The Botswana
GAZETTE
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FMD CRISIS RUNS WILD



As infected zones expand and controls tighten, Botswana's FMD outbreak is fast becoming a full-blown crisis for farmers and the beef industry

4.

Six Women Raped Each Day

The Hidden System Driving Botswana's GBV Crisis

25.
FEATURE

$12bn Al Mansour Stuck at Concept Stage

As opposition criticise lack of tangible movement on projects that were reportedly expected to address urgent infrastructure needs

6.





TIRED OF SHARING?



FNB Botswana
Local & Foreign Currency and Deposit and Lending Rates
April 2026

The following standard Savings, Lending and Investment rates will apply

Local Currency Deposit Interest Rates

Type of Deposit Account	Nominal Rate per Annum (NACM)	Annual Effective Rate	Minimum Opening Balance (BWP)
Current	-	-	Nil
Call	0.00% - 0.46%	0.00% - 0.46%	1,000
Money Maximiser	0.00% - 3.35%	0.00% - 3.40%	100,000
Savings (Poloko)	0.00% - 3.40%	0.00% - 3.45%	100
FutureSave	0.00% - 0.40%	0.00% - 0.40%	100
Future Forward	0.00% - 2.50%	0.00% - 2.53%	50
Savings Pocket	0.00% - 1.60%	0.00% - 1.61%	-
FNB Motshelo Savings Account	2.25% - 3.35%	2.27% - 3.40%	500
Flexi Fixed (3 Months)	2.95% - 3.20%	2.99% - 3.25%	100
Flexi Fixed (6 Months)	4.05% - 4.35%	4.13% - 4.44%	100
Flexi Fixed (12 Months)	4.85% - 5.35%	4.96% - 5.48%	100
7 Day Notice	0.15% - 1.25%	0.15% - 1.26%	100
32 Day Notice Plus	1.25% - 2.00%	1.26% - 2.02%	1,000
1 Month Fixed Deposit	2.50% - 2.55%	2.53% - 2.58%	1,000
3 Months Fixed Deposit	3.20%	3.25%	1,000
6 Months Fixed Deposit	4.75% - 5.00%	4.85% - 5.12%	1,000
12 Months Fixed Deposit	5.55% - 6.25%	5.69% - 6.43%	1,000
24 Months Fixed Deposit	5.65% - 6.60%	5.80% - 6.80%	1,000
Over 36 Months Fixed Deposit	5.85% - 6.80%	6.01% - 7.02%	1,000
MoPR	3.50%		

***For term deposits the minimum amount is BWP 1 million to qualify for a special rate.
- Interest is calculated on the daily account closing balance and credited in to the account monthly (For all interest bearing products excluding fixed deposits).
- Fixed deposits interest is calculated based on the principal amount, agreed term and applicable interest rate. The accrued interest is credited at Maturity or termination.
- Interest rates are linked to the Monetary Policy Rate (MoPR).

Local Currency Lending Interest Rates

Lending Rates	Nominal Interest Rate Per Annum (%)	Average Effective Interest Rate
MoPR	3.50%	3.50%
Prime Lending Rate	7.01%	7.01%
Mortgage Facility	Prime +12% to 17%	Prime +14% to 20.08%
Overdraft Facility (Revolving Credit Lines)	Prime +8% to 10%	Prime +9.33% to 11.64%
Credit Card	22% to 28%	24.36% to 31.89%
Lease Loans (VAF)	Prime +15.5% to 23%	Prime +18.22% to 27.74%
Unsecured Personal Loans (Excluding Overdraft, Mortgage and Credit Card)	Prime +17% to 22%	Prime +20.08% to 26.44%
Other Term Loans		

*Scheme related lending is as per the scheme contract.

Foreign Currency Deposit Rates

ZAR – South African Rand***	Nominal Interest Rates/Annum (%)	Annual Effective Rates	Minimum Opening Balance (ZAR)
Current (Global Account)	2.00%	2.00%	1,000
1 Month Fixed Deposit	1.00%	1.00%	1,000
2 Months Fixed Deposit	1.05%	1.05%	1,000
3 Months Fixed Deposit	1.25%	1.26%	1,000
6 Months Fixed Deposit	1.50%	1.51%	1,000
12 Months Fixed Deposit	2.00%	2.00%	1,000
24 Months Fixed Deposit	2.50%	2.50%	1,000

AUD – Australian Dollar	Nominal Interest Rates/Annum (%)	Annual Effective Rates	Minimum Opening Balance (AUD)
Current (Global Account)	-	-	100
1 Month Fixed Deposit	These rates are quoted on request		100
2 Months Fixed Deposit			100
3 Months Fixed Deposit			100
6 Months Fixed Deposit			100
12 Months Fixed Deposit			100
24 Months Fixed Deposit			100

USD – US Dollar***	Nominal Interest Rates/Annum (%)	Annual Effective Rates	Minimum Opening Balance (USD)
Current (Global Account)	-	-	100
1 Month Fixed Deposit	0.40%	0.40%	100
2 Months Fixed Deposit	0.47%	0.47%	100
3 Months Fixed Deposit	0.50%	0.50%	100
6 Months Fixed Deposit	0.55%	0.55%	100
12 Months Fixed Deposit	0.80%	0.80%	100
24 Months Fixed Deposit	1.30%	1.30%	100

EUR – Euro	Nominal Interest Rates/Annum (%)	Annual Effective Rates	Minimum Opening Balance (EUR)
Current (Global Account)	-	-	100
1 Month Fixed Deposit	These rates are quoted on request		100
2 Months Fixed Deposit			100
3 Months Fixed Deposit			100
6 Months Fixed Deposit			100
12 Months Fixed Deposit			100
24 Months Fixed Deposit			100
Over 36 Months Fixed Deposit			100

GBP – British Pound Sterling***	Nominal Interest Rates/Annum (%)	Annual Effective Rates	Minimum Opening Balance (GBP)
Current (Global Account)	-	-	100
1 Month Fixed Deposit	0.07%	0.07%	100
2 Months Fixed Deposit	0.09%	0.09%	100
3 Months Fixed Deposit	0.10%	0.10%	100
6 Months Fixed Deposit	0.15%	0.15%	100
12 Months Fixed Deposit	0.20%	0.20%	100
24 Months Fixed Deposit	0.20%	0.20%	100

***Note:
- Special rates offered for amounts of ZAR 1 000 000 and more
- Special rates offered for amounts of USD 100 000 and more
- Special rates offered for amounts of GBP 100 000 and more

For more information:

Visit FNB Branch Visit fnbbotswana.co.bw

First National Bank of Botswana Limited Registration Number BW00000790476. Member of the Deposit Insurance Scheme of Botswana

FMD Crisis Runs Wild

As infected zones expand and controls tighten, Botswana's FMD outbreak is fast becoming a full-blown crisis for farmers and the beef industry



GZETTE REPORTER

Botswana's foot-and-mouth disease (FMD) crisis is escalating, with government expanding infected zones and tightening restrictions in a move that signals a deepening national livestock emergency.

In an Extraordinary Government Gazette dated April 4, 2026, authorities declared a vast stretch of land in southern Botswana an official infected area under a new statutory order. This marks the third such declaration this year, underscoring the persistence and spread of the outbreak.

Issued under the Diseases of Animals Act, the order places a wide corridor of territory—from the Botswana–South Africa border near Phala Camp to Banyana Farms and across multiple district boundaries—under strict disease control measures.

> With tighter movement bans, farmers now face limited access to markets, rising costs of feed and compliance, and the risk of herd culling amid uncertainty over compensation.

BEEF INDUSTRY UNDER THREAT

The escalation comes amid growing fears within the agriculture sector that the outbreak could cripple Botswana's beef industry, a key export earner already under pressure from recurring disease outbreaks.

The latest declaration, titled Declaration of Foot and Mouth Disease (Infected Area) (No. 3) Order, 2026, suggests authorities are still struggling to contain the disease.

SWEEPING RESTRICTIONS IMPOSED

Government has imposed sweeping controls in both the newly declared infected areas and an expanded list of FMD control zones, including Zones 3b, 3c (Dukwi), 4a, 4b, 5, 6a, 7, 8, 9, 10, 12 and 13.

Under the new measures: Movement of all cloven-hoofed animals, including cattle, goats and sheep, is strictly prohibited within, into or out of affected zones, fresh animal products face similar movement restrictions, authorities are empowered to seize or destroy livestock deemed a disease risk,mandatory vaccination campaigns are being rolled out and surveillance and biosecurity enforcement have been intensified.

FARMERS FACE MOUNTING PRESSURE

The widening of infected zones is expected to heighten anxiety among farmers, many of whom are already reeling from earlier restrictions that disrupted cattle sales, exports and local trade.

With tighter movement bans, farmers now face limited access to markets, rising costs of feed and compliance, and the risk of herd culling amid uncertainty over compensation.

AUTHORITIES GRANTED BROAD POWERS

Signed by Acting Director of Veterinary Services Kobedi Segale, the order took immediate effect, with no timeline provided for lifting the restrictions.

The Government Gazette warns that violations will attract penalties under the law, adding that "the Director may institute any other animal health control measures as may be necessary," granting sweeping powers to contain the outbreak.

Report Flags Wasted Millions on 'Politicised' Projects

The 2026 BTI Country Report reveals that millions of Pula invested in Botswana's agricultural and social development projects have produced minimal results due to mismanagement and political interference

GAZETTE REPORTER

Millions of Pula invested in Botswana's agricultural and social development initiatives have yielded little tangible results, according to the 2026 BTI Country Report.

From imported Texas cattle that failed to thrive to ceremonial groundbreakings that never progressed, the report paints a picture of mismanagement, political interference, and stalled reforms.

The BTI is the result of the collaboration of nearly 300 country and regional experts from leading universities and think tanks worldwide. The BTI Report measures how well countries are managing democracy, economic reform, and governance.

POLITICAL CONSIDERATIONS OVER DEVELOPMENT

"The government has set ambitious goals, but short-term political considerations have often taken precedence over long-term development," the BTI report notes, highlighting a persistent mismatch between spending and measurable returns.

A key example is the former Botswana Democratic Party (BDP) administration's effort to improve the beef industry through imported Texas cattle. Artificial insemination programs were intended to boost the quality of local breeds, yet several of the imported cattle failed to adapt to Botswana's climate and perished.

FANFARE WITHOUT FOLLOW-THROUGH

"These projects are often launched with fanfare, but continuity is lacking. Groundbreakings happen, but follow-through is minimal," the BTI report states, underlining a trend of superficial project implementation.

The report also criticizes reckless fiscal practices, such as allocating funds to citizen business startups without due diligence or monitoring. "In recent years, policy implementation has been beset by short-term political goals, resulting in some projects being halted," it notes.

ACCOUNTABILITY GAPS AND POLITICAL OVERSIGHT

Opposition parties in the 12th Parliament reportedly attempted to hold ministers accountable, questioning the lack of transparency and tangible results. Despite Botswana's legal framework to fight corruption—including the Corruption and Economic Crime Act and the Directorate on Corruption and Economic Crime (DCEC)—the BTI report underscores persistent weaknesses.

The report notes that DCEC's limited autonomy, coupled with pending cases involving politically exposed persons, has contributed to low prosecution and conviction rates. "Alleged grand corruption cases remain unresolved, undermining public confidence," it warns.

SHIFT TOWARD POLITICALLY DRIVEN SPENDING

Historically, Botswana has set strategic economic goals without undue influence from powerful lobbies or foreign donors. However, recent years indicate a worrying shift toward politically motivated spending that may compromise long-term stability and development outcomes.

The BTI report paints a stark picture: while projects are launched with ambition, poor follow-through, lack of transparency, and political interference have prevented millions of Pula from translating into meaningful progress for citizens.

bac
Botswana School of Business Sciences

GABORONE CAMPUS
Plot 50661, Fairgrounds Office Park
Private bag 000319 Gaborone, Botswana
Tel: +267 395 3062 Fax: +267 390 41103

FRANCISTOWN CAMPUS
Plot 31403 Mofat Street
Private bag 137 Francistown, Botswana
Tel: +267 241 0558 Fax: +267 241 0534

VACANCY NOTICE



WE ARE HIRING

Closing Date: Friday 10th April 2026

LECTURER ACCOUNTING AND FINANCE (2 POSITIONS)
3 YEARS FIXED-TERM CONTRACT (TENABLE IN GABORONE)

SENIOR/LECTURER INTERNATIONAL FINANCE & BANKING
3 YEARS FIXED-TERM CONTRACT (TENABLE IN GABORONE)

PROCUREMENT OFFICER
(PERMANENT AND PENSIONABLE)

Application Procedure
To apply for any of the positions kindly log onto:
https://www.bac.ac.bw/vacancies.php
or Scan the QR Code

Botswana School of Business Sciences
www.bac.ac.bw

Local Firms Protest World Relays Snub

A coalition of Botswana's media and advertising firms has petitioned organisers of the World Athletics Relays, accusing them of sidelining local companies from lucrative opportunities linked to the event

GAZETTE REPORTER

A storm is brewing in Botswana's media and advertising sector after companies launched a petition protesting what they describe as their exclusion from opportunities linked to the upcoming World Athletics Relays.

In a petition seen by The Gazette, a coalition of advertising and media firms accuses organisers and authorities of sidelining local industry players in favour of opaque arrangements that threaten to shut them out of one of the country's biggest international sporting events.

PETITION RAISES ALARM OVER EXCLUSION

The petition, addressed to World Athletics Chief Executive Officer Moses Bantsi and copied to Botswana National Sports Council (BNSC) chief executive Olebile Sikwane, expresses strong concern over what the signatories call deliberate marginalisation.

"We cannot stand by while local companies are deliberately excluded from participating in an event of this magnitude," the petition states.

"This is not just about business, it is about fairness, transparency and protecting local industry," it adds.

MISSED OPPORTUNITY FOR LOCAL INDUSTRY

The World Athletics Relays, expected to attract global attention and significant commercial activity, had been widely viewed as a major opportunity for Botswana's media, advertising and creative sectors.

However, industry players now claim that access to advertising rights, branding opportunities and related contracts has been restricted. Petitioners argue that the process lacks transparency and has created an uneven playing field, effectively locking out citizen-owned companies.

FRUSTRATION BOILS OVER

Sources within the industry say frustration has been building for weeks, with several firms alleging they were either ignored or given unclear guidance when attempting to engage with organisers.

The growing backlash now threatens to overshadow preparations for the high-profile event, with calls mounting for government intervention. Stakeholders are demanding an urgent review of the processes used to allocate opportunities linked to the relays.

They are also calling for greater accountability and the inclusion of local companies in line with citizen economic empowerment goals.

CONCERNS OVER ALLEGED SINGLE SUPPLIER

According to the petition, "Based on confirmed information available to us, it appears that significant portions, if not the entirety, of the advertising scope have been awarded to a single, well-established digital billboard provider."

> "It would be a profound disservice for such an opportunity to bypass the very local enterprises that form the backbone of Botswana's economy."

While the entity is domiciled in Botswana, it is widely understood to be foreign-owned and significantly resourced, raising concerns about fairness and compliance with citizen economic empowerment principles.

QUESTIONS OVER PROCUREMENT PROCESS

The petition further alleges that no open tender, expression of interest, public call or competitive bidding process was issued.

"This is inconsistent with internationally accepted procurement standards and the Public Procurement Act," it states, adding that the situation raises concerns about procedural fairness, transparency and accountability.

Petitioners emphasise that procurement for high-value national events should align with principles of open competition, equity and value for money.

CALL FOR INCLUSIVE GROWTH

"This event represents more than a global sporting occasion; it is a national opportunity for economic participation, industry development and inclusive growth," the petitioners argue.

"It would be a profound disservice for such an opportunity to bypass the very local enterprises that form the backbone of Botswana's economy."

Among the signatories are Digital TM (Pty) Ltd, Atomic Mercantile, Led Worx (Pty) Ltd, Onslot LEDs (Pty) Ltd and Moorsman (Pty) Ltd.

NO ADVERTISING COMPANY ENGAGED

In an interview with this publication, the CEO of currently the CEO of World Athletics Relays Gaborone 2026, Moses Bantsi it is not true that they have engaged any advertising company, further adding that the said company has offered a sponsorship.

"We have not even floated any ITT so the issues raised in the petition are not true,"he said.

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

$12bn Al Mansour Stuck at Concept Stage

..As opposition criticise lack of tangible movement on projects that were reportedly expected to address urgent infrastructure needs

BONGANI MALUNGA

Seven months after its high-profile signing, the $12 billion investment agreement between Botswana and Qatar's Al Mansour Holdings remains largely at the concept stage, with no confirmed projects advancing to implementation.

This emerged in Parliament on Tuesday when the Leader of Opposition, Dumelang Saleshando, pressed the Ministry of Finance for an update on the much-anticipated deal, which was initially billed as a catalyst for rapid infrastructure and economic transformation.

NON-BINDING INVESTMENT COMMITMENT



In response, the question was redirected to the Ministry of Trade and Entrepreneurship, whereby Minister Tiroeaone Ntsima confirmed that the agreement, signed in August 2025, is not a binding investment commitment but rather a pledge by Al Mansour Holdings to fund viable large-scale projects once they meet required standards. The update effectively underscores that none of the proposed projects have yet reached a bankable stage.

Ntsima indicated that the investment pipeline spans critical sectors such as energy, infrastructure, logistics, mining, the diamond industry, agriculture, tourism, cybersecurity and defence. However, all projects must first transition from conceptualisation to feasibility and bankability before qualifying for funding consideration.

To this end, the Botswana Development Corporation (BDC) submitted 21 project proposals to Al Mansour Holdings on 25 September 2025. These proposals are still awaiting feedback, further highlighting the slow pace of progress.

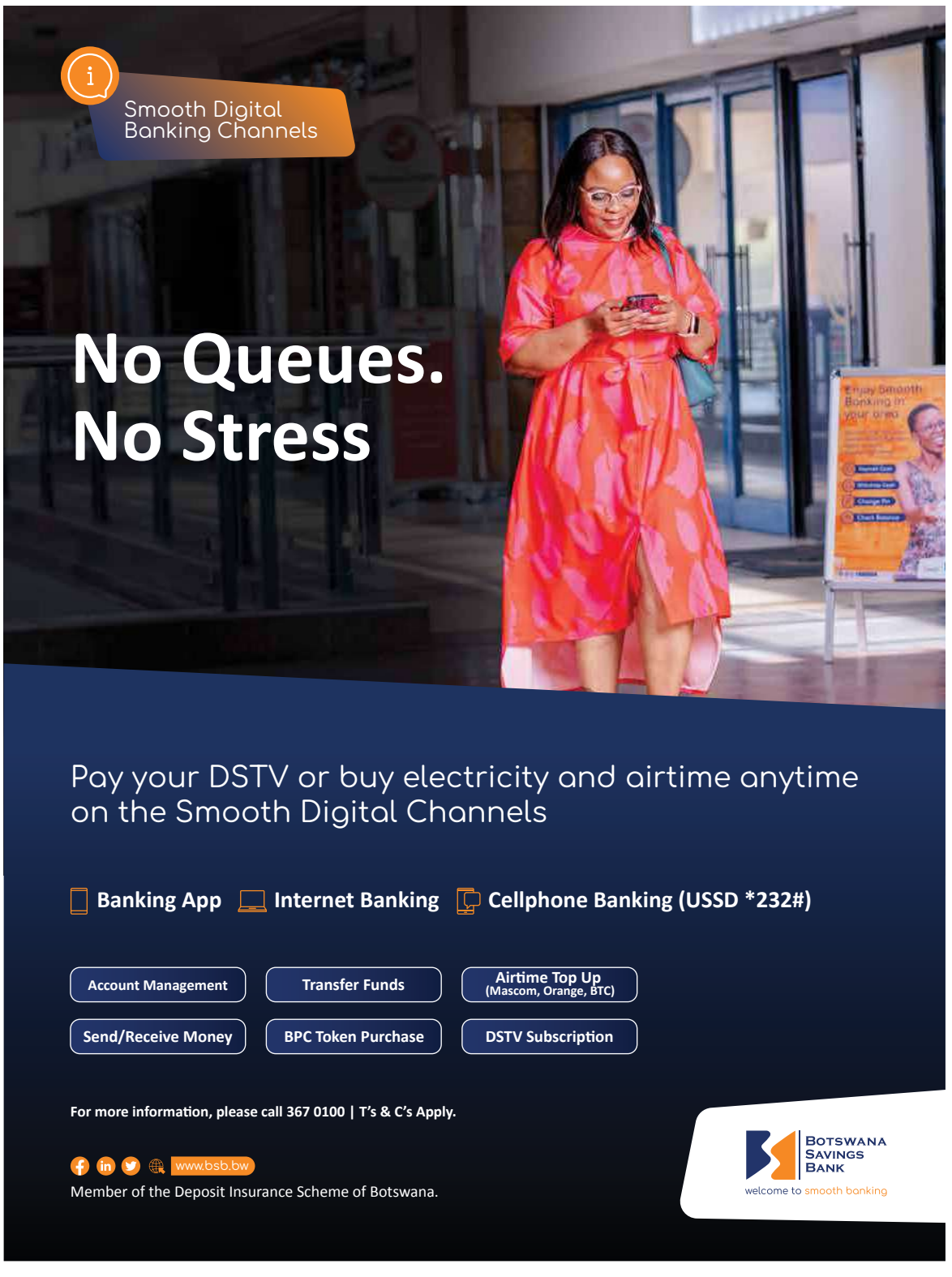
CRITICISM

Saleshando criticised the lack of tangible movement on projects that were expected to address urgent infrastructure needs. Despite the scale of the announcement, there is still little evidence of on-the-ground implementation.

"It's been 7 months but there are no developments or updates since this deal was made public. When the deal was announced on August 24, 2025, part of the announcement was that this project was set to address immediate infrastructural needs. Why did you make the announcement if you were unready and unprepared, especially since Parliament approved the National Development Plan preparing for financial injection from this deal worth P160 billion?" Saleshando queried.

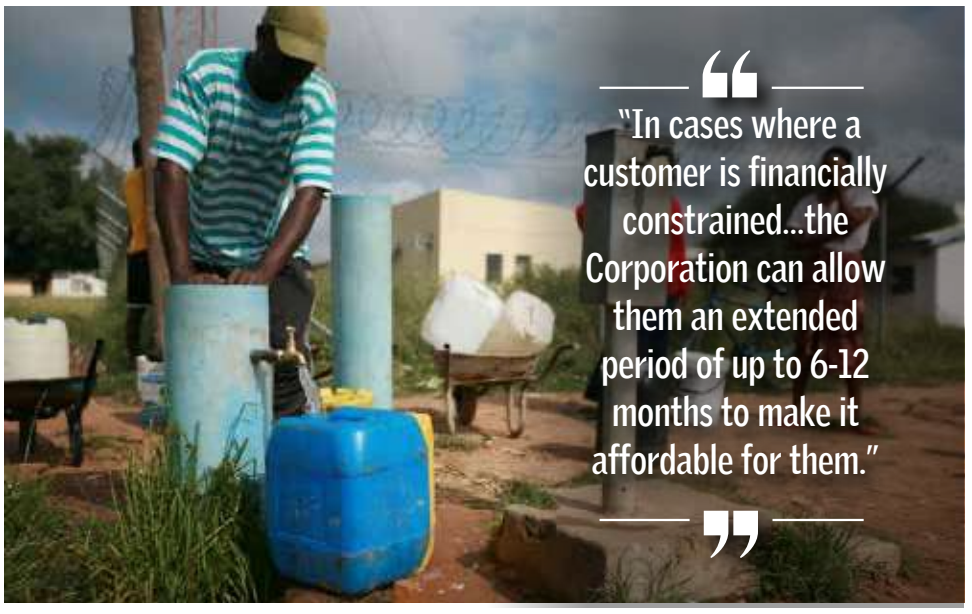
> "It's been 7 months but there are no developments or updates since this deal was made public."

In response, Ntsima maintained that; "We were announcing an agreement of a partnership that can yield results for us in the future. I don't see anything wrong with announcing an agreement with a partner regardless of the immediate or long term practicality of the deal. The announcement is something we can't take back."



Govt Rejects WUC Amnesty Extension

The government is adamant that payment plans, not deadlines, are the real lifeline for water debtors



BONGANI MALUNGA

The Ministry of Water and Human Settlement has ruled out extending the Water Utilities Corporation (WUC) debt amnesty programme, insisting existing relief measures are sufficient despite concerns from legislators about affordability and access.

Responding in Parliament last week, the Minister of Water and Human Settlement, Onneetse Ramogapi dismissed calls to lengthen the amnesty window from three to six months, following concerns raised by Tati East legislator Tlhabologo Furniture.

TOO SHORT

Furniture had argued that the current three-month period was too short for ordinary Batswana, particularly in an environment where securing loans can take weeks or even months due to limited liquidity in the banking sector. He further raised alarm over reports that some residents, particularly in Gaborone, had allegedly gone for up to three years without water after being disconnected over disputed estimated bills.

However, the Ministry maintained that the amnesty programme, rolled out in two phases across 2025 and early 2026, was adequately structured. Each phase ran for three months, with additional provisions allowing customers to enter into flexible repayment plans.

The Ministry revealed that more than 8000 customers applied during the second phase, which ended on February 28, 2026, with some beneficiaries still servicing their balances under agreed payment plans extending to May.

NO EXTENSION PERIOD

"The Ministry is not considering extending the debt amnesty period at this stage. It should be noted that this was the second debt amnesty to accommodate those who could not apply during the first debt amnesty," the Ministry noted.

"In cases where a customer is financially constrained or their economic circumstances are pressing, the Corporation can allow them an extended period of up to 6-12 months to make it affordable for them. Since this is a standing Credit Policy at WUC, the customer can always apply for the plan anytime even past the Debt Amnesty initiative. This has accommodated customers who may have struggles in paying off in lump sums and or the debt Amnesty period of 3 months," the Ministry explained.

ESTIMATED BILLING DISCONTINUED

The Ministry firmly rejected claims of prolonged water disconnections linked to estimated billing. It stated that WUC discontinued meter reading estimates in October 2022 and has since implemented an Accelerated Query Resolution programme to address legacy disputes.

The Ministry emphasised that water supply is restored once customers enter payment plans, ensuring that no compliant customer remains without access while settling their debt.

access | Access Bank Botswana
Quarterly Financial Disclosures

Public Disclosure on Actual Deposit Interest Rates January 2026 - March 2026				
Type of Deposit Account	January Interest Rates (%)	February Interest Rates (%)	March Interest Rates (%)	Range* Interest Rates (%)
Current	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Call	0.00% - 0.60%	0.00% - 0.60%	0.00% - 0.60%	0.00% - 0.60%
Savings	0.00% - 4.10%	0.00% - 4.10%	0.00% - 4.10%	0.00% - 4.10%
3 months	1.80% - 14.00%	1.50% - 12.50%	2.00% - 13.00%	1.50% - 14.00%
6 months	2.20% - 12.75%	1.75% - 12.50%	2.00% - 12.00%	1.75% - 12.75%
12 months	1.80% - 12.50%	2.00% - 11.50%	3.00% - 12.00%	1.80% - 12.50%
24 months	3.50% - 9.78%	7.00% - 10.25%	2.10% - 9.00%	2.10% - 10.25%
Over 24 months	12.33% - 12.33%	4.50% - 5.50%	N/A	4.50% - 12.33%

Quarterly Report on Public Disclosure on Actual Lending Interest Rates January 2026 - March 2026				
Type of Lending Product	January Interest Rates (%)	February Interest Rates (%)	March Interest Rates (%)	Range* Interest Rates (%)
Monetary Policy Rate	3.50%	3.50%	3.50%	3.50%
Prime Lending Rate	7.16%	7.16%	7.16%	7.16%
Mortgage Facility	4.66% - 4.66%	10.00% - 25.00%	4.66% - 16.16%	4.66% - 25.00%
Overdraft Facility (Revolving Credit Lines)	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Credit Card	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Lease Loans	4.66% - 4.66%	N/A	4.66% - 4.66%	4.66% - 4.66%
Unsecured Personal Loans (excluding overdrafts, mortgage and credit cards)	4.66% - 25.00%	18.00% - 18.00%	4.66% - 25.00%	4.66% - 25.00%
Other Long-Term Loans	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

*Range: Minimum and Maximum Value Limits

Africa | Asia | Europe | Middle East
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Deposit & Lending Interest Rates

For the month of April 2026



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

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

*Minimum Pricing Available

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

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

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

Game City Branch	- 370 4700
Fairgrounds Branch	- 367 4600
Airport Junction Branch	- 371 9700
The Square Branch	- 398 5700
Ghanzi Sales and Service Centre	- 659 8800
Molepolole Sales and Service Centre	- 592 3050
Letlhakane Sales and Service Centre	- 298 5011
Kanye Sales and Service Centre	- 544 6300
Shakawe Sales and Service Centre	- 687 5244

Francistown Branch	- 245 0000
Selebi Phikwe Branch	- 263 1000
Palapye Branch	- 494 1000
Maun Branch	- 682 0000
Mahalapye Sales and Service Centre	- 474 9399
Lobatse Sales and Service Centre	- 533 0341
Kasane Sales and Service Centre	- 625 0017
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Unions Press VP Over Proposed Tax Hikes

Public service unions have stressed that the timing of the proposals is concerning as citizens are already stretched thin by inflationary pressures

BONGANI MALUNGA

Trade unions are applying pressure on Vice President and Minister of Finance, Ndaba Gaolathe, urging him to rethink proposed tax increases they say will deepen the financial strain on already struggling workers and the wider community.

The labour bodies argue that the government must align its fiscal policies with the harsh economic realities facing ordinary Batswana, warning that plans to raise income tax, Value Added Tax (VAT) and other levies risk worsening the cost of living crisis.

ADDITIONAL TAX BURDEN

According to the unions, the proposed adjustments come at a time when households are grappling with relentless increases in essential expenses, including fuel, food, public transport and electricity tariffs. They caution that any additional tax burden will erode disposable incomes and further squeeze low and middle income earners.

> "We recognise that too many of our people, particularly small businesses, informal traders and ordinary citizens are actually willing to contribute to national building."

In a statement released last week, the Botswana Public Employees Union (BOPEU) expressed concern over the government's intention to go ahead with increments that include a proposed 46% hike in electricity tariffs by the Botswana Power Corporation (BPC), which would place financial pressure on households.

NEGATIVE IMPACT

"The rising prices of these essential commodities are negatively impacting workers and the wider community. It is vital for the government to outline a clear and practical plan that tackles these urgent issues. This plan should focus on measures that will effectively ease the economic difficulties faced by households and support their basic needs," BOPEU asserted.

The unions are now calling on government to prioritise worker welfare by exploring alternative revenue streams and cost-cutting measures, rather than shifting the burden onto taxpayers.

RELENTLESS

Speaking on Tuesday in Parliament, Gaolathe relentlessly advanced the tax reforms as he stated that they were essential for Botswana to finance its own development. He stated that the government's philosophy is not to build prosperity through tax burdens but to develop a simpler system that broadens participation for all citizens and businesses to comply.

"We recognise that too many of our people, particularly small businesses, informal traders and ordinary citizens are actually willing to contribute to national building. Too often they were excluded by the complexity and administrative barriers. The reforms are designed to bring them into the system through simplicity, accessibility and fairness, not through burden," Gaolathe explained.



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Quarterly Actual Deposit Interest Rates

BWP - Botswana Pula

	January 2026 Interest Rate (%)	February 2026 Interest Rate (%)	March 2026 Interest Rate (%)	Minimum Opening Balance (BWP)
Deposits				
Current	0-3	0-3	0-3	
Call	0.10 - 4.5	0.10 - 4.5	0.10 - 4.5	10,000.00
Savings (Tema)	0.50 - 2.75	0.50 - 2.75	0.50 - 2.75	500.00
91-Days Fixed Deposit	1.3- 8	1.3- 8	1.3- 8	1,000.00
1-2 months	0.30 - 8	0.30 - 8	0.30 - 8	1,000.00
4-6 months	1.50 - 8	1.50 - 8	1.50 - 8	1,000.00
7-12 months	2.25 - 8	2.25 - 8	2.25 - 8	1,000.00
13-18 months	NA	NA	NA	
19-24 months	2.85 - 3.20	2.85 - 3.20	2.85 - 3.20	1,000.00
Over 24 months	NA	NA	NA	
Other Rates: Ordinary Savings	0.00 - 0.50	0.00 - 0.50	0.00 - 0.50	100.00
Other Rates: Upfront Fixed Deposits	2.20 - 2.40	2.20 - 2.40	2.20 - 2.40	100,000.00

EUR - Euro

	January 2026 Interest Rate (%)	February 2026 Interest Rate (%)	March 2026 Interest Rate (%)	Minimum Opening Balance (BWP)
Deposits				
Call	0.00 - 0.17	0.00 - 0.17	0.00 - 0.17	2,000.00
91-Days Fixed Deposit	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,000.00
1-2 months	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,000.00
4-6 months	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,000.00
7-12 months	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,000.00

USD - American Dollar

	January 2026 Interest Rate (%)	February 2026 Interest Rate (%)	March 2026 Interest Rate (%)	Minimum Opening Balance (BWP)
Deposits				
Call	0.00 - 0.7	0.00 - 0.7	0.00 - 0.7	3,000.00
91-Days Fixed Deposit	0.00 - 0.15	0.00 - 0.15	0.00 - 0.15	3,000.00
1-2 months	0.00 - 2.68	0.00 - 2.68	0.00 - 2.68	3,000.00
4-6 months	0.00 - 0.28	0.00 - 0.28	0.00 - 0.28	3,000.00
7-12 months	0.00 - 0.25	0.00 - 0.25	0.00 - 0.25	3,000.00

GBP - British Pound

	January 2026 Interest Rate (%)	February 2026 Interest Rate (%)	March 2026 Interest Rate (%)	Minimum Opening Balance (BWP)
Deposits				
Call	0.00 - 0.25	0.00 - 0.25	0.00 - 0.25	2,000.00
91-Days Fixed Deposit	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,000.00
1-2 months	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,000.00
4-6 months	0.00 - 0.20	0.00 - 0.20	0.00 - 0.20	2,000.00
7-12 months	0.00 - 0.25	0.00 - 0.25	0.00 - 0.25	2,000.00

ZAR - South African Rand

	January 2026 Interest Rate (%)	February 2026 Interest Rate (%)	March 2026 Interest Rate (%)	Minimum Opening Balance (BWP)
Deposits				
Call	0.00 - 0.3	0.00 - 0.3	0.00 - 0.3	15,000.00
91-Days Fixed Deposit	0.00 - 0.80	0.00 - 0.80	0.00 - 0.80	200,000.00
1-2 months	0.00 - 0.3	0.00 - 0.3	0.00 - 0.3	200,000.00
4-6 months	0.00 - 1.25	0.00 - 1.25	0.00 - 1.25	200,000.00
7-12 months	0.00 - 1.8	0.00 - 1.8	0.00 - 1.8	200,000.00

Lending Interest Rates

Lending	January 2026 Interest Rate (%)	February 2026 Interest Rate (%)	March 2026 Interest Rate (%)
Monetary Policy Rate	3.5	3.5	3.5
Prime Rate	7.76	7.76	7.76
Mortgage Rate	Prime +0.5 to Prime +6	Prime +0.5 to Prime +6	Prime +0.5 to Prime +6
Overdraft Rate (revolving credit lines)	Prime +2	Prime +2	Prime +2
Credit Card Rate	0 to 34.80	0 to 34.80	0 to 34.80
Lease Financing	NA	NA	NA
Personal loans (excluding overdrafts, mortgage, and credit cards)	Prime to Prime + 18	Prime to Prime + 18	Prime to Prime + 18
Other long term loan rates	6.51 - 14.51	6.51 - 14.51	6.51 - 14.51

Debit Interest Rate on Unauthorized Overdraft: Prime Lending Rate + 12%. The Prime Lending Rate of 7.76% as published, has been independently determined by SCBB.

1- Nominal Interest Rate: This is the real interest rate + inflation rate
2- Average Effective Interest Rate: This is the actual interest rate which can be earned on an asset over a given period of time.

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

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

BWP Deposit Interest Rates

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

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

Lending Interest Rates

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

All interest rates quoted are on annual basis

Foreign Currency Deposit Interest Rates

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

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

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

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

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

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TB Drug Scandal Sparks Patient Safety Concerns

Botswana's health system is under pressure after government revealed that over 1,200 TB patients were treated with ineffective drugs in 2025, raising fears of treatment failure and drug-resistant infections, despite assurances that mortality rates were not affected

SESUPO RANTSIMAKO



Botswana's public health system is under scrutiny after government admitted that 1,201 tuberculosis (TB) patients were treated with drugs of reduced effectiveness in 2025, raising serious concerns over patient safety and oversight failures.

OVER 1,200 PATIENTS AFFECTED

The disclosure was made in Parliament by the Assistant Minister of Justice and Correctional Services Augustine Nyatanga, speaking on behalf of the Minister of Health Stephen Modise.

Responding to a question from Tati East MP Tlhabologo Furniture, Nyatanga revealed that out of 2,868 TB patients treated between mid-2025 and November, 1,201 received compromised medication.

RISK OF DRUG-RESISTANT TB

The lapse in quality control contributed to higher treatment failure rates and raised the risk of drug-resistant TB, a dangerous and difficult-to-treat condition.

"To assess the impact, the Ministry tested 352 patients, confirming four cases of drug-resistant TB," Nyatanga told Parliament.

UNION RAISES ALARM

While the Ministry maintains that the flawed drugs did not increase mortality—which stood at 7.5 percent in 2025, slightly down from 8 percent in 2024—the Botswana Nurses Union (BONU) has warned of potentially fatal consequences.

BONU Secretary General Onkemetse Ndulamo said substandard drugs cannot effectively eliminate TB bacteria. He also dismissed claims linking deaths to HIV co-infection, noting that TB treatment is prioritised in the first two weeks for patients with both conditions.

> "To assess the impact, the Ministry tested 352 patients, confirming four cases of drug-resistant TB."

GOVERNMENT ORDERS RECALL

Following the revelation, the Ministry of Health initiated a nationwide recall of the affected medication and began reassessing patients. Those confirmed with drug-resistant TB are to be placed on second-line treatment immediately.

Transport Associations Clash Over Ministry Deal

Transport associations are at war over recent engagement with the government

BONGANI MALUNGA

A rift has emerged within Botswana's public transport sector after the Gaborone Taxi and Combi Association broke ranks with the Botswana Bus Operators Association over a widely publicised agreement to engage the government in resolving the ongoing fare dispute.

The disagreement centres on a communiqué released on Monday, which indicated that transport associations had agreed to enter amicable and constructive talks with the Ministry of Transport and Infrastructure. However, the Gaborone Taxi and Combi Association has since distanced itself from the statement, insisting it neither endorsed nor participated in the decision.

WITHOUT THEIR CONSENT

The association has taken particular issue with the move by the bus operators to escalate the matter to court, as well as the subsequent engagement with government, arguing that both actions were undertaken without its consent.

Representatives of the taxi and combi association made it clear that their position differs significantly from that of their bus operator counterparts.

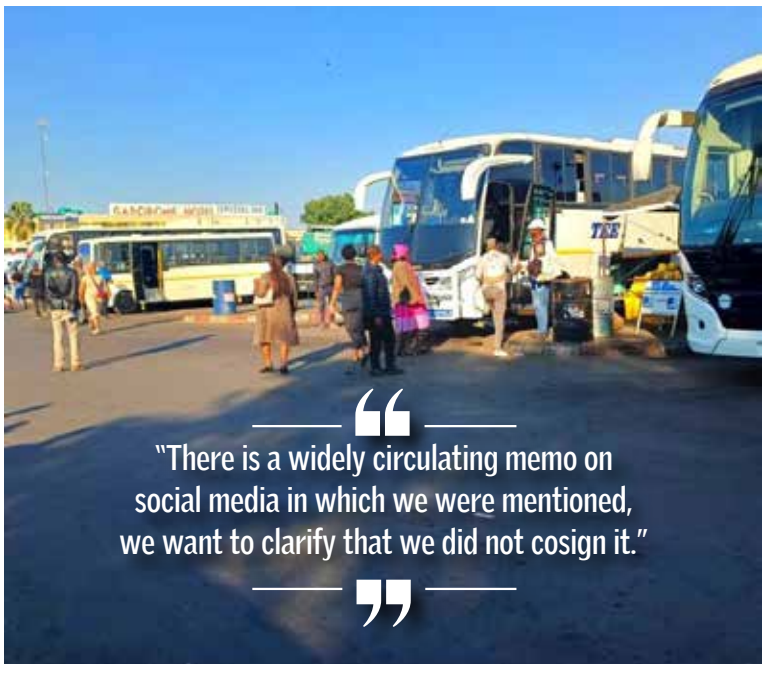
Despite being listed among the parties to the agreement, the association maintains that the impression of a unified front is misleading. It argues that the communiqué does not accurately reflect the divisions within the industry, particularly on how best to address the contentious issue of transport fares.

OWN ENGAGEMENT ROUTE

In a press briefing on Wednesday, the Gaborone Taxi and Combi Association announced that it will pursue its own engagement route, confirming that it is scheduled to meet the Minister of Transport and Infrastructure, Noah Salakae, on Thursday.

The meeting is expected to provide the association with an opportunity to formally present its independent position, separate from that of the bus operators.

"There is a widely circulating memo on social media in which we were mentioned, we want to clarify that we did not cosign it. The Botswana Bus Operators Association does not represent us nor have we asked them to speak or hold talks on our behalf. We have no agreement with them. We are set to meet the Minister tomorrow for our own round of talks," said the secretary general of the Gaborone Taxi and Combi Association, Bashi Mpho.



REGRETFUL

Meanwhile, the Botswana Bus Operators Association chairman Tiragalo Mponang has confirmed that all long distance bus operators have resumed operating at full capacity as negotiations with the ministry are progressing well. In an interview with radio station Gabz FM, Mponang expressed regret over last week's strike, attributing it to frustration and heightened emotions among bus operators.

Govt Reviews Same Sex Marriage Law

Meaningful progress will depend on collective engagement among stakeholders, signalling that the national conversation on LGBTQ rights in Botswana is far from settled



BONGANI MALUNGA

The government has not yet adopted a formal stance on homosexuality, while signalling that the contentious issue of same sex marriage could soon come under national scrutiny as the Marriage Act undergoes review.

The state is currently embroiled in a legal battle against same sex couple Bonolo Selelo and Tsholofelo Kumile who appeared before the High Court on March 6 this year challenging the constitutionality of Section 10 (2) of the Marriage Act which denies them the right to marry.

GOVT POLICY UNDEFINED

Speaking in Parliament, the Minister of Labour and Home Affairs, Pius Mokgware, clarified that while same sex relationships are no longer criminal, government policy remains undefined, placing the matter firmly in the hands of the courts and ongoing legislative processes.

"The Government has not adopted a position with regard to homosexuality. However, the Court of Appeal in 2021 upheld the High Court's decision on the decriminalisation of same sex relationships," the Minister said, referencing the landmark ruling that struck down sections 164 and 165 of the Penal Code. The judgment affirmed that criminalising consensual same sex intimacy violated constitutional rights to privacy, liberty and dignity.

SIGNIFICANT SHIFT

While this ruling marked a significant shift in Botswana's legal landscape, Mokgware acknowledged persistent public confusion over its implications. On the question of legalising same-sex marriage, government would not make any commitments. The current legal framework, under the Marriage Act, recognises unions strictly between a man and a woman.

"My Ministry is currently reviewing the Marriage Act in line with the Constitution of Botswana, where consultations on issues such as this one will be entered into with various stakeholders," the Minister stated.

EQUALITY

The Botswana Network on Ethics, Law and HIV/AIDS (BONELA) believes that refusal to recognise same sex marriage goes against Botswana's human rights obligations under regional and international frameworks that uphold equality and non discrimination and privacy.

> "To deny a couple the right to marry and openly express their deepest love and commitment to one another is to deny them full humanity."

"The Constitution of Botswana is founded on the principle that every person is entitled to fundamental rights and freedoms without discrimination. To deny a couple the right to marry and openly express their deepest love and commitment to one another is to deny them full humanity, equal citizenship and equal protection of the law," BONELA recently stated.

P2500 Ikageng Promise in Limbo

For now, the P2500 allowance remains dependent on whether the government can find an extra P1.4 billion needed to deliver on its promise

BONGANI MALUNGA

The government has not clearly indicated whether or when it will increase the Ikageng allowance to P2,500, leaving uncertainty around an election pledge as the financial implications of the proposed hike become clearer.

Speaking in Parliament on Thursday, the Assistant Minister of Local Government and Traditional Affairs, Ignatius Moswaane confirmed that the new Ikageng Public Works Programme will, for now, keep the same number of beneficiaries and continue paying the current allowance.

ADDITIONAL EXPENDITURE

This means the promised increase to P2500 will not happen immediately. According to Moswaane, implementing the higher allowance would require an additional P1.4 billion, a 105 percent jump in the programme's budget. The scale of this cost has forced government to pause and reassess how and when the increase could be rolled out.

"Quite a sizeable number of Batswana depend on the programme allowance for their daily sustenance. It is worth noting that implementation of the new allowance on the Ikageng Public Works programme would increase by BWP1,408,779,256 (105%)," Moswaane explained.

UNCHANGED

Kgatleng West MP Dr Unity Dow had raised concerns about whether the transition from Ipelegeng to Ikageng could lead to fewer beneficiaries if funding is not increased. In response, government maintained that the number of participants will remain unchanged for now, offering some reassurance to those who depend on the programme.



The Ikageng programme is being introduced as an improved version of Ipelegeng, with a stronger focus on skills development. Moswaane says this approach will reduce long-term dependency and better prepare citizens for opportunities in a modern, knowledge-based economy.

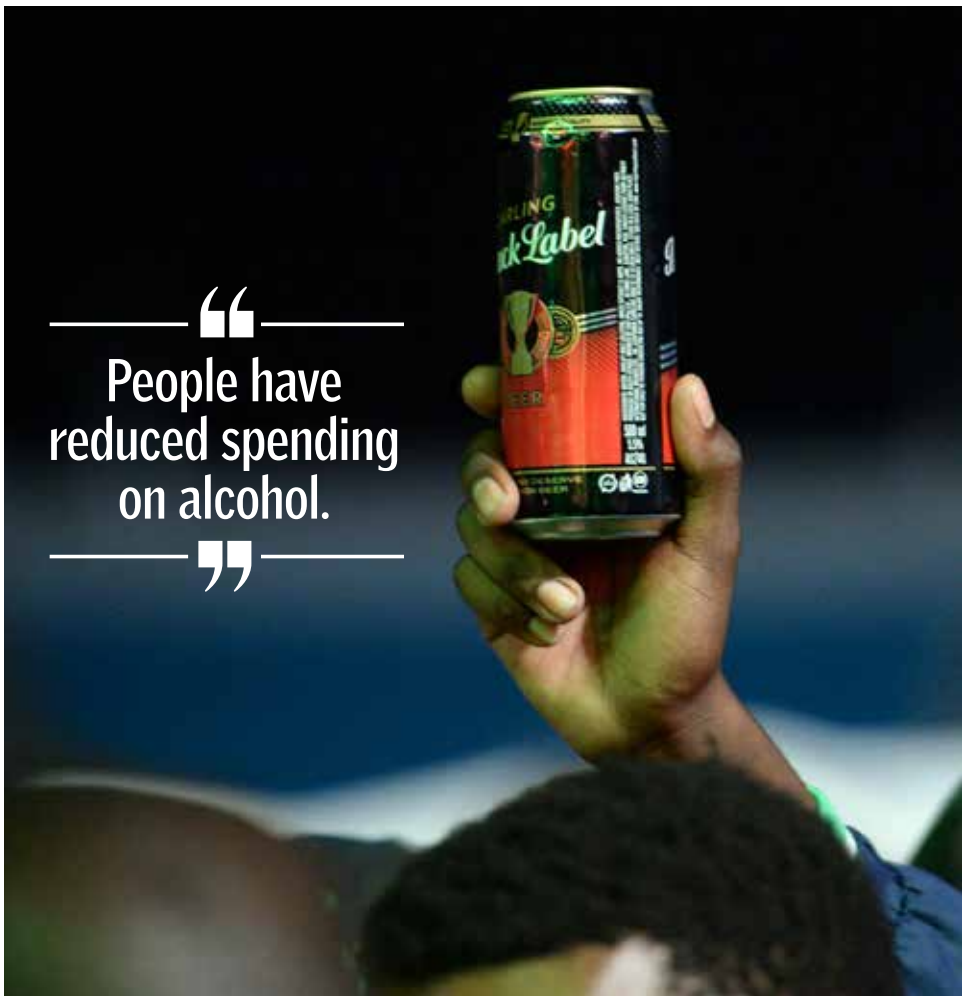
CONCERNS

However, the shift has also sparked concern that the programme may move away from its original purpose of providing immediate relief to the unemployed, especially at a time when many rely on it for daily survival.

The programme will be open to Batswana aged 18 to 60, regardless of education level, but will include means testing to ensure only the most vulnerable benefit.

Extended Trading Hours Fail to Boost Alcohol Levy

Revenue falls by over P2 million despite longer trading hours aimed at boosting sales



SESUPO RANTSIMAKO

Alcohol levy collections during the 2025 festive season recorded a sharp decline compared to the previous year, raising concerns about reduced consumer spending during one of the busiest periods for alcohol sales.

In response to a parliamentary question by Shashe West Member of Parliament Jeremiah Frenzel, the Minister of Entrepreneurship Tiroeaone Ntsima disclosed that revenue collected from December 24, 2025, to January 4, 2026, stood at P3,909,871.15. This represents a significant drop from P5,920,233.20 recorded during the same period in 2024.

Frenzel had sought clarity on funds raised through the alcohol levy during the festive season and under the new operational hours implemented by the government.

LIMITED RESULTS

During the festive period, the government extended operating hours for alcohol outlets in an effort to stimulate sales. Bars and nightclubs were allowed to remain open until 6 a.m., while bottle stores and supermarkets selling alcohol could operate until 10 p.m., compared to their usual earlier closing times.

Despite these extended trading hours, alcohol levy revenue fell short of expectations. The decline represents a notable reduction in government income from one of the year's traditionally strongest revenue streams.

POSSIBLE CAUSES OF THE DECLINE

While the government has not yet provided a detailed analysis of the reasons behind the drop, analysts suggest shifting consumer behavior, tightening economic conditions, and ongoing alcohol control measures could be factors.

Assistant Minister of Entrepreneurship, Baratiwa Mathoothe attributed the decline to the struggling economy. "People have reduced spending on alcohol. Many are avoiding high-priced clubs and instead frequenting bars, which operate similar hours, so extended trading times had little impact on consumption patterns," she explained.

ALCOHOL LEVY

Introduced as both a revenue-generating mechanism and a public health intervention, the alcohol levy remains critical for funding national programmes while discouraging harmful drinking habits.

The 2025 festive season figures highlight the challenge of relying on seasonal consumption for government revenue and suggest that policy adjustments or broader economic improvements may be necessary to meet levy expectations in future holiday periods.

Govt Accused of Flouting Security Insourcing Directive

Temporary security services workers threaten legal action and demand permanent jobs

SESUPO RANTSIMAKO

Former temporary security guards in the Ministry of Environment and Tourism (MET), under the Department of Forestry and Range Resources, have accused government of ignoring a December 2025 Directorate of Public Service Management (DPSM) directive that mandated continuity ahead of the planned insourcing exercise, which took effect on April 1, 2026.

CONTRACTS NOT RENEWED

The workers, through their lawyers at Ndawana and Company, argue that their contracts were not renewed in line with DPSM Directive No. 7 of December 12, 2025. The directive instructed accounting officers to ensure continuity in the planned insourcing of cleaners, gardeners, and security guards, following an announcement in Parliament by the Minister of Labour and Home Affairs Pius Mokgware last year.



The directive instructed accounting officers to ensure continuity in the planned insourcing of cleaners, gardeners, and security guards, following an announcement in Parliament by the Minister of Labour and Home Affairs Pius Mokgware last year.

The minister had indicated that government would transition these workers from outsourced arrangements into permanent and pensionable positions, a move intended to improve service delivery, enhance accountability, and provide job security.

MINISTRY ACCUSED OF VIOLATING GUIDELINES

Despite the directive, the former security guards allege that the Ministry of Environment and Tourism terminated contracts of employees whose terms were set to expire before April 1, 2026. They claim that the ministry instead recruited new personnel, directly contradicting the DPSM guidelines and denying existing employees continuity and the opportunity for permanent absorption.

FRUSTRATION AND CALLS FOR REINSTATEMENT

The affected workers expressed frustration over being excluded from the transition despite already serving in the roles. They are demanding reinstatement and absorption into permanent and pensionable positions, citing the government's insourcing policy, which officially came into effect at the beginning of April.

LEGAL ACTION LOOMS

The former employees are now contemplating legal action, insisting that the ministry's actions violated clear government instructions and denied them job security. They maintain that reinstatement and full compliance with the DPSM directive remain their primary demands.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BCP Calls for Education Audit

The opposition is urging an education audit as rural schools in Kgalagadi and North West continue to post some of the country's lowest exam results, raising concerns over deepening inequality



SESUPO RANTSIMAKO

The Botswana Congress Party (BCP) has called for an immediate education equity audit to determine why schools in the Kgalagadi and North West Districts continue to record persistently poor academic results.

Speaking to The Botswana Gazette following the release of the 2025 Botswana General Certificate of Secondary Education (BGCSE) results, BCP Shadow Minister for Child Welfare, Basic and Higher Education, Caterpillar Hikuama, expressed deep concern over the recurring underperformance of schools in the two regions.

Hikuama argued that government must move beyond merely acknowledging exam results and start addressing the underlying causes. "We must move beyond the ritual of noting results and start fixing the environment that produces them," he said.

GROWING RURAL-URBAN EDUCATION GAP

The opposition warned that the widening disparity between well-resourced private schools and rural government institutions is undermining education as a tool for equal opportunity.

"We remain concerned by the widening gap between elite private centres and our rural government schools. Education should be the great equaliser, yet the 2025 results suggest that geography is becoming destiny for the Motswana child," Hikuama added.

SCHOOLS IN BOTTOM NATIONAL RANKINGS

According to the BCP, schools in Kgalagadi and North West consistently rank among the worst performers nationally, from primary to secondary levels. Many occupy positions in the bottom 10, pointing to structural and environmental challenges that require urgent intervention.

The latest BGCSE results highlight the scale of the problem: Tsabong Unified Secondary School – lowest pass rate at 8.8%, Shakawe Senior Secondary School – fourth from the bottom at 11.75%, Maun Senior Secondary School – 15.85%, and Ghanzi Senior Secondary School – 26.31%.

Junior secondary results show a similar pattern. At credit level (Grade C or better), Kgalagadi and North West recorded just 28.08% and 28.20%, respectively, placing them at the bottom nationally.

> "We must move beyond the ritual of noting results and start fixing the environment that produces them."

BCP URGES TARGETED INTERVENTION

Hikuama stressed that without urgent and targeted action, learners in these regions will remain trapped in a cycle of underperformance, with limited access to opportunities compared to urban peers. The BCP is calling for a comprehensive audit to identify and address the root causes of the persistent disparities.

"The continued underperformance should serve as a loud call for authorities to confront the unique challenges affecting schools in remote and rural areas," Hikuama said.



The Botswana Gazette
BUSINESS NEWS

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BIC at 50: Staying Relevant

Botswana's heritage insurer points to trust, innovation and discipline as drivers of longevity in a changing market

TLOTLO KEBINAKGABO

After five decades in operation, Botswana Insurance Company Limited (BIC) says its continued relevance in the short-term insurance sector is rooted in consistency and adaptation.

"With 50 years as Botswana's 'Heritage Insurance Brand,' our longevity is rooted in trust, adaptability, and a deep understanding of the Botswana market," said Group Chief Executive Officer Newton Jazire in a written response.

He said the company's approach has been to evolve alongside customers' needs while maintaining strong governance, prudent underwriting and sound financial management. "Being a heritage brand has never meant standing still; it has meant growing responsibly while keeping our customers at the centre of everything we do," he said.

CLAIMS PROCESS

BIC outlined a structured claims process aimed at balancing efficiency, fairness and transparency. A policyholder begins by notifying the insurer of a potential loss through multiple channels, including email, its website or in person.

"The claim notification is acknowledged, and a dedicated claim handler advises the client of necessary documentation required," Jazire said. Once documents are submitted, an assessor is appointed to evaluate the claim, after which a report is reviewed against policy terms.

"The claim resolution has binary outcomes: paying or repudiating the claim," he said, adding that the process typically takes between one and two weeks, depending on complexity and the timeliness of documentation.

He said all decisions are guided strictly by policy terms to ensure fairness, while dedicated handlers provide ongoing communication to maintain transparency.

TURNAROUND TIMES

Concerns around industry-wide claims turnaround times have persisted in recent years. Jazire said timelines at BIC depend largely on the nature of each claim.

"First and foremost, it is paramount to highlight that claims turnaround times depend on the type and complexity of the claim," he said. The company has service level agreements with providers across the claims value chain to ensure timelines are met.

He added that automation is central to improving performance, particularly in providing clients with real-time updates. "Our turnaround times are closely aligned to industry standards, and we endeavor to even set a new benchmark as the market leader," he said.

PRODUCT STRATEGY

BIC said it tailors its offerings across personal, commercial and specialized insurance by responding to shifting risks and customer needs.

"We recognise that the needs of individuals, SMEs, and large corporates are not static," Jazire said. Engagement with clients and brokers informs product design, including adjustments for economic changes, climate-related risks and evolving lifestyles.

"For businesses, we focus on sector-specific risk solutions, while for individuals we prioritise affordability, relevance, and ease of access," he said.

DIGITAL PUSH

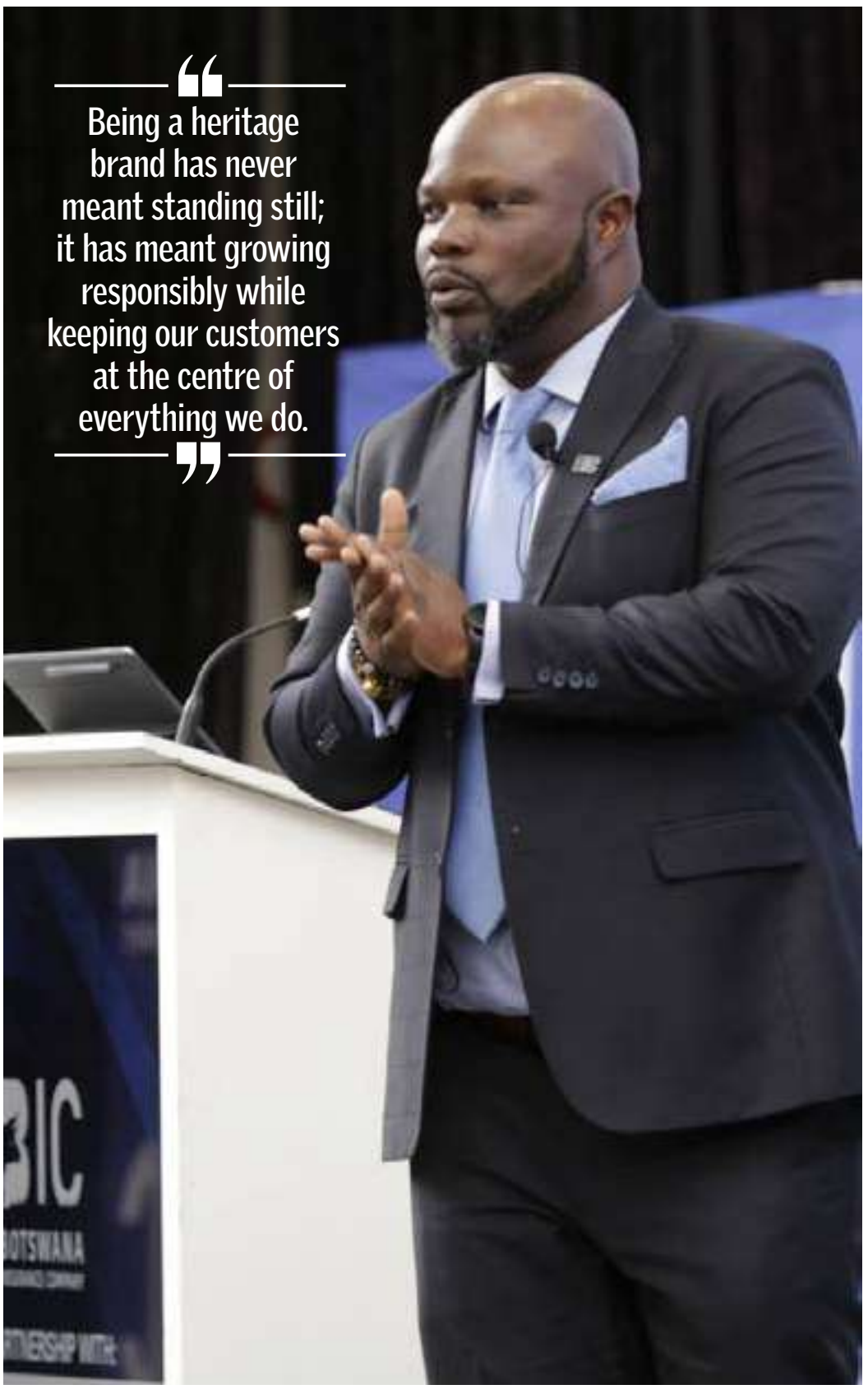
The company has also invested in digital tools to improve accessibility and customer experience. Jazire cited a redesigned website that allows customers to access information, make purchases and lodge claims without direct human interaction.

He said automation has been extended to claims allocation, enabling policyholders to receive handler details promptly, while a payment bot has been introduced to speed up settlements within stipulated timelines.

FINANCIAL LITERACY

BIC says it views insurance education as part of its broader responsibility. Through corporate social responsibility initiatives, community outreach and media partnerships, the company aims to promote understanding of insurance and financial planning.

"We aim to demystify insurance by using clear, accessible language and practical examples," Jazire said. He added that improving financial literacy contributes to a more resilient and inclusive economy.



Botswana Insurance Company Limited (BIC) Group Chief Executive Officer Newton Jazire

TIRED OF SHARING?



Diamond Output Slumps Sharply

Mining sector shows mixed fortunes as maintenance halts drag diamonds down while other minerals post modest gains



TLOTLO KEBINAKGABO

Diamond production fell by 54.6 percent, equivalent to 2,368 thousand carats, dropping from 4,338 thousand carats in the fourth quarter of 2024 to 1,970 thousand carats in the fourth quarter of 2025, according to a recent report by Statistics Botswana.

“This decrease is primarily attributable to scheduled maintenance shutdowns: one major mine remained non-operational for the entire quarter following prior plant-utilisation optimisation ahead of planned maintenance, while another mine conducted maintenance activities during October 2025 only,” the report states.

On a quarter-on-quarter basis, production declined even more sharply by 67.9 percent, or 4,157 thousand carats, from 6,127 thousand carats in the third quarter of 2025.

COPPER GAINS

Copper-in-concentrates production rose by 8.1 percent, or 981 tonnes, from 12,107 tonnes in the fourth quarter of 2024 to 13,088 tonnes in the same quarter of 2025.

On a quarter-on-quarter basis, output increased by 17.7 percent, or 1,969 tonnes, up from 11,119 tonnes recorded in the third quarter of 2025.

SODA ASH TRENDS

Soda ash production declined by 8.2 percent, or 6,728 tonnes, from 82,482 tonnes in the fourth quarter of 2024 to 75,754 tonnes in the period under review.

However, compared with the previous quarter, production rose by 22.8 percent, or 14,052 tonnes, from 61,702 tonnes recorded in the third quarter of 2025.

SALT, SILVER RISE

Salt production increased by 21.1 percent, or 17,292 tonnes, rising from 81,833 tonnes in the fourth quarter of 2024 to 99,125 tonnes in the same quarter of 2025. On a quarterly basis, output grew by 5.5 percent, or 5,192 tonnes.

Silver production also edged higher, increasing by 2.3 percent, or 203 kilograms, from 8,826 kilograms in the fourth quarter of 2024 to 9,029 kilograms in the fourth quarter of 2025. Quarter-on-quarter, production rose by 29.6 percent, or 2,060 kilograms.

COAL DECLINES

Coal production fell by 13.3 percent, or 91,007 tonnes, from 683,236 tonnes in the fourth quarter of 2024 to 592,229 tonnes in the fourth quarter of 2025.

“Although production declined, there was no shortfall in coal supply due to adequate stockpiling,” the report notes.

On a quarter-on-quarter basis, output decreased by 2.8 percent, or 17,030 tonnes, from 609,259 tonnes in the third quarter of 2025.

ZERO OUTPUT

Gold recorded zero production during the period under review, with the affected mine still undergoing provisional liquidation due to financial constraints.

Copper-Nickel-Cobalt Matte also recorded zero production, as the affected mines remain under provisional liquidation.

standard chartered

April 2026 Deposit Interest Rates

BWP - Botswana Pula

Type of Deposit Account	Nominal Interest Rate (%)	Average Effective Interest Rate (%)	Minimum Opening Balance (BWP)
Current	0-3	0.00	0
Call	0.10 - 4.5	0.10	10,000.00
Savings (Tema)	0.50 - 2.75	0.70	500.00
91-Days Fixed Deposit	1.3- 8	1.67	1,000.00
1-2 months	0.30 - 8	1.64	1,000.00
4-6 months	1.50 - 8	2.05	1,000.00
7-12 months	2.25 - 8	2.43	1,000.00
13-18 months	NA	NA	NA
19-24 months	2.85 - 3.20	2.88	1,000.00
Over 24 months	NA	NA	NA
Ordinary Savings	0.00 - 0.50	0.08	100.00
Upfront Fixed Deposits	2.20 - 2.40	0.00	100,000.00

GBP - British Pound

Type of Deposit Account	Nominal Interest Rate (%)	Average Effective Interest Rate (%)	Minimum Opening Balance (GBP)
Deposits			
Call	0.00 - 0.25	0.00	2,000.00
91-Days Fixed Deposit	0.00	0.00	2,000.00
1-2 months	0.00	0.00	2,000.00
4-6 months	0.00 - 0.20	0.00	2,000.00
7-12 months	0.00 - 0.25	0.00	2,000.00

ZAR - South African Rand

Type of Deposit Account	Nominal Interest Rate (%)	Average Effective Interest Rate (%)	Minimum Opening Balance (ZAR)
Deposits			
Call	0.00 - 0.3	0.02	15,000.00
91-Days Fixed Deposit	0.00 - 0.80	-	200,000.00
1-2 months	0.00 - 0.3	-	200,000.00
4-6 months	0.00 - 1.25	-	200,000.00
7-12 months	0.00 - 1.8	-	200,000.00

EUR - Euro

Type of Deposit Account	Nominal Interest Rate (%)	Average Effective Interest Rate (%)	Minimum Opening Balance (EUR)
Deposits			
Call	0.00 - 0.17	0.00	2,000.00
91-Days Fixed Deposit	0.00	0.00	2,000.00
1-2 months	0.00	0.00	2,000.00
4-6 months	0.00	0.00	2,000.00
7-12 months	0.00	0.00	2,000.00

USD - American Dollar

Type of Deposit Account	Nominal Interest Rate (%)	Average Effective Interest Rate (%)	Minimum Opening Balance (USD)
Deposits			
Call	0.00 - 0.7	-	3,000.00
91-Days Fixed Deposit	0.00 - 0.15	0.13	3,000.00
1-2 months	0.00 - 2.68	0.12	3,000.00
4-6 months	0.00 - 0.28	-	3,000.00
7-12 months	0.00 - 0.25	0.13	3,000.00

Lending Interest Rates

Lending	Nominal Interest Rate (%)	Average Effective Interest Rate (%)
Monetary Policy rate	3.50	3.50
Prime Rate	7.76	7.76
Mortgage Rate	Prime +0.5 to Prime +6	8.50
Overdraft Rate (revolving credit lines)	Prime +2	0.19
Credit Card Rate	Up to 34.80	37.99
Lease Financing	NA	NA
Personal loans	Prime to Prime + 18	15.95
Other long term loan rates	6.51 - 14.51	9.71

Debit Interest Rate on Unauthorised Overdraft: Prime Lending Rate + 12%. The Prime Lending Rate of 7.76% as published, has been independently determined by SCBB.

1- Nominal Interest Rate: This is the real interest rate + inflation rate
2- Average Effective Interest Rate: This is the actual interest rate which can be earned on an asset over a given period of time.

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BBS Bank Posts P113M Loss

Bank cites higher funding costs, credit impairments amid stable assets

GAZETTE REPORTER

BBS Bank Limited recorded a loss after tax of P113.3 million for the year ended 31 December 2025, a sharp reversal from a restated profit of P38.1 million in 2024, according to the Bank's recently released financials.

Financial Performance

The Bank attributed the decline primarily to a surge in interest expense driven by heightened competition for deposits and a sharp rise in credit impairments amid a challenging economic environment. Additionally, a once-off impairment of a non-financial asset linked to the CBD Head Office Work in Progress and lower non-interest income weighed on results.

"Despite these challenges, total assets remained stable at P5.6 billion, deposits grew modestly, and all regulatory ratios were maintained above prescribed minimums," the Bank said.

BALANCE SHEET

The Group's total assets saw a marginal 0.8 percent increase to P5.6 billion as at 31 December 2025, up from a restated P5.6 billion in 2024. Loans and advances remained stable at P4.6 billion. In response to tight market liquidity, the Bank prioritized portfolio quality over growth, a strategy that put pressure on net interest income. Deposits increased to P4.6 billion from P4.5 billion, supported by retail and corporate segments.

Borrowings fell to P199.5 million from P256.0 million, reflecting scheduled repayments, while debentures remained largely stable at P204.5 million. The Bank also raised an additional P50 million Tier II capital facility to strengthen its capital position. Shareholder equity declined from P528.2 million to P414.9 million, and accumulated losses moved from a positive P40.8 million to a deficit of P72.5 million.

PROFITABILITY METRICS

Net Interest Income (NII) fell 31.5 percent to P144.0 million from a restated P210.1 million. Interest income grew 15.9 percent to P556.0 million, but interest expense surged 52.9 percent to P412.0 million, compressing margins. Net fee and commission income rose modestly by 4.4 percent to P35.3 million, with fee income increasing to P36.7 million and fee expenses to P1.5 million. Other income declined sharply from P16.7 million to P2.9 million due to the absence of prior-year gains from property disposals and lower dividend income.

REGULATORY RATIOS

The Capital Adequacy Ratio (CAR) stood at 19.74 percent, down from 23.63 percent in 2024, but well above the Bank of Botswana's 12.5 percent minimum. The Non-Performing Loans (NPL) ratio rose from 5.23 percent to 6.28 percent. The Cost-to-Income Ratio worsened to 120.6 percent from 72.3 percent, while the Loans-to-Deposit Ratio improved slightly to 101.1 percent from 103.5 percent.

OUTLOOK

The Bank emphasized its focus on expanding current and savings accounts to optimize funding, along with maintaining disciplined credit management.





Stanbic Concludes Letsema Strategy Phase

Bank reports modest profit growth despite economic pressures, signals shift to new Kgolo Strategy

TLOTLO KEBINAKGABO

Stanbic Bank Botswana has marked the end of its three-year Letsema Strategy (2023–2025), with Chief Executive Chose Modise outlining a transition toward a new phase of growth under the Kgolo Strategy beginning in 2026.

"The year 2025 marked the successful conclusion of Stanbic Bank Botswana's Letsema Strategy, which has guided the bank's strategic direction over the last three years," Modise said in the bank's financial results for the year ended December 31, 2025. "From 2026, the Bank will transition to the Kgolo Strategy, defining the next phase of sustainable growth."

STRATEGY SHIFT

Under Letsema, the bank focused on investing in its workforce, strengthening risk management, and building a resilient information technology environment. These efforts, Modise said, were aimed at delivering seamless banking solutions while improving operational efficiency.

"In a year characterised by market volatility and pressure on net interest income (NII), management responded decisively by rebalancing earnings toward a stronger contribution from non-interest revenue," he said.

The bank reported a 62.5 percent increase in non-interest income, which helped offset a 21.7 percent decline in NII. Interest expense rose sharply by 86.1 percent, outweighing a 7.7 percent increase in interest income. Profit after tax grew by a modest 0.3 percent.

Loans and deposits declined by 7.4 percent and 2.1 percent respectively, reflecting constrained lending capacity and subdued credit demand.

ECONOMIC PRESSURES

Modise described 2025 as a year shaped by a volatile economic environment, citing geopolitical pressures and structural changes in the global diamond market.



Stanbic Bank Botswana has marked the end of its three-year Letsema Strategy (2023–2025), with Chief Executive Chose Modise outlining a transition toward a new phase of growth under the Kgolo Strategy beginning in 2026.

"This resulted in a material rise in interest expense and significant compression of net interest margins as funders increased cost in response to banks competing fiercely for deposits," he said.

He added that customer engagement increased during the period, as clients sought stability amid uncertainty. Operating costs and credit impairment charges, however, remained within approved targets.

CIB GROWTH

The Corporate and Investment Banking (CIB) segment delivered strong results despite broader economic challenges. Headline earnings rose by 64.3 percent to P530.8 million, up from P328.7 million in 2024.

The growth was driven largely by increased trading income and improved performance in the global markets division. Total assets in the segment grew by 4 percent.

The bank also continued supporting national development projects, including a 100MW solar plant in Jwaneng valued at P1 billion.

BCB DECLINE

Business and Commercial Banking (BCB) recorded a 42 percent decline in performance, attributed to higher interest expenses linked to liquidity constraints.

However, non-interest revenue in the segment increased by 12 percent, supported by digital transactions and client activity. The bank also reported growth in its customer base and increased adoption of digital channels.

PPB STRAIN

Personal and Private Banking (PPB) faced significant pressure, with profit after tax declining by 56 percent. Net interest income fell by 38 percent due to elevated funding costs.

Despite this, non-interest revenue rose by 16 percent, supported by improved system accessibility and streamlined processes. Customer deposits in the segment increased by 10 percent.

Modise said the segment's performance reflected external pressures rather than structural weaknesses.

OUTLOOK AHEAD

The bank said gains made in operational efficiency, revenue diversification and client engagement under Letsema provide a foundation for recovery as liquidity conditions improve.

Botswana GDP Contracts Sharply

Mining slump drives deeper economic decline in final quarter of 2025

GAZETTE REPORTER

Botswana's real Gross Domestic Product (GDP) shrank by 5.4 percent in the fourth quarter of 2025, a sharper contraction than the 1.9 percent decline recorded in the same period of 2024, according to a new report by Statistics Botswana.

The Gross Domestic Product: Fourth Quarter of 2025 report attributes the downturn largely to steep declines in key sectors, particularly mining, construction, and utilities. "All other industries recorded positive growths," the report states, even as overall economic output weakened. On a quarter-to-quarter basis, real GDP fell by 11.4 percent during the period under review.

MINING DECLINE

The mining and quarrying sector recorded a 47.0 percent decrease in real value added, significantly deeper than the 27.2 percent decline seen in the corresponding quarter of 2024. The contraction was driven primarily by a sharp drop in diamond production, which fell by 54.6 percent.

Coal mining also declined by 13.3 percent, while soda ash and salt production dropped by 8.2 percent, further weighing on the sector's overall performance.

CONSTRUCTION DIP

The construction industry contracted by 2.3 percent in the fourth quarter of 2025, reversing a modest 0.4 percent increase recorded in the same period a year earlier. The sector includes building construction, civil engineering, and specialized construction activities.

AGRICULTURE GROWTH

In contrast, the agriculture, forestry, and fishing sector recorded a 4.2 percent increase in real value added, compared with a 1.9 percent decline in the fourth quarter of 2024. Growth was led by the livestock farming subsector, which expanded by 5.7 percent.

"This increase was further supported by a substantial rise in cattle deliveries to the Botswana Meat Commission, which increased by 193.2 percent," the report notes.

> "On a quarter to quarter comparison the real GDP decreased by 11.4 percent during the quarter under review."

TRADE EXPANSION

Wholesale and retail trade grew by 4.1 percent in the fourth quarter of 2025, although this marked a slowdown from the 7.8 percent growth recorded in the same quarter of the previous year. The sector is largely driven by the sale of fast-moving consumer goods.

UTILITIES FALL

The water and electricity sector contracted by 1.3 percent, with real value added declining from P715.3 million to P706.1 million. The electricity subsector fell by 5.0 percent, a reversal from the 78.1 percent growth recorded in the fourth quarter of 2024.

This was mainly caused by a reduction in both domestic electricity generation, (by 11.6 percent) and imported electricity volumes, (by 12.1 percent), over the review period," the report states.

By contrast, the water subsector grew by 5.8 percent, with real value added rising from P245.8 million to P259.9 million.

Manufacturing Rise

The manufacturing sector expanded by 6.5 percent, recovering from a 7.2 percent decline in the corresponding quarter of 2024. Growth was largely driven by the diamonds sorting, cutting, polishing and setting industry, which surged by 54.9 percent.

Additional contributions came from the production, processing and preserving of meat and meat products, which grew by 6.0 percent, and furniture manufacturing, which increased by 4.9 percent.

Letshego Donates P155,000 for FMD

Private sector support bolsters Botswana's emergency livestock response efforts



Letshego Botswana has contributed P155,000 toward the government's response to the ongoing Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) outbreak, in a move aimed at strengthening field operations and supporting affected communities. *Photo Credit: Social Media*

GAZETTE REPORTER

Letshego Botswana has contributed P155,000 toward the government's response to the ongoing Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) outbreak, in a move aimed at strengthening field operations and supporting affected communities.

HANDOVER EVENT

The donation, made in partnership with Letshego Africa Holdings Limited, was formally handed over during a recent Foot and Mouth Command Centre meeting attended by officials from the Ministry of Lands and Agriculture and representatives from the Office of the President.

The contribution comes as authorities intensify efforts to contain the outbreak, which has affected parts of the Goodhope and North-East Districts and prompted urgent interventions to protect livestock and livelihoods.

OPERATIONAL SUPPORT

According to details shared at the meeting, the funds will be used to support key response activities, including the procurement of fencing materials, fuel, and personal protective equipment for volunteers known as Mephato. Additional resources will go toward food rations and drone-supported monitoring to sustain operations in affected areas.

The Ministry had previously appealed for additional resources to maintain critical fieldwork, including monitoring, relief distribution and rapid response initiatives.

Officials said the contribution is expected to help sustain ongoing operations and limit further economic disruption linked to the outbreak, particularly in agricultural communities dependent on livestock.

OFFICIAL RESPONSE

Speaking at the handover, Acting Minister of Lands and Agriculture Dr. Edwin G. Dikoloti acknowledged the role of private sector partnerships in addressing the crisis.

"Partnerships such as these are essential in strengthening our national response. This contribution will directly support ongoing operations on the ground and enable us to respond more effectively to the outbreak," he said.

Letshego Botswana's Country Chief Executive Officer and Regional Executive, Kgotso Bonnalotlhe, said the company's contribution was aligned with its broader commitment to national development.

"We are honoured to stand alongside the Government of Botswana and the community in responding to this national emergency. Our contribution reflects our continued commitment to improving lives and supporting Botswana's socio-economic resilience, particularly in times of crisis," he said.

Deputy Permanent Secretary Matshidiso Boloke emphasized the scale of the challenge, noting that sustained coordination and resources remain critical to controlling the disease.

"The fight against Foot and Mouth Disease requires sustained effort, coordination, and resources. Support from partners like Letshego Botswana and Letshego Africa Holdings enhances our operational capacity and ensures that interventions reach affected communities in time," she said.

NATIONAL PRIORITY

The Ministry of Lands and Agriculture has identified the containment of the outbreak as a national priority, citing its impact on agriculture, rural livelihoods and food security.

Response efforts continue across affected districts, involving government teams and community volunteers working to prevent further spread of the disease.

Letshego Botswana said its contribution forms part of a broader commitment to supporting communities and national priorities during periods of crisis, particularly where livelihoods and economic stability are at risk.

LLR Reports Revenue Growth, Sustained Occupancy

Solid occupancy and revenue growth contrast with declining profits as Letlole La Rona tightens its financial strategy

Letlole La Rona Limited ("LLR" or "the Group") has announced its unaudited financial results for the six months ended 31 December 2025, delivering 7% revenue growth and sustained occupancy of 97%, reflecting continued stability across its property portfolio.

STABLE PORTFOLIO PERFORMANCE

The Group's property portfolio continued to deliver consistent income, supported by contractual lease escalations and sustained tenant activity. Occupancy and collection rates remained firm at 97%, reflecting stability across the portfolio despite a more challenging trading environment. Revenue growth of 7% was primarily driven by annual lease escalations, while operating profit remained broadly in line with the prior period.

PROFIT IMPACTED BY COST PRESSURES

Profit before tax declined to P40.6 million, primarily reflecting valuation adjustments and higher finance costs. The Group recorded a net fair value loss of P4.5 million, comprising valuation movements based on updated market inputs and adjustments related to straight-line lease accounting, which are non-cash in nature. Finance costs increased during the period in line with prevailing interest rate conditions.

SHIFT TOWARD CAPITAL PRESERVATION

The interim distribution was adjusted to 4.40 thebe per linked unit, reflecting a deliberate shift toward capital preservation and balance sheet strengthening in the current environment. The Group strengthened its liquidity position during the period, with cash balances increasing to approximately P65 million, providing flexibility as refinancing and capital management initiatives progress.

LEADERSHIP COMMENTS ON STRATEGY

Commenting on the results, Acting Chief Executive Officer Rorisang Modikana said:

"Our deliberate focus on liquidity positions the Group to act on near-term opportunities while maintaining income stability. We have prioritised balance sheet strength, progressed refinancing initiatives, and continued advancing key developments within the portfolio. This disciplined approach ensures we are well positioned to navigate current conditions and support the next phase of growth."

OPERATING ENVIRONMENT REMAINS CHALLENGING



LLR Acting Chief Executive Officer Rorisang Modikana

The Group continues to actively manage tenant relationships, capital structure, and portfolio positioning in response to the broader operating environment, which remains influenced by subdued performance in the diamond sector, tighter liquidity conditions in the domestic market, and rising input and operating costs across the economy.

GOVERNANCE AND FUTURE PLANS

During the period, the Group progressed leadership and governance continuity through the appointment of Modikana as Acting Chief Executive Officer, supported by her extensive financial leadership background. Two independent non-executive directors were also appointed: a Chartered Accountant with over 20 years of experience across financial services and corporate governance, and a real estate specialist holding a PhD in the built environment. These appointments strengthen Board oversight, technical depth, and strategic capability as the Group advances its priorities.

Looking ahead, Letlole La Rona is focused on advancing key growth initiatives. Debt refinancing workstreams are progressing at subsidiary level through JTTM Properties, development activity in Selebi Phikwe continues, and the recruitment of a substantive Chief Executive Officer is underway. Together, these initiatives support the Group's capital structure repositioning and portfolio.

Article edited for length

Bomaid Launches Digital Wellness App

A new app aims to shift health management into users' daily routines, as Bomaid begins a nationwide rollout



The Botswana Medical Aid Society has launched a new digital wellness platform, "Thrive with Bomaid," as part of efforts to expand access to preventative health tools. The launch took place on 7 April 2026 at Virgin Active in Gaborone, with a national rollout scheduled to begin this week.

NATIONAL ROLLOUT BEGINS

The organisation said regional engagements will start in Palapye on Wednesday, followed by Francistown, targeting both customers and healthcare providers. The sessions are intended to introduce the app and outline its use for individuals and employers.

The app, powered by VivaScore, is available to Bomaid members on iOS and Android. It allows users to monitor indicators such as blood pressure and stress levels using a smartphone camera.

WELLNESS CAMPAIGN ACTIVITIES

The rollout forms part of a broader wellness campaign that includes stakeholder briefings, a media health challenge closing on 13 April, a community health day on 18 April, participation at the HATAB conference in Maun on 23 April, and presence at the Diacore Marathon on 26 April.

LEADERSHIP OUTLINES APPROACH

Speaking at the launch, Bomaid CCXO Sego Macheng said the initiative reflects a shift in how medical aid services are delivered. "At Bomaid, we do not just cover you, we walk the wellness journey with you," she said.

Chief Executive Officer Moraki Mokgosana described the platform as part of a broader transition towards digital health tools. "We are moving beyond traditional coverage to offer a digital wellness companion that meets people where they are," he said.

TECHNOLOGY AND FEATURES

According to the organisation, the platform uses artificial intelligence to analyse multiple health indicators and generate a personalised score. Additional features include wearable device integration and a points-based system that rewards health-related activities.

VivaScore CEO Simon Spurr said the partnership focuses on improving access to health data. "Customers gain real visibility into their health, and the fund gains the population-level insights needed to drive better outcomes."

Article edited for length



Speaking at the launch, Bomaid CCXO Sego Macheng said the initiative reflects a shift in how medical aid services are delivered. "At Bomaid, we do not just cover you, we walk the wellness journey with you," she said.

Standard Bank Tops Africa Ranking

Standard Bank Group extends its lead as Africa's top banking brand, with new figures pointing to continued growth

Standard Bank Group, parent company of Stanbic Bank Botswana, has been named Africa's most valuable banking brand for the fifth consecutive year, according to the latest Brand Finance rankings.

FIFTH CONSECUTIVE RECOGNITION

The recognition forms part of Brand Finance's annual Global Top 500 Banking Brands report, which evaluates institutions based on brand strength, financial performance, and stakeholder perceptions. The group recorded a 19% increase in brand value year on year.

LOCAL PERSPECTIVE ON PERFORMANCE

Stanbic Bank Botswana Chief Executive Chose Modise said the ranking reflects the institution's position across its markets. "This recognition speaks to the strength of the Standard Bank Group and its relevance across the markets it serves," Modise said. "For us in Botswana, it reflects the trust our clients place in us."

As part of the Standard Bank Group, Stanbic Bank Botswana continues to contribute to this success through its focus on delivering client-led solutions, supporting enterprise growth, and enabling economic activity across key sectors.

BROADER INDUSTRY RECOGNITION

The group has also received recognition from organisations including Forbes, TIME Magazine and Newsweek, reflecting its standing among global financial institutions.

Article edited for length



Stanbic Bank Botswana Chief Executive Chose Modise

Puma Introduces Loyalty Platform

A new loyalty app aims to reshape how motorists earn rewards and track spending at fuel stations



Speaking at the launch, Puma Energy Botswana General Manager Tendai Mwewa said the platform is designed to extend value beyond fuel purchases.

Puma Energy Botswana has launched a loyalty application, Puma PRIS, aimed at integrating rewards, payments, and spending insights into a single digital platform for customers.

LOYALTY PLATFORM LAUNCHED

The application allows users to earn points on fuel and in-store purchases at Puma service stations. Points can be redeemed for goods and services, including groceries, airtime, and meals within the company's retail network and partner outlets.

Speaking at the launch, Puma Energy Botswana General Manager Tendai Mwewa said the platform is designed to extend value beyond fuel purchases. "Puma PRIS is our way of thanking customers for choosing Puma. It turns every routine fuel stop into something valuable," she said.

DIGITAL ECONOMY FOCUS

Mwewa added that the initiative aligns with broader digitalisation efforts. "Our investment in Puma PRIS reflects our long-term commitment to building digital ecosystems," she said, noting that the platform is intended to support wider economic participation.

Deputy Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Transport and Infrastructure, Agnes Mothobi, said the application contributes to national digital goals. "The launch of the PRIS app contributes to the country's digital transformation through secure cashless transactions and greater transparency," she said.

HOW THE APP WORKS

The app enables users to accumulate points by scanning a QR code at the forecourt or till during transactions. According to the company, the platform was developed in response to demand for a simple, integrated rewards system offering immediate benefits.

TRACKING SPENDING PATTERNS

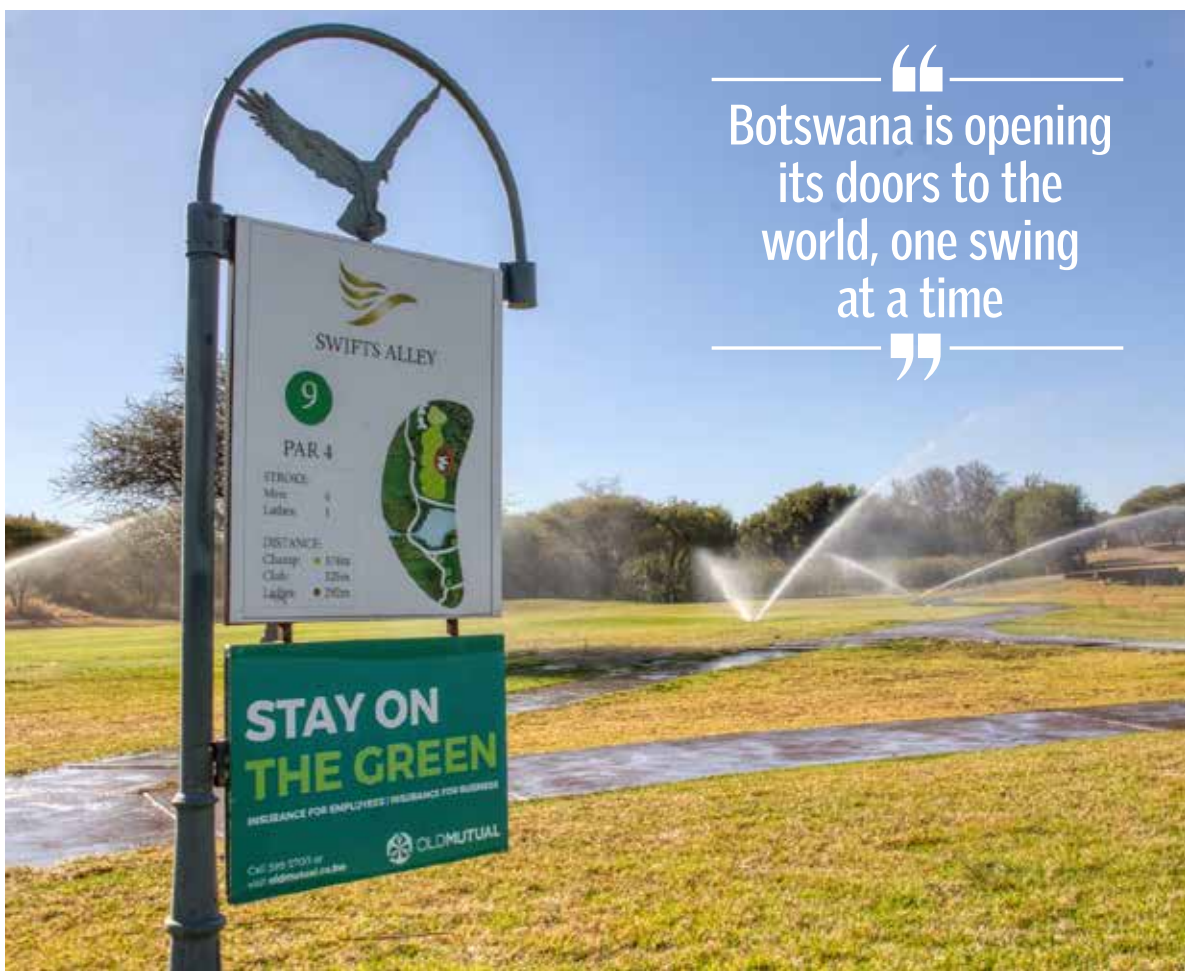
Beyond rewards, the application includes features that allow users to monitor spending and track fuel consumption. It automatically records and categorises transactions, providing dashboards and reports aimed at improving financial awareness.

The Puma PRIS app is available on Android and iOS devices.

Article edited for length

Golf Meets Business Power Play

Botswana's boardroom meets the fairway as the Workers Day Golf Relays tee offin Gaborone, blending elite networking, investment ambition, and a high-end sporting experience ahead of the World Athletics Relays.



As Botswana builds momentum ahead of the global spotlight of the World Athletics Relays, a different kind of contest will unfold on the greens. The Workers Day Golf Relays are set to take over Phakalane Golf Estate on 30 April, bringing together business heavyweights, investors, and sports enthusiasts in a high-stakes networking environment.

ON THE TEE

Organised by Beyond Africa in partnership with Destination Events Botswana, the event is positioned as more than just a day of golf. It is a strategic meeting point where deals, partnerships, and ideas are expected to flow as freely as the swings. "It's a gateway to Botswana's growing economy and a platform where meaningful partnerships are formed," organisers say.

MORE THAN GOLF

Set against the backdrop of Phakalane's fairways, the event blends sport with lifestyle and culture. A premium wine experience, live entertainment from DJ Dolphus, and a fashion showcase by designer Gina Mabe add layers to what is being pitched as Botswana's premier corporate golf experience.

A prize-giving ceremony hosted by Michael Morapedi and exclusive gifts for participants further elevate the occasion.

> It's more than golf, it's where deals are made

BIG GAME PLAYERS

The timing is deliberate. With Botswana positioning itself as a gateway into the SADC market, the relays are expected to attract international corporations, tourism leaders, and high-net-worth individuals looking for entry points into the region.

For sponsors, the event offers front-row access to decision-makers, premium visibility, and alignment with a country preparing for a major global sporting moment.

FINAL HOLE

With business, sport, and culture converging, the Workers Day Golf Relays are shaping up to be more than a warm-up act. They are a statement of intent from a country looking to play on a much bigger stage.

The Discount Paradox: Why Your Sale is Making You Poorer, Not Richer



MANUEL VEIRUAPI RUHAPO, FOUNDER, BLACMARC GROUP

Sales are slow. Inventory is piling up. The pressure to hit your quarterly target is mounting. The solution seems obvious: a sale. You slash your prices, put up a "50% OFF" sign, and watch the customers come in. The numbers look good. You feel like a genius.

You have just made a terrible mistake.

You have taught your customers one simple, dangerous lesson: never pay full price for your brand again.

This is the **Discount Paradox**: every discount you offer to win a short-term sale erodes your long-term brand value and trains your customers to be disloyal. You are not building a brand. You are building a customer base that is only loyal to the lowest price.

Why Discounting Destroys Brands

Discounting has three corrosive effects that most business owners never see coming.

> Every discount you offer to win a short-term sale erodes your long-term brand value.

First, it resets the anchor price. If your product normally sells for P300 and you put it on sale for P150, the customer's brain registers a new anchor. The next time they see it at P300, it does not feel like the normal price. It feels like a rip-off. You have permanently devalued your own product in the customer's mind.

Second, it creates an addiction to deals. Discounts trigger a pleasure response. Customers feel like they have outsmarted the system. That feeling is addictive. Once customers get used to buying on sale, they stop being loyal to your brand and become

> You are not building a brand. You are building a customer base loyal only to the lowest price

loyal to the thrill of the discount. You have created a monster that you must constantly feed.

Third, it signals that your product is not worth its full price. Consumers associate price with quality. If your product is always on sale, the implicit message is that its true worth is lower than what you claim. The brand becomes synonymous with "cheap" rather than "quality," and that perception is almost impossible to reverse.

What This Looks Like in Botswana

Think of the furniture store in Gaborone that seems to have a perpetual "closing down sale." The first time you see it, it feels urgent. The tenth time, you know it is a gimmick. The "sale" price is the real price. The brand has destroyed its own credibility, and nobody believes a word it says.

Or consider a restaurant that introduces a "Two-for-One Pizza" special on quiet Tuesday nights. It works. The restaurant is full on Tuesdays. But Wednesday and Thursday become quiet, because customers who would have come on those nights now wait for the deal. The restaurant has not attracted new customers. It has shifted its existing customers to a less profitable night and cannibalized its own revenue.

Now consider the opposite. Think of a premium safari lodge in the Okavango Delta. They never have sales. Their prices are high and non-negotiable. That refusal to discount is itself a brand signal. It says: we are confident in the value of what we offer. We are not desperate. What we sell is worth the price. That posture builds brand equity that no discount ever could.

The Alternative: Compete on Value, Not Price

Escaping the discount trap requires a deliberate shift in thinking. Instead of asking "how do we move more units?" ask "what makes our product worth more than the competition?"

Value-based pricing sets your price on the benefit you deliver, not the cost of production. A local IT provider charging a premium for comprehensive support is not selling software. They are selling peace of mind and reduced downtime. When you articulate the benefit clearly, the price becomes a reflection of worth, not a negotiating position.

When promotions are necessary, make them add value rather than subtract price. Bundling complementary products, offering a free gift with purchase, or creating a limited-edition item for a national holiday generates excitement without signalling that your standard price is inflated. The goal is to make the customer feel they are gaining something, not that they are finally getting a fair deal.

Loyalty programmes should reward full-price engagement, not just repeat purchases. Early access to new products, exclusive events, and personalised service make customers feel valued as members of something, not just recipients of a discount code.

> Discounting feels like growth, but functions like erosion.

What It Means to You

For consumers: If a brand is always on sale, that is the price. Do not mistake a permanent discount for a genuine deal.

For marketing professionals: Every time you run a blanket percentage-off promotion, you are spending money to teach your customers to trust your brand less. Measure the long-term impact on full-price conversion, not just the short-term sales spike.

For executives: Discounting is a strategy that feels like growth but functions like erosion. The brands that command premium prices in Botswana are the ones that have never trained their customers to expect anything less. Protect your price. It is your brand's most visible statement of self-worth.

About The Brand Paradox

The Brand Paradox is a weekly column by Manuel Veiruapi Ruhapo that explores the counterintuitive truths behind building great brands in Botswana and beyond. Manuel Ruhapo is the founder of Blacmarc Group, a brand strategy consultancy Agencies that helps businesses solve their most complex brand challenges. Contact me on : manuel.ruhapo@blacmarc.co.bw/ruhapo@gmail.com Contact me on: manuel.ruhapo@blacmarc.co.bw/ruhapo@gmail.com



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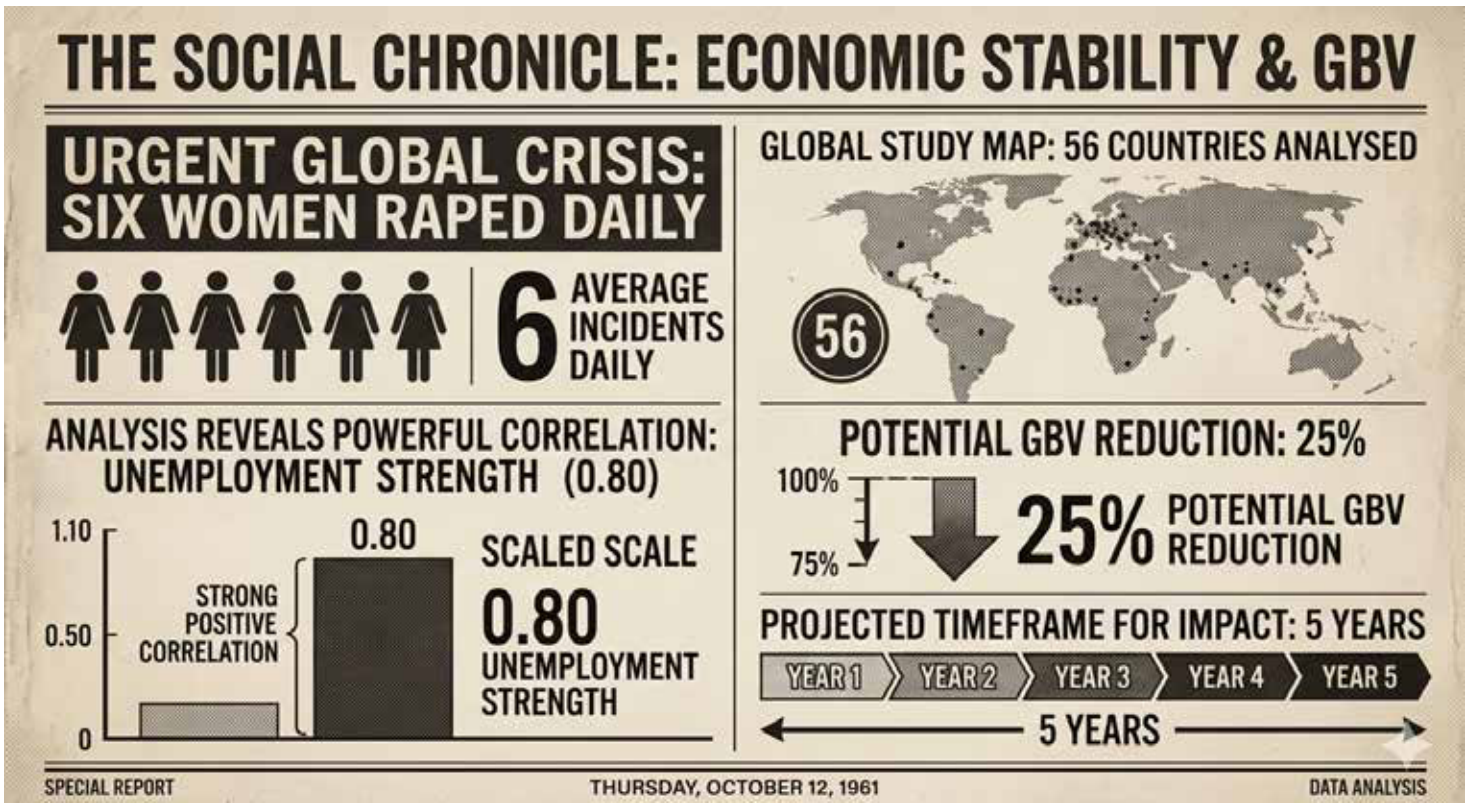
Six Women Raped Each Day

The Hidden System Driving Botswana's GBV Crisis

Botswana's gender-based violence crisis is not random. New research reveals a predictable system driven by unemployment, inequality, and fragile social structures, pointing to solutions that could reduce violence by up to 25 percent.



MASEGO MANYAAPELO AND DOUGLAS RASBASH

Gender-based violence in Botswana is not random. New research shows it is systemic, predictable, and rooted in structural economic and social stress — and that means it can be reduced. Every day, six women are raped in Botswana. Many more cases go unreported.

SYSTEMIC REALITY

> Six women a day is not a statistic it is a system failure.

That stark reality is often presented as a moral outrage, a policing failure, or a cultural problem. And it is all of those things. But what if it is something more unsettling still? What if gender-based violence (GBV) is not random, not episodic, not even primarily behavioural—but systemic, structural, and, most provocatively of all, predictable?

A new research paper from the 2nd Republic Policy Think Tank forces us to confront exactly that possibility. Drawing on cross-country data, statistical modelling, and Botswana-specific validation, the study reframes GBV not as a social aberration—but as the outcome of interacting economic and social forces that can be measured, modelled, and ultimately changed.

> GBV is not random it is systemic, structural, and predictable.

SHIFTING PARADIGM

The full report is available free of charge, reflecting the Think Tank's commitment to open, evidence-based public debate.

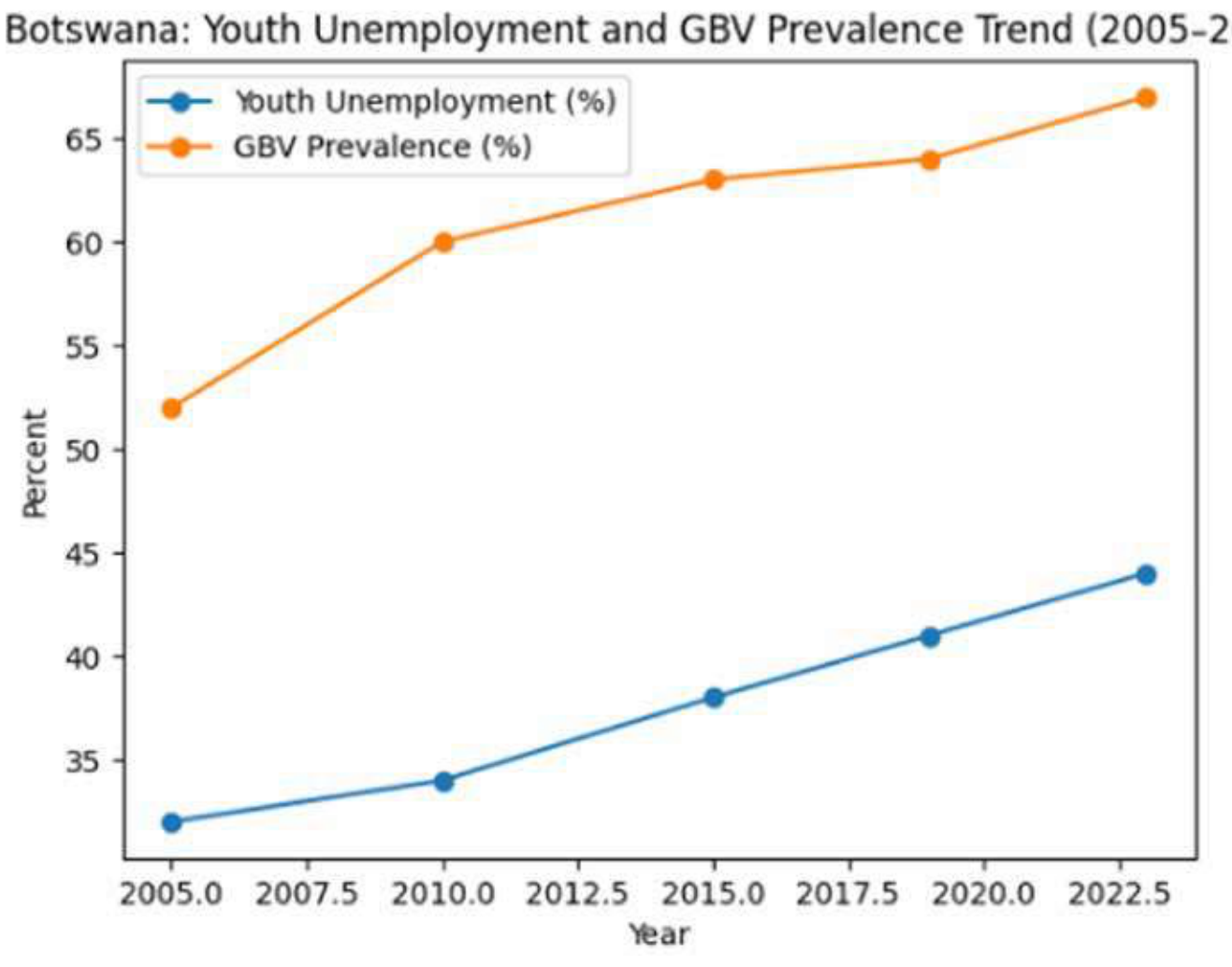
This is not just another report. It is a shift in paradigm. The report begins not with equations, but with stories quiet, uncomfortable, and deeply familiar.

HUMAN STORIES

A young woman celebrating her 21st birthday finds herself gradually coerced into a situation she cannot control. A teenage girl is absorbed into an abusive relationship under the guise of support. A worker faces harassment from an employer but cannot leave because she needs the job. Another woman, assaulted by people she knows, chooses silence over reporting—because the consequences of speaking out may be worse.

These are not isolated incidents. They are patterns. They reveal something profoundly important: GBV does not occur in a vacuum.

> Reduce structural stress, and violence reduces.



PATTERN REVEALED

In other words, it is embedded in the system.

KEY DRIVER

But the most significant of these is youth unemployment.

WHY BOTSWANA

Why?

SOCIAL STRESS

A society in which large numbers of people are economically marginalised is a society under stress.

POLICY GAP

And this changes everything.

UPSTREAM SOLUTIONS

The research demonstrates that GBV can be reduced by addressing upstream structural conditions.

TRANSFORMATIONAL IMPACT

That is not marginal. That is transformational.

SYSTEM RESPONSE

Policy effects are not additive.

FINAL REFLECTION

It is not. It is a function of structural stress.

The Botswana Gazette
TIME OUT
THE BOTSWANA GAZETTE
THURSDAY 09 APRIL 2026



TORO IS BACK, BIGGER

After a breakout debut, Toro Music Festival returns louder, bolder and ready to turn Gaborone into a living, breathing soundtrack of creativity

GOSEGO MOTSUMI

Mark the date: May 2, 2026. Toro Music Festival 2026 is pulling back into Gaborone United Stadium and if last year was the introduction, this one is the statement.

Born from the sonic world of Chokoma, Toro isn't just a festival. It's a moodboard of African sound, style, and stagecraft. The 2025 debut proved one thing: the city is hungry for something that feels like home but hits like a global export.

BIGGER THAN THE BEAT

Chokoma is already hinting at scale. "People can look forward to a different kind of creativity, a world stage that people have never seen," he told Time Out. Translation? Expect spectacle.

But Toro's real currency isn't just production value, it's intention. This is a platform designed to spotlight local voices while wrapping them in world-class energy. It's where underground meets mainstage, where culture doesn't just perform, it pulses.

And yes, there's new music loading. "I am currently working on new music that people can also look forward to," he teases.

THE PEOPLE'S LINEUP

Toro is listening. Literally.

Instead of dictating the vibe, Chokoma went to the streets asking fans who they wanted on that stage. Names like Charma Gal, Ey Breezy, Juu Matere, Lera, and Han C surfaced some locked in, others circling the orbit.

THE HUSTLE BEHIND THE HYPE

Let's not romanticise it, putting on a festival isn't cheap. "Venues are expensive, there are a lack of sponsors," Chokoma admits. Still, the culture persists.

Toro exists in that tension between passion and pressure, art and economics. And somehow, it still shows up.

> "Venues are expensive, there are a lack of sponsors... but still, the culture persists."

MORE THAN A FESTIVAL

In a country shaping its cultural identity in real time, Toro feels like a blueprint. A gathering point. A growing archive of sound and self-expression.

If it keeps this momentum, Toro won't just be an event. It'll be tradition.





Gospel Music Awards This Weekend

As gospel fights for its place in Botswana's soundscape, the Gospel Music Awards return with a bold promise of revival, reinvention and a stage where faith meets fire

GOSEGO MOTSUMI

The countdown is real. On April 11, the Gospel Music Awards 2026 take over Baisago Convention Center, and this isn't just another night of worship, it's a cultural reset.

Because gospel music in Botswana? It's been quiet. Too quiet.

Now, the sixth edition of the awards is turning the volume back up.

A STAGE THAT PREACHES

This year's lineup reads like a spiritual roll call; Psalmist Kevin, Josh More, Barton Angel, Isaac Malei, Keromilwe Ke Modimo, Minister Leo, Minister Tlotlo, Shirley alongside international voices like David the King and Dr. Joey Mofoleng.

Add the Zion Gospel Choir, and suddenly, it's not just a concert, it's an experience.

Prophet Joel Keitumele puts it plainly: "We have upgraded the performing acts… so that the audience will be glued and look forward to the next performance."

Translation? Expect moments, not just music.

GOSPEL IN DECLINE?

Let's talk truth.

"The current status of gospel music is really low," Keitumele admits in an interview. A shift in taste. A drop in support. Artists drifting into other genres. Even promoters stepping back.

It's a tough space but also a turning point. Because what happens when a genre rooted in purpose starts to lose its platform?

THE REVIVAL PLAN

The answer: build a bigger stage.

The awards aren't just handing out trophies, they're rebuilding an ecosystem. Encouraging collaboration. Inviting international artists. Pushing for innovation under this year's theme: *A Sound That Transforms*.

It's gospel, but evolving. Less predictable, more global. Still spiritual, but sonically adventurous.

"We want to return to the glory days of gospel music," Keitumele said.

MORE THAN MUSIC

Behind the lights is a bigger ask, support. Corporate backing. Real investment. Because applause alone doesn't sustain artists.

Still, there's momentum. Broadcast support through Btv, church communities showing up, even visitors travelling in for the experience.

And maybe that's the real story here: not just a genre trying to survive but one ready to rise again.

> "We want to return to the glory days of gospel music."

On April 11, Gaborone won't just hear gospel. It might just believe in it again. Tickets are priced at P100 (Standard) and P500 (VIP).

The Streaming Shake Up

Streaming culture is getting a remix as Showmax folds into DStv Stream, bringing binge culture, live TV and sport under one sleek digital roof

GAZETTE REPORTER

From April 1, the scroll looks different.

Showmax is officially stepping into a new era, folding its Originals into DStv Stream, a move that feels less like a shutdown and more like a glow-up.

ALL YOUR FAVES, ONE HOME

Think less app-hopping, more everything in one place energy.

DStv Stream is positioning itself as the ultimate entertainment hub—live TV, sport, international series, kids' content, and now, Showmax Originals all living side by side.

And for users? A taste comes free. Eligible subscribers get trial access to DStv Stream Compact until the end of May, before a P80 monthly offer kicks in, massively undercutting standard pricing.

In streaming terms, that's a plot twist.

THE END OF AN ERA?

Let's be real, there's nostalgia here. Showmax has been a go to for local stories and global binges alike. But its standalone chapter officially closes on April 30.

Still, the stories don't disappear, they relocate.



"The priority is to ensure customers continue to have a home for the stories they love," the platform notes, doubling down on continuity over disruption.

STREAMING, BUT SMARTER

This isn't just a content migration, it's a tech flex.

Features like offline downloads, Watch From Start, and data management tools signal a platform built for real life (read: load shedding, data anxiety, and unpredictable schedules). It's streaming that understands the assignment.

THE NEW NORMAL

Here's the catch, you'll have to opt in. No automatic migration, no passive watching. This new era demands a click, a sign-up, a conscious shift.

> "The priority is to ensure customers continue to have a home for the stories they love."

Customers who choose not to move to DStv Stream may request a refund for any unused portion of their Showmax subscription, subject to standard terms and conditions. Autopayments to Showmax will stop automatically once the service is discontinued.

Step Inside Voguish Beauty Bar

Gaborone's beauty scene gets a high-gloss upgrade as Voguish Beauty Bar opens its doors, serving looks, luxury, and a new language of self-expression

GOSEGO MOTSUMI



Step inside Voguish Beauty Bar and the mood hits before the mirror does. Black and white interiors flirt with gold accents, light bouncing off polished surfaces like confidence in motion. It's clean, intentional, almost cinematic, like every client is about to become the main character.

In a city steadily levelling up its beauty game, makeup artist Kagiso Mokgware has dropped something sharper than a winged liner, a space that feels like the future.

"The name Voguish is inspired by the word vogue, which speaks to style, elegance, and being in tune with current trends while still maintaining individuality," she told Time Out.

"To me, Voguish means timeless yet modern beauty a balance between classic sophistication and bold self-expression."

> "Ultimately, Voguish Beauty Bar is about more than beauty, it's about impact."

MORE THAN A MAKEOVER

For Mokgware, Voguish is personal. "It represents growth, courage, and the transition from simply being a makeup artist to building a brand," she said.



This isn't about quick beats and rushed appointments. It's about slowing down and being seen. "Clients weren't just coming for makeup… they were coming for confidence, transformation, and a moment to feel seen and celebrated."

And so, Voguish delivers exactly that: an experience. From curated consultations to the final glow, everything is tailored. No templates. No shortcuts.

THE AESTHETIC ERA

Let's be honest, if it's not camera-ready, did it even happen?

Voguish leans all the way in. The studio doubles as a content playground, built for the digital age where beauty lives beyond the mirror. Think soft lighting, clean lines, and angles that understand you.

> "The name Voguish is inspired by the word vogue, which speaks to style, elegance, and being in tune with current trends while still maintaining individuality,"

"It's about merging beauty, experience, and visual storytelling," Mokgware explained.

This is where glam meets the algorithm and wins.



REWRITING THE RULES

Gaborone's beauty industry has talent, but Mokgware spotted the gap: beautiful spaces lacking consistency, or skilled services missing the experience. Voguish bridges that divide with precision.

Inclusivity is not a buzzword there, it's the baseline. Skin tones, textures, preferences everything is studied, respected, and elevated.

"We don't believe in one-size-fits-all beauty."

BUILDING A BEAUTY EMPIRE

What starts as a beauty bar is already thinking bigger. Mokgware envisions mentorship programmes, a beauty school, and eventually, an international footprint all rooted in Botswana.

Because beneath the glow, the brushes, and the soft glam is something deeper: a quiet revolution in how a city sees itself.

She said: "Ultimately, Voguish Beauty Bar is about more than beauty it's about impact. It's about creating a space where people feel empowered, inspired, and proud of who they are."

Why Open Mic Sessions Matter

In a culture hooked on scrolling, Open Voices: An Open Mic Sessions are doing something radical, slowing things down, handing over the mic, and reminding us what it means to be heard in real time

GOSEGO MOTSUMI

There's something electric about a space where no one is hiding behind a screen.

At Open Voices: An Open Mic Session, the lights are low, the mic is live, and the stakes are simple show up, speak and feel everything. Recently, voices like Poem the Answer, Raii and Ether-Real took the stage, each bringing their own rhythm to a growing cultural pulse.

But this isn't just a show. It's a movement in the making.

FILLING THE SILENCE

For organiser Eddy Mihigo, the mission is clear: create space where there was none.

"Botswana seems to have a shortage of small platforms that offer a chance for emerging artists to showcase their talent. This is the gap we're closing."

And in that gap? Magic happens.

NO PRESSURE, JUST PRESENCE

No bookings. No paychecks. No hierarchy.

That's the secret sauce.

"There is no pressure," Mihigo told Time Out. "At times, we get seasoned artists doing a mashup with a newbie." The result? A rare kind of artistic democracy where nerves, talent and raw courage collide on equal footing.

It's not about perfection. It's about presence.

WHY LIVE STILL MATTERS

In an age of filters and fast content, Open Voices is defiantly analog. You can't edit a missed note or rewrite a trembling verse in real time.

"They help ground us all," Mihigo explained.

And maybe that's the point. To remember what it feels like to be human, out loud.

MOMENTS THAT MAKE IT

Every now and then, the room shifts.

Like when a first time singer, Kel.lie, stepped up terrified, untested and delivered. No gimmicks. Just guts.

> "This reminded me of the fact of why the platform exists, for emerging talent."

A reminder that everyone starts somewhere.

Mihigo said: "This reminded me of the fact of why the platform exists, for emerging talent."



FROM EVENT TO EVOLUTION

Since 2023, Open Voices has moved through the city from Zambezi Towers to Main Mall, now finding its rhythm at Court Five. Each stop refining the vibe, sharpening the purpose.

But Mihigo is thinking bigger: mentorship, international collaborations, a pipeline from open mic to main stage.

"At every stop, I tried to modify it a little bit. Here at Court Five, the focus is more on singing, poetry and instrumentation," he said.

Walk a Child to School Campaign Unpacked

A single pair of shoes might seem small, but right now, it's becoming a quiet revolution in dignity, confidence and the simple act of showing up

GAZETTE REPORTER





At Avani Gaborone Resort & Casino, hospitality is stepping off the lobby floor and onto the streets, one pair of school shoes at a time.

Their newly launched Walk a Child to School campaign isn't flashy. It doesn't need to be. Its power lies in something quieter, more human: making sure a child can walk into school with confidence, not discomfort.

Because sometimes, the difference between showing up and staying home… is a pair of shoes.

MORE THAN FOOTWEAR

This isn't charity for optics, it's continuity. Avani has long supported Tsogang Trust in Mogoditshane, a home to 76 children, covering transport costs and stepping in where it matters.

Now, they're going deeper.

The P30,000 initiative delivers more than shoes, think food hampers, toiletries, and clothing. But the heart of it? Restoring dignity. Quietly rebuilding confidence with every step a child takes.

THE CONFIDENCE ECONOMY

Let's be honest, school can be unforgiving. Worn-out shoes aren't just uncomfortable; they're visible. They speak before a child does.

"Through the 'Walk a Child to School' campaign, we are not only providing shoes but also giving children the confidence and dignity they deserve as they pursue their education," said Gaming Manager, Mmoloki Mokgosi.

And that's the real flex here: confidence as currency.

A COMMUNITY CALL-UP

This campaign isn't a closed circle. It's an open invitation to corporates, to communities, to you.

> "Through the 'Walk a Child to School' campaign, we are not only providing shoes but also giving children the confidence and dignity they deserve."

New or gently worn, every pair counts. Every donation becomes part of a bigger story, one where showing up for school feels a little easier, a little prouder.

Donations Can be made at Avani Gaborone Resort & Casino.

When the Meat Is Legendary, Don't Let the Wine Suffer

The difference between a good braai and a great one might just be what's in your glass. Stop letting wine suffer quietly — and start pairing like you mean it.



> "The goal isn't to impress. It's to stop the wine from suffering quietly in the corner."



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.

BRAAI BASICS

Here are two kinds of braais — the ones where the meat is legendary, and the ones where the wine suffers quietly in a corner.

PAIRING POWER

If you've ever watched a perfectly decent bottle get poured next to a plate of smoky, spicy, sweet-and-sticky goodness and then suddenly taste like confusion, don't take it personally. Pairing is not magic. It's balance.

CLIMATE HABITS

Let's be honest: our climate has trained us into easy habits. When it's hot, you reach for the cold six-pack, the cider, the gin and tonic.

TEMPERATURE MATTERS

First: temperature. If your red wine is sitting on the table in the sun, it will taste louder than it should.

FAT VS STRUCTURE

If the braai is fatty and rich — think ribeye, lamb chops, boerewors — you need a wine that can cut through that richness.

SWEET MISMATCH

But if your braai is sweet or sticky — those honey glazes, sweet chilli sauces — then heavy dry reds can feel harsh.

SPICE RULES

If the braai is spicy — proper heat, not just vibes — think carefully.

BUBBLES WIN

And then there's the unsung hero of the braai: bubbles.

SIDE EFFECTS



Now, a word about the sides — because braais are never just meat.

SIMPLE RULE

If you want one simple rule that works more often than it fails, it's this: match intensity and protect freshness.

> "Pairing is not magic. It's balance — and once you get it right, everything changes"

COOK DIFFERENTLY

The best part? Once you start pairing wine with braai properly, you begin cooking differently.

FINAL NOTE

Because the goal isn't to turn your braai into a wine lecture. The goal is to stop making wine suffer quietly in the corner.



Unauthorized Call Recording Leads to Hefty Penalties



EDWIN DUTA
LEAD IT CONSULTANT, OPRACON IT SPECIALISTS

The convenience of smartphones has made it easy to record conversations, take screenshots, and share videos instantly. However, what many people consider normal everyday behaviour may in fact be a serious violation of the law. Under the Data Protection Act No. 18 of 2024, recording a phone call or capturing a voice note without consent is an offense. This is because a recorded voice where a person can easily be identified is classified as personal data.

RECORDING AND SHARING OF PERSONAL DATA

Recording someone in a private or sensitive situation without their knowledge or consent is unlawful. This includes filming individuals during vulnerable moments, in private spaces, or in situations where they have a reasonable expectation of privacy. It is not only the act of recording that is regulated, but also the sharing of that content. Forwarding voice notes, recorded calls, or audio clips to a friend or in a private group **WITHOUT CONSENT IS PROHIBITED.**

Screenshots, videos, images private messages with sensitive information, and confidential documents are not exempt, as sharing them with others is a violation of privacy rights. What may seem like harmless gossip or evidence in an argument could expose an individual to serious legal consequences. Sharing such content on social media platforms only worsens the offense, as it significantly increases the scale and impact of the violation.

PROCESSING OF MINOR PERSONAL DATA

Caution must be taken when it comes to children, because the law provides heightened protection for minors. Children cannot legally give full consent on their own and any misuse of their personal data exposes them to risks such as exploitation, online abuse, and long-term digital exposure. Violations involving children are treated with greater seriousness due to the potential for lasting harm.

Seemingly harmless content of children such as images, videos or voice recordings captured at school activities, public outings, or private gatherings cannot be recorded and shared on any messaging platforms or social media without the parents or guardian's consent.

Sensitive information including conversations related to health, finances, family matters, or workplace issues is especially protected. Recording or disclosing such information without authorization can cause harm, embarrassment, or reputational damage, which the law seeks to prevent.

PENALTIES TO OFFENDERS

Failure to comply with these requirements can result in hefty penalties as offenders may face administrative fines of up to P50 million, along with other legal consequences depending on the nature of the offense. Ignorance of the law does not excuse the violation. The message is clear: respect for privacy is not optional. Before recording, saving or sharing any form of communication always ensure that you have obtained proper consent. In a digital world where information spreads rapidly, responsibility rests with every user. What you record or share today could have lasting legal and personal consequences tomorrow; protect yourself, respect others, and follow the law.

Data Protection Policy and Data Protection Officer

The Data Protection Act mandates every organization to put strict safeguards regarding personal data and in that regard, we can assist with crafting Data Protection Policies in line with the Act. If you cannot afford a full-time DPO, when required to have one, we can act as one on contract basis. That appointment eliminates the burden which comes with employing a full-time employee. We also assist with training your staff on the provisions of the Data Protection Act.

Contacts: You may contact us at +267 759 336 30 or +267 393 9435 or tax7@aupracontax.co.bw. This article is general, and written advice or training is recommended if decisions are to be made. If you require to join our free IT WhatsApp groups or to know more about our services, please send us a text/WhatsApp on the number above.

opracon
IT SPECIALISTS
Consulting & Training

We second Tax, Data Protection & HR professionals

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



REBAONE F. DITLALE- LEAD SKILLS CONSULTANT

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
Skills brokerage - Upskilling - Business Training

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 Tribal Lot **3800, Mahalapye** 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. 74770666/3180990]

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

CASE NO. CVHFT 0000 257-22

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

NOTICE OF SALE EXECUTION

BE PLEASED TO TAKE NOTICE that pursuant to a judgment of the above Honourable Court, the following property of the Defendant shall be sold by Public Auction to the Highest Bidder by Deputy Sheriff Stanley Sikalesele Mbolai :

DATE OF SALE : 29th May 2026
TIME : 10:00 Hours
VENUE : Tribal Lot 2191, Maaloswana Ward, Serowe Village
PROPERTY TO BE SOLD : The Defendant's rights, title and interest to Tribal Lot 2191, Serowe, situated at Serowe in the Bangwato Tribal Territory, Measuring 1604 m², held under memorandum of agreement of lease No. TL 301/2001 dated the 29th June 2001 registered in favour of the said Luke Tawana, 3 bedroomed house with master bedroom with a toilet and bathroom, kitchen, sitting room, bathroom and toilet, separate 2 roomed house and some improvements therein.

TERMS OF SALE : Cash or electronic transfer. Detailed conditions of sale may be inspected at the offices of the Deputy Sheriff Stanley Sikalesele Mbolai on cell 71635200/4925987 / 78541541 or Plaintiff's Attorneys' Office

DATED AT FRANCISTOWN ON THIS 8th DAY OF APRIL 2026

LOWA ATTORNEYS

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

Deputy Sheriff Stanley S. Mbolai
Plot No. 8766
Extension 7
P O Box 867
PALAPYE
TEL: 4925987/71635200

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

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

CASE NO. CVHGB 00 2199-22

In the matter between:
STANBIC BANK BOTSWANA LIMITED **Plaintiff**
And
MALEBOGO MOETI **Defendant**

NOTICE OF SALE IN EXECUTION

BE PLEASED TO TAKE NOTICE that pursuant to a judgment of the above Honourable Court, the following property will be sold by Public Auction by Deputy Sheriff Stanley Sikalesele Mbolai to the highest bidder as follows:

DATE OF SALE : 5th June 2026
TIME : 10:00 Hours
VENUE : Tribal Lot 3459, Mogoditshane
PROPERTY TO BE SOLD : Certain piece of land being Tribal Lot 3459, Mogoditshane, situated in the Bakwena Tribal Territory, measuring 982 M2 Held under Memorandum of Agreement of Lease No. TL 388/2000 dated the 12th May 2000 in favour of **MALEBOGO MOETI**, the developments therein consists of a house comparised of 4 bedroomed house inclusive of master bedroom, toilet and bathroom, sitting room, dining room, kitchen, garage, screen wall, electricity with some improvements therein.

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

DATED AT FRANCISTOWN ON THIS 8th DAY OF APRIL 2026

LOWA ATTORNEYS

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

Deputy Sheriff Stanley S. Mbolai
Plot No. 8766
Extension 7
P O Box 867
PALAPYE
TEL: 4925987/71635200

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

MORIMA ATTORNEYS
Attorneys | Notaries | Conveyancers

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

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

CASE NO: CVHGB 000305-25

DOOR 46 (PTY) LTD **Plaintiff**
And
ISAAC GARIKAYI **Defendant**

NOTICE OF SALE IN EXECUTION

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that pursuant to the judgment of the above Honorable Court; the following property will be sold by public auction to the highest bidder by Deputy Sheriff **AUGUSTINE K. MOKALAKE as** follows:

DATE OF SALE : **8TH MAY 2026**
VENUE : **MOLAPOWABOJANG VILLAGE;**
TIME OF SALE : **1030 HOURS;**
PROPERTY TO BE SOLD : An unsurveyed business plot situate at **MOLAPOWABOJANG VILLAGE** situate in the **BANGWAKETSE TRIBAL TERRITORY,** measuring **40 x 40x 40 x 40 metres** allocated to **ISAAC GARIKAYI** for use as a filling station with no developments thereon.

TERMS OF SALE : **CASH** or **EFT**

CONDITIONS OF SALE : The conditions of sale may be inspected from the offices of the Deputy Sheriff under-mentioned.

DATED at Gaborone this 26th day of March 2026

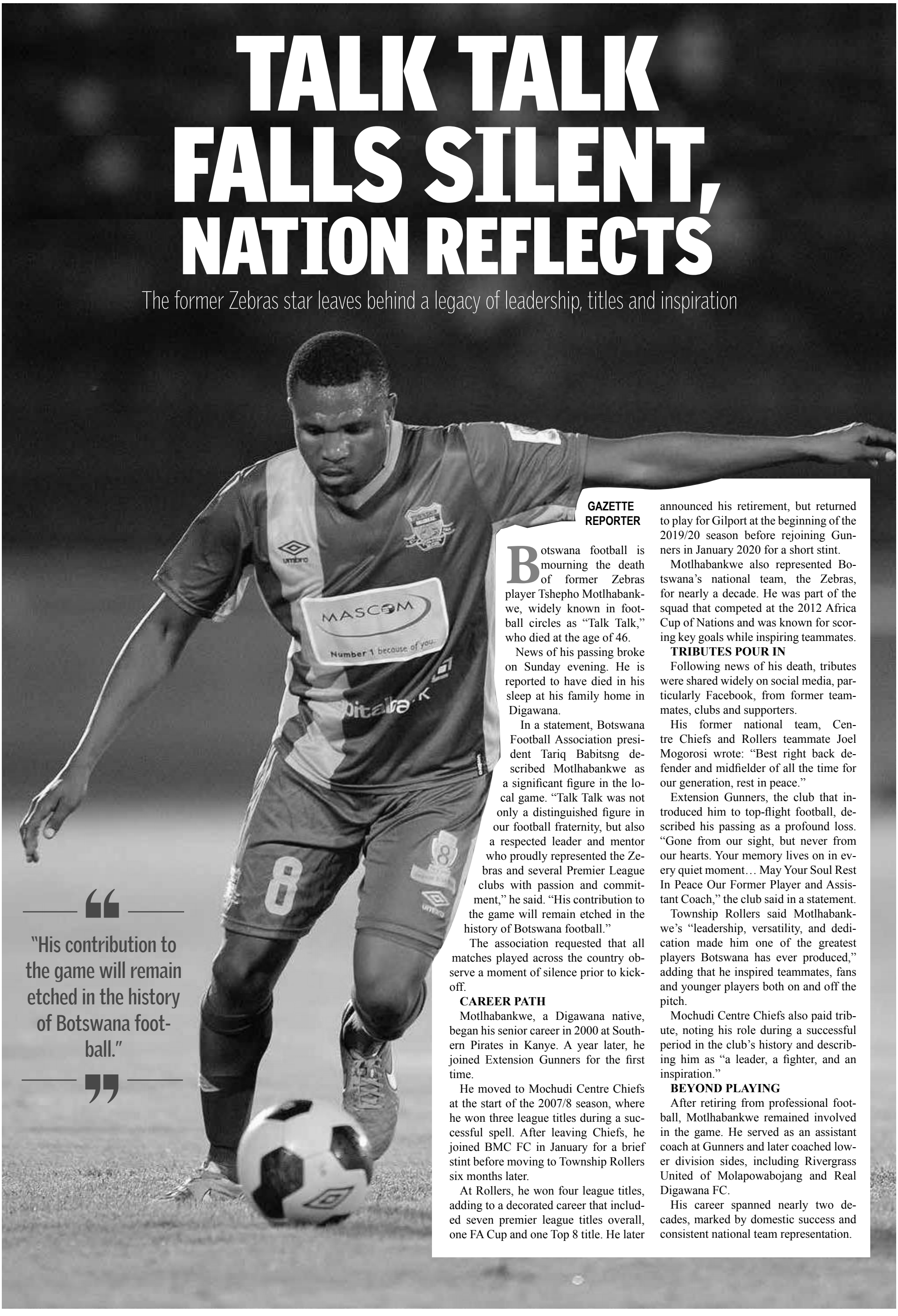
SEABENG Attorneys

Plaintiff's Attorneys
Plot 23487 Sedibeng Road, Phase 4
P. O. Box
40337
GABORONE
c/o **DEPUTY SHERIFF AUGUSTINE K MOKALAKE (73220555/71640658)**

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

TALK TALK FALLS SILENT, NATION REFLECTS

The former Zebras star leaves behind a legacy of leadership, titles and inspiration



"His contribution to the game will remain etched in the history of Botswana football."

GAZETTE REPORTER

Botswana football is mourning the death of former Zebras player Tshepho Motlhabankwe, widely known in football circles as "Talk Talk," who died at the age of 46.

News of his passing broke on Sunday evening. He is reported to have died in his sleep at his family home in Digawana.

In a statement, Botswana Football Association president Tariq Babitsng described Motlhabankwe as a significant figure in the local game. "Talk Talk was not only a distinguished figure in our football fraternity, but also a respected leader and mentor who proudly represented the Zebras and several Premier League clubs with passion and commitment," he said. "His contribution to the game will remain etched in the history of Botswana football."

The association requested that all matches played across the country observe a moment of silence prior to kick-off.

CAREER PATH

Motlhabankwe, a Digawana native, began his senior career in 2000 at Southern Pirates in Kanye. A year later, he joined Extension Gunners for the first time.

He moved to Mochudi Centre Chiefs at the start of the 2007/8 season, where he won three league titles during a successful spell. After leaving Chiefs, he joined BMC FC in January for a brief stint before moving to Township Rollers six months later.

At Rollers, he won four league titles, adding to a decorated career that included seven premier league titles overall, one FA Cup and one Top 8 title. He later announced his retirement, but returned to play for Gilport at the beginning of the 2019/20 season before rejoining Gunners in January 2020 for a short stint.

Motlhabankwe also represented Botswana's national team, the Zebras, for nearly a decade. He was part of the squad that competed at the 2012 Africa Cup of Nations and was known for scoring key goals while inspiring teammates.

TRIBUTES POUR IN

Following news of his death, tributes were shared widely on social media, particularly Facebook, from former teammates, clubs and supporters.

His former national team, Centre Chiefs and Rollers teammate Joel Mogorosi wrote: "Best right back defender and midfielder of all the time for our generation, rest in peace."

Extension Gunners, the club that introduced him to top-flight football, described his passing as a profound loss. "Gone from our sight, but never from our hearts. Your memory lives on in every quiet moment… May Your Soul Rest In Peace Our Former Player and Assistant Coach," the club said in a statement.

Township Rollers said Motlhabankwe's "leadership, versatility, and dedication made him one of the greatest players Botswana has ever produced," adding that he inspired teammates, fans and younger players both on and off the pitch.

Mochudi Centre Chiefs also paid tribute, noting his role during a successful period in the club's history and describing him as "a leader, a fighter, and an inspiration."

BEYOND PLAYING

After retiring from professional football, Motlhabankwe remained involved in the game. He served as an assistant coach at Gunners and later coached lower division sides, including Rivergrass United of Molapowabojang and Real Digawana FC.

His career spanned nearly two decades, marked by domestic success and consistent national team representation.

NEST Tournament Delivers, Exposes Growth Gaps

The National Easter Softball Tournament meets expectations but highlights key development challenges for the sport

GAZETTE REPORTER

The National Easter Softball Tournament (NEST) lived up to its billing over the weekend, delivering a spectacle of high-level competition, community engagement, and organizational coordination in Gaborone. From the opening games to the finals, teams showcased intensity and determination, leaving spectators on the edge of their seats.

According to Botswana Softball Association (BSA) Competitions Organizer, Kako Justus Kuswane, the tournament met its core objectives.

"We achieved what we set out to do. The tournament delivered sporting excellence, organizational efficiency, and strong community participation," he said.

The level of competition stood out as one of the defining features of the event. Teams arrived not merely to participate but to compete, and this mindset was evident throughout the tournament. Gatalamotho stamped their authority early and maintained consistency to secure the gold medal, while Police teams, Titans Ladies, and BDF Ladies all delivered podium-worthy performances.

"All the qualified teams came to compete, not just to participate. The best prepared teams made their intentions clear from the onset," Kuswane noted.

FAN ENGAGEMENT

The tournament also drew impressive attendance, particularly considering the Easter holiday period. The venue remained lively, with fans actively engaging in matches and supporting their teams.

"The playing field was packed, and spectators were left guessing the outcome of each game," Kuswane said. "We even saw unique attendance, including athletes from other sporting codes and international visitors who were impressed by the level of play."

Beyond the sport itself, small businesses contributed to the event's success by providing services to attendees, further enhancing the overall experience and community involvement.

AREAS FOR GROWTH

Despite the success, Kuswane acknowledged that there are areas requiring improvement, particularly in logistics and long-term development planning.

"The tournament lived up to expectations, but there are gaps that need closure, especially in logistics. Sponsors, especially new ones, need proper guidance to align with the demands of the sport," he explained.

He further emphasized the need for sustainable development within softball, highlighting concerns about over-reliance on experienced players instead of nurturing new talent.

"We must focus on grassroots development and stop recycling players. Long-term growth depends on investing in youth and structured development programs," Kuswane said.

The association aims to strengthen partnerships with schools and private entities, while also improving coaching and training systems to elevate the sport nationally.



> "We must focus on grassroots development and stop recycling players."

As the curtains close on this year's NEST, it is clear that while the tournament continues to grow in stature and excitement, its future success will depend on addressing structural challenges and investing in the next generation of players.

Gaborone Set For ITF Tennis Showcase

Botswana gears up to host global tennis talent in May

TLOTLO KEBINAKGABO

The Botswana Tennis Association is set to welcome international players for the ITF World Tennis Tour M15/W15 tournament, scheduled for May 11–13 at the National Tennis Centre in Gaborone. The event is expected to bring a competitive edge and global attention to the local tennis scene.

Speaking on behalf of the association, spokesperson Tshepang Tlhankane expressed confidence in the preparations and the impact the tournament will have on Botswana's tennis landscape.

PREPARATIONS PROGRESS

Tlhankane highlighted that preparations are well underway, with the association working tirelessly to ensure that the facilities meet international standards. "We are putting in place all the necessary measures to deliver a tournament that meets ITF expectations," he said. "Our goal is to provide a world-class experience for both players and spectators."

GLOBAL PARTICIPATION

The tournament is expected to attract a diverse pool of players from across the globe, offering local athletes an opportunity to compete at a higher level. "We anticipate participation from several countries, which will raise the level of competition and exposure for our players," Tlhankane noted.



LOCAL IMPACT

Hosting the ITF event is seen as a significant boost for tennis development in Botswana. According to Tlhankane, such tournaments play a crucial role in inspiring young players and strengthening the sport's profile locally. "This is more than just a tournament; it is a platform to grow the game and motivate the next generation," he said.

FAN EXPERIENCE

With matches set to take place at the National Tennis Centre, fans can expect an exciting atmosphere. Tlhankane encouraged the public to come out in numbers to support the event. "We want to see the stands filled with enthusiastic supporters, creating an unforgettable experience for everyone involved," he added.

> "We are putting in place all the necessary measures to deliver a tournament that meets ITF expectations."

The ITF World Tennis Tour M15/W15 promises to deliver thrilling action while placing Botswana firmly on the international tennis map.



BOTSWANA ATHLETES DELIVER TOP PERFORMANCES

From eye catching sprints to rising young stars, the national championships produced standout moments across multiple events

GAZETTE REPORTER

The Orange Botswana Athletics Championships over the weekend produced performances rarely seen outside international competition, with several athletes delivering remarkable results across sprint events.

The standout performance came from 400m world champion Collen Kebinatshipi of Jwaneng Athletics Club, who made a striking impact in the 100m. He clocked a world-leading 9.89 seconds twice — first in the heats and again in the final — underlining his versatility across sprint distances.

His club counterpart, Prince Selepe, secured victory in the 200m with a new personal best of 20.08, while the 400m title was claimed by world bronze medallist Bayapo Ndori in 44.62.

HURDLES SPOTLIGHT

Kemorena Tisang delivered one of the most notable performances in the men's 110m hurdles, setting a national record of 13.81. His run added to the growing list of high-quality results recorded over the weekend.

In the junior ranks, Jack Newman emerged as a double champion in the National U20 category, winning both the 100m and 200m. His 200m performance stood out in particular, as he clocked 21.16 to qualify for the World Athletics U20 Championships.

DISTANCE MARKS

Middle-distance events also produced strong results. Kethobogile Haingura recorded 1:44.93 in the men's 800m, while Tshepiso Masalela clocked 3:35.06 in the men's 1500m.

In the women's 1500m, Oratile Nowe continued her consistent run of form, winning the race in 4:08.03.

Women shine

The women's sprint events featured equally impressive performances. Obakeng Kamberuka completed a 200m–400m double, recording times of 23.19 and 50.97 respectively, dipping below 51 seconds in the 400m for the first time.

Same Mhutsiwa also delivered a notable performance, claiming the National U20 title and qualifying for the World Athletics Junior Championships with a time of 24.29.

> With only a few weeks remaining before the country hosts the World Athletics Relays, the performances over the weekend suggest a team building momentum at the right time.

Another emerging name was 15-year-old Kelly Makwala, coached by her father Isaac Makwala. She won the U18 title in a personal best of 55.72, marking her as a developing talent to watch.

LOOKING AHEAD

The championships served as a strong indicator of the depth and form of Botswana's athletics talent, with several athletes producing times that place them among competitive international standards.

With only a few weeks remaining before the country hosts the World Athletics Relays, the performances over the weekend suggest a team building momentum at the right time.

Selepe's Rise From Dust Tracks

Young sprinter from Jwaneng Athletics turns limited resources into national success, signaling potential beyond Botswana's borders

TLOTLO KEBINAKGABO

There's a name beginning to echo among athletics followers in Botswana: Prince Selepe. The 20-year-old sprinter from Jwaneng Athletics Club emerged as one of the standout performers at the Orange Botswana Athletics National Championships 2026 over the weekend.

Selepe claimed the men's 200 meters title, crossing the finish line in 20.08 seconds. The time drew audible reactions from spectators, with some expressing surprise at the performance and others suggesting it signaled readiness for competition on the international stage.

The result marked a defining moment in a season that has already seen the athlete register a personal best of 10.16 seconds in the 100 meters, a time recorded earlier this year in Francistown.

TRAINING CONSTRAINTS

Selepe's performances come despite limited training infrastructure in Jwaneng, a mining town without a standard rubber athletics track. According to his coach, Steam Thuto, preparations take place under conditions that contrast sharply with those of more resourced training centers.

"We only train in the dust and if you can go there you would be surprised by the times he is running," Thuto said in a telephone interview on the sidelines of the championships.

He described a routine shaped by necessity rather than design. "Sometimes it's tough in such ways that we can go into the forest and do our program. Sometimes we struggle with a field as it would be covered by grass and when it's rainy we do not train at all or do so in a small space," he added.

EARLY DISCOVERY

Thuto said he first noticed Selepe early last year under circumstances unrelated to athletics. The coach recalled watching a football match when Selepe's speed drew his attention.

He later approached the athlete and suggested a transition to track and field, arguing that his future lay in athletics. Within the same year, Selepe qualified for the national finals and secured a place in the Under-20 national team.

The progression from informal observation to national representation unfolded within a single season, underscoring the pace of his development.

NEXT TARGET

The coach said the plan for 2026 was for Selepe to break into the senior national team. That objective, he indicated, has been met following the athlete's performance at the championships.

"And he didn't disappoint," Thuto said. "He's improving daily and can still do better."

Selepe's trajectory reflects both individual progression and the constraints of training outside established facilities. His results have drawn attention not only for their speed but also for the environment in which they were achieved.



TIRED OF SHARING?



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Young sprinter from Jwaneng Athletics turns limited resources into national success, signaling potential beyond Botswana's borders

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