never have considered motorsport suddenly saw relevance.



NARRATIVE CREATED VALUE.

The Botswana Premier League now faces a similar crossroads. Its challenge is not popularity but packaging. Unlocking its commercial potential requires a deliberate shift in how the league defines itself.

> You cannot monetise what you do not control.

FROM FOOTBALL LEAGUE TO MEDIA PLATFORM

The league's most valuable untapped asset is content. Every match, rivalry, player journey, and supporter culture is raw material for media. Yet production remains inconsistent and fragmented.

A modern league requires a centralised media function that ensures professional broadcast quality across all fixtures. This includes highlights, interviews, tactical analysis, short form digital content, and behind the scenes storytelling distributed through owned platforms.

Content is inventory. Inventory creates value. Without it, there is nothing meaningful to sell to broadcasters, sponsors, or advertisers.

FROM TEAMS TO CULTURAL BRANDS

Brands do not partner with teams. They partner with tribes.

Township Rollers represents more than a football club. It embodies an urban identity. Mochudi Centre Chiefs represent cultural continuity and community pride. Each club carries its own social meaning and emotional territory.

The league must help clubs understand themselves as brands with distinct audiences, digital footprints, and narratives. When clubs behave like lifestyle brands, they become gateways into defined communities rather than just vehicles for logo placement.

This turns the league into a portfolio of cultural properties, each offering targeted access to different demographics.

FROM SPONSORSHIP TO PARTNERSHIP

The word sponsorship signals charity. Partnership signals business.

Modern brands demand measurable return. They want data, engagement metrics, geographic reach, and sentiment insights. A credible league offering includes dashboards, not banners.

The recent legalisation of alcohol advertising provides a clear test case. A brewery should not be asked for funding alone. It should be offered an integrated partnership combining matchday presence, digital fan engagement, broadcast visibility, and post campaign sales tracking by region.

> The Botswana Premier League is not a charity case. It is an undervalued media platform.

That is not sponsorship. That is commercial collaboration.

THE COMMERCIAL OPPORTUNITY

Botswana does not lack audience. It lacks structured packaging.

The league already owns the one thing brands struggle to build organically genuine emotional connection at scale. What has been missing is professional commercial execution.

By repositioning itself as a media platform, empowering clubs as cultural brands, and replacing sponsorship with data driven partnerships, the league can shift from dependency to value creation.

The paradox is solvable. The passion is real. The audience is proven. The opportunity is immediate.

For business leaders, the question is no longer whether to support local football. It is whether ignoring the country's most emotionally charged media platform makes commercial sense.

The sleeping giant is not asleep because it is weak. It is asleep because no one has shown it how valuable it truly is.



Debt Is Not a Growth Strategy

Debt, Time and the Illusion of Sustainability

DOUGLAS RASBASH



Botswana's 2026/27 Budget quietly crosses a threshold. With buffers depleted, a large unfinanced deficit, and debt rising faster than growth, borrowing is no longer funding transformation. It is buying time. This column argues that debt has become a substitute for sustainability and that time itself is now the country's most expensive liability.

> Debt can buy time. It cannot buy sustainability unless the model changes.

Botswana's debt debate has entered a fundamentally new phase, and the 2026/27 Budget makes this unmistakably clear. The issue is no longer whether debt is rising, but why it is rising, how it is being financed, and what assumptions about the future are



now embedded in fiscal policy.

THE GAP

The Budget projects a deficit of P26.35 billion, equivalent to 8.9 percent of GDP. Of the P22.3 billion required to finance this gap, P18.6 billion remained unfinanced at the time of presentation. This is not a technical footnote. It is a liquidity warning. The Budget itself concedes that failure to secure this financing will lead to arrears, rising debt service costs, and intensified pressure on the fiscus. By its own admission, Budget 26 is not sustainable.

BUFFERS GONE

Botswana's traditional fiscal shock absorbers have been exhausted. The Government Investment Account, once the cornerstone of macroeconomic resilience, has

> Global growth no longer reduces debt. It increasingly depends on it.

fallen to P2.91 billion from P37.2 billion in 2014. With savings depleted, debt has become the primary stabiliser. Total public debt, including guarantees, now stands at P90.03 billion. Domestic debt has reached its policy ceiling of 20 percent of GDP, while overall debt is projected to rise from 33 percent of GDP to 44.7 percent by the end of the 2026/27 fiscal year.



SHIFTING MODEL

This trajectory requires lifting statutory debt limits, a step the Budget acknowledges carries credibility risks but judges less damaging than abrupt fiscal contraction. The implication is stark. Botswana has shifted from a low-debt, buffer-rich model to one in which debt substitutes for reserves. Borrowing is now financing stability rather than transformation, while execution risks such as cash flow pressures, arrears, refinancing, and rising interest costs move to the centre of fiscal management.

NOT UNIQUE

It is tempting to treat this as a narrow fiscal problem. That would be a mistake. Rising debt is not uniquely Botswanan. It is a global condition, and that context fundamentally changes how this Budget should be read. What matters is not only how much is being borrowed, but what kind of future that borrowing quietly assumes.



GLOBAL DEBT

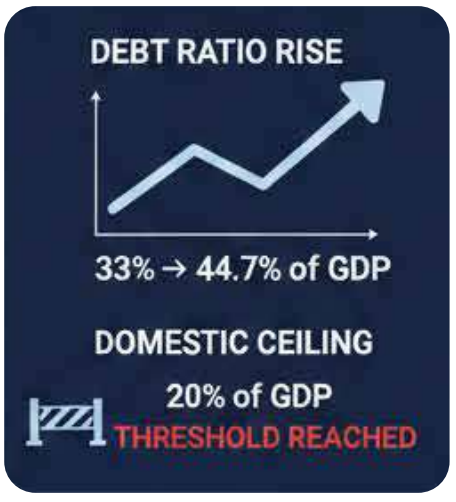
Over the past six decades, total global debt has risen from just over 100 percent of world GDP in the 1960s to around 235 to 240 percent today, after briefly peaking near 260 percent during the COVID shock. The most striking feature of this history is not the spike itself, but the absence of any sustained reversal. Each major shock pushes debt higher. After each shock, debt settles on a higher plateau and resumes its climb.

DIMINISHING RETURNS

Global growth no longer reduces debt. It increasingly depends on it. Each decade now requires more borrowing to generate the same level of growth. Where post-war economies expanded with debt roughly equal to annual output, today the system requires more than twice global GDP in accumulated claims simply to maintain momentum. COVID did not create this condition. It exposed it. When growth stalled, the only stabiliser available was borrowing at scale. When the emergency passed, debt did not unwind meaningfully.

CLAIMS FUTURE

This is where debt stops being a technical variable and becomes a claim on the future. Governments can only repay through future production, future taxation, reduced consumption, or the conversion of natural resources into economic value. Debt therefore represents claims on future energy use, future resource extraction, and future ecological capacity.



PHYSICAL LIMITS

For much of the twentieth century, this posed few constraints. Energy was cheap, resource frontiers were expanding, and environmental costs were externalised. That assumption is now fragile. Climate adaptation costs are rising simply to preserve existing output. Energy transitions require higher upfront capital. Resource quality is declining. Yet financial claims continue to compound as if physical limits did not exist.

FALSE COMFORT

Despite widespread acknowledgement of climate risk, prosperity remains defined by consumption. Growth remains the organising principle. Debt remains the lubricant that keeps it moving. Sustainability, by contrast, implies restraint, efficiency, and different measures of success. It challenges the idea that every shortfall can be financed and every expectation met by future growth.



THE TEST

When accumulated claims exceed future capacity, societies rarely default outright. Adjustment instead occurs through inflation, austerity, financial repression, asset transfers, or ecological drawdown. Each reallocates costs differently. None are painless.

Seen through this lens, Botswana's debt trajectory reflects more than fiscal slippage. It signals weakening growth engines, more frequent shocks, and the rising cost of maintaining stability. The real question is whether borrowing is preserving inherited structures or purchasing a transition.

> When buffers are gone, debt finances stability, not transformation.

TIME BOUGHT

The word sustainability appears repeatedly in the Budget speech. But sustainability is not declared by repetition. It is revealed by trajectory. A budget that exhausts buffers, carries a large unfinanced gap, raises debt rapidly, and lifts statutory ceilings is borrowing against a future assumed to be larger, richer, and more forgiving than the present. That assumption is precisely what sustainability is meant to question.

Debt can buy time. It cannot buy sustainability unless the time it buys is used to change the model itself. In Budget 26, that realignment is not yet visible.

African Markets Conference Returns

As Africa faces mounting infrastructure and financing gaps, Standard Bank's African Markets Conference aims to connect global capital with practical investment opportunities on the continent

The Standard Bank Group will host the second African Markets Conference from 22 to 24 February 2026 in Cape Town, bringing together global investors, policymakers and financial institutions to discuss how capital can be mobilised more effectively for Africa's development priorities.

The conference is organised by Standard Bank Corporate and Investment Banking and follows the inaugural 2025 edition, which focused on reshaping perceptions of investment risk on the continent. This year's event is expected to centre on translating policy objectives into bankable projects that can attract long-term funding.

FINANCING AFRICA'S INFRASTRUCTURE GAP

Africa faces a growing mismatch between infrastructure needs and available funding. Estimates cited by the bank indicate that the continent invests roughly half of the $150 billion required annually for infrastructure, despite rapid population growth and accelerating urbanisation. For businesses and households, this shortfall is reflected in persistent constraints around energy supply, transport, housing and trade logistics.



Luvuyo Masinda

> "Africa invests roughly half of the infrastructure funding it needs each year, despite rapid population growth and urbanisation"

The conference agenda is structured around several themes, including infrastructure financing, energy transition, capital market development and sovereign debt sustainability. Discussions are expected to focus on how public-private partnerships and regulatory reforms can improve investor confidence while lowering the cost of capital.

CAPITAL MARKETS AND REGIONAL TRADE

Another focus area is the role of deeper African capital markets in supporting domestic investment and reducing reliance on external financing. Sessions will also examine how regional integration, including the implementation of the African Continental Free Trade Area, could support cross-border investment flows at a time of global economic uncertainty.

PARTICIPANTS AND DECISION-MAKERS

The conference is expected to draw finance ministers, central bank governors, global asset managers and development finance institutions. Senior executives from Standard Bank, including group leadership and regional markets heads, are scheduled to lead technical discussions on liquidity, risk and market access.

The organisers say the aim is to align investor expectations with Africa's financing realities, particularly in sectors that directly affect economic growth and service delivery.

Standard Bank Advances Governance Leadership

Governance professionals from across Africa met in Gaborone to discuss regulatory shifts, board effectiveness, and accountability within financial institutions



Governance professionals, regulators, legal experts, and senior executives from Standard Bank Group recently convened in Gaborone for a full-day engagement focused on accountability, regulatory alignment, and board effectiveness. The session formed part of the Group's ongoing efforts to respond to evolving regulatory environments and rising stakeholder expectations across its markets.

GOVERNANCE AS STRATEGY

The engagement brought together participants from across Africa to examine governance priorities, including regulatory developments in Botswana, subsidiary governance frameworks, and the use of digital tools and artificial intelligence in board processes. Discussions also explored succession planning, board performance evaluation, and the changing role of company secretaries in organisational oversight. Motivational speaker Lorato Mosetlhenyane of Pinnalead addressed adaptability and leadership in periods of change.

Stanbic Bank Botswana chief executive Chose Modise said governance should be understood beyond formal structures. "Governance is often spoken of as a framework or a set of policies, but at the core of it, governance is about how we choose to show up in our decisions, the risks we take and the values we uphold," he said.

CONSISTENCY AND ACCOUNTABILITY

Standard Bank Group company secretary Kobus Froneman highlighted the importance of consistency across jurisdictions. "Strong governance is not measured by the volume of policies we produce, but by the consistency of the decisions we are prepared to stand behind," he said, pointing to a shift toward value-based leadership and subsidiary alignment.

TIRED OF SHARING?

Bomaid Addresses Governance Irregularities

What routine compliance checks mean for members' care, data protection, and claims integrity



Botswana Medical Aid Society (Bomaid) has begun engaging healthcare providers following the identification of irregularities during routine operational and compliance reviews conducted in the first quarter of the year.

The reviews form part of the Fund's standard governance processes aimed at ensuring sustainability, accountability, and compliance across its healthcare network. The Fund says these checks are a normal feature of responsible fund management and are intended to protect members' interests and the integrity of claims processing.

PROVIDER ENGAGEMENT UNDERWAY

Bomaid has confirmed that it is engaging affected healthcare providers directly to regularise relationships where required and to strengthen compliance with contractual, regulatory, and ethical standards. These engagements are being conducted within existing governance frameworks.

The Fund has indicated that members' access to healthcare services remains in place while these engagements continue. Systems have been maintained to ensure continuity of care in line with approved benefit structures and Fund rules.

DATA PROTECTION MEASURES REINFORCED

As part of immediate actions, Bomaid has strengthened Know Your Customer requirements and reinforced data security protocols. Access to sensitive documentation remains protected through secure processes, including Omang-based verification and password controls.

"Strong governance is fundamental to protecting members and ensuring the long-term sustainability of the Fund," said Chief Executive Officer Moraki Mokgosana. "When issues are identified, they are addressed through established processes that prioritise fairness, transparency, and continuity of care."

The Fund has also reminded members that outstanding subscriptions may affect claims processing and pre-authorisation, noting that regular contributions support efficient service delivery across the healthcare system.

Betway Launches Fan Football Contest

A new competition offers amateur football teams a chance to travel to Manchester and play at the Etihad Campus through a video-based selection process



Betway has launched a nationwide football competition that will see one amateur or community team travel to Manchester for an on-pitch experience at the Etihad Campus. The initiative, titled Play on the Pitch, is open to teams across the country and is linked to Betway's partnership with Manchester City.

> This experience captures the spirit of football: teamwork, passion and unforgettable moments

HOW THE COMPETITION WORKS

Teams are required to submit a short video explaining why they should be selected for the experience. According to Betway, entries may focus on themes such as teamwork, dedication, community involvement, or passion for football. Video submissions must be uploaded to the competition platform by 22 February 2026.

The selected team will travel to Manchester, where the programme includes a training session, a stadium tour, and a match experience at the Etihad Campus.

SELECTION PROCESS

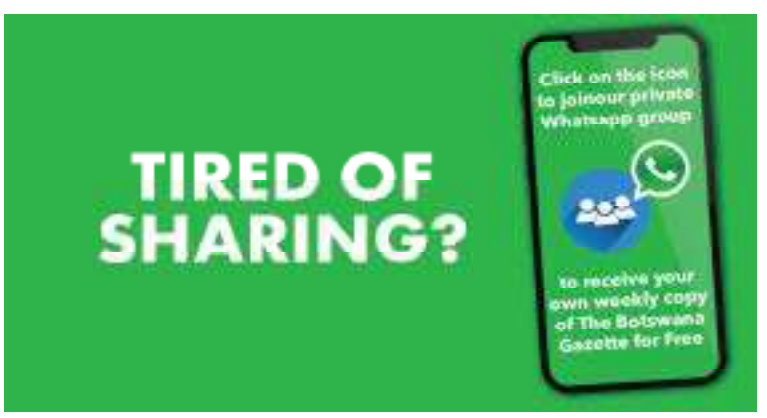
Once submissions close, a judging panel will review the entries and select one team based on the content of their video. The winning team will earn the opportunity to participate in activities associated with Manchester City's training environment.

BETWAY RESPONSE

"This experience captures the spirit of football: teamwork, passion and unforgettable moments," said Michelle France-Mabiletsa, Betway's country manager. "We're excited to give one team the experience of a lifetime in Manchester."

The competition forms part of Betway's broader engagement with football communities through fan-focused initiatives linked to the sport.

Article edited for length



Wilderness Celebrates Travel + Leisure 2026 Nominations

Several Botswana-based safari camps have been shortlisted in a major global travel awards programme, reflecting ongoing international interest in conservation-led tourism



Multiple Botswana-based safari camps operated by Wilderness have been nominated in the Travel + Leisure 2026 World's Best Awards, placing them among properties recognised by readers of the international travel publication. The nominations form part of a wider shortlist that includes 28 Wilderness camps across Africa, as well as a company-level nomination in the Tour Operators and Safari Outfitters category.

NOMINATED BOTSWANA CAMPS

The Botswana properties nominated in the Best Hotels category are Wilderness Chitabe, Chitabe Lediba, DumaTau, King's Pool, Mombo and Little Mombo, Qorokwe, Savuti, and Vumbura Plains. These nominations reflect consistent guest acclaim for immersive wildlife experiences, exceptional service standards, and responsible tourism practices rooted in long-term environmental stewardship.

Wilderness was founded in 1983 and operates more than 55 camps across eight African countries. The group reports that it employs over 3,500 people and manages conservation areas totalling approximately 2.2 million hectares.

GROUP RESPONSE

"Given our purpose to increase the world's wild and untamed spaces, we are extremely proud to receive this recognition and deeply grateful to our community. These awards hold significant meaning for us as a team, as every staff member passionately contributes to crafting unforgettable travel experiences and delivering best-in-class service," said Hadley Allen, Wilderness Chief Commercial Officer.

Botswana remains one of the group's longest-standing operating landscapes, with tourism activities linked to conservation and community partnerships in wildlife-rich areas.

BOTSWANA PERSPECTIVE

"This nomination is both an honour and a reflection of the extraordinary teams on the ground who bring Botswana's wilderness into the lives of our guests every day," Joe Matome, Caretaker Managing Director of Wilderness Botswana noted.

"After all, recognition at this level reinforces that sustainable tourism and world-class experiences can - and must - go hand in hand; this is very much at the heart of our business philosophy at Wilderness."

ABOUT THE AWARDS

The Travel + Leisure World's Best Awards are widely regarded as a key decision-making resource for global travellers and a definitive measure of excellence in luxury tourism. Voting is currently open, with winners to be announced on the Travel + Leisure website in July and the full results published in the August print edition. Readers, guests, and supporters of Wilderness' conservation mission are encouraged to cast their votes online before 23 February 2026.

Pull quote: "This nomination is both an honour and a reflection of the extraordinary teams on the ground who bring Botswana's wilderness into the lives of our guests every day"

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The Ministry of Finance gazetted the Income Tax Bill no 36 of 2025, the Value Added Tax Bill no 39 of 2025 and the Tax Administration Bill no 38 of 2025 on the 15th of December 2025. The bills are set to be presented to Parliament in the February 2026 sitting and once passed, the new laws could be commenced on 1 July 2026.

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Income Tax Bill no.36 of 2025: This Bill will annihilate and re-enact the current Income Tax Act CAP 52:01. Some of the many changes brought about by this bill include the following; Increase in Pay As You Earn, Personal Income Tax and Company Income Taxes, introduction of new Withholding taxes such as on international transporters of goods and passengers and on insurance premiums, changes to the livestock tax, changing the way capital allowances are calculated and denying a deduction of all expenses subject to Withholding taxes in certain circumstances.

Value Added Tax Bill no.39 of 2025: The Bill seeks to re-enact the current VAT Act CAP 50:03 and introduces among many others, the following changes; tweaking the VAT refund process, relaxation of the VAT registration regime to boost economic activity, introduction of reverse VAT and VAT on remote services.

The Tax Administration Bill no.38 of 2025: This Bill will introduce harmonized law administering tax collections, assessments, objections as well as registration of tax agents

Meet the facilitator

Jonathan Hore has over 27 years practical experience in Tax and Customs matters acquired from working in Canada, Botswana and Zimbabwe. He holds various Tax-related qualifications including Advanced Tax & Customs Procedures (ZIMRA) as well as Advanced VAT (UNISA). Jonathan has facilitated over 100 Tax seminars in Botswana over a period of 14 years. Along with his team at Opracon Tax Specialists, he has served 15 Botswana Stock Exchange listed entities, 7 local commercial banks, 2 statutory banks and South Africa's largest law firm, among other clients.

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BOTSWANA

The 2026/2027 Budget: Fiscal Stabilisation, Structural Reform and the Future of Long-Term Savings in Botswana



Authored by: Bernard M. Mvami
Finance & Admin Manager – Mmila Fund Administrators

The 2026/2027 Budget marks a critical inflection point in Botswana's fiscal and economic strategy. Against a backdrop of declining diamond revenues, high borrowing costs, currency pressures, and rising fiscal constraints, the Budget reflects a deliberate attempt to balance consolidation with long-term transformation. The strategic framing around people-centred development, infrastructure, private sector growth, and innovation signals a clear recognition that Botswana's economic challenges are structural rather than cyclical, and that future prosperity can no longer rely on diamond-led growth. The vision of a technology-driven, export-oriented economy represents a necessary shift, although its credibility will ultimately depend on disciplined implementation within a highly constrained fiscal environment.

From a fiscal policy perspective, the commitment to achieving a balanced budget by 2027 demonstrates renewed emphasis on restraint and debt sustainability. This cautious consolidation strategy prioritises stabilisation over aggressive stimulus, reflecting the realities of persistent pressure on diamond revenues, elevated domestic borrowing costs, and rising debt servicing obligations. While fiscally prudent, this approach offers limited buffers against macroeconomic shocks and constrains growth potential, particularly as consolidation is being pursued in a high-interest-rate environment that already suppresses private investment and revenue generation.

The revenue mobilisation agenda, including increased taxation on higher-income earners and the stated objective of maximising revenue, introduces important trade-offs between short-term fiscal gains and long-term competitiveness. In a small, open economy, poorly calibrated tax policy risks capital and skills flight, dampened investment, and weakened growth incentives. The success of this strategy will depend on the perception of tax policy as fair, predictable, and economically rational, rather than distortionary.

Within this context, the implications for the retirement funds and long-term savings industry are particularly significant. The Budget's focus on revenue maximisation, including indications of reducing the tax exempt list, raises important policy considerations for protected savings instruments. While not stated or confirmed, this broader fiscal posture inevitably prompts questions about areas traditionally shielded from taxation. The existing provision allowing pension fund members to encash up to 50% of their retirement savings tax-free at retirement remains a cornerstone of retirement security and financial dignity. Any future reconsideration of such protections would fundamentally undermine the essence of retirement savings by transforming long-term security instruments into short-term fiscal tools. From an industry perspective, it is critical that revenue strategies do not weaken retirement protection frameworks, as this would erode public trust in pension systems and compromise long-term financial stability.

At the same time, the macroeconomic environment highlighted by the Budget; currency pressures, VAT risks, and inflationary dynamics, underscores a deeper structural risk to retirement outcomes: the erosion of real value. Inflation directly reduces the purchasing power of accumulated retirement savings, meaning that the value of P1 million today will not be the same in two or three years, let alone at retirement. This reality elevates the importance of proactive, inflation-aware retirement planning and positions **Additional Voluntary Contributions (AVCs)** as a strategic necessity rather than an optional extra. AVCs provide a practical mechanism for members to supplement statutory contributions, preserve long-term value, and build inflation-resilient retirement outcomes. This shifts the role of retirement funds beyond administration into long-term value preservation, financial resilience, and intergenerational economic security.

> "The revenue mobilisation agenda, including increased taxation on higher-income earners and the stated objective of maximising revenue, introduces important trade-offs between short-term fiscal gains and long-term competitiveness."

The 2026/2027 Budget is best characterised as stabilising and strategically defensive rather than fully transformative. It correctly acknowledges the structural decline of traditional revenue streams and commits to fiscal prudence, innovation, exports, and private sector development. However, growth risks remain under high borrowing costs, competitiveness risks persist under aggressive taxation strategies, and execution risks are amplified by fiscal constraints. The Budget lays an important foundation for long-term transformation, but its success will depend on restoring growth momentum, reducing the cost of capital, protecting long-term savings frameworks, and converting policy intent into measurable diversification outcomes within an increasingly constrained economic environment.





Botswana's Deal With The Arsonist-Firefighter

A critical examination of Botswana's new health cooperation agreement with the United States, questioning whether urgently needed funding comes at the cost of data sovereignty and democratic oversight



BRADLEY FORTUIN

On 23 December 2025, Botswana signed a health cooperation Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the U.S. in which the U.S. pledges to contribute $106 million to Botswana's health system. Botswana is one of fifteen African States with which the U.S. signed health cooperation MOUs in the past 2 months. The planned contributions to domestic health systems range from $106 million to $2.1 billion. It follows the policy set out in the U.S. America First Global Health Strategy, unveiled on 18 September 2025, under which signing these MOUs and the recent exit from the World Health Organisation (WHO) are well-calculated, well-prepared steps to shape U.S. health power and influence in Africa in the years ahead.

While these deals might appear, on the surface, to be about health cooperation, a closer look reveals that a key component of such MOUs is the sharing of data by African States. Health data. A highly valuable good of the 21st century and the age of AI. Against that backdrop, the question is not whether Botswana needs investment. It does. The question is what comes bundled with the help, what it means to modernise under someone else's terms, and how much sovereignty a country trades away when its future health system is built on another nation's ideology.

BOTSWANA'S HEALTHCARE

Botswana was hit hard by U.S. cuts to global health funding at the beginning of the Trump administration. And when funding dried up, so did jobs: nurses, outreach workers, and support staff found themselves unemployed in the middle of a public health crisis.

> "What emerged was a system pushed to breaking point: a domino effect of funding cuts. The crisis caused by the cut in U.S. funding created a vacuum that the latest MOU is exploiting, leaving Botswana with the Arsonist-Firefighter problem."

By August 2025, the consequences were undeniable. President Duma Boko declared a national public health state of emergency as government funds ran out and U.S. assistance contracted. Health service delivery began to collapse. On 7 August 2025, the Minister of Health told Parliament that the shortages extended across nearly every category of care.

What emerged was a system pushed to breaking point: a domino effect of funding cuts. The crisis caused by the cut in U.S. funding created a vacuum that the latest MOU is exploiting, leaving Bo-



To Page 28

From Page 27

tswana with the Arsonist-Firefighter problem. Botswana's health system needs relief, but at what cost? A review of other MOUs that the U.S. has signed with other African States reveals the extraction of health data, integration of U.S. health technology architecture and limitations on reproductive autonomy.

THE BOTSWANA DEAL

What the U.S. State Department celebrates as a "partnership" looks very different once you read the fine print. The MOU signed on 23 December 2025 commits Washington and Gaborone to strengthening HIV services, modernising Botswana's health workforce, and rebuilding failing health information systems through U.S.-supported digital infrastructure. On paper, it is cooperation. In reality, it hard-wires Botswana's disease surveillance and outbreak monitoring into American systems. Yes, it builds local capacity. It also quietly locks a sovereign public-health function into U.S. strategic architecture.



> In this case, the MOUs allow States like the U.S. to obtain valuable data and influence without any parliamentary or judicial scrutiny

Under the MOU, Botswana will spend more than $380 million of its own funds over three years, drawn from an already overstretched health budget. The U.S. will contribute $106 million. Before recent health aid cuts, U.S. support to Botswana averaged $55 million a year through the U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) and $12 million through the Global Fund. Botswana has gone even further by signing a separate five-year data-sharing agreement with Washington. This is not generosity. It is leverage. Compared to other MOUs signed by the U.S. since December 2025, the price for influence and access to data in Botswana is a bargain compared to countries like Kenya or Uganda, where the U.S. pledged more than $1.5 billion to finance 65% or more of the entire health cooperation budget.

However, the MOU with Botswana is only one piece of a wider strategy. Following the U.S. America First Global Health Strategy, Africa's expanding population and health sector are not viewed primarily as humanitarian priorities, but as strategic terrain, a counterweight to China's growing influence on the continent. In that context, bilateralism is not a retreat from global health leadership; it is a pivot. Bilateral agreements allow the U.S. to set the rules, control data flows, circumvent multilateral oversight, and impose ideological conditions without the constraints of international standards.

The objective is straightforward: maximise unilateral influence, packaged as technical assistance, while reshaping global health in America's own image: transactional, politicised, and strategic. Other publicly available MOUs, such as the U.S.–Mozambique MOU, underscore how central access to African state data is to U.S. priorities, stating that a failure to fulfil the specimen and data-sharing commitment "could result in changes in the planned assistance contemplated under this MOU".

NO OVERSIGHT, NO SCRUTINY

The legal architecture enabling these systems is the seemingly innocuous Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs) that the U.S. signs with African states, deliberately informal instruments that avoid treaties, parliamentary approval, public debate, or international scrutiny. While some MOUs have been publicised, the actual text of the Botswana MOU remains unknown, which constitutes a major part of the problem deriving from such a legal architecture. Without access to the MOU, there can be no public discourse or scrutiny, allowing participants to create a system of shadow governance that avoids democratic safeguards.



Another feature of such MOUs is that they are typically non-binding. Publicly available MOUs, such as the one for Kenya, Liberia or Mozambique, are very specific in that regard as they contain a clause stating that:

"This MOU is not an international agreement and does not give rise to legal rights and obligations under international or domestic law."

While MOUs are commonly used between States, health cooperation MOUs reveal the risks of such arrangements when one participant has greater leverage than the other and can dictate the terms that shape subsequent agreements and implementation. In this case, the MOUs allow States like the U.S. to obtain valuable data and influence without any parliamentary or judicial scrutiny. Ultimately, Botswana loses its data sovereignty and becomes more dependent on the U.S.

WHAT CAN BOTSWANA DO?

A few weeks back, the Prime Minister of Canada, Mark Carney gave a sobering and honest speech on the current state of global affairs and highlighted that:

"You cannot live within the lie of mutual benefit through integration, when integration becomes the source of your subordination."

It exemplifies the situation that Botswana finds itself in, where such health cooperation agreements appear to be a façade of an underlying power imbalance. But it is not too late. States like Botswana can use the "non-binding" nature of these MOUs to their advantage to renegotiate, pause, or narrow their terms. The importance of the data in question to Botswana's sovereignty and the people of Botswana requires a proper public discourse about such agreements, which can affect anyone in the country. Therefore, parliamentary and judicial scrutiny cannot be mere afterthoughts. They must guide the negotiations to implement safeguards and avoid establishing a system that, in the long term, is asymmetrical. To achieve this, the MOU must be made public.

African States and the judiciary are not helpless in this context. An example of that can be found in the High Court of Kenya's conservatory order of 19 December 2025, restraining State officials from implementing, operationalising, and executing the MOU.

Health cooperation cannot be a Trojan horse for the erosion of democratic oversight, public accountability, and human rights. Botswana should not be asked to trade sovereignty for assistance. The government must reclaim full control over its health systems by reopening and renegotiating the MOU to safeguard data integrity, public ownership, and democratic scrutiny.

Bradley Fortuin is a consultant at the Southern Africa Litigation Centre.

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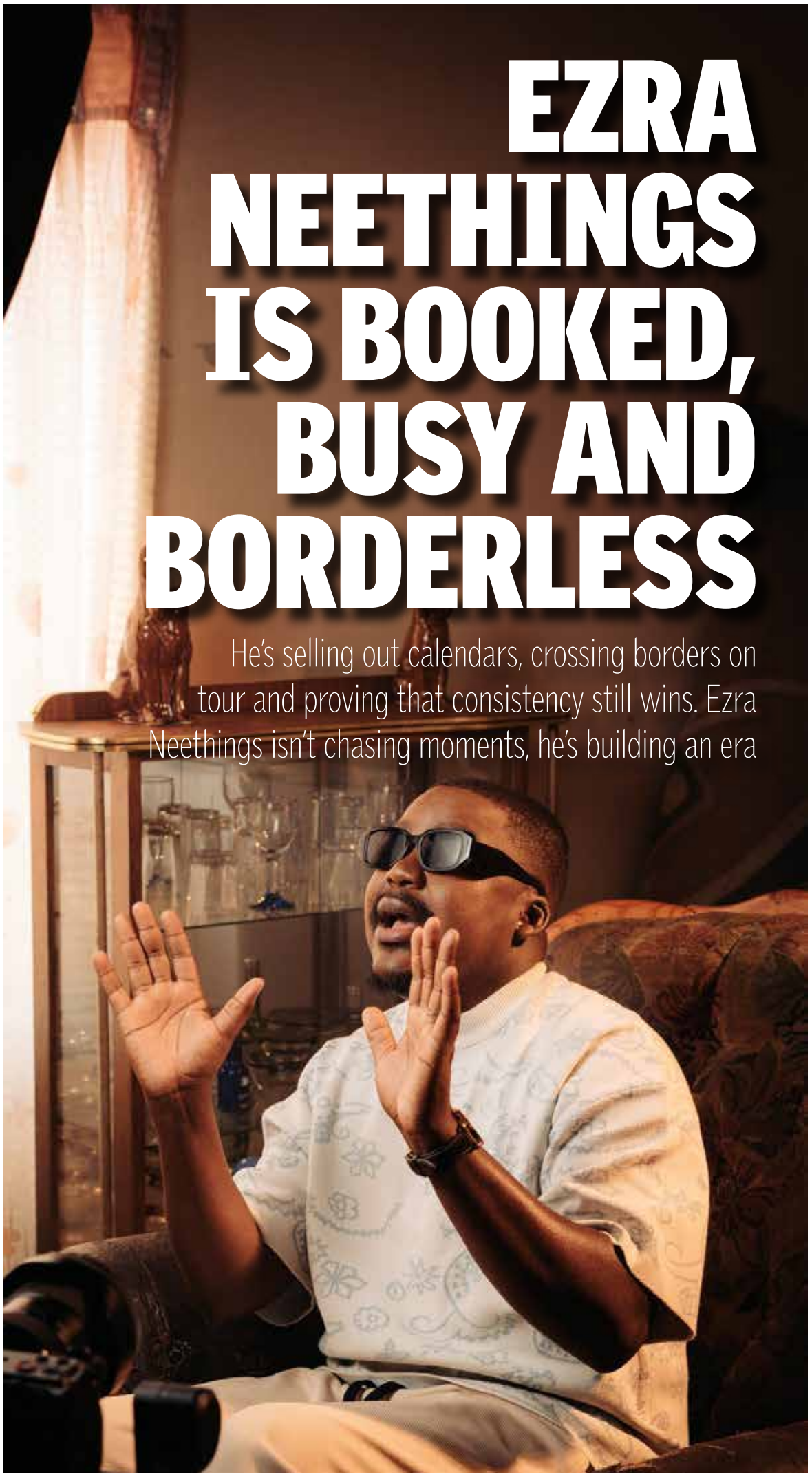
The Botswana Gazette
TIME OUT
THE BOTSWANA GAZETTE
WEDNESDAY 11 FEBRUARY 2026



EZRA NEETHINGS IS BOOKED, BUSY AND BORDERLESS

He's selling out calendars, crossing borders on tour and proving that consistency still wins. Ezra Neethings isn't chasing moments, he's building an era

GOSEGO MOTSUMI

If there's one artist whose diary is louder than the charts right now, it's Ezra Neethings. Booked. Busy. And clearly unbothered by borders. From Botswana to South Africa's timelines, sing-alongs and streaming charts, Ezra's rise feels less like a breakout and more like a takeover executed with patience, precision and hits.

> A full Merwalela Tour loading: four shows in March, two in April and one in June 2026

MERWALELA TOURS

Ezra's cross-border moment arrived with Merwalela, a song that didn't ask permission before dominating Botswana's streaming platforms and sneaking into South African playlists via TikTok. The result? A full Merwalela Tour loading: four shows in March, two in April and one in June 2026.

"When the song Merwalela started crossing borders and I see the charts, I couldn't explain the feeling," Ezra reflected in a previous interview. "It's always that reminder that music is a universal language."

Social media did what it does best, collapsed distance, widened audiences and turned a local hit into a regional anthem.

PUTTING IN THE WORK

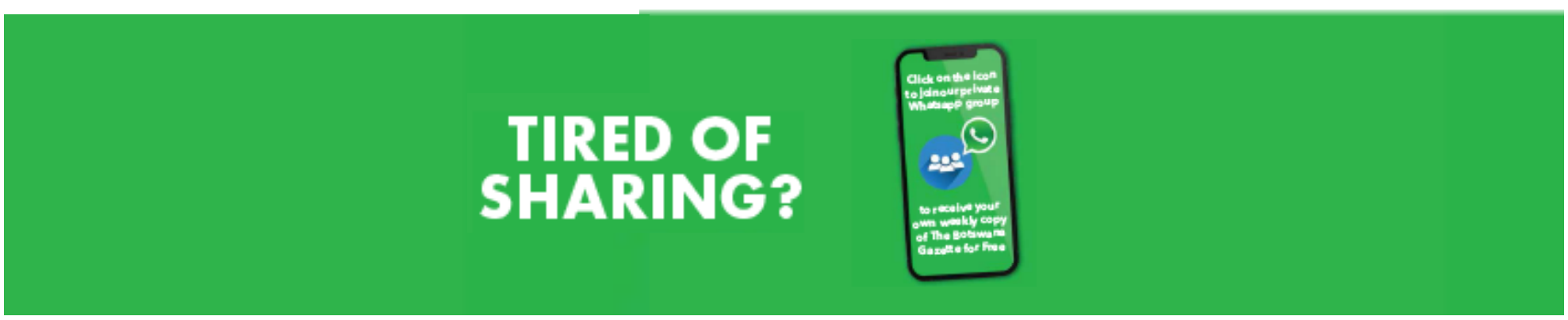
Ezra Neethings doesn't disappear between hits. He stacks them. With over 200 million streams and chart-toppers like Ke Nnete, Mpolelele and now Tsela Ye, he has quietly become one of Botswana's most exciting modern Afrobeats voices — creative, consistent and unmistakably current.

ONE MAN, ONE STAGE

After being challenged to stage a one man show, Ezra has accepted the challenge. On April 18, he headlines The One Man Live Show: 'Big Things You Go Do In My Life,' at the UB Indoor Arena, promising fans an immersive, catalogue-deep experience. Phase 1 tickets are already moving at P100.

NO LONGER EMERGING

Ezra Neethings is no longer "one to watch." He's a household name, a trusted hitmaker and a defining sound at major events across events.



HOW DJ MIMI HACKED THE TIMELINE

She wears pearls, spins bangers and refuses to be boxed. DJ Mimi isn't just playing music, she's remixing culture, one skit, set and scandalous gogo dance at a time

GOSEGO MOTSUMI

If you've been scrolling and suddenly met an elderly looking woman in a vintage green two-piece, pearls bouncing, headscarf tight behind DJ decks — congratulations. You've encountered DJ Sgogo. And by extension, Agisanyang Ramphaleng, better known as DJ Mimi: Mochudi's cultural disruptor and one of the country's most beloved internet characters, clocking over 366.9K TikTok followers and rising.



BORN BEHIND THE DECKS

DJ Mimi's journey began in 2009, long before virality was a career path. "I started my career late 2009 and ever since I was introduced to the world of DJ-ing it has been positively challenging," she told Time Out. From pubs and clubs across the city to major stages, she built her name with consistency, crowd control and grit.

COVID, COMEDY & CULTURE

Then came lockdown boredom and a breakthrough. During COVID, she dropped comedy skits like "Mmago my husband" (my husband's mother), exaggerated reflections of African life stories that instantly stuck. Inspired by William Last KRM, Mimi leaned into satire rooted in familiarity. "Most of the time when I do my comedy skits I do what we always know but I exaggerate it."

> "Off-camera, DJ Mimi is quiet, private and strategic

ENTER DJ SGOGO

The green vintage two piece wasn't an accident. DJ Sgogo was born when Mimi realised showing up polished wasn't surprising anymore. "So I created different skits around the green costume so that even when I go on stage they get varied entertainment from me." The result? A character audiences can't forget and won't stop sharing.



MORE THAN A CHARACTER

Off-camera, DJ Mimi is quiet, private and strategic. She diversifies — running a chilli sauce business, eyeing music releases, and collaborating with brands while waiting for content monetisation to catch up. Recently, she battled for P10,000 in the Mascom DJ of the Summer competition, proving once again that engagement is her superpower.

WOMEN, WINNING ANYWAY

In male-dominated DJ and comedy spaces, DJ Mimi shows up anyway. "It's a challenging space but I choose to take part and deliver to all demographics." And judging by the timelines? They're listening.

Here is an Ambitious Conservation Vision For Makgadikgadi

This isn't just about saving rhinos. It's about reimagining Makgadikgadi as Botswana's next great conservation economy and proving that protecting wildlife can also protect livelihoods

GAZETTE REPORTER

For years, Makgadikgadi has whispered its magic while the Okavango and Chobe took centre stage. Now, Botswana's Race for Rhinos is turning that whisper into a roar—fuelled by ambition, urgency, and a belief that conservation should work for people too.

MORE THAN A RACE

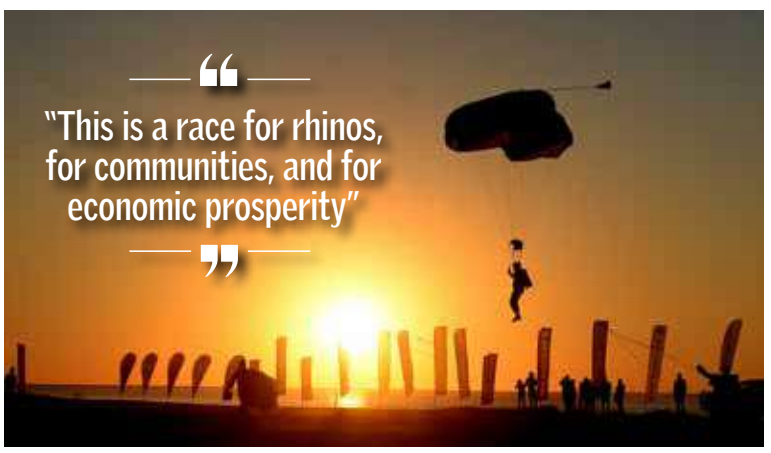
At the heart of this national movement is a bold plan: transform Makgadikgadi into a world-class wildlife destination while creating sustainable economic opportunities for Batswana. Thirteen rhinos, recently donated and relocated to Botswana, now anchor a new conservation site designed not just to protect endangered species, but to build an ecosystem of opportunity.

"Race for Rhinos is about more than protecting wildlife. It is about building a future where conservation and community prosperity go hand in hand," said Chairlady Colleen Selogelo.

FROM PROTECTION TO PURPOSE

This isn't a drop-and-go operation. Funds raised will support rhino collaring, monitoring programmes, ranger deployment, and ecosystem restoration. "Our responsibility does not end with relocating rhinos," Selogelo added. "It extends to resourcing those on the front lines, strengthening communities that live alongside wildlife, and telling an authentic story of conservation."

BUILDING A DESTINATION



Zebra, antelope, and other species have already been reintroduced. Two pans have been merged into a single protected area, creating a viable conservation zone and a tourism route that blends wildlife with culture. Fly-in safaris and overlander infrastructure are now in place—Makgadikgadi is officially open for the future.

THE FOUR PILLARS

Employment. Tourism. Grazing lands. Water systems. These pillars anchor a model that doesn't romanticise conservation—it monetises it responsibly, ensuring communities benefit directly from tourism growth.

THE COUNTDOWN BEGINS

The fundraising journey builds toward 26–29 June 2026, under the theme "The Earth Is What We All Have in Common." It begins with a Gala Dinner on 28 February, followed by a Golf Day on 20 March, featuring performances by Samantha Mogwe, Han-C, DJ Frostbite and Mophato Dance Theatre.

Growing support has already been secured from Debswana, BotAsh, Botswana Craft, NTT Nissan, Elephant Sands, Showgroup Productions Staging Services, the Parachute Association of Botswana, UB Radio, Sowa Town Council and the Bamangwato Tribal Administration, with the initiative proudly endorsed by the Botswana Tourism Organization. Organisers say these partnerships reflect a strong cross-sector commitment to conservation, community upliftment and sustainable tourism.

"We invite more corporates and collaborators to join us in shaping Makgadikgadi into Botswana's next iconic conservation destination; one that protects wildlife, creates jobs, and leaves a lasting legacy for future generations," said Selogelo.

Inside the Beauty Reset Brunch

In a beauty culture obsessed with the glass-skin illusion, the New Year's Beauty Reset Brunch chose something radical: clarity, skills and intention. And the women showed up ready

GOSEGO MOTSUMI



Pic Credit (Local Corner Multimedia) facebookpage

Dressed in soft luxury whites and yellows glowing under the Gaborone sun, guests ascended the Game City Rooftop not for vibes alone, but for a reset that promised substance. The first-ever New Year's Beauty Reset Brunch was about recalibrating confidence, redefining beauty and starting the year with intention — no filters required.

MAKE IT PRACTICAL

At the centre was host and founder Jessica Molefe, a professional makeup artist and beauty educator whose work resonates precisely because it refuses performance. Her live, makeup masterclass cut through confusion, beginning where beauty should: skin preparation.

"One of the biggest gaps I identified was the disconnect between beautifully curated women's events and the lack of practical, usable skills that women can take home," Molefe shared. For her, beauty isn't decoration, it's alignment. "You cannot use beauty as a tool for confidence if you do not know who you are."

KNOWLEDGE OVER NOISE

Dermatologist Dr Eugene Hirschfeld brought science into the conversation, issuing a necessary warning about counterfeit skincare. "Counterfeit products cause skin pigmentation that you can't reverse," he cautioned, urging professional guidance over viral shortcuts.

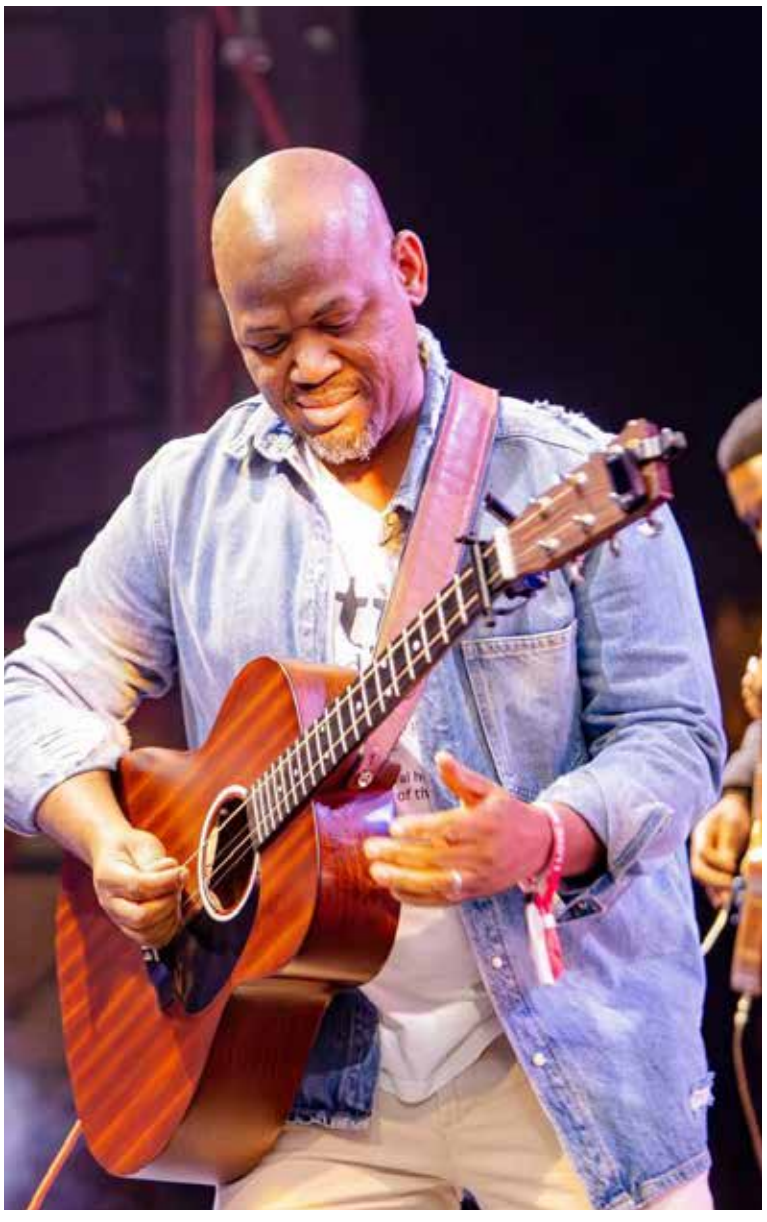
Fitness coach Patlo Kgosidialwa of Snapback Fitness reframed discipline as self-respect, while internationally acclaimed mindset coach David Ini Grace cut through doubt with a simple truth: "You don't need permission to pursue your dreams, just go for it."

THE EXPERIENCE MATTERED

Bakes, Bakes, Bakes kept the room entertained and flowing as music from Lizibo, DJ Frostbite, DJ Lebgee and Wada set an effortless tone. Exhibitors like Heabo House and Nietta Makeup met guests ready to buy consciously.

> "Counterfeit products cause skin pigmentation that you can't reverse"

"I highly recommend such events because i have been able to meet buying customers," Omphile Nkokou, co-owner of Heabo House told Time Out.



WHY THE PHILHARMONIC RETURNS

After a sold-out debut, Sereetsi & the Natives' Philharmonic Experience returns to remind Botswana what happens when folk music dares to dream in symphonic scale

GOSEGO MOTSUMI

Last year, Sereetsi & The Natives didn't just perform a concert, they rewrote expectations. Violins met four-string guitars, cellos wrapped around folk rhythms, and Maitisong Theatre held its breath. The result? A sold-out, history-making night that left audiences asking the obvious question: When are you bringing it back?

WHY IT HAD TO RETURN

The answer is demand, ambition, and belief. The Native Philharmonic Experience returns for its second edition on 28 March 2026 at Maitisong Theatre, and this time it arrives louder in purpose. "We brought it back because there was demand for us to do the show again. It was sold out last year," said lead vocalist Tomeletso Sereetsi in an interview. This isn't nostalgia, it's unfinished business.

> "We believe that audiences here deserve such rare well curated concerts"

FOLK MUSIC, ELEVATED

At its core, the show is a rare cultural collision. Sereetsi's folk-driven catalogue—built on storytelling and a four-string guitar—expands when wrapped in orchestral muscle: violins, violas, cellos, flutes, and full symphonic force. It's Botswana's sound reimagined, without losing its roots.

A DECADE PLUS ONE

The comeback also marks a milestone. "It's a celebration of our 11th anniversary," Sereetsi explained. Last year's performance honoured a decade-long journey from Four String Confessions (2015) to Mmabatho (2024), tracing a career that has carried Botswana's sound onto global stages. This year builds on that legacy with sharper precision.

RARE SHOWS, RARE CARE

Beyond applause, the band believes in intention. "We believe that audiences here deserve such rare well curated concerts," Sereetsi added. And yes, there will be surprises. "This year we will spring a few surprises on the natives with our guest stars and the high levels of musicianship and production."

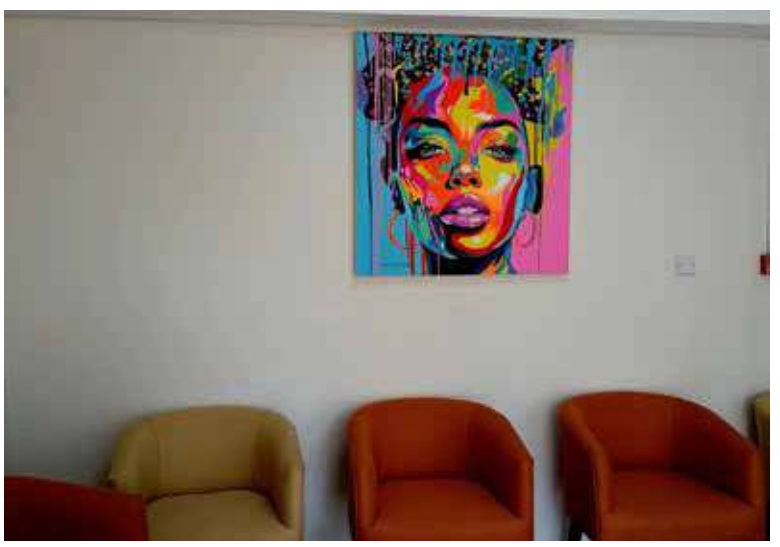
Ron Creates, For The Sake of Art

Visual artist, Ron De Artist's upcoming exhibition is a declaration, reminding us that art doesn't just exist to decorate walls, but to keep us going









GOSEGO MOTSUMI

Ron De Artist's studio is buzzing like a live wire. Canvases lean against walls, colours collide, and time feels tight. Ronald Kegomoditswe isn't just preparing for a solo exhibition, he's gearing up to make a point, loudly and in full colour.

FOR THE SAKE OF ART

Opening 26 March at The Duck Café Bar in Maun, "For the Sake of Art" is exactly what the title promises: a declaration. The exhibition frames art as survival, not spectacle. For a full month, Ron De Artist invites audiences into a journey of resilience, where creating is an act of endurance.

"Art is not just a medium, it's a lifeline. It's a reminder that, 'For The Sake Of Art', we create, we resist, and we endure," he told Time Out.

> "Art is not just a medium, it's a lifeline"

BOLD STROKES, REAL STORIES

Known for his fearless use of colour and striking portrait detail, Ron De Artist paints with intention. "I'm currently working on a new body of work—15 fresh paintings that will be exhibited," he said. Each piece pulses with the idea that visibility matters, especially for local artists.

WHY MAUN HITS DIFFERENT

"The exhibition is set for Maun because it is a creative hub where art meets community, making it a perfect fit for showcasing local art and connecting with audiences and international tourists." In this crossroads town, art doesn't sit still, it circulates.

WHAT COMES AFTER

Maun is only the beginning. "I haven't sat down and finalized everything about its sequel, but the Gaborone one will be paving a way for the USA one if things go well according to plan." The vision is moving—borderless, ambitious, alive.



Data Protection breaches attract fines of up to P50 million



By 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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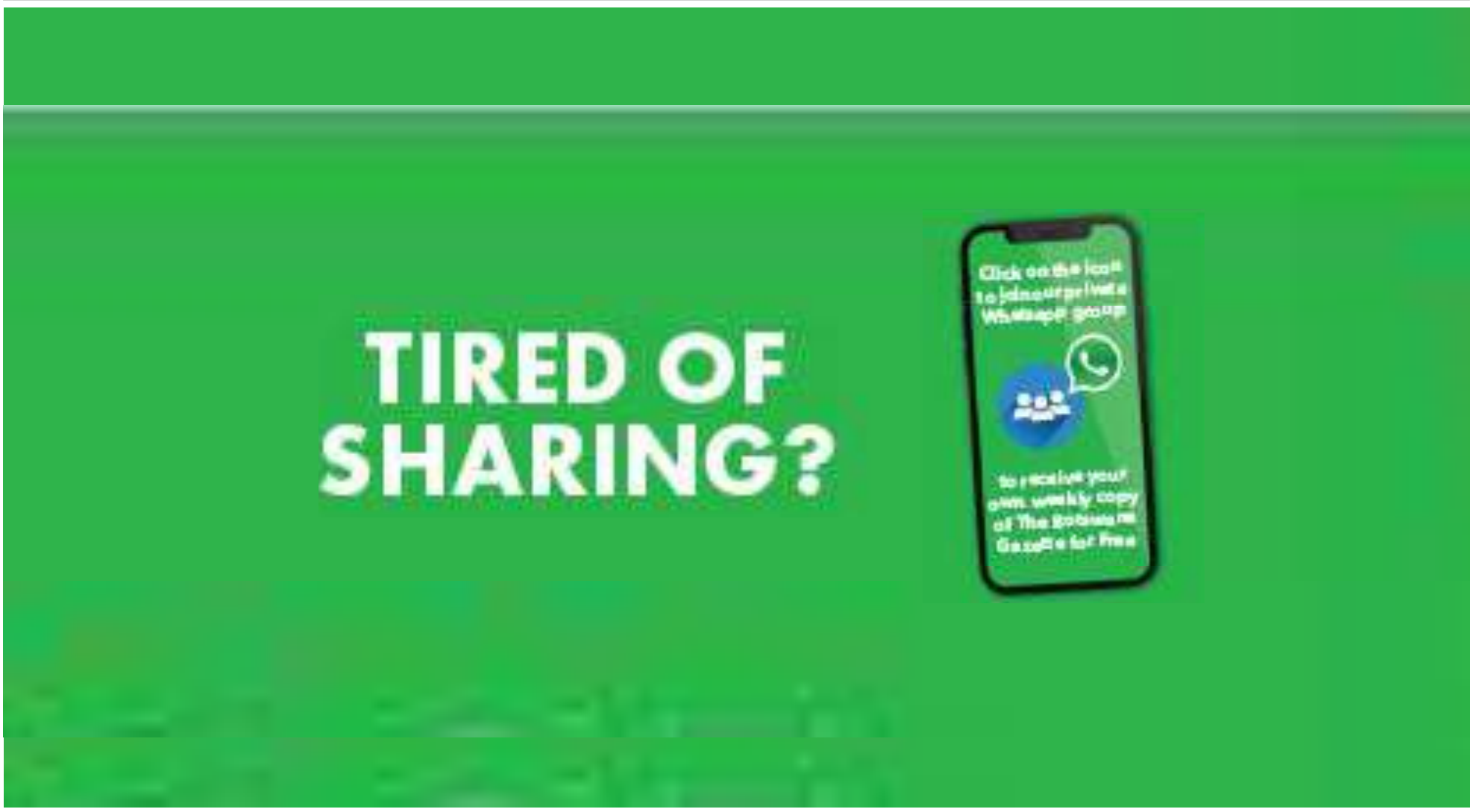
IT SPECIALISTS
Consulting & Training



THE PAYE & CIT RATE INCREASES AND BRAND-NEW TAXES



Jonathan Hore



Gavin Mashiri

The Minister of Finance *gazetted* three new tax bills through the government gazette on the 15th of December 2025, being the Income Tax Bill, The Value Added Tax Bill as well as the Tax Administration Bill. A fourth bill, being The Customs Bill was also gazetted on the same day but we will focus our attention on the three tax bills.

Whenever these bills are published it is an open invitation by the ministry responsible, in this case the Ministry of Finance for the public to comment on any matters that they may need improvement on. Further, such bills indicate that the whole tax landscape is likely to change. These bills are expected to be presented to Parliament in the February 2026 sitting, and if passed, they may commence on the first of July 2026. We briefly narrate below the changes that are proposed by the said bills.

Income Tax

The Income tax bill is set to re-enact the current Income Tax Act Cap 52:01 as the latter is now considered to be outdated. The first proposal under the Income tax bill is to increase the personal income tax or Pay As You Earn at the upper bracket. However, the bill proposes to insert a new bracket, being P 156 000 to P 400 000 (P33 333 per month) which will be taxed at 25 percent. Any amount in excess of P 400 000 (P33 333 per month) will then be taxed at 27.5%.

Secondly, the bill proposes to increase the current corporate tax rate from 22 per cent to 24.5 percent. Other rates will also increase by 2.5 percent such as for IFSC companies etc to 17.5 percent. The said bill also proposes to introduce a tax on international transportation businesses who load goods or passengers in Botswana such as aircrafts. The said businesses will despite the fact that they do not trade or have offices in Botswana be subject to 3 percent tax on the value of fees payable for loading of goods or passengers within the borders of Botswana. Further, the bill seeks to empower the Civil Aviation Authority of Botswana to deny clearance of an aircraft if the operator does not comply with the tax.

The Bill also seeks to introduce a withholding tax on insurance premiums paid by entities within Botswana to non-residents of Botswana typically on reinsurance premiums. Further, the Bill introduces an option to depreciate assets on a reducing balance method over and above the current arrangement where assets can be depreciated on a straight-line basis. Lastly, it seeks to take away the 100 percent allowances on capital expenditures incurred by mines. In our view, all these initiatives are meant to increase revenue collections and foster the ministry's drive to enhance domestic revenue mobilization in the wake of a declining mining industry. However, it is likely that mining entities may view the proposal regarding capital allowances as making mining ventures unattractive. In addition, insurance companies are likely to view the insurance premium tax as having the overall effect of eroding their profits.

Value Added Tax

The bill seeks to amend the stringent Value Added Tax registration for businesses which don't meet the 1 million revenue mark. Currently, a business which hasn't commenced trading but which intends to trade cannot be registered until it makes sales of over P500 000 or P1million in any period of 12 months. This is a big concern in that some businesses cannot make such magnitude of sales until a particular time such as those in fixed property construction or mining. However, the said bill seeks to relax the 500 000-revenue requirement and get such other entities like those in manufacturing and mining to register without necessarily having made sales.

In addition, the bill has relaxed the prohibition of input VAT by removing accommodation from the definition of entertainment, meaning that going forward VAT incurred on hotel or lodge accommodation could be deductible for VAT purposes. In addition, the said bill introduces reverse VAT being VAT chargeable by VAT registrants whenever they import services from outside the country.

The Reverse VAT will also be required to be paid by entities that are currently exempt such as schools, health facilities, churches and NGOs whenever they import services from outside the country. Further, the bill also intends to require tech giants such as Google, Netflix and Facebook to account for normal VAT on revenue they earn from Botswana residents.

Tax Administration Bill

The Tax Administration Bill seeks to harmonize the tax administration provisions of all the Acts administered by BURS except the Customs Act. It does not introduce any tax that it provides for the uniform application of all taxes such as time of payment of tax, assessments, objections etc. The Bill also introduces the compulsory registration by BURS of anybody who provides tax agent services which includes advising clients on any tax, representing clients at BURS etc.

Inhouse Tax training

Corporates are strongly encouraged to obtain in-house and bespoke tax training on these bills as they have far reaching and material financial implications on any business. Further, tailor-made training has proven to be very relevant and useful as it addresses the pertinent tax matters of impacted entities based on the current business systems and practices of the said businesses. Contact us on the numbers below for bespoke tax training on the said bills.

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

opracon
TAX SPECIALISTS
Consulting . Training . Compliance

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

CASE No. CVHFT 000 294/14

In the matter between
FIRST NATIONAL BANK OF BOTSWANA LIMITED — **PLAINTIFF**
And
MATHAMA JOO INVESTMENTS (PTY) LTD — **1ST DEFENDANT**
JONATHAN MAPHANE — **2ND 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 **STANLEY SIKALESELE MBOLAI** to the Highest Bidder :

DATE OF SALE : 17th April 2026
TIME : 14:00 p.m.
VENUE : Tribal Lot 16414, Thitoyamokole Ward, Maun
PROPERTY TO BE SOLD : Tribal Lot 16414, Thitoyamokole Ward, Maun
SITUATE : at Maun in the Batawana Tribal Territory
MEASURING : 1210m² (One Thousand Two Hundred and Ten Square Metres) which property is held under Memorandum of Agreement of Lease No. FT TL 512/2010 dated 16th day of August 2010 entered into between TAWANA LAND BOARD and JONATHAN MAPHANE

The Property comprises of a house with three bedrooms, sitting room, kitchen, toilet and bathroom water system, screen wall and other improvements thereon.

CONDITIONS OF SALE : Detailed conditions of sale may be inspected with Deputy Sheriff Mbolai on cell No. 71635200/4925987

CONDITION OF SALE : Cash or Bank guarantee cheques

DATED AT FRANCISTOWN ON THIS 10TH DAY OF FEBRUARY,2026

MMOHE ATTORNEYS
ATTORNEYS. NOTARIES & CONVEYANCERS

DEPUTY SHERIFF STANLEY SIKALESELE MBOLAI
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 000 445/21

In the matter between
FIRST NATIONAL BANK OF BOTSWANA LIMITED — **PLAINTIFF**
And
JASON SIZWE KEANU PHOMETSI — **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 **STANLEY SIKALESELE MBOLAI** to the Highest Bidder:

DATE OF SALE : 17th April 2026
TIME : 10:00 a.m.
VENUE : Tribal Lot 43081, Tsanekona Ward, Maun
PROPERTY TO BE SOLD : Tribal Lot 43081, Tsanekona Ward, Maun
SITUATE : at Maun Village in the Batawana Tribal Territory

MEASURING : 509m² (Five Hundred and Nine Square Metres) which property is held under Notarial Deed of Cession No FT MA 340/2016 dated the 5th day of December 2016 in favour of JASON SIZWE KEANU PHOMETSI

The property comprises of an erected three bedroomed house with ensuite bedroom, two other bedrooms, kitchen, sitting room, toilet and shower and some improvements thereon.

CONDITIONS OF SALE : Detailed conditions of sale may be inspected with Deputy Sheriff Mbolai on cell No. 71635200/4925987

CONDITION OF SALE : Cash or Bank guarantee cheques

DATED AT FRANCISTOWN ON THIS 10TH DAY OF FEBRUARY,2026

MMOHE ATTORNEYS
ATTORNEYS. NOTARIES & CONVEYANCERS

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

IN THE MAGISTRATE COURT FOR THE DISTRICT OF GABORONE
HELD AT EXTENSION TWO

CASE NO: CCSEX – 000 874/25

In the matter between:
THEBE ZIGI MOGOMOTSI — **PLAINTIFF**
And
BOJOSI SAPELO — **1ST DEFENDANT**
JOYCE SAPELO — **2ND DEFENDANT**

NOTICE OF SALE IN EXECUTION

BE PLEASED TO TAKE NOTICE that pursuant to the judgment granted in favor of Plaintiff by the above Honorable court the following property will be sold by public auction by **Deputy Sheriff OMPHEMETSE PETER KAISARA** to the highest bidder as follows:

DATE OF SALE : 27.02.26
VENUE : BROADHURST POLICE
TIME : 10: 00 AM

PROPERTY TO BE SOLD : Defy electric stove, defy fridge, Samsung washing machine, Samsung microwave, Queen bed.

DATED AT GABORONE ON THE 06th DAY OF FEBRUARY 2026.

DEPUTY SHERIFF OMPHEMETSE KAISARA
CELL NO: 72195113/71222244/3190188
PLOT 163 UNIT 13 GICP
P. O. BOX 4433
GABORONE

IN THE MAGISTRATE COURT FOR THE DISTRICT OF KWENENG
HELD AT MOLEPOLOLE

CASE NO: CCMML – 000243-25

In the matter between:
SEFALANA CASH & CARRY MOLEPOLOLE — **1ST PLAINTIFF**
OBAKENG MAE — **2ND PLAINTIFF**
And
MAJWENG RESTAURANT & PUB — **1ST DEFENDANT**
LETSO PHUKULA — **2ND DEFENDANT**

NOTICE OF SALE IN EXECUTION

BE PLEASED TO TAKE NOTICE that pursuant to the judgment granted in favor of Plaintiff by the above Honorable court the following property will be sold by public auction by **Deputy Sheriff OMPHEMETSE PETER KAISARA** to the highest bidder as follows:

DATE OF SALE : **18.02.26**
VENUE : **BROADHURST POLICE**
TIME : **10: 30 AM**
PROPERTY TO BE SOLD : Sky LED plasma, tv stand, camp chair, dstv explorer, wall mirror, 3 piece sofas, defy microwave, small tv, 2 piece bedroom suite, queen bed, 2 complete cash registers, 2 branded gazibos, 2 heaters.

DATED AT GABORONE ON THE 06TH DAY OF FEBRUARY 2026.

DEPUTY SHERIFF OMPHEMETSE KAISARA
CELL NO: 72195113/71222244/3190188
PLOT 163 UNIT 13 GICP
P. O. BOX 4433
GABORONE

APPLICATION FOR ISSUE OF CERTIFIED COPY OF LOST DEED

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the undersigned intends to apply for a certified copy of **Memorandum of Agreement of Lease No. TL 408/2019** registered on the **8th** day of **May 2019** in favour of **FANI TSELE TSEBETSAME** in respect of the following property:

CERTAIN : piece of land being Lot 33230 Molepolole
SITUATE : at Molepolole (cadastre 66) in the Bakwena Tribal Territory;
MEASURING : 1 000m² (One Thousand Square Metres);

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

DATED AT FRANCISTOWN ON THIS 10TH DAY OF FEBRUARY 2026.

MMOHE ATTORNEYS
ATTORNEYS. NOTARIES & CONVEYANCERS

Plot No. 3936, Peolwane Street
Minestone
P.O. Box 1860
FRANCISTOWN
Telephone No. 2441616

H/W FULLBROOK
IN THE MAGISTRATE COURT FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT
HELD AT EXTENSION II

CASE NO: CCMEX – 001216/25

In the matter between:
DECLARED LIGHT SYSTEMS (PTY) LTD — **PLAINTIFF**
And
MENTRO ENTERPRISES (PTY) LTD — **DEFENDANT**

NOTICE OF SALE IN EXECUTION

BE PLEASED TO TAKE NOTICE that pursuant to the judgment granted in favor of Plaintiff by the above Honorable court the following property will be sold by public auction by Deputy Sheriff OMPHEMETSE PETER KAISARA to the highest bidder as follows:

DATE OF SALE : **18.02.26**
VENUE : **BROADHURST POLICE**
TIME : **10: 30 AM**
PROPERTY TO BE SOLD : 4 office tables, Konica Minolta industrial photo copier, 6 office chair, hp printer, hp monitor, t-net cpu and dell monitor, 2 sofas.

DATED AT GABORONE ON THE 06TH DAY OF FEBRUARY 2026.

DEPUTY SHERIFF OMPHEMETSE KAISARA
CELL NO: 72195113/71222244/3190188
PLOT 163 UNIT 13 GICP
P. O. BOX 4433
GABORONE

IN THE INDUSTRIAL COURT OF THE REPUBLIC OF BOTSWANA
HELD AT GABORONE

CASE NO: IC 737/24

In the matter between:
LEBOGANG MABOTE — **1ST APPLICANT**
ONKGOPOTSE OBULETSWE — **2ND APPLICANT**
And
PRINT AFRIQUE(PTY) LTD — **RESPONDENT**

NOTICE OF SALE IN EXECUTION

BE PLEASED TO TAKE NOTICE that pursuant to the judgment granted by the above Honorable court the following property will be sold by public auction by Deputy sheriff OMPHEMETSE KAISARA to the highest bidder as follows:

DATE OF SALE : **27.02.26**
VENUE : **BROADHURST POLICE STATION**
TIME : **10: 30 am**
PROPERTY TO BE SOLD : Hisense Bar fridge, 5 surwise screens, Samsung monitor, Macbook Laptop, Hp Printer, 6 tables, 9 office chairs, Brother Printer, Canon printer, Dell CPU, Lenovo Monitor, and Keyboard/ mouse.

DATED AT GABORONE ON THE 06TH DAY OF FEBRUARY 2026

OMPHEMETSE KAISARA
DEPUTY SHERIFF
PLOT 1007, EXTENSION 2
GABORONE
CELL NO: 72195113/71222244

IN THE MAGISTRATE'S COURT FOR THE DISTRICT OF GABORONE
HELD AT BROADHURST.

CASE NO: CCMBR-001040-24

In the matter between:
TURNSTAR HOLDINGS LIMITED — **PLAINTIFF**
And
SEAT HOLDINGS (PTY) LTD — **1ST DEFENDANT**
TSHOLOFELO SEATLA — **2ND DEFENDANT**

NOTICE OF SALE IN EXECUTION

BE PLEASED TO TAKE NOTICE that pursuant to the judgment granted by the above Honorable court the following property will be sold by public auction b**y Deputy sheriff OMPHEMETSE KAISARA** to the highest bidder as follows:

DATE OF SALE : **16 February 2026**
VENUE : **Game City Shopping Complex behind Choppies Superstore**
TIME : **10:00 am**
PROPERTY TO BE SOLD : Flame grill, Steel table, Gas Cylinder, Bar fridge, Deep fryer, Flat top fryer, Oven, Pizza master oven, Stock In trade, Coffee maker,13 Cain chairs and 3 tables, 9 Table /Benches,5 x 2 Seater sofas,2 Sofas, Speaker, 10 Chairs, 6 Tables, table, Sofa,2 Flowerpots.

DATED AT GABORONE ON THIS 5TH DAY OF FEBRUARY 2026

Deputy Sheriff Omphemetse Kaisara
Tel: 3190188/ 71222244/72195113
c/o GRACE LEGAL
Plaintiff's Attorneys
Plot 73872
36 Square 30 Unit 2D
P O Box 47167
Phakalane
Gaborone
Tel. No. 3960478
E-mail: info@gracelegal.co.bw

NOTICE OF INTENTION TO ENTER INTO A CONTROLLED TRANSACTION IN TERMS OF SECTION 34(1) OF THE TRIBAL LAND ACT OF 2018

NOTICE IS HEREBY issued in compliance to the provisions of the Tribal Land Act of 2018, Section 34 (1) that the following proposed transaction, for the sale of the under-mentioned property, to be entered into between **Mothibi Boniface Rakanye and Julius Jonathan -Non-Citizen**, that is to say -

CERTAIN : piece of land being Lot 2243 Tsamaya
SITUATE : at Tsamaya (cadastre 543) in the Tati Tribal Area;
MEASURING : 1040m² (One Thousand and Forty Square Metres);
WHICH PROPERTY IS HELD : Memorandum of Agreement of Lease No. FT TL 471/2021 registered on the 2nd day of June, 2021 in favour of **MOTHIBI BONIFACE RAKANYE**;

SUBJECT : to the reservations and conditions contained in the aforesaid Lease which may be inspected at the Offices of M. Mmohe Attorneys, Plot 3936, Peolwane Street, Minestone, P. O. Box 1860, Francistown.;

CONSIDERATION : **BWP75 000.00 (Seventy-Five Thousand Pula)**

BE PLEASED TO TAKE NOTICE THAT:
a) Any Botswana Citizen interested in entering into a similar transaction in respect of the above property, shall be given priority notwithstanding the agreement reached by the abovementioned parties regarding the controlled transaction.
b) Should any person wish to object to the proposed controlled transaction, notice of such objection with reasons thereto, should be addressed to the Tati Land Board, with copies of the objection to the undersigned within thirty (30) days of the date of publication hereof.

MMOHE ATTORNEYS
ATTORNEYS. NOTARIES & CONVEYANCERS

Plot 3936, Peolwane Street, Minestone,
P. O. Box 1860, Francistown
Telephone: 2441616

IN THE MAGISTRATE COURT FOR THE DISTRICT OF GABORONE
HELD AT EXTENSION TWO

CASE NO: CCSEX – 001374-24

In the matter between:
KEABETSWE ITUMELENG — **PLAINTIFF**
And
TEBOGO RAMONTSHO — **DEFENDANT**

NOTICE OF SALE IN EXECUTION

BE PLEASED TO TAKE NOTICE that pursuant to the judgment granted in favor of Plaintiff by the above Honorable court the following property will be sold by public auction by **Deputy Sheriff OMPHEMETSE PETER KAISARA** to the highest bidder as follows:

DATE OF SALE : **27.02.26**
VENUE : **BROADHURST POLICE**
TIME : **10: 00 AM**
PROPERTY TO BE SOLD : Hisense fridge, sunbeam aircooler, L-couch, pantum printer, Samsung microwave, defy washing machine, DSP air fryer, kenwood cooker, gas cylinder, mirror with stand, 2 stools, double bed

DATED AT GABORONE ON THE 06th DAY OF FEBRUARY 2026.

DEPUTY SHERIFF OMPHEMETSE KAISARA
CELL NO: 72195113/71222244/3190188
PLOT 163 UNIT 13 GICP
P. O. BOX 4433
GABORONE

APPLICATION FOR LOST TITLE DEED

NOTICE IS HEREBY given that the undermentioned intends applying for a certified copy of **DEED OF TRANSFER No. FT 984/2007** dated the **13TH** day of **NOVEMBER 2007** passed in favour of **NICOLAAS JOACHIM ALBERTS** in respect of the following property, that is:

CERTAIN : Piece of Land being Lot 12996, Francistown
SITUATE : In the Francistown Administrative District;
MEASURING : 1003 m² (One Thousand and Three Square Metres)

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

DATED AT FRANCISTOWN ON THIS THE 21ST DAY OF JANUARY 2026

VAN NIEKERK ATTORNEYS,
Plot 4660, Ditau Street, Area G
P. O. Box 37, Francistown

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

CASE NO: CVHFT 000 251-25

In the matter between:
STANBIC BANK BOTSWANA LIMITED **PLAINTIFF**
And
KABELO MATSHUBE **DEFENDANT**

SUBSTITUTED SERVICE

AND TO: **KABELO MATSHUBE**
P O Box 12
MAUN

Formerly residing at Disaneng Ward, Maun but whose present whereabouts are unknown:

TAKE NOTICE that by Summons issued out of this Honourable Court, you have been called upon to give notice, within Twenty-One (21) days after publication hereof, to the Registrar and to STANBIC BANK BOTSWANA LIMITED c/o LOWA ATTORNEYS (Plaintiff's Attorneys) of intention to defend (if any) in an action wherein STANBIC BANK BOTSWANA LIMITED claims:

a) Payment of the sum of **P544 698.34** by the Defendant.
b) Interest thereon at the rate of prime plus 7% (prime currently at 7.01%) making 14.01% per annum from 5th day of May 2025 to date of final payment.
c) Penalty interest at the rate of 10% on any instalment of principal, arrears outstanding and/or interest not paid when due per annum from the time such sum fell due to the date on which it is actually paid.
d) That the Plaintiff shall be entitled to 10% collection commission, on any installments, which may be collected after the grant of judgment, and
e) Costs of the suit at attorney and own client scale.
f) Further and/alternative relief.

TAKE NOTICE FURTHER that if you fail to give such notice, judgment may be granted against you without further reference to you.
DATED AT FRANCISTOWN THIS 9TH DAY OF FEBRUARY 2026

REGISTRAR OF THE HIGH COURT

LOWA ATTORNEYS
Plaintiff's Attorneys
Plot 469/70, Haskins Building,
Unit 16, Blue Jacket Street
P.O. Box 3537
FRANCISTOWN

INTENT TO CHANGE LAND USE

The Proctor Family Trust, being the owner of Plot 34859, Gaborone, Block 8, hereby proposes a change of land use from single-family residential to multi-family residential.

This notice serves to inform the owners of adjacent and neighbouring plots.

Any objections to the proposed change must be lodged within fourteen (14) days from the date of publication of this notice and should be directed to Gaborone City Council using the contact details below:

Tel: +267 365 7400
Fax: +267 390 0141
Physical Address: Plot 330, Independence Avenue, Gaborone, Botswana
Postal Address: Private Bag 0089, Gaborone, Botswana

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

CASE NO. CVHGB 00 2199-22

In the matter between:
STANBIC BANK BOTSWANA LIMITED **Plaintiff**
And
MALEBOGO MOETI **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 Stanley Sikalesele Mbolai** to the highest bidder as follows:

DATE OF SALE : 24TH March 2026
TIME : 10:00 Hours
VENUE : Tribal Lot 3459, Mogoditshane
PROPERTY TO BE SOLD : Certain piece of land being Tribal Lot 3459, Mogoditshane, situated in the Bakwena Tribal Territory, measuring 982 M² Held under Memorandum of Agreement of Lease No. TL 388/2000 dated the 12th May 2000 in favour of **MALEBOGO MOETI**, the developments therein consists of a house comparised of 4 bedroomed house inclusive of master bedroom, toilet and bathroom, sitting room, dining room, kitchen, garage, screen wall, electricity with some improvements therein.

TERMS OF SALE : Cash or bank transfer. Detailed conditions of sale may be inspected at the offices of Deputy Sheriff Stanley Sikalesele Mbolai on cell No. 71635200/4925987

DATED AT FRANCISTOWN ON THIS 5th DAY OF FEBRUARY 2026

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

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

CASE NO. CVHFT 0000 668-22

In the matter between:
STANBIC BANK BOTSWANA LIMITED **PLAINTIFF**
And

NORMAN WRIGHT **DEFENDANT**

NOTICE OF SALE 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 Stanley Sikalesele Mbolai to the highest bidder as follows:

DATE OF SALE : 17th April 2026
TIME : 10:00 Hours
VENUE : Tribal Lot 2929, Boseja Ward, Maun
PROPERTY TO BE SOLD : The Defendant's rights, title and interest to Tribal Lot 2929, Maun, situated at Maun in the Batawana Tribal Territory, Measuring 2297 m², held under memorandum of agreement of lease No. FT TL 62/2005 dated the 17th February 2005 registered in favour of the said Norman Wright, 5 roomed house comprising of two (2) bedrooms, sitting room, kitchen and toilet and bathroom sharing, connected with electricity and have running water. The plot is fenced and some improvements therein.

TERMS OF SALE : Cash or bank transfer. Detailed conditions of sale may be inspected at the offices of Deputy Sheriff Stanley Sikalesele Mbolai on cell No. 71635200/4925987

DATED AT FRANCISTOWN ON THIS 5TH DAY OF FEBRUARY 2026

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

FIRST AND FINAL LIQUIDATION AND DISTRIBUTION ACCOUNT

Master's Reference: **ESHGB-000064-25**

IN THE ESTATE of the late **OLORATO MOHOTSHA** who died at Princess Marina Hospital, Gaborone District, Botswana on the 31st day of December 2024.

FIRST AND FINAL LIQUIDATION AND DISTRIBUTION ACCOUNT in the Estate will lie open for inspection at the offices the Master of the High Court at Gaborone for a period of twenty-one **(21) days** from the date of publication hereof.

Any objection to the Estate Account may be lodged with the Master.

DATED at GABORONE on this 4TH day of FEBRUARY, 2026.

Executrix
Matlotlo Kemoreng
C/O Leburu Legal Consultants
P O Box 46132, Village Plaza
GABORONE
TEL: 73597019/71864736

IN THE HIGH COURT OF BOTSWANA
HELD AT FRANCISTOWN

CASE NO: CVHFT 000 250-25

In the matter between:
STANBIC BANK BOTSWANA LIMITED **PLAINTIFF**
And
FERD & OWEN (PROPRIETARY) LIMITED **1ST DEFENDANT**
OWEN CHIPEWO **2ND DEFENDANT**

SUBSTITUTED SERVICE

And to: **FERD & OWEN (PROPRIETARY) LIMITED**
(1st Respondent)
Plot 168, Ramolefe Ward, Pilane
P O Box 1901 AAD Poso, House
GABORONE

Formerly located at Unit 1, Plot 168, Ramolefe Ward, Pilane as its principal office is at Lot 63108, Tsholofelo Ward, Gaborone but whose present whereabouts are unknown:

And to: **OWEN CHIPEWO**
(2nd Respondent)
Lot 63108, Tsholofelo East
P O Box 1901, AAD Poso House
GABORONE

TAKE NOTICE that summons issued out of this Honourable Court, you have been called upon to give notice, within Twenty One (21) days after publication hereof, to the Registrar and to STANBIC BANK BOTSWANA LIMITED c/o LOWA ATTORNEYS (Plaintiff's Attorneys) of intention to defend (if any) in action wherein STANBIC BANK BOTSWANA LIMITED claims

a) Payment of the sum of **P99 785.28** by the 1st and 2nd Defendant jointly severally and in and in so*lidium*, one paying the other to be absolved;
b) Interest thereon at the rate of prime plus 12% (prime standing at 6.01% as at 6th December 2024) making 18.01% per annum from 6th day of December 2024 to date of final payment;
c) Default/Penalty interest at the rate of prime plus 5% (prime standing at 6.01% as at 6th December 2024) making 11.01% on any instalment of principal, arrears outstanding and/or interest not paid when due per annum from the time such sum fell due to the date on which it is actually paid.
d) That the Plaintiff shall be entitled to 10% collection commission, on any installments, which may be collected after the grant of judgment; and
e) Costs of the suit at attorney and own client scale.
f) Further and/alternative relief.

TAKE NOTICE FURTHER that if you fail to give such notice, judgment may be granted against you without further reference to you.

DATED AT FRANCISTOWN THIS 9TH DAY OF FEBRUARY 2026

REGISTRAR OF THE HIGH COURT

LOWA ATTORNEYS
Plaintiff's Attorneys
Plot 469/70, Haskins Building,
Unit 16, Blue Jacket Street
P.O. Box 3537
FRANCISTOWN

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 23RD DAY OF JANUARY 2026.

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



FNB PREMIERSHIP THRIVES AMID CHALLENGES

GAZETTE REPORTER

The FNB Premiership shows growing competitiveness and fan engagement, boosted by sponsorship, broadcast deals, and improved operational standards.

The FNB Premiership in Botswana has progressed positively this season, with competitive matches and strong performances across clubs reflected in a tight league table and growing fan interest. Continued sponsorship from FNB Botswana has elevated the league's profile, helping stabilize operations and enhance match-day experiences.

COMPETITIVE MATCHES INTENSIFY

"The league's competitiveness has deepened, with more clubs capable of challenging at the top," said Mosimanegape Tshoswane, spokesperson for the Botswana Football League. "This is great for fans and player development alike."

BROADCASTS EXPAND REACH

Recent commercial and broadcast deals have increased visibility, bringing more football into homes across Botswana. Tshoswane noted, "The continued investment in broadcasting has allowed more supporters to follow their teams and enjoy the league experience."

SAFETY REMAINS PRIORITY

Like any developing competition, the league has faced occasional logistical setbacks, including fixture postponements due to unforeseen incidents, such as officials being involved in accidents. "Our priority always remains the safety of participants and the integrity of the competition," Tshoswane emphasized. The BFL responds quickly to reschedule fixtures and maintain operational momentum.

The league continues to collaborate with refereeing bodies and club match-day teams to ensure high officiating standards and event management. While areas for refinement remain, feedback from clubs and supporters indicates noticeable improvements, with ongoing training and support for officials.

As the season approaches its climax, fans can expect thrilling contests. Multiple teams remain in the title race, while others fight for key positions. The Botswana Football League remains focused on enhancing the fan experience through engagement initiatives and improved broadcast coverage, ensuring the continued growth of football in the country.

ABSA KIDS MARATHON GROWS REACH ACROSS BOTSWANA



SPORTS REPORTER

More than 600 children poured into the streets of Gantsi this past weekend as the Absa Summer Kids Marathon delivered one of its most impactful activations yet, turning the rural town into a vibrant celebration of sport, health and childhood development. Children aged between 2 and 16 ran, laughed and played alongside parents, teachers and community leaders, creating a rare moment of collective participation centered on young people.

BEYOND THE FINISH

While the races formed the heart of the event, the deeper purpose extended far beyond competition. According to marathon co-founder Moagi Madisa, the activation was designed to build values as much as fitness.

"Beyond the races, the marathon served as a platform to encourage physical activity, social interaction and positive values among young people," Madisa said. "Sport remains one of the strongest tools we have for shaping healthy, confident communities."

GANTSI'S STRONG TURNOUT

The overwhelming response in Gantsi, Madisa noted, was both expected and affirming. With limited recreational programming for children in the area, the marathon filled a long-standing gap.

"We always envisioned Gantsi to bring numbers because there are few to no children's activities in the area," he said. "This activation brought smiles, energy and a sense of community togetherness that stayed long after the final race."

GROWING NATIONAL FOOTPRINT

Since its launch in 2022, the Absa Summer Kids Marathon has reached more than 20,000 children across Botswana, steadily expanding from major centres into underserved communities. Each activation reinforces the initiative's mission: to create safe, inclusive spaces where children can learn healthy habits while building confidence and social connection through sport.

UNICEF JOINS EFFORT

A defining moment of the Gantsi activation was the announcement of UNICEF as a strategic partner. The partnership aligns the marathon with child-focused priorities including protection, education, health awareness and social inclusion, reinforcing sport's role beyond recreation.

"This partnership strengthens what we have always believed," Madisa said. "When sport is combined with advocacy and protection, it becomes a powerful vehicle for every child's growth and well-being."

Botswana Netball's Fight Back

Once a continental powerhouse, Botswana netball has slipped in performance, funding, and global rankings, raising concerns about the sport's future. With reduced resources and fewer competitive opportunities, officials admit the decline is real—but insist a rebuilding process, including new technical leadership and league continuity, could restore the game's former standing

TLOTLO KEBINAKGABO

Once a continental force, Botswana's netball is confronting declining fortunes—and a determined effort to reclaim lost ground.

PAST SUCCESSES

For years, netball stood among Botswana's most successful sporting codes. The national team competed strongly on the international stage, while several local players earned contracts in elite overseas leagues, including Australia. At home, the sport enjoyed widespread participation and institutional support, positioning it as a flagship discipline in the country's sporting landscape.

PERFORMANCE DECLINE

That momentum, however, has slowed dramatically. Results at both national and club level have dipped, signaling what officials openly acknowledge as a worrying downward trend.

"It's something that we cannot deny—our sport is declining," said Botswana National Netball Association (BONA) Marketing and Public Relations Officer Regent Pitso in a telephone interview.

The decline has had tangible consequences. Botswana netball has dropped from Tier One to Tier Two under the Botswana National Sport Associations Resource Allocation Scheme (BONSARAS), administered by the Botswana National Sport Commission (BNSC). The reclassification has resulted in reduced funding, limiting development programs and competitive exposure.

RANKING CONSEQUENCES

Lower performance levels have also hurt Botswana's international standing. According to Pitso, the national team's fall in global rankings has made it increasingly difficult to secure friendly matches against top-tier opponents.

"When your rankings drop, stronger teams are less willing to play you," he explained. "Yet those are exactly the matches you need if you want to improve."

This cycle—poor results leading to fewer opportunities—has further slowed progress.



REBUILDING EFFORTS

Despite the challenges, BONA insists the situation is far from hopeless. As part of its recovery strategy, the association recently appointed a South African coach, tasked not only with improving results but also with transferring technical knowledge to local coaches.

Pitso said the broader objective is to rebuild the sport from the ground up and restore its competitive credibility. He also appealed to supporters, former players, and stakeholders to rally behind the revival effort.

LEAGUE CONTINUITY

Maintaining player activity remains a key priority. Pitso confirmed that BONA intends to keep the domestic league running this year, building on progress made last season to ensure athletes remain active, visible, and match-ready.

"We want continuity," he said. "Without consistent competition, there is no development."



AMOS LAUNCHES YOUTH ATHLETICS LEAGUE

Botswana's Olympic trailblazer unveils a national track initiative aimed at inclusion, development, and early talent discovery

GAZETTE REPORTER

Nijel Amos, Botswana's first-ever Olympic medalist, is turning his focus to the next generation. The London 2012 Olympic 800-metre silver medalist has announced plans to launch the Youth United Track and Field League, a national athletics series targeting young athletes between the ages of 9 and 18.

The initiative marks Amos's most significant contribution yet to grassroots sport development in Botswana.

LEAGUE STRUCTURE

The league will open with Series One on 1 March in Francistown, providing young athletes with their first opportunity to compete on an inclusive, officially sanctioned platform under Botswana Athletics.

Series Two is scheduled for 19 April in Gaborone, where returning athletes are expected to demonstrate growth, discipline, and competitive progression built from the opening meet.

INCLUSION FOCUS

Speaking in a telephone interview, Amos said the league was founded primarily to promote inclusion across all levels of youth sport.

"This is about bringing together children from both private and public schools," he said. "It's also about including athletes with disabilities and ensuring that the girl child is actively encouraged to participate."

Amos emphasized that talent exists everywhere, regardless of background, schooling, or circumstance.

BUILDING PARTNERSHIPS

While preparations are progressing well, Amos confirmed that organizers are still seeking partnerships and sponsorships to strengthen the league's foundation. Despite this, he remains confident the initiative is moving in the right direction.

He stressed that the league's long-term value lies in creating a sustainable pathway for young athletes to pursue their dreams in a structured environment.

SHARED VISION

Amos said the project was developed alongside Simon Tshwaane, Sydney Seabo, and Solomon Mpusetsang, all united by a shared vision of accessibility in sport.

"Together, we've created a national youth athletics league that brings private schools, public schools, and out-of-school youth onto one competitive platform—because talent doesn't come from one place," he said.

The league is open to boys and girls aged 12 to 18, officially sanctioned by Botswana Athletics, and guided by a simple principle: sport should unite rather than divide.

Chess Final Qualifier Weekend

The Botswana Chess Federation emphasizes the stakes and preparation as top players gear up for the decisive Final Qualifier, a stepping stone to international competition

GAZETTE REPORTER

Botswana's chess community is turning its focus to the upcoming Final Qualifier, a pivotal event that will shape the composition of the national team. According to Botswana Chess Federation (BCF) spokesperson Goitsemodimo Makgatle, the tournament "determines the composition of our national team, which will represent Botswana in upcoming international competitions." Beyond selecting players, the event reflects the country's broader commitment to nurturing chess talent and elevating Botswana's presence on the global stage.

PLAYER CHALLENGES HIGHLIGHTED

Makgatle explained that the main obstacle for participants is the dual demand of mental endurance and technical precision. "The rounds are intense, and players must stay focused across multiple games while adapting quickly to different opponents' strategies," he said. "Mental resilience is as important as technical skill in this tournament." Competitors must manage both pressure and stamina, demonstrating their capacity to perform consistently under competitive stress.

TALENT DEVELOPMENT FOCUS

Participation in the Final Qualifiers is more than a contest; it is a developmental opportunity. Players gain experience under high-stakes conditions, share strategies, and benefit from mentorship among top performers. Over time, this approach strengthens Botswana's chess community and raises the standard of play nationwide. Makgatle emphasized that these experiences cultivate both skill and strategic thinking, ensuring that Botswana produces players capable of competing internationally.

NATIONAL TEAM SUPPORT

Once selected, national team members receive sustained support from the BCF. Training camps, professional coaching, and international exposure are all part of the program designed to prepare players for continental and global competition. Makgatle noted that the top qualifiers have already demonstrated remarkable preparation, including months of focused training, participation in tournaments, and detailed study of openings, middlegame strategies, and endgames.

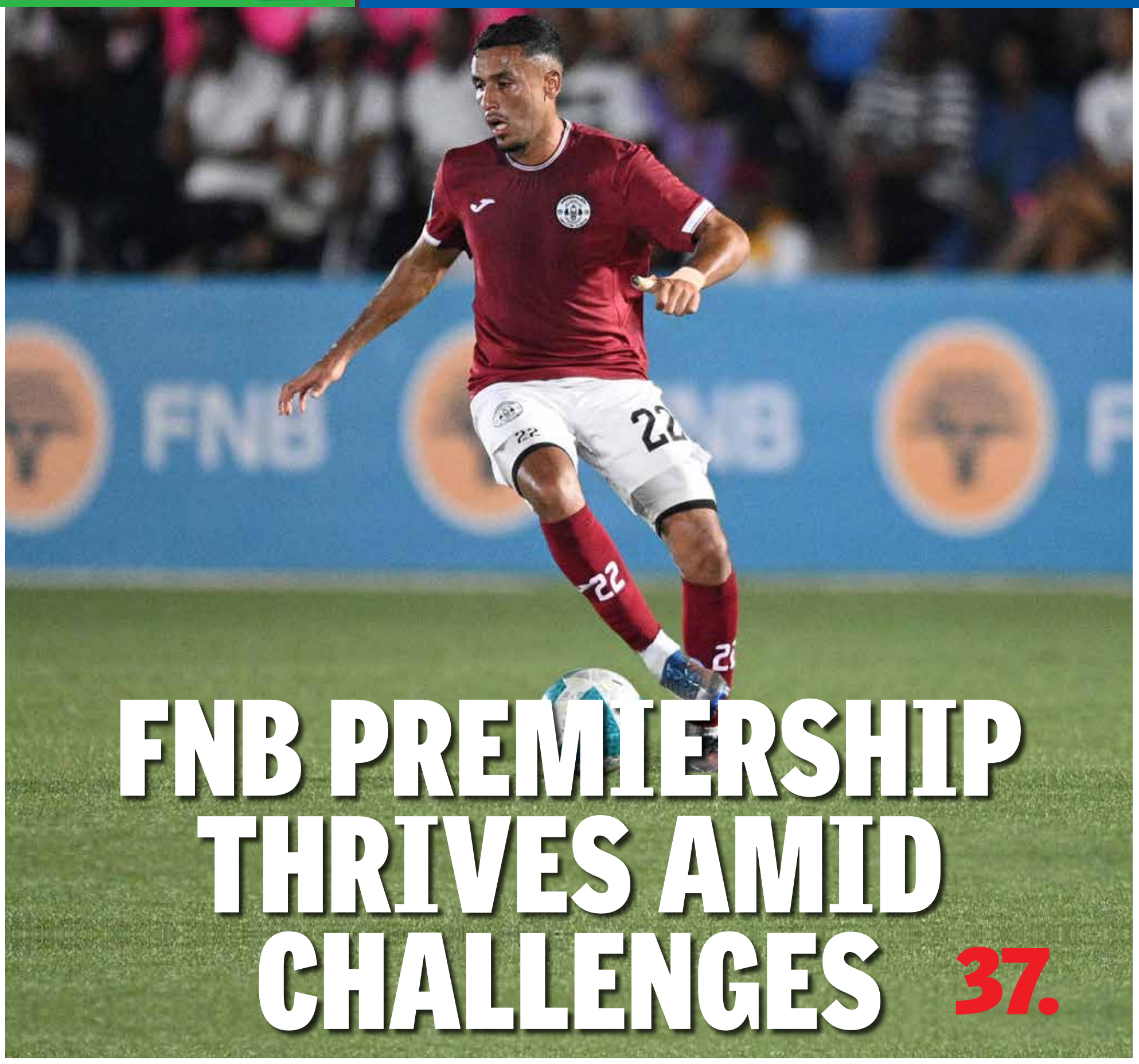
As the Final Qualifier approaches, the BCF remains confident in the readiness and dedication of its players, who are poised to represent Botswana on the world chess stage.

TIRED OF SHARING?



BACKPAGE
WEDNESDAY 11 FEBRUARY 2026
SINCE 1984

The Botswana Gazette
SPORT



FNB PREMIERSHIP THRIVES AMID CHALLENGES

37.



BOTSWANA NETBALL'S FIGHT BACK

•Once a continental powerhouse, Botswana netball has slipped in performance, funding, and global rankings, raising concerns about the sport's future.

38.