The Botswana
GAZETTE

WEDNESDAY
04 MARCH 2026
SINCE 1984



EU Warns Botswana Over Russian War 3.



RESCUE FOR WAR-TRAPPED BATSWANA

A newly established flight evacuation corridor has offered a lifeline to around 300 Batswana stranded in the conflict-riddled Middle East as hostilities between the United States and Iran continue to escalate

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Automated Cameras Replace Traffic Cops

Cameras, radar and laser devices can now issue fines, flag vehicles and trigger court action, all without a police officer present, as government activates new automated traffic enforcement regulations

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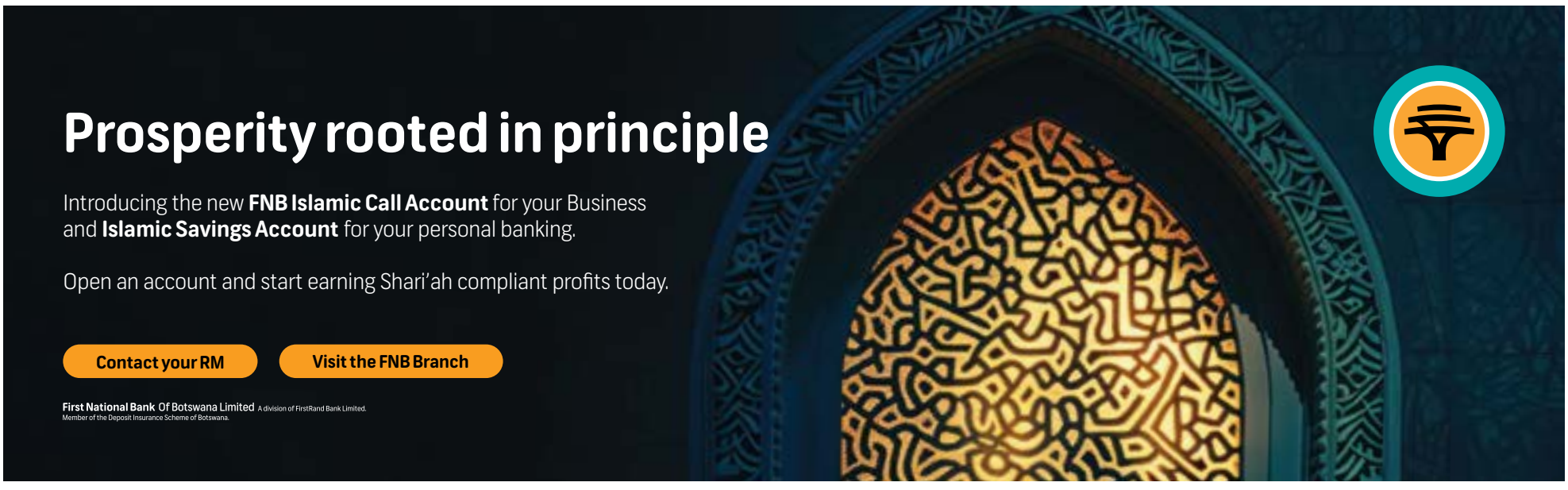
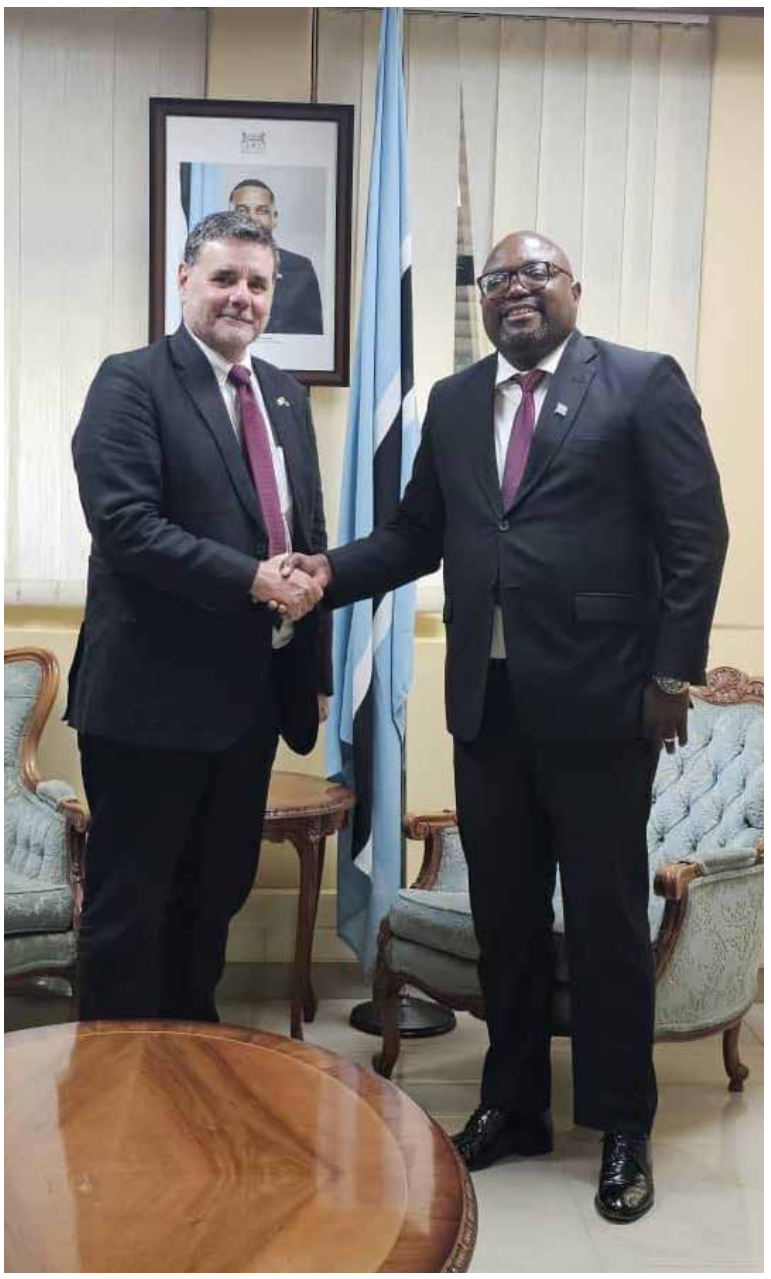


Rescue for War-Trapped Batswana



A newly established flight evacuation corridor has offered a lifeline to around 300 Batswana stranded in the conflict-riddled Middle East as hostilities between the United States and Iran continue to escalate

BONGANI MALUNGA

The establishment of a new flight evacuation corridor has offered a lifeline to around 300 Batswana stranded in the conflict-ridden Middle East as hostilities between the United States and Iran continue to escalate.

Amid widespread airspace closures and travel disruption across the region, the corridor is enabling citizens to depart danger zones safely, easing anxieties at a time of acute uncertainty for families back home.

The Ministry of International Relations has confirmed that a significant number of Batswana are currently residing or transiting through Middle Eastern countries including Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Qatar, Oman and the United Arab Emirates. Reports of explosions, missile interceptions and air raid sirens in parts of the region have prompted urgent diplomatic engagement.

OPTIMISM

Speaking during a televised interview, the Acting Ambassador of Botswana to Kuwait, Amangwe Madisakwana, said the announcement of an evacuation corridor has renewed government optimism. He explained that officials are actively assessing how the corridor could be used to safely extract citizens facing heightened risk.

"We have been informed that a flight evacuation corridor has been established, and this development gives us hope," Madisakwana said. "We will pursue it to assist Batswana who may find themselves in difficult or dangerous circumstances. Our priority is to explore all feasible options to ensure their safety."

CONSTANT COMMUNICATION

Madisakwana also stated that constant communication lines with Batswana in the Middle East has been established through the formation of a WhatsApp group whereby the government keeps in touch with Batswana in the area. He stated that the government is up to date with the wellbeing of a large number of Batswana in the Middle East.

The Ministry of International Relations has urged Batswana in the affected countries to remain in contact with diplomatic missions, register their presence and follow official advisories as contingency plans continue to be refined.

"Batswana are advised to avoid travelling to the affected countries and re-route their travel away from the Middle East airspace until the situation has calmed. Batswana in these countries are also requested to contact the Botswana Embassy in the State of Kuwait and the Botswana High Commission in London, or any Embassy nearby, for assistance," the ministry stated last Friday.

Automated Cameras Replace Traffic Cops

Cameras, radar and laser devices can now issue fines, flag vehicles and trigger court action, all without a police officer present, as government activates new automated traffic enforcement regulations

GAZETTE REPORTER

The government has operationalised sweeping new traffic enforcement measures through Statutory Instrument No. 23 of 2026, bringing into force the Road Traffic (Detecting Devices) Regulations, 2026 under the Road Traffic Act.

The new framework empowers technology to detect, record and prosecute traffic offences without a police officer physically present at the scene.

Under the regulations, the police are now authorised to deploy automated cameras, radar, laser devices and CCTV systems to monitor compliance on Botswana's roads.

An "automated detecting device" is defined as technology capable of independently detecting, recording and reporting offences. These devices can capture static images or video footage of speeding vehicles, red-light violations, invalid or obscured number plates, illegal bus lane usage and failure to obey road markings.



The move marks a significant shift from traditional roadside enforcement to continuous, technology-driven monitoring.

NOTICE WITHIN 30 DAYS

Once an offence is detected, the registered vehicle owner must be served with a Notice of Infringement within 30 days.

The notice is required to state the date, time and location of the offence, the applicable fine include an image clearly depicting the vehicle involved.

Motorists will then have just 14 days to respond — either by paying the fine in full, electing to challenge the matter in court, or nominating the actual driver if someone else was behind the wheel at the time.

Failure to respond within the stipulated period may result in a court summons.

VEHICLES CAN BE FLAGGED

Non-payment of fines carries further consequences. Vehicles may be flagged under the Road Traffic (Flagging) Regulations, potentially complicating licence renewals and other transactions with transport authorities.

The regulations create a tighter enforcement loop, linking offence detection directly to administrative penalties.

FOREIGN-REGISTERED VEHICLES FACE STRICTER MEASURES

Drivers can be served with infringement notices at border posts or anywhere within Botswana and will be required to pay fines immediately before departure. Authorities are empowered to detain vehicles until payment is made, effectively preventing offenders from exiting the country without settling outstanding penalties.

While the system operates automatically, the regulations provide limited safeguards. Motorists have the right to request access to video footage of the alleged offence. Drivers will also not be presumed liable if they were yielding to an emergency vehicle or acting during a life-threatening emergency at the time of the alleged violation.

However, enforcement will operate continuously, significantly reducing the traditional discretion exercised by traffic officers during roadside stops.

DATA AND DEVICE OVERSIGHT

In response to potential concerns over privacy and evidentiary integrity, the Director of Transport is now mandated to develop strict operational procedures governing data deletion, device testing, certification and maintenance. The oversight provisions are intended to ensure that automated detecting devices are properly calibrated and that recorded evidence meets legal standards in court.

EU Warns Botswana Over Russian War

The European Parliament has issued a sharp warning to Botswana over reports that its citizens are being recruited under false pretences to fight for Russia in Ukraine, urging Gaborone to act swiftly to prevent further involvement

GAZETTE REPORTER

Botswana has been singled out in a hard-hitting European Parliament resolution warning governments to act urgently against the recruitment of their citizens into Russia's war in Ukraine. The move is expected to heighten diplomatic pressure on Gaborone.

Adopted on 24 February 2026, marking four years since Russia's invasion of Ukraine, the resolution expresses alarm over reports that Africans, including Batswana, are being drawn into Moscow's war under false pretences.

The Parliament "highlights the disturbing fact that a growing number of foreign fighters in the Russian army were brought to Russia or to the frontlines in Ukraine under false pretences" and directly "urges governments of South Africa, Ghana, Kenya, Botswana and other African nations to crack down on deceptive recruitment activities that see their young men fight on the frontlines alongside Russian forces."

CALL FOR PROACTIVE GOVERNMENT ACTION

The resolution goes further, urging Botswana and other nations to actively intervene before more citizens are recruited. It "calls on the countries concerned to proactively warn their citizens of the dangers of travelling to Russia in connection with job offers that are either directly or indirectly linked to the Russian army," highlighting concerns that job promises are being used to funnel recruits into combat.

This places Botswana among a small group of African countries formally named in one of Europe's strongest political statements on Russian recruitment tactics outside Europe.

TECH COMPANIES URGED TO ACT

Beyond governments, the resolution also calls on technology companies to help prevent recruitment. Social media platforms are specifically urged to "take measures to prevent the abuse of their services for the purpose of conducting these deceitful recruitment campaigns."

CONTEXT AMID RUSSIA-BOTSWANA RELATIONS

The resolution comes as Europe intensifies its political and economic pressure on Moscow while seeking global support to isolate Russia diplomatically and militarily. It follows reports that Botswana plans to open an embassy in Moscow and has invited Russian investors to cooperate on rare earths and diamonds.

> "Parliament "urges governments of South Africa, Ghana, Kenya, Botswana and other African nations to crack down on deceptive recruitment activities that see their young men fight on the frontlines alongside Russian forces."

The EU reiterated that "Russia's illegal, unprovoked and unjustified war of aggression against Ukraine constitutes a blatant violation of international law and of the UN Charter," stressing that Moscow "bears full responsibility for the war, war crimes and the crime of aggression" and should be held accountable.

RESOLUTION TRANSMITTED TO BOTSWANA

The resolution has been formally transmitted to multiple governments, including Botswana, with instructions that "its President [of the European Parliament] forward this resolution to … the authorities of the other countries mentioned in this resolution," ensuring Gaborone receives the official warning directly.



President Advocate Duma Boko (C) flanked by Minister of International Relations Dr. Phenyo Butale (R) and Ambassador of Zimbabwe and Dean of the diplomatic corps Batiraishe Henry Mukonoweshuro (L) as he addresses the head of diplomatic missions accredited to Botswana as the country marks 60 years of diplomatic relations at the Bank of Botswana auditorium in Gaborone on 3 March 2026. (Pic:Monirul Bhuiyan/PRESS PHOTO)





Botswana Stands Firm on 'Risky' US Health Deal

This is despite a wave of rejections by other African countries

SESUPO RANTSIMAKO

Botswana has reiterated that it is under no pressure and has no intentions of withdrawing from a controversial United States-backed health funding agreement, despite a wave of rejections by other African countries.

Signed in December last year, the agreement has sparked debate across the continent over potential hidden conditions. Critics have expressed concerns about clauses on data sharing, program oversight, and foreign influence on national health decisions labeling it 'risky'. However, Botswana's Ministry of Health (MoH) has sought to allay these fears.

BOTSWANA NOT WITHDRAWING

Speaking to The Botswana Gazette, the Ministry of Health spokesperson Dr Christopher Nyanga emphasized that Botswana remains committed to the agreement. "The aim of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) is to strengthen laboratory systems, support procurement of medicines and medical commodities, and enhance the country's health data systems," Dr Nyanga said.

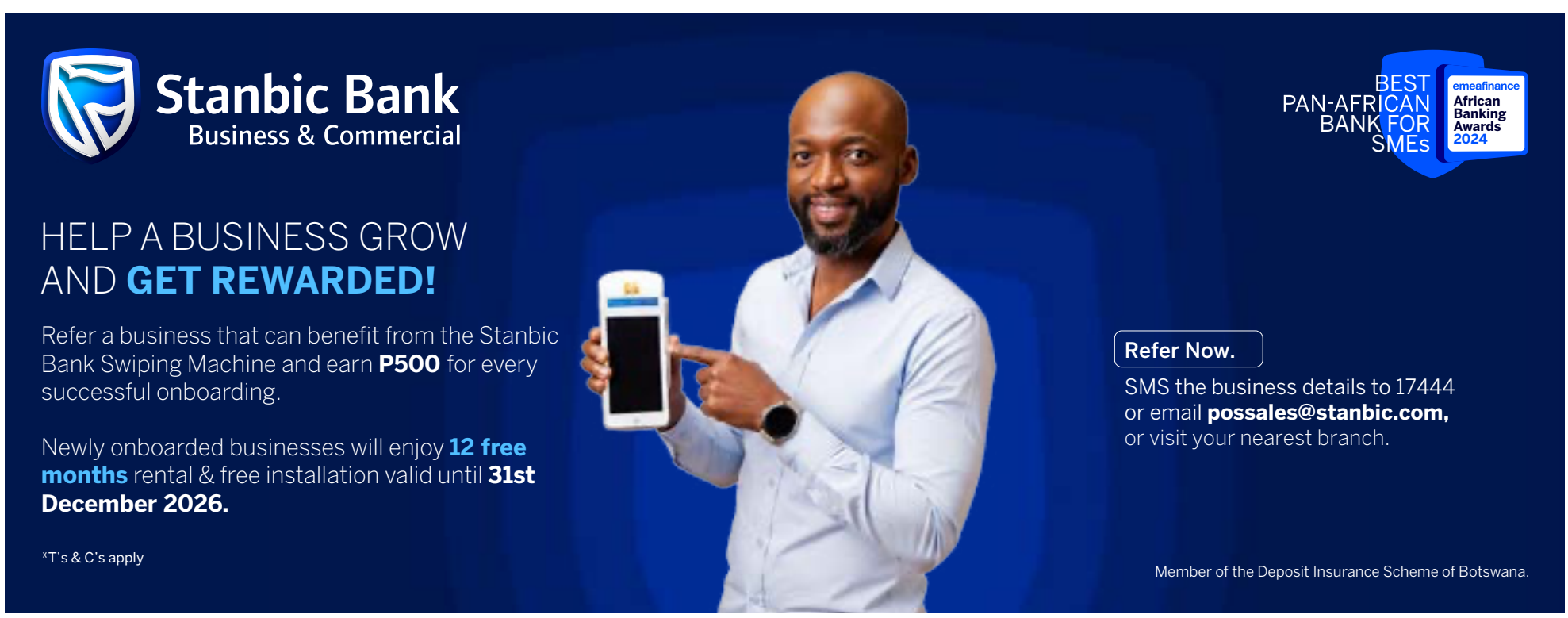
He added that while other African nations are opting out of similar arrangements, Botswana has no plans to follow suit. "Botswana and the United States have enjoyed strong bilateral relations for many years, particularly in the health sector. The US has been supportive in areas such as HIV/AIDS response, tuberculosis treatment and management, as well as community health and health systems strengthening. Botswana therefore has no intentions of withdrawing. We wish to emphasize once more that Botswana did not relinquish its rights and control of its data," Dr Nyanga stated.

NEGOTIATIONS TERMINATED ACROSS AFRICA

Across Africa, several countries, including Zimbabwe and Zambia, have terminated negotiations over US-backed health funding frameworks, citing concerns about national autonomy and the protection of patient data. Observers have warned that while the financial support is substantial, such agreements could limit governments' ability to independently design public health policies tailored to local needs.

"There is a growing sentiment across Africa that health partnerships must be based on equality and mutual respect," said a regional policy expert. "Governments are becoming more cautious about agreements that may undermine public trust or national autonomy."





Govt Sits on P20B in Unpaid GPOs

Unpaid Government Purchase Orders have surged past P20 billion, far outstripping the country's P2 billion cash reserves, as officials warn that reckless spending and inflated costs continue to strain public finances



BONGANI MALUNGA

The government is under financial distress for what senior officials describe as persistent reckless spending, with unpaid Government Purchase Orders (GPOs) ballooning to more than P20 billion despite repeated assurances that strict controls had been put in place.

The staggering figure stands in sharp contrast to the country's shrinking cash position, with national coffers reportedly holding just P2 billion against the mountain of unpaid invoices.

The revelation was made by Dr Tshokologo Kganetsano, Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Finance during a Charles Hill District Council address led by the Permanent Secretary to the President Emma Peloetletse last week.

EXAGGERATED COSTS

According to Dr Kganetsano, many of the invoices currently being processed reflect exaggerated costs, pointing to entrenched malpractice in how sections of the private sector do business with the state. The Permanent Secretary underlined that reckless spending has not been fully eliminated, adding that inflated pricing remains a key driver behind the runaway GPO bill.

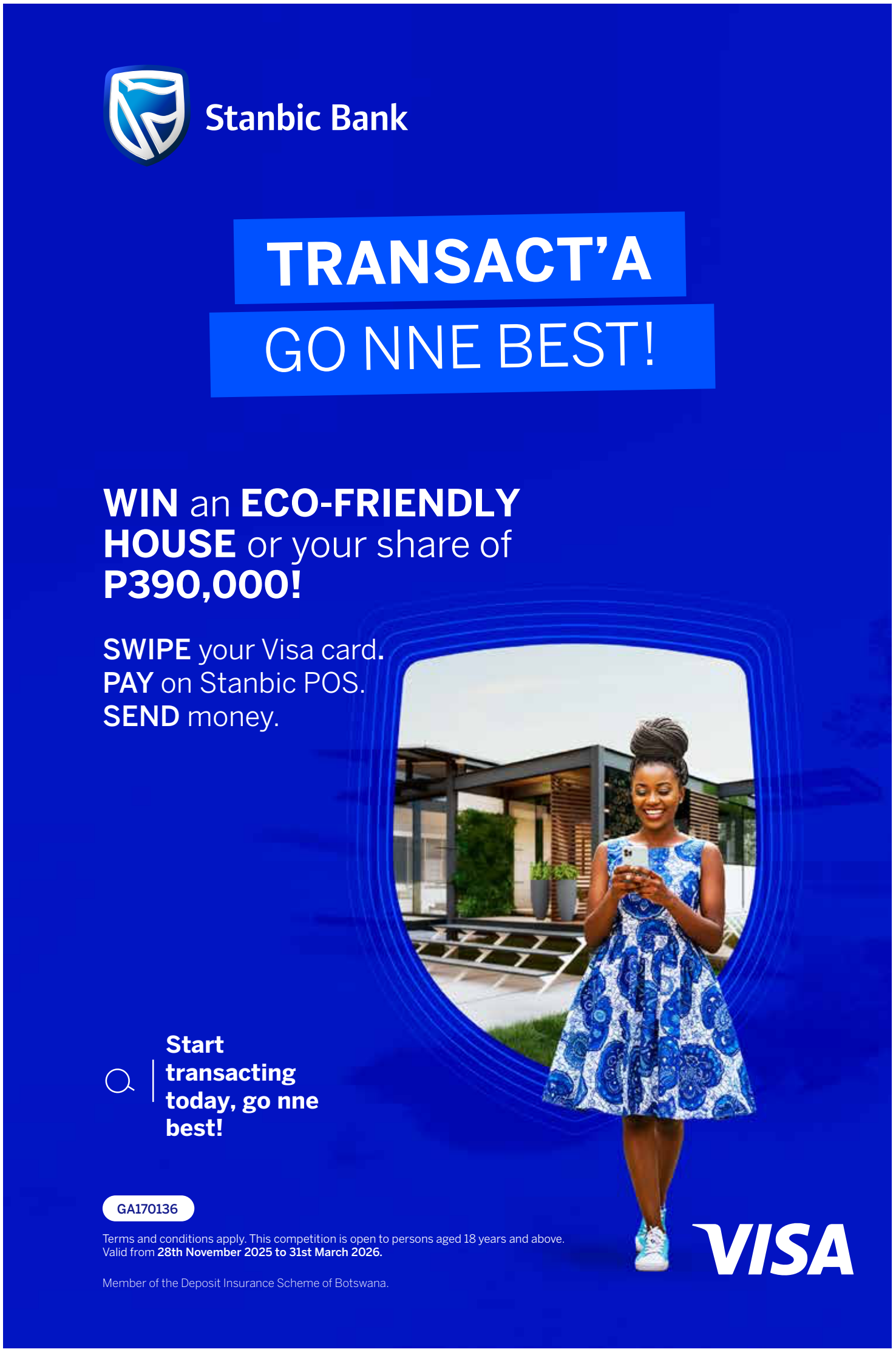
The latest disclosure casts comes a few months after government claims made late last year that the problem was being brought under control. In October, authorities announced that outstanding GPOs had dropped dramatically from P1.6 billion in May to P400 million by October following the introduction of tighter oversight measures.

"We are currently standing at around P2 billion against unpaid invoices worth more than P20 billion. We are refusing to adjust to the new reality because reckless spending in government continues to rise," Dr Kganetsano stated.

CONTROL MEASURES BYPASSED

"We have centralised a generation of GPOs. Every GPO goes through my office, I check every line and I see wonders. For example (in most cases) we pay P30 for something that is worth P5, that is what I see every day," he revealed.

As per the Permanent Secretary's submission, the resurgence of unpaid obligations to levels exceeding P20 billion suggests that control measures have been routinely bypassed. With suppliers waiting months and in some cases years for payment, the swelling GPO backlog is also raising fears of knock-on effects across the economy, including cash-flow problems for local businesses and further erosion of public trust in government spending.



'Moeladilotlhoko' Detained Until March 17

When denying Moeladilotlho bail, Magistrate Setshedi said it is the court's opinion that the accused may persist in committing offences if granted bail at this time



Tshepo Sethibe

BONGANI MALUNGA

The Molepolole Magistrate Court has denied social media personality Tshepo Sethibe bail, citing incitement concerns in a case where the complainant expressed fear for his life over Sethibe's online posts, which he alleges could provoke mob violence. Sethibe, better known for his Moeladilotlhoko News Boiler platform, faces a charge of using offensive electronic communication contrary to Section 17 of the Cybercrime and Computer Related Act.

During his testimony, the complainant, Medie's Headman of Records, Kgosi Moatlhodi Emmanuel Kgabo, told the court that he feared for his life after the accused's followers reportedly made threatening remarks on Facebook. He added that, out of concern for his family's safety, he had moved to Gaborone.

Sethibe is set to be remanded in custody until March 17, 2026. The prosecution applied for further detention of Sethibe pending the finalisation of investigations, noting that some electronic devices linked to the charges are yet to be recovered for forensic examination.

CONTINUED DETENTION

Magistrate Solomon Setshedi stated that while Sethibe is not considered a flight risk, the primary reason for continued detention is the alleged incitement of violence through his social media posts. The court also heard that the Medie chief and his family have relocated to Gaborone due to safety concerns arising from the online allegations.

"Having thoroughly reviewed the evidence presented by the two state witnesses, this court finds that releasing the accused on bail could pose a risk to the safety of both the public and the complainant. Furthermore, it is the court's opinion that the accused may persist in committing offences if granted bail at this time," the Magistrate asserted.

VIRAL MISINFORMATION

Observers and social media commentators say the case underscores the growing tension between freedom of expression and public safety in the digital era. The matter is also expected to set a precedent for how Botswana's courts balance cybercrime enforcement with individual rights, as authorities continue to grapple with the societal impact of viral misinformation.

Meanwhile, Sethibe's attorney Sharpe Dubula of Dubula Attorneys has continually urged the court to afford his client presumption of innocence until proven guilty and immediately facilitate his release.

Deposit & Lending Interest Rates

For the month of March 2026



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

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

*Minimum Pricing Available

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

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

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

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

For deposits more than P1, 000, 000 please contact 367 4377

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EU Suspends Botswana's Beef Imports

The European Union has urgently suspended fresh beef imports from parts of Botswana after new foot-and-mouth disease outbreaks, dealing a fresh blow to the country's export-dependent cattle industry

GAZETTE REPORTER



The European Union (EU) has announced an urgent amendment to its rules on importing fresh meat from Botswana following a series of foot-and-mouth disease (FMD) outbreaks in the southern African country.

In its Implementing Regulation (EU) 2026/451, the European Commission amended Annex XIII of Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2021/404, which lists third countries authorised to export fresh meat of certain ungulates to the EU.

"The entry for Botswana in Annex XIII to Implementing Regulation (EU) 2021/404 is amended to take account of the current epidemiological situation as regards foot-and-mouth disease in that third country," the regulation reads.

The measure comes into force immediately and is binding across all EU member states.

OUTBREAKS CONFIRMED IN NORTH-EAST DISTRICT

According to the Commission, Botswana first reported a suspected FMD outbreak on 28 January 2026 in a bovine establishment located in the North-East District. The outbreak was confirmed the following day by Botswana's competent authorities.

Subsequent communications revealed additional FMD outbreaks in five more bovine establishments in the same region, four of which fall within veterinary disease control zone 3c. These zones are situated close to the initial outbreak site in zone 6b — an area from which EU imports have already been suspended since August 2022.

ZONE 3C NOW BARRED FROM EU MARKET

Prior to the amendment, Part 1 of Annex XIII permitted consignments of fresh meat from Botswana's veterinary disease control zones 3c, 4b, 5, 8 and 9 to enter the EU market.

The Commission's urgent action now specifically suspends imports from zone 3c due to what it describes as a heightened risk of introducing FMD into the Union.

The decision is grounded in the EU Animal Health Law — Regulation (EU) 2016/429 — together with related implementing and delegated regulations governing products of animal origin from third countries.

The measures were adopted in line with the opinion of the Standing Committee on Plants, Animals, Food and Feed.

ECONOMIC IMPLICATIONS FOR BOTSWANA

For Botswana, where beef exports remain a critical source of foreign revenue, the suspension is expected to carry significant economic implications, particularly for producers operating in the affected districts.

The regulation was signed off in Brussels on 23 February 2026 by Ursula von der Leyen, President of the European Commission, underscoring the urgency of the decision.

"These measures are necessary to protect the health of European livestock and consumers," the Commission said in a note accompanying the publication.

EU TO MONITOR SITUATION

The EU indicated it will continue to monitor the epidemiological situation in Botswana and may revise the import status of the affected zones once the outbreaks are fully contained and the country demonstrates compliance with EU animal health standards.

Until then, the suspension will remain in force, tightening pressure on Botswana's beef sector as authorities work to contain the spread of FMD.

access

NOTICE OF EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL MEETING OF ACCESS BANK BOTSWANA LIMITED

Notice Is hereby given that a virtual Extraordinary General Meeting of the Shareholders of ACCESS BANK (BOTSWANA) LIMITED ('the Bank') will be held through Microsoft Teams on, Friday, March 13, 2026, at 10:00 am, for the purpose of transacting the following business:

AGENDA:

1. **Ordinary Business**
   There will be no ordinary business to be transacted at this meeting.

2. **Special Resolution**

   2.1. Adoption of an Amended Constitution

   2.1.1. To consider and, if deemed fit, pass the pass the following Special Resolution, to amend the company's constitution in accordance with the Companies (Amendment) Act, 2025, which came into effect on 24 January 2025.

   2.1.2. A copy of the proposed Constitution will be available for inspection along with Circular detailing the proposed changes at **https://botswana.accessbankplc.com/**

3. **To Close The Meeting**

Voting and Proxies
All shareholders are entitled to attend and vote at the above-mentioned meeting and are entitled to appoint a proxy or proxies to attend, speak at and to vote in his/her/their stead. The proxy need not also be a Shareholder. The Proxy Form is available on the Access Bank website **https:botswana.accessbankplc.com**. The instrument appointing such a proxy must be lodged at or posted to the **Transfer Secretaries at the below stated address not less than 48 hours before the meeting. Central Securities Depository Company of Botswana are authorized to receive and count postal votes.**

By Order of the Board

Thato Mmile
Company Secretary

TRANSFER SECRETARIES:
Central Securities Depository Company of Botswana (CSDB)
Physical address: Plot 70667, 4th Floor, Fairscape Precinct, Fairgrounds
Contact details: 3674400 /09/11/12
Contact person: Nonofo Phalatse /or Ambrosia Khupe
Postal address: Private Bag 00417, Gaborone Botswana.

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Stanbic Bank Botswana
DEPOSIT, LENDING AND FOREIGN CURRENCY DEPOSIT RATES
March 2026



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

BWP Deposit Interest Rates

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

* Reference rate
[a] Rate applies to Flexi - Access Account
All interest rates quoted are on annual basis

Lending Interest Rates

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

All interest rates quoted are on annual basis

Foreign Currency Deposit Interest Rates

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

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

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

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

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

Member of Deposit Insurance Scheme of Botswana

Ukraine Offers Intelligence Help to Botswana

Ukraine has offered to assist Botswana in tracing three nationals reportedly recruited by the Russian Army, sharing intelligence on recruitment and deployment

BONGANI MALUNGA

The Ukraine government has signaled its readiness to assist Botswana in identifying three Batswana nationals believed to have been recruited by the Russian Army to fight in the ongoing war against Ukraine.

Ukraine's Foreign Minister, Andrii Sybiha, said they are prepared to share intelligence-based assessments and additional verified information gathered from multiple sources.

The data, he noted, could play a crucial role in helping Botswana trace its citizens and better understand the circumstances under which they were drawn into the conflict.

According to Sybiha, Ukrainian intelligence services have accumulated extensive records on foreign nationals involved in Russia's military campaign, including recruitment patterns, deployment locations and operational roles. Ukraine is willing to make this information available to Botswana as part of a cooperative effort rooted in transparency and international responsibility.

PUBLIC APPEAL

In a public appeal on his official social media page, the Ukrainian foreign minister urged Botswana to initiate formal, government-to-government discussions to launch the process. "Ukraine welcomes the efforts of the Government of Botswana to engage with the relevant authorities. We remain open to bilateral dialogue on this matter," Sybiha remarked.

"Ukraine's position remains unchanged, participation of foreign citizens in Russia's war against Ukraine carries serious and often fatal consequences. Moreover, the participation of Botswana citizens in foreign armed conflicts as mercenaries is prohibited under Botswana's national legislation," the minister added.

DIPLOMATIC CROSSROADS

Such talks, he emphasized, would provide the necessary diplomatic framework for sharing sensitive intelligence while respecting legal and sovereignty considerations on both sides. The offer places Botswana at a diplomatic crossroads. Accepting Ukraine's assistance could help clarify the fate of its citizens and address growing concerns over foreign recruitment into overseas conflicts.

The Ukrainian government's remarks come a few days after Botswana's Ministry of International Relations denied media reports stating that the three Batswana recruits are feared dead. The ministry announced that collaborated efforts with INTERPOL are ongoing to establish facts and determine the whereabouts of the army recruits.

NO VERIFIED INFORMATION

"At this stage, no verified information has been received confirming the location or status of the individuals concerned. The Government remains fully committed to safeguarding the welfare and interests of Batswana abroad. All appropriate diplomatic, legal and law-enforcement avenues are being actively pursued to establish the status of the affected individuals. The Ministry of International Relations and relevant officials continue to engage the families with due sensitivity and care," the Phenyo Butale led ministry stated.

"It is worth recalling that in December 2025, the Government successfully facilitated the safe return of another Motswana in a separate but related matter. This underscores Botswana's unwavering commitment to the protection of its citizens wherever they may be," the ministry added.



BOTSWANA OIL
Your Fuel. Your Future

CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

Botswana Oil Limited is mandated to manage strategic fuel reserves, bulk storage and distribution while facilitating meaningful citizen participation in the petroleum sector. With a strong focus on integrity, operational excellence and commercial value creation, the organisation is inviting candidates who are strategic, ethical and ambitious to join their leadership team as **Chief Financial Officer**.

Job Purpose
Reporting to the Chief Executive Officer and indirectly to the Board, the Chief Financial Officer will lead the organisation's Finance, Procurement, ICT, and Administration functions. The role is accountable for ensuring prudent financial management, robust governance, regulatory compliance, and effective resource allocation to enable operational excellence and achievement of strategic goals.

The Job
The position will be responsible for, among others, the following:
- Participating in the formulating, development and reviewing of the corporate strategy.
- Leading the development of the departmental strategies in line with the corporate strategy and ensuring their effective execution, in alignment with best practices.
- Establishing and monitoring effective internal control systems.
- Overseeing financial planning, reporting, and compliance with international accounting standards.
- Managing financial risks, cash flow and liquidity to ensure sustainability.
- Overseeing implementation of procurement strategy and tender processes.
- Ensuring efficient and cost-effective provision of administrative services, including security and asset management.
- Overseeing delivery of ICT strategy and projects that support business efficiency and innovation.
- Providing financial and strategic advice to the CEO and Board.
- Fostering relationships with regulators, financial institutions, auditors, and other key stakeholders.
- Building, mentoring and leading multidisciplinary teams to deliver on mandate.

The Person
The right candidate will possess the following:
- A Bachelor's Degree in Accounting or Finance, plus a professional accounting qualification (ACCA, CIMA, Botswana CA, or equivalent).
- A Master's degree in a related field would be an added advantage.
- Membership of BICA in good standing.
- At least 12 years of financial management experience, with a minimum of 5 years at senior management level in a large organisation.
- Strong background managing multi-disciplinary functions, including Finance, ICT, Procurement, and Administration.

Competencies
- Strategic and financial leadership.
- Strong business acumen and decision-making ability.
- Results-driven with high ethical standards.
- Analytical and problem-solving skills.
- Stakeholder engagement and influencing.
- Change management and innovation.
- Ability to empower and develop teams.

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

Closing Date: 15 March 2026

For enquiries: Contact 3975917 / 3915503

PEOPLE CONNECTIONS
connecting people and business

Govt Moves to Regulate Yango, Indrive

Transport Ministry moves to regulate ride-hailing platforms like Yango and InDrive, citing passenger safety concerns and gaps in existing transport legislation



BONGANI MALUNGA

The Ministry of Transport and Infrastructure has issued a regulation notice targeting ride-hailing services, signalling the government's intention to bring digital transport platforms under formal regulatory oversight.

Ride-hailing companies such as Yango, InDrive and Areye are expected to be affected by the proposed changes, following reports that some drivers are operating without the required permits. The move is aimed at closing a regulatory gap in the Road Transport Permits Act, which currently does not explicitly account for technology-driven private transportation services.

SAFEGUARDING PASSENGERS

Speaking in Parliament on Monday, Assistant Minister of Transport and Infrastructure Keoagile Atamelang said the review of the law is necessary to safeguard passengers and ensure accountability within the rapidly growing ride-hailing sector.

Atamelang warned that the absence of regulation could expose commuters to safety risks, as some platforms may deploy under-qualified or unvetted drivers. The assistant minister further noted that efforts to engage the public transport sector on the impact of ride-hailing services have been unsuccessful. According to Atamelang, the lack of a unified taxi association has made it difficult for the ministry to obtain a consolidated position, as the sector is fragmented into multiple independent associations.

"In relation to services such as Yango, I went to the bus-taxi rank to ask operators why they have been silent on the issue. It turns out that taxi associations don't have a single voice, there are so many associations. Some don't have a problem with ride-hailing services while others strongly oppose it. We have encouraged them to join forces and present a single, unified position to begin formal talks," Atamelang noted.

STERN WARNING

"We have also extended an invitation to Yango for formal talks, we have also notified them of the dangers of recruiting drivers who sign up without proper transport permits. We are actively talking with them and soon we will take action against them (if they do not correct the permitting issue)," the assistant minister warned.

According to the assistant minister, the proposed regulatory framework is expected to define operating requirements for ride-hailing services, including driver permits, compliance standards and oversight mechanisms, as the government seeks to balance innovation with public safety and fair competition in the transport industry.

BTU Slams Govt's 'Hidden Meds' Claims

The BTU has denounced Assistant Minister Ignatius Moswaane's allegations that health workers deliberately hid medical drugs, calling the claims baseless and reckless

GAZETTE REPORTER

The Botswana Teachers Union (BTU) has strongly criticized recent remarks by Assistant Minister of Local Government and Traditional Affairs, Ignatius Moswaane, accusing health workers of deliberately hiding medical drugs to undermine government efforts to improve healthcare access.

RECKLESS AND BASELESS

In a statement, the union described the claims as "reckless, baseless, and deserving of the strongest condemnation." BTU warned that such allegations undermine the integrity of institutions Moswaane is meant to protect and risk eroding public trust in the government by spreading unverified information.

PUBLIC CONFIDENCE AT RISK

"The public's confidence in Botswana's health system is already fragile. Inflammatory statements from senior officials only deepen mistrust, confusion, and unnecessary panic," the union said. It added that political leaders have a duty to communicate responsibly, particularly on sensitive issues like healthcare delivery.

HEALTH WORKERS' DEDICATION DEFENDED



Assistant Minister of Local Government and Traditional Affairs, Ignatius Moswaane

BTU also condemned the implication that doctors, nurses, and pharmacists were acting in bad faith, calling it "unjust and demoralizing." The union highlighted the dedication of health workers who continue to serve under challenging conditions and warned that accusations of sabotage could erode morale and strain relations between frontline staff and government.

CALL FOR RETRACTION AND APOLOGY

The union urged Moswaane to retract his statements and issue a public apology, emphasizing that false accusations from officials threaten national unity and progress. BTU said it would monitor the Assistant Minister's actions closely and called on the government to publicly condemn the remarks, cautioning that silence could be interpreted as approval.

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATE BLOCKED

Moswaane recently told Parliament he had intercepted counterfeit medical drugs at a Shoshong clinic and claimed some had already been administered to patients. Efforts by Botswana Democratic Party (BDP) MP for Kgatleng East, Mabuse Pule, to have the matter formally debated in Parliament were blocked by Speaker Dithapelo Keorapetse

OMBUDSMAN INVESTIGATION LIKELY

The Ombudsman's office has received complaints over Moswaane's allegations, with an investigation expected to follow.

BONU SLAMS GOVT EXCUSES OVER NURSE SHORTAGES



Pic Credit Botswana Nurses Union (facebookk page)

BONU has dismissed government explanations for the country's worsening nurse-to-population ratio, blaming poor pay, harsh working conditions and not migration or limited vacancies

BONGANI MALUNGA

The Botswana Nurses Union (BONU) has issued a challenge to the government, urging urgent measures to fill vacant nursing posts and address the country's ongoing health workforce crisis.

Botswana currently has just 31 nurses per 10,000 people, well below the World Health Organization recommendation of 45 per 10,000. The union says this shortfall is evident in overworked staff, longer patient waiting times, and declining care quality across hospitals and clinics.

BONU directly contested remarks by the Assistant Minister of Health Lawrence Ookeditse, who told Parliament that nurse shortages were primarily due to migration, absorption into the private sector, and limited vacancies.

> "BONU calls on the Assistant Minister and the government to demonstrate decisive leadership by immediately filling existing nursing vacancies"

The union argued that this explanation overlooked the main issue: vacant nursing and midwifery positions that remain unfilled.

CALL TO FILL VACANT POSTS

"BONU stresses that the most urgent and practical solution lies in filling the existing vacant nursing and midwifery posts," said BONU Publicity Secretary, Batlhalefi Thebe.

The union also highlighted the ongoing loss of professional nurses due to low wages and poor working conditions, while some qualified nurses remain unemployed. BONU described this as a contradiction that urgently needs resolution.

PUSH TO REMOVE BUREAUCRATIC HURDLES

BONU urged the Ministry of Health to absorb nurses into the healthcare system without delay, warning that bureaucratic obstacles are hindering workforce expansion.

"Failure to act perpetuates long waiting times, unsafe workloads, and compromised patient outcomes," the union said.

DEMAND FOR DECISIVE LEADERSHIP

The union called on the Assistant Minister and the government to show decisive leadership by immediately filling existing nursing vacancies.

"Botswana cannot continue to lament shortages when solutions are within reach. BONU remains committed to support the government in strengthening the health workforce and safeguarding community wellbeing," the statement concluded.

BOTSWANA SAVINGS BANK

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Telephone: +267 395 2555
Facsimile: +267 395 2608 / 393 6126
Website: www.bsb.bw
Botswana Savings Bank
bsb_bw

3/3/2026

TENDER ADENDUM 1

TENDER REF NO: BSB/PU/RBS/018/2026 PROCUREMENT OF DIGITAL COLLECTION SOLUTIONS COVERING EFT DEBITS, CARD PAYMENTS, AND INSTANT EFTS FOR BOTSWANA SAVINGS BANK FOR A PERIOD OF (3) YEARS

Bidders and the public are notified that after a careful consideration the closing date has been changed as follows:

Previous Closing date: 04 March 2026 @ 10am

New Closing date: 11 March 2026 @10am

Any clarifications will be accessed from the website.

Bidders are informed that all other terms and conditions of the tender remain the same.

Regards

Procurement Unit

BDP Bets on Khama, Masisi for Revival

The BDP is making a renewed push to reconcile former presidents Mokgweetsi Masisi and Ian Khama, hoping that bridging their long-standing rift will heal party divisions and strengthen its chances in future elections



The Botswana Democratic Party (BDP) says it is making a renewed push to reconcile former presidents Mokgweetsi Masisi and Ian Khama, arguing that restoring cordial relations between the two could revive the party and improve its fortunes in future elections.

SESUPO RANTSIMAKO

The Botswana Democratic Party (BDP) says it is making a renewed push to reconcile former presidents Mokgweetsi Masisi and Ian Khama, arguing that restoring cordial relations between the two could revive the party and improve its fortunes in future elections.

The decision follows last week's BDP retreat, where party president Mpho Balopi announced the launch of a fresh mediation process aimed at ending the long-standing fallout between the two leaders. Previous attempts by the party to broker peace failed, but the BDP now says reconciliation is critical for its political survival.

HISTORY

The rift between Masisi and Khama dates back to 2018, shortly after Masisi succeeded Khama as president. Relations deteriorated sharply in 2019 following the general elections, as disagreements emerged over governance style, party control, security issues, and Khama's influence within government and the ruling party. The fallout eventually led to Khama severing ties with the BDP and openly opposing Masisi's leadership, a conflict that deeply divided the party and its support base.

IMMENSE POLITICAL INFLUENCE

Speaking in an interview with The Botswana Gazette, BDP Executive Secretary Ame Makoba said the party's renewed effort is driven by the immense political influence both former presidents still wield.

"Although they are both former presidents, they still command massive influence in politics and across the country," Makoba said. "If they can smoke the peace pipe, it would benefit the party because their followers could also put their differences aside and rally behind the BDP again."

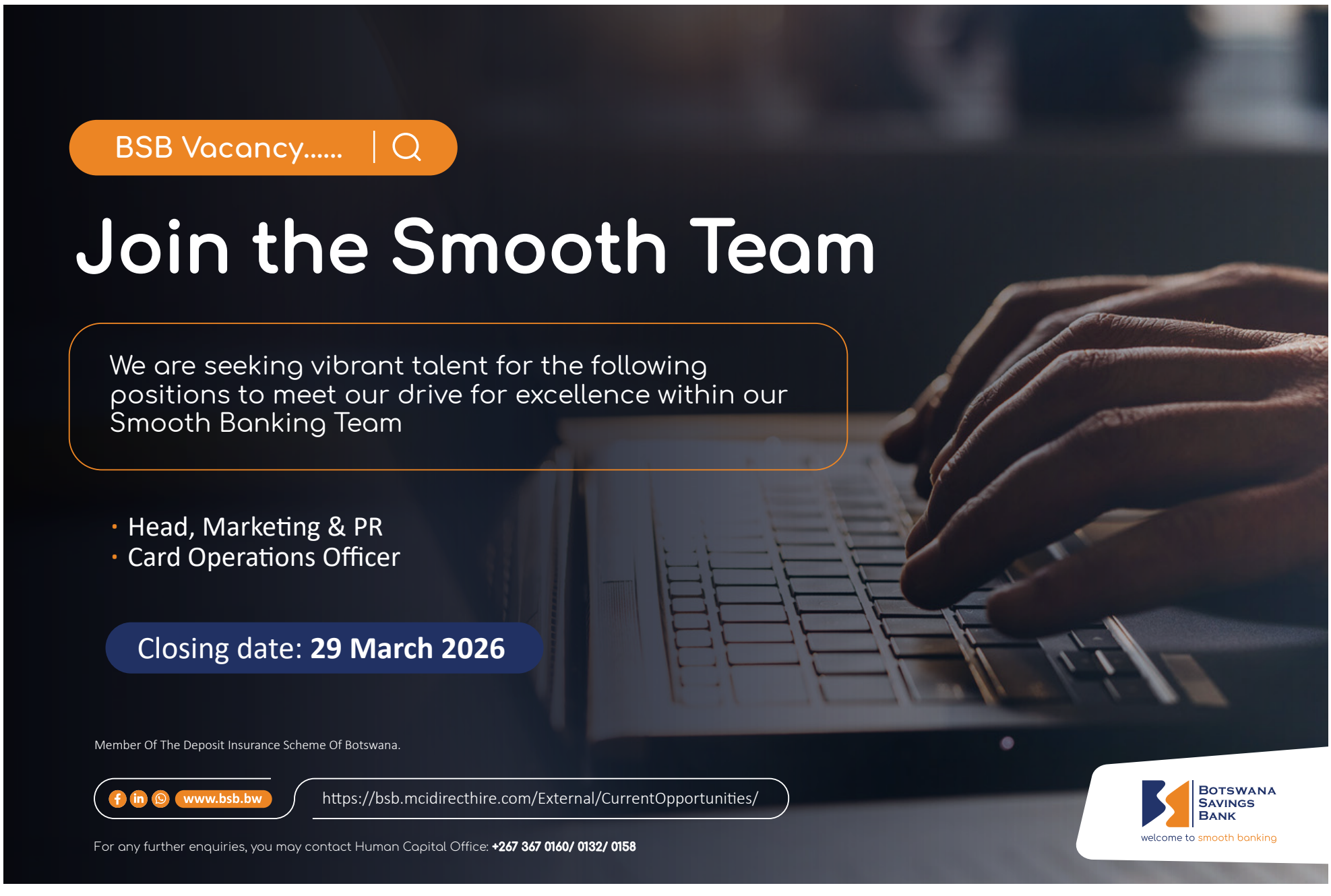
> If they can smoke the peace pipe, it would benefit the party because their followers could also put their differences aside and rally behind the BDP again.

LOSS ATTRIBUTABLE TO PARTY CONFLICTS

Makoba attributed the BDP's poor performance in the 2024 general elections largely to the ongoing conflict, particularly in Bangwato-dominated areas. He said the party became deeply unpopular in the region, with voters accusing it of attacking their Kgosi.

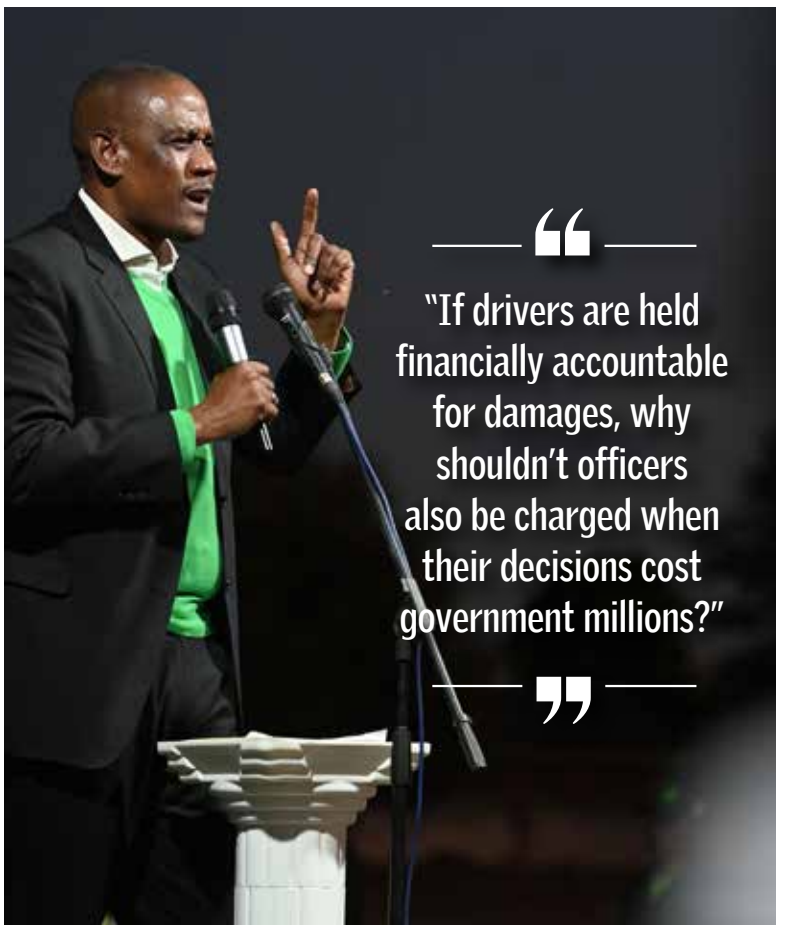
"We were booed when trying to solicit support and in some cases chased away from homesteads," he said. "That is why we went to Serowe to apologize. If the two reconcile, it could help the BDP regain trust and find its way back."

The party believes that a Masisi–Khama rapprochement could help heal internal divisions, reunite estranged supporters and stabilize the BDP ahead of future electoral contests.



MPs Demand Officers Pay for Costly Decisions

MPs are calling for public officers whose decisions cost the government millions to face surcharges, arguing that accountability in the civil service has been selective and weak



SESUPO RANTSIMAKO

Members of Parliament have urged the government to introduce a surcharge on public servants whose actions result in financial losses, citing weak accountability within the civil service.

The call was made during deliberations on the Committee of Supply for the Ministry of Finance.

SALESHANDO DEMANDS ACCOUNTABILITY

Maun North MP Dumelang Saleshando argued that government employees should be held responsible when mismanagement or poor decision-making costs the country millions.

"Where there is clear evidence that a public servant has caused financial loss to government, either through misappropriation or taking wrong decisions, they should be held accountable," Saleshando said. "Too often, employees who make costly decisions walk free, and the burden is left to the government. It is high time action is taken against these individuals."

"Some officers have a tendency to bypass government procedures, such as unfairly expelling subordinates from work without adhering to the Public Service Act,"

MOSANANA QUESTIONS DOUBLE STANDARDS

Kanye East MP Prince Mosanana highlighted what he described as selective enforcement, pointing out that government drivers are routinely surcharged for vehicle damages, while senior officers whose decisions cost millions face no penalties.

"If drivers are held financially accountable for damages, why shouldn't officers also be charged when their decisions cost government millions?" Mosanana asked. He added that the time had come for public officers to bear the financial consequences of their costly actions.

LABOUR MINISTER SUPPORTS SURCHARGES

Minister of Labour Pius Mokgware, a retired general, backed the MPs' proposal, stressing that public officers who bypass procedures or act improperly should face surcharges.

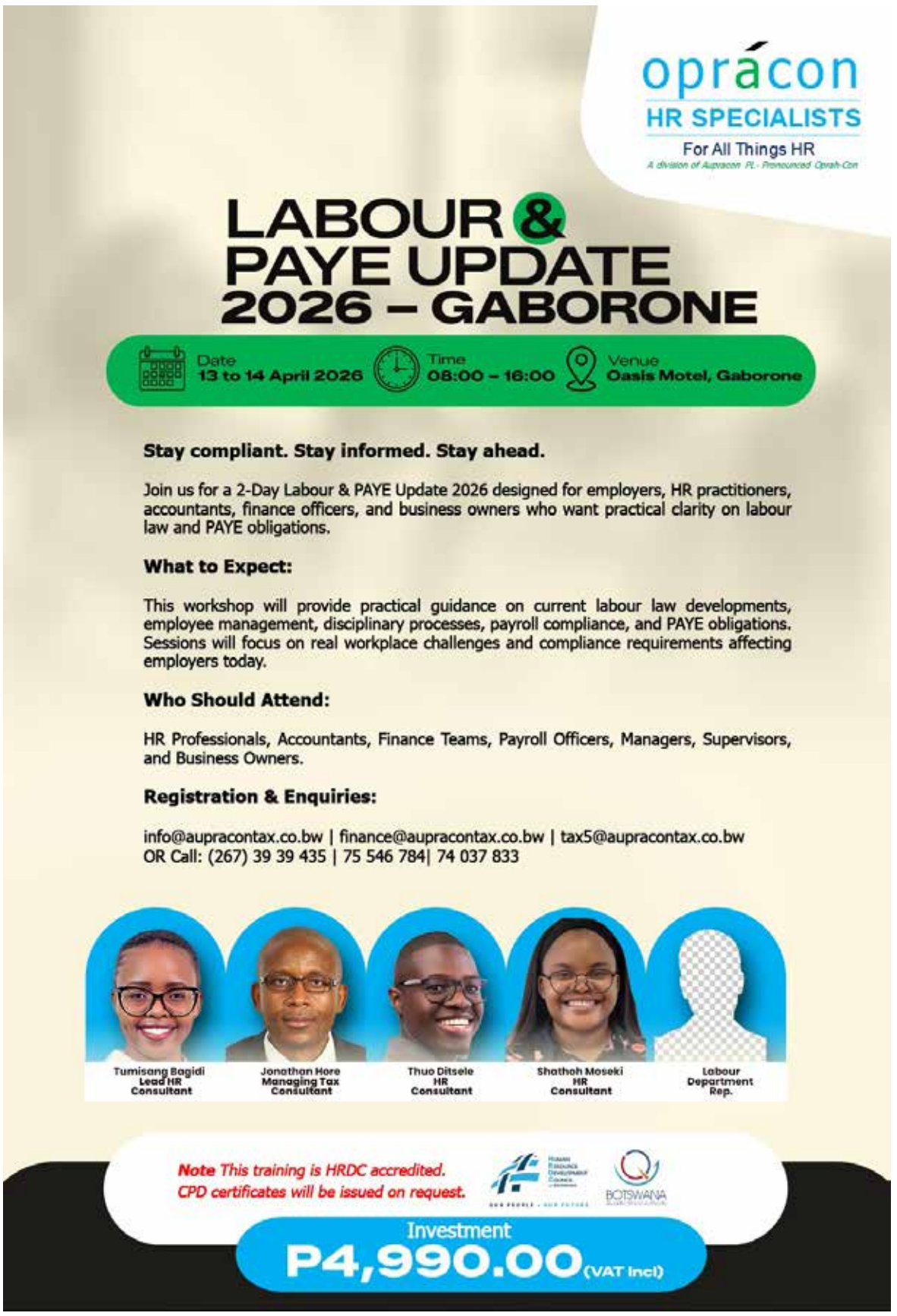
"Some officers have a tendency to bypass government procedures, such as unfairly expelling subordinates from work without adhering to the Public Service Act," Mokgware said. "When such cases reach court, government often loses, yet the officers involved are not held responsible. Just like drivers, these officers should also be surcharged for their decisions and pay for the costs."

CONCERNS OVER CIVIL SERVICE ACCOUNTABILITY

The MPs' proposal comes amid mounting public concern over financial mismanagement and repeated litigation losses by the state.

BOFEPUSU Secretary General Robert Rabasimane noted that while the law allows for accounting officers to be charged for misconduct, enforcement has been inconsistent, costing the government substantial sums.

"In some instances, accounting officers conduct disciplinary processes unprocedurally, which results in litigation. Others sign contracts without legal basis, again exposing government to lawsuits," Rabasimane said. "Therefore, any accounting officer who takes decisions without legal basis should be charged with misconduct."





VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

The University is looking for a qualified and experienced individuals for the below-stated positions.

The successful candidates will be appointed on pensionable terms or a fixed-term contract of up to five (5) years.

The position is based at the BIUST Campus, Palapye.

LECTURER CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT

Main Purpose of the Job
- To teach and educate undergraduate and graduate students in an academic discipline and to build the knowledge base of the discipline through research and publication.
- To administer teaching and research activities within the discipline of Civil and Environmental Engineering
- To give leadership in the University, the School and the Department, and developing the next generation of academics;
- To play a leading role in improving the teaching and research infrastructure of the Department, Faculty and University.
- To be active in some form of professional service.

Qualifications
- A PhD in Construction and Engineering Management, or the relevant field of Civil and Environmental Engineering with speciality in Construction Management or Project Management.
- A Masters Degree in Construction and Engineering Management or related fields of Civil and Environmental Engineering with a specialty in Construction Management.
- A Bachelor of Engineering in Civil Engineering or Civil and Environmental Engineering

Experience
- At least 2 years' experience in either teaching/lecturing/research or industry experience in the relevant field or discipline is an added advantage
- Good research record or evidence of research potential or industry experience or at least two research papers one of the publications in a reputable refereed journal
- Experience of teaching at the Undergraduate/Postgraduate levels is an added advantage

Competencies:
a) Should have the skills of coaching and mentoring students
b) Should be able to communicate well orally and in writing
c) Should possess the skill of time management and be self-motivated
d) Be a team player and also be able to work independently

If you meet the requirements of the above-stated position, please send your application letter, certified copies of certificates and a detailed Curriculum Vitae, including at least two (2) recent professional referees, to:

Director, Human Capital, at the email address below.

recruit.civil.eng@biust.ac.bw

For any further enquiries, you may call Ms. Ramolatlhwa @ 4931304@/Ms Ulaula @ 4931315

Closing Date: March 20, 2026

PROFESSOR IN MINING ENGINEERING

MAIN PURPOSE OF THE JOB:
- Advance the image of the University in the community locally, nationally and internationally through quality teaching, reserach and schoolarly pursuits.
- Demonstarte and foster excellence in research, teaching and service
- Manage the efforts and performance of the team.

COMPETENCIES/SKILLS:
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills including presentation skills.
- Mentoring and coaching.
- Negotiation, networking and relationship building.
- Organizational (planning, budgeting, time management, work prioritization).
- Research, critical thinking, analytical and problem-solving.
- Professionalism and adherence to good work ethics.
- Results and performance driven.
- Team player with strong dedication to BIUST's purpose and mission.
- Prepare and submit proposals, supervise projects and graduate students, synthesise information to design learning experiences, and go seek out research grants/funding

Academic Qualification:
- PhD in relevant field of Mining Engineering, and
- Master of Science in Mining Engineering, and
- Bachelor of Engineering or Science in Mining Engineering
- The candidate must be registered with Engineers Registration Board (ERB) Botswana
- The candidate must be registered with Botswana Qualifications Authority (BQA) as an Assessor and Moderator.

Experience:
- A minimum of ten (10) years post-doctoral experience in teaching and research in the relevant field; in particular in the followingareas: Underground Mining, Surface Mining, Mine Machinery, Blasting, Explosives and Rock Fragmentation, Mine Ventilation, Mine Health and Safety, Mine Backfill, and Computer Applications (versatile in the use of Surpac, Datamine & other mining engineering software).
- An excellent record of international publications with at least 30 publications in reputable refereed journals commensurate with appointment to the rank of Professor.
- Experience in the successful supervision of postgraduate students.
- Evidence of research grants awarded.
- Engagements in projects/services that benefit the University, the Profession and the Community.
- Demonstrated and sustained excellent leadership in academic and professional fields.

If you meet the requirements of the above stated position, please send your application letter and a detailed Curriculum Vitae including at least three (3) recent professional referees, at least two of which should be from your direct managers, to;

Director, Human Resources at the email address below.

recruitment.mining.eng@biust.ac.bw

For any further enquiries, you may call Ms Ulaula @ 4931315 or Ms Ramolatlhwa @493 1304.

Closing Date: March 20, 2026.

VISITING ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR- DEPARTMENT OF MINING ENGINEERING (12 months)

MAIN PURPOSE OF THE JOB:
- Work with colleagues on curriculum development and the advancement of the relevant discipline
- Deliver teaching over a range of modules within an established programme
- Undertake student tutoring and support
- Conduct individual research or work on collaborative projects
- Supervise students projects (both undergraduate and postgraduate levels)
- Source external and internal research funding from national and international donors
- Community engagement

COMPETENCIES/SKILLS:
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills including presentation skills.
- Mentoring and coaching.
- Negotiation, networking and relationship building.
- Organizational (planning, budgeting, time management, work prioritization).
- Research, critical thinking, analytical and problem-solving.
- Organisational awareness with an understanding of how to engage the organisation to get things done.
- Professionalism and adherence to good work ethics.
- Team player with strong dedication to BIUST's purpose and mission.
- Prepare and submit proposals, supervise projects and graduate students, synthesise information to design learning experiences, and go seek out research grants/funding

Academic Qualification:
- PhD in Mining Engineering with specialization in Computer Applications (versatikle in the use of Surpac, Datamine & other mining engineering software), Surface Mining, Underground Mining, Mine Machinery, Mine Backfill, Materials Handling and Explosives and Rock Fragmentation, from a recognized institution.
- Master of Science/Engineering in Mining Engineering from a recognized institution
- Bachelor of Science/ Engineering in Mining Engineering.
- Registration with relevant professional bodies

Experience:
- Atleast six years post-doctoral post-doctoral experience in either teaching/lecturing/research or industry experience in the relevant field or discipline, at least four of which must be a Graduate supervision including successful doctoral Students.
- Experience in teaching at tertiary level for at least 3 years.
- A sustained and recent record of peer-reviewed publications and other research output over at least a six-year period (min. of 16 peer-reviewed publications of ISI journals / scopus or web of science indexed journals)
- Experience of obtaining external research funding
- Evidence of research grant awaded

If you meet the requirements of the above stated position, please send your application letter and a detailed Curriculum Vitae including at least three (3) recent professional referees, at least two of which should be from your direct managers, to;

Director, Human Resources at the email address below;

recruitment.mining.eng@biust.ac.bw

For any further enquiries, you may call Ms Ulaula @ 4931315 or Ms Ramolatlhwa@493 1304.

Closing Date: March 20, 2026.

PROFESSOR IN CIVIL AND ENVIROMENTAL ENGINEERING

MAIN PURPOSE OF THE JOB:
- Advance the image of the University in the community locally, nationally and internationally through quality teaching, reserach and schoolarly pursuits.
- Demonstarte and foster excellence in research, teaching and service
- Manage the efforts and performance of the team.

COMPETENCIES/SKILLS:
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills including presentation skills.
- Mentoring and coaching.
- Negotiation, networking and relationship building.
- Organizational (planning, budgeting, time management, work prioritization).
- Research, critical thinking, analytical and problem-solving.
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- Professionalism and adherence to good work ethics.
- Results and performance driven.
- Team player with strong dedication to BIUST's purpose and mission.
- Prepare and submit proposals, supervise projects and graduate students, synthesise information to design learning experiences, and go seek out research grants/funding

Academic Qualification:
- A PhD degree in a relevant field of Civil Engineering and Environmental Engineering with a specially in Water Resources Engineering.
- A Master of Science, Engineering in the relevant field of Civil and Environmental Engineering.
- A Bacheklor's degree in Civil Engineering or related field.
- The candidate must be registered with Engineers Registration Board (ERB) Botswana.
- The candidate must be registered with Botswana Qualifications Authority (BQA) as an Assessor and Moderator.

Experience:
- Atleast 10 years post doctoral experience in either teaching/lecturing/ research or industry experience in a relevant field or discipline, at least five of which must in teaching at tertiary level and graduate supervision or developing and mentoring junior research staff.
- A track record of successful research supevision at all levels including doctorate.
- A national and International record of excellence in research and publication
- Experience in teaching at tertiary level for at least 3 years
- A sustained and recent record of peer-reviewed publications and other output over at least a six-year period (min. of 32 peer-reviewed publications of Scopus or web of science indexed journals)
- Experience of obtaining external research funding
- Registration with ERB
- Registered with BQA on Assessor and Moderator will be required for the successful candidate.

If you meet the requirements of the above stated position, please send your application letter and a detailed Curriculum Vitae including at least three (3) recent professional referees, at least two of which should be from your direct managers, to;

Director, Human Resources at the email address below.

recruit.civil.eng@biust.ac.bw

For any further enquiries, you may call Ms Ulaula @ 4931315 or Ms Ramolatlhwa @493 1304.

Closing Date: March 20, 2026.

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FNB Aligns Strategy to Key Sectors

Half-year results show steady lending growth, digital investment and resilient capital buffers

GAZETTE REPORTER

FNB Botswana has aligned its strategy to key sectors of the economy as it positions itself to support government, state-owned enterprises and high-impact industries, while sustaining community partnerships through its foundation.

In financial results for the six months ended December 31, 2025, the bank's chief executive, Steven Bogatsu, said the lender would continue backing the Government directly and through state-owned enterprises, alongside businesses operating in sectors considered critical to economic growth. The FNBB Foundation, he added, would maintain partnerships with communities, providing long-lasting and impactful solutions to social challenges.



pany. The initiative, he said, is designed to elevate accountability and strengthen commitment to clients, ultimately improving organisational performance.

"Embedment of this culture journey will remain in sharp focus for the balance of the financial year, and beyond," he said.

Client experience remains a central priority, he added, citing continued investment in technology and digitalisation. Product offerings are evolving toward convenient and cost-effective end-to-end solutions.



CULTURE DRIVE

Bogatsu said the bank had launched a High-Performance Culture drive within the framework of FirstRand, its parent company. The initiative, he said, is designed to elevate accountability and strengthen commitment to clients, ultimately improving organisational performance.

"Embedment of this culture journey will remain in sharp focus for the balance of the financial year, and beyond," he said.

Client experience remains a central priority, he added, citing continued investment in technology and digitalisation. Product offerings are evolving toward convenient and cost-effective end-to-end solutions.

"Client experience is also a key area, and our continued investment in technology and digitalization are a testament to this," Bogatsu said.

The bank has simplified its Know Your Client processes, enabling customers to upload KYC documents and update their profiles digitally through the FNB App without assistance. Further solutions are expected before the end of the financial year to enhance customer experience.

SUSTAINABILITY FOCUS

Sustainability and shared prosperity remain integral to the bank's operations, supported by clear targets in green finance and social impact. Execution against these priorities, Bogatsu said, will remain outcomes-driven through the remainder of the financial year and beyond.

Capital adequacy and liquidity coverage ratios were robust at the half-year point, comfortably above regulatory and board-approved thresholds, providing a platform for continued growth.

> "Client experience is also a key area, and our continued investment in technology and digitalization are a testament to this."

LENDING GROWTH

Advances increased 4 percent year on year, with contributions from all customer segments. Corporate lending rose 10 percent, supported by increased activity in the mining sector and green financing deals.

Retail advances, driven mainly by personal loans, grew by 2 percent in line with prevailing economic conditions. Commercial advances rose 8 percent, reflecting resilience in the fast-moving consumer goods and oil sectors.

WesBank recorded 1 percent growth and contributed 14 percent to the retail and commercial lending book, following a revamp of its offering in the prior year.



Deposits increased by 2 percent to as compared to that of the previous half-year. Retail deposits rose 10 percent, driven by growth in current and savings account balances. Commercial deposits increased 2 percent, while corporate deposits declined 13 percent, partly reflecting a strategic stance on deposit mix amid market liquidity cost pressures.

BITC Bets on Agribusiness

Government-backed local development drive targets large-scale agricultural investment across Botswana's districts



GAZETTE REPORTER

The Botswana Investment and Trade Centre (BITC) is implementing a local economic development (LED) initiative aimed at strengthening district-level investment planning and project uptake, according to its chief executive, Keletsositse Olebile.

Speaking at the recently held Inaugural Botswana Agriculture Business & Investment Forum, Olebile said the initiative focuses on facilitating the development of district LED strategies, identifying investment opportunities, originating and profiling projects, and targeting investors to take them up.

"Considering the LED initiative, agribusiness investment opportunities are vast within the districts and will have an impact in upliftment of rural economies," he said.

INCENTIVE REVIEW

As part of the programme, BITC is leading an exercise to develop and review investment incentives across all sectors, including agriculture.

"As part of our value offer, BITC is leading an exercise to develop and review investment incentives for all sectors including agriculture," Olebile said. He added that the process draws on global best practices while recognising sector-specific needs.

"We are confident that at conclusion, the incentives will position Botswana as an investment destination of choice and will, specific to agriculture, attract risk capital and establish mega projects within our communities," he said.

MEGA PROJECTS

Olebile cited two large-scale projects currently being facilitated under the initiative. The first is the expansion of SPC to Robelela and Tshokwe areas near Dikgatlhong Dam, with an estimated investment value of over P500 million and projected job creation of more than 1,000.

He also said BITC is facilitating a project by Dr. Henn Africa in Mogobane, notwithstanding ongoing consultations. The project carries an estimated investment value of about US$60 million and is expected to employ more than 3,000 people at full capacity.

According to Olebile, the development will include poultry bird breeding, broiler and egg production, and a slaughter facility.

GOVERNMENT VIEW

Assistant Minister of Trade and Entrepreneurship Baratiwa Mathoothe said agriculture remains a key sector with significant potential to diversify Botswana's economy and create both formal and informal employment.

Despite fiscal challenges facing the country, Mathoothe said he was encouraged by continued government interest in the sector and intensified efforts to attract agricultural investment.

"I must also commend Government's continued willingness and commitment to engage openly with the business community through platforms such as this one," he said. "These engagements give confidence and assurance that Government is deliberate about promoting a private sector–led economy, with Government playing an enabling and facilitative role."

FORUM BACKING

The forum was financed by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations mission in Botswana, which worked with the Ministry of Lands and Agriculture, the Ministry of Trade and Entrepreneurship, BITC and Business Botswana to deliver the event.

The collaboration was described by organisers as a demonstration of cooperation between international partners, government and the private sector, aimed at advancing the agriculture sector.

Exports Drop Sharply December 2025

Diamond slump cuts earnings nearly in half, official data shows

GAZETTE REPORTER

Botswana's export earnings fell sharply in December 2025, declining by 47.1 percent to P4.6 billion from a revised P8.7 billion recorded in November, according to Statistics Botswana.

The government statistics agency said the contraction was largely driven by a steep fall in diamond exports, which dropped by 57.8 percent, equivalent to about P4.1 billion. Despite the decline, diamonds remained Botswana's dominant export commodity during the month.

"Despite this, diamonds was the dominant export commodity group," Statistics Botswana said in its International Merchandise Trade Statistics Monthly Digest – December 2025, adding that diamonds and copper together accounted for the bulk of export receipts.

COMMODITY MIX

Diamonds contributed 65.0 percent of total exports in December, followed by copper at 20.4 percent. Salt and soda ash, as well as machinery and electrical equipment, each accounted for 2.8 percent of total exports.

The figures underline the continued concentration of Botswana's export basket, with mineral commodities still accounting for the majority of earnings even in a month of weakened performance.

EXPORT MARKETS

According Statistics Botswana most of Botswana's exports were destined for Asian markets, followed by shipments to the Southern African Customs Union (SACU) and the European Union.

"Asia was the largest export market for Botswana, having received 66.2 percent of total exports," Statistics Botswana said.

Within Asia, diamonds and copper were the main commodities exported, accounting for 81.2 percent and 18.3 percent of exports to the region, respectively. The leading destinations were the United Arab Emirates, India, and China, which received 31.0 percent, 17.9 percent, and 12.1 percent of Botswana's total exports, in that order.

Diamonds dominated exports to both the United Arab Emirates and India, accounting for 99.2 percent and 99.9 percent of shipments to those countries, respectively. The report shows that copper was the sole commodity exported to China, valued at P562.0 million.

IMPORT BILL

On the import side, Botswana recorded goods imports valued at P6.3 billion in December 2025. The leading imported commodity group was machinery and electrical equipment, which accounted for 19.6 percent of total imports.

Fuel followed at 18.2 percent, while food, beverages and tobacco made up 17.3 percent. Chemicals and rubber products contributed a further 10.5 percent.

"The SACU region was the largest source supplying 66.8 percent to total imports," the report said.

"Asia was the largest export market for Botswana, having received 66.2 percent of total exports."

Food, beverages and tobacco, along with fuel, were the most imported goods from SACU, accounting for 21.9 percent and 20.9 percent, respectively. Machinery and electrical equipment, as well as chemicals and rubber products, each contributed 12.3 percent.

Among SACU member states, South Africa was the largest source of imports, accounting for 61.3 percent of the total, followed by Namibia at 4.7 percent.



Agriculture, Diamonds at Crossroads

Food security ambitions and pressure in rough diamond markets highlight structural shifts in Botswana's economy

GAZETTE REPORTER

Agriculture is no longer simply about production but has become a strategic sector central to economic transformation, food security, industrialisation and sustainable development, Business Botswana chief executive Boitumelo Mbaakanyi said.

Speaking at the inaugural Botswana Agriculture Business & Investment Forum in Tlokweng, supported financially and technically by the Food and Agriculture Organization, Mbaakanyi said Botswana faces a clear opportunity if private sector investment can be unlocked through confidence.

"For Botswana, this is a moment of opportunity," she said. "With coordinated effort and private sector leadership, we can unlock growth, build resilience, and strengthen our national food systems."

She said catalysing private sector investment requires confidence in policy stability, institutional coordination, market access, and the mitigation of risk with achievable returns.

Investment, she noted , must extend beyond primary production to strengthen the entire value chain, from inputs and farming to processing, storage, logistics, marketing and distribution, while integrating technology and sustainability.

PRIVATE SECTOR ROLE

Mbaakanyi stated that Business Botswana views itself as a central enabler of agricultural transformation through four roles: coordinator, integrator, voice and execution partner.

She said agricultural investment involves multiple actors, including government, financial institutions, investors, farmers, agribusinesses and development partners, and that coordination is necessary to prevent fragmentation and duplication. Aligning private capital with national priorities, she said, builds efficiency and investor confidence.

Integration across the value chain, she stated that was essential to ensure that production, processing and markets function together, retaining value within Botswana and strengthening competitiveness.

As the apex private sector body, she said Business Botswana advocates for policies that support business growth, engaging government on regulation, financing mechanisms and infrastructure development to create a predictable environment for investment.

Beyond advocacy, she said the organisation supports execution by facilitating investment readiness, unlocking access to finance and creating platforms that convert opportunity into tangible outcomes.

> "When we speak of catalysing private sector investment, we are speaking about building confidence."

CLIMATE, MARKETS

Value chain development, she said, is central to attracting and sustaining investment by improving returns while strengthening food security. An integrated value chain, she added, creates employment, raises farmer incomes, promotes import substitution and supports economic diversification.

Climate-smart agriculture, she said, must be at the core of investment strategy as Botswana faces climate variability, water constraints and environmental pressures. Practices such as efficient irrigation, sustainable land management, improved seed varieties and resource-efficient technologies, she said, protect productivity while ensuring long-term sustainability.

"Sustainability is no longer an optional consideration," she said. "It is a prerequisite for long-term investment confidence."

Technology adoption, including precision farming, mechanisation, advanced irrigation systems and data-driven decision-making, was also critical to modernising agriculture and improving competitiveness. Market access, she said, remains fundamental, with regional trade opportunities offering potential for scale.



SECTOR DECLINE

The Minister of Lands and Agriculture, Dr Edwin Dikoloti, said the forum came at a decisive moment in Botswana's history. He said agriculture contributed 10.3 percent to gross domestic product in 1982 and employed 62.4 percent of the labour force. Today, its contribution has declined to below 2 percent, while employment stands at 23 percent.

"This structural shift represents more than statistics," he said.

More than 80 percent of the sector's current contribution to gross domestic product comes from livestock production, mainly beef, while crops and horticulture account for about 20 percent. Botswana, he said, produces only about 17 percent of its annual cereal requirements, meets roughly 54 percent of horticulture demand and produces about 300 tonnes of the 4,000 tonnes of fish consumed annually.

DIAMOND PRESSURES

Separately, De Beers Group reported challenging rough diamond trading conditions in the 2025 financial year, with revenue of 3.5 billion dollars. Rough diamond sales reached 3.0 billion dollars, while consolidated sales volumes rose to 20.9 million carats.

The average realised price declined 7 percent to 142 dollars per carat, contributing to an underlying EBITDA loss of 511 million dollars. A 2.3 billion dollar impairment to the carrying value of De Beers was recognised within Anglo American, reflecting lower forecast prices and shifting consumer preferences toward laboratory-grown diamonds.

BoB Says Botswana Inflation Outlook Stays Benign

Signals policy continuity as prices and credit trends remain contained



GAZETTE REPORTER

An evaluation of inflation dynamics and financial stability conditions suggests that inflation will remain within the objective range over the medium term, according to the latest Monetary Policy Statement for 2026 released by the Bank of Botswana.

The outlook is anchored on several factors, including an expected moderation in international commodity prices, subdued domestic and global economic activity, and well-anchored inflation expectations. The central bank also assesses current credit growth to both businesses and households as sustainable, supporting economic activity without creating excessive financial risk.

Overall, the Bank notes that recent and prospective developments in domestic and external economic activity indicate that the prevailing accommodative monetary policy stance "remains appropriate for maintaining price stability, while supporting economic growth."

EXCHANGE RATE

In addressing competitiveness and near-term economic slack, the Bank points to projected higher inflation in Botswana relative to trading partner countries, alongside an economy operating below potential.

"In the context of projected higher inflation in Botswana than in the trading partner countries and an economy operating below potential in the short term, a measured depreciation of the Pula against trading partners remains consistent with maintaining domestic industry competitiveness and supporting growth prospects," the statement reads.

As a result, the exchange rate policy will entail a 2.76 percent downward rate of crawl in 2026.

LIQUIDITY MANAGEMENT

The Bank says it will continue to respond to changes in banking system liquidity using relevant instruments, guiding market interest rates to ensure effective transmission of the monetary policy stance. It will also support the development and functioning of the interbank market to facilitate efficient redistribution of liquidity among banks.

Financial stability will continue to be promoted through prudential and market conduct supervision of commercial and statutory banks, alongside coordinated oversight of the broader financial system. These measures are aimed at supporting growth-enhancing financial intermediation while safeguarding the resilience of the banking sector.

INFLATION TRENDS

Domestic inflation averaged 2.7 percent in 2025, remaining below the lower bound of the 3–6 percent medium-term objective range for most of the year. The Bank attributes this outcome to a combination of reduced water and electricity tariffs for low-consumption households, lower fuel prices following the introduction of unitary petroleum pricing in November 2025, and subdued domestic demand amid an ongoing recession.

Looking ahead, inflation is expected to rise in the near term but remain within the objective range into the medium term. The Bank says monetary policy will continue to focus on entrenching expectations of "low, predictable and sustainable inflation," while ensuring credit and market developments remain consistent with financial stability.

BROADER CONTEXT

The central bank situates its policy stance within a challenging macroeconomic environment marked by low foreign exchange reserves, fiscal consolidation pressures, and liquidity constraints. It stresses that policy calibration places a premium on coherence, credibility, and effective transmission.

"At the same time, this adjustment phase presents an opportunity to reposition the narrative from vulnerability to resilience, through policy innovation, strategic reform and disciplined rebuilding of buffers," the statement says.

Botswana's Unemployment Pressures Persist

Central bank flags joblessness and tight credit as structural risks to Botswana's economy

GAZETTE REPORTER

Elevated unemployment, particularly among young people and graduates, remains a significant structural challenge for Botswana, according to the 2026 Monetary Policy Statement released by the Bank of Botswana.

Published at the beginning of each year, the Monetary Policy Statement outlines the principles guiding monetary policy formulation and implementation. In the current context, it serves as the central bank's primary vehicle for explaining how it is responding to domestic and global economic developments, while reaffirming its commitment to price stability, exchange rate stability and financial system soundness.

LABOUR MARKET

Data from Statistics Botswana show that unemployment stands at 27.6 percent, with youth unemployment significantly higher at 38.2 percent. The Monetary Policy Statement says these figures illustrate "the scale of the challenge the budget and economic transformation initiatives seek to address."

"The Government, through the Botswana Economic Transformation Programme (BETP) and the Twelfth National Development Plan (NDP 12), is advancing economic diversification to foster private sector–led growth," the report states. It adds that skills development and education reforms, including strengthened Technical and Vocational Education and Training, are intended to better align the labour force with changing market demands.

FISCAL STANCE

The statement notes that the 2026/27 Budget does not provide for public service wage increases. As a result, it says no demand-driven inflationary pressures are expected from public sector wages.

Instead, fiscal policy is focused on discipline, with measures aimed at containing the rising government wage bill through audits and stricter controls on wage expenditure. Despite these efforts, the central bank cautions that Botswana's employment outlook "remains challenging," citing structural rigidities, weak labour absorptive capacity and low productivity growth.

The report underscores the need to address these constraints as the country navigates a constrained fiscal environment, emphasising the urgency of accelerating economic diversification and enabling sustainable job creation.

> "At the same time, this adjustment phase presents an opportunity to reposition the narrative from vulnerability to resilience, through policy innovation, strategic reform and disciplined rebuilding of buffers."

CREDIT CONDITIONS

The Monetary Policy Statement also highlights a deceleration in credit growth. Annual growth in commercial bank credit slowed to 3.3 percent in 2025, down from 6.5 percent in 2024, signalling tighter credit conditions.

According to the report, the slowdown reflects reduced loan demand from both businesses and households. Credit expansion for businesses fell to 4.6 percent in 2025 from 10 percent the previous year, amid constrained economic activity and liquidity distribution challenges that contributed to higher market interest rates.

"Lower rates of increase in credit were mostly with respect to trade, finance, transport and communications, agriculture, construction, manufacturing and mining sectors," the statement says. Credit growth to businesses excluding parastatals declined sharply to 4.3 percent in 2025 from 13.9 percent in 2024.

Given subdued economic activity, the central bank says it may be necessary to continue policy and operational adjustments to support effective transmission of an accommodative monetary policy stance, with the aim of easing monetary conditions.



Stanbic Bank Botswana Chief Executive, Chose Modise, presented awards to BGCSE Top Achievers during the Botswana Examinations Council (BEC) 16th Annual Excellence Awards held on 26 February 2026. The event recognised outstanding academic performance and celebrated learners whose achievement reflected the discipline, talent and ambition shaping Botswana's future. Stanbic Bank Botswana has supported the awards as a sponsor since their inception in 2013, reaffirming the Bank's commitment to education, youth empowerment and partnerships that contribute to national development.

Choose Local, Boost SMMEs

A new campaign urges Batswana to back homegrown businesses as small enterprises face mounting pressure.



> By spotlighting homegrown businesses and creatives, this campaign aims to drive economic growth and boost this struggling sector.

DIGITAL ENTERPRISE

The Local Slice BW has launched a campaign titled "Try Everything Local," aimed at encouraging individuals, families and organisations to prioritise locally produced goods and services.

The initiative seeks to raise awareness of Botswana's small, micro and medium enterprises, many of which continue to face operational and market challenges amid global economic pressures.

SUPPORTING STRUGGLING ENTERPRISES

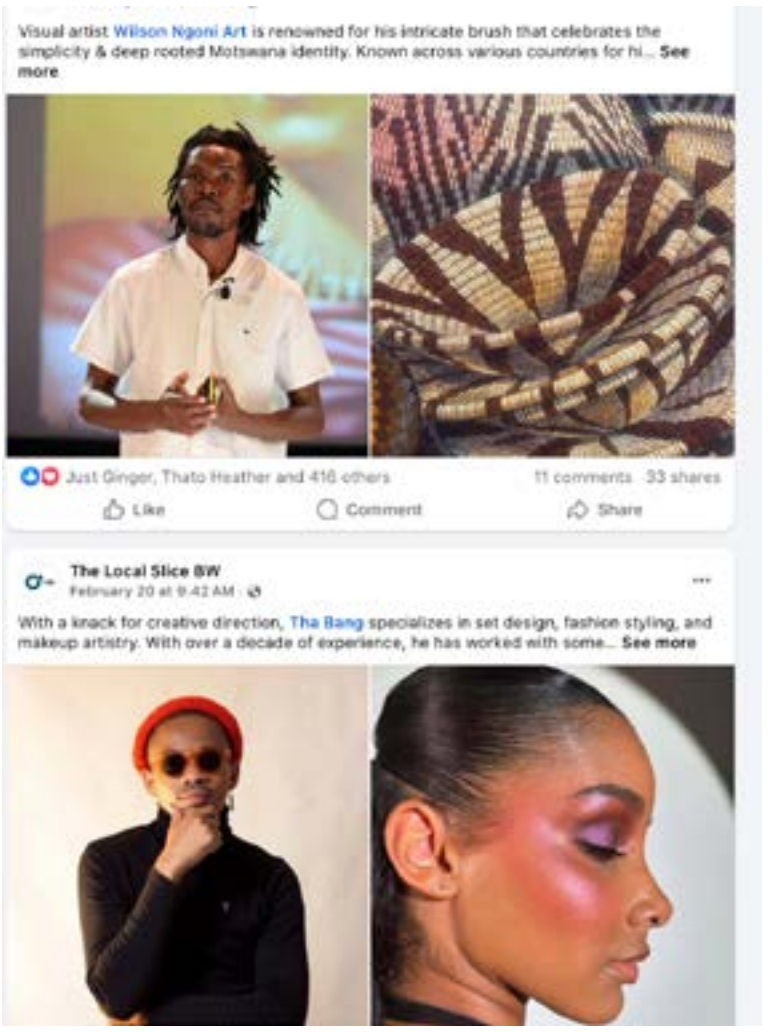
Founder Thato Angela Chuma said the campaign is designed to reconnect consumers with locally driven innovation and entrepreneurship. She noted that spotlighting homegrown brands could help increase visibility and stimulate demand in a sector that contributes to employment and income generation.

The campaign will focus on profiling local businesses and creatives, sharing their stories and highlighting their role in shaping the domestic economy.

REDUCING IMPORT DEPENDENCE

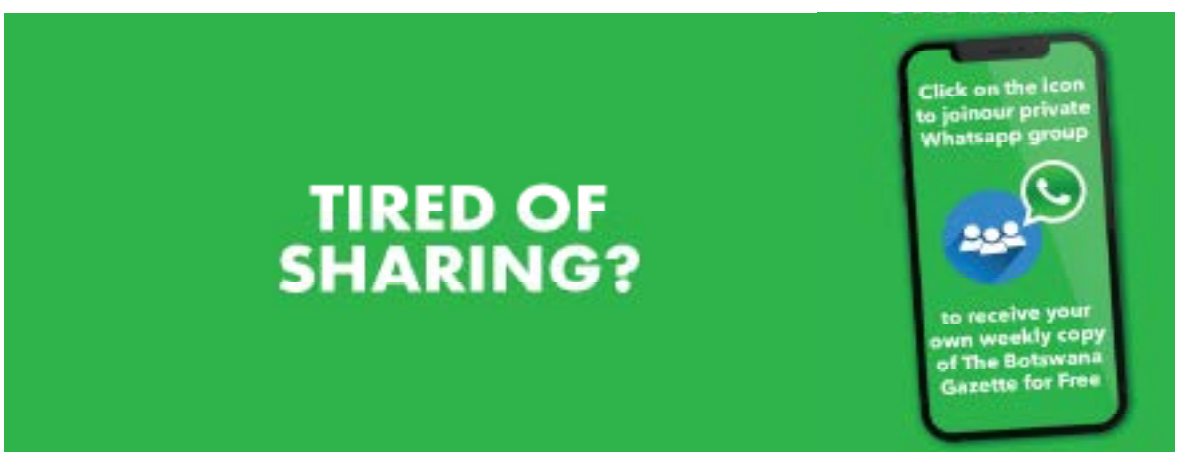
According to the organisers, the initiative also promotes self-reliance by encouraging consumers to consider local alternatives before turning to imported goods. The campaign argues that stronger links between producers and consumers could help sustain livelihoods and create new opportunities.

It will be driven primarily through social media platforms, where consumers are encouraged to share their experiences using the hashtag #TryEverythingLocal.



The Local Slice BW says the campaign is intended to demonstrate the range and quality of local offerings, while positioning everyday purchasing decisions as a way for consumers to participate more actively in the national economy.

The organisation was shortlisted as a National Finalist in the 2019 Southern Africa Startup Awards under the Social Impact category.





FSG Appoints New Director

Insurance group adds independent oversight as it expands across Southern Africa.

FSG Limited has appointed Alice Wellio-Moyo as an Independent Non-Executive Director, effective 1 February 2026, following regulatory approval.

> Board Chair Bame Pule said Wellio-Moyo will also serve as Chair of the Audit and Risk Committee.

GOVERNANCE FOCUS

Board Chair Bame Pule said Wellio-Moyo will also serve as Chair of the Audit and Risk Committee. The board now comprises a majority of independent directors, a move the company says aligns with international corporate governance standards.

For customers and policyholders, stronger audit and risk oversight can translate into improved financial stewardship and regulatory compliance in a sector where trust and long-term security are critical.

FINANCIAL EXPERIENCE

Wellio-Moyo has more than 20 years of experience in finance and currently serves as Chief Financial Officer of Botswana Stock Exchange-listed real estate investment group PrimeTime. Her background includes financial strategy, enterprise risk management, audit oversight and regulatory compliance across multiple jurisdictions.

She is a Fellow Chartered Certified Accountant registered with the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants in the United Kingdom and a Fellow of the Botswana Institute of Chartered Accountants.

FSG operates in Botswana, Zambia and South Africa, providing funeral insurance, funeral services and related products. The group has 40 branches and more than 500 employees, serving over 180,000 policyholders across the region.

"Our Board now comprises a majority of independent directors a deliberate step that aligns us with the highest international standards of corporate governance."

Consumer Fair Returns in August

National exhibition positions itself as a marketplace for business growth and consumer access ahead of Botswana's 60th independence celebrations.

Gaborone will host the 2026 Botswana Consumer Fair from 24 to 30 August at the Fairgrounds, with organisers positioning the event as a platform for business visibility and market access.

NATIONAL MILESTONE

The fair, organised by Fairground Holdings, will run under the theme 'Showcasing Botswana in Full Colour' and coincides with the country's 60th independence anniversary. Organisers say the event is expected to draw businesses, entrepreneurs and consumers from across the country.

Fairground Holdings Sales and Marketing Manager Barati Phagane said the exhibition connects companies directly with consumers, investors and potential partners.

BUSINESS AND CONSUMER ACCESS

For small and medium enterprises, the fair provides an opportunity to showcase products, test new offerings and generate sales during the exhibition period. Larger corporates are also expected to use the platform for product launches and brand positioning.



Fairground Holdings Sales and Marketing Manager Barati Phagane

Visitors can expect multi sector exhibition stands covering commerce, technology, lifestyle, manufacturing and services, alongside food courts, cultural showcases and business networking sessions.

Organisers say dedicated platforms for SMMEs and youth innovators are aimed at widening participation and improving access to markets.

REGISTRATION OPENS

Exhibitor registration and sponsorship packages are scheduled to open on 10 March 2026. Businesses seeking exposure to a concentrated consumer audience have been encouraged to secure space early.

Phagane said the fair remains 'one of the most impactful platforms for enterprise growth and market engagement in Botswana.'

"The Botswana Consumer Fair remains one of the most impactful platforms for enterprise growth and market engagement in Botswana."

Electric Vehicle Tour Stops in Botswana

World record attempt highlights charging infrastructure and renewable energy goals.

German driver Rainer Zietlow arrived in Gaborone on 27 February 2025 as part of a Guinness World Record world tour in a fully electric Volkswagen ID. Buzz.

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

The tour spans 75 countries and 80,000 kilometres, demonstrating long-distance travel using electric vehicles. Zietlow noted both advantages and logistical challenges, including charging infrastructure and adapter compatibility.

For motorists, the visit highlights the practical considerations of electric mobility, including access to charging points and vehicle conversion options.



LOCAL SUPPORT

Botswana Power Corporation supported the local leg by providing charging services along the route and outlining its broader renewable energy goals. The utility has added four megawatts of solar energy to the grid and aims for 50 percent renewable generation by 2030.

A representative from the German Embassy referenced cooperation on renewable energy initiatives.

The Gaborone programme included welcome remarks, sponsor presentations, a vehicle showcase, and a question-and-answer session.



Banking Schools Sign Education Pact

Institutions aim to streamline finance qualifications and strengthen professional pathways.

The Botswana Institute of Banking & Finance and the Botswana School of Business Sciences have signed a memorandum of understanding to strengthen cooperation in banking, finance, and business education.

CEREMONY DETAILS

The agreement was signed on 25 February 2026 during a ceremony at BIBF's Dikgatlhong Board Room, attended by institutional representatives and media. Speakers outlined the objectives of the partnership and areas of intended collaboration.

FRAMEWORK FOR CO-OPERATION

The MoU establishes a framework for knowledge exchange, curriculum alignment, research initiatives, and shared expertise. It also provides for joint seminars and workshops designed to support programme development in banking and finance.

For students and working professionals, clearer academic and professional progression routes are expected to ease movement between diploma, undergraduate, and postgraduate qualifications.

> "The agreement establishes a framework for collaboration in knowledge exchange, curriculum alignment, research initiatives, and the sharing of institutional expertise."

PROGRESSION PATHWAYS

The agreement also references cooperation in quality assurance, external moderation, and sector compliance. The MoU will run for three years, during which both institutions are expected to implement and monitor the outlined areas of collaboration.

Botswana to Host Astronomy Summit

Kasane conference expected to draw continental science leaders in 2026.



The Botswana International University of Science and Technology has outlined preparations for the 2026 African Astronomical Society Conference scheduled for 22 to 27 March in Kasane.

MEDIA BRIEFING

Details were shared during a media briefing in Gaborone, where university representatives described the event's scope and objectives. The conference is expected to bring together researchers, policymakers, industry representatives, and students involved in astronomy and related scientific fields.

ASTRONOMY DEVELOPMENTS

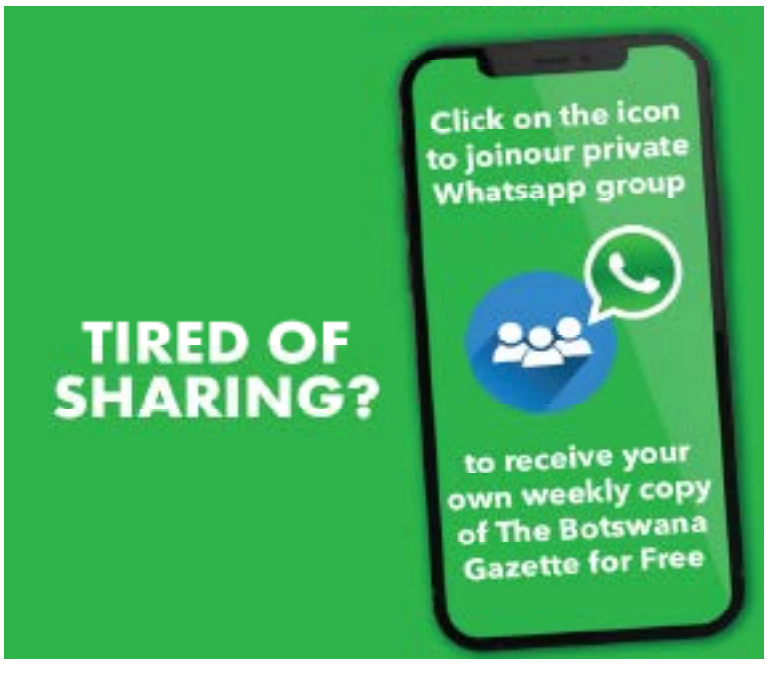
Presentations highlighted Botswana's participation in astronomy research initiatives and collaborative scientific programmes. Speakers also discussed the broader continental role of the African Astronomical Society in coordinating scientific partnerships.

For students and emerging researchers, the conference is expected to provide exposure to international networks and research opportunities.

SPONSORS AND PARTNERS

Organisers announced sponsors and partners supporting the event. The programme concluded with a question-and-answer session and closing remarks.

> "The conference will bring together researchers, policymakers, industry representatives, and students involved in astronomy and related scientific fields."



The Brand Action Paradox: Why Perfect Brands Are Built in Public, Not in Private



MANUEL VEIRUAPI RUHAPO

In the world of branding, we are taught to perfect, polish, and plan. We spend months in boardrooms crafting the perfect logo, the perfect mission statement, the perfect brand guidelines. We believe that a brand is a pristine object to be unveiled to the world only when it is flawless. This is a dangerous illusion.

The truth is, a brand is not a static object; it is a living relationship between a company and its customers. And relationships are not built in isolation. They are built through interaction, feedback, and shared experience.

This leads us to the Brand Action Paradox: The more you try to perfect your brand in private, the weaker and more irrelevant it becomes. Strong brands are not launched; they are co-created with the market through a series of imperfect, public actions.

THE MYTH OF THE GRAND UNVEILING

Why do we fall into this trap? Because the "grand unveiling" feels safe. It gives us the illusion of control. We believe we can anticipate every customer reaction and preempt every criticism. But a brand that has never been tested by the market is a brand built on assumptions. It's a beautiful, expensive house with no foundation.

Real brand strength comes from market friction. It comes from launching a product and seeing how people *actually* use it. It comes from putting a message out there and seeing how people *actually* respond. It comes from making mistakes in public and showing how you fix them. This is how trust is built. This is how a brand earns its meaning.

Real Botswana Brands: Built Through Action, Not Abstraction

Let's look at how this paradox plays out with real Botswana brands.

1. XITA: FROM PERSONAL HOBBY TO GLOBAL BRAND

One Rapelana, founder of the accessory brand Xita, did not start with a 50-page brand strategy document. She started by making neckpieces for herself. The brand was born when she wore her creations in public. The "market" (people at events) reacted, asked questions, and wanted to buy. The brand's meaning—unique, handcrafted, personal—was not defined in a workshop; it was defined in the real world through social interaction.

Her first "marketing" was simply wearing her product. Her first "sales channel" was a pop-up market. The brand was built action by action, conversation by conversation. If she had waited to perfect a full collection, a website, and a global distribution plan, Xita might still be a private hobby.

2. VEETROS: A BRAND BUILT ON AN EXISTING RELATIONSHIP

Vee Mampezy did not launch Veetros by commissioning a market research study on the QSR industry. He launched it by leveraging the brand relationship he had already spent over a decade building with his music fans. The Veetros brand wasn't built on a unique selling proposition about food; it was built on the existing emotional connection to Vee himself.

The launch wasn't a commercial transaction; it was a cultural event, a continuation of the conversation he was already having with his community. The brand's core attribute community, celebration, local pride was not an abstract concept. It was a real, tangible experience that happened because he acted, using the brand equity he already owned.

What It Means to You

For the Public: Trust brands that show their work. Be wary of brands that appear overnight with a perfect story but no history of interaction. The strongest brands have a public record of listening, adapting, and even failing. They have earned their reputation through action.





For Marketing Professionals: Your job is not to create perfect brand guidelines. Your job is to create market interactions. Launch the "good enough" campaign. Get the product into people's hands. Start the conversation. A brand is a verb, not a noun. It is something you *do*, not something you *have*.

For Executives: Shift your mindset from "brand as an asset to be protected" to "brand as a relationship to be nurtured." This means empowering your teams to act, to experiment, and even to fail in public. The biggest risk is not a failed campaign; it's an irrelevant brand that no one is talking about because it never does anything.

THE TAKEAWAY

Stop trying to build the perfect brand in a boardroom. Go build an interesting brand in the market.

A brand's strength is not measured by the perfection of its launch, but by the resilience of its relationship with customers. And that relationship can only be built through consistent, authentic, and sometimes imperfect, action.

TOWARDS A LIVING WAGE

Botswana's growth story is impressive, but it has left too many workers behind. A proposed shift to a P4,000 minimum wage is not simply a debate about labour regulation. It is a question of whether employment can deliver dignity, stimulate domestic demand, and gradually unwind one of the highest inequality levels in the upper-middle-income world. At stake is not just fairness, but economic resilience. The real debate is not whether wages should rise, but how to do so in a way that strengthens growth rather than destabilises it.

DOUGLAS RASBASH AND ELLIOT MAJOVA

INTRODUCTION

Botswana's economic achievements are widely recognised. Decades of prudent fiscal management, strong mineral revenue governance and political stability have produced sustained growth and upper-middle-income status. Yet beneath these headline successes lies a persistent structural weakness: income inequality. Despite growth, the benefits of economic expansion have not been evenly shared.

With inequality levels among the highest in comparable economies, the next phase of Botswana's development cannot be measured by GDP alone. It must confront a more direct question: does work in Botswana pay enough to live?

MINIMUM OR LIVING?

A minimum wage sets the legal floor employers may pay. Its purpose is protective, ensuring that workers are not exploited below a statutory threshold. A living wage, however, asks a more demanding question. It considers whether a full-time income can realistically cover food, shelter, transport, utilities, healthcare and education without pushing households into poverty.

Where minimum wages fall below the cost of basic needs, working poverty persists even among the formally employed. This represents a structural failure of inclusion. Employment alone does not guarantee economic dignity, and economies characterised by deep inequality must confront this gap directly.

WHY IT MATTERS

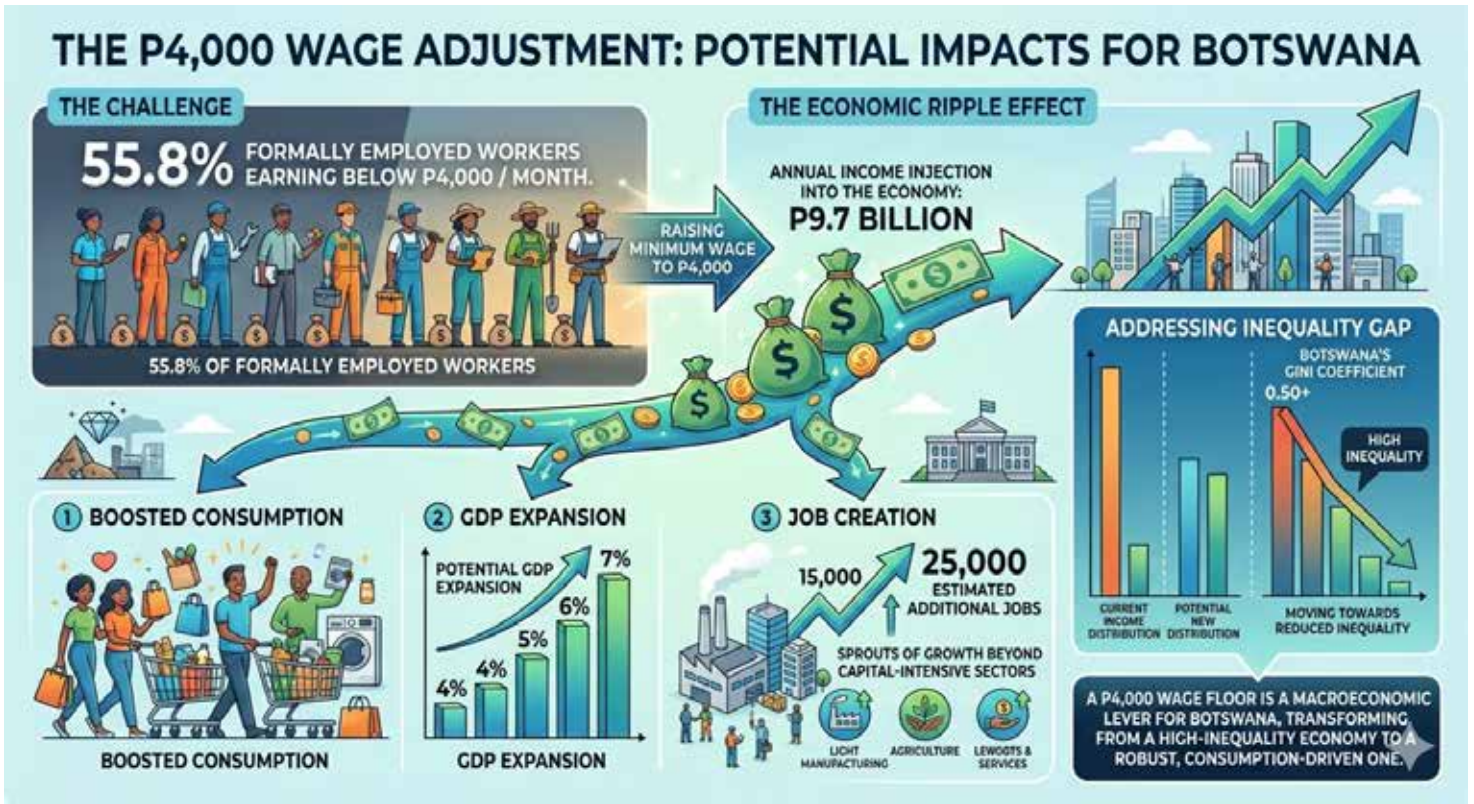
The case for a living wage is not only social. It is economic. Lower-income households have a high marginal propensity to consume. In simple terms, nearly every additional pula earned at the bottom of the income distribution is spent quickly and locally.

That spending supports small retailers, transport operators, landlords and service providers. It circulates through the domestic economy, improving cash flow and sustaining employment. By contrast, income gains at higher levels are more likely to be saved or invested, diluting their immediate impact on local demand.

For Botswana, an economy still heavily dependent on minerals and public expenditure, strengthening internal demand is strategically important. Raising incomes at the bottom of the wage scale can generate more immediate and broad-based demand effects than equivalent gains at the top.

THE JOB FEAR

The most persistent objection to raising wage floors is the fear of job losses. The argument is often presented as economic certainty. Yet modern labour economics paints a more nuanced picture.



> Employment without economic dignity weakens domestic demand and long-term stability.

Employment effects depend on the scale and pace of wage increases, productivity responses, market structure and broader macroeconomic conditions. Moderate, predictable and phased adjustments do not automatically result in mass layoffs. The automatic equation of higher wages with job destruction lacks empirical inevitability.

South Africa's experience following the introduction of a national minimum wage offers useful perspective. Despite significant economic shocks over the past decade, wage policy itself did not trigger systemic employment collapse. Real purchasing power improved at the bottom of the income distribution without destabilising the macroeconomy.

THE BOTSWANA CASE

In Botswana, the proposed reform centres on raising the statutory minimum wage to P4,000 per month. More than half of formally employed workers currently earn below this threshold, meaning the policy would directly affect a substantial portion of the workforce. A calibrated upward adjustment could inject approximately P9.7 billion annually into lower-income households, equivalent to around 3 to 4 percent of GDP. Depending on how domestic supply responds, broader economic activity could expand by between 4 and 7 percent. Using reasonable employment elasticity estimates, such growth could support between 15,000 and 25,000 additional jobs annually. These gains are not automatic, and risks remain. Short-term inflationary pressure could add one to two percentage points to consumer prices, particularly if domestic production capacity fails to keep pace with rising demand.

> A living wage is not merely a labour regulation. It is an investment in domestic demand."

> In an economy marked by deep inequality, employment without economic dignity weakens domestic demand, undermines social stability and limits long-term growth. The real policy question is not whether wages should rise, but how to design a living wage framework that balances inclusion with productivity, competitiveness and macroeconomic stability

BEYOND REDISTRIBUTION

A living wage alone redistributes income. A living wage combined with productivity reform can regenerate growth. For Botswana, this means linking wage policy to agricultural expansion, SME financing, industrial diversification, skills upgrading and regulatory clarity. If domestic producers are able to meet increased demand, the multiplier effect deepens and inflationary pressures are contained. If not, income gains risk leaking into imports or being eroded by rising prices. The debate, therefore, is structural rather than moral. Growth has been achieved. The question now is whether that growth can be broadened in a way that enhances resilience, dignity and long-term stability.

The Botswana Gazette
TIME OUT
THE BOTSWANA GAZETTE
WEDNESDAY 04 MARCH 2026

SMALL FILMS, BIG DREAMS

Botswana and Denmark launch a creative pilot using micro-dramas and mobile filmmaking to build skills and test a new knowledge-driven partnership.





The University of Botswana has launched a Botswana–Denmark creative pilot project aimed at strengthening skills development and collaboration in the film sector.

The initiative, known as Film Konnections, forms part of a broader partnership aligned with Vision 2036 and Denmark's Africa strategy, which prioritises trade and co-creation over aid.

Professor Doreen Ramogola-Masire, Deputy Vice-Chancellor for Research and Innovation at the University of Botswana, says the project reflects Botswana's transition towards a knowledge-based economy.

"As a country we are looking towards Vision 2036. We are moving from a mineral-driven economy to a knowledge-based economy. And for that to happen, we need partnerships that are really strategic," she says.

She explains that the Denmark partnership emerged after examining Denmark's Africa strategy, which emphasises people-to-people collaboration.

"This is the genesis of this small pilot that we are doing, to show that the two peoples can actually work together," she says.

PILOT PROJECT

Film Konnections brings together university students, local industry practitioners and Danish collaborators, including actor and filmmaker Roland Møller.

The University is acting as convener, working with stakeholders including the Ministry of Sport and Arts and tourism bodies.

"What is it that universities do? We teach, we do research, we engage," Ramogola-Masire says. "So we want to use this engagement, using our students but reaching out to the community."

The pilot aims to produce eight micro-dramas. The films are shot primarily on mobile phones and supported by AI-assisted workflows to reduce production costs.



"If you're going to take a cell phone that almost every Botswana has, that is already a tool that is accessible," she says. "We then bring expertise. We bring AI. We bring innovation."

> "We are moving from a mineral-driven economy to a knowledge-based economy." — Professor Doreen Ramogola-Masire

Participants are writing, acting, directing and producing the films. The objective is to transfer skills while producing finished content that can be distributed digitally.

"We want to have a finished product that can be uploaded and start to monetise the content," she says.

Ramogola-Masire says the creative sector offers opportunities for youth entrepreneurship.

"They're getting entrepreneurial skills so they can employ themselves rather than look to government for employment," she says.

KNOWLEDGE AND STORYTELLING

Møller says the collaboration is based on similarities between Denmark and Botswana as small nations seeking to build knowledge economies.

"Denmark is built on knowledge. And this is what Botswana wants to do now. You can't sell diamonds forever. You want to build knowledge," he says.

He says his focus during the workshops has been on disciplined storytelling rather than high-budget production.

"You don't need a big budget to make good movies. You need a good story, a good storyteller and good acting," he says.

The project uses micro-dramas, short-form films designed primarily for mobile audiences.

"A micro drama is kind of like a movie compressed. It's designed for people who are on their phones," Møller says.

He says the format allows filmmakers to demonstrate storytelling ability without large budgets.

"It's like a pilot for making a real movie. We want to show them that we are good storytellers," he says.

Møller says he was surprised by the level of talent he encountered.

"There are some really good storytellers here," he says.

Ramogola-Masire says the project also creates space for local narratives.

> "You don't need a big budget to make good movies. You need a good story." — Roland Møller

"At a national level, we are now telling our story. Often African stories are told by somebody else," she says.



FROM MANUSCRIPT TO MONEY MOVES

The new All Things Books workshop at the Stanbic Incubator is flipping the script on Botswana's literary scene, turning authors and literary stakeholders into power players



GAZETTE REPORTER

Botswana's literary dream has long been romantic: late-night poems, stapled manuscripts, applause without income. All Things Books is here to disrupt that myth. Landing on 28 March at the Stanbic Bank Incubator, the workshop reads like a masterclass in creative survival — where storytelling meets strategy and passion meets procurement.

Curated by Poeticblood Publishers under Dr Lame Pusetso, the event targets the quiet crisis in local publishing: writers creating value they don't legally own, distribute, or monetise.

COPYRIGHT

"Many writers publish books without fully understanding how to protect their work," the organisers say.

The workshop promises deep dives into ISBN registration, royalties, grants, and market access — the unglamorous mechanics that determine whether a book becomes a legacy or a loss.

KNOWLEDGE AS POWER, NOT POETRY

Dr Pusetso frames the mission with clarity: "It is our aim to instill authors with confidence to navigate the publishing and literary industry more professionally."

Translation: no more starving artist mythology.

This is less about how to write a bestseller and more about how to own one.

> "This is less about how to write a bestseller and more about how to own one."

THE LITERARY ECONOMY IS CALLING

The Stanbic Incubator setting is symbolic — literature stepping into entrepreneurial light. Here, poets sit beside publishers, students beside self-published veterans, all learning the language of contracts, compliance, and creative leverage.

PILOT WORKSHOP

All Things Books is being introduced as a pilot workshop. Based on the response, impact, and needs of the literary community, the intention is to develop it into a recurring platform with evolving themes that respond to the realities of the literary industry.

"As Publishers working closely with authors, we realized there was a strong need for a space

where writers could receive accurate, practical, and institution-led information directly from key stakeholders within the literary ecosystem" explained Dr Pusetso.

FILENKO TRADES PERFORMANCE FEES FOR PURPOSE

A Ukrainian pianist turns every performance into testimony, trading ticket prices for human connection and making Botswana a stop on a global tour



GOSEGO MOTSUMI

At Thornhill School Hall, the applause carried a different weight. This wasn't just another classical recital — it was a refusal. Prominent Ukrainian Pianist and ethnomusicologist Dr Taras Filenko, a virtuoso who once played for packed European halls, now tours the world without charging a cent.

He was in Gaborone over the weekend performing at the United By Music concert. "We are not just here to appreciate music," he told the audience, "but to show our commitment to human values."

MUSIC AS WITNESS

Since the war began, Filenko has transformed his career into a cultural mission, using the piano as a storytelling device. According to the Embassy of Ukraine in the Republic of Botswana's representative Anastasiia Sheremet, he "wanted to donate his talent… to teach people about our pain, our music, what stands behind this war. Music and culture can help us bridge the gaps and bring people closer to each other."

In Gaborone, that pain arrived wrapped in melod— a Prelude in Memory of Taras Shevchenko-Yakiv Stepovy dissolving into African spiritual textures.

> The concert was dedicated to civilians lost to war, turning the hall into a memorial without speeches

ORCHESTRA AS DIPLOMACY

Backed by the Gaborone Community Orchestra, the programme moved like a sonic passport: Ukrainian compositions, Setswana traditionals, Xhosa hymns and a surprise orchestral nod to Black Coffee-Drive. The dual national anthems, performed in orchestral form, were the emotional fulcrum of the night. No speeches. No politics. Just melody doing what language cannot.

The concert was dedicated to civilians lost to war, turning the hall into a memorial without speeches.

TSWANOPERA MEETS KYIV

Enter Queen Ambassador Chedza Pansiri, whose TswanOpera fusion — Handel refracted through Khoisan, Kalanga and Zulu — blurred geography into a single emotional register. Alongside Royal Ambassador His Majesty Malatsi Siwa, the performance shifted from recital to ritual.

THE SOUND OF HEALING

What lingered after the final note wasn't virtuosity — though there was plenty — but the idea that art can function as humanitarian aid. People from different histories sat in the same room, sharing silence between movements, letting the music do the diplomacy.

INSIDE HER ESSENCE BEAUTY & WELLNESS EXPERIENCE

On 14 March, Gaborone trades burnout for breathwork as women gather for a beauty and wellness experience that turns self-care into a cultural statement

GAZETTE REPORTER

In a city that runs on deadlines and data bundles, Yarona FM is pressing pause. Her Essence Beauty & Wellness Experience lands at the Avani Gaborone Resort & Casino like a satin-lined manifesto: rest is radical, glow is strategy, and self-care is no longer a guilty pleasure, it's public policy for the modern African woman.

International Women's Day usually comes with hashtags and half-day speeches. This time, it comes with yoga mats, serum samples, and conversations that cut deeper than contour.



BEAUTY BEYOND THE MIRROR

Panels on expert-led discussions on redefining beauty and mental wellness in a digital age and navigating the evolving beauty industry promise more than influencer soundbites.

The room will hold founders, therapists, makeup artists, and women who simply want to breathe without apologising. The message is clear: wellness is not aesthetic, it's survival.

THE ECONOMY OF GLOW

At P350 a ticket, the experience sits at the intersection of aspiration and access — luxury that is curated but communal. Brand zones offer consultations and exclusive reveals, but the real currency is connection.

COMMUNITY AS CARE

What makes this gathering different is its refusal to isolate beauty from wellbeing. Fitness pop-ups flow into mindfulness sessions; product demos dissolve into conversations about ambition, and identity. The glow-up is internal before it is Instagrammable.

> "Self-care is no longer a guilty pleasure, it's public policy for the modern African woman."

A RADIO STATION WITH A WELLNESS AGENDA

Yarona FM's move from airwaves to embodied experience signals a shift in Botswana's lifestyle landscape. This is content you can sweat in, cry through, and leave changed by.

The event underscores Yarona FM's commitment to championing women-focused lifestyle content, deepening engagement with female audiences, and fostering collaboration within Botswana's growing beauty and wellness ecosystem.

Women across the city are invited to gather their friends and indulge in a luxurious and empowering celebration of International Women's Day. Tickets can be purchased on Ticketlinc: https://ticketlinc.co.bw/attendee/172/

A 'UNIEK' LOOK AT SOUTH AFRICAN WINE

This e-book drags South African wine out of the cellar of snobbery and pours it straight onto the family table

GOSEGO MOTSUMI

Some wine books swirl. Local author and wine enthusiast, Cornelius Gaetsaloe's A 'Uniek' Look at South African Wine struts in like it's late for a braai and carrying the good bottle. Set where the Atlantic and Indian Oceans high-five the Cape, the e-book trades Latin-laced tasting notes for storytelling, turning terroir into something you can actually taste without Googling.

"South African wine has been overlooked by the global wine world for far too long," he told Time Out. "It should be held in much higher regard than the pervading perception of mass produced, bulk vino."

DOWN WITH THE DECANTER

Gaetsaloe's mission is radical in the most disarming way: talk about wine like you talk about spinach. "Wine is an agricultural product intended to end up on our tables," he insists, rejecting the velvet-rope language that made the industry feel like a private club.

"Wine is no longer exclusively the domain of royalty or the fabulously wealthy."

It's a line that lands like a cork popping — celebratory, disruptive and a little bit rebellious.

By stripping away jargon, he reframes acidity, tannins and body as dinner-table conversation rather than exam material. The result is a guide that reads less like a textbook and more like a road trip with a knowledgeable friend who knows where the good bottles are.

HEROES OF THE HEMEL-EN-AARDE

The real stars aren't just the vines; they're the people. Gaetsaloe spotlights winemakers of colour reshaping the Cape's narrative, including Berene Sauls of Tesselaarsdal, whose Pinot Noir and Chardonnay rise from Khoisan lineage to world-class acclaim, and Banele Vakele, the Elsenburg-trained talent turning township beginnings into Cape Winemakers Guild prestige.

Their stories ferment alongside the wine, proof that transformation in the glass mirrors transformation in society.

OCEANS IN THE BOTTLE

Geography becomes flavour. The cold Atlantic bite and Indian Ocean warmth stretch ripening seasons, building acidity, freshness and food-friendly structure. It's climate as co-author, drought as antagonist, and biodiversity as the quiet hero.

But Gaetsaloe never lets science overshadow the social. Wine, in his telling, is the stage for long lunches, cattle-post sunsets and the slow theatre of conversation.

THE COMMUNION OF THE CAPE

For Botswana readers with easy access to Cape bottles, the book feels like a neighbourly invitation: drink closer to home, drink better than the price tag suggests, and understand the human hands behind the label.



The book was launched on 27th February 2026 as an e-book on Kobo (https://kobo.com) with a retail price of ZAR155 (USD14.99).



LEGACY, BUT MAKE IT LEGAL

ATI's most iconic chants are entering the trademark arena, turning cultural memory into intellectual property and forcing Botswana's music scene to confront the business behind the bangers

GOSEGO MOTSUMI

The late Atlasaone ATI Molemogi is making headlines again. His signature phrases (Batho Bame, Mankalakaleng-Re tsamaela gone koo, Komirrsoo, Re betsa go utlwala, A.T.I, Khiring Khiring Khorong), are stepping into the legal spotlight, moving through the trademark pipeline like unreleased tracks waiting for clearance.

THREE MONTHS TO FOREVER

Publication in the Trademarks Patents And Industrial Designs Official Journal by the Companies and Intellectual Property Authority (CIPA) is not the victory lap, it's the semi-final. The marks now sit in a three-month opposition window before they can be fully registered. If they make it through, the applicant, Julian Molemogi gains exclusive control: licensing, merchandising, digital exploitation, the works.

This is where art becomes infrastructure.

CIPA Awareness and Communications Manager Marietta Magashula explains that trademark registration delivers "the right to exclusive ownership of the mark" and the power to stop anyone else from cashing in.

THE AFTERLIFE OF A CATCHPHRASE

Once registered, ATI's slogans could live on as official merchandise, curated tribute shows, brand collaborations and streaming-era collectibles. The mic may be silent, but the brand could be louder than ever. That reality reframes legacy — not just emotional, but economic.

But there's a catch: enforcement is DIY. "Trademark rights are private rights, meaning the owner must monitor the streets, the internet and the pop-up stalls for infringement," she said.

If knock-offs appear, the remedy runs through police reports, interdicts, damages and the destruction of counterfeit goods.

"A plaintiff in proceedings for infringement shall be entitled to relief by way of an interdict, destruction of any infringing product, article, damages or an account of the profits derived from the infringement," said Magashula.

A MASTERCLASS FOR THE LIVING

For artists still on stage, this moment is a cautionary tale wrapped in a business seminar. Register early, or risk watching your lyrics become public property. Intellectual property is no longer a legal footnote, it is the revenue model.

Magashula said: "CIPA advises artists and anyone else who generates intellectual property to secure their rights through early registration. Intellectual Property is a valuable business asset which, when registered with CIPA can secure exclusive rights, prevent unauthorized use, strengthen commercial opportunities and enhance the long term value of a brand."

Botswana's creatives have long built movements without building balance sheets. ATI's filings hint at a new template: the artist as brand, the brand as estate, the estate as enterprise.

CULTURE CAN'T BE TRADEMARKED — BUT THE NAME CAN

Here's the paradox: the law can protect the phrase, but not the feeling. Fans will always own the memories of shouting those lines back at him. Still, by anchoring his words in law, ATI's voice gains a different kind of immortality — one measured in contracts, not choruses.

And in an industry learning to monetise memory, that might be the loudest legacy of all.

WHY MISS MILLENNIUM STILL MATTERS

At Millennium Jazz Restaurant, Miss Millennium 2026 launches less like a pageant and more like a movement, where crowns come with community service and beauty walks hand in hand with purpose

GAZETTE REPORTER

The room at Millennium Jazz Restaurant felt like a legacy check. Past queens, cameras and cultural power players gathered not just to announce a pageant, but to remind everyone why Miss Millennium still matters nearly two decades later.

Guest speakers included Miss Millennium 2008 and founder of the pageant, Felicity Bogacu; Miss Millennium 2025 Ambassador Queen Chedza Pansiri, producer of the pageant Zenzele Hirschfeld and Shima Monageng.

A CROWN WITH MEMORY

Miss Millennium has outlived trends, hashtags and the era when pageants were just about evening gowns. Now it's about endurance. About women who build.

Monageng said it plainly: "For nearly two decades, this stage has stood the test of time… Miss Millennium has lasted a generation, redefining beauty and empowering women."

> Miss Millennium has lasted a generation, redefining beauty and empowering women

QUEEN AS ACTIVIST

Reigning queen Pansiri doesn't wear her title — she deploys it. Between working with Selogolo Maano Creative Crew and Amakhoisan, she's turned the sash into a social tool, pushing arts access for vulnerable youth while flying Botswana's cultural diplomacy flag as an International Society of Diplomats ambassador.



Her reign reads less like a fairytale and more like a field report.

BEAUTY, BUT MAKE IT COMMUNITY

The calendar proves the point. A High Tea titled Brewing Foundations, Building Wealth lands on March 1, followed by a toiletry drive for Mogoditshane — because glamour without impact is just glitter. The March 7 grand finale will crown a new queen, but the real winner is the community the pageant keeps circling back to.

The event is sponsored by Botswana Post, Clicks, Avani, Fearless Moghul, Women of Works, Maveeta, Millennium Jazz Restaurant, and Leapfrog.

FROM BALLOT TO BIG SCREEN

Self-funded and youth-driven, Botswana's most important political transition gets the documentary treatment it deserved — proof that owning the lens is part of owning the future

GOSEGO MOTSUMI

At the BTV Auditorium last week, the crowd didn't just watch a film — they watched themselves becoming history. 58 Years Later: Voices of Today Botswana is the only documentary to capture the country's seismic 2024 power shift in real time, turning campaign dust, late-night strategy talks and youth anxiety into cinema.

It's politics without the podium filter, democracy in close-up.

A LABOUR OF LOVE

Produced by award-winning documentary photographer and filmmaker Kefilwe Fifi Monosi and co-directed with Ras Mutabaruka and Robert Asimba, the project was shot during the most uncertain, electric months of the election with no funding and no safety net.

Monosi calls it "a labour of love," recalling how the team "dug out from our empty pockets" to make sure the story existed at all, driven by a conviction that filmmaking is civic duty.

"We have the responsibility to tell our own stories and realities because if we don't no one will ever tell them the way they deserve to be told," she said.







"I hope the film moves, challenges and inspires viewers."

THE ONLY CAMERA IN THE STORM

While pundits debated and timelines scrolled, this crew embedded itself in the emotional architecture of change. The film follows three young, politically diverse candidates under 40, capturing the tension between hope and exhaustion as they campaigned for a future they might not get to govern.

For a country long branded Africa's model democracy, the end of nearly six decades of single-party rule plays like a quiet revolution: orderly, constitutional and deeply personal.

PAN-AFRICAN, HOMEGROWN

Part of the Voices of Today series, the film links Botswana to youth political awakenings in Sierra Leone and Ghana. Mutabaruka admits he was once told "nothing ever changed, its boring" in Botswana politically — until the vote proved otherwise.

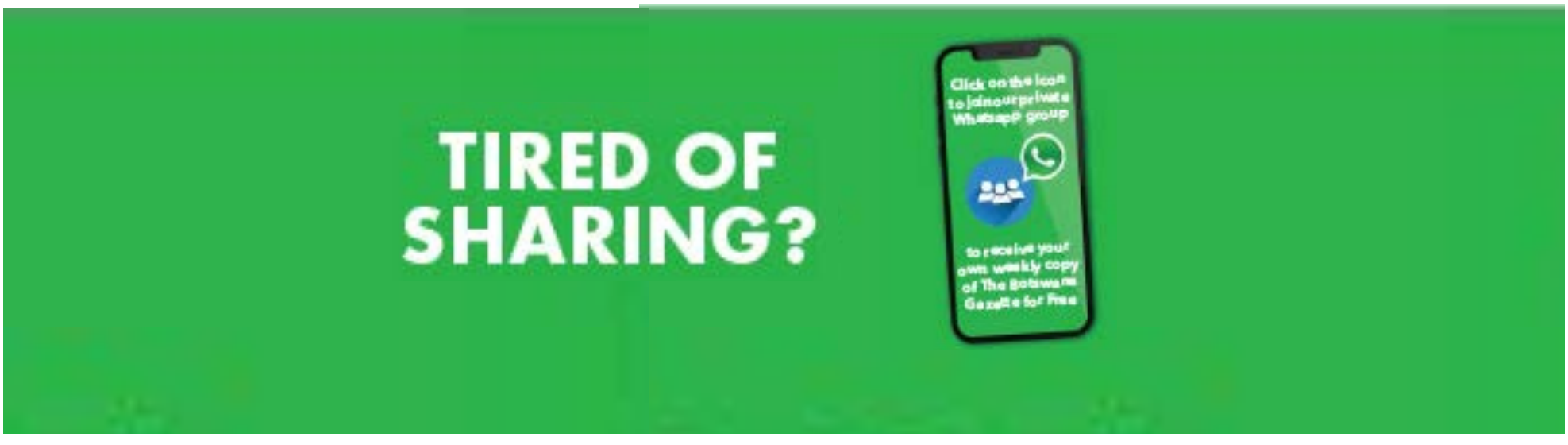
"Botswana is a model for democracy we had a screening in Kenya and people were so moved and they felt that politics in Botswana is different from the rest of the world," he said.

> "We have the responsibility to tell our own stories and realities because if we don't no one will ever tell them the way they deserve to be told"

CINEMA AS CIVIC SPACE

With public screenings rolling out across early March, the film becomes more than a documentary — it's a mobile town hall, sparking conversations on governance, participation and what comes after victory.

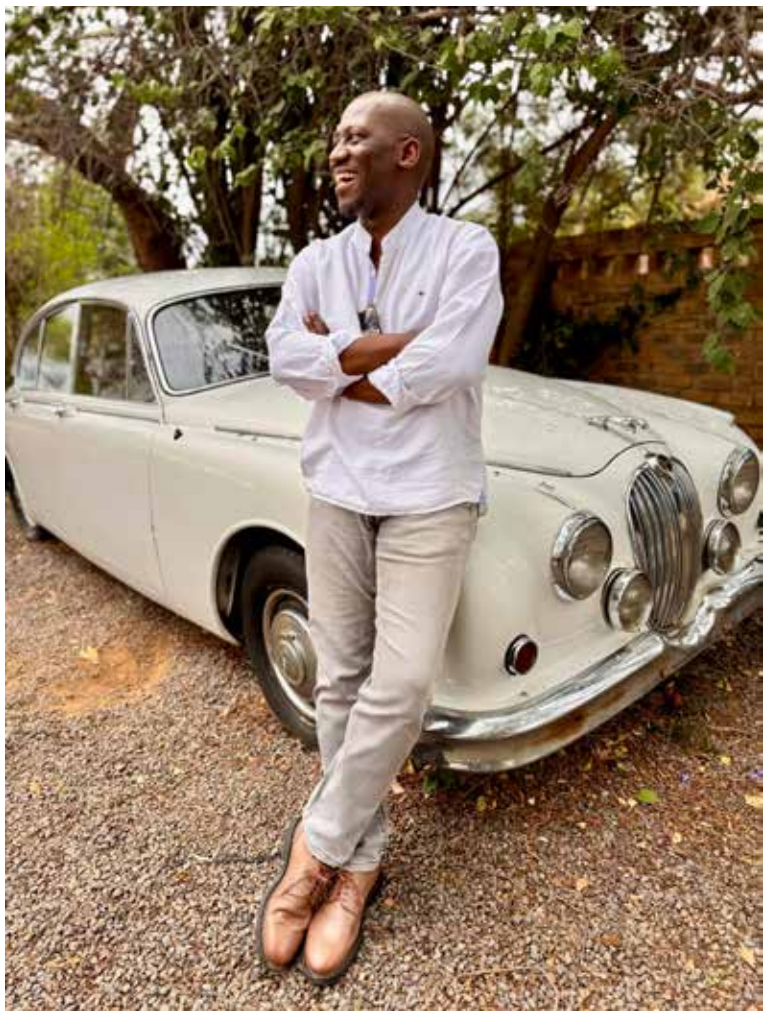
Funding is still scarce, but the impact is already loud: dialogue, reflection, ownership.




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
The Botswana
GAZETTE

HOT DAYS, COOL GLASSES

When Botswana's summer pushes past 30°C, wine can either flatten or flourish. The difference lies in storage, service temperature, and a few smart adjustments that keep every glass vibrant instead of volatile.



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.

Botswana gets hot. Not gently warm, but properly hot. The kind of heat where room temperature feels like a moving target and a bottle left on the counter for half an hour suddenly tastes louder than it should. Our climate is perfect for braais and long sundowners. It is less forgiving to wine.

Still, enjoying wine well in Botswana does not require

> "In Botswana's heat, a slight chill is not a compromise. It is precision."

a cellar carved underground or an elaborate collection of glasses. It requires understanding what heat does to flavour and how small, deliberate changes can preserve balance and freshness.

STORAGE MATTERS

Wine's natural enemies are heat, light, and constant temperature swings. Add dry air, and corks can begin to shrink, weakening their seal. In Gaborone's extended hot season, stability becomes essential.

A cool, dark cupboard away from afternoon sun works surprisingly well. Lower shelves are better than higher ones. The floor is cooler than the countertop. If you own a small wine fridge set between 12 and 13°C, that is ideal. The kitchen refrigerator works for short term chilling, but for long storage it is too cold and too dry.

This is also why premium wines in stores are often displayed on shelves rather than kept permanently in standard fridges. Fine wine prefers steady cool darkness over excessive cold.

TEMPERATURE IS EVERYTHING

In Botswana, most wine disappointments are temperature related. Too cold and aromas retreat. Too warm and alcohol dominates while acidity softens.

Light reds such as Pinot Noir, Cinsaut, and Grenache benefit from a slight chill, around 12 to 16°C. In practical terms, that means twenty minutes in the fridge before serving. Fuller reds like Cabernet Sauvignon and Syrah should feel composed rather than soupy, ideally between 15 and 18°C, which is cooler than what we casually call room temperature.

Whites and rosé generally shine between 8 and 12°C. Cap Classique should be properly cold, but not so cold that flavour becomes muted.

If a bottle needs quick cooling, an ice and water bath is more effective than ice alone. Water conducts temperature faster, meaning ten minutes can restore balance without shocking the wine.

PINOT IN THE SUN

For those who prefer red wine year round, even in peak summer, Pinot Noir offers a practical solution. Typically lighter in body with bright acidity and moderate tannins, it refreshes rather than overwhelms.

Serve it slightly chilled, around 12 to 14°C, and its red berry and floral notes feel lifted and precise. Too warm and it becomes soft and unfocused. Too cold and its aromatics



> "A cool, dark corner and a sensible chill will do more for your wine than any expensive accessory."

tighten. At the right temperature, it pairs effortlessly with grilled chicken, seared tuna, mushroom kebabs, and even chilled beef salads.

In mixed menus where spice meets richness, Pinot's acidity allows it to move comfortably between dishes.

> This is also why premium wines in stores are often displayed on shelves rather than kept permanently in standard fridges.

If a restaurant serves your red warmer than ideal, asking briefly for an ice bucket is not excessive. A short refresh can restore clarity and structure.

KEEP THE GLASS SIMPLE

Glassware does not need to be complicated. A universal tulip shaped glass with a moderate bowl and slightly narrower rim works for most wines. It concentrates aroma and supports texture without exaggeration.

Thin rims enhance mouthfeel. Clear glass allows you to assess colour and clarity. While tall flutes look elegant for sparkling wine, they often restrict aroma. A smaller tulip shape allows Cap Classique to express itself more fully.

In Botswana's heat, attention to a few degrees and a few details makes a measurable difference. A shaded cupboard. A brief chill. A thoughtful pour. These small adjustments transform a bottle from merely drinkable to genuinely expressive.

Keep it simple. Keep it cool. Let the wine sing.



Opracon to host separate workshops on Tax, HR, Data Protection and Defensive Driving

JONATHAN HORE, TUMISANG BAGIDI, REBAONE DITLALE AND EDWIN DUTA

In March and April 2026, Aupracon Pty Ltd trading as Opracon Tax Specialists, Opracon HR Specialists, Opracon IT Specialists and Opracon Skills & Academy will host separate workshops on tax, HR, Data Protection Act and Defensive Driving. The workshops will be conducted in Gaborone and Maun and they are meant to equip attendees with various skills as well as knowledge of the new laws that have commenced, among other topics.

TAX WORKSHOP

The tax workshop will focus on the new Income Tax Bill no. 36 of 2025, the Value-Added Tax Bill no. 39 of 2025 as well as the Tax Administration Bill no. 38 of 2025 which should, as we write, be under debate in Parliament. The Income Tax Bill will re-enact the current Income Tax Act and it will introduce a number of new taxes and practices such as a 3% International Traffic Tax, 5% Withholding Tax on insurance premium payments made to non-residents of Botswana, the abolishment of 100% capital allowances on mining entities whilst maintaining a 55% maximum Corporate Income Tax rate among many other aspects. In addition, the said Bill intends to increase the Company Tax Rate from 22% to 25%, increase the Pay As You Earn/Personal Income Tax (income tax rate at the upper bracket above P33, 333.33 from 25% to 27.5% among other changes). The Value-Added Tax Bill seeks to improve the VAT system, through the introduction of the electronic billing machines which is expected to enhance VAT collections, introduction of VAT on imported services on all VAT registrants as well as subjecting some offshore traders to local VAT. The Tax Administration Bill on the other hand seeks to harmonize the collection and the administration of taxes in the country and it will apply to all taxes in respect of which Botswana Unified Revenue Service has authority to collect. These tax changes, if passed by Parliament are expected to commence from the 1st of July 2026. This workshop will be held on 19 to 20 March 2026 in Gaborone and on 23 to 24 March 2026 in Maun.

The Labour and Pay As You Earn Workshop

This workshop will be held in Gaborone (13 to 14 April 2026) and Maun (20 to 21 April 2026). It will focus on the newly enacted Employment and Labour Relations Act, which is currently awaiting notice on commencement. This new law revolutionizes the way employment relations in the country will be shaped as it introduces various leaves such as hospitalization leave, paternity leave, adoption leave among many others. The Act also seeks to eliminate employment of persons on contracts on a continuous basis by putting a cap on the number of months that such term contracts can be made. Other key changes brought about by the law include increasing the bargaining powers of unions, protecting expectant employees through guaranteed job security when they return from maternity as well as increasing their pay entitlement to 70%, among many other changes.

DATA PROTECTION ACT

Opracon IT Specialists will also hold a workshop on the Data Protection Act, which is a relatively new Act requiring every company to appoint a Data Protection Officer. The said Act also requires every person who processes or makes use of an individual's personal data to only use such information in the prescribed manner or for the purpose of which the information is obtained. This Act introduces a new statutory authority, being the Information and Data Protection Commission which will regulate matters pertaining to data breaches and providing a framework in respect of which data may be used and shared, among other issues across borders. The said commission will also monitor the compliance of the provisions of the Act in the country by companies, NGOs, among other persons. This Act imposes very heavy penalties with a maximum of P50million for inappropriate usage of data. The workshop will be held on the 17th of April 2026 in Gaborone and on the 14th of April 2026 in Maun.

DEFENSIVE DRIVING

Opracon will also host a workshop on Defensive Driving Principles through its Opracon Skills & Academy division, aimed at equipping drivers with the defensive driving skills to avoid accidents. With road accidents claiming several lives every year, drivers ought to be equipped with non-technical and important behavioral skills in order for them to contribute positively to safety on the road. The workshop will focus on a number of aspects such as identifying hazards on the road, the dos and don'ts of driving, types of accidents and how to avoid them, and obeying road signs. The workshop will be held from the 18th to 19th of April 2026 in Gaborone and 9th to 10th of May 2026 in Maun.

Bookings:You may contact us at +267 7161 4524 or +267 393 9435 or tax1@aupracontax.co.bw or www.aupracontax.co.bw. If you need to join our free WhatsApp groups or to know more about our workshops, please send us a text/ WhatsApp on the number above.







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@aupracon-tax.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.

opracon
IT SPECIALISTS
Consulting & Training



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

CASE NO. CVHGB - 000449 - 20

In the matter between
STANBIC BANK BOTSWANA LIMITED **Plaintiff**
and
MOHUBELE SUPPLIERS (PTY) LTD **1st Defendant**
ONTLAMETSE GOMOTSANYANG KEBOHULA **2nd Defendant**

NOTICE OF SALE IN EXECUTION

BE PLEASED TO TAKE NOTICE THAT pursuant to a Judgment granted by the above Honourable Court on the 07th July 2020 the following immovable property of the abovementioned 2nd Defendant will be sold by means of public auction to the highest bidder by **Deputy Sheriff N. Ookame** as follows:

DATE OF SALE : Friday 27 March 2026.
VENUE : Tribal Lot 562, Metsimotlhabe
TIME OF SALE : 1000 hours
TERMS OF SALE : All participating bidders are required to make an upfront payment of BWP 10 000.00 directly to the undersigned Attorneys, refundable only to those who did not succeed in the sale. Only cash or bank guaranteed cheques will be accepted. The detailed conditions of sale are available for inspection at the undersigned Attorneys' offices.

PROPERTY TO BE SOLD: The 2nd Defendant's title rights and interest in a certain piece of land being Tribal Lot 562, Metsimotlhabe situate in the Bakwena Tribal Territory, measuring 900m² (Nine Hundred Square Metres) which property is held under Memorandum of Agreement of Grant of Lease No. TL 94/2014 dated the 23rd January 2014 together with all the improvements thereon being a Screen wall, sliding gate, 2 bedroomed house, fitted kitchen, bathroom, kitchen, and another 4 bedroomed house, master en-suite, study room, bathroom, toilet, dinning room.

DATED AT GABORONE ON THIS 24TH DAY OF FEBRUARY 2026.

COLLINS CHILISA CONSULTANTS
Attorneys • Notaries • Conveyancers

COLLINS CHILISA CONSULTANTS
Plaintiff's Attorneys
Plot 4858, Lecha Close
Off Marakanelo Way
Extension 11
P O Box 45136
GABORONE
Deputy Sheriff N Ookame
[Cell No. 72879169/77435503]

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

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

CASE NO: CVHGB -000292-22

In the matter between:
B & T GAS GROUP (PTY) LTD **Plaintiff**
And
MAKGARAPA PRODUCTS BOTSWANA (PTY) LTD **Defendant**

NOTICE OF SALE IN EXECUTION

BE PLEASED TO TAKE NOTICE that pursuant to the judgment granted by the above Honourable Court the Defendant property will be sold by public auction by **Deputy Sheriff Onkgopotse Motlhagodi** to the highest bidder as follows;

DATE OF SALE : 27th March 2026;
TIME : 10:00 a.m;
VENUE : Selebi Phikwe Behind Telecoms Makgarapa Camp Site ;
PROPERTY TO BE SOLD : 1 Scania Registration No. B 359 BGZ Model 38 Blue in Colour, 1 Scania Registration No. B 677 BGE Model R500 White in Colour, 1 Scania Registration No. B 814 BHE Model F94 White in Colour, 1 Toyota Registration No. B 989 BAP Model Hilux White in Colour, 1 Trailor Registration No. B 628 AMY Model Rigid Fixed White in Colour, 1 Sino Registration No. B 682 BLE Model F94 White in Colour, 4 Containers, 1 Generator.

TERMS OF SALE : Bank Transfer No Cash will be accepted

DATED AT GABORONE THIS 24TH DAY OF FEBRUARY 2026.

DEPUTY SHERIFF ONKGOPOTSE MOTLHAGODI (71868324 / 75284049) C/o KATSE ATTORNEYS (3903258) Plaintiff's Attorneys, Plot No. 21244, P. O. Box 201018 GABORONE.

ABRAM J.
IN THE HIGH COURT OF THE REPUBLIC OF BOTSWANA
HELD AT GABORONE

NO: MLHGB-000035-26

In the matter between;
MPHO GARETSHELE (nee MOTLOGELWA) **PLAINTIFF**
And
GABRIEL TSIETSI GARETSHELE **DEFENDANT**

SUBTITUTED SERVICE

TO: GABRIEL TSIETSI GARETSHELE an adult male of full legal capacity whose current residential address is unknown to the Plaintiff.

TAKE NOTICE THAT by Writ of Summons issued out of this Honourable Court under case number MLHGB-000035-26 wherein MPHO GARETSHELE (nee MOTLOGELWA) is the Plaintiff and you are the Defendant.

You are required to enter appearance to defend within twenty one (21) days after publication hereof, failing which judgement may be granted against you.

The Plaintiff's claims is for:

a) Decree Nisi for divorce
b) Division of the joint estate
c) Further and/or alternative relief.

DATED AT GABORONE THIS 25TH DAY OF FEBRUARY 2026.

GAPE APRIL ATTORNEYS, PLAINTIFF'S ATTORNEYS, GABORONE INTERNATONAL COMMERCE PARK, PLOT 104 UNIT 6B, P O BOX 504130 GABORONE

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

CASE NO: CVHGB -000292-22

In the matter between:
B & T GAS GROUP (PTY) LTD **Plaintiff**
And
MAKGARAPA PRODUCTS BOTSWANA (PTY) LTD **Defendant**

NOTICE OF SALE IN EXECUTION

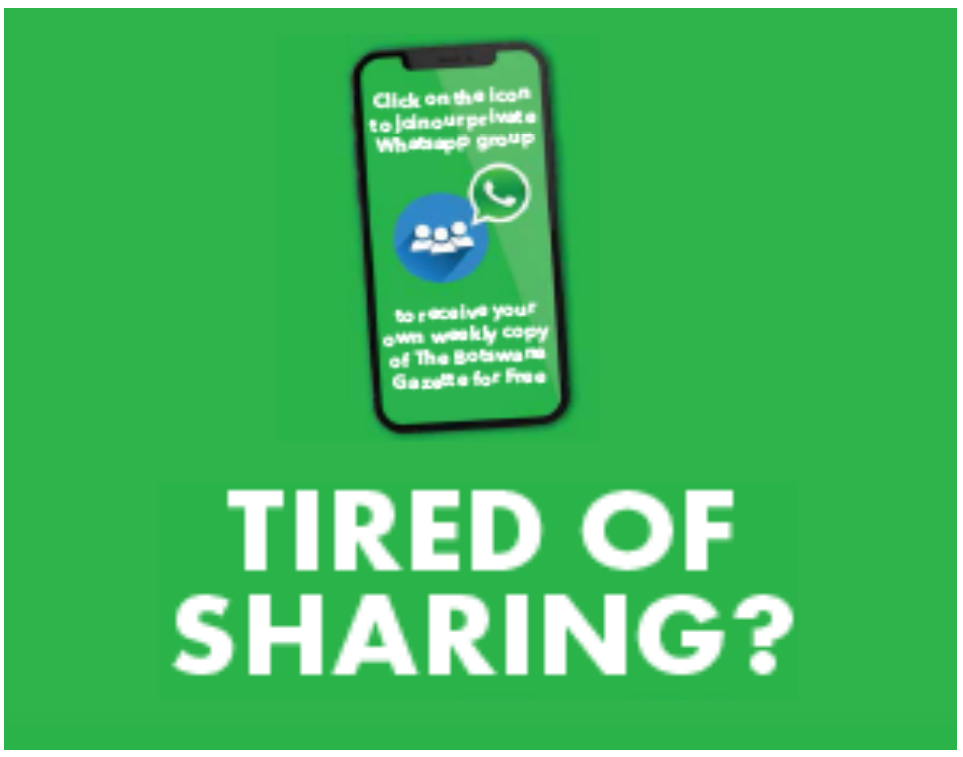
BE PLEASED TO TAKE NOTICE that pursuant to the judgment granted by the above Honourable Court the Defendant property will be sold by public auction by Deputy Sheriff Onkgopotse Motlhagodi to the highest bidder as follows;

DATE OF SALE : 28th March 2026;
TIME : 10:00 a.m;
VENUE : Orapa Mine;
PROPERTY TO BE SOLD : 1 Fork Lift Registration No. B 424 BHK Yellow in Colour, 1 Front Loader Registration No. B 242 AGB Yellow in Colour, 1 JCB Yellow in Colour, Batching Plant Concrete Mixture Machine, 1 Container.

TERMS OF SALE : Bank Transfer No Cash will be accepted

DATED AT GABORONE THIS 24TH DAY OF FEBRUARY 2026.

DEPUTY SHERIFF ONKGOPOTSE MOTLHAGODI (71868324 / 75284049) C/o KATSE ATTORNEYS (3903258) Plaintiff's Attorneys, Plot No. 21244, P. O. Box 201018 GABORONE.



CHANGE OF LAND USE

I Barulaganye Matshaba owner of **plot No 6919 Mogoditshane/ Nkoyaphiri** would like to inform neighbor's concerning change of land use from residential to Multi- Residential.

Any objection contact Mogoditshane Council Physical Planning Office on **Telephone No: 3105615** within fourteen **(14) days** of the publication of the notice.

IN THE SUBORDINATE COURT OF THE FIRST CLASS FOR THE NORTHERN MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT HELD AT FRANCISTOWN

CASE NO: CCMFT 000 760/24

In the matter between:
BELANG SENYARELO **PLAINTIFF**
And
KENNETH MAKUBATE **DEFENDANT**

NOTICE OF SALE IN EXECUTION

BE PLEASED TO TAKE NOTICE THAT pursuant to a Warrant of Execution issued out of the above Honourable Court in the above matter, the following movable property of the Defendant will be sold by Public Auction by **Deputy Sheriff Ernest Ramodisa** to the highest bidder as follows:

DATE OF SALE : 27th March 2026
VENUE : In front of Broadhurst Magistrate Court
TIME : 10:30 Hours
PROPERTY TO BE SOLD : 1 x Silver Toyota Fortuner registration Number B395 AYT,

TERMS OF SALE : Cash or bank transfer only.

DATED AT FRANCISTOWN ON THIS THE 24TH 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 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

Before His Worship Daniel Nkau – Chief Magistrate
IN THE MAGISTRATE COURT FOR THE DISTRICT OF GABORONE
HELD AT VILLAGE

Case No. CCMVL – 000558/25

In the matter between:
GAOMODIMO KGABO **PLAINTIF**
And
SEKGABO N. MOLATLHWA **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 : **11th MARCH 2026**
TIME : 10:00 am
VENUE : **BROADHURST MAGISTRATE COURT, GABORONE**
PROPERTY TO BE SOLD : 1 x 1 Mercedes Benz Reg. No. B 688 BPV

CONDITIONS OF SALE : Cash or Bank transfers

DATED AT GABORONE THIS 2nd DAY OF MARCH 2026

DEPUTY SHERIFF D.J MOYO
C/O JOINA & ASSOCIATES
P.O Box 20572
Gaborone

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.

Monty Gagomokgwa's Mic Retires

TLOTLO KEBINAKGABO

There are some voices that become part of the weekend or let alone the week through sports updates. Part of the dust that rises from village grounds. Part of the echo that lingers long after the final whistle. And then, one day, the voice goes quiet.

Monty Gagomokgwa's microphone has retired.

The announcement of his passing, made on Duma FM this week, travelled with the same clarity he once reserved for team sheets , analysis and tactical breakdowns. But this time there was no build-up, no post-match analysis, no opportunity for one last question in the mixed zone. Just silence.

HEARTBEAT OF GRASSROOTS

Monty was not drawn to the glamour of football. He was drawn to its heartbeat. While others angled for the bright lights of the Premier League, he would be found at dusty lower-league grounds, chronicling stories many considered too small to tell. He followed football in its purest form — the kind played before dozens, not thousands.

"Monty had a deep love for the game, especially at grassroots level," said Tariq Babitseng, President of the Botswana Football Association. "He believed that every player, no matter the league, deserved to be seen and heard. His coverage of lower leagues gave visibility to talent that might otherwise have gone unnoticed. Botswana football has lost a true advocate."

> The lower leagues will roll on, as football always does. But somewhere between kick-off and the final whistle, there will be an absence — a space where a familiar voice once narrated dreams

A TRUE ADVOCATE

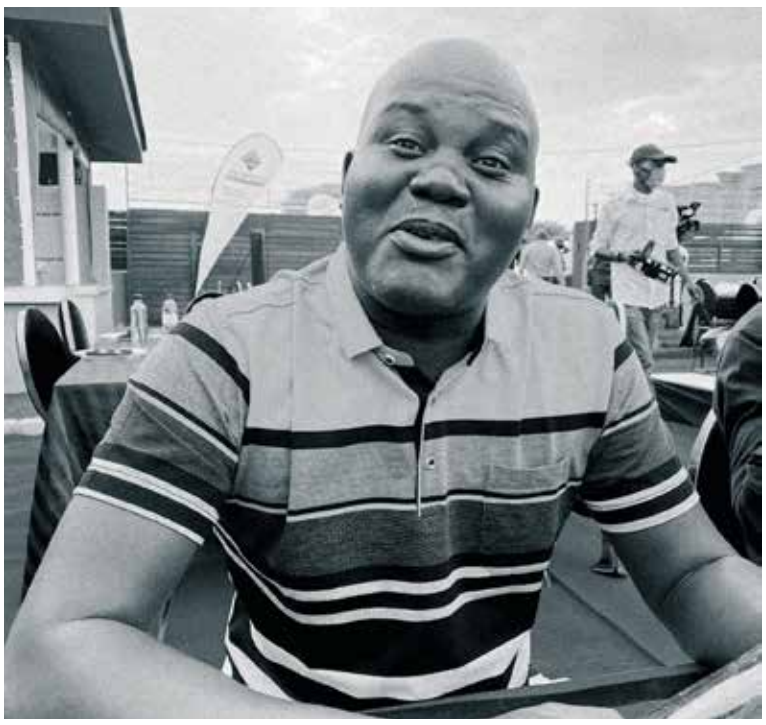
That word — advocate — feels right. Monty did not simply report scores. He argued, gently but firmly, for recognition. He saw potential in teenagers playing on uneven pitches and told their stories as if they were already internationals. He treated first andsecond-division derbies with the reverence others reserved for cup finals.

Mosimanegape Tshoswane, spokesperson of the Botswana Football League, remembers him as a constant presence. "You could always count on Monty to be there, even for fixtures that did not attract big crowds. He understood that the strength of our league lies in its depth. His reporting brought credibility and consistency to our competitions."

BEAUTIFULLY STUBBORN PRESENCE

There is something beautifully stubborn about that — the decision to show up, again and again, when few are watching. It is easy to celebrate champions. It takes patience to chronicle those still dreaming.

Off the pitch, Monty carried an equally colourful charm. Friends often joked about how firmly he believed in muti— traditional medicine — especially when it came to football fortunes. If a striker was on a goal drought, Monty would laugh and suggest, half-serious, that perhaps a visit to the right traditional healer might sharpen his boots. It was part of his humour, part of the folklore he loved about the local game — that beautiful blend of tactics, talent, faith and superstition that makes football in Botswana uniquely its own.



THE STORIES PLAY ON

For Duncan Kgangkenna of the Sunday Standard, Monty was more than a colleague. He was a friend. "Monty was authentic," Kgangkenna said. "What you heard on air was who he was off it — passionate, humble, and genuinely invested in people. He loved the game, but he loved the people in it even more."

And perhaps that is what will be missed most. The warmth behind the questions. The quiet encouragement to a nervous coach. The way he could make a struggling striker feel like the story still mattered.

Now the stadiums will feel different. The lower leagues will roll on, as football always does. But somewhere between kick-off and the final whistle, there will be an absence — a space where a familiar voice once narrated dreams.

Monty Gagomokgwa's mic has retired.

But the stories he told will keep playing on.

Nhabe Tourney Signals Depth

Young prospects and seasoned competitors converged in Gaborone, underlining the breadth of Botswana's table tennis talent

GAZETTE REPORTER

The Nhabe Table Tennis Open Tournament 2026, held over the weekend at the Botswana National Youth Council (BNYC), concluded with organisers describing the event as a success marked by strong participation and competitive balance across age groups.

In a statement, the Botswana Table Tennis Association (BTTA) said the tournament was "a remarkable celebration of talent, discipline, and competitive excellence," noting that athletes from a range of clubs and institutions gathered to test their skills and determination.



YOUTH SPOTLIGHT

The Under 12 categories offered early evidence of technical promise. In the boys' division, Agobakwe Sebetlela of MAIK claimed first place, followed by Andile Mmono (BNT/ITH) and Dhaarmic Karthik (DTTC), with Kevin Mlandu also finishing on the podium.

The girls' section proved equally competitive. Stephney Batsholeng led a strong BNT/ITH showing, ahead of Makanaka Banni and Sethunya Buisanyang, while Bontsi Johannes completed the medal positions.

JUNIOR BATTLES

Competition intensified in the Under 19 brackets, reflecting what BTTA described as "the strength and depth of senior competition" already visible at junior level.

Reneilwe Lekorwe (SM) emerged victorious in the boys' category, with Thato Kgongwana and Tinashe Dzvaka, both of BNT/ITH, close behind, alongside Botshelo Sita.

In the girls' division, Carol David topped an all–BNT/ITH podium, ahead of Boitlamo Nkele and Teto Nkele, with Makanaka Banni adding another bronze to her weekend haul.

SENIOR INTENSITY

Experience proved decisive in the senior events. The men's title went to Bakang Maloka of BDF, followed by teammate Thobo Matlhatsi. Tshireletso Samuel and Unangoni Gombalume, also of BDF, shared third place after a series of tightly contested matches.

The senior women's competition highlighted what organisers termed "resilience and competitive spirit." Tshepiso Rebatenne of NH secured first place, with Constance Kuswani finishing second. Tsholofelo Gaokgalemelwe and Boitlamo Nkele, both representing BDF and BNT/ITH respectively, completed the podium.

SUPPORT NETWORK

BTTA attributed the smooth running of the tournament in part to corporate backing. "The success of the Nhabe Table Tennis Open Tournament 2026 would not have been possible without the generous support and partnership of our valued sponsors," the association said, naming Gloplox Holdings, Martone Planning Studio, Stag Global, Phoenix of Botswana Assurance, RCM Architect, Rate 1 and Flushy VIP Mobile Loo among those acknowledged.

> "The tournament was a remarkable celebration of talent, discipline, and competitive excellence."

CLOSING NOTE

Looking ahead, BTTA framed the tournament as part of a broader trajectory. The association said the event "stands as a testament to growth, unity, and excellence in the sport," adding its congratulations to "all participants, medalists, coaches, officials, and supporters who contributed to a professionally executed and highly successful tournament."

Kazungula Marathon Draws Regional Elite

Winners post fast times as race boosts local business activity in Kazungula.



The FNB Kazungula Bridge Marathon attracted elite runners from Zambia, South Africa, Zimbabwe, Kenya and Mozambique over the weekend, with Zimbabwe's Isaac Mpofu and Zambia's Elizabeth Mukoloma claiming top honours in the 42km races.

MEN'S AND WOMEN'S RESULTS

Mpofu won the men's marathon in 2:14:18, earning P50,000. It was his fifth appearance at Kazungula and his fourth victory. He said his preparation was deliberate and aimed at delivering a strong time.

Mukoloma secured the women's title in 2:38:09, also taking home P50,000. She improved on her previous fourth-place finish at the event and described the course as challenging.

HALF MARATHON PODIUM

In the 21km races, Namibian athletes claimed both titles. Lavina Haitope won the women's race in 1:13:44, while Ezra Keter took the men's title in 1:10:11. Both received P15,000.

Beyond competition, organisers said the event contributed to local economic activity during race week. Hospitality providers, transport operators and informal traders reported increased demand as athletes and supporters travelled to Kazungula.

One local taxi driver said he had experienced a noticeable rise in business due to marathon visitors.

ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY IMPACT

FNB Botswana CEO Steven Lefentse Bogatsu said the marathon forms part of the bank's five-year partnership with the event and reflects its broader investment in wellness and community initiatives.

For residents and small businesses, the annual influx of visitors offers additional income opportunities while promoting wellness and regional integration.

"This past week I have been very busy transporting passengers who arrived for the marathon. It has been a profitable period for us."



MASALELA GOING FOR THAT RECORD

Botswana's top middle-distance runner signs on for a bold world-record attempt in Francistown

TLOTLO KEBINAKGABO

Golden Door Sports Agency has signed a contract with Botswana's 800-metre standout Tshepiso Masalela, positioning him for a men's 800m world-record attempt at the inaugural The Ghetto Classic.

The agency's spokesperson, Calistus Kolantsho, confirmed the agreement, saying Masalela will headline the race as part of the event's first edition. The meet, a World Athletics Continental Tour Bronze-level competition, is scheduled for March 14, 2026, at Obed Itani Chilume Stadium in Francistown.

The men's 800m world record stands at 1:40.91, set by David Rudisha on August 9, 2012, during the Olympic final in London. Rudisha led from the start in that race, becoming the first athlete to break the 1:41 barrier.

NATIONAL BENCHMARK

A successful world-record bid would also see Masalela challenge Botswana's national record of 1:41.73, held by Nijel Amos. Amos achieved that time on August 9, 2012, when he won silver at the London Olympic Games, finishing behind Rudisha.

Masalela's personal best in the 800m is 1:42.70, recorded on May 25, 2025, at the Rabat Diamond League. The performance was a meet record and a world-leading time at the time, reinforcing his status among the elite in the discipline.

"The idea is to motivate him that's why we are sponsoring him to break the world record," Kolantsho said. "We can see that he has potential but he needs that exposure and push more especially after the disappointment in Poland where he was disqualified."

Kolantsho added that Masalela's participation is confirmed. "So it's been confirmed he will be at the Ghetto Classic and we are going for that record," he said.

EVENT AMBITIONS

Kolantsho said interest in the meet has been strong since it was first listed on the World Athletics events calendar last year, with inquiries from athletes around the world. However, he noted that confirmations have been limited by sponsorship constraints.

"Although our discussions with them are at an advanced stage, we have not been able to confirm most of them as we had not yet secured high value sponsors," he said.

He appealed to the media to help attract business support, saying such backing is key to developing athletic talent and sports tourism in Botswana.

> "We can see that he has potential but he needs that exposure and push."

ACCESS AND FUTURE

For its debut, The Ghetto Classic will be priced to encourage broad attendance, with entrance fees set at P50 for adults and P20 for children aged 17 and under. Tickets will not be sold in advance; spectators will pay at the gate. Kolantsho said the long-term vision is to elevate the meet to Gold level.

He also confirmed that the Botswana Golden Grand Prix, another event organized by the agency, will take place on April 26, 2026, at the National Stadium in Gaborone, describing it as historically significant ahead of the upcoming World Athletics Relays.

Softball's High-Stakes Reset

Easter tournament spotlights ambition, elite competition and the search for lasting financial stability

TLOTLO KEBINAKGABO

The National Easter Softball Tournament has become a central pillar in efforts to revive and strengthen softball in Botswana, according to the Botswana Softball Association (BSA). The annual competition, widely known as NEST, is designed to bring together elite teams in a condensed, high-intensity format that organizers believe can stimulate interest in the sport and narrow development gaps.

Kako Justus Kuswane, the BSA's Competitions Organizer, said the tournament plays a critical role in sustaining momentum at a time when the sport is seeking greater visibility and financial stability. "By featuring top-tier teams in competitive, high-stakes matches, it bridges development gaps and breathes new life into our local softball," Kuswane told this publication.

> "By featuring top-tier teams in competitive, high-stakes matches, it bridges development gaps and breathes new life into our local softball."

FUNDING REALITY

Kuswane acknowledged that the association has historically relied heavily on public funding, particularly support from the Botswana National Sports Commission, to run its programmes and competitions. That dependence, he said, has underscored the urgency of diversifying revenue sources.



"We have been highly dependent on the motherbody being Botswana National Sports Commission to foot the bill," he said, adding that recent pledges from a private benefactor mark a welcome, if still limited, shift. According to Kuswane, the sponsorship environment remains fragmented, shaped largely by short-term corporate agreements and essential government grants rather than enduring commercial partnerships.

TOURNAMENT DETAILS

The National Easter Softball Tournament (NEST) 2026 will be staged from April 2 to April 5 in Gaborone. It will feature the country's top eight teams in both the men's and women's categories, a format intended to ensure competitive balance and consistent quality across fixtures.

In the women's competition, BDF IX, Carats, Ghetto Yankees, Police IX, Scramblers, Titans, Vikings and Wells will compete. The men's field comprises BDF IX, Carats, Comets, Gatalamotho, Police IX, Rail Giants, Rebels and Wells. Organisers say the condensed schedule is designed to deliver high-level competition over a short period, appealing to both supporters and potential partners.

SUSTAINABILITY DEBATE

Despite the tournament's prominence, Kuswane argued that long-term growth for softball in Botswana depends less on standalone events and more on sustained league structures. He said durable partnerships could offer brands a clearer and more consistent return on investment, while also supporting player development pathways.

"For sustainability purposes Botswana Softball Association' growth should be based on securing a long term partnership," he said, contrasting leagues with tournaments that are "short time based." Kuswane noted that the last such long-term partnership was with the telecommunications firm BoFinet, before the Covid-19 pandemic disrupted sporting calendars and commercial arrangements.

"In my humble opinion in tournaments we do not have time to develop new players as they are short time based opposed to the league," he said.

Women's Sport Careers Shaped

Recognition, not rhetoric is shaping women's sport careers in Botswana



GAZETTE REPORTER

The real measure of the Vunani Annual Botswana Women Sports Awards, organisers say, is not the attention the ceremony attracts on the night, but what follows for those recognised.

"The biggest affirmation of the significance of the Vunani Annual Botswana Women Sports Awards is not just the talkability about the event, but seeing nominees and winners excel more, post recognition on the big night," said Kesego Kebelaele-Okie, a co-organiser of the awards.

The fourth edition of the Vunani Annual Botswana Women Sports Awards will be held on March 27, 2026, in Gaborone. The ceremony will honour performances and contributions made between January 1 and December 31, 2025.

Organised by Inside BW Women Sports, the awards have become one of the few consistent platforms celebrating women's sport in a landscape often shaped by intermittent funding and limited long-term recognition.

EARLY RETURNS

Recent outcomes among past winners illustrate the organisers' argument that recognition can translate into opportunity.

"The reigning Young Promising Athlete, Buhle Majama recently got a scholarship to study in the USA, and has expressed deep gratitude on the award bestowed on her in the third edition as one of the contributing factors in her profile," Kebelaele-Okie said.

She also pointed to Maru Chokwe, the 2025 CEO's Special Award winner. "Maru Chokwe… has just started her studies at a professional golf academy in South Africa, and has equally emphasized the value of the award she received, in her journey towards being a professional golf player," she said.

Both athletes are teenagers, she added, and their progress is seen as a signal to other young girls that sport can offer viable pathways.

MONEY MATTERS

Since its inception, the awards have recognised more than 51 women, with close to P500,000 awarded in prize money. Kebelaele-Okie said the financial component is especially significant under current economic conditions.

"It is crucial especially during these times of tough economic challenges as national level," she said. "Some of our winners have confirmed using their prize money towards starting or growing their businesses, others have invested it back into their training programs."

She described sport as "a financially demanding exercise" and said it was encouraging to see prize money contribute to more sustainable livelihoods.

BUILDING CAPACITY

Beyond cash awards, the organisers have introduced additional support structures. "Last year we introduced a capacity building workshop for all winners," Kebelaele-Okie said, noting that corporate partners led sessions on financial literacy, personal branding, national brand ambassadorship and investment funding.

"We will have this every year going forward, as a sustainability component of the awards," she said.

LOOKING AHEAD

The long-term ambition, Kebelaele-Okie said, is increased representation of women in international competitions.

"The biggest vision is to see our winners, and other women in sport play a more visible and impactful role," she said, citing events such as the Olympics and World Championships.

> "Sport can be quite a financially demanding exercise; and it is humbling to see that the project help winners towards sustainable livelihoods."

She said engagements have begun with stakeholders including the Botswana National Olympic Committee, as well as potential sponsors, to explore funding for extended training programmes for women and girls.

"We are hopeful that collectively, we will achieve this vision," she said.

TIRED OF SHARING?



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