The Botswana
GAZETTE

WEDNESDAY
25 FEBRUARY 2026
SINCE 1984



Mining Job Cuts Deepen 'Jobs' Crisis 5.

OMBUDSMAN PROBES FAKE MEDS CLAIM



The Ombudsman has confirmed receiving a report on allegations that the Ministry of Health administered fake and potentially fatal medicines to children and patients

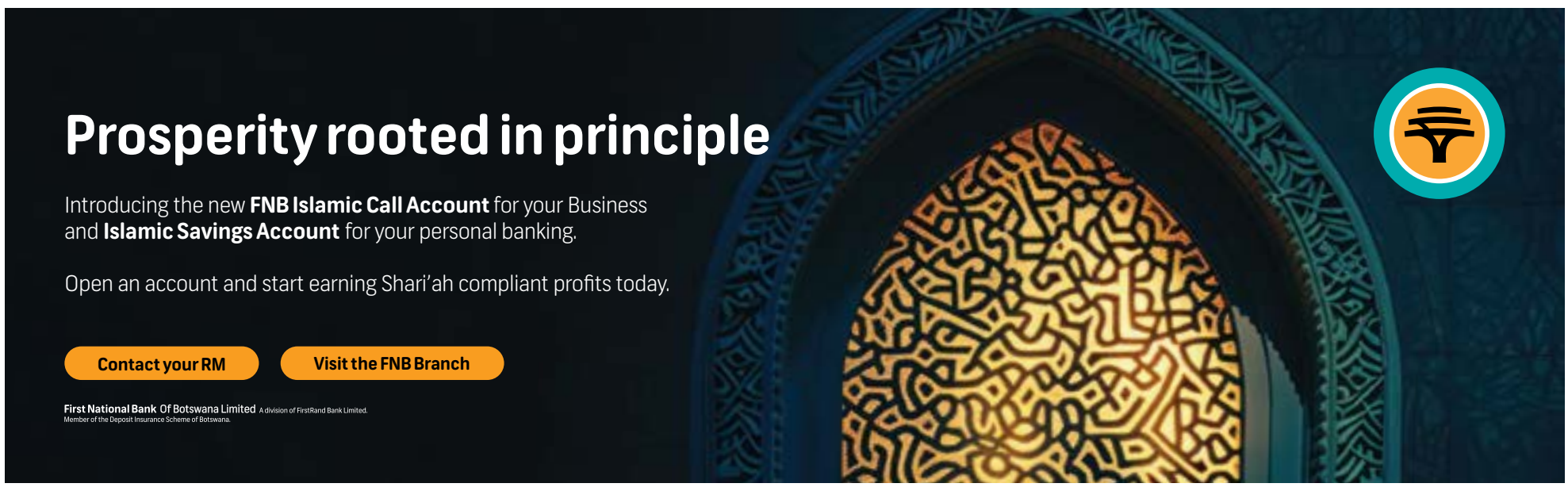
2.



Khama Warns UDC on Death Penalty

Former President Ian Khama has urged the UDC to be transparent with Batswana on the death penalty, cautioning against its abolition and describing it as a fitting punishment for ruthless murderers

2.



Ombudsman Probes Fake Meds Claim

The Ombudsman has confirmed receiving a report on allegations that the Ministry of Health administered fake and potentially fatal medicines to children and patients

SESUPO RANTSIMAKO

The Ombudsman's Office has confirmed receiving a report regarding allegations by the Assistant Minister of Local Government and Traditional Affairs, Ignatius Moswaane that the Ministry of Health administered fake and potentially fatal medicines to children and patients.

MOSWAANE'S CLAIMS

During parliamentary proceedings last week, Moswaane claimed that children were given flu or cough medication that could be fatal, high blood pressure patients received substandard medication, and certain medicines were smuggled into Botswana by air without approval from the Botswana Medicines Regulatory Authority (BOMRA). He further alleged that letters exist indicating that antiretroviral (ARV) medicines distributed during the period were fake, and that some fake medication was discovered hidden in a clinic in 2023. Moswaane added that such medicines were allegedly knowingly distributed under the previous administration.

OMBUDSMAN REVIEWS COMPLAINTS

Speaking to The Botswana Gazette, Stephen Tiroyakgosi, Director of the Office of the Ombudsman, confirmed receipt of letters of complaint from a political party but said the matter is still under review. "I have received letters of complaint concerning the allegations, and we are yet to review them. As the public protector, we have jurisdiction to determine whether the complaints fall under our mandate. Once reviewed, we will know if they are actionable," he explained.

> "I have received letters of complaint concerning the allegations...Once reviewed, we will know if they are actionable"

POWERS TO INVESTIGATE

The Ombudsman investigates administrative actions or decisions taken by public institutions. Investigations can be initiated through complaints from members of the public or on the Ombudsman's own motion, and the office has the authority to make recommendations for remedial action where necessary. Among its functions, the Ombudsman is responsible for the receipt, screening, investigation, and resolution of complaints of alleged maladministration in the public sector, as well as providing information and education to the public, department heads, and civic leaders.

While the Ombudsman has not yet ruled out opening a full investigation, public health experts say the outcome, if true, could have significant implications for accountability and public trust in Botswana's healthcare system. The matter has already drawn public attention due to the serious nature of the allegations, particularly the claims involving children and essential medicines.



Khama Warns UDC on Death Penalty

Former President Ian Khama has urged the UDC to be transparent with Batswana on the death penalty, cautioning against its abolition and describing it as a fitting punishment for ruthless murderers

GAZETTE REPORTER

Former President Ian Khama has called on the UDC to openly inform the nation about the death penalty, warning that abolishing it would be wrong and insisting it remains an appropriate punishment for brutal killers.

In an interview with this publication on his views regarding the ongoing debate on the death penalty, Khama said scrapping the death penalty would go against both deterrence objectives and the expectations of many citizens, arguing that it remains a necessary tool in dealing with the most serious crimes.

"I am in favour of the death penalty," he said. "It has proven to be a deterrent against premeditated murders in some cases and is a fitting punishment for those who brutally kill innocent people."

He added that capital punishment serves as a warning to would-be offenders.

"It serves as an example to anyone who ever considers committing such heinous acts, which are a crime against humanity and the worst type of violation of human rights," Khama said.



CALLS FOR TRANSPARENCY

Khama called on the UDC to be transparent with the nation regarding what observers describe as an undeclared moratorium on the death penalty.

Khama said Batswana deserve clarity on the status of executions, rather than being left to speculate.

"If indeed a moratorium exists, the nation must be taken on board as to why it exists. It was however declared before the election, but now in government it must be clearly spelt out."

THE DEBATE

The debate comes amid mounting public and legal scrutiny over President Duma Boko's reported reluctance to sign death warrants, a constitutional requirement before executions can be carried out.

KHAMA WANTS DEATH PENALTY TO STAY

Khama, who served as president from 2008 to 2018, reaffirmed his support for the death penalty, arguing that it has acted as a deterrent in cases of premeditated murder.

> "I am in favour of the death penalty...It has proven to be a deterrent against premeditated murders in some cases and is a fitting punishment for those who brutally kill innocent people"

AN EYE FOR AN EYE

He said his stance was informed not only by the law, public sentiment and national security concerns, but also by his belief in the biblical principle of retributive justice-the "eye for an eye" doctrine.

Responding to criticism from human rights groups such as Ditshwanelo, Khama said he had long been aware of objections to capital punishment during his tenure

"I was very much aware whenever, for example, Ditshwanelo raised their objections, which would result in people voicing their opinions," he said. "Furthermore, in all the kgotla meetings I held across the country for ten years, I do not recall anyone ever asking for the death penalty to be abolished, neither do I recall it being raised in Parliament."

CLEMENCY REQUESTS

Khama also outlined the clemency process during his presidency, explaining that decisions were not taken unilaterally.

"When the president considers clemency, he does so with a small committee designated for that purpose, to consider and advise on the request and to take into account any extenuating circumstances that may have been provided," he said. "No such circumstances ever justified granting clemency at that time."

Spark your new mobile wallet

Manage your money with Spark by Absa, open to everyone, no bank account needed. Register in minutes, send or receive money to any mobile number and withdraw cash when you need it.



Open to everyone

Dial *161*234*5# to register or download the Spark by Absa app today

Download on the App Store

GET IT ON Google Play

Terms and conditions apply. Absa Bank Botswana Limited (registered number BW000001237900) is regulated by the Bank of Botswana. Member of the Deposit Insurance Scheme of Botswana

DCEC Reforms or Just a Name Change?

The anti-corruption reform bill faces scrutiny as critics warn the agency may still remain under presidential influence despite earlier promises



DCEC Director General, Ms. Botlhale Makgekgenene



GAZETTE REPORTER

The Umbrella for Democratic Change (UDC) government is pushing ahead with sweeping anti-corruption reforms by renaming the Directorate on Corruption and Economic Crime (DCEC) as the Independent Anti-Corruption Agency (IACA), but critics are questioning whether the changes will give the agency real autonomy or simply repackage an existing institution.

According to a draft copy of the bill, the Agency "shall act independently, impartially, fairly and in the public interest," and shall not be "subject to the direction or control of any person or authority" when exercising its powers. Yet, the President retains a central role in appointing its leadership, including the Director-General and three Deputy Director-Generals, raising doubts over the agency's operational independence.

"The Director-General will be appointed by the President after a Parliamentary Committee interviews three nominees and recommends two candidates," the draft legislation states. Observers note that the final selection remains firmly in the hands of the executive, leaving room for political influence despite the language of independence.

OVERSIGHT OR POLITICAL SHIELD?

The bill also establishes a Parliamentary Committee on Corruption and Related Offences to recommend leadership appointments and oversee the Agency's operations. While the Committee is composed of nine members outside Cabinet, it mirrors the political composition of the National Assembly, prompting critics to question whether oversight will be truly impartial.

"Annual reports to the President and National Assembly may still allow the Minister to withhold information deemed prejudicial to the Agency," one observer said, highlighting potential gaps in transparency.

REFORM OR REBRANDING?

The government maintains that the reforms aim to enhance efficiency, strengthen accountability, and modernise Botswana's anti-corruption framework. However, critics argue that the bill may amount to little more than a symbolic rebranding of the DCEC.

One analyst commented: "The question remains; is this truly a reform, or the same glass of wine in a new bottle?"

The bill is expected to be officially gazetted in the coming weeks before its formal presentation to Parliament, setting the stage for intense debate over whether Botswana's anti-corruption machinery will gain real teeth, or remain constrained by political oversight.

Mining Job Cuts Deepen 'Jobs' Crisis

Botswana faces rising unemployment as Genesis HB Botswana warns of mass diamond-sector layoffs and coal mine retrenchments leaving skilled graduates and mine workers in limbo

GAZETTE REPORTER



Botswana's unemployment crisis is worsening as fresh retrenchments in the diamond and coal sectors expose deepening cracks in the country's most critical industries, leaving skilled graduates and mine workers facing an uncertain future.

Diamond manufacturer Genesis HB Botswana has confirmed plans to cut jobs, warning that failure to secure a diamond supply agreement could trigger mass layoffs affecting up to 80 percent of its workforce.

"In line with Section 25 of the Employment Act, this letter serves as formal notification that Genesis HB Botswana intends to rationalize its operations due to commercial and operational constraints that threaten the long-term sustainability of the business," said managing partner Boaz Lev in a notice to the Commissioner of Labour.

The company invested over $10 million (about P140 million) in a state-of-the-art facility in Gaborone and recruited dozens of local graduates, many of whom were sent abroad for specialized training. Reports indicate that in 2023, the Botswana Government had planned to buy a stake in the company worth more than P800 million, but the deal appears to have collapsed before it could take off.

GOVERNMENT SUPPLY DELAYS STRAIN OPERATIONS

Lev said the government's commitment has yet to materialize. "Genesis HB has repeatedly engaged senior leadership in Government, stressing the urgent need for ODC supply to allow us to operate at scale. Over recent months, we have continuously requested meetings with the Minister of Minerals, as well as with the Vice President and Minister of Finance, hoping to secure clarity on the supply agreement. Despite ongoing efforts, we have not been able to obtain a meeting."

He added: "Discussions that did occur were constructive and positive, but they did not result in a supply agreement. Without ODC supply, the Botswana facility cannot generate revenue and has been operating far below capacity. This makes the current structure unsustainable."

Employee Anxiety Grows

The looming cuts have created anxiety and uncertainty among staff. "We are not only in a state of shock, but also uninformed about the correct procedures and how the company reached this position," employees said during consultations documented in meeting minutes.

Coal Sector Retrenchments Add to Pressure

The crisis extends beyond diamonds. At the Masama coal mine, the Botswana Mine Workers Union (BMWU) has accused contractor Meropa Resources of abandoning workers without pay and failing to follow legal retrenchment procedures.

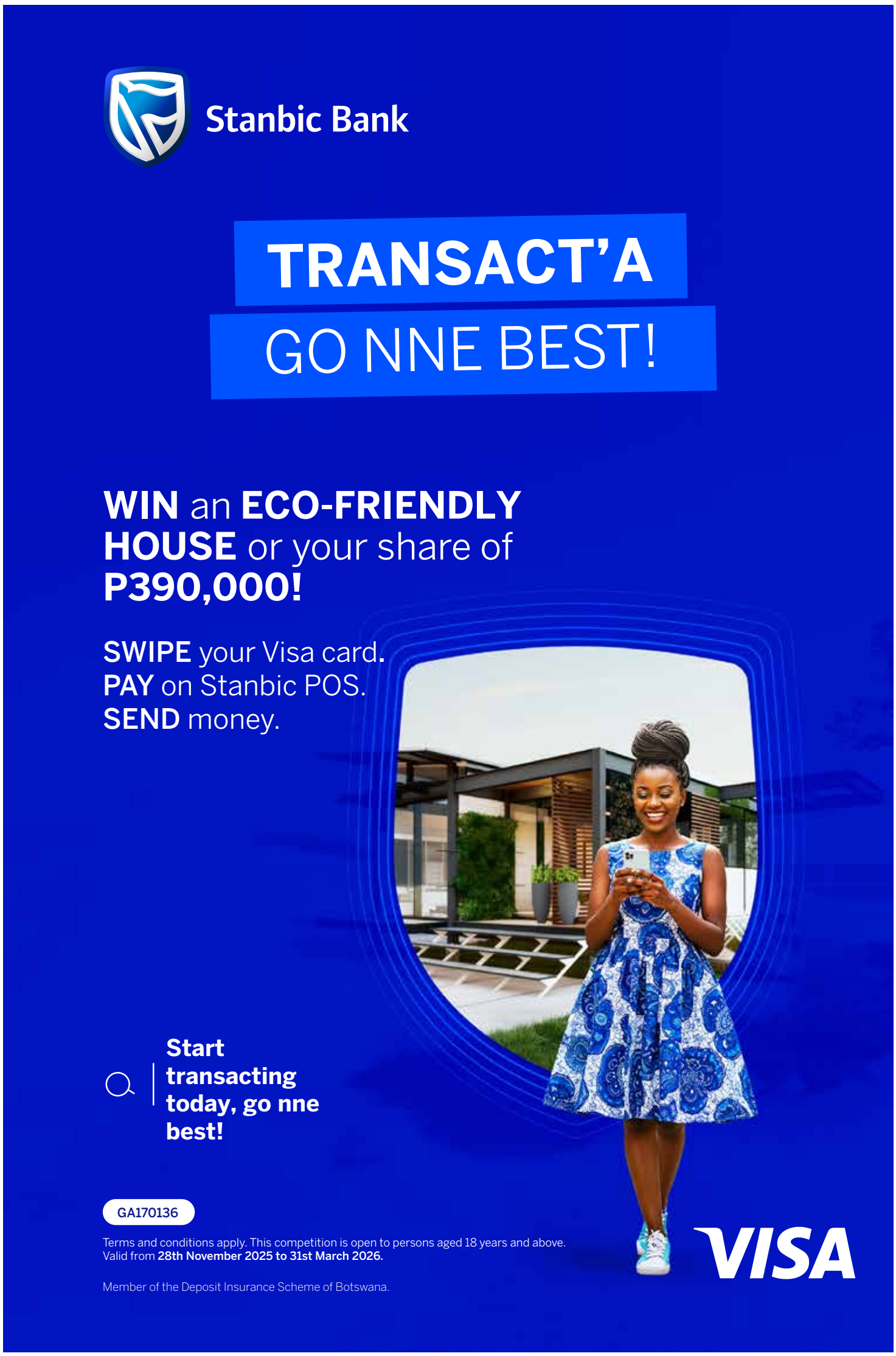
"Meropa failed to comply with entrenched procedural principles… including consultations with the union and payment of terminal benefits," said union general secretary Mbiganyi Gaekgotswe.

The union warned that allowing companies with unresolved labour violations to secure new contracts threatens workers across the mining sector.

Ripple Effects Across the Economy

Information reaching the Gazette indicates that the layoffs could have ripple effects across the economy, particularly given mining's role in supporting downstream industries and skilled employment.

Genesis HB Botswana alone had projected employing more than 500 people but now faces a growing number of unemployed graduates and mine workers.



BOTSWANA SAVINGS BANK	TENDERING PROCEDURES	T1.1 TENDER NOTICE AND INVITATION TO TENDER

TENDER NOTICE

The procuring entity is Botswana Savings Bank, Human Capital, 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.

TENDER NO	CONTRACT TITLE	PPADB CODE/S	CLOSING DATE & TIME	SUBMISSIO N ADDRESS
BSB//018/2026-2029	PROCUREMENT OF DIGITAL COLLECTION SOLUTIONS COVERING EFT DEBITS, CARD PAYMENTS, AND INSTANT EFTS FOR BOTSWANA SAVINGS BANK	Public Procurement Regulatory Authority (PPRA) Code 319 – ICT Consultancy Services, sub-code 01 (ICT System Development); and/or Code 314 – Finance Related Services, sub-code 02 (Banking Management).	**10:00hrs** on **04 March 2026.**	BSB Tshomarelo House Plot 53796 Kagiso mall Gaborone 4th Floor at Procurement Office

Documents shall be accessed from the below link:
https://www.bsb.bw/tenders/

with effect from 25 February **2026.** Tender documents shall be available on-line only.
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 three **(3) days** before tender closing date; copied to bkwdemadema@bsb.bw and kmavika@bsb.bw. No queries shall be allowed thereafter.

The closing time for receipt of tender documents is **10:00hrs** on **04 March 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.

The Public Procurement Regulatory Authority Standardised Conditions of Tender shall 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 Unit
Botswana Savings Bank

Contact Us Now on: 367 0100
or Visit a BSB branch near you for more information
www.bsb.bw
Botswana Savings Bank
welcome to smooth banking

148 Out of 171 UDC Pledges Yet to Effect

A year into office, the UDC government has seen little progress on its manifesto promises, with 148 of 171 commitments yet to commence, according to African Citizens Watch

GAZETTE REPORTER

The performance of the Umbrella for Democratic Change (UDC)-led government is now under systematic scrutiny following the release of the first annual assessment by African Citizens Watch (ACW), a platform established to monitor the implementation of the ruling party's manifesto commitments.

The report coincides with the first year since the UDC assumed office on 4 November 2025 and marks the introduction of the Africa Citizens Watch tracker (ACW), a tool developed by Sivio Institute to track 171 promises made in the UDC manifesto.

According to the Sivio Institute team, extracting and categorising the promises proved to be a complex task. "The UDC manifesto touched on many areas spanning different sectors. The extraction of the 171 promises was not an easy task," the report notes.

Some commitments cut across multiple sectors, making classification challenging. "A key example would be the promise on the provision of sanitary pads to all secondary school girls, which had to be placed under either health or education in the Social Services sector," the report explained.

ACCESS-TO-INFORMATION CHALLENGES

The tracking initiative also flagged serious access-to-information issues. Monitoring government performance depends heavily on publicly available data, which the team said is often inconsistent or delayed.

"The tracking process relies heavily on the accessibility of information, especially on the actions of government," the report stated. Some ministerial actions are not documented, while others are not easily accessible online.

In addition, media coverage sometimes poses limitations. "Media reports in many instances focus on news that they deem of interest and can sell their platforms. In the process, some government actions deemed not newsworthy can be left out," the report added.

Government websites and ministerial platforms were described as "slow to publish information," further hampering real-time tracking efforts.

LAUNCHES VS. IMPLEMENTATION

The report also highlighted confusion between public launches and actual implementation. Several initiatives have been launched by ministers, but evidence of follow-through remains limited.

An example cited is the restoration of school sports. "Despite the Minister of Sport and Arts having launched an initiative for this action, there is still no evidence of school sports having started in schools," the report said. It warned that speeches in Parliament and official events can create the impression that progress has been made, "but a closer look may show that there has been no action."

ECONOMIC PRESSURES HAMPER PROGRESS

The review comes as the government battles an ailing economy which has constrained fiscal space and limited the rollout of projects.

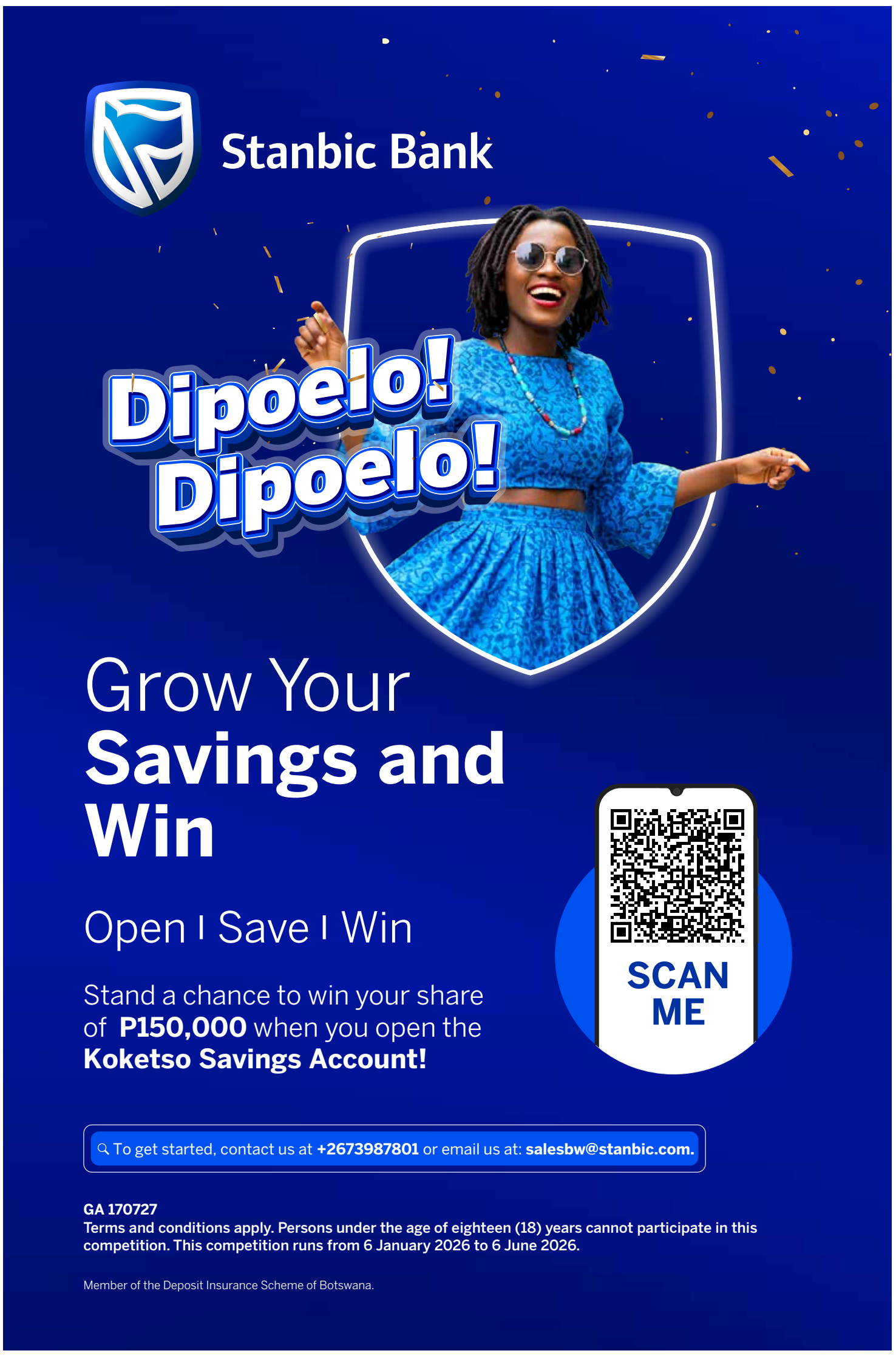
Despite these challenges, the tracker credits the government with some achievements, including increasing the old-age pension, establishing a Sovereign Wealth Fund (SWF), and kickstarting the Bonno Housing Scheme.

MAJORITY OF PROMISES YET TO START

However, the overall picture remains daunting: 148 out of 171 promises are currently classified as "Not Commenced."

"This shows the magnitude of the task that lies ahead for the government in the next 48 months," the report concludes.





MPs Can Forfeit Allowances-Moatlhodi

Former Deputy Speaker Pono Moatlhodi says Parliament can legally forfeit an MP's allowance after Reuben Kaizer voluntarily gave his up for a year citing the country's economic hardships

SESUPO RANTSIMAKO

Former Deputy Speaker Pono Moatlhodi has confirmed that Parliament can legally forfeit a Member of Parliament's sitting allowance, provided the MP has formally authorized the action.

The confirmation comes after Reuben Kaizer wrote to the Speaker of the National Assembly, Dithapelo Keorapetse, requesting that administrative processes be initiated to forfeit his sitting allowance for a 12-month period, from March 2026 to February 2027. The announcement has stirred public discussion, with some praising the gesture as responsible leadership, while critics have dismissed it as an act of political showmanship.

LEGAL STANDING OF SITTING ALLOWANCE FORFEITURE

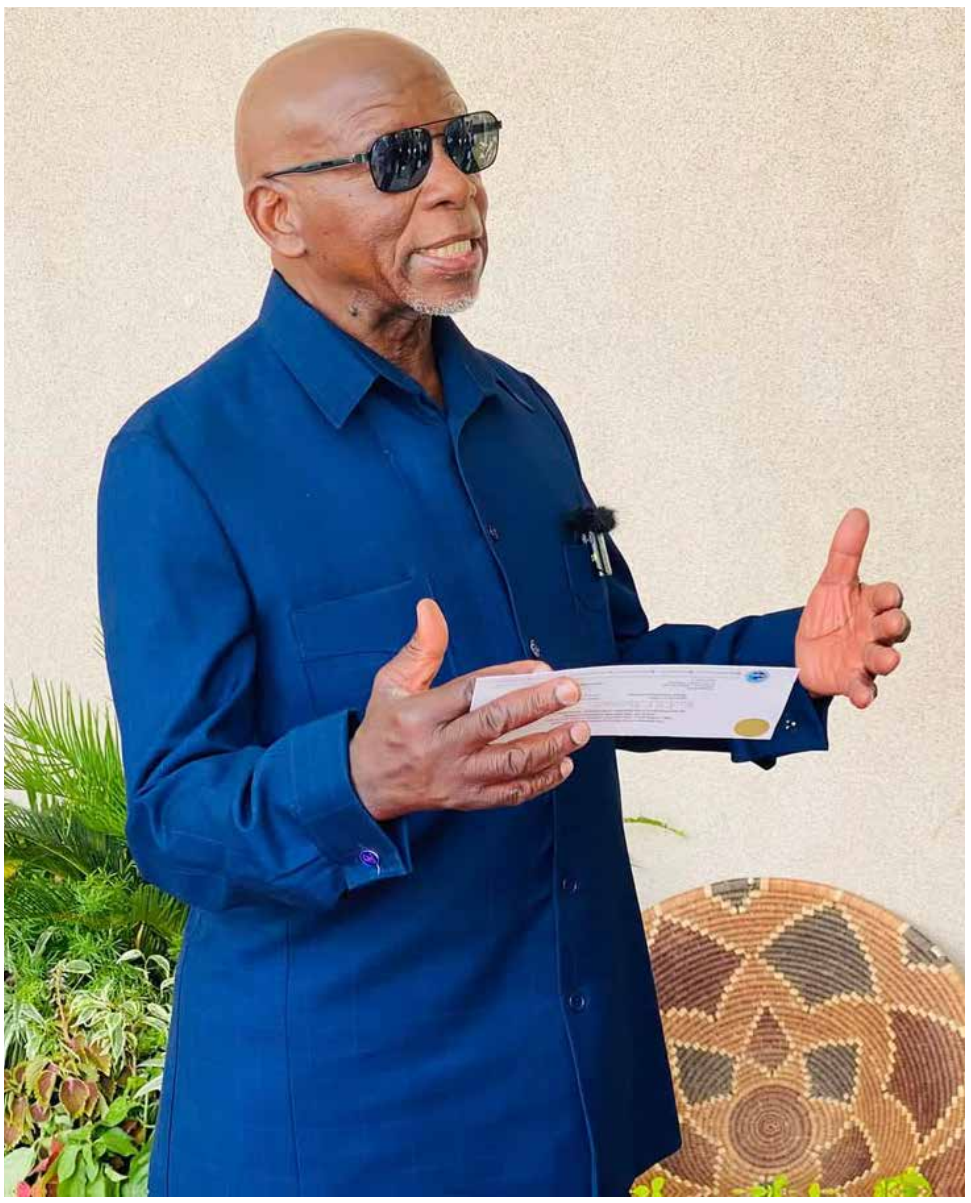
Speaking to The Botswana Gazette, Moatlhodi dismissed the criticism, saying the move is entirely lawful. "As long as the MP has made the commitment and allowed it to happen, there is nothing that bars Parliament from acting on his request," he stated.

He clarified that while the sitting allowance is outlined in the Greenbook as a parliamentary benefit, it is not compulsory. "Benefits can be forfeited if the beneficiary willingly commits to doing so," Moatlhodi added.

UNDERSTANDING MPS' SALARIES AND ALLOWANCES

In Botswana, MPs receive a combination of salaries and allowances to support their legislative duties. These include a basic salary, communication and hospitality allowances, and a daily sitting allowance for attending plenary and committee meetings.

Some allowances are prescribed by statute, with rates periodically adjusted under the National Assembly (Salaries and Allowances) Act. Sitting allowances are tax-exempt and paid per day of formal parliamentary participation, separate from monthly salaries.



Former Deputy Speaker Pono Moatlhodi has confirmed that Parliament can legally forfeit a Member of Parliament's sitting allowance, provided the MP has formally authorized the action. *Photo: Social Media*

> "This shows responsibility and accountability in leadership, and I commend the MP for being exemplary during these trying economic times"

Currently, the daily sitting allowance stands at P450 for MPs, P630 for the Speaker, and P525 for the Deputy Speaker. Moatlhodi stressed that the allowance is part of an MP's personal finances. "It is the MP's personal money, and he can decide what he wants to do with it," he said.

KAIZER'S GESTURE PRAISED

The former Deputy Speaker commended Kaizer's decision, calling it a responsible and commendable gesture amid the country's financial challenges. "This shows responsibility and accountability in leadership, and I commend the MP for being exemplary during these trying economic times," Moatlhodi remarked.

Kaizer, citing Botswana's economic pressures, formally informed Parliament of his choice to forfeit his sitting allowance for a year.

BTU Demands Apology Over School Violence Denial

The Botswana Teachers Union demands a public apology from Education Minister, Nono Kgafela-Mokoka, accusing her of denying rising school violence and misleading Parliament



Minister of Education Nono Kgafela-Mokoka

SESUPO RANTSIMAKO

The Botswana Teachers Union (BTU) has called on the Minister of Education Nono Kgafela-Mokoka to publicly apologize, accusing her of misleading Parliament by denying an increase in school violence following the abolition of corporal punishment.

The controversy stems from remarks Kgafela-Mokoka made last week in Parliament while responding to Leepetswe Lesedi, MP for Serowe South, who asked whether the government intended to revive corporal punishment amid reports of escalating student unrest.

The minister denied any rise in violence, stating she had toured three schools after closure and found no such cases. She further claimed that the Headmasters' Council dismissed reports of increasing violence.

BTU REFUTES MINISTER'S CLAIMS

BTU vice president Bakang Bagwasi described the minister's statements as "untruthful, irresponsible and shocking," citing numerous incidents across the country. Schools mentioned include Matshekge Junior Secondary, Maun Senior Secondary, and Moshupa Senior Secondary.

Reported incidents ranged from students harassing teachers and fighting among themselves to vandalism of school property. In some cases, the Special Support Group (SSG) had to intervene after completing students allegedly turned violent.

Bagwasi highlighted that teachers who suffered violence were later compensated, with approvals coming from the very ministry now denying the problem. "It is surprising that the minister, who heads the very ministry that compensated affected teachers, now claims there is no violence," he said.

PATTERN OF CONTROVERSIAL STATEMENTS

This is not the first time BTU has demanded an apology from Kgafela-Mokoka. Last year, she claimed a student had been hospitalized after being beaten by teachers, a claim the union says she failed to substantiate

"The pattern is worrying," Bagwasi said. "Statements are made publicly without verification, yet teachers bear the reputational damage."

UNION CALLS FOR ACTION

The union is urging the minister to retract her remarks and apologize, warning that continued denial of school violence undermines teacher safety and delays meaningful solutions to growing discipline challenges in Botswana's schools.

CRIMES AGAINST CHILDREN ROCK KWENENG

Kweneng District reports over 400 child-related crime cases, with neglect and defilement rising as authorities call for urgent intervention

BONGANI MALUNGA

The Kweneng District Council has sounded the alarm over a worrying rise in crimes against children, with over 407 active cases currently recorded. Child neglect and defilement top the list of reported offenses, as the district's destitution program has seen a 3.2% increase in cases between November 2025 and January 2026.

> "The district is also holding 407 active cases at various levels of children highly affected with child neglect and defilement cases being the most prevalent"

Speaking at a full council meeting on Monday, council chairperson Ontefetse Rankhibidu revealed that 78 cases of child neglect and 58 defilement cases have been reported in recent months. Rankhibidu emphasized the urgent need for coordinated interventions from social services, law enforcement and community stakeholders to protect the district's most vulnerable population.

SOCIAL SAFETY NETS

"Currently, the Kweneng District Council is assisting 5489 beneficiaries under various social safety nets including 3402 destitute persons, 866 needy students, 185 children in need of protection, 1047 orphans and vulnerable children as well as 21 community home based care clients," Rankhibidu announced.

HIGH LEVELS OF NEGLECT

"The district is also holding 407 active cases at various levels of children highly affected with child neglect and defilement cases being the most prevalent at 78 and 58 cases respectively. All aspects of the destitution program have seen an average increase of 3.2 percent. The largest increase is among children in need of care, largely due to high levels of neglect and malnutrition cases," the Kweneng District Council chairperson continued.

The council is reviewing its programs and resources to better address the surge, focusing on both prevention and swift intervention.



Debswana Diamond Company Chief Executive Officer, Andrew Motsomi, has highlighted that the company's approach to community development and social impact initiatives is firmly anchored in collaboration and empathy.



TENDER NOTICE



Tender Reference Number: **BOL/RFP/2025-26/35**

Tender Title: **A WORKS CONTRACT FOR CIVIL WORKS, BUILDING CONSTRUCTION AND SERVICES FOR FRANCISTOWN GRS DEPOT TRUCK STAGING FACILITY**

Sealed Tender offers are invited for the provision of **A WORKS CONTRACT FOR CIVIL WORKS, BUILDING CONSTRUCTION AND SERVICES FOR FRANCISTOWN GRS DEPOT TRUCK STAGING FACILITY** for the Expansion of Bulk Fuel Storage Facility in Francistown, Botswana. The Works Contract will include the following:

CIVIL AND BUILDING WORKS MAIN CONTRACTOR
- Site clearance and associated bulk earthworks
- Parking for 51 trucks
- Entrance/Exit Security Building (Guardhouse)
- Driver Centre Building
- Building services (Plumbing, Fire Alarms)
- Associated structural works (shed for firefighting station)
- High security fencing and motorized access gates
- Stormwater and drainage of the whole site
- Oil separators (prefabricated)
- Sewer and potable water reticulation and connection to the Council system
- Stormwater drainage channels and associated culverts in front of the facility
- Signage and road markings
- Kerbing, hard landscaping of unpaved areas with crushed stones on compacted ground
- Building construction management, coordination of all subcontractors, including assistance to specialist contractors nominated by the Employer
- Attendance to M&E and other specialist subcontractors

MECHANICAL SUBCONTRACT WORKS

Supply and installation of:
- Building services Mechanical (HVAC)
- Fixed access platform for truck inspection
- 1 x 300 m3 galvanised sectional firefighting water storage tank and associated concrete supports
- Duty electrical/jockey and standby diesel engine driven fire pumps and associated equipment
- Hydrants and associated underground fire water reticulation, including manholes, control and isolation valves
- Firefighting hoses and cabinets for hydrants
- Mobile foam dispensers
- Handheld extinguishers
- Testing, commissioning, operator training

ELECTRICAL SUBCONTRACT WORKS

Supply and installation of:
- Building services Electrical, including fire alarm sensors and control panels
- Earthing and bonding of all installations
- Power upgrade and associated transformers, BPC Liaison
- All underground infrastructure associated with power, CCTV and Access (sleeves, manholes, bases for lighting masts and CCTV poles bases); building works specific can be done by the main contractor
- BTC reticulation; building works specific can be done by the main contractor
- Associated power cables reticulation
- Diesel generator with automatic changeover
- Area lighting including scissor masts
- Solar electric power generating installations, grid connected
- CCTV and access control system, including servers, clients, monitors and software (nominated)
- Fiber optic cable connection to the existing depot network switch cabinet
- Testing, commissioning, operator training

FRANCISTOWN GRS FUEL DEPOT WILL BE OPERATIONAL DURING EXECUTION OF CONTRACT AND CONTRACTORS MUST MAKE ALLOWANCES FOR SECURITY AND SAFETY MEASURES, PERMITS TO WORK, HOT WORK PERMITS, FORWARD PLANNING AND COORDINATION OF ACTIVITIES IN LIAISON WITH DEPOT OPERATIONS, SO THAT DAILY FUEL OFFLOADING AND LOADING OPERATIONS ARE NOT INTERRUPTED.

Tenderers for this Contract shall allow for coordination and working with the Employer's directly appointed contractors (if applicable) and to make such allowances they consider necessary and appropriate.

The Works are to be carried out within the **Plot 31326/27, Dumela Industrial, Francistown**. and the Contractor must confine his operations to the immediate vicinity of the Works. Any temporary works i.e. establishment etc., must be carried out with the prior approval of The Engineer and BOTSWANA OIL LIMITED.

The Procuring Entity is **BOTSWANA OIL LIMITED**

Procurement Method is: **OPEN DOMESTIC BIDDING RESERVED TO CITIZEN CONTRACTORS**
This tender is reserved for Citizen Contractors in line with section 76 of the Public Procurement Act. To be considered for the award of the contract:

1. The contractor and their partners and/or subcontracted parties must be 100% Citizen owned companies who are registered in CIPA. Citizen Contractor: a natural person or an incorporated company wholly owned and controlled by persons who are citizens of Botswana.
2. Tenderers (Main Contractor and/or their joint ventures) must be registered with Public Procurement Regulatory Authority in the following categories:

Code 03 – Civil Engineering Works, Grade D

Required Sub codes:
- 01 – Construction (Roads -Paved Infrastructure, Airfields)

In addition, the contractor and/or their associates and/or their subcontracted parties, where applicable, must be registered with PPRA in the following categories:

Code 01 - Building Construction Works and Maintenance, Grade E

Required Sub codes:
- 01– Building Construction
- 02-Structural Steel

Code 10 - Water Engineering Works, Grade E

Required Sub codes:
- 01- Storage tanks

Code 02 - Electrical Engineering Works, Grade E

Required Sub codes:
- 01 Electrical Installations
- 02 High voltage reticulation
- 04 Automated machinery and control systems
- 05 Photovoltaic Systems
- 06 Fire detection systems
- 08 Radio/Telemetry

Code 08 - Mechanical Engineering Works, Grade E

Required Sub codes:
- 01 Air-conditioning and refrigeration systems
- 04 Fire suppression systems
- 07 Low pressure water systems
- 11 Pumps and munchers

Contractors (and their associates and sub-contracted parties) must be in possession of a valid Tax Clearance Certificate (TCC). The validity of the Certificate is to be verified online. Contractors must attend compulsory site visit and clarification meetings. Attendance shall be recorded by BOL during the meeting
- Tenderers to purchase all their products from 100% Citizen locally based manufacturers and service providers, provided that the goods and services are locally available, competitively priced and meet tender specifications in terms of quality standard as certified or recognized by Botswana Bureau of Standards (BOBS) or other recognized certifying bodies.
- Tender documents will be sent electronically to prospective bidders from 08.00hrs to 17.00hrs on weekdays with effect from Monday, 23rd February 2026 upon receipt of proof of payment of a non-refundable fee of P5,000.00. Youth-owned companies are required to advance a non-refundable fee of P2,500.00 to receive the bid documents. (Please provide a certified copy(ies) of Identity Documents for the company shareholder(s) as proof.)
- Bidders are required to make payment to the account below and send POP to procurement@botswanaoil.co.bw for tender documents to be availed.

Bank : ABSA Bank
Account Number : 1017833
Branch Number : 290267
REF : (Your Company Name and subject of the tender)

Bidders currently executing/participating in a Botswana Oil Limited infrastructure project or participated in the past 3 years will not be eligible for award of this contract

- Queries or clarifications relating to the issuance of these documents may be addressed in writing no later than 7 days before submission date of the tender to procurement@botswanaoil.co.bw.
- All questions and notices related to this Tender should be clearly marked with a reference of this tender as the subject of the email.
- Responses will be sent to all tenderers alike, regardless of which tenderer has raised the question.
- A compulsory site visit and a pre-tender meeting with representatives of the Botswana Oil Limited will take place at Government Reserve Storage Depot, Dumela Industrial, Francistown on Monday 9th March 2026, starting at 10.00hrs (CAT - Central African Time). Site coordinates: 21°06'49"S 27°32'11"E.
- Failure to attend the site visit and tender clarification meeting will lead to disqualification of the bidder. Companies should not share representatives.
- Company representatives should be technically competent to meaningfully interact with the project team and to fully appreciate the scope of work. Attendance by other disciplines to be subcontracted is encouraged.
- Bidders must adhere to the minimum PPE requirements for Construction Site Entry by ensuring they have steel toe safety boots, hardhat, safety goggles and long sleeve reflective jacket or vest (PS: In the case of reflective vests, they should be worn over a long-sleeved shirt or jacket). Failure to adhere to the minimum PPE requirements shall lead to bidders' representatives being denied entry into site.
- Bidders' representatives shall be subjected to an alcohol test prior to entry into the depot. Failure of the alcohol test shall lead to bidders' representatives being denied entry into site.

- The closing date and time for receipt of sealed tender offers is 10:00hrs on Thursday 26th March 2026.
- Late tender offers will not be accepted.
- The tender Evaluation will follow Quality and Cost Based Selection (QCBS) Procedure.

- The Bid Submission Method is: TWO ENVELOPE SUBMISSION METHOD in which a Tenderers Technical and Financial Offer are submitted in separate sealed envelopes clearly labelled "TECHNICAL" and "FINANCIAL" and enclosed in a single outer envelope.
- Tenderers whose proposals deviate from these instructions may be considered non- responsive and may be disqualified at the discretion of BOL.
- Tender Proposal shall be placed in a sealed envelope bearing the name of the project, tender number, Tenderer's name and contact details and must be addressed and delivered on the date indicated above.
- The completed tender shall be presented in a single package/envelope containing:
- One (1) printed original, two hard copies and a digital copy of all tender Technical and Financial submissions, each on a separate USB; Technical USB shall include programme of works in Microsoft Project format (MSP) and Financial USB shall include fully completed Bills of Quantities in Excel format.
- All digital material shall be in PDF file(s), with adequately bookmarked content.
- Package/envelope containing sealed Technical and Financial Proposal envelopes shall be sealed and marked:

TENDER No: BOL/RFP/2025-26/35 BOTSWANA OIL LIMITED
A WORKS CONTRACT FOR CIVIL WORKS, BUILDING CONSTRUCTION AND SERVICES FOR FRANCISTOWN GRS DEPOT TRUCK STAGING FACILITY

Package shall be hand delivered to reach the following address on or before the closing date and time stated in the letter of Invitation to Tender:

BOTSWANA OIL LIMITED
Procurement Department GRAND UNION BUILDING
Block A, First Floor (above BMS) Central Business District
Plot 54374, Gaborone, Botswana
email: *procurement@botswanaoil.co.bw*

- Bids submitted after the closing date and time will not be accepted, and will immediately be returned to the bidder, unopened and marked "late bid document", together with a date and time on which the procuring entity received the bid document.
- Telephone, telegraphic, facsimile will NOT be accepted.
- All signatories shall be assumed duly authorised signatories.
- Tenders shall remain valid for 120 days.
- The Public Procurement Regulatory Authority Standardised Conditions of Tender for Works shall apply to this procurement, for which all the applicable Tender Data is contained in the tender documents.
- Notwithstanding anything in the foregoing, Botswana Oil Limited is not bound to accept the lowest or any tender offer.

Botswana Oil Limited, Private Bag 173, Bontleng
Plot 54373, Petroleum House Matante Mews
Central Business District, Gaborone, Botswana

FUELING PROGRESS, EMPOWERING THE NATION

Botswana Oil Limited

BOTSWANA OIL
Your Fuel. Your Future

Deadlock Over Tourism Fees

Proposed increases in tourism user fees have triggered a clash between the Ministry and industry stakeholders, who warn that hikes could strain the sector economically

BONGANI MALUNGA

The Ministry of Environment and Tourism and tourism sector stakeholders remain at an impasse over proposed increases in user and service fees.

The ministry argues that the current fees are outdated and no longer reflect operational realities, citing the need to sustain infrastructure and service quality and finance conservation across national parks and heritage sites.

Stakeholders, however, warn that the proposed hikes are excessively high and could further strain an already struggling tourism industry still recovering from the pandemic's economic fallout. Many lodge owners, tour operators and local guides argue that such increases risk deterring both domestic and international visitors, potentially undermining Botswana's broader tourism growth objectives.

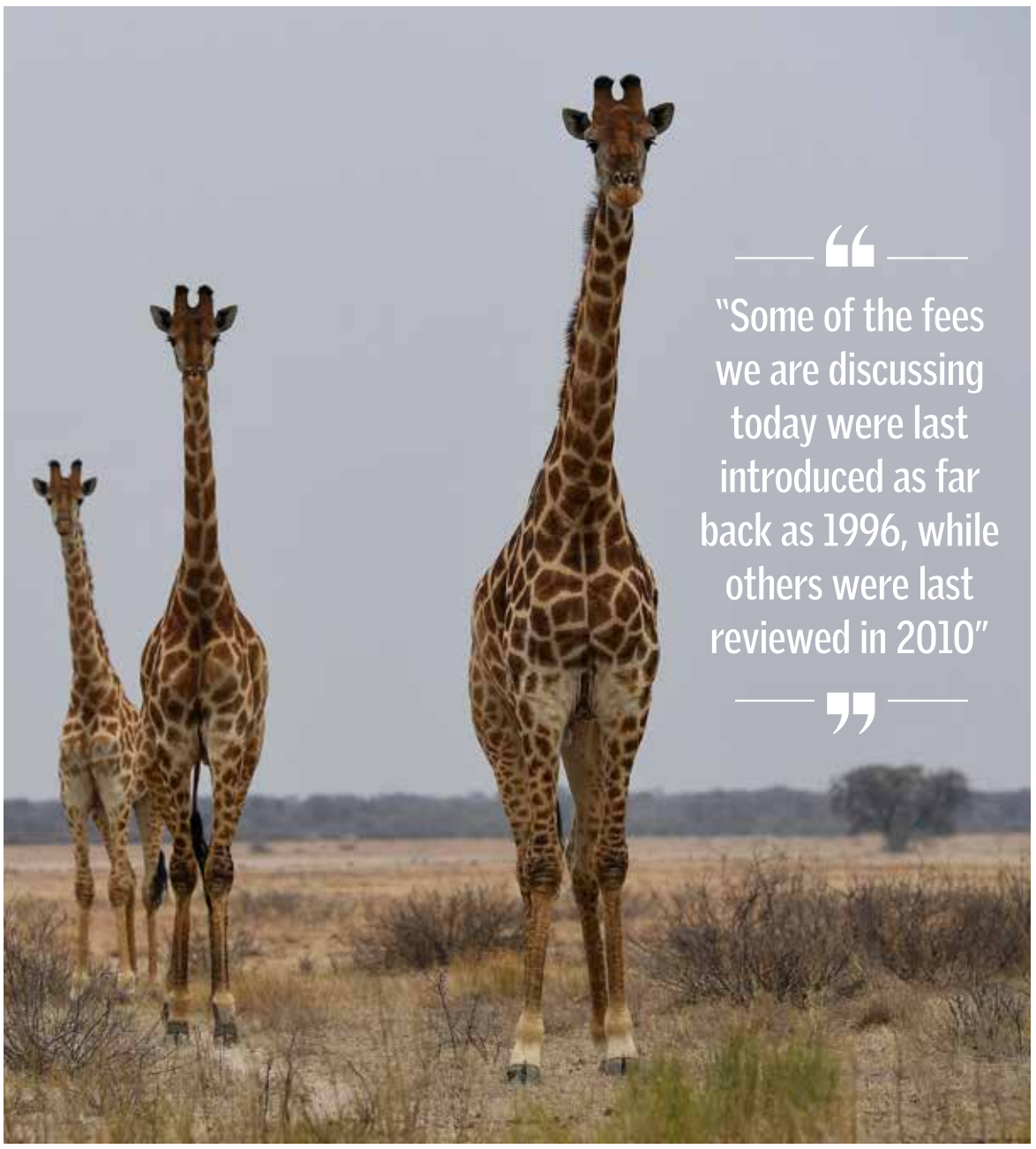
Speaking during stakeholder engagement talks last Wednesday, Minister Wynter Mmolotsi acknowledged that the government had erred by not holding consultations with the affected stakeholders in advance.

RISING INFLATION

"Some of the fees we are discussing today were last introduced as far back as 1996, while others were last reviewed in 2010. For decades, they have remained unchanged despite rising inflation, escalating operational costs, and the growing demands of conservation and regulations. It is no longer sustainable to operate under outdated fee structures. Updating these charges is essential to ensure cost recovery, sustainability of operations, and fairness in how services are financed," Mmolotsi stated.

FURTHER TALKS

The ideological standoff highlights the delicate balancing act between government revenue needs and industry viability, as policymakers weigh long-term conservation funding against the short-term financial pressures faced by businesses. Discussions are ongoing, with both sides calling for stakeholder engagement and data-driven assessments to reach a fair and sustainable resolution. Mmolotsi concluded by noting that further consultations are planned to ensure stakeholder inclusion in the final decision making process.



> "Some of the fees we are discussing today were last introduced as far back as 1996, while others were last reviewed in 2010"

Botswana Poised for Diamond Sales-Kenewendo

Botswana's diamond sector shows renewed momentum as global demand rises and December sales signal a long-awaited market rebound, according to Minister Kenewendo

BONGANI MALUNGA

Botswana is on course to rebound in diamond sales, nearly a decade after category marketing efforts for the sector stalled, the Minister of Energy and Minerals, Bogolo Kenewendo told Parliament this week.



The minister noted that renewed momentum in the global diamond market is providing encouragement for the country's most important economic sector.

RISING GLOBAL DEMAND

According to the Minister, the recovery is being driven by rising global demand for natural diamonds, alongside strong sales recorded in December, which signal improving market confidence.

> "Markets are returning to the natural diamond industry, we are seeing this"

Kenewendo revealed that the improved outlook reflects both market dynamics and ongoing efforts to reposition natural diamonds as luxury products with enduring value. "10 years after category marketing stalled we are now rebounding, actively investing and this is the work that we hope will be reflected in the sales that are to come," Kenewendo announced.

REVITALISING THE INDUSTRY

The Minister underlined that the government's stance is supported by consistent year-on-year performance, demonstrating that drawing down on stock and maintaining market activity during a downturn played a key role in revitalising the diamond industry. "The value might have not been the same because prices were depressed but we managed to push as hard as we could to reignite the industry," the Minister added.

STRONGER REVENUES

She added that sustained demand growth could translate into stronger revenues for Botswana, reinforcing the sector's role in supporting economic growth, employment and public finances. "Markets are returning to the natural diamond industry, we are seeing this. The December holiday sales were positive. The jewellery industry is positive, manufacturing hubs are asking for more (natural) diamonds," Kenewendo stressed.



Delayed Govt Funds Choke F/twn Services

Acting mayor says reliance on government subvention is no longer sustainable as budget pressures expose liquidity risks

SESUPO RANTSIMAKO

Delays and inconsistencies in the release of funds for the 2025/2026 financial year have negatively affected service delivery and disrupted the timely implementation of key programmes at the Francistown City Council (FCC), Acting Mayor Uyapo Nyeku has said.

Addressing a full council session this week, Nyeku said the funding challenges confronting the council have exposed the limitations of its heavy reliance on government subvention, negatively affecting service delivery and disrupting the implementation of key programmes as well as earmarked projects. He noted that the traditional funding model is increasingly inadequate to sustain a fast-growing and ambitious city like Francistown.

"The financial pressures we are experiencing compel us to rethink how we fund our operations and how we position our city for long-term sustainability," Nyeku said.

He stressed that revenue maximization should not be viewed as a purely financial matter, but as a central pillar of economic transformation and institutional resilience.

BUDGET PRESSURES AND LIQUIDITY CONCERNS

Nyeku revealed that FCC's approved budget for the current financial year stands at P292, 855,174.00. However, to date, the council has received P189, 108,731.75, while expenditure has reached P225, 637,498.95 amounting to 119 percent of the funds disbursed.

> "The financial pressures we are experiencing compel us to rethink how we fund our operations and how we position our city for long-term sustainability"

He further noted that own-source revenue collection stands at P18, 796,422.32 against a projected P20, 424,241.66, reflecting an eight percent shortfall. According to Nyeku, these figures present a clear warning about the council's liquidity position and underscore the urgency for financial reforms.

CALL FOR REVENUE DIVERSIFICATION

Looking ahead to the new financial year, the acting mayor said economic resilience demands that the council moves beyond dependency and embraces innovation. He called for deliberate efforts to diversify the revenue base, strengthen internal revenue systems, and pursue sustainable commercial opportunities.

opracon
TAX SPECIALISTS
Consulting . Training . Compliance

ADVANCED TAXATION
(3 NEW TAX BILLS)



Jonathan Hore
Managing Tax Consltant

19-20 MARCH 2026	08:30 TO 16:30	OASIS MOTEL (TLOKWENG)
23-24 MARCH 2026	08:30 TO 16:30	MAUN LODGE (MAUN)

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.

Opracon Tax Specialists brings you a 2-day Taxation workshop where the following will be thoroughly discussed:

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.

Bookings: Email: tax1@aupracontax.co.bw cc: finance@aupracontax.co.bw Tel: +267 3939 435/ +267 71 614 524

Investment
P5,990.00 (VAT Incl)

Note This training is HRDC accredited. | CPD certificates will be issued.

HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL OF BOTSWANA
OUR PEOPLE . OUR FUTURE
BOTSWANA

Every Organization Must Appoint a Data Protection Officer



Lead IT Consultant- Edwin Duta

In an era where a single email can trigger monetary loss, regulatory scrutiny and reputational damage, the absence of a formally appointed Data Protection Officer is no longer an oversight: it is a governance failure. Under the Data Protection Act No. 18 of 2024, which commenced on 14 January 2025, every organization that processes personal data has a legal obligation, that it can no longer afford to ignore. If your organization maintains employee files, payroll records, medical information, financial data or even a WhatsApp client list, you are not exempt; such information is regarded as personal data. Despite the weight of this law, organizations remain unaware of one critical requirement, the mandatory appointment of a Data Protection Officer (DPO).

WHO IS A DATA PROTECTION OFFICER?

Under Section 69 of the Act, a Data Protection Officer (DPO) is the individual responsible for ensuring that an organization manages personal data lawfully, securely, and responsibly. The DPO acts as the guardian of personal data within an organization, ensuring that personal data is not misused but properly protected; that data breaches are effectively minimised, and staff understand their privacy obligations. The DPO's responsibilities include developing internal data protection policies, conducting risk assessments, overseeing data protection impact assessments, promoting awareness, and conducting trainings within the organization to ensure that data protection is not theoretical but operational. Without a designated Data Protection Officer, data protection often becomes an afterthought and that is when serious compliance risks arise, including fines, reputational damage, and legal consequences.

THE DPO APPOINTMENT PROCESS

Whether you are a small enterprise or a growing corporation, if you process personal data, the obligation is the same. The Act requires organizations that process personal data to appoint a Data Protection Officer (DPO). The DPO is formally appointed by the organization, typically by senior management or the board as part of its governance structure and must operate independently. Crucially, the DPO reports to the highest level of management (CEO, Managing Director, etc.) within the organization to ensure that data protection concerns are not buried within operational structures or influenced by departmental interests.

THE IMPACT OF A DPO DEFICIT

Failure to appoint a Data Protection Officer is not a minor administrative oversight. It creates a structural weakness in governance. Without a clearly designated individual responsible for oversight, organizations often struggle to monitor compliance, respond to breaches promptly, or demonstrate accountability to regulators. In the event of an investigation by the Information and Data Protection Commission, the absence of a formally appointed DPO may raise fundamental questions about an organization's commitment to lawful data processing. Beyond potential administrative fines of a maximum of P50 million, organizations risk reputational damage, erosion of client trust, and operational disruption.

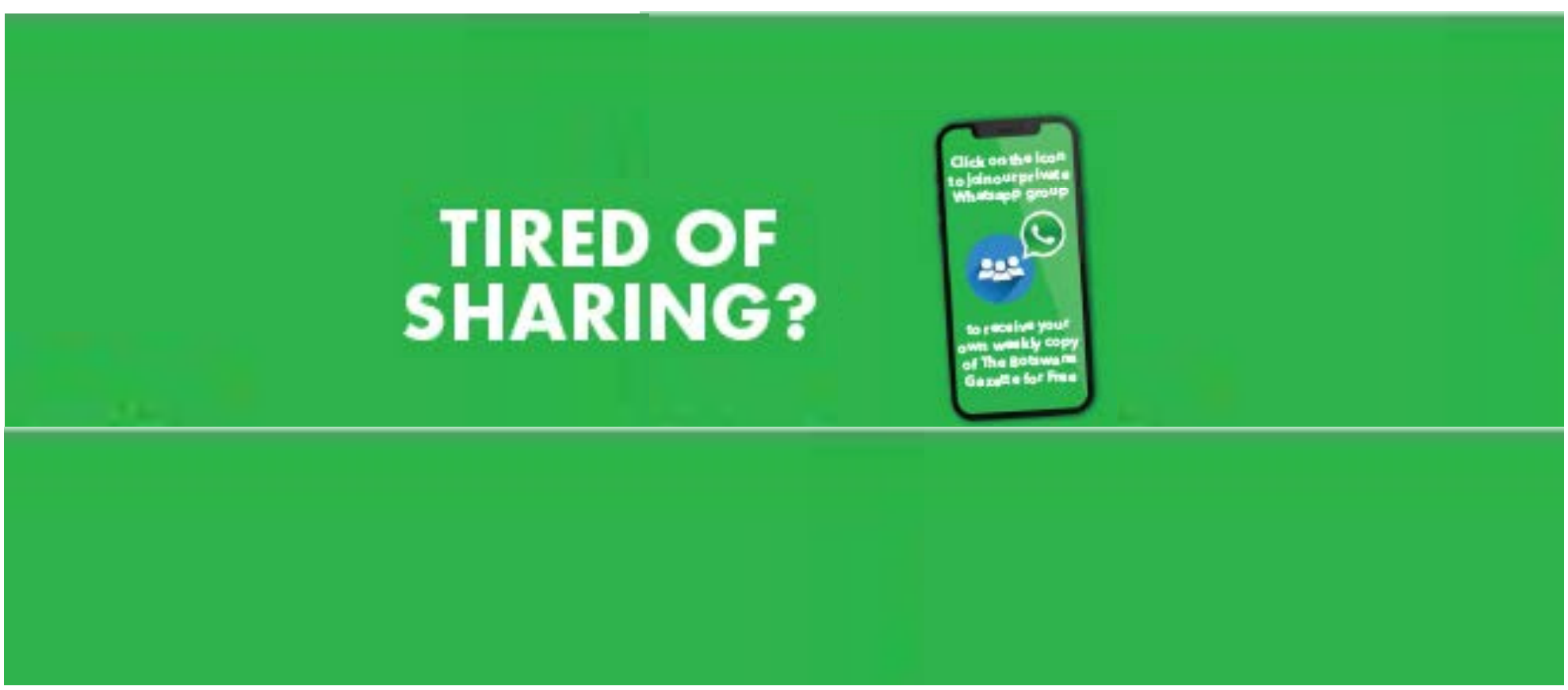
DIGITAL ACCOUNTABILITY

The Data Protection Act signals a new era of digital accountability. It demands structure, oversight, and responsibility. That responsibility begins with the appointment of a Data Protection Officer not as a formality, but as a legal requirement. For organizations committed to protecting their clients, staff, and business reputation, the DPO is not just a compliance checkbox. The DPO is the cornerstone of a culture of privacy and responsibility, safeguarding sensitive data and ensuring the organization operates ethically, securely, and lawfully. Appointing a Data Protection Officer demonstrates that your company takes data protection seriously, builds trust with clients and aligns with modern regulatory expectations. In the modern regulatory environment, compliance is not optional: it is governance.

WE CAN ACT AS YOUR DPO

If you cannot appoint a full-time DPO, we can act as your independent DPO. That appointment saves you financially and administratively as it eliminates the burden which comes with employing a full-time employee. We can also assist with training your staff on the provisions of the Data Protection Act, as well as crafting policies that bring about compliance with the said law. 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.

oprácon
IT SPECIALISTS
Consulting & Training



The Botswana Gazette
BUSINESS NEWS

CLICK HERE
To Join our private Whatsapp Group

Gambling Rules, Not Rhetoric

Regulator frames responsibility as law and duty at Sunbet's first anniversary



GAZETTE REPORTER

Responsible gambling is not a public relations exercise but a legal and ethical requirement, according to Moruntshi Kemorwale, Acting Chief Executive Officer of the Gambling Authority of Botswana.

Speaking at the one-year anniversary of Sunbet Botswana, Kemorwale said the Authority's Responsible Gambling Strategy is anchored in five pillars designed to protect players, maintain market integrity and support long-term industry stability.

FIVE PILLARS

"Our Responsible Gambling Strategy is structured around five key pillars," Kemorwale said, beginning with public education and awareness. He said the Authority invests in national campaigns, community outreach and digital engagement to ensure citizens understand gambling risks and the tools available to manage them. "Informed players are empowered players," he said.

The second pillar, industry training, requires all licensed operators to undergo structured responsible gambling programmes approved by the Botswana Qualifications Authority. The aim, he said, is to ensure frontline staff can identify early signs of excessive gambling behaviour and respond appropriately. "Compliance begins with knowledge," he said.

MARKET OVERSIGHT

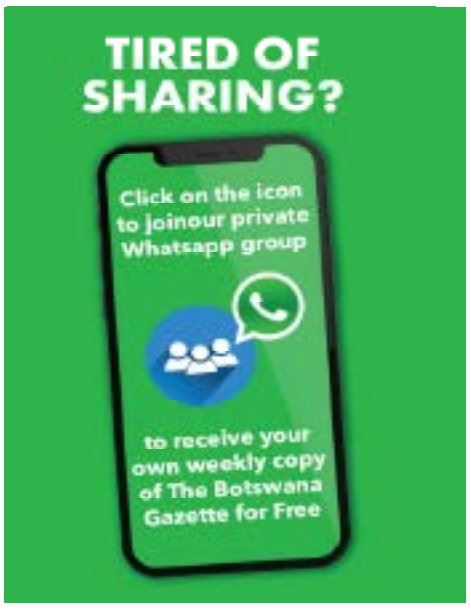
The third pillar focuses on industry monitoring. Kemorwale said responsible gambling cannot be left to goodwill alone and must be reinforced through regulatory oversight. This includes compliance inspections, data analysis and engagement with operators to assess adherence to licence conditions, advertising standards, player protection requirements and reporting obligations.

The fourth pillar involves self-exclusion and third-party exclusion mechanisms. According to Kemorwale, these tools allow individuals—and, where appropriate, family members—to intervene before harm escalates. "These systems are not symbolic, they are operational safeguards embedded within licence conditions," he said.

BEYOND TERMINALS

The fifth pillar is corporate social responsibility and corporate social investment. Kemorwale said operators are expected to contribute meaningfully to the communities in which they operate, extending responsibility beyond betting terminals to youth empowerment, sports development and social impact initiatives aligned with national priorities.

He added that all five pillars are supported by continuous research and stakeholder engagement. The Authority, he said, works with health professionals, community leaders, faith-based organisations, academics and the industry to ensure an evidence-based and adaptive regulatory approach.



COMPLIANCE ROLE

Kemorwale also highlighted the Authority's compliance function, describing it as both facilitative and firm. The framework includes licence monitoring, financial reporting oversight, anti-money laundering and counter-terrorism financing supervision, technical system verification and enforcement where necessary. "Compliance is not about punishment, it is about prevention," he said.

Against this backdrop, Kemorwale said Sunbet's first year should be assessed not only by growth metrics but by how effectively it has embedded responsible gambling principles into its operations. He said sustainable success in the sector is driven by disciplined governance, ethical marketing and respect for player protection standards.

As regulators, he said, the Authority recognises operators who understand that profitability and responsibility can coexist. "They are mutually reinforcing pillars of long-term stability," he said.

Tibe Details BMC Turnaround

CEO links improved results to strategy, tighter controls and restored farmer confidence



TLOTLO KEBINAKGABO

The improved performance at the Botswana Meat Commission (BMC) is anchored in a renewed institutional purpose defined by the “Thuo Khumo” Transformation Strategy, according to the commission’s chief executive, Mmabasotho Tibe.

“The improved performance at BMC is primarily attributable to a renewed sense of purpose as articulated in the Thuo Khumo Transformation Strategy,” Tibe said in response to questions from The Botswana Gazette. “At its core, Thuo Khumo repositions BMC from being a struggling public entity into a commercially disciplined, farmer-centric and market-driven enterprise. This renewed purpose has translated into clearer priorities, stronger accountability and more decisive execution across the commission.”

Bailout Legacy

For much of the past decade, BMC was largely defined by recurring government bailouts and persistent operational challenges. Between 2015 and 2022, the commission required several financial rescues amounting to hundreds of millions of pula, while farmers endured delayed payments, limited market alternatives and pricing pressures.

This prolonged period of intervention stood in contrast to BMC’s mandate as a commercially viable institution central to Botswana’s livestock economy. Recent developments, however, indicate a shift in direction.

Arrears Clearance

Asked what enabled the clearing of approximately P698 million in farmer arrears, Tibe pointed to specific financial arrangements and operational changes.

She noted that it is important to acknowledge the impact of the revolving credit facility that was arranged with Rand Merchant Bank, which facilitated reduced turnaround time for farmers’ payments.

“There has been restoration of confidence and trust with key stakeholders, particularly farmers, government, customers and employees,” Tibe added. “We deliberately re-engaged stakeholders, addressed long-standing operational bottlenecks and reinforced BMC as a reliable participant in the national beef value chain.”

She said these actions “resulted in improved throughput and stronger market engagement.”

Revenue Growth

BMC has reported revenue growth of more than 31 percent, exceeding P1 billion. Tibe said this followed the implementation of “practical operational stabilisation measures.”

These, she noted that included tighter cost controls, improved plant discipline, better livestock planning and renewed focus on yield optimisation as well as product mix.

“Rather than pursuing growth for BMC’s sake, the focus has been on doing the basics and doing them consistently,” she added.

Plant Performance

Throughput at the Lobatse plant has reportedly increased by 22 percent. Tibe said this improvement was driven by changes in management approach. She noted that the Thuo Khumo introduced a results-oriented management culture. She said management decisions are now guided by data, financial discipline and clear performance metrics, including production capacity optimisation.

As such , she noted that continuous engagement with farmers and closer monitoring of quota conversion rates also contributed to the improvement. She stated that central to the performance was the elevation of farmers from suppliers to customers, with dedicated relationship managers.

Market Strategy

BMC has also intensified market diversification and revenue optimisation efforts. Tibe told this public that beyond traditional export markets, BMC has been actively engaging regional and niche markets, including hospitality and institutional buyers.

“This has reduced the risk of over-reliance on single markets and improved revenue resilience,” she added, noting that China remains inaccessible pending finalisation of market authorisation processes.

Medium Outlook

Looking ahead, Tibe said BMC is focusing on five interventions: institutionalising the renewed purpose; operational efficiency and asset optimisation; farmer-centric value chain development; market diversification and value addition; and people, systems, governance and financial sustainability.

“The performance is the result of a clear renewed purpose, disciplined execution and stakeholder alignment under the Thuo Khumo transformation strategy,” she said. “ While challenges remain, the foundations have been laid to ensure that this performance is sustained and strengthened over the medium term, in the best interest of farmers, the beef industry and the national economy.

Stability Before Expansion at Letshego

New chief executive prioritises liquidity, focus and execution as regional pressures tighten across African markets

GAZETTE REPORTER

When Reinette van der Merwe assumed office as Group Chief Executive Officer of Letshego Africa Holdings on 1 October 2025, she entered a business navigating tightening liquidity conditions across several African economies.

Her opening months, according to company statements, have been defined less by ambition than by consolidation. “I came in at a time of turbulence,” she said. “It was important to understand the DNA of the organisation and see conditions on the ground.”

Over her first 100 days, van der Merwe travelled across Letshego’s footprint, visiting Eswatini, Lesotho, Namibia and Mozambique. In Botswana, the group’s home and anchor market, she focused on leadership alignment, shareholder engagement and reinforcing the balance sheet.

BOTSWANA ANCHOR MARKET

Letshego says Botswana remains its principal market, where it continues to hold a leading position in microfinance despite intensifying competition from banks and alternative lenders. The group maintains that further growth is possible locally, particularly as it gradually diversifies beyond its traditional lending model.

Van der Merwe has met with key shareholders and institutional partners, including Botswana Public Officers Pension Fund, Botswana Insurance Holdings Limited and Sanlam, to reaffirm strategy and turnaround priorities.

“These engagements are critical,” she said, “because confidence from shareholders, regulators and funders underpins our ability to serve customers sustainably.”

LIQUIDITY FIRST APPROACH

Across several markets, liquidity pressures have required careful capital management. Letshego reports that it has prioritised stabilising capital and liquidity rather than accelerating loan book growth, while maintaining customer service levels.

The group says liquidity has improved across markets during the period. Bond programmes in Botswana, Namibia and Ghana remain steady, with continued institutional appetite, while customer deposit growth has strengthened. New deposit-taking licences in Eswatini and Lesotho are expected to further support funding depth.

REGIONAL REFOCUS

Letshego is advancing the sale of its East and West African subsidiaries, a move management describes as refocusing rather than retrenchment. Capital and management attention will be concentrated on Southern Africa, particularly the SADC region, where the group sees stronger alignment between products and markets.

DIGITAL DISCIPLINE

Digital transformation remains central to the group’s strategy. A review of digital infrastructure, system uptime and cybersecurity has been commissioned, while the Digital Mall platform has been embedded into performance scorecards. Operational restructuring and talent development are also underway.

MEASURED OUTLOOK

Over the next 12 to 24 months, Letshego plans to finalise its geographic refocus, strengthen its balance sheet, diversify income beyond lending and embed a new operating model.

After 100 days, the message from leadership is consistent: resilience first, sustainable growth next.

NDB Bets on Resilience

As Botswana's economy faces pressure, the National Development Bank says opportunity, discipline and talent will define its next chapter



TLOTLO KEBINAKGABO

Operating in a strained economic environment has not dampened confidence at the National Development Bank (NDB). Speaking during the launch of the NDB Strategy 2025–2030, Chief Executive Officer Ogone Madisa acknowledged prevailing difficulties while underscoring the bank's resolve to press forward.



"Yes, indeed, we are operating in a tough environment, but business still has to go on," Madisa said. "Just gauging from the appetite, even amidst these challenges, there are also opportunities."

As the financial year draws to a close, she said the bank still expects a strong performance. "So, as we speak, we are about to end the financial year. And we still anticipate it to be a good year," she noted.

FUNDING COMMITMENT

Madisa was candid about headwinds confronting the economy, particularly liquidity pressures and uneven sectoral performance. "There are issues around liquidity… certain sectors have been highly impacted," she said, adding that the environment remains complex.

Yet the bank, she stressed, will continue lending. "So we believe that we must continue to fund. There are still good opportunities out there."

The strategy, according to Madisa, is rooted in flexibility—tightening exposure in some areas while opening others as conditions shift. "Where there's a challenge there's always a back up side. Some sectors actually thrive in such situations," she said.

Agriculture remains central. While acknowledging NDB's relatively modest footprint, Madisa said market share growth is a clear ambition. "We are quite a small player… and looking at our market share it's something we want to increase."

BUILDING RESILIENCE

Central to the new strategy is institutional strength. Madisa said rebuilding a resilient organisation begins with people. "It starts with the talent. Do we have the right team to withstand the challenges?" she asked, pointing to the importance of adaptability should economic conditions worsen.

She also highlighted the bank's internal safeguards and performance discipline, citing "clear KPIs in terms of targets… financial metrics and customer metrics around agriculture."

During the 2024/25 financial year, NDB sustained a profit before tax of P13.1 million, extending profitability to two consecutive years after nearly a decade of losses an outcome presented as evidence of the turnaround underpinning the new strategy.

STRATEGIC EVOLUTION

Government endorsed the shift in direction. Addressing the launch, Acting Minister of Lands and Agriculture Edwin Dikoloti described the decision to evolve into a development finance institution with commercial banking capabilities as "both strategic and ambitious."

"Development and commercial viability are not opposing forces," he said. "Rather, they are complementary engines of growth."

Dikoloti said the strategy reflects "audacious thinking" and positions Botswana to finance and shape development, mobilize capital and build ecosystems for entrepreneurs. "This is how nations transform: through vision backed by execution, ambition grounded in discipline, and partnerships anchored in shared purpose," he said.



De Beers Revenue Rises, Loss Widens

Improved sales volumes lift turnover, but weaker prices and inventory rebalancing weigh heavily on earnings

GAZETTE REPORTER

Challenging rough diamond trading conditions persisted at De Beers Group in the 2025 financial year, with total revenue remaining subdued at $3.5 billion, up modestly from $3.3 billion in 2024, according to the company's newly released financial results. Rough diamond sales accounted for $3.0 billion of that total, compared with $2.7 billion a year earlier.

"Total rough diamond consolidated sales volumes of 20.9 million carats (2024: 17.9 million) were broadly in line with De Beers' share of production globally as the business supplied into areas experiencing demand," the results state.

Despite higher volumes, pricing weighed heavily on performance. The full-year consolidated average realised price declined by 7 percent to $142 per carat, down from $152 in 2024. De Beers attributed this primarily to a 12 percent decrease in the average rough price index and the effects of stock rebalancing initiatives, whereby lower-demand assortments were sold at reduced prices.

"The equivalent price index reduction including the impact of stock rebalancing action would be a 25 percent year-on-year decrease," the company said.

Earnings Impact

Lower prices and stock rebalancing had a significant impact on earnings, resulting in an underlying EBITDA loss of $511 million, compared with a loss of $25 million in 2024.

"This was primarily due to the impact of the stock rebalancing initiatives in the trading business," the results note, explaining that inventory purchased at higher prices was later sold at "a significantly lower effective index," generating trading losses of $424 million. The prior year's performance was also supported by a one-off $127 million sale of a non-diamond royalty right.

Unit costs declined by 8 percent to $86 per carat, reflecting cost-reduction initiatives that more than offset lower production volumes. Capital expenditure fell 34 percent to $353 million, as the company prioritised cash preservation, including the rephasing of the Venetia underground life extension.

An impairment of $2.3 billion was recognised against Anglo American's carrying value of De Beers, driven by lower forecast prices, shifting consumer preferences toward laboratory-grown diamonds and a surplus of rough diamond supply relative to demand.

Strategy Progress

De Beers said it continued to deliver its Origins strategy in 2025, aimed at streamlining operations and revitalising consumer demand for natural diamonds. Highlights included the signing of the Luanda Accord, new large-scale marketing campaigns in the United States and India, and the launch of ORIGIN De Beers Group, a branded polished diamond offering backed by the Tracr™ traceability platform.

The company also advanced its brand portfolio, with De Beers London unveiling a refreshed identity and expanding its retail footprint, while Forevermark continued its evolution into a De Beers-owned jewellery brand in India.

Market Outlook

Near-term trading conditions are expected to remain challenging, the company said, citing macroeconomic volatility, cautious midstream inventory management and growing laboratory-grown diamond penetration. In the medium term, gradual inventory normalisation is expected to support improvement, while consumer demand is forecast to remain stable in the United States and India, with a gradual recovery anticipated in China.

Production guidance for 2026 is 21 to 26 million carats, with unit costs expected to decline further to about $80 per carat. Anglo American is continuing a dual-track separation process for De Beers, with a structured sale under way.



Mining Is Changing. The Way We Finance It Must Change Too

REBONE DILORO – STANBIC BANK BOTSWANA HEAD, CLIENT COVERAGE

The theme at the Investing in African Mining Indaba 2026 "Stronger together: Progress through partnerships" reflected the current reality of mining finance in Africa. Capital is available and projects are advancing. Yet execution depends on alignment across banks, miners, regulators, infrastructure providers, and investors.

WHY THIS MATTERS FOR BOTSWANA

For Botswana, this matters. Mining remains central to fiscal revenue, foreign exchange earnings, and long-term economic stability. Expansion into underground operations, new copper mine projects, and energy transition minerals requires more than balance sheet funding. Mining projects now demand structured finance, cross border capital, currency risk solutions, environmental governance discipline, and infrastructure coordination.

INVESTOR SCRUTINY INCREASING

Investors are more selective in the projects to support as they demand robust environmental and social governance frameworks. They scrutinise community impact, assess supply chain integrity and capital now follows credibility.

QUALITY OVER VOLUME

The Mining Indaba made this clear. Conversations focused less on volume and more on quality of the projects and their bankability. The need for Governance discipline, jurisdictions which offer policy certainty and the infrastructure projects which will have credible solutions. For clients in Botswana, this environment presents both pressure and opportunity. Pressure because project preparation must meet higher standards. Financial models must withstand stress testing and Offtake agreements must demonstrate durability.

STRUCTURE ATTRACTS CAPITAL

Opportunity because well-structured projects attract deeper pools of capital. Botswana's stable regulatory framework and track record in mining governance remains a strong advantage. When combined with disciplined financial structuring, this positions local projects competitively on the global stage.

STANBIC'S INTEGRATED APPROACH

Stanbic Bank Botswana's role is deliberate. The bank aligns corporate lending, structured finance, global markets, and advisory capabilities into a single mining proposition. This allows clients to move from exploration to development with continuity of banking support. It allows large producers to optimise capital structures. It allows emerging miners to access blended and syndicated funding models that improve bankability.

BEYOND BALANCE SHEETS

Partnership also extends beyond balance sheets. Mining finance influences jobs, supplier development, power infrastructure, water security, and regional trade corridors. Funding decisions shape long term economic resilience. Structured responsibly, mining catalyses industrial participation and skills transfer.

On the other hand, projects that are poorly structured stall and or strain communities.

COLLABORATION AND ACCOUNTABILITY

"Stronger together: Progress through partnerships" therefore reflects collaboration between institutions and coordinated accountability. Every stakeholder should be in a position to play their part with banks providing sector insights, Developers bringing in governance discipline, policy makers providing regulatory clarity and investors committing patient capital. When these elements align, projects move from concept to production with confidence.

> "Stanbic Bank Botswana's role is deliberate. The bank aligns corporate lending, structured finance, global markets, and advisory capabilities into a single mining proposition"

A STRUCTURAL SHIFT CONFIRMED

The Africa Mining Indaba did not introduce new rhetoric. It confirmed a shift already underway. Mining finance in Botswana has entered a phase defined by structure, transparency, and strategic alignment.

LEADERSHIP IN MINING FINANCE

Leadership in this space requires depth of mining knowledge, disciplined risk management, and the ability to convene capital across borders. Stanbic Bank Botswana continues to strengthen its position as a leading partner to the mining sector, ensuring that capital deployed into Botswana translates into production, employment, infrastructure, and sustained national growth.



DIFFERENT DOESN'T ALWAYS WIN

Why recognition beats differentiation

Brands chase difference. But in reality, customers choose what they recognise first.

In marketing, differentiation has long been treated as the foundation of success. Every brand is told it must stand apart, offering a unique selling proposition that competitors cannot match. Strategy sessions often revolve around one question: how are we different?



> The brands that win are the ones people notice first.

But there is a problem with this thinking. Most of the differences brands obsess over are not noticed by customers. In many categories, products are fundamentally similar, and the subtle distinctions that marketers highlight rarely influence real-world decisions. Instead of standing out, brands risk becoming invisible by focusing on differences that no one sees.

THE DIFFERENTIATION PARADOX

This is the differentiation paradox. The harder brands try to be meaningfully different, the less likely that difference is to matter. What customers respond to is not uniqueness, but familiarity.

Research from the Ehrenberg-Bass Institute shows that most buyers are not loyal to a single brand. They move between a small group of acceptable options, choosing what comes to mind easily and what is convenient to access. In these moments, decisions are made quickly, often with minimal thought.

The brand that is remembered first, and recognised instantly, has a clear advantage.

MENTAL SHORTCUTS

This is where distinctiveness becomes important. Distinctiveness is not about what a brand claims to offer. It is about how a brand is recognised.

Colours, logos, packaging, fonts and even sounds act as mental shortcuts. They allow customers to identify a brand instantly, without needing to process detailed information. In busy environments, these shortcuts reduce effort and speed up decisions.

A brand does not need to be different to win. It needs to be easy to spot and easy to recall.

BOTSWANA IN PRACTICE

This principle is already visible in Botswana. In the fast food market, KFC and Nando's compete on similar products, yet both dominate through strong visual identity. The red and white of KFC, and the bold typography and cockerel of Nando's, make each brand instantly recognisable.





In mobile money, Orange has effectively turned its colour into an asset. Its consistent use of orange across kiosks, advertising and digital platforms creates a powerful association. When customers think of sending money, the colour itself can trigger the brand.

In retail, Choppies demonstrates the power of consistency. Its red and yellow branding is not refined, but it is unmistakable. Across towns and villages, the brand looks the same, reinforcing familiarity over time.

These brands are not winning because they are dramatically different. They are winning because they are easy to recognise.

WHY FAMILIARITY WINS

For customers, familiarity simplifies choice. The brain looks for shortcuts, especially in everyday decisions. Rather than evaluating multiple options, people often choose the brand they recognise most quickly.

This is not about deep loyalty. It is about convenience and ease. A familiar brand feels safer, requires less effort, and is easier to trust in the moment of purchase.

In crowded markets, recognition often matters more than innovation.

A SHIFT IN THINKING

For marketers and business owners, this requires a shift in focus. The goal is not to create endless points of difference that customers will not notice. It is to build strong, consistent brand assets that make the brand unmistakable.

Consistency becomes more important than novelty. Changing logos, colours or identity too often can weaken recognition. Over time, repetition builds memory, and memory drives choice.

The brands that succeed are not necessarily better. They are easier to notice.

> Familiarity is not a weakness. It is a competitive advantage.

THE REAL QUESTION

The idea of differentiation is appealing. It suggests that brands can win by being unique. But in practice, growth is driven by availability and recognition.

The brands that win are the ones that come to mind first and are easy to find when it matters.

The question is not how to be different.

The better question is how to be unmistakable.



The Brand Paradox is a weekly column by Manuel Veiruapi Ruhapo that explores the counterintuitive truths behind building great brands in Botswana and beyond. Manuel Ruhapo is the founder of Blacmarc Group, a brand strategy consultancy Agencies that helps businesses solve their most complex brand challenges.

Bomaid Supports Kazungula Marathon

Medical cover at marathon highlights prevention focus

Botswana Medical Aid Society (Bomaid) will provide medical support at the Kazungula Marathon this weekend, deploying paramedics and emergency vehicles along the route as part of its broader emphasis on preventative healthcare.

A number of Bomaid employees are also expected to participate across different race categories, reflecting internal support for the event's focus on health and fitness.

ON-ROUTE MEDICAL SUPPORT

Paramedic teams have been positioned at key points along the route, supported by two ambulances for emergency response. Clinical support will also be available for both runners and spectators.

For participants, especially amateur runners, the presence of medical teams may reduce concerns about health risks such as dehydration, fatigue, or underlying conditions during endurance events.

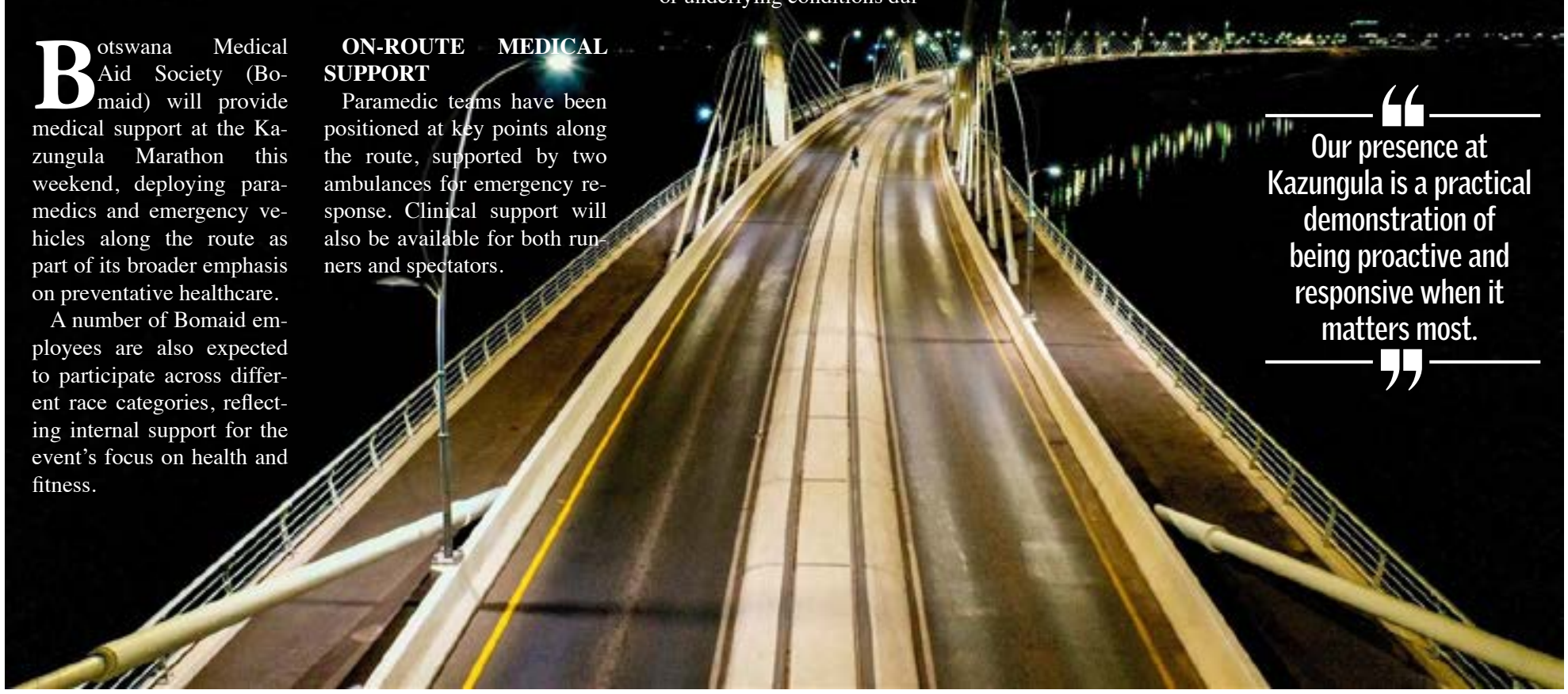
SHIFT TOWARD PREVENTION

The sponsorship reflects a wider move within the healthcare sector towards preventative care. This approach aims to reduce emergency incidents, improve management of chronic conditions, and limit long-term medical costs for members.

Bomaid has introduced digital tools to support this shift, including telehealth services, a WhatsApp support channel, self-service platforms, and in-branch health screening systems.

UNDERSTANDING COVER

Customers are encouraged to review their benefit limits and preventative care provisions, as gaps in understanding can result in unexpected out-of-pocket expenses. Members are also advised to keep subscriptions up to date and complete compliance requirements to avoid service disruptions.



> "Our presence at Kazungula is a practical demonstration of being proactive and responsive when it matters most."

Gaborone International School Marks New Era With Rebranding Launch



LEATILE ZACHARIAH

Gaborone International School (GIS) officially unveiled its new brand identity last Friday, signalling a new chapter in the school's growth and its expanding footprint across Africa.

The event was attended by education stakeholders and parents, with the Registrar of the Botswana Teaching Professionals Council (BOTEPCO) describing the occasion as a significant milestone not only for the institution but for Botswana's private education sector.

REBRANDING AS INTROSPECTION

In his keynote address, the Registrar, Dr Raphael Dingalo commended GIS for its visible and sustained development over the years, noting continuous improvements in infrastructure, academic systems and institutional culture. He stressed that rebranding goes beyond a change of logo or colours.

"When an organisation chooses to rebrand, it engages in introspection. It asks fundamental questions about identity, purpose, governance and growth," he said, adding that a brand is built on integrity, consistency and ethical leadership rather than marketing alone.

SCALE, INFLUENCE AND RESPONSIBILITY

With approximately 3,010 students and about 120 educators, GIS stands as one of the country's largest private schools. Dr Dingalo noted that an institution of this scale carries influence and responsibility in shaping young minds and setting standards in education.



INVESTMENT IN FUTURE-READY LEARNING

Executive Head, Hannelie Raubenheimer said the rebranding reflects years of progress since the school's acquisition in 2015 by AdvTech. During this period, the campus has expanded with additional buildings, 10 ICT laboratories, seven science labs and two robotics labs. Learners now benefit from advanced tools including virtual reality headsets, drones and 3D printers.

PAN-AFRICAN BRAND ALIGNMENT

Raubenheimer explained that the new brand identity aligns GIS with its sister institutions under the AdvTech umbrella, including Makini Schools in Kenya and Flipper International School in Ethiopia.

VALUES REMAIN THE FOUNDATION

She emphasized that while the visual identity has evolved, the school's core values, generosity of spirit, integrity, growth and excellence, remain unchanged. The rebranding, she said, positions GIS as a stronger, recognisable African education brand while deepening its impact in Botswana and beyond.

BoFiNet, MTC Sign Connectivity Deal

Cross-border fibre links aim to improve redundancy and regional data routes



Keabetswe Segole and Patience Kanalelo

Botswana Fibre Networks (BoFiNet) has signed a memorandum of understanding with MTC Namibia to expand cross-border telecommunications infrastructure and improve network reliability. The agreement was signed on 17 February 2026.

REGIONAL INFRASTRUCTURE PLANS

The partnership focuses on fibre interconnection between Botswana and Namibia, Internet Protocol transit capacity exchange, International Private Leased Circuit services, route optimisation and redundancy planning, and enterprise connectivity across borders. The companies have already completed fibre links at Mamuno and Ngomato, which they say create technical and commercial opportunities.

TECHNICAL COLLABORATION

MTC Namibia Chief Commercial Officer, Octivius Kahiya said the agreement signals closer regional cooperation. "This partnership is a show of how MTC and BoFiNet are carving the future of connectivity for the region. The MoU is a launchpad for stronger regional digital cooperation," he said.

OPERATIONAL NEXT STEPS

BoFiNet Acting Chief Executive Officer Keabetswe Segole said technical working groups would be established to align systems and develop a commercial framework. "We will move quickly to operationalise this MoU," he said, adding that the partnership supports efforts to diversify regional and international network routes.

Segole said the collaboration could provide alternative paths for data traffic and reduce latency from international points of presence. "Our services are core to the running of the country, and we are continuously exploring ways of providing service assurance to all sectors of the economy," he said.

Article edited for length

Horticulture Export Push Intensifies

Stakeholders met in Gaborone to examine trade access, compliance and export finance for SMMEs



The Local Enterprise Authority (LEA) hosted a Horticulture SMME Export Awareness Workshop on 20 February 2026 at the University of Botswana Conference Centre. The event brought together industry key players to deliberate on export readiness within the horticulture sector.

POLICY BACKDROP

The workshop took place amid a renewed focus on national economic diversification. In the 2026/2027 Budget Speech, Finance Minister Ndaba Gaolathe outlined a strategic shift towards private sector-led growth and increased productivity, specifically identifying agriculture and agro-processing as priority sectors. Speakers linked the expansion of horticulture to broader national efforts to reduce unemployment and diversify the country's export base.

Officials noted that Botswana's horticulture import bill has risen significantly over the past decade, reaching approximately P1.2 billion in 2021. While import restrictions introduced in recent years have successfully reduced the bill.

TRADE ACCESS AND AGREEMENTS

Representatives from the Botswana Investment and Trade Centre (BITC) and the Ministry of Trade and Entrepreneurship outlined market access opportunities available under several regional and international trade frameworks. Botswana currently benefits from:

SACU: Southern African Customs Union

SADC: Southern African Development Community

AfCFTA: African Continental Free Trade Area

Presenters emphasised that preferential market access is strictly contingent upon meeting rules of origin requirements and complying with non-tariff measures, including stringent phytosanitary standards, packaging regulations, and precise customs documentation.

> "Speakers linked the expansion of horticulture to broader national efforts to reduce unemployment and diversify the country's export base"

COMPLIANCE AND FINANCE

Officials from the Botswana Unified Revenue Service (BURS) and the Department of Plant Health addressed the technicalities of regulatory requirements and border procedures. Meanwhile, industry participants from the logistics and insurance sectors discussed the complexities of transport, risk management, and export documentation.

A high-level panel, featuring representatives from the Citizen Entrepreneurial Development Agency (CEDA), the National Development Bank (NDB), and Absa Bank Botswana, examined the challenges of accessing export finance and working capital. Speakers acknowledged that horticulture is frequently perceived as a high-risk sector by lenders due to climate variability and market volatility.



The Botswana Gazette
TIME OUT
THE BOTSWANA GAZETTE
WEDNESDAY 25 FEBRUARY 2026



Amend the Copyright Law- Creatives

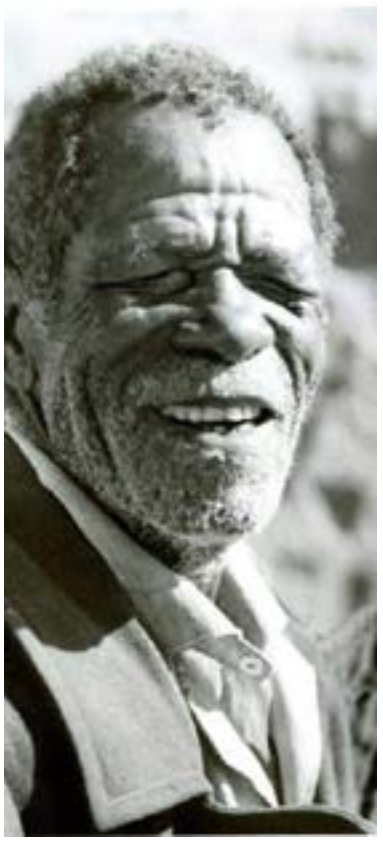
At a launch meant to celebrate the return of the BOMU Awards, the real conversation was more than accolades — it was also about a copyright law stuck in the CD era while artists live in the streaming economy

GOSEGO MOTSUMI

The launch stage was set, the speeches polished, but the loudest moment at the awards launch came without a microphone drop — just a legal one. In between the applause, Industry voice Seabelo Modibe raised a reality check: Botswana's music industry isn't just fighting for airplay; it's fighting outdated legislation.

"One of the biggest challenges… is that government and artists are working apart," he said, pointing to a law that still demands hologram-stamped CDs for radio submissions. In a Spotify age, that's like asking TikTok stars for VHS tapes.

> "Under the life-plus-50 rule, works by cultural giants like Rratsie Setlhako are entering the public domain"



ANALOG RULES IN A DIGITAL ECONOMY

For young artists, the requirement is more than inconvenient, it's exclusionary. "These things discourage young people," Modibe warned. When access to airwaves depends on obsolete formats, innovation gets stuck in customs.

WHEN HERITAGE STOPS PAYING RENT

The bigger shock? Legacy. Under the Copyright and Neighbouring Rights Act of Botswana's life-plus-50 rule, works by cultural giants like Rratsie Setlhako are entering the public domain. A devastating move for royalty pipelines.

"If Rratsie Setlhako's songs go into public domain it means COSBOTS does not pay those royalties," Modibe said. Translation: the soundtrack of a nation risks becoming economically ownerless.

"Two or three years ago all KT Motsete songs went into the public domain because 50 years has elapsed. This copyright act will take artists out of business if it continues the way it is," Modibe added.

THE LIVING ARE COUNTING THE YEARS

Veteran music artist, Bafana "Phempheretlhe" Pheto put it in painfully human terms. "I released my song 'Lekunutu' in 1997 and if I die they start counting the years and they won't consider that I have children and family because the law says so."

With the late Duncan Senyatso already 30 years gone, the clock is ticking on yet another catalogue.

NIGHTLIFE, NEW LAWS & NO CONSULTATION

Beyond copyright, Modibe flagged policy changes that arrive without industry input, from nightlife regulations to trade schedules. In a sector powered by DJs, venues and live gigs, unpredictability is bad for business.

> "Two or three years ago all KT Motsete songs went into the public domain because 50 years has elapsed. This copyright act will take artists out of business if it continues the way it is,"

A CALL FOR A NEW RHYTHM

No one is asking for less law, just smarter law. The message was simple: consultation, collaboration, and a copyright framework that understands streaming, legacy and livelihoods.



Because if policy doesn't catch up, Botswana risks archiving its music faster than it can create it.



BOMU's Return, Here's What Happened

After a year off the stage, the Botswana Musicians Union Awards return louder and digitally tuned — promising not just trophies, but a full-blown creative economy reboot

GOSEGO MOTSUMI



The stage lights are warming up again. After a 2025 hiatus that had the industry refreshing its calendar like a broken streaming app, the 14th edition of the Botswana Musicians Union (BOMU) Awards has officially relaunched, with its prestigious ceremony slated for May 2026.

"The awards took a break because of the lack of funds… but we are back this year," BOMU president Papie Rakhudu told Time Out, framing the pause as a reset rather than a retreat.

"The awards took a strategic one- year pause to strengthen the platform," said Seabelo Modibe of Events Lab.

"This allowed us to navigate challenging economic circumstances, reflect on our processes and ensure that the awards return stronger, more sustainable, and fully aligned with the needs of the industry."

MUSIC BEYOND

Behind the theme Music Beyond is a practical beat: economics. According to Modibe, the awards function as a mini stimulus package for the creative sector, from stylists and sound engineers to makeup artists and stage designers.

"Every year that we host the awards, the economy comes alive and many people benefit," he said. BOMU remains the only local awards where nominees actually get paid just for making the shortlist, a detail that hits harder than any acceptance speech.

> "Every year that we host the awards, the economy comes alive and many people benefit."

ENTER THE VIRAL ERA

This year's biggest flex? A new category: Most Viral Song. It's a nod to the reality that chart dominance now lives somewhere between TikTok loops and WhatsApp forwards.

Thirty-five categories in total will shape the night, with six — including Album of the Year and Song of the Year — handed over to the people's vote. Democracy, but make it musical.

THE RULEBOOK REMIX

Submissions are open until March 20 — covering music released between 2024 and 2025 — with a vetting and adjudication process designed to keep things transparent. There is no entry fee, but artists are encouraged to join BOMU, a soft nudge toward building a stronger collective industry.

MORE THAN A TROPHY NIGHT

Modibe calls the 2026 edition a deliberate comeback to "stimulate the creative economy," and if the strategy works, the ripple effect will stretch far beyond the awards stage.

Beyond the statues and speeches, BOMU's return is a statement: local music isn't just culture, it's commerce. If May 2026 delivers on the promise, the after-party won't just be in the VIP lounge — it will be in studios, fashion houses and sound booths across Botswana.

CROWN MODE ACTIVATED

With the Top 12 finalists confirmed, Miss Botswana 2026 enters its glow-up phase where its decided who will eventually wear the crown

GAZETTE REPORTER

The dust has settled on the bush bootcamp, but for the Miss Botswana Top 12 finalists, the real marathon has just begun. The next few weeks are more about precision — coaching, runway drills, advocacy refinement and the kind of schedule that turns sleep into a luxury.

"They completed a rigorous phase of the competition that tested their confidence, resilience, talent, intellect and physical endurance," the Miss World Botswana organization revealed.

Set against a challenging outdoor environment, the bootcamp saw the contestants participate in a series of fast-track and competitive challenges, including Top Model, Head-to-Head Challenge, Sports Challenge and Talent Competition.

These activities were designed to push the finalists beyond their comfort zones while identifying well-rounded ambassadors who embody purpose, strength, discipline and grace.



FAST-TRACK AND FOCUSED

Some finalists arrive with momentum. Mosa Princess Gontshwanetse carries her Talent win like a power anthem, Michelle Bagoleng's Sports Challenge victory proves endurance isn't just aesthetic, and Angelah Phutlego's Head-to-Head dominance signals a queen who can think on her feet — in heels.

> Preparations now intensify as the finalists continue their journey toward the crown

Thabiso Segokgo's Top Model title adds polish to an already competitive field, while district winner Thando Naledi Makhoba brings regional pride into the national spotlight.

COUNTDOWN TO MOLAPO

All eyes now turn to Molapo Creative Hub on 21 March 2026, where the gowns will finally meet the spotlight. Tickets are now available via Webtickets.

"Congratulations to all the Miss Botswana Top 12 finalists for their dedication, perseverance and exceptional performances throughout the bush bootcamp," said Miss World Botswana.

"Preparations now intensify as the finalists continue their journey toward the crown."

Miss Botswana 2026 – Top 12 Finalists

- Casey Allison Esmeraldo
- Abale Lisa Matsoma
- Thando Naledi Makhoba – Miss Mochudi BW District Winner
- Mosa Princess Gontshwanetse– Talent Competition Winner
- Kgalalelo Lentebanye
- Michelle Bagoleng– Sports Challenge Winner
- Gaselesire Jade Phalanyane
- Angelah Phutlego– Head-to-Head Challenge Winner
- Magdeline Modipane
- Ogaufi Seakgo
- Thabiso Segokgo – Top Model Winner
- Kimberly Kotewa

Peripheral No More: The Rise of African Skate

A decade of kickflips, concrete poetry and cultural reclamation lands inside Alliance Française de Gaborone, where Mosako Chalashika turns Africa's skate scene into a global visual language, no charity lens, no outsider gaze, just lived asphalt truth

GOSEGO MOTSUMI



Walk into Alliance Française de Gaborone and the walls hum like a half-pipe. Mosako Chalashika's lens doesn't just show skateboarding, it breathes it. Born in Gaborone, sharpened in Cape Town, the photographer-skater has spent ten years documenting a movement that was always here, just rarely seen on its own terms.

"My work is rooted in the necessity of self-representation," he told Time Out, rejecting the tired Western charity gaze that once framed African skate culture as novelty instead of mastery. What hangs in the gallery until March 10 is more than an exhibition but a cultural correction.

KNUCKLEHDS AS MANIFESTO

At the centre is Knucklehds, a photograph that represents a pivotal moment in the evolution of Botswana's urban subcultures, capturing the camaraderie and collective identity of a new generation of skateboarders in Gaborone.

The image captures a collective he helped found, a brotherhood that turned empty urban pockets into classrooms of risk, style and survival.

> "We tell our own story the proper way as insiders who live and breathe the asphalt."

"The photograph is more than a visual record," Chalashika explained. It's a declaration that Gaborone's youth aren't waiting for permission to exist globally, they're already there, flicking boards



into international dialogue.

THE INSIDER LENS

Chalashika shoots from within the session, not from the safety of the sidewalk. Being a skater means he knows the physics of a trick before the shutter clicks and the weight shift, the pop, the split-second apex that separates a make from a slam.

"We tell our own story the proper way as insiders who live and breathe the asphalt," he said.

FROM WALLS TO WORLD

The photographs are available for purchase directly through the exhibition's organized sales channels. After the three-week run, the images won't disappear,th ey'll migrate online, available to collectors and global audiences.

What Chalashika has built is not just an archive of tricks and style. It's a visual sociology of belonging, proof that Gaborone's concrete has always been a canvas, and its skaters, its authors.

When Love Meets the Roast

Romance meets roast culture as Major Moves Comedy turns date night into a laughter marathon at the Grand Palm Hotel Casino Convention Resort, proving love is best served with a punchline

GAZETTE REPORTER

Forget roses and awkward silences — this February, love speaks fluent stand-up. The Love & Laughter Edition of the Friday Comedy Experience is flipping the script, swapping candlelit clichés for crowd roars and relationship realness.

At the centre is South African comedy heavyweight Chris Maphane, a storytelling virtuoso whose high-energy delivery has travelled from Johannesburg to Nairobi and beyond. With nearly two decades on stage, he doesn't just headline shows, he builds comedy ecosystems, mentoring new voices while keeping audiences in stitches.

PAN-AFRICAN PUNCHLINES

Backing him is a cross-border dream team: Botswana's fearless crowd whisperer Thapelo Malani, Zimbabwe's smooth narrative tactician Brian Sibanda, sharp-tongued riser Abel Maruza, and the electric two-time champion OD Brooks.

The result? A Pan-African comedy cipher where love is both the joke and the punchline.

COME DRESSED FOR LOVE

Event coordinator Gaolathe Kediemetse promises "a truly enjoyable, relaxing and funny event," inviting audiences to "come dressed for love", a dress code that sounds suspiciously like emotional bravery.



Set inside the plush sprawl of the Grand Palm Hotel Casino Convention Resort, the night positions comedy as Botswana's social glue, a space where first dates, long-term couples and friend groups share the same emotional rollercoaster.

Because laughter, unlike roses, doesn't wilt.

> "Come dressed for love, bring your laughter."

WHY IT MATTERS

In a city where nightlife often splits along music genres and social circles, comedy is becoming the great unifier — multilingual, multigenerational and brutally honest. It's therapy without the invoice.

On February 27 at 8pm, the mic becomes a mirror.

Setsong: Luxury That Smells Like Home

From rain on dry earth to oud in crystal bottles, Brian Hills is bottling Botswana's memory and calling it luxurious and timeless



Pic Credit (Setsong House) facebookpage

GOSEGO MOTSUMI

Before there was a bottle, there was a memory: rain hitting hot soil, smoke curling through a homestead, sun warming Kalahari sand. For Brian Olebetse — better known as Brian Hills — scent isn't cosmetic, it's archival.

"Setsong House was born from memory… scent was never just fragrance; it was atmosphere," he told Time Out. The result is Setsong House, a Pan-African fragrance house turning cultural moments into olfactory heirlooms.

"Our philosophy is rooted in translating these sensory moments into something luxurious and timeless…We are capturing heritage, identity, and emotion, and preserving it through scent," Hills said.

FROM IDENTITY TO ELEVATION

The early Setsong signatures, which still stand introduced African luxury through grounded, heritage-heavy compositions. The new drop, Sacred Water, pivots skyward, inspired by rain not as weather, but as ritual.

This isn't nostalgia; it's trajectory. "It is no longer just about where we come from, but about where we are going," Hills explained, positioning the fragrance as a passport for a modern African identity that travels well in global luxury spaces.

> "Building a high-end fragrance brand from Botswana is narrative disruption"

SCIENCE MEETS SOUL

Perfumery, in Hills' studio, is equal parts lab and library. Longevity, projection and balance handle the chemistry; story handles the meaning.

"We begin with the story… then translate that into notes." Oud — his recurring muse — becomes the bridge between ancestral depth and contemporary polish, proving that technical formulation can still carry emotional weight.

REWRITING THE LUXURY SCRIPT

Building a high-end fragrance brand from Botswana isn't just entrepreneurship; it's narrative disruption. For decades, luxury scent has been defined by European houses. Setsong flips the map.

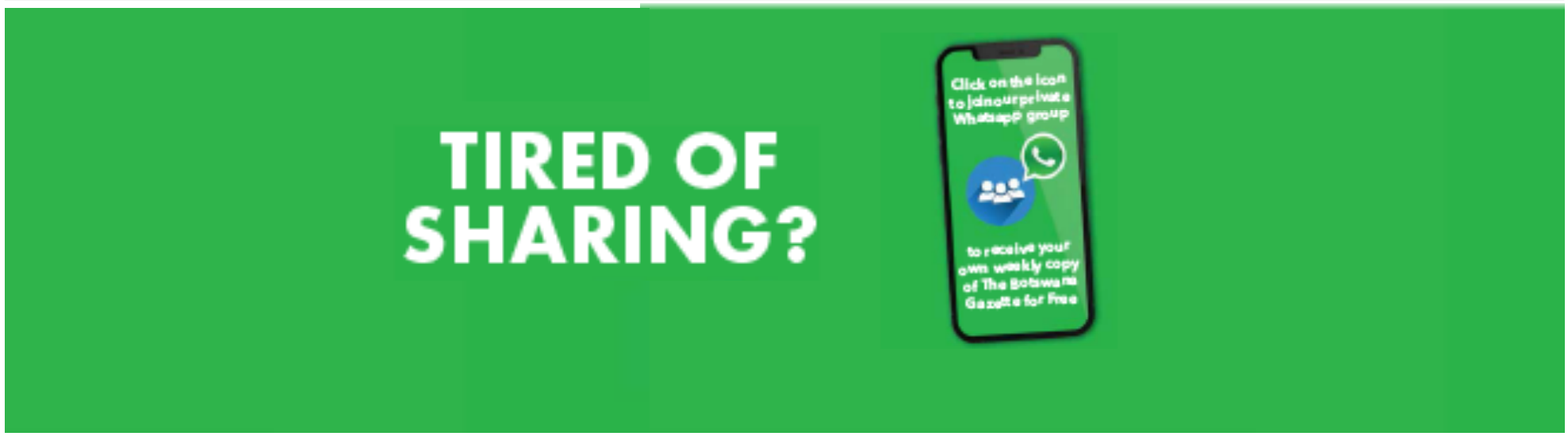
Clients aren't just buying perfume; they're buying authorship. "It becomes ownership of narrative," Hills said, a subtle but radical shift where African consumers see themselves not as markets, but as originators.

THE BOTTLE AS A TIME CAPSULE

From concept to packaging, every Setsong release follows a cinematic process: story first, formula second, design last. The goal is coherence, a fragrance you don't just wear, but inhabit. Setsong House is bottling memory, exporting identity and proving that luxury can smell like home.

Because sometimes the most powerful status symbol isn't a logo, it's rain on dry earth, distilled.

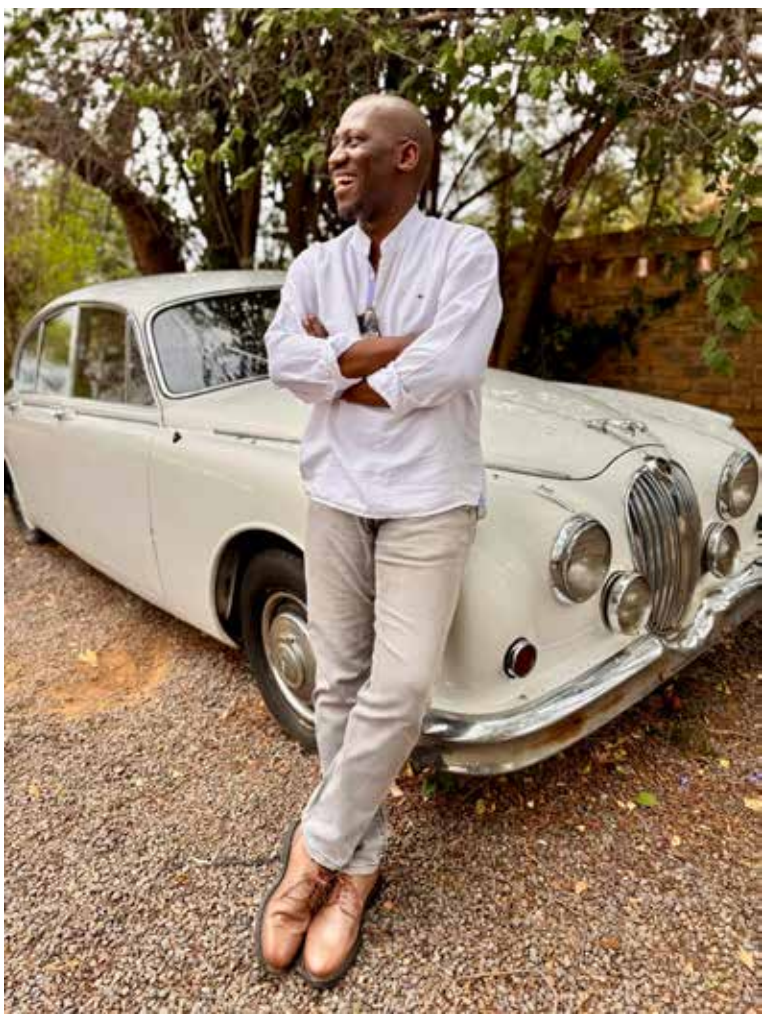





DRINK TIME ITSELF.
A Vintage Wine Tasting Experience
Presented by Phenyo Motlhagodi
Sunday, 8 March | 12:00 – 20:00
Kasimba Boutique Hotel, Mokolodi 1
Discover selected South African vintage wines from the 1990s and 2000s.
Explore how time shapes character, structure and complexity in wine.
Guests will enjoy:
· Welcome sparkling wine
· 8 vintage tastings
· Artisan cheese boards
· Gourmet canapés
Tickets: BWP 850.00
Rare and library wines, including select trophy bottles and magnums, will be available for purchase on the day.
Bookings: info@tennyson.agency | +267 7410 9169
Limited capacity | Strictly 18+ | Responsible enjoyment
parmalat
better every day
KASIMBA
BOUTIQUE HOTEL

STOP DRINKING. START TASTING

Wine tastings are meant for discovery, not excess. A smarter approach can turn them from a blur into a genuine experience.



Phenyo Motlhagodi — formally trained wine enthusiast (trained at the Cape Wine Academy); Chartered PR Practitioner (Chart.PR) with the Chartered Institute of Public Relations; and founder of a pan-African boutique PR, Influence & Reputation Management consultancy. Instagram: @phenyomotlhagodi.

BY PHENYO MOTLHAGODI

DISCOVERY, NOT CONFIRMATION

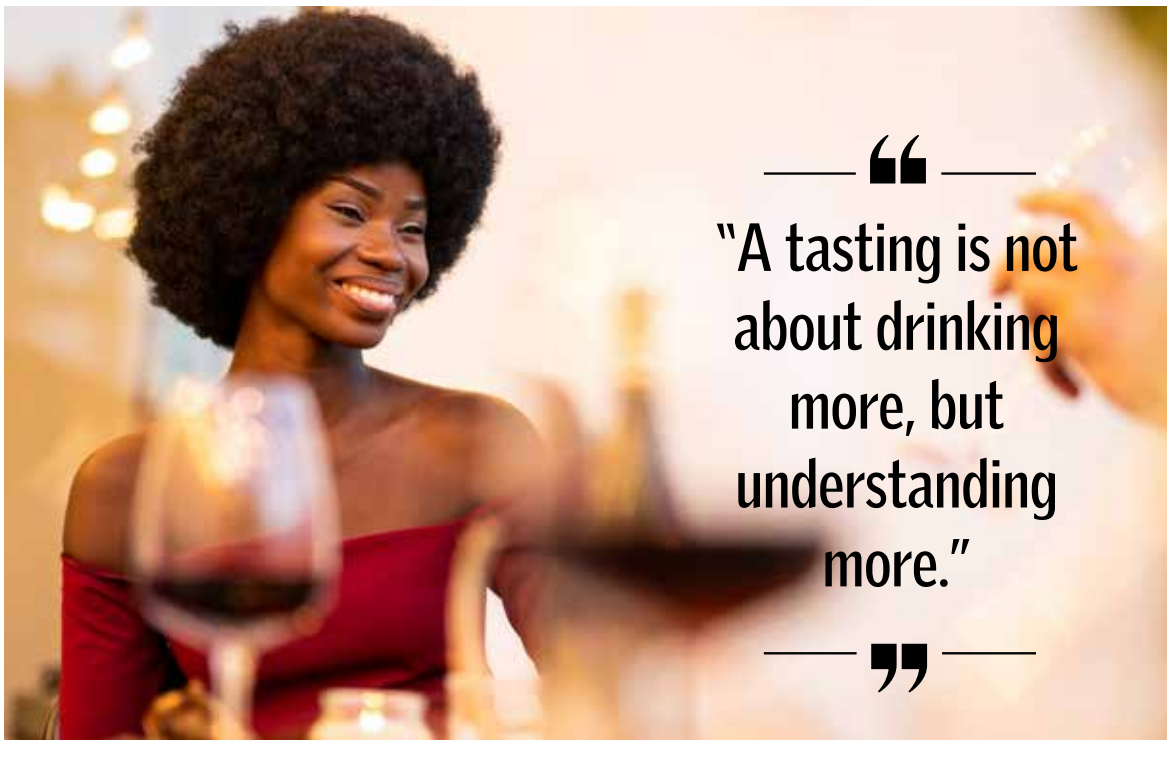
Too many tastings have become social rituals rather than learning experiences. People move quickly from table to table, chasing familiar labels and generous pours, leaving with a full glass but little understanding. The purpose of a tasting is not to confirm what you already know, but to discover something new. Starting with unfamiliar wines, lighter styles, and moving gradually to fuller, richer ones allows the palate to remain sharp. Approached correctly, a tasting becomes less about consumption and more about exploration.

NOTES MAKE THE DIFFERENCE

Memory alone is unreliable in a room full of wines.

> "The real experience begins when you take the bottle home."

Without writing things down, even the most impressive discovery fades quickly. Keeping a small notebook changes the experience entirely. A few simple notes about aroma, taste, and overall impression are enough to build a personal reference over time. Instead of leaving with a vague recollection, you leave with a record that guides future choices and deepens your understanding of what you enjoy.







LESS IS MORE

The instinct to ask for a full pour often works against the purpose of tasting. Smaller pours allow for more wines to be sampled without overwhelming the palate or judgment. A modest taste is all that is needed to evaluate a wine, and it keeps the experience focused rather than indulgent. By pacing consumption, tasters remain engaged, present, and able to make meaningful comparisons across different styles.

THE PROFESSIONAL APPROACH

Spitting, while often misunderstood, is a standard practice in professional tastings. It allows the taster to stay focused and maintain clarity after multiple wines. Combined with regular sips of water, it prevents fatigue and keeps the senses responsive. Even factors like strong perfume or scented products can interfere with the experience, as aroma plays a central role in tasting. A considered approach protects both personal perception and the shared space.

MOVE WITH PURPOSE

Staying too long at one table limits the experience. The real value of a tasting lies in movement and comparison. Exploring unfamiliar producers first, then returning to favourites with informed questions, creates a more rewarding journey. Conversations with pourers become more meaningful when guided by curiosity rather than convenience. This approach transforms a casual walk-through into a deliberate exploration.

BEYOND THE TASTING ROOM

A tasting is not the final experience. It is the starting point. The wines that stand out should be taken home and enjoyed in the right setting, where they can be fully appreciated without distraction. That is where the details emerge and the real connection happens. When approached with intention,

> A tasting is not the final experience. It is the starting point. The wines that stand out should be taken home and enjoyed in the right setting, where they can be fully appreciated without distraction.

tastings become less about quantity and more about selecting moments worth revisiting.

LOST DEED OF STATE GRANT

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the undersigned intends on applying for a certified copy of a Deed of Fixed Period State Grant No. 505/76 dated the 13th September 1976, passed by Botswana Government in favour of Botswana Housing Corporation in respect of the following properties:

1. **CERTAIN**: Piece of land being Lot 5741
   SITUATE: in Gaborone Extension 18
   MEASURING: 410m² (Four Hundred and Ten Square Metres)

2. **CERTAIN**: Piece of land being Lot 5746
   SITUATE: in Gaborone Extension 18
   MEASURING: 382m² (Three Hundred and Eighty-Two Square Metres)

3. **CERTAIN**: Piece of land being Lot 5748
   SITUATE: in Gaborone Extension 18
   MEASURING: 398m² (Three Hundred and Ninety-Eight Square Metres)

4. **CERTAIN**: Piece of land being Lot 5749
   SITUATE: in Gaborone Extension 18
   MEASURING: 426m² (Four Hundred and Twenty-Six Square Metres)

5. **CERTAIN**: Piece of land being Lot 5750
   SITUATE: in Gaborone Extension 18
   MEASURING: 454m² (Four Hundred and Fifty-Four Square Metres)

6. **CERTAIN**: Piece of land being Lot 5751
   SITUATE: in Gaborone Extension 18
   MEASURING: 482m² (Four Hundred and Eighty-Two Square Metres)

7. **CERTAIN**: Piece of land being Lot 5756
   SITUATE: in Gaborone Extension 18
   MEASURING: 360m² (Three Hundred and Sixty Square Metres)

8. **CERTAIN**: Piece of land being Lot 5757
   SITUATE: in Gaborone Extension 18
   MEASURING: 360m² (Three Hundred and Sixty Square Metres)

9. **CERTAIN**: Piece of land being Lot 5763
   SITUATE: in Gaborone Extension 18
   MEASURING: 336m² (Three Hundred and Thirty-Six Square Metres)

10. **CERTAIN**: Piece of land being Lot 5764
    SITUATE: in Gaborone Extension 18
    MEASURING: 336m² (Three Hundred and Thirty-Six Square Metres)

Any person having objection to the issuance of such a copy is hereby required to lodge the same in writing with the Registrar of Deeds within three (3) weeks of the last publication of this notice.

Dated at Gaborone on this the 17th February 2026

Prepared by:

BABOSE BALULE
Legal Services Department
Botswana Housing Corporation
Plot 5129, Corner Pilane & Queens Roads
PO Box 412, Gaborone
Tel: 3605100 / Fax: 3914101

LOST DEED OF STATE GRANT

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the undersigned intends on applying for a certified copy of a Deed of State Grant No. 609/88 dated the 26th September 1988, passed by Botswana Government in favour of Botswana Housing Corporation in respect of the following properties:

1. **CERTAIN** : Piece of land being 1909, Lobatse
   SITUATE : in the Southern Administrative District
   MEASURING : 0.2865 (zero decimal two eight six five) Hectares

2. **CERTAIN** : Piece of land being 1912, Lobatse
   SITUATE : in the Lobatse Administrative District
   MEASURING : 0.0344 (zero decimal zero three four four) Hectares

3. **CERTAIN** : Piece of land being 1913, Lobatse
   SITUATE : in the Southern Administrative District
   MEASURING : 0.0345 (zero decimal zero three four five) Hectares

4. **CERTAIN** : Piece of land being 1914, Lobatse
   SITUATE : in the Southern Administrative District
   MEASURING : 0.0364 (zero decimal zero three six four) Hectares

5. **CERTAIN** : Piece of land being 1915, Lobatse
   SITUATE : in the Southern Administrative District
   MEASURING : 0.0361 (zero decimal zero three six one) Hectares

6. **CERTAIN** : Piece of land being 1909, Lobatse
   SITUATE : in the Southern Administrative District
   MEASURING : 0.2865 (zero decimal two eight six five) Hectares

Any person having objection to the issuance of such a copy is hereby required to lodge the same in writing with the Registrar of Deeds within three (3) weeks of the last publication of this notice.

Dated at Gaborone on this the 17th February 2026

Prepared by:

BABOSE BALULE
Legal Services Department
Botswana Housing Corporation
Plot 5129, Corner Pilane & Queens Roads
PO Box 412, Gaborone
Tel: 3605100 / Fax: 3914101

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

CASE NO: CVHGB – 000826 – 23

In the matter between:

NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT BANK	**Plaintiff**
And	
SILVERFLAME (PROPRIETARY) LIMITED	**1st Defendant**
EVANS GALEMMONE MONOWE	**2nd Defendant**
TEBOGO MONOWE	**3rd Defendant**
PEO NAMETSEGANG MONOWE	**4th Defendant**

NOTICE OF SALE IN EXECUTION

BE PLEASED TO TAKE NOTICE THAT pursuant to a Judgment granted by the above Honourable Court on the 20th day of June 2024 the following immovable property of the abovementioned Defendant will be sold by means of public auction to the highest bidder by **Deputy Sheriff Ikageng Seloi** as follows:

DATE OF SALE : Friday 22nd April 2026
VENUE : Tribal Lot 2518, Mochudi
TIME OF SALE : 1000 hours

TERMS OF SALE : Only cash or bank guaranteed cheques will be accepted. The detailed conditions of sale are available for inspection at the undersigned Attorneys' offices.

PROPERTY TO BE SOLD : The Defendant's title rights and interest in a certain piece of land being Tribal Lot 2518, Mochudi situate at Mochudi in the Bakgatla Tribal Territory, measuring 1438m² (One Thousand Four Hundred And Thirty-Eight Square Metres) held under Notarial Deed f Cession No. MA 371/2007 dated the 27th day of July 2007 in favour of Evans Galemmone Monowe together with all the improvements thereon being a commercial building comprising of a butchery and a supermarket.

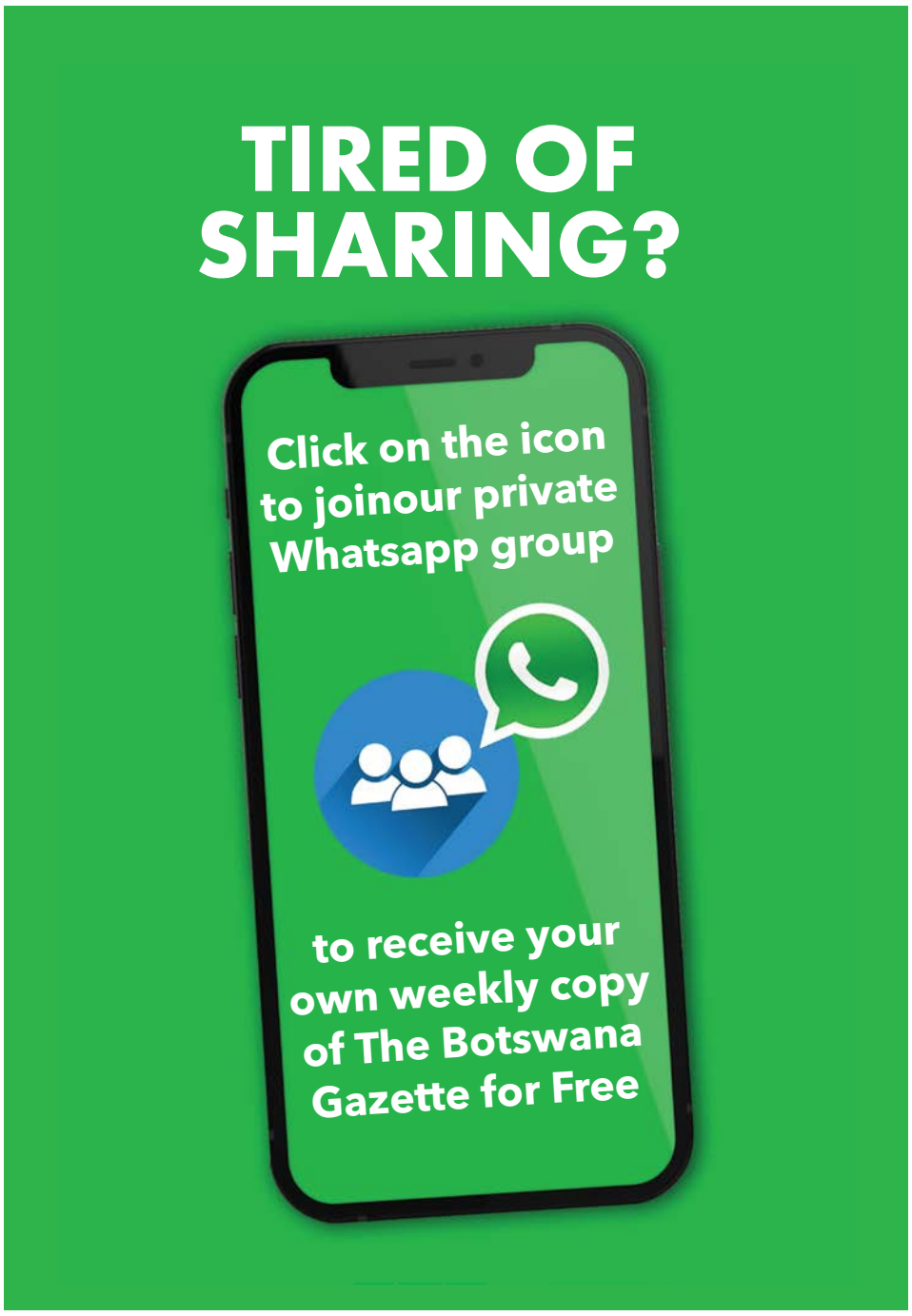
DATED AT GABORONE ON THIS 12TH DAY OF FEBRUARY 2026.

COLLINS CHILISA CONSULTANTS
Attorneys • Notaries • Conveyancers

COLLINS CHILISA CONSULTANTS
Plot 4858, Lecha Road
Off Marakanelo Way
Extension 11
P O Box 45136
GABORONE
Deputy Sheriff IKAGENG SELOI
[Cell No. 71472478]







IN THE INDUSTRIAL COURT OF BOTSWANA
HELD AT GABORONE

Case No. IC EX 11/26

In the matter between:
KEFILWE KADIMOKA **PLAINTIF**
And
AB ENERGY **DEFENDANT**

NOTICE OF SALE IN EXECUTION -MOVABLE PROPERTY

BE PLEASED TO TAKE NOTICE that pursuant to the judgment of the above Honorable Court the following property of the abovenamed Defendant will be sold by public auction by Deputy Sheriff **D.J MOYO** to the highest bidder as follows:

DATE OF SALE : **26th FEBRUARY 2026**
TIME : 10:00 am
VENUE : **Broadhurst Police Station, GABORONE**
PROPERTY TO BE SOLD : 1 x 1 Executive Desk with 3 Chairs
1 x 1 Executive Desk, 1 x 1 Defy 2 Door Fridge
1 x 1 Filing Unit, 1 x 1 HP Lap Top
1 x 2 Office Desk with 3 Chairs

CONDITIONS OF SALE : Cash or Bank transfers

DATED AT GABORONE THIS 18th DAY OF FEBRUARY 2026

DEPUTY SHERIFF D.J MOYO
C/O KEFILWE KADIMOKA
P.O Box 20572
Gaborone

SECHELE J.
IN THE HIGH COURT OF THE REPUBLIC OF BOTSWANA
HELD AT FRANCISTOWN

CASE NO: CVHFT 000 314/25

In the matter between:
FIRST NATIONAL BANK OF BOTSWANA LIMITED **PLAINTIFF**
And
KEAMOGETSE MOHLOMI **DEFENDANT**

SUBSTITUTED SERVICE

TO: **Keamogetse Mohlomi**
Defendant
P.O Box 201633
GABORONE

formerly residing at Plot No. 40566, New Canada, Gaborone, but whose present whereabouts are unknown 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 FIRST NATIONAL BANK OF BOTSWANA LIMITED c/o M MMOHE ATTORNEYS (Plaintiff's Attorneys) of intention to defend (if any) in an action wherein FIRST NATIONAL BANK OF BOTSWANA LIMITED claims:-

a) Payment of the sum of **P391 041.00**;
b) Interest at the rate of 11.76% per annum from 11th day of July 2025 to the date of payment;
c) 10% collection commission in the event of paying the amount in installment; and
d) Costs of the suit at attorney and client.

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 24TH DAY OF FEBRUARY, 2026

M MMOHE ATTORNEYS
Plaintiff 's Attorneys
Plot 3936,Peolwane Street
Minestone
P.O. Box 1860
FRANCISTOWN

DEPUTY REGISTRAR & MASTER

SIGWENI J.
IN THE HIGH COURT OF THE REPUBLIC OF BOTSWANA
HELD AT FRANCISTOWN

CASE NO: CVHFT 000 421/25

In the matter between:
FIRST NATIONAL BANK OF BOTSWANA LIMITED **PLAINTIFF**
And
LUDO BUSANG **DEFENDANT**

SUBSTITUTED SERVICE

TO: **Ludo Busang**
Defendant
Private Bag Bo 10
GABORONE

formerly residing at Lot 5280, Thema 2, Lobatse, but whose present whereabouts are unknown 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 FIRST NATIONAL BANK OF BOTSWANA LIMITED c/o M MMOHE ATTORNEYS (Plaintiff's Attorneys) of intention to defend (if any) in an action wherein FIRST NATIONAL BANK OF BOTSWANA LIMITED claims:-

a) Payment of the sum of **P289 984.89**;
b) Interest at the rate of 11.51% per annum from 15th day of July 2025 to the date of payment;
c) 10% collection commission in the event of paying the amount in installment; and
d) Costs of the suit at attorney and own client.

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 24TH DAY OF FEBRUARY, 2026

M MMOHE ATTORNEYS
Plaintiff 's Attorneys
Plot 3936,Peolwane Street
Minestone
P.O. Box 1860
FRANCISTOWN

DEPUTY REGISTRAR & MASTER

NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS

IN THE ESTATE of the late **ABUWENG MAFIKA** who died at Nkoyaphiri Clinic, Mogoditshane, Kweneng District Republic of Botswana on the 6th July 2022.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Debtors and Creditors in the above Estate are hereby required to pay their debts and file claims of whatsoever nature with the undersigned within thirty (30) days after the publication hereof.

DATED AT GABORONE ON THIS 24TH DAY OF FEBRUARY 2026

THE EXECUTER DATIVE
GABRIEL MAFIKA
P. O. BOX 2179 ABG, SEBELE
GABORONE
TEL: **72646313**

NOTICE OF INTENDED SALE OF ASSETS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN in accordance with the provisions of section **34(1)** of the **Insolvency Act (Cap. 42:02)** of the intended sale, subject to the fulfilment of contractual conditions by Bise Nursing Agency (Pty) Ltd, of its assets as relates to its medical practice, to Tshireletso Ramaphane upon expiry of a period of fourteen **(14) days** from the date of second publication of this Notice.

MAKATI LAW CONSULTANCY,
Plot 15304, Lebethu Way, Broadhurst,
P O Box 108;
Tel:3975726,
GABORONE.

MOGOMOTSI J.
IN THE HIGH COURT OF THE REPUBLIC OF BOTSWANA
HELD AT FRANCISTOWN

CASE No. CVHFT 000 291/25

In the matter between
ABSA BANK BOTSWANA LIMITED **PLAINTIFF**
And
PEARL MBUYA LUNGISANI **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 : 24th April 2026
TIME : 10:00 a.m.
VENUE : Lot 17071, Extension 32 (Donga), Francistown
PROPERTY TO BE SOLD : Lot 17071, Extension 32 (Donga), Francistown
SITUATE : in Francistown Extension 32
MEASURING : 540m2 (Five Hundred and Forty Square Metres) which property is held under Deed of Transfer No. FT 606/2016 registered on the 28th day of July 2016 made in favour of PEARL MBUYA LUNGISANI

The property comprises of a two bedroomed house, kitchen, dining area, bathroom and toilet, sitting room, screen wall with 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 24TH 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

INTENTION TO CHANGE MARRIAGE PROPERTY REGIME

(In terms of Section 8 (1) Of The Married Persons Property Act, 2014)

1. **MOSES LESEJANE** who is married to **ELAYA MAMY KALUME**, in community of property on the 28th day of November 2021, at Gaborone, intends to make an application to the High Court of Botswana for leave to change his property regime to out of community

2. **MOSES LESEJANE** intends to apply to the High Court of Botswana after the expiration of the three (3) weeks statutory notice from the date of first publication hereof.

3. Any person, creditor or debtor, who may have an interest in the assets and/or liabilities of **MOSES LESEJANE** and **ELAYA MAMY KALUME's** estate, should they have objections to the proposed change of matrimonial property regime, should inform the Applicant's Attorneys, **MOJAMORAGO PILANE LEGAL PRACTICE** in **GABORONE**, before the expiration of three (3) weeks period, or make representations before the High Court of Botswana once the contemplated application is lodged.

DATED IN GABORONE ON THIS 12th DAY OF FEBRUARY 2026.

MOJAMORAGO PILANE LEGAL PRACTICE
Applicant's Attorneys
205 Independence Avenue Building
1st Floor. Main Mall
GABORONE

1ST PUBLICATION

OWNER OF PLOT 4636EXTENSION 14, GABORONE WISHES TO APPLY FOR CHANGE OF LAND FROM SINGLE RESIDENCE TO GROUP LIVING RESIDENTIAL. ANY OBJECTIONS CONTACT +267 72890666/ +267 71290904

LOST DEED OF STATE GRANT

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the undersigned intends on applying for a certified copy of a Deed of State Grant No. 205/1976 dated the 25th March 1976, passed by Botswana Government in favour of Botswana Housing Corporation in respect of the following properties:

1. **CERTAIN** : Piece of land being Lot 1293
(Portion of Lot 1140 Francistown)
SITUATE : in Francistown Administrative District
MEASURING : 1198 (One Thousand one hundred and ninety-eight) Square Metres

2. **CERTAIN** : Piece of land being Lot 1298
(Portion of Lot 1140 Francistown)
SITUATE : in Francistown Administrative District
MEASURING : 1123 (One Thousand One Hundred and Twenty-Three) Square Metres

Any person having objection to the issuance of such a copy is hereby required to lodge the same in writing with the Registrar of Deeds within three (3) weeks of the last publication of this notice.

Dated at Gaborone on this the 17th February 2026

Prepared by:

BABOSE BALULE
Legal Services Department
Botswana Housing Corporation
Plot 5129, Corner Pilane & Queens Roads
PO Box 412, Gaborone
Tel: 3605100 / Fax: 3914101

LOST DEED OF STATE GRANT

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the undersigned intends on applying for a certified copy of a Deed of Fixed Period State Grant No. 369/74 dated the 15th October 1974, passed by Botswana Government in favour of Botswana Housing Corporation in respect of the following properties:

1. CERTAIN : Piece of land being Lot 2389
SITUATE : in Selebi-Phikwe Extension 5
MEASURING : 1020 (One Thousand and Twenty) Square Metres

2. CERTAIN : Piece of land being Lot 2392
SITUATE : in Selebi-Phikwe Extension 5
MEASURING : 998 (Nine Hundred and Ninety-Eight) Square Metres

3. CERTAIN : Piece of land being Lot 2396
SITUATE : in Selebi-Phikwe Extension 5
MEASURING : 1020 (One Thousand and Twenty) Square Metres

Any person having objection to the issuance of such a copy is hereby required to lodge the same in writing with the Registrar of Deeds within three (3) weeks of the last publication of this notice.

DATED AT GABORONE ON THIS THE 17TH FEBRUARY 2026

Prepared by:

BABOSE BALULE
Legal Services Department
Botswana Housing Corporation
Plot 5129, Corner Pilane & Queens Roads
PO Box 412, Gaborone
Tel: 3605100 / Fax: 3914101

LOST MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT OF LEASE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the undersigned intends on applying for a certified copy of a Memorandum of Agreement of Lease No FT TL 544/2009 dated 4th November 2009, between Ngwato Land Board and Botswana Housing Corporation in respect of the following property:

CERTAIN : Piece of land being Tribal Lot 1149, Mahalapye
SITUATE : in the Bangwato Tribal Territory
MEASURING : 437m² (Four Hundred and Thirty Seven Square Metres);

Any person having objection to the issuance of such a copy is hereby required to lodge the same in writing with the Registrar of Deeds within three (3) weeks of the last publication of this notice.

DATED AT GABORONE ON THIS THE 17TH FEBRUARY 2026

Prepared by:

BABOSE BALULE
Legal Services Department
Botswana Housing Corporation
Plot 5129, Corner Pilane & Queens Roads
PO Box 412, Gaborone
Tel: 3605100 / Fax: 3914101

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

CASE NO: CVHFT 000274-23

In the matter between:
ABSA BANK BOTSWANA LIMITED
formerly **BARCLAYS BANK OF BOTSWANA LIMITED** **Plaintiff**
And
DINKWETSI JENNIFER SMITH **Defendant**

NOTICE OF SALE IN EXECUTION

BE PLEASED TO TAKE NOTICE THAT pursuant to a Writ of Execution issued out of the above Honourable Court in the above matter, the following immovable property of the Defendant will be sold by Public Auction by **Deputy Sheriff Ookeditse Masolotate** to the highest bidder as follows:
DATE OF SALE : 10th April 2026
VENUE : Lot 10367, Francistown
TIME : 1100 Hours
PROPERTY TO BE SOLD : Piece of Land being Lot 10367, Francistown, measuring 675m² (Six Hundred and Seventy Five Square Metres), held under Deed of Transfer No. FT 267/2008 dated the 18th day of April 2008 and made in favour of **DINKWETSE JENNIFER SMITH**, together with developments thereon, being a three bedroomed house with master ensuite, bathroom, toilet and an open kitchen.

TERMS OF SALE : Cash or Bank transfer only.

CONDITIONS OF SALE may be inspected at the offices of the hereunder mentioned Deputy's Sheriff's offices at Lotsane Ward, Palapye, Gampone's Complex, Next to Standard Chartered Bank, Palapye. He can be contacted at 74724543

DATED AT FRANCISTOWN ON THIS 11TH DAY OF FEBRUARY 2026

VAN NIEKERK ATTORNEYS
Plot 4660, Area G, Ditau Street,
P. O. Box 37, Francistown
Telephone No. 241 3421

APPLICATION FOR LOST COVERING MORTGAGE BOND

NOTICE IS HEREBY given that the undersigned hereby intends applying for a certified copy of **COVERING MORTGAGE BOND No. FT 275/2010** dated the **20TH** day of **APRIL 2010** passed by **K.S PP HOLDINGS (PROPRIETARY) LIMITED** in favour of **BOTSWANA BUILDING SOCIETY** in respect of the following property, that is:

CERTAIN : Piece of land being Tribal Lot 866, Tati Siding;
SITUATE : At Tati Siding in the Tati Tribal Area;
MEASURING : 1000 m² (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 at **FRANCISTOWN** within **twenty one (21) days** from the **second** publication of this notice.

DATED AT FRANCISTOWN ON THIS THE 12TH DAY OF JANUARY 2025

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 000 324/24

In the matter between:
ABSA BANK BOTSWANA LIMITED
formerly **BARCLAYS BANK OF BOTSWANA LIMITED** **Plaintiff**
And
SEGAMETSI LEJAGE **Defendant**

NOTICE OF SALE IN EXECUTION

BE PLEASED TO TAKE NOTICE THAT pursuant to a Writ of Execution issued out of the above Honourable Court in the above matter, the right, title and interest to and in the following immovable property of the Defendant will be sold by Public Auction by **Deputy Sheriff Ookeditse Masolotate** to the highest bidder as follows:
DATE OF SALE : 10th April 2026
VENUE : Tribal Lot 333, Tatisiding
TIME : 1400 Hours
PROPERTY TO BE SOLD : The Defendant's right, title and interest to and in certain piece of Land being Tribal Lot 333, Tatisiding, measuring 1000m² (One Thousand Square Metres), held under Memorandum of Agreement of Lease No. FT TL 1059/2019 dated the 4th day of October 2019 and made in favour of **SEGAMETSI LEJAGE** together with developments thereon, being a walled yard consisting of a Three bedroomed house with Master ensuite, bathroom/toilet, living room, dining room, kitchen, laundry room and a double door garage.

TERMS OF SALE : Cash or bank transfer only.

CONDITIONS OF SALE may be inspected at the offices of the hereunder mentioned Deputy Sheriff's offices at Lotsane Ward, Palapye, Gampone's Complex, Next to Standard Chartered Bank, Palapye. He can be contacted at 74724543.

DATED AT FRANCISTOWN ON THIS THE 11TH DAY OF FEBRUARY 2026

VAN NIEKERK ATTORNEYS,
Plot 4660, Area G, Ditau Street,
P.O Box 37, Francistown
Telephone No. 241 3421

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

CASE NO: CVHFT 000 569/2020

In the matter between:
ABSA BANK BOTSWANA LIMITED
formerly **BARCLAYS BANK OF BOTSWANA LIMITED** **Plaintiff**
And
DULU MOAISI **Defendant**

NOTICE OF SALE IN EXECUTION

BE PLEASED TO TAKE NOTICE THAT pursuant to a Writ of Execution issued out of the above Honourable Court in the above matter, the following immovable property of the Defendant will be sold by Public Auction by **Deputy Sheriff Ookame** to the highest bidder as follows:
DATE OF SALE : 9th April 2026
VENUE : Lot 26115, Gaborone
TIME : 1030 Hours
PROPERTY TO BE SOLD : Piece of Land being Lot 26115, Gaborone, measuring 792m² (Seven Hundred and Ninety Two Square Metres), held under Deed of Transfer No. 917/1997 dated the 26th day of August 1997 and made in favour of **DULU MOAISI**, together with developments thereon, being a paved yard with dura wall and electric fence, comprising of a three roomed ensuite house with shower and toilet on each room, 2 roomed ensuite house with bathtub and toilet on each room with guest toilet and bathroom, 1 room with fitted kitchen and open plan dining room, Servants quarter with shower and toilet.

TERMS OF SALE : Cash or Bank transfer only.

CONDITIONS OF SALE may be inspected at the offices of the hereunder mentioned Deputy Sheriff's offices at Plot No. 1239, Office No. 7, Gaborone West Industrial. He can be contacted at 72879169/77435503.

DATED AT FRANCISTOWN ON THIS 11TH DAY OF FEBRUARY 2026

VAN NIEKERK ATTORNEYS
Plot 4660, Area G, Ditau Street,
P. O. Box 37, Francistown
Telephone No. 241 3421

FIRST AND FINAL LIQUIDATION AND DISTRIBUTION ACCOUNT

IN THE ESTATE OF THE LATE NORMAN JAMES PATTISON: ESHFT 000123-23 who died at **2 CALVERT AVE, BRADFIELD, BULAWAYO** on the **1st day of June 2021.** The First and Final Liquidation and Distribution Account in the above Estate will lie open for inspection at the Chambers of the Assistant Registrar and Master of the High Court at Francistown for a period of Twenty One (21) days from the date of the second publication hereof.

DATED at **FRANCISTOWN** on this **10th** day of **FEBRUARY 2026**

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



BEST OF THE BEST BOXING TOURNAMENT RETURNS

Elite boxers, rising juniors and women fighters converge as Botswana boxing sharpens its competitive edge

TLOTLO KEBINAKGABO

The BEST OF THE BEST Boxing Championship will take place at Royal Aria in Tlokweng from March 7 to 8 and it will not simply be another tournament on the calendar. For the Botswana Boxing Association (BoBA), it represents a deliberate high-performance checkpoint designed to measure the country's finest boxing talent under intense competitive conditions.

"The Best of the Best Championship is a high-performance event within the annual calendar of the Botswana Boxing Association," said BoBA public relations officer Kabelo Seleka in an interview ahead of the event. "It brings together top-performing boxers from previous competitions to compete at an elevated standard."

CALENDAR PRIORITY

Seleka described the championship as a priority event because of its strategic role in consolidating talent and raising competitive intensity. Unlike open tournaments, participation is earned through performance, making the championship a benchmark for assessing readiness at the highest level.

"It is a priority because it consolidates talent, raises competitive intensity, and serves as a benchmark event for national team assessment," he said.

ELITE PATHWAY

From a development perspective, the championship functions as what Seleka called a "performance filter." By pitting top-tier athletes against one another, BoBA's technical leadership can observe key attributes that are difficult to measure in less demanding settings.

"By matching top-tier athletes against each other, BoBA is able to assess ring IQ, conditioning, tactical discipline, and mental strength under pressure," Seleka explained. "It helps technical leadership identify boxers ready for national camps, regional tournaments, and international assignments."

JUNIOR PIPELINE

The inclusion of 2026 Under-17 champions for both boys and girls is central to the event's long-term vision. Seleka said the platform strengthens confidence and competitive readiness among younger athletes while ensuring continuity in the national pathway.

"Showcasing U17 champions on a major platform strengthens confidence, exposure, and competitive readiness," he said, adding that it directly links junior success to elite progression and long-term national representation.

WOMEN RISING

Women's boxing will again feature prominently, reflecting BoBA's commitment to inclusivity and depth. Seleka noted that placing women's bouts on equal footing within a premier event sends a powerful message.

"It increases visibility for female athletes, motivates younger girls to join the sport, and deepens the talent pool necessary for sustained national and international competitiveness," he said.

> "By matching top-tier athletes against each other, BoBA is able to assess ring IQ, conditioning, tactical discipline, and mental strength under pressure."

ELEVATED STAGE

Hosting the two-day championship at Royal Aria in Tlokweng is expected to raise both performance and presentation standards. According to Seleka, the association is targeting stronger fan engagement and greater commercial interest.

"Ultimately, the goal is to professionalize event delivery and position Botswana boxing for sustainable growth both locally and internationally," he said.

WASBO CHARTS NEW ERA

Ambitious strategy and athlete welfare take centre stage in Gaborone

TLOTLO KEBINAKGABO

Women and Sport Botswana on Friday marked a defining moment in its institutional journey, unveiling a new five-year strategic roadmap alongside a landmark programme dedicated to athlete wellbeing. The dual milestones were announced during the Strategy Launch and Annual General Meeting held in Gaborone.

Addressing stakeholders, Keenese Katisenge-Tizhani, chairperson of Women and Sport Botswana, described the newly launched 2025–2029 Strategy as a product of shared vision and lived experience. "This roadmap boldly sets out our direction for the next five years, ensuring that WASBO remains relevant, impactful, and responsive to the changing needs of our stakeholders at every level," she said.

STRATEGIC DIRECTION

The strategy, officially launched this past weekend is designed to guide WASBO's work over the next half decade, anchoring its mandate to advance women and girls in sport across Botswana. Katisenge-Tizhani said the document reflects collective insight and a firm commitment to sustainable impact.

ATHLETE WELFARE

A day earlier, WASBO launched its Athlete Welfare Programme, an initiative aimed at safeguarding dignity, wellbeing, and empowerment. The first phase will run from 1 March 2026 to 31 March 2027, with support from the Botswana National Sport Commission.



Under the programme, sanitary pads will be distributed to junior national teams and selected Centres of Excellence. Additional components include mental health, psychosocial support, and life skills training delivered in partnership with Mentorship for Excellence International. Future phases will expand to financial literacy training, undergarments, and other essentials.

PARTNERSHIPS MATTER

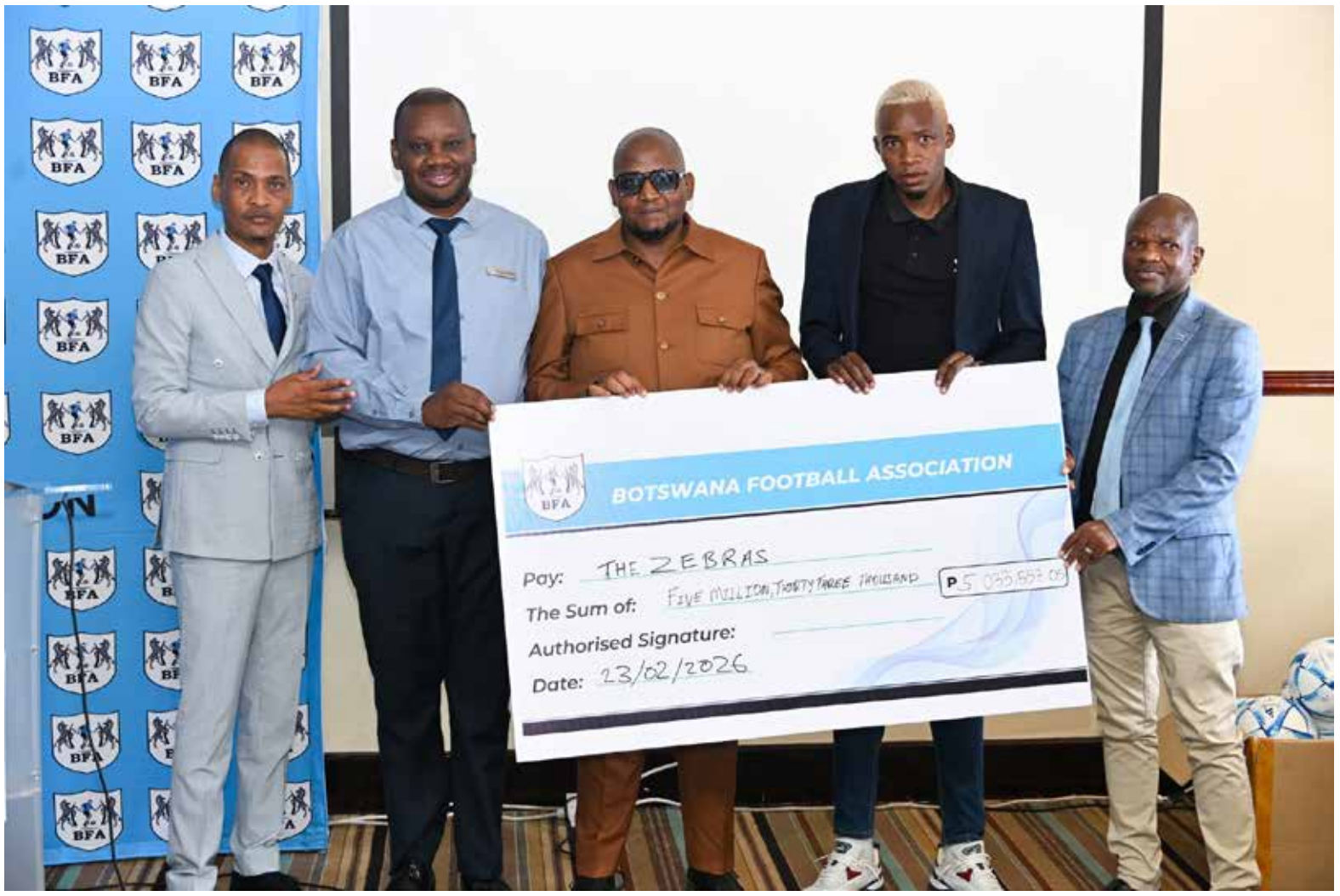
Katisenge-Tizhani emphasised that progress was driven by collaboration, acknowledging the Botswana National Olympic Committee, the Athletes' Commission, and other partners. "When we come together, government, sporting bodies, partners, and dedicated communities, we become an unstoppable force for change," she said.

GOVERNANCE FOCUS

The AGM for the 2024/2025 financial year, she noted, was "not merely a formality" but a core pillar of accountability and compliance. She thanked regional structures for their participation, calling them "the heart of WASBO" and urging them to remain active and innovative.

The event was held at the Aquarian Tide Hotel, bringing together regional representatives, national sport associations, and media.

BFA Rewards Zebras After AFCON



Stresses transparency and long-term reform after Morocco campaign

GAZETTE REPORTER

The Botswana Football Association (BFA) this week marked the men's national team's participation at the 2025 Africa Cup of Nations, holding an awards ceremony to recognise the Zebras' journey in Morocco despite a difficult tournament outcome.

The Zebras exited the group stage at AFCON 2025 without a win or a goal, but competed in a pool that included continental heavyweights such as Senegal and the Democratic Republic of Congo. Botswana entered the tournament as the lowest-ranked side in the group and was the only nation to field an entirely African-based squad.

FINANCIAL AWARD

At the ceremony, the association announced a total payout of P5,033,557.00, to be shared among 26 players and members of the technical team. The funds were described as contributions pledged by partners in both cash and kind.

"This shows the transparency, commitment and integrity that the BFA upholds," said BFA president Tariq Babitseng, speaking on the sidelines of the event. He thanked partners for their support and said the cash pledges, made in agreement between the Football Union of Botswana and the association, amounted to the stated figure.

GOVERNANCE RESET

Babitseng said the association was undertaking a broad review of its systems, with an emphasis on development and governance. He framed the process as a necessary reset rather than a reaction to results in Morocco.

"The BFA is deliberately going through a reset exercise, reviewing our structures, policies, and pathways from grassroots to elite level," he said. "This process is about making bold, responsible choices that strengthen governance, talent identification, and capacity building."

> "The BFA is deliberately going through a reset exercise, reviewing our structures, policies, and pathways from grassroots to elite level."

LONG VIEW

According to the BFA president, the reforms are intended to create a sustainable football ecosystem that supports clubs, safeguards young players, and equips coaches and officials, with decisions taken now expected to shape the sport's future trajectory in Botswana.

"We want to create a sustainable ecosystem that empowers clubs, protects young players, supports coaches and officials, and delivers long-term success," Babitseng said.

BOTSWANA CONTINUES TO HOST GLOBAL TENNIS

International men's and women's tournaments return, marking a new chapter for Botswana's place on the professional tennis map

TLOTLO KEBINAKGABO

When Botswana stages the Men's and Women's ITF $15k Pro tournaments from 11–23 May 2026, it will not simply be hosting another sporting event. According to the Botswana Tennis Association, the tournaments represent growing international confidence in the country's ability to deliver world-class competition — both on and off the court.

GLOBAL TRUST

"This means that Botswana's capabilities are being recognized and trusted across the tennis world," said Botswana Tennis Association Marketing and Communications Officer Tshepang Tlhankane. He explained that the trust extends beyond logistics. "This means both hosting capabilities as well as player competitiveness. These two are what cement the trust and belief by governing bodies to allow us to host as much and at the highest level."

PLAYER PATHWAYS

For local athletes, the significance is direct and tangible. Tlhankane said the tournaments are "important for Botswana players in that it helps them earn international and professional ranking points." As events sanctioned by



the International Tennis Federation, they offer Botswana players the rare chance to compete at home while pursuing points that influence global career progression.

FACILITIES BOOST

All matches will be staged at the National Tennis Center, a venue whose development is central to the long-term value of hosting. "Hosting this high level tournaments gives us the opportunity to work on our facilities to bring them to high international standards," Tlhankane said, adding that the improvements "remain with that legacy even after the tournaments are gone and our locals can benefit much longer."

INTERNATIONAL FIELD

As open professional tournaments, the fields will not be defined by national teams. "It's not a national team event so we can't say how many countries are coming," Tlhankane noted. "Rather, there will be players coming from all over the world in search for professional points." Fans and aspiring players can therefore expect a diverse, competitive international lineup.

CALENDAR EXPANSION

The tournaments also address a long-standing gap in the local tennis schedule. "The tournaments are now new calendar events for Botswana Tennis Association as well as for the ITF," Tlhankane said. While Botswana has hosted junior competitions in recent years, he emphasized that these events introduce "that senior tennis activity that we have been missing in our international tournament hosting."

ENTRY PROCESS

Participation follows standard international requirements. "A player must have an IPIN (International Player Identification Number)," Tlhankane explained. Entry is determined first by ATP or WTA ranking, then ITF ranking, with "qualifying matches for unranked players" also forming part of the competition.

FNB Kazungula Marathon Weekend

Iconic bridge crossing, revised distances and tourism-driven experiences define the 2026 race

TLOTLO KEBINAKGABO



The FNB Kazungula Bridge Marathon will stage its fifth edition on Saturday, February 28, 2026, at Kazungula in Botswana's Chobe region. The annual event has grown into a fixture on the country's endurance running calendar, distinguished by its setting at the intersection of sport, infrastructure and tourism.

This year's edition introduces revised race distances, with the traditional 5km and 10km events replaced by 8km and 15km courses. Organisers say the adjustment was designed to ensure that every participant runs across the marathon's defining landmark, the Kazungula Bridge.

DISTANCE CHANGES

The updated programme now features four race categories: the full marathon over 42.2km, a half marathon of 21.1km, and the newly configured 15km and 8km races. According to organisers, the revised layout aligns the event more closely with its identity, ensuring that all runners experience the bridge crossing that has come to symbolise the race.

Beyond competition, the event also includes expanded race-day logistics and post-race activities aimed at enhancing the overall participant experience.

SAFETY PLANNING

Speaking in an early interview with this publication, marathon marketing director Losika Seboni said that extensive logistical and safety measures are in place ahead of race day.

> "Hydration stations will be strategically positioned along all routes, and medical support teams will be on standby throughout the race."

"We are working closely with relevant authorities, medical teams, traffic management services, and volunteers to ensure smooth route control, emergency response readiness, and athlete safety throughout the event," Seboni said. "We will be working with all the security agencies in Kasane, BDF, police wildlife department, fire brigade."

He added that weather considerations have been factored into operational planning, particularly with regard to hydration and medical readiness.

RACE EXPERIENCE

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

Participants and visitors will also have access to post-marathon activities, including a silent disco boat cruise, which organisers describe as part of a broader effort to integrate sport with local tourism.

Horse Racing Gains Backing

Government support signals economic potential of a once-marginal sport

GAZETTE REPORTER



Horse racing is emerging as a serious sporting and economic activity in Botswana, drawing increased government support as officials look to diversify the economy and broaden community-based industries.

Speaking at the Kokotsha Horse Race held over the weekend, the Minister of Sport and Arts, Jacob Kelebeng, said the government views horse racing as a sector with significant untapped potential, both as a sport and as a contributor to local economies.

The event marked the unveiling of horse racing starting gates, procured by government, the first such equipment of its kind in the country.

STATE SUPPORT

Mr. Kelebeng said the acquisition of the starting gates underscored the government's intention to professionalise horse racing and integrate it into broader economic development efforts.

"The procurement of the horse racing starting gates is a testament of the Botswana Government's strategic intention to diversify the economy and will support professionalization of the horse racing sport in Botswana, leading to job creation and income generation for both the race organizers, competitors and local businesses," he said.

He encouraged private sector players to view the sport as a commercial opportunity rather than a niche pastime. "I urge us all; mainly sponsors to seize this opportunity to grow your brands with Horse Racing," Mr. Kelebeng added.

COMMUNITY IMPACT

The minister said the government, through the Ministry of Sport and Arts, regards sport and arts as tools for social and economic transformation, particularly at community level.

"Events like this are vital for the progression and development of local communities, as they bring together shared resources, ideas, and community-driven leadership to address local needs and create opportunities," he said.

According to Mr. Kelebeng, the economic benefits of horse racing extend beyond the track, supporting a broader value chain that includes jockeys, street vendors, accommodation providers and local businesses.

"These opportunities help promote social cohesion, stimulate the local economy and provide a platform for youth engagement, cultural preservation, and tourism growth," he said.

LOCAL OWNERSHIP

He said such events illustrate a model of development driven from within communities rather than imposed externally, with local ownership playing a central role.

> "The procurement of the horse racing starting gates is a testament of the Botswana Government's strategic intention to diversify the economy."

"More importantly, they exemplify the power of community ownership in development — where progress is not imposed from outside, but built from within, driven by the people it is meant to serve," Mr. Kelebeng said.

TIRED OF SHARING?



BACKPAGE
WEDNESDAY 25 FEBRUARY 2026
SINCE 1984

The Botswana Gazette
SPORT



FNB KAZUNGULA MARATHON WEEKEND

Iconic bridge crossing, revised distances and tourism-driven experiences define the 2026 race

32.

