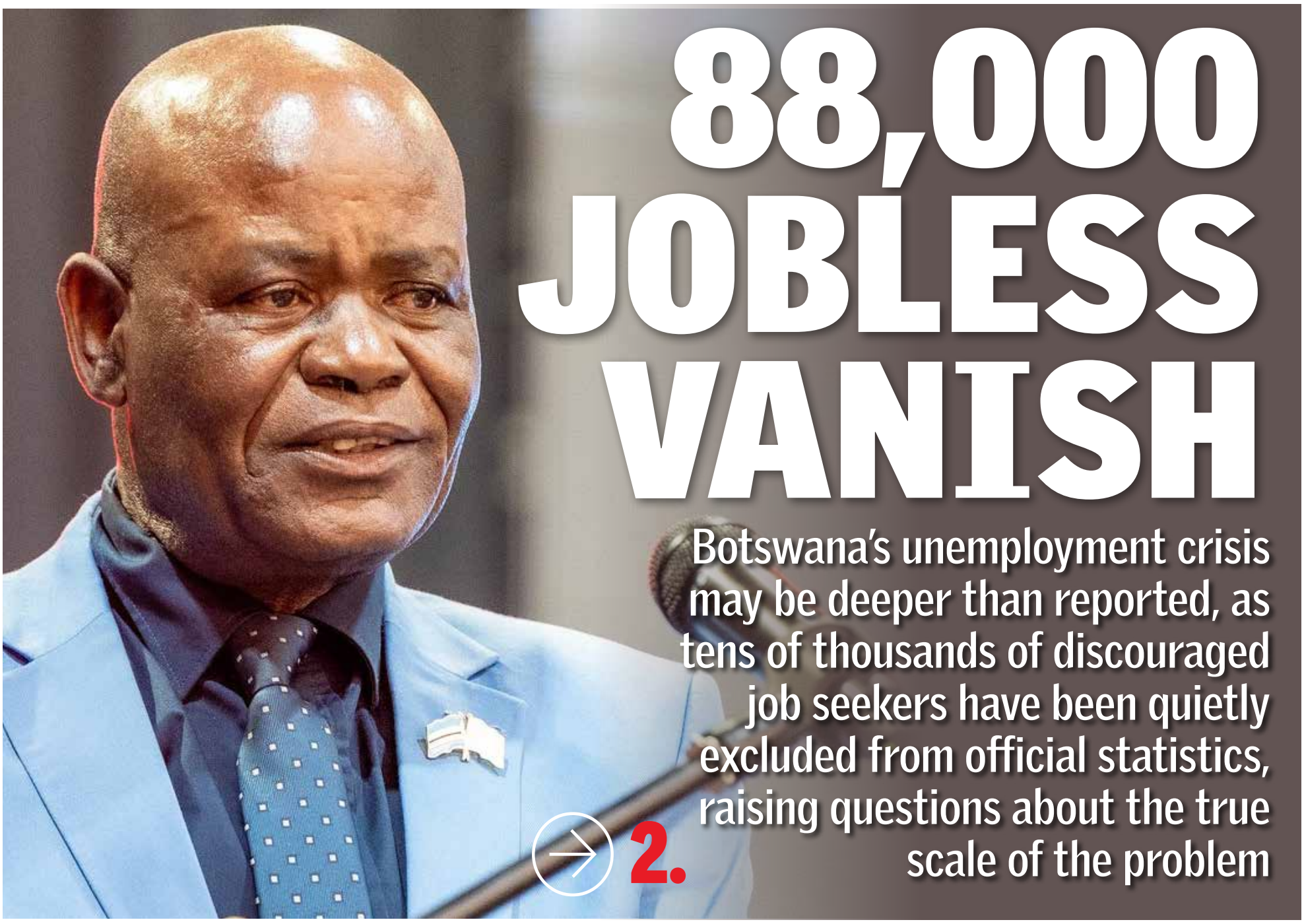
The Botswana
GAZETTE

WEDNESDAY
18 MARCH 2026
SINCE 1984



Inside Miss Botswana Finale This Weekend
20.



88,000 JOBLESS VANISH

Botswana's unemployment crisis may be deeper than reported, as tens of thousands of discouraged job seekers have been quietly excluded from official statistics, raising questions about the true scale of the problem

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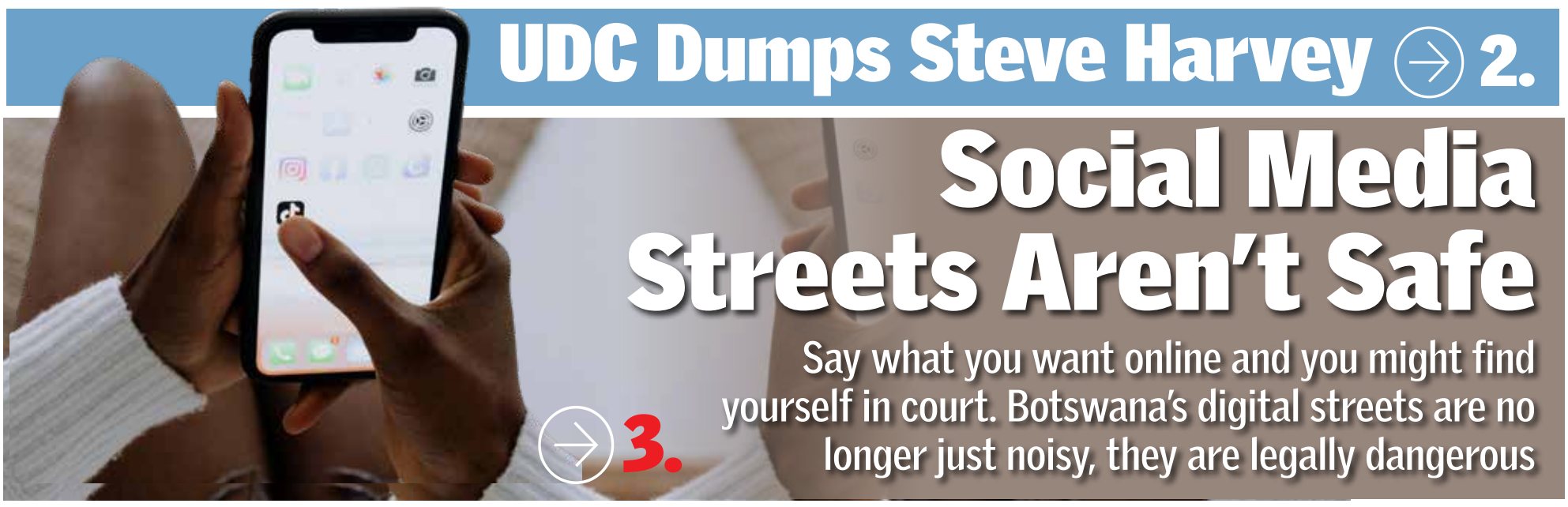
UDC Dumps Steve Harvey 2.



Social Media Streets Aren't Safe

Say what you want online and you might find yourself in court. Botswana's digital streets are no longer just noisy, they are legally dangerous

3.

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88,000 JOBLESS VANISH

Botswana's unemployment crisis may be deeper than reported, as tens of thousands of discouraged job seekers have been quietly excluded from official statistics, raising questions about the true scale of the problem

GAZETTE REPORTER

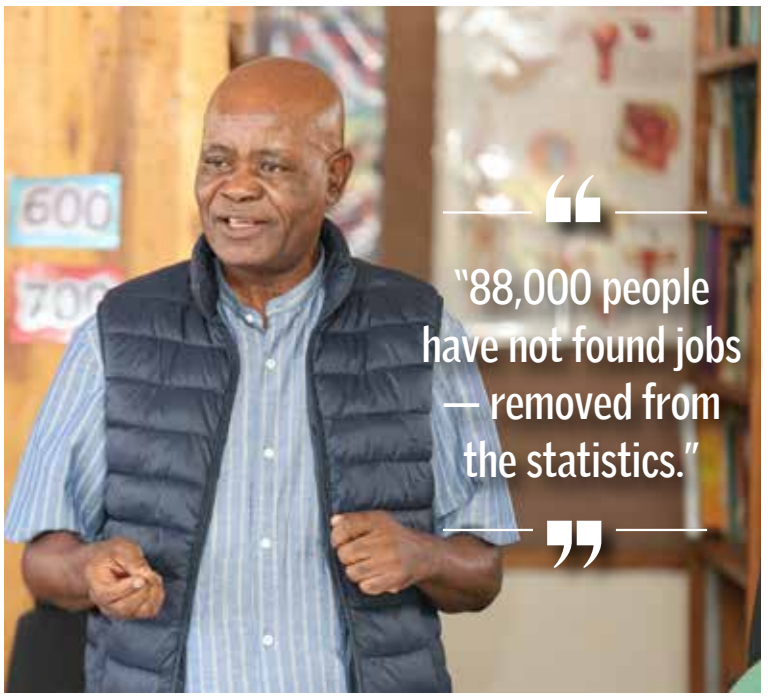
Botswana's latest unemployment figures suggest a difficult but manageable situation. The official rate stands at 21.0%, based on 213,437 people actively seeking work. But beneath that headline lies a far more troubling reality: 88,671 discouraged job seekers are no longer counted.

These are individuals who want to work and are available to work but have stopped searching because they believe no opportunities exist. By definition, they fall outside the labour force. In practice, they have effectively disappeared from the statistics.

HIDDEN NUMBERS

When these discouraged workers are added back into the equation, unemployment rises to at least 27.3%, and even that likely understates the crisis. Underemployment and informal survival activities remain largely invisible.

> "Botswana's unemployment crisis is not shrinking — it is being redefined."



In response to Gazette inquiries, a senior official at the Ministry acknowledged inconsistencies in employment data, stating that authorities are aware of the issue and are reviewing the figures.

STATISTICAL SHIFT

The reclassification aligns with international standards such as those set by the International Labour Organization, which defines unemployment based on active job search. However, this technical adjustment has significant consequences.

The Botswana Multi-Topic Household Survey itself notes that apparent improvements in unemployment may reflect an increase in discouraged workers rather than actual job creation. In simple terms, people are not finding jobs — they are giving up.

WORSENING TREND

Long-term data reinforces the concern. Between 2015/16 and 2024/25, Botswana's labour force grew by 21.7%, while employment increased by only 16.7%. Over the same period, the number of unemployed rose by 45%.

Youth unemployment remains particularly acute at 28.9%, even under the narrower definition.

Economist and political analyst Sennye Obuseng stated publicly that there is no evidence of improvement in the labour market, pointing to a contracting economy in 2024 and expected continued contraction in 2025.

"I see no evidence of an improvement in the labour market. There are no good news from industry," said Obuseng.

REAL IMPACT

Beyond the data, the human cost is increasingly visible across communities.

Kemmonye Bogosi, an unemployed citizen who has been out of work for a decade, described the emotional toll of being effectively excluded from official statistics.

"I've been unemployed for ten years now… it's deeply disturbing to realise that I may not be counted in the official statistics," Bogosi said.

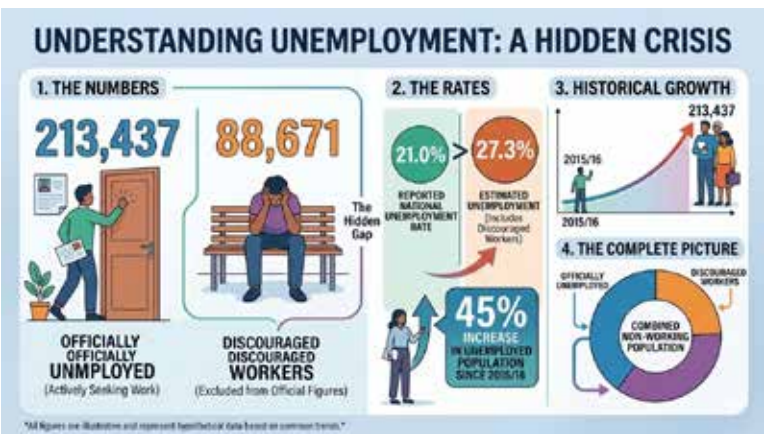
He added that prolonged unemployment has led to cycles of hopelessness, with many feeling overlooked by policy responses focused on improving headline figures rather than creating jobs.

GROWING RISK

Botswana has long framed its youthful population as a demographic dividend. However, that dividend depends on the ability to absorb young people into meaningful employment.

What is emerging instead is a demographic liability: a growing number of people who are neither employed nor counted, and therefore increasingly excluded from both economic participation and policy urgency.

As Obuseng further noted, the latest figures do not capture the full picture, warning that thousands who have given up searching are missing from the official narrative.



UDC Dumps Steve Harvey

The UDC government has chosen not to extend Steve Harvey's P470M contract, emphasizing its focus on local filmmakers, TV producers and homegrown entertainment talent



BONGANI MALUNGA

The Umbrella for Democratic Change (UDC) government has opted not to renew the entertainment contract of American media mogul Steve Harvey insisting on empowering local entertainment sector.

Harvey, renowned worldwide for his hosting and production prowess, was brought in under the previous administration with a mandate to leverage his global influence to elevate local television content and film production. Under the deal, the Botswana Ignite project was founded in order to steer the Botswana version of popular game show Family Feud and other undisclosed projects.

The high-profile deal, reportedly valued at over P470 million over three years, faced persistent criticism from segments of the local film industry, who argued that the funds could better serve domestic talent.

> "Our priority is to empower local talent, ensuring that the money invested directly benefits our people and strengthens the industry from within."

NURTURING THE LOCAL INDUSTRY

Presenting before Parliament on Monday, the Minister of Sport and Arts, Jacob Kelebeng revealed that the decision reflects a commitment to nurturing Botswana's creative industries and giving local filmmakers, producers and television personalities a stronger platform.

"The Steve Harvey contract will be answered in detail by the Minister for State President, Defence and Security at a later date but I can confirm that the contract will not be renewed. Our priority is to empower local talent, ensuring that the money invested directly benefits our people and strengthens the industry from within," Kelebeng told Parliament.

FINANCIAL AND CULTURAL STATEMENT

While Harvey's presence brought international attention to Botswana's entertainment scene, critics such as the Botswana Film Association contended that meaningful long-term development hinges on building local capacity rather than relying on foreign stars. The cancellation of the contract is seen as both a financial and cultural statement, redirecting resources to homegrown productions that promise sustained impact.

Social Media Streets Aren't Safe

Say what you want online and you might find yourself in court. Botswana's digital streets are no longer just noisy, they are legally dangerous



BONGANI MALUNGA

In what many are calling a turning point, Moeladilotlhoko News Boiler's Tshepo Sethibe may be out on bail, but his case is far from over. The so called "uncle of the nation" is now one of a growing list of social media commentators finding themselves before the courts.

From accusations of ritual killings to posts about political figures, recent arrests and legal disputes involving names such as Tumelo Modise, Tumo Mookamedi and Laone Gaosafelwe suggest a clear shift. The social media streets are no longer consequence-free.

LEGAL RISK

Social media users posting about sensitive issues, including corruption or governance, are increasingly exposed to legal consequences. Sethibe, for example, was charged with "offensive electronic communication", an offence that carries fines or possible jail time under the Cybercrime and Computer-Related Crimes Act and the Penal Code.

Botswana's Section 192 criminal defamation law further reinforces this risk. It makes it illegal to publish material that could harm another person's reputation, although truth and public interest remain valid defences. Legal experts say these provisions apply equally online and in traditional media.

CONCERNS

"While recognising the legitimate need to protect individuals and institutions from reputational harm, MISA Botswana expresses concern that the growing resort to litigation in response to digital commentary may, in certain circumstances, risk discouraging robust public interest debate," said MISA Botswana chairman Thomas Nkhoma.

> "The social media streets are no longer consequence-free."

"Patterns of frequent or disproportionate legal action can contribute to a climate of self censorship particularly among independent journalists, bloggers and emerging digital voices who may lack the resources to defend themselves effectively."

Nkhoma added that a balanced approach is needed, one that strengthens self regulation while ensuring legal frameworks do not unduly constrain democratic participation.

LINES BLUR

"The rise of online or citizen journalism has undoubtedly transformed the media landscape. It has expanded the space for public participation, diversified voices and enabled faster dissemination of information. However, this shift has also blurred the lines between professional journalism and unverified commentary," said Sharon Mathala, Acting Secretary General of the Botswana Editors Forum.

Unlike mainstream media, which operates under established editorial standards, ethical codes and accountability mechanisms, many online content creators function without similar safeguards.

CREDIBILITY CRUNCH

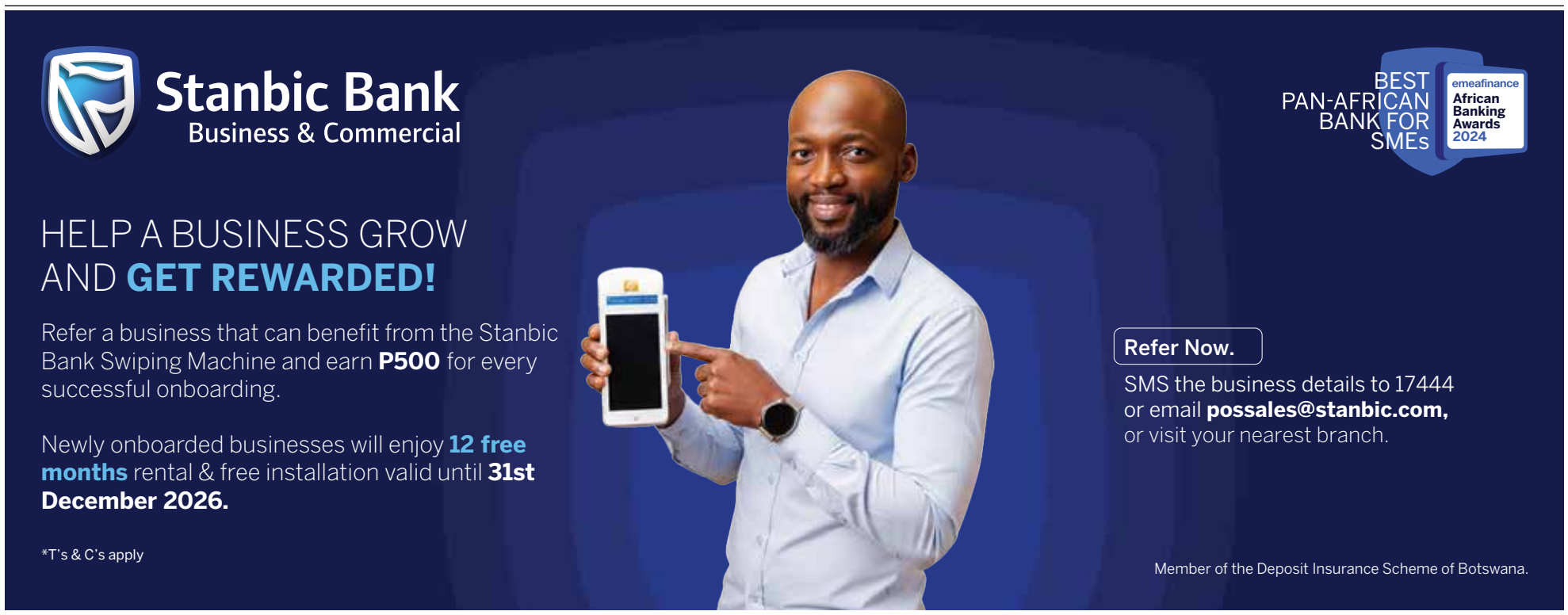
"As a result, the credibility of information in the public sphere can be affected. Audiences may struggle to distinguish between verified reporting and opinion or misinformation, and in some cases, may generalise mistrust across both traditional and online platforms. This underscores the importance of media literacy," Mathala explained.

LEGAL REALITY

Legal experts note that allegations, unverified claims or inflammatory posts can trigger arrests, civil lawsuits and fines. The law does not distinguish between a newsroom and a personal account when it comes to defamation or harmful communication.

As online commentary continues to shape debate around politics, justice and governance, the collision with the law is becoming more frequent.

For now, the message is simple. Botswana's digital public square remains open, but the consequences for what is said within it are becoming harder to ignore.



PSP: No Corruption in Chiepe's Exit Letter

Permanent Secretary to the President, Emma Peloetletse, has clarified that Monty Chiepe's resignation from the forensic audit committee was for personal reasons and unrelated to any allegations of corruption

GAZETTE REPORTER

The Permanent Secretary to the President, Emma Peloetletse, has sought to calm concerns following the sudden resignation of Monty Chiepe from the country's forensic audit steering committee.

Chiepe has posted on Facebook, warning that corruption delivers "knock-out punches to nations that approach it with kid gloves" and cautioning about the traits of officials "who have caught the corruption bug."

SPECULATION OVER MOTIVES

Chiepe's withdrawal sparked speculation that it was linked either to perceived weaknesses in Botswana's anti-corruption efforts or to personal matters. In an interview with this publication this week, PSP Peloetletse confirmed receipt of his resignation but stressed that the reasons were personal.



The Permanent Secretary to the President, Emma Peloetletse, has sought to calm concerns following the sudden resignation of Monty Chiepe from the country's forensic audit steering committee.

> Chiepe's withdrawal sparked speculation that it was linked either to perceived weaknesses in Botswana's anti-corruption efforts or to personal matters.

"I can't divulge them; that's for him to share if he wishes, but we know them because they were stated in the letter. He was sworn to confidentiality upon appointment," she said. She added that the government was somewhat disappointed that Chiepe publicised his resignation on social media, believing the matter should have remained private.

She denied that the resignation was in anyway linked to corruption or corruption claims.

SHORT TENURE AND CRYPTIC POSTS

Chiepe was appointed to the committee on March 20, 2025. Despite the controversy, Peloetletse reassured that the audit team's work would continue unaffected and that Chiepe's resignation would not impede ongoing investigations.

Efforts to reach Chiepe directly were unsuccessful, as his phone went unanswered.

ACEB
Association of Consulting Engineers Botswana



ACEB ONLINE COURSES (FIDIC CONTRACTS) CALENDAR 2026

MONTH	DATE	COURSE
May	12th – 13th	Practical Use of the FIDIC Conditions of Contracts (2 CPD Points)
	19th – 20th	FIDIC Contract Management and Administration Course (2 CPD Points)
June	2nd – 3rd	Management of Claims and Resolution of Disputes (2 CPD Points)
	10th – 11th	Disputes Adjudication Boards (2 CPD Points)
	17th	FIDIC Short Form of Contract- Green Book (1 CPD Point)
October		REFRESHER COURSES
	27th	Practical Use of the FIDIC Conditions of Contracts (1 CPD Point)
	28th	FIDIC Contract Management and Administration Course (1 CPD Point)
	29th	Implementation and Management of FIDIC Professional Services Agreement (1 CPD Point)
November		REFRESHER COURSES
	24th	Management of Claims and Resolution of Disputes(1 CPD Point)
	25th	Disputes Adjudication Boards (1 CPD Point)
	26th	FIDIC Short Form of Contract- Green Book (1 CPD Point)

FEES

	2 CPD POINTS COURSE FEES (EACH)	1 CPD POINT COURSE FEES (EACH)	REFRESHER COURSES 1 CPD POINT (EACH)
ACEB Members:	P 11,600.00	P 5,800.00	P 5,800.00
Non- ACEB Members:	P 12,000.00	P 6,000.00	P 6,000.00

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'Botswana's Courts Killing Democracy'

A new study by Baboloki Dambe and Olebile Daphney Muzila warns that Botswana's courts are undermining electoral justice by dismissing petitions on technicalities, denying candidates a fair hearing on the merits

GAZETTE REPORTER

Botswana's courts have been accused of systematically undermining electoral justice by prioritising procedural technicalities over the substance of election disputes, a hard-hitting new legal study has revealed.

The study, titled "The absence of judicial discretion to condone non-compliance in election petitions in Botswana: procedural formalism over substantive justice?", by Baboloki Dambe and Olebile Daphney Muzila, paints a troubling picture of a system where election petitions rarely progress to full hearings.

'DEAD END' FOR PETITIONERS

According to the researchers, Botswana's strict insistence on procedural compliance has created what amounts to a legal "dead end" for aggrieved candidates and voters.

"The position becomes untenable when procedural compliance is elevated above all else, with the effect that all election petitions are dismissed on preliminary objections," the study states.

The authors argue that courts "invariably never get to deal with the merits of the petitions, irrespective of the gravity of the electoral irregularities complained of."

MERITS OF CASES NEVER HEARD

Dambe and Muzila further found that this approach undermines the very essence of electoral justice.

"This undoubtedly undermines electoral justice… petitioners are deprived of the opportunity to have the merits of their complaints assessed by the courts," they note.

The study cites the 2019 election petitions by the Umbrella for Democratic Change (UDC)—now the ruling party—as a clear example, where cases were reportedly dismissed on procedural grounds.

LACK OF JUDICIAL DISCRETION BLAMED

At the heart of the problem, the researchers say, is the absence of judicial discretion—the ability of courts to overlook minor procedural errors in the interest of fairness.

Without such discretion, even minor technical lapses such as formatting issues or filing irregularities can doom a petition before it is heard.

"The current framework results in petitions being nullified on seemingly pedantic objections," the study notes.

CALLS FOR URGENT LEGAL REFORM

The authors argue that Botswana's legal framework is outdated and in urgent need of reform, singling out the lack of comprehensive election regulations as a critical gap.

They point out that Botswana lacks even basic procedural clarity, including defined timelines for respondents to answer petitions.

CONCERNS OVER LACK OF APPEALS

The researchers also criticise the absence of appellate oversight, noting that Botswana's High Court acts as both the first and final arbiter in election petitions.

They recommend constitutional amendments to allow the Court of Appeal to hear such disputes, arguing this would introduce necessary checks and balances.

"The current position where the High Court is a court of first and last instance… is far from ideal," the study states.

DEMOCRACY AT RISK

The study warns that without urgent reforms, Botswana risks weakening the foundations of its democracy.





Court Rejects Ookeditse's Presidency

High Court Judge, William Moncho has dismissed the Ookeditse-aligned faction's bid to block Lieutenant General Gaolatlhe Galebotswe from leading the Botswana Patriotic Front, but both factions continue to claim legitimacy, leaving the party's leadership in dispute

SESUPO RANTSIMAKO



Lawrence Ookeditse

High Court Judge William Moncho has dismissed an application filed by the Lawrence Ookeditse-aligned faction, which sought to stop Lieutenant General Gaolatlhe Galebotswe and his committee from presenting themselves as the legitimate leadership of the Botswana Patriotic Front (BPF).

Judge Moncho ruled that the applicants had failed to establish a prima facie right, making it impossible for the court to grant an interim interdict. He dismissed the application with costs and highlighted that the court's role is to interpret the BPF constitution in a benevolent manner that allows flexibility in applying provisions agreed upon by party members.

OOKEDITSE CAMP REJECTS RULING

Despite the ruling, the Ookeditse faction insists it remains the legitimate leadership. BPF publicity secretary Ogaufi Nthobelang said the court did not resolve the central leadership question.

"What we brought before the court to be decided has not been decided. The court only dismissed our application without indicating what we have lost as applicants. We will now sit down and decide whether to appeal," Nthobelang stated.

GALEBOTSWE FACTION CLAIMS VICTORY

Meanwhile, the Galebotswe-aligned committee has hailed the ruling as an affirmation of their authority. Faction spokesperson, Modiri Jojo Lucas said the judgment confirms their control of the party and allows them to rebuild internal structures, including preparations for an extraordinary congress that had been postponed pending the court outcome.

Lucas also extended a conciliatory message, indicating that invitations would be sent to the Ookeditse faction for reconciliation talks. "They are members in good standing. This case was not a war but a process to seek interpretation of the BPF constitution," he said.

UNCERTAINTY CONTINUES

With both factions claiming the ruling as support, uncertainty persists over BPF leadership. The

standoff raises the possibility of further legal challenges or internal political clashes as the party works to stabilize ahead of its next congress.

KAZUNGULA BRIDGE AUTHORITY

LOGO DESIGN COMPETITION

REWARD US$1750

Submit YOUR LOGO DESIGN to records@kazungulabridgeproject.com with 'KBA Logo Competition' in the subject line.

CLOSING DATE 30TH MARCH 2026 @17:00HRS

For queries and clarifications, please contact: records@kazungulabridgeproject.com

KAZUNGULA BRIDGE AUTHORITY

The Kazungula Bridge Authority (KBA) is an International organization established by the Governments of the Republic of Zambia and the Republic of Botswana to manage and oversee the operations of the Kazungula Bridge Infrastructure located at the Zambia–Botswana border across the Zambezi River.
KBA was established to ensure the efficient management, operation, and maintenance of this strategically important infrastructure, catalyze economic development and facilitate regional integration.
The Kazungula Bridge Authority requires the services of creative designers to develop a logo that speaks to the mandate or any relatable aspects of the Authority.
Graphic Designers are hereby invited to participate in the competition for the development of a logo for the Kazungula Bridge Authority. The logo competition is open to graphic design firms and individuals including students with graphic design skills in Botswana and Zambia.

LOGO DESIGN COMPETITION

The following are the rules and guidelines for the competition.
1. Participants in this competition must be 18 years or older.
2. The design should be in high resolution colour;
3. The logo must be clear and distinctly identifiable for effective application on all materials, websites and other relevant platforms;
4. The logo should include the name of the Authority – Kazungula Bridge Authority;
5. A tagline can also be incorporated along with the symbol to enhance the impact of the symbol.
6. The design should be accompanied by a written description of its meaning and features;
7. Entrants are required to identify possible colours for the Authority;
8. The Authority reserves the right to subject the winning logo to necessary modification for its use.
9. Originality is a key requirement in the logo design.
10. Any material, graphics or other items prepared by and in the competition shall belong to, and remain the property of the Authority.
11. The Judges' decision is final and will not be open to any correspondence or appeal whatsoever.
12. Entrants in the competition should provide their names, email address, contact telephone numbers, certified copies of identity document.
13. The Authority reserves the right to cancel, terminate, modify or suspend this competition without prior notice in the event of circumstances arising beyond its control that makes it necessary to do so

Mode of Submission
The logo design should be submitted in Windows compatible soft copy to records@kazungulabridgeproject.com with 'KBA Logo Competition' in the subject line.
Specifications
1. A single image file including both black and white and color versions of logo on a white background (no transparency), in either .gif, .ai, .psd or .png format, placed in a 400x600 pixel format with a resolution of 72 dpi.
2. A single image file including both black and white and color versions of logo on a white background (no transparency), in either .gif, ai, .psd, or .png format, placed in a 400x600 pixel format with a resolution of 300 dpi.
3. A single multi-page pdf set for high resolution, containing the following in this order and with the following page restrictions:

a. Page 1: logo in color
b. Page 2: logo in black and white
c. Page 3&4: logo shown in use (eg. webpage, invitations, reports, letterheads, T-shirt...)
d. Page 5: documentation (summary description or explanation of logo symbolism, designers' intent)
e. Page 6: short biographic information of designer or studio
The logo should be able to work both in colour and black and white, be adoptable to different scales and different uses (e.g. webpages, e-mails, hard copy, projected image, posters.)
Reward
A jury will select the winning logo, and the winner of the competition will receive a cash prize of **UDS1750**. The prize is as stated, and no other alternatives will be offered.

COPYRIGHT AND PATENTS
1. By entering this competition, the designer assigns the rights to Kazungula Bridge Authority to use each submission for promotion of the Authority. Unless a submission is selected as the winner, each designer retains all intellectual property considerations associated with their submission.
2. Entries should not violate any intellectual property, including, but not limited to patents, trademarks, and copyrights. By admitting their entry the designer certifies that the entry is original, created solely by entrant, and no other person or entity holds rights to the entry and its components.
3. In consideration for the prize money received, the winner agrees to transfer all applicable intellectual property considerations to Kazungula Bridge Authority for the promotion of the Authority.
4. The entrant is responsible for the contents of the advertisement which cannot include copyright protected material. The entrant must have the rights for all the texts and images used in the submitted work.
5. The entry must not benefit any company, organization, political party or official interest group by the use, for instance, of logos, brands, or representatives or corporations, parties or organizations.

For queries and clarifications, please contact: records@kazungulabridgeproject.com

Fuel Price Hike Warning for Botswana

Botswana faces possible fuel price hikes as global oil prices surge, with Business Monitor International warning that energy-dependent sectors could be hit hard despite stable short-term supplies

GAZETTE REPORTER

Fear is mounting that Botswana could soon face rising fuel prices as the escalating US–Iran conflict drives global oil prices higher. A new assessment by Business Monitor International (BMI) warns that the ripple effects of the geopolitical standoff are likely to be felt across Sub-Saharan Africa, particularly in economies heavily dependent on energy-intensive sectors.

According to BMI, countries such as Botswana—where manufacturing, mining and construction play a central role—are especially vulnerable. The report notes that such economies "will face headwinds, especially if also exposed to US tariffs." Botswana is among the countries affected, having been subjected to a 15% tariff by the United States, compounding the pressure from rising energy costs.

BMI researchers emphasised that net energy importers will bear the brunt of the crisis. "We expect net energy importers to be the most exposed, with the combined impact of higher energy prices and currency weakness likely to push up import prices," the report states.

MINING SECTOR PARTICULARLY EXPOSED

The report highlights Botswana as one of the hardest-hit nations due to its reliance on fuel-intensive industries. Higher fuel and electricity costs are expected to reduce productivity, particularly in mining, which depends heavily on diesel-powered machinery and fuel-sensitive transport systems.

"In our view, higher fuel and electricity costs will reduce productivity in energy-intensive industries, with major mining markets such as South Africa, Zambia, the DRC, Guinea, and Botswana particularly exposed," BMI warned.

OIL SUPPLY DISRUPTIONS DRIVE PRICE SURGE

BMI attributes the recent spike in oil prices to severe disruptions in global supply chains. These include a near-complete halt of transit through the Strait of Hormuz, upstream production shut-ins due to limited storage capacity, and escalating attacks on oil infrastructure in the Gulf region.

The organisation further notes that fading hopes for a swift de-escalation have intensified market uncertainty. "Price action now reflects expectations of a more widely spread and durable impact on global oil trade," BMI said.

RISING COSTS THREATEN ECONOMIC STABILITY

The anticipated increase in fuel prices is expected to raise operating costs for businesses in Botswana and across the region. BMI cautions that this will "erode working capital and weaken capital outlays," potentially slowing economic growth and investment.

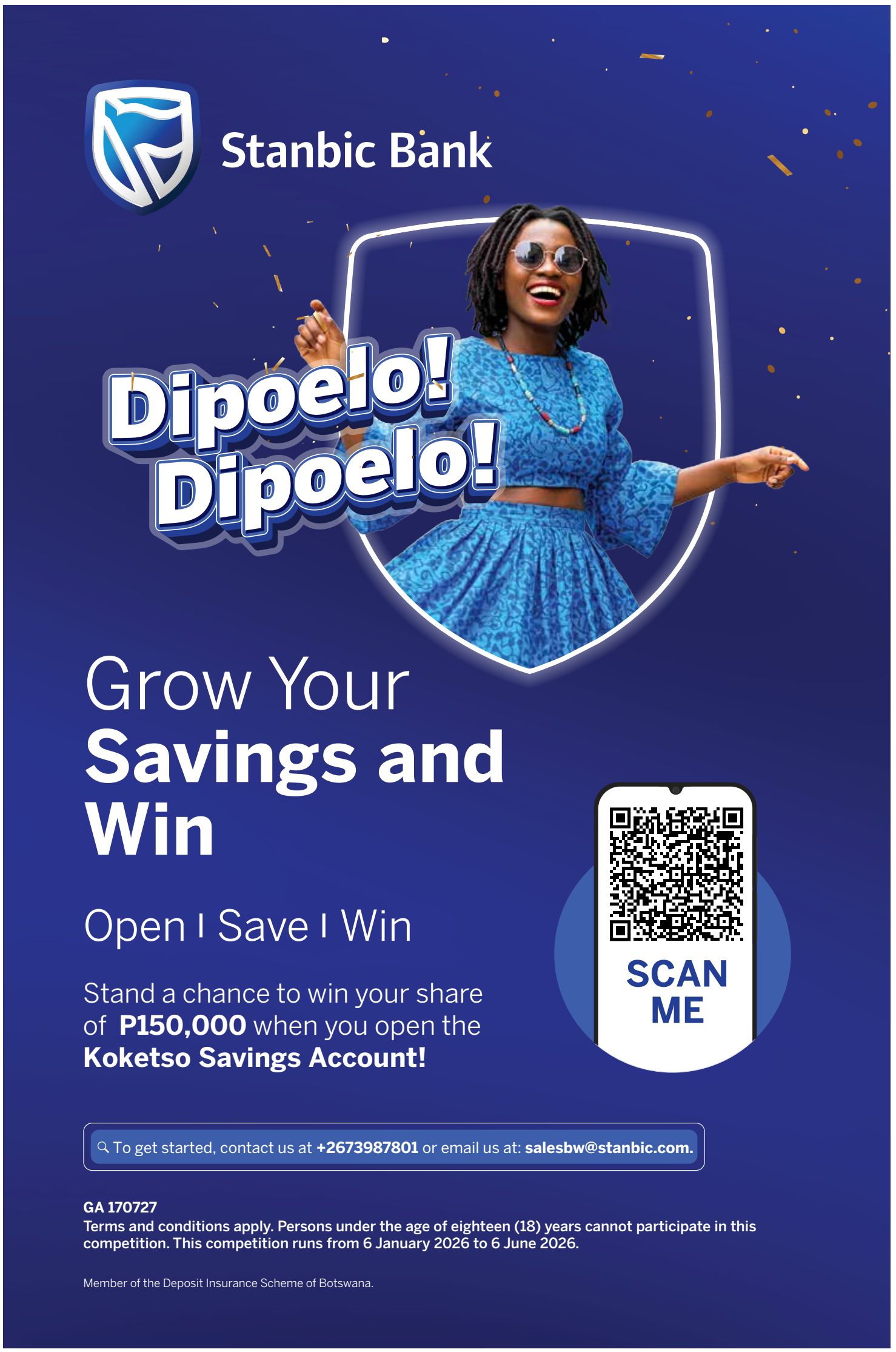
AUTHORITIES MONITOR SUPPLY SITUATION

Meanwhile, Botswana Energy Regulatory Authority (BERA) has assured the public that it is closely monitoring the supply of petroleum products. The authority said it is working with the Ministry and industry players to track global developments and ensure supply stability through proactive planning.

FUEL STOCKS OFFER SHORT-TERM RELIEF

BERA revealed that Botswana Oil Limited (BOL) has secured approximately 68 million litres of fuel for March 2026, equivalent to about 22 days of national consumption based on daily demand of 3.1 million litres. Government strategic reserves currently stand at around nine days, against a maximum capacity of 15 days, while Citizen Oil Companies hold between five and 10 days of stock. Despite the relatively stable short-term supply outlook, BERA warned that the situation remains fluid.





Scrutiny Mounts Over BoFiNet CEO Appointment

Parliamentary committee moves to probe appointment



SESUPO RANTSIMAKO

Botswana Fibre Networks (BoFiNet) may soon face Parliament as the leadership of the state-owned telecoms company comes under scrutiny.

The Parliamentary Committee on Information and Communication has written to the Speaker of the National Assembly, Dithapelo Keorapetse, seeking to summon the company to explain the appointment of Geofrey Seleka as its new Chief Executive Officer, amid concerns over his qualifications.

COMMITTEE SEEKS ANSWERS

Chairperson of the committee, Motlhaleemang Moalosi, told ***The Botswana Gazette*** that the committee wants BoFiNet to clarify how Seleka was appointed and whether the process adhered to governance standards.

"We need to understand how Seleka was selected despite questions about his qualifications," Moalosi said. "The committee will examine whether due process was followed in the recruitment of the CEO."

PUBLIC CALLS FOR TRANSPARENCY

The appointment has sparked public debate, with many calling for greater transparency in hiring at state-owned enterprises. The committee intends to probe the criteria used to select Seleka and whether the process met corporate governance expectations.

REVISITING PAST CONTROVERSY

Concerns about Seleka's suitability trace back to 2015, when he was implicated in a fake doctorate scandal while serving as Director of Marketing, Communications and Registration at the Botswana Innovation Hub and as a board member of Botswana Telecommunications Corporation Limited. Investigations found that his claimed Doctorate in Science from Rochville University, an unaccredited online institution, was fraudulent. He was suspended pending a disciplinary hearing but resigned before it took place.

> "We need to understand how Seleka was selected despite questions about his qualifications."

POTENTIAL PARLIAMENTARY APPEARANCE

If the Speaker approves the committee's request, BoFiNet officials could soon appear before Parliament to provide full details on Seleka's appointment and address lingering concerns over his qualifications.

Moswaane Refuses to Apologise

Assistant Minister Ignatius Moswaane stands by his claims of counterfeit medicines in Botswana and calls for an independent investigation despite the Speaker dismissing his evidence

SESUPO RANTSIMAKO

Assistant Minister of Local Government and Traditional Affairs, Ignatius Moswaane has refused to apologize for his claims about the circulation of counterfeit medicines in Botswana, despite the Speaker of the National Assembly, Dithapelo Keorapetse, dismissing his evidence as exaggerated and hyperbolic.

MINISTER MAINTAINS POSITION

In an interview with The Botswana Gazette, Moswaane insisted that he had not lied about the issue and stood by his statements. "It is surprising that the Speaker dismissed the evidence when, at the time it was presented, he acknowledged that it had merit," he said.

ALLEGATIONS OF FAKE DRUGS

Moswaane revealed that counterfeit medicines allegedly entered the country between 2022 and 2023, though he admitted uncertainty about the exact route of entry. He noted that the Central Medical Stores had confirmed the issue and that some drugs were recalled.

Rather than retracting his claims, Moswaane urged Parliament to establish an independent body to investigate the allegations, conduct public hearings, and call witnesses, including families of victims.

> "It is surprising that the Speaker dismissed the evidence when, at the time it was presented, he acknowledged that it had merit."

PUBLIC INTEREST OVER POLITICAL PRESSURE

The Francistown West MP emphasized that public outrage would not alter the facts. "Those who are angry with me for making these revelations will eventually forgive me, but that does not change the reality that counterfeit



medicines have been used on Batswana. I represent Batswana and I cannot keep quiet when something is wrong," he said.

He further suggested that political actors or individuals who may have benefited from the supply of counterfeit drugs are among those pushing for his apology.

PREVIOUS GOVERNMENT UNDER SCRUTINY

Moswaane previously alleged that counterfeit medicines were found hidden at a clinic in Shoshong and accused the previous government of importing and administering fake drugs, resulting in some deaths.

OPPOSITION AND PARLIAMENTARY RESPONSE

The Botswana Democratic Party (BDP) leadership argued that such sensitive claims should be formally addressed in Parliament. BDP MP for Kgatleng East, Mabuse Pule, raised a motion on the matter, which was ultimately rejected by the Speaker, who requested more substantive evidence from Moswaane.

Botswana On the Brink of Dutch Disease

S&P Global Ratings has downgraded Botswana's credit rating, warning that heavy reliance on diamonds and weak global demand are exposing deep economic vulnerabilities and rising fiscal risks

GAZETTE REPORTER

Botswana's long-standing reputation as a model resource economy is under fresh threat after S&P Global Ratings downgraded the country's sovereign credit rating from BBB to BBB- with a negative outlook, citing mounting fiscal pressures and overreliance on diamonds.

The downgrade revives concerns around the so-called Dutch Disease a condition where heavy reliance on natural resources undermines broader economic development. Analysts warn that Botswana is showing classic symptoms, with diamond dominance crowding out diversification.

DIAMOND SLUMP EXPOSES VULNERABILITIES

S&P cautioned that prolonged weakness in global diamond demand is exposing structural imbalances in Botswana's economy.

"Structural weakness in global diamond demand will weigh on Botswana's minerals-dependent economy, balance of payments, and fiscal performance for longer than we previously expected," the agency said.

Diamonds currently account for about 70% of Botswana's exports, a third of government revenue, and roughly a quarter of GDP.

DEFICITS AND DEBT ON THE RISE

Without urgent reforms or a rebound in demand, Botswana could face sustained fiscal distress. S&P projects budget deficits continuing through 2029, with a shortfall of 8.9% of GDP expected in 2026/27.

Government debt is forecast to rise sharply to 37.4% of GDP by 2029—a significant shift from the country's previous net asset position.

RESERVES DECLINE, GROWTH REMAINS WEAK

Foreign reserves have also declined significantly, dropping from $7.5 billion in 2017 to $3.8 billion in 2025. Economic growth remains fragile, following contractions in 2024 and 2025, with only a modest recovery to 2.5% projected for 2026.

LAB-GROWN DIAMONDS ADD PRESSURE

The agency highlighted emerging global shifts, including the rise of lab-grown diamonds and weakening demand in key markets such as China, as further threats to Botswana's economic stability.

"The ratings are constrained by the country's narrow economic base," S&P noted, warning that dependence on diamonds leaves Botswana vulnerable to external shocks.

FURTHER DOWNGRADES POSSIBLE

S&P warned that further downgrades remain possible if fiscal and external performance deteriorates beyond current projections.

"We could lower our ratings if Botswana's fiscal and external performance proved materially weaker than our forecast," it said.

DIVERSIFICATION NOW URGENT

While acknowledging Botswana's strong institutions and history of prudent governance, S&P cautioned that these strengths may no longer be sufficient to counter deepening structural weaknesses.

The downgrade raises urgent questions about whether Botswana can successfully diversify its economy—or whether it risks falling deeper into the trap of resource dependence.



Botswana's long-standing reputation as a model resource economy is under fresh threat after S&P Global Ratings downgraded the country's sovereign credit rating from BBB to BBB- with a negative outlook, citing mounting fiscal pressures and overreliance on diamonds.

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Manager - Audit & Assurance (x2) Botswana

Responsibilities
- Lead and manage financial audit engagements from planning to completion, ensuring all phases are executed effectively and in a timely manner.
- Oversee the execution of audit fieldwork, ensuring that audits are performed accurately, efficiently, and in compliance with established standards.
- Review work performed by audit staff and senior auditors to ensure accuracy, completeness, and adherence to audit methodologies.
- Supervise and mentor a team of auditors, providing guidance on technical issues and supporting their professional development.
- Ensure compliance with accounting and auditing standards as well as firm policies and regulatory requirements.
- Serve as the primary point of contact for clients during audit engagements, maintaining strong relationships and addressing any concerns.
- Stay updated on changes in financial regulations and accounting standards, sharing insights with the audit team and adapting audit processes accordingly.
- Provide technical expertise and support to clients on complex financial issues.

Requirements and Qualifications
- A bachelor's degree in accounting, Finance, or a related field is required.
- CPA (Certified Public Accountant) or CA (Chartered Accountant) certification is required.
- At least 5 years of Audit experience.
- Proven interpersonal skills with the ability to build relationships, coach, motivate, and effectively manage financial audit staff and work collaboratively with various departments, with a solid understanding of how financial auditing aligns with operational functions.

Audit Supervisor (X2) Botswana

Responsibilities
- Identifying key risks to business objectives, evaluating and testing controls to identify areas for improvement.
- Liaising with senior and middle management in the planning and conducting of audit assignments.
- Managing a portfolio of clients and delivering high quality audit and assurance services.
- Provide management over a portfolio of clients and delivering high quality audit and assurance services, including preparation and reviewing of audit plans and work.
- Ensure our financial operations and controls meet standards and are error-free.

Requirements and Qualifications
- CA/ACCA/ACA qualified.
- 3 years of external audit experience.
- Meticulous and analytical, with deep knowledge of auditing practices.

Interested candidates who meet the above requirements are invited to submit their applications, cv, certified copies of certificates and traceable references to the following. Addressed to:

The Human Resources Manager
Baker Tilly Certified Auditors
P O Box 211114, Bontleng Gaborone, Botswana
Email: jobs@bakertilly.co.bw

Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted for interviews

Closing Date 25 March 2026.

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Nurse Shortage Hits Weekend Services

Staff shortages are raising concerns about Botswana's ability to provide consistent healthcare, especially in rural areas where facilities are already understaffed and under-resourced

BONGANI MALUNGA


Pic Credit; BWgovernment

The Ministry of Local Government and Traditional Affairs has acknowledged that Botswana's shortage of nurses and midwives has become a crisis, disrupting primary healthcare services on weekends.

In response to Shashe West Member of Parliament, Justin Frenzel's concerns over the severe staffing gaps, the Minister of Local Government and Traditional Affairs, Ketlhalefile Motshegwa confirmed that the ministry is aware of the staffing crisis, particularly in remote and hard to reach areas.

SCALING DOWN

The minister explained that the shortage of nurses and midwives has forced some health facilities to scale down their operations, with certain clinics only able to provide full services during weekdays due to limited personnel.

"The Ministry acknowledges the acute shortage of nurses and midwives across our health facilities, especially in hard-to-reach areas," Motshegwa told Parliament, adding that the situation continues to place pressure on the country's primary healthcare system.

To mitigate the crisis, government has embarked on a recruitment drive aimed at strengthening the workforce in the sector. The ministry revealed that several promotions and appointments have already been made as part of the intervention.

According to the minister; "sixteen D1 nursing positions and three D2 positions have recently been filled following the promotion of D-band nurses. Recruitment efforts are ongoing, with more positions expected to be filled by the end of April 2026."

ONGOING TRANSFER

The Ministry is also exploring long-term measures to address the shortage, including rationalising nurse specialists such as midwives and expanding training opportunities through collaboration with development partners and other stakeholders.

> "The Ministry acknowledges the acute shortage of nurses and midwives across our health facilities, especially in hard-to-reach areas."

Meanwhile, the minister told Parliament that the ongoing transfer of primary health care services from the Ministry of Health to the Ministry of Local Government and Traditional Affairs is expected to be fully completed by March 31, 2026, marking a major shift in the administration of primary healthcare services in Botswana.

UB Don Backs ConCourt

UB law professor Dr. Tachilisa Balule has voiced his support for the controversial establishment of a Constitutional Court, despite many critics dismissing it as a low priority given the country's current economic circumstances

BONGANI MALUNGA

University of Botswana law professor Dr. Tachilisa Balule has thrown his weight behind the establishment of a Constitutional Court, sharply criticising the country's judiciary for failing to consistently defend constitutional rights.

Delivering a public lecture on Monday, Balule argued that Botswana's courts have shown a worrying reluctance to confront constitutional questions, often avoiding decisive rulings in cases that test the limits of state power.

He singled out the doctrine of constitutional avoidance as a major weakness, saying it has allowed courts to sidestep critical issues such as freedom of expression and electoral fairness, leaving questionable laws unchallenged.

> "The current judicial setup has dismally failed to ensure full protection of rights, a Constitutional Court is a special court with the sole mandate of enforcing the supremacy of the Constitution and protection of rights."

OUTDATED

Balule cited instances where courts declined to rule on the constitutionality of sedition laws, despite concerns that such provisions are outdated and threaten democratic freedoms.

"The current judicial setup has dismally failed to ensure full protection of rights, a Constitutional Court is a special court with the sole mandate of enforcing the supremacy of the Constitution and protection of rights," Balule asserted, adding that the government cannot fully protect human rights without the specialised court.

He further criticised the judiciary's strict procedural approach in election disputes, warning that prioritising technicalities over substance risks undermining public confidence in electoral justice.

INCONSISTENT INTERPRETATION OF THE CONSTITUTION

While acknowledging that courts have made strides in areas like privacy and anti-discrimination, Balule said these gains are overshadowed by inconsistent interpretation of the Constitution and failure to fully develop rights-based jurisprudence.



UB law professor Dr. Tachilisa Balule

He argued that a specialised Constitutional Court would correct these shortcomings by providing focused oversight on constitutional matters, strengthening human rights protection and ensuring uniformity in legal interpretation.

Balule also cautioned that the credibility of such a court will depend on reforms to the judicial appointments process to safeguard its independence from executive influence. Despite concerns, he insists the need for reform is urgent, warning that continued judicial hesitation risks weakening constitutional supremacy in Botswana.

Govt Non-Committal on Raising Retirement Age

The government is wary of implementing changes that could further constrain opportunities for young graduates seeking entry into the public service

BONGANI MALUNGA

The government is non-committal on raising the public service retirement age from 60 to 65, saying such a move would require consideration of labour market conditions and public service needs. The government has indicated that it is not yet ready to review the public service retirement age while leaving the door open for possible future consideration.

Responding to a question in Parliament from Mabuse Pule, MP for Kgatleng East, the Minister for State President, Defence and Security, Moeti Mohwasa said the current law maintains the compulsory retirement age for public officers at 60 years.

> "Any decision to review the retirement age would require a thorough assessment of prevailing economic and employment conditions, particularly the dynamics of the job market."

LONGER ECONOMIC PARTICIPATION

Pule had asked whether the government intended to review the retirement threshold to align it with the 65-year retirement age applicable to judges and certain other professions. He argued that such a move could promote longer economic participation and address the five-year pension gap faced by many workers who retire at 60.

However, Mohwasa explained that while the statutory retirement age remains unchanged, the law already allows the continued employment of public officers beyond 60 in cases where there is a demonstrated need for their services.

He noted that any decision to review the retirement age would require a thorough assessment of prevailing economic and employment conditions, particularly the dynamics of the job market.

UNEMPLOYMENT CHALLENGES

According to the minister, government must strike a careful balance between retaining experienced personnel and addressing the country's persistent graduate unemployment challenges.

"The review of the retirement age would depend on several factors affecting the employment environment at any given time," Mohwasa said, adding that the government must also consider public service delivery requirements before making any policy shift.

"Considerations of this nature would be preceded by a careful analysis of the job market and Public Service delivery needs. Issues to consider will, among others, include the need to balance the current graduate unemployment challenges with the critical desire to utilize the much needed human resources available within the age bracket of retirement," Mohwasa added.



TENDER NOTICE

BDC

1. Botswana Development Corporation, Western Industrial Estates (Pty) Ltd, and Commercial Holdings (Pty) Ltd invites proposals from capable **100% Citizen Owned** Companies to provide proposals for the below tenders. Bidders must be duly registered with Public Procurement Regulatory Authority (PPRA) and Companies and Intellectual Property Authority (CIPA).

Tender Number	Tender Name	Compulsory Site Visit Dates	PPRA Codes	Closing Date for selling of tenders	Tender Submission Closing Date
ITT/BDC011-2025/26CH-WIE	Provision Of Cleaning Services for Commercial Holdings Pty Ltd and Western Industrial Estates Pty Ltd Properties in Gaborone and Selibe Phikwe On a three- year contract.	**Gaborone:** 16th March 2026 @ 10:00hrs Assembly area: The Tower entrance Plot 70667 Fairgrounds, Gaborone. (BDC Head Office). **Selibe Phikwe:** 18th March 2026 @10:00hrs Assembly area: Spedu offices entrance Plot 11272 Selebi Phikwe.	PPRA Code 132 - Cleaning services, subcode 01 - Building cleaning services, (including windows, carpets and others)	20th March 2026	27th March 2026 @ 11:00hrs
ITT/BDC012-2025/26CH	Provision Of Gardening and Landscaping Services at Plot 70667 Fairscape Precinct, Fairgrounds, Gaborone for a Period of Three Years	**Gaborone**: 13th March 2026 @ 11:00hrs Assembly area: The Tower entrance Plot 70667 Fairgrounds, Gaborone. (BDC Head Office).	PPRA Code: 137 - Gardening and Landscaping services, subcode 01 - Gardening, Landscaping and Maintenance.	16th March 2026	20th March 2026 @ 11:00hrs
ITT/BDC013-2025/26	Provision Of Project Management Services: Development of High-End Penthouses on Floors 11-14 At Fairscape Precinct, Plot 70667, Fairgrounds Office Park	**Gaborone**: 16th March 2026 @ 14:30hrs Assembly area: The Tower entrance Plot 70667 Fairgrounds, Gaborone. (BDC Head Office).	PPRA Code 311(Project Management Services), Sub-code 02(Construction Project Management),	19th March 2026	25th March 2026 @ 11:00hrs
ITT/BDC014-2025/26CH	Supply, Installation, And Upgrade of Dahua CCTV Systems And 3-Year Maintenance Service at Fairscape Plot 70667, Fairscape Precinct, Fairgrounds Gaborone	**Gaborone**: 17th March 2026 @ 11:00hrs Assembly area: The Tower entrance Plot 70667 Fairgrounds, Gaborone. (BDC Head Office).	PPRA Code 02 - Electrical Engineering Works and Maintenance, Sub-code 07 Security systems installations (CCTV, Alarms etc.)	23rd March 2026	31st March 2026 @ 11:00hrs

2. Tender documents will be sent to Bidders after paying a non-refundable fee of **P1,000.00** from 08:00hrs to 1530hrs on weekdays with effect from **09th March 2026.**
3. Youth registered companies are entitled to pay **50%** of the purchase price subject to the provision of proof of 100% youth ownership. Payments can be deposited on the below account referencing the tender Name.
4. Proof of payment should be emailed to: tenders@bdc.bw.

BANK ACCOUNT DETAILS

Account Name	Bank	Account Number	Account Type	Branch Name	Swift Code
Botswana Development Corporation	Stanbic Bank	9060000737300	Current	Fairgrounds	SBICBWGX

5. Queries and/ or clarifications relating to the issuance of these documents may be addressed to:
   Procurement Unit
   Email: tenders@bdc.bw
   Tel: +267 365 1300

6. Bidders should submit the documents per the submission format prescribed in the Tender Document.
7. Notwithstanding anything in the foregoing, Botswana Development Corporation is not bound to accept the lowest or any tender offer, nor incur expenses in the preparation thereof.

Botswana Development Corporation
Fairscape Precinct, Plot 70667 | Fairgrounds Office Park
PrBag 160, Gaborone
Tel: +267 365 1300 | Fax: +267 390 3141


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French Pharmaceutical Giant Eyes Medswana Acquisition

Botswana pharmaceutical sector set for consolidation as French firm moves to acquire Medswana

GAZETTE REPORTER

The Competition and Consumer Authority of Botswana has received a merger notification from CFAO Healthcare Société Anonyme regarding the proposed acquisition of a controlling interest in Medswana Proprietary Limited. If approved, CFAO Healthcare will gain sole control over the Botswana-based pharmaceutical wholesaler.

The notice, published under section 49(1) of the Competition Act 2018, confirms that CFAO Healthcare is part of the larger CFAO Group, which is ultimately controlled by Japan's Toyota Tsusho Corporation, a public company listed on the Tokyo and Nagoya stock exchanges.

CORPORATE STRUCTURE

CFAO Healthcare operates as a pharmaceutical logistics and healthcare solutions provider. It controls E.P.DIS France and MissionPharma A/S, distributing medical products across Sub-Saharan Africa, including Botswana. Within the country, CFAO Group's presence is primarily through Hertz Botswana, which provides material handling and warehousing equipment, though CFAO Healthcare itself does not control any local firms.

The directors of Hertz Botswana are Moses Keone Sebolai, Julian Visagie, and Carel Gabriel Volschenk.

> "Upon the implementation of the proposed transaction, the Acquiring Enterprise will solely control the Target Enterprise."

TARGET ENTERPRISE

Medswana, incorporated in Botswana, is jointly held by Rene Lombard, Mark Allan Fallows, and Pieter Jacobus Le Grange. The company directly controls Medswana Shareblock Proprietary Limited, and post-acquisition, it will also control Medswana Properties Proprietary Limited. Together, these entities form the Medswana Group, which supplies medicines and healthcare products to both public and private healthcare providers in Botswana.

Directors of Medswana are Rene Lombard, Pieter Jacobus Le Grange, and Mark Allan Fallows. The group's operations include sourcing, warehousing, quality assurance, regulatory support, and distribution of pharmaceuticals.

REGIONAL IMPACT

The proposed transaction would consolidate CFAO Healthcare's position in the Sub-Saharan pharmaceutical market, integrating Medswana's local distribution network into its regional operations. According to the merger notice, "Upon the implementation of the proposed transaction, the Acquiring Enterprise will solely control the Target Enterprise."

The Competition and Consumer Authority will review the merger to ensure compliance with Botswana's competition regulations. No financial terms were disclosed in the notice.

BSE Equity Turnover Jumps 23 Percent

Trading activity rises as investors engage more on Botswana Stock Exchange



Aobakwe Aupa Monyatsi, Chief Executive Officer of the Botswana Stock Exchange (BSE),

GAZETTE REPORTER

In January 2026, the Botswana Stock Exchange (BSE) recorded total equity turnover of P105.3 Million, a 22.9 percent increase compared to P85.7 Million in January 2025.

"This means that in January 2026 investors bought and sold more shares on the BSE than they did in January 2025," reads the BSE market performance report for the period 1 January to 31 January 2026. Average daily turnover rose 65.6 percent, from P3.2 Million to P5.3 Million, while total shares traded increased to 15.5 Million from 14.4 Million in the prior year. Over a five-year horizon, liquidity has fluctuated sharply, peaking at P152.3 Million in 2024 after dipping to P56.3 Million in 2023.

TOP PERFORMERS

The report highlights Sechaba (P33.1 Million), FNBB (P17.9 Million), and Sefalana (P7.6 Million) as the top three traded companies, collectively accounting for 57.1 percent of total equity turnover. Leading the pack, Sechaba alone represented 31.5 percent. In comparison, during the same period in 2025, the top three companies contributed 51.8 percent, with Sefalana leading at 19.0 percent (P9.4 Million).

SECTOR DISTRIBUTION

Retail & Wholesaling, Banking, and Financial Services & Insurance together accounted for over 84.5 percent of turnover. Consumer-linked counters such as Sechaba and Sefalana traditionally perform strongly when household purchasing power is stable. In January 2025, headline inflation was 2.5 percent, supporting consumer spending, while in January 2026 inflation had risen to 4.1 percent from 3.9 percent in December 2025, still within the Bank of Botswana's 3–6 percent target range. "While the increase was driven largely by Food & Non-Alcoholic Beverages and Health, key categories directly affecting household budgets, the overall inflation level remained moderate enough not to significantly erode purchasing power," the report notes.

BOND MARKET DECLINE

Meanwhile, the bond market faced intensified fiscal and macroeconomic pressure. Total bond turnover fell to P14.4 Million from P981.5 Million in 2025, with government bond trading dropping from P951.2 Million to P13.1 Million. Corporate bonds contributed P1.3 Million, while no activity was recorded in commercial paper or sustainable bonds.

Chobe Holdings Expands Employee Healthcare

Botswana ecotourism leader offers full outpatient coverage for 1,045 staff aiming to ease healthcare costs and improve access to medical care



Chobe Holdings Limited, a leading ecotourism company in Botswana, announced it will provide 100 percent outpatient medical aid coverage for all 1,045 employees across its group operations. The benefit extends to staff at all Chobe Holdings subsidiaries in the country. *File Pic, Ngami Times*

GAZETTE REPORTER

Chobe Holdings Limited, a leading ecotourism company in Botswana, announced it will provide 100 percent outpatient medical aid coverage for all 1,045 employees across its group operations. The benefit extends to staff at all Chobe Holdings subsidiaries in the country.

The initiative is designed to reduce the financial burden of routine healthcare expenses for employees and their dependents, while encouraging early access to medical attention. It complements existing employee benefits and aligns with the company's long-standing focus on responsible, people-centered business practices within Botswana's tourism sector.

INDUSTRY FIRST

According to the company, Chobe Holdings is the first tourism-focused firm in Botswana to introduce such comprehensive outpatient medical coverage for all staff. The program reflects the company's intent to position itself as an employer of choice within the industry.

The company operates a diverse portfolio of ecotourism properties, including lodges and camps under the Desert & Delta Safaris, Chobe Game Lodge, and Ker & Downey Botswana brands. In addition, Chobe Holdings owns Safari Air and North West Air, operating in the aviation sector. It is also the only publicly listed ecotourism operator on the Botswana Stock Exchange.

EMPLOYEE BENEFITS

Chobe Holdings leadership emphasized that ensuring staff health and well-being is a core responsibility. "As a progressive Botswana-based employer, we believe it is our duty and responsibility to ensure the health and well-being of everyone who works for Chobe Holdings Limited," said Lemphéditse Odumetse, Managing Director.

The new coverage aims to provide greater security and peace of mind for employees and their families. "It is our clear intention that this initiative provides all our employees and their families greater security and peace of mind at a time when there is so much uncertainty within our world," Odumetse added.

The outpatient medical aid benefit is part of a broader commitment to comprehensive employee support, signaling Chobe Holdings' effort to retain and attract talent in Botswana's competitive tourism sector.

IDEAL Summit Seeks Fundable Projects

Entrepreneurs and innovators invited to present bankable ideas to investors at the IDEAL Summit 2026 in Tlokweng



Projects seeking funding will have a rare opportunity to connect directly with potential investors when the IDEAL Summit 2026 takes place on 8–9 April at the Royal Aria Conference Centre in Tlokweng. Organised by Square Gate Group, the summit aims to move beyond traditional conference dialogue and create real pathways for capital deployment.

GAZETTE REPORTER

Projects seeking funding will have a rare opportunity to connect directly with potential investors when the IDEAL Summit 2026 takes place on 8–9 April at the Royal Aria Conference Centre in Tlokweng. Organised by Square Gate Group, the summit aims to move beyond traditional conference dialogue and create real pathways for capital deployment.

According to Shamil Tumisang Agosi, Managing Director of Square Gate Group, the summit is designed as a serious investment platform where credible projects can meet investors actively seeking opportunities.

"The IDEAL Summit is the perfect opportunity for projects looking for funding to interact and meet with investors who are serious about capital allocation," she said in a interview.

The summit is held under the theme IDEAL in Action: Converting Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, Access and Local Empowerment into Bankable Growth, reflecting a growing shift in global investment trends toward measurable impact and credible execution.

INVESTMENT CLIMATE SHIFTS

Agosi said the global investment landscape has become increasingly disciplined, with investors focusing more on execution certainty, governance credibility and risk management.

"The global investment climate is tightening. Capital is increasingly selective, prioritising execution certainty, credible governance and robust risk management," she said.

She added that investors are also reassessing how they evaluate ESG commitments, shifting away from broad narratives to demonstrable outcomes.

"ESG fatigue is real. Organisations must demonstrate materiality and proof of delivery," Agosi explained.

STRUCTURED INVESTMENT DIALOGUE

The two-day summit is deliberately structured to mirror how serious capital operates.

Day one will feature the IDEAL Investor Roundtable, a closed-door session bringing together institutional investors, development finance institutions, strategic corporates and senior policy enablers. The goal is to align investors around a curated pipeline of projects and identify viable financing structures.

Day two will host the public IDEAL Summit, where corporate leaders, policymakers, investors and ecosystem partners will engage in high-level discussions informed by the capital intent established during the first day.

This approach ensures the summit's conversations are grounded in real investment priorities rather than theoretical discussions.

PROJECTS INVITED NOW

Organisers are actively scouting for credible projects seeking funding to be considered for the investment pipeline linked to the summit.

Interested applicants are encouraged to register their projects through the official application form:

https://forms.office.com/r/0K1BrXK4jU

Registering early is important because selected projects may gain access to direct engagement with institutional investors, development finance institutions and strategic partners attending the summit.

Agosi emphasised that the goal is to bridge the gap between ideas and capital by ensuring that promising initiatives are matched with investors capable of supporting their growth.

IDEAL Summit 2026, she said, is ultimately about turning inclusive economic principles into real economic outcomes.

Botswana Inflation Eases Slightly, February

Consumer prices show modest shifts across sectors and regions.



Photo Credit: Social Media

ANNUAL TRENDS

Botswana's annual inflation rate declined to 4.0 percent in February 2026, down 0.1 percentage point from January's 4.1 percent, according to a recent report by Statistics Botswana titled Consumer Price Index February 2026.

"The primary contributors to the annual inflation rate were the Transport group, which accounted for 1.6 percentage points, followed by Miscellaneous Goods & Services at 0.9 of a percentage point, and Food & Non-Alcoholic Beverages, which contributed 0.8 of a percentage point," the report reads.

REGIONAL VARIATIONS

Inflation rates shifted differently across regions. Urban Villages saw a decline of 0.2 percentage point, from 4.3 percent in January to 4.1 percent in February. Rural Villages rose slightly, from 4.2 percent to 4.3 percent, while Cities and Towns remained stable at 3.7 percent.

The national Consumer Price Index (CPI) rose 0.2 percent, from 140.5 in January to 140.8 in February. Rural Villages recorded a 0.3 percent increase, from 141.1 to 141.5. Cities & Towns rose to 140.0, up from 139.7, and Urban Villages climbed to 141.1, from 140.9.

SECTOR MOVEMENTS

Group indices showed steady progress with changes under 1.0 percent. The Recreation & Culture group rose 0.6 percent, from 115.5 to 116.2, driven by Newspapers, Books & Stationery (2.6 percent), Other Recreational Items & Equipment (0.8 percent), and Audio Visual, Photographic & Information Processing Equipment (0.6 percent).

Transport also increased by 0.5 percent, from 158.8 to 159.6, mainly due to a 1.6 percent rise in the Purchase of Vehicles index. Health declined 0.4 percent, from 117.4 to 116.9, reflecting a 1.5 percent drop in Medical Products, Applications & Equipment.

> "The primary contributors to the annual inflation rate were the Transport group, which accounted for 1.6 percentage points."

TRADEABLES AND NON-TRADEABLES

All-Tradeables rose 0.3 percent, from 150.3 to 150.8, with Imported Tradeables increasing 0.4 percent and Domestic Tradeables up 0.2 percent. Non-Tradeables remained unchanged at 127.1.

Inflation rates showed minor shifts: All-Tradeables fell 0.1 percentage point to 6.3 percent, Domestic Tradeables decreased 0.5 to 5.9 percent, Imported Tradeables rose 0.1 to 6.4 percent, and Non-Tradeables stayed at 0.6 percent.

PressRelease

Wilderness Pumps P700m Into Economy

Safari giant's impact report highlights foreign exchange, local procurement and jobs as key drivers of Botswana's tourism economy



Wilderness Botswana generated more than P700 million in foreign exchange in FY2025, underlining tourism's growing role as a pillar of the national economy.

LOCAL IMPACT

The company's latest impact report shows strong localisation, with P292 million spent on Botswana-based suppliers in the past year alone. More than 80 percent of procurement is now sourced locally by value, supporting sectors such as agriculture, logistics and hospitality.

Over the past decade, local procurement has exceeded P1.8 billion, positioning conservation tourism as a driver of citizen economic participation.

FISCAL RETURNS

Government has also seen significant returns. Wilderness contributed over P803 million in taxes, concession fees and royalties over ten years. For every P1 earned by shareholders, government received approximately P5.30.

JOB CREATION

Employment remains central to the model. Wilderness employs close to 1,000 people, mostly citizens, with salaries exceeding P1.2 billion over the past decade. These earnings support households and small businesses.

INDUSTRY GROWTH

Beyond its own operations, the company has facilitated more than P2.14 billion in bednight sales for other Botswana-owned camps and lodges, reinforcing broader industry growth.

STRATEGIC ROLE

The report positions high-value tourism as a key contributor to Botswana's diversification agenda under Vision 2036.

Orange, SEZA Sign Digital Deal

A new partnership between Orange Botswana and Special Economic Zones Authority aims to strengthen digital infrastructure and support investment in Botswana's economic zones



Orange Botswana and the Special Economic Zones Authority (SEZA) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to enhance collaboration in developing digital infrastructure and ICT capabilities across Botswana's economic zones.

Orange Botswana and the Special Economic Zones Authority (SEZA) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to enhance collaboration in developing digital infrastructure and ICT capabilities across Botswana's economic zones.

FOCUS ON DIGITAL INFRASTRUCTURE

The agreement establishes a framework for cooperation between Orange Botswana and Special Economic Zones Authority to support the growth of digitally enabled economic zones and improve connectivity within the country's investment environment.

The partnership will focus on leveraging telecommunications infrastructure and digital solutions to strengthen the competitiveness of economic zones and improve operational efficiency for businesses.

> "Digital connectivity is now a critical enabler for economic competitiveness."

SUPPORTING INVESTMENT AND COMPETITIVENESS

Speaking at the signing ceremony, Orange Botswana CEO Nene Maiga said the initiative aligns with efforts to support Botswana's economic transformation.

"This partnership with SEZA represents a strategic step in ensuring that Botswana's economic zones are supported by robust digital infrastructure that enables businesses to thrive in a connected and technology-driven environment," she said.

She added that reliable telecommunications systems play a key role in attracting both local and international investment.

"Digital connectivity is now a critical enabler for economic competitiveness," Maiga said. "Through this collaboration we aim to strengthen ICT and telecommunications capabilities within these zones."

ALIGNMENT WITH NATIONAL PRIORITIES

Maiga noted that the partnership also supports broader national development priorities focused on innovation and digital transformation.

"As a technology partner, Orange Botswana remains committed to working with institutions such as SEZA to support initiatives that drive innovation, improve connectivity and create an environment that encourages investment," she said.

The signing ceremony was attended by representatives from both organisations, as well as stakeholders from the public and private sectors.

Article edited for length

Power, Parity, Peace

Why inclusive leadership is not just fairness, but a strategic path to stability, growth and long-term societal balance

TITOSE MUSA, HEAD OF COMPLIANCE, STANBIC BANK BOTSWANA



Titose Musa, Head Of Compliance, Stanbic Bank Botswana

International Women's Day offers an important moment for reflection, but more importantly, it calls on institutions to accelerate progress toward gender equality. The 2026 theme reminds us that empowering women is not simply a social objective. It is fundamental to building resilient economies and inclusive growth.

GLOBAL REALITY

Globally, progress has been made, but the journey is far from complete. Women currently hold 32.9 percent of senior management roles, reflecting steady gains but also showing how far parity still is (Grant Thornton Women in Business Report, 2026). At the same time, the economic case is undeniable. Closing gender gaps in labour force participation could add trillions to global GDP, according to UN Women.

AFRICAN CONTEXT

For Africa and Botswana in particular, the stakes are even higher. Botswana's Economic Transformation Programme emphasises inclusive growth, entrepreneurship and expanded participation as pillars of development. Achieving these ambitions requires that women are fully integrated into leadership, enterprise and financial systems.

> "Empowering women is not a social gesture. It is an economic strategy."

Let's be honest. The continent has never lacked capable women leaders. From entrepreneurs to executives, African women continue to shape industries and strengthen communities. The challenge is not talent. It is whether systems and opportunities allow that talent to scale.

FINANCIAL ROLE

In financial services, this responsibility becomes even clearer. Banks enable access to capital, support entrepreneurship and influence economic direction. When institutions intentionally support women through leadership pathways, inclusive policies and targeted initiatives, they contribute directly to national development.

At Stanbic Bank Botswana, diversity and inclusion are positioned as drivers of stronger governance, better decision making and sustainable growth. Across the Standard Bank Group, programmes supporting women in leadership and enterprise development aim to extend impact beyond the workplace.

REPRESENTATION MATTERS

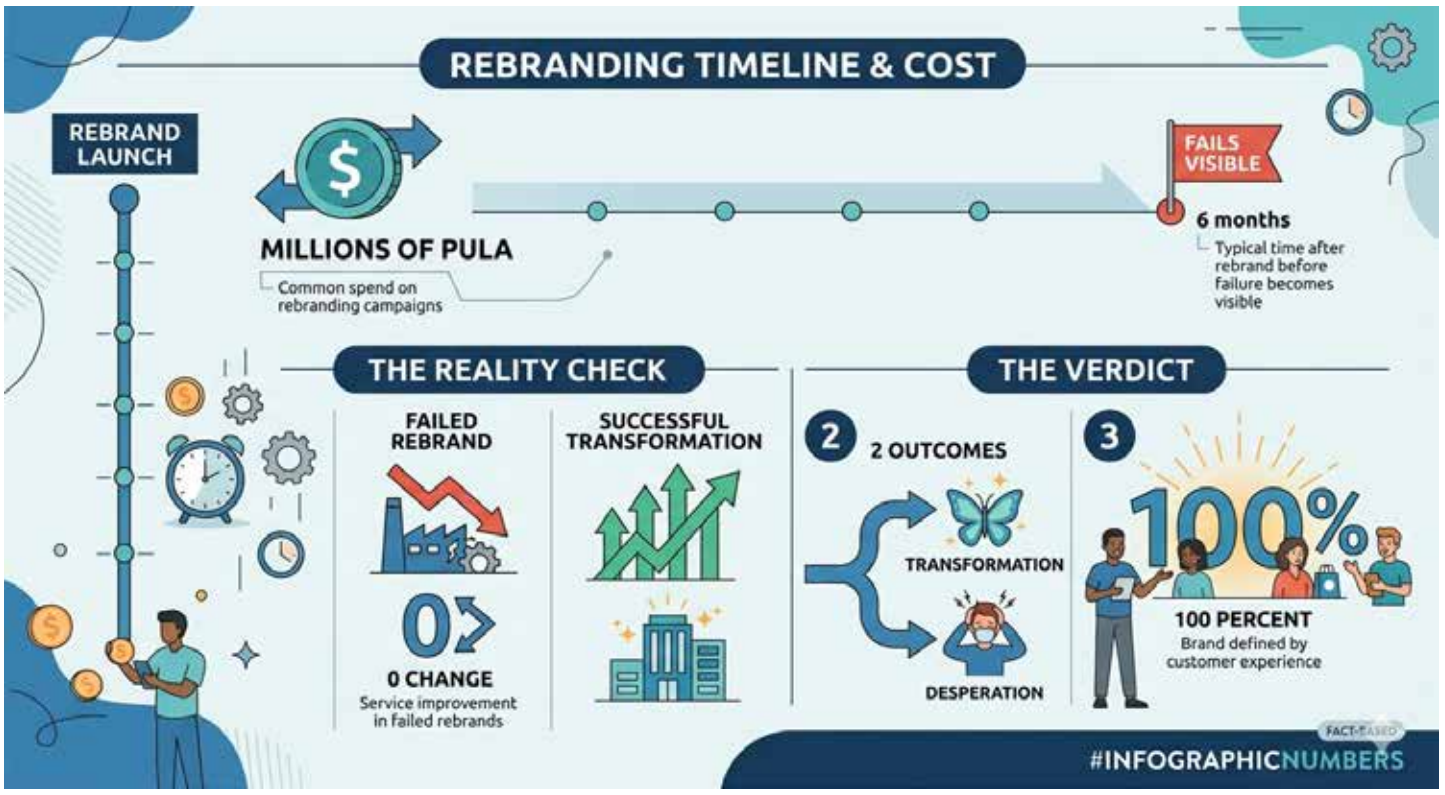
Representation reinforces possibility. When women see leaders who reflect their ambitions, it strengthens belief and encourages participation from the next generation. Gender parity therefore cannot be treated as a symbolic milestone. It must be embedded in strategy, culture and leadership.

A global campaign once observed that true progress will be reached when International Women's Day is no longer necessary. When every day reflects equal opportunity, recognition and leadership, parity will no longer be an aspiration but a reality.

SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

That is the standard institutions must aim for. Because when women thrive, governance improves, economies strengthen and societies become more stable.

That is not just representation. That is sustainable growth.



Another Pig in Lipstick

The Rebranding Paradox and Why Your Expensive New Look Signals Desperation, Not Progress



MANUEL VEIRUAPI RUHAPO, FOUNDER, BLACMARC GROUP

Your business is struggling. Sales are flat, competitors are gaining ground, and the brand feels tired. The solution often seems obvious: a rebrand. You hire a top agency, spend a fortune on a new logo, a new colour palette, and a new tagline. You launch with a big press conference, announcing a "new era" for the company. The market yawns. Six months later, nothing has changed. In fact, things might be worse. This scenario plays out with alarming frequency across industries, particularly in emerging markets like Botswana where brand strategy is still evolving.

THE PARADOX

This is the rebranding paradox. The more money and effort a company spends on a rebrand, the more it signals to the market that something was fundamentally broken. Instead of solving the problem, it exposes it.

A rebrand is often a cosmetic response to a structural issue. It attempts to mask deeper organisational weaknesses rather than confront them. When businesses treat branding as decoration rather than strategy, they risk widening the gap between perception and reality.

BRAND VS LOGO

A brand is not a logo. It is the sum of customer experience. It lives in product quality, service delivery, staff behaviour, and trust built over time.

The logo is simply a symbol of that experience. When companies change the symbol without fixing the experience, customers notice immediately. The disconnect creates scepticism rather than excitement.

> A new logo cannot fix a broken business.

CUSTOMER REACTION

Consumers are not fooled by surface-level change. When poor service or unreliable products persist behind a polished identity, the rebrand reinforces negative perceptions instead of correcting them.

LOCAL LESSONS

Botswana offers clear examples of how rebranding can succeed or fail depending on context.

> Rebranding without change erodes trust faster than doing nothing.

A struggling parastatal may invest millions in a new identity while service issues remain unchanged. The result is frustration rather than renewed confidence.

By contrast, the transition from Barclays to Absa reflected a deeper structural shift. Ownership changed. Strategy changed. The rebrand followed real transformation.

INTERNAL IMPACT

Rebrands do not only affect customers. They also shape employee morale.

When staff are asked to promote a "new era" that does not exist internally, cynicism grows.

COST OF FAILURE

The financial cost of rebranding is obvious. The reputational cost is often greater.

Failed rebrands erode trust, reduce loyalty, and make future change harder to communicate.

WHEN IT WORKS

Successful rebrands are rare because they follow real change.

A rebrand works when it reflects strategy shifts, product improvement, operational excellence, cultural change, or structural transformation.

STRATEGY FIRST

A rebrand should come at the end of transformation, not the beginning.

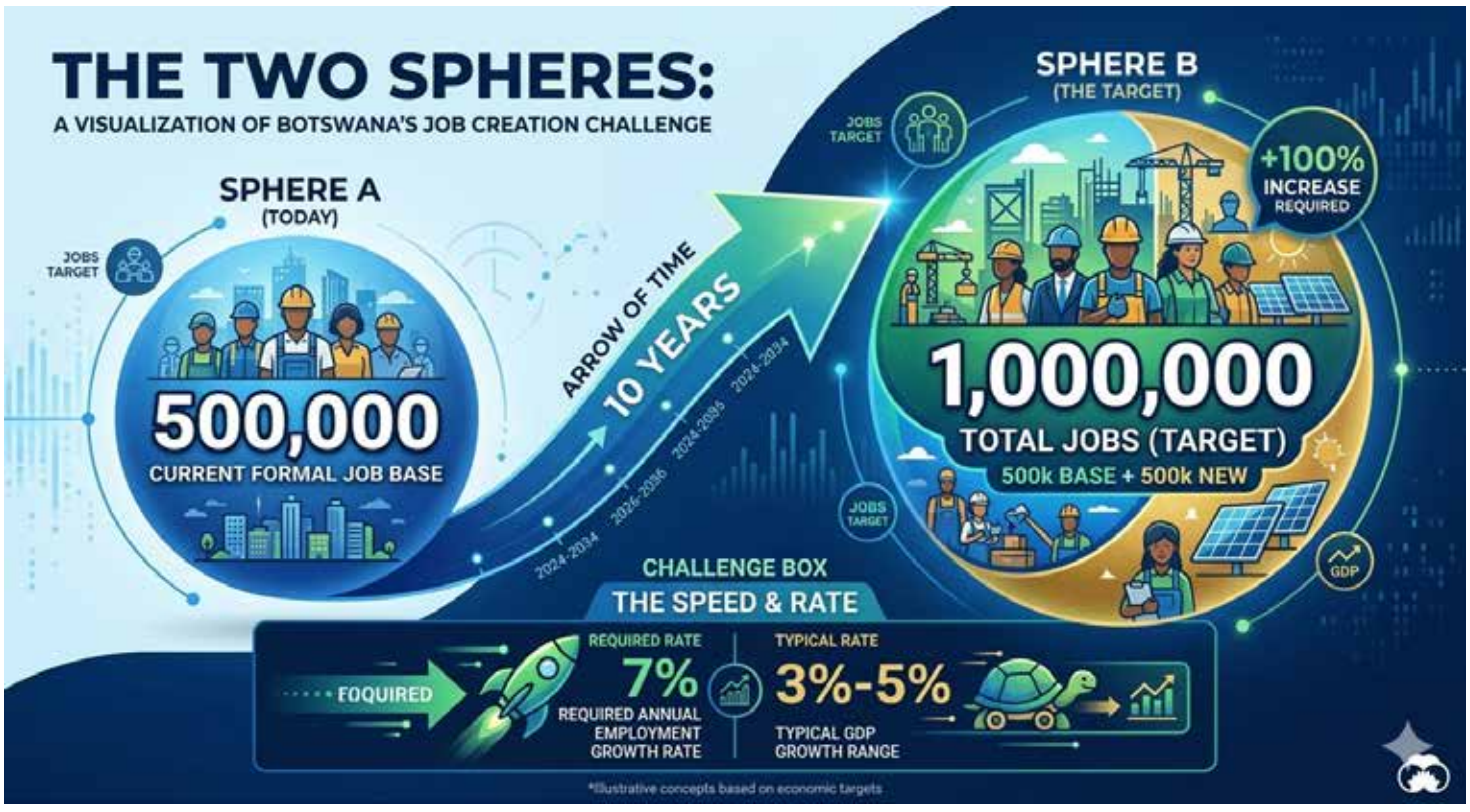
If nothing has changed, the business does not need a new identity. It needs a new strategy.



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

The Math of 500k Jobs

A bold national target meets harsh economic reality as Botswana's growth model struggles to translate ambition into jobs at scale.



DOUGLAS RASBASH AND BAME LESEGO BOITSHOKO

Botswana's jobs debate is full of ambition, but ambition is not strategy. One number dominates policy speeches and public discourse: 500,000 jobs. It resonates because it reflects lived realities, graduate unemployment, stagnant incomes, and growing youth frustration.

Yet once that number is tested against arithmetic, a difficult truth emerges. Botswana is unlikely to create 500,000 jobs over the next decade through ordinary growth alone.

> Botswana is unlikely to create 500,000 jobs through ordinary growth alone

SCALE PROBLEM

Botswana's formal employment base currently sits at roughly 500,000 jobs. Creating another 500,000 within ten years would mean doubling that base. This translates to about 50,000 new jobs annually for a decade

In growth terms, that implies employment expansion of around 7 percent per year. This is not a routine labour-market outcome. It is a structural transformation target.

ELASTICITY GAP

If employment elasticity were 1.0, a 1 percent rise in GDP would produce a 1 percent rise in employment. Botswana's long-term elasticity, however, is closer to 0.45. In practice, 1 percent GDP growth has produced only 0.45 percent employment growth.



To achieve 7 percent annual employment growth, Botswana would need GDP growth of roughly 16 percent per year. That is far beyond historical experience.

GROWTH WITHOUT JOBS

Botswana's economy has often generated income more easily than it has generated work. Mining can lift GDP sharply without employing large numbers of people. Public spending can stimulate demand without deepening labour absorption.

Capital-intensive sectors improve macroeconomic indicators while leaving employment outcomes weak.

ENABLERS LIMIT

For years, Botswana has relied heavily on infrastructure, serviced land, utilities and transport corridors. These have been treated as automatic drivers of growth and employment.

> Ambition without transmission is only rhetoric.

But enablers are inputs, not outcomes. A road does not create jobs on its own. Without competitive firms and strong value chains, infrastructure expands potential without ensuring production.

INVESTMENT PARADOX

Evidence shows that rising investment has not translated into lower unemployment. Fixed capital formation has increased alongside joblessness.

Recent labour statistics may also understate the problem by excluding discouraged workers, masking the true scale of unemployment.

> The economy has generated income more easily than it has generated work.

SYSTEM FAILURE

Successive administrations have been more effective at financing inputs than building systems that convert those inputs into jobs.

The core issue is whether Botswana can turn investment into productive firms and those firms into employment.

SECTOR FOCUS

Not all sectors contribute equally to employment. Mining will remain central to exports, but it is unlikely to solve the jobs crisis.

Employment growth is more likely to come from agriculture, tourism, manufacturing and digital services.

SME ENGINE

Small and medium enterprises should be treated as employment infrastructure.

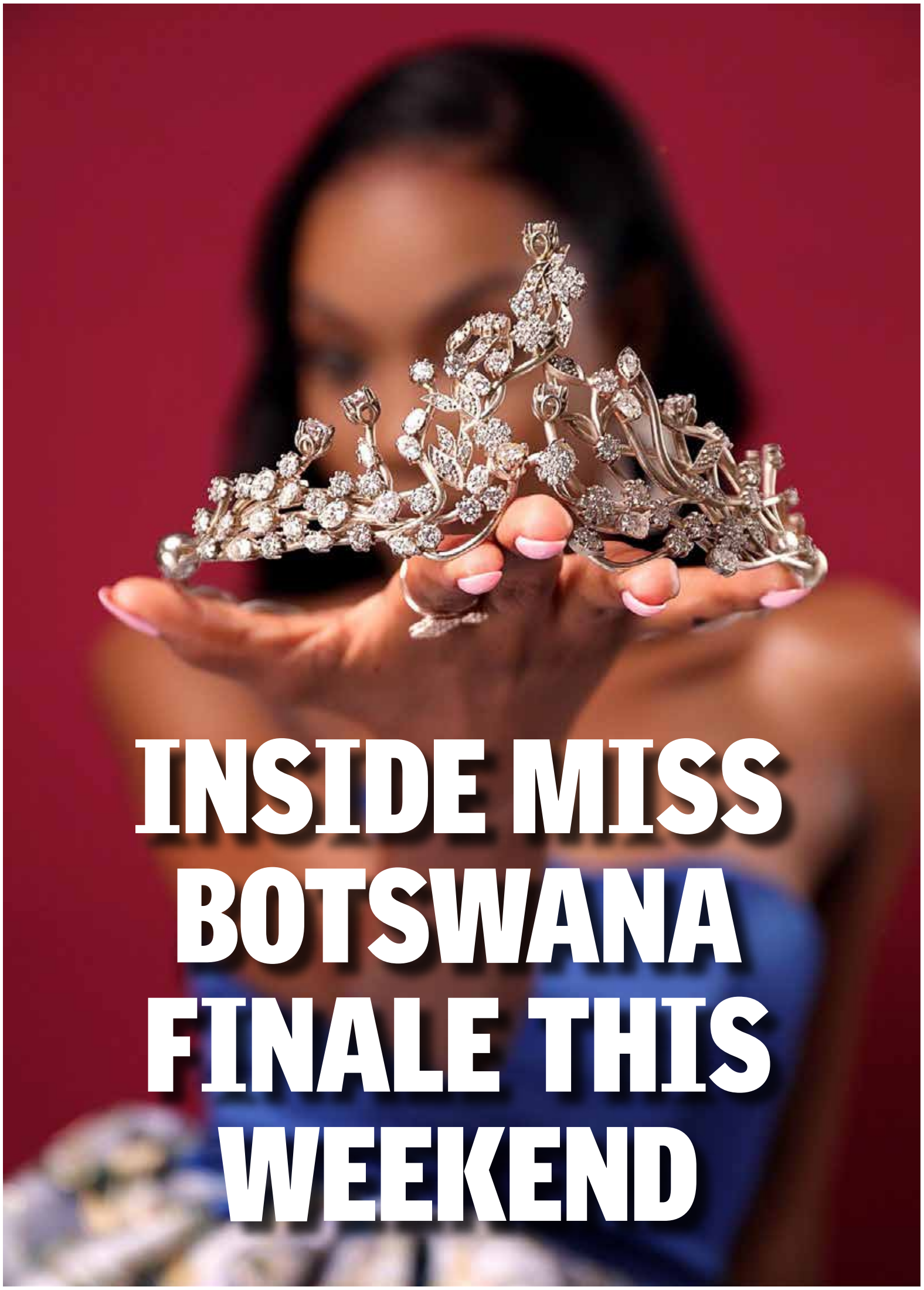
Training without market access, finance without capability, and infrastructure without competitiveness will not create jobs.

REALISM REQUIRED

The arithmetic of jobs is a call for realism. A target of 500,000 jobs remains aspirational, but without structural change it risks becoming rhetorical. Until Botswana improves how growth translates into jobs, the arithmetic will not add up.

The Botswana Gazette
TIME OUT
THE BOTSWANA GAZETTE
WEDNESDAY 18 MARCH 2026

As Botswana marks 60 years of independence, the Miss Botswana 2026 finale is shaping up to be more than a pageant night, it's a search for a queen who can lead, inspire and carry the country's story onto the global stage



INSIDE MISS BOTSWANA FINALE THIS WEEKEND

GOSEGO MOTSUMI

This weekend, 21 March 2026, the spotlight will fall on Molapo Creative Hub as Botswana crowns a new Miss Botswana — but don't mistake the glitter for the goal.

This isn't just about a sash, a smile, and a slow walk under stage lights. It's about finding a woman who can carry a nation's hopes into the future.

As Botswana celebrates 60 years of independence, the pageant has taken on a deeper resonance: Who will become the face of a generation ready to lead?

> And somewhere between the applause and the anticipation, a new queen will rise

According to Unaswi Bashingi Moalusi, Executive Assistant and Communications Lead at Miss World Botswana, the crown represents far more than beauty.

"It represents leadership, purpose and the ability to inspire others."

BEAUTY, BUT MAKE IT PURPOSE

Over the years, Miss Botswana queens have turned their reigns into real-world impact.

Former queen Palesa Molefe turned her reign into a platform for mental health awareness and youth empowerment. Lesego Chombo demonstrated how the crown can open doors to national leadership while advocating for youth and gender equality.

Then came Anicia Gaothusi, who used her Lights initiative to promote first aid education — proof that a pageant platform can translate into practical community change.

And the current queen, Ruth Thomas, continues to build on that momentum through The Beauty Movement, championing social advocacy and community engagement.

Behind the sparkle, contestants undergo rigorous preparation — media training, public speaking, leadership development and cultural diplomacy — all designed to prepare them for life beyond the runway.

A FINALE FIT FOR A DIAMOND JUBILEE

This year's finale is expected to feel less like a competition and more like a national celebration.

Think storytelling, music, fashion and cultural pride woven into a production that reflects Botswana's past, present and future. Audiences will witness the journeys of the Top 12 finalists — not just their elegance, but their ambitions for the country.

And somewhere between the applause and the anticipation, a new queen will rise.

"For us, the crown marks the beginning of a journey rather than the end of a competition," Moalusi told Time Out.

Because the queen Botswana hopes to crown isn't just beautiful. She's ready to lead.

A Brunch That Asked Big Questions

In a room filled with powerful voices and uncomfortable truths, the first-ever Basadi Brunch Dialogue hosted by Gabz FM sparked bold conversations about gender-based violence, economic justice and women's leadership — proving that sometimes the most serious national debates can begin over brunch

GOSEGO MOTSUMI

Brunch is usually about mimosas and small talk.

But over the weekend at Avani Resort in Gaborone, the inaugural Basadi Brunch Dialogue turned the table into something far more powerful: a platform for the conversations Botswana often avoids.

Hosted by Gabz FM, the gathering brought policymakers, activists, leaders and partners into one room to wrestle with some of the country's most complex questions — from gender-based violence to women's political power.

"If you listen to the radio, you'll find that we initiate stories that nobody wants to talk about, don't want to just report, but we also want to find a way forward, ideas and solutions," explained Gabz FM Head of News Rorisang Mogojwe.

The brunch dialogue, she said, was designed to do exactly that.

THE ECONOMICS OF SAFETY

The first panel tackled a question that hit the room like a reality check: Should Botswana's new GBV Bill address economic gender justice?

The answer from the panel was clear — a resounding yes.







Because for many women, leaving abusive relationships is not just emotional. It's economic.

Helen Pushie Manyeneng, Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly and Chairperson of the Parliamentary Caucus on Women, said empowerment is central to ending the cycle.

"Empowering women economically is not just a goal; it is a necessity for breaking cycles of violence."



Leadership, according to Gosupamang Tapiwa Masie, CEO of the Special Economic Zones Authority, must translate into real access.

For women in power, she said, the responsibility is clear: open doors that were once closed.

"Economic justice for us women in leadership is making it possible for women to have access to opportunities that they would otherwise not have, making sure there are structures, systems and policy change that will enable women to participate meaningful in every aspect of the economy," she said.

BEYOND THE BALLOT

The second discussion pushed the conversation further, asking what meaningful participation in politics really looks like.

Voting, the panel agreed, is only the beginning.

Tshimologo Dingake, Women's League President of the Botswana Congress Party, put it bluntly

"Political leadership is not just voting, it is making the space, making decisions and influencing policies. Let's step forward as women."

> "Political leadership is not just voting, it is making the space, making decisions and influencing policies."

Meanwhile, Thoko Rangaswamy of the Women's League Alliance for Progressives under the Umbrella for Democratic Change highlighted that what Botswana needs now are women ready to challenge the status quo.

Because democracy doesn't end at the ballot box.

Sometimes, it begins at brunch when women decide it's time to lead the conversation.

FIGHTING GBV FROM THE ROOTS

At Gabz FM's Basadi Brunch Dialogue in Gaborone, GBV activist and survivor Kemmy Mpinang unveiled a powerful new children's book, Different But Equal, a story born from pain, healing, and a radical idea: if we teach children early, we might finally break the cycle of gender-based violence

GOSEGO MOTSUMI

Some revolutions begin with protests. Others begin with a children's book.

At the Basadi Brunch Dialogue hosted by Gabz FM during International Women's Day celebrations at Avani Gaborone Resort & Casino, gender-based violence activist and survivor Kemmy Mpinang introduced her powerful new book Different But Equal: The Story of Maatla and Lefika.

The room leaned in as she spoke — not just about literature, but about life, pain, and the possibility of raising a generation that refuses to tolerate abuse.

The book tells the story of Maatla, a quiet orphan constantly bullied for her worn uniform and soft voice, and Lefika, a bold and curious child who refuses to stay silent. When the two become friends, their courage begins to ripple through their school and community.

WHEN PAIN BECOMES PURPOSE

For Mpinang, the story is painfully personal.

Her activism was born from survival. "I started experiencing abuse at the age of 14," she said in an interview.

Then came another moment that changed everything. Her stepdaughter died by suicide at just 13 years old.

"Postmortem revealed that she was sexually abused and I know for a fact that if she had this book she would be alive today," she said.

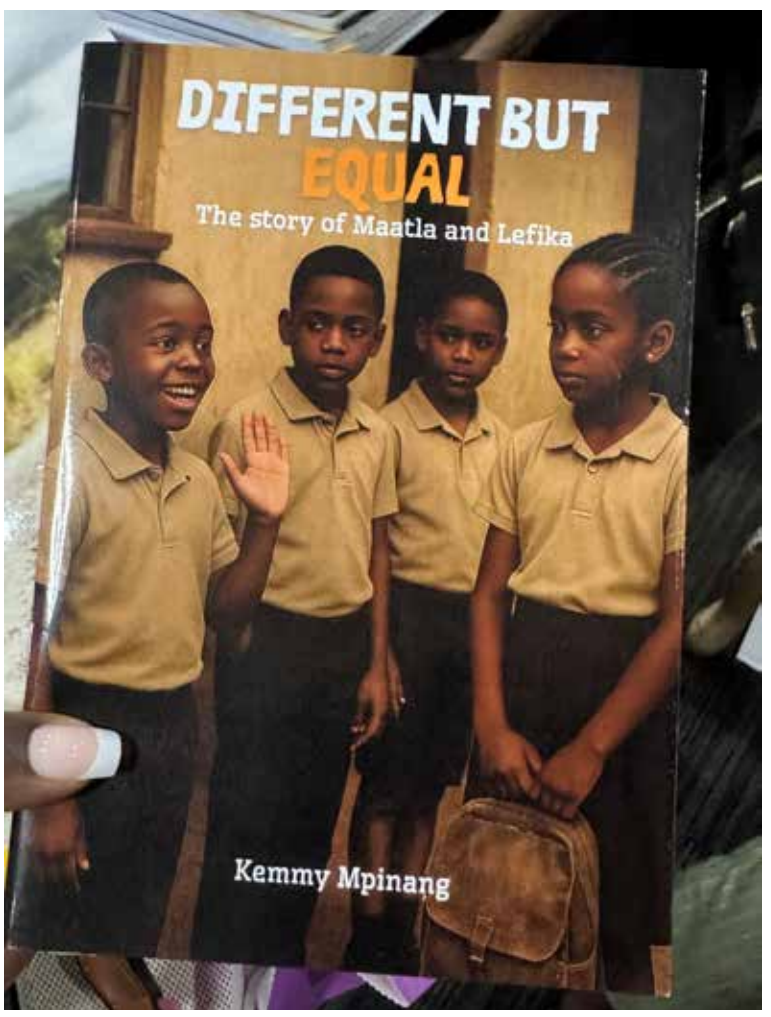
RAISING A BRAVER GENERATION

Through the Re A Bua Foundation, Mpinang has spent years advocating for survivors and opening difficult conversations in communities. But Different But Equal shifts the focus to prevention — teaching children about dignity, voice, and courage while they are still young.

Her call to action was simple but powerful: place the book in the hands of primary school children.

"Lets be the generation that fights GBV from the roots," she said.

Because sometimes the biggest change doesn't begin in parliament halls or courtrooms. Sometimes it begins in a classroom, with a story, and a child who finally finds their voice.



Why Young Artists Need Recognition

In the quiet solitude of a studio, many artists spend years creating without applause. For local painter Katlego C.L. Twala, winning a Sponsor Award at the inaugural Toyota Tsusho CFAO African Art Award proves why recognition can transform not only a career but an artist's belief in their voice

GOSEGO MOTSUMI

For many young artists, the hardest part isn't creating the work. It's believing someone out there is actually paying attention.

Across Africa, a new platform is beginning to change that narrative. The Toyota Tsusho CFAO African Art Award, launched in August 2025, was created to spotlight emerging talent on the continent and provide artists with something just as valuable as prize money — visibility.

From nearly 100 nominated artists across Africa, a shortlist of 12 was selected by an international network of curators and critics. Only five artists ultimately received awards.

Among them: Local painter Katlego C.L. Twala.

WHEN DOUBT MEETS RECOGNITION

The recognition arrived almost unexpectedly. Twala had only graduated in 2024 after years of rigorous training at the Swedish Academy of Realist Art and the Barcelona Academy of Art. Her career was just beginning to gain traction when the nomination email arrived.

"At first, I wasn't sure," she admitted in an interview. "I am still very early in my career."



But when she learned she had won the Toyota Tsusho Sponsor Award, the moment carried emotional weight far beyond the trophy.

"It was an incredible encouragement and a reminder that my work matters and that it has a place in the world," she said.

WHY RECOGNITION MATTERS

Behind every emerging artist are thousands of unseen hours — experimenting, failing, refining and pushing forward without guarantees.

For Twala, years of art school represented a deep personal investment in her dream.

Recognition validated those sacrifices.

"To be acknowledged on an international platform affirmed that the years of effort and commitment were not in vain," she said.

> "To be acknowledged on an international platform affirmed that the years of effort and commitment were not in vain."

FROM LOCAL STUDIO TO GLOBAL STAGE

The award doesn't just bring prestige. It brings movement.

Twala's work will now travel from Palais de Lomé to exhibitions in Tokyo and Paris, introducing her paintings to global audiences while expanding the conversation around African contemporary art.

Still, she remains grounded.

"Hard work does pay off, but it is equally important to engage with the broader artistic community," she said.

Inside Lebo Daevi 's Latest Drop

R&B storyteller Lebo Daevi is rewriting the rules of romance with her bold new single Permission Granted — a sultry, playful anthem that flips the script on dating, desire and who gets to call the shots

GOSEGO MOTSUMI

If love songs have traditionally been about pursuit, heartbreak and longing, Lebo Daevi has a different idea.

Her latest single Permission Granted, released recently turns the tables on the age-old dating narrative with a refreshing twist: the woman sets the terms.

Smooth, flirtatious and unapologetically confident, the track slides effortlessly between R&B grooves and pop hooks while delivering a message that feels both modern and timeless — attraction should be mutual, playful and freely chosen.

At its heart, the song is about agency.

"Permission Granted flips traditional dating dynamics by centering a woman who confidently sets the terms of attraction, intimacy and consent," she said.

> "Rather than portraying romance as a chase, the song frames connection as mutual choice and shared pleasure between equals."

SULTRY SOUND, BOLD STORY

Running at just over three minutes, the track is tailor-made for late-night playlists. Think atmospheric beats, confident vocals and lyrics that flirt without hesitation.

But Permission Granted is more than a mood, it's part of Daevi's wider creative chapter titled Divine Havoc.

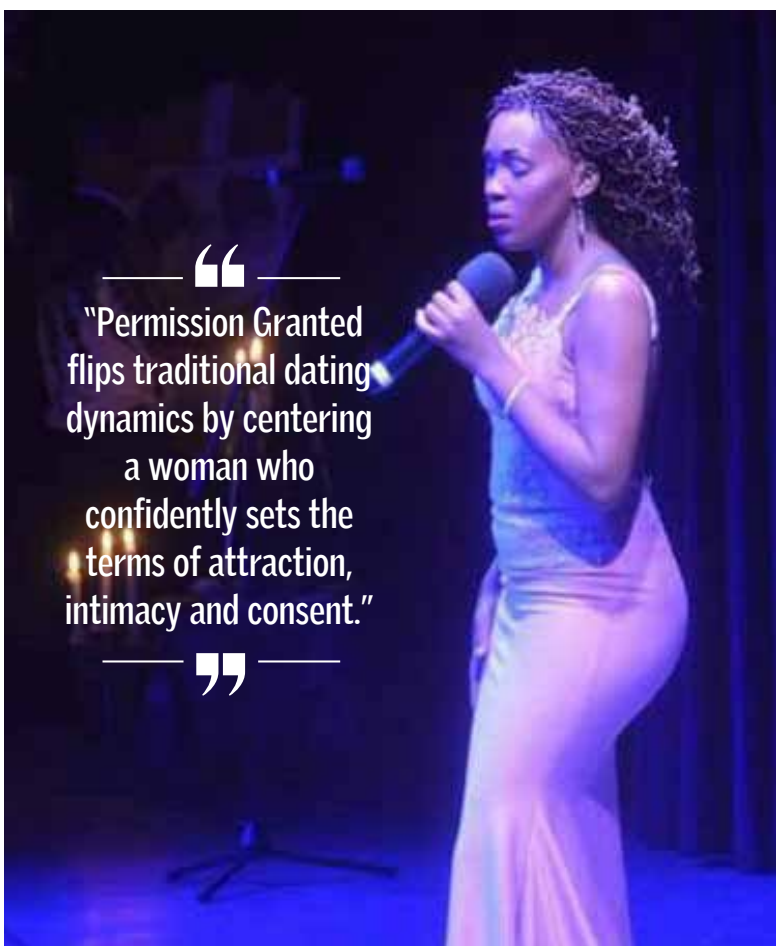
The era unfolds through music, storytelling and performance, including her upcoming memoir Divine Havoc: The Art Of Becoming and immersive live experiences that blend song, monologue and dance.

It's a multi-layered exploration of feminine power, self-reclamation and emotional truth.

FEMININE POWER, NO APOLOGIES

What makes Daevi's work resonate is its honesty. Her music doesn't shy away from sensuality or vulnerability, it embraces both.

With Permission Granted, she leans into a playful yet powerful message about modern relationships.



Said Daevi: "Rather than portraying romance as a chase, the song frames connection as mutual choice and shared pleasure between equals."

In a musical landscape where confidence is often coded as masculine, Daevi flips the script with ease.

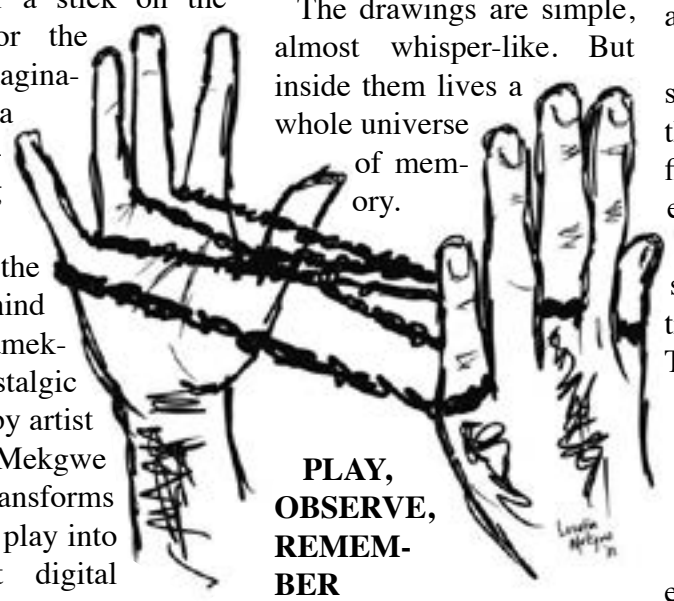
When Childhood Becomes An Archive

Before screens and smartphones, there was dust, laughter and imagination. In A Re Tshamekeng, artist Loretta Mekgwe turns childhood play into a striking visual archive of memory, culture and the quiet magic of growing up

GOSEGO MOTSUMI

Some memories don't live in photo albums. They live in the rhythm of a game, the scratch of a stick on the ground, or the quiet imagination of a child inventing worlds.

That's the spirit behind A Re Tshamekeng, a nostalgic art series by artist Loretta Mekgwe that transforms childhood play into minimalist digital drawings. Using restrained black-and-white line work, Mekgwe captures fleeting moments of African communal life — children crouched over games, afternoons of laughter, and the small rituals that quietly shape identity.



The drawings are simple, almost whisper-like. But inside them lives a whole universe of memory.

PLAY, OBSERVE, REMEMBER

For Mekgwe, the inspiration isn't theoretical. It's personal.



Loretta Mekgwe
Artist

Growing up, she remembers the games — koi, skontibolo, and the timeless choreography of children negotiating teams and rules on dusty playgrounds. But she also remembers something else: being the quiet observer.

"At school I was usually the reserve, sitting on the floor waiting to be picked by a team," she told Time Out.

Often left out of the action, she found her own way into the moment — sketching figures in the soil while others played.

Those small acts of observation became the emotional blueprint for A Re Tshamekeng.

She recalls building imaginary worlds with wire cars and even playing games like diketo alone, inventing rhythms where none existed.

PRESERVING THE GAMES WE ALMOST FORGOT

In an age where childhood increasingly unfolds through screens, Mekgwe believes these everyday rituals deserve preservation.

Many traditional games were never formally documented, yet they taught generations of children cooperation, patience, imagination and improvisation.

Through art, she believes those memories can be saved before they quietly fade.

She said, "Artists have the ability to pause time and record these cultural memories before they fade."

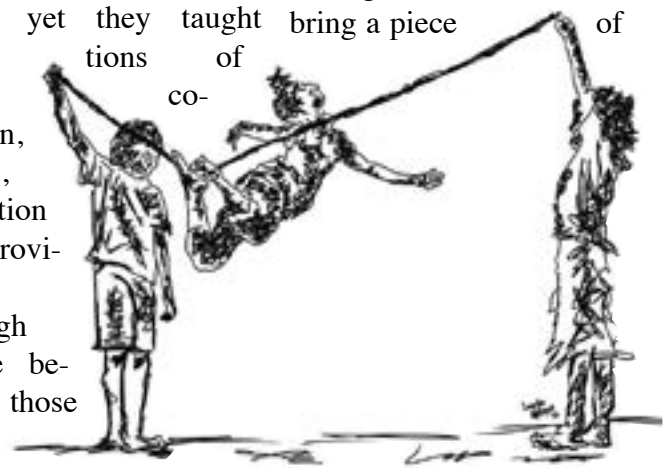
A DIGITAL PLAYGROUND OF MEMORY

Presented as a digital exhibition across online platforms including The Art Lab and the artist's social media pages, the series features seven drawings, each capturing a different moment of play.

> "At school I was usually the reserve, sitting on the floor waiting to be picked by a team."

Minimal lines. Maximum memory.

The works are available as limited edition prints in A3 and larger formats, allowing collectors to bring a piece of shared childhood into their own spaces. For enquiries or orders, people can contact the artist on +267 76027544 or email artlabgc@gmail.com.



Because sometimes the simplest drawings carry the deepest stories and sometimes, the games we played become the stories we tell.



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DRINK TIME ITSELF.

A Vintage Wine Tasting Experience

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Explore how time shapes character, structure and complexity in wine.

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- Artisan cheese boards
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Tickets: BWP 850.00

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The Botswana GAZETTE

Bubbles Don't Need a Wedding

Who said bubbles need vows, promotions or a life milestone? Sometimes surviving a loud phone, a long week and the Gaborone sun is reason enough.



Somewhere along the way, society decided sparkling wine must be earned. As if bubbles only unlock after vows, promotions, or a major life event. Meanwhile, your week has been long, your phone has been loud, and the Gaborone sun has been doing the absolute most. If there was ever a time to open something cold and joyful, it is now.

EVERYDAY BUBBLES

Botswana has plenty of "special occasions," but I'm here to argue that bubbles don't need one. In fact, sparkling wine is one of the most practical, forgiving, and quietly genius bottles you can keep in your life, especially in our heat. If you've ever sat outside in Gaborone at 5pm, watched the sun refuse to apologise, and realised that a heavy red is not the assignment, you already understand why bubbles make sense.

LEARNING WINE

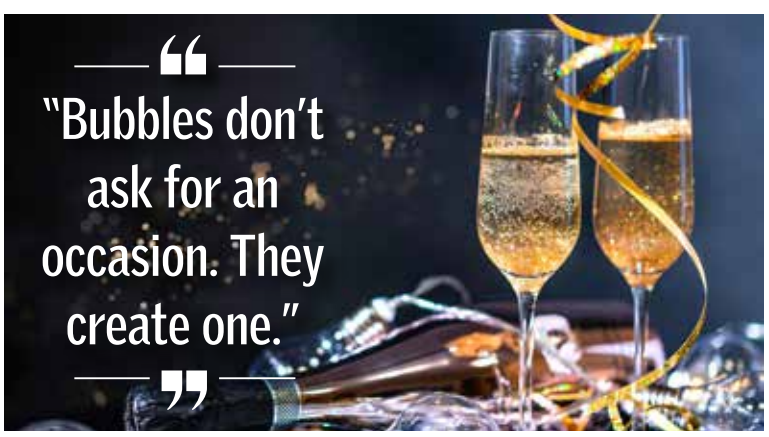
Let's start with a simple truth: sparkling wine is one of the best "learning wines." It teaches you how acidity works. It teaches you how food pairing works. It teaches you that wine can be serious without being heavy. And it is, frankly, hard to hate. Even people who "don't really drink wine" usually find themselves smiling at the first cold sip of good bubbles. That's not hype, that's chemistry and mood working together.

ACIDITY EDGE

Sparkling wine's superpower is acidity. Acidity is what makes wine feel fresh, bright, and mouth-watering. It's also what makes wine behave well with food. Think of acidity like a squeeze of lemon: it lifts flavours, cuts through richness, and keeps your palate awake. That's why bubbles do ridiculous things with salty and fried foods. Chips, fried chicken, calamari, salty snacks, sparkling doesn't just tolerate them, it cleans up after them.

PAIRING MOMENT

One of the most enjoyable things I've hosted recently was a Champagne and oysters experience, a room full of people tasting, laughing, and discovering what happens when you pair cold bubbles with the ocean. Oysters have that clean, briny, mineral edge that can make still wine feel unsure. But bubbles lock in. The acidity and the fine mousse lift the salinity, and suddenly the pairing feels like it was always meant to happen. And when you move from plain oysters to richer toppings, creamy, salty, even blue cheese if you're brave, sparkling still holds the line. It's refreshing enough to reset your palate, but structured enough to handle the richness. It's one of those pairings that turns sceptics into believers without needing a lecture.



BALANCE LESSON

Here's the other reason sparkling is a brilliant "learning wine": it shows you balance quickly. If the bubbles feel sharp and aggressive, you learn what too-cold service does or what very high acidity tastes like. If it feels soft, creamy, and bready, you learn what time does in the bottle. If it feels sweet and easy, you learn how dosage changes the experience. You don't have to memorise terms. You just have to pay attention.

BUY BRUT

Which brings us to the most useful buying tip for beginners: Brut. If you don't know what to buy, buy Brut. Brut is generally the safest place to start because it sits in the dry-to-just-dry-enough range that works with food and doesn't feel like a dessert drink. It's the style that performs at gatherings, at braais, at birthdays, at "we're just having snacks," and at those moments when you want to be festive without committing to a full personality change.

BOTSWANA FIT

And yes, let's talk about Botswana. Our weather is basically a sparkling wine advertisement. Cold, crisp, high-acid bubbles are naturally suited to hot afternoons and outdoor living. Sparkling is social. It doesn't demand quiet contemplation. It welcomes conversation. It's forgiving when you have mixed palates at the table, the red-wine person, the sweet-wine person, the "I only drink gin" person, sparkling usually finds a way to please everyone without becoming background noise.

SOCIAL SETTINGS

It also performs beautifully in the settings we love: picnics, patios, garden gatherings, poolside afternoons, and braais. People think bubbles are "too fancy" for these moments, but that's just habit talking. A good Cap Classique in a cooler box at a braai makes more sense than a warm red pretending it's not struggling. The bottle is cold. The mood is light. The food is salty. The pairing is easy. It works.

> "If you can pair it with fries, you can pair it with life."

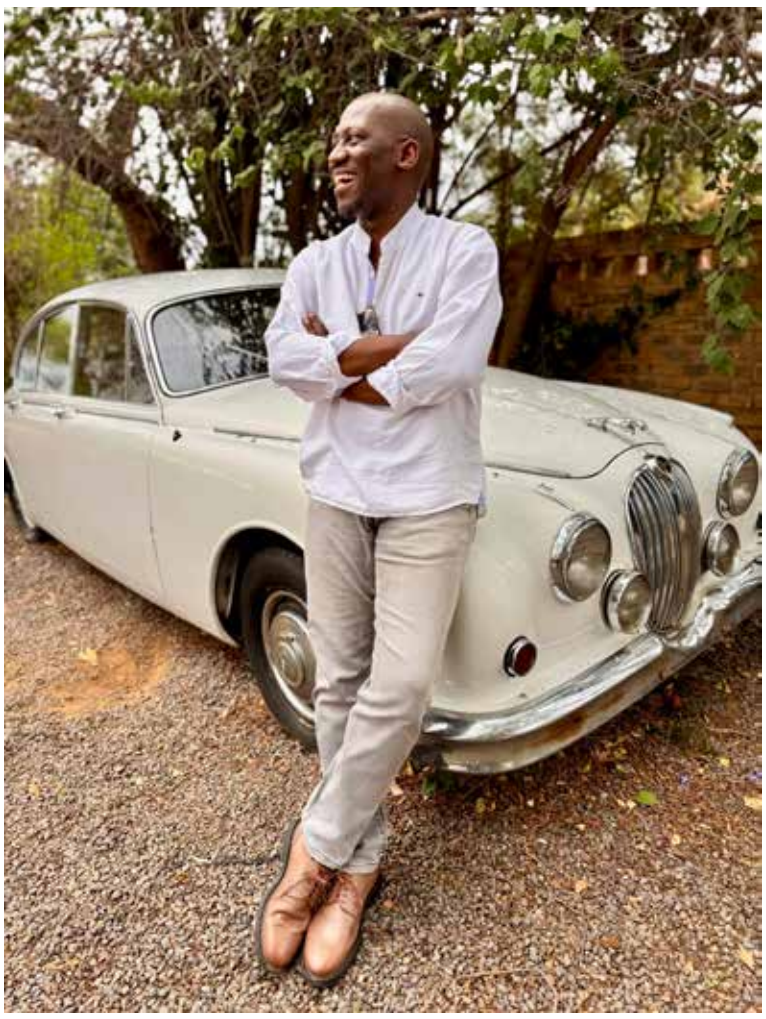
LOCAL VALUE

And because I know someone is reading this thinking, "But Champagne is expensive," let's be clear: you don't need Champagne to enjoy the sparkling lifestyle. Champagne is one of the world's great wines, yes, but Cap Classique gives you a credible, serious alternative that is closer to home and often much better value. Either way, the principle stands: bubbles are not reserved for ceremony. They are a tool for living well.

FINAL RULE

So here is my signature bubbles rule, the one I wish more people adopted: If you're waiting for the perfect occasion to open sparkling wine, you're doing it backwards. Bubbles don't ask for an occasion. They create one.

And one more, because we all need a simple pairing guideline we can remember: If you can pair it with fries, you can pair it with life.



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.

We second Tax, Data Protection & HR professionals



REBAONE FAME DITLALE *Lead Skills Consultant*

Companies need workers who connect closely to their vision, goals and who work as indispensable members of the team. We understand that it is important for businesses to find the right fit for the organisation and we help to do so in a professional, insightful and efficient way through secondments. Continue reading to learn more about the key concepts regarding secondments and the services we offer.

ENTER SECONDMENTS

Secondments are arrangements where one entity employs a staff member and at the request of another employer, the employer of the staff member seconds the particular employee to the entity which requires to fill a vacant post. Technically, the seconding firm takes care of the salary, leave administration, disciplinary matters and contracting obligations regarding the seconded employee. On the other hand, the firm to whom the staff is seconded does not need to deal with any administrative matters or performance appraisals. Additionally, if the seconded staff member does not perform to expectations, the seconding firm immediately replaces the staff member with another worker of the same experience and/or qualifications. In that way secondments allow companies to immediately fill vacant positions with minimal administration.

How we assist companies

We are a recruitment firm that specializes in placing exceptionally competent candidates in various positions, including executive, permanent, contract, and temporary roles. In addition, we do secondments specialising in a number of roles including Tax, Information Technology (Data Protection Officers) and Human Resources.

Why secondments

Secondments are a less expensive solution to bridge skills gap because they provide companies with a mechanism to temporarily fill resource or skills shortages while also avoiding the costs associated with recruitment, resignations, maternity leave etc. Additionally, secondments are also useful in meeting short-term staffing needs i.e. they help employers address immediate gaps without hiring a full-time employee.

A STEP-BY-STEP PROCESS

The host organisation (client) decides on a secondment they need to fill a post/vacancy which might have arisen due to a skills gap for an upcoming project or to cover for an employee who is temporarily absent from work, among other reasons. As Opracon Skills & Academy, after discussions with the client on how to proceed, and agreeing on the key terms and conditions of the contract, we tap into our resources to find the secondee best suited to the client's needs. As the employer of the secondee we oversee and assist the secondee in performing the assigned duties.

LET US DO THE HARD WORK

We match your organization's unique employment needs with qualified and dedicated secondees through a supervised, controlled recruitment process, as well as our hard-earned knowledge and experience. We are able to match companies with qualified applicants once we comprehend their staffing demands.

OUR OTHER SERVICES

In addition to secondments and as stated above, we assist companies to do general recruitment of any staff member within the borders of the country. Further, we also solicit for scarce skills from across the borders. At the moment we have a pool of Chattered Accountants with experience in accounting and auditing. You can contact us for discussions regarding the said CAs. We also conduct business trainings on topics such as, Customer Care, Leadership & Supervisory Skills, Defensive Driving, Financial Literacy and Team Building.

Contact us: You can contact us regarding scarce skills recruitment on the following details: skills@aupracontax.co.bw or +267 3939435 or +267 76 213 233. If you want to join our free Skills & Academy WhatsApp groups or to know more about our services, please send us a text/ WhatsApp on the number above.

opracon SKILLS & ACADEMY
Skills brokerage - Upskilling - Business Training

opracon IT SPECIALISTS
Consulting & Training

DATA PROTECTION ACT WORKSHOP

GABORONE : 17 APRIL 2026, OASIS MOTEL
MAUN : 14 APRIL 2026, MAUN LODGE

The Data protection Act No. 18 of 2024 which became operational in 2025 brings about notable obligations on all businesses who obtain, process or otherwise deal with personal data of natural persons. Non-compliance with this law attract some of the highest administrative fines in the country of between P10m and P50m, which can make many businesses technically insolvent. Effectively, the Act binds every employer (companies and not-4-profit organizations) since the employers cannot exist without employees, the latter whose information is classified as personal data by the said Act.

Opracon IT Specialists therefore brings you a 1-day workshop where employers/ other organizations obligations are discussed in detail under the following topics:

- The technical terms; personal data, sensitive personal data, data controller, data processor, data processing, data breaches etc
- The requirements for every enterprise to have a Data Protection Officer
- Data safeguards which must be employed by every business as well as cross-border data transmission

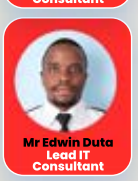
THE FACILITATORS

The workshop will be facilitated by Rachel Hore and Edwin Duta.



Mrs Rachel Hore
Lead Research Consultant

Rachel Hore has over 25 years' experience in Data Analysis as a Research Specialist, she holds a BSc Degree in Agricultural Economics as well as a MSc in Data Science from the University of East London (UK). Rachel is the Lead Research consultant at Data Collection and Analysis, research firm.



Mr Edwin Duta
Lead IT Consultant

Edwin has around 4 years' experience in IT matters including hardware setup and maintenance, software installations, website designs, migration from manual systems to cloud based systems, among others. Edwin holds a Bachelor of Science Degree in IT Networking and Software Engineering from the Institute of Development Management (IDM).

Investment: P1,599.00 VAT inclusive
Bookings: E: finance@aupracontax.co.bw cc tax7@aupracontax.co.bw T: +267 3939 435 C: +267 75 933 630

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

opracon HR SPECIALISTS
For All Things HR

LABOUR & PAYE UPDATE 2026 – MAUN

Date 20 - 21 April 2026 | Time 08:00 – 16:00 | Venue Maun Lodge, Maun

Stay compliant. Stay informed. Stay ahead.

Join us for a 2-Day Labour & PAYE Update 2026 designed for employers, HR practitioners, accountants, finance officers, and business owners who want practical clarity on labour law and PAYE obligations.

What to Expect:

This workshop will provide practical guidance on current labour law developments, employee management, disciplinary processes, payroll compliance, and PAYE obligations. Sessions will focus on real workplace challenges and compliance requirements affecting employers today.

Who Should Attend:

HR Professionals, Accountants, Finance Teams, Payroll Officers, Managers, Supervisors, and Business Owners.

Registration & Enquiries:

info@aupracontax.co.bw | finance@aupracontax.co.bw | tax5@aupracontax.co.bw
OR Call: (267) 39 39 435 | 75 546 784| 74 037 833



Tumisang Bagidi, Lead HR Consultant | Jonathan Hore, Managing Tax Consultant | Thuo Ditsele, HR Consultant | Labour Department Rep.

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

Investment
P4,990.00 (VAT Incl)

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

CASE NO. CVHGB – 001552- 23

In the matter between
BBS LIMITED **Plaintiff**
and
ANTHONY MOMPATI MOKOBI **1st Defendant**
KGAREBE DIANA MOKOBI **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 02nd April 2024 the following immovable property of the abovementioned Defendant will be sold by means of public auction to the highest bidder by DEPUTY SHERIFF OPELO MOTHIBI as follows:

DATE OF SALE : **Thursday 23rd April 2026**
VENUE : **Tribal Lot 1957, Mogoditshane**
TIME OF SALE : **1030 hours**
TERMS OF SALE : All participating bidders are required to make an UPFRONT payment of BWP 10 000.00 directly to the undersigned Attorneys, refundable only to those who did not succeed in the sale. Only cash or bank guaranteed cheques will be accepted. The detailed conditions of sale are available for inspection at the undersigned Attorneys' offices.

PROPERTY TO BE SOLD : The Defendant's title rights and interest in a certain piece of land being Tribal Lot 1957, Mogoditshane in the Bakwena Tribal Territory; measuring 1042 m² held under memorandum of agreement of lease no. TL 822/2010 dated 17th day of June 2010 made in favour of Kgarebe Diana Mokobi specially executable. The developments therein are a fitted two bedroomed house, bathroom combined with toilet, sitting room, dinning room, fitted kitchen, fenced with screen wall and a poultry house.

DATED AT GABORONE ON THIS 09TH DAY OF MARCH 2026.

COLLINS CHILISA CONSULTANTS
Attorneys • Notaries • Conveyancers

COLLINS CHILISA CONSULTANTS
Plot 4858, Lecha Road
Off Marakanelo Way
Extension 11, Gaborone
P O Box 45136
GABORONE
Deputy Sheriff Opelo Mothibi
[Cell No. 77636760/72234419]

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

CASE NO. CVHGB – 000505-24

In the matter between
FIRST NATIONAL BANK OF BOTSWANA **Plaintiff**
and
OARABILE KEABETSWE PHUTHEGO **Defendant**

NOTICE OF SALE IN EXECUTION

BE PLEASED TO TAKE NOTICE THAT pursuant to a Judgment granted by the above Honourable Court on the 18th April 2024 the following immovable property of the abovementioned Defendant will be sold by means of public auction to the highest bidder by DEPUTY SHERIFF UYAPO MAFIKA as follows:

DATE OF SALE : Wednesday 22nd April 2026
VENUE : Tribal Lot 2693, Kopong
TIME OF SALE : 1030 hours
TERMS OF SALE : Only cash or Bank Transfer (EFT) will be accepted. The detailed conditions of sale are available for inspection at the undersigned Attorneys' offices.

PROPERTY TO BE SOLD : The Defendant's title rights and interest in a certain piece of land being Tribal Lot 2693, Kopong in the Bakwena Tribal Territory; measuring 960 m² held under notarial deed of cession and delegation no. MA 258/2015 dated 30th day of March 2015 made in favour of Oarabile Keabetswe Phuthego specially executable. The developments therein are a two bedroomed house consisting of 2 bedrooms, the other being an ensuite, sitting room, open plan kitchen, bath and toilet, outdoor toilet and screenwall.

DATED AT GABORONE ON THIS 09TH DAY OF MARCH 2026.

COLLINS CHILISA CONSULTANTS
Attorneys • Notaries • Conveyancers

COLLINS CHILISA CONSULTANTS
Plot 4858, Lecha Road
Off Marakanelo Way
Extension 11, Gaborone
P O Box 45136
GABORONE
Deputy Sheriff Uyapo Mafika
[Cell No. 71696997/3165097]

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

Case No. CVHGB -000754/22

In the matter between:
NONG HOLDINGS PROPRIETARY LIMITED **PLAINTIFF**
And
EASYFIT GABORONE (PROPRIETARY) LIMITED **1st DEFENDANT**
SUSHMA NANDURI **2nd DEFENDANT**

NOTICE OF SALE IN EXECUTION -MOVABLE PROPERTY

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

DATE OF SALE : **26th MARCH 2026**
TIME : **10:00 am**
VENUE : **BROADHURST MAGISTRATE COURT, GABORONE**
PROPERTY TO BE SOLD : **1 x 1 Office Desk With 1 Big Chair, 1 x 1 Samsung Computer**
1 x 1 HP Printer, 1 x 1 Couch, 1 x 4 Chairs, 2 x 2 Seater Sofas
1 x 1 HP Laptop, 1 x 1 Kia Car Reg. No. B 256 BMJ

CONDITIONS OF SALE : Cash or Bank transfers

DATED AT GABORONE THIS 12nd DAY OF MARCH 2026

DEPUTY SHERIFF D.J MOYO
C/O REZA ATTORNEYS
P.O Box 20572
Gaborone

INTENTION TO CHANGE MARRIAGE PROPERTY REGIME

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

1. **KEAMOGETSWE MAITUMELO MATOMELA** who is married to JORAM JORRY MATOMELA, in community of property on the 20th day of October 2017 at Mochudi in the Kgatleng District, intends to make an application to the High Court of Botswana for leave to change her property regime to out of community.

2. **KEAMOGETSWE MAITUMELO MATOMELA** 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 **KEAMOGETSWE MAITUMELO MATOMELA** and **JORAM JORRY MATOMELA's** estate, should they have objections to the proposed change of matrimonial property regime, should inform the Applicant's Attorneys, **WAME'S LEGAL CHAMBERS** 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 10th DAY OF MARCH 2026.

WAME'S LEGAL CHAMBERS
Applicant's Attorneys
205 Independence Avenue, 1st Floor
GABORONE

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

CASE NO: CVHFT 000774/2019

In the matter between:
ABSA BANK BOTSWANA LIMITED
formerly BARCLAYS BANK OF BOTSWANA LIMITED **Plaintiff**
And
MBAKO NFILA **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 Stanley Sikalesele Mbolai** to the highest bidder as follows:

DATE OF SALE : 14th April 2026
VENUE : Lot 5786, Francistown
TIME : 1000 Hours
PROPERTY TO BE SOLD : Piece of Land being Lot 5786, Francistown, measuring 432m² (Four Hundred and Thirty Two Square Metres), held under Deed of Transfer No. FT 812/2005 dated the 8th day of November 2005, registered in favour of **MBAKO NFILA**, together with developments thereon, being a walled yard consisting of a fitted three bedroomed house with master ensuite, bathroom, toilet, kitchen, dining room and sitting room.

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 1377, Extension 3, Palapye, Palapye. His contact numbers are 4925987/71635200.

DATED AT FRANCISTOWN ON THIS 23RD 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 TITLE DEED

NOTICE IS HEREBY given that the undermentioned intends applying for a certified copy of **DEED OF TRANSFER No. 307/1994** dated the **22ND** day of **MARCH 1994** passed in favour of **ROTRIC ENGINEERING AND INDUSTRIAL SUPPLIES** (PROPRIETARY) LIMITED in respect of the following property, that is:

CERTAIN : Piece of Land being Portion 4 of the Farm No. 17-NO;
SITUATE : In the North East Administrative District;
MEASURING : 10,3575 Ha (Ten comma Three Five Seven Five Hectares)

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 17TH DAY OF FEBRUARY 2026

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



YOUNG BOTSWANA GOLFERS SET FOR CONTINENTAL TEST

Seven young golfers set to represent Botswana at the All Africa Junior Golf Championship in Kenya, as the Botswana Golf Union hopes the experience will sharpen the country's rising talent

TLOTLO KEBINAKGABO

The Botswana Golf Union has named a seven-member junior national team that will represent the country at the upcoming All Africa Junior Golf Championship scheduled for March 22–27 in Kenya.

The squad, comprising four boys and three girls, was selected following national trials held from January 16 to 19. According to Botswana Golf Union president Derrick Musa, the selection process was guided by the 2025 Order of Merit rankings and performances in the Botswana Junior League competitions.

The junior girls' team includes Maru Chokwe, Tuduetso Onyadile and Maya Iyre, while the boys' team will feature Thomo Mokgatle, Leago Molefe, Letso Keseabetswe and Mowana Chokwe.

Musa explained that the final boys' selections were determined by their standings across the three-day trials, with Mokgatle finishing first, followed by Molefe, Keseabetswe and Chokwe.

PREPARATIONS CHALLENGES

Preparations for the continental showpiece have been far from ideal, with the association balancing limited resources and the academic responsibilities of the young athletes.

"We had trials for both juniors and national team selection on the weekend of January 16–19, and the invitations were based on the 2025 order of merit and the Botswana Junior League competitions," Musa said.

The squad is also geographically spread, with some players training at a golf school in South Africa while others remain based in Gaborone. Despite these logistical challenges, the team has had limited international exposure, including participation opportunities at the GolfRSA International tournament.

"Preparations have not been perfect due to limited resources and balancing sport with academic activities," Musa acknowledged.

RAISING EXPECTATIONS

Nevertheless, the Botswana Golf Union remains optimistic about the team's prospects in Kenya, particularly after increasing the size of the delegation compared with last year's tournament in Tunisia.

"Our expectation is to improve on last year's performances," Musa said. "This year we are able to send a full complement of four boys and three girls, compared to only three boys and two girls who travelled to Tunisia."

The depth of emerging talent has also seen several junior golfers earning places in senior national teams, underlining the growing strength of Botswana's development pipeline.

PATHWAY PLATFORM

For young golfers, the continental championship represents more than just competition; it is a gateway to global opportunities.

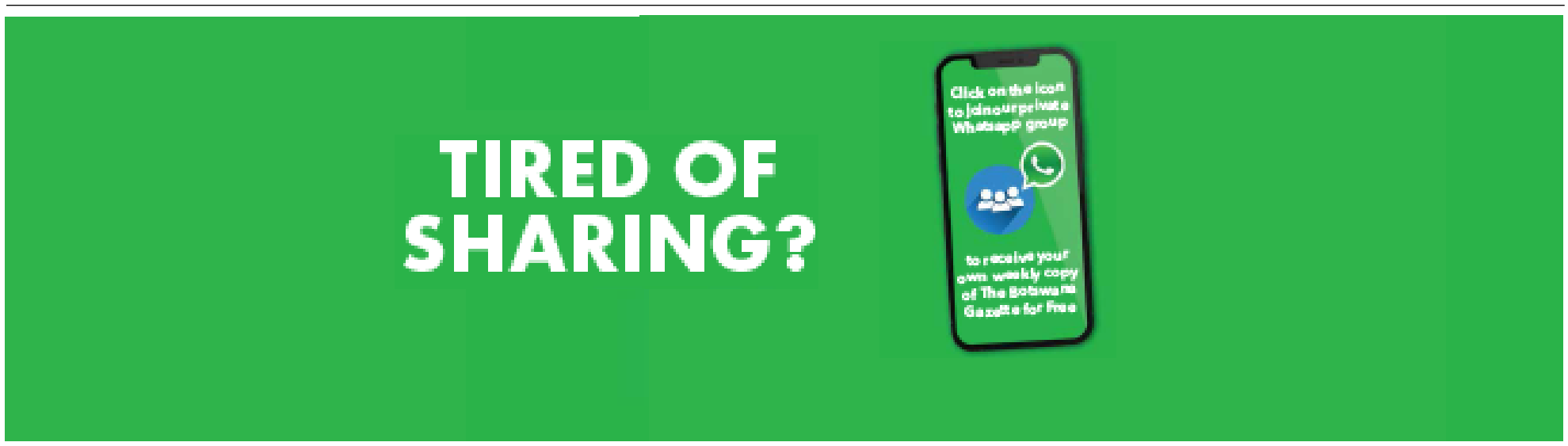
"The All Africa Junior Team Championships is the ultimate stage for aspiring golfers on the continent," Musa said.

Victors of the event qualify for the Toyota Junior Golf World Cup in Japan, while standout performers may also be selected for the Africa Golf High Performance Program, which offers professional coaching, equipment and invitations to prestigious tournaments.

Musa believes such exposure is vital to shaping the future of Botswana's young golfers.

> "The All Africa Junior Team Championships is the ultimate stage for aspiring golfers on the continent."

"Such exposure will build the character of junior golfers and inspire upcoming players to do even better," he said.



Orange FA Cup Reaches Last 32

Top-tier clubs enter the Orange FA Cup as the competition intensifies, with matches scheduled for March 21–22



GAZETTE REPORTER

The Orange FA Cup has officially reached the round of 32, marking the stage where top-tier clubs join the competition and raise the stakes in Botswana's premier knockout football tournament.

Matches are scheduled to be played on March 21 and 22, although venues had not yet been confirmed at the time of the draw announcement.

Organised by the Botswana Football Association, the tournament brings together clubs from both lower and upper divisions, offering smaller teams a rare opportunity to compete against some of the country's biggest football institutions.

Among the fixtures drawn for the round of 32 are Tsabong Red Lions against Gaborone United, Holy Ghost against Union Flamengo Santos and Ferry Wanderers facing Black Lions. Lokgwabe United will take on Matebele FC while BR Highlanders meet TAFIC.

Elsewhere, Tonota FC face Security Systems, while Township Rollers take on Tlokweng United. Santa Green will challenge Mochudi Centre Chiefs, while JJ United face Morupule Wanderers and Calendar Stars meet BDF XI.

Motlakase Power Dynamos will play Orapa United, Jwaneng Young Stars meet Extension Gunners, and Ndundu Young Fighters face Sua Flamingoes. Tsetseng United will clash with reigning champions Jwaneng Galaxy FC, while Kanye United face Nico United.

CORPORATE SUPPORT

The competition continues to benefit from the backing of Orange Botswana, whose partnership with the BFA has helped expand the tournament's reach and impact across the country.

BFA president Tariq Babitseng recently praised the role of corporate support in strengthening football development.

"Our recent qualification for WAFCON and AFCON did not happen by chance," Babitseng said. "It is the result of sustained investment and strategic partnerships such as this one."

He added that the partnership has strengthened football structures while creating opportunities for players at both grassroots and elite levels.

> "The Orange FA Cup is not just about football," Maïga said. "It is about social mobility, youth development and strengthening communities through sport."

BEYOND FOOTBALL

Orange Botswana chief executive Néné Maïga said the company views the tournament as more than just a football competition.

"The Orange FA Cup is not just about football," Maïga said. "It is about social mobility, youth development and strengthening communities through sport."

Botswana Voice Rises In Regional Judo Leadership

Linda Masingizane's election as Southern Africa Judo Confederation treasurer signals growing influence for Botswana within the region's expanding judo community

TLOTLO KEBINAKGABO

There are moments in sport that feel less like a victory lap and more like the quiet turning of a page. Linda Masingizane's election as General Treasurer of the Southern Africa Judo Confederation is one of them — a development that signals both personal progress and a broader shift for Botswana's place in the sport.

For Masingizane, who currently serves as Secretary General of the Botswana Judo Federation, the appointment represents a milestone built over years spent inside the sport, first as an athlete, then an official and now an administrator.

"My election as General Treasurer represents both a personal milestone and an important moment for Botswana judo," she said. "As a young sports administrator, it reflects the growth of my journey in judo governance and the trust that the regional judo community has placed in my leadership."

But the significance stretches beyond the individual. Botswana now sits inside the room where decisions about the future of judo in Southern Africa are shaped.

"More importantly, it means Botswana now has representation at the regional decision-making level," Masingizane explained. "This gives our country a stronger voice in shaping the direction of judo in Southern Africa."

BRIDGING OPPORTUNITIES

Across Botswana, judo has quietly been gathering momentum. Participation has grown, clubs have become more active and interest from young athletes continues to increase.

Masingizane believes her regional role can act as a bridge — connecting Botswana more closely to the wider Southern African judo ecosystem and the opportunities that come with it.

"Judo in Botswana has been steadily growing in terms of participation, visibility and organisational development," she said. "My role at the regional level creates an important bridge between Botswana and the broader Southern African judo community."

That bridge matters. Regional competitions, development programmes and technical exchanges often determine how quickly a sport evolves in smaller federations. Masingizane sees the position as a platform from which Botswana can strengthen ties with established judo nations.



"It allows us to strengthen partnerships with neighbouring federations," she said. "This can lead to technical support, knowledge exchange and development initiatives. It also positions Botswana to learn from bigger federations such as South Africa, Angola and Zambia."

Visibility, too, plays a role. Being present in leadership conversations means Botswana is less likely to be overlooked when funding programmes, development projects or hosting opportunities arise.

GOVERNANCE PRIORITIES

If representation is the first step, sustainability is the next.

As treasurer of the regional body, Masingizane's focus will centre on strengthening financial governance — ensuring that the confederation operates with transparency, accountability and long-term stability.

"My primary focus will be on strengthening transparency, accountability and sustainability in the confederation's financial management," she said.

That includes structured budgeting, clearer reporting systems and careful oversight of how resources are distributed across development programmes and competitions.

Another priority lies in expanding financial partnerships.

"We also need to explore sponsorship opportunities and strategic collaborations that can support the confederation's long-term goals," she added. "Responsible resource management ensures we can continue supporting the growth of judo across all member countries."

NEXT LEVEL GROWTH

Back home, Masingizane has watched Botswana's judo community evolve steadily. The sport is expanding, but she knows progress still depends on building stronger foundations.

"We have witnessed encouraging growth in the sport," she said. "Participation has steadily increased and more clubs are becoming active."

Yet for Botswana judo to reach the next level, development must continue at every layer of the system.

Investment in grassroots programmes, better training pathways for coaches and referees, and increased access to facilities will all play a role. Competitions, too, remain essential — the proving ground where young judoka sharpen their craft.

Ultimately, Masingizane envisions something broader than medals or rankings: a fully functioning ecosystem that nurtures athletes from their first training session to the international stage.

"Our goal is to build a strong and sustainable judo ecosystem in Botswana," she said.

Ramoreboli Calls Young Squad After AFCON Review

Botswana coach turns to youth development following AFCON assessment as the national team prepares for a regional Four Nations tournament

TLOTLO KEBINAKGABO

The head coach of the Botswana men's senior national football team (Zebras), Morena Ramoreboli, says the preliminary squad for the upcoming Four Nations Tournament has been deliberately built around younger players following a review of the team's performance at the Africa Cup of Nations.

Botswana exited the continental competition without winning a match, a result that prompted reflection within the national team setup.

Ramoreboli confirmed that the decision to introduce a youthful group came after discussions with the leadership of the Botswana Football Association.

"Yes it true, it's a young squad," he told this publication in a telephone interview. "I had a meeting with the Botswana Football Association president, the meeting was motivated by the AFCON report, it is there where we saw the need to inherit a lot of young players for the upcoming tournament."

According to the coach, one of the issues identified was the limited integration of younger players into the senior national team.

He said the technical team believes giving emerging players opportunities earlier could strengthen the team's long-term development.

> "Before speaking of results we should also say we need to have a team that will give us results over a longer period of time."

REGIONAL TEST

The Four Nations Tournament will take place from March 28 to March 31 at Obed Itani Chilume Stadium in Francistown.

Botswana is scheduled to face regional opponents including the Zimbabwe national football team, the Zambia national football team and the Malawi national football team.

The competition is expected to provide an early test for the newly assembled squad and an opportunity for emerging players to gain international experience.

OLYMPIC PLANS

Ramoreboli also linked the youthful squad selection to the upcoming Olympic qualifiers, which feature players under the age of 23.

He said the coaching staff is attempting to identify the core group that could form the foundation of the team moving forward while also bringing more players through the development pathway.

Despite the Zebras' struggles in recent matches, the coach said the focus remains on building a team capable of delivering results over a longer period.

"Before speaking of results we should also say we need to have a team that will give us results over a longer period of time," he said. "We should be preparing them now. You don't win because a team of 11 players but because those players are able to withhold pressure, that's what we are trying to do, gel them together."



Botswana Beach Volleyball Duo Triumphs Maputo

Despite limited preparation, Botswana's beach volleyball duo secured a historic victory in Maputo, signaling progress for the country in the regional game



GAZETTE REPORTER

Even after delivering a historic performance for Botswana by defeating Mozambique in the final to clinch the gold medal at the CAVB Zone 6 Beach Volleyball 2nd Leg in Maputo, George Chiswaniso said the team entered the tournament with limited preparation.

Chiswaniso, who partnered with Sekao Boifang Jack in the competition, said balancing beach volleyball with indoor commitments made it difficult to prepare fully.

"We are very happy for our performance even though our preparations were not satisfactory," Chiswaniso said in a telephone interview with this publication.

He explained that both players are also committed to indoor volleyball teams, which often take priority because of employment arrangements linked to those clubs.

"That is due to the fact that with us playing beach volleyball we also play indoor volleyball and we have teams that we are committed to," he said. "That is due to the fact that they are our employers or have looked for jobs for us."

Because of those commitments, the players are required to train and compete with their indoor teams.

"So we have to be committed to them, that means we have indoor games we have to be there and train with them," Chiswaniso said. "Not that we are complaining — no — we are grateful to them and at the same time we have to also train for beach volleyball."

NEXT ASSIGNMENTS

Chiswaniso said the victory has already drawn recognition from the Botswana National Sport Commission, which has arranged a training camp for the pair in Angola from April 1 to April 6, 2026.

After the training camp, the team is expected to travel back to Mozambique later in April for the Africa Cup qualifiers.

TOURNAMENT PROGRESS

Botswana's victory marked a milestone for the Botswana Volleyball Federation, which sent two teams to the competition.

Both teams showed improvement compared with their performance in the first leg of the tournament held in Windhoek, Namibia.

The duo of Trevor Mandua and Baleofi Mosiiwa progressed to the quarterfinals before losing to a strong Mozambique side.

Meanwhile, the senior pairing of Jack and Chiswaniso advanced through the tournament with consistency, eventually defeating Mozambique in the final to secure the gold medal.

Their victory capped a campaign defined by resilience and teamwork.

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BACKPAGE
WEDNESDAY 18 MARCH 2026
SINCE 1984

The Botswana Gazette
SPORT



30.

RAMOREBOLI CALLS YOUNG SQUAD AFTER AFCON REVIEW

Botswana coach turns to youth development following AFCON assessment as the national team prepares for a regional Four Nations tournament



ORANGE FA CUP REACHES LAST 32

Top-tier clubs enter the Orange FA Cup as the competition intensifies, with matches scheduled for March 21–22

29.