The Botswana
GAZETTE
WEDNESDAY 01 APRIL 2026 | SINCE 1984



Letsile Tebogo, Clover Partnership Unpacked

35.

Fuel Hike Ripples Through Economy



24.

Economists warn of mounting pressure on households, businesses and growth as fuel prices surge

2.



TSHEDU PETITION REACHES OP

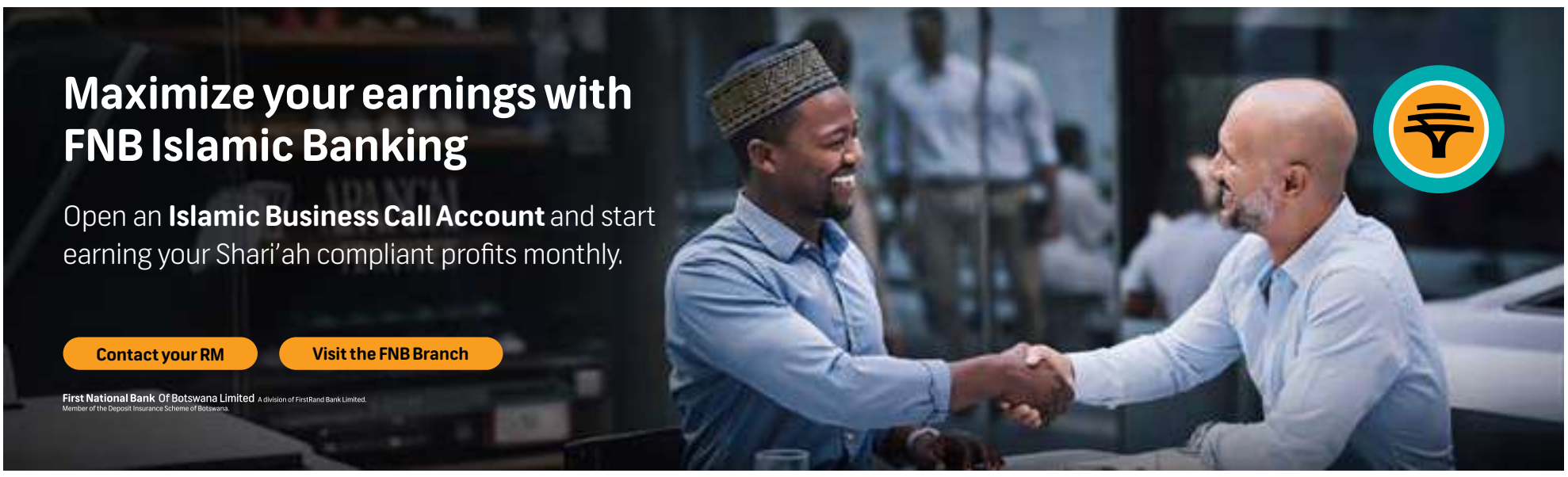
Child violence crisis deepening as the Tshedu case becomes a national flashpoint, with over 50,000 citizens demanding action. The petition has now reached the Office of the President, intensifying calls for accountability.

Fake ARVs Circulation Claims Shot Down

Government rejects claims of fake ARVs in supply chain, insisting strict regulatory systems ensure medicine safety, quality and continuous surveillance

4.





Tshedu Petition Reaches OP

The Tshedu case has become more than a single tragedy, it has become a rallying point for demands that Botswana strengthen forensic capacity, improve investigative protocols and prioritise child protection within the broader GBV framework.



BONGANI MALUNGA

A growing outcry over violence against children has intensified in Botswana, with fresh attention now centred on the tragic case of Retshepile Tshedu, whose death in Sehithwa was initially reported as suicide but has since been reclassified following post-mortem findings indicating evidence of sexual abuse.The development has triggered national outrage and renewed calls for accountability, with a petition demanding the reopening of her case surpassing 50 000 signatures. The petition, spearheaded by the Rea Bua Foundation, has now been formally escalated to the Office of the President, placing the matter directly before President Duma Boko for urgent consideration.

DEEPER CRISIS

What began as a single case in a remote village has rapidly evolved into a national symbol of a deeper crisis: the escalating prevalence of violence against children as a disturbing and often under-acknowledged component of Gender Based Violence (GBV) in Botswana.

The Rea Bua Foundation, which has been leading public mobilisation around the petition, argues that the case cannot be viewed in isolation. Instead, it reflects a pattern in which children, particularly girls, are increasingly exposed to violence that is either misclassified, under-reported, or insufficiently investigated.

RAPID GROWTH

The urgency surrounding the petition has been amplified by its rapid growth, with tens of thousands of citizens demanding decisive government intervention. For many signatories, the demand is clear: reopen the investigation, ensure forensic accountability and restore public confidence in the handling of sensitive child protection cases.

Last year, the National Gender Commission convened more than 100 stakeholders, including government representatives, civil society organisations and United Nations agencies, to examine the state of GBV in Botswana. Among the key recommendations was a call for President Boko to declare GBV a national emergency.

VIOLENCE CONCEALED

Increasingly, child victims are being recognised as a central and growing subset of GBV cases. Social workers and activists warn that violence against children is not only rising but also becoming more concealed, making detection and prosecution even more difficult.

NATIONAL CONCERN

"This is national concern that's why we are taking this to the president," said a representative of the Rea Bua Foundation.

GLOBAL CONTEXT

Botswana has been ranked as having the highest incidence of rape in the world, approximately 92.93 cases per 100 000 people.

> "What began as one case has become a national reckoning on child safety."

STATISTICS SURGE

Violence against children in Botswana is reaching alarming levels. In 2024 alone, the Botswana Police Service recorded 14 020 GBV cases, of which 4468 involved children under the age of 18. Defilement remains particularly widespread, with over 5000 cases reported between 2020 and 2025.



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Cost-of-Living Squeeze Tightens

Taxes, fuel hikes and rising fees converge to trigger one of Botswana's sharpest cost-of-living shocks in recent years

GAZETTE REPORTER

Thousands of households and businesses across Botswana are bracing for a sharp rise in the cost of living following a wave of government measures that will take effect from April 1, 2026, including revised agricultural fees and public transport fare hikes. This will be followed by higher taxes, while fuel price increases have already taken effect. The Botswana Power Corporation (BPC) has also applied to the Botswana Energy Regulatory Authority, seeking a 46% average electricity tariff hike starting in April.

The sweeping changes come as the government moves to widen revenue collection and respond to global economic pressures, but analysts warn the combined impact could significantly strain disposable incomes and raise the cost of doing business.

NEW TAX REGIME

At the centre of the changes is a proposed income tax bill expected to be tabled in Parliament by the Minister of Finance, Ndaba Gaolathe. The bill introduces a broad-based tax regime targeting individuals, farmers, insurance firms and extractive industries.

Under the proposed structure, residents earning up to P48,000 annually will remain exempt from income tax. However, income above that threshold will be taxed progressively, reaching a top marginal rate of 27.5 percent for earnings above P400,000. Farmers engaged in commercial operations will also be brought into the tax net.

The insurance sector will face revised tax rules, including provisions governing reserves and risk management funds, while mining and petroleum industries are also expected to see adjustments in their tax obligations.

FUEL SHOCK

The tax changes come alongside steep fuel price increases announced by the Botswana Energy Regulatory Authority (BERA), which took effect on March 28. Petrol prices rose by 505 thebe per litre, diesel by 877 thebe, and illuminating paraffin by 1,055 thebe.

BERA attributed the hikes to volatility in global oil markets, citing geopolitical instability in the Middle East and disruptions to shipping routes as key drivers. Brent crude oil prices have surged to highs of about US$119.50 per barrel, pushing up the cost of refined petroleum products.

RIPPLE EFFECTS

According to documents seen by the Botswana Gazette, fuel increases are already triggering ripple effects across the economy, with public transport operators securing approval from the Ministry of Transport to raise fares from April 1 following consultations with government. The ministry says the adjustments aim to balance the viability of transport operators with affordability for commuters.

Further pressure is expected from the Ministry of Lands and Agriculture, which has announced significant increases in service fees across the agricultural sector. These include higher charges for agrochemical licensing and registration, import permits, livestock services and laboratory testing.

For instance, the cost of licensing meat premises will jump from P300 to P1,000, while agrochemical registration fees will rise from P650 to P1,000. Livestock-related fees have also surged, with some breeding stock prices doubling or more, raising concerns about affordability for farmers.

RISING PRICES

Consumer goods are also expected to be affected. Prices for agricultural products such as milk, meat and honey have been revised upward, reflecting higher production and regulatory costs.

Despite the mounting pressures, the Ministry of Trade and Entrepreneurship has urged retailers to exercise restraint and avoid passing on the full cost increases to consumers, arguing that fuel price spikes are driven by temporary external factors.

However, this publication understands that early reactions from consumers suggest growing anxiety over the cumulative effect of the measures. Many fear that the combination of higher transport costs, rising food prices and increased taxation could erode purchasing power and slow economic activity.

ECONOMIC STRAIN

It is understood that as the April implementation date approaches, attention is now turning to how businesses and consumers will adjust to what is shaping up to be one of the most significant cost-of-living shocks in recent years.



(Pic:Monirul Bhuiyan/PRESS PHOTO)

21 Day Notice

Introduction of eWallet Plus

First National Bank of Botswana Limited hereby notifies the public of an enhancement to its existing eWallet service. The new enhanced product is named eWallet Plus.

Key Enhancements

eWallet users will now be able to upgrade their existing eWallet in a few simple steps. Through FNB Cellphone Banking, existing FNB clients will be able to select Get eWallet Plus, follow the prompts and accept the Terms and Conditions, and wait for an SMS confirmation once the upgrade is processed.

Once upgraded consumers with eWallet Plus will be able to;

- Send money between FNB eWallets
- Transfer money from the eWallet to your own FNB Account
- Make Once-off Payments from eWallet Plus to any bank account
- Receive deposits into their eWallet Plus using the wallet account number
- Make direct payments from eWallet Plus to public recipients
- GeoPayments from eWallet Plus to any FNB recipient on the FNB App
- Pay2Cell from eWallet Plus to any FNB account holder
- Make Scheduled Payments from eWallet Plus to any bank account

Important information for the client:

- The upgrade to eWallet Plus will be optional and initiated by the client through cellphone banking
- No monthly wallet maintenance fee will be charged
- Currently not available to foreign nationals, including those who have existing FNB accounts
- This is applicable only to eWallet numbers linked to clients' FNB profiles
- Sending money from an FNB account to eWallet will still be charged at P10.40

eWallet Plus Limits

Transaction and wallet limits will apply as indicated in the table below:

Description	Amounts
Single Transaction Limit (including withdrawals)	P5 000
Daily Send Limit	P9 500
Monthly Transaction Limit	P25 000
Maximum Holding Limit	P20 000

Fees and Charges

The following fees and charges will be applicable

Fees/Charges	Fee
- Monthly Maintenance Fee	Free
Cash Deposit	
- ADT	As per pricing guide (P0.44 per P100)
- CashPlus Agent	As per pricing guide (P0.32 per P100)
Cash Withdrawal	
- ATM	Free
- CashPlus Agent	Free
Statements	
- Email Statements	Free
- Cellphone Statements	Free
- Branch – Interim Bank Statements	As per pricing guide (P7.25)
- Historic Bank Statements	As per pricing guide (P30.50)
Transactions	
- Payments	P3.85
- Transfers	P3.85
- On-send	P3.75
- Prepaid Electricity	Free
- Prepaid Airtime	Free

The tariff guide is available at all FNB Branches and the FNB Botswana website. For more information:

Visit www.fnbbotswana.co.bw Visit the nearest FNB Branch

Terms and conditions apply

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Fake ARVs Circulation Claims Shot Down

Government rejects claims of fake ARVs in supply chain, insisting strict regulatory systems ensure medicine safety, quality and continuous surveillance

BONGANI MALUNGA



The Ministry of Health (MoH) has dismissed allegations that fake antiretroviral (ARV) drugs, substandard hypertension medication and hazardous children's cough syrups were deliberately administered to patients between July 2023 and July 2024.

Responding in Parliament on Tuesday, Health Ministerial responses rejected the claims as "not supported by available evidence," stressing that there is no proof of intentional distribution of unsafe medicines within the public health system.

UNSAFE PRODUCTS

The question, raised by Dr Kesetegile Gobotswang, MP for Tswapong South, sought clarity on whether patients had been exposed to falsified and unsafe pharmaceutical products during the stated period and whether a full investigation would be launched.

In response, the Ministry of Health assured Parliament that strict safeguards are already in place to prevent compromised medicines from reaching patients.

LAYERS OF CONTROL

MoH highlighted the role of the Botswana Medicines Regulatory Authority (BoMRA), working alongside the Quality Assurance Unit at the Central Medical Stores (CMS) and other law enforcement agencies, to maintain the safety, efficacy and quality of medicines in circulation.

The Ministry explained that multiple layers of control are used to screen pharmaceutical products entering the national supply chain, with continuous monitoring both before and after medicines reach the country.

"The assertion that fake ARVs, substandard hypertension drugs, or hazardous cough syrups deliberately given to patients is not supported by available evidence. I want to assure this august house that BoMRA, along with the Quality Assurance Unit in CMS, and other law enforcement agencies have processes in place, to ensure safety, efficacy and quality of medicines that are entering our supply chain," the ministry explained.

> "The assertion that fake ARVs, substandard hypertension drugs, or hazardous cough syrups deliberately given to patients is not supported by available evidence."

PUBLIC SENSITIVITY

"These processes ensure that non-compliant products are identified before and after entry into the country through routine market surveillance," the response noted.

The assurance comes amid growing public sensitivity around medicine quality and supply chain integrity, with the ministry maintaining that existing regulatory systems are actively designed to detect and eliminate any substandard or falsified products before they can reach patients.

BOTSWANA VACCINE INSTITUTE

TENDER NOTICE

Botswana Vaccine Institute Limited (BVI) is inviting companies to submit proposal for the below mentioned tenders.

1. **INVITATION TO TENDER FOR THE WORKS CONTRACT OF A SUPPLY, DELIVERY, INSTALLATION, COMMISSIONING OF A 5000KG/H NEW BOILER, RECONDITIONING, COMMISSIONING AND TESTING OF AN EXISITING 3000KG/H BOILER AT THE BOTSWANA VACCINE INSTITUTE LIMITED.**

NO	TENDER REF:	DESCRIPTION:	PPRA CODE:	PROCUREMENT METHOD	COMPULSORY SITE VISIT AND DATE	TENDER CLOSING DATE & TIME
1.	BVI/ ENG/50/2025-2026	Invitation to tender for a works contract of the supply, delivery, installation, commissioning of a 5000kg/h new boiler, reconditioning, commissioning and testing of an existing 3000kg/h boiler at the Botswana Vaccine Institute Limited	Code: 08 – Mechanical Engineering works Sub code: 08 – steam and Boiler Systems, Grade E	Open International bidding method	15 April 2026 at 1000hrs (CAT) Venue: Plot 6385/90, Lejara Road, Broadhurst industrial, Gaborone	28 April 2026 AT 10:00HRS (CAT)

Tender document will be available with effect from 27 March 2026 and will be sent to the bidders via email upon submission of proof of payment of a non-refundable fee of **BWP1 100.00 (One thousand one hundred Pula Only) each.** 100 % Botswana citizen owned Youth companies will pay BWP550.00 **(five hundred and fifty pula only) each** non-refundable fee upon submission of Identity Document (Omang) and company documentation payable to the BVI Account details provided below. Proof of payment must be emailed to procurement@bvi.co.bw. To access the full tender notice please visit www.bvi-tenders.co.bw

The BVI banking details are as follows:

Bank: Access Bank
Branch name: Corporate
Account type: Current
Account Number: 1002533640701
Branch code: 552067
Swift code: FMBZBWGA

The following Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) will be **COMPULSORY**:

- Steel toe safety shoes/ boots
- Work wear (industrial clothing, such as, overalls/ worksuit, jeans, etc.)
- Hard hat/bump cap

Market dynamics push retailers to defy pricing directive

Retailers warn government pricing directive may be unsustainable as supplier cost increases driven by fuel prices force inevitable price adjustments



(Pic Monirul Bhuiyan/PRESS PHOTO)

BONGANI MALUNGA

Local retailers have raised concerns that they may be left with little choice but to increase prices, despite a directive from the Ministry of Trade and Entrepreneurship urging businesses to avoid hiking prices following recent fuel price increases.

Retailers argue that while the government's intention is to shield consumers from rising costs, the directive does not take into account the realities of supply chain pricing, where they have no control over supplier cost adjustments.

They warn that if wholesalers and suppliers revise their prices upwards due to increased fuel and transport costs, retailers will be forced to follow suit in order to remain financially viable.

> "There was no discussion or consultation. We are traders and we have no control over our cost price. If our suppliers increase our cost price we will be forced to increase the selling price."

VOLATILE ECONOMY

The concerns highlight a growing tension between government efforts to stabilise the cost of living and the commercial pressures facing businesses operating on thin margins in an increasingly volatile economic environment.

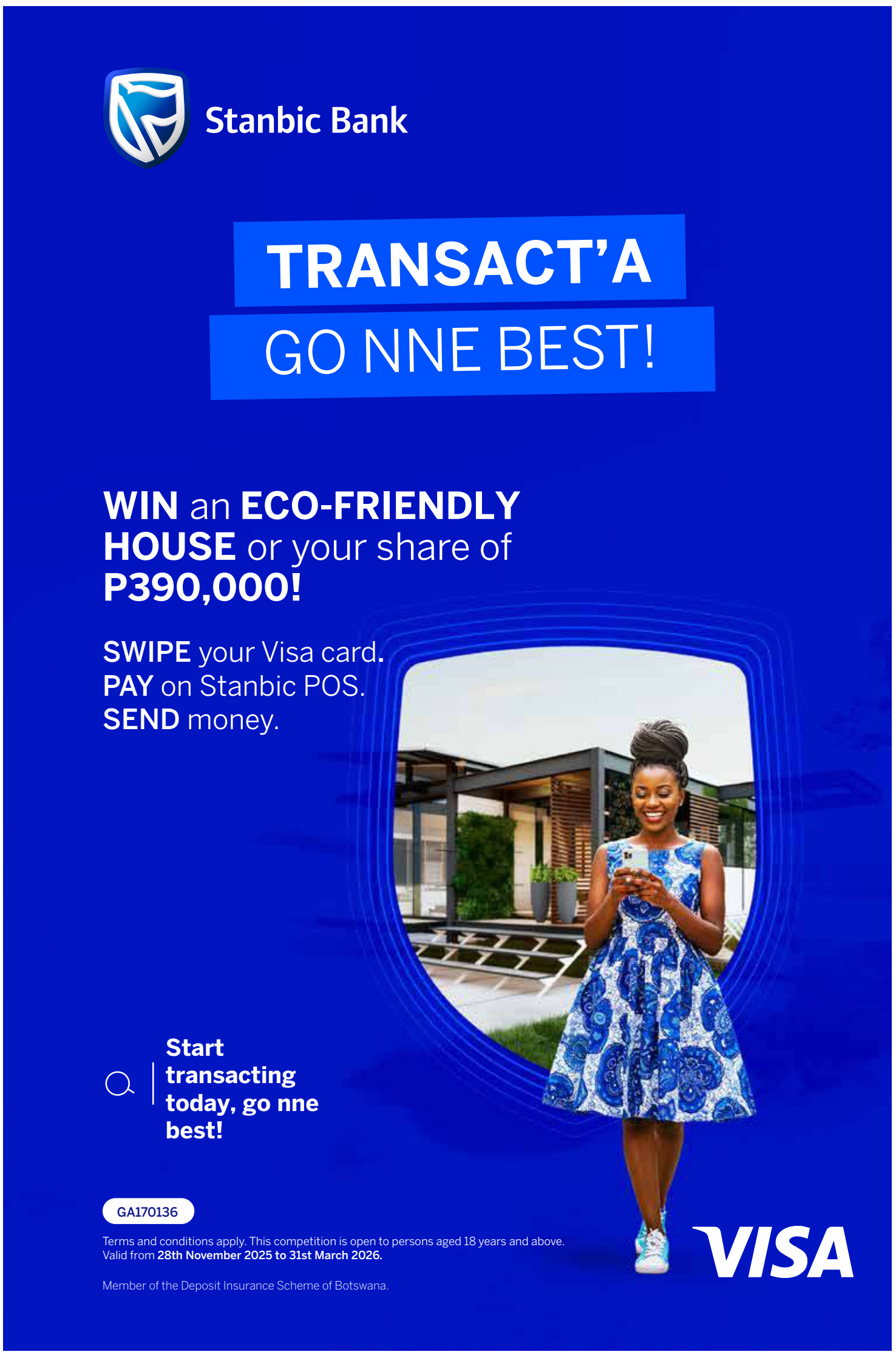
Stakeholders say without coordinated interventions across the supply chain, the directive may prove difficult to fully implement on the ground.

NO PRIOR ENGAGEMENT

Ramachandran Ottapathu, the Chief Executive Officer of Choppies, the largest retail chain in Botswana, told The Botswana Gazette that there was no prior engagement between the ministry and retailers before the announcement was made. He noted that although the government's position is guided by external factors, retailers also have to balance market dynamics that will be affected by the external impacts.

"There was no discussion or consultation. We are traders and we have no control over our cost price. If our suppliers increase our cost price we will be forced to increase the selling price," Ottapathu told this publication.

Reached for comment, Business Botswana stated that they are currently engaging stakeholders on the matter before communicating an official position on the topic.



BOTSWANA BUREAU OF STANDARDS - TRAINING PROGRAM
APRIL 2026 to MARCH 2027

BOBS is accredited by the Botswana Qualifications Authority (BQA) as an Education and Training Provider and its courses are recognized by both BQA and the Human Resources Development Council (HRDC).

Organizations and/or persons attending BOBS training may refer to the Human Resources Development Council (HRDC) guidelines for refunds against training undertaken.

BOBS is an organization whose main role is the promotion and maintenance of standardization and quality assurance in the provision of commodities and the rendering of services by organizations in Botswana. To continue fulfilling its mandate, BOBS invites the private sector, parastatals, government, the public and other interested parties to participate in the training courses. BOBS offers:

1. **Online Trainer Led training (i.e. Virtual Classroom)** via **Microsoft Teams**
2. **Face to Face Training –** This training is conducted at BOBS Headquarters (Plot No. 55745, Main Airport Road, Block 8, Gaborone) OR at the premises of the requesting individual organization.

Registration

Applicants must ensure that they have **completed the registration process** including submitting **purchase orders** or **proof of payment** at least **10 working days** before commencement of targeted course. Enrolment is based on **completing the application process in time** and **availability of space**. BOBS will cancel courses that do not reach the minimum number of enrolled applicants. **Enrolled applicants should enquire about the status of courses applied for in case there is cancellation or postponement. Application forms**, **Training Brochure** and other documents can be viewed on the BOBS website, **www.bobstandards.bw**. All enquiries should be emailed to **trainingservices@bobstandards.bw**.

BOTSWANA BUREAU OF STANDARDS – TRAINING PROGRAM 2026/27													
COURSE NAME	PRICE IN PULA	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar
		2026	2026	2026	2026	2026	2026	2026	2026	2026	2027	2027	2027
Understanding BOS ISO 9001:2015 (Virtual)	P4 902.00 (V) (Virtual)	13-17	18-22	22-26		17-21	21-25		23-27		25-29		15-19
Understanding BOS ISO 9001:2015 (Face to Face)	P6 840.00 (F) (Face to Face)	TO BE OFFERED INHOUSE ON REQUEST											
BOS ISO 9001:2015 Quality Management Systems Documentation (Virtual)	P3 990.00 (V) (Virtual)	28-29			28-29		9-10		3-4			8-9	
BOS ISO 9001:2015 Quality Management Systems Documentation (Face to Face)	P5 130.00 (F) (Face to Face)	TO BE OFFERED INHOUSE ON REQUEST											
BOS ISO 9001:2015 Quality Management System Lead Auditor / Auditor (Face to Face)	P7 980.00 (F) (Face to Face)		18-22		6-10			12-16		7-11		15-19	
Understanding BOS ISO 14001:2015 Environmental Management Systems (Virtual)	P4 902.00 (V) (Virtual)	13-17			13-17		21-25		23-27				8-12
Understanding BOS ISO 14001:2015 Environmental Management Systems (Face to Face)	P6 840.00 (F) (Face to Face)	TO BE OFFERED INHOUSE ON REQUEST											
BOS ISO 14001:2015 Environmental Management Systems Auditing (Face to Face)	P7 980.00 (F) (Face to Face)			8-12				19-23				8-12	
Understanding BOS ISO 45001:2018 Occupational Health and Safety Management Systems (Virtual)	P4 902.00 (V) (Virtual)	20-24		15-19		10-14	14-18		16-20		25-29		1-5
Understanding BOS ISO 45001:2018 Occupational Health and Safety Management Systems (Face to Face)	P6 840.00 (F) (Face to Face)	TO BE OFFERED INHOUSE ON REQUEST											
BOS ISO 45001:2018 Occupational Health and Safety Management Systems Auditing (Face to Face)	P7 980.00 (F) (Face to Face)		25-29			17-21		26-30				22-26	
Understanding BOS ISO/IEC 27001:2022 Information Security Management Systems (Virtual)	P4 902.00 (V) (Virtual)				27-31			5-9		7-11		15-19	
Understanding BOS ISO/IEC 27001:2022 Information Security Management Systems (Face to Face)	P6 840.00 (F) (Face to Face)	TO BE OFFERED INHOUSE ON REQUEST											
BOS ISO/IEC 27001:2022 Information Security Management Systems Auditing (Face to Face)	P7 980.00 (F) (Face to Face)						21-25						8-12
Root Cause Analysis	P4 560.00 (F) (Face to Face)	TO BE OFFERED INHOUSE ON REQUEST											
Root Cause Analysis	P3 420.00 (V) (Virtual)					5-6		6-7				3-4	
Use of Standards in Procurement (**Face to Face)**	P4 560.00 **(Face to Face)**		12-13			25-26			3-4			2-3	
Introduction to Standardization **(Face to Face)**	P4 560.00 **(Face to Face)**			24-25			8-9			1-2			23-24
Awareness of the BOS ISO 9001:2015 Quality Management Systems **(Virtual)**	P3 420.00 (V) **(Virtual)**	TO BE OFFERED INHOUSE ON REQUEST											
Awareness of the BOS ISO 9001:2015 Quality Management Systems (**Face to Face)**	P4 560.00 (F) **(Face to Face)**	TO BE OFFERED INHOUSE ON REQUEST											
Awareness of BOS ISO 14001:2015 Environmental Management Systems **(Virtual)**	P3 420.00 (V) **(Virtual)**	TO BE OFFERED INHOUSE ON REQUEST											
Awareness of BOS ISO 14001:2015 Environmental Management Systems **(Face to Face)**	P4 560.00 (F) **(Face to Face)**	TO BE OFFERED INHOUSE ON REQUEST											
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Awareness of BOS ISO 45001:2018 Occupational Health and Safety Management Systems **(Face to Face)**	P4 560.00 (F) **(Face to Face)**	TO BE OFFERED INHOUSE ON REQUEST											
Awareness of BOS ISO/IEC 27001:2022 Information Security Management Systems (Virtual)	P3 420.00 (V) (Virtual)	TO BE OFFERED INHOUSE ON REQUEST											
Awareness BOS ISO/IEC 27001:2022 Information Security Management Systems (Face to Face)	P4 560.00 (F) (Face to Face)	TO BE OFFERED INHOUSE ON REQUEST											

MPs Defy Asset Declaration Push


Pic Credit, BWParliament

Parliament faces mounting scrutiny as resistance to asset declarations exposes deeper tensions over transparency and accountability

GAZETTE REPORTER

A fresh transparency storm is brewing in Parliament after a section of Members of Parliament (MPs) reportedly refused to back efforts to enforce asset declaration. This has exposed widening cracks over accountability in public office.

GROWING RESISTANCE

The standoff, confirmed in a response to the Botswana Gazette by the Ethics and Integrity Directorate, comes despite months of outreach and education aimed at encouraging lawmakers to disclose their assets and liabilities.

The Directorate said it had intensified efforts to promote compliance. The Botswana Gazette understands that this includes the directorate's decision to physically camp at Parliament as part of a nationwide campaign to instil a culture of integrity among public officials.

"As part of the Directorate's ongoing strategy to foster a culture of integrity and accountability within public office, a number of workshops have been held across the country to educate potential declarants on issues of ethics and integrity," the Directorate told this publication. It added that "Our presence at Parliament late last year was part of this series of outreach efforts."

COMPLIANCE GAPS

Despite these initiatives, resistance remains within the legislature, with some MPs and ministers reportedly unwilling to openly endorse the declaration process, a move critics say undermines public trust and signals reluctance to embrace transparency.

The Directorate's official figures show that 55 out of 69 MPs have so far declared their assets and liabilities, which represents an 80 percent compliance rate. While the Directorate described the response as "satisfactory," it acknowledged that the goal remains full compliance.

"The Directorate encourages MPs to declare in order to reach the 100 percent target," it said.

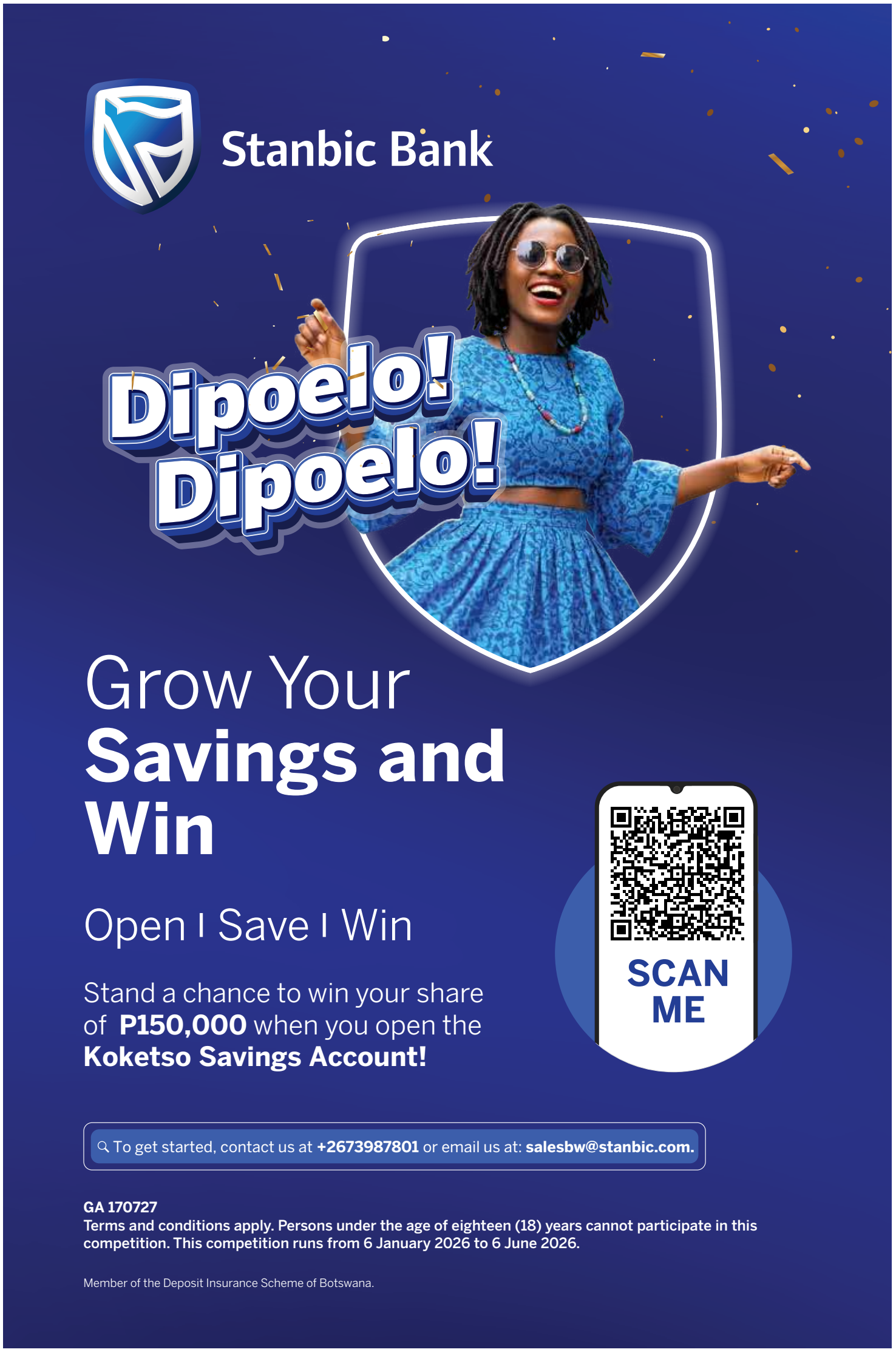
ACCOUNTABILITY TEST

However, the refusal by some MPs to visibly back the process has raised questions about political will and the effectiveness of voluntary compliance mechanisms. It is understood that without full participation, the credibility of asset declaration as a tool to combat corruption could be weakened.

Reports indicate that the issue has reignited debate over whether Botswana should move towards stricter enforcement measures, including mandatory declarations backed by legal penalties.

Transparency advocates argue that public officials, particularly elected leaders, must be held to the highest standards of accountability, especially at a time when citizens are increasingly demanding openness in governance.

The Gazette also understands that the asset declaration push risks becoming a litmus test for Parliament's commitment to integrity and whether lawmakers are willing to subject themselves to the same scrutiny they demand of others.



Detailed Listing of Bank Fees and Charges: Effective 10th March 2025

Description	Fee (BWP) incl VAT
WEALTH AND RETAIL BANKING (WRB)	
(a) ACCESSIBILITY FACILITATION CHARGES	
(i) ATM Charges	
ATM Cash Withdrawal Fee SCB in Botswana	3.39
ATM Cash Withdrawal Fee SCB in Botswana* (Easy Banking Account)	3.40
ATM Cash Withdrawal Fee Non-SCB in Botswana	6.80
ATM Cash Withdrawal Fee Non-SCB in Botswana*	6.12
ATM Cash Withdrawal Fee SCB International	34.13
ATM Cash Withdrawal Fee International	34.13
ATM Cash Withdrawal Fee SCB International*	33.23
Mini Statement request ATM*	Free
Issue of First Debit Card	Free
Debit card Replacement (expiry,lost,stolen,misplaced)	72.92
Local Courier Debit Card Delivery	80.23
Balance Enquiry through SCB ATM*	1.50
Balance Enquiry through Non SCB ATM and Phone Banking*	1.53
Declined ATM withdrawal (no funds)	Free
International Acquiring Fee	43.77
Bill Payment	5.00
(ii) Point of Sale Machines	
POS Transactions Local	0.31
POS Transactions Local*	1.18
POS Transactions International*	6.08
(iii) Internet/Online Banking	
Sign up for Online Banking	Free
Monthly fee per user	Free
Transfers	
To own account within the bank	1.77
To third party accounts within the bank	2.95
To other banks ^	Free
To other banks*	2.50
Balance Enquiry Single	Free
Statement Request ^	Free
Digital Statement Request	25.02
Utility Bill Payment	3.13
Credit Card Payment	Free
Outward Telegraphic Transfers ^	Free
Mobile Money Payment	11.88
Cardless Cash	11.88
Electronic Funds Transfer	6.38
(iv) Cellphone/Mobile Banking	
Subscription fee	8.26
Transfer between own accounts	8.76
Buy pre-paid airtime	0.62
View the history of all my prepaid airtime	Free
Check the balance on a single account	Free
Check the balance on all my accounts	Free
Mini statement	Free
Statement Request ^	Free
Utility Bill Payment	2.95
Account Transfers ^	3.13
FX Rates	Free
Mobile Money Payment	11.21
(v) Other Accessibility Facilitation Charges	
ATM Utility Bill Payment*	1.25
(b) PREPAID CARD	
Monthly account maintenance fee	Free
Joining fee / Card Issuance	62.53
Loading fee	15.01
Card replacement	62.53
Cash withdrawal - SCB local	Free
Cash withdrawal - Other Banks (local)	4.85
Cash withdrawal - International	31.27
(c) CURRENT/SAVINGS MOBILISATION CHARGES	
Current/Savings Accounts	
(i) All Current Accounts	
Monthly Maintenance Fee (Excl Platinum and Easy Banking Current Account)	67.63
Monthly Maintenance Fee - Platinum Current Account	34.13
Monthly Maintenance Fee - Easy Banking Account	15.46
Monthly Maintenance Fee - Priority Banking**	265.89
(ii) All Savings Accounts	
Monthly Maintenance Fee- Ordinary savings account	Free
Withdrawal Fee:	
Three Withdrawals per Quarter for Peo/Diva Savings	Free
Subsequent Peo/Diva Savings withdrawals	66.34
Two withdrawals per month Ordinary Savings Account	Free
Subsequent Ordinary Savings Account withdrawals	12.88
One Withdrawal per month for Tema Savings	Free
Subsequent Tema Savings withdrawal	41.07
Violation of minimum balance	
Monthly Maintenance - Waived for balance of P500+ (Tema savings Account)	66.34
(iii) Deposits	
Cash Deposits - BWP	BWP0.47 per BWP100 of deposited cash (max BWP1250.28)
Cash Deposits - USD	USD0.047 per BWP10 of deposited cash (max BWP125.02)
Cash Deposits - GBP	GBP0.031 per GBP6.66 of deposited cash (max GBP83.35)
Cash Deposits - EUR	EUR 0.047 per EUR 10.00 of deposited cash (max GBP125.02)
Cash Deposits - ZAR	ZAR0.62 per ZAR134.00 of deposited cash (max ZAR 1675.37)
Cash Deposits - CNY	CNY0.25 per CNY100 of deposited cash (max CNY 675.15)
(iv) Personal Accounts	
Account Statement per Product Frequency	Free
Interim Statement Printout per page	27.05
Copy of Past Account Statement per page	27.05
Copy of Deposit Slip	39.80
Over the counter withdrawal for ALL Card Holders (Excl Priority)	27.32
Balance Enquiry Over the Counter	41.00
Transaction processing through Call Centre	1.32
Audit Report	331.71
(d) INVESTMENT PROMOTION/INTERMEDIATION CHARGES	
(i) Term Deposits	
Charge for breaking Ordinary Fixed Deposits BWP	BWP 294.97 plus (1.03% of principal /365 * days-on-book)
Charge for breaking Ordinary Fixed Deposits USD	USD 29.49 plus (1.06% of principal /365 * days-on-book)
Charge for breaking Ordinary Fixed Deposits GBP	GBP 17.69 plus (1.06% of principal /365 * days-on-book)
Charge for breaking Ordinary Fixed Deposits EUR	EUR29.97 plus (1.06% of principal /365 * days-on-book)
Charge for breaking Ordinary Fixed Deposits ZAR	ZAR 324.11 plus (1.06% of principal /365 * days-on-book)
(ii) Foreign Currency Accounts	
ZAR Current Account (Opening balance ZAR500)	
Account Maintenance (waived for balances above ZAR2499.99)	40.30
ATM Withdrwal Fee - SCB local	3.54
ATM Withdrwal Fee - SCB International	7.08
ATM Withdrwal Fee - Non SCB local	7.08
ATM Withdrwal Fee - Non SCB International	7.08
POS transaction in ZAR	1.18
POS transaction in other currencies	7.09
Periodic Paper statement (estatement is Free)	8.26
USD Current Account (Opening balance USD50)	
Account Maintenance (waived for balances above USD499.99)	4.03
ATM Withdrwal Fee - SCB local	0.35
ATM Withdrwal Fee - SCB International	0.70
ATM Withdrwal Fee - Non SCB local	0.70
ATM Withdrwal Fee - Non SCB International	0.70
POS transaction in USD	0.11
POS transaction in other currencies	0.82
Periodic Paper statement (estatement is Free)	0.70
Monthly Maintenance Fee	
Violation of Minimum Balance (Call)	
GBP 500	11.80
USD 1000	17.70
EURO 500	17.70
ZAR 5000	59.00
CNY 7268	128.66
(iii)Telegraphic Transfers (Domestic & International)	
GBP	0.30% GBP (min 6.51 max 64.41)
USD	0.30% USD (min 6.13 max 64.41)
EURO	0.30% EUR (min 6.51 max 64.41)
ZAR	0.30% ZAR (min 6.28 max 64.41)
CNY	0.3% CNY (min 44.56, max 496.17)

Description	Fee (BWP) incl VAT
(d) TRADE FACILITATION CHARGES	
(i) Foreign Exchange Charges	
Local SWIFT Bank Transfer - BWP (Swift Charge)	66.99
International SWIFT Transfer - BWP (Swift Charge)	136.93
International SWIFT Transfer - USD (Swift Charge)	12.50
International SWIFT Transfer - GBP (Swift Charge)	12.50
International SWIFT Transfer - ZAR (Swift Charge)	12.50
International SWIFT Transfer - EUR (Swift Charge)	12.50
International SWIFT Transfer - CNY (Swift Charge)	90.86
Sale of Foreign notes	3.00% (min P19.32)
Purchase of Foreign notes	3.00% (min P19.32)
Real Time Gross Settlement (RTGS) Charge	0.30% (min P106.30 max P351.68)
Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT) Charge	0.30% (min P33.77 max P242.95)
Telegraphic Transfers (TT) Charge	0.30% (min P65.03 max P372.78)
(e) PAYMENT AND CLEARING CHARGES	
Unpaid Direct Debit due to lack of funds	296.40
Stop/Standing Orders	
Standing Orders to Own SCB Account	Free
Standing Orders to Another SCB Account	Free
Standing Order (Other Banks Local)	32.43
Standing Order (Other Banks International)	64.47
Dishonoured Standing Order	303.82
(f) LENDING CHARGES	
(i) Mortgage/Construction	
Arrangement Fee	0.94% of the loan (min 1188.18, max 8023.32)
Arrangement Fee - Priority	0.94% of the loan (min 1188.18, max 8023.32)
***Custody of Non-discharged Deeds after Full repayment	
(ii) Personal Loan	
Arrangement Fee	0.94% of the loan (min 1188.18, max 8023.32)
Arrangement Fee - Priority	0.94% of the loan (min 1188.18, max 8023.32)
(iii) All Loans - Personal and SME	
CRB and ITC enquiry	58.03
Late Repayment Grace Period	7 days
Late Repayment charge on Loans	65.66
EMI bounce charges	253.77
Pre-approval letter	31.27
Document retrieval charges	As per charge by service provider
Storage of repossessed cars	BWP12.50 per day
Certificate of interest	27.51
Confirmation of Facility Settlement (Zero Balance)	27.51
Confirmation Letter (e.g. of an existing account/facility)	13.76
Clearance Certificate	50.03
Settlement Quotation	50.03
(v) Overdraft	
Arrangement - Secured OD	1.48% of loan or (min 375.20)
Salary Advance	2.81% on withdrawal amount
(vi) Credit Cards	
(a) Classic	
Joining Fee	128.83
Annual Fee	128.83
Joining Fee-Supplementary	Free
Annual Fee-Supplementary	37.52
Card Replacement Fee	38.65
Chargeback Fee	
Monthly Statement	Free
Past Statement	25.76
Interim Statement	25.02
Loan-on-Card Fee	1.18% of loan amount (min P312.67, max P1500.83)
ATM withdrawal- Own	2.66% of transaction amount (min P19.32)
ATM withdrawal- Local	2.66% of transaction amount (min P19.32)
ATM withdrawal- International	2.66% of transaction amount (min P19.32)
Lost Card Protection Insurance	Free
Travel Insurance	Free
Credit Life Insurance	0.19% of Outstanding Balance
Self Select PIN	Free
POS Purchase -Local	Free
POS Purchase - International	Free
Card Activation	Free
e-Statement	Free
One Time - PIN	Free
(b) Gold	
Joining Fee	186.80
Annual Fee	186.80
Joining Fee-Supplementary	Free
Annual Fee-Supplementary	37.52
Card Replacement Fee	38.65
Monthly Statement	Free
Past Statement	25.76
Interim Statement	25.02
Loan-on-Card Fee	1.18% of loan amount (min P312.67, max P1500.83)
ATM withdrawal- Own	2.66% of transaction amount (min P19.32)
ATM withdrawal- Local	2.66% of transaction amount (min P19.32)
ATM withdrawal- International	2.66% of transaction amount (min P19.32)
Lost Card Protection Insurance	Free
Travel Insurance	Free
Credit Life Insurance	0.19% of Outstanding Balance
Self Select PIN	Free
POS Purchase -Local	Free
POS Purchase - International	Free
Card Activation	Free
e-Statement	Free
One Time - PIN	Free
(c) Platinum	
Joining Fee	218.87
Annual Fee	257.64
Joining Fee-Supplementary	Free
Annual Fee-Supplementary	37.52
Card Replacement Fee	125.07
Chargeback Fee	37.52
Monthly Statement	Free
Past Statement	37.52
Interim Statement	12.50
ATM Balance Enquiry- Own	2.37
ATM Balance Enquiry- Local	5.12
ATM Balance Enquiry- International	5.12
Impound Card Fee by SCB ATM	96.31
Over the Limit Fee	116.31
Deposit over the limit	60.88
Loan-on-Card Fee	1.18% of loan amount (min P312.67, max P1500.83)
Late Payment Fee	37.52
Account in Arrears	162.59
ATM withdrawal- Own	3.54% of transaction amount (min P32.25, max P258.15)
ATM withdrawal- Local	3.54% of transaction amount (min P32.25, max P258.15)
ATM withdrawal- International	3.54% of transaction amount (min P32.25, max P258.15)
"Currency conversion fee	-
	3.76%
Declined Transaction	Free
Lost Card Protection Insurance	Free
Travel Insurance	Free
Credit Life Insurance	0.19% of Outstanding Balance
Self Select PIN	Free
POS Purchase -Local	Free
POS Purchase - International	Free
Card Activation	Free
e-Statement	Free
One Time - PIN	Free
(d) Infinite	
Joining Fee	250.14
Annual Fee	1876.04
Joining Fee-Supplementary	Free
Annual Fee-Supplementary	43.77
Card Replacement Fee	125.07
Monthly Statement	Free
Past Statement	50.03
Interim Statement	12.50
ATM Balance Enquiry- Own	2.58
ATM Balance Enquiry- Local	5.12
ATM Balance Enquiry- International	5.12
Impound Card Fee by SCB ATM	96.31
Over the Limit Fee	128.83

Detailed Listing of Bank Fees and Charges: Effective 10th March 2025

Description	Fee (BWP) incl VAT
Deposit over the limit	60.88
Loan-on-Card Fee	1.18% of loan amount (min P312.67, max P1500.83)
Late Payment Fee	43.77
Account in Arrears	162.59
ATM withdrawal- Own	3.95% of transaction amount (min P32.25, max P258.15)
ATM withdrawal- Local	3.95% of transaction amount (min P32.25, max P258.15)
ATM withdrawal- International	3.95% of transaction amount (min P32.25, max P258.15)
"Currency conversion fee	-
	3.76%
Declined Transaction	Free
Lost Card Protection Insurance	Free
Travel Insurance	Free
Credit Life Insurance	0.19% of Outstanding Balance
Self Select PIN	Free
POS Purchase -Local	Free
POS Purchase - International	Free
Card Activation	Free
e-Statement	Free
One Time - PIN	Free
(g) Small and Medium Enterprise (SME)	
(i) SME Accounts	
Monthly Account Maintenance Fee	68.79
Monthly e-Statements	Free
Flat Charge per Entry(over the counter transactions)	9.66
Sweep	4.86
Cash Deposit	0.41% of the transaction amount (min P8.75 max P3126.73)
(ii) Local Transfers: Manual	
Real Time Gross Settlement (RTGS) Charge	BWP31.26 +0.29% (min P100.29, max P331.78)
Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT) Charge	35.40
Telegraphic Transfers (TT) Charge	BWP31.26 +0.29% (min P64.89, max P351.68)
(iii) Local Transfers: Online	
Payroll (within bank and other banks)	3.94
Direct Debits	3.87
Vendor and other payments to other banks (Electronic Funds Transfer)	6.25
RTGS Transfers	0.30% (min P106.30, max P351.68)
Telegraphic Transfers	0.30% (min P65.03, max P372.78)
(iv) Foreign Currency Accounts- SME	
Violation of minimum balance:	
USD	12.95
GBP	6.48
ZAR	64.73
CNY	77.34
(v) Term Deposits	
Charge for breaking Ordinary Fixed Deposits BWP	BWP 294.97 plus (1.03% of principal /365 * days-on-book)
Charge for breaking Ordinary Fixed Deposits USD	USD 29.49 plus (1.03% of principal /365 * days-on-book)
Charge for breaking Ordinary Fixed Deposits GBP	GBP 17.69 plus (1.03% of principal /365 * days-on-book)
Charge for breaking Ordinary Fixed Deposits EUR	EUR29.49 plus (1.03% of principal /365 * days-on-book)
Charge for breaking Ordinary Fixed Deposits ZAR	ZAR324.11 plus (1.03% of principal /365 * days-on-book)
Charge for breaking Upfront Fixed Deposits CNY	CNY 153.90 plus (1.03% of principal /365 * days-on-book)
(vi) General SME Accounts	
SWIFT reporting (MT940/MT942)	BWP294.97/ USD35.39/ EUR29.49/ GBP23.59/ ZAR381.90 *monthly*
SWIFT reporting (MT900/MT910)	BWP294.97/ USD35.39/ EUR29.49/ GBP23.59/ ZAR381.90 *monthly*
Retrieval of account statements (more than 6 months)	BWP117.99/ USD17.69/ EUR11.79/ GBP5.91/ ZAR158.10 *monthly*
Standing Instruction Setup	412.97
Full Bank History Report	22.18
Full Audit Confirmation	324.47
(vii) Foreign Bills (Collection Charges)	
Outward Collection Handling Fee:	0.57%
Documentary Bills for Collections	0.57%
Clean Bills	0.57%
Extension after Maturity	0.57% (min 121.18)
Cable Charges	121.53
Avalising of a Bill	Prime
(viii) Internet Banking (S2B) - Bunsiness Banking	
S2B – Setup and implementation (Web)	Free
S2B – Monthly Maintenance fee	231.37
S2B – Vasco Token (first Issue)	Free
S2B – Replacement of approver device	129.45
S2B – Reactivation of expired user profile	Free
S2B – Reactivation of expired group profile	Free
S2B – Training post implementation	194.18
S2B – Info Manager access fees	Free
(h) CORPORATE AND INVESTMENT BANKING (CIB)	
(i) Electronic Banking	
Account maintenance and Straight2Bank Fees	94.39
S2B – Vasco Mobile Token (first Issue)	Free
S2B – Vasco Hard Token (first Issue)	Free
S2B – Replacement Vasco Hard Token	129.45
(ii) Local Transfers: Electronic	
ACH/EFT	6.25
RTGS Transfers	0.31% (min P62.53, max P353.40)
Payroll (within bank) - Book Transfer	P3.75 per employee
Payroll to other banks	Free
Direct Debits	3.76
(iii) Local Transfers: Manual	
ACH/EFT	0.31% (min P34.73, max P259.15)
Book Transfer (LCY)	Free
Book Transfer (FCY)	USD37.51/EUR31.26/GPB25.01/ZAR312.67
RTGS Transfers	0.31% (min P101.24, max P351.68)
Payroll (within bank) - Book Transfer	4.55
Payroll to other banks	Free
(iv) International Transfers: Electronic (Inward & Outward) (Handling fees)	
BWP	"BWP 0.30% (min P65.66, max P372.77)
penalty P294.97"	
USD	"USD 0.30% (min USD13.75, max USD96.61)
penalty USD88.49"	
GBP	"GBP 0.30% (min GBP6.88, max GBP64.40)
penalty GBP88.49"	
ZAR	"ZAR 0.30% (min ZAR87.98, max ZAR450.87)
penalty ZAR412.96"	
EUR	"EUR 0.30% (min EUR13.75, max EUR96.61)
penalty EUR88.49"	
(v) International Transfers: Manual (Inward & Outward) (Handling fees)	
BWP	"BWP 0.30% (min P62.53, max P437.74)
penalty P403.65"	
USD	"USD 0.30% (min USD6.25, max USD93.80)
penalty USD126.24"	
GBP	"GBP 0.30% (min GBP6.25, max GBP29.18)
penalty GBP126.24"	
ZAR	"ZAR 0.30% (min ZAR62.53, max ZAR437.74, penalty ZAR589.95)
penalty ZAR589.95"	
EUR	"EUR 0.30% (min EUR25.01, max EUR125.06)
penalty EUR126.24"	
E-mail Payment Notification	Free
(vi) Deposits	
Over the counter cash deposit	0.50% of cash deposit
(vii) Foreign Currency Accounts- SME	
Violation of minimum balance - BWP	12.21
Violation of minimum balance - USD	12.21
Violation of minimum balance - GBP	6.12
Violation of minimum balance - ZAR	61.07
Bulk Deposit Charge	0.33% (min P11.30, max P678.00)
(viii) General SME Accounts	
SWIFT reporting (MT940/MT942)	BWP294.97/ USD35.39/ EUR29.49/ GBP23.59/ ZAR395.26 *monthly*
SWIFT reporting (MT900/MT910)	BWP294.97/ USD35.39/ EUR29.49/ GBP23.59/ ZAR395.26 *monthly*
Retrieval of account statements	BWP117.99/ USD17.69/ EUR11.79 / GBP5.9/ ZAR158.10 *monthly*
Standing Instruction Setup	412.97
Premature withdrawal of Deposits	412.97
Stop payment/Cancellation	136.83
Investigation of Transactions	125.07
Photocopying of Documents (per sheet)	5.88
Full Bank History Report	23.52
Full Audit Confirmation	343.94
(xii) Liquidity Structures (Domestic Sweeping & Pooling)	

Description	Fee (BWP) incl VAT
Domestic structure set-up (per structure)	1250.69
Monthly Service Fee maintenance (structure)	312.67
Domestic structure set-up (per account)	Free
Monthly Service Fee maintenance(account)	62.53
Third Party Bank sweeps set-up	Free
Third Party Bank sweeps maintenance	Free
Virtual Accounts	
Virtual accounts setup	Free
Virtual accounts maintenance	Free
(i) TRADE FINANCE	
(a) Letters of Credit (inward - exports)	
Advising commission	129.45
Confirming commission	Confirmation charges as approved in LTP system or transaction specific pricing quoted by Financial Institution, min BWP319.20
Negotiation of documents	0.30% Annually min BWP129.45
Amendments (other than extensions)	0.30% annually
Silent Confirmation	Free
Document examination	Free
Administration Fee	Free
(b) Letters of Credit (outwards - import)	
Establishment of letter of credit	Obligor credit pricing as per business facility letter, min BWP302.10)
SWIFT cost on establishment	125.07
Extention or renewal of letter of credit	1.37% Annually (min P302.10)
Increase of amount of letter of credit	1.37% Annually (min P302.10)
Couriering of documents	At cost of the courier
Revolving and standby letter of credit	Obligor credit pricing as per business facility letter, min BWP302.10
Amendment to documentary credits	1.37% Annually (min BWP144.52)
Cancellation of letter of credit	Free
(c) Foreign Bills (Collection Charges)	
Outward collection Handling	
Documentary bills	Commission of 0.60% on the value of the collection subject to a minimum of BWP302.10
Inward collection handling	0.59% Annually
Documentary bills	0.59% Annually
Extension after maturity	123.89
Avalising of a bill	Obligor credit pricing as per business facility letter, min BWP319.20
Couriering of documents	At cost of the courier
(d) Bonds/guarantees/Indemnities	
Establishment	Obligor credit pricing as per business facility letter, min BWP314.18
Claims processing fee	Free
Cancellation/Expired GTE	Free
Swift advising	Free
Letter of Intent - With no undertaking to issue a guarantee	114.00
Letter of Intent - With undertaking to issue a guarantee	Obligor credit pricing as per business facility letter, min BWP111.67
(j) AGENT BANKING	
Cash Withdrawal Value	
50-125	3.99
126-250	5.70
251-500	11.40
501-1000	17.10
1001-2000	28.50
2001-3000	39.90
3001-4000	45.60
4001-5000	57.00
5001-6000	68.40
6001-7000	79.80
7001-8000	91.20
8001-9000	102.60
9001-9999	114.00

Standard Chartered Bank advises its valued clients to take note of the below fees' narrations in their bank statements.

Description as per Tariff Guide	Bank Statement Narration
Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT) Charge	Begins with AI OR prefix IA, e.g IA 07802310060554
Telegraphic Transfers (TT) Charge	Begins with AI OR prefix IB, e.g IB 07802310060554
Real Time Gross Settlement (RTGS) Charge	Begins with AI OR prefix IR, e.g IR 07802310060554

NB: Swift Charge may be either clubbed or shown separately based on processing system capability.

The currency conversion rate for authorization of a foreign currency transaction when using a card may differ with the final conversion currency rate when the transaction is settled at a later date.

All charges are VAT inclusive (VAT rate is currently 14%)

^ There will be no charge for submitting these transactions through remote channels. However, charges for services utilized will apply as per this fee schedule

* Only Applicable to Easy Banking Account
** Only Applicable to Priority Banking Clients where monthly account balance (AUM) is below the prevailing threshold.
*** Only Applicable to Home Loans
**** The minimum investment amount of local currency (LCY) bonds is P50,000 depending on the availability of the security.

Classic and Gold credit cards will remain operational until current expiry date if not replaced earlier. Replacement will trigger an upgrade and the limit will remain the same

All charges under WRB apply to SME unless stated directly under SME. Likewise, charges under CIB which are not stated under WRB will apply to WRB Clients consuming such service.

All charges under BWP currency apply to other currency accounts and chargeable activities, unless stated otherwise for the respective currency.



Opposition Pins Hope on Referendum

Minority parties turn to a national referendum, urging voters to reject the Constitutional Court bill

SESUPO RANTSIMAKO

Opposition parties in Botswana are pinning their hopes on a forthcoming referendum to overturn the recently passed Constitutional Amendment Bill, which seeks to establish a Constitutional Court. Despite strong resistance from minority parties and civic organizations, Parliament approved the bill on Monday.

MINORITY PARTIES EYE REFERENDUM

Reacting to the bill's passage in an interview with The Botswana Gazette, Mabuse Pule, leader of the minority parties in Parliament, said the opposition is now focused on the upcoming referendum, which will allow voters to decide whether the Constitutional Court should be established.

"Parties opposed to the bill will now start campaigning to tell Batswana to vote 'No'. We want a holistic constitutional review, not the piecemeal approach the Umbrella for Democratic Change (UDC) is imposing on Batswana," Pule said urging Batswana to vote no.

HOPE AMIDST PARLIAMENTARY CONTROL

Opposition whip Caterpillar Hikuama expressed cautious optimism about the referendum outcome. He said the bill's passage was largely due to Parliament being under firm control, leaving little room for UDC MPs to oppose their leadership, even if some personally disagreed.

> "I am hopeful that Batswana will vote 'No' in the referendum. The bill managed to pass because the parliamentary system is controlled."

"I am hopeful that Batswana will vote 'No' in the referendum. The bill managed to pass because the parliamentary system is controlled. I don't think Batswana will give a thumb-up to the establishment of a Constitutional Court given the current economic challenges facing the country," Hikuama said.

PUBLIC CONSIDERATIONS

Hikuama urged voters to consider why civic organizations, Dikgosi, opposition parties, and other stakeholders opposed the bill before casting their votes in the referendum. He also highlighted concerns about the process followed during the constitutional review, pointing to what he called "red flags" that should not be ignored.

"Before voting in the referendum, Batswana must ask themselves why so many key stakeholders opposed the bill, and reflect on the concerns raised during the constitutional review process," he added.

The opposition's campaign ahead of the referendum is expected to become a key battleground for public opinion on the Constitutional Court and the broader constitutional reform process.



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Progression Pathway

- Botswana Chartered Accountancy Qualification (CA)
- Botswana Institute Chartered Accounting Qualification (BICA)
- Association of Chartered Certified Accountants (ACCA)
- Chartered Institute of Management Accountants (CIMA)
- Master of Commerce in Accounting
- Master of Business Administration (MBA)
- Master of Science in Finance

Career Opportunities

- Financial Advisor
- Public Accountant
- Tax Practitioner
- Accountant
- Auditor
- Commercial Manager
- Business Manager
- Business Consultant
- Business Director
- Corporate Finance
- Financial Analyst

QUALIFICATION CREDITS

The Bachelor of Commerce in Chartered Accountancy comprises 520 credits and takes 4 years to complete under the normal full-time mode of study. The part-time mode takes 4.5 years.

ASSESSMENT ARRANGEMENTS

- All assessments are summative and based on written examinations.
- All examinations will be administered by BICA.
- The pass mark for all modules is 50%.

Practical Work Experience

The practical work experience training period shall comprise of 1 year (2 semesters) of practical work experience, professional development and ethics & professional skepticism which the trainees attain at an Authorised Training Employer in the following categories:

- Accounting
- Audit and Assurance
- Taxation
- Financial Management
- Insolvency
- Information Technology

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS (INCLUDING ACCESS AND INCLUSION)

NCQF Level 4 (e.g. BGCSE or IGCSE) or equivalent with a minimum of 5 credits in 5 subjects (34 points), including Mathematics and English.

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Botswana-Saudi Small Stock Market Deal Collapses

Govt cites inability to meet monthly supply demands as key reason for failed export agreement

SESUPO RANTSIMAKO

A much-anticipated plan to secure a small stock export market in Saudi Arabia, first announced by former president Mokgweetsi Masisi in 2020, has collapsed before it could take off, President Duma Boko has revealed.

Addressing Parliament during deliberations on the Draft National Agriculture Policy for the Ministry of Lands and Agriculture, Boko said the deal failed primarily due to Botswana's inability to meet the scale of demand required by the Saudi market.

UNREALISTIC DEMAND LEVELS

Boko disclosed that Saudi Arabia had set a requirement of 500,000 small stock per month a figure he described as unrealistic given Botswana's current livestock capacity.

He said the country could not produce the volumes needed to sustain such a supply arrangement, adding that even if the agreement had been signed, it would have taken years for Botswana to build up sufficient stock levels.



NEED FOR REGIONAL PARTNERSHIPS

"The numbers required on a monthly basis are far beyond what Botswana can currently provide," Boko told Parliament.

He indicated that Botswana could only begin to approach such volumes through strategic partnerships with neighboring countries, cautioning that such arrangements would require careful coordination and long-term planning.

Boko further emphasized the need for increased investment in the small stock sector, saying Botswana must significantly expand its herd if it hopes to participate meaningfully in large-scale export markets in the future.

A DEAL THAT NEVER TOOK OFF

The proposed Saudi Arabian market was initially presented as a major breakthrough for Botswana's agricultural exports when Masisi announced it in 2020.

However, Boko's latest update confirms that the deal collapsed before implementation due to feasibility challenges linked to production capacity.

> "The numbers required on a monthly basis are far beyond what Botswana can currently provide."

INITIAL PROMISE AND EXPECTATIONS

At the time of the announcement, Masisi said Botswana stood to benefit through growth in the livestock sector and job creation across farming, transport, and veterinary services.

He had indicated that preparations and paperwork were underway, raising expectations that the agreement would soon materialize.

Govt tightens shield around witnesses in BCL probe

Kenewendo has affirmed that the government will thwart witness intimidation tactics in the BCL Presidential Commission of Inquiry

BONGANI MALUNGA

The Botswana government has moved to safeguard witnesses expected to testify before the Presidential Commission of Inquiry into the BCL mine closure, rolling out legal and procedural protections aimed at eliminating intimidation and interference.

Answering in Parliament on Monday, the Minister of Minerals and Energy, Bogolo Kenewendo signalled a zero-tolerance stance, warning that any attempts to silence or influence witnesses would be met with legal action.

SHIELDING WITNESS IDENTITIES

At the heart of the protection framework is the Commissions of Inquiry Act (Botswana), which empowers the Commission to take extraordinary measures where risk is identified. These include closed-door (in camera) hearings and orders shielding witness identities in sensitive cases, tools designed to ensure testimony flows freely without fear of reprisal.

"The government is acutely aware that witnesses in matters involving former high-level officials and complex commercial interests may face intimidation or reprisal. This government will not tolerate any attempts to undermine the pursuit of justice," Kenewendo asserted.

Crucially, the Commission may also allow anonymous testimony where credible threats exist, limiting disclosure of identities strictly to commissioners and their legal teams. This, Kenewendo says, is a critical safeguard given the inquiry's reach into former high-ranking officials and powerful commercial interests.

LEGAL BACKING

Legal backing is another pillar of the strategy according to the minister. Witnesses facing intimidation can seek legal representation, while any acts of interference will be swiftly referred to law enforcement for possible criminal prosecution.



(Pic:MONIRUL BHUIYAN/PRESS PHOTO)

The Commission's public stature and transparent processes are also expected to act as a deterrent. With proceedings largely open and on record, the government argues that scrutiny itself will discourage any behind the scenes manipulation.

PROTECTION ENSURED

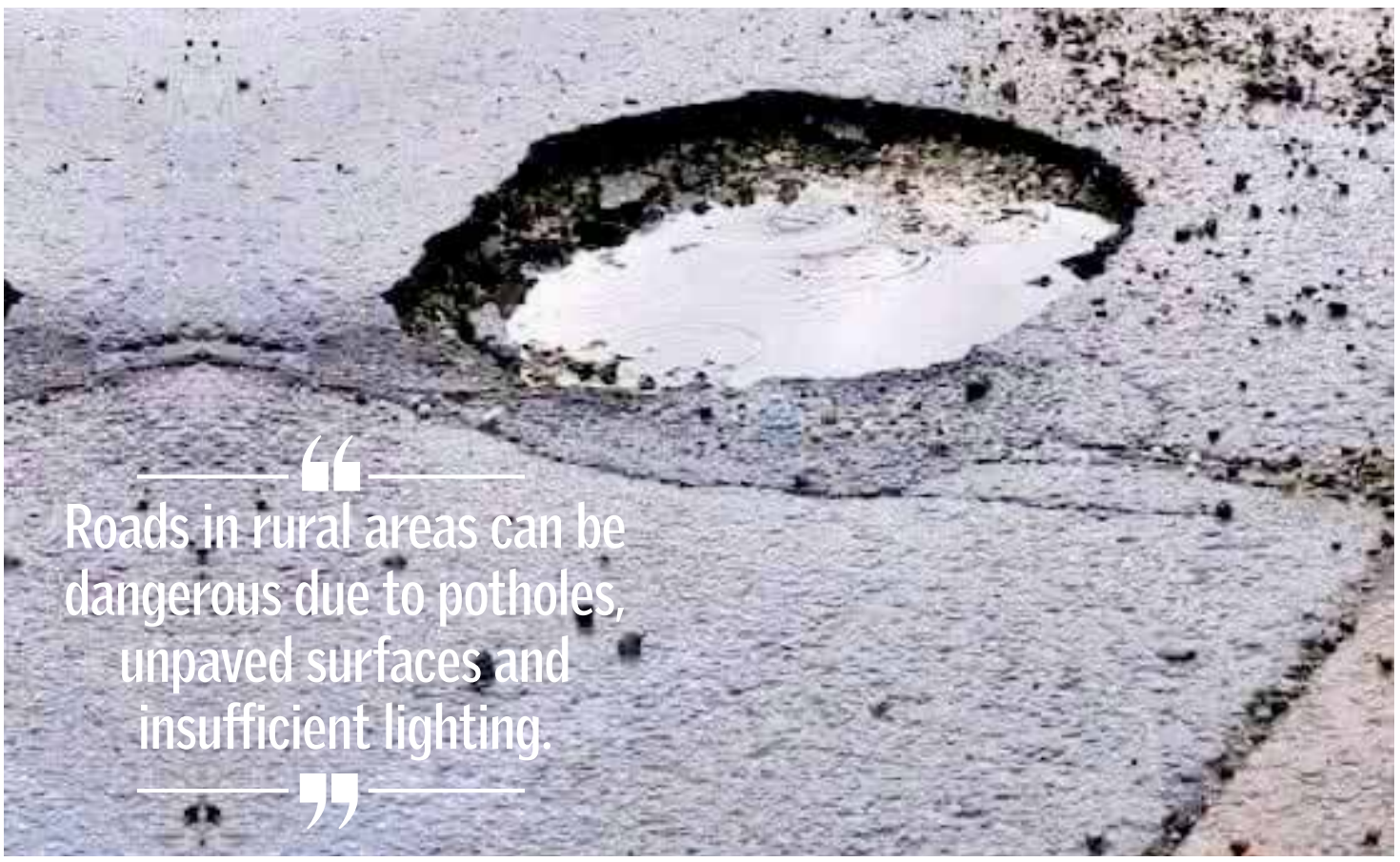
"Witnesses who face intimidation may apply for legal representation at the Commission's discretion and the Commission has the power to refer acts of intimidation to law enforcement for criminal prosecution. Where a witness demonstrates reasonable fear of reprisal, the Commission may permit testimony to be given anonymously, with identity known only to the commissioners and legal team," the Minister said, underscoring that those who come forward will be protected.

> "Witnesses who face intimidation may apply for legal representation at the Commission's discretion and the Commission has the power to refer acts of intimidation to law enforcement for criminal prosecution."

The witness protection framework is seen as central to unlocking the truth behind BCL's collapse, ensuring that fear does not stand in the way of accountability.

Canada Flags Botswana's Potholes

Canada warns travellers of deteriorating road conditions, spotlighting potholes, rural hazards and broader safety risks across Botswana



GAZETTE REPORTER

The Government of Canada has raised fresh concerns about road safety in Botswana as it warned travellers about hazardous driving conditions, including pothole-ridden roads and unpredictable rural terrain.

ROAD CONDITIONS

In its latest travel advisory, Canada notes that while roads in urban centres such as Gaborone and Francistown are generally in good condition, conditions deteriorate significantly outside major towns. "Roads in rural areas can be dangerous due to potholes, unpaved surfaces, uneven terrain and insufficient lighting," the advisory states

The warning highlights seasonal risks, cautioning that both rainy and dry periods pose dangers to motorists. Heavy rains can flood highways and make surfaces slippery, while dust storms during the dry season may drastically reduce visibility.

PUBLIC TRANSPORT

The advisory further states that public transportation also carries risks. While licensed taxis are available in major cities, travellers are advised to confirm fares in advance, request taxis through reputable hotels, and avoid hailing taxis from the street. Minibuses, locally known as "kombis," are frequently overcrowded and poorly maintained and should be avoided.

Canada also flagged Botswana's road safety record, noting that fatal accidents are frequent. These are often linked to drunk driving, distracted driving, particularly mobile phone use, and the presence of pedestrians, wildlife and stray livestock on roads. Emergency response times in rural areas may also be slow.

"Drivers can sometimes be extremely aggressive and reckless," the advisory adds. It urged travellers to drive defensively, avoid night travel and plan journeys carefully, especially when venturing into remote areas.

BROADER RISKS

Beyond roads, the advisory paints a broader picture of safety concerns. Crime, including pickpocketing, car theft and "smash-and-grab" incidents, is said to occur across the country, particularly in urban areas and border regions near South Africa, Zimbabwe and Namibia. Travellers are advised to remain vigilant, avoid displaying valuables and stay away from isolated areas.

While violent crime such as carjackings and home burglaries does occur, Canada notes that tourists are not usually targeted, though they may be caught in opportunistic incidents.

TRAVEL WARNINGS

The advisory further cautions about demonstrations, which, though rare, can turn volatile, especially around election periods. Visitors are urged to avoid large gatherings and follow instructions from local authorities.

Special mention is also made of travel in national parks where visitors are warned about unfenced wildlife areas and potentially dangerous encounters with wild animals. Travellers are encouraged to use professional guides and strictly follow park regulations.

Despite the warnings, Botswana remains a popular destination known for its stable political environment and world-renowned wildlife tourism. However, Canada's advisory underscores the need for heightened caution, particularly on the country's roads, where potholes and poor conditions continue to pose a serious risk.

BPF Rift Deepens

Galebotswe faction rejects July congress, sets parallel meeting for August in Mahalapye

SESUPO RANTSIMAKO

An escalating power struggle within the Botswana Patriotic Front (BPF) has taken a dramatic turn, with one faction rejecting an elective congress called by interim president Dr Keorapetse Joy Muzila and instead announcing a parallel gathering slated for Mahalapye in August.

GALEBOTSWE FACTION CHALLENGES INTERIM LEADERSHIP

The faction aligned to Lieutenant general (retired) Gaolatlhe Galebotswe has openly dismissed Dr Muzila's authority, setting the stage for a potential showdown that could further fracture the party.

Speaking in an interview with The Botswana Gazette, faction spokesperson Modiri Jojo Lucas said they do not recognize the legitimacy of the July 18 elective congress called by Dr Muzila.

MUZILA'S LEGITIMACY QUESTIONED

Lucas argued that Dr Muzila has no constitutional standing to act as interim president, claiming she relinquished her leadership position when she resigned as vice president in November last year.

"To our surprise, she is resurfacing from nowhere and claiming to be an interim president," Lucas said. "There is nothing that qualifies her to hold that position. The only position she could possibly claim is that of vice president, not president."

He further asserted that Dr Muzila is currently "just an ordinary BPF member without any portfolio," urging party members to disregard her directive.

"We are advising members to ignore her letter and instead focus on the elective congress we have scheduled for August 29 in Mahalapye," he added.

PARALLEL CONGRESS SET

Lucas confirmed that their faction is moving ahead with preparations for the Mahalapye congress, which they insist is the legitimate platform to resolve the party's leadership questions.

The decision to convene a separate congress underscores the deepening divisions within the BPF, with both camps now laying claim to authority and legitimacy.

RIVAL FACTION SUPPORTS JULY CONGRESS



Meanwhile, the rival faction led by Lawrence Ookeditse has thrown its weight behind Dr Muzila's call for a July congress.

Spokesperson Ogaufi Nthobelang told The Botswana Gazette that they fully acknowledge and support the decision taken by Dr Muzila.

"We welcome the decision and are looking forward to the elective congress," Nthobelang said, signaling their readiness to participate in the July 18 gathering.

PARTY FACES DEEPENING CRISIS

The emergence of two competing congresses highlights an intensifying factional war within the BPF, raising concerns about the party's cohesion and future.

With both sides digging in and mobilizing supporters around rival events, the coming months are likely to test the party's unity, as members are forced to choose between competing leadership claims and divergent paths forward.

Funding Hurdles Ground Medical Drones

As floodwaters continue isolating communities in the North West, pressure is mounting on the Ministry of Health to find alternative solutions to ensure uninterrupted healthcare access

BONGANI MALUNGA

The Ministry of Health has revealed that funding constraints are slowing down the full rollout of medical drones, casting uncertainty over a project once hailed as a breakthrough for healthcare delivery in remote and hard to reach areas.

The admission comes amid growing concern from local leaders in the North West District, where flooding has cut off several communities and heightened the need for alternative medicine delivery systems. Dikgang Dikgang, a councillor from Sedie Ward raised the issue during a district council session last week, questioning the progress of the drone initiative launched in Chanoga by President Duma Boko in November last year.

> "The full rollout faces hurdles such as funding constraints, supply chain integration, and service procurement, which have delayed expansion beyond the pilot phase."

IDEAL TEST CASE

The councillor argued that the current flooding crisis presents the ideal test case for the technology, which was introduced specifically to bridge healthcare access gaps in remote and disaster-prone areas. With roads submerged and transport routes disrupted, residents in some settlements are struggling to access essential medicines and health services.

Reached for comment, the Ministry's Chief Public Relations Officer, Christopher Nyanga told The Botswana Gazette that budgetary limitations have temporarily halted the rollout. "The Ministry of Health successfully launched the 'Drones for Health' project in Maun, featuring test flights from Letsholathebe II Memorial Hospital to Chanoga Clinic. These demonstrations proved that drones can dramatically cut delivery times for medicines, laboratory samples, and vaccines, particularly to remote clinics," Nyanga told this publication.

FUNDING CONSTRAINTS

"However, the full rollout faces hurdles such as funding constraints, supply chain integration, and service procurement, which have delayed expansion beyond the pilot phase. The Ministry remains committed to engaging partners and stakeholders to drive progress. Ultimately, drone technology offers a transformative solution to healthcare delivery challenges in Maun and surrounding areas," he explained.

Medical drones were expected to revolutionise delivery by transporting critical medical supplies and emergency medication swiftly across difficult terrain.

PACE OF IMPLEMENTATION

The delay has raised questions about the pace of implementation and whether sufficient resources were secured to sustain the initiative beyond its launch phase. It also underscores broader challenges in financing innovation within the public health sector, particularly in a climate of competing budget priorities.

As floodwaters continue to isolate communities in the North West, pressure is mounting on the Ministry of Health to accelerate the deployment of the drones or provide alternative solutions to ensure uninterrupted access to healthcare.



Pic Credit; Duma Gideon Boko

OKAVANGO DIAMOND COMPANY

OVERVIEW
Okavango Diamond Company (ODC) is a rough diamond marketing company wholly owned by the Botswana Government. We offer our global customer base open access to a scaled supply of the full range of rough diamonds sourced from Botswana. We are inviting candidates with proven business acumen and impeccable integrity to apply for the following positions, tenable in Gaborone.

SENIOR MANAGER – CORPORATE AFFAIRS

Main Purpose of the Job
ODC is seeking a Senior Manager for Corporate Af-fairs, a strategic leader responsible for managing stakeholder engagement, corporate communication, and regulatory compliance. This pivotal role shapes ODC's reputation and supports its mission to enhance shareholder value and market impact.

Key Responsibilities:
- Develop and implement corporate affairs strat¬egies aligned with ODC's business goals.
- Lead PR, events, and media management to boost visibility and engagement.
- Oversee stakeholder engagement, influencing favorable policies and maintaining strong relationships.
- Direct ESG strategy and communication to dem¬onstrate ODC's commitment to sustainability.
- Manage and mentor Corporate Affairs teams, fostering a high-performance culture.
- Ensure regulatory compliance and manage cor¬porate governance.

Qualifications & Experience:
- Master's degree in Public Relations, Communi¬cations, Management, or a related field.
- 10+ years of experience, with at least 8 years in senior corporate affairs or related roles.
- Expertise in stakeholder management, PR, cor¬porate governance, and ESG reporting.
- Strong leadership, decision-making, and com¬munication skills.

SPECIALIST: ESG

Main Purpose of the Job
The ESG Specialist is responsible for integrating and managing sustainability within the company's operations to ensure compliance with environmental, social, and governance standards. This role develops strategies to minimise environmental impact, promotes fair labour practices, and fosters community engagement. The ESG Specialist aligns business practices with sustainable principles, enhancing transparency and meeting evolving expectations in the diamond industry.

Key Responsibilities:
- Develop ODC's ESG strategy, ensuring alignment with goals and promoting ethical sourcing practices.
- Assesses potential ESG risks in the diamond sales industry and formulates effective mitigation strategies to ensure compliance.
- Implements monitoring and disclosure programs, crafting ESG reports to enhance transparency and stakeholder engagement.
- Conducts audits to ensure supplier compliance with ethical standards and implements responsible sourcing practices.
- Identifies and evaluates CSI opportunities to align the company's actions with its values.
- Establishes partnerships with local businesses and integrates ESG considerations into daily operations.
- Builds and maintains strategic relationships with stakeholders to foster effective communication.

Qualification & Experience:
- Bachelor's degree in Environmental Science, Sustainability, Social Sciences, or Business Administration.
- 3 years' experience in ESG practices and sustainability within the mining or diamond industry.
- Proven experience is implementing and leading an ESG programme.

Are you interested in these challenging and dynamic position? Please send your application using the Title of the position in subject line and CV to hr@premiere.co.bw or contact us on Tel: 3952878.
Closing date: 12 April 2026

Correspondence will be limited to Shortlisted Candidates only.
Data privacy: By submitting your application, you give consent for the processing of your information by Premiere, in a lawful manner for legitimate recruitment purposes.

PREMIERE PERSONNEL SINCE 1982

Audited Abridged Consolidated Financial Results for the year ended 31 Decemeber 2025

The Directors have pleasure in announcing the Group (Standard Chartered Bank Botswana and its subsidiaries) audited abridged Financial Results for the year ended 31 December 2025 together with comparative figures for 2024.

Economic Environment

Global & Regional Economy

Despite global upheavals due to commodity prices and conflicts, the global economy is expected to maintain its robust performance in 2026, with a projected growth rate of 3.4%, unchanged from 2025. The growth in 2025 was driven by monetary policy support and export front-loading, whilst in 2026, growth is likely to be motivated by shifts in policy and investment, with consumer demand being at the centre. Despite the unprecedented rise in economic and trade uncertainty in 2025, exports have contributed positively to growth in many economies as shipments were front-loaded ahead of tariff volatility. Additionally, consumers have remained resilient, buoyed by easing inflation, Central Bank rate cuts and strong labour markets.

For many economies, 2026 is likely to be a year of transition from monetary to fiscal policy, and from export-led to increasingly domestic (particularly investment-led) growth. Most central banks globally are nearing the end of their rate-cutting cycles as disinflationary momentum slows and policy makers seek to maintain interest rate differentials with the Federal Reserve. Fiscal policy is set to take centre stage in 2026, with an increased focus on defence and infrastructure spending in major economies, including the European Union. If growth turns out to be weaker than expected, financial markets may penalise economies that have less fiscal space to boost domestic growth.

Risks to the outlook remain elevated, due to persistent trade policy uncertainty, escalating geopolitical tensions, and fears of financial-market corrections. Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA) is expected to continue with robust growth in 2026 with considerably less exposure than other regions to the trade tensions. The structural reforms in the larger economies such as Nigeria and South Africa are expected to be the major turnaround drivers together with favourable commodity prices and still supportive portfolio investor flows.

Local Economy

The vulnerability of the economy experienced in 2025 is expected to ease off in 2026. A growth of 4.5% is forecasted for 2026. However, this will largely be a technical recovery, given the very low base after two consecutive years of recession. While the outlook for natural diamonds remains highly uncertain given intense competition from synthetic diamonds, a moderate improvement in diamond demand in 2026 is assumed. An improvement in non-diamond GDP growth is forecasted, led by a likely increase in public spending as diamond receipts improve.

Headline inflation marginally increased to 4.0% in February 2026 from the 3.9% that was reported in December 2025. Inflation is expected to continue trending upwards, temporarily breaching the Bank of Botswana's objective range of 3-6% in the second half of 2026 at the back of significant increase in administered prices and expected possible fuel price increases. Inflation is expected to average 5.3% remaining within the Bank of Botswana's objective range. At their first meeting of 2026, the Monetary Policy Committee left the policy rate unchanged at 3.5%, which is expected to be maintained for the rest of the year.

Key Financial highlights

11% Operating income down 11% to P951m.	**1%** Non-interest income down 1%.	**1%** Customer deposits down 1% year on year.	**3%** Customer loans and advances down 3%.
17.2% Capital Adequacy Ratio (CAR) at 17.2%.	**28%** Profit before tax down 28% to P342m.	**9%** Operating expenses down 9%.	**26%** Return on Tangible Equity (ROTE) at 26%.

Statements of profit or loss
For the year ended 31 December 2025

	Group		Company	
	2025 P '000	2024 P '000	2025 P '000	2024 P '000
Interest income calculated using the effective interest	1,191,063	1,107,842	1,191,063	1,107,842
Interest expense calculated using the effective interest	(437,541)	(241,619)	(437,541)	(241,619)
Net interest income	753,522	866,223	753,522	866,223
Fees and commission income	264,531	254,141	241,649	230,173
Fees and commission expense	(106,700)	(64,960)	(106,700)	(64,960)
Net fee and commission income	157,831	189,181	134,949	165,213
Net trading income	39,429	9,630	39,429	9,630
Other operating income	51	425	51	425
Operating income	950,833	1,065,459	927,951	1,041,491
Staff costs	(243,946)	(258,175)	(243,749)	(258,134)
Premises costs	(588)	(1,627)	(588)	(1,627)
General administrative expenses	(278,924)	(314,373)	(279,066)	(302,316)
Depreciation and amortisation	(33,323)	(38,169)	(33,323)	(38,169)
Operating expenses	(556,781)	(612,344)	(556,726)	(600,246)
Operating profit before impairment losses and taxation	394,052	453,115	371,225	441,245
Credit impairment	(42,025)	35,031	(42,025)	35,031
Other impairment	(9,833)	(10,464)	(9,833)	(10,464)
Profit before taxation	342,194	477,682	319,367	465,812
Taxation	(81,194)	(131,178)	(75,965)	(124,575)
Profit for the year	261,000	346,504	243,402	341,237
Basic and diluted earnings per ordinary share (Thebe per share)	77.84	106.42		

Statements of financial position
As at 31 December 2025

	Group		Company	
	2025 P '000	2024 P '000	2025 P '000	2024 P '000
Assets				
Cash and balances at central banks	243,188	1,132,308	243,188	1,127,120
Loans and advances to banks	17,431	791	17,431	791
Investment securities	5,342,532	3,718,747	5,342,532	3,718,747
Due from related parties	3,373,805	4,903,383	3,363,090	4,811,097
Derivative financial instruments	40,098	40,172	40,098	40,172
Loans and advances to customers	7,921,277	8,154,364	7,921,277	8,154,364
Prepayments and accrued income	220,365	262,940	220,365	262,940
Non-current assets classified as held for sale	10,360	–	10,360	–
Other assets	8,420	14,579	8,360	14,519
Investments in subsidiary undertakings	–	–	30	30
Property and equipment	58,589	80,211	58,589	80,211
Deferred tax assets	3,637	915	3,637	–
Goodwill and intangible assets	50,678	60,934	50,678	60,934
Total assets	17,290,380	18,369,344	17,279,635	18,270,925
Liabilities				
Deposits by banks	1,624,632	1,095,708	1,624,632	1,095,708
Customer accounts	13,689,235	13,792,379	13,771,819	13,792,379
Derivative financial instruments	6,482	19,706	6,482	19,706
Accruals and deferred income	217,331	90,968	217,331	90,968
Due to related parties	286,839	985,499	286,839	985,499
Current tax liabilities	14,300	4,495	15,522	3,945
Other liabilities	64,056	404,213	64,260	380,652
Debt securities in issue	229,963	323,566	229,963	323,566
Subordinated liabilities and other borrowed funds	–	389,000	–	389,000
Provisions for liabilities and charges	5,780	5,756	5,780	5,756
Deferred tax liabilities	–	–	–	556
Total liabilities	16,138,618	17,111,290	16,222,628	17,087,735
Equity				
Stated capital	179,273	179,273	179,273	179,273
Retained earnings and other reserves	544,276	650,568	449,521	575,704
Total parent company shareholders' equity	723,549	829,841	628,794	754,977
Capital contribution	428,213	428,213	428,213	428,213
Total equity	1,151,762	1,258,054	1,057,007	1,183,190
Total equity and liabilities	17,290,380	18,369,344	17,279,635	18,270,925

Statement of changes in equity
For the year ended 31 December 2025

Group

	Stated capital	Revaluation reserve	Statutory credit risk reserve	Treasury share reserve	Fair value reserve	Retained earnings	Parent company shareholders' equity	Capital Contribution	Total
	P '000	P '000	P '000	P '000	P '000	P '000	P '000	P '000	P '000
As at 01 January 2024	179,273	29,397	19,152	(31,566)	962	617,195	814,413	428,213	1,242,626
Profit for the period	–	–	–	–	–	346,504	346,504	–	346,504
Other comprehensive income	–	4,390	–	–	1,245	–	5,635	–	5,635
Distributions	–	–	–	–	–	(31,664)	(31,664)	–	(31,664)
Dividends on ordinary shares	–	–	–	–	–	(305,047)	(305,047)	–	(305,047)
As at 31 December 2024	179,273	33,787	19,152	(31,566)	2,207	626,988	829,841	428,213	1,258,054
Profit for the period	–	–	–	–	–	261,000	261,000	–	261,000
Other comprehensive income/(loss)	–	–	–	–	(16,339)	–	(16,339)	–	(16,339)
Distributions	–	–	–	–	–	(30,721)	(30,721)	–	(30,721)
Dividends on ordinary shares	–	–	–	–	–	(312,460)	(312,460)	–	(312,460)
Other movements	–	–	–	–	–	(7,772)	(7,772)	–	(7,772)
Transfers between reserves	–	(23,646)	–	–	–	23,646	–	–	–
As at 31 December 2025	179,273	10,141	19,152	(31,566)	(14,132)	560,681	723,549	428,213	1,151,762

Statement of changes in equity
For the year ended 31 December 2025

Company

	Stated capital	Revaluation reserve	Statutory credit risk reserve	Fair value reserve	Retained earnings	Parent company shareholders' equity	Capital Contribution	Total
	P '000	P '000	P '000	P '000	P '000	P '000	P '000	P '000
As at 01 January 2024	179,273	29,347	19,152	962	518,405	747,139	428,213	1,175,352
Profit for the period	–	–	–	–	341,237	341,237	–	341,237
Other comprehensive income	–	4,390	–	1,245	–	5,635	–	5,635
Distributions to holders of subordinated capital securities	–	–	–	–	(31,664)	(31,664)	–	(31,664)
Dividends to equity holders of ordinary shares	–	–	–	–	(307,370)	(307,370)	–	(307,370)
As at 31 December 2024	179,273	33,737	19,152	2,207	520,608	754,977	428,213	1,183,190
Profit for the period	–	–	–	–	243,402	243,402	–	243,402
Other comprehensive income/(loss)	–	–	–	(16,339)	–	(16,339)	–	(16,339)
Distributions to holders of subordinated capital securities	–	–	–	–	(30,721)	(30,721)	–	(30,721)
Dividends to equity holders of ordinary shares	–	–	–	–	(314,840)	(314,840)	–	(314,840)
Other movements	–	–	–	–	(7,685)	(7,685)	–	(7,685)
Transfers between reserves	–	(23,646)	–	–	23,646	–	–	–
As at 31 December 2025	179,273	10,091	19,152	(14,132)	434,410	628,794	428,213	1,057,007

Consolidated statement of cash flows
For the year ended 31 December 2025

	Group		Company	
	2025 P '000	Restated 2024 P '000	2025 P '000	Restated 2024 P '000
Cashflow from operating activities				
Profit for the year	261,000	346,504	243,402	341,237
Adjustments for:				
Interest income	(1,191,063)	(1,107,842)	(1,191,063)	(1,107,842)
Interest expense	437,541	241,619	437,541	241,619
Taxation	81,194	131,178	75,965	124,575
Depreciation	23,216	23,073	23,216	23,073
Amortisation on intangibles	10,107	15,096	10,107	15,096
Net impairment loss on loans and advances	76,854	2,539	76,854	2,539
Unrealised foreign exchange (gains)/ losses	(1,786)	3,761	(1,786)	3,761
Modification loss	18	175	18	175
Other impairment	9,833	10,464	9,833	10,464
Profit on sale of assets	(69)	(601)	(69)	(601)
Movements before changes in working capital	(293,155)	(334,034)	(315,982)	(345,904)
Change in derivative financial instruments assets	(1,901)	(36,805)	(1,901)	(36,805)
Change in investment securities	(940,788)	1,254,132	(940,788)	1,254,132
Change in loans and advances to customers	164,970	412,985	164,970	412,985
Change in due from related parties	831,756	(843,307)	750,186	(751,022)
Change in other assets	6,159	157,226	6,159	157,224
Change in prepayments and accrued income	(4,538)	4,082	(4,538)	4,082
Change in deposits from other banks	528,924	764,823	528,924	764,823
Change in customer deposits	(103,144)	711,025	(20,560)	711,025
Change in other liabilities	(34,904)	18,414	(10,104)	6,481
Change in derivative financial instruments liabilities	(13,224)	(3,457)	(13,224)	(3,457)
Change in due to related parties	(698,660)	(9,098)	(698,660)	(9,098)
Change in accruals and deferred income	13,016	(13,691)	13,016	(13,652)
Change in provisions for liabilities and charges	24	4,697	24	4,697
	(545,465)	2,086,992	(542,478)	2,155,511
Taxation paid	(71,625)	(103,729)	(67,043)	(98,291)
Interest received	1,233,156	1,100,125	1,233,156	1,100,125
Interest paid	(287,818)	(208,635)	(287,818)	(208,635)
Net cash flows from operating activities	328,248	2,874,753	335,817	2,948,710
Cash flow from investing activities				
Acquisition of property and equipment	(11,419)	(5,612)	(11,419)	(5,612)
Acquisition of intangibles	(9,664)	(21,305)	(9,664)	(21,305)
Proceeds from sale of property equipment	69	1,388	69	1,388
Net cash used in investing activities	(21,014)	(25,529)	(21,014)	(25,529)
Cash flow from financing activities				
Interest paid on subordinated liabilities	(15,915)	(25,689)	(15,915)	(25,689)
Repayment of subordinated liabilities	(389,000)	–	(389,000)	–
Interest paid on debt securities	(20,461)	(25,250)	(20,461)	(25,250)
Repayment of debt securities	(93,603)	–	(93,603)	–
Lease liability capital payments	(11,479)	(16,197)	(11,479)	(16,197)
Lease liability interest payment	(1,010)	(1,601)	(1,010)	(1,601)
Dividends paid	(312,460)	(305,048)	(314,840)	(307,371)
Distribution payment to holders of subordinated capital securities	(30,721)	(31,664)	(30,721)	(31,664)
Net cash used in financing activities	(874,649)	(405,449)	(877,029)	(407,772)
(Decrease)/increase in cash and cash equivalents	(567,415)	2,443,775	(562,226)	2,515,409
Cash and cash equivalents at 1 January	6,951,916	4,493,416	6,946,727	4,416,593
Net foreign exchange differences	(43,755)	14,725	(43,755)	14,725
Cash and cash equivalents as 31 December	6,340,746	6,951,916	6,340,746	6,946,727

Restatement

The consolidated and separate statements of cash flows for the year ended 31 December 2024 have been restated. The Group and Company have reclassified certain short-term placements and other current assets due from related Standard Chartered entities that did not meet the definition of cash equivalents in accordance with IAS 7 and the Group policy from "Cash and cash equivalents" (note 29). Similarly, investment securities that met the definition criteria of cash equivalents (maturities not exceeding 3 months and not subject to contractual restrictions) were included as part of "Cash and cash equivalents". This restatement impacts the operating activities and the closing balance of cash and cash equivalents. The restatement does not have an impact on the reported figures in the consolidated statements of comprehensive income and the consolidated statement of financial position.

Segment performance
For the year ended 31 December 2025

	Wealth and Retail Banking P '000	Corporate and Investment Banking P '000	Total P '000
2025			
Profit or Loss			
Interest Income	810,214	380,849	1,191,063
Interest Expenses	(392,258)	(45,283)	(437,541)
Net interest revenue calculated using the effective interest method	417,956	335,566	753,522
Net fee and commission income	174,565	(16,734)	157,831
Net trading income	30,557	8,872	39,429
Other operating income	–	51	51
Net operating income	623,078	327,755	950,833
Depreciation and amortisation	(15,596)	(17,727)	(33,323)
Other operating expenses	(441,276)	(82,182)	(523,458)
Operating profit before impairment losses and taxation	166,206	227,846	394,052
Credit impairment	(10,711)	(31,314)	(42,025)
Other impairment	–	(9,833)	(9,833)
Segment profit before taxation	155,495	186,699	342,194
Taxation			(81,194)
Profit for the year			261,000
Assets and liabilities			
Investment Securities	–	5,342,532	5,342,532
Loans and advances to customers	6,850,338	1,070,939	7,921,277
Other assets for reportable segments	166,357	3,917,272	4,083,629
Total assets for reportable segments	7,016,695	10,330,743	17,347,438
Deposits from non bank customers	4,253,880	9,435,355	13,689,235
Other liabilities for reportable segments	(258,830)	2,765,271	2,506,441
Total liabilities for reportable segments	3,995,050	12,200,626	16,195,676

	Wealth and Retail Banking P '000	Corporate and Investment Banking P '000	Total P '000
2024			
Profit or Loss			
Interest Income	757,482	350,360	1,107,842
Interest Expenses	(257,021)	15,402	(241,619)
Net interest revenue calculated using the effective interest method	500,461	365,762	866,223
Net fee and commission income	187,759	1,422	189,181
Net trading income	30,539	(20,909)	9,630
Other operating income	–	425	425
Net operating income	718,759	346,700	1,065,459
Depreciation and amortisation	(26,693)	(11,476)	(38,169)
Other operating expenses	(401,535)	(172,640)	(574,175)
Operating profit before impairment losses and taxation	290,531	162,584	453,115
Credit impairment	3,646	31,385	35,031
Other impairment	(617)	(9,847)	(10,464)
Segment profit before taxation	293,560	184,122	477,682
Taxation			(131,178)
Profit for the year			346,504
Assets and liabilities			
Investment Securities	–	3,718,747	3,718,747
Loans and advances to customers	7,184,099	970,265	8,154,364
Other assets for reportable segments	233,332	6,262,901	6,496,233
Total assets for reportable segments	7,417,431	10,951,913	18,369,344
Deposits from non bank customers	4,401,405	9,390,974	13,792,379
Other liabilities for reportable segments	(227,830)	3,546,741	3,318,911
Total liabilities for reportable segments	4,173,575	12,937,715	17,111,290

Business Performance

Standard Chartered Bank Botswana (SCBB)'s performance underscores its commitment to sustainable long term value creation for shareholders. The Bank delivered on its key financial objective for 2025, achieving a Return on Tangible Equity (ROTE) of 26%, in line with its target of 25%.

Total income for 2025 closed at P950.8m, representing a decline of 11% year on year (YoY). Net interest income (NII) decreased by 13% YoY, reflecting margin compression on asset products driven by a higher cost of funding compared to the prior year. This performance is indicative of the liquidity pressures experienced across the market.

Non funded income remained relatively flat YoY, closing the year with a 20.8% contribution to total income.

Cost containment initiatives continued to deliver tangible benefits, with operating expenses declining by 9% year on year to P556.8m. These savings were largely driven by the Bank's digitisation strategy, which supported improved operating efficiency and resulted in a Cost to Income Ratio (CIR) of 59%.

Total loans and advances to customers closed the year at P7.9bn, reflecting a measured 3% YoY decline, largely driven by a deliberate de-risking of the WRB portfolio. WRB balances reduced by 5% to P6.9bn as the Bank proactively optimised risk in response to a challenging macroeconomic and liquidity environment. Offsetting this, CIB assets increased to P1.1bn, supported by increased draw-downs from quality corporate clients, underscoring the strength of the franchise in this segment.

Total customer deposits closed at a robust P13.7bn, down a modest 1% year-on-year, primarily due to targeted management of retail funding and competitive liquidity pricing conditions. WRB deposits decreased by 3% year-on-year, while CIB deposits were broadly stable, demonstrating the resilience and stickiness of our corporate funding base.

Net Interest Income and margin

	2025 P'000	2024 P'000
Net Interest Income	753,522	866,223
Average Interest-earning Assets	12,723,897	11,064,124
Average Interest-bearing Liabilities	10,807,117	11,475,350
Gross Yield (%)	9.4	10.0
Rate Paid (%)	4.0	2.1
Net Yield	5.3	7.9
Net Margin (%)	5.9	7.8

Net Interest Income (NII) decreased by 13% year on year to P754m largely driven by an increase in interest expense. Average interest earning assets increased by 27% largely due to an increase in the investment securities held throughout the financial year. The increase in interest expense resulted in a deterioration of the net margin by 190 basis points annually.

Risk Weighted Assets (RWA)

	2025 P'000	2024 P'000
By Risk Type		
Credit	6,094,583	6,691,982
Market	24,810	21,903
Operational	801,248	801,249
Total RWAs	6,920,641	7,515,134

Total RWA went down by 9% ending at P6.9bn largely driven by a decrease in Credit Risk RWA which closed at P6.1bn from P6.7bn.

Capital Base and ratios

	2025 P'000	2024 P'000
CET1 Capital	454,968	439,154
Additional Tier 1 Capital (AT1)	400,000	400,000
Tier 1 Capital	854,968	839,154
Tier 2 Capital	337,183	507,955
Total Capital	1,192,151	1,347,109
Capital adequacy ratio (%)	17.2	17.9
Regulatory Threshold (%)	12.5	12.5

Capital ratios remain within regulatory limits with Capital Adequacy Ratio (CAR) ending the period at 17.2%. The bank continuously embarks on initiatives to optimise deployment of capital for maximum return to shareholders.

Credit Quality

	2025 P'000	2024 P'000
Gross loans and Advances to customers	8,092,199	8,337,356
Of which Stage 1 and 2	7,928,603	8,112,202
Of which Stage 3	163,596	225,154
Expected Credit loss provisions	170,922	182,992
Of which Stage 1 and 2	17,063	24,588
Of which Stage 3	153,859	158,404
Net loans and Advances to customers	7,921,277	8,154,364
Of which Stage 1 and 2	7,911,540	8,087,614
Of which Stage 3	9,737	66,750
Collateral	1,212,720	1,463,659
Stage 1 and stage 2 exposures	1,198,754	687,632
Stage 3 exposures	13,966	776,027

Total Expected Credit Loss (ECL) provisions reduced by 7%, with Stage 1 and 2 ECL provisions decreasing by 31% YoY, and Stage 3 impaired exposures decreasing by 3% reflecting the quality of the loan book.

Balance Sheet and Liquidity

	2025 P'000	2024 P'000
Assets		
Loans and advances to banks	17,431	791
Loans and advances to customers	7,921,277	8,154,364
Other Assets	9,408,730	10,214,189
Total assets	17,347,438	18,369,344
Liabilities		
Deposits from other banks	1,624,632	1,095,708
Deposits from customers	13,689,235	13,792,379
Other Liabilities	881,809	2,223,203
Total liabilities	16,195,676	17,111,290
Equity	1,151,762	1,258,054
Advances-to-deposits Ratio (%)	57.9	59.1
Liquid Assets Ratio (%)	16.1	19.2

The local currency advance-to-deposit ratio remained healthy at 58%, reflecting a prudent balance between growth, liquidity and risk management. Overall, the Bank has navigated a difficult operating environment with resilience, maintaining sound asset quality, a solid funding profile, and capacity to support future growth as conditions normalise.

Segment performance

Wealth and Retail Banking (WRB)

WRB delivered a resilient performance in a year characterised by macroeconomic headwinds while making meaningful strategic progress in repositioning the business towards higher-return, capital-light wealth offerings.

Key Strategic Highlights
- The segment achieved a significant step-up in wealth performance, consistent with its strategic intention to pivot towards the Affluent segment and Wealth solutions. Assets under management increased from P196m to P544m, representing a growth of 179% year-on-year.
- Net new money under Affluent segment rose to P517m, compared to P91m in the prior year. This reflects improved Priority client acquisition, deeper engagement with existing clients, and focusing on the advisory-led wealth proposition.
- Our International Banking proposition has shown solid uptake both in local and foreign investments, re-emphasising bold strategic choices to increase presence in segments that are aligned to our strengths.
- The business maintained disciplined underwriting standards and a prudent risk appetite, prioritising asset quality and long-term sustainability over volume expansion. Deposits remained stable and appropriately ring-fenced, underpinning a strong liquidity position and funding resilience.
- The implementation of our fully automated credit decisioning system has significantly improved client experience by reducing turnaround time.

The strong momentum in Wealth supports the segments' ongoing transition towards a more diversified and sustainable revenue stream, reducing reliance on balance sheet-intensive activities.

Performance Summary
- Income declined by 13% year-on-year.
- Affluent segment income grew 7% year-on-year, with Capital Markets as the main driver with 12% growth.

Corporate & Investment Banking (CIB)

The Corporate and Investment Banking segment delivered a resilient performance in a challenging operating environment characterised by subdued economic activity and constrained liquidity conditions.

Performance summary
- Operating income declined marginally by 5% Year on Year (YoY) to P328m reflecting pressure on fee income and elevated funding costs in line with prevailing macroeconomic conditions, as well as subdued client activity. Notwithstanding these headwinds the segment exercised cost discipline, achieving a 52% reduction in operating expenses resulting in a 40% increase in operating profit before impairment loses to P228m.
- After accounting for credit impairment, the segment recorded a 1% increase in profit before tax to P187m, demonstrating the strength of the underlying franchise and managements continued focus on margin protection and operational efficiency.
- The balance sheet remained sound with continued asset origination, loan and advances increased by 10%, supporting client activity. Deposits remained flat YoY, despite a volatile and constrained liquidity environment, reflecting strong client confidence and disciplined funding strategies.

The segment continues to leverage the Bank's global network, deep sector expertise and innovative product capabilities to position itself as a leading partner to corporate and investment clients. Focus areas include disciplined asset growth, targeted deposit mobilisation and the delivery of tailored advisory and capital solutions to key sectors. While macroeconomics conditions remain constrained, the segment is well positioned to capture emerging opportunities, support client through the cycle and deliver sustainable, risk adjusted returns to shareholders.

Outlook

As we reflect on the past year and look ahead to 2026, Standard Chartered Bank Botswana remains firmly anchored in its purpose as a global bank that connects corporate, institutional and affluent clients to a unique international network spanning Asia, Africa and the Middle East. This network continues to be our greatest strength, enabling us to support clients as they navigate evolving macro-economic conditions whilst accessing sustainable growth opportunities across some of the world's most dynamic markets.

For the full year ended 2025, the Bank's reported profitability was impacted by a highly volatile liquidity environment, which exerted sustained pressure on margins. Elevated costs of fund coupled with limited opportunities to reprice assets constrained earnings across the period. In addition, the financial results include a once-off impairment charge, arising from an accounting adjustment to reverse duplicated interest in suspense and was non-recurring in nature. Importantly, this adjustment does not reflect any deterioration in the Bank's underlying asset quality or credit fundamentals, which remain stable and well managed. The subdued performance also reflects the broader deterioration in macroeconomic conditions, which necessitated a more cautious approach to origination and asset growth to safeguard the balance sheet strength and preserve asset quality. We remain mindful of the challenging operating environment and the uncertainties that persist. Accordingly, we continue to manage the Bank with a strong focus on prudent risk management, cost discipline and capital preservation, while positioning the franchise to capture opportunities as conditions improve.

In November 2024, the Bank announced its intention to explore the sale of the Wealth and Retail Banking segment. Following further strategic evaluation, Standard Chartered PLC is progressing towards the sale of the entire Standard Chartered Bank Botswana franchise. This decision reflects the full value inherent in the Botswana franchise, including the depth of our client relationships, the strength of our brand, and most importantly the exceptional talent and expertise of our people. The franchise has demonstrated sustained performance, resilience and strategic relevance, making it a highly attractive proposition for prospective buyers.

As we progress this transition, our focus remains on preserving the value of the Botswana franchise and ensuring continuity for our clients, colleagues and stakeholders. We continue to operate with the same discipline, integrity and client-centricity that define our brand, leveraging our strong local presence alongside the breadth and reach of our international network.

During this period of significant organisational change, colleagues have consistently demonstrated a high level of commitment, professionalism and resilience, ensuring ongoing stability for our clients and stakeholders. The Bank remains firmly focused on upskilling and reskilling our workforce, with deliberate actions to prepare colleagues for a smooth transition to the new owner. We are investing in targeted capability development, internal talent mobility, transparent communication and structured change management to ensure our people are well supported, future-ready and positioned for continued success. Maintaining employee well-being and engagement remains a priority as we sustain performance throughout the transition.

In conclusion, we would like to extend our sincere thanks, on behalf of the Board and Management, to our colleagues for their unwavering dedication and focused delivery of our mandate, despite multiple headwinds. Their steadfast focus on our clients and the communities we serve reinforces our reputation as we progress through an important phase in the Bank's journey in Botswana.

By order of the Board

Solomon Molebatsi Sekwakwa
Chairperson

Mpho Masupe
Chief Executive Officer

Unions Pushback Against Moswaane Over 'Fake' Medicine Claims

Unions accuse government of deflecting blame as tensions rise over medicine shortages and public trust in the health system

GAZETTE REPORTER

Public sector trade unions have launched a rebuttal against Assistant Minister of Local Government Ignatius Moswaane, accusing him of spreading "baseless and dangerous" claims that health workers are sabotaging medicine supplies in public hospitals.

STRONG REBUKE

In a strongly worded rebuttal issued recently, the unions said they are "outraged and profoundly alarmed" by Moswaane's remarks, which they described as reckless and inflammatory. The statement, issued to all media houses, rejects allegations that shortages of essential medicines in Botswana's public health facilities are the result of deliberate actions by healthcare workers.

"The claims are not only irrational and disrespectful to the working class but outright divisive and dangerously aggressive," the unions said. "We will not tolerate such slanderous attacks on our dedicated members."

WORKING CONDITIONS

The unions defended health workers, insisting they remain professional, ethical, and committed despite operating under what they called "intolerable conditions," including severe understaffing, chronic shortages of resources, and overwhelming patient demand.

They argue that the country's ongoing medicine shortages stem from systemic failures within government, particularly in procurement processes, supply chain management, and funding constraints. The unions pointed to longstanding concerns raised by oversight bodies and the government's own declaration of a public health emergency in August 2025 as evidence of deeper structural problems.

SYSTEM FAILURES

"For years, Botswana's healthcare system has been in a state of collapse," the statement said, citing persistent shortages of medicines used to treat conditions such as hypertension, cancer, diabetes, tuberculosis, asthma, and mental health disorders

The unions accused Moswaane of deflecting responsibility from government failures by placing blame on frontline workers. They warned that such statements risk undermining public confidence in the health system at a critical time.

"This tactic is unacceptable, demoralising, and politically motivated," the unions said. "It risks eroding public trust in our health sector and unfairly targets those who continue to serve under extremely difficult circumstances."

> "This tactic is unacceptable, demoralising, and politically motivated."

CALL FOR RETRACTION

They further described the Assistant Minister's claims as "patently false, deliberately misleading, and grossly inaccurate," adding that they damage the reputation and professional standing of health workers.

The unions have demanded an immediate retraction of the remarks and called on government to focus on "real solutions" to address medicine shortages, rather than what they termed scapegoating.

They also took issue with what they described as an outrageous claim by Moswaane, uttered during a kgotla meeting in Metsimotlhabe, that health workers are intentionally withholding and concealing medicines from patients. This, they said, was linked to the so-called "discovery" of 102 boxes in a storeroom, which he allegedly labelled as "sabotage."

ADDITIONAL CLAIMS

The unions also expressed concern about prior unfounded allegations that the Ministry of Health distributed counterfeit and substandard medications for children, potentially lethal and harmful, alongside smuggled fake high blood pressure drugs bypassing all regulatory safeguards.

"The Public Sector Trade Unions assure our citizens that we do not and will never condone negligence, unprofessionalism, unethical conduct, or any form of misconduct under any circumstances. Our members are resolute in their dedication to serving the nation with integrity, despite these adversities," they said.

The unions are Botswana Public Employees Union (BOPEU), Botswana Sectors of Educators Trade Union (BOSETU), Botswana Teachers Union (BTU), Botswana Nurses Union (BONU), National Amalgamated Local, Central, Parastatal and Government Workers Union (NALCGPWU) and Botswana Doctors Union (BDU).





Assistant Minister of Local Government Ignatius Moswaane

UDC Unable to Confirm Electoral Reforms

Government says electoral reforms remain planned but delayed pending constitutional review, offering no timelines ahead of the 2029 General Elections

BONGANI MALUNGA

The Umbrella for Democratic Change (UDC) led government has said it cannot yet outline specific electoral reforms or provide timelines for their implementation ahead of the 2029 General Elections, citing the need to first complete a comprehensive constitutional review.

Responding to a parliamentary question from MP for Maun North, Dumelang Saleshando, the Minister for State President, Defence and Security, Moeti Mohwasa reaffirmed the government's commitment to strengthening Botswana's electoral system but stressed that all changes to subsidiary legislation, including the Electoral Act, will only follow after constitutional processes are finalised.

> "I am not in a position to state the electoral reforms the government intends to introduce before the 2029 General Elections, nor commit to specific timelines for introducing such reforms."

NO REFORMS

"As a result of the foregoing, I am not in a position to state the electoral reforms the government intends to introduce before the 2029 General Elections, nor commit to specific timelines for introducing such reforms," the Minister noted.

Mohwasa explained that the Constitution remains the supreme law of the land and any reforms must be aligned with its provisions before implementation can proceed.

NOT DEVELOPED IN ISOLATION

He further noted that electoral reforms will not be developed in isolation, but will instead be shaped through broad consultations with stakeholders, including political parties at the All-Party Conference. However, the Minister conceded that at this stage the government is unable to specify what reforms will be introduced or when they will be implemented before the 2029 elections.

Despite the uncertainty, he reaffirmed Government's "unwavering commitment" to electoral reform, insisting that the pledge remains firmly in place and will be fulfilled once all required processes are completed.



First Capital BANK

Savings, Investments and Lending Rates

Quarter 1 Report: 1st January 2026 – 31st March 2026

Savings and Investment Rates

Type of Deposit Account	January Interest Rates(%)	February Interest Rates(%)	March Interest Rates(%)	Range* Interest Rates(%)
Current	0%	0%	0%	0%
Call	0 - 3.00%	0 - 3.00%	0 - 3.00%	0 - 3.00%
Savings	0 - 2.00%	0 - 2.00%	0 - 2.00%	0 - 2.00%
3 months	1.25%	1.25%	1.25%	1.25%
6 months	1.75%	1.75%	1.75%	1.75%
12 months	3.25% -6.50%	3.25% -6.50%	3.25% -6.50%	3.25% -6.50%
24 months	4.25% - 7.00%	4.25% - 7.00%	4.25% - 7.00%	4.25% - 7.00%
Over 24 months	4.75% - 7.25%	4.75% - 7.25%	4.75% - 7.25%	4.75% - 7.25%
Loeto	1.50%	1.50%	1.50%	1.50%
Lefika	4.00%	4.00%	4.00%	4.00%

Foreign Currency Deposit Rates

Type of Deposit Account	Foreign Currency	January Interest Rates(%)	February Interest Rates(%)	March Interest Rates(%)	Range* Interest Rates(%)
Call	USD	0.60%	0.60%	0.60%	0.60%
	ZAR	0.25%	0.25%	0.25%	0.25%
3 Months	USD	0.60%	0.60%	0.60%	0.60%
	ZAR	2.25%	2.25%	2.25%	2.25%
6 Months	USD	1.00%	1.00%	1.00%	1.00%
	ZAR	2.75%	2.75%	2.75%	2.75%
12 Months	USD	1.50%	1.50%	1.50%	1.50%
	ZAR	3.25%	3.25%	3.25%	3.25%

Lending Rates

Lending	January Interest Rates(%)	February Interest Rates(%)	March Interest Rates(%)	Range Interest Rates(%)
Monetary Policy	3.50%	3.50%	3.50%	3.50%
Prime Lending Rates	7.01%	7.01%	7.01%	7.01%
Mortgage Facility	7.01 - 17.01%	7.01 - 17.01%	7.01 - 17.01%	7.01 - 17.01%
Overdraft Facility (Revolving Credit Lines)	7.01 - 19.01%	7.01 - 19.01%	7.01 - 19.01%	7.01 - 19.01%
Credit Card	-	-	-	-
Lease Loans	-	-	-	-
Unsecured Personal Loans (excluding overdrafts,mortgage and credit cards)	0 - 32%	0 - 32%	0 - 32%	0 - 32%
Other Long-Term Loans	7.01 - 19.01%	7.01 - 19.01%	7.01 - 19.01%	7.01 - 19.01%

*DEPOSIT AND INTEREST RATES SHOWN ARE INDICATIVE ONLY
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UDC Backtracks on DIS Role in Govt Procurement

Govt dismisses prior allegations as unsubstantiated

SESUPO RANTSIMAKO

The Umbrella for Democratic Change (UDC) appears to have softened its stance on the alleged involvement of the Directorate of Intelligence and Security (DIS) in government procurement, signaling a shift from its earlier position while in opposition.

FROM OPPOSITION TO RECONSIDERATION

While still in opposition, the UDC, through Leader of the Opposition Dumelang Saleshando, repeatedly accused the DIS of interfering in government procurement, warning that the agency was operating beyond its legal mandate and undermining transparency. In a statement issued at the time, the party said,

"The DIS has become a law unto itself, operating beyond its legal mandate and interfering in key government processes such as procurement, thereby undermining transparency and accountability."

The party further called for urgent reforms, including increased oversight and a clear limitation of the agency's powers. These statements came amid controversy over the Maun Water Supply and Sanitation tender, originally awarded to China Jiangsu International and later revoked following DIS advice that the company posed a security threat.

MAUN TENDER CONTROVERSY

In 2018, China Jiangsu International was awarded the P1.568 billion Maun Water Supply and Sanitation tender. However, the award was later revoked, and



While still in opposition, the UDC, through Leader of the Opposition Dumelang Saleshando, repeatedly accused the DIS of interfering in government procurement, warning that the agency was operating beyond its legal mandate and undermining transparency.

the tender was re-awarded to the second lowest bidder, Zhengtai Group Botswana, on March 21, 2019, at a contract value exceeding P1.873 billion following the directorate's involvement.

Despite past criticisms, the Minister of State President Moeti Mohwasa has distanced the government from those assertions. Responding to Saleshando's questions last week during Parliamentary questions, Mohwasa dismissed the claims as unsubstantiated allegations.

He emphasized that the DIS has no legal authority to award, direct, determine, influence, or cancel procurement decisions, and that its role is strictly limited to providing security-related intelligence to relevant authorities.

SALESHANDO RESPONDS

Saleshando slammed Minister Mohwasa for changing the positions they shared. Responding to Mohwasa in Parliament, he questioned whether he forgot the statement they made while still together in the opposition, he wondered why Mohwasa dismissed the matter as allegations while China Jiangsu took the matter to court and the government was ordered to pay.

INDEPENDENT OVERSIGHT IN PROCUREMENT

Mohwasa clarified that institutions such as the Public Procurement Regulatory Authority (PPRA) are solely responsible for making independent decisions on government procurement matters, free from influence by the intelligence body.

He also noted that any allegations of improper influence by the DIS should be reported to established oversight institutions, including the Directorate on Corruption and Economic Crime (DCEC), which is mandated to investigate corruption-related complaints. The minister added that the DIS may only assist in financial investigations when national security concerns are implicated, reinforcing the agency's limited mandate.

UDC'S SHIFT RAISES QUESTIONS

The apparent change in tone by the UDC marks a departure from its earlier criticisms, prompting questions about how the party now interprets the role of the DIS within government structures and its approach to oversight of sensitive state functions.



DEPOSIT RATES

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

LENDING RATES

Lending Rates	Nominal Interest Rate	Average Effective Interest Rate
MoPR	3.50%	3.50%
Prime Lending Rate	8.01%	8.01%
Mortgage Facility	Prime to Prime + 5.00%	Prime to Prime + 5.12%
Overdraft Facility (Revolving credit lines)	N/A	N/A
Credit card	N/A	N/A
Eezi Auto	Prime +3.50% to Prime +8.0%	Prime +3.56% to Prime +8.30%
Lease Loans	N/A	N/A
Unsecured Personal Loans (excluding overdraft, mortgage and credits cards)	Prime +12% to Prime +22%	Prime +12.68% to Prime +24.36%
Other Long - Term Loans	N/A	N/A

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Fare Increases Without a Policy: Transport by Default, Not by Design

Botswana wakes up on 1st April 2026 to new public transport fares. Combi fares rise to P13. Shared taxis to P14. Special hires to P40. Long-distance tariffs inch upwards to P0.44 per kilometre on tar and P0.46 on gravel.


(Pic:MONIRUL BHUIYAN/PRESS PHOTO)

The increases are modest. The problem is not.

Because once again, fares have moved ahead of policy.

There is no clearly articulated public transport policy in Botswana. Not in party manifestos. Not in the State of the Nation Address. Not in Budget 2026. Not in NDP12. Not even in sector submissions from the Ministry of Transport and Infrastructure. Nowhere is there a coherent statement of intent on what public transport is supposed to achieve, who it is meant to serve, and how it should evolve.

THIS IS NOT A TECHNICAL OMISSION. IT IS A STRATEGIC VACUUM.

Do we, as a country, support public transport as the backbone of urban mobility? Or are we quietly defaulting to a car-based model, where private vehicles dominate and public transport is left to survive on fare adjustments and informal resilience? At present, there is no answer—only drift.

Fares are being adjusted in isolation, without reference to service standards, network design, subsidies, or long-term investment planning. There is no framework linking what passengers pay to what they receive. No clarity on reliability, safety, frequency, or integration. No roadmap for transitioning from today's fragmented combi and taxi system to a modern, efficient, and inclusive urban transport network.

In effect, we are regulating prices without defining the product.

This absence of policy has real consequences. Urban congestion continues to worsen. Household transport costs rise. Informal operators carry the burden of mobility without structural support. Investment decisions—whether in buses, fleets, or infrastructure—are made in uncertainty. And critically, the country locks itself into a path dependency that becomes harder and more expensive to reverse.

Even more concerning is the contradiction at the heart of current planning. On one hand, public transport fares are being adjusted as if the system matters. On the other, there is no evidence of prioritisation—no bus lanes, no integrated ticketing, no urban mobility plans, no institutional reform. If public transport is important, where is the policy? If it is not, then why regulate it at all?

THE SILENCE IS TELLING.

A functioning transport system does not emerge organically. It is designed. It requires clear choices: between road space allocation, between cars and buses, between short-term convenience and long-term efficiency. Cities that succeed in mobility do so because they decide—explicitly—to prioritise high-capacity, shared transport over private vehicle dependence.

BOTSWANA HAS NOT MADE THAT DECISION.

Instead, we are left with incremental fare increases, disconnected from any strategic vision. This is not governance; it is administration. It manages symptoms without addressing causes.

And yet the stakes are rising. Rapid urbanisation, rising fuel costs, and climate pressures will only intensify the need for efficient, affordable public transport. Without a policy framework, the system will continue to evolve in a fragmented, inefficient, and ultimately inequitable manner.

The introduction of new fares should have been accompanied by something far more important: a clear statement of direction.

WHAT IS BOTSWANA'S PUBLIC TRANSPORT POLICY?

Until that question is answered—clearly, publicly, and urgently—every fare adjustment will remain what it is today: a decision taken in the dark.

FUEL PRICE SHOCK

Inflation Will Jump 50 Points — And Botswana Will Pay P6 Billion More for Fuel

The latest fuel price increases announced by the Botswana Energy Regulatory Authority are not just another adjustment at the pump. They are a macroeconomic shock, sudden, far-reaching, and deeply revealing of how Botswana's economy is structured. Within weeks, inflation will rise by at least 50 basis points, and likely closer to 1%. But that is only the visible surface of a much larger problem. Beneath it lies a profound shift: Botswana is about to spend an additional P5 to 6 billion per year on fuel imports, pushing the national fuel bill from roughly 7% to as much as 9.5% of GDP. That is not just a number. It is a transfer of national income out of the economy, money that will not circulate locally, will not create jobs, and will not support growth. It could also worsen our credit rating from BBB- to BB+ jink status, which is based predominately on risk and ability to service trade using hard currency and finance debt. This is the real cost of the fuel crisis.

HOUS HOLD SHOCK

For households, the impact will be immediate and painful. Annual fuel spending for a typical urban family will rise from around P15,000 to P20,000. Public transport fares, driven by a sharp increase in diesel, are likely to increase by around 25%. Food prices will follow, rising by 5 to 10% as transport costs feed through supply chains. Taken together, the cost of living could rise by close to 10% in a matter of weeks.

BUSINESS STRAIN

For businesses, especially small and medium enterprises, the pressure will be equally severe. Logistics costs will increase by 15 to 25%, margins will be squeezed, and many firms will have no choice but to pass costs on to consumers or scale back operations. For government, the impact is also substantial. Fuel and transport costs across the public sector could rise by as much as P2 billion annually, placing additional strain on an already stretched fiscal position. This is not simply inflation. It is a system-wide economic stress. But the most important lesson is not about prices. It is about structure.

SYSTEM DEPENDENCE

Botswana is a transport-intensive society. Its economy, cities, and daily life are built around movement, of people travelling long distances to work, of goods transported across vast spaces, and of services dependent on physical mobility. This has worked in a world of relatively stable fuel prices. It does not work in a world of volatility. When fuel prices rise sharply, the entire system transmits that shock instantly. Every journey becomes more expensive. Every delivery costs more. Every kilometre travelled carries a higher economic burden. Inflation, in this context, is not an anomaly. It is the inevitable outcome of a system that depends so heavily on movement.

POLICY DISCONNECT

What makes this moment particularly significant is that Botswana is not without policy tools. A new spatial planning code has recently been introduced. A climate change policy framework exists. Yet these remain insufficiently connected to the realities now unfolding. Spatial planning determines how far people must travel. Climate policy requires reductions in emissions, which in turn requires reducing fuel consumption. The fuel crisis exposes the fact that these are not separate issues. They are the same system viewed from different angles.

IMMEDIATE RESPONSE

The immediate priority must be to stabilise the situation. Demand must be reduced quickly and intelligently. Public sector home working can cut commuting fuel use within days. Public transport must be supported to prevent fare increases from pushing people back into private vehicles. Government must lead by example by reducing fleet usage and non-essential travel. These are not optional measures, they are the fastest way to contain both fuel demand and inflation.

STRUCTURAL SHIFT

Beyond the immediate response, Botswana must confront a harder question: why does the economy require so much movement to function? Reducing fuel dependence is not about securing more supply. It is about reducing demand through better design, of cities, of transport systems, and of economic activity itself.



> "This is not just inflation, it is a system-wide economic stress."

This means shorter commuting distances, more efficient public transport, greater use of digital services, and a gradual shift toward less mobility-intensive growth. The fuel crisis has made one thing clear. Botswana's vulnerability is not just external. It is embedded in the way the economy is organised. In the coming weeks, inflation will rise, households will feel the strain, and billions more will leave the country to pay for imported fuel. But this moment also presents a choice. Botswana can absorb the shock and continue as before. Or it can recognise that the true solution lies not at the pump, but in reducing the need to use it. In a constrained world, resilience will not be built by paying more for fuel, but by needing less of it.

The Botswana Gazette
BUSINESS NEWS

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Standard Chartered Eyes Strategic Shift

Bank highlights global network strength as it navigates headwinds and advances Botswana sale plans

GAZETTE REPORTER

As Standard Chartered Bank Botswana reflects on the past year and looks ahead to 2026, its leadership is emphasizing the strength of its international network and long-term positioning, even as it operates in a challenging environment and prepares for a potential change in ownership.

GLOBAL POSITIONING

"As we reflect on the past year and look ahead to 2026, Standard Chartered Bank Botswana remains firmly anchored in its purpose as a global bank that connects corporate, institutional and affluent clients to a unique international network spanning Asia, Africa and the Middle East," said Chairperson Solomon Sekwakwa and Chief Executive Officer Mpho Masupe in the Bank's financials for the year ended 31st December 2025.

They described the network as central to the bank's strategy.

"This network continues to be our greatest strength, enabling us to support clients as they navigate evolving macro-economic conditions whilst accessing sustainable growth opportunities across some of the world's most dynamic markets," they said.

MARKET CONDITIONS

The bank said its performance on the period under review was shaped by a highly volatile liquidity environment, which placed sustained pressure on margins. Elevated costs of funds, coupled with limited opportunities to reprice assets, constrained earnings during the year.

The results also included a once-off impairment charge linked to an accounting adjustment reversing duplicated interest in suspense. The bank said the charge was non-recurring and did not reflect any deterioration in asset quality or credit fundamentals, which remain stable and well managed.



Standard Chartered Bank Botswana Chief Executive Officer Mpho Masupe

The subdued performance further reflected broader macroeconomic conditions, prompting a more cautious approach to origination and asset growth to safeguard balance sheet strength.

"Accordingly, we continue to manage the Bank with a strong focus on prudent risk management, cost discipline and capital preservation, while positioning the franchise to capture opportunities as conditions improve," they said.

STRATEGIC REVIEW

In November 2024, Standard Chartered PLC announced plans to explore the sale of its Wealth and Retail Banking segment. Following further evaluation, the group is now progressing towards the sale of the entire Botswana franchise.

The bank said the decision reflects the value of its operations, including strong client relationships, brand strength and the expertise of its workforce, positioning the franchise as an attractive opportunity for prospective buyers.

Transition Planning

As the process advances, the bank said its focus remains on preserving value and ensuring continuity for clients, employees and stakeholders.

During the transition, it continues to operate with discipline, integrity and a client-focused approach, supported by its local presence and international reach.

Management said employees have demonstrated resilience and professionalism throughout the period of organisational change. The bank is investing in upskilling, reskilling and internal talent mobility, alongside structured change management, to support staff through the transition.

Maintaining employee well-being and engagement remains a priority as the bank prepares for new ownership.

FINANCIAL OUTCOME

For the year ended 31 December 2025, profit before tax declined by 28 percent to P342 million, while non-interest income decreased by 1 percent compared to the prior period.

Bus, Taxi Operators Won't Seek Further Fare Adjustments

Operators have confirmed that they will not use last Friday's fuel price hike as a basis for further fare increases. They were waiting for the April 1 fare adjustments announced yesterday which they have been negotiating with the Ministry for months. However, they noted that if fuel prices do not improve, they may be forced to request another fare increase in three months' time

TLOTLO KEBINAKGABO

Taxi and bus operators in Botswana say they will not rush to increase fares following last Friday's fuel price hike, choosing instead to wait and assess whether the changes are temporary. When speaking with this publication, they noted that they were waiting for April 1 to see the outcome of the increases they had been negotiating for months. However, the Ministry responsible for transport released the new fares on March 31, giving operators and passengers an early look at the changes.

The Department of Road Transport Services (DRTS) announced that, effective April 1, shared taxi trips will cost P14 per trip, special taxis P40, mini-bus local transport P13, long-distance travel on bitumen roads will be charged at 44 thebe per kilometre, and long-distance travel on gravel or sandy roads will be 46 thebe per kilometre.

The Chairman of the Botswana Bus Operators Association (BBOA), Tirafalo Mponang, told The Botswana Gazette that operators will rely on an existing agreement with the Ministry rather than react immediately to the latest fuel price increase. "It must be noted that already we have an agreement with the Ministry responsible for transport that the fares will go up on April 1," he said in a telephone interview with this publication this past Sunday.

Discussions around fare adjustments have been ongoing for months, with operators required to justify the need for increases. "It's something that we have been discussing for months now as they asked us to present variables on why we want the fares to be increased, of which we did. We are just waiting for April 1 to see how the increases will be," Mponang added. He emphasized that the latest fuel price adjustments would not be used as a basis for further fare demands at this stage.

Last Friday's adjustments saw the retail pump price of Unleaded Petrol 95 increase by P5.05 per litre, Diesel 50ppm rise by P8.77 per litre, and illuminating paraffin increase by P10.55 per litre.

Operators say they are taking a cautious approach, believing the increases may be temporary and will monitor the situation over the coming months before taking further action. "We believe the increase is temporary but we will wait for about three months on which we will negotiate for price adjustments if there's no change or it's even worse," Mponang said.

Similar sentiments were expressed by Edison Tlhomelang, Chairman of the Gaborone Taxi and Local Bus Services Association, who said operators are mindful of the financial strain on passengers.

"We understand that our customers do not have money and won't haphazardly ask for increase. We will wait for months to see if things are not getting better. If not, we will have to go to the table," he said. He added that operators are focused on the outcome of their long-running negotiations with government. "Right now we are just waiting for April 1 to see how they will act on our proposal that we have been negotiating with them for months now," Tlhomelang said.

Request for information

FNB Insurance Brokers invites companies to participate in the following tender:

*Request For Information (RFI)

Tender Number	Title	Tender Description	Tender Closing Date & Time
RFI/001/FNBIB/2026	The Provision of a Brokerage Policy System For FNB Insurance Brokers.	Insurance seeks service providers who can propose suitable Brokerage Policy System solutions that meet FNB Insurance Brokers' operational needs.	13/04/2026 @ 23:59 Hours

1. Introduction

FNB Insurance Brokers invites suitably qualified and experienced vendors to submit proposals in response to this Request for Information (RFI) for Broking System. The purpose of this RFI is to identify suitable technology solutions that can provide an end-to-end Broking System for FNBIB.

The system is meant to address current operational challenges, including:

- Heavy reliance on manual processes.
- Inadequate document management and recordkeeping.
- High exposure to operational, compliance, and revenue risks.
- Poor service turnaround times and scalability constraints.

This RFI forms part of an open public tender process and is intended to:

- Understand available market solutions and delivery models.
- Assess vendor capability, capacity, compliance, and commercial approaches.
- Inform a subsequent Request for Proposal (RFP) or competitive procurement process.

This RFI does not constitute an offer to contract.

2. System Requirements

Service providers are required to propose a broking system, which must have the following system functionalities:

User Access	Policy Administration	Reporting	Claims	Finance Module	Sales
• The system must support multi-factor authentication for access to the solution. The system must support integration with enterprise single sign-on and central identity management services • Role-based access should be defined. The system must support timely application of security patches and updates across all components. The system must support encryption of sensitive data at rest and in transit using approved standards	• Production of policy schedules • Central client database. • Policy lifecycle management • Integrate SMS and email to clients • Policy Data management • Raising of invoices • Premium rates and pricing • Full integration into the underwriter's system	• Financial reporting and modelling • Data analytics • Business analysis	• Claims management • Claims reporting and reconciliation • Document management, for storing client information and correspondence • Customisable dashboards for real-time tracking of KPIs, such as claim cycle time & loss ratios • Claims analysis reporting	• Premium reconciliation and matching • Premium age analysis • Financial analysis and management • Calculation and generation of broker commission statements and insurer remittance reports without manual intervention	• Ability to generate Insurance quotes • End to end sales platform for distribution channels • New insurance business placement • Generate sales reports • API First – Should accommodate new sales channels and Adding Underwriters API • Connecting with insurer systems for real-time data, policy transfers, and information exchange • Managing product profiles and premium ratings

3. Capability of the Vendor

Vendors must demonstrate organisational and system capability, including:

- Human resources and skills availability.
- Workforce structure.
- Support Operations.
- System Architecture & Deployment.
- Document Management.
- Auditability.
- Availability/ Uptime Targets; Guaranteed availability (% per month) and maintenance windows.

4. Regulatory & Compliance

Vendors must demonstrate how their solution and operations comply with:

- Botswana Data Protection Act, 2024, including lawful processing of personal data, adequate security safeguards, protection of data subject rights, and effective data protection governance.
- NBFIRA framework for insurance entities.
- Information Security best practice & Internal Controls.

5. Pricing Requirements

Respondents must provide full, transparent, and comprehensive pricing for the proposed solution to enable equitable comparison during evaluation.

Pricing proposals must:

- Be unbundled and itemised.
- Clearly distinguish between once-off costs and recurring costs.
- Vendors must fully disclose the licensing model.
- Hosting and Maintenance costs.
- Reflect all foreseeable costs over the contract period.
- State all assumptions, constraints, and exclusions.
- Be quoted in Botswana Pula (BWP), exclusive of VAT (VAT shown separately).

6. Submission Requirements

Interested companies must submit the following:

a) Company registration documents (Certificate of Incorporation and the Company Extract etc).
b) Copy of a Valid tax clearance certificate.
c) Tax registration letter or VAT exemption letter.
d) Detailed company profile.
e) At least three written reference letters for similar work done in the past 5 years.
f) Licenses related to the system proposed.
g) A comprehensive financial proposal.

7. Prospective bidders are required to note the following key points:

a) Interested companies that wish to participate in this RFI must submit the required documents via email to: fnbtenders2@fnbbotswana.co.bw with the email subject noted as the RFI reference number and tender title, e.g. **RFI/001/FNBIB/2026 – The Provision of Brokerage Policy System For FNB Insurance Brokers.**
b) All queries or requests for clarification must be submitted **via email** to the same address no later than five (5) days before the closing date of this advert.
c) The information provided in this request represents the full extent of details available at this stage.
d) The closing date for submission is as indicated on the table above.
e) Late and physical submissions will not be accepted.

8. Data Protection

Personal data will be processed in accordance with the Bank's data protection obligations and applicable data protection laws. Further information on how personal data is collected, used, stored, and protected, as well as data subject rights, is available in the Bank's Supplier Privacy Notice, accessible on the Bank's website at www.fnbbotswana.co.bw or FNB Botswana Supplier Privacy Notice.

9. Intellectual Property and Disclaimer

All proposed solutions submitted remain the intellectual property of the service provider. Submission of information does not transfer ownership or confer any rights to FNBIB. FNBIB reserves the right to use information received solely for sourcing and evaluation purposes.

FNB Insurance Brokers is under no obligation to shortlist, issue a subsequent RFP, or appoint any service provider arising from this RFI.

Disclaimer:

- Selling, distributing, or reproducing these documents for commercial purposes is strictly prohibited.
- All tenders are advertised exclusively through the FNBIB approved communication channels including the official FNBIB social media platforms and approved media outlets.

Letshego Posts Mixed 2025 Results

After a transformative year, the group shows resilience in core operations despite regional losses



GAZETTE REPORTER

Letshego Africa Holdings Limited reported a mixed set of results for the financial year ended 31 December 2025, highlighting both challenges and resilience. The Group recorded a loss after tax of P235.5 million, largely due to a P519.5 million loss from discontinued operations following the reclassification of its business interests in East and West Africa as a "disposal group held for sale."

Focusing solely on continuing operations, the Group delivered a profit after tax of P284 million, up from P61.4 million in 2024. "The solid profitability delivered by continuing operations in FY2025 together with decisive actions taken across credit, portfolio optimisation, funding and cost discipline positions Letshego for a more sustainable growth trajectory in the year ahead," the company said.

REGIONAL RECOVERY

Operationally, Letshego continues to show broad-based recovery. Southern African markets contributed strongly to performance, while selected East and West African entities are beginning to gain momentum. Vulnerabilities remain in some portfolios, but credit measures and portfolio cleanups over the past two years have materially improved the quality of earnings.

On market challenges, the company noted, "Continued vigilance will be applied in markets experiencing liquidity constraints, most notably Botswana, where tight domestic liquidity and higher funding costs necessitate close monitoring and proactive scenario planning." Similarly, the Pula exchange rate adjustments implemented in July 2025 will require ongoing assessment to understand potential impacts on funding, capital flows, and customer repayment behavior across the Group.

STRATEGIC FOCUS

Management outlined key execution priorities for 2026. "We will continue to defend and strengthen the DAS franchise, which remains the backbone of the Group's risk-adjusted earnings," the company said. The Group also plans to scale short-term credit solutions through digital channels, refine products, accelerate deposit growth, and drive operational efficiency via cost discipline, improved collections, sharper credit origination, and enhanced capital management. The target operating model is under review in light of ongoing corporate actions affecting East and West Africa operations.

The strategic review of the East and West Africa portfolios continues, with active engagement underway with potential counterparties. Letshego emphasized that no definitive agreements have been reached and cautioned shareholders to exercise care when trading the Company's securities.

OUTLOOK

Looking ahead, the Board and management remain focused on business turnaround, sustainable profitability, and enhanced shareholder returns. The company expressed appreciation for regulators, funders, shareholders, and stakeholders for their support during "a complex and transformative financial year."

Despite losses from discontinued operations, Letshego's improved credit quality, operational recovery, and clearer strategic focus suggest the Group is well-positioned for growth.

Absa Balances Growth and Resilience

Bank signals cautious strategy as profits dip amid rising costs and tighter liquidity conditions.

TLOTLO KEBINAKGABO

Absa Bank Botswana Limited says it will maintain disciplined execution of its strategy in response to both local and global economic challenges, with a focus on balancing selective growth and resilience.

Chairman Cosmos Moapare and Managing Director Keabetswe Pheko-Moshagane said the bank's priorities remain anchored on strengthening core performance areas while adapting to a shifting operating environment.

"Our priorities remain centred on diversifying revenue, improving returns, enhancing operational efficiency, and deepening customer relationships across our key segments," they said in the bank's financial results for the period ended 31 December.

They added that the bank aims to sustain customer trust through innovation and continued investment in digital platforms, while maintaining strong safeguards within the financial system.

INCOME TRENDS

The bank reported a modest increase in total income, which rose by 5 percent to P2.39 billion from P2.28 billion in 2024. The growth was driven primarily by stronger fee and commission income as well as a significant rise in trading revenue.

However, net interest income declined by 7 percent to P1.42 billion, down from P1.52 billion, as interest expenses increased sharply by 41 percent to P876.4 million. The rise reflects higher-yielding deposit products and tighter liquidity conditions.



Chairman Cosmos Moapare and Managing Director Keabetswe Pheko-Moshagane said the bank's priorities remain anchored on strengthening core performance areas while adapting to a shifting operating environment.

Despite these pressures, the loan book continued to expand across key portfolios.

Non-interest revenue showed stronger momentum. Net fee and commission income increased by 10 percent to P589.5 million, supported by higher transaction volumes and improved service-related income, while fee expenses fell by 31 percent. Trading income rose by 67 percent to P374.9 million, reflecting improved market activity and derivative performance. Other income remained unchanged at P7.2 million.

COST PRESSURES

Operating costs weighed on overall performance. Total operating expenses increased by 17 percent to P1.33 billion from P1.13 billion in 2024, driven by higher staff costs, technology investments, depreciation, software licensing, and administrative expenses.

As a result, the cost-to-income ratio rose to 56 percent from 52 percent, indicating mounting cost pressures across the business.

Pre-provision profit declined by 8 percent, largely due to these higher operating expenses.

CREDIT RISKS

Credit impairment charges rose by 22 percent to P109.3 million, compared with P89.4 million in the previous year. While impairments remained elevated, recoveries of previously written-off loans helped contain the overall increase.

The bank described the credit environment as fragile but stabilising.

PROFIT DECLINE

Profit before tax fell to P951.6 million, down from P1.06 billion, reflecting the combined impact of margin pressure, higher impairments and rising costs.

At the same time, the bank said it continues to invest in fraud prevention, workforce development and sustainability initiatives, including financing aligned with Botswana's renewable energy ambitions.

"We will continue to proactively align our initiatives with emerging global trends and Botswana's national development priorities," the executives said.

Fuel Hike Ripples Through Economy

Economists warn of mounting pressure on households, businesses and growth as fuel prices surge



GAZETTE REPORTER

Botswana faces mounting inflationary pressures as recent fuel price hikes feed through the economy. Unleaded Petrol 95 increased by P5.05 per litre, Diesel 50ppm rose by P8.77 per litre, and illuminating paraffin jumped by P10.55 per litre.

Gomolemo Basele, an experienced quantitative analyst with a banking background, explained the impact on the national inflation profile. “Higher fuel prices will feed through in terms of a higher inflation profile in Botswana. This year’s inflation peak will depend on where international oil prices peak, which depends heavily on the tension playing out in the Gulf,” Basele said.

He added that sustained fuel price hikes could keep inflation elevated for longer. “The longer it takes for oil prices to fall back, the larger the risk of second-round price pressure. If such pressures begin to show more clearly in core CPI and/or the Business Expectation Survey, the central bank might well hike interest rates. In which case the impact on real GDP growth would be significant and long-lasting.”

Despite this, Basele expects the shock to be temporary. “We expect inflation to trend lower in 3Q26, given our outlook for oil prices to moderate in 2H26,” he said, noting that the central bank’s policy rate is likely to remain on hold.

HOUSEHOLD STRAIN

Rising fuel costs are also eroding household purchasing power, particularly for low-income earners. Economist Kago Ngwato highlighted that “Sustained fuel price increases erode household purchasing power primarily by raising the cost of essential goods and services.”

For many households, higher transport costs are compounded by rising food prices. Ngwato explained that urban households face more exposure to rising transport and rental costs, while rural households encounter higher prices for basic goods due to increased distribution costs. “Fuel price increases contribute to a broader rise in the cost of living but the channels and intensity differ,” Ngwato said.

Low-income families often respond by cutting consumption or switching to lower quality food. Others rely on informal borrowing or delay essential expenditures, strategies that can reinforce cycles of poverty and vulnerability.

BUSINESS IMPACT

Businesses, particularly SMEs, are feeling the pressure of higher operational costs. Logistics and transportation expenses are rising, with many small firms unable to pass the increases on to consumers. This forces businesses to absorb losses or reduce expenses.

Ngwato observed, “SMEs tend to delay expansion, reduce operational activity or scale back investment rather than immediately retrench workers. Over time, this leads to slower job creation and fewer income opportunities.”

Key sectors such as mining and trade are also affected. Mining firms, while electricity-intensive, face higher transport and operational costs that can compress profit margins. Trade sectors experience both higher import costs and reduced consumer demand, making them a significant channel for fuel-driven economic pressure.

POLICY MEASURES

To cushion citizens and businesses, policymakers face a challenging balancing act. Ngwato suggested targeted interventions rather than broad subsidies, given limited fiscal space. “Policy responses should focus on lifeline utility tariffs and limited relief on essential goods. For businesses, emphasis should be on improving liquidity and market access rather than subsidised credit,” he said.

Longer-term strategies include reducing fuel dependence through renewable energy investment, regulatory reform, and fostering private sector participation. While these require time and institutional capacity, they represent a structural approach to mitigating future fuel shocks.

The impact of fuel prices extends beyond the pump. Rising costs ripple through transportation, imports, household budgets, and business operations, creating pressures that will shape Botswana’s economy over the coming months.

BIHL Holds Firm Amid Headwinds

Group maintains resilience, declares dividend despite economic strain

GAZETTE REPORTER

Amid palpable economic constraints facing Botswana, Botswana Insurance Holdings Limited (BIHL) says it remains focused on its purpose of improving livelihoods, even as operating conditions tighten.

Speaking at the Group’s year ended 31 December 2025 presentation held Friday, Audit and Risk Chair Pragnaben Naik said the commitment is visible across subsidiaries and through the BIHL Trust.

“This commitment is evident across the Group, within our subsidiaries, and through the impactful initiatives of the BIHL Trust,” Naik said.

She acknowledged that financial results reflect difficult conditions, but said the Group’s fundamentals remain intact. “We’ve stayed focused on what matters, ensuring our risk practices evolve with the business from cyber and data protection to broader operational resilience,” she said.

“We’ve stayed focused on what matters, ensuring our risk practices evolve with the business.”

PRODUCT INNOVATION

Naik said innovation remains central to BIHL’s position in the market, pointing to the launch of three new products—two life cover solutions and a funeral cover described as the first of its kind locally.

“Our spirit of innovation once again demonstrated why we remain the number one life insurer in the market,” she said.

She added that internal culture continues to strengthen, with increased ownership of risk and deeper accountability across the organisation. The Group also maintained client support during difficult periods and adapted to regulatory changes through close collaboration with audit and assurance partners.

DIVIDEND DECISION

Despite economic pressures, the Board declared a final dividend of 56 thebe per share, net of tax.

“Despite the challenges faced, the Board remains committed to delivering value to our shareholders,” Naik said, adding that the declaration reflects confidence in the Group’s long-term stability.

The Group’s equity value rose to P4.79 billion from P4.66 billion, enabling dividend payments of P264 million for the year ended 31 December 2025. The increase was driven by growth in net asset value, supported by performance from Nico, the value of in-force life operations, and fair value adjustments in non-life businesses.

FUTURE OUTLOOK

Marking its 50-year milestone, BIHL said it remains focused on supporting households through insurance, savings, and investment products designed to manage risk and build financial resilience.

“As we look ahead, the BIHL Group’s products are purposefully designed to support households in sustaining their livelihoods during challenging times,” Naik said.

She added that recent reforms and modernisation initiatives are beginning to deliver returns, reinforcing the Group’s resilience.

Bomaid Strengthens Preventative Health Message



LEATILE ZACHARIAH

Bomaid Chief Executive Officer Moraki Mokgosana highlighted the organisation's strategic direction and key initiatives during a recent media engagement in Gaborone, reinforcing the importance of preventative healthcare and innovation.

Mokgosana explained that 2026 marks the final year of Bomaid's current strategy, which is anchored on three pillars: customer experience, impact on wellness, and service excellence. He revealed that the organisation is recording a strong turnaround in performance, with customer satisfaction projected to exceed 75 percent—the highest in its history.

PREVENTATIVE CARE AND DIGITAL TOOLS

Dr. Masego Gilbert, Bomaid's Medical Advisor, shared expert insights on preventative care, highlighting the importance of early detection and proactive health management. She encouraged the public to make use of digital tools such as "Abby," an interactive health assistant, and the 'Thrive with Bomaid' app, which tracks mental and physical health patterns and provides personalised advice.

CERVICAL CANCER AWARENESS AND SCREENING

A significant focus of the session was cervical cancer prevention. Dr. Gilbert urged women to prioritise screening, either through HPV DNA testing or the "see-and-treat" approach available in public health facilities, where abnormal changes can be identified and treated in a single visit. She also highlighted the role men can play by supporting family members in accessing vaccinations and health check-ups.

ADDRESSING HEALTHCARE COSTS AND POLICY

Mokgosana also addressed broader healthcare challenges, noting escalating costs and the impact of fraud, waste, and abuse. He explained that Bomaid is leveraging analytics and stronger provider engagement to safeguard member contributions.

On policy, he expressed support for the proposed National Health Insurance, highlighting the potential for it to complement private medical aid and expand access to quality care across Botswana.

COMMITMENT TO HEALTH AND WELLNESS

The engagement underscored Bomaid's commitment to preventative care, innovation, and informed decision-making, positioning the organisation as a leader in promoting health and wellness nationwide.

NDB Launches StarConnect Loan

The bank marked a major milestone in efbrts to bridge Botswana's digital divide



LEATILE ZACHARIAH

The National Development Bank of Botswana (NDB), in partnership with Thor International, officially launched its innovative StarConnect loan solution recently in Gaborone, marking a major milestone in efforts to bridge Botswana's digital divide.

NEW FINANCING SOLUTION

The StarConnect loan is a bold financing initiative aimed at making high-speed satellite internet more accessible and affordable, particularly for individuals in rural and underserved areas. The move comes as digital connectivity becomes increasingly essential for communication, banking, security, and participation in the digital economy.

ELIMINATING BARRIERS TO CONNECTIVITY

Speaking at the launch, NDB Product Analyst Katlego Tyolo explained that StarConnect was developed to address the growing gap between connected and unconnected communities. "StarConnect creates an ecosystem that enables customers to access connectivity while removing the financial barriers that previously prevented them from doing so," she said.

Through the facility, NDB provides 100 percent financing for both equipment and installation, eliminating upfront costs. Customers can access unsecured loans of up to P400,000, repayable in affordable monthly installments, with approval turnaround times as short as 72 hours.

TARGETING FARMERS AND REMOTE AREAS

The solution is expected to significantly benefit farmers and individuals operating in remote areas, where connectivity remains a major challenge. Reliable internet access is vital for modern agriculture, including access to agritech tools, market information, financial services, and security systems. Tyolo emphasized that the StarConnect ecosystem allows users to remain connected even in far-flung locations, removing location-based barriers.

THOR INTERNATIONAL BRINGS TECHNOLOGY EXPERTISE

Goboletswe Sepapane, representing Thor International, highlighted the company's role in delivering the technical solution. As an authorized reseller of Starlink, Thor International provides equipment, professional installation, and ongoing 24/7 local support.

"The challenge has not been availability, but affordability. This partnership ensures that customers can now access the full solution without financial strain," Sepapane said. He added that StarConnect solutions are tailored to individual needs, whether for homes, farms, or mobile connectivity setups.

The StarConnect loan will initially target salaried individuals, with plans to expand to businesses in future phases.




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BDC Outlines Transformation Strategy and Investment Priorities

BDC outlines a shift in strategy, focusing on portfolio restructuring and targeted investments to support economic growth



Botswana Development Corporation (BDC) hosted a Managing Director's Editors Roundtable on 25 March 2026 in Gaborone, bringing together senior editors for a discussion on its strategy, financial position, and future direction.

HALF-YEAR RESULTS PRESENTED

During the session, Managing Director Oteng Keabetswe presented half-year financial results for the period ending 31 December 2025, outlining operational performance and ongoing efforts to reposition the Corporation.

The engagement, held under the theme "Reflection, Reality and Vision," highlighted challenges within BDC's legacy portfolio, including high non-performing loans and limited cash conversion, which have constrained income generation.

STRATEGIC SHIFT UNDERWAY

Keabetswe said addressing these issues was critical to strengthening the institution. "This assessment has enabled us to adopt a more sustainable approach that prioritises performance, liquidity, and long-term value creation for the benefit of Batswana," he said.

BDC is implementing a new strategy focused on portfolio optimisation, asset recycling, targeted investments, and diversification across sectors such as agribusiness, energy, healthcare, and technology.

INVESTMENT AND PERFORMANCE

The Corporation reported investing approximately P250 million during the first half of the financial year, with cumulative disbursements of about P550 million over seven months. Group income reached approximately P208 million, while cash position stood at around P534.9 million.

BDC said its investments are aimed at supporting economic diversification, job creation, and strengthening domestic industries.

FOCUS ON IMPACT INVESTING

"Our vision is to support industries that create jobs, drive innovation, and strengthen the nation's economic foundations so that future generations of Batswana can thrive," Keabetswe said.

The roundtable also emphasised the role of media engagement in promoting informed and balanced reporting on development issues.

Article edited for length



Bomaid Strengthens Media Partnership

Bomaid uses a media engagement to highlight travel health precautions, preventive care, and a new wellness app

Botswana Medical Aid Society (Bomaid) has outlined travel health advice and upcoming wellness initiatives during a media engagement held ahead of the Easter period. The session brought together journalists, editors, and health stakeholders to discuss public health priorities and sector developments.

TRAVEL HEALTH ADVISORY

With increased travel expected, Bomaid urged the public to review their medical cover before leaving home and to understand access to healthcare services outside their usual networks. Travellers were also advised to keep emergency contact details accessible to reduce potential disruptions during medical emergencies.



FOCUS ON PREVENTION

The engagement emphasised early detection and routine health screening, with attendees introduced to a screening device as part of awareness efforts. Chief Executive Officer Moraki Mokgosana said access to information remains key to improving health outcomes.

"People cannot act on what they do not know. Screening gives individuals a starting point to make better health decisions," Mokgosana said.

ONGOING MEDIA COLLABORATION

Bomaid indicated plans to expand engagement with the media through workshops, facility tours, and health awareness initiatives aimed at improving public understanding of its services and operations.

DIGITAL AND WELLNESS INITIATIVES

The organisation also highlighted developments in its digital platforms, including telehealth services and self-service tools. A new wellness application, Thrive, is expected to launch on 7 April 2026 at Virgin Active, allowing users to monitor daily health activities such as sleep and physical movement.

MEDIA WELLNESS CHALLENGE

Business Development Manager Tsaone Tlalanyane announced a Media Wellness Challenge linked to the app, encouraging journalists to adopt healthier habits.

"Health is not only about access to care, but about the decisions people make every day," said Corporate Communications Manager Tshepo Happy Maphanyane.

Article edited for length

FNB Botswana Drives Financial Literacy

FNB Botswana engages clubs and media to promote financial literacy and fraud awareness in local football

FNB Botswana has hosted a series of engagements with football clubs and sports journalists as part of efforts to strengthen financial literacy within the local game.

The sessions, held on 24 and 25 March 2026, brought together stakeholders from the FNB Premiership, including club representatives and members of the sports media.

FOCUS ON FINANCIAL LITERACY

The discussions centred on financial management and fraud awareness, with facilitators providing practical guidance tailored to the needs of clubs and media professionals.

According to the bank, improving financial knowledge is viewed as a key factor in promoting sustainability across the football ecosystem.

MEDIA ROLE IN FOOTBALL DEVELOPMENT

The media engagement also included a workshop led by a senior journalist, focusing on storytelling and the role of the media in shaping public perception of local football.



FNB Botswana Communications and PR Manager Boga Chilinde-Masebu

Participants explored how reporting can influence the growth and credibility of the sport.

LONG-TERM DEVELOPMENT APPROACH

FNB Botswana Communications and PR Manager Boga Chilinde-Masebu said the initiative reflects the Bank's longterm vision for football development in Botswana.

"We are deliberate about going beyond sponsorship because we recognise that football is an ecosystem made up of clubs, players, administrators and the media," she said.

She added that financial literacy can support better decision-making within the sector.

"When clubs are financially informed, they are better positioned to manage resources, support players and build institutions that can stand the test of time," Chilinde-Masebu said.

BUILDING INDUSTRY CAPACITY

The engagements are part of ongoing efforts to strengthen collaboration between financial institutions and football stakeholders, with a focus on skills development and institutional capacity.

Article edited for length

FNBIB, Hollard Launch Renewable Energy Cover

A new insurance product aims to address risks across Botswana's growing renewable energy sector

FNB Insurance Brokers (FNBIB) and Hollard Insure have introduced a new insurance solution targeting Botswana's renewable energy sector, aiming to address risks associated with project development, construction, and operation.

The product, referred to as a "Cradle to Grave" insurance solution, is designed to provide coverage for a range of renewable technologies, including solar, wind, and battery energy storage systems.

ADDRESSING SECTOR RISKS

The launch comes as renewable energy projects increase in scale and complexity, with stakeholders citing gaps in traditional insurance products that may not fully address technical and financial risks.

FNB Insurance Brokers Executive Director, Mosadinkwe Mosinyi said the solution is intended to support sector growth.

"Insurance should be an enabler, not a barrier, and with this launch we are reinforcing our commitment to supporting the energy transition," she said.

> "Insurance should be an enabler, not a barrier, and with this launch we are reinforcing our commitment to supporting the energy transition."

COVERAGE ACROSS PROJECT LIFECYCLE

According to the companies, the offering includes protection from equipment transportation and construction phases to operational risks such as business interruption and equipment failure. It also covers third-party liabilities, natural catastrophe risks, flexible policy structures and access to specialized renewable energy risk expertise and claims support.

Hollard Insure Head of Sales & Distribution, Pako Robert Morapedi said the product is structured to address uncertainty across project stages.

"Renewable energy developers are navigating increasing volatility throughout all stages of projects, and our solution is designed to provide certainty where it matters most," he said.

INDUSTRY COLLABORATION HIGHLIGHTED

The launch was presented during an industry engagement that brought together insurers, clients, and technical experts to discuss risk management in renewable energy projects.



FNB Insurance Brokers Executive Director, Mosadinkwe Mosinyi said the solution is intended to support sector growth.

Participants highlighted the role of insurance in enabling project financing and supporting the development of sustainable energy infrastructure.

Article edited for length



Youth Innovators Showcase Solutions at BDIH Hackathon

A national hackathon brought together young developers to build solutions for agriculture, health, and tourism


Botswana
Botswana
Botswana

DuelaEasy Expands to Taxis

A new partnership between Orange Money and Taxi Association aims to shift Botswana's taxi industry toward mobile payments and reduce reliance on cash.



Orange Money Botswana has partnered with the Taxi Association to introduce digital payment options across the country's public transport sector. The initiative focuses on expanding cashless transactions through taxis and combis, with the aim of improving payment efficiency and access to financial services.

DIGITAL SHIFT IN TRANSPORT

The rollout includes branding vehicles nationwide and onboarding operators onto DuelaEasy merchant accounts. The system enables commuters to pay fares using mobile phones linked to their Orange Money accounts, reducing reliance on physical cash.

At the centre of the initiative is DuelaEasy, a payment platform now expected to be accepted in participating vehicles. Orange Money CEO, Seabelo Pilane said the partnership is intended to integrate digital payments into daily commuting.

"This partnership with the Taxi Association is a deliberate step toward transforming how commuters and transport operators handle payments during their daily journeys," Pilane said.

OPERATOR INCENTIVES INTRODUCED

Pilane said the programme also seeks to formalise transactions within the transport sector by bringing operators into the digital economy through merchant accounts.

"We are bringing taxi operators into the formal digital economy by onboarding them onto merchant accounts," he said.

An incentive programme has been introduced to encourage drivers to assist customers using mobile payments. Pilane noted that the incentives are designed to support adoption among operators.

> "This partnership with the Taxi Association is a deliberate step toward transforming how commuters and transport operators handle payments during their daily journeys."

"We understand that behavior change requires tangible value," he said.

FOCUS ON CONVENIENCE AND SAFETY

For commuters, the system is expected to offer faster transactions and reduce the need to carry cash, particularly during peak travel periods. The Taxi Association is supporting the rollout and facilitating implementation across regions.

Article edited for length

How Local Enterprise Is Shaping Dignified Care

A local supplier partnership highlights how small businesses are contributing to Botswana's funeral services and broader care economy



Duncan Banyatsi – Head of Operations, FSG Limited

A partnership between FSG Limited and local suppliers draws attention to the role of small enterprises in Botswana's funeral services sector, particularly in supporting community-based value chains and employment.

The collaboration includes businesses such as B-T Ndothama StellHardworks, founded by Batandi Gwamulumba, who entered the welding industry in 2006. Her company now employs up to five people depending on project demands, reflecting gradual growth within a traditionally male-dominated field.

SHIFT TO LOCAL SUPPLIERSFSG began engaging local suppliers nationwide in June 2025 following the closure of its manufacturing operations. The move was aimed at strengthening local participation in service delivery and supporting small and medium enterprises.

This approach has extended beyond operational considerations to include broader economic and social outcomes within communities.

> "Small enterprises contribute by creating jobs, building skills, and maintaining services that are embedded within local communities."

ROLE OF CULTURAL PRACTICES

One area of focus is the production of grave covers, a component of funeral services that carries cultural and emotional significance. Locally produced materials are viewed as contributing to community involvement and cultural alignment in burial practices.

FSG has to date invested BWP 2, 827,000.00 in supporting grave cover suppliers across the country as part of this initiative.

SUPPORTING SMALL BUSINESSES

Gwamulumba described the partnership as an opportunity for small businesses to grow and gain recognition.

"Ke itumetse go bona motho wa mme a neelwa tshono ya go itsholetsa. FSG ke kompane e ratang go direla Batswana, ba rotloetsa thata rona ba dikgwebo potlana," she said.

Her remarks reflect broader discussions around inclusion and access to opportunities for women in technical industries.

CARE ECONOMY IN FOCUS

The initiative also reflects wider trends within the care economy, which includes sectors such as funeral services, healthcare, and social support systems. These industries are increasingly recognised for their role in economic development and community wellbeing.

Small enterprises contribute by creating jobs, building skills, and maintaining services that are embedded within local communities.

CHANGING ENTREPRENEURSHIP LANDSCAPE

The growth of businesses like B-T Ndothama StellHardworks highlights shifts in Botswana's entrepreneurial landscape, with more women entering technical and leadership roles.

These developments are seen as part of a broader move toward inclusive growth, where economic participation is distributed across different sectors and communities.

Article edited for length

Happy People Innovate More

Botswana's position near the bottom of the global happiness rankings is not just a social concern. It is a structural signal. New analysis shows that the same conditions that shape wellbeing also determine whether economies can innovate, scale ideas, and sustain growth.

The World Happiness Index is equivalent to the Global Innovation Index

DOULAS RASBASH

There is a statistic that policymakers routinely acknowledge, politely note and then quietly ignore. It is the global ranking produced each year by the World Happiness Report. Botswana sits near the very bottom: 143rd out of 147 countries. The reaction is familiar. The index is dismissed as vague, subjective, even indulgent. Happiness, after all, is seen as a soft concept—interesting perhaps, but peripheral to the serious business of economic growth, industrial policy, and innovation. This view is no longer tenable. In fact mathematicians will write this down as an expression. This feature explains why.

WHI GII

DATA LINK

Your Botswana Gazette examined the two data sets of the World Happiness Index and the Global Innovation Index using the most basic statistical tools—the conclusion is clear. The World Happiness Index is strongly aligned with innovation performance. More importantly, it functions as a proxy for a country's capacity to innovate.

The objection to the happiness index has always been epistemological. It is seen as measuring how people feel, rather than how economies function. But this rests on a misunderstanding. The index is not built on abstract sentiment. It is constructed from measurable components: income, social support, health, freedom, generosity, and perceptions of corruption. Each of these corresponds directly to a structural feature of an economy. Income reflects economic security and the ability to take risks. Health reflects productive and cognitive capacity. Freedom reflects agency—the ability to act, experiment, and challenge. Social support reflects networks through which ideas flow. Perceptions of corruption reflect trust in institutions—the ability to transact, invest, and scale. Taken together, these are not soft variables. They are the operating conditions of economic behaviour.

SAMPLE TEST

To move beyond assertion, a simple test was applied. A cross-country sample of approximately 30 countries was constructed, drawn from available data to provide a broadly representative mix of high-, middle-, and low-income economies across regions. While not exhaustive, the sample captures sufficient variation in both wellbeing and innovation performance to allow meaningful comparison. The purpose of the exercise is not to produce precise estimates, but to determine whether a consistent relationship exists.

CLEAR PATTERN

The results are clear. When the World Happiness Index is plotted against innovation performance, using data from the highly respected Global Innovation Index GII, a strong and consistent upward relationship emerges. Countries with higher levels of wellbeing exhibit higher levels of innovation. Countries with lower wellbeing scores consistently underperform. The relationship is not marginal. It is strong. And critically, it is systematic.



CORE DRIVERS

This alone should give pause to those who dismiss the index as irrelevant. But the analysis goes further. When the six components of the happiness index are examined individually, a structured pattern emerges that reveals how innovation actually works. Three variables stand out as foundational. Freedom enables experimentation. Without the ability to act, to try, and to fail, innovation cannot begin. Trust, captured through perceptions of corruption, enables scaling. Innovation is not just about ideas; it is about bringing those ideas to market, into institutions, and into systems. Without trust, contracts fail, partnerships collapse, and innovation remains small and fragmented. Income, meanwhile, provides the resource base. It allows individuals and firms to invest, to absorb risk, and to sustain effort over time.

ENABLING SYSTEM

Around these core drivers sit two enabling conditions. Social support strengthens collaboration. Innovation is rarely an individual act; it emerges through networks, through exchange, and through shared effort. Health sustains the system. It ensures that individuals have the physical and cognitive capacity to participate in complex, sustained economic activity. Finally, there is generosity. At first glance, it appears peripheral. But conceptually, it is profound. Generosity reflects a willingness to share—ideas, knowledge, opportunity. It is the opposite of zero-sum thinking. In innovation systems, where progress depends on recombination and diffusion, this cultural dimension matters more than is often recognised.

SYSTEM EFFECT

The key insight is that these variables do not operate independently. They form a system. Regression analysis confirms that, taken together, they explain the vast majority of variation in global innovation performance. No single factor dominates entirely, because innovation does not emerge from isolated inputs. It emerges from the interaction of conditions.

BOTSWANA CONTEXT

This brings us to Botswana. When placed within this framework, Botswana's position is no longer puzzling. It is entirely consistent. Across multiple dimensions, the country faces structural constraints. Economic security is uneven, particularly among the youth. Social stress is elevated. Trust in institutions is mixed. Networks are fragmented. These are not abstract observations. They are measurable conditions, and they align directly with weak innovation outcomes. Botswana is not failing to innovate because of a lack of ideas. It is operating within a system that constrains innovation.

CRITICAL SHIFT

This leads to a critical reframing. The World Happiness Index should not be interpreted as a measure of sentiment. It should be understood as a measure of behavioural conditions. It captures whether individuals are able to take risks, whether they trust the system, whether they can collaborate, and whether they have the capacity to sustain effort. In this sense, it becomes something far more powerful:

The WHI is a proxy for innovation propensity.

Not innovation itself, but the likelihood that innovation can emerge, diffuse, and scale.

POLICY ERROR

This exposes a deeper error in policy thinking. We have treated wellbeing as an outcome of development—something to be addressed once growth has been achieved. In reality, it is part of the architecture of development itself. Innovation hubs and increased research spending are often presented as solutions. But without the supporting social conditions—trust, security, and agency—they risk becoming isolated interventions, unable to generate sustained innovation. No amount of infrastructure or funding can compensate for a system in which individuals are unable to take risks, collaborate effectively, or trust the institutions within which they operate. This is not a moral argument. It is a structural one.

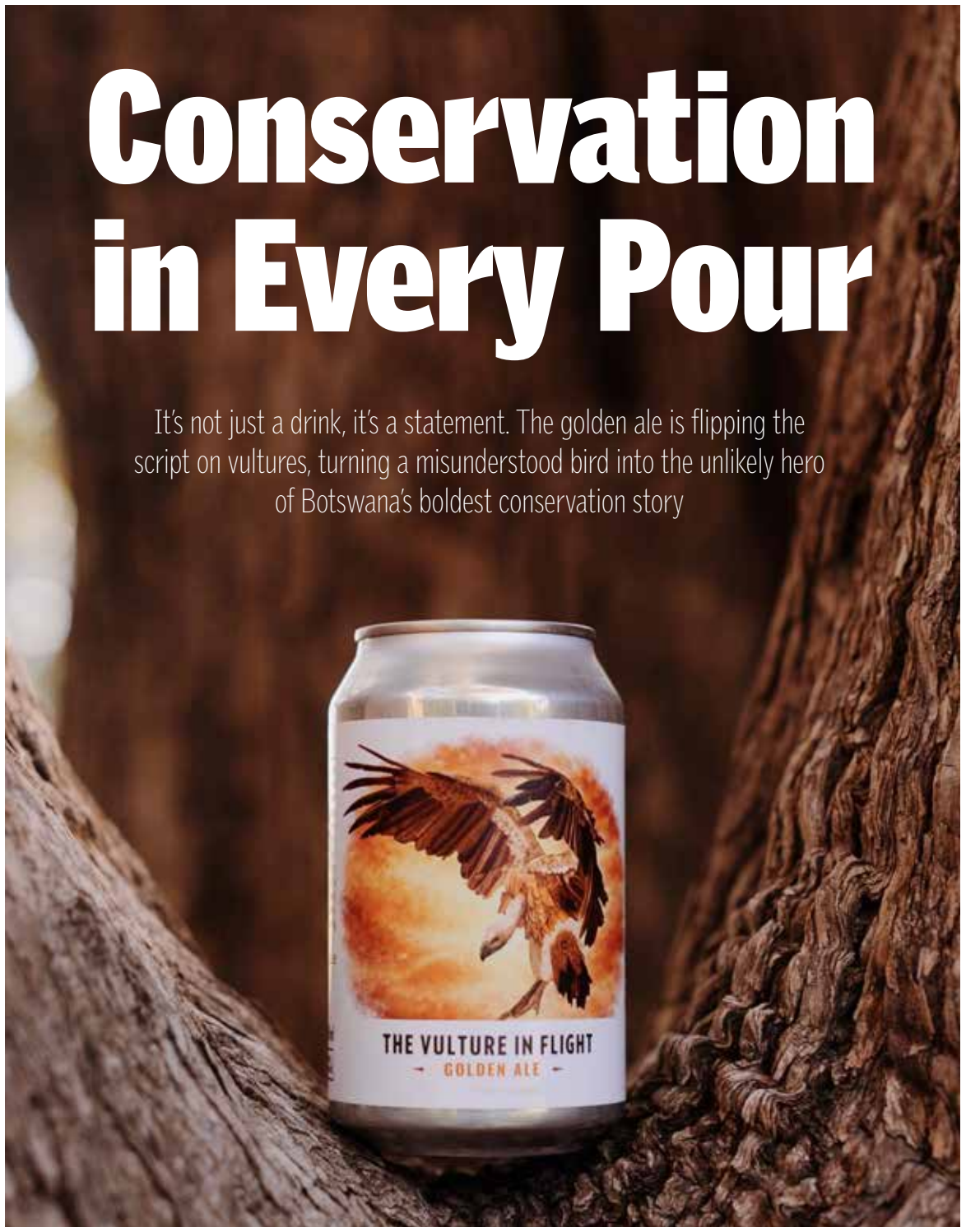
FINAL SIGNAL

Economies do not innovate because they invest alone. They innovate because the conditions allow people to act, to experiment, and to create. Where those conditions are weak, investment produces limited returns. Policies underperform. Ambitions stall. At 143 out of 147, Botswana's ranking is not a curiosity. It is a signal. It tells us that the behavioural conditions required for innovation—trust, security, agency, and cohesion—are weak. Under such conditions, ideas do not translate into enterprises. Enterprises do not scale into industries. Industries do not transform the economy. Innovation does not fail because of a lack of ideas. It fails because the system cannot support those ideas. The evidence is now clear. The World Happiness Index is not soft. It is not peripheral. And it is not optional. It is a proxy for whether an economy is capable of innovating at all. And until it is treated as such, our ambitions for transformation will remain exactly that: ambitions.

The Botswana Gazette
TIME OUT
THE BOTSWANA GAZETTE
WEDNESDAY 01 APRIL 2026

Conservation in Every Pour

It's not just a drink, it's a statement. The golden ale is flipping the script on vultures, turning a misunderstood bird into the unlikely hero of Botswana's boldest conservation story



GOSEGO MOTSUMI

Some beers go down easy. Others go deeper.

At Mokolodi Nature Reserve, a limited-release "The Vulture in flight" Golden Ale by Okavango Brewing Company is doing both, pouring crisp refreshment while quietly rewriting the narrative around one of Africa's most misunderstood birds: the vulture.

"With the relaunch of their vulture rehabilitation facility, there was a natural opportunity to do something more meaningful together," said Head of Operations at Okavango Brewing Company, Murray Stephenson in an interview.

THE UNSUNG CLEAN-UP CREW

Let's get this straight, vultures aren't villains. They're vital.

Often dismissed, these birds are actually the ecosystem's sanitation squad, preventing disease and maintaining balance. But across Africa, they're vanishing—poisoned, hunted, misunderstood.

"Vultures are among the most threatened birds on the continent," Stephenson explained. "And yet their role… has never been more important."

This Golden Ale steps in as an unlikely advocate, turning bar chatter into conservation conversation, one sip at a time.

"We wanted to highlight that with this beer and people to recognise vultures as indispensable. At the same time, we aim to support the work done at the Mokolodi rehabilitation centre, where injured birds are given a second chance."

BEER AS A STORYTELLER

At its core, this isn't just about beer. It's about belief.

"We don't see beer just as a product, we see it as a platform."

And that platform is layered. From sourcing millet from farmers in the Okavango Panhandle to supporting wildlife coexistence, the brand's ethos is baked into every batch. The vulture-inspired brew simply sharpens the message—urgent, relevant, and impossible to ignore.

ART THAT TAKES FLIGHT

The label? A statement piece.

Crafted by artist Kenneth Bale, it reimagines the vulture not as ominous, but as majestic—mid-flight, glowing in golden hues. Strength. Renewal. Life.

It's not just packaging, it's perspective.

"Instead of depicting the bird as dark or threatening, he presents it in full upward flight, wings extended, rendered in warm golden tones to convey strength, renewal, and life," Stephenson said.

"The artwork reflects the role vultures play in maintaining ecosystem balance, highlighting how their presence restores what would otherwise deteriorate."

EXCLUSIVITY WITH A PURPOSE

You'll only find this brew at select spots like Mokolodi and its Bush Kitchen restaurant. But that's the point.

"Exclusivity is about tying the story to the place and people behind it. At the same time, the conversation it sparks travels further beyond the beer," Stephenson noted

Because sometimes, the most powerful movements don't start everywhere. They start somewhere.

> "We don't see beer just as a product, we see it as a platform."

THE LAST SIP

From the Delta to the capital, this Golden Ale isn't just brewed for the wild, it's brewed to protect it.

And maybe, just maybe, the next time you raise a glass, you'll also raise awareness.



Isithembu sika Msongelwa Returns

Love gets louder, messier, and more complicated as Isithembu sika Msongelwa returns for season 2 where culture, conflict, and desire collide in a battle no one is ready to lose



GAZETTE REPORTER

Produced by Pula Bakgaga Media and Kusa Films, the hit drama series Isithembu sika Msongelwa returns for a gripping second season, bringing new episodes to screens every Monday from 6 April 2026 at 20:00 on Mzansi Magic.

A MAN, THREE WIVES, ONE IMPOSSIBLE EXIT

Led by acclaimed actor Andile Mxakaza, Season 2 deepens the emotional and cultural complexities of polygamy through the story of Msongelwa, a taxi owner determined to undo his polygamous marriage in pursuit of a monogamous life with his high school sweetheart, Asanda. However, his plan quickly unravels when his three wives refuse to let him walk away.

THE WOMEN TAKE CENTER STAGE

The formidable trio of wives is portrayed by Nompumelelo Vilakazi (Senzeni), Phumzile Mlangeni (Mam'Zobe) and Thandeka Shangase (Phathekile), while Nosipho Pehlo steps into the role of Asanda, the woman who disrupts Msongelwa's already fragile household.

TRADITION VS DESIRE

Picking up from a dramatic Season 1 cliffhanger, the new season explores the consequences of Msongelwa's choices as he attempts to introduce Asanda into a deeply rooted and resistant family structure. What unfolds is a layered narrative of love, conflict, identity and cultural expectation.

Mxakaza describes the role as both challenging and deeply personal, highlighting how the series portrays polygamy not just as a lifestyle, but as a complex emotional and spiritual journey.

HIGH STAKES, RAW TRUTHS

Season 2 places a strong spotlight on the women at the heart of the story, each bringing strength, individuality and influence into the marriage. Mam'Zobe stands as the unwavering matriarch and pillar of the family; Senzeni embodies emotional depth and resilience, while Phathekile's gentle yet firm presence adds balance. Together, their voices grow louder as they challenge Msongelwa and assert their place within the marriage.

At the same time, Asanda represents a modern perspective on love, one that both attracts and unsettles Msongelwa. Caught between tradition and desire, he finds himself navigating an internal battle that forces him to confront who he is and what he truly wants.

A RECKONING UNFOLDS

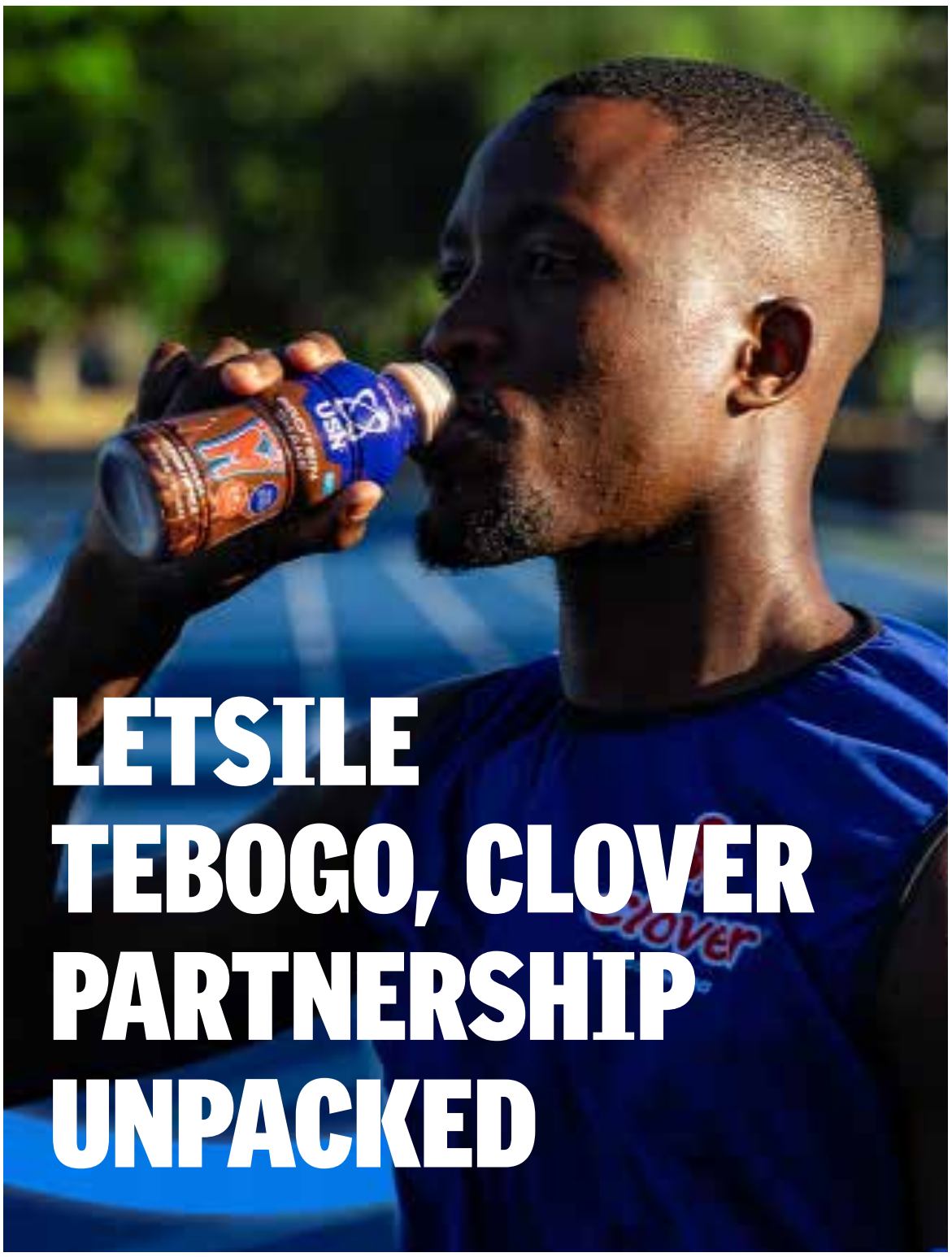
Mxakaza adds: "Beyond the drama, the series carries a strong message about accountability, respect and the importance of communication in relationships. It explores the consequences of choice, the value of emotional and spiritual alignment and the evolving roles of men and women within traditional structures."

> "The show reflects both the beauty and the difficulties of polygamy."

Season 2 also raises the stakes with heightened tension, moments of humour and raw emotional confrontations. As Msongelwa faces the fallout of his decisions, he is forced into a journey of humility, one that sees him reckon with his wives, his culture and himself.

Watch trailer: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ETUguUX-q7Q





LETSILE TEBOGO, CLOVER PARTNERSHIP UNPACKED

From milk cartons to medal dreams, Clover Botswana teams up with Olympic star Letsile Tebogo to turn everyday moments into a nationwide movement of creativity, reward, and inspiration

GAZETTE REPORTER

When Letsile Tebogo partners with Clover Botswana, the result is less about marketing and more about momentum. Think classrooms buzzing, families participating, and a nation leaning into something bigger than product, it's pride.

> One hundred students will head to the upcoming Grand Prix on 24 April at the National Stadium to watch Tebogo compete on home soil.

CREATIVITY TAKES THE LEAD

Across Gaborone, primary school kids are turning empty Clover Ultra Milk cartons into full-blown cow sculptures. Not messy crafts, masterpieces.

The "Build a Cow" competition is equal parts imagination and intention: recycling meets teamwork, and suddenly sustainability feels cool.

The prize? Not trophies gathering dust, but an experience. One hundred students will head to the upcoming Grand Prix on 24 April at the National Stadium to watch Tebogo compete on home soil. For many, it's not just a day out, it's a glimpse of possibility.

BUY, WIN, BELONG

Running parallel is the "Buy & Win" campaign, flipping everyday shopping into something electric. Purchase a Clover product, and you're in the running for prizes including exclusive moments with Tebogo himself.

It's loyalty, but with a heartbeat.

"This partnership is about more than just a campaign — it's about inspiring young people, celebrating creativity… and giving back to the communities that support us," said David Masalela.

THE POWER OF SEEING YOURSELF

There's something quietly radical about this whole thing: kids building cows from cartons while dreaming of sprinting like Tebogo.

Representation isn't just on TV screens anymore—it's stepping into classrooms, into supermarkets, into everyday life.

MORE THAN A MOMENT

Clover's campaign taps into something deeper than prizes—it builds connection. Between brands and people. Between effort and reward. Between dreams and reality.

Because sometimes inspiration doesn't arrive in grand speeches. Sometimes, it looks like a milk carton and a child daring to imagine more.

Why ProVerb's New Book is Timely

In a world running on burnout and soft chaos, ProVerb's To Health With It! lands right on time, calling for a full-life reset that goes far beyond the body

GOSEGO MOTSUMI

At first, it sounds cheeky. A playful twist on "to hell with it." But in 2026, an era of quiet burnout, emotional fatigue, and financial anxiety, To Health With It! feels less like a pun and more like a need for survival.

Launched in Gaborone this past weekend, To Health With It! Reset, Realign and Redefine Your Health, Wealth and Happiness by seasoned broadcaster and media personality, Tebogo "ProVerb" Thekisho, is timely.

THIS IS NOT A FITNESS BOOK

"If I am in a toxic work environment where I'm miserable and unhappy, when I get home that behavior may affect my family life," ProVerb said, cutting straight to the domino effect of imbalance.

What started as a physical wake-up call spirals into something deeper for the author: emotional instability, financial missteps, and a life out of alignment.

"At 100kg, I had a very brutal conversation with a producer who straight out told me I was fat. That's how I start the book. I was the host of a TV show then, and the producer said the show needed to be young, sexy, and cool, which I understood," he said.

"It then sent me on a pursuit of the betterment of all the different aspects of my life."

This is where the book hits its nerve. Because right now, everyone is juggling something, and most are dropping more than they admit.

THE AGE OF HOLISTIC HEALING



ProVerb leans into a truth many are just beginning to accept: wellness isn't aesthetic, it's architectural. You can't fix one pillar and ignore the rest.

"So, as a whole human being, you have to balance life by addressing each aspect individually," he explains.

From mental and emotional health to money habits and spiritual grounding, the book pushes readers to audit their entire existence, not just their waistlines.

He said: "Sometimes the self-analysis is where the repair begins."

PERFECTION IS OUT, PROCESS IS IN

"I was cautious not to write it like a prescription… I think it's mythical to think a perfect life exists," ProVerb admits.

And maybe that's why the book resonates now. It doesn't promise a glow-up. It demands a look-in.

With an Ebobea Book Awards nomination already under its belt ahead of its April 7 release, the message is clear: people are ready to do the work.

THE REAL TREND? BALANCE

In a culture obsessed with looking okay, To Health With It! asks a tougher question: Are you actually okay? Because right now, timing is everything, and this might just be the reset people didn't know they needed.

Moremong: Pageantry's Invisible Power Player

She never wore the crown but she built the stage. After years in the shadows, Kaone Moremong finally steps into the spotlight, proving pageantry is more power move than pretty parade

GOSEGO MOTSUMI

At the recent Miss Botswana finale, amid glitter, gowns, and gasps, one of the loudest wins came from the quietest corner. Kaone Moremong, long the engine behind the scenes was finally called to the front. No sash. No tiara. Just recognition.

And somehow, it hit harder.

"The award was about recognition… my contribution towards the building and the growth of Miss Botswana," she told Time Out, reflecting on nearly a decade of shaping a modern pageant machine under the Development Advance Institute (DAI).

VOLUNTEER, VISIONARY, FORCE

Here's the twist: she did it all for free.

"I was volunteering my services, time, and resources to make sure that Miss Botswana was where it is. I took Miss Botswana like a giving back project to support young girls," she said.

In an industry often dismissed as surface-level, Moremong's work tells a different story, one of infrastructure, mentorship, branding, and strategy. From producing shows to chaperoning queens and sharpening PR narratives, she helped transform the pageant into something aspirational, bankable, and culturally relevant.

Her fingerprints are everywhere, even in the rise of queens like Palesa Molefe, who helped reposition the brand as serious business.

MORE THAN JUST A RAMP

"People believe that pageantry is just girls parading on a ramp," she said. "But it supports so many industries."

And she's not wrong. Pageantry is fashion, media, tourism, production, PR—a full ecosystem disguised as glamour. In Botswana, it's still catching up to its own potential.

THE BIGGER DREAM: BOTSWANA ON DISPLAY

Moremong isn't thinking small. She's thinking global runways stretching into international arenas, Botswana as host, not just participant.

"We want to see big platforms like Miss Supranational, Miss Universe… being hosted in Botswana for an entire month."

It's a bold vision: millions of eyes on the country, culture packaged not as spectacle but as statement. She points to global events previously hosted in Botswana as proof, it's possible. It just needs belief, backing, and a shift in mindset.

CROWNING THE FUTURE

Moremong's honour isn't just a personal milestone, it's a signal. That the industry is evolving. That the builders, the believers, the behind-the-scenes architects are finally being seen.



> "I was volunteering my services, time, and resources to make sure that Miss Botswana was where it is. I took Miss Botswana like a giving back project to support young girls."

Inside Pearls of Wisdom Launch

In a room thick with truth and testimony, Pearls of Wisdom launched not as a book, but as a bold call for women to confront pain, claim purpose, and embrace becoming

GOSEGO MOTSUMI



At Protea Hotel Gaborone Masa Square, the launch of Pearls of Wisdom felt less like a literary event and more like a sacred circle. No pretense, no performance just women showing up with their stories, ready to pour, receive, and most importantly, share.

Because this wasn't just about reading wisdom. It was about passing it on.

THE ART OF BECOMING

"Becoming is a process and let us embrace it," said seasoned communication, brand expert and former journalist, Tuduetso Kelapile, grounding the room in a truth that lingered long after the applause faded.

Authored by Pearl Ndlovu and published by MoBots Publishing, the 122-page book, "Pearls of Wisdom" doesn't preach it walks with you. Through valleys, pits, mountains, and movement, it traces how life's hardest seasons quietly shape purpose.

"Each chapter invites the reader to pause, reflect, and draw meaning," Ndlovu shared, framing the book as a companion for those navigating uncertainty and searching for clarity.

WHEN STORIES BREAK AND BUILD

Then came the kind of storytelling that doesn't ask for comfort, it demands courage.

The founder of Tenacious Conversations, a Christian platform and podcast, Letlhogonolo Motswaledi didn't just speak; she unraveled. Trauma, abandonment, betrayal—her truth landed heavy, but necessary.

"Give it to the Lord and go back to what has broken you and untie yourself," she said, her voice cutting through silence. "Confront what has happened to you, trauma alters your mind."

This is what sharing pearls looks like: not perfection, but permissionto feel, to heal, to begin again.

STRIPPED TO PURPOSE

Priscillah Ndadi, author, Corporate Leader and faith advocate closed the circle with a truth many spend years avoiding.

"Never concern yourself with titles, they are fleeting," she said, reframing success as something deeper than status.

Sometimes, she suggested, everything you thought defined you has to fall away so purpose can finally step in.

PEARLS DON'T FORM IN COMFORT

At its core, Pearls of Wisdom is not a manual—it's a mirror. A reflection of the quiet, often painful seasons that shape identity, restore hope, and ignite purpose.

> "Through my work, it is my aim to uplift, empower, and remind readers that every season carries meaning."

"Through my work, it is my aim to uplift, empower, and remind readers that every season carries meaning," Ndlovu said.

And in that room, one thing became clear: wisdom isn't found in avoiding the storm it's formed inside it.

Wine Ageing Made Simple

PHENYO MOTLHAGODI



Phenyo Motlhagodi is a Cape Wine Academy–trained wine enthusiast and the writer of Pour Decisions, a weekly wine column in The Botswana Gazette. By day, he is a Chartered PR Practitioner (Chart. PR, CIPR) and founder of a pan-African boutique PR, Influence & Reputation Management consultancy, Tennyson. Instagram: @phenyomotlhagodi.

There are two kinds of wine drinkers: those who save bottles for "a special day", and those who accidentally create special days by opening the bottle.

If you're in the first group, you probably have a bottle at home that has been waiting for a promotion, a wedding, or the arrival of world peace. If you're in the second group, you've learned something important: the best way to celebrate life is to actually drink the wine while your friends are still available and your knees still work.

AGEING SHIFT

Either way, the idea of aged wine tends to intimidate people. It feels like a secret society. But ageing is not a mystery. It's a simple shift. Over time, fruit becomes less loud, texture becomes more interesting, and aromas become more layered. In other words, the wine matures the way people do it calms down, picks up nuance, and starts telling better stories. Here's what changes in the glass.

Young wine is usually all about primary fruit: fresh citrus in whites, bright berries in reds, that immediate "wow" of flavour. With age, those fruit notes step back and the supporting cast steps forward. You start finding things like honey, nuts, dried fruit, tobacco, leather, earth, mushroom, tea, spice. The wine isn't necessarily "stronger." It's more complex. The finish often gets longer and the whole experience feels more connected, like the flavours have agreed on a shared plan.

IN THE GLASS

This is why I always say: aged wine isn't better. It's just different and sometimes, it's storytelling in liquid form

Now, the practical question: what actually ages well?

Not everything. Some wines are made to be drunk young, when their fruit is at its brightest. And that's not a failure it's a design choice. Generally, wines with good structure have a better chance of ageing. That structure can come from acidity (often in whites), tannin (often in reds), concentration, or a combination of all three. Sweet wines can age beautifully too because sugar is a natural preservative. Sparkling wines, especially those made in traditional method styles, can also develop wonderful complexity over time.

WHAT AGES

But don't turn this into a finance lecture. You're not buying wine to impress a stranger on Instagram. You're buying wine to understand your own palate.



That brings us to the most important phrase you'll hear in wine ageing: "drink window."

> "The easiest way to start collecting is buying two bottles and giving one a future."

A drink window is simply the period when a wine is likely to taste its best. Think of it like a concert. If you arrive too early, the band is still sound-checking. If you arrive too late, the lights are off and the chairs are stacked. The drink window is when the wine is "in show." Some wines have short windows. Some have long ones. The trick is not to be perfect it's to be curious.

DRINK WINDOW

Here is the simplest way to begin "collecting" without becoming someone who talks about collecting: buy two bottles of a wine you genuinely love. Drink one now. Keep one for later. That's it. The easiest way to start collecting is buying two bottles and giving one a future.

This one habit turns you into a student of your own taste. Because you're not reading about ageing you're experiencing it. Six months later, a year later, two years later, you open the second bottle and ask: what changed? Did the fruit soften? Did the texture become smoother? Did the wine become more interesting, or did it lose its spark? You learn more from that one comparison than from a hundred tasting notes written by strangers.

STORAGE RULES

Now, let's bring this home to Botswana, where reality has a way of humbling wine dreams.

Storage matters. Heat kills. Do not try to age wine on a windowsill while praying. Wine needs cool, dark, stable conditions. If you don't have a wine fridge, find the coolest, darkest place in your home a low cupboard, a closet, a spare-room corner on the floor. Keep the bottles still. Keep them out of sun. Keep them away from appliances that turn your kitchen into a slow oven.

And please remember: you don't have to age everything. Age a few bottles with intention and drink the rest with joy.

FINAL POINT

Because this is the real point. Wine collecting, at its best, is not status-building. It's memory-building. It's opening a bottle you saved and realising it tastes like a chapter of your life the year you bought it, the person you drank it with, the way the night unfolded. It's not a flex. It's a timeline.

So, if you've got a "special day" bottle at home, consider this your permission slip: open it. Create the day. And if you want to start ageing wine properly, buy two bottles next time one for now, and one for future you.



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.



CULTURE, COMMERCE AND THE RISE OF BOTSWANA'S URBAN CREATIVE ECONOMY



Botswana's creative sector is shifting from expression to enterprise, as music, fashion and culture increasingly drive economic value, youth participation and new business models in a diversifying economy.

Botswana's creative industries are entering a new phase. Music, fashion, culinary innovation and visual art are no longer simply expressions of culture. They are becoming platforms for entrepreneurship, innovation and economic participation.

Across the country, a new generation of creators is building businesses around their craft. Musicians are developing independent brands, designers are launching labels and culinary entrepreneurs are creating distinctive dining concepts. What was once seen largely as artistic expression is increasingly part of a growing creative economy, one that is structured, monetisable and capable of contributing meaningfully to national GDP.

ECONOMIC SHIFT

This shift matters because Botswana is actively pursuing economic diversification. As the country looks beyond traditional industries, sectors such as tourism, digital content and the creative economy present opportunities to stimulate innovation, generate employment and expand cultural exports. Importantly, these sectors are youth driven, scalable and aligned with global consumption trends, positioning Botswana to participate more competitively in the international creative marketplace.

The creative sector is filled with entrepreneurs who are experimenting with new business models, building audiences and creating value within their communities. For financial institutions, supporting this sector presents an opportunity to engage with emerging SMEs, support economic growth and help unlock their commercial potential. It also allows for the development of new financial products, funding models and support systems tailored to non traditional industries that are often underserved.

COLLABORATIVE GROWTH

Growth within this sector requires collaboration across institutions. Public policy discussions consistently highlight the importance of partnerships between creatives, government, corporates and cultural institutions. Sustainable progress depends on shared participation from stakeholders who recognise that cultural industries function within broader economic systems. This is just the beginning, as we then need to explore monetisation, commercialisation and sustainable growth. This includes building value chains, improving access to markets and ensuring that creatives are not only visible, but economically empowered.

This thinking informed the launch of the Stanbic Bank Botswana Music 'n' Lifestyle Festival in 2025. The platform was designed not only as a cultural event, but as a space where creative talent, small businesses and audiences could interact in a way that encourages both cultural expression and commercial opportunity. It is intentionally positioned as a marketplace of ideas, talent and trade where culture becomes currency.

REGIONAL MODEL

The approach reflects a model that has proven successful elsewhere in the region. Events such as the Standard Bank Luju Food and Lifestyle and MTN Bushfire festivals in Eswatini have demonstrated how cultural platforms can generate tourism, support local vendors and elevate creative industries onto a regional stage. With the Music 'n' Lifestyle Festival, the ambition is to build a similarly structured platform that supports Botswana's growing creative ecosystem. However, the opportunity locally is to go even further, to embed the platform within Botswana's economic strategy as a repeatable, scalable cultural asset.



Early results have been encouraging. Emerging musicians have secured new bookings after performing on the platform. Fashion designers have sold collections to wider audiences. Local vendors have used the event to expand their customer base and form new partnerships. These outcomes illustrate how structured platforms can help transform creative talent into commercial opportunity. They also demonstrate the multiplier effect of the creative economy, where one opportunity creates several downstream economic benefits.

MEASURABLE IMPACT

The inaugural festival attracted more than 2,200 attendees, illustrating strong market appetite for a curated urban cultural experience. The platform generated over P1.9 million in total economic value, while engaging 38 local businesses across food, fashion and retail. More than 600 jobs were created across event operations and vendor activity, reinforcing its contribution to local economic participation. The festival also amplified Botswana's cultural reach, generating over 17 million digital impressions and showcasing a curated mix of regional and local talent. These metrics highlight not only immediate economic impact, but also long term brand value for Botswana as a cultural destination.

> "What was once cultural expression is now structured, monetisable economic value."

Beyond the numbers, the festival contributes to a more sustainable creative ecosystem. By providing a consistent platform for creatives to showcase, sell and scale their work, it supports income generation, skills development and industry formalisation. Sustainability in this context is not only environmental, but economic, ensuring that creatives can build careers, not just moments.

URBAN INFLUENCE

These developments also reflect broader cultural shifts in Botswana's urban centres. Young professionals, Gen Z and Millennials are shaping cultural trends as much as they are consuming them. They are collaborators, entrepreneurs and community builders who are redefining how culture and commerce interact. They are also driving demand for experiences that are authentic, local and globally relevant.

For brands, this presents an opportunity to engage more meaningfully with emerging sectors while supporting innovation and entrepreneurship. It also challenges corporates to move beyond sponsorship into co creation, where brands actively participate in building ecosystems rather than simply funding them.

FUTURE PLATFORM

Looking ahead, the 2026 edition of the Stanbic Bank Botswana Music 'n' Lifestyle Festival will take place on 25 April under the theme "Where Urban Culture Lives." Expanded vendor participation, curated experience zones and immersive programming will further position the event as a meeting point for Botswana's urban creative community.

Crucially, for this platform to reach its full potential, it must evolve beyond a single corporate initiative and into a shared national asset. Its long term sustainability will depend on broader industry participation, policy alignment and multi stakeholder ownership.

LONG TERM VISION

Our long term ambition is to help build a sustainable platform that consistently supports creative entrepreneurs while contributing to Botswana's evolving lifestyle economy. This means creating continuity, investing in infrastructure and ensuring that the platform grows in scale, impact and inclusivity year on year.

Botswana's creative sector continues to demonstrate resilience, ambition and cultural influence. With collaboration between creatives, institutions and industry partners, it has the potential to become an important driver of opportunity, innovation and long term economic growth.

The future of Botswana's economy will not be defined by resources alone, but by creativity, culture and the ability to turn ideas into industry. Platforms such as the Music 'n' Lifestyle Festival are early indicators of that future and the opportunity now is to nurture and scale them.



By Stanbic Bank Botswana Head of Brand and Marketing Stephanie Sandridge

We second Tax, Data Protection & HR professionals



REBAONE F. 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.

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SKILLS & ACADEMY
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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.

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.


Mrs Rachel Hore
Lead Research 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).


Mr Edwin Duta
Lead IT Consultant

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.

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PropCo
Plots | Accomodation | Built Spaces



HOUSES FOR RENT IN G-NORTH

1. Accessible through new tarred road, 5th turn after Phakalane robots near Mmamashia is a;
   a. 3-bedroomed apartment with a master bedroom + an ensuite. Gated, electric fence, (WUC) water connected, and movable wardrobes - P4 950 (excluding bills) plus equivalent security.
   b. 2 newly built 3 bedroomed apartments with master bed + ensuite. Gated, electric fence, security protected, (WUC) and sewerage connected- P5500 (excluding bills) + equivalent security.
2. Located on the 1st turn from Phakalane robots to G-North is: a budget house with 3 moderate bedrooms, has a Jojo tank and electric fence- P3900

PLOTS FOR SALE IN G-NORTH

518 square meters each with electricity, water and sewerage services currently in progress. Plots will be in a gated estate. P415 000.00 VAT Inclusive each and no transfer duty. Located 4th turn after Phakalane robots

Contacts - 7187 0023/ 71614524/ 71815836 or 3939 435 or
Email: tax1@aupracontax.co.bw cc finance@aupracontax.co.bw & research@easternman.co.bw

APPLICATION FOR ISSUE OF A CERTIFIED COPY OF COVERING MORTGAGE BOND

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the undersigned intends to apply for a certified copy of Covering Mortgage Bond No. **FT 841/2010** dated the **2nd** day of **November 2010** passed by **K & L HOLDINGS (PROPRIETARY) LIMITED** in favour of **FIRST NATIONAL BANK OF BOTSWANA LIMITED** in respect of the following property:

1. **CERTAIN** : piece of land being **Farm No.64- NQ** (Formerly Farm No.337)
   SITUATE : in the Tati District of Botswana;
   MEASURING : 796.7360Ha (Seven Hundred and Ninety-Six Comma Seven Three Six Zero Hectares);

2. **CERTAIN** : piece of land being **Farm No.71- NQ** (Formerly Farm No.338)
   SITUATE : in the Tati District of Botswana;
   MEASURING : 913.9919Ha (Nine Hundred and Thirteen Comma Nine Nine One Nine Hectares);

3. **CERTAIN** : piece of land being **Farm No.72- NQ** (Formerly Farm No.339)
   SITUATE : in the Tati District of Botswana;
   MEASURING : 806.4003Ha (Eight Hundred and Six Comma Four Zero Zero Three Hectares);

HELD UNDER : **Deed of Transfer No. FT 742/2009** dated **27th day of August 2009**.

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

DATED AT FRANCISTOWN ON THIS 24th DAY OF MARCH, 2025.

MMOHE ATTORNEYS
ATTORNEYS. NOTARIES & CONVEYANCERS

M. MMOHE ATTORNEYS
Plot No. 3936, Peolwane Street
Minestone
P.O. Box 1860
FRANCISTOWN
Telephone: 2441616

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

CASE NO: CVHGB- 003721 / 25

In the matter between:
CONSULTEK INVESTMENTS (PTY) LTD **APPLICANT**
And
JOY BUTALE **RESPONDENT**
In re:
CONSULTEK INVESTMENTS (PTY) LTD **PLAINTIFF**
And
JOY BUTALE **DEFENDANT**

NOTICE OF SALE IN EXECUTION

BE PLEASED TO TAKE NOTICE that pursuant to Judgment of this Honourable Court the following **movable property** of the above-mentioned Defendant will be sold in execution to the highest bidder by **Deputy Sherriff D. P. Gabobakwe** in the manner hereinafter set out.

DATE OF SALE : 22nd MAY 2026
TIME OF SALE : **10:00 hrs**
PLACE OF SALE : Plot: 1733, Pitsane West
TERMS OF SALE : Cash or bank guaranteed cheques
PROPERTY TO BE SOLD : A certain piece of land, being Lot 1733, Pitsane, Situated in the Barolong Tribal Area, in the Pitsane West ward, measuring 1000m², held under Memorandum of agreement of lease No TL 328/2005 Dated the 14th day of July 2005 made in favour of **JOY BUTALE** with some development being, 3 bedroomed house, kitchen, sitting room, toilet & bath, screen wall & motorized gate.

DATED AT GABORONE THIS 23rd DAY OF MARCH 2026

DEPUTY SHERIFF D.P GABOBAKWE
C/O CONSULTEK INVESTMENTS (PTY) LTD
(Plaintiff)
73900288 / 72901534
GABORONE

APPLICATION FOR ISSUE OF A CERTIFIED COPY OF LOST TITLE DEED

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the undersigned intends to apply for a certified copy of Deed of Transfer No. **FT 742/2009** dated the **27th** day of **August 2009** registered in favour of **K & L HOLDINGS (PROPRIETARY) LIMITED** in respect of the following property:

1. **CERTAIN** : piece of land being **Farm No.64- NQ** (Formerly Farm No.337)
   SITUATE : in the Tati District of Botswana;
   MEASURING : 796.7360Ha (Seven Hundred and Ninety-Six Comma Seven Three Six Zero Hectares);

2. **CERTAIN** : piece of land being **Farm No.71- NQ** (Formerly Farm No.338)
   SITUATE : in the Tati District of Botswana;
   MEASURING : 913.9919Ha (Nine Hundred and Thirteen Comma Nine Nine One Nine Hectares);

3. **CERTAIN** : piece of land being **Farm No.72- NQ** (Formerly Farm No.339)
   SITUATE : in the Tati District of Botswana;
   MEASURING : 806.4003Ha (Eight Hundred and Six Comma Four Zero Zero Three Hectares);
   SUBJECT : to the conditions and reservations contained in the aforesaid Deed.

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

DATED AT FRANCISTOWN ON THIS 24th DAY OF MARCH, 2025.

MMOHE ATTORNEYS
ATTORNEYS. NOTARIES & CONVEYANCERS

M. MMOHE ATTORNEYS
Plot No. 3936, Peolwane Street
Minestone
P.O. Box 1860
FRANCISTOWN
Telephone: 2441616

NOTICE OF INTENTION TO CHANGE MARRIAGE PROPERTY REGIME

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

1. BE PLEASED TO TAKE NOTICE THAT Lebotse Baliki Kgope and Keletso Grace Kgope, married in community of property on the 26th of September 2020 at Mochudi, wish to change their property regime to out of community of property.

2. The parties intend to apply to the High Court of Botswana after the expiration of the three (3) Weeks statutory notice from the date of first publication hereof.

3. Any person, creditor or debtor, who may have an interest in the assets and/or liabilities of the joint estate of the parties above,, should they have objections to the proposed change in the marriage property regime, **MUST** so inform the parties Attorneys, **TONY MATILO ATTORNEYS**, before the expiration of the said 3 weeks period, or make representations before **the High Court of Botswana** once the contemplated application is lodged.

DATED AT GABORONE THIS 23RD DAY OF MARCH 2026.

TONY MATILO ATTORNEYS

Plot 17335 Tshikitsane Road
Gaborone West Phase 1, Gaborone
Cell: 75746161/75746161
tony@tma.co.bw

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

CASE NO. CVHGB – 000097-2016

In the matter between
AFRICAN BANKING CORPORATION OF BOTSWANA LIMITED **Plaintiff**
and
BERNARD BOLELE **Defendant**

NOTICE OF SALE IN EXECUTION

BE PLEASED TO TAKE NOTICE THAT pursuant to a Judgment granted by the above Honourable Court on the 8th April 2016 the following immovable property of the abovementioned Defendant will be sold by means of public auction to the highest bidder by **DEPUTY SHERIFF URGENT J. CHILISA** as follows:

DATE OF SALE : Tuesday 08th May 2026
VENUE : Tribal Lot 3800, Mahalapye
TIME OF SALE : 1100 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 Lot **9470, Gaborone** in the Bangwato Tribal Territory, measuring **4608 m²** (Four Thousand Six Hundred and Eight Square Metres) held under Notarial Deed of Cession Number FT MA 237/2011 dated 14th day of November 2011 made in favour of Bolele Bernard Bolele specially executable. The developments therein are a three bedroomed house consisting of three bedrooms, bath and toilet, sitting room, kitchen, separate two rooms at the back, paved, electric fence and a screen wall.

DATED AT GABORONE ON THIS 24TH 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 Urgent Chilisa
[Cell No. 7477666/3180990]

NOTICE OF PROPOSED CHANGE OF PROPERTY REGIME

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

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

BE PLEASED TO TAKE NOTICE THAT, **Mrs. Tebogo Elizabeth Monowe** and **Mr. Evans Galemmone Monowe**, currently married in Community of Property wish to apply to the High Court to be granted leave to change their property regime to that of Out of Community of Property.

Creditors likely to be affected by the said intended application are required to notify the under mentioned Attorneys of such likelihood within 30 days of publication of this notice.

DATED AT GABORONE ON THIS THE 31 DAY OF MARCH 2026

MARIMA ATTORNEYS
Attorneys | Notaries | Conveyancers

Gaborone International Commerce Park
Plot 158, Unit 6
P.O. Box 201140, Bontleng
GABORONE
Tel: (+267) 3115465 **Fax**: (+267) 3115464

SALE OF 1998 WHITE TOYOTA PICKUP D/ CAB WITH 311, 160 KM REGISTRATION #B396 ARO



BNOC TARGETS COMMONWEALTH GAMES, YOUTH OLYMPICS SUCCESS

Botswana outlines preparations, funding gaps, and medal ambitions ahead of major multi-sport events

TLOTLO KEBINAKGABO

The Botswana National Olympic Committee (BNOC) has outlined its roadmap for the 2026 Commonwealth Games in Glasgow, Scotland, scheduled for July 23 to August 2, alongside updates on the Dakar 2026 Youth Olympic Games.

For the Commonwealth Games, team Botswana will compete in six sporting codes: athletics, boxing, judo, lawn bowling, weightlifting, and swimming, while basketball 3x3 failed to qualify despite competing at the FIBA 3x3 Africa Cup in Madagascar in December 2025.

BNOC CEO Dorothy Tlagae-Gaseitsiwe confirmed that accreditation for the Glasgow Games was completed on March 21, covering athletes, officials, and dignitaries. "Accredited personnel is made up of dignitaries, team officials… and athletes," she said during a press conference held at BNOC offices in Gaborone yesterday (Tuesday).

She added that weightlifting is being supported for qualification events in Samoa and Egypt, while athletics preparations include the Sepeng Invitational Challenge and the World Athletics Relays. Boxing and judo have already participated in international competitions, while lawn bowling will stage local and international training camps.

FUNDING CONCERNS

The BNOC has received a P2 million grant from the Ministry of Sports and Arts (MOSA) for Commonwealth Games preparations. However, Tlagae-Gaseitsiwe revealed that a larger budget proposal remains pending.

"The BNOC has submitted a proposed budget of P16,586,874.00… and we were advanced with P2,612,000.00. Follow-ups have been made, and the BNOC is currently awaiting feedback," she said.

Additional support of P751,000 from Commonwealth Sport has already been utilised for preparations.

DAKAR UPDATES

For the Dakar 2026 Youth Olympic Games, Botswana initially proposed a 22-athlete team across eight sports. However, the first allocation reduced this to six athletes in four codes.

"The BNOC intends to formally request additional slots," Tlagae-Gaseitsiwe noted.

Preparations are ongoing, with athletics selections set after national championships in early April, while boxing, judo, and swimming athletes continue their build-up through competitions and training.

LEADERSHIP FOCUS

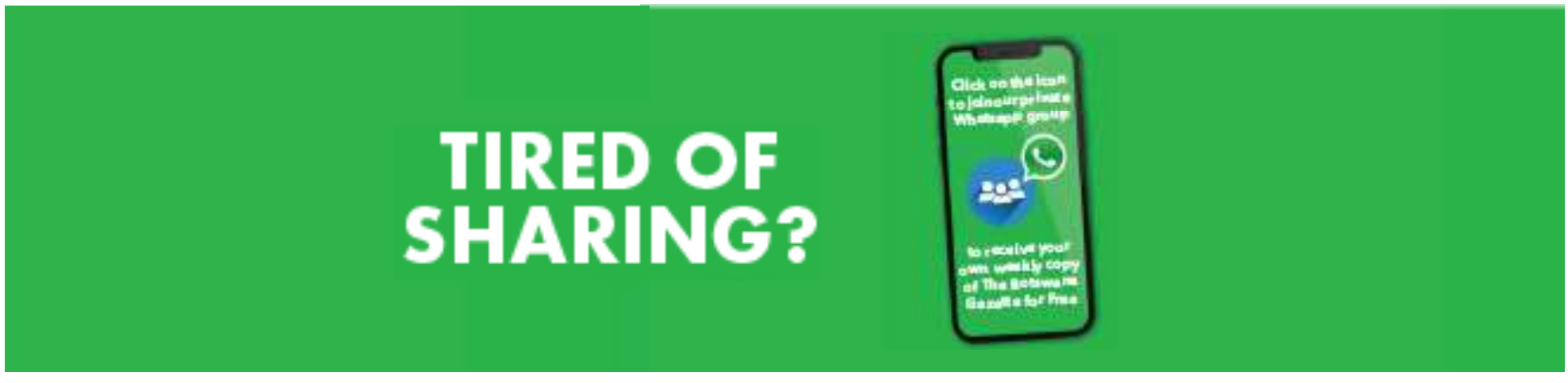
BNOC President Tshepo Sitale highlighted the appointment of Chef de Mission Tebogo Ntesang for Glasgow, describing her as "experienced… with a Masters in Olympic Studies and a seasoned sports administrator."

For Dakar, Lechedzani "Master" Luza has been appointed, with Sitale stating: "They applied and they were interviewed… it was very transparent. The beauty about us is that we have standards that have to be met."

Sitale also pointed to structural changes in athletics events at the Commonwealth Games. "4x400m will not be there… there will be 4x100m only," he said.

> "Medal target for this one (Commonwealth Games) is seven medals, two gold, two silver and three bronze."

Despite this, expectations remain high for the Commonwealth Games. "Medal target for this one is seven medals, two gold, two silver and three bronze," Sitale said.



BOKA Delivers Youth League Medals

Strong medal haul signals progress on international stage

GAZETTE REPORTER

The Botswana Karate Association (BOKA) has reported a strong showing by Team Botswana at the WKF World Youth League in Harare, Zimbabwe this past weekend, with athletes delivering results across multiple categories.

"The Botswana Karate Association (BOKA) is proud to report a strong showing by Team Botswana at the WKF World Youth League in Harare, Zimbabwe, with athletes delivering impressive performances across multiple categories," said BOKA President Shihan Mpho Bakwadi.

MEDAL RESULTS

Team Botswana secured one gold and four bronze medals during the competition.

Chris Kgosi claimed gold in the Boys U14 Kata category, marking a standout achievement for the team. Bronze medals were secured by Sandra Liu in the Girls 16–17 Kata division, Franklin Mohlabi in Boys 16–17 Kumite (-76kg), Bokao Ranngogo in Boys 14–15 Kumite (-63kg), and Leitch Michelle in Girls U14 Kumite (-47kg).

"These results mark a significant milestone for Botswana karate," Bakwadi noted, pointing to the breadth of podium finishes across divisions.

> "These results mark a significant milestone for Botswana karate, highlighted by Chris Kgosi's historic gold medal performance."



HISTORIC MOMENT

Particular attention has been drawn to Kgosi's performance, which has been described as historic within the team's participation at this level.

"These results mark a significant milestone for Botswana karate, highlighted by Chris Kgosi's historic gold medal performance," Bakwadi said.

Darts Body Seeks Sponsor Support

As Botswana prepares to host 300 regional delegates amid funding and logistical pressures ahead of August tournament

TLOTLO KEBINAKGABO



The Botswana Darts Association (BODA) is ramping up preparations to host the Region V Darts Championships in August, with spokesperson Thato Maphorisa acknowledging both the scale of the task and the financial constraints facing the organisation.

Speaking in a telephone interview, Maphorisa said the association is under pressure to ensure a successful tournament while operating with limited sponsorship backing.

"Therefore we need to prepare rigorously," he said. "Preparations are always a headache to the hosting country in order for them to be successful."

FUNDING PRESSURE

BODA currently relies on a single sponsor, the Botswana National Sports Commission (BNSC), a situation Maphorisa indicated limits the association's ability to execute all aspects of hosting.

"As of today our sole sponsor is BNSC and due to our tier position which is 4, darts get the lowest share therefore we have to work extra hard if we want this event to be successful," he said.

The association is now appealing to potential sponsors to support key areas ahead of the regional competition, which is expected to draw significant participation.

HOSTING NEEDS

Botswana is expected to host approximately 300 delegates during the championships. According to Maphorisa, accommodation will be a central consideration, although participating countries typically cover their own lodging costs.

"Obviously those people will require accommodation, usually for a minimum of 4 days depending on the country's affordability," he said.

The association is also seeking support for a suitable playing venue. As an indoor sport, darts requires enclosed spaces capable of accommodating large numbers.

"Darts is an indoor game which can be played at any enclosed building, places such halls, bigger conference rooms especially the ones that can accommodate those numbers will be helpful," he said.

VISIBILITY DRIVE

Marketing and advertising have been identified as critical to the event's success, with BODA noting that preparations in this area are behind schedule.

"This event really needs to be sold to people out there hence media platforms such print media, social media, radios tvs can also help us make this a success," Maphorisa said.

> "We have to work extra hard if we want this event to be successful."

He added that interested sponsors can engage the association through its Facebook platform, Botswana Darts Association.

The final team selection will include 4 Under 25 players (2 boys and 2 girls), 6 senior women, 8 senior men, and 4 veterans (2 men and 2 women).



Top Athletes Grace BAA Finals

For once, Botswana's biggest names, including Letsile Tebogo and Collen Kebinatshipi, will headline the national finals, offering a rare local showcase ahead of the World Athletics Relays

TLOTLO KEBINAKGABO

This year's Botswana Athletics Association (BAA) National Finals are set to break with tradition, bringing together the country's top elite athletes on home soil in an uncommon show of depth and star power.

BAA chief executive Mabua Mabua said the presence of leading athletes marks a notable shift from previous editions, where many would be competing abroad.

"Usually during the time of national finals the country's elite athletes will be abroad running international meets like the Diamond League and others," he said in a telephone interview. "So this year they have made it upon themselves to grace the national finals to give Batswana a great show at the same time helping to build the excitement as the World Athletics Relays nears."

STAR LINEUP

The event, scheduled for April 3 to 5 at the National Stadium, is expected to feature Olympic and world champions alongside other top talent.

Among them is Letsile Tebogo, the reigning Olympic 200 meters champion, who is expected to compete in the 100m and 200m, with a possible appearance in the 400m. He will be joined by Collen Kebinatshipi, the current world 400m champion, who is also expected to run the 100m.

In the men's 400m, Bayapo Ndori and Leungo Scotch — part of Botswana's gold medal-winning 4x400m relay team at last year's World Athletics Championships — are expected to compete, alongside Lee Eppie.

The men's 800m field will include Kethobogile Haingura, while Tshepiso Masalela is set to compete in the 1500m.

WOMEN'S FIELD

The women's events will feature Oratile Nowe, the national record holder in both the 800m and 1500m. Nowe clocked 4:07.13 in the 1500m in February, continuing her strong run of form.

She will be joined by Obakeng Kamberuka in the 400m, alongside Naledi Monthe and Kennekae Batisani.

RELAY FOCUS

Mabua said the gathering of elite athletes also presents an opportunity to boost the sport's profile and attract sponsorship.

"This means a lot for us," he said. "It will go a long way in helping promoting our athletics, still also those who will sponsor this year's national finals will get the needed exposure."

> "So this year they have made it upon themselves to grace the national finals to give Batswana a great show."

National team coach Chilume Ntshwarang said the timing of the finals is significant as preparations continue for the World Athletics Relays in Gaborone from May 2 to 3.

He noted that the competition will help finalize the national team.

Entrance fees are set at P50 for the grandstand and P30 for other sections, with free entry for children under 15.

Chess Development Gains Ground in Chobe

New Kasane hub signals structured expansion of grassroots programme across regional schools

GAZETTE REPORTER

The Botswana Chess Federation (BCF) has extended its grassroots development drive into the Chobe Region through the introduction of the Re Ba Bona Ha (RBBH) Chess Programme, marked by an engagement session held in Kasane this past weekend. The initiative establishes a new chess development centre anchored at Kazungula Primary School, which will serve as the regional hub coordinating activities across surrounding schools.

Participating institutions include Plateau, Kasane, and Ramaeba Primary Schools, as well as Chobe Junior School, reflecting a multi-school approach aimed at broadening access to the game.

RESOURCE SUPPORT

As part of the rollout, the Federation provided initial development materials to the hub, including 15 chess sets, two chess clocks and training books. Speaking in an interview with this publication, BCF spokesperson Goitsemodimo Makgatle indicated that further resources will be added as the programme scales, signalling a phased investment model aligned to growth.

The engagement drew representation from school leadership across the region, traditional authority, the Kasane Education Region, the Botswana National Sport Commission, and PEO II, suggesting coordinated institutional backing for the initiative.

DEVELOPMENT FOCUS

According to Makgatle , the programme is structured as a long-term development pipeline, with emphasis on school-based training, teacher capacity building and the creation of structured competitions. These elements are intended to support sustainability while also creating pathways for learners to progress to district, national and international platforms.



Speaking on the initiative, BCF Development Director Lorato Dolly Thapelo said the programme is designed to bridge access gaps in underserved areas.

"Re Ba Bona Ha is about bringing opportunity closer to our children. Through this programme, we are not only introducing chess, but we are developing thinking skills, confidence, and future leaders."

She added that the broader ambition is nationwide reach.

"Our broader vision is to ensure that chess reaches every village across Botswana, giving every child, regardless of location, a chance to learn and grow through the game."

Makgatle additionally confirmed that the Chobe rollout forms part of a wider national expansion strategy, with an official launch of the centre expected at a later stage.

OUTLOOK AHEAD

Early response from stakeholders in the region has been described as encouraging, with the Federation maintaining that sustained collaboration will be key to long-term impact.

"The response from the Chobe Region has been encouraging, and we are committed to building a sustainable programme that will grow and create pathways for young players to excel at higher levels," Makgatle said.

The Botswana Gazette
SPORT



Stanbic Bank Botswana has committed P5 million towards the Debswana World Athletics Relays Gaborone 2026, which will be held at the National Stadium in Gaborone from May 2 to 3. The announcement was made today at the bank's head office in Gaborone, following last week's P16 million sponsorship by Debswana.



TOP ATHLETES GRACE BAA FINALS

43.

