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JUSTICE FOR TSHEPI DISPUTE DEEPENS

Deadlock deepens as govt and the Re A Bua Foundation remain at odds over transparency and accountability

2.

Govt Faces P800m Court Bill

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P1BN CHOPPER PROBE BEGINS



Government grants Saleshando access to scrutinise the controversial P1 billion presidential helicopter contract after months of pressure, delays and disputes over who may accompany him during the review.

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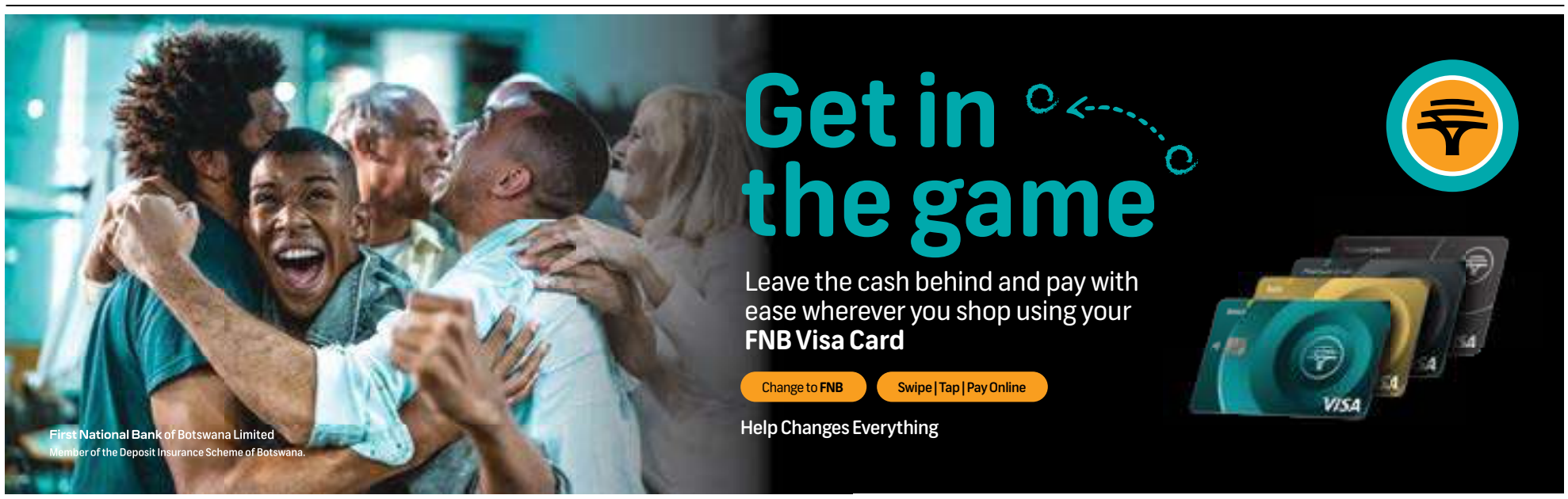

Justice For Tshepi Dispute Deepens



A growing deadlock is emerging between the Ministry for State President, Defence and Security, led by Minister Moeti Mohwasa, and the Re A Bua Foundation over the handling of the high-profile #JusticeForTshepi case, centred on the death of 13-year-old Retshepile Tshepi Tshedu.

BONGANI MALUNGA

A growing deadlock is emerging between the Ministry for State President, Defence and Security, led by Minister Moeti Mohwasa, and the Re A Bua Foundation over the handling of the high-profile #JusticeForTshepi case, centred on the death of 13-year-old Retshepile Tshepi Tshedu.

At the heart of the dispute is a widening gap in communication, transparency, and trust following government statements that the case has since been escalated to the Directorate of Public Prosecutions (DPP) after post-mortem findings allegedly revealed signs consistent with sexual abuse. The Re A Bua Foundation has questioned the clarity of this transition and the level of disclosure provided to the public.

CRITICAL GAPS

The foundation, which formally petitioned Parliament on 9 April 2026 through Vice President Ndaba Gaolathe's office, argues that the government's response, delivered by Minister Mohwasa on Botswana Television, left critical gaps. Chief among these is the absence of clear explanation on what specific evidence triggered the handover of the case from the Botswana Police Service (Botswana Police Service) to the DPP and why key findings remain undisclosed despite widespread public circulation of preliminary post-mortem concerns.

The foundation also alleges a potential conflict of interest, arguing that the Ministry overseeing the police cannot be seen as fully independent in evaluating the conduct and conclusions of the same institution it supervises. According to the foundation, the BPS and the DPP are government organs that can come under hierarchical intimidation hence their scepticism.

This has intensified public debate over whether the process is sufficiently transparent, particularly given that the investigation reportedly took nearly a year before significant escalation.

CONFLICTED

"Our activism and advocacy sentiment on this is that the BPS is under Minister Mohwasa's portfolio, and therefore he may not necessarily have been open to criticize his department during the address. It may then be that Minister Mohwasa is conflicted where the Police are concerned. We viewed the Presidency and the Vice Presidency offices who received the petition as more neutral. We humbly request that going forward, this conflict of interest be eliminated at all levels of the BPS, including at the Sehithwa Police station where the case file originates," the foundation stated in a public address.

Minister Mohwasa, however, has defended the integrity of the process, emphasising that standard procedures were followed and that the matter is now in prosecutorial hands.

REPRESENTING THE FAMILY

The Re A Bua Foundation, which reports that it is working in tandem with Tshepi's biological father, maintains that their involvement was essential in pushing the case forward, invoking protections under the Botswana Children's Act 2009 which allows citizens and organisations to act in defense of minors.

Public calls for the sentiments of Tshepi's biological father in this ordeal have yet to yield results as he has not made public pronouncements on the case. In the interim, the foundation's Chief Executive Officer, Kemoneilwe Mpinang told this publication that the father is not yet granting media interviews as all questions are directed to the foundation to speak on his behalf.

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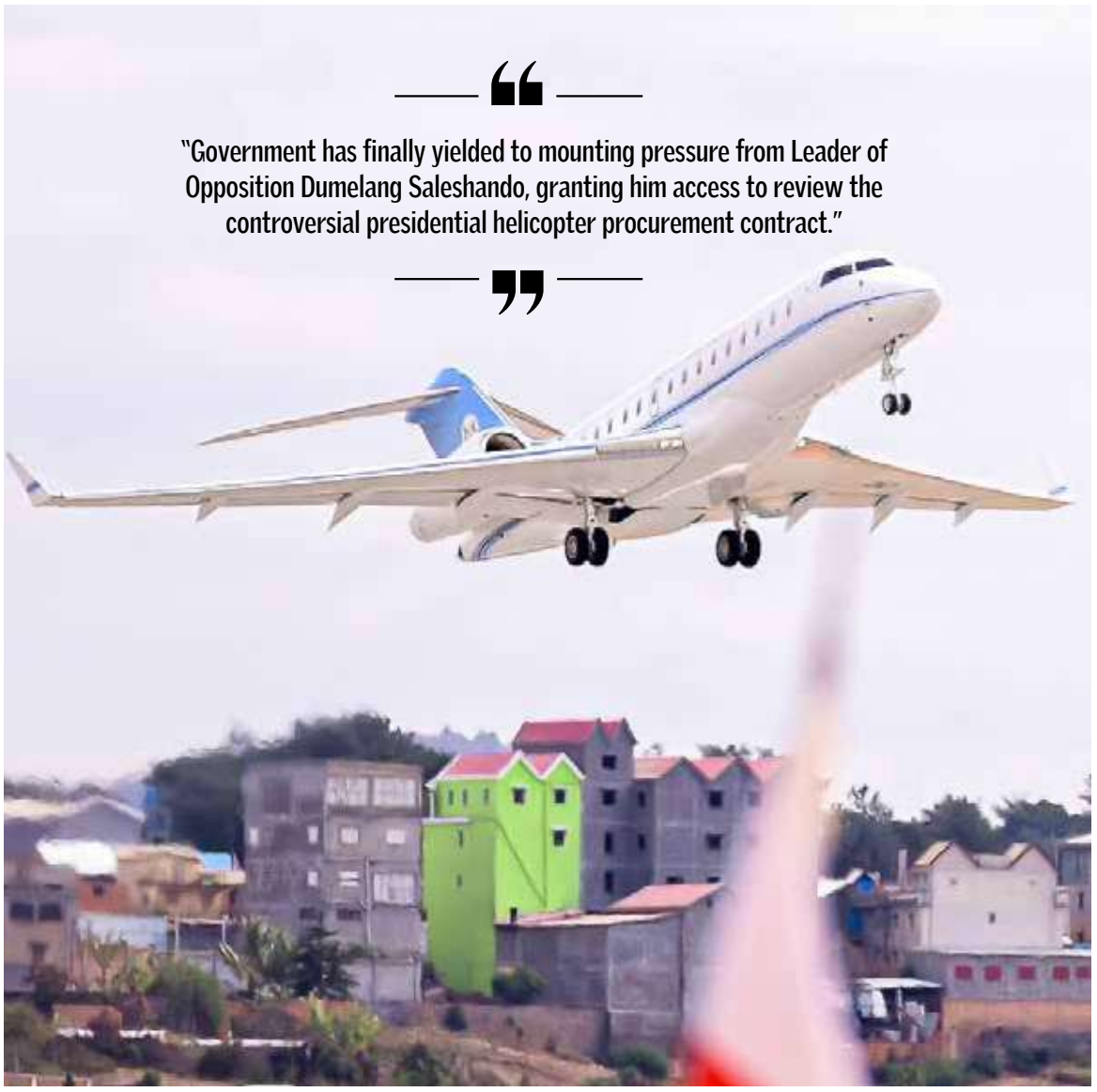
Adding further complexity is the broader expectation of collaboration between government and civil society. Under President Duma Boko's human-rights-oriented governance approach, NGOs have previously been positioned as critical partners in accountability processes. The foundation argues that its exclusion from official briefings contradicts this principle.



P1BN CHOPPER PROBE BEGINS

Government grants Saleshando access to scrutinise the controversial P1 billion presidential helicopter contract after months of pressure, delays and disputes over who may accompany him during the review.



"Government has finally yielded to mounting pressure from Leader of Opposition Dumelang Saleshando, granting him access to review the controversial presidential helicopter procurement contract."

SESUPO RANTSIMAKO

Government has finally yielded to mounting pressure from Leader of Opposition Dumelang Saleshando, granting him access to review the controversial presidential helicopter procurement contract after months of delays and disagreement over access conditions.

ACCESS GRANTED

In a letter dated April 24, 2026, Minister for State President Moeti Mohwasa confirmed that Saleshando is now free to inspect the procurement documents and has been invited to propose new dates for the review. The correspondence marks a notable shift from the government's earlier position, which had imposed strict conditions on access.

"The outcome of the review could have significant political and financial implications, especially as Saleshando has indicated he may pursue cancellation or renegotiation of the contract if grounds are found."

CONTESTED DEAL

The dispute stems from a high-value procurement contract for a presidential helicopter fleet, valued at over P1 billion and signed in December 2023. The deal involves long-range, twin-engine aircraft intended to replace ageing presidential transport assets.

Botswana has already taken delivery of one Leonardo AW109SP helicopter in March 2025, while two more advanced Leonardo AW189K aircraft are expected later this year.

PUBLIC SCRUTINY

The procurement has sparked political debate, with opposition parties questioning its timing and cost amid broader fiscal pressures.

Saleshando has been at the centre of calls for greater transparency, arguing that access to the contract is necessary to determine whether the deal can still be reversed or renegotiated.

TRANSPARENCY PUSH

"I wanted to inspect the contract to assess whether there is any possibility of reversing it," he has stated in correspondence with the minister.

The Leader of Opposition previously accused the ministry of frustrating his efforts through shifting and restrictive conditions. His initial request to be accompanied by a private attorney was rejected on security clearance grounds.

ACCESS CONDITIONS

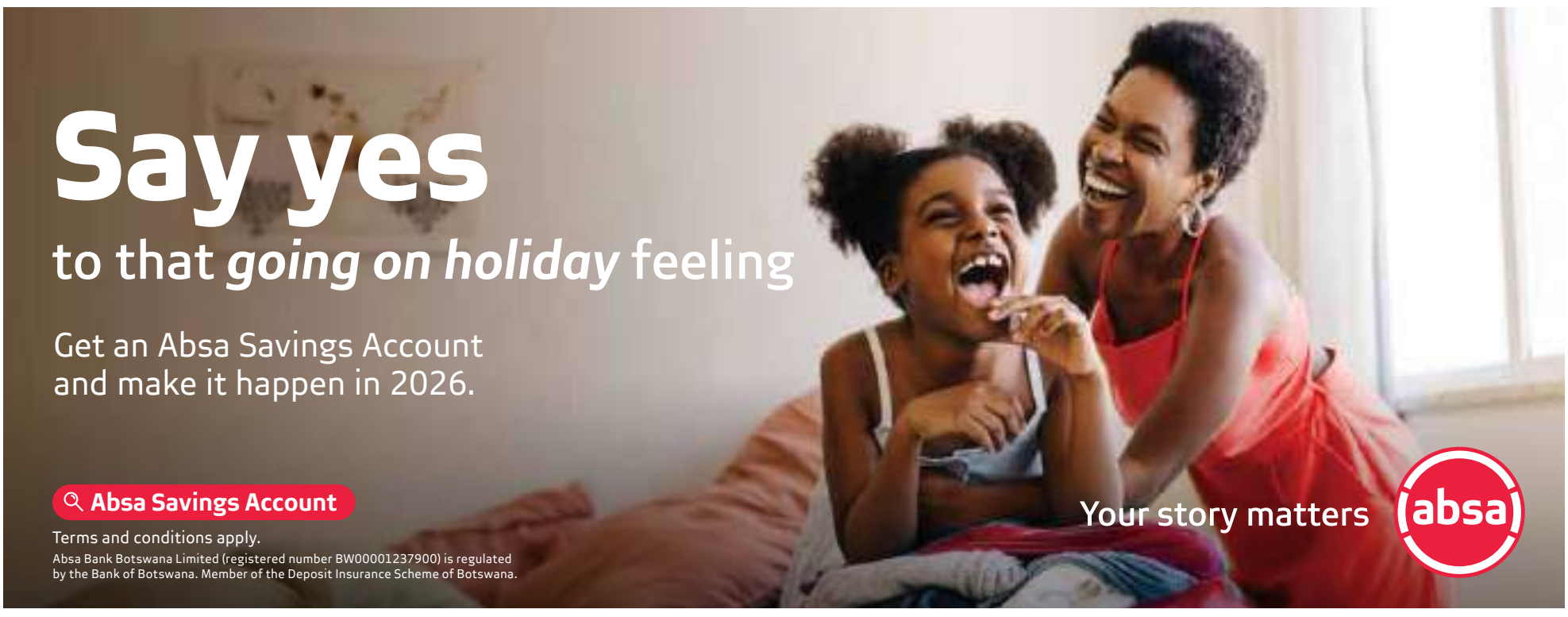
Although he later complied by submitting the lawyer's details for vetting, the request was reportedly declined again without clear explanation.

In a further attempt to resolve the impasse, Saleshando proposed to be accompanied by two Members of Parliament who are qualified lawyers, including Dr Unity Dow and Kenny Kapinga. While the arrangement was initially accepted, he said there was no follow-up on scheduling despite submitting proposed dates.

POLICY SHIFT

Mohwasa's latest communication now opens the door for long-awaited scrutiny of one of government's most expensive recent procurements. The development is likely to intensify public interest in the deal, particularly as economic pressures continue to fuel debate over state spending priorities.

The outcome of the review could have significant political and financial implications, especially as Saleshando has indicated he may pursue cancellation or renegotiation of the contract if grounds are found.



Govt Faces P800m Court Bill

A PAC report has exposed costly administrative failures across government, with unpaid staff grievances, weak payroll controls and poor debt recovery leaving taxpayers exposed to hundreds of millions of pula in losses.

GAZETTE REPORTER

The government has been hit with a staggering P800 million liability in lost court cases, as fresh revelations from Parliament's Public Accounts Committee (PAC) expose deep-rooted failures in public administration, unpaid staff grievances, salary overpayments and uncollected state debts running into hundreds of millions.

PAC FINDINGS

The findings are contained in the latest PAC report examining government accounts for the financial year ending March 2022.

At the centre of the scandal are staff welfare disputes across ministries, departments and agencies (MDAs), which escalated into legal battles. Many of these cases were lost by the government, leaving taxpayers with a bill exceeding P800 million in court settlements.

STAFF DISPUTES

The PAC said there had been slow implementation of court rulings, with some ministries citing financial constraints, including the Ministry of Health.

"Concerted efforts are required to address staff welfare issues before they develop into disputes," the committee warned.

RISING GRIEVANCES

> The report raises urgent questions over whether enough is being done to stop continued waste, legal losses and administrative failures.

The report paints a picture of employee dissatisfaction across government, citing grievances over overtime payments, special duty allowances, unsuitable accommodation, delayed salaries and stalled promotions.

The committee suggested that many of the costly lawsuits could have been avoided had ministries addressed staff concerns early.

PAYROLL LOSSES

In another revelation, the government also lost more than P19 million through salary overpayments, a problem the PAC says has been repeatedly flagged since as far back as 2017.

According to the Auditor General's 2022 report, the worst affected ministries were the Ministry of Basic Education at P10,076,492, the Ministry of Health at P6,121,229, the Ministry of Agriculture at P1,540,892, the Ministry of International Affairs at P730,956, the Ministry of Transport at P672,497 and the Ministry of Finance at P350,308.

WEAK OVERSIGHT

The committee blamed weak oversight by Accounting Officers for allowing the costly payroll blunders to continue unchecked.

Government's debt collection systems were also heavily criticised, with P228 million in possible losses linked to uncollected debts. These include non-moving advances of P70 million, arrears of revenue amounting to P144 million and loss of public monies or stores amounting to P14 million.

DEBT FAILURES

The PAC said Accounting Officers were failing to involve the Attorney General's Chambers in time to pursue defaulters, causing many claims to prescribe before recovery action could be taken.

"There was a general observation that Accounting Officers do not engage the Attorney General's Chambers in a timely manner," the report noted.

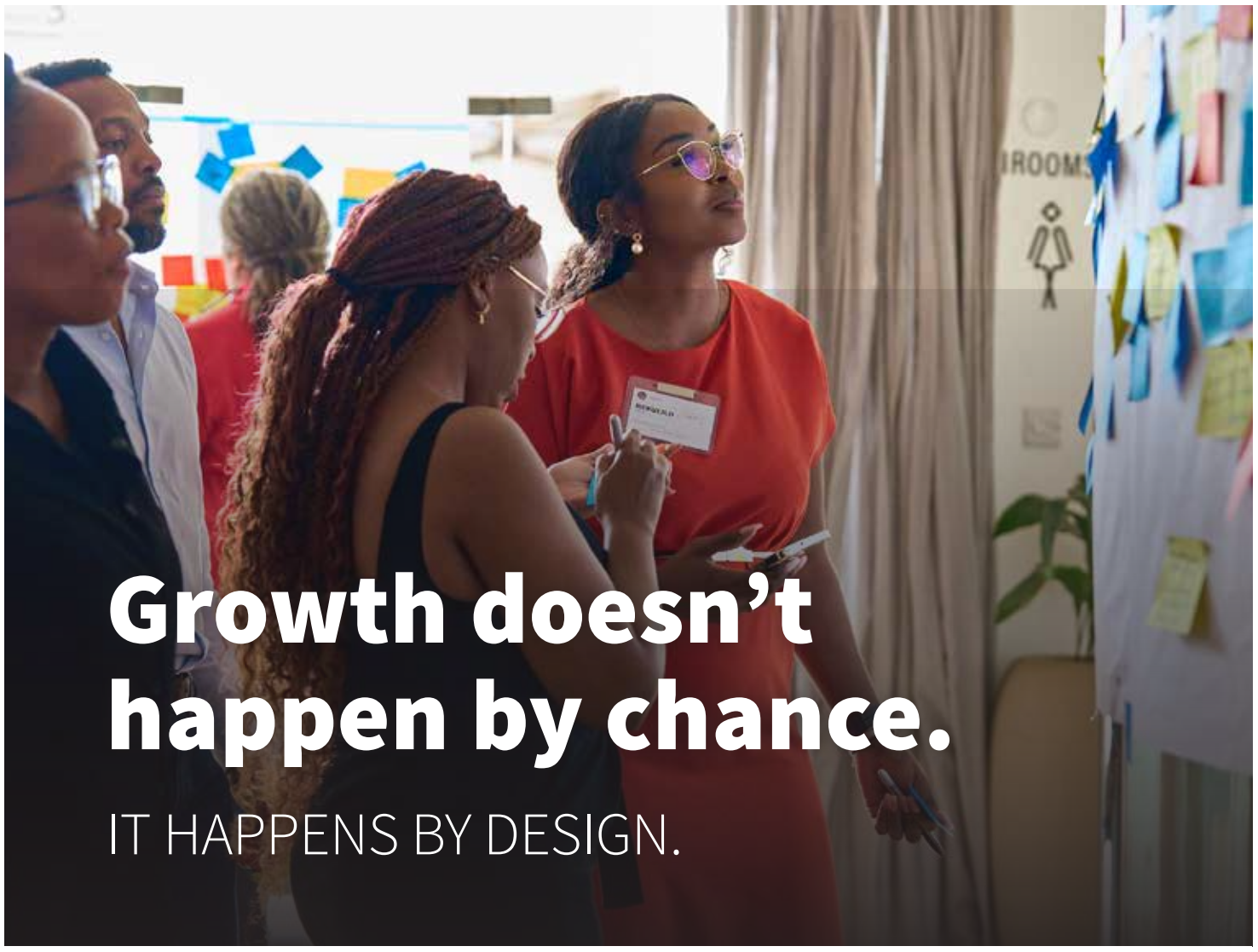
SYSTEM BREAKDOWN

The committee further exposed dysfunctional government IT systems, saying the Government Accounting and Budgeting System (GABS) had failed to generate accounts for the 2023/24 and 2024/25 financial years, delaying audits and weakening financial accountability.

In response, the then Permanent Secretary to the President, Emma Peloetletse, reportedly undertook to ensure that PAC recommendations are discussed regularly at the Performance Management Forum attended by Accounting Officers.

PUBLIC COST

But the report raises urgent questions over whether enough is being done to stop continued waste, legal losses and administrative failures that are draining the public purse.



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Flash Flood Warning Issued for Southwest Botswana

Heavy rains threaten southwest Botswana with flash flooding risk as experts warn of possible infrastructure strain and safety hazards

BONGANI MALUNGA

Botswana's southwest region is expected to face heavy rainfall between Wednesday and Thursday, raising the risk of flash flooding, meteorological experts have warned.

The warning comes barely a year after devastating floods left at least nine people dead and forced more than 2000 residents from their homes, while exposing weaknesses in the country's urban stormwater drainage systems.

WIDESPREAD DESTRUCTION

Last year's disaster, which struck between 19 and 21 February, caused widespread destruction as floodwaters submerged farms, cut off transport routes, contaminated water sources and damaged homes, roads and public infrastructure.

International forecaster and meteorologist Jason Nicholls says another dangerous weather system is now developing over the region. "A strong shortwave trough and elevated PWATs (Precipitable Water) anomalies will result in areas of heavy rain and the risk of flash flooding in southwest Botswana, central South Africa and Lesotho late Wednesday and Thursday," Nicholls stated.

SEVERE FLOODS

Experts from the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies have previously noted that flash floods become more severe in urban areas where drainage channels are blocked, undersized or poorly maintained. They warn that rapid urbanisation, littering of storm drains and construction in natural water pathways can significantly worsen flooding impacts.

In Botswana, rapidly expanding settlements and ageing drainage infrastructure have repeatedly been blamed for water accumulation during intense storms, particularly in low-lying neighbourhoods.



VULNERABLE AREAS

Local meteorological authorities are expected to monitor vulnerable areas closely as the rains approach, with residents urged to clear drains, avoid crossing flooded roads and remain alert for emergency updates.

With memories of last year's destruction still fresh, communities in the southwest will be hoping the country is better prepared for another possible flood emergency. In recent weeks, the Botswana Meteorological Services has advised the public, especially those in flood prone areas, to move to higher ground or evacuate immediately to safer locations.

TIRED OF SHARING?

Deposit and Lending Interest Rates

Quarterly Report

January - March 2026

Type of Deposit	January 2026 Interest Rates (%)	February 2026 Interest Rates (%)	March 2026 Interest Rates (%)	Q1 Range Interest Rates (%)
Current	-	-	-	-
Call	0.00 - 3.35	0.00 - 3.35	0.00 - 3.35	0.00 - 3.35
Savings	0.00 - 3.40	0.00 - 2.75	0.00 - 3.40	0.00 - 3.40
1 Month	0.50 - 5.00	0.25 - 6.00	0.15 - 3.50	0.15 - 6.00
3 Months	0.00 - 11.50	0.00 - 10.00	0.00 - 8.00	0.00 - 11.50
6 Months	0.00 - 10.00	0.00 - 10.00	0.00 - 10.00	0.00 - 10.00
12 Months	0.00 - 13.50	0.00 - 13.00	0.00 - 13.00	0.00 - 13.50
24 Months	5.65 - 12.00	-	10.00	5.65 -12.00
Over 24 Months	5.85	5.85	6.25	5.85 - 6.25

	January 2026	February 2026	March 2026	Average Pricing
Monetary Policy Rate	3.50%	3.50%	3.50%	
Prime Lending Rate	7.01%	7.01%	7.01%	
Mortgage Facility	19.01% - 24.01%	19.01% - 24.01%	19.01% - 24.01%	21.51%
Overdraft Facility *(Revolving Credit Lines)*	15.01% - 17.01%	15.01% - 17.01%	15.01% - 17.01%	16.01%
Credit Card	22% - 28%	22% - 28%	22% - 28%	25.00%
Lease Loans *(VAF)*	14.26% - 19.01%	22.51% - 30.01%	22.51% - 30.01%	26.26%
Unsecured Personal Loans *(excluding overdrafts, mortgage and credit cards)*	24.01% - 29.01%	24.01% - 29.01%	24.01% - 29.01%	26.51%
Other Term Loans	-	-	-	-

**Scheme related lending is as per the scheme contract*

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Tender No: IDM-B 2026/IT-01

IDM
INSTITUTE OF DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT
Botswana

INVITATION TO TENDER FOR SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF NEW SERVER AND STORAGE EQUIPMENT

Purpose of Invitation to Tender (ITT)

Institute of Development Management Botswana (IDM) invites bids from interested and duly registered, **100% citizen owned** companies or businesses of repute, domiciled in the Republic of Botswana for the Supply and Delivery of ICT equipment. Companies or businesses should be registered with the Public Procurement Regulatory Authority in the following category:

Code: **203-Electrical, Electronic, Mechanical and ICT supplies**
Sub code(s): **01 Electrical and Electronic Equipment, Spares and Accessories (includes ICT, photographic equipment and others)**

And

Code: **120 ICT Technical Support Services**
Subcode(s): **02 Server Management and Maintenance Services**

Tender documents will be available with effect from **20th April 2026** and will be sent to bidders upon payment of a non-refundable and non-transferable fee of **P500.00** and **100%** Youth and women owned companies shall pay **BWP250.00** payable to the following IDM Account details:

Banking Details

Name of Account: Institute of Development Management
Bank: Absa Bank of Botswana Limited
Account No: 2744757
Branch Name: Mall
Branch Number: 01

The tender document will be shared through email to the bidder upon receipt of proof of payment and after verification that funds have been deposited to the IDM bank account. Proof of payment must be sent to procurement@idmb.ac.bw.
Local procurement scheme of Presidential Directive No.19B 2013 shall be applied in this tender. Therefore, bidders who qualify under this scheme are required to submit certified copies of Omang (ID Cards). In addition, bidders with a disability are required to submit an affidavit that confirms their disability.
Preference margins will be applied to qualifying bidders in line with the prescribed Preference Scheme.
Sealed bids clearly marked "**Tender Reference No IDM-B 2026/IT-01 A Tender for Procurement of Supply and Delivery of Server and Storage Equipment**" shall be delivered to Institute of Development Management (IDM), Plot 21222 / 21254, Gaborone, Floor 1, Purchasing Office, Office No: 08.

Bids must arrive **not** later than **10:00am** (local time) on **Friday, 8th May 2026.** Bids received after the closing date and time will **NOT** be accepted. Telephonic, telegraphic, telex or facsimile bids will **NOT** be accepted.

Queries or clarifications relating to the tender may be addressed to Procurement Office and Information Technology Office on email procurement@idmb.ac.bw in writing not later than **4 days** before the tender closing date. Telegraphic, telephone, facsimile, e-mail and late bids will not be accepted.

Institute of Development Management (IDM) is **NOT** bound to accept the lowest or any bid, or bear any expense in the preparation thereof.

Important Dates:

Tender Available Date : From Tuesday, 21st April 2026
Tender Closing : Monday, 11th May 2026 @ 10.00hrs

_____

CHAIRPERSON
MANAGEMENT TENDER COMMITEE
Institute of Development Management

BPP Moves Against Kgafela Mokoka


(Pic:Monirul Bhuiyan/PRESS PHOTO)

The BPP's internal tensions deepen as party insiders say Minister Nono Kgafela Mokoka faces expulsion following her suspension over alleged misconduct and public criticism of the party leadership.

SESUPO RANTSIMAKO

The Botswana People's Party (BPP) is set to expel specially elected Member of Parliament and cabinet minister Nono Kgafela Mokoka, in a move that signals deepening internal strife within the party.

SECRECY PREVAILS

Highly placed sources within the central committee have told this publication that BPP president Motlatsi Molapise has taken a decision to remove Kgafela Mokoka over allegations of misconduct, although official confirmation is still pending.

When contacted for comment, Molapise declined to confirm or deny the development, urging this publication to await formal communication from party structures.

OFFICIAL SILENCE

"If there is anything of that sort, you will be informed officially by the party," Molapise said in an interview with The Botswana Gazette.

However, insiders maintain that the decision has already been made, with an expulsion letter reportedly drafted over the weekend and expected to be served on the minister in the coming days.

PUBLIC FALLOUT

Kgafela Mokoka has been serving a suspension from the party over allegations of gross misconduct after she publicly expressed dissatisfaction with how the party leadership was treating her.

Her remarks, published in a local newspaper, are said to have triggered tensions within the party, with the leadership viewing the move as a breach of internal disciplinary protocols.

> "If there is anything of that sort, you will be informed officially by the party."

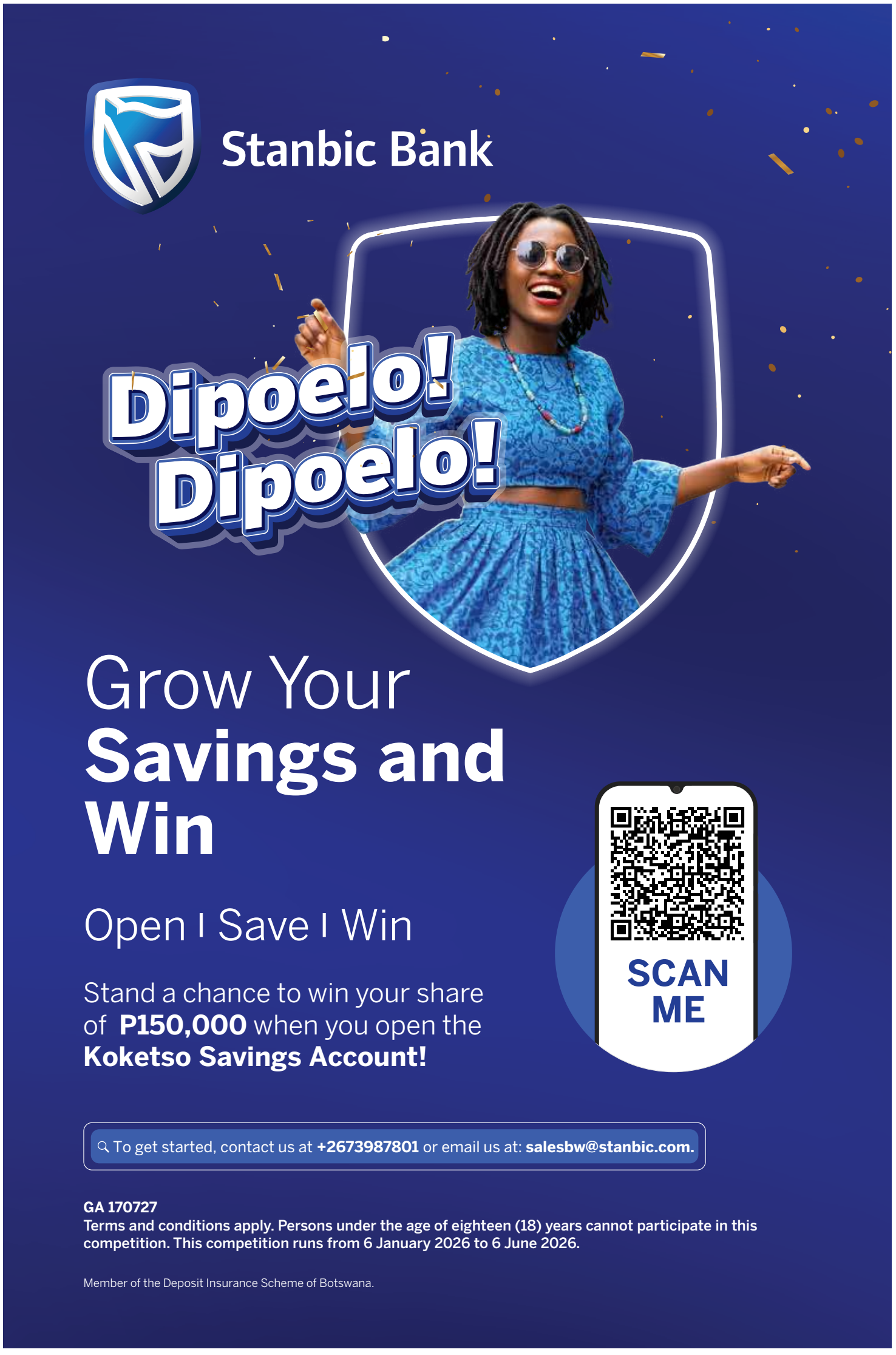
PARTY DIVISIONS

The impending expulsion underscores growing divisions within the BPP, which has in recent weeks been rocked by disputes between its leadership and key members, including Members of Parliament accused of skipping party engagements.

The fallout between Molapise and Kgafela Mokoka reportedly began last year when she was removed from the BPP central committee without her knowledge and replaced by new entrant Dr Mmantlha Sankoloba. As if that was not enough, Molapise allegedly pushed for her removal from the SEMP, accusing her of neglecting party responsibilities.

NO COMMENT

Reached for comment, Kgafela Mokoka declined to respond, insisting that she does not want to discuss her political matters with the media.



BPP MPs Under Fire for 'Boycott' as Internal War Intensifies

Absenteeism claims have exposed deepening tensions between the BPP leadership and its parliamentary caucus, as MPs push back against accusations of indiscipline and poor accountability.



SESUPO RANTSIMAKO

The Botswana People's Party (BPP) is facing mounting internal strain following the conspicuous absence of its Members of Parliament from a key weekend leadership forum held in Tati Siding, fuelling speculation of a possible boycott.

LEADERSHIP ANGER

Party president Motlatsi Molapise came out strongly against the legislators, accusing them of persistently skipping crucial internal meetings and failing to uphold party obligations.

Addressing delegates at the weekend gathering, Molapise expressed frustration that elected representatives were not accounting to the very structures that facilitated their rise to Parliament. He said the repeated absenteeism undermines efforts to build unity and chart the party's strategic direction.

FINANCIAL CLAIMS

Molapise further accused the MPs of neglecting their financial responsibilities to the party, including contributing towards events and paying monthly subscriptions meant to sustain party activities.

"This trend cannot be allowed to continue," he warned, adding that disciplinary action may soon be taken against those who fail to attend party programmes without valid justification.

BOYCOTT CLAIMS

The MPs' absence has sparked debate within party ranks, with some questioning whether it signals a coordinated boycott or deeper divisions within the BPP. While the legislators have not publicly addressed the matter, sources within the party point to long-standing grievances over leadership style and internal decision-making.

Some MPs, speaking on condition of anonymity, dismissed Molapise's accusations and instead turned the spotlight on his leadership. They criticised what they described as a tendency to publicly attack them rather than engage internally.

MPS PUSH BACK

The legislators argued that their dual roles as cabinet ministers often result in scheduling conflicts with party events. They claimed to routinely submit apologies when unable to attend, but alleged that Molapise refuses to acknowledge these.

They also rejected claims that they are not contributing financially to the party, insisting that they do make contributions but have concerns about a lack of transparency and accountability in how funds are managed.

LEADERSHIP QUESTIONED

A member of the BPP Central Committee suggested that the MPs' absence may indeed be a form of protest driven by dissatisfaction with Molapise's leadership approach. According to the insider, some within the parliamentary caucus are pushing for an elective congress, a move the party president is reportedly reluctant to entertain.

The source further alleged that dissenting views within the party are often met with hostility, with those who challenge the leadership becoming targets of criticism.

DISCIPLINARY THREAT

Despite the pushback, Molapise signalled that the party leadership is considering "appropriate action" to address what he termed indiscipline, raising the prospect of sanctions against errant members.

The standoff has placed the relationship between the BPP leadership and its MPs under intense scrutiny, with growing calls for dialogue to bridge the widening divide before the situation deteriorates further.

Mohwasa Denies Dodging Khama on DIS Matters

Mohwasa answers mounting calls for DIS transparency while defending confidentiality on sensitive national security matters

BONGANI MALUNGA

Minister for State President, Defence and Security Moeti Mohwasa has firmly rejected claims that his ministry is avoiding accountability over questions raised by Ian Khama concerning the operations and administration of the Directorate of Intelligence and Security (DIS).

The matter surfaced during recent deliberations of Ntlo Ya Dikgosi, where Kgosi Khama expressed frustration over what he described as the ministry's repeated failure to provide consistent and satisfactory responses to questions he had submitted regarding the intelligence agency.

OPERATIONAL ISSUES

In the last Ntlo Ya Dikgosi sessions in January, Khama continually sought clarity on several operational and administrative issues within the DIS, a body that has frequently drawn public and political scrutiny over the years. His remarks in the chamber reignited debate over transparency, oversight and the extent to which government institutions should account to traditional leaders and the public.

Addressing the media during a press conference on Monday, Mohwasa dismissed suggestions that the ministry was deliberately withholding information or sidestepping difficult questions. He maintained that his ministry had made every effort to respond whenever the opportunity arose.

"In the interest of transparency, we have tried our best to answer questions consistently" Mohwasa said.

INHERITED FROM THE PREVIOUS REGIME

The minister noted that many of the concerns raised about the DIS relate to events, decisions and policies that predate the current administration's assumption of office. He said this has complicated some responses, as the present leadership is often required to address matters inherited from the previous government.

"A lot of the questions concern issues that happened before this government came into office but that has not stopped us from being professional in the manner in which we respond. There is no hiding place as far as being answerable is concerned" he said.

BALANCING ACT

Mohwasa further stressed that his ministry remains committed to accountability and responsible governance, particularly on matters involving national security institutions. However, he also suggested that some questions require careful handling due to the sensitive nature of intelligence operations.

Mohwasa's response comes after growing pressure on government to ensure greater openness around institutions such as the DIS, while balancing the confidentiality often associated with national security matters.


(Pic:Monirul Bhuiyan/PRESS PHOTO)

SCAN ME

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TENDER ADVERTISEMENT

1. **TENDER NO: CEDA 001 / 2026-2027 INVITATION TO TENDER FOR THE SUPPLY, DELIVERY AND INSTALLATION OF SAP CERTIFIED HANA SERVER**

1.1. Sealed Tender offers are invited for the Supply, Delivery and Installation of SAP Certified Hana Server.

1.2. Procurement Method: Open Domestic Bidding Method

1.3. Tenderers must, in order to be considered for the award of the contract, be registered with the Public Procurement Regulatory Authority (PPRA) in the following categories: **Code: 203 Electrical, Electronic, Mechanical, Fire and ICT Supplies Sub code: 01 Electrical and Electronic Equipment, Spares and Accessories (Including ICT, Photographic Equipment and Others)**
AND
Submit a valid copy of supplier's/reseller/distributor confirmation certificate for authorization to provide HPE Server for SAP Hana. (Confirmation that the company is authorized to provide HPE Server for SAP Hana).

1.4. All Bids must be submitted no later than **10:00hrs** on **22nd of May 2026** (As per CEDA timepiece placed at Reception Area).

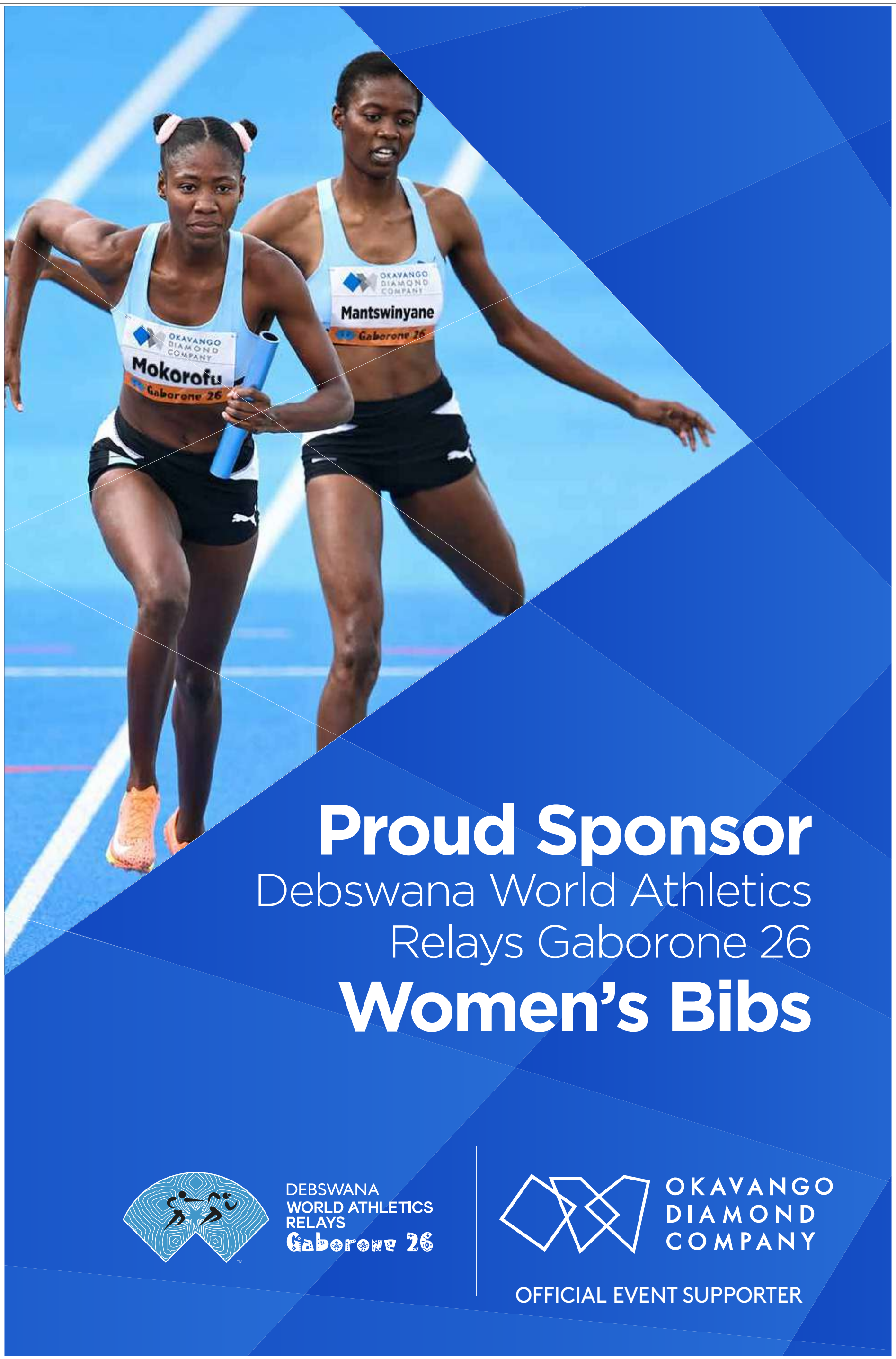
2. The Tender document is available for purchase and collection at **CEDA Head Office Only** from **20th April 2026** at a non-refundable fee of **P250.00 (Two Hundred and Fifty Pula Only)** inclusive of VAT and **P 125.00 (One hundred and Twenty-Five Pula)** inclusive of VAT for youth owned companies as per Presidential Directive CAB (B)/2015.

3. Preference Margins will be applied to qualifying bidders in line with the Economic Inclusion Act of 2021.

4. The tender document is also available via online purchase as per the above non-refundable fee. For more information please visit the CEDA website **www.ceda.co.bw** or scan the QR code.

5. The Public Procurement Regulatory Authority's Standardised conditions of Tender shall apply to this procurement, for which all the applicable Tender Data is contained in the Tender Document. Notwithstanding anything in the foregoing, CEDA is not bound to accept the lowest or any tender offer.

6. **For further information regarding this tender, please contact CEDA Procurement Office at procurement@ceda.co.bw.**



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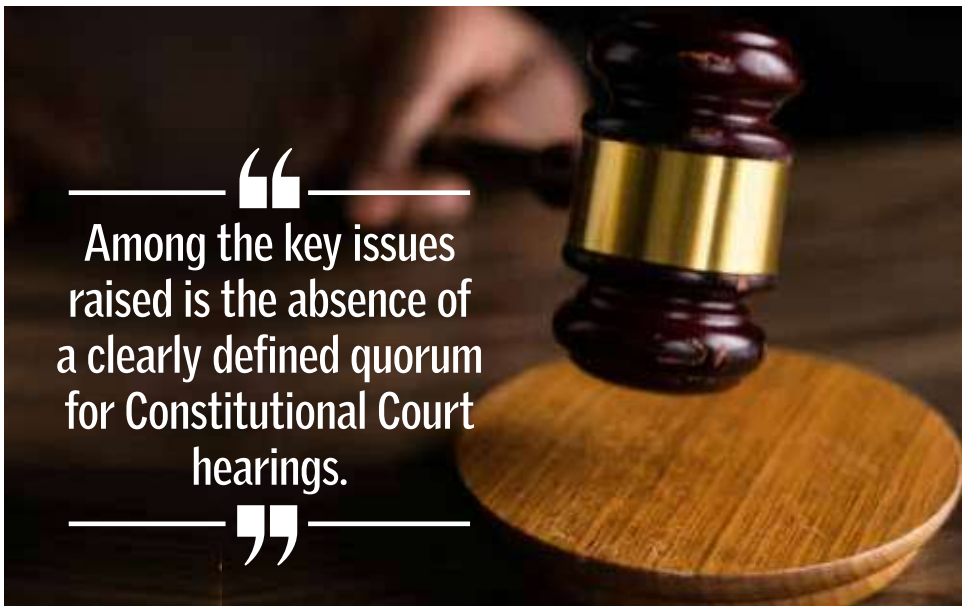
BOCONGO Warns On Court Referendum

Civil society group BOCONGO says voters must look beyond the promise of a new Constitutional Court and consider possible risks to judicial independence, appeal rights, access to justice and public accountability.

SESUPO RANTSIMAKO

The Botswana Council of Non-Governmental Organisations (BOCONGO) has released a detailed 10-point guide aimed at helping voters make informed decisions ahead of the upcoming referendum on the proposed Constitutional Court. The referendum follows the passing of the Constitutional Amendment Bill of 2025, which seeks to establish the new apex court to preside over constitutional and human rights matters.



PUBLIC EDUCATION

In its advisory, BOCONGO says the document is meant to educate and sensitise the public while highlighting potential implications of the proposed court structure, warning that the changes could have far-reaching consequences for citizens' rights and access to justice.

Among the key issues raised is the absence of a clearly defined quorum for Constitutional Court hearings. BOCONGO notes that the Bill does not specify how many judges must preside over cases, raising the possibility that a single judge could determine critical constitutional and human rights matters. This, the organisation warns, increases the risk of inconsistent or biased rulings with no oversight.

COURT QUORUM

BOCONGO further raises alarm over what it describes as potential threats to the separation of powers. The Bill, it says, grants the President significant influence in appointing judges to the Constitutional Court, as well as members of the Judicial Service Commission. This, the organisation cautions, could undermine judicial independence and weaken the courts' ability to hold the executive accountable.

Another major concern is the absence of an appellate mechanism. Under the proposed system, the Constitutional Court would be the first and final authority on human rights, electoral disputes and constitutional issues. BOCONGO warns that this leaves citizens without recourse should the court err in its rulings, even in cases involving fundamental freedoms or livelihoods.

NO APPEALS

BOCONGO has also questioned the financial burden of establishing and maintaining the Constitutional Court, alongside the cost of conducting a nationwide referendum. The organisation warns that such expenditure could divert resources from essential public services such as healthcare, education and housing.

Importantly, BOCONGO points out that the Bill does not introduce new human rights or strengthen existing protections. Instead, it merely changes the forum in which such cases are heard, raising concerns that citizens may be asked to endorse a major constitutional shift without tangible benefits.

RIGHTS CONCERNS

BOCONGO concludes that the proposed changes could weaken fair trial guarantees, limit access to justice, eliminate appeal rights and concentrate significant power in a small number of individuals. It urges voters to carefully consider these implications before casting their ballots in the referendum.

"The decisions made through this process will shape the country's constitutional landscape for generations," the organisation emphasised, calling for robust public engagement and scrutiny.

Botswana Savings Bank | TENDERING PROCEDURES | TENDER NOTICE

A THREE-YEAR SERVICE CONTRACT FOR THE PROVISION OF CLEANING SERVICES TO THE BOTSWANA SAVINGS BANK AT VARIOUS SITES. TENDER NO: BSB/PU/HC/001- 2026/27 TENDERING PROCEDURES

Tender offers are invited from Local (100% Citizen owned) Contractors for the Provision Of Cleaning Services At BSB Offices across the country. The procuring department is Botswana Savings Bank Human Capital Department, Facilities & Admin Section. Bidders who are to be considered for award of the contract should be appropriately licensed to trade and or supply the services tendered for, and in possession of requisite documentation to trade and or supply such services according to the laws of Botswana. The tender is open to 100% citizen owned companies. EDD/LPS/CEEP government policies on Citizen Empowerment shall be applied in this tender for evaluation and award purposes. Documents shall be accessed from the below link:

https://www.bsb.bw/tenders/

with effect from 27th April 2026, Tender documents shall be available in soft copies only. Bidders must share proof of payment upon payment of the tender fee to procurementunit@bsb.bw and attach to the bid submitted.

A non-refundable fee of 500.00 Botswana Pula (BWP) shall be paid by interested bidders to be eligible to tender. Youth-owned companies shall purchase the tender at half price (citizens only). For local companies' payment shall be made at any of the following Botswana Savings Bank branches: BSB Headquarters, Rail Park, Palapye, Mahalapye, Molepolole, Serowe, Hukuntsi, F/town, Maun, Kanye and Gumare at the following:

Account details:
Acc Name: Other Income
Acc No: 1415-1-03-35-24-00-0000
Reference no: Bidder's Company Name

Or EFT for both local and international companies

Account name: Botswana Savings Bank
Account number: 9060005770217
Account: BWP Current
Bank: Stanbic Bank
Branch name: Fairgrounds
Branch/Sort Code: 064967
Swift code: SBICBWGX

The tender is open for hundred percent citizen owned companies domiciled in Botswana.

There will be a compulsory site visit in all branches scheduled as follows:

Location: Gaborone BSB Headquarters
Date: 04 May 2026
Time: 0900 hrs
Physical address: BSB Tshomarelo House front verandah, Plot 53796 Kagiso Mall.

Location: Gaborone warehouse
Date: 04 May 2026
Time: 1130hrs
Physical address: Block 3, Unit 1, Western Industrial Estate, Plot 69365

Location: Gaborone Barclays house
Date: 04 May 2026
Time: 1600 hrs
Physical address: Plot 8843 Barclays House Building, in the Government Enclave, Gaborone.

Location: BSB Railpark Branch
Date: 04 May 2026
Time: 1400 hrs
Physical address: Railpark mall, Unit G73A

Location: Francistown Branch
Date: 11 May 2026
Time: 0900 hrs
Physical address: Tebo House, Suite B & Office C Ground, Lot 21931:

Location: Maun Branch
Date: 08 May 2026
Time: 1100hrs
Physical address: Old Mall, Lot 739, Riverside ward, Maun

Location: Gumare Branch
Date: 07 May 2026
Time: 1000 hrs
Physical address: Lot No. 6017, shop 3, Gumare

Location: Serowe branch
Date: 11 May 2026
Time: 1500 hrs
Physical address: Lot 8376, Serowe

Location: Palapye branch
Date: 12 May 2026
Time: 0900hrs
Physical address: Palapye Platinum mall, Lot 8717, shop no. 8, Palapye

Location: BSB Mahalapye branch
Date: 12 May 2026
Time: 1400hrs
Physical address: Lot 9278, Mahalapye

Location: Molepolole branch
Date: 05 May 2026
Time: 0930 hrs
Physical address: Lot no. 619 Molepolole

Location: Kanye branch
Date: 05 May 2026
Time: 1330 hrs
Physical address: Lot 320, Shop no.1 Kanye

Location: Hukuntsi branch
Date: 06 May 2026
Time: 0900hrs
Physical address: Lot 223, Hukuntsi

A two-envelope procedure will be followed. Bids must be submitted as follows;

This is where the technical proposal is prepared separately from the Financial Proposal. No financial information should be contained in the technical proposal or the technical proposal envelope. The Technical proposal should be marked with the word, "TECHNICAL" and the financial proposal marked with the word, "FINANCIAL" Original documents should be marked with the word "ORIGINAL" and all copies marked with the word "COPY". The original technical proposal and all its copies should be placed in one envelope. The original financial proposal and all its copies is also placed in another separate envelope. The two envelopes are then sealed and placed in a bigger outer envelope also sealed. The tender Number, tender title and Name of bidder should appear on the proposals and the envelopes. Parts of each tender offer communicated on paper shall be submitted as one (1) original marked original, plus two (2) copies.

WITHDRAWAL OF BIDS
- A bidder withdrawing his or her bid may submit a new bid in accordance with the bid submission instructions in the bidding documents. A notification to withdraw a bid shall be opened, read and recorded at the bid opening, in accordance with the guidelines.
- A bidder wishing to withdraw his or her bid shall in writing notify the procuring entity of the withdrawal, and the withdrawal letter shall be authorised and submitted in the same way as the bid. In an envelope clearly marked withdrawal of tender for provision of cleaning services to Botswana Savings Bank in Gaborone and other sites for two years.

Queries relating to the issue of these documents may be addressed to Procurement Unit at Tel: +267 3670237, Fax No: +267 395 2608 or email arothi@bsb.bw at least 5 Days before tender closing date copied to bmkhutshwa@bsb.bw

CLOSING DATE:
19th May 2026 at 1000hrs.

Tender offers received after closing date, telegraphic, faxed or emailed submissions will not be accepted. Late tenders will be rejected and returned unopened to bidders. Names and addresses of bidders should be reflected on the envelopes.

The physical address for tender submission is:
Botswana Savings Bank (BSB)
Plot 53796, Tshomarelo House, 4th Floor Tender Box,
Kagiso Mall, P O Box 1150, Gaborone Botswana.

Tender documents not correctly packaged and labelled as indicated above will not be accepted.

The Botswana Savings Bank's Standardised Conditions of Tender apply to this procurement, for which all the applicable Tender Data is contained in the tender documents.

Notwithstanding anything in the foregoing, the Botswana Savings Bank is not bound to accept the lowest or any tender offer, nor incur expenses in the preparation thereof.

Contact Us on 367 0100 or Visit a BSB branch near you for more information.

www.bsb.bw
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Police Watchdog On The Cards

Government's move to establish an independent police investigative body marks a major shift in law enforcement oversight, amid growing public concern over police neglect, abuse of power and the limits of internal accountability.



(Pic:Monirul Bhuiyan/PRESS PHOTO)

GAZETTE REPORTER

Minister for State President, Defence and Security, Moeti Mohwasa, has revealed that government is in the process of establishing an independent police investigative body amid growing public concern over law enforcement conduct.

ACCOUNTABILITY SHIFT

Although no timeline has been provided, the move signals a departure from the stance previously held by former minister Kagiso Mmusi, who had maintained that existing internal mechanisms within the police were sufficient to address misconduct.

The proposed institution is expected to monitor police actions and investigate allegations of abuse of power, negligence and excessive use of force, issues that have increasingly drawn scrutiny from the public, civil society and legal practitioners.

LEGAL BACKING

Local attorney Patrick Matlho has welcomed the development, arguing that an independent arbiter would enhance public trust in law enforcement. He points to regional examples such as the Independent Police Investigative Directorate in South Africa, which conducts impartial investigations into alleged criminal offences by police officers.

Matlho further notes that South Africa's oversight framework extends to the military through a Military Ombudsman, suggesting Botswana could benefit from a similarly comprehensive model.

"An independent and impartial body is essential in ensuring accountability, particularly in cases involving alleged excessive force," he said.

LOCKDOWN TENSIONS

The debate over oversight also emerged during the COVID 19 lockdown, when underlying tensions surfaced between the Botswana Police Service (BPS) and the Botswana Defence Force (BDF), particularly regarding jurisdiction in misconduct cases.

During the lockdown, the BPS recorded three cases of excessive force against civilians where the BDF was involved. However, concerns emerged within the military about the impartiality of investigations conducted by the police.

MILITARY CONCERNS

A senior BDF official, speaking on condition of anonymity, indicated that the military generally preferred to handle its own disciplinary matters as provided for in the BDF Act, which grants the military primary jurisdiction over offences committed in the course of duty.

But some complainants reportedly raised concerns that even the BDF cannot police itself.

> "Critics argue that allowing institutions to investigate themselves risks undermining public confidence, particularly in sensitive cases involving alleged abuse."

PUBLIC TRUST

This arrangement, while legally grounded, has raised questions about transparency and accountability. Critics argue that allowing institutions to investigate themselves risks undermining public confidence, particularly in sensitive cases involving alleged abuse.

At the same time, the BDF maintains that internal investigations are necessary to uphold discipline and protect the integrity of the force, especially where external processes may impose less stringent penalties.

Public Warned Against Residential Pig Farming

Council officials insist the measure is necessary to address sanitation concerns, minimise nuisance complaints and ensure residential areas are used for their intended purpose

BONGANI MALUNGA

Residents of Maun and surrounding villages have been given until 15 May 2026 to remove pigs from residential premises following a firm directive issued by the North West District Council (NWDC).

In a clarification notice dated 27 April 2026, the council said the keeping of pigs in residential areas violates existing by-laws governing public health, sanitation and orderly land use. Authorities stressed that the enforcement order is aimed at restoring compliance and maintaining safe living conditions in communities.

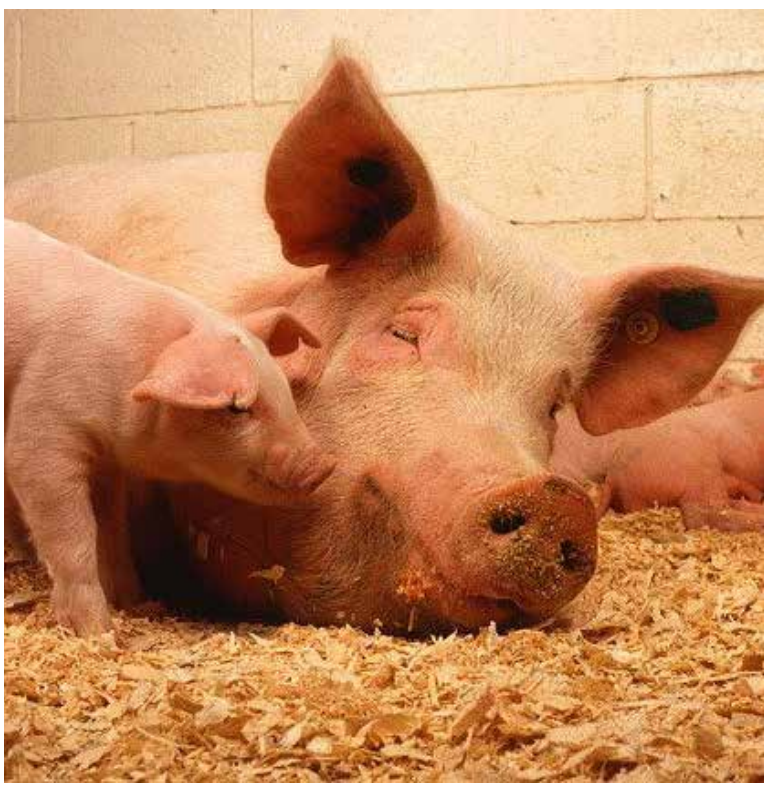
ILLEGAL

"The keeping of pigs in residential areas contravenes the Council's bye-laws on public health, sanitation and orderly land use," the notice states.

The council further explained that its regulations grant it powers to prohibit livestock in residential zones and to identify approved farming areas for such activities. As a result, all pig owners within Maun and neighbouring villages are expected to relocate their animals to designated farming zones approved by the Physical Planning Office.

Council officials warned that time is running out for residents who have continued to rear pigs in urban and village neighbourhoods. The notice makes it clear that inspections will begin immediately after the compliance deadline.

INSPECTIONS ON THE HORIZON



"All pigs must be removed from residential premises no later than 15 May 2026. Inspections will commence on 16 May 2026," the council announced.

Authorities have also warned of serious penalties for those who fail to comply with the directive. These may include the forced removal of animals, monetary fines and possible prosecution under council by-laws. "Failure to comply will result in enforcement action, including removal of animals, fines and possible prosecution under the bye-laws," the notice added.

The move is expected to spark mixed reactions among residents, particularly small-scale pig farmers who have been keeping livestock at home.

> "All pigs must be removed from residential premises no later than 15 May 2026. Inspections will commence on 16 May 2026,"

However, council officials insist the measure is necessary to address sanitation concerns, minimise nuisance complaints and ensure residential areas are used for their intended purpose.



Teachers Threaten Exam Boycott

GAZETTE REPORTER

A major crisis is brewing in the education sector as teachers who marked the 2025 national examinations under the Botswana Examinations Council (BEC) threaten to boycott all future examination duties over delayed payments stretching beyond six months.

PAYMENT DELAYS

Teachers, through the Botswana Teachers Union (BTU) structures, have accused BEC of what they describe as "deliberate disrespect and exploitation" after months of waiting for remuneration for marking national examination scripts.

BTU Deputy Secretary General Othusitse Kgaswane revealed this week that frustrated teachers have formally petitioned BEC management, demanding immediate payment of all outstanding fees. He said the situation has now escalated into an open warning that the integrity of future examinations could be at risk if the matter is not urgently resolved.

TRUST BREAKDOWN

Kgaswane said the situation represents a serious breakdown of trust between educators and the examinations body.

"For over six months, dedicated teachers who gave their time and expertise to mark the 2025 National Examinations for the Botswana Examinations Council (BEC) waited in vain for their legitimate pay. On Wednesday, their patience finally came to an end as they petitioned BEC management, demanding what is rightfully theirs," said Kgaswane.

NOT VOLUNTEERS

He warned that teachers are not volunteers but professionals whose labour must be respected and compensated without delay.

"This should be a clear warning to BEC: Teachers are not volunteers but men and women doing everything in their power to educate the nation. When they sacrifice their holidays, rest hours, family time and personal time to mark national examinations, they do so under a binding expectation of timely compensation," he said.

PROFESSION DAMAGED

Kgaswane described the six month delay as unacceptable and damaging to the teaching profession.

"Six months is not a delay; it is a deliberate act of disrespect and exploitation of teachers that calls for our collective action," he said, adding that no educator should be forced to "beg for wages earned through honest labour."

SYSTEM AT RISK

He further warned that continued failure to pay teachers could have far reaching consequences for the examination system itself.

"If BEC fails to pay for marking, it risks damaging its reputation and losing the trust of educators, which could jeopardise future examination processes and stakeholder confidence," Kgaswane warned.

"Six months is not a delay; it is a deliberate act of disrespect and exploitation of teachers."

COLLECTIVE ACTION

He further issued a strong call for collective action should the situation remain unresolved.

"Collective refusal to serve as invigilators or markers is a legitimate form of protest that underscores our unity and resolve against systemic exploitation," he said.

NO SERVICE

Kgaswane reinforced the union's hardline stance: "NO PAYMENT, NO SERVICE."

He urged teachers to demand written commitments before engaging in any future examination duties, insisting that the era of silence had ended.

MINISTER URGED

BTU has also called on the Minister of Basic Education and Child Welfare, Nono Kgafela-Mokoka, and other relevant authorities to intervene, warning that continued silence amounts to complicity.

"Teachers' labour has value. Do not let BEC treat you as disposable," Kgaswane said. He added that "the time for gentle petitions has elapsed; it is time for action."

NEWS BRIEFS

BONGANI MALUNGA

Botswana pivots to Middle East, African markets amid EU beef trade ban

Botswana is intensifying efforts to access Middle Eastern and African markets as it seeks alternatives to the European Union, which has suspended beef imports from the country following the Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) outbreak. The development was confirmed by Botswana Meat Commission (BMC) Acting Chief Executive Officer Mmabasotho Tibe during the FMD Pitso in Lobatse last Thursday. Tibe said expanding into the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) market remains central to BMC's multi-market strategy as the state-owned entity searches for new trade opportunities while managing growing beef stockpiles.



Mokgware addresses labour concerns at Jindal Project

The Minister of Labour and Home Affairs, Pius Mokgware last Friday met the management of the Jindal Mmamabula Energy Project and subcontractors to tackle growing labour concerns and strengthen compliance with Botswana's labour laws. The main issues discussed included prioritising local contractors where skills are available, consideration of a three-shift, 24-hour working model that could create more jobs. Mokgware also pressed for implementation of a P4000 minimum wage and insisted workers be provided with adequate personal protective equipment in all high-risk environments.

The Minister further warned contractors against tax evasion and illegal acquisition of work permits for foreign workers, stressing that all employee taxes must be properly deducted and remitted to BURS. He urged Jindal to offer longer-term contracts to subcontractors so that workers can benefit from more stable employment.

Jindal Project Head Vishwanathan Subramanian pledged to address the concerns raised. Government agencies will now conduct regular inspections, while Mokgware promised to return to assess progress and ensure workers' conditions improve.

Namibia, Botswana ponder joint airline

Botswana and Namibia are reportedly edging closer to formal talks over the possible establishment of a joint airline. According to reports from Namibia, the proposed carrier would initially focus on direct flights between Gaborone and Windhoek, with longer-term ambitions to expand routes across Southern Africa. The two neighbouring countries are already collaborating on rail and other transport projects aimed at improving regional trade and connectivity, with the airline proposal seen as another step towards deeper economic cooperation.

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EU Flags FMD Failure

Botswana's beef exports to the EU face a major setback after regulators raised biosecurity concerns over an FMD outbreak in a key livestock zone linked to the country's only EU approved slaughterhouse.

GAZETTE REPORTER

The European Union has raised serious regulatory concerns over Botswana's ability to contain foot and mouth disease (FMD) after an outbreak was confirmed in a critical livestock zone that includes the country's only EU listed slaughterhouse approved for the export of fresh meat to the European market.

OUTBREAK CONFIRMED

The outbreak, officially confirmed on 1 April 2026 through RT PCR and AC ELISA laboratory testing, was reported by Botswana to the European Commission on 2 April 2026. The infected establishment is located in Ramatlabama, within the Barolong region of the Southern District, an area classified under veterinary disease control zone 11.



According to Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2021/404, this zone is part of a structured export system that previously allowed Botswana access to the EU market for fresh meat of certain ungulates.

ACCESS THREATENED

However, the latest outbreak has now placed that access in jeopardy.

The situation is further complicated by the fact that the affected zone 11 also hosts Botswana's only EU listed slaughterhouse approved for export to the European Union.

BIOSECURITY CONCERNS

According to the EU, "That establishment is located within the veterinary disease control zone 11 designated by the competent authorities of Botswana where also the only EU listed slaughterhouse approved for entry into the Union of fresh meat of certain ungulates is located and which has no movement control measures in place or physical barriers with the veterinary disease control zones 12 and 13."

The European Commission noted in the regulation that the configuration raises significant biosecurity concerns. It states that there are "no movement control measures in place or physical barriers" between the affected zones, increasing the risk of disease spread across the export network.

FMD STATUS LOST

In response to the outbreak, according to the EU, the World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH) suspended Botswana's "FMD free zone where vaccination is not practised" status covering multiple veterinary zones, including 3c, 4b, 5, 6a, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12 and 13, effective 31 March 2026.

The suspension effectively undermines Botswana's previously recognised disease free export credibility.

EXPORT RISKS

The Commission, acting under the authority of the EU's animal health framework and under the presidency of Ursula von der Leyen, concluded that the risk of contamination entering the EU food chain had significantly increased.

The regulation explicitly warns that, under Article 124 of Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/692, animal products cannot transit through or originate from zones where disease control integrity is compromised. As a result, the entry of fresh meat from Botswana's export zones BW 1, BW 2, BW 3 and BW 5 has been suspended.

PATHWAY CLOSED

The Commission further states that transporting animals through non approved zones to slaughter facilities intended for EU export is no longer authorised, effectively shutting down Botswana's current export pathway to the European market.

The regulation notes that amendments to EU import lists must take effect immediately to avoid "any unnecessary disruption" while safeguarding public and animal health.

BINDING MEASURES

The regulation states that the measures are binding and directly applicable across all EU Member States.



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

The positions are based at the BIUST Campus, Palapye.

SCHOOL OF EARTH SCIENCES AND ENGINEERING

1. TECHNICIAN-GEOPHYSICS

The successful candidate will be appointed on a fixed-term contract of up to five (3) years.

Main Purpose of the Job

- To provide high-level technical expertise and support for the teaching and research activities of the Department of Geology and Geological Engineering.
- To be responsible for the management, care, and maintenance of the department's inventory of geophysical equipment.
- To perform basic repairs, troubleshoot technical faults, and liaise with external suppliers for more complex equipment servicing.
- To lead the preparation, deployment, and recovery of equipment for field courses and research projects for undergraduate and postgraduate students, ensuring they are conducted safely and effectively.
- To provide practical training and supervision to students on the safe and effective operation of geophysical equipment and software.
- To provide specialist advice on survey design, methodology, and data acquisition best practices to support research proposals and projects.
- To assist with geophysical data management, archiving, and preliminary processing.

Qualifications

- At least a Diploma in Geophysics, Geology or related field from a recognised institution

Experience

- Minimum of 5-7 years work experience.
- A valid CLASS-B manual driving license.

Competencies:
a) Able to complete multiple assignments, maintain quality, work under pressure and adhere to deadlines.
b) Adhere to HR policies, practices and procedures, and conform to professional standards and ethics.
c) Be a team player and demonstrate ability to work independently and without much close supervision.
d) Maintain confidentiality and respectful of sensitive situations
e) Ability to communicate effectively in English – both written and verbal.
f) Professionalism and adherence to good work ethics (integrity, dependability, punctuality, etc.)
g) Willingness to learn and improve on a continual basis
h) Resilience and personal drive, self-motivation

2. SENIOR LECTURER: WATER RESOURCE SCIENCES

MAIN PURPOSE OF THE JOB:

- To teach, educate and supervise undergraduate and graduate students in an academic discipline and to build the knowledge base of the discipline through research and publication.
- To administer teaching activities within Water Resources Sciences, with demonstratoble teaching experience in Environmental Impact Assesment, and provide leadership at the moduleor course.
- To establish a national reputation in the field of Water Resources Science and Management.

KEY PERFORMANCE AREAS:
a) Responsible for teaching and supervision of students
b) Should be able to conduct research and publish the findings in indexed journals recommended by the university.
c) Should be able to perform professional and consultation services and other services for the university.
d) Be able to engage in community service.

COMPETENCIES/SKILLS:
a) Should have the skills of coaching and mentoring students.
b) Should be able to communicate well orally and in writing.
c) Should possess the skill of time management and be self-motivated.
d) Be a team player and also be able to work independently.
e) Good of their academic discipline environment
f) Ability to facilitate student learning.

QUALIFICATIONS/REQUIREMENTS:
Academic Qualification:

- PhD degree in Water Resource Sciences.
- Registration with relevant professional bodies where applicable.

Experience:

- A minimum of two (2) years post-doctoral experience in teaching and research at a tertiary institution of comparable standard. However, two years post-doctoral relevant industrial/professional experience shall be equivalent to one year teaching experience.
- Proven research profile and consistent publication record with at least eight (8) peer reviewed reputable publications in either scopus or web of science indexed journals, commensurate with appointment to the rank of Senior Lecturer.
- Proven record of supervision of Post graduate students.

Remuneration
The University offers an attractive package commensurate with qualification and experience.

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

Director, Human Resources, at the email address below;

recruitment.mining.eng@biust.ac.bw

For any further enquiries, you may call Ms Ulaula @ 4931315 / Ms. Ramolatlhwa @ 4931304
Closing Date: May 08, 2026

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Scrapping Anti-Gay Laws Not Enough

BONELA welcomes Botswana's latest legal reform on same-sex relations, but warns that true equality will depend on tackling stigma, discrimination and institutional barriers.

GAZETTE REPORTER



Botswana's move to formally remove parts of the Penal Code historically linked to the criminalisation of same-sex relations has been welcomed as a major milestone, but rights group BONELA says legal reform alone is not enough to guarantee equality and dignity for LGBTQ+ people.

Botswana's move to formally remove parts of the Penal Code historically linked to the criminalisation of same-sex relations has been welcomed as a major milestone, but rights group BONELA says legal reform alone is not enough to guarantee equality and dignity for LGBTQ+ people.

LEGAL SHIFT

According to the latest Government Gazette, Statutory Instrument No. 41 of 2026, Attorney General Dick Bayford signed the Rectification of the Laws (Penal Code) Order, 2026, deleting paragraphs (a) and (c) of Section 164 of the Penal Code Act. The order was published on March 27, 2026.

The Gazette states: "Section 164 of the Penal Code Act is rectified by deleting paragraphs (a) and (c) appearing therein."

FORMAL STEP

The legal change is being viewed as another formal step in dismantling provisions once used to target consensual same-sex relationships, following Botswana's landmark decriminalisation judgment in 2019.

Reacting to the development, the Botswana Network on Ethics, Law and HIV/AIDS (BONELA) said the move marked progress but warned that deeper reforms are still urgently needed.

HUMAN RIGHTS

"The recent move by the Attorney General to delete provisions of Section 164 of the Penal Code is a significant step towards the legal, public health and human rights framework in Botswana," BONELA said.

The organisation noted that Section 164 had long been associated with discrimination against LGBTQ+ persons and said its removal signals a positive shift in the country's legal order.

DIGNITY, PRIVACY

"Its removal, or amendment, signals a potentially important shift in Botswana's legal framework, one that aligns more closely with constitutional principles of dignity, privacy, and equality," BONELA said.

The advocacy group said from a human rights standpoint, the reform was both necessary and overdue.

OVERDUE REFORM

"From a human rights perspective, this development may be viewed as a positive and necessary step toward eliminating discriminatory laws that disproportionately affect LGBTQ+ individuals," it added.

BONELA also highlighted the public health implications, arguing that crimi-

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Morupule Coal Mine
Seam to Value

HEAD OF SALES, MARKETING AND LOGISTICS

Morupule Coal Mine (MCM) is a mining company established in 1973 to mine and unlock the true value of coal for all stakeholders. The MCM business is at the heart of a prosperous future for Botswana, with coal production contributing significantly to the economic development of the country. With a strong focus on operational excellence, commercial value creation and sustainable growth, the organisation is inviting candidates who are strategic and commercially astute to join its leadership team as **Head of Sales, Marketing and Logistics**.

Job Purpose
Reporting to the Chief Executive Officer, the Head of Sales, Marketing and Logistics will oversee the development and implementation of sales, marketing and logistics strategies, aimed at increasing sales volumes, market share, price and margin optimisation, customer management and ensuring existence of efficient distribution channels.

The Job
The position will be responsible for, among others, the following:

- Developing market entry and exit strategies.
- Championing a market-led sales culture across the organisation.
- Identifying and prioritising new markets in line with MCM's strategy.
- Designing pricing strategies, sales books and price optimisation initiatives.
- Leading complex negotiations and concluding profitable sales and supply agreements.
- Providing market, sales and logistics insights to support production and strategic planning
- Strengthening customer experience, key account management and customer relationships.
- Overseeing marketing and promotion of MCM products to improve brand visibility and sales.
- Building partnerships with customers, traders and logistics stakeholders to unlock key markets.
- Driving sales and marketing digital transformation to improve efficiency and decision-making.
- Developing and implementing short- and long-term sales plans to grow sales volumes, market share and increase profitability.
- Overseeing implementation of logistics and distribution strategies to ensure efficient and cost-effective routes to market.

The Person
The right candidate will possess the following:

- A Bachelor's Degree in Commerce, Marketing, Business Administration, or a related field.
- A Master's degree in a related field or a Management Development Programme would be an added advantage.
- At least 10 years' relevant experience, with a minimum of 3 years at managerial level within a mining sales and marketing function.
- Knowledge of coal product marketing, coal supply agreements, pricing optimisation, customer management, logistics and distribution management.
- Knowledge of SHE Management Systems.

Competencies

- Coal industry proficiency.
- Strong commercial and business acumen.
- Stakeholder engagement and influencing.
- Strong communication and analytical skills.
- Digital transformation and process improvement.
- Strategic sales, marketing and logistics leadership.
- Cross-functional collaboration and team leadership.
- Strong negotiation, advocacy and decision-making skills.
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ACEB TRAINING MILESTONE





ACEB steps up FIDIC Contracts training

Participants (above) from Debswana management during an ACEB-facilitated FIDIC Contracts training session (insert) in Gaborone. Participants lauded ACEB for upskilling them and called for more such courses in future.

THE Association of Consulting Engineers Botswana (ACEB) is ramping up the rollout of the International Federation of Consulting Engineers FIDIC Contracts training course to meet the increasing demand across Botswana's private and public sector spaces.

This comes from the realisation that professionals constantly require essential knowledge needed to effectively administer contracts, avoid disputes, and deliver projects successfully.

Designed to provide participants with a comprehensive understanding of FIDIC's internationally recognised standard forms of contract, the FIDIC Contracts training course centres on the practical application of FIDIC contracts commonly used in engineering, construction, and infrastructure projects, and the built environment.

The FIDIC Contracts training course is tailor-made for professionals involved in the planning, procurement, implementation, and management of construction and infrastructure projects.

Key sectors that heavily rely on infrastructure development will see their professionals align with global best practices in project and contract management as a result of FIDIC Contracts training.

The strategic sectors include: engineering and construction, transport and roads infrastructure, water and sanitation, energy and power generation, mining and minerals development, property and real estate development and public infrastructure projects.

One of the main takeaways from these courses is that participants acquire invaluable practical knowledge that strengthens professional competence and promotes international best practices in contract management. During training, participants learn how these contracts allocate responsibilities, manage risks, and guide project implementation from contract award through to completion and dispute resolution.

Salient outcomes from the FIDIC Contracts training cover improved understanding of the structure and principles of FIDIC Contracts, enhanced ability to administer and manage contracts effectively, better risk allocation and project management practices, better value for money in projects, reduced disputes and improved dispute resolution mechanisms and strengthened professional capacity within the construction and infrastructure sectors.

Targeted participants include engineers and consulting engineers, architects, quantity surveyors, project managers, contractors and subcontractors, procurement and contract management professionals, legal practitioners involved in construction law, developers and project owners, and government officials responsible for infrastructure development.

From FIDIC training courses, immense benefits are realised in the public sector, particularly government ministries and departments through strengthening their capacity to effectively manage public infrastructure projects and associated funds, *inter alia*.

Participants laud ACEB for upskilling them and call for more such courses in future!

"ACEB remains committed to supporting the growth of professional expertise in the built environment sector through high-quality training programmes aligned with global standards and best practices," ACEB Chief Executive Officer, Eng. Lillian Mosimaneotsile says. "We encourage all professionals involved in infrastructure development to take advantage of FIDIC training opportunities."

Eng. Mosimaneotsile says ACEB offers far more than just FIDIC Contracts training programmes. "Our goal is to upskill all personnel playing a role in the built environment. These programmes are being carefully developed and will be unveiled in due course as we expand the value to our clients and stakeholders."

ACEB recently facilitated two separate five-day FIDIC Contracts training courses for the Debswana Diamond Company, one at Debswana Head Office (DCC) and the other at Orapa, Letlhakane and Damtshaa Mine (OLDM).

One of the participants, Oratile Tumediso-Entaile a Senior Contract Administrator at Jwaneng Mine (Underground Expansion Project) said the training will assist Debswana in addressing the challenges around claims and disputes, especially in claims management. "This internationally accredited training will allow us to be proactive in claims management," she explained. "The key challenge with us is identifying who is supposed to communicate with the contractor, and what is supposed to be communicated with them."

Emmanuel Kgantumo, a Project Controls Manager at Debswana Head Office said the training has helped him better understand the principles of contracts. "Some of the challenges we face include delays in delivery and extending times of delivery," Kgantumo illuminates. "This training is quite relevant and helps us to manage and deal with the projects and contractors that we have as Debswana."

Through training programmes offered by ACEB, and by investing in capacity building, industry stakeholders can contribute to improved project delivery, stronger professional standards, and sustainable infrastructure development in Botswana. ■

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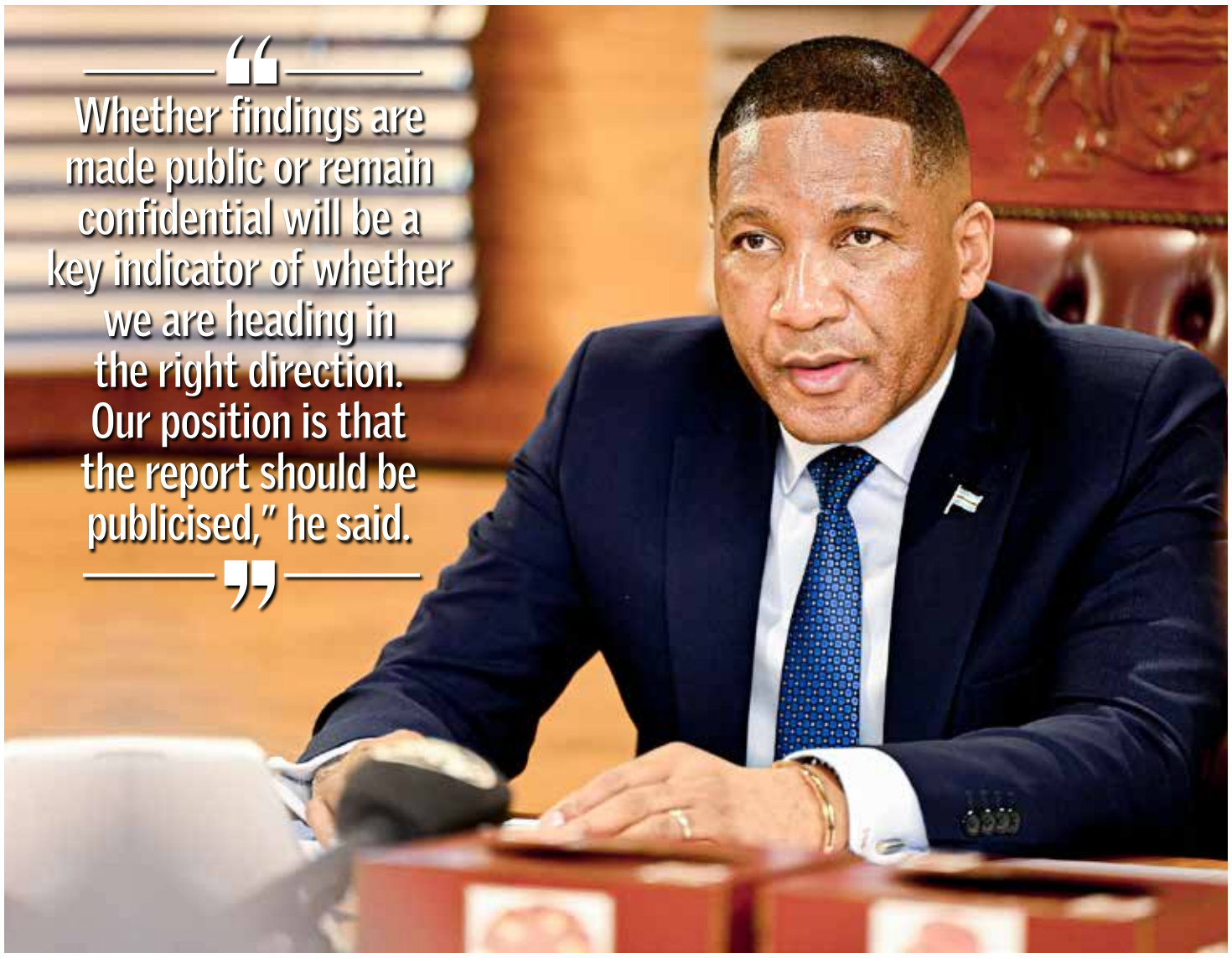

Botswana stands on the brink of what could be one of its most consequential governance moments in recent history, as the high-stakes forensic audit report is set to be delivered to the President this week.

Audit Wait Ends

GAZETTE REPORTER

Botswana stands on the brink of what could be one of its most consequential governance moments in recent history, as the high-stakes forensic audit report is set to be delivered to the President this week.

The report is expected to highlight financial irregularities linked to the previous administrations. Analysts caution, however, that its real impact will depend less on its contents and more on how swiftly and decisively government acts on its findings.

BOTSWANA'S CHEQUERED PAST WITH COMMISSIONS

Botswana has, over the years, appointed several commissions of inquiry, from the Kgabo Commission to more recent processes such as the Dibotelo Commission, often in response to public controversy or periods of national introspection.

While these commissions have produced detailed findings and recommendations, critics argue that tangible outcomes have often been limited. Many reports have been only partially implemented or quietly shelved, raising persistent questions about their effectiveness in driving accountability.

LESSONS FROM THE MADLANGA COMMISSION

There is growing public interest in whether the current audit will go beyond identifying systemic weaknesses and extend to individual accountability.

Some commentators have suggested that the process should mirror developments in South Africa, particularly the Madlanga Commission, and lead to swift arrests.

However, others caution that translating investigative findings into prosecutions is rarely immediate and often involves additional legal and institutional steps.

WHAT HAPPENS AFTER THE REPORT?

According to Botswana Congress Party legislator Taolo Lucas, who also chairs the Public Accounts Committee, the real test will lie in what follows.

"Whether findings are made public or remain confidential will be a key indicator of whether we are heading in the right direction. Our position is that the report should be publicised," he said.

Analysts point to several indicators of serious follow-through, including referrals to law enforcement agencies, prosecutorial action, and the scope and speed of any legal proceedings.

A strong and transparent response, they say, could reinforce Botswana's reputation for institutional integrity. Ultimately, much will depend on the political will of the President.

PRESIDENT PLEDGES ACTION

President Duma Boko has signalled a firm response once the report is formally presented, warning of a decisive approach to accountability.

He indicated that government would not hesitate to act on the findings, raising expectations of asset recovery, referrals to law enforcement agencies, possible prosecutions, and broader institutional reform.

"The outcome of the process will be brutal and devastating. Anybody who has stolen anything from the government must start running right now. It is not a political witch-hunt. It is to lay down clear lines, not only for those who were there before, but for those now and in the future. They tell me that as we are digging, it's very scary," Boko said recently.

CHALLENGES AHEAD

Even as anticipation builds, experiences from Sierra Leone, South Africa, and Angola suggest the road ahead may be complex.

Turning audit findings into successful prosecutions is rarely straightforward. In Sierra Leone, strong investigative findings did not immediately translate into court victories, with legal challenges and institutional constraints slowing progress.

Political pushback is also likely. South Africa's experience following the Zondo Commission demonstrated how anti-corruption efforts can trigger competing narratives, resistance, and claims of political targeting, dynamics that could emerge in Botswana as well.

There is also the risk of perceived selective justice. In Angola, anti-corruption efforts under João Lourenço faced criticism for focusing on specific elites. If Botswana's process is not seen as even-handed, it could undermine public trust.

Lawyers warn that recovering misappropriated funds may prove difficult, particularly where assets have been moved across borders. Such efforts often require lengthy legal processes and international cooperation.

Perhaps most critically, managing public expectations will be key. While citizens may anticipate swift arrests and convictions, accountability processes take time, and in some cases may not succeed.

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nalisation has historically undermined HIV prevention efforts by pushing vulnerable communities away from healthcare services.

HEALTH BARRIERS

"Criminalisation has long been recognised as a barrier to effective HIV prevention, testing, and treatment efforts," BONELA said. "Laws that stigmatise and marginalise key populations often drive them away from essential health services."

However, the organisation stressed that repealing legal provisions without confronting social prejudice would fall short of true justice.

BEYOND LAW

"Legal reform alone is not sufficient. Decriminalisation must be accompanied by broader efforts to address stigma, discrimination, and structural barriers that persist in society and within institutions," BONELA said.

The group called for stronger public education campaigns, policy alignment across government institutions, and continued protection of vulnerable communities.

NEXT CHALLENGE

"In conclusion, while the removal of Section 164 provisions may represent progress toward a more equitable legal system, it also presents an opportunity and responsibility for continued advocacy," BONELA said.

Botswana has often been praised regionally for progressive court rulings on rights issues, but activists argue that translating legal victories into everyday lived equality remains the country's next major challenge.

Pull quote options:

"Legal reform alone is not sufficient."

"Decriminalisation must be accompanied by broader efforts to address stigma, discrimination, and structural barriers."



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First Specialised Commercial Court Launched To Tackle Backlogs

Court Targets Case Backlogs

Botswana launches its first specialised Commercial Court to fast-track business disputes, corruption cases and complex divorce settlements while reducing court backlogs.



BONGANI MALUNGA

Botswana has officially launched its first specialised Commercial Court in a landmark move aimed at accelerating the resolution of business disputes, economic crime cases and financially complex divorce matters that have long clogged the country's justice system.

BACKLOG PRESSURE

The new court is expected to play a critical role in reducing a growing backlog of cases currently weighing heavily on the High Court. Existing records indicate that more than 5,000 commercial matters and more than 2,000 divorce cases are pending before the Gaborone and Lobatse High Court divisions.

MAJOR SHIFT

The establishment of the specialised court signals a major shift in Botswana's judicial administration, with authorities seeking faster, more efficient and expert handling of matters that often involve intricate financial documentation, property disputes and corporate interests.

BUSINESS DISPUTES

The court will focus on commercial litigation, public tender disputes, corruption matters and economic crimes, areas increasingly viewed as central to investor confidence and economic governance.

DIVORCE SETTLEMENTS

In addition, the court is expected to transform the handling of divorce cases where disagreements over businesses, maintenance payments, property division and asset ownership frequently drag on for years before reaching finality.

TECHNICAL CAPACITY

Launching the judicial development on Monday, Chief Justice Gaolapelwe Ketlogetswe said the new court would provide the necessary administrative and technical capacity to deal with business valuations, complex financial settlements and difficult asset division processes that often delay judgments.

JUDICIAL CONFIDENCE

Speaking at the launch of the specialised court, the Minister of Justice and Correctional Services, Nelson Ramaotwana, said the move could strengthen Botswana's reputation as a rules-based economy by ensuring disputes are resolved faster and more predictably.

FASTER JUSTICE

For businesses, families and investors alike, the launch of the Commercial Court is being seen as a long-overdue reform that could modernise justice delivery and restore confidence in the speed of Botswana's courts.

Exports Rise on Diamond Demand

Botswana's export earnings climbed in February, driven largely by stronger diamond and machinery shipments, while imports surged on the back of a sharp rise in diamond inflows

GAZETTE REPORTER

Botswana's export earnings rose by 14.1 percent in February 2026, reaching P5.6 billion from a revised P4.9 billion in January, according to the latest International Merchandise Trade Statistics Monthly Digest — February 2026 released by Statistics Botswana.

The increase was mainly driven by higher exports of diamonds and machinery and electrical equipment, which grew by 32.0 percent and 37.1 percent respectively. Diamond exports increased by P934.9 million, while machinery and electrical equipment rose by P100.3 million.

Diamonds remained Botswana's dominant export commodity, accounting for 68.7 percent of total exports. Copper followed at 16.8 percent, while machinery and electrical equipment contributed 6.6 percent, valued at P370.7 million. Salt

"Asia as the largest export market for Botswana received 67.0 percent of total exports."

To Page 19

Debswana, BDC Push Diversification

Entities move to reduce Botswana's dependence on diamonds as mining revenues face growing pressure



Debswana Diamond Company and Botswana Development Corporation have signed a Memorandum of Understanding aimed at accelerating economic diversification and reducing Botswana's dependence on diamond revenues.

GAZETTE REPORTER

Debswana Diamond Company and Botswana Development Corporation have signed a Memorandum of Understanding aimed at accelerating economic diversification and reducing Botswana's dependence on diamond revenues.

The agreement will focus on building a pipeline of future investments, funding businesses, developing new industries and expanding existing sectors outside diamonds, as both institutions seek to support a broader economic base.

Speaking at the signing, Debswana's chief financial officer, Ian Modubule, said the deal comes at a difficult period for the diamond mining industry.

"The diamond mining industry is facing significant challenges," Modubule said, adding that Debswana's long-standing reliance on diamonds had narrowed its commercial focus and exposed both the company and Botswana to downturns in the global diamond market.

BEYOND DIAMONDS

Modubule said Debswana had adopted a strategy that looks beyond mining and places greater emphasis on partnerships to secure long-term growth.

"We can no longer depend on diamonds alone," he said.

He said the company needed experienced partners to guide its entry into new investment areas and described BDC as a natural fit because of its long history in investment and enterprise development.

Modubule said the agreement was more than a formal signing, calling it a serious partnership aimed at reshaping Debswana into a profitable business beyond diamonds.

He warned that planning for a post-diamond economy could not be delayed.

STRATEGY SHIFT

Debswana managing director Andrew Motsumi said the MoU aligned with the company's 2025–2029 hybrid transformation strategy, which aims to build a diversified cash-generating portfolio by 2029.

Motsumi said the strategy has three pathways: strengthening its diamond mining operations, expanding into sectors linked to its existing capabilities and investing in new ventures with long-term value.

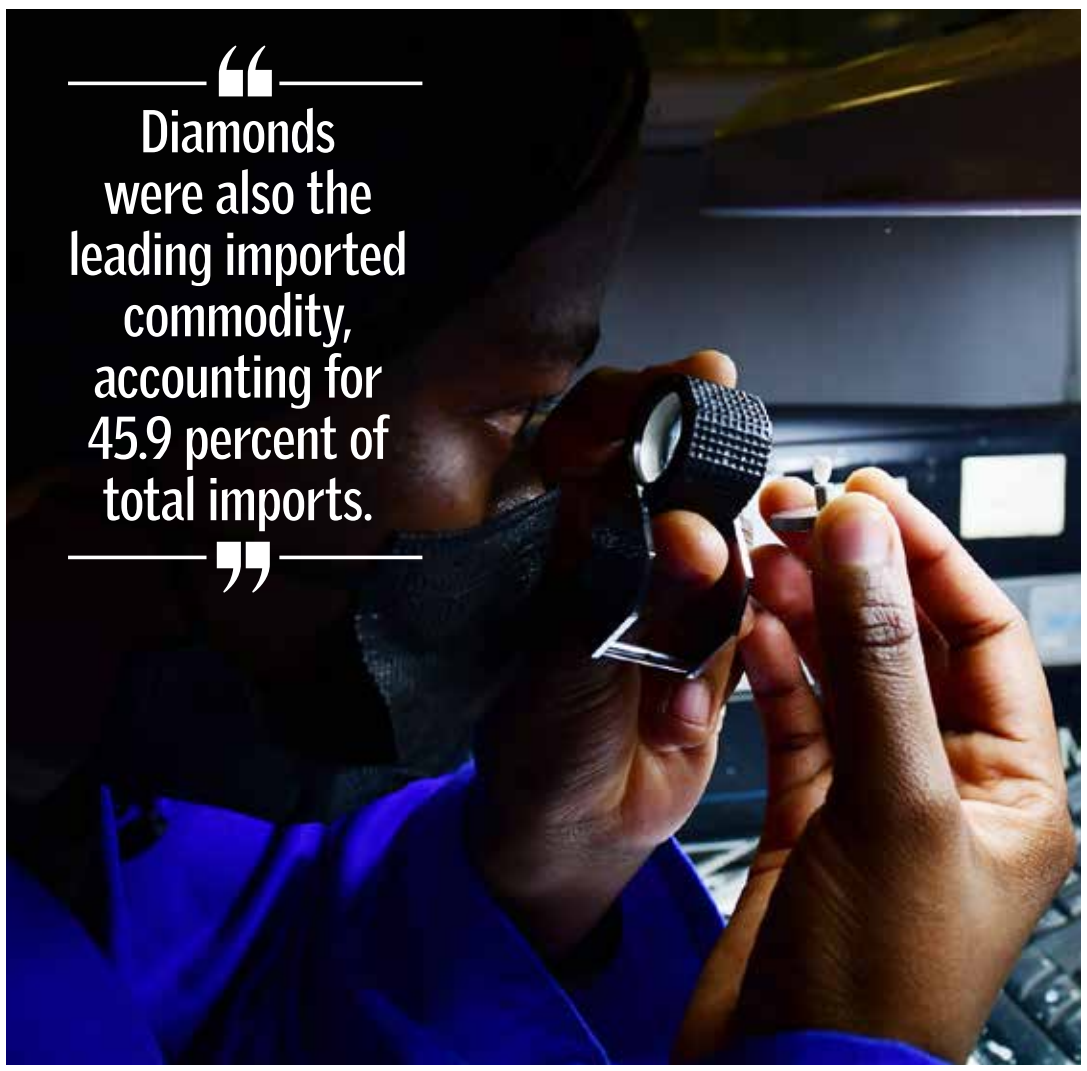
He said the partnership would target sectors including mining, agriculture, manufacturing, tourism, infrastructure, energy, water, financial services, digitalisation and social development.

NATIONAL ROLE

BDC managing director Oteng Keabetswe said the corporation viewed the partnership as part of its long-standing mandate to grow industries beyond mining.

Keabetswe said Botswana's economic volatility, driven largely by declining mining revenues, had made diversification increasingly urgent.

He said the partnership would focus on unlocking value from Debswana's assets, strengthening value chains and creating sustainable jobs.



From Page 18

and soda ash accounted for 1.9 percent, valued at P107.2 million.

KEY MARKETS

The report showed that Asia remained Botswana's largest export destination, receiving 67.0 percent of total merchandise exports.

"Asia as the largest export market for Botswana received 67.0 percent of total exports," the report said.

Diamonds and copper were the leading commodity groups exported to the region, accounting for 85.9 percent and 13.6 percent respectively.

Within Asia, India was Botswana's largest export market, taking in 40.6 percent of total exports, followed by the United Arab Emirates at 15.4 percent and China at 9.1 percent.

The Southern African Customs Union (SACU) accounted for 11.8 percent of Botswana's total exports during the period under review. Machinery and electrical equipment, salt and soda ash, and diamonds were the major exports to the customs bloc.

Machinery and electrical equipment accounted for 50.6 percent of exports to SACU, followed by salt and soda ash at 12.6 percent. Diamonds contributed 7.7 percent. South Africa was the largest recipient within SACU, accounting for 10.2 percent, or P570.4 million, of Botswana's total exports.

IMPORTS SURGE

Botswana's imports rose sharply in February, increasing by 47.0 percent to P9.8 billion from a revised P6.7 billion in January.

According to Statistics Botswana, the rise was driven mainly by diamond imports, which surged by 873.8 percent, and textiles and footwear, which increased by 33.4 percent.

Diamonds were also the leading imported commodity, accounting for 45.9 percent of total imports. Food, beverages and tobacco followed at 10.8 percent, while fuel and machinery and electrical equipment contributed 10.6 percent and 10.1 percent respectively.

SACU remained Botswana's largest source of imports, supplying 81.1 percent of total imports. Within SACU, Namibia was the leading source at 43.4 percent, followed by South Africa at 37.4 percent.

Architects Seek Bigger Development Role

As the Architects Association of Botswana marks 30 years, industry leaders are pressing for a stronger voice in shaping the country's built environment

GAZETTE REPORTER

The Architects Association of Botswana (AAB) marked its 30th anniversary on Thursday evening with a cocktail dinner in Gaborone, bringing together industry leaders and government officials to reflect on architecture's role in Botswana's development.

The event, attended by acting Transport and Infrastructure Minister Keoagile Atamelang, also featured the launch of the AAB's first commemorative book, documenting notable buildings and infrastructure designed by local architects over the past three decades.

INDUSTRY STANDARDS

AAB president Thandeka Balayi said architecture remains one of the clearest reflections of national development because it shapes how people live, work and interact.

She said the association's role includes maintaining professional standards, promoting ethical conduct and ensuring accountability in the built environment.

"The quality of what we build is directly linked to how early and how effectively architects are involved in the process," Balayi said.

Balayi said architects should be involved earlier in decision-making to influence project outcomes rather than being treated as secondary players.

She added that the profession's next phase should focus on stronger government collaboration, sustainability and preparing young architects for the future.



The event, attended by acting Transport and Infrastructure Minister Keoagile Atamelang, also featured the launch of the AAB's first commemorative book, documenting notable buildings and infrastructure designed by local architects over the past three decades.

Balayi also said the AAB had re-established ties with the Botswana Green Building Council and plans to formalise the partnership through a memorandum of understanding in 2026.

GOVERNMENT REFORMS

Atamelang said architecture extends beyond buildings and contributes to dignity, identity and the creation of community spaces.

> "The future of African architecture will be written collaboratively."

"As Botswana continues to grow, development must not only be efficient, but sustainable, inclusive and reflective of who we are," he said.

He said the government is working on reforms involving infrastructure delivery, procurement systems, building regulations and accountability, adding that cooperation between government, private sector players and professional bodies would be critical.

PRESERVING HISTORY

AAB vice president Edward Mazhani said the commemorative book documents 14 projects, including hospitals, commercial buildings, hospitality projects and public infrastructure.

Mazhani said documenting architecture was essential for preserving Botswana's professional history and indigenous design heritage.

EnterprenHER Strengthens BW's Women Entrepreneurs



A women's economic empowerment initiative funded by De Beers is equipping women entrepreneurs in Botswana with practical financial skills aimed at strengthening and sustaining their businesses.

LEATILE ZACHARIAH

A women's economic empowerment initiative funded by De Beers is equipping women entrepreneurs in Botswana with practical financial skills aimed at strengthening and sustaining their businesses.

EMPOWERING WOMEN-OWNED ENTERPRISES

The EnterprenHER programme, implemented by UN Women Botswana in partnership with the Ministry of Youth and Gender Affairs, is designed to accelerate the growth of women led enterprises.

Programme Analyst Mmakeng Leepile of UN Women Botswana said the initiative focuses on strengthening business sustainability, increasing revenue, and enabling women entrepreneurs to create jobs within their communities.

She noted that the programme also seeks to build resilience among women-owned MSMEs by improving their ability to manage and grow their businesses in competitive markets.

FINANCIAL LITERACY TRAINING IN GABORONE

As part of the initiative, a two-day financial literacy training was recently held in Gaborone through Stanbic Bank Botswana under the EnterprenHER programme. The training brought together women entrepreneurs from various sectors and focused on core business skills such as budgeting, financial record-keeping, and interpreting business performance.

Kushatha Chilisa, Head of Citizen Economic Empowement Programs (CEEP) at Stanbic Bank emphasized the importance of financial discipline, particularly the separation of personal and business finances and understanding how to correctly interpret financial data.

"We want entrepreneurs to confidently manage their numbers and understand that sales do not equal profit. This knowledge is key to accessing funding and growing sustainable businesses," she said.

BRIDGING FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT GAPS

One of the key challenges facing women led small businesses remains weak financial management systems, especially in bookkeeping and cost tracking. Many entrepreneurs struggle to separate personal spending from business operations, which affects their ability to measure profitability and access financing.

The programme addresses these gaps by encouraging structured record-keeping and better financial planning, enabling entrepreneurs to make informed decisions about pricing, costs, and growth strategies.

It also promotes a shift in mindset, encouraging women to move beyond viewing their businesses as survival tools and instead see them as long-term assets capable of building generational wealth.

IMPACT ON ENTREPRENEURS

Participants have described the training as transformative. Tsholofelo Mabula, Managing Director of Sage Golden Hour, said the programme helped her understand the importance of tracking both income and expenses while maintaining proper financial records.

Similarly, Rebecca Dioka shared that she previously operated without structured budgeting.

"I used to swipe without budgeting, but now I understand how to use spreadsheets, separate accounts, and keep proper records. I feel more equipped to manage my business effectively," she said.

Botswana Minerals Advances AI Exploration

Early findings point to copper, silver and lead-zinc targets across Ngamiland licences, as the company narrows its search for drill-ready prospects

GAZETTE REPORTER

Botswana Minerals PLC says its artificial intelligence-driven exploration programme over Licences 458 and 459 in Ngamiland, north-west Botswana, is making progress as it works to identify priority copper targets for drilling.

The licences form part of the company's 7,074 square-kilometre landholding in the north-eastern Damara Belt, a geological region recognised for its copper potential and other mineral prospects.

In a recent update, the company said the fully funded programme is focused on identifying and ranking the most promising exploration targets, with the aim of selecting the strongest copper prospect for drilling.

EARLY FINDINGS

Initial results from the first phase of work have outlined several mineral anomalies across the licence area.

The company reported a copper anomaly extending about 9.5 kilometres east of a major fault, alongside a silver anomaly corridor stretching roughly 20 kilometres across a key fault zone.



It also identified a core lead-zinc mineralised zone measuring approximately 2.4 kilometres within a broader western trend.

Botswana Minerals said the data has highlighted several possible deposit types, including Irish-type Mississippi Valley Type (MVT), carbonate replacement, hydrothermal and potential skarn systems.

The findings, the company said, are helping refine its understanding of the mineral systems in the area and narrow exploration targets.

NEXT PHASE

The next stage of work will involve more detailed magnetic and gravity data analysis, further geochemical testing, integration of hyperspectral satellite data and a review of historical drilling records.

The company said artificial intelligence-assisted analysis will continue to support geological interpretation as it moves from regional-scale assessment to more clearly defined exploration targets.

Current analysis suggests the possibility of two separate mineralised zones: a structurally controlled copper-silver trend associated with a major fault, and a western area showing stronger lead and zinc potential.

At this stage, Botswana Minerals said there are two possible geological explanations: either the mineralisation is part of one large system with different metals forming in separate zones, or it represents two distinct but overlapping systems.

CHAIRMAN COMMENT

John Teeling, chairman of Botswana Minerals, said the early results were encouraging.

"These early results are good," he said. "There are emerging copper, silver and lead zinc patterns in the new data. The AI models we are using assist with better and quicker interpretations of the data. Our objective is simple and clear. Identify drill targets."

PRESS RELEASE



BSB Unveils Pinagare 2029

Botswana Savings Bank outlines a multi-year plan to grow market share, expand digital services, and strengthen its role in the economy

Botswana Savings Bank (BSB) has launched its Pinagare 2029 Strategy, outlining a transformation plan aimed at positioning the institution as a primary banking partner in Botswana. The strategy responds to shifting customer expectations, increased competition, and the need for long-term sustainability in the financial sector.

STRATEGIC RESET

The plan centres on expanding the bank's role in everyday financial services, including salaries, savings, payments, and lending. Acting Chief Executive Officer Dr Wabo Moswate described the launch as a turning point, stating, "This marks the beginning of a new chapter for Botswana Savings Bank."

DIGITAL AND CUSTOMER FOCUS

BSB intends to invest in digital banking, payments infrastructure, and customer platforms to improve accessibility and efficiency. "Our focus is clear: disciplined execution, superior customer experience, stronger financial performance, modern digital capability, and meaningful national impact," said Dr Moswate.

EXPANDING BUSINESS BANKING

The strategy also prioritises small and medium enterprise (SME) banking, with plans to broaden access to lending, transactional services, and business support. The bank said this approach aligns with efforts to contribute to Botswana's economic diversification and private sector growth.

NEW REVENUE STREAMS

BSB aims to diversify income through merchant acquiring, digital payments, treasury services, and partnerships. At the same time, the institution plans to strengthen internal systems, including risk management, governance, and data capabilities.

PEOPLE AND NATIONAL ROLE

The bank indicated it will invest in staff development, digital skills, and customer service to support implementation. Dr Moswate said, "We are not only building a stronger bank—we are building a stronger national institution, one that expands opportunity, supports enterprise, empowers citizens, and grows with Botswana."

Implementation of the Pinagare 2029 Strategy has commenced, with phased execution planned across operations, technology, and customer growth initiatives.Pull Quote: "We are not only building a stronger bank—we are building a stronger national institution, one that expands opportunity, supports enterprise, empowers citizens, and grows with Botswana."

Article edited for length

Golf Day Drives Autism Awareness

Melissa Modise's family journey with autism has inspired a charity golf day that will raise funds for Autism Botswana while opening public conversations about early intervention, inclusion and support for families.

GAZETTE REPORTER



What began as a personal family journey has grown into a public campaign for greater autism awareness, inclusion and support for families in Botswana.

PERSONAL PURPOSE

Melissa Modise, a wife and mother of two boys, says the Play with Purpose Autism Awareness Charity Golf Day was inspired by her eldest son, who was diagnosed as being on the autism spectrum at the age of three.

Now six years old, her son's journey has shaped the family's understanding of autism and the importance of patience, empathy and community support. Modise said the diagnosis initially came with uncertainty and many unanswered questions, but it later became a source of acceptance, resilience and purpose.

AUTISM SUPPORT

According to Modise, her family was fortunate to access early intervention, therapy and a strong support system. However, she said many families in Botswana do not have the same access to services because of financial barriers, limited resources and low public awareness.

She said the charity golf day is intended to support families who often walk the autism journey alone, while encouraging Batswana to understand that autism is not a single experience. Every child on the spectrum, she noted, has different strengths, challenges and ways of communicating.

EVENT DETAILS

The Autism Awareness Charity Golf Day will be held on 30 April 2026 at Gaborone Golf Club. Registration will begin at 9am, followed by a shotgun start at 11am.

The event is being held under the theme "Golf Day with a Twist: Play with Purpose." Hole sponsorship is priced at BWP5,000, while the four ball option is BWP2,500.

Proceeds from the event will support Autism Botswana, an organisation dedicated to awareness, advocacy and inclusion for people on the autism spectrum and their families.

BEYOND AWARENESS

Modise said the initiative is about shifting attitudes and creating spaces where children with autism are accepted and supported.

For enquiries, Melissa can be contacted on 75512388 or melissaseretse@gmail.com.

Orange Money Raises Transaction Limits

New transaction thresholds aim to support higher-value payments as mobile money usage grows



Orange Money Botswana has increased its transaction limits, a move expected to support higher-value payments and strengthen the use of mobile money in everyday transactions.

LIMITS EXPANDED

The company confirmed that wallet and incoming transaction limits have risen from P30,000 to P50,000. Single transactions have increased from P9,500 to P10,000, while the daily transaction cap has moved from P15,000 to P25,000. The adjustments are intended to reflect growing demand for larger digital transactions.

CEO ON DIGITAL SHIFT

Orange Money Botswana CEO Seabelo Pilane said the changes are part of efforts to improve usability while maintaining security within a regulated system. "Increasing the account limits is important for enhancing convenience, enabling individuals and small businesses to interact more effectively, while improving security through regulated digital usage," Pilane said.

> "The Increasing the account limits is important for enhancing convenience, enabling individuals and small businesses to interact more effectively, while improving security through regulated digital usage."

SUPPORTING EVERYDAY PAYMENTS

Pilane noted that the higher thresholds will allow customers to carry out essential payments such as school fees, rent, and other expenses without splitting transactions. He added that the company continues to focus on reducing reliance on cash, with further developments expected in the coming weeks.

INDUSTRY CONTEXT

Industry observers say the move aligns with broader efforts by the Botswana government and the Bank of Botswana to expand digital finance and diversify the financial sector. The increase in transaction limits reflects ongoing shifts toward digital payment systems and changing consumer needs.

The Celebrity Endorsement Paradox



MANUEL VEIRUAPI RUHAPO, FOUNDER, BLACMARC GROUP

In today's crowded marketplace, a celebrity face can do what ordinary advertising often struggles to achieve: command attention, create instant familiarity and transfer public affection to a brand. But celebrity influence is never risk free. Beneath the glamour lies a delicate balancing act where fame can build trust quickly, but just as easily expose a brand to doubt, backlash or reputational damage when the endorsement feels forced, mismatched or disconnected from the product.

INFLUENCE AND RISK

Celebrity endorsements are a double-edged sword. The benefits include enhanced brand visibility, aspirational appeal, and rapid market penetration. A well-executed endorsement can elevate a brand from obscurity to prominence. Conversely, the pitfalls are equally potent. Consumers are increasingly sophisticated and prone to skepticism, questioning an endorsement's authenticity if the celebrity's association appears superficial. The financial drain can be substantial, and the potential for backlash is ever-present, whether due to a celebrity's personal scandal, and/or a mismatch with brand values, and/or consumer disappointment.

BOTSWANA'S MARKET

Botswana's burgeoning economy and vibrant cultural scene provide fertile ground for celebrity endorsements. While the market may be smaller, the dynamics of influence are strikingly similar. Batswana consumers are influenced by popular figures, and brands are keen to tap into this power. The close-knit nature of the society and a strong emphasis on community values can amplify both the positive and negative impacts of these associations.

LOCAL EXAMPLES

Examining specific examples from Botswana illustrates this paradox. Renowned actress Connie Ferguson, with her image of elegance and sophistication, has effectively endorsed beauty and fashion brands by leveraging her sustained positive public image and alignment with aspirational lifestyles. Similarly and recently, the legendary rapper Staaga Don Dada, one of Botswana's most celebrated musicians, has translated his widespread popularity into an impactful endorsement deal with telecommunications company, BTC. His energetic and relatable persona, and classic song "It gets crazy" make him a potent brand ambassador. The success of these endorsements stems from a strong congruence between the celebrity's image and the brand's values, coupled with a genuine connection to their audience.

WHEN IT BACKFIRES

However, the challenges are just as real. A mismatch in values, such as a health-focused brand partnering with a celebrity known for an unhealthy lifestyle, can quickly erode consumer trust. If a celebrity endorses a low-quality product, the resulting disappointment can damage the reputation of both the brand and the star. The ever-present threat of celebrity controversies can instantly tarnish an associated brand, and the issue of cost-effectiveness is particularly pertinent in Botswana, where high prices may not be a viable strategy for many businesses.

> Celebrity influence can build trust quickly, but just as easily expose a brand to doubt, backlash or reputational damage.

WHAT IT MEANS

For the Public/Consumers: Be a critical consumer. Understand that a celebrity's fame does not automatically equate to product superiority, and prioritize product quality over mere celebrity appeal.

For Marketing Professionals: Look beyond the glamour of celebrity. Your focus should be on strategic planning, thorough risk assessment, and building genuine connections that foster long-term brand equity, not just leveraging fame.

For Executives/Business Leaders: View celebrity endorsements as one component within a holistic brand strategy, not a standalone solution. Prioritize investment in product development and quality control as your foundation, and ensure all partnerships align with your company's broader values.



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



WHY STANBIC FEST HIT DIFFERENT

Not every festival earns its hype but Stanbic Music 'n' Lifestyle Festival did. With seamless execution, real economic impact, and a culture-first approach, it proved exactly why it's becoming Botswana's defining urban experience



GOSEGO MOTSUMI

Some festivals entertain. Others land. The Stanbic Music 'n' Lifestyle Festival did both and then some.

Returning after a strong debut, this year's edition at the Royal Aria in Tlokweng felt sharper, tighter, and more self-aware. From the smooth entry into Royal Aria to the well-managed VIP and general access points, the logistics alone signaled growth. But what truly made it a hit? It understood its assignment: create a space where urban culture doesn't perform, it lives.





MORE THAN MUSIC

The festival's biggest flex wasn't just the lineup. It was impact.

By attracting crowds who travel for experiences, Stanbic Fest quietly boosted local tourism while giving Botswana's creative economy a real-time marketplace. Music, food, fashion, and art didn't exist in silos — they collided, creating a fully immersive lifestyle ecosystem.

THE MARKETPLACE OF COOL

The Lifestyle Village pulsed with energy and transactions.

Neo Gaofiwe of Neo Beauty saw immediate returns: "I am glad we came to this event because it is exactly our target market… we have had many people try our lipsticks and buying them."

Visual artist Kaene Palalani turned presence into opportunity: "My art's presence was beneficial… The event has given me visibility as people know my story and the face behind the art."

STYLE WITH SUBSTANCE

Diary34 brought depth to the drip. Rooted in Setswana heritage and slow fashion, the brand wasn't just selling garments, it was selling memory.

"We have never done pop up's… and the response has been really great… i am also enjoying the music, the vibe, the food and the customer base," said founder Thatayaone Modiitsane, capturing the festival's multi-sensory appeal.

THE SOUNDTRACK THAT CONNECTED

Musically, the festival struck a delicate balance: nostalgia and new energy.

Charma Gal and Culture Spears delivered a crowd-moving set that felt like a return to their roots. "Performing on the Stanbic stage was quite exciting… we were able to meet and perform for a new crowd that we wouldn't ordinarily perform for," said Kabelo Mogwe.

> "The event has given me visibility as people know my story and the face behind the art"

Meanwhile, Open Deck winners DJ Shimro and Toni Whites injected fresh energy, proving the next wave is ready.

A FESTIVAL WITH INTENT

Stanbic Fest worked because it wasn't random. It was curated, intentional, and rooted in culture.

The fashion hit, Afro-futurism meeting streetwear with Shatani Somolekae's Best Dressed win sealing the visual spectacle. The music connected. The marketplace thrived. The people showed up.

That's why it was a hit: it didn't try to be everything. It simply became what Botswana needed, a living, breathing celebration of now.



WHY KHAWA HIT THE BRAKES

A festival built on speed, culture, and community pulls the brakes, not out of weakness, but out of respect. Behind Khawa's postponement is a story of livelihoods, legacy, and choosing people over pressure



GAZETTE REPORTER

The desert doesn't rush. And this year, neither will Khawa.

In a move that feels less like a cancellation and more like a calculated exhale, the Khawa Dune Challenge & Cultural Festival has officially pressed pause on its 2026 edition that was originally scheduled for 15–17 May 2026, shifting the adrenaline-fuelled spectacle to 2027. For an event that thrives on roaring engines, galloping horses, and electrifying cultural nights, silence might seem like a strange choice, but this is where the real story lives.

COMMUNITY FIRST, ALWAYS

At the heart of Khawa is not just a festival, but a people. And when consultations began, one truth rose above the dunes: livelihoods were at stake. With farming and livestock forming the backbone of the local economy, fears around Foot and Mouth Disease weren't just whispers, they were warnings.

"Hosting an event of this scale at this time could place added pressure on those livelihoods," Incepta Communications, acting as the event manager of the Khawa Dune Challenge & Cultural Festival on behalf of the Botswana Tourism Organisation (BTO) and its partners admitted, acknowledging the delicate balance between celebration and survival.

THE COST OF DOING IT HALFWAY

Khawa has never been about doing the bare minimum. It's a full-bodied experience horse racing, motorsport, cultural immersion, and contemporary festival flair all colliding in the dunes.

> "Khawa isn't disappearing, it's regrouping."

Strip away even one element, and the magic thins out.

To proceed without the full spectacle, organisers said, would dilute the very identity of the festival. And without sufficient funding to uphold both quality and safety? That's a compromise Khawa refused to make.

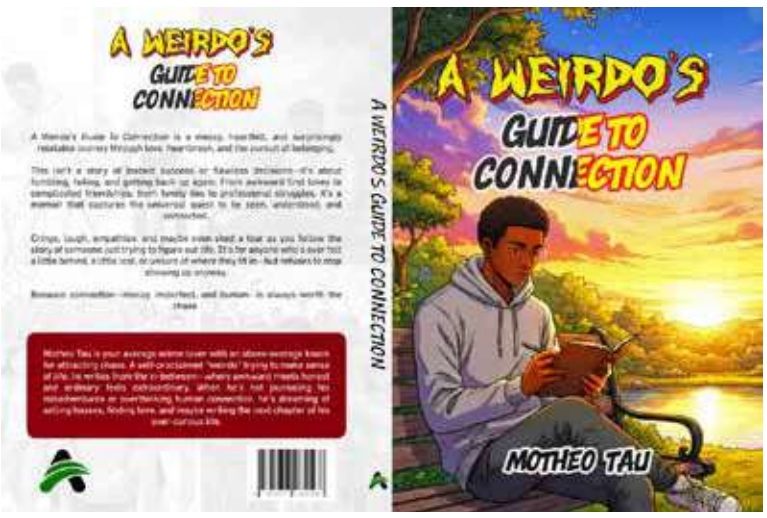
"This postponement is therefore not a loss of ambition, but a deliberate commitment to quality and excellence."

THE LONG GAME

Sure, the disappointment is real. May will come and go without the usual dust clouds and drumbeats. But zoom out, and the decision feels less like a setback and more like strategy.

Khawa isn't disappearing, it's regrouping.

Planning for 2027 is already in motion, with promises of something bigger, sharper, and more impactful. More importantly, it's a call to the private sector to step in, invest, and co-create an experience that doesn't just entertain, but uplifts.



A Weirdo's Guide To Connection

In a world obsessed with filters and followers, Motheo Tau's debut memoir flips the script proving that sometimes, the real flex is being unapologetically awkward

GAZETTE REPORTER

There's something quietly radical about a young author with no social media presence dropping a book about connection and meaning every word of it.

Enter A Weirdo's Guide to Connection, a new 186-page memoir by Motheo Tau that doesn't just tell a story, it spills it. Raw, unfiltered, and deeply human, Tau invites readers into a life shaped by isolation, bullying, and the long, messy road to self-acceptance.

This isn't your polished, Instagrammable glow-up.

It's the anti-highlight reel.

THE BEAUTY OF BEING OUT OF PLACE

Tau leans into his self-proclaimed "weirdo" identity with a kind of disarming honesty. Growing up without real friends and enduring relentless humiliation, he writes from the margins where discomfort breeds clarity.

"My motivation came from multiple places… but what drove me to get this book out there is universal relatability," Tau said. "A lot of people in this world tend to go through the same, if not worse, experiences."

The result? A narrative that feels less like a memoir and more like a late-night conversation you didn't know you needed.

NO FILTERS, NO FIXES

This isn't a self-help book. Tau is clear about that.

"I want to laugh, to cringe at my moments, to have that epiphany from my experiences," he said. "My book isn't a self-help book but more of a cautionary tale with a weird twist."

And that's exactly where its power lies. From awkward first loves to complicated friendships and family dynamics, Tau doesn't pretend to have it all figured out. He fumbles. He fails. He gets back up.

And somehow, that's enough.

THE COURAGE TO CONNECT DIFFERENTLY

In an era ruled by digital noise, Tau's complete absence from social media feels intentional almost rebellious. No curated persona. No algorithmic validation. Just real, tangible connection.

> "Nobody's born a winner or loser... we all do our best with the hands we're dealt."

"I want to show my readers that nobody's born a winner or loser… we all do our best with the hands we're dealt."

To get a copy of the book at P160 or to interact with Tau, he can be reached at +267 71 540 617.

What to Expect at Women Evolve



Women Evolve 2026 isn't just serving looks, it's serving blueprints, bold moves, and a masterclass in turning ambition into income

GOSEGO MOTSUMI

On May 9, the rooftop at Game City Rooftop won't just glow, it will command attention. Welcome to Women Evolve 2026, where the dress code says rosé, but the agenda screams results.

Founded by Boineelo Palai, this year's edition leans all the way into its theme—Women in Business & Leadership—with a promise that feels almost defiant in today's "pretty but pointless" event culture: substance first, aesthetics second.

THE ROSÉ AFFAIR, REDEFINED

Yes, it's pink. But don't get it twisted.

The "Shades of Pink" concept isn't about soft life escapism, it's about power coded in elegance. "It reflects both elegance and strength… women confidently taking up space," Palai explained to Time Out.

THE ROOM WHERE IT HAPPENS

The lineup reads like a power grid of influence. From Pokello Nare to Nizenande Machi, and Botswana's own heavyweights like Tebelelo Seretse and Kgomotso Ratlhaga.

She said: "We curated a lineup of women who are actively trailblazing across business, corporate leadership, and national leadership spaces, women whose work and impact speak for themselves."

But this isn't about selfies with success, it's about access to it.

Panels will dig into funding gaps, business structuring, and growth positioning. The kind of conversations that don't trend but change bank balances.

MORE THAN MOTIVATION

If you're expecting vague inspiration and soft affirmations, you're in the wrong room.

Women Evolve is obsessed with outcomes: businesses launched, revenue streams expanded, collaborations secured. Attendees walk in with ideas and leave with strategy and, crucially, contacts.

"Every session is curated with intention… practical frameworks, insights, and tools attendees can apply immediately."

INCLUSIVITY, BUT ELEVATED

A rooftop venue might suggest exclusivity, but the organisers are playing a longer game. Early bird tickets, sponsorship-backed access, and a mix of students, entrepreneurs, and executives aim to blur the usual class lines.

Plus, the newly launched Her Blueprint Podcast ensures the conversation doesn't end when the rosé runs dry.

> "Every session is curated with intention... practical frameworks, insights, and tools attendees can apply immediately."

WHAT TO EXPECT?

Come for the aesthetic. Stay for the strategy.

Because beneath the soft pink glow lies something far more potent: a room full of women not just dreaming but executing.

How To Hack ACCES 2026

ACCES isn't just a stage, it's a deal room with a sound system. African artists are being schooled on how to show up, stand out, and turn a performance into a passport

GOSEGO MOTSUMI

Here's the uncomfortable truth: talent alone won't get you onto the ACCES stage. Not in 2026. Not in an industry that now treats music like both art and enterprise.

At a recent virtual briefing hosted by Music In Africa alongside industry insiders like Eddy Mihigo, the message was clear—if you want in, you need more than vibes. You need strategy.

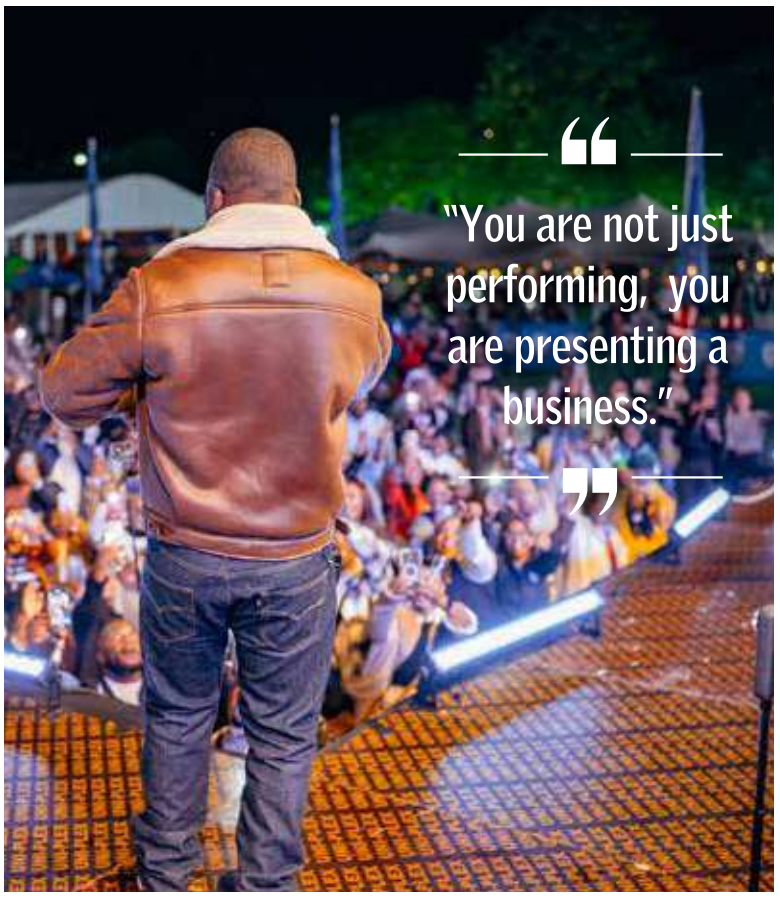
DON'T FUMBLE THE BASICS

Before the lights, the crowd, the moment—there's a profile form.

And apparently, that's where many artists lose the plot.

Coordinator and programmer of leading pan-African music trade event ACCES, Claire Metais didn't sugarcoat it: incomplete profiles and applications are killing dreams before they even load.

"We receive many applications and the technicalities that may cause a missed opportunity is usually because of an incomplete profile by the artists."



PLAY THE ROOM, NOT JUST THE STAGE

According to Industry leader, Sakhele Mzalazala, ACCES is a chessboard.

Panels. Workshops. Networking sessions. These aren't side events, they're the real show.

"Ask smart questions. Be visible, but professional. Follow up after sessions," he advised.

Because in this game, who sees you matters just as much as who hears you.

TWO MINUTES TO CHANGE YOUR LIFE

When you finally hit that stage, forget the full set fantasy. You're being judged almost instantly.

"Your showcase is your live audition… the first two minutes matter most," Mzalazala said.

A tight, rehearsed set. A killer opening. A presence that screams book me. That's the difference between applause and opportunity.

He said: "YOU ARE NOT JUST PERFORMING, YOU ARE PRESENTING A BUSINESS."

THE REAL WORK STARTS AFTER

You stepped off stage. Now what?

Follow up within 48–72 hours. Send the email. Drop the link. Remind them who you are.

Because a handshake means nothing if it doesn't turn into a deal.

THE BIGGER PICTURE

ACCES 2026, heading to Johannesburg this October, is more than a showcase, it's a gateway. A place where African artists stop asking for attention and start commanding it.

As the local organiser of the session, Mihigo put it, this is about preparation meeting opportunity.

The rest? That's on you.

THE LOST ART OF THEME SONGS

As Botswana prepares to host the world at the World Athletics Relays, the question isn't just about medals, it's about mood. Where is the music to carry the moment?

GOSEGO MOTSUMI



There's a peculiar silence hanging over Gaborone and it has nothing to do with the calm before the storm. As the country gears up to host the world for the Debswana World Athletics Relays in early May, the stadium is ready, the athletes are locked in, and the flags are poised to rise.

But the music speakers? They're quiet.

Because here's the uncomfortable truth: Botswana has no defining theme song for this moment.

THE ART OF THEME SONGS

There was a time when major events, even global sporting events didn't just arrive; they sounded like something. When Shakira dropped Waka Waka (This Time for Africa) during the 2010 FIFA World Cup, it wasn't just a hit it was a cultural ignition. The song outlived the tournament, embedding itself into memory as the unofficial pulse of a continent.

Today, Botswana stands on the brink of its own global spotlight. The world's fastest athletes are heading to Gaborone, Botswana, for the historic Debswana World Athletics Relays Gaborone on Saturday, 2 May, and Sunday, 3 May 2026—but without a unifying sound to bottle the energy.

"Music is not decoration for an event; it's the emotional engine," Botswana Musicians Union President Papi Rakhudu told Time Out. "Without it, you're asking people to feel something you haven't sonically defined."

A STAGE WITHOUT A SOUNDTRACK

The irony is hard to ignore. Botswana has the athletes, the infrastructure, and the moment. What it lacks is the feeling, the sonic glue that binds audiences, from stadium seats to street corners.

A theme song does more than hype, it travels. It turns a local event into a global memory. It gives broadcasters something to loop, fans something to chant, and a nation something to rally behind.

Without it, the energy risks fragmentation.

"Musicians are influenced by the hype around them to create, and there hasn't been any information shared to involve and engage artists. But it's important to have songs that define the moment," Rakhudu said.

"We do need a theme song, even if it's a direct appointment, to create the buzz around the event and it's never too late to release a song."

WHO DROPPED THE BEAT?

So how does a country hosting one of athletics' premier events miss this note?

"National organising committees often prioritise logistics over cultural storytelling. Music becomes an afterthought, if it appears at all," one critic opined.

But that explanation only goes so far.

Because Botswana isn't short on talent. From Afro-pop to Amapiano-infused sounds, the local scene is vibrant, export-ready, and hungry for moments exactly like this.

The gap, then, isn't creativity. It's coordination.

THE COST OF SILENCE

In an era driven by virality and cultural moments, silence is expensive.

Platforms like TikTok thrive on sound. A single catchy hook can turn a relay race into a global trend. Without an official or even organic anthem, Botswana risks missing out on the kind of digital afterlife that extends an event far beyond its closing ceremony.

And more importantly, it risks missing the chance to define how this moment feels.

CAN THE MUSIC STILL ARRIVE?

The race hasn't started yet. Rakhudu said there's still time for a late entry, a collaboration, a surprise drop, a grassroots anthem that catches fire.

Because if history has taught us anything, it's that the right song doesn't just accompany a moment it becomes it.

> "Music is not decoration for an event; it's the emotional engine."

Botswana doesn't just need to host the world. It needs to give it something to remember.

And right now, the world is listening for a beat that hasn't dropped.

At 74, Sipho Hotstix Still Brings The Heat

Five years later, a legend returned to the Stanbic Music n Lifestyle Festival stage and finds a younger generation already singing his songs back to him

GOSEGO MOTSUMI

The beat drops, and suddenly time folds in on itself. It's 2026, but it could just as easily be 1984. At the Stanbic Music n Lifestyle Festival over the weekend, a sea of young bodies moved like memory made visible—hips swaying, hands raised, voices echoing a chorus older than most of them. And at the center of it all? Sipho "Hotstix" Mabuse, 74, still conducting the night like a man who refuses to age out of rhythm.

THE SONG THAT REFUSES TO DIE

"Burn Out" doesn't just play, it possesses. The early '80s anthem surges through the crowd, pulling the younger crowd into the same groove their parents once claimed. It's less nostalgia, more inheritance.

"When I looked at the audience, it almost looked like they're mesmerised," Mabuse said in an interview. "I was humbled by the response."

A LOVE LETTER TO BOTSWANA

For Mabuse, Botswana isn't just another stop on the tour circuit, it's history. His relationship with the country dates back to 1968, a time when borders meant something heavier, when music carried resistance in its bones.

"I've always loved coming to Botswana… I have a history with this country," he reflected. "I'm amazed at how much development has taken place. I'm very thankful for the support."

That support showed up loud and clear young, electric, and fully locked in.

OLD SCHOOL, NEW FANS

There's something quietly radical about a 74-year-old artist commanding a crowd that wasn't even born when his biggest hit dropped. In an industry obsessed with youth, Mabuse is proof that timeless isn't a cliché, it's a strategy.

"It's not always the case that older musicians get appreciated by a younger audience," he admits. "For me, this is very special."

And he played it smart. No overthinking, no deep cuts gamble, just give the people what they came for.



"They welcomed 'Burn Out'… thankfully, I was able to perform it."

THE NEXT CHAPTER

But Hotstix isn't here for a victory lap. He's still building. A new album, Ubuntu (Botho), drops this September during heritage month in South Africa and he is writing his memoir that will etch Botswana into his life story.

He's also got his ear on the ground, eyeing local collaborations.

"I would love to work with Sereetsi and the Natives," he said, adding that he's eager to connect with emerging and younger artists he discovered at the festival.

"In fact, what I saw at the Stanbic Music n Lifestyle was amazing. My band and I were actually talking about how the music evolved in different shapes, the singing and the performance of the musicians. God willing, we can collaborate with them," he said.

"But also, many of the young people that I have met, I will say, please include me in your set. I'd love to perform with you."







At Last: Gaborone Has a Wine Club

Gaborone's long-awaited wine club finally takes shape, bringing together curious drinkers, premium bottles and a growing community built around discovery, conversation and consistency.

Hurrah. At last.

A CLUB ARRIVES

On Friday evening, at the Fine Brands Tasting Room in Phakalane, something that had been quietly building for years finally took shape. The Gaborone Wine Club is no longer a half-finished idea, a "we should really do this" conversation, or one of those ambitious notions that survives only as a second glass discussion. It exists now, properly, and with intent.

The launch was deliberately small. A handful of wine enthusiasts, industry players and the quietly curious gathered with glasses in hand, not entirely sure what they were walking into, but aware that this was not just another tasting. It was the beginning of something with a longer horizon. A club, yes, but also a framework for how wine can be experienced in Gaborone when it is given a little more thought than "what's cold?"

> "After 22 years of drinking wine, I realised I was not looking for another great bottle. I was looking for a better way to experience it."

THE WINES

We opened with a Stellenrust Spumante Rosé, light and bright, doing what good sparkling wine should do: loosening shoulders, softening the room, and making everyone behave just a little less like strangers. From there came a Ghost Corner Wild Ferment Sauvignon Blanc, textured and expressive, followed by a David & Nadia Chenin Blanc that was precise, quietly confident and far too well behaved to shout for attention. A David & Nadia Grenache Noir asked for a bit more focus, before a Ghost Corner Pinot Noir closed the evening in a way that felt layered, slightly brooding and entirely appropriate. The wines mattered, naturally, but they were never the point. The point was community.

If I am honest, the club began from a slightly selfish place. After more than two decades of drinking wine, travelling, visiting vineyards, collecting bottles and trying to learn as much as possible both formally and otherwise, I realised that what was missing was not access. It was not even knowledge. It was continuity. It was the absence of a consistent space where wine is not merely consumed, but understood, discussed, challenged and shared over time.

WINE CULTURE

Gaborone has long had wine drinkers. What it has not really had is a structured wine culture. We travel, we taste, we discover excellent vineyards, cellars and restaurants across the Cape and beyond, then come home to a retail environment that, while improving, still leans toward the familiar and the predictable. Restaurants respond to what moves. Distributors respond to volume. And before long, the cycle takes care of itself. Safe bottles stay safe because safe bottles sell. It is not a scandal, just a market behaving like a market.

But beneath that surface there has always been a quieter, more curious group. People who want to try more, understand more, and not feel like they need a special occasion to open something interesting on a Tuesday. The Gaborone Wine Club is built for that group, and as it turns out, that group is not small.

BUILT TO LAST

What began on Friday is a membership-led platform built around discovery, access and, most importantly, consistency. Monthly gatherings rather than one-off appearances. Wines that are not always visible on shelves. Conversations with winemakers and respected voices in the industry. A shared language that develops over time instead of in isolation, because wine, like most worthwhile things, gets better when you keep showing up for it.

CLICK WATCH

There is also a broader point here, and it matters. Retail in Botswana is already showing signs of evolution, with select TOPS at SPAR stores making deliberate steps toward stocking more interesting and premium wines. That is not accidental. It is what happens when a market begins to breathe a little differently. Our partnership with TOPS at SPAR allows the club to feed that process, offering insight into what members are discovering, discussing and wanting more of. Over time, that shapes retail. And when retail broadens with confidence, distribution follows, and the market becomes more responsive in ways that benefit everyone.

> "The wines mattered, naturally, but they were never the point. The point was community."

GLASS BY GLASS

Friday night hinted at what that can look like. People spoke about the wines as they should: what they reminded them of, where they had tasted something similar, which meals came to mind, what memory rose with the glass. The conversation moved easily from flavour to place to story and back again. No one was trying to win a lecture competition, which is usually the best sign that wine is in good company.





In practical terms, members gather monthly, receive a complimentary bottle, and gain access to wines that are not always available in retail. There are engagements with winemakers, interaction with industry voices, a dedicated newsletter called Moretlwa, and preferential access and pricing through TOPS at SPAR stores. In short, it is not just a club that talks about wine. It is a club that intends to move people closer to it.

WIDER AMBITION

The larger ambition is simple enough: to build something durable. A sense of consistency. A sense of belonging. A shared understanding that wine is not only an occasional indulgence, but a living, evolving experience that deepens with context, conversation and repetition. Fine Brands, TOPS at SPAR and this column in the Botswana Gazette are all part of that wider architecture.

After 22 years of drinking wine, I realised I was not looking for another great bottle. I was looking for a better way to experience it.

The Gaborone Wine Club is, in many ways, the start of that.

Phenyo Motlhagodi writes the Botswana Gazette wine column, Pour Decisions, is Convener of the Gaborone Wine Club, and a Chartered PR Practitioner who runs Tennyson PR, Influence and Reputation Management.



Phenyo Motlhagodi — formally trained wine enthusiast (trained at the Cape Wine Academy); Chartered PR Practitioner (Chart.PR) with the Chartered Institute of Public Relations; and founder of a pan-African boutique PR, Influence & Reputation Management consultancy. Instagram: @phenyomotlhagodi.

We second Tax, Data Protection & HR professionals



BY REBAONE FAME DITLALE

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 HIGH COURT OF THE REPUBLIC OF BOTSWANA
HELD AT FRANCISTOWN

CASE NO: MAHFT 000 214-25

In the matter between:
STANBIC BANK BOTSWANA LIMITED **APPLICANT**
And
KABELO MOLEBATSI MATSHUBE **RESPONDENT**

SUBSTITUTED SERVICE

AND TO : **KABELO MOLEBATSI MATSHUBE**
P O Box 12
MAUN

Formerly residing at Disaneng Ward, Maun but whose present whereabouts are unknown:

TAKE NOTICE that by Notice of Motion issued out of this Honourable Court, you have been called upon to give notice, within Twenty-One (21) days after publication hereof, to the Registrar and to **STANBIC BANK BOTSWANA LIMITED c/o LOWA ATTORNEYS** (Applicant's Attorneys) of intention to oppose (if any) in an application wherein **STANBIC BANK BOTSWANA LIMITED** claims for an order:

a) Confirming cancellation of the Instalment Lease Agreement entered into between the Applicant and Respondent on or about the **13th June 2022**.
b) Directing, ordering and authorizing the Deputy Sheriff to attach and repossess the vehicle, a 2022 GWM H2 Jolion registered **B 383 BRJ**, bearing Chassis/Serial letters and Engine numbers **LGWEE4A53NK613810** and **22499003922** respectively, from the Respondent or any other person (s) claiming title through the Respondent or from whomever is in possession of the said vehicle.
c) Directing that the Respondent pay the costs of this Application at attorney and own client scale.
e) Further and/or alternative relief.

TAKE NOTICE FURTHER that if you fail to give such notice, an order and/or judgment may be granted against you without further reference to you.

DATED AT FRANCISTOWN THIS DAY OF 2026

LOWA ATTORNEYS
Applicant's Attorneys
Plot 469/70, Haskins Building,
Unit 16, Blue Jacket Street
P.O. Box 3537
FRANCISTOWN

REGISTRAR OF THE HIGH COURT

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

CASE N0. CVHFT 000 700-16

In the matter between:
STANBIC BANK BOTSWANA LIMITED **Plaintiff**
And
RACHEL MAUPONG **Defendant**

NOTICE OF SALE IN EXECUTION

BE PLEASED TO TAKE NOTICE that pursuant to a judgment granted by the above Honourable Court, the following immovable property will be sold by public auction by Deputy Sheriff Ikageng Seloi to the Highest Bidder as follows:

DATE OF SALE : 6th June 2026
TIME : 1100 hrs
VENUE : Lot No. 9666, Selebi Phikwe
PROPERTY TO BE SOLD : a certain piece of land being Lot No. 9666, situated at Selibe Phikwe Township, Extension 17, measuring 405m² (Four Hundred and Five Square Metres) held under Deed of Transfer No. FT 282/2003 dated the 11th June 2003, made in favour of Rachel Maupong together with developments thereon being a 3 bedroomed house with ensuite, dinning room combined with sitting room, kitchen fitted and ceramic tile on the floor.

CONDITIONS OF SALE : Cash or Bank Transfer

Detailed terms and conditions of sale together with details of property may be inspected at the Deputy Sheriff **Ikageng Seloi Cellphone No. 71 472 478** and Plaintiff's Attorneys, Lowa Attorneys, **2412300, 73966100** and **78541541** Unit 16, Haskins Building, Plot No. 469/70, Blue Jacket Street, Francistown

DATED AT FRANCISTOWN ON THIS 23RD DAY OF APRIL 2026

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

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

DIRECTOR

Mochudi Resource Centre for the Blind (MRCB) invites applications from qualified and experienced personnel for the position of Director.

Purpose of the Job:
Manage, coordinate and implement projects, plans and initiatives within the Centre

Responsibilities:
Overall management of the Centre personnel
- Plan and manage the organisations activities
- Coordinate and monitor the implementation of programmes and projects
- Provides secretarial and administrative advisory to the Board

Qualifications:
Degree in Public Administration or equivalent professional qualification. Degree in Social Sciences.

Experience:
Two year experience in working with people with disabilities and in managerial position

Competencies:
Deciding and initiating Action
Good Interpersonal relationship
Strong communication and negotiation Skills
Empathy

Apply to the following:

The Secretary
Mochudi Resource Centre for
the Blind Board of Governors
Private Bag 19
Mochudi

E-mail: mrcbrecruitment2026@gmail.com

OR Hand deliver to the Mochudi Resource Centre for the Blind Main Centre Manamakgota Ward, Mochudi.

Closing date: **15 May 2026**

For further information, please contract: **The Secretariat on 71311880/71330130**



IN THE MAGISTRATE'S COURT FOR THE GABORONE DISTRICT
HELD AT GABORONE **CASE NO.**

In the matter between:
THABO MOLAPISI **Plaintiff**
and
THULAGANYO MODISE **1st Defendant**
YVONNE CHINYANGA-MORGAN **2nd Defendant**

TO : **THULAGANYO MODISE,** an adult female of legal capacity, who owns Beautrix Touch Studio situated at African Mall Logan, Nandos Building, Unit 3, Office 3, Gaborone, and whose further and better particulars are unknown to the Plaintiff.
[Herein called "The 1st Defendant"].

AND TO : **YVONNE CHINYANGA-MORGAN,** an adult female of legal capacity, residing at Gaborone, and whose further and better particulars are unknown to the Plaintiff.
[Herein called "The 2nd Defendant"].

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED that you do within Fourteen **(14 days)** after the service of this Summons upon you, enter or cause to be entered with me and also the Plaintiff or its Attorney at the address specified herein an **APPEARANCE TO ANSWER THE CLAIM OF, THABO MOLAPISI,** an adult female of legal capacity, residing at Molepolole, Mokgalong Ward, and whose address for purposes of this action is **C/o MALETE ATTORNEYS, Plot 18573, Phase 2, Aresutalane Way, (Opposite CBD), PO Box 748 AAH, Masa, Gaborone.**
[Herein called "The Plaintiff"].

THE claim of P8,128.90, together with 30% compounded monthly with effect from date of default until date of final payment and 10% Collection Commission and costs of suit on attorney and own client scale, particulars whereof are endorsed hereunder.



IN THE MAGISTRATE'S COURT FOR THE GABORONE DISTRICT
HELD AT GABORONE **CASE NO.**

In the matter between:
KESEGOFETSE MALETE **Plaintiff**
and
TESCORP INDUSTRIES (PTY) LTD **1st Defendant**
GOSAITSE LEMEKU **2nd Defendant**

TO : **TESCORP INDUSTRIES (PTY) LTD,** company duly incorporated under the company laws of Botswana, whose address for the purpose of this suit is C/o Plot 812, Extension 2, Gaborone, and whose further and better particulars are unknown to the Plaintiff.
[Herein called "The 1st Defendant"].

AND TO : **GOSAITSE LEMEKU**, an adult male of legal capacity, residing at Gaborone, and whose address for purposes of this action is C/o Plot 812, Extension 2, Gaborone, and whose further and better particulars are unknown to the Plaintiff.
[Herein called "The 2nd Defendant"].

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED that you do within **Fourteen (14 days)** after the service of this Summons upon you, enter or cause to be entered with me and also the Plaintiff or its Attorney at the address specified herein an **APPEARANCE TO ANSWER THE CLAIM OF, KESEGOFETSE MALETE,** an adult female of legal capacity, residing at Tsholofelo East, Gaborone, and whose address for purposes of this action is C/o Jeremia Attorneys, Plot 51495, Unit 3, 1st Floor, Lobengula Avenue, Francistown, PO Box 2582, Francistown
[Herein called "The Plaintiff"].

THE claim of **P50,000.00**, together with 10% Collection Commission and costs of suit on attorney and own client scale, particulars whereof are endorsed hereunder.

IN THE MAGISTRATE COURT FOR THE DISTRICT OF GABORONE
HELD AT VILLAGE

CCMVL-003103-25

In the matter between:
Thabo Molapisi **Plaintiff**
And
Thulaganyo Modise **1st Defendant**
Yvonne Chinyanga-Morgan **2nd Defendant**

ORDER

Before Her Worship Resheng K-Chief Magistrate on the 30th day of April 2026

UPON HEARING: Counsel Malete K. defendant in absentia and court having read the documents filed of record.

IT IS ORDERED THAT:
1. Application is granted.
2. An order is granted as per draft order;
a) That Applicant be granted leave to serve the respondent by way of substituted service by advertising in one of the local newspapers circulating in Botswana.
b) That the Respondent pay costs of this application
3. Matter is postponed to 23rd June 2026 for initial case management conference



IN THE MAGISTRATE COURT FOR THE DISTRICT OF GABORONE
HELD AT VILLAGE

CCMVL-002877-25

In the matter between:
Kesegofetse Malete **Plaintiff**
And
Tescorp Industries (PTY) LTD **1st Defendant**
Gosaitse Lemeku **2nd Defendant**

ORDER

Before Her Worship Thedi T-Senior Magistrate on the 25th March 2026

UPON HEARING: Plaintiff in person, defendant in absentia and court having read the documents filed of record.

IT IS ORDERED THAT:
The application is granted in terms of the draft order filed in the following terms;

a) That Applicant is granted leave to serve the respondent by way of substituted service by advertising in one of the local newspapers circulating in Botswana.
b) That the Respondent pay costs of this application



SECHELE J.
IN THE HIGH COURT OF THE REPUBLIC OF BOTSWANA
HELD AT FRANCISTOWN

CASE NO: CVHFT 000 540/25

In the matter between:
FIRST NATIONAL BANK OF BOTSWANA LIMITED **PLAINTIFF**
And
YARRA (PTY) LTD **1ST DEFENDANT**
MABASA MUGWEDE **2ND DEFENDANT**

SUBSTITUTED SERVICE

TO: YARRA (PTY) LTD
P.O Box 10575
PALAPYE

And TO: MABASA MUGWEDE
P O Box 10575
PALAPYE

Formerly principal place of business at Plot 413, Extension 4, Palapye, but whose present place of business is unknown:

TAKE NOTICE that by summons issued out of this Honourable Court, you have been called upon to give notice, within **Twenty-One (21) days** after publication hereof, to the Registrar and to FIRST NATIONAL BANK OF BOTSWANA LIMITED c/o M MMOHE ATTORNEYS (Plaintiff's Attorneys) of intention to defend (if any) in an action wherein FIRST NATIONAL BANK OF BOTSWANA LIMITED claims:-

a) Payment of the sum of **P265 202.04**, by 1st and 2nd Defendants jointly and severally, the one paying the other to be absolved;
b) Interest at the rate of prime rate plus 8.00% per annum from 15th day of October 2025 to the date of final payment;
c) 10% collection commission in the event of paying the amount in installment; and
d) Costs of the suit at attorney and own client.

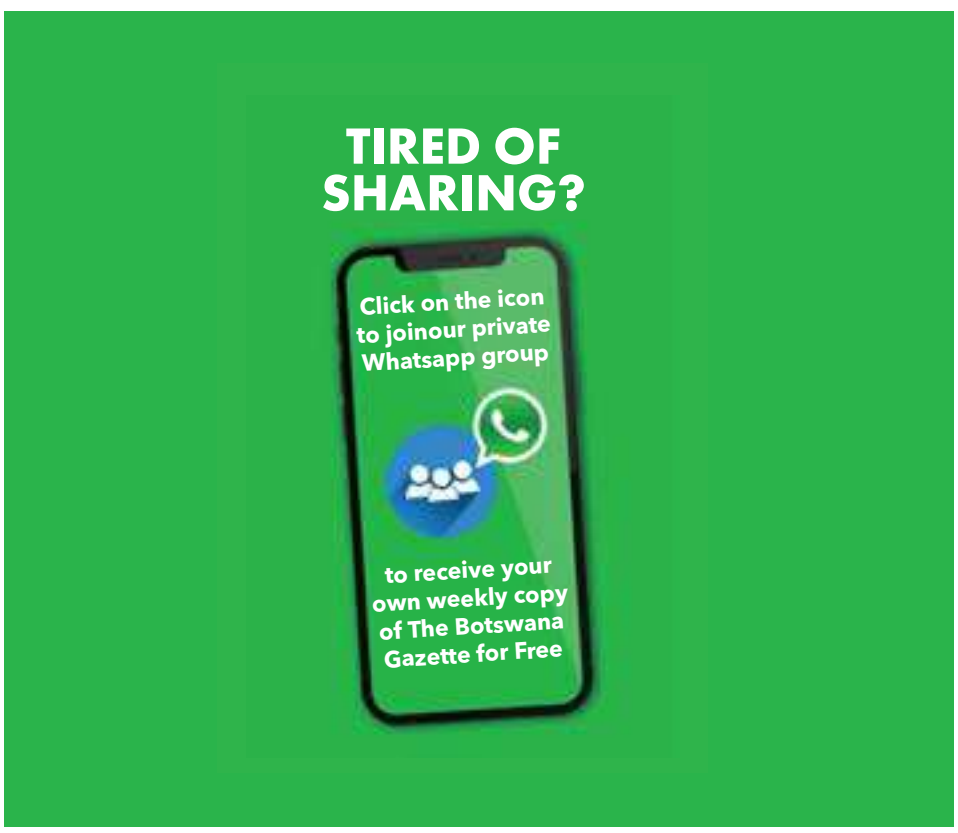
TAKE NOTICE FURTHER that if you fail to give such notice, judgment may be granted against you without further reference to you.

DATED AT FRANCISTOWN THIS 28TH DAY OF APRIL, 2026

MMOHE ATTORNEYS
ATTORNEYS, NOTARIES & CONVEYANCERS

M MMOHE ATTORNEYS
Plaintiff 's Attorneys
Plot 3936,Peolwane Street
Minestone
P.O. Box 1860
FRANCISTOWN

DEPUTY REGISTRAR & MASTER





BW EYES RELAY GLORY

As Gaborone hosts the Debswana World Relays this weekend, Botswana enters as both host and contender, carrying a record of medals and rising expectations in the men's 4x400m

GAZETTE REPORTER

Botswana will host the World Athletics Relays Gaborone 2026 on May 2 and 3, with the host nation expected to make its strongest push in the men's 4x400m, the event that has delivered its biggest relay successes.

The country enters the competition with two Olympic medals and a world title in the discipline. At last year's Tokyo World Athletics Championships, Lee Bhekempilo Eppie, Letsile Tebogo, Bayapo Ndori and Collen Kebinatshipi combined to win gold in 2:57.76, narrowly beating the United States. Botswana also holds the African record of 2:54.53, set while winning silver at the 2024 Summer Olympics.

The World Relays have increasingly become a measure of Botswana's progress in the event, with the men's 4x400m remaining the country's cornerstone and its only medal-winning relay discipline so far.

MEDAL HISTORY

At the 2021 World Relays in Silesia, Botswana secured bronze in the men's 4x400m in 3:04.77 after qualifying in 3:04.03, marking the nation's first podium at the competition. The team consisted of Isaac Makwala, Boitumelo Masilo, Ditiro Nzamani and Leungo Scotch.

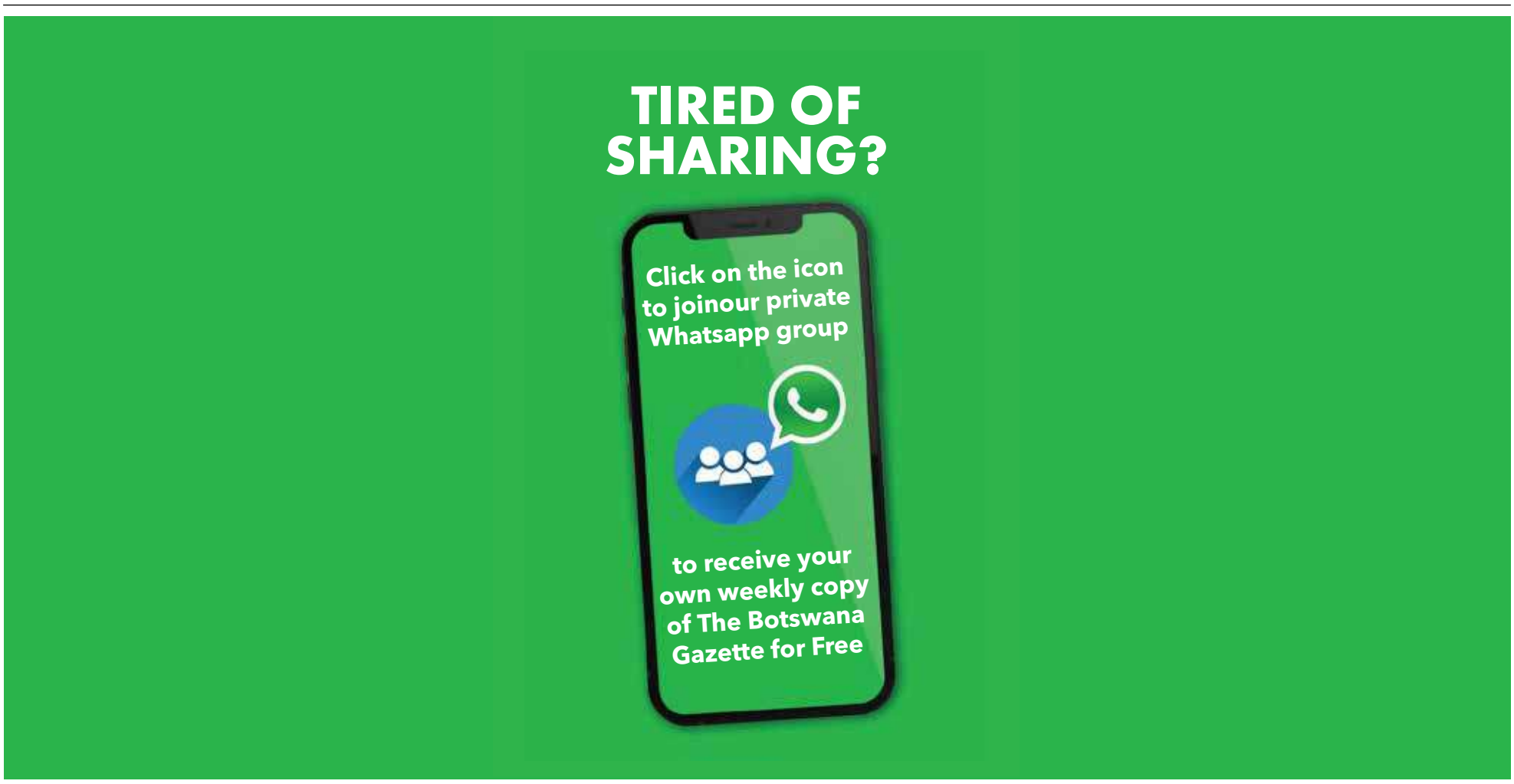
Three years later in the Bahamas, Botswana made a breakthrough, winning gold in 2:59.11 ahead of South Africa and Belgium. The winning team featured Kebinatshipi, Tebogo, Scotch and Ndori, establishing Botswana as a leading contender ahead of Paris.

In 2025, also in the Bahamas, Botswana added bronze in 2:58.27 despite the absence of Tebogo, Ndori and Kebinatshipi. Lee Eppie, Justice Oratile, Kabo Rankgwe and Scotch carried the team to the podium.

REGIONAL RIVAL

Beyond the men's 4x400m, Botswana will also target the mixed 4x400m, where team officials are considering Kebinatshipi as part of the lineup. The men's 4x100m could also emerge as an outside medal opportunity with Tebogo in contention.

Neighbouring South Africa remains one of the main threats, having won both the men's 4x100m and 4x400m at the 2025 World Relays while also reaching the podium in the women's 4x400m, underlining its growing depth in relay competition.



Team Botswana World Relays Bonus Row Ease



Athletes sought P100,000 each from a P16 million Debswana Diamond Company sponsorship and P50,000 each from Stanbic Bank Botswana's P5 million package ahead of the World Relays in Gaborone, but officials say the funds were already committed

GAZETTE REPORTER

A pay dispute between Botswana's national athletics team and administrators threatened preparations for the upcoming World Athletics Relays, scheduled for May 2 to May 3 at the National Stadium.

The chief executive of Botswana Athletics Association, Mabua Mabua, confirmed that some athletes had threatened to strike over allowances, bonuses and camp conditions as the country finalizes preparations to host the global event.

"It is true, they threatened to strike," Mabua said, describing the tensions as part of broader challenges in athlete welfare policies.

He said some of the athletes involved were elite and professional competitors whose concerns could not be ignored.

POLICY GAPS

Mabua said the dispute exposed weaknesses in sports policies that apply across all sporting codes in Botswana, arguing that they were created before the country began hosting major international competitions.

Under the current framework, athletes who qualify for international events receive dollar-based incentives, but those in local camps in Botswana receive P50 a day regardless of the level of competition.

"That was the other argument," Mabua said, referring to complaints over the difference in compensation.

He said the association sought to improve camp allowances through negotiations with Lucara Diamond Corp, securing a 50 U.S. dollar local camp fee to complement the existing daily allowance.

Athletes also asked for an increase in the P3,000 allowance for running spikes to P4,200, citing higher costs.

BONUS DEMANDS

Mabua said athletes had requested P100,000 each from Debswana's P16 million sponsorship for the World Relays and P50,000 each from Stanbic's P5 million sponsorship, but the association declined, saying the funds had already been committed to event-related obligations.

> "It was just them asking for something better, which is not wrong."

"It should be noted that if they win they will be given incentives and rewarded," he said.

Mabua also addressed a code of conduct letter circulating on Facebook, saying it was standard practice and was issued after some athletes threatened to leave camp on April 22, forcing officials to establish who would remain in camp and who might need replacing.

He said the dispute had since been resolved, with athletes now focused on competing at the World Relays.

O-Green Backs World Relays

Renewable energy investor expands its Botswana footprint with athlete support, facility upgrades and grassroots sport funding ahead of the World Athletics Relays

GAZETTE REPORTER

O-Green, an Omani renewable energy company leading the 500MW Maun Solar PV project through its subsidiary Okavango Solar, has announced a sponsorship package for the upcoming Debswana World Athletics Relays, broadening its presence in Botswana beyond the energy sector.

The sponsorship comes as Botswana prepares to host the World Athletics Relays for the first time, with the event scheduled to take place at the National Stadium in Gaborone between May 2 and 3.



O-Green, which is working with the Botswana government on renewable energy projects, said its backing of athletics is part of what it describes as its long-term in-country value strategy, aimed at establishing lasting partnerships in Botswana.

Speaking at the sponsorship announcement this past Monday , O-Green Project Director and Okavango Solar Director Dahasur Tashpulator said the company viewed Botswana as more than an investment destination.

"This is my fifth visit to Botswana, and what I feel is common between Oman and Botswana is hospitality," Tashpulator said. "For us, this project is not only about renewable energy, it is also about our in-country value. We would like to build a long-term relationship between the Sultanate of Oman and Botswana."

ATHLETE PACKAGE

The sponsorship package includes refreshment stands for athletes and volunteers, stocked with water, fruit and other essentials during the competition.

O-Green will also support branding efforts across Gaborone through banners and flags intended to raise the profile of the event.

In addition, the company plans to install a photo zone featuring solar installations manufactured by a local company in Oman, linking the sporting event with clean energy technology.

For Team Botswana athletes, O-Green will provide branded training uniforms and Garmin running smartwatches for the best-performing relay team. The company also announced a one-year sponsorship contract for the top three performing Botswana athletes to support their development.

"Our main goal is to upgrade training facilities," Tashpulator said. "We want to provide equipment for a state-of-the-art gym for elite athletes. As government provides the space, we are ready to provide the equipment."

BEYOND RELAYS

The company said its support would extend beyond the relay competition, including plans to assist in the revival of school sport in Botswana as part of broader grassroots development.

Minister of Sport and Arts Jacob Kelebeng described the sponsorship as significant as Botswana finalises preparations for the global event.

"The Botswana World Athletics Relays are rolling in 2026, and your partnership will enable us to address some of our needs, especially with Team Botswana, who continue to make us proud," Kelebeng said.

Kelebeng said Botswana's recent athletics achievements, including gold in the 4x400m relay, had strengthened the country's sporting profile internationally.

"This is a historic event, and for the very first time in Botswana and Africa, we are hosting an event of this magnitude," he said. "Africa is winning. It is a powerful declaration of where we are going as a continent."



Questions Mount Over World Relays Promotion Strategy

Facing criticism over the pace of marketing for the Debswana World Relays Gaborone 2026, organisers say limited funding and slow corporate buy-in constrained their rollout

GAZETTE REPORTER

Questions are mounting over the management of the Debswana World Relays Gaborone 2026, with some observers arguing that the Local Organising Committee (LOC) did not move quickly enough to market and brand the international athletics event.

Critics say visible promotional activity only intensified in recent weeks, raising concerns that an opportunity to build stronger public anticipation may have been missed. Some of the recent push, they argue, has come from individuals and influencers acting independently rather than through official channels.

"Just look at the marketing of the relay," one person, who requested anonymity, told this publication. "It is until this month, or last week, that we started to see hype around the relays, and it's evident that it was done by some people not attached to the relays. I mean some influencers also tried, or are trying, to push to market the World Relays. These are things that can be done a long time back."

The concerns have added to public debate over preparations for the event, which is expected to place Botswana at the centre of global athletics attention.

FUNDING HURDLES

In an exclusive interview with this publication, LOC chairman Professor Martin Mokgwathi defended the committee's handling of the marketing campaign, saying branding ambitions were shaped by financial realities and delayed support from the corporate sector.

"We can't say that we want to brand when we go to people or corporates and they do not agree with what we are putting on the table," Mokgwathi said. "A lot of people were hesitant and did not agree with anything. All of a sudden, a lot of people want to rush in."

Mokgwathi said the LOC had approached numerous corporations and potential sponsors but had to work within established corporate processes and timelines, which slowed progress.

"We were dealing with corporates with processes and timelines," he said. "We spoke to many corporations and potential sponsors."

He said effective marketing campaigns, including billboard advertising and broader visibility efforts, required funding that the committee could not generate independently.

"Branding and marketing need money. Nobody does that for free, that's a lie," Mokgwathi said. "We needed someone to support us with branding and marketing so that we can put things like billboards, which could have helped to ignite more conversations."

PUBLIC RESPONSE

Mokgwathi said despite criticism, the LOC had maintained visibility through social media platforms and traditional media channels, including RB1, RB2 and BTV.

"In terms of social media, RB1, RB2 and BTV, there were a lot of things. This thing has been in the face of people," he said.

He also suggested public reaction to major initiatives in Botswana often follows a familiar pattern of initial criticism before eventual support.

"Batswana react slowly to things, but before they react positively, they say negative things first and then react positively," Mokgwathi said. "That's the nature of Batswana."

> "With the little that we have, we did an immense job."

For Mokgwathi, the committee's work should be measured against the resources available, not the expectations of hindsight.

"With the little that we have, as far as I am concerned as the LOC chairman, we did an immense job," he said.

WORLD RELAYS LOC BREAKS FUNDING SILENCE

LOC chair says public criticism has overlooked the financial strain behind staging the Debswana World Relays Gaborone 2026, as millions were committed to fees, broadcasting and stadium upgrades

GAZETTE REPORTER

The Local Organising Committee (LOC) for the World Athletics Relays has pushed back against growing criticism over preparations for the global event, saying public perceptions about its financial position have been far from reality.

Speaking amid mounting scrutiny over the organisation of the



relay showpiece, LOC chairperson Professor Martin Mokgwathi said many had assumed the committee had access to significant funds, when in fact resources were stretched from the outset.

"People thought the World Relays Local Organising Committee had millions of pula in their pockets, but we did not have it," Mokgwathi said in an exclusive interview with this publication.

His remarks come as questions continue to surface over whether the LOC moved quickly enough, particularly in areas such as marketing and branding, ahead of the event.

MONEY BREAKDOWN

Mokgwathi pointed to the P16 million sponsorship from Debswana Diamond Company, saying the amount appeared substantial at face value, but was quickly absorbed once distributed across operational demands.

"Even the Debswana P16 million sponsorship, if you see how it is divided, you will realise that there's nothing," he said.

> "People just do not know how hard we knocked."

According to Mokgwathi, the Botswana government shouldered a significant portion of the financial burden, including repairs to National Stadium and payments to World Athletics.

He said some of the major costs included bond fees of about US$500,000 and broadcasting fees of around US$150,000, among other obligations linked to hosting rights.

"The government really paid for a lot of things," Mokgwathi said, adding that some of the expenses were partially offset through additional funds secured from various sources.

SPONSOR STRUGGLE

Mokgwathi said efforts to secure private sector backing had been extensive, but many companies did not commit in time.

"If 50 companies came on board with P2 million each, we would have done these things," he said. "People just do not know how hard we knocked."

He said some businesses had only recently shown interest in supporting the event, long after the committee had needed the funding.

"It's a pity that some are trying to come now, but it's late. We needed them last year."

TIRED OF SHARING?



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SINCE 1984

The Botswana Gazette
SPORT



BW EYES RELAY GLORY

As Gaborone hosts the Debswana World Relays this weekend, Botswana enters as both host and contender, carrying a record of medals and rising expectations in the men's 4x400m

