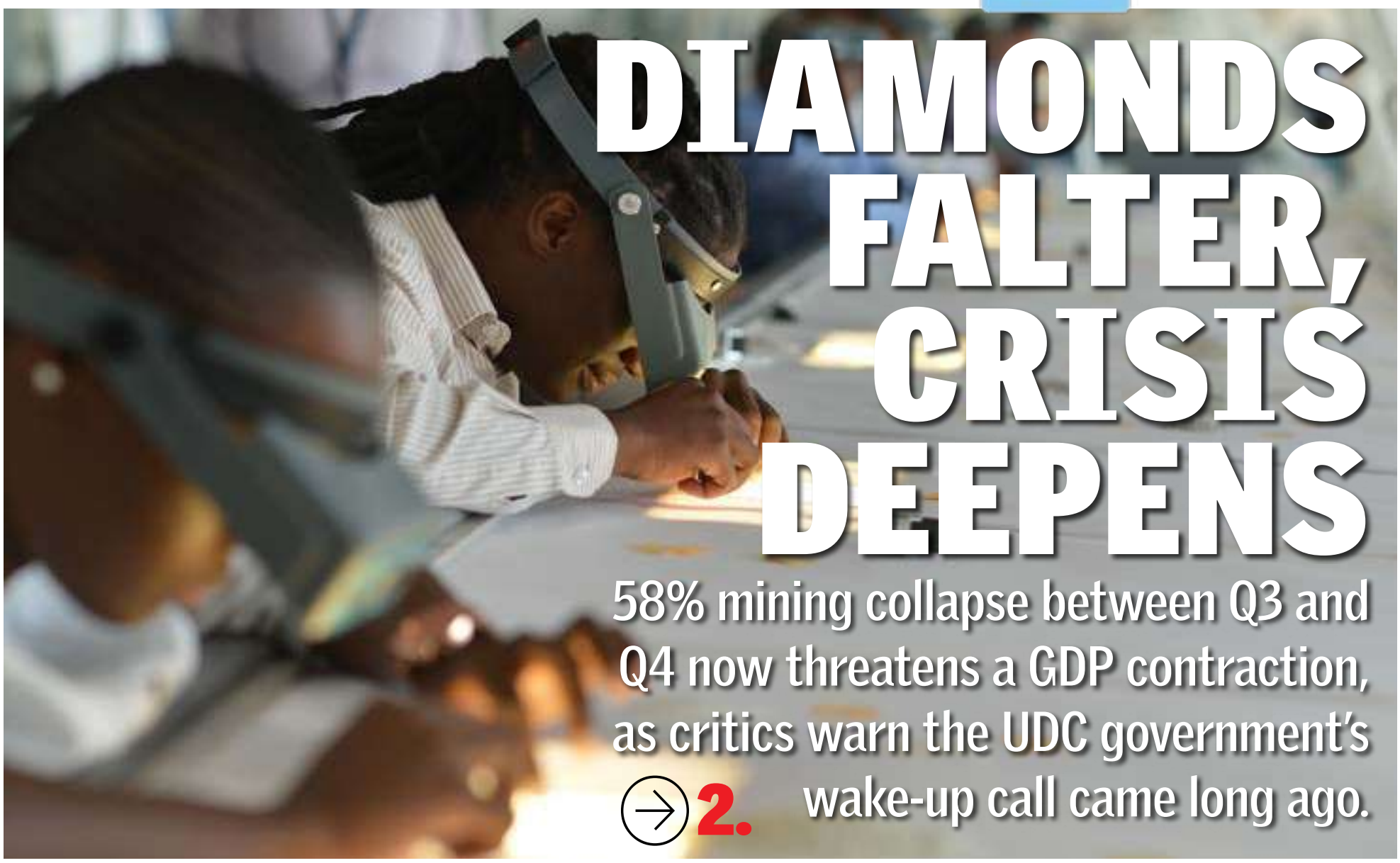
The Botswana
GAZETTE

WEDNESDAY
15 APRIL 2026
SINCE 1984

CLICK WATCH





DIAMONDS FALTER, CRISIS DEEPENS

58% mining collapse between Q3 and Q4 now threatens a GDP contraction, as critics warn the UDC government's wake-up call came long ago.

2.

FMD Mess Likely an Inside Job-Prof Masupu 2.

Youth Unemployment, GBV To Worsen -UN

Botswana is facing mounting social and economic pressures, with a new United Nations report warning that rising youth unemployment and persistent gender-based violence could worsen amid a troubled economy

4.



Photo Credit: @ytv



Diamonds Falter, Crisis Deepens

58% mining collapse between Q3 and Q4 now threatens a GDP contraction, as critics warn the UDC government's wake-up call came long ago.



GAZETTE REPORTER

Botswana's economic outlook has darkened sharply after new data from Statistics Botswana showed mining output plunged by nearly 58% between the third and fourth quarters. The figures are drawn from the Index of the Physical Volume of Mining Production (IMP), Q4 2025, published on March 31, 2026, which tracks the performance of the country's mining sector.

The scale of the downturn in the country's dominant sector leaves little room for recovery elsewhere, with smaller industries unable to absorb the shock. What initially appeared to be a rebound, with 8.2% growth recorded in Q3, is now being reassessed as a temporary surge rather than a sign of sustained recovery.

PRODUCTION REALITY

Government messaging in recent months had struck a more optimistic tone. Minister of Energy and Minerals Bogolo Kenewendo told Parliament that diamond demand was improving, pointing to positive holiday sales and renewed interest from global jewellery markets.

"10 years after category marketing stalled we are now rebounding, actively investing and this is the work that we hope will be reflected in the sales that are to come. Markets are returning to the diamond industry, we are seeing this. The December holiday sales were positive. The jewellery industry is positive, manufacturing hubs are asking for more (natural) diamonds," Kenewendo said.

Yet the latest production data tells a more sobering story, suggesting that improved sentiment has not translated into meaningful output gains. With stock-driven sales now exhausted, the fourth quarter appears to reflect the underlying weakness of the sector.

STRUCTURAL DECLINE

Independent economist Sennye Obuseng says the downturn should not come as a surprise, because: "we are not selling, and we are not producing as much because the market has not improved."

Obuseng says natural diamonds are not going to turn the tide against lab-grown diamonds.

"We may be looking at the death of an industry that has carried us this far. We are in trouble. The future is bleak. We are betting on a recovery against terrible odds. The industry is unlikely to return to its glory days. Even prices are falling; it is not only production," he said.

According to Obuseng, "Botswana has failed to confront long-standing structural challenges in the diamond industry".

POLICY PRESSURE

Obuseng is equally critical of fiscal management, warning that government spending patterns remain misaligned with economic realities.

"There is bad expenditure at a time like this. There is no prioritising. We are not acting broke. That is what is scary," he said.

With reports of strained public finances, including challenges in meeting recurrent obligations, the economic slowdown is beginning to spill beyond mining into the broader economy.

> "There is bad expenditure at a time like this. There is no prioritising. We are not acting broke."

SPILLOVER RISKS

A sustained decline in diamond output threatens export earnings, government revenues and foreign exchange inflows, all of which underpin economic stability.

For businesses, the effects are likely to be immediate. Retail and service sectors may face weaker demand as incomes tighten, while industries linked to mining such as logistics and construction could see contracts dry up. Financial institutions, meanwhile, may contend with reduced liquidity and slower credit growth.

As the data points to a deepening slowdown, the emerging consensus among analysts is that Botswana's challenges are no longer cyclical but structural, raising urgent questions about how quickly the new government can respond to an economy that is showing signs of prolonged strain.

FMD Mess Likely an Inside Job-Dr. Masupu

Renowned veterinarian and epidemiologist Dr. Kereng Masupu, who led the 1995 cattle lung disease response that resulted in the culling of over 300,000 cattle, has linked the recent FMD outbreak to possible internal sabotage, saying evidence points to an internal breach, contrary to claims of external sabotage

SESUPO RANTSIMAKO

Veteran veterinarian and epidemiologist, Dr. Kereng Masupu has raised alarm over possible internal sabotage at the Ramatlabama Artificial Insemination Centre following the recent outbreak of Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD), intensifying scrutiny on biosecurity systems at one of the country's most sensitive livestock facilities.

Speaking to the Botswana Gazette, Dr. Masupu said while authorities are investigating a suspected cyber-extortion link, evidence on the ground points more convincingly to an internal breach.

STRINGENT CONTROLS IN PLACE

Masupu said the stringent biosecurity protocols typically enforced during outbreaks make it highly unlikely that the virus could have entered the country or facility through conventional external channels.

"Under normal outbreak conditions, surveillance at border posts is significantly heightened," he explained. "There are stringent controls in place, and any potential contaminants are subjected to decontamination processes that would effectively destroy the virus."

He added that such measures severely limit the possibility of infected materials slipping through undetected, thereby casting doubt on theories of cross-border transmission.

GOVERNMENT INVESTIGATES

The concerns come as government probes a potential link between the outbreak and a ransom demand made to the Botswana Meat Commission (BMC). Acting Minister of Lands and Agriculture, Edwin Dikoloti, recently confirmed that the BMC received an email in February from an unknown sender demanding USD 500,000, with threats to deliberately spread FMD if the demand was not met.

A follow-up email reportedly sent on March 8 questioned why the initial demand had been ignored, raising fears of agro-terrorism targeting Botswana's critical beef industry.

However, Masupu cautioned against overemphasizing the cyber angle, noting that the physical realities of the outbreak suggest a breach from within.

"Given these barriers, it is highly unlikely that the virus was imported. This raises the possibility that the outbreak could be the result of internal actions," he said.

> "Given the level of security in place, the likelihood of an internal breach cannot be ignored."

SECURITY CONCERNS MOUNT

Echoing Masupu's assessment, former Minister of Agriculture, Molebatsi Molebatsi, said the theory of an inside job cannot be dismissed.

He described the Ramatlabama facility as a high-security installation with tightly controlled access, constant monitoring, and the presence of law enforcement and intelligence personnel.

"Security personnel have always been part of the centre, and access is tightly controlled," Molebatsi said. "Given the level of security in place, the likelihood of an internal breach cannot be ignored."

BIOSECURITY UNDER THE MICROSCOPE

The unfolding situation has sparked broader concerns about internal controls within Botswana's livestock value chain, particularly at strategic facilities tasked with safeguarding the country's disease-free status — a cornerstone of its beef export market.

As investigations continue, pressure is mounting on authorities to not only establish the source of the outbreak but also restore confidence in the country's biosecurity systems amid growing fears of deliberate sabotage.

Farmers Paid, But Warn of "Costly Delays"

While the payment brings relief, the Pandamatenga Commercial Farmers Association warns that prolonged delays forced producers into costly borrowing, eroding profits and disrupting production



BONGANI MALUNGA

Farmers have finally received full payment of the outstanding P271 million owed for last year's deliveries, bringing closure to a prolonged financial strain that has weighed heavily on the agricultural sector. The final P65 million has now been disbursed, marking the end of nearly a year-long wait for many producers.

While welcoming the development, farmers have been quick to caution government against a repeat of such delays, warning that the consequences have already left lasting scars on their operations.

MUCH NEEDED RELIEF

The Pandamatenga Commercial Farmers Association acknowledged the role played by the government and financial institutions in resolving the impasse, noting that the release of funds offers much-needed relief. However, the association stressed that the timing of the payments, nearly 12 months after initial deliveries, came at a significant cost to farmers.

During the delay, many producers were forced to operate under severe cash flow constraints, relying on loans and other financing mechanisms to sustain operations. This led to mounting interest costs and financial pressure that cannot be recovered, effectively eroding already thin profit margins.

UNSUSTAINABLE

The association noted that farmers had to carry the burden of financing their operations for an extended period, which is not sustainable.

The ripple effects of the delayed payments have been far-reaching. Some farmers scaled back production, while others struggled to procure inputs such as seed, fertiliser and fuel in time for the next planting cycle.

The association emphasised that timely and predictable payments are not merely administrative obligations but a cornerstone of a functional agricultural system. Without them, farmers face heightened risk, reduced output and diminished capacity to contribute to national food security.

FINANCING AND INTEREST COSTS

"These payments come nearly 12 months after initial deliveries, during which farmers had to carry significant financing and interest costs while operating under severe cash flow pressure. These are costs that cannot be recovered," the association remarked.

The farmers group additionally noted that; "timely and reliable payment systems are not just administrative, they are critical to protecting farmers, sustaining production, and ensuring national food security."

Despite the challenges, the association reaffirmed its commitment to working collaboratively with the government and other stakeholders.





Botswana's social stability is facing growing pressure from worsening economic conditions, with the United Nations warning that high youth unemployment and gender-based violence (GBV) could intensify if structural challenges remain unaddressed. *Photo Credit: facebook/BDPTsholetsa*

Youth Unemployment, GBV To Worsen -UN

Botswana is facing mounting social and economic pressures, with a new United Nations report warning that rising youth unemployment and persistent gender-based violence could worsen amid a troubled economy

GAZETTE REPORTER

Botswana's social stability is facing growing pressure from worsening economic conditions, with the United Nations warning that high youth unemployment and gender-based violence (GBV) could intensify if structural challenges remain unaddressed.

In its Annual Results Report 2025 released this week, the UN country analysis conducted in late 2025 cautioned that "longstanding social challenges such as high youth unemployment and elevated levels of gender-based violence risk being further exacerbated by emerging economic pressures."

ALARMING LABOUR MARKET CONDITIONS

The report paints a concerning picture of Botswana's labour market, citing overall unemployment at 27.6 percent and youth unemployment rising to 38.2 percent as of the first quarter of 2024. It describes a "persistent disconnect between growth and employment" in the country's mining-dependent, capital-intensive economy.

"Youth unemployment remains one of the most binding constraints to inclusive development," the report notes, pointing to growing frustration among young people excluded from meaningful economic participation.

GBV CONCERNS DEEPEN UNDER ECONOMIC PRESSURE

At the same time, the UN warns that gender-based violence remains a deep-seated challenge, with economic stress likely to worsen levels of domestic and societal abuse, particularly affecting women and vulnerable groups.

Analysts say unemployment, poverty, and inequality often create conditions that fuel violence in homes and communities, intensifying risks for already vulnerable populations.

DIAMOND SLOWDOWN HITS ECONOMIC GROWTH

The situation is being aggravated by a slowing economy. Botswana's growth contracted between 2024 and 2025, driven largely by a sharp decline in diamond production. Output at Debswana fell by 43.7 percent year-on-year in the second quarter of 2025, sending ripple effects through trade, transport, and manufacturing sectors.

RISING FISCAL PRESSURES

Fiscal pressures are also mounting, with government recording a P11.8 billion budget deficit in the 2024/25 financial year. Projections indicate an even wider deficit of P22.1 billion—about 7.6 percent of GDP—in 2025/26. While inflation has stabilised within central bank targets, this has not translated into broad-based economic recovery.

"Botswana is at a structural inflection point," the report warns, citing limited diversification and widening inequality, particularly affecting women, youth, and rural communities.

Urbanisation—now exceeding 70 percent of the population—alongside climate shocks such as recurring droughts and water scarcity are further compounding vulnerabilities, especially in rural livelihoods.

> "Botswana is at a structural inflection point."

UN CALLS FOR URGENT REFORMS

In response, the UN is urging urgent, coordinated reforms to diversify the economy, expand employment pathways, and strengthen social protection systems targeting youth and women.

"The evolving context reinforces the need for integrated, systemwide support that addresses structural transformation, human capital resilience, climate adaptation, and inclusive growth," the report states.

LOOKING AHEAD TO 2027–2031 FRAMEWORK

Looking ahead, the UN Country Team is preparing a new Cooperation Framework for 2027–2031 aligned with Botswana's national priorities. However, it warns that declining global funding and domestic fiscal constraints may limit implementation capacity.

"2026 will require a stronger focus on forging innovative and diversified partnerships," the report concludes, as the UN seeks to maintain impact amid tightening resources.







Lucara Botswana 2025 Full-Year Performance Highlights

Making Diamond History

Operational Performance

Ore Mined
1.9 million tonnes

Ore Processed
2.8 million tonnes

Carats Sold
353,302 carats

Diamond Recoveries

Diamonds >1,000 carats - **3 Stones**
Notable Recoveries - **2,036ct; 1,476ct; 1,015ct; 37.42ct Pink Type IIa**

Financial Performance

Total Revenue
US$159.7 million

(Dec 31, 2025)
Cash Balance
US$31.9 million

Operating Margin
52%

Working Capital
US$33.6 million

Operating Cost per Tonne
US$27.15/t

Karowe Underground Project

UGP Capital Spend (2025)
US$75.8 million

UGP Total Investment to Date
US$469.4 million

Production Shaft Depth
776 metres

Ventilation Shaft Depth
729 metres

Underground Production Target
H1 2028

Mine Life Extension
To 2038

Safety Performance

Lost Time Injury Free Days (UGP)
2,159 days

Total Recordable Injury Frequency Rate (UGP)
0.56

Project Milestones

Lateral Development Contract
Awarded 1 Dec 2025 to Group R Mining & Exploration Botswana

Community Impact

Makgaba Investment
Makgaba Primary School Construction

Miss World Botswana Sponsorship
P550,000

Sports Awards
P150,000.00

Creation Botswana
P210,000.00

Botswana Sustainability Week
P325,000.00
Co-Title Sponsor

Institute of Risk Management
P120,000.00
Legacy Partner

Women in Mining Conference
P200,000.00
Diamond Sponsor

Lucara Botswana botswana-lucara



Opposition leader Dumelang Saleshando has launched a stinging attack on the Ministry of State President, accusing it of importing "kingdom-like" appointment practices into a republican system such as Botswana.

Saleshando slams "kingdom-inspired" governance practices

Opposition leader Dumelang Saleshando has sharply criticised the Ministry of State President over what he calls "monarchical-style" governance practices, accusing it of undermining transparency through non-competitive board and CEO appointments

GAZETTE REPORTER

Opposition leader Dumelang Saleshando has launched a stinging attack on the Ministry of State President, accusing it of importing "kingdom-like" appointment practices into a republican system such as Botswana.

At the centre of the dispute is the rationale for housing the Sovereign Wealth Fund under the Presidency and not the Ministry of Finance, as well as why its board and CEO were directly appointed without public advertisements to allow other citizens the opportunity to apply.

In response, Assistant Minister Maipelo Mophuting-Dikoloti cited kingdoms as examples of countries operating similar governance models, while also acknowledging that the posts in question were not publicly advertised.

"The decision is a deliberate strategic choice based on the funds developmental mandate and better national coordination similar to other entities," she said.

She maintained that the selection process still followed established internal mechanisms, insisting that candidates were identified through existing governance structures and vetted appropriately.

PRESSED

The Minister was, however, pressed to justify how fairness and transparency were ensured in the absence of open competition choosing to just say "people just submitted their CVs for assessment".

Saleshando and his counterpart, Caterpillar Hikuama argued that the government's approach to appointments of boards and chief executive officers reflects a departure from democratic and merit-based principles.

They said such practices undermine accountability and deny qualified citizens equal opportunity to compete for senior public positions.

PRESSURE MOUNTS OVER GOVERNANCE TRANSPARENCY

The exchange has intensified debate over public sector appointments and governance standards, with critics arguing that Botswana's long-standing reputation for transparency could be undermined if competitive recruitment practices are not consistently applied.

The Presidency has maintained that all appointments were made in good faith and in line with institutional requirements, while opposition voices continue to call for reforms that ensure open, merit-based recruitment.

"They said such practices undermine accountability and deny qualified citizens equal opportunity to compete for senior public positions."

ICL BOTSWANA

"Your Total ICT Solutions Provider"

Job Vacancy: Business Development Executive (x1)

ICL Botswana, a leading provider of innovative IT solutions and services, is looking for a high-energy, results-oriented **Business Development Executive** to join our team. If you have a passion for technology and a proven track record in high-level sales, we want to hear from you.

The Role
As a Business Development Executive, you will be responsible for driving revenue growth through strategic sales, partnership management, and brand promotion. Key responsibilities include:

- **Sales Execution:** Drive the sales of ICL products and services, conducting prospecting and engaging with key decision-makers.
- **Strategy & Planning:** Assist in formulating marketing and selling strategies; work with the Business Development Manager to manage sales plans and demand generation.
- **Relationship Management:** Build and maintain strong relationships with customers, suppliers, and solution partners.
- **Pipeline & Account Management:** Manage the sales pipeline with precision to ensure growth visibility; provide effective account management and client liaison.
- **Technical Solutions:** Research appropriate IT solutions for clients, prepare professional presentations, and lead contract negotiations.
- **Performance:** Achieve agreed-upon sales and profit margin targets while participating in forecasting and target-setting exercises.

Requirements
The ideal candidate must be a self-starter with the following qualifications:
- **Qualifications & Experience:** IT or Business Degree with at least 5 years in the IT industry, with a minimum of 3 years specifically in a sales role.
- **Track Record:** Proven ability to achieve sales targets and experience in putting together large-scale IT solution proposals.
- **Skills:** Exceptional networking, rapport building, and bid management skills.
- **Technical Knowledge:** Deep understanding of enterprise-level IT solutions (both infrastructure and software).
- **Competencies:** Strong business analysis, solution mapping, marketing skills, and excellent time management.

How to Apply
Interested candidates who meet the above criteria are invited to apply by submitting a comprehensive CV, detailing qualifications and relevant experience.

Apply to:

The Managing Director
ICL Botswana
Unit 1, Plot 143, Gaborone International Finance Park
P O Box 468 Gaborone
Email: talent@icl.bw

Closing Date: 28th April 2026



FMD Spreads to Five Southern Villages

A fast-spreading Foot and Mouth Disease outbreak has hit five villages in southern Botswana, exposing cracks in biosecurity systems and raising fears of wider contagion

GAZETTE REPORTER

The outbreak of Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) has spread to at least five villages in Botswana's southern region, raising fears within government and farming communities.

Acting Minister of Lands and Agriculture, Edwin Dikoloti, revealed the development during a kgotla meeting in Good Hope this week, describing the situation as deeply concerning despite existing biosecurity measures.

The disease was first detected at the Ramatlabama Artificial Insemination Centre at the end of March. It has since spread to Matasalalo and Papatlo, before reaching Bethel, Phihetswane and a feedlot in Hildavale, signaling a widening containment challenge for authorities.

BIOSECURITY UNDER PRESSURE

Dikoloti expressed frustration at the rapid spread, warning that lapses in compliance and enforcement were undermining efforts to contain the outbreak. He stressed the need for stronger community policing, particularly within Zone 11, to curb further infections.

According to the minister, failure by communities to monitor and report suspicious livestock movements has contributed to breaches in critical infrastructure, including a P65 million double cordon fence spanning 182 kilometres. Additional security measures, such as a P9.4 million barbed and razor wire installation at the Ramatlabama ranch, have also been compromised.

BIO-TERRORISM CLAIMS SURFACE

The outbreak comes amid government investigations into claims of possible bio-terrorism—allegations that some critics have dismissed. Authorities say they are investigating whether the spread is linked to deliberate human action or systemic failures in disease control.

While some farmers in Good Hope have called for urgent vaccination of livestock, Dikoloti cautioned that vaccination remains a last-resort measure in FMD management protocols. Authorities typically prioritize containment, movement restrictions and surveillance before resorting to mass vaccination.



Acting Minister of Lands and Agriculture, Edwin Dikoloti

UNCERTAIN OUTLOOK

It remains unclear whether further testing will reveal additional spread beyond the affected villages. However, the situation has heightened anxiety among farmers, particularly given the economic implications of FMD on livestock trade and rural livelihoods.

Government has urged farmers and communities to remain vigilant, adhere strictly to biosecurity regulations, and cooperate with veterinary officials as efforts to contain the outbreak intensify.



South Rail Cargo

PROJECT MANAGER – OPERATIONAL READINESS

WE ARE BUILDING SOMETHING BIG AND WE WANT YOU ON BOARD!

hrmc RECRUITMENT

Our client, South Rail, is establishing a new private rail freight operations in Botswana and neighbouring countries with a vision to transform rail freight across the region. Through the ongoing investment project, South Rail is developing a service that will redefine how rail logistics operates. South Rail brings a world-class safety and efficiency culture, combined with strong international expertise. You will work alongside experienced global professionals, follow a structured development path, and grow from the project phase into long-term 24/7 operations environment. We are looking for driven, hungry, hands-on leaders who are ready to build something meaningful from the ground up.

About the Role:

This is a high-impact, build-phase leadership role where you will bridge strategy and execution taking a rail freight project from feasibility into full operational readiness and commercial launch. You will play a central role in shaping how the business operates, mobilising resources, and establishing the systems, people, and processes required for a safe, efficient, and reliable rail operation.

Key Responsibilities:

- **Operational Design & Planning (Feasibility Phase)**: Define and structure the future operating model by translating strategy into a practical, efficient, and executable rail service design.
- **Mobilisation & Readiness**: Build and coordinate all elements required to transition from planning to execution, ensuring the organisation is fully prepared for operational launch.
- **Implementation & Start-Up Execution**: Lead the set-up and rollout of operations, including people, systems, and processes, to achieve a successful and controlled commercial start-up.
- **Risk & Performance Management**: Identify, manage, and mitigate operational risks while establishing performance-driven systems to ensure reliability and continuous improvement.
- **Transition to Operations Leadership**: Take ownership of the live operation post-launch, driving safety, service delivery, and operational excellence in a 24/7 environment.

Candidate Profile:

- You will need a minimum of 8 years' experience in rail, logistics, terminals, mining supply chains, or similar operational environments
- Proven experience in mobilisation, start-up, or operational ramp-up
- Strong execution mindset: you will take ownership and deliver results
- A practical, field-oriented leader who builds trust with frontline teams
- Comfortable operating in ambiguity while driving structure and progress
- A clear communicator able to align teams and stakeholders

Why Join South Rail?

- Be part of a once in a lifetime investment project and new operations set up, a transformative rail freight initiative
- Work with experienced international professionals and global best practices
- Build a company from the ground up and grow into a senior leadership role
- Shape the future of logistics and infrastructure in Botswana, and wider in the region
- Join a culture built on performance, safety, and pride in execution

Please expedite your application by uploading your CV on our website **www.hrmc.co.bw,** we encourage prospective candidates to apply early to avoid missing this opportunity.

Closing date for applications: 28 April 2026

Tel: (+267) 395 1640 | **Mobile** (+267)75 789 000 | **Fax:** (+267)391 1494 | **Email:** admin@hrmc.co.bw

Find out more at **www.hrmc.co.bw** @hrmcbotswana

WHEN YOU NEED PROFESSIONALS

BOCONGO Questions Impact of ConCourt Bill

While supporting the idea of a constitutional court, the BOCONGO says the Bill lacks clear guidance on interpreting fundamental rights and warns that it shifts judicial structure without strengthening constitutional protections



SESUPO RANTSIMAKO

The Botswana Council of Non-Governmental Organizations (BOCONGO) has raised concerns over the recently passed Constitutional Court (ConCourt) Bill, questioning whether it will fully deliver on promises made during kgotla consultations and other public engagements.

In a discussion paper released after the Bill's adoption, BOCONGO noted that while there is support for establishing a constitutional court, some stakeholders believe the current judicial system has not sufficiently protected rights under Chapter II of the Constitution.

UNCLEAR ROLE OF PROPOSED COURT

The organisation, however, argues that the Bill does not clearly explain how the proposed court will interpret constitutional rights, raising uncertainty about its practical role in safeguarding fundamental freedoms.

BOCONGO further said that although the Bill does not alter the substance of constitutional rights, it significantly restructures the judiciary by transferring constitutional matters to the new court without strengthening the underlying provisions.

DIGITAL RIGHTS AND EMERGING CHALLENGES

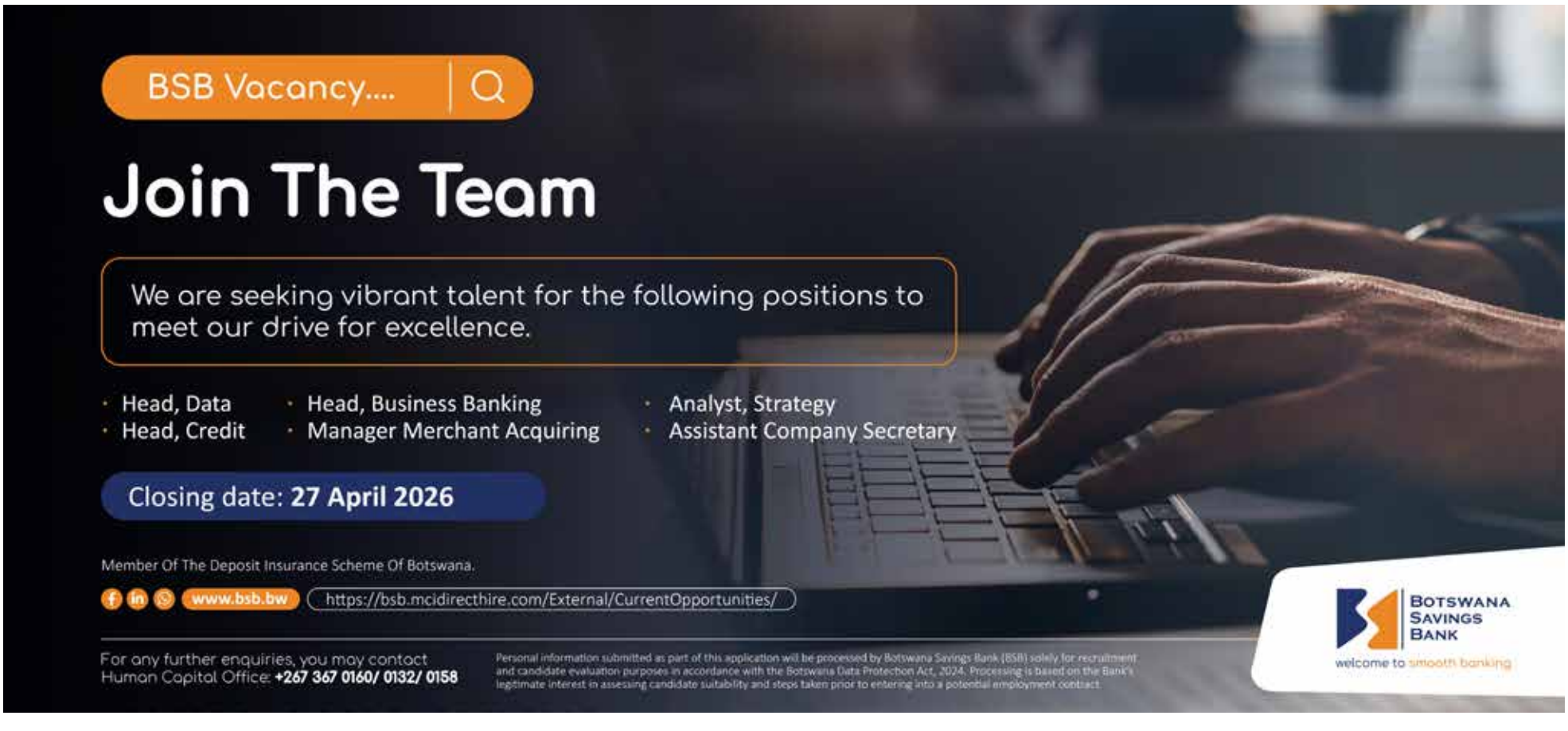
The NGO also highlighted emerging challenges in the digital age, including artificial intelligence, data privacy, and surveillance, saying judges appointed to the court would require specialised expertise to handle such evolving rights issues.

It concluded that without clearer interpretive guidelines and a stronger framework for modern human rights challenges, questions remain over whether the court will achieve its intended purpose.

> "Without clearer interpretive guidelines and a stronger framework for modern human rights challenges, questions remain over whether the court will achieve its intended purpose."

LONGSTANDING CONCERNS

BOCONGO has previously opposed the constitutional reform process, arguing it lacked inclusivity and calling instead for a comprehensive constitutional review rather than what it terms a piecemeal approach.




Business Banking
GA170805
Winning a truck can take your business forward
Save a minimum of P50 000 for at least 3 months and you could win a truck to power your business success
Open an Absa Business Current or Savings Account today.
Visit absa.co.bw
Your story matters
absa
Absa Bank Botswana Limited (registered number BW00001237900) is regulated by the Bank of Botswana. Member of the Deposit Insurance Scheme of Botswana.

Botswana, S/Africa Activists Clash Over 'Tshepi' Campaign

..As Botswana musician and activist Lioness Ratang criticise what she described as "selective solidarity" in regional GBV activism



Photo Credit: DailynewsBW

GAZETTE REPORTER

A growing campaign demanding justice for 13-year-old Retshepile Setso Tshedu has sparked a heated cross-border dispute between activists in Botswana and South Africa, exposing divisions over capacity and solidarity in the fight against gender-based violence (GBV).

The Motswana teenager is alleged to have died under mysterious circumstances, a case that has since triggered widespread outrage and renewed calls for accountability.

The debate intensified after Botswana musician and activist Lioness Ratang criticised what she described as "selective solidarity" in regional GBV activism, following South African organisation Women for Change (WFC)'s decision not to actively engage in the case due to limited capacity.

"The way we in Botswana rally behind South Africa with cases of GBV thinking we are all in this together—wow. Every man for himself, you say," Ratang posted, sparking a wave of online responses.

WFC responded by clarifying its position, stating: "Hey dear, we need to focus on South Africa at this point as we do not have the capacity."

WOMEN FOR CHANGE DEFENDS LIMITED CAPACITY

In a detailed statement, WFC defended its stance, saying it operates with limited resources despite growing visibility across the region.

"We want to be honest about our capacity, not as an excuse but as context. We are a team of five people working relentlessly to confront a crisis that feels bigger than all of us," the organisation said.

It added that while its reach has expanded to over one million people through campaigns such as the G20 Women's Shutdown, its resources have not kept pace with demand.

"Every story matters deeply to us. We do not have weekends or holidays… we are human, doing the best we can in a space that is emotionally and operationally overwhelming," the group said.

Founded by activist Sabrina Walter, WFC is a South African non-profit advocating against GBV and femicide through digital campaigns and systemic reform advocacy.

PETITION REIGNITES OUTRAGE

At the centre of the renewed public anger is a petition by the Re A Bua Foundation, which has brought fresh scrutiny to Tshedu's death in May 2025.

According to the petition, her death was initially reported as suicide, but a post-mortem reportedly revealed evidence of prolonged sexual abuse, including severe physical violations and sexually transmitted infections. Despite this, no arrests have been made nearly ten months later.

The petition further alleges irregularities in the investigation, including delays in conducting a post-mortem, interference in the case, and mishandling of evidence as investigators changed.

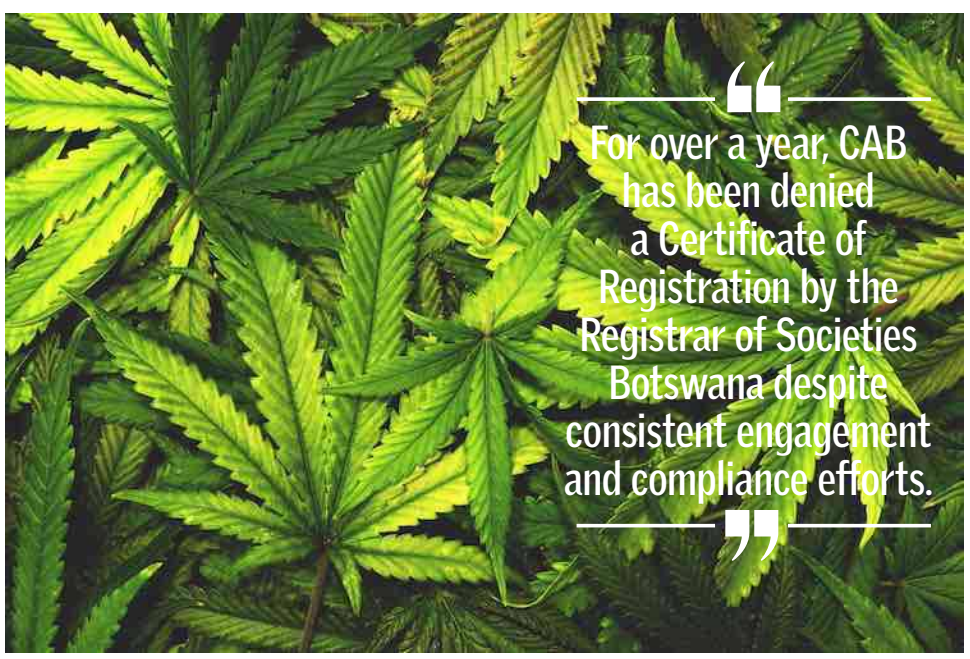
"We, the undersigned, write with deep sorrow, outrage, and urgency," the petition states, calling for arrests, accountability, and urgent intervention by law enforcement.

The Re A Bua Foundation is also demanding broader reforms, including independent police oversight, strengthened child protection systems, and improved support for GBV survivors.

Local Cannabis Producers "Blocked"

The Cannabis Association of Botswana (CAB) has raised alarm of prolonged administrative obstruction that has prevented it from obtaining registration, effectively sidelining it from the country's emerging cannabis and hemp industry

GAZETTE REPORTER



The Cannabis Association of Botswana (CAB) says sustained administrative delays have effectively barred it from participating in the country's emerging cannabis and hemp industry, raising concerns about transparency and fairness in the sector's rollout.

The association claims it has been waiting for more than a year for a Certificate of Registration from the Registrar of Societies, despite what it describes as repeated engagement and full compliance with regulatory requirements.

"For over a year, CAB has been denied a Certificate of Registration by the Registrar of Societies Botswana despite consistent engagement and compliance efforts," the association said on Tuesday. It added that the prolonged delay has raised "serious concerns regarding the ability of civil society organisations to participate meaningfully within the sector."

LEGAL BATTLE ESCALATES

CAB says its legal team has formally written to the Registrar of Societies seeking clarity on the continued refusal to issue the registration certificate, but claims no response has been received.

The matter has since been escalated to Ditshwanelo – The Botswana Centre for Human Rights for review and guidance.

The association argues that the administrative bottleneck has prevented it from formally operating at a time when Botswana's cannabis and hemp regulatory framework is rapidly taking shape.

EMERGING INDUSTRY UNDER SCRUTINY

Botswana's cannabis and hemp sector is still in its early stages but is increasingly viewed as a potential new economic frontier for diversification.

CAB says excluding local civil society voices risks undermining public trust and limiting the developmental benefits of the industry.

"Botswana stands at a pivotal moment in developing its cannabis and hemp industry," the association said. "Ensuring that civil society organisations are able to operate transparently and lawfully is critical to maintaining public trust, promoting responsible education, and supporting inclusive sector development."

FIRST LICENCE SPARKS CONTROVERSY

The controversy comes after confirmation that Swedish-linked company Hemp Holding AB, through its local subsidiary Hemp Innovations Botswana, has secured Botswana's first licence to cultivate medical cannabis and industrial hemp.

The development has triggered debate over foreign participation in strategic industries, value retention, and regulatory fairness, with critics questioning how local actors can compete amid what they describe as uneven approval processes.

CALLS FOR TRANSPARENCY AND FAIRNESS

CAB insists it remains committed to neutral, evidence-based advocacy and responsible engagement, but says its exclusion raises broader questions about equity in the sector's establishment.

The association says it will convene a press conference to outline the timeline of events, legal challenges, stakeholder engagements, and what it describes as the "role of civil society in ensuring transparency in a high-value emerging industry."

End Elephant Hunting in Settlements- EPS

The Elephant Protection Society (EPS) has urged government to ban elephant hunting in human settlement concessions, warning that it puts communities at risk and undermines conservation efforts



(Pic:Monirul Bhuiyan/PRESS PHOTO)

SESUPO RANTSIMAKO

The Elephant Protection Society (EPS) has warned that hunting near areas like NG35 exposes residents to danger from stray bullets and aggressive wounded elephants, calling for safer, non-lethal wildlife management measures.

Speaking to *The Botswana Gazette*, they urged government to urgently review and abolish policies allowing elephant hunting within human settlement concessions, warning that the practice endangers communities and undermines long-term conservation efforts.

Following the issuance of new wildlife hunting quotas by the Ministry of Environment and Tourism, EPS founder Oaitse Nawa raised concerns over hunting activities in the NG35 concession near Maun, where elephants and residents frequently share space.

COMMUNITIES EXPOSED

Nawa said allowing hunting in such areas exposes communities to significant risk, including stray bullets and encounters with wounded, aggressive animals.

> "When hunters fail to kill elephants instantly, the animals can become aggressive, increasing the likelihood of attacks on people."

"When hunters fail to kill elephants instantly, the animals can become aggressive, increasing the likelihood of attacks on people," he said, calling for an immediate policy reversal.

EPS argues that hunting in populated areas heightens human-wildlife conflict, as elephants become unpredictable when disturbed, putting lives and livelihoods at risk.

The organisation also warned that the presence of hunting operations near homes, farms, and grazing areas is fuelling fear among residents and disrupting daily life.

ELEPHANTS IMPORTANT

Beyond safety concerns, EPS emphasised the ecological importance of elephants, describing them as a key species in maintaining ecosystem balance and warning against practices that prioritise short-term gains over sustainability.

The society is calling for stronger separation between residential areas and hunting zones, alongside stricter enforcement of wildlife management rules.

It has further recommended non-lethal conflict mitigation measures, including reinforced fencing, early warning systems, and community-based conservation initiatives.

EPS also urged wider public consultation in wildlife policy decisions, arguing that affected communities should have a stronger voice in shaping how wildlife is managed.

While acknowledging the challenges posed by human-elephant conflict, the organisation said solutions must balance conservation with community safety, warning that continued hunting in settlement areas risks damaging Botswana's reputation as a global conservation leader.

Interns Escalate Protest Over 'Systemic Exploitation'

Public service interns took to the streets yesterday in protest, voicing frustration over what they describe as long-standing exploitation and demanding urgent reforms to the programme

BONGANI MALUNGA

Public service interns have intensified calls for permanent employment and a significant increase in their monthly allowance, citing the rising cost of living and prolonged uncertainty about their future.

The interns are demanding that the government absorb them into full-time positions and review their current stipend from P1900 to P4000, arguing that the existing amount is no longer sufficient to meet basic needs.

The grievances come after what the interns describe as drawn-out and inconclusive engagements with the Department of Employment Services, which they say have failed to produce tangible outcomes. Many interns have expressed frustration over the lack of clear timelines and commitment from authorities, with some noting that they have served in temporary capacities for extended periods without progression.

PEACEFUL PROTEST

In a show of unity, the interns staged a peaceful protest on Tuesday at the Ministry of Labour and Home Affairs calling for the ministry to urgently address their concerns. They carried placards highlighting the financial strain they face, emphasizing that transport, accommodation and food costs have steadily increased while their allowances have remained stagnant.

"We have been in prolonged communication with the Department of Employment Services which hosts the National Internship Program sharing our grievances as well as suggesting solutions that they can implement. To this day, we have been given promises but no implementation," a statement from the Internship Committee Representatives reads.

The interns further argued that their continued placement in temporary roles undermines morale and productivity, as many feel their contributions to public service are not being adequately recognised.

CONSTRUCTIVE TALKS

For its part, the Ministry of Labour and Home Affairs' Department of Employment Services noted that its decision to grant the interns written permission to peacefully demonstrate and hand over their petition underlines that they are open to constructive talks. "The Department remains committed to constructive engagement. We trust that this process will continue with mutual respect and cooperation," the department noted.

> "To this day, we have been given promises but no implementation."

The petition was received by the department's Director, Tshenolo Omphitlhetse who pledged that the interns will receive a formal response that will be conveyed to the interns' leadership committee.

BMC Forced Into P123M Refund to EU Buyers



The Botswana Meat Commission is set to refund P123 million to European buyers after an FMD outbreak forced a halt in exports to the European Union

BONGANI MALUNGA

The Ministry of Lands and Agriculture has disclosed that the Botswana Meat Commission (BMC) will be forced to refund European buyers a total of P123 million following the suspension of beef exports to the European market.

The ban stems from the outbreak of Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD), which has effectively shut Botswana out of the lucrative European Union (EU) beef market.

According to the Assistant Minister, Dr Edwin Dikoloti, the P123 million represents advance payments made by EU customers for beef consignments that can no longer be delivered under current restrictions. As a result, BMC is now obligated to reimburse these clients, adding financial strain to an already challenging period for the parastatal.

UNSOLD INVENTORY

The export ban has also left BMC holding significant unsold inventory, the commission is currently sitting on over P200 million worth of meat stocks, with a substantial portion originally destined for the EU market. The accumulation of this stock not only ties up capital but also raises concerns over storage costs, product shelf life and potential losses if alternative markets are not secured in time.

"BMC is sitting on meat stocks with an original sales value of P202.3 million, including P123 million linked to advance payments from EU customers whose supplies were secured prior to the suspension of the EU trade," said the Minister during a press conference on Monday.

"This creates an immediate liquidity and reputation obligation to process refunds efficiently, an essential step in preserving customer trust and safeguarding BMC's re-entry into the EU market once the export status is restored," Dr Dikoloti added.

ECONOMIC IMPACT

Dikoloti highlighted that the development underscores the far-reaching economic impact of FMD outbreaks, which continues to disrupt Botswana's beef export value chain. The EU market, known for its premium prices and strict veterinary standards, remains one of BMC's most valuable destinations. Losing access, even temporarily, has immediate consequences for revenue, cash flow and farmer payments.

> BMC is sitting on meat stocks with an original sales value of P202.3 million, including P123 million linked to advance payments from EU customers

The Ministry further assured that efforts are expected to focus on containing the disease outbreak and regaining EU market access, while BMC may also be compelled to explore alternative export markets or increase domestic sales to offset mounting losses.

Botswana to Open Embassy in Oman

Oman sits on key global trade routes and is part of the Gulf region, giving Botswana a gateway to Middle Eastern and Asian markets

BONGANI MALUNGA



Botswana is set to strengthen its diplomatic footprint in the Middle East with plans to open an embassy in Muscat, the capital of Oman, in a move aimed at deepening bilateral relations and unlocking new economic opportunities.

Oman media reports suggest that Botswana has indicated that preparations for the establishment of the mission are already at an advanced stage, with the embassy expected to be operational before the end of the year. Once completed, the diplomatic office will serve as a key channel for political engagement, trade promotion and investment facilitation between the two countries.

ALIGNMENT OF INTERESTS

The decision follows high-level engagements between President Duma Boko and the Sultan of Oman, Haitham bin Tariq Al Said, which culminated in the signing of cooperation agreements spanning renewable energy, minerals and the oil sector. The agreements signal a growing alignment of interests, particularly as Botswana seeks to diversify its economy beyond diamonds while Oman continues to expand its global partnerships.

According to reports by The Times of Oman, President Boko told the Oman News Agency that Botswana is making "intensive efforts" to fast-track the establishment of its diplomatic presence in Muscat. The embassy is expected to enhance coordination on joint projects and provide a platform for sustained dialogue between the two governments.

MUTUALLY BENEFICIAL

The move is expected to position Botswana to tap into Oman's strategic location as a gateway to Middle Eastern and Asian markets, while also attracting investment into key sectors such as energy, infrastructure and mining. For Oman, closer ties with Botswana offer access to Africa's emerging markets and natural resources, reinforcing a mutually beneficial partnership.

DIRECT AIR LINK

The two countries have also agreed to establish a direct air link between Muscat and Gaborone, a development expected to significantly improve ease of travel between the two countries. The proposed route is aimed at strengthening business connectivity, boosting tourism flows and facilitating faster movement of government and private sector stakeholders.

The direct connection will also serve as a catalyst for deeper economic cooperation, opening up new opportunities for trade, investment, and cultural exchange between Botswana and Oman.

BRIGHT
EMPLOYEE BENEFITS
DREAM IT, WE FINANCE IT

Botemapawu, Bright Partnership Opens Door to Safer Credit for Low income Workers

A new loan scheme aimed at improving access to affordable credit for low-income workers was officially launched on Saturday through a partnership between Bright Employee Benefits and the Botswana Textile, Manufacturing and Packaging Workers Union (Botemapawu). The initiative is designed to ease financial pressure on workers earning modest incomes by providing a safer and more structured borrowing option.

COMMITMENT TO TRANSPARENCY AND EDUCATION

Kealeboga Santsoma, Chief Financial Officer at Bright Employee Benefits, said the partnership is grounded in transparency and responsible lending. He added that the organisation plans to introduce financial literacy programmes and digital loan application platforms to improve accessibility and empower members to make informed financial decisions.

AFFORDABLE LOAN FACILITY AND ACCESS TERMS

The facility offers loans of up to P50,000, with flexible repayment periods of up to 36 months. It also features a fast approval process intended to reduce delays often associated with formal lending institutions. The scheme is positioned as an alternative to high-interest informal borrowing channels, which many workers resort to during financial emergencies.

WORKERS' ECONOMIC PRESSURES HIGHLIGHTED

President of Botemapawu, Oarabile Wakala, highlighted the financial challenges faced by workers in the textile and manufacturing sectors, noting that many earn between P1,800 and P5,000 monthly. He said these incomes are stretched by basic needs such as food, rent, school fees and transport, leaving little room for savings or emergencies.

PILOT SUCCESS AND EXPANSION

According to Keotshepile Koboyatshwene, Executive Operations Manager at Bright Employee Benefits, the programme builds on a previously successful pilot that served a smaller group of workers. The pilot demonstrated strong uptake and responsible credit usage, encouraging expansion to all Botemapawu members under improved and more inclusive terms.

FINANCIAL INCLUSION THROUGH PAYROLL SECURITY

Repayments will be deducted directly from salaries through payroll systems, reducing default risk and improving convenience for borrowers. Koboyatshwene said strict affordability assessments will be conducted to ensure members are not over-indebted. "Our focus is to provide a solution that supports members without exposing them to financial risk," he noted.

CALL FOR BROADER WAGE REFORM

Wakala welcomed the initiative as timely and impactful, saying it would reduce reliance on unsafe borrowing methods. However, he also urged broader structural reforms, calling on government and industry stakeholders to address low wages in the private sector to ensure long-term financial stability for workers.



Mr Kealeboga Santsoma (Chief Financial Officer, Bright Employee Benefits)



Mr Oarabile Wakala (President, Botemapawu)


Mr Keotshepile Koboyatshwene (Executive Operations Manager)



The agreement


Attendees


Attendees



CLICK WATCH




MUSIC
-N-
LIFESTYLE
FESTIVAL
FOOD • ART • FASHION
WHERE URBAN CULTURE LIVES
MAS MUSIQ • EZRA NEETHINGS & KTM CHOIR ENSEMBLE
OSKIDO • BOOGIE SID & THE TRIBAL FUSION ORCHESTRA
NIA PEARL • SIPHO HOTSTIX MABUSE • DATO SEIKO
XDUPPY • CHARMA GAL & CULTURE SPEARS • NDINGO JOHWA
NEO PLAYED IT • BASHO VISION • ROMEO • KHEBAH • CHENG
CHRISPIN THE DRUMMER & TABONA MSK • OAK THE CHAMP
HOSTS THULI TOOLS • T.H.A.B.O • MC THEO
SAT 25 APR
ROYAL ARIA, TLOKWENG
TICKETS AVAILABLE AT WEBTICKETS. 20% DISCOUNT TO ALL STANBIC BANK CARDHOLDERS.
webtickets
18+


MUSIC
-N-
LIFESTYLE
FESTIVAL
FOOD • ART • FASHION
WHERE URBAN CULTURE LIVES
SAT 25 APR
ROYAL ARIA, TLOKWENG
VIP EXPERIENCE
P3,500
DESIGNATED ACCESS GATE
ACCESS TAG
3 FOOD SERVINGS
BAR TAB: P1,500
CASH BAR
DEDICATED CAR PARKING
SHUTTLE SERVICE
SEATING
HOSTESSES
SECURITY
WIFI
GENERAL
PHASE 1
(LIMITED TICKETS AVAILABLE)
P250 SINGLE
P450 DOUBLE
PHASE 2
P300 SINGLE
P500 DOUBLE
TICKETS AVAILABLE AT WEBTICKETS. 20% DISCOUNT TO ALL STANBIC BANK CARDHOLDERS.
webtickets
18+
Member of the Deposit Insurance Scheme of Botswana

CLICK HERE
To Join our private Whatsapp Group



Stanbic Festival Drives Jobs, Economic Activity

Stanbic Bank-backed event highlights employment, local partnerships and regional draw ahead of second edition

01201234567894:962

The Music and Lifestyle Festival is positioning itself as more than an entertainment showcase, with organisers outlining its role in job creation and local enterprise support ahead of its second edition on April 25 at Royal Aria Stadium in Tlokweng.

Speaking at a recent media engagement, Stanbic Bank Botswana Public Relations and Communications Manager Ratang Motladiile detailed the scale of employment generated during the inaugural event, framing it as a case study in short-term work with longer-term economic implications.

"When you arrived at the gate you were first met by our wonderful and friendly security teams, ensuring that everything was safe and seamless," she said, noting that this translated into employment for 85 security guards.

As attendees moved through the venue, an additional 70 hostesses were engaged to guide guests, assist with logistics and support the overall experience. Transport operations, including VIP transfers, created roles for more than six drivers, while hospitality teams managed guest services across premium areas.

BEHIND THE SCENES

The largest share of employment came from technical and production roles. According to Motladiile, more than 450 personnel were involved in delivering sound, lighting, staging and overall production.

"The sound, the lighting, the stage, the production… behind that experience were over 450 technical and production teams," she said.

The event was delivered through a partnership model involving a Motswana-owned organiser, Native Events, alongside agencies Hotwire and Wow Factor. Together, these entities accounted for over 50 professionals contributing to execution.

"This event was not delivered by Stanbic Bank alone," Motladiile said. "It was delivered in partnership… all contributing to bringing this experience."

SCALING IMPACT

Organisers plan to expand this footprint in the upcoming edition. Motladiile said staffing levels across security, hosting, transport and production will increase, with total direct engagement expected to exceed 500 people.

"In total, this translates to over 500 people directly engaged, in just one event," she said.

Beyond direct employment, the festival is also positioned as a platform for business interaction and creative exposure. Motladiile cited networking outcomes from the first edition, including exchanges of business contacts and follow-on work opportunities.

"We are looking to create opportunities — through networks… and future work established," she said, adding that an expression of interest process for local vendors has recently closed, with vetting underway.

The event also aims to provide exposure for local creatives and facilitate collaborations through shared stages with international artists.

REGIONAL INTEREST

The festival is drawing attention beyond Botswana's borders. Motladiile said interest from across the continent is translating into ticket purchases, with attendees expected from countries including South Africa, Lesotho, Zimbabwe, Zambia and Kenya.

This, she noted, contributes to tourism and destination marketing for Botswana.

"So yes, the jobs may be temporary, but the impact is lasting," she said. "It is economic. It is social. And it is deeply human."

Local Electricity Output Falls Sharply

Operational setbacks at Morupule plants weigh on supply as imports also decline

01201234567894:962

The physical volume of locally generated electricity fell by 11.6 percent (98,332 MWh), from 849,846 MWh in the fourth quarter of 2024 to 751,514 MWh in the fourth quarter of 2025, according to a recent report by Statistics Botswana.

"This decline was primarily attributed to operational challenges at Morupule A and B," states the report titled Electricity Generation and Distribution Stats Brief, Fourth Quarter 2025.

Despite the annual drop, output rose on a quarter-on-quarter basis. Local electricity generation increased by 23.9 percent (145,003 MWh), from 606,511 MWh in the third quarter of 2025 to 751,514 MWh in the period under review.

> "This decline was primarily attributed to operational challenges at Morupule A and B."

ENERGY MIX

The report shows that Morupule A and B power stations accounted for 95.3 percent (716,520 MWh) of total electricity generation in the fourth quarter of 2025, underscoring their central role in Botswana's energy supply.

Emergency diesel plants in Orapa and Matshelagabedi contributed 0.1 percent (1,005 MWh), while solar power stations supplied 4.5 percent (3,989 MWh). The integration of solar plants in Bobonong, Phakalane, Shakawe and Mmadinare reflects efforts to diversify energy sources and expand renewable capacity.

The physical volume of imported electricity decreased by 12.1 percent (43,053 MWh), from 356,682 MWh in the fourth quarter of 2024 to 313,630 MWh in the same quarter of 2025.

On a quarter-on-quarter basis, imports declined by 39.8 percent (207,374 MWh), falling from 521,003 MWh in the third quarter of 2025 to 313,630 MWh.

"Eskom was the principal source of imported electricity, accounting for 59.7 percent (187,342 MWh) of total imports," the report states. "The Zambia Electricity Supply Corporation (ZESCO) contributed 22.4 percent (70,294 MWh), while Nampower and cross-border electricity markets supplied 5.7 percent (17,849 MWh) and 8.5 percent (26,687 MWh) respectively."

The Southern African Power Pool accounted for 3.7 percent (11,457 MWh) of imports.

The report explains that cross-border electricity markets refer to arrangements in which towns and villages along national borders receive electricity directly from neighboring countries such as Namibia and Zambia.

The data highlights Botswana's continued reliance on regional electricity suppliers to supplement domestic production, alongside ongoing efforts to strengthen national generation capacity and diversify energy sources.

Access Bank Signals Measured Optimism

Despite macroeconomic strain, lender highlights steady growth, digital push and SME focus



GAZETTE REPORTER

Access Bank Botswana says it remains cautiously optimistic about the country's economic outlook, even as macroeconomic pressures deepen.

In a joint statement accompanying the bank's unaudited financial results for the year ended December 31, 2025, Chairman Boiki Tema and Managing Director Sheperd Aisam said the institution's strategic priorities remain intact.

"Notwithstanding the current trials faced in the country with deepening macroeconomic challenges, the Access Bank continues to look positively at the country's prospects," the two said, pointing to loyalty to customers, customer centricity, support for small, medium and micro enterprises, and economic growth as unchanged pillars.

STRATEGIC FOCUS

The bank said it is guided not only by commercial considerations but also by its role in supporting customers and stakeholders.

"To this end, the Bank remains driven not just on commercial considerations, but critically on aiding customers and stakeholders on their strategic journeys," they said.

During the year, the lender introduced an enhanced digital platform, Primus+, targeting corporate, commercial and business banking clients. The platform is expected to improve efficiency and expand functionality for users. The retail segment is also set for upgraded digital offerings.

Management said it remains focused on improving operational efficiency and accelerating digital innovation to enhance customer experience.

FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE

The bank reported continued consistency in performance, building on prior results while strengthening its foundation for future growth.

Top-line revenue growth was supported by a 12 percent increase in non-interest income, alongside a 117 percent rise in trading revenue. The bank attributed this to higher transaction volumes and expanded product offerings.

Investments in technology were cited as a key factor in improving operational stability and enhancing services.

Net interest income rose by 6 percent, driven by portfolio and liquidity management. However, gains were partially offset by elevated funding costs in a tightening liquidity environment.

"Overall net interest income was subdued by elevated funding costs, reflecting constrained margins in a market characterized by tightening liquidity," the statement said.

REVENUE GROWTH

Non-interest revenue increased by 26 percent year-on-year, largely due to growth in digital banking activity. Trading income also recorded a 117 percent increase, supported by higher volumes.

These gains, the bank said, strengthened its value proposition to customers and reinforced its position within a changing financial landscape.

COST PRESSURES

The bank recorded a net impairment charge of P73 million, reflecting broader economic challenges.

Operating expenses rose by 4 percent, driven mainly by increased investment in human capital. The bank said it maintained cost efficiency measures in other areas while continuing to benefit from synergies as part of a larger banking group.

Despite cost pressures, management said the institution remains positioned for sustainable growth.

OUTLOOK AHEAD

Looking forward, the bank said disciplined balance sheet management and strategic funding initiatives will be central to maintaining momentum.

"With a strengthened foundation and enhanced offerings, the bank is well positioned to deliver sustainable growth," the two said.

Governance Summit Targets Strategic Impact

Event aims to strengthen boards, boost trust

TLOTLO KEBINAKGABO

As organizations navigate increasingly complex business environments, the upcoming 4th Corporate Governance Summit 2026 is positioning itself as a platform to reinforce leadership frameworks and drive sustainable growth. Hosted by Exclusive Human Capital Consultancy (EHCC), the summit will be held on May 21 to 22 at Phakalane Golf Estate in Gaborone and is expected to convene board members, executives and governance experts to align on best practices and emerging risks.

CORE OBJECTIVES

According to Joe Ndadi , Executive Chairperson of EHCC, the summit's primary aim is to strengthen corporate governance by promoting accountability, transparency and ethical decision-making.

"The primary objective of hosting a corporate governance summit is to reinforce organization's leadership framework by promoting accountability, transparency, and ethical decision-making to drive long-term sustainability and stakeholder value," Ndadi said in a interview.

He added that the gathering will serve as "a strategic platform for boards, executives, and experts to align on best practices, navigate regulatory changes, and mitigate risks."

The expected outcomes include improved board effectiveness, stronger decision-making processes and enhanced accountability. Organizations are also expected to gain tools to better manage risks, including regulatory compliance, cybersecurity and environmental, social and governance considerations.

KEY ISSUES

This year's discussions will center on boardroom performance, regulatory compliance and sustainability, alongside ethical leadership and shareholder relations.

Emerging governance trends are also expected to feature prominently. These include heightened scrutiny on conflict of interest management, growing emphasis on digitization and cybersecurity, and increasing regulatory pressure linked to legislation such as the Companies Act and Financial Intelligence Act.

There is also a shift toward improving board diversity and effectiveness, with organizations encouraged to adopt more structured evaluation processes and independent oversight.

> "The summit will offer local businesses and stakeholders practical tools to enhance sustainability, trust, and profitability."

Ndadi noted that governance frameworks are evolving, with a transition from King III to newer models. "While the process was ongoing, the King V Code on Corporate Governance contains 13 principles, focusing on simplified, ethical, and effective governance," he said.

EXPECTED IMPACT

The summit aims to deliver practical benefits for businesses by translating governance principles into actionable strategies.

"The summit will offer local businesses and stakeholders practical tools to enhance sustainability, trust, and profitability, moving beyond theory into actionable improvements in efficiency, risk management, and capital access," Ndadi said.

Improved governance standards are expected to strengthen stakeholder confidence and enhance organizations' ability to attract investment and compete in both local and international markets.

WHAT'S DIFFERENT

This year's edition marks a shift from regulatory awareness to strategic execution, reflecting evolving governance challenges.

Ndadi pointed to declining independent director appointments and reduced diversity in boards as key concerns shaping this year's agenda.

"The 2026 Corporate Governance Summit is markedly different from previous years by shifting away from solely managing new regulations towards strategic execution," he said.

The summit will also feature international perspectives, including discussions on ethical leadership and governance integration, as well as a masterclass on transitioning from King IV to King V governance codes.

Bomaid Expands Engagement Drive

Stakeholders gather in Francistown as Bomaid continues nationwide discussions on healthcare access and service delivery





Following engagements in Palapye, Bomaid has continued its nationwide customer and provider programme in Francistown, bringing together customers, healthcare providers, and stakeholders for discussions on healthcare access and service delivery.

STRUCTURED STAKEHOLDER DIALOGUE

The sessions are hosted by Regional Manager – North, Tarisai Nikki Chigodora, alongside executives including Chief Executive Officer Moraki Mokgosana, Chief Customer Experience Officer Sego Macheng, and Chief Clinical Services Officer Dr Malebogo Kebabonye. Newly appointed Medical Advisor Dr Masego Gilbert also participated.

The meetings focus on gathering feedback, identifying challenges, and sharing updates on benefits and services. "Through these engagements, we are not only listening to our customers and providers but working alongside them to shape a healthcare experience that is responsive, accessible, and grounded in real needs," said Corporate Communications Manager Tshepo Happy Maphanyane.

DIGITAL HEALTH INITIATIVES

Among the topics discussed was the rollout of the Thrive with Bomaid App, which offers wellness tools and personalised health insights. Telehealth services and self-service platforms were also highlighted as part of efforts to improve access to care.

MEDIA AND WELLNESS ENGAGEMENT

Media representatives in Francistown were invited to participate in the sessions and related initiatives, including the Bomaid Media Health Challenge, which encourages wellness among journalists.

ONGOING INFORMATION PLATFORMS

The in-person engagements are supported by ongoing initiatives such as the First Things First radio segment on RB2 and weekly educational webinars, which provide information on health and medical aid.

Article edited for length

> "Through these engagements, we are not only listening to our customers and providers but working alongside them to shape a healthcare experience that is responsive, accessible, and grounded in real needs.

BIC Reopens Maun Branch

Botswana Insurance Company reopens its Maun branch, aiming to improve access and service delivery in the region





Botswana Insurance Company (BIC) has reopened its Maun branch at Newtown/New Mall, as part of efforts to expand access to insurance services and strengthen its presence in the region.

EXPANDING REGIONAL ACCESS

The reopening forms part of the company's broader strategy to bring services closer to customers and improve accessibility and engagement in key economic centres.

Speaking at the event, Group CEO Newton Jazire said proximity remains central to service delivery. "Being present in Maun means being closer to the people and businesses that drive this region's economy. It means providing faster support, better advice and stronger partnerships with tourism operators, entrepreneurs, farmers and families who are building their futures here," he said.

COMPANY BACKGROUND AND POSITION

Established in 1975, BIC is Botswana's first national insurer and has played a role in providing financial protection across sectors. The company holds a Baa2 investment rating from Moody's and continues to invest in operational improvements.



Speaking at the event, Group CEO Newton Jazire said proximity remains central to service delivery. "Being present in Maun means being closer to the people and businesses that drive this region's economy.

SERVICES AND OFFERINGS

The Maun branch will offer a range of short-term insurance products, including personal, commercial, and specialised cover. These include motor, household, business, and agricultural insurance solutions.

FOCUS ON CUSTOMER EXPERIENCE

The reopening also reflects a focus on improving customer experience through innovation and digital transformation.

Jazire noted that insurance remains widely misunderstood. "Insurance is often misunderstood. Many see it as a grudge purchase, a regulatory requirement, or simply paperwork, but in reality, insurance is an essential part of economic stability. It allows a small business to recover from an unexpected loss. It is what protects the vehicles, homes, and livelihoods of hardworking Batswana," he said.

Article edited for length

The Advertising Paradox: Why the More You Shout, the Less We Believe



MANUEL VEIRUAPI RUHAPO, FOUNDER, BLACMARC GROUP

You have a great product and you want the world to know about it. So you do what every business textbook tells you to do: you launch a campaign. You buy billboards along the A1, run full-page ads in The Botswana Gazette, flood social media with sponsored posts, and secure a primetime slot on BTV. You are shouting your message from the rooftops.

But the louder you shout, the more skeptical people become.

This is the **Advertising Paradox**: the more a brand spends on advertising, the more customers suspect that its product cannot sell itself. In a world saturated with marketing messages, the most powerful and trusted form of advertising is the one you cannot buy: a genuine recommendation from a friend.

WHY WE STOP BELIEVING

We are bombarded with thousands of marketing messages every day. To survive, our brains have developed a sophisticated filtering system. We know that advertising is, by its nature, a biased and self-interested message. The advertiser has paid for the right to tell us how great they are. That motive alone makes us skeptical.

In contrast, when a friend recommends a product, we perceive the message as authentic. They have nothing to gain. Their only motive is to help us. This is why word-of-mouth is the most powerful marketing force available. It bypasses the skepticism filter entirely.

Heavy advertising can even work against a brand. It can suggest that the product is struggling to sell on its own merits and that the company is trying to buy growth. It says "we have a large marketing budget," not "we have a great product." Those are very different signals.

WHAT THIS LOOKS LIKE IN BOTSWANA

A new restaurant opens in Gaborone and spends heavily on radio ads, newspaper inserts, and influencer campaigns. The ads are everywhere. But when you ask your friends if they have been, nobody has. Or worse, they went once and it was "just okay." The advertising created awareness but not desire. The brand feels manufactured.

Compare that to the small, hidden-gem restaurant with a line out the door every night, not because of any campaign, but because the food is exceptional and everyone who goes tells their friends. One brand is buying attention. The other is earning advocacy. Only one of those is sustainable.

Consider also the insurance company that runs a beautiful television campaign about being there for you in times of need. Then a friend tells you about the endless paperwork, the unreturned calls, and the frustrating delays when they made a claim. That single story from a trusted source destroys the credibility of the entire multi-million Pula campaign. The brand's actions speak louder than its ads.

And think of the most trusted mechanic in your neighbourhood. They probably have no website and have never run an advertisement. Their entire business is built on a reputation for honesty and quality work. Every satisfied customer who tells a friend "go see my guy, he's the best" is a more powerful advertisement than any billboard. That is a brand built on trust, not on budget.

> Challenge your team to build a business that could survive and thrive with a zero advertising budget. This forces a focus on the fundamentals: a great product, exceptional service, and a customer experience that generates genuine word-of-mouth.

THE LESSON FOR BOTSWANA'S MARKET

In Botswana, where community bonds are strong and social trust runs deep, the Advertising Paradox is especially pronounced. The concept of Ubuntu, the philosophy of interconnectedness and mutual respect, shapes how consumers evaluate brands. A brand's reputation here is built not just on product quality but on its perceived contribution to the community and its adherence to honest dealing. Advertising

To Page 20



From Page 19

that feels exploitative or that overpromises and underdelivers violates that communal trust in a way that is very difficult to recover from.

This does not mean advertising is useless. It means advertising is only as powerful as the truth behind it. A campaign can amplify a genuine reputation. It cannot manufacture one.

WHAT IT MEANS TO YOU

For consumers: Be skeptical of any message that someone has paid to put in front of you. Ask who is paying and what they want you to believe. Trust the people in your life over the promises on a billboard.

For marketing professionals: Your primary goal is not to create great ads. It is to create a product and an experience that people want to talk about. Shift your focus from buying attention to earning advocacy. Invest in customer service, product quality, and remarkable experiences. A happy customer is your most effective media channel.

For executives: Challenge your team to build a business that could survive and thrive with a zero advertising budget. This forces a focus on the fundamentals: a great product, exceptional service, and a customer experience that generates genuine word-of-mouth. Advertising should be a megaphone for a truth that already exists, not a machine for manufacturing a fiction. The brands that Batswana trust most are rarely the ones that shout the loudest. They are the ones that have earned the right to be recommended.



Kills million-pula campaign

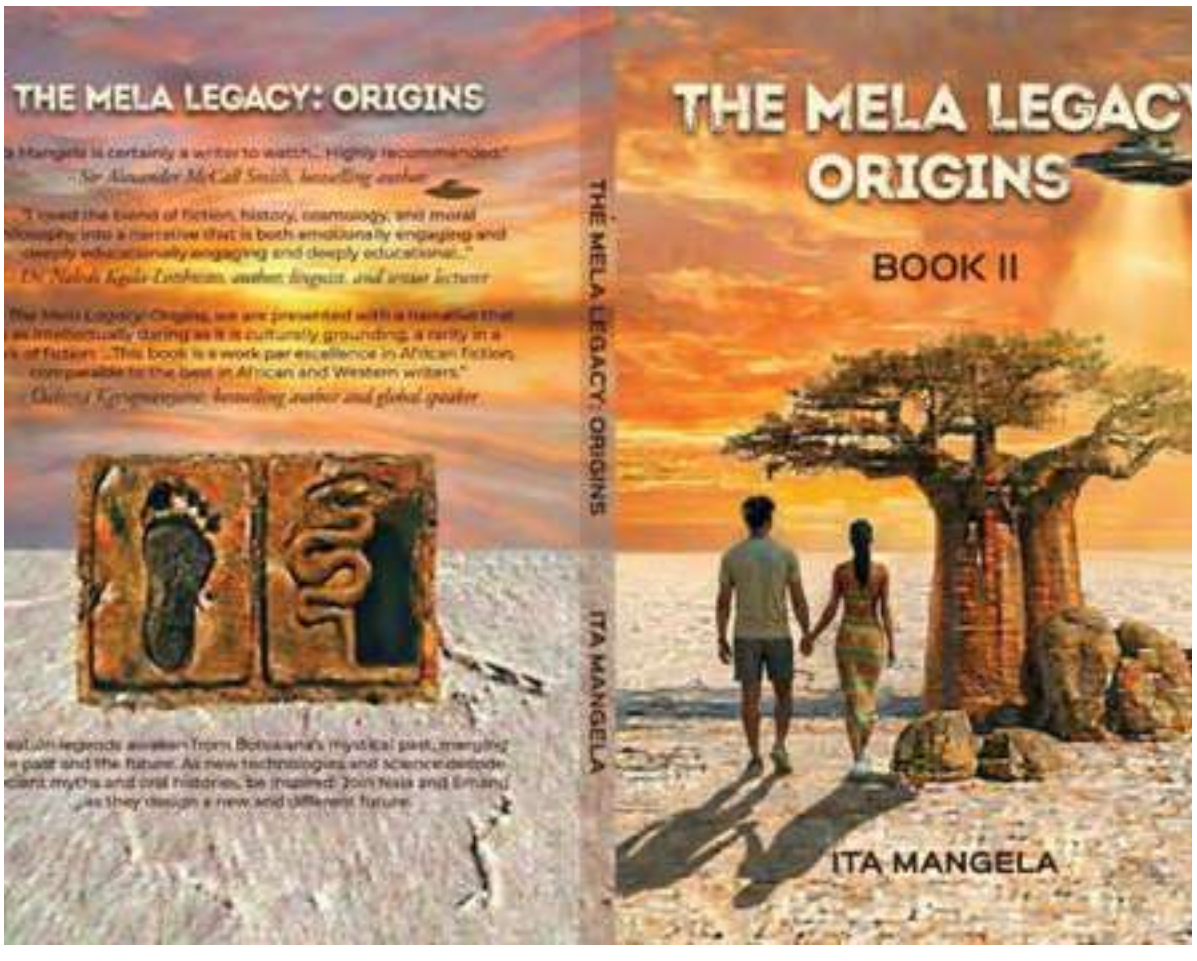


The Brand Paradox is a weekly column by Manuel Veiruapi Ruhapo that explores the counterintuitive truths behind building great brands in Botswana and beyond. Manuel Ruhapo is the founder of Blacmarc Group, a brand strategy consultancy Agencies that helps businesses solve their most complex brand challenges.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

PRESS RELEASE

Mela Legacy Book Two Launch

Ita Mangela's latest instalment in The Mela Legacy series explores identity, spirituality, and memory through a fusion of tradition and imagination



In Book 2 titled Origins, Ita Mangela a Motswana author weaves a tapestry of Botswana's cultural essence, blending heritage, spirituality, and futuristic imagination."

Inspired by her father's reverence for ancestral wisdom, Mangela invites readers to "travel" back to the genesis of identity, exploring a time before written records and Western interpretations, when oral histories carried the soul of a people.

Through the eyes of Nala, the series' perceptive narrator, the narrative pulses with emotional depth and vulnerability.

A JOURNEY OF COURAGE

Nala's journey is one of courage, where embracing one's own fragility becomes a superpower, inspiring openness and inner strength in others.

She navigates challenges with poise, showing that peace emerges not from avoidance but from confronting life's storms with clarity and compassion.

SPIRITUALITY MEETS INNOVATION

The book's brilliance lies in its seamless blending of African spirituality, science, and technology. Mangela honors concepts such as Modimo and badimo, anchoring her story in cultural authenticity, while letting imagination soar through futuristic visions and technological threads.

These elements coexist, reinforcing one another and illuminating the resilience and creativity of Botswana's people.

MEMORY AND RECLAMATION

More than entertainment, Origins is a meditation on memory, identity, and the imperative to reclaim lost knowledge. Mangela does not presume to educate; she reminds, provokes, and inspires.

Each page urges readers to reconnect with their roots, embrace ancestral wisdom, and find strength in the stories that have shaped a nation.

EXPANDING THE MELA UNIVERSE

As the Mela universe expands, the next instalment, Okavango, promises to delve deeper into myths, hidden histories, and ancestral mysteries, while exploring identity, unconscious bias, and the reflection of self in the world around us.

Origins is a luminous bridge between past and future, a celebration of heritage, and a call to rediscover the soul of Botswana.

Origins Book Launch Details:

Date: 9 May 2026 (Growth Well Podcast)

Time: 15:00 – 18:00

Location: Aga Motse Center (Partial, Gaborone)

Stagflation Risk Deepens

Botswana is edging into a dangerous economic phase where falling growth collides with rising costs, a combination that history shows is difficult to reverse and often socially destabilising, raising urgent questions about policy direction and structural reform.



DOUGLAS RASBASH

Stagflation is a term coined in the 1970s that encapsulates, economic stagnation with increases in prices. It was started by war in the Middle East which sounds rather familiar. It caused oil prices to soar, which pushed up inflation, recession and increased unemployment.

A**ustralia experien**ced stagflation in the 1970s, with inflation peaking above 17%, unemployment rising from ~2% to over 5%, and GDP growth slowing to near 0–1%. Driven by oil shocks and wage pressures, it strained policy responses and forced a shift toward tighter monetary policy and economic reform.

RECESSION DEEPENS

The probability of stagflation in Botswana is now very high. Botswana is no longer facing a temporary economic slowdown. The evidence now points to a deepening recession accompanied by rising and potentially persistent inflation and significant unemployment. This combination is not only concerning, it is structurally difficult to reverse, particularly given the country's narrow export base and high dependence on imports. The recession is already underway. The sharp contraction in GDP in late 2025 reflects more than cyclical weakness; it signals a loss of momentum in the economy's primary growth engine. With diamond production and exports under pressure, there is limited capacity for a rapid rebound. As this shock transmits through construction, trade, and services, the downturn is likely to broaden and persist into 2026. The probability of a prolonged recession, lasting multiple quarters, potentially extending over two years, is now high. At the same time, inflation is moving in the opposite direction. Rising fuel prices, exchange rate pressures, and increasing administered costs are pushing prices upward across the economy. These are structural, cost-driven forces, not temporary demand spikes. As a result, inflation is likely to increase even as economic activity weakens, eroding real incomes and tighte**ning financi**al conditions. This divergence, falling output and rising prices, places Botswana firmly into a stagflationary space as shown in the figure. The top line depicts rising then falling inflation, the bottom curve represents falling then rising growth. The stagflationary space is shaded red.



POLICY TRAP

Stagflation is a condition that constrains policy options and amplifies economic stress. Efforts to stimulate growth risk fuelling inflation further, while attempts to control inflation risk deepening the recession. The structural features of the economy intensify this risk. Botswana remains import-dependent, meaning that currency depreciation feeds directly into domestic prices. At the same time, the economy is not sufficiently diversified to offset the decline in mining with growth in other sectors. This creates a reinforcing loop: weaker exports reduce foreign exchange earnings, which pressures the currency, which raises import costs, which increases inflation. In such an environment, recovery is rarely quick. Stagflation tends to be prolonged, with slow and uneven growth accompanied by persistently elevated inflation. Without decisive structural reform and investment in new growth sectors, Botswana risks entering a peri**od of low gro**wth, high costs, and rising fiscal pressure lasting several years. The warning is therefore clear and grounded in emerging evidence: Botswana is not only entering recession, it is doing so alongside rising inflation, with a high likelihood that both will persist longer than anticipated.

> "Botswana is not only entering recession, it is doing so alongside rising inflation."

SOCIAL RISKS

Government should also be aware that periods of stagflation are historically socially unstable. Stagflation has repeatedly proven to be more than an economic anomaly, it is a deeply destabilising social force. The experience of the 1970s in the United Kingdom remains one of the clearest illustrations. As inflation surged above 20% and growth stagnated, real incomes collapsed. The result was the "Winter of Discontent," marked by widespread strikes, failing public services, and a palpable sense that the state

To Page 22

From Page 21

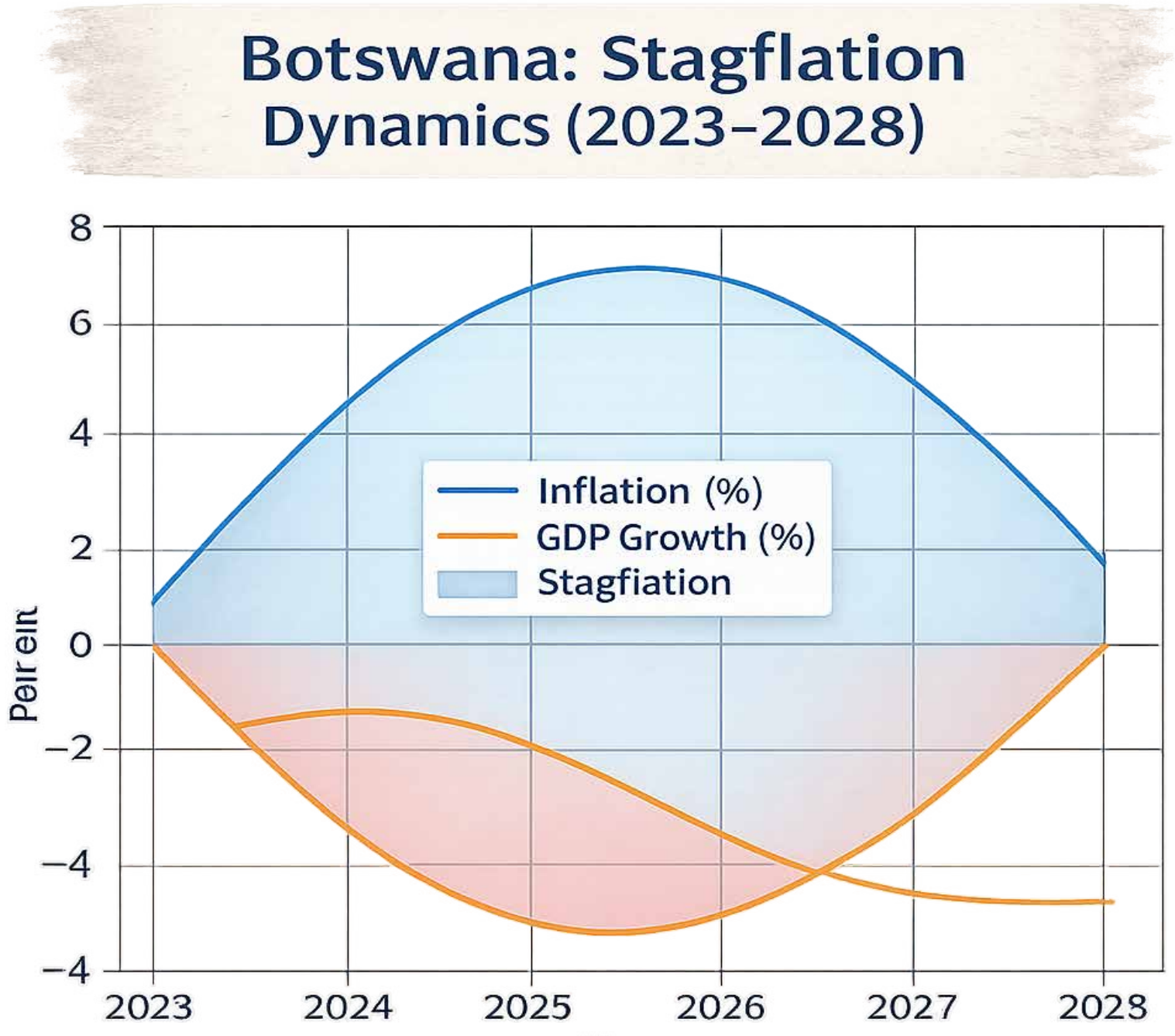
had lost control. Social cohesion frayed, and frustration translated directly into political upheaval. A similar pattern unfolded in the United States. Following the oil shocks, high inflation combined with stagnant wages eroded the middle class. Fuel shortages became symbolic of a system under strain, with long queues and visible scarcity. Urban centres experienced rising crime and decay, while trust in government declined sharply. The economic malaise fed a broader sense of national pessimism and disillusionment. In Argentina,

> Stagflation is structurally difficult to reverse in an import-dependent economy.

the consequences were even more severe. Persistent inflation and stagnation evolved into full-blown crisis. Real incomes collapsed, poverty surged, and food riots became common. The social contract effectively broke down, contributing to cycles of political instability and authoritarian intervention. In South Africa, stagflation interacted with structural inequality. Economic stagnation and rising unemployment intensified existing grievances under apartheid. Labour unrest, protests, and youth mobilisation increased, reinforcing a broader movement of resistance and accelerating political change. Finally, Egypt's 1977 bread riots demonstrate how quickly stagflation can ignite unrest when basic necessities are affected. Inflation, coupled with subsidy cuts, triggered mass **protests t**hat forced an immediate policy reversal. Across these cases, the pattern is unmistakable: stagflation erodes living standards, undermines trust, and exposes inequality. When prolonged, it does not simply weaken economies, it unsettles societies, often with lasting political consequences.

WAY FORWARD

Reversing the Trajectory: Policy and Investment Priorities The pathway out of stagflation is narrow but navigable, but without reform, Botswana risks a prolonged period of low growth and high inflation. The key is to break the reinforcing loop between weak growth and rising costs, while simultaneously creating new sources of productivity and foreign exchange. The first priority is restoring fiscal credibility while protecting investment. This means containing recurrent expenditure, but ring-fencing capital spending in high-impact sectors. Increasing the debt ceiling to 60% of GDP may be necessary, but it must be accompanied by a clear medium-term fiscal consolidation framework to maintain investor confidence. Second, Botswana must urgently unlock external capital. The failure to activate large-scale investment partnerships has become a binding constraint. Priority projects in agro-processing, green energy, logistics and water must be restructured into bankable formats. Without foreign inflows, the economy will remain constrained by domestic liquidity and crowding-out effects. Third, the country must accelerate energy transition and cost reduction. Imported fuel is a major driver of inflation. Investment benefits from a stake in the Lobito Oil refinery will not materialise until 2033 and are more likely to negatively impact stagflation. On the other hand rapidly expanding solar generation, supporting eMobility, and reducing dependence on imported energy can structurally lower the cost base of the economy. This is one of the few areas where Botswana can directly attack inflation at source. Fourth, there must be a decisive shift toward export diversification and commercialisation of government services, not mega infrastructure projects, being hooked in massively expensive enablers like the oil refinery will dig us deeper into the stagflationary hole. Without new foreign exchange earnings, currency pressure and imported inflation will persist. Finally, Botswana must rebuild institutional capacity in economic management, particularly in areas such as demand modelling, investment structuring, and sector strategy. Just as history has shown that stagflation is economically and socially destabilising, it has also been a revolutionary force for change. Stagflation maybe the bitter pill that Botswana needs to swallow for it to fully reform and really start its second republic.





Refinery or Reinvention?

A pivotal moment in defining the future of transport energy

Botswana stands at a fork in the road. One path commits $2 billion of scarce public capital to a stake in an Angolan oil refinery — a low-return, high-risk bet on the fossil-fuel infrastructure of the past. The other invests in eMobility and energy transformation, directly cutting the 7% of GDP that bleeds out of the economy every year in fuel imports.



DOUGLAS RASBASH

A FLAWED CASE

What kind of car do you envisage driving in 2035 — petrol or electric? It sounds like a casual question, but it is anything but. Embedded in that choice is the answer to one of the most consequential economic decisions Botswana now faces: whether to invest $2 billion in a 30% stake in the Lobito Oil Refinery, or to invest in eliminating the need for fuel altogether. This is not simply an energy decision. It is a macroeconomic, fiscal, and strategic turning point that will shape Botswana’s growth path and sovereign credit standing for decades to come.

The case for the refinery is, at first glance, compelling. Botswana imports all of its fuel, and this dependence represents an economic leakage equivalent to roughly 7% of GDP. Every year, vast sums of foreign exchange leave the country to pay for energy. Against this backdrop, the refinery proposal appears strategic — shifting Botswana from being a pure price taker to a partial price maker. But this logic does not withstand scrutiny. Ownership does not eliminate exposure; it merely repackages it in a more capital-intensive form. Botswana would still be subject to global crude oil price movements, USD-denominated input costs, and external logistics risks. It is not energy independence. It is equity exposure to the same risks the country already faces — but now with $2 billion at stake.

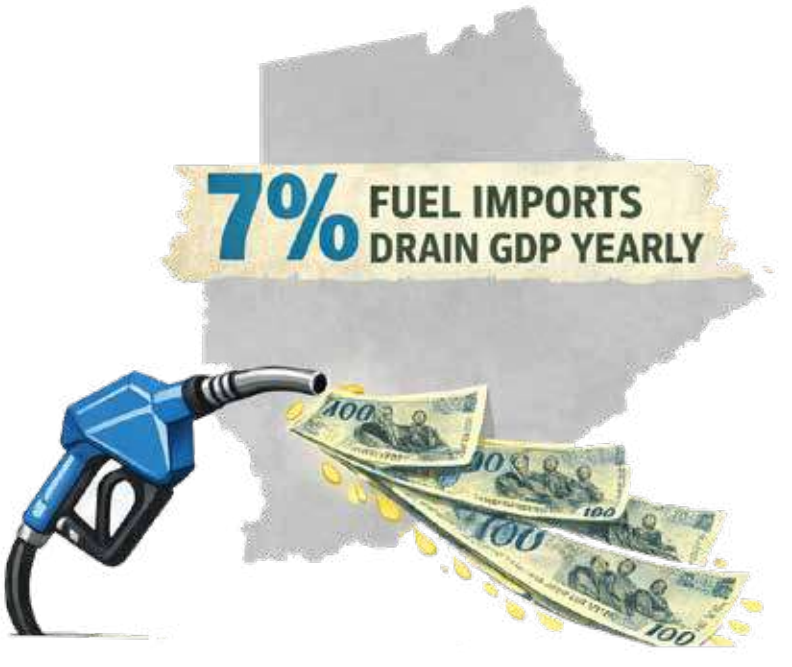
“The refinery does not create energy independence. It creates equity exposure to the same risks the country already faces — but now with $2 billion at stake.”

WEAK RETURNS

The numbers are sobering. A capital investment of approximately $2 billion is expected to generate annual returns in the range of $80 to $140 million, based on a normal refining net margin of $5 per barrel. This translates into an internal rate of return of around 3 to 5%, with a negative net present value under any realistic discount rate. If the internal rate of return on a project is less than the opportunity cost of capital typically 8 to 10% then it should not be done. For a sovereign whose cost of capital exceeds this threshold, the implication is unavoidable: Botswana would be borrowing at higher rates to invest in a project yielding less. That is not investment. It is value erosion.

To Page 24





From Page 23



The timing compounds the weakness. Capital would be deployed between 2027 and 2032, while revenue flows would only begin around 2033 to 2035 — a near-decade gap between expenditure and income. In energy markets, a decade is transformative. By the time the refinery is operational, global energy systems will have moved further toward electrification. Botswana risks committing capital to infrastructure that is already approaching structural decline. There is also a supply mismatch: the refinery's 200,000-barrel-per-day output means Botswana's 30% share would yield 60,000 barrels per day, more than double the country's domestic requirement of 25,000 barrels. The question must be asked: why invest far more than we need?

SOVEREIGN RISK

Botswana currently holds a BBB– credit rating — the lowest rung of investment grade. This is not a comfortable position; it is a threshold. The refinery investment introduces precisely the types of risks that can push a country beyond that threshold: large-scale external exposure in US dollars, weak and delayed financial returns, and increased reliance on borrowing or reserves, thereby reducing fiscal flexibility. To a ratings agency, this signals deterioration in debt sustainability and increased vulnerability to shocks. The consequence is predictable: a downgrade to junk status. Once that happens, borrowing costs rise, investor confidence weakens, the currency comes under pressure, and capital inflows slow.

There is also a dangerous currency trap. The stability of the pula depends on strong export earnings, controlled import demand, and adequate foreign exchange reserves. The refinery weakens all three. It requires significant USD outflows upfront, does not materially reduce dependence on imported crude, and may necessitate additional external borrowing. The profound irony is this: a weaker pula makes fuel more expensive domestically, even if Botswana owns part of a refinery abroad. In attempting to secure fuel, the country may inadvertently increase its domestic cost. This is not energy security. It is exposure layered upon exposure.

"A weaker pula makes fuel more expensive domestically, even if Botswana owns part of a refinery abroad. In attempting to secure fuel, the country may inadvertently increase its domestic cost."

NO JOBS CREATED

Equally concerning is what the refinery does not deliver. Located in Angola, highly capital-intensive, and operating with significant automation, it creates minimal employment for Batswana. It does not build domestic industrial capability, stimulate small and medium enterprises, or foster new sectors. At a time when youth unemployment is one of Botswana's most pressing challenges, this absence of domestic impact is critical. The investment represents capital leaving the country rather than circulating within it. In short, it achieves none of our NDP or BETP objectives.

THE REAL ALTERNATIVE

The true cost of the refinery is not the $2 billion itself — it is what Botswana forgoes by allocating capital this way. Because there is an alternative, and it is not theoretical. It is immediate, practical, and economically superior: eMobility. This is often framed as an environmental policy, and decision-makers in Botswana probably still see the issue in those terms. That is a profound misunderstanding. eMobility is, in reality, one of the most powerful macroeconomic tools available to the country. By the time the Lobito Refinery opens for business, 65% of new vehicles sold globally will be electric.

Where the refinery seeks to manage Botswana's fuel import bill, eMobility directly reduces it. Even a partial transition to electric vehicles would significantly cut fuel imports, saving hundreds of millions of dollars in foreign exchange each year and strengthening the current account. The refinery treats the symptom. eMobility addresses the cause.

"eMobility is not an environmental policy. It is one of the most powerful macroeconomic tools available to Botswana — and the country is in danger of missing it entirely."

HOUSEHOLD IMPACT

At the household level, the impact is immediate and transformative. Electric vehicles offer dramatically lower energy costs — typically 60 to 70% less per kilometre — alongside reduced maintenance requirements. The result is savings of approximately P15,000 per vehicle per year. Across the economy, this translates into increased disposable income, higher consumption, and improved living standards: economic stimulus without fiscal expenditure.

Beyond households, eMobility directly counters the threat of stagflation that the oil refinery investment exposes Botswana to. Fuel costs are embedded in transport, logistics, and ultimately the price of goods. By lowering transport costs and reducing reliance on imported fuel, eMobility exerts downward pressure on inflation while simultaneously boosting real incomes and economic activity. Few policy interventions offer this dual benefit. Electric vehicles also convert over 80% of energy into motion, compared to the majority wasted as heat and noise in internal combustion engines. Less energy is required per kilometre, reducing overall system costs and improving national productivity.

DOMESTIC GROWTH

Perhaps most importantly, eMobility drives domestic economic activity. It creates demand for charging infrastructure, stimulates investment in solar energy, supports maintenance and service industries, and opens pathways for local assembly and manufacturing. This is labour-intensive, scalable, and rooted within Botswana's economy. It is diversification in practice, not aspiration. Critically, it also strengthens Botswana's sovereign position: by reducing demand for imported fuel, it lowers the need for foreign exchange, improves the balance of payments, stabilises the currency, and enhances creditworthiness. Where the refinery introduces risk, eMobility systematically removes it.

"At BBB–, the margin for error is gone. This is not a time for defensive investments that lock the country into the past. It is a time for strategic clarity and economic courage."

AN URGENT CHOICE

One path commits billions of dollars to securing fuel supply through an external, low-return, high-risk investment that offers limited domestic benefit and exposes the economy to further vulnerability. The other invests in eliminating fuel dependence, strengthening the domestic economy, creating jobs, reducing costs, and positioning Botswana for a rapidly changing global energy landscape.

At BBB–, the margin for error is gone. This is not a time for defensive investments that lock the country into the past. It is a time for strategic clarity and economic courage. The strategic window is closing fast, and indecision itself has a cost.

So to return, finally, to the question: what will you be driving in 2035? Because if the answer is electric — as all evidence suggests it will be — then the conclusion is unambiguous. Botswana should not invest $2 billion in the Lobito Refinery. It should invest that capital in eMobility and energy transformation — decisively, immediately, and without compromise.

Douglas Rasbash writes on macroeconomics and energy policy.





Global shift to electric vehicles accelerating

The Botswana Gazette
TIME OUT
THE BOTSWANA GAZETTE
WEDNESDAY 15 APRIL 2026




Pic Credit (Bornaking photography) facebookpage

INSIDE RUTH THOMAS'S MISS WORLD BLUEPRINT

As the Miss World spotlight shifts to Vietnam this August, Miss World Botswana Ruth Thomas isn't just packing gowns, she's carrying faith, purpose, and a deeply personal philosophy that challenges what beauty really means

GOSEGO MOTSUMI

There's something quietly radical about Ruth Thomas. As the countdown to the 73rd Miss World Festival begins, with contestants landing in Vietnam from August 9 and the grand finale set for September 5 in Ho Chi Minh City, Botswana's representative isn't just rehearsing her walk. She's redefining the why behind it.

"This journey taught me that in a world that teaches young people that experience is the best teacher, there's definitely a greater teacher than that and it is the gift of revelation. The kind of knowledge and understanding that comes not because of familiarity but by the help of the Holy Spirit," she told Time Out, steady with conviction.

It's not the kind of quote you expect in a world of contour palettes and catwalk drills. But that's precisely her edge.

BEAUTY, REWRITTEN

In an era obsessed with optics, Thomas is playing a different game, one rooted in substance over spectacle. Her interpretation of "Beauty with a Purpose" resists performance. "It's not just a well-crafted concept," she explained. "It's about living out your values… being seen by the fruits you bear."

It's a philosophy that trades perfection for presence. Less pageant script, more personal truth.

THE INNER WORK

Behind the polished exterior is a ritual of grounding. While others may focus on physical perfection, Thomas is tuning inward—mentally, emotionally, spiritually. "There is a kind of peace, confidence and certainty that comes as a gift of God's work in us," she reflected.

Her preparation is less about becoming someone new and more about becoming fully herself.

STANDING APART BY STANDING STILL

In a competition teeming with brilliance, Thomas isn't scrambling to outshine, she's anchoring. "Before competition, I am an assigned ambassador… My focus is staying true to that responsibility."

It's a bold refusal to be swallowed by the noise of comparison. Instead, she leans into identity, rooted, unshaken.

> "The lesson I am taking with me is that hardships are the soil in which our faith flourishes."

THE QUIET BATTLEFIELD

But the journey hasn't been without friction. "There were moments I felt like I didn't belong," she admits. And yet, those very moments have become her foundation.

She said: "The lesson I am taking with me is that hardships are the soil in which our faith flourishes."

As the world turns its gaze to Vietnam, Ruth Thomas arrives not just as a contestant, but a story unfolding in real time. Not just beauty on display, but belief in motion.

STANBIC FEST, MORE THAN A VIBE

Behind the beats and bold fits lies a powerful truth: this festival isn't just a cultural flex it's a living, breathing economic engine fueling dreams, jobs, and lasting opportunity



GOSEGO MOTSUMI

At first glance, the Stanbic Bank Music n Lifestyle Festival looks like pure vibe—stacked lineup, statement fashion, curated cool. But look closer, and you'll see something deeper: a marketplace of ambition in motion.

This year, expect the same electric atmosphere Mas Musiq, Nia Pearl, Oskido, Charma Gal lighting up the stage but also an expanded ecosystem where culture meets commerce in real time.

Because here, every beat has a ripple effect.

FROM FIRST STALL TO FOREVER CLIENTS

For small businesses, this isn't just exposure, it's ignition.

"Through networks last year... future work established,"

Antonette Thabano of Jasonette Belgian Waffles remembers last year as a turning point:

"Stanbic made sure that we pushed our limits… the customers who are still our clients to this day after meeting at the event."

That's the thing about this festival it doesn't just create moments. It creates momentum.

Calvin Lebudi of Food Point echoes the same energy: "We sold out earlier than expected since it was our first event. And we gained customers who still support us to this day. And that was the biggest win. What really stood out was how much Stanbic values local businesses," he said.

"They didn't just give us a stall, they gave us a platform and made sure we were ready to succeed."



"They didn't just give us a stall, they gave us a platform and made sure we were ready to succeed."

THE BUSINESS OF A GOOD TIME

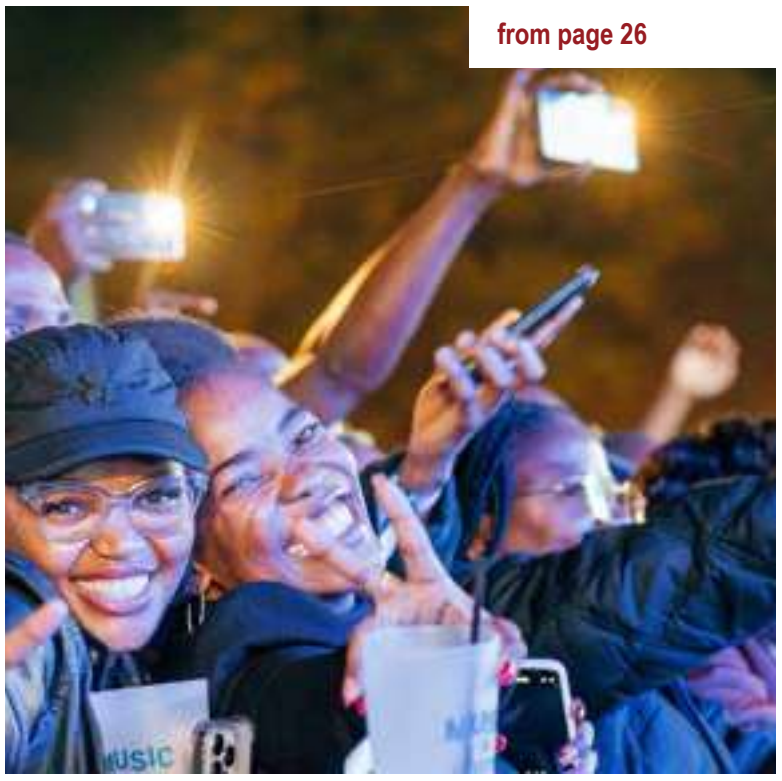
What to expect this year? Scale. Intention. Impact.

Behind the seamless entry, curated zones, and VIP luxury lies a workforce powering it all. Last year alone, the festival created jobs for over 500 people from 85 security guards to 450 technical crew, hostesses, drivers, and creatives.

"Now, that is the impact we are talking about… real people, real jobs, and real economic participa-

Continues to page 27





from page 26

tion," said Ratang Motladile, Communications and PR Manager at Stanbic Bank Botswana.

And 2026? It's going bigger. More staff, more vendors, more opportunity.

NETWORKS, NOT JUST NOISE

Beyond the music, something quieter but just as powerful happens: connection.

Business cards change hands. Collaborations are born.

"Through networks last year… future work established," Motladile added, pointing to the invisible threads that outlast the final song.

THE TAKEAWAY

So yes, expect the music. Expect the fashion. Expect the aesthetic. But more than anything, expect impact you can feel and count.

Because at Stanbic's festival, culture doesn't just show up. It works.



Here's What to Expect at Stanbic Fest





The Stanbic Bank Music n Lifestyle Festival isn't just an event, it's a full-bodied cultural moment where music, fashion, and identity collide, giving Botswana's urban pulse a stage bold enough to hold it

GOSEGO MOTSUMI

Some festivals entertain. Others define a moment. The Stanbic Bank Music n Lifestyle Festival is chasing the latter and this year, it just might catch it.

Set for April 25 at Royal Aria in Tlokweng, the experience promises more than just a stacked lineup. It's a curated deep dive into the now, how Botswana sounds, dresses, moves and dreams.

From the rhythmic pull of Mas Musiq and Nia Pearl to the timeless soul of Sipho "Hotstix" Mabuse and the homegrown fire of Charma Gal, Dato Seiko, Ezra Neethings and Ndingo Johwa, the stage is less a performance platform and more a cultural crossroads.



DRESS LIKE TOMORROW

The theme lands with intention: Where Urban Culture Lives. But it's the dress code that pushes it into statement territory.

> "We're inviting people to show up as their authentic self, bold, beautiful, and who they are becoming."

Afro-futurism meets street. Identity meets imagination.

"We're inviting people to show up as their authentic self, bold, beautiful, and who they are becoming," said Kesego Selepeng, Manager, Sponsorship and Events at Stanbic Bank Botswana.

A WORLD BUILT IN ZONES

This year is all about elevation. Not louder, smarter.

The festival unfolds in carefully crafted zones: a high-energy main stage, a lifestyle village blending food, fashion, and art (now expanded to 25 vendors), and an innovation lounge where tech and sustainability collide.

New to the mix? A wine lounge designed for a slower, more indulgent pace, because not every vibe needs to be loud to be memorable.

And then there's the tech: NFC wristbands, real-time engagement tracking, seamless movement. It's a festival that's thinking while it dances.

MORE THAN A MOMENT

Beyond the beats and bold fits lies a deeper intention.

"This festival is a platform," Selepeng explained. "It brings together music, art, fashion, and lifestyle in a way that feels honest."

It's also an ecosystem fueling small businesses, creating jobs, and opening doors for creators and entrepreneurs carving out space in Botswana's creative economy.

THE TAKEAWAY

Expect a crowd of 3,000 but more importantly, expect a shift.

Because this isn't just where culture shows up.

It's where it lives, evolves, and dares to imagine what's next.

When Creativity Meets Olympic Dreams



A milk carton, a little imagination and a lot of teamwork, Tsholofelo Primary just turned recycling into a golden ticket to meet Olympic champion Letsile Tebogo



GAZETTE REPORTER

In a city where hustle is second nature, a group of young minds just proved that brilliance can be built quite literally from a milk carton.

Tsholofelo Primary School in Broadhurst has emerged as the standout winner of Clover Botswana's Build a Cow 2026 campaign, a playful yet powerful competition that turned classrooms into creative labs. The brief? Design and construct a cow using Clover Ultra Milk packaging. The result? A masterpiece.

THE ART OF PLAY

What set Tsholofelo apart wasn't just effort, it was execution. Their cow, crafted with precision using Styrofoam and repurposed materials, wasn't just a school project; it was a statement. A quiet flex of creativity, teamwork, and environmental awareness wrapped into one striking build.

Across Gaborone, schools leaned into the challenge, blending sustainability with storytelling. But Tsholofelo's entry hit differently clean, detailed, unforgettable.

LESSONS BEYOND THE CLASSROOM

For Principal Thatayaone Ketshabe, the moment goes deeper than the win. "As educators, we consistently teach children about recycling, and this experience brought to life the importance of reuse and repurposing," she said.

This wasn't just arts and crafts it was education in motion. A hands on reminder that sustainability isn't a theory; it's a practice.

THE ULTIMATE REWARD

And then, the plot twist: 100 learners from the school will attend the Grand Prix athletics event at the National Stadium on April 26 where they'll meet none other than Olympic champion Letsile Tebogo.

Because sometimes, building a cow can lead you straight to greatness.

MORE THAN A BRAND MOMENT

"We are incredibly proud of the level of creativity, teamwork, and enthusiasm demonstrated by

all the participating schools," said Commercial Manager at Clover Botswana, David Masalela.

> Their cow, crafted with precision using Styrofoam and repurposed materials, wasn't just a school project; it was a statement.

"Tsholofelo Primary School truly stood out in their execution, and this initiative reflects our commitment to empowering young people while giving back to the communities that support us."

And maybe that's the real story here: when brands meet communities with intention, magic happens.





There's A New Bowling Alley In Town

There's a new bowling alley in town, but this one comes with gravity-defying jumps, ninja thrills, and a whole new social scene. Welcome to Africa Plays, where Gaborone finally learns how to play again



GOSEGO MOTSUMI

There's something cinematic about the sound of pins crashing and now, Gaborone has its own stage for that moment. Africa Plays, opening April 18, isn't just introducing ten-pin bowling; it's flipping the script on how the city unwinds.

Set between the old Orange building and KB Mall, a stone's throw from the bus rank in Gaborone this new hotspot arrives as Botswana's first mega indoor entertainment hub, a bold answer to the age-old question: "What are we doing this weekend?"

BUILT FOR JOY, DESIGNED FOR EVERYONE

The brainchild of co-founders Yogi and Radhika Bhanote, Africa Plays is deeply personal. What began as a search for something fun for their children evolved into an ambitious, all-in-one playground.

"I have three young children… it was very apparent that there's not much for children to do," Yogi told Time Out. "Our ethos… is somewhere under one roof… for babies, toddlers, teens, adults, and even up to 80 year olds."

And it shows. From the warm orange hues to the thoughtful textures, the space feels intentional soft, welcoming, alive.

He said: "This is somewhere that we really feel that anybody and everybody can come and play and have fun."

THE BOWLING EXPERIENCE

Let's talk action. The bowling lanes? Slick, immersive, and just competitive enough to spark friendly rivalries. The shoes fit, the lanes glow, and every strike feels cinematic.

Even if your aim is questionable, the vibe carries you.

DEFYING GRAVITY, ONE JUMP AT A TIME

Then comes the trampoline park pure, unfiltered joy. It's the kind of place where adults forget themselves mid-air and kids refuse to leave.

The bounce is springy, the space feels safe, and the laughter? Constant. Add in the ninja course, and suddenly you're climbing, balancing, and chasing adrenaline like it's second nature.

And yes, the socks-on rule? A small but thoughtful touch that makes the entire experience feel curated and clean.

> "This new hotspot arrives as a bold answer to the age old question: "What are we doing this weekend?"

MORE THAN A GAME

With a toddler zone, coffee shop, and a second floor already in the works, Africa Plays isn't just a venue it's a movement. A place for birthdays, casual hangs, and those spontaneous "let's do something different" nights.

Safe, vibrant, and buzzing with energy, it delivers exactly what Gaborone didn't know it needed: a place to reconnect through play.

Prices will be released before the official opening on 18 April, 2026.





Nightfall, But Make It Orchestral

A unique outdoor setting, a rising orchestra and a city leaning into culture, this is not your usual Friday night in Gaborone



GOSEGO MOTSUMI

There's something quietly rebellious about choosing violins over nightlife, swapping bass drops for bow strokes. On April 17, Gaborone does exactly that, trading the ordinary for an evening where culture breathes, quite literally, in open air at the Alliance Française de Gaborone.

As the sun dips and the city exhales, the Gaborone Community Orchestra steps into a different kind of spotlight, one that glows softer, lingers longer, and feels almost cinematic.

This is not just a concert. It's a mood.

CLASSICAL, BUT MAKE IT SOCIAL

Forget the stiff, silent concert halls. This is classical music with a pulse designed for both seasoned listeners and the casually curious. The orchestra's curated programme promises familiarity without predictability, elegance without exclusion.

"A unique open air concert, local talent, and culture for all, this is the Alliance Française de Gaborone in action," said Director, Anne-Charlotte Monneret.

And that's the real hook: accessibility. At P50 presale, the experience feels less like an indulgence and more like an invitation.

A CITY REIMAGINES ITS SOUNDTRACK

Gaborone's cultural scene has been steadily rewriting itself — louder, prouder, more experimental. But here, the shift is subtle. It's in the decision to gather, to listen, to sit under a shared sky and let music do what it has always done best: connect.

The dress code says "smart," but the vibe whispers something freer, a blend of sophistication and ease, where conversation hums between movements and the night feels curated but never forced.

THE ART OF SHOWING UP

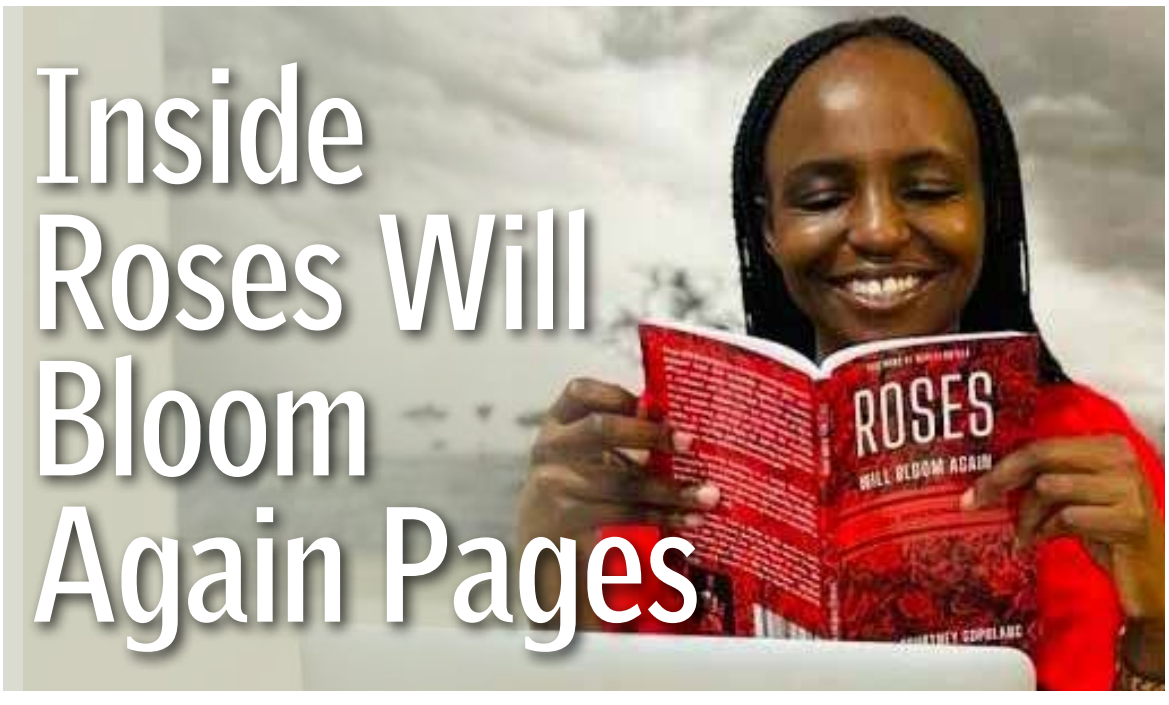
Seats are limited. Tickets are physical. Entry is intentional. In a world obsessed with digital ease, this event leans into something tactile — presence, planning, participation.

> "A unique open air concert, local talent, and culture for all, this is the Alliance Française de Gaborone in action."

This event is part of the Alliance Française de Gaborone's broader cultural programme, which aims to provide accessible, high-quality artistic events while strengthening cultural ties within Botswana.

Inside Roses Will Bloom Again Pages

A debut devotional journal turns everyday survival into sacred ritual, proving that even after life's harshest winters, something in you still dares to bloom



GAZETTE REPORTER

Some books whisper. Others hold your hand. And then there are the rare ones that feel like they've been quietly watching your life unfold. Roses Will Bloom Again, the debut 52-week devotional by Gothata Courtney Gopolang belongs firmly in the latter category.

This isn't just a read; it's a mirror, a morning ritual, a soft place to land.

BLOOMING THROUGH THE BREAKAGE

Across 175 pages, Gopolang doesn't pretend life is pretty. She leans into its fractures loss, uncertainty, quiet battles and reframes them as seasons rather than endings. "Roses will bloom again is a book that will inspire, motivate and give people hope in dealing with the various challenges of life," she said.

Each week unfolds like a gentle check-in with your soul, blending heartfelt reflections with spiritual grounding. It's the kind of book you don't rush you return to it, slowly, deliberately, like healing itself.

FAITH, BUT MAKE IT PERSONAL

For Gopolang, the book was born out of intimacy, not ambition. "I love reading devotional books in the morning for my time alone with God… so I decided I had to start writing something that resonated with me," she shared.

That authenticity bleeds through every page. There's no performance here just lived experience, shaped by nearly two decades as a social worker and the quiet resilience of single motherhood. Her words don't preach; they accompany.

"Just like roses; hope and beauty can bloom again."

SOUNDTRACKS OF HEALING

The title itself is steeped in emotion, drawn from the gospel song Roses Will Bloom Again by Jeff and Sherri Easter, a haunting meditation on grief, endurance, and divine hope. That influence lingers, giving the journal a rhythm that feels almost musical, as if each entry hums its own quiet prayer.

A LAUNCH WORTH SHOWING UP FOR

Set to officially launch on April 23, 2026, at the Stanbic Bank Incubator Hub, the book arrives not just as a publication, but as a moment, a gathering of stories, faith, and fresh beginnings.

We second Tax, Data Protection & HR professionals



REBAONE F. DITLALE- LEAD SKILLS CONSULTANT

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

ENTER SECONDMENTS

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

HOW WE ASSIST COMPANIES

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

WHY SECONDMENTS

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

A STEP-BY-STEP PROCESS

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

LET US DO THE HARD WORK

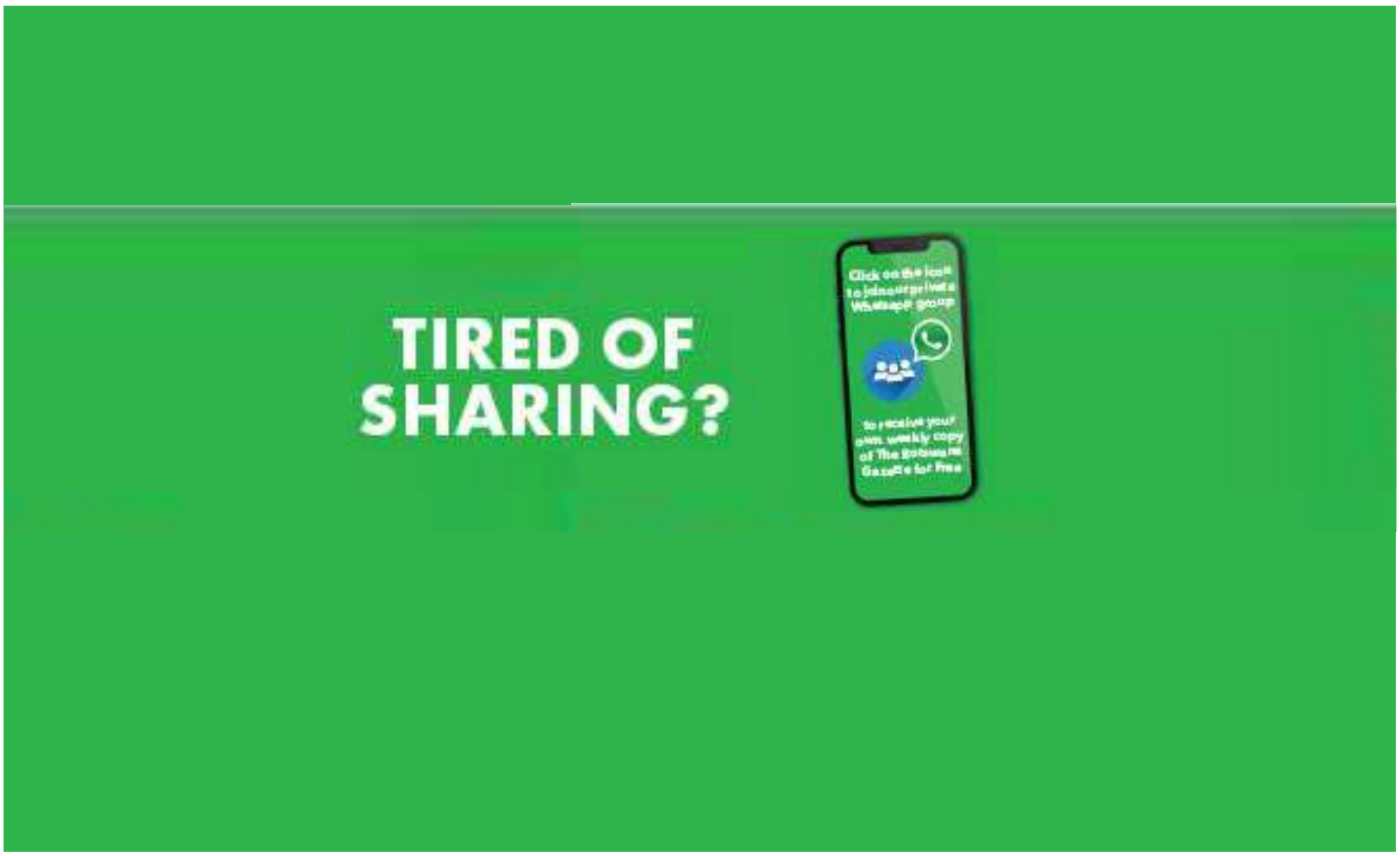
We match your organization's unique employment needs with qualified and dedicated secondees through a supervised, controlled recruitment process, as well as our hard-earned knowledge and experience. We are able to match companies with qualified applicants once we comprehend their staffing demands.

OUR OTHER SERVICES

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

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

opracon
SKILLS & ACADEMY
Skills brokerage - Upskilling - Business Training



IN THE INDUSTRIAL COURT FOR THE REPUBLIC OF BOTSWANA
HELD AT GABORONE

CASE NO: IC 737/24

In the matter between:
LEBOGANG MABOTE & 1 OTHER **PLAINTIFF**
And
PRINT AFRIQUE (PTY) LTD **DEFENDANT**

NOTICE OF SALE IN EXECUTION

BE PLEASED TO TAKE NOTICE that pursuant to the judgment granted in favor of Plaintiff by the above Honorable court the following property will be sold by public auction by **Deputy Sheriff OMPHEMETSE PETER KAISARA** to the highest bidder as follows:

DATE OF SALE : **28.05.2026**
VENUE : **BROADHURST POLICE**
TIME : **10: 00 AM**

PROPERTY TO BE SOLD : Hisense bar fridge, 5 sunwise screens, Samsung monitor, macbook laptop, HP printer, 6 tables, 9 office chairs, brother printer, canon printer, dell cpu, Lenovo monitor and keyboard/ mouse

DATED AT GABORONE ON THE 14TH DAY OF APRIL 2026.

DEPUTY SHERIFF OMPHEMETSE KAISARA
CELL NO: 72195113/71222244/3190188
PLOT 163 UNIT 13 GICP
P. O. BOX 4433
GABORONE

NTHOMIWA.J
IN THE HIGH COURT OF THE REPUBLIC OF BOTSWANA
HELD AT MAUN

CASE NO: MLHMN-000027-23

In the matter between:
PATRICIA HOMA (Nee MODISAPOWANA) **PLAINTIFF**
And
MOTHUSI HOMA **DEFENDANT**

NOTICE OF SALE IN EXECUTION

BE PLEASED TO TAKE NOTICE that pursuant to a Writ of Execution of this Honorable Court dated 16th FEBRUARY 2026, the following immovable property of the above-mentioned Defendant will be sold in execution to the highest bidder by Deputy Sherriff TUMELO MOGOROSI in the manner hereinafter set out.

DATE OF SALE : **21/05/2026**
TIME OF SALE : **1000hrs**
PLACE OF SALE : **Moshupa**
TERMS OF SALE : **Cash or EFT**
PROPERTY TO BE SOLD : Certain piece of land being Residential plot 13, Moshupa; held under Moshupa Sub-land Board made in favor of MOTHUSI HOMA, with developments thereon consisting of a 3 bedroomed house (master bed en-suite, 2 fitted bedrooms), sitting room x 2, dining room, fitted kitchen, 2 separate toilets, double garage, 2 verandas, separate 2 & half house, boundary wall, sliding gate & a pit larine.

The conditions of sale may be inspected at the Offices of Ezekiel Attorneys at the address below

DATED AT GABORONE ON THIS 17TH DAY OF MARCH 2026.

PLOT 908, AFRICAN MALL
Cnr of Merafhe Rd & Phalane Cl
P. O BOX 481 AEJ, GABORONE
TEL: 311 3321 /CELL: 77885509
DEPUTY SHERIFF: TUMELO MOGOROSI
CELL: 75999060

EZEKIEL ATTORNEYS
ATTORNEYS • NOTARIES • CONVEYANCERS

BUSANG J
IN THE HIGH COURT FOR THE REBUPLIC OF BOTSWANA
HELD AT LOBATSE

CASE NO: CVHGB-003414-25

In the matter between:
MOTSHEPIEMANG MAJASE **PLAINTIFF**
AND
EWETSE DUHA **DEFENDANT**

NOTICE OF SALE IN EXECUTION

BE PLEASED TO TAKE NOTICE THAT pursuant to a writ of execution of the above Honourable Court, the following property will be sold by public auction by Deputy Sheriff MESHACK MOSHABI to the highest bidder as follows:

DATE OF SALE : 23 April 2026
TIME : 10:00am
VENUE : Broadhurst Police Station
PROPERTY TO BE SOLD : Toyota Hilux 2.8 GD6 (GREY) Registered B 172 BTF
TERMS OF SALE : **CASH OR BANK TRANSFER** Conditions of sale may be examined at Mokopakgosi Attorneys or alternatively at the office of the Deputy Sheriff.

DATED AT GABORONE THIS DAY 14th OF APRIL 2026.

DEPUTY SHERIFF MESHACK MOSHABI
C/O MOKOPAKGOSI ATTORNEYS
PLOT 546, EXTENSION 4, GABORONE
P. O. BOX 45287, RIVERWALK
GABORONE

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

FIRST AND FINAL LIQUIDATION AND DISTRIBUTION ACCOUNT

IN THE ESTATE OF THE LATE NICOLAS JOACHIM ALBERTS: ESHFT 00553-25 who died at **PRETORIA, SOUTH AFRICA** on the **19th day of JANUARY 2024.** The First and Final Liquidation and Distribution Account in the above Estate will lie open for inspection at the Chambers of the Assistant Registrar and Master of the High Court at Francistown for a period of Twenty One (21) days from the date of the second publication hereof.

DATED at **FRANCISTOWN** on this **23rd** day of **MARCH 2026**

THE EXECUTOR TESTAMENTARY
C/O VAN NIEKERK ATTORNEYS,
Plot 4660, Ditau Street, PO Box 37, **FRANCISTOWN.**

SIGWENI J
IN THE HIGH COURT OF THE REPUBLIC OF BOTSWANA
HELD AT FRANCISTOWN **CASE NO. CVHFT 000 000 134-25**

In the matter between:
STANBIC BANK BOTSWANA LIMITED **PLAINTIFF**
And
MUKAMBA RUKURO **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 Bathusi Billy to the highest bidder as follows:

DATE OF SALE : **29th May 2026**
TIME : **10.30 p.m.**
VENUE : Stanbic Bank Warehouse, Plot 10216, Noko Road, Broadhurst Industrial (Behind Total Filling Station)
PROPERTY TO BE SOLD : 1x1 Nissan Navara Pick UP Diesel
Registration No. : B 612 BTM
Year Manufacture : 2023
Colour : White

TERMS AND CONDITIONS : Cash or Bank electronic transfer. Detailed conditions of sale may be inspected with Deputy Sheriff Bathusi Billy on Cellphone No. 71607940/74 777 581 (Mascom)

DATED AT FRANCISTOWN ON THIS 10TH DAY OF APRIL 2026..

LOWA ATTORNEYS
ATTORNEYS, NOTARIES & CONVEYANCERS

LOWA ATTORNEYS
Plaintiff's Attorneys
Unit 16, Haskins Building
Plot No. 469/70, Blue Jacket Street
P .O. Box 3537
FRANCISTOWN
Tel: 2412300/78541541/73966100

SALE OF 1998 WHITE TOYOTA PICKUP D/ CAB WITH 311, 160 KM

RREGISTRATION #B396 ARO

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

FNB BACKS BOTSWANA'S SPORTING GROWTH AND AMBITION

As the bank pumps P6 million into Golden Grand Prix



GAZETTE REPORTER

Botswana is experiencing what one banking executive described as a defining sporting era, as athletes reshape international perceptions of the country and attract increasing global attention.

Speaking at the launch of this year's FNB Botswana Golden Grand Prix, scheduled for April 26 at the National Stadium in Gaborone, First National Bank Botswana Chief Executive Officer Steven Bogatsu said the country's recent sporting progress reflects deeper national potential.

"They have shown that excellence can rise from our schools, our communities and our national discipline," Bogatsu said. "They have given our young people something priceless: proof."

He added that Botswana's athletes have demonstrated that "global greatness can wear Botswana's colours" and that the country is capable of hosting world-class events.

NATIONAL PLATFORM

Bogatsu described the FNB Botswana Golden Grand Prix as a symbol of this progress, noting its evolution beyond a standard competition.

"The FNB Botswana Golden Grand Prix is one of the clearest expressions of that new era," he said. "It is now a platform of national significance."

He said the event reflects Botswana's ability to host elite sport while contributing to economic and social activity. According to Bogatsu, it signals that the country can "convene elite sport, inspire local talent and convert athletic excellence into broader economic and social value."

The bank announced a sponsorship of P6 million for the 2026 edition, following previous support in 2023 and 2025.

Bogatsu emphasized that the institution's approach to sponsorship is deliberate. "We believe sponsorship must do more than place a logo on a platform," he said. "It must create measurable value. It must help move communities, industries and citizens forward."

He added that sport remains central to the bank's broader contribution to national development, particularly in creating pathways for young athletes.

Organizers' View

Glody Dube, founder of Golden Door Sports Agency, which organizes the event, described the partnership as ongoing but acknowledged financial pressures.

"This is the continuation of our marriage," Dube said. He noted that the current economic climate has made organizing the event more difficult.

"This year it's tough, as said, and at the same time we have World Relays that need money and our event that has been relying on the government," he said.

Dube expressed appreciation for both the bank and government support since 2023, while highlighting the cost of hosting major competitions.

"These events are expensive," he said, adding that preparations have progressed, with tracks and warm-up facilities now ready.

He said the long-term ambition remains to elevate Botswana's status in global athletics. "Our ultimate goal is for Botswana to host a Diamond [League]," he said. "We will keep on fighting to achieve this."

> "They have given our young people something priceless: proof."

GOVERNMENT ROLE

The Minister of Sport and Arts, Jacob Kelebeng, said consistent private sector support has been key to the event's growth.

"This is the third consecutive year of your support, and that consistency has been instrumental in shaping the Grand Prix into the internationally recognized event it is today," he said.

Kelebeng said such partnerships strengthen the credibility of sport and support its development as a national priority.

"Your investment is not only financial, it is an expression of confidence in the talent, ambition, and potential of Batswana," he said.

He added that the event aligns with government objectives to position sport as a driver of opportunity and national pride.

TEST EVENT

Kelebeng said the Grand Prix will also serve as a test event for the upcoming World Athletics Relays, which Botswana is scheduled to host on May 2 and 3.

"This places a substantial responsibility on our country, but it also provides an opportunity to demonstrate Botswana's readiness to deliver world-class events," he said.



P1 Million Boost for Grand Prix

A major sponsorship deal signals growing confidence in Botswana's rising athletics stage

Orange Botswana has committed P1 million towards the upcoming FNB Botswana Golden Grand Prix, an international athletics event scheduled for 26 April 2026 at the National Stadium.

The event, part of the World Athletics Continental Tour (Bronze Status), is expected to draw more than 25,000 spectators, with television coverage reaching over 150 countries. It continues to attract both local and international athletes as its profile grows on the global athletics calendar.

SPONSORSHIP AND SPORT DEVELOPMENT

Orange Botswana Public Relations and Communication Manager Tebogo Nadisah said the sponsorship is part of the company's broader approach to supporting sport development in the country.

"Orange Botswana believes it is important to support initiatives such as the FNB Botswana Golden Grand Prix because they contribute meaningfully to the development of sport in our country," she said.

"These platforms not only put Botswana on the map but also serve as critical preparation for our athletes as they compete on bigger stages such as the Olympics."

The Grand Prix has increasingly become a platform for local athletes to compete alongside elite international competitors, contributing to the growth of athletics in Botswana.

LONG-TERM INVESTMENT IN SPORT

Nadisah said the investment reflects a long-term focus on nurturing talent and expanding opportunities for athletes.

"As a brand, we believe in excellence," she said. "That belief drives our continued passion for the development of sport in Botswana."

Orange Botswana has maintained a strong footprint in the local sports ecosystem, having sponsored the FNB Botswana Golden Grand Prix in previous years and continuing to expand its portfolio with major properties such as the Orange FA Cup.

The 2026 edition of the FNB Botswana Golden Grand Prix is expected to feature a mix of top-tier international and local athletes, with organisers aiming to further strengthen its standing on the international circuit.



ABSA Kids Marathon Weekend

Gaborone event expects 2,000 young runners as preparations intensify

GAZETTE REPORTER

The fifth edition of the Absa Kids Marathon will take place on April 18, 2026, at the Three Dikgosi Monument, with organizers anticipating a strong turnout of young participants.

In a telephone interview, Moagi Madisa, co-founder of the Absa Kids Marathon, said preparations for this year's race are on track.

"This year we are anticipating to host about 2,000 kids aged between the ages of 2 and 16 for this marathon," he said. "We are happy to note that the preparations are going well, with the race pack collections having begun last week at Airport Junction in Gaborone."

Madisa added that early collection of race packs is being encouraged to avoid last-minute complications.

"We didn't want a situation whereby there are mix-ups due to late picking of race packs, and we encourage parents to keep on collecting them as the week progresses," he said.

SAFETY MEASURES

Organizers say logistical arrangements have prioritized the safety and comfort of participants, given the age range involved.

"Additionally, we want to promise that security will be in place as we are dealing with kids," Madisa said. "The other important factor is that of water points, which will be well arranged, and other important aspects of the marathon."

He noted that the guest walker and runner for this year's edition will be Lesego Chombo.

YOUTH IMPACT

Madisa said the marathon is designed to extend beyond competition, emphasizing broader developmental goals.

"Beyond the races, the marathon serves as a platform to encourage physical activity, social interaction and positive values among young people," he said. "Sport remains one of the strongest tools we have for shaping healthy, confident communities."

He also acknowledged the role of Absa in supporting the event since its inception.

"Since the marathon's inception, Absa has been instrumental in transforming a simple children's race into a premier platform for youth fitness and healthy living," Madisa said.

> "Sport remains one of the strongest tools we have for shaping healthy, confident communities."

"The support of Absa has been crucial in ensuring the marathon grows in scale and quality each year," he added. "Their involvement allows for better organization, exciting entertainment, and activities designed specifically for children."

According to organizers, each participant will receive race kits and medals, while families will have access to interactive activities aimed at promoting active lifestyles.

FNB Premiership Nears Dramatic Finish

Gaborone United need just three points to mathematically secure the FNB Premiership title, a result that would officially crown them 2025/26 champions. At the other end, the relegation battle remains wide open, with Tafic, Black Lions, Calendar Stars, Santa Green and Extension Gunners all still fighting to avoid the drop in a tense finish to the season

GAZETTE REPORTER

With four matches remaining in the 2025/26 season, the FNB Premiership is entering a decisive and emotionally charged conclusion, defined by dominance at the top, congestion in mid-table, and a tense survival battle at the bottom.

At the summit, defending champions Gaborone United have all but sealed another league crown after an exceptional campaign. They sit on 65 points from 26 matches, boasting 20 wins, just one defeat, and a commanding goal difference of +42. Their 12-point cushion over second-placed Mochudi Centre Chiefs leaves the title race effectively beyond reach under normal circumstances.

However, mathematics still offers a final layer of suspense. With four matches remaining, Gaborone United's next fixture could officially end the contest. If they secure victory and results elsewhere go their way, they would clinch the championship with games to spare, confirming a season of near-total dominance.

Behind them, Jwaneng Galaxy with a game in hand on 51 points—continue to push for a strong. Sua Flamingoes remain within striking distance, ensuring the battle for the remaining top positions retains competitive energy even as the title appears settled.

MID TABLE CONGESTION

The middle of the table is defined by congestion and fine margins. Nico United, Morupule Wanderers, and Orapa United, are all locked on 40 points, separated only by goal difference. Just behind them, Township Rollers sit on 39 points, unable to afford slips as the season winds down. For these clubs, the final fixtures are less about survival and more about pride, positioning, and momentum heading into the next campaign.

RELEGATION BATTLE

At the bottom, the relegation fight remains fierce. Extension Gunners are just above the drop zone with 22 points, but far from safe. Below them is Black Lions with 21 points then Calendar Stars and Santa Green are tied on 18 points, both facing the real threat of demotion. Even Tafic slightly higher on 25 points, remain vulnerable if results turn against them.



As the campaign approaches its climax, the league presents a stark contrast: near certainty at the top, compressed chaos in mid-table, and survival pressure at the bottom. The final four matches promise intensity, unpredictability, and defining moments that will shape the 2025/26 season's legacy.

Importantly, Gaborone United's position is so strong that a win in their next match could mathematically secure the title, bringing early confirmation to what has been a season of sustained excellence.



ITF Tennis Tourney Builds Experience for Local Juniors

Despite limited semifinal appearances, the tournament offered valuable exposure for emerging local players.

GAZETTE REPORTER

The ITF World Tennis Tour Juniors J30 hosted in Gaborone last week concluded with few local players advancing to the latter stages, but organizers say the event still achieved its purpose.

Botswana Tennis Association President Oaitse Thipe said the absence of local players in the semifinals and finals should not overshadow the broader gains made during the competition.

"But we cannot despair that much because they gained that much needed experience," he said in an interview on the sidelines of the tournament held at the National Tennis Centre .

PLAYER PARTICIPATION

Thipe noted that the tournament served as an opportunity to broaden participation among local athletes, particularly those who are not yet established on the international stage.

"We used this tournament to give other players a chance because some of our world ranking players are outside the country playing other international tournaments," he said.

Participants were drawn from various parts of the country, including Francistown. As a world-ranking event, entry typically requires players to hold international rankings.

"So since we are the hosts we were given a wild card for about 10 players hence why we were able to field some of those who are not world ranked as for them to garner experience as already mentioned," Thipe said.

"It was an opportunity for them to showcase their talent and I must note that they really tried their best."

He added that preparations are already underway for the next event on the calendar.

"This week we have the J60 and we have about 12 players taking part," he said.

WIDER IMPACT

Beyond competition, Thipe said hosting international tournaments contributes to sectors outside sport. He pointed to tourism benefits, noting that players from different continents travel with support teams, contributing to local economic activity.

He also said the experience extends to officials and support staff involved in organizing the event.

> "But we cannot despair that much because they gained that much needed experience."

"Additionally, it's not only the players who benefit as the supporting staff and officials also do gain experience through hosting of these tournaments," he said.

Botswana Judo Sets Ambitious Plan

National team ramps up training and international exposure ahead of key continental competitions

GAZETTE REPORTER

The Botswana Judo Federation (BJF) technical team has rolled out an annual training plan for cadet, junior and senior national team athletes, aimed at increasing both the intensity of preparation and participation in international competitions.

The federation's general secretary, Anastacia Linda Masingizane, said the initiative is designed to keep athletes focused while sustaining their competitive edge.

"This approach is intended to ensure that athletes remain focused and maintain their competitive momentum," she said.

She added that the senior national team has already entered a training camp in preparation for the African Senior Championships, scheduled for April 24, 2026, in Nairobi, Kenya.

RECENT RESULTS

The renewed focus follows Botswana's participation at the Southern African Judo Confederation Cadet and Senior Championships in Lusaka, Zambia, where the team secured seven medals.

The competition, according to Masingizane, offered valuable insights into both strengths and areas requiring improvement within the squad.

KEY CHALLENGES



Among the issues identified was the challenge athletes face in balancing academic commitments with training demands.

"One of the key challenges our athletes face is balancing their academic responsibilities with training," she said.

To address this, the federation has introduced additional training sessions structured around school schedules. It has also launched the "Judo Their Way Mentorship Programme," aimed at guiding athletes while helping them manage both academic and sporting responsibilities.

Masingizane noted that some athletes also struggled with nervousness during competition, particularly those competing internationally for the first time.

"Increased exposure to international competitions will help them gain confidence and improve their performance," she said.

LOOKING AHEAD

The recent regional tournament also served as a preparatory benchmark for the AUSC Maputo Games 2026.

Masingizane welcomed the introduction of qualification events by the AUSC Region, noting that they provide athletes with an opportunity to compete against the same opponents ahead of the main Games.

"The athletes who are regionally ranked through these competitions will be the same ones competing in Maputo," she said.

She added that this approach enhances preparedness and confidence, contrasting it with previous editions where athletes often encountered opponents for the first time at the Games.

TIRED OF SHARING?



BACKPAGE
WEDNESDAY 15 APRIL 2026
SINCE 1984

The Botswana Gazette
SPORT

34.

FNB PREMIERSHIP NEARS DRAMATIC FINISH

Gaborone United need just three points to mathematically secure the FNB Premiership title, a result that would officially crown them 2025/26 champions. At the other end, the relegation battle remains wide open, with Tafic, Black Lions, Calendar Stars, Santa Green and Extension Gunners all still fighting to avoid the drop in a tense finish to the season

