The Botswana
GAZETTE
WEDNESDAY 20 MAY 2026 | SINCE 1984



24.
Inside Diamond Realm Experience at Frieze



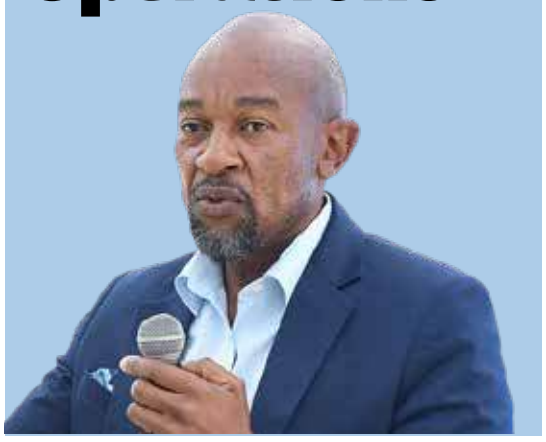
2.

PATIENTS LEFT TO PAY THE PRICE

Despite government claims of recovery, ongoing drug shortages across the country are still pushing patients out of public health facilities into private pharmacies, where access to treatment depends on ability to pay, leaving the poorest effectively shut out of care

Govt Arrears Cripple WUC Operations

3.



BOCONGO Launches Campaign Against ConCourt

..As President Boko vows no retreat, no surrender

4.



FNB Premiership

Chencha Game

FNB Premiership 2025/26 Season Final

vs

Date: Saturday 23 May 2026
Kick Off Time: 15:00
Venue: Gaborone United Stadium, Gaborone

First National Bank of Botswana Limited Member of the Deposit Insurance Scheme of Botswana



Patients Left to Pay the Price

Despite government claims of recovery, ongoing drug shortages across the country are still pushing patients out of public health facilities into private pharmacies, where access to treatment depends on ability to pay, leaving the poorest effectively shut out of care



(Pic:Ministry of Health, Botswana)

The Gazette reporters investigations across multiple public health facilities have revealed that shortages of essential medicines and medical equipment continue unabated in Botswana's health system, with patients increasingly forced to purchase drugs from private pharmacies as the situation becomes gradually normalised.

FACILITIES STILL STRUGGLING WITH STOCK-OUTS

A probe by this publication across various health facilities has unearthed recurring shortages of essential medicines, ranging from chronic disease medication to basic clinical supplies. Health workers at different levels describe a system still under severe pressure, despite repeated government assurances that supply challenges have been and are being addressed.

Patients, in turn, are increasingly being turned away or advised to source medicines privately, a development that stakeholders say is quietly reshaping public healthcare behaviour in the country.

"SERIOUS THREAT TO NATIONAL SURVIVAL" – DOCTORS' UNION

The secretary general of the doctors' union, Dr Kefilwe Selema, warned that the ongoing situation poses a grave risk to the country's health system stability.

He described the current shortages as "a serious threat to our national survival at the moment," underscoring growing concern within the medical profession over the sustainability of care under prevailing conditions.

PATIENTS NORMALISING OUT-OF-POCKET MEDICAL PURCHASES

Asked for her views, former head of the Central Medical Stores (CMS), Dr Onalenna Seitio-Kgokgwe, observed that "many Batswana now appear to have accepted medicine shortages as part of the public health landscape, with patients increasingly buying their own medication and basic healthcare supplies".

She raised concern that "patients who cannot afford private purchases are often simply sent home when medicines are unavailable, without proper counselling on the risks of interrupted treatment".

According to her, patients are frequently informed that medicines are out of stock and leave without being adequately advised on the consequences of stopping treatment. In some cases, she said, entire treatment regimens for certain conditions are unavailable, leaving patients with no alternatives and resulting in treatment discontinuation.

Dr Seitio-Kgokgwe further noted that the root cause of the crisis remains unclear from an external perspective, although budgetary constraints have been suggested as a possible factor. Others, she said, point to misplaced priorities, but the absence of clear information makes it difficult to determine the exact cause.

She questioned whether Botswana was still operating under emergency procurement systems, arguing that effective long-term contracting should by now have stabilised supply chains.

On structural reforms, she called for expedited restructuring of the CMS, reiterating her concern that its unable to meet national demand in its current form. She further suggested outsourcing pharmaceutical services, saying private pharmacy participation could ease pressure on CMS and improve medicine availability.

MINISTRY ACKNOWLEDGES ONGOING SHORTAGES

Responding to The Botswana Gazette enquiries, Ministry of Health spokesperson Dr Christopher Nyanga acknowledged that shortages persist in several categories of medicines in public health facilities.

He said critically affected categories include anti-infectives, anti-hypertensives, asthma treatments, ophthalmic medicines, and mental health drugs, most of which are currently below 50 percent availability.

However, he noted that some critical vaccines, antiretroviral therapy, cancer medicines, and tuberculosis drugs remain sufficiently stocked.

"The Ministry is working around the clock to fast-track orders and delivery of all medicines and related medical commodities currently in short supply," Dr Nyanga said.

NURSES DISPUTE GOVERNMENT ASSURANCES

Despite the ministry's reassurances, Botswana Nurses Union (BONU) secretary general Onkemetse Ndulamo dismissed claims that the situation is under control, accusing government of repeatedly issuing what he termed public relations statements on medicine availability.

Ndulamo said shortages remain severe across health facilities, with essential medicines such as hypertension and diabetes drugs, as well as children's syrups, still in short supply due to high daily demand.

He warned that Batswana should brace for increased reliance on private healthcare and personal spending, saying the situation may take time to stabilise as it stems from long-standing systemic challenges.

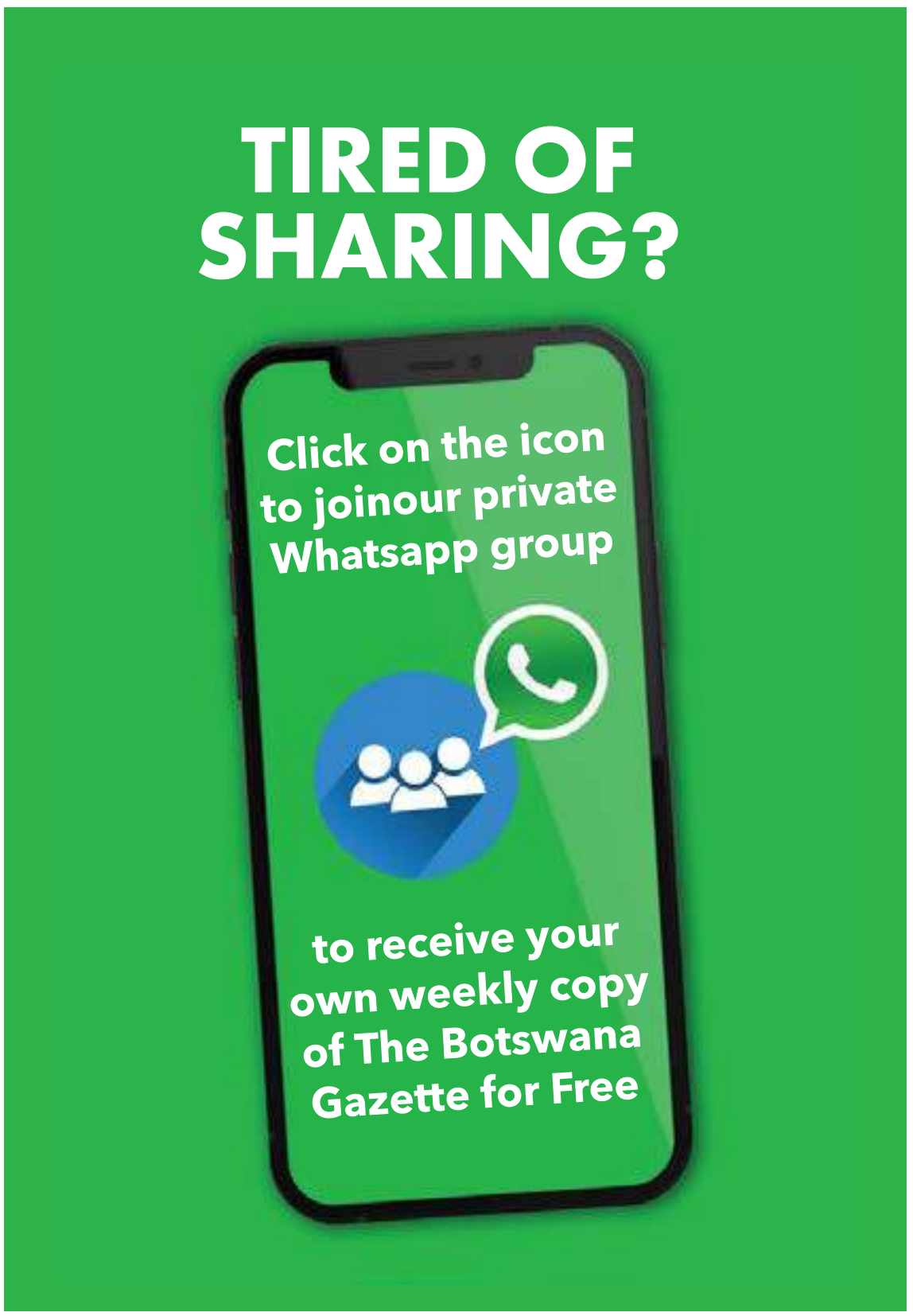
"What is needed now is for government to set its priorities right," he said.

> "Many Batswana now appear to have accepted medicine shortages as part of the public health landscape."

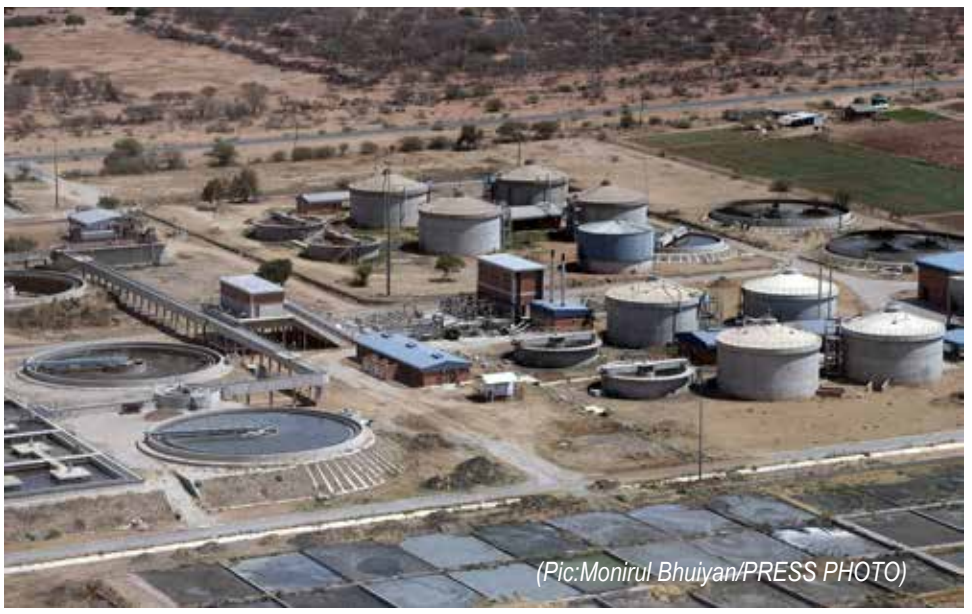
GROWING NORMALISATION OF PRIVATE HEALTH SPENDING

Across the country, the repeated shortages are increasingly pushing patients toward private pharmacies and out-of-pocket spending, a trend health professionals warn could deepen inequality in access to care.

As the government maintains that interventions are underway, health workers on the ground and professional bodies continue to paint a picture of a system still under significant strain, with no clear timeline for full recovery.



Govt Arrears Cripple WUC Operations


(Pic:Monirul Bhuiyan/PRESS PHOTO)

WUC has warned that government and councils unpaid water bills are severely affecting liquidity, maintenance and service delivery

BONGANI MALUNGA

The Water Utilities Corporation (WUC) has raised serious concern over escalating debt levels driven largely by delayed and non-payment of water bills, with government-related accounts emerging as the biggest contributor to the corporation's financial strain.

WUC says total arrears stand at approximately P1.6 billion, with the national government and local councils accounting for P784 million of that amount.

> "A significant constraint on the corporation's liquidity and cash flow position arises from the delayed or non payment or settlement of bills particularly by the government customer category."

PRESSURE ON LIQUIDITY POSITION

The corporation warns that the mounting debt is placing significant pressure on its liquidity position, weakening cash flow buffers and hampering its ability to sustain essential operations, including maintenance of water infrastructure and timely service delivery.

Appearing before the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Statutory Bodies and State Enterprises, WUC Chief Executive Officer Gaselemogwe Senai said the situation remains a major operational constraint.

SIGNIFICANT CONSTRAINT

"A significant constraint on the corporation's liquidity and cash flow position arises from the delayed or non payment or settlement of bills particularly by the government customer category, it remains our largest customer base," Senai stressed.

WUC cautioned that continued accumulation of unpaid bills could further compromise service reliability, delay infrastructure upgrades, and increase operational risks if not urgently addressed through improved payment discipline across public sector clients.

Notice

Prime Lending Rate unchanged for FNBB clients

Following the Monetary Policy Committee's decision to increase the Monetary Policy Rate (MoPR) by **200bps** from **3.5%** to **5.5%,** please note that the FNBB Prime Lending Rate (PLR) will remain unchanged.

MoPR-linked facilities will adjust accordingly.

Visit fnbbotswana.co.bw

First National Bank of Botswana Limited Member of the Deposit Insurance Scheme of Botswana

BOCONGO LAUNCHES CAMPAIGN AGAINST CONCOURT


Pic Credit (BWParliament, facebookpage)

..As President Boko vows no retreat, no surrender

GAZETTE REPORTER

The Botswana Council of Non-Governmental Organisations (BOCONGO) has launched a campaign against the proposed Constitutional Court.

In a campaign document, the organisation argues that while the reforms are presented as efforts to strengthen constitutional democracy, they contain "serious risks" for ordinary citizens.

BOCONGO raises particular concern over what it describes as gaps in the proposed structure of the court, especially the absence of a constitutionally guaranteed quorum for hearings.

"The Bill does not specify how many judges must sit to hear a case in the Constitutional Court," the document states, warning that this could allow "a single judge" allowing one judge to preside over constitutional matters could increase the risk of error, bias or inconsistency, with limited avenues for correction.

"Your human rights could be decided by one person instead of a panel," the organisation cautioned, adding that such a system could weaken safeguards in politically and socially sensitive disputes.

CONCERNS OVER LEGAL STRUCTURE AND OVERSIGHT

The civic body also questions the legal foundation of the Constitutional Court Bill No. 19 of 2025, arguing that critical provisions should be entrenched in the Constitution rather than ordinary legislation.

It further notes that a separate Bill meant to address quorum issues was never tabled in Parliament, creating what it calls uncertainty over how the court would function in practice.

PRESIDENTIAL INFLUENCE UNDER SCRUTINY

BOCONGO also raises alarm over provisions it says give the President significant influence in appointing Constitutional Court judges and members of the Judicial Service Commission.

"The Bill gives the President significant influence over appointing Constitutional Court judges… weakening judicial independence," the document states.

It warns that a politically influenced judiciary may be reluctant to rule against the state, even in cases involving alleged constitutional violations.

FINALITY OF RULINGS RAISES CONCERN

Another contested provision is the proposal that Constitutional Court decisions be final and not subject to appeal.

They criticise the proposed removal of the High Court's jurisdiction in human rights matters, arguing that the wording could be overly broad and overwhelm the new court with routine disputes involving labour, land, children's rights and privacy.

BOCONGO further questions the financial implications of establishing a new Constitutional Court and holding a national referendum, arguing that public funds could be better directed toward pressing social needs.

"Public money used here is money not available for healthcare, education, water, housing, or local services," the statement notes.

> "The Bill gives the President significant influence over appointing Constitutional Court judges... weakening judicial independence."

"NO NEW PROTECTIONS"

Despite the scale of the proposed constitutional overhaul, the organisation argues that the reforms do not introduce any additional human rights protections.

"You are asked to approve a major constitutional change without gaining any new protections," BOCONGO warned.

LION PARK RESORT
• Water Slides • Theme Park • Animal Park •

INVITATION TO TENDER FOR PROVISION OF INSURANCE COVER FOR LP's PPE
Tender #: PITT-2024-001

LP Amusement Centre (Pty) Ltd is a 100% subsidiary of Botswana Development Corporation Limited (BDC). The company has been operational since December 2008, and its core business is a Family Entertainment Centre, comprising of a water park, amusement park and conference facilities located in Gaborone. LP is desirous of engaging a broker to provide insurance cover for the company's PPE.

Bidders should collect tender documents comprising Terms of Reference (TOR) from the Tender Committee Secretary at Lion Park Resort. These documents will be available between the **hours 09:00 and 16:00 from Wednesday, 20 May to Friday, 29 May 2026.**

Closing Date: Tenders must be hand-delivered to the Tender Committee Secretary at the Lion Park Resort not later than **12:00 pm on Friday, 19 June 2026**, being the closing date.

Tenders received after the date mentioned above and time will not be considered. Furthermore, telephonic, telex, facsimile or electronic mail submissions will also not be considered.

Tender Opening: Tenders received by closing date and time indicated above shall be opened at **12:30 pm, at the Lion Park Resort, on 19 June 2026**, in the presence of bidders wishing to attend.

Notwithstanding anything contained in the foregoing or the tender documents, LP Amusement Centre (Pty) Ltd is not bound to accept the lowest or any tender. The company reserves the right not to proceed with the tender or to give reasons for its decision. LP AMUSEMENT CENTRE (Pty) Ltd shall not be responsible for any expenses incurred by the bidders in preparing the tender.

NEWS BRIEFS

BONGANI MALUNGA

BONU Ponders Taking Nurse Employment Crisis to Parly

The Botswana Nurses Union (BONU) has hinted that it may escalate its demands for the absorption and permanent employment of nurses and midwives to Parliament as the country continues to grapple with severe staffing shortages in the public health sector. BONU is challenging the government to table a formal Parliamentary request to facilitate the immediate employment of unemployed nurses and midwives across the country.

Speaking during the Nurses Day commemoration in Shakawe last week, BONU president Oreeditse Kelebakgosi said 797 qualified nurses and midwives remain unemployed despite mounting pressure on healthcare facilities nationwide.

Kelebakgosi highlighted the Okavango region as one of the hardest-hit areas, revealing that only eight midwives are serving a population estimated at between 130 000 and 200 000 people. He warned that the shortage continues to place immense strain on healthcare workers and compromises access to quality maternal and public healthcare services.



Botswana Joins Global Diamond Bourse Federation

Botswana has joined the World Federation of Diamond Bourses (WFDB) as an affiliated member, a move government says strengthens the country's ambition to become a global natural diamond hub. Announcing the development at the WFDB International Summit in Gaborone on Monday, Minerals and Energy Minister Bogolo Kenewendo said: "For decades, Botswana has been a trusted source of the world's finest natural diamonds. But our ambition now goes beyond mining, to bring the diamond industry home and deepen economic participation for Batswana." The affiliation is expected to boost Botswana's international diamond marketing efforts through the government's House of Botswana initiative.





Botswana on Alert as Ebola Returns

Botswana is facing Ebola importation through its busy regional transport and travel routes, with government warning of risks



SESUPO RANTSIMAKO

The Ministry of Health has issued the warning of Ebola importation risks following fresh outbreaks of Bundibugyo Virus Disease (BVD), commonly known as Ebola, in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and Uganda, countries linked to Botswana through regional freight networks and international air travel connections.

According to World Health Organization (WHO), the latest Ebola outbreak in Africa has already killed between 89 people this year, with more than 300 suspected cases recorded mainly in eastern DRC's Ituri Province. Uganda has also reported imported infections linked to travellers from the DRC, heightening fears of regional spread.

The ministry stated that although Botswana has not recorded any suspected or confirmed Ebola cases, the risk of the virus crossing into the country remains real and significant.

BOTSWANA KEY TRANSIT CORRIDOR

"Botswana is a regional truck transit corridor handling daily freight movements connecting the DRC and South Africa," the ministry's spokesperson, Dr Christopher Nyanga, warned in the press release.

The ministry further revealed that Botswana's international airports continue to receive travellers through regional hubs including Addis Ababa, Nairobi, Johannesburg and Kigali all of which are connected to Ebola-risk zones such as Kampala and Kinshasa.

WHO DECLARES GLOBAL EMERGENCY

The WHO has classified the outbreak as a Public Health Emergency of International Concern amid fears that the virus could spread across borders through regional transport and air travel networks.

BORDERS AIRPORTS UNDER SURVEILLANCE

The ministry said Botswana has now moved to tighten surveillance systems at all entry points to prevent possible importation of the virus.

The MoH, working alongside the Ministry of Local Government and Traditional Affairs, said all travellers arriving from or transiting through Uganda and the DRC within the last 21 days will undergo mandatory fever screening and complete health declaration forms.

RISK OF IMPORTED INFECTIONS

The government fears that without aggressive monitoring, the country could become vulnerable to imported infections through truck drivers, cross-border traders and international travellers moving along regional corridors daily.

The ministry is now discouraging non-essential travel to Ebola-affected countries as fears mounts over the highly infectious and often fatal disease.

PUBLIC URGED TO MONITOR SYMPTOMS

Citizens returning from Uganda or the DRC have been instructed to closely monitor themselves for symptoms such as fever, fatigue, muscle pain, vomiting and unexplained bleeding for a period of 21 days. The ministry warned that anyone developing symptoms must seek immediate medical attention to avoid the potential spread of the virus.

WARNING ON CONTACT WITH BODILY FLUIDS

The MoH also issued a stern warning against contact with blood, bodily fluids or corpses of people who may have died from unexplained illnesses, stressing that Ebola spreads rapidly through direct human contact.



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Botswana Media Freedom Plunges by 20%



Botswana has recorded a sharp 20-percentage-point decline in perceptions of media freedom over the past five years, placing it among the steepest fallers in Africa, according to the latest Afrobarometer survey

GAZETTE REPORTER

Botswana has recorded a sharp 20 percentage-point decline in perceptions of media freedom over the past five years, placing the country among the worst performers in Africa.

This is according to the latest findings by Afrobarometer titled "Demand for civic space holds strong across Africa as supply of freedoms wanes."

The report shows that while Africans broadly continue to value civic and media freedoms, the actual space for expression and independent journalism is shrinking in many countries, including Botswana.

Across 30 African countries surveyed over time since 2019, Afrobarometer finds that perceptions of media freedom have declined by an average of 4 percentage points. Botswana's 20-point drop is significantly above the continental average, signalling what analysts describe as a rapid contraction of civic space.

BOTSWANA'S SHARP DECLINE

According to the report, in Botswana, "a bare majority (53%) see [the media] as 'somewhat' or 'completely' free to report without government interference, but more than four in 10 (43%) describe it as 'not very free' or 'not at all free.'"

The findings suggest a country that is increasingly divided in public perception over how freely journalists can operate.

REGIONAL COMPARISON SHOWS WIDER CONTRAST

The report highlights stark regional differences across the continent.

While countries such as Liberia (47%) and Zambia (45%) recorded the highest proportions of citizens who believe their media is "completely free," fewer than one in 10 respondents held that view in Nigeria, Eswatini, Cameroon, Togo and Congo-Brazzaville.

Botswana, once widely regarded as one of Africa's stronger democratic performers on press freedom, is now listed among countries experiencing significant declines.

AMONG STEEPEST DECLINES IN AFRICA

Afrobarometer notes that alongside Guinea (-34 points), Lesotho (-22 points), and Nigeria (-22 points), Botswana (-20 points) is among those recording the steepest reductions in perceived media freedom.

The pattern places Botswana in an increasingly scrutinised group of states where civic space is seen to be contracting faster than the continental average.

BROADER CONTINENTAL PICTURE

Although the report does not single out Botswana's administration in its qualitative analysis, the statistical decline places renewed scrutiny on the country's governance environment and the space available for journalists and media houses to operate freely.

Across Africa, public opinion remains split: 14% of respondents say the media is "completely free," 37% say it is "somewhat free," while a combined 41% believe it is either "not very free" or "not at all free."



IN LOVING MEMORY

HIS EXCELLENCY

DR FESTUS GONTEBANYE MOGAE

21 AUGUST 1939 - 8 MAY 2026

On behalf of the Southern African Customs Union (SACU), we join the Government and People of the Republic of Botswana in mourning the passing of His Excellency Dr. Festus Gontebanye Mogae, Former President of the Republic of Botswana (1998-2008).

The passing of H.E. Mogae is not only a great loss to the People of Botswana, but also a profound loss to the entire SACU region. He was a distinguished statesman, visionary leader and dedicated servant of the people whose remarkable contribution to Botswana and the region will be remembered with deep respect and admiration.

We extend our heartfelt condolences to the former First Lady, Madam Barbara Mogae, the Mogae family, as well as the Government and People of Botswana during this time of sorrow.

May His Soul Rest in Eternal Peace.



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Budget Cuts Trigger Ageing Crisis

A new report argues that government spending cuts risk worsening inequality at a time when demand for healthcare and elder care is rising



GAZETTE REPORTER

A worsening economic downturn and government austerity measures announced earlier this year in the budget speech by Minister of Finance Ndaba Gaolathe are reportedly pushing Botswana toward a deepening ageing crisis, with elderly citizens increasingly exposed to poverty and weakened public support systems.

This is according to a new study titled Botswana Elder Care Spending During Fiscal Consolidation, which warns that fiscal tightening, introduced in response to declining diamond revenues, may be worsening inequality and undermining care for older persons.

The report, authored by University of Cape Town Professor Elena Moore and Wits University researcher Thokozile Madonko, argues that Botswana's current fiscal consolidation path risks reducing already limited social protection at a time when demand for elderly care is rising.

"We argue that Botswana's current economic path of fiscal consolidation and austerity is likely to harm the provision of social protection and care for older persons in the short term," the report states.

LIFE EXPECTANCY

The researchers say longer life expectancy is increasing pressure on healthcare services, home-based care and social welfare systems. This is happening while government spending is being curtailed to stabilise public finances following a projected 0.4 percent economic contraction in 2026 linked to a slowdown in diamond production.

The report notes that even with the Old Age Pension programme, nearly 12 percent of older persons still live in extreme poverty. Many survive on household incomes as low as P2,230 per month, with food insecurity emerging as a major concern. About 44 percent of elderly households reported reducing meals due to insufficient food supplies.

RURAL AREAS

Rural areas are particularly affected, where 68 percent of older persons reside. Only 46 percent of rural elderly households have access to piped water, while 18 percent lack basic toilet facilities. Researchers warn that poor infrastructure is increasing the burden on families caring for ageing relatives.

Botswana's healthcare system is also under pressure, with just 0.38 doctors per 1,000 people compared to the World Health Organization recommendation of 4.5 per 1,000. Limited hospital capacity further constrains access to essential services for older citizens.

> "We argue that Botswana's current economic path of fiscal consolidation and austerity is likely to harm the provision of social protection and care for older persons in the short term."

The report argues that stronger investment in social protection, disability allowances, transport support and home-based care could help address these gaps while creating jobs and stimulating economic growth.

"Investment in creating quality public-sector jobs within social protection should not be viewed as a cost but rather as a contributor to higher employment in Botswana and broader economic growth," the report states.

The study concludes that unless Botswana prioritises elder care within its fiscal strategy, the country risks deepening poverty, widening inequality and leaving thousands of elderly citizens without adequate care or dignity in old age.

Fiscal Pressure Mounts Over Unremoved Asylum Seekers

Questions emerge over the financial implications of Botswana's decision to retain around 400 asylum seekers whose applications have been rejected

GAZETTE REPORTER

The government's decision to reject approximately 400 asylum seekers while keeping them within Botswana's borders has triggered questions over the long-term financial implications.

The issue comes at a time when Botswana is already confronting economic pressures and increased scrutiny over public expenditure.

The government has revealed they have decided to keep them on Human Rights grounds while they find a solution, but analysts say prolonged unresolved asylum cases often place pressure on state resources through accommodation, healthcare, food provision, security arrangements and administrative processes. This is done with support from the United Nations refugee agency.

Asked for their position, the UNHCR said "the determination of appropriate durable solutions, including possible voluntary repatriation or other options, will be assessed on a case-by-case basis in close coordination with the asylum seekers and Government of Botswana".

UNHCR Associate Government Liaison Officer Madoda Nasha said the agency stands ready to provide technical support, upon request, to the Government of Botswana.

THE COST QUESTION

Once an asylum claim is rejected, the expectation may be that the individual would leave or be deported. However, in practice, removal processes can become complicated for legal, diplomatic or humanitarian reasons.

Migration experts note that when deportations are delayed or become impossible, governments may continue incurring costs linked to the management and support of affected individuals.

Questions are now emerging over the sustainability of maintaining such arrangements should the situation persist over an extended period.

THE NON-REFOULEMENT PRINCIPLE

Under the international principle of non-refoulement, a country is prohibited from returning individuals to territories where they face a potential serious risk of persecution, torture, conflict, or threats to their life and freedom.

As a result, governments may sometimes find themselves in situations where an individual has been denied refugee status but cannot legally or safely be returned to their country of origin.

Sources however argue that assessments conducted by authorities found that many of the rejected asylum seekers' claims were found to be unsubstantiated, lacking sufficient evidence to establish a credible fear of persecution or grounds for refugee protection under applicable asylum criteria.

ECONOMIC REALITY

The situation has reignited debate on where the line should be drawn between humanitarian obligations and the country's economic realities while some observers argue that the discussion should not be viewed purely through a financial lens.

For now, however, the approximately 400 rejected asylum seekers remain in an uncertain position-denied asylum status but still within Botswana's borders — leaving government with a challenge that increasingly appears to sit at the intersection of law, economics and humanitarian responsibility.

Efforts to obtain comment from the relevant government authorities were unsuccessful, as the minister said he was still in meeting.



UNHCR Associate Government Liaison Officer Madoda Nasha





VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

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

The position is based at BIUST Campus, Palapye.

SCHOOL OF EARTH SCIENCES AND ENGINEERING

SENIOR LECTURER, MATERIALS AND METALLURGICAL ENGINEERING

MAIN PURPOSE OF THE JOB:
- To teach and educate undergraduate and graduate students in an academic discipline and to build the knowledge base of the discipline through research and publication.
- To administer teaching and research activities within the discipline of Materials and Metallurgical Engineering.
- To play a leading role in improving the teaching and research infrastructure of the Department, Faculty and University. Contribute to teaching within the department/ School will include course development and

COMPETENCIES/SKILLS:
- Complete multiple assignments, maintain quality, work under pressure and adhere to deadlines
- Adhere to HR policies, practices and procedures, and conform to professional standards and ethics
- Apply interpersonal styles/methods to develop and motivate staff Conceptual and practical thinking
- Demonstrate the ability to work independently and largely unsupervised
- Maintain confidentiality and respectful of sensitive situations
- Methodical and organised, with a high level of attention to details

QUALIFICATIONS/REQUIREMENTS:
Academic Qualification:

- PhD degree in either Materials Engineering, Materials and Metallurgical Engineering or Metallurgical Engineering.
- MSc in either Materials Engineering, Materials and Metallurgical Engineering or Metallurgical Engineering.
- Beng (Hons) OR Bsc in either Materials Engineering, Materials and Metallurgical Engineering or Metallurgical Engineering.

Professional Certification:
Must be registered with ERB

Must be registered with BQA as assessor and moderator or eligible to register within 1 year of assumption of duty.

Experience:
- A minimum of two (2) years of post-doctoral experience in either teaching/lecturing/research or industry in the following fields; Hydrometallurgy & Electrometallurgy, Elements of Pyrometallurgy, Mineral Processsing, Materials & Metallurgical Engineering Design Project , Tribology & Corrosion.
- Proven research profile and consistent publication record with at least eight (8) peer reviewed reputable publications in either scopus or web of science index journals, consummerate with appointment to the rank of Senior Lecturer.

2. ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR, CHEMICAL ENGINEERING

MAIN PURPOSE OF THE JOB
- To teach and educate undergraduate and graduate students in an academic discipline and to build the knowledge base of the discipline through research and publication.
- To administer teaching and research activities within the discipline of Chemical Engineering.
- To play a leading role in improving the teaching and research infrastructure of the Department, Faculty and University.
- To be active in some form of professional service.

COMPETENCIES/SKILLS:
- Complete multiple assignments, maintain quality, work under pressure and adhere to deadlines
- Adhere to HR policies, practices and procedures, and conform to professional standards and ethics
- Apply interpersonal styles/methods to develop and motivate staff Conceptual and practical thinking
- Demonstrate the ability to work independently and largely unsupervised
- Maintain confidentiality and respectful of sensitive situations
- Methodical and organised, with a high level of attention to details

QUALIFICATIONS/REQUIREMENTS:
Academic Qualification:
- PhD degree in Chemical Engineering.
- MSc (Eng) or MEng degree in Chemical Engineering.
- BEng (Hons) OR BSc (Eng) in Chemical Engineering.

Professional Certification:
Must be registered with ERB
Registered with Botswana Qualification Authority as assessor and moderator.

Experience:
- A minimum of eight (8) years post- doctoral experience in teaching at tertiary level in any of the folling fields: Process Modelling, Simulation & Optimization; Plant & Equipment Design and Chemical Engineering Design Project.
- At least six (6) years post-doctoral experience in either teaching/lecturing/research or industry experience in relevant field or discipline, at leat four (4) of which must be in Graduate supervision including successful doctoral students. Experience in teaching at tertiary level for at least three (3) years.
- Sustained record of peer- reviewed publications and other research output, with a minimum of 16 peer-reviewed publications of ISI journal within the last 6 years.
- Experience of obtaining external research funding.

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 and a detailed Curriculum Vitae including at least three (3) recent professional referees to;

Director, Human Resources at the email address below.

recruitment.chemical.eng@biust.ac.bw

For any further enquiries, you may call Ms Ulaula @ 4931315 or Ms Ramolatlhwa @493 1304.

Closing Date: June 05, 2026.

SCHOOL OF LIFE SCIENCES, DEPARTMENT OF BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES AND BIOTECHNOLOGY

FULL PROFESSOR OF INDUSTRIAL BIOTECHNOLOGY

MAIN PURPOSE OF THE JOB:
- To teach, supervise and educate undergraduate and graduate students in an academic discipline and to build the knowledge base of the discipline through research and publication.
- To administer teaching and research activities within the discipline of Industrial Biotechnology.
- To give academic leadership in the University, the School, and the Department, and develop the next generation of academics.
- To play a leading role in improving the teaching and research infrastructure of the Department, School, and University.
- To establish a national reputation in the chosen discipline.
- To be active in professional service related to the chosen discipline.

KEY PERFORMANCE AREAS (where applicable):
- Responsible for teaching and supervision of students
- Should be able to conduct research and publish the findings in peer reviewer reputable journals recommended by the university.
- Should be able to give academic leadership.
- Should be able to perform professional and consultation services and other services for the university.
- Be able to engage in community services.

COMPETENCIES/SKILLS:
- Ability to prepare and submit proposals and applications to external bodies, e.g., for funding and accreditation purposes.
- Computer proficiency.
- Good knowledge of the academic discipline environment.
- Involvement in professional activities where applicable.
- Knowledge of Research Methodology.
- Understanding of Higher Education environment.
- Ability to be a team player and ability to work independently.
- Ability to facilitate student learning.
- Ability to coach and mentor students and staff.
- Strong communication skills - to disseminate conceptual and complex ideas to a wide variety of audiences using appropriate media and methods to promote understanding.
- Ability to manage & analyze information.
- Ability to supervise research projects and graduate students.
- Ability to synthesize information to design learning experiences.

QUALIFICATIONS/REQUIREMENTS:
Academic Qualification:

- A PhD degree in Biotechnology or in a related area with a strong focus on Enzyme Technology or Microbial Biotechnology from a recognized Institution.

Experience:
- A minimum of ten (10) years post-doctoral experience in teaching undergraduate and postgraduate courses in Industrial Biotechnology
- A research experience in Industrial Biotechnology and evidence of building and leading a research team in this field of study.
- A record of recent and continuing publications of at least thirty (30) original scientific articles in reputable, peer-reviewed journals.
- Evidence of attracting research grants and managing research projects.
- Evidence of accreditation as assessor and moderator from the Botswana Qualifications Authority (BQA).
- Evidence of experience of successful supervision of postgraduate students.
- Evidence of engagement in university, professional, and community services.
- Evidence of involvement in academic leadership and management.

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, educational certificates and transcripts and a detailed Curriculum Vitae including at least two (2) recent professional referees to:

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recruitment.bioscibiotech@biust.ac.bw

For any further enquiries, you may call Ms Taolo @ 4931305 or Ms Jobe @ 4931317

Disclaimer: Only citizens will be considered for this position. By submitting your application, you authorize the Botswana University of Science and Technology (BIUST) to collect, process, and retain your personal information for purposes related to recruitment and selection, including verification and background checks where applicable, in compliance with relevant data protection laws. All information provided will be handled in strict confidence and may be disclosed to authorized individuals directly involved in the recruitment process

CLOSING DATE: June 05, 2026

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Govt Weighs Rent-to-Buy Plan For BCL Homes

A flexible housing ownership scheme for ex BCL miners is being considered after valuations revealed many cannot afford outright purchases

BONGANI MALUNGA

The Botswana government is considering a rent-to-buy arrangement that could give former BCL Mine workers a pathway to owning the houses they have occupied for years, after a valuation exercise revealed that many ex miners cannot afford to buy the properties outright.

The proposed intervention is part of a broader socio-economic relief effort aimed at shielding former BCL employees from displacement.

The government moved to acquire 1226 BCL staff houses from the mine's liquidator in July 2025 in a bid to prevent mass evictions following years of uncertainty after the collapse of the copper and nickel mining giant.

EVALUATION PROCESS

Following the purchase, the government established a task force to oversee the disposal of the properties and facilitate their transfer to former BCL workers. However, assessments conducted during a recent evaluation process reportedly showed that a significant number of ex miners lacked the financial capacity to secure conventional mortgage financing or purchase the homes through outright cash payments.



(Pic:Monirul Bhuiyan/PRESS PHOTO)

Speaking during a meeting with ex miners in Selebi-Phikwe last week, the Minister of Water and Human Settlement, Onneetse Ramogapi, said government was now pursuing a more flexible arrangement that would allow former employees to gradually transition from tenants to homeowners.

"There will be an opportunity for ex miners to purchase homes through a rent-to-buy process. While we are still sorting out paperwork and other technicalities, we welcome those who are willing to agree to such an arrangement. This will ensure that ex miners will continue to pay rent with a long term home ownership arrangement as the end product," Ramogapi stated.

EVENTUAL OWNERSHIP

The proposed model is expected to allow ex miners to continue paying monthly rentals while a portion of the payments contributes towards eventual ownership of the properties. Authorities believe the arrangement could ease the financial burden on former workers, many of whom continue to grapple with the long-term economic fallout of the BCL Mine closure.

For Selebi-Phikwe, a town still rebuilding from the economic shock caused by the mine's shutdown, the initiative is seen as a crucial step towards preserving community stability and preventing further social distress.

> "The proposed intervention is part of a broader socio-economic relief effort aimed at shielding former BCL employees from displacement."

The ministry is expected to announce the final terms and eligibility conditions once the task force concludes consultations and completes the legal and administrative framework for the scheme.

Nurses Warn Govt on Proposed Welfare Reforms

Sidelining consultation in the restructuring of conditions of service for nurses could ignite labour tensions and deepen unrest, Nurses Union has warned

SESUPO RANTSIMAKO

The Botswana Nurses Union (BONU) has called on the Ministry of Health to exercise caution in the planned introduction of separate conditions of service for nurses, warning that failure to consult could trigger conflicts.

CALL FOR INCLUSIVE ENGAGEMENT

BONU president Oreeditse Kelebakgosi said in an interview with The Botswana Gazette that while the government proposal is well-intentioned, it must be handled carefully and inclusively to avoid unintended consequences for health professionals.

His comments come after Assistant Minister of Health Lawrence Ookeditse recently revealed during Nurses Day commemorations that the Ministry of Health, in collaboration with the Directorate of Public Service Management (DPSM), is exploring the possibility of introducing separate employment conditions for nurses in recognition of the demanding nature of their work.

EARLY-STAGE CONSULTATION CRITICAL

Kelebakgosi cautioned that although the idea could be beneficial if properly implemented, nurses' representatives should be engaged from the earliest stages of policy development.

"We believe that separating nurse' conditions of service from other public service cadres can be good if done properly. However, government should not start processes that affect health professionals without engaging or consulting them from the first stage, as that has the potential to create animosity going forward. Though it is a good policy, the biggest mistake is crafting it without engaging health professionals from the onset. It is a good policy but we just learnt from the minister that they are already in discussions," he said.

RISK OF PERCEIVED EXCLUSION

He further warned that without meaningful consultation, the initiative could be perceived as a tool for undermining or disadvantaging nurses rather than improving their welfare.

"We don't want a situation where the government introduces something that later ends up being used to oppress nurses. That is why consultation is critical from the infancy stage right through to implementation," he added.

> "We don't want a situation where the government introduces something that later ends up being used to oppress nurses. That is why consultation is critical from the infancy stage right through to implementation."

GOV'T POSITION

According to Ookeditse, the proposed reforms are aimed at improving service delivery, strengthening retention of skilled personnel, and addressing long-standing concerns about working conditions and remuneration in the public health sector.

"The DPSM and Ministry of Health are currently engaged in discussions so that the conditions of service for nurses can be different from other public service cadres given the peculiarity of the service they provide," he said.

LONG-STANDING CONCERNS IN THE SECTOR

For years, nurses and other healthcare workers have consistently raised concerns over staffing levels, workload pressures, and compensation, arguing that the nature of their profession requires tailored policy interventions.

While the proposed changes are expected to address some of these issues, BONU insists that success will depend largely on transparent engagement and mutual agreement between government and health sector stakeholders.

Private Security Sector Decries Exclusion

..As Gov't insourcing exercise 'begins'

SESUPO RANTSIMAKO

Private security service providers have raised concerns over their alleged exclusion from the government's ongoing insourcing exercise, claiming that no security officers from private companies have been absorbed despite earlier expectations that the process would begin in April.

DELAYED ABSORPTION RAISES QUESTIONS

Security Officers Association of Botswana (SOAB) president Batanani Morapelo told The Botswana Gazette in an interview that almost two months after the expected commencement date, private security guards remain untouched by the exercise, raising questions about its scope and implementation.

The insourcing decision was formally announced during the presentation of the Draft 12th National Development Plan (NDP12) in October 2025 by the Minister for State Presidency, Moeti Mohwasa. At the time, government confirmed a shift toward a hybrid public service delivery model, with stronger emphasis on insourcing certain services as part of broader public service reforms aimed at improving wages, strengthening job security, and enhancing service delivery.

'PRIVATE GUARDS LEFT OUT'

Morapelo said the developments suggest that the exercise may only be benefiting security guards commonly known as night watchmen, who are directly employed by government on contract.

"So far, none of the security guards from private companies have been absorbed by government as promised. This raises serious concerns about whether the exercise is truly inclusive or limited to government-contracted personnel," he said.

He further argued that private security stakeholders were excluded from consultations leading up to the decision despite being key players in the industry.

STAKEHOLDERS DEMAND CONSULTATION

"Since the announcement was made, we have not been engaged or consulted as stakeholders. We are completely in the dark about the process, which is concerning given that we are directly affected," Morapelo said.

He added that government should have involved private security firms and their representatives from the outset to ensure transparency and inclusivity in the implementation of the insourcing programme.

The concerns come amid growing scrutiny of the insourcing initiative, which was expected to create employment opportunities and streamline security services within government operations.

GOV'T SAYS EXERCISE YET TO BEGIN

Reached for comment, the Minister of Labour and Home Affairs, Major General (Rtd) Pius Mokgware, said the insourcing exercise has not yet started, and attributing the delay to ongoing efforts to develop modalities for its implementation.

Responding to allegations that government had excluded private security companies, Mokgware dismissed the claims, saying authorities are working towards a fair and inclusive system.

"Our expectation is that the exercise will start in June this year," he said in an interview with *The Botswana Gazette*.



Unions Demand Govt Action as Cost of Living Soars

GAZETTE REPORTER

Unions have warned that households are bracing for "suffocation" as the cost of living continues to rise sharply across Botswana, with the Botswana Public Employees Union (BOPEU) leading calls for government to urgently rethink its spending priorities ahead of the 2026/27 financial year.

BOPEU says worsening economic conditions are steadily pushing workers and ordinary citizens into financial distress as the prices of basic goods and services continue to escalate, eroding already strained household budgets.

The latest demands come after an earlier update issued on April 17 in which six public service unions warned that workers' real wages had declined sharply due to the absence of salary increases during the 2025/26 financial year.

The unions said their assessment showed that workers' purchasing power had deteriorated by an accumulated 9.3 percent.

The "5+1" cooperating unions include the Botswana Teachers Union, BOPEU, Botswana Nurses Union, Botswana Sectors of Educators Trade Union, and the Botswana Doctors Union.

CALL FOR SHIFT IN GOVERNMENT PRIORITIES

In a fresh briefing note, BOPEU president Martin Gabobake urged government to prioritise citizen welfare in its fiscal planning, warning that the country is entering a period of severe economic strain affecting households across the board.

"BOPEU strongly urges the Government to reconsider its approach to governance especially regarding its planned expenditures during these difficult economic times," Gabobake said.

He added that government must adopt a strategy that places the needs and welfare of citizens at the centre of economic decision-making.

RISING COSTS STRAIN HOUSEHOLDS

BOPEU raised concern over rising fuel prices, increasing food costs, higher transport expenses and growing medical aid contributions, all of which are tightening household budgets.

The union also singled out a proposed 46 percent electricity tariff increase by the Botswana Power Corporation as a major threat to struggling families.

Gabobake warned that such an increase would deepen financial pressure on households already battling rising living costs.

"Such a significant rise in electricity prices creates a considerable burden on households worsening the financial pressures many families are already experiencing," he said.

TAX CHANGES UNDER SCRUTINY

The union further expressed concern over proposed changes to the tax regime, including income tax and VAT adjustments, arguing that these could further strain ordinary citizens.

Gabobake said the combined impact of rising commodity prices is leaving many families unable to meet basic needs.

"The rising prices of these essential commodities are negatively impacting workers and the wider community," he said.

CALL FOR URGENT GOVERNMENT ACTION

BOPEU has urged the Ministry of Finance to urgently convene the Sub High Level Consultative Committee to identify immediate relief measures for households under pressure.

Gabobake also called for a suspension of non-essential government expenditure, arguing that resources should be redirected to urgent social and economic relief programmes.

"It is imperative that the government recognises the urgency of the situation and takes decisive steps to foster a more sustainable economic environment for all citizens," he said.

ADVISORY ▪ AUDIT ▪ TAX ▪ ACCOUNTING

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Baker Tilly Botswana is looking forward to training exceptional, bright, and enthusiastic people to become tomorrow's business leaders. Are you ready to apply your knowledge and background to exciting new challenges? From learning to leadership, this is your chance to take your career to the next level. Baker Tilly provides audit, consulting, financial advisory, risk management, tax, legal and other related services to public and private clients spanning various industries through globally connected network of member firms in more than 147 countries. The following opportunities have arisen at Baker Tilly Central Africa (Botswana).

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- Additional certifications, such as CIA (Certified Internal Auditor), CISA (Certified Information Systems Auditor), or CFE (Certified Fraud Examiner), are highly desirable.
- At least 10 years of experience in financial auditing, public accounting, or consulting, with a focus on audit operations.
- Proven interpersonal skills with the ability to build relationships, coach, motivate, and effectively manage financial audit staff.
- Ability to work collaboratively with various departments, with a solid understanding of how financial auditing aligns with operational functions within a professional services environment.

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Deadline: 05 June 2026
Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted for interviews.

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How Botswana Teachers Union Is Redefining Member Welfare Through Moriti and Strategic Member Benefits

For many years, trade unions across Africa have largely been associated with salary negotiations, labour rights, and workplace advocacy. While those remain fundamental pillars of unionism, the Botswana Teachers Union is quietly building something much bigger, something more personal, and far more transformational.

BTU is redefining what it means to belong to a union in modern Botswana.

Today, being a BTU member is no longer only about representation in the workplace. It is increasingly about **financial protection, family security, access to opportunity and long-term dignity.** Through a growing ecosystem of strategic member benefits, from insurance to financial empowerment to legal protection, housing support and water security, borehole solutions & infrastructure development, BTU is positioning itself not just as a labour movement, but as a lifelong partner in the wellbeing of educators.

At the centre of this transformation sits **Moriti**, BTU's flagship Group Life Assurance product.

Moriti: Protecting the Teacher Beyond the Classroom

Launched in partnership with Bona Life Insurance and brokered by Chartered Insurance Brokers, Moriti represents one of the most significant welfare innovations introduced by the union in recent years.

Why Moriti GLA

The introduction of the Moriti Group Life Assurance (GLA) Scheme was driven by BTU's commitment to strengthening member welfare through a more comprehensive, inclusive and financial protection model.

Over the years, the Union has received increasing requests for financial assistance from members and families facing life-altering situations such as critical illness, permanent disability, accidents and the loss of a breadwinner. These challenges often place significant emotional and financial strain on families, particularly where medical costs, loss of income, loans, school fees and household responsibilities remain challenged.

While the existing funeral scheme continues to provide important funeral support and dignity during bereavement, BTU recognized the need for a broader protection solution that supports members and their beneficiaries before funeral-related circumstances arise. Between life and death, members and their dependents often face many other critical challenges that require urgent financial intervention long before funeral support becomes necessary.

The Moriti GLA provide support throughout member's life journey, from critical illness, disability and accidents, to the end of life financial protection for families. For a monthly contribution of P95, members gain access to a structured financial safety net designed to protect them and their families when life takes an unexpected turn.

The product provides:

Up to **P50,000 in critical illness protection** for conditions such as cancer, stroke and heart attacks.

Up to **P50,000 for total and permanent disability**, helping members whose ability to work is permanently affected.

Additional **accidental cover** for unforeseen tragedies.

A **tax-free P200,000 life cover** for beneficiaries in the event of death.

This approach moves member support from a reactive assistance model to a structured and proactive financial safety net-inclusivity.

At the centre of this transformation is Moriti, BTU's flagship Group Life Assurance product, reflecting the Union's evolving role not only as a labour movement, but also as a lifelong partner in the wellbeing and financial security of educators.

Moriti represents one of the most significant welfare innovations introduced by the Union in recent years. It reflects BTU's broader vision of redefining what it means to belong to a modern trade union — one where member welfare extends beyond labour representation into long-term protection, financial security, dignity and family wellbeing.

For many years, trade unions across Africa have largely been associated with salary negotiations, labour rights and workplace advocacy. While these remain fundamental pillars of unionism, BTU is building a broader ecosystem of strategic member benefits designed to improve members' lives both inside and outside the workplace.

Today, being a BTU member is increasingly about financial protection, access to opportunity, family security and long-term dignity through a growing network of strategic partnerships and welfare solutions.

Introduction to Group Life Assurance (GLA)

Group Life Assurance is a globally recognized employee and member protection solution commonly offered by employers, unions, corporates, financial institutions and professional associations as part of their employee welfare and benefits strategy.

In the insurance industry, GLA schemes are designed to provide financial security to members and their families during unexpected life events such as death, disability, critical illness or accidents. Because the cover is provided on a group basis, members benefit from lower premiums, simplified access and broader protection compared to individual insurance policies.

Many institutions implement GLA schemes because they:

Enhance member and employee welfare

Reduce financial vulnerability for families

Promote inclusivity through group-based access

Provide peace of mind and income protection

Strengthen institutional support systems

BTU chose the GLA model because it allows the Union to leverage the collective strength of its membership to secure meaningful and affordable benefits for all members under one inclusive structure.

Through the power of collective bargaining and economies of scale, BTU was able to negotiate substantial cover at an affordable premium of P95 per month. Individually, similar cover would often cost significantly more due to medical underwriting and individual risk pricing. This collective model ensures broader access to protection that many members may otherwise struggle to obtain independently.

The Moriti GLA therefore complements the existing funeral scheme by extending protection beyond funeral assistance and introducing financial support during illness, disability, accidents and other life-altering situations.

Launched in partnership with Bona Life Insurance and brokered by Chartered Insurance Brokers (CIB), Moriti forms part of BTU's broader commitment to creating sustainable and impactful welfare solutions for educators across Botswana.

The product supports members throughout their life journey — from illness and disability to accidental events and end-of-life financial protection for beneficiaries.

For a monthly contribution of P95, members gain access to a structured financial safety net designed to protect both themselves and their families when life takes an unexpected turn.

Why the Cover Is Important

The Moriti GLA also addresses the growing burden of chronic and critical illnesses, many of which can place families under severe financial pressure even where medical aid exists.

Examples of illnesses covered under critical illness benefits may include:

Cancer

Stroke

Kidney Failure

Heart Attack

Major Organ Failure

Paralysis

Spinal Cord Injuries

The financial impact of these conditions can be significant. For example:

Cancer treatment can cost tens of thousands of pula for consultations, scans, chemotherapy, surgery, and medication.

Kidney dialysis may require ongoing treatment multiple times a week, creating long-term financial strain.

Stroke and heart-related conditions often require hospitalization, rehabilitation, specialist treatment, and lifestyle support.

Specialized spinal or lower lumbar procedures outside Botswana may exceed P150,000 excluding travel, accommodation, and recovery costs.

Even with medical aid, families are often still required to cover copayments, transportation, specialized medication, income interruptions, home adjustments, and other non-medical expenses. Without medical aid, the financial burden can become overwhelming.

The Moriti GLA therefore provides a critical financial cushion that helps members and their families manage these difficult periods with greater dignity, stability, and peace of mind.

BTU also acknowledges that introducing a new product across a large and diverse membership base requires ongoing education and engagement. With members spread across hundreds of schools nationwide, not all members will immediately understand the product in the same way and same time. The Union has therefore committed to continuous awareness campaigns and engagement sessions to ensure members fully understand the structure, value and benefits of the scheme.

In instances where members may have similar products and unwilling to take the product such members will be assisted to opt-out of the complusory bracket.

More Than Insurance: Building a Full Member Ecosystem

Moriti forms part of a broader BTU member value ecosystem created through strategic partnerships aimed at improving the everyday lives its membership.

Through More Power Investments (MPI), BTU members continue to gain access to a suite of services designed to address everyday challenges.

Water Security and Borehole Solutions

One of the standout offerings comes through More Power Drilling, which provides borehole drilling and integrated water solutions for farmers, developers and long-term investment projects.

Services include:

Borehole drilling

Borehole development and cleaning

Yield testing

Casing installation

Pump installation and equipping

Borehole extension

Borehole registration and logging

Water rights compliance through strategic partners

In a country where water security remains critical, these services help support sustainable development, asset creation and long-term investment security for BTU members.

This is not a luxury. It is wealth creation.

Financial Empowerment

BTU members have access to:

Home, vehicle and personal finance solutions through strategic banking partners

Building materials and household appliance financing

Microfinance and savings support through co-operative structure

These offerings help members move beyond survival and toward ownership, investment and long-term financial independence.

Legal Protection

BTU members also have access to legal support covering:

Debt recovery

Family matters including divorce, custody and maintenance

Property and land matters

Motor vehicle accident claims

Court and tribunal representation

Contract disputes and related civil matters

This support structure provides members with institutional backing not only at work, but also in their personal and family lives.

Digital Access and Lifestyle Benefits

Members may also benefit from:

Device financing

Mobile connectivity solutions (data & airtime packages) through telecommunication partners

Digital access support initiatives

In an increasingly digital world, these services help educators remain connected, productive and competitive.

Healthcare and Medical Access Support

As part of BTU's broader member welfare programme, members benefit from strategic healthcare partnership with Francistown Academic Hospital, designed to improve access to affordable medical care and reduce out-of-pocket healthcare costs.

Benefits to Members

BTU members may access:

No 10% co-payment for Out-Patient Department (OPD)services

50% discount on prosthesis tariff limits

Free health screenings at BTU-sanctioned events

Blanket 15% discount for cash-paying patients

Upto 50% discount for maternity copayment

These healthcare initiatives complement BTU's broader member welfare strategy by improving healthcare accessibility, reducing financial strain during treatment and promoting preventative wellness among members and their families.



The Botswana Gazette
BUSINESS NEWS

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Inflation Surges in April 2026

Fuel and transport price hikes pushed Botswana's annual inflation rate to 10.3 percent in April 2026, according to Statistics Botswana



Botswana's annual inflation rate climbed to 10.3 percent in April 2026, up from 4.2 percent in March, according to a report released by Statistics Botswana.

GAZETTE REPORTER

Botswana's annual inflation rate climbed to 10.3 percent in April 2026, up from 4.2 percent in March, according to a report released by Statistics Botswana.

The agency said the Transport group was the biggest contributor to the increase, accounting for 7.4 percentage points of the annual inflation rate. Miscellaneous Goods & Services contributed 1.1 percentage points, while Food & Non-Alcoholic Beverages added 0.9 percentage points.

Statistics Botswana said inflation accelerated across all regions between March and April.

"The inflation rate in Rural Villages was 11.8 percent in April, an increase of 7.2 percentage points from the 4.6 percent recorded in March," the report said.

Urban Villages recorded inflation of 10.1 percent in April, up from 4.2 percent in March, while Cities & Towns rose to 9.6 percent from 4.0 percent.

The national Consumer Price Index increased by 6.7 percent, from 141.4 in March to 150.9 in April 2026.

TRANSPORT COSTS

The Transport group index rose by 21.1 percent, from 160.2 in March to 193.9 in April.

Statistics Botswana attributed the increase to higher costs in Operation of Personal Transport and Transport Services, which rose by 33.8 percent and 16.6 percent respectively.

"The overall rise in the Operation of Personal Transport section index was due the increase in retail pump prices for diesel 50ppm and Petrol 95 by P8.77 and P5.05 per litre respectively," the report said.

The agency also linked higher transport costs to fare adjustments that took effect on April 1, 2026.

"The mini-bus and shared taxi fares increased by P2.00 each, while the long distance travel fares rose from P0.35 to P0.38 per kilometre on bitumen roads," it said.

OTHER INCREASES

The Miscellaneous Goods & Services group index increased by 6.8 percent, from 160.6 in March to 171.5 in April, driven by higher Insurance, Personal Care and Taxes, Licences & Fees costs.

The Alcoholic Beverages & Tobacco group index rose by 1.3 percent, while the Restaurants & Hotels group index increased by 1.0 percent.

Statistics Botswana said the All-Tradeables index climbed by 8.4 percent in April, while Imported Tradeables rose by 11.0 percent.

The report said All-Tradeables inflation accelerated to 15.0 percent in April from 6.5 percent in March.

"This sharp rise was primarily attributable to a significant escalation in Imported Tradeables inflation, which surged by 11.2 percentage points," the report said.

Non-Tradeables inflation rose to 3.1 percent in April from 0.6 percent in March, while Domestic Tradeables inflation increased to 7.4 percent from 6.4 percent.

Botswana Positions Diamonds as Global Trust Anchor

Minister Bogolo Kenewendo tells international diamond leaders the country is expanding beyond production into trade, value addition, and provenance-driven growth

GAZETTE REPORTER

At the World Federation of Diamond Bourses summit held at Orapa House on Monday, Botswana's Minister of Minerals and Energy, Bogolo Kenewendo, positioned Botswana as a central player in the global diamond industry, highlighting six decades of development tied to diamond resources and a push to expand its role beyond production into trade and value addition.

She said Botswana marks its "diamond jubilee of independence and diamond leadership," noting: "60 years of transformation from what was known as the basket case of the world to an upper middle-income country," and "60 years of leadership from a barren land to a leading mining jurisdiction in the world."

VALUE CHAIN

Kenewendo said Botswana's ambition extends beyond mining, stating that the country aims to "bring the diamond industry home" and deepen participation in global value chains. She said diamonds should not only leave Botswana in rough form but "leave Botswana as stories, as brands, as craftsmanship, as technology, as an investment, as luxury and as jobs created at home." She announced Botswana's successful admission into the World Federation of Diamond Bourses framework through the Botswana Mercantile Exchange and the Botswana Diamond Hub.

GLOBAL TRUST

She emphasized provenance and transparency, saying Botswana's diamonds are "responsibly sourced, ethically mined and conflict free," and described them as "development diamonds." She said trust is earned through governance and partnerships, including the Kimberley Process certification scheme, the Gemological Institute of America, and blockchain traceability via Tracr.

FUTURE CHAPTER

Kenewendo said Botswana is strengthening global category marketing and participating in the Luanda Accord, while promoting the "House of Botswana" initiative. She referenced recent global visibility moments including the World Relays hosted in Botswana with diamond-embedded medals, as well as international appearances by Beyoncé and Sierra wearing and promoting Botswana diamonds. She concluded that Botswana's diamond story is "a story of possibility" and "not the conclusion of a story, it is the beginning of a new chapter."



Minister of Minerals and Energy, Bogolo Kenewendo



The review period between 2021 and 2025 marks what officials describe as a pivotal phase in the performance of the Botswana Meat Commission, characterized by both sharp revenue growth and continued financial strain.

BMC Records Revenue Turnaround

Revenue rises from P206 million in 2021 to P1 billion in 2025 amid persistent losses, rising costs, and structural pressures

GAZETTE REPORTER

The review period between 2021 and 2025 marks what officials describe as a pivotal phase in the performance of the Botswana Meat Commission, characterized by both sharp revenue growth and continued financial strain.

Acting Chief Executive Officer Mmabasotho Tibe told the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Statutory Bodies and State Enterprises that "in 2021, our total revenues for the whole year were sitting at P206 million." She added that by 2025, "we managed to achieve 1 billion worth of revenues."

The commission attributed part of the volatility to external shocks, including the COVID-19 period and subsequent market disruptions. The review also covers what Tibe described as "significant external pressures and structural challenges," alongside evolving compliance demands in export markets.

LOSSES PERSIST

Despite revenue growth, the commission reported sustained losses over most of the period. "In 2021, BMC reported losses of more than P115 million," Tibe said.

She noted that "for the four years up until 2024, BMC was still reporting losses," with a net loss of P198 million recorded in 2024. The commission said 2025 is expected to show a marginal profit, although Tibe linked this outcome to financing pressures, stating it is "because of our high cost of borrowing."

However, she highlighted a shift in operational performance, noting that "if you were to look at our operating profit, we reported operating profit of more than P50 million."Tibe explained that the organisation's cost structure remains heavily weighted toward fixed costs, meaning "we continue to incur costs irrespective of the reduced activity levels."

MARKET PRESSURE

The commission also pointed to disruptions in livestock production and export markets. Before recent disease outbreaks, its primary export market was the European Union, which imposed strict compliance requirements.

Tibe said the review period includes repeated animal health disruptions, noting that "we also had outbreaks in 2022 in some parts of the county, that also continuously affects disrupts the operations of BMC." She added that current foot and mouth disease outbreaks have further compounded operational challenges.

BALANCE SHEET

Financial position indicators also fluctuated sharply during the period. "In 2021, the balance sheet was negative as reflected by total equity of P170 million," Tibe said. She added that this position has since improved, with "total equity, as in 2025, is sitting at P200 million."

The commission confirmed it is not receiving broad government subventions, apart from targeted support. "BMC is only getting subventions, as per the President's Directive of 2018 to support MAUN BMC," Tibe said, noting an annual allocation of around P23 million.

She explained that the arrangement was intended to protect operations in Maun from financial strain elsewhere in the system, though she acknowledged it has created structural challenges in balancing performance across facilities.

DEBT POSITION

Tibe also addressed the commission's debt profile, stating that it has three government loans which were restructured. She said BMC was granted a two-year grace period and "as at the end of 2023 they were not in default because we were still going through the grace period," with total exposure sitting at P368 million.

BMC Fast-Tracks Francistown Abattoir Revival to Cushion Trade Risks

BMC is fast-tracking Francistown abattoir revival to boost capacity and reduce FMD-related export risks affecting Botswana's beef industry resilience

BONGANI MALUNGA

The Botswana Meat Commission (BMC) is fast-tracking plans to resuscitate the Francistown abattoir as part of a broader strategy to mitigate operational and export risks linked to Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) restrictions.

The development comes as the parastatal seeks to reduce pressure on its flagship Lobatse abattoir, which remains vulnerable due to its proximity to the South African market, an export destination that has tightened sanitary controls in response to recurring FMD outbreaks in the region.

BMC Chief Executive Officer Mmabasotho Tibe confirmed the renewed push to bring the northern facility back into operation when she appeared before the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Statutory Bodies and State Enterprises on Monday.

CONTINGENCY APPROACH

She said the Francistown abattoir, which was initially expected to resume operations by the end of this year, is now being prioritised as part of a contingency approach to strengthen national beef processing capacity and improve supply chain resilience.

"We are resuscitating the Francistown abattoir as a way of managing the risk associated with the proximity of the Lobatse abattoir to South Africa considering the strategy they have adopted for disease control," said Tibe.

The Francistown facility has remained closed since 2018 after it struggled with inconsistent cattle throughput, as farmers increasingly opted for alternative and more competitive markets. Since its closure, the facility has been maintained under a Care and Maintenance programme.

COST CONTAINMENT MEASURES

During this period, the BMC has been incurring annual costs exceeding P650 000 for security services contracted to Security Systems. However, the commission has now issued a notice of termination to the security provider, signalling a shift towards in-house security arrangements as part of cost containment measures.

Tibe indicated that the review of operational expenses at the dormant facility forms part of a wider effort to streamline costs while repositioning the abattoir for eventual reactivation.

The planned revival of the Francistown abattoir is expected to ease pressure on Lobatse and provide additional slaughter capacity in the northern region, particularly at a time when disease control measures continue to disrupt traditional export channels.

Diamond Weakness Widens Botswana Gap

Falling mineral revenues and rising government spending are projected to deepen Botswana's fiscal pressures through the 2026/27 financial year



GAZETTE REPORTER

Botswana's revised budget for the 2025/26 fiscal year projects a higher deficit of P25.5 billion, equivalent to 9.3 percent of GDP, compared with the original estimate of P22.1 billion, or 7.6 percent of GDP, according to the latest Monetary Policy Report released by the Bank of Botswana.

"The wider deficit reflects a 5.7 percent downward revision in total revenue and grants, from P75.5 billion to P71.2 billion, mainly attributable to lower mineral revenues amid the ongoing weakness in the global diamond market," the report reads.

Total expenditure and net lending were only marginally revised downward, from P97.6 billion to P96.7 billion.

REVENUE GROWTH

In the first 10 months of the 2025/26 fiscal year, from April 2025 to January 2026, total revenue stood at P59 billion, a marginal increase from P58.8 billion recorded during the same period in 2024/25.

The report attributed the increase to higher mineral and non-mineral income tax revenues. Mineral revenue rose due to a recovery in diamond sales, while non-mineral income tax collections benefited from strengthened tax administration measures introduced in the 2025 Budget.

Total expenditure and net lending during the period amounted to P67.9 billion, down slightly from P68.3 billion in the corresponding period of the previous fiscal year.

As a result, the overall budget deficit narrowed to P8.9 billion, compared with P9.5 billion during the same period in 2024/25.

SPENDING PRESSURE

For the 2026/27 fiscal year, total expenditure and net lending are projected to rise by 7.1 percent to P103.6 billion, up from the revised estimate of P96.7 billion for 2025/26.

Recurrent spending is expected to increase by 8.5 percent to P80.3 billion, accounting for 77.5 percent of total expenditure.

"The largest cost pressures stem from personal emoluments and pensions, which are projected to increase by 11.4 percent and account for 50.8 percent of recurrent spending," the report stated.

The increase is linked to additional housing and upkeep allowances for public service employees, salary increment creep and the absorption of special constables into the Regular Constable Cadre.

Development expenditure is projected to increase modestly by 2.3 percent to P23.4 billion.

DEBT CONCERNS

Total revenues and grants for 2026/27 are projected to rise by 8.4 percent to P77.2 billion. Southern African Customs Union receipts are expected to remain the country's largest revenue source at P26.8 billion, accounting for 34.7 percent of total revenues.

Non-mineral income tax revenue is projected to increase by 21.1 percent, supported by proposed increases in personal and corporate income taxes, while VAT revenue is forecast to grow by 10.1 percent following planned reductions in zero-rated items and the introduction of VAT on digital and cross-border services.

Despite the projected revenue growth, the budget deficit for 2026/27 is expected to widen to P26.4 billion, or 8.9 percent of GDP.

"With Government Investment Account balances at critically low levels, meeting the additional financing needs is projected to raise public debt to 44.7 percent of GDP by the end of 2026/27," the report said.

Parliament approved an increase in the statutory debt limit from 40 percent to 60 percent of GDP on March 25, 2026.

BMC Links Dormant Subsidiaries to Grey Listing

BMC says dormant foreign subsidiaries and unresolved loan structures may have contributed to Botswana's international grey listing

BONGANI MALUNGA

The Botswana Meat Commission (BMC) says the existence of dormant subsidiaries registered in foreign countries may have contributed to Botswana's placement on the international financial "grey list", as the state owned entity comes under increased scrutiny over corporate transparency and cross-border financial structures.

Speaking on the issue before the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Statutory Bodies and State Enterprises on Monday, BMC Acting Chief Executive Officer Mmabasotho Tibe revealed that the parastatal has also incurred unnecessary tax obligations linked to old loans that should have been written off years ago.

Tibe said some of the commission's offshore subsidiary structures remained inactive for extended periods despite still existing on paper in foreign jurisdictions.

DORMANT SUBSIDIARIES

"We continued to have dormant subsidiaries and because of the legislative provisions of those entities BMC continued paying tax for loans that could have been written off. We had situations where subsidiaries were granting the parent company, being BMC Lobatse, loans," Tibe revealed.

Botswana was grey listed by the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) in 2022 after weaknesses were identified in the country's systems for combating money laundering and terrorist financing.

The BMC, which has long operated export-focused business channels, historically established subsidiaries in foreign markets to facilitate international trade and beef exports. However, some of those entities reportedly became dormant over time while remaining legally registered abroad.

> "We continued to have dormant subsidiaries and because of the legislative provisions of those entities BMC continued paying tax for loans that could have been written off."

CLEANING UP

Tibe said the commission has since moved to review and clean up parts of its corporate structure as government entities face growing pressure to comply with international governance and financial transparency standards.

She further disclosed that BMC has paid taxes relating to loans that, in accounting terms, should have been written off as they generated accounting and tax implications. The BMC CEO says the failure to properly dispose of dormant loans and inactive subsidiaries can distort a company's financial position, increase compliance costs and expose institutions to regulatory risk.

This comes as Botswana continues efforts to strengthen corporate governance, financial reporting and anti-money laundering controls in a bid to improve investor confidence and fully restore its standing within the global financial system.

Botswana, South Africa Deepen KTP Ties

EU-backed initiative strengthens transfrontier conservation while linking tourism growth, community development and regional economic cooperation in the Kalahari



> It reflects Botswana and South Africa's commitment to promote economic transformation, biodiversity conservation, regional cooperation and innovative financing mechanisms.

GAZETTE REPORTER

At the launch of an EU-supported project on the Kalahari Transfrontier Park (KTP), Botswana's Minister of Environment and Tourism Wynter Mmolotsi said it was "with great honour and privilege" to officiate an initiative aimed at strengthening joint management between Botswana and South Africa. The programme is supported by the European Union through the SADC TFCA Financing Facility, executed by the International Union for Conservation of Nature, and implemented with African Parks under a public-private partnership model.

HISTORIC PARK

Mmolotsi said the KTP occupies a historic position in Southern Africa's conservation landscape. Established in 2000 after a 1999 bilateral agreement between former Botswana President Festus Mogae and former South African President Thabo Mbeki, it became the first Transfrontier Conservation Area. He said the arrangement marked a milestone in regional cooperation and reflected a shared commitment to protecting a common ecosystem.

EU SUPPORT

The minister expressed appreciation to the European Union for its support, calling it a demonstration of confidence in Botswana and South Africa's conservation leadership. He noted that protected areas face increasing financial pressures driven by climate change, illegal wildlife activities, habitat degradation and rising operational costs. The initiative, he said, responds to these challenges amid wider economic hurdles.

ECONOMIC SHIFT

He said Botswana is advancing partnerships that balance conservation with economic transformation and community development. African Parks, he added, contributes technical expertise and operational experience. The initiative aims to unlock economic potential in the Kalahari through sustainable tourism, infrastructure development, enterprise opportunities, local employment and expanded participation in tourism value chains, in line with SADC cooperation goals.

COMMUNITY FOCUS

The project forms part of Botswana's Economic Transformation Plan, which seeks to diversify the economy away from mineral dependence. It targets 2.7 million tourist arrivals by 2033 and aims for tourism to become the leading Gross Domestic Product contributor by 2030. A key element is community-based enterprise development, including the BORAVAST campsite initiative for Bokspits, Rappelspan and Vaal Hoek in Tsabong District, intended to ensure local participation in conservation-linked economic activity.

HEALTH CHALLENGE

Mmolotsi also pointed to ongoing challenges at the wildlife-livestock interface, particularly Foot and Mouth disease, which continues to affect livestock production, household incomes, beef exports and the wider economy. He stressed the need for integrated land-use planning, veterinary management systems and coordinated migration measures alongside conservation efforts.

OUTCOMES

Expected outcomes include improved biodiversity monitoring, stronger ecosystem management, enhanced institutional capacity and improved governance systems for long-term protected area management. The initiative, he said, is designed to ensure sustainable protection of the Kalahari ecosystem while supporting development objectives.

"Today's event represents far more than the launch of a conservation project," Mmolotsi said. "It reflects Botswana and South Africa's commitment to promote economic transformation, biodiversity conservation, regional cooperation and innovative financing mechanisms."

Botswana Trade Deficit Narrows

Improved diamond exports and lower imports eased pressure on Botswana's foreign reserves in 2025, although concerns remain over the Pula and global demand uncertainty

GAZETTE REPORTER

Botswana recorded an improvement in foreign trade performance in 2025 after what economist Keith Jefferis described as a difficult 2024, according to the Econsult Economic Review for the first quarter of 2026.

Total exports rose 17 percent in Pula terms during 2025, while imports fell 11 percent. Diamond exports increased 23 percent and diamond imports declined 48 percent.

The changes helped narrow Botswana's trade deficit from P34.5 billion in 2024 to P12.5 billion in 2025.

"The result was a very welcome narrowing of the balance of trade deficit," Jefferis said, adding that the improvement helped slow the depletion of foreign exchange reserves.

RESERVE PRESSURE

Jefferis said foreign reserves stood at P47.4 billion at the end of 2025, according to figures cited in the national Budget Speech. That compared with P48.1 billion at the end of 2024.

He noted that the reserves were supported not only by the narrower trade deficit but also by external borrowing of USD500 million during the year.

"While the underlying trend in the reserves is still downwards, the slowdown in the rate of decline is welcome, and takes some pressure off of the exchange rate peg," he said.

Pressure on the Pula, however, remains.

According to Bloomberg market rates cited in the report, the Pula depreciated 3.3 percent against the United States dollar and 9.8 percent against the South African rand in the 12 months to the end of March 2026.

Jefferis said the weaker rand exchange rate was one factor contributing to rising inflation, although the impact had been lower than expected.

> While the underlying trend in the reserves is still downwards, the slowdown in the rate of decline is welcome.

EARLY 2026

Trade figures for January and February 2026 showed exports rising a further 22 percent in Pula terms compared with the same period in 2025, driven mainly by stronger diamond exports.

However, imports also increased, largely because of higher diamond imports following the sharp decline recorded in 2025.

As a result, Botswana's trade deficit widened to nearly P6 billion over the first two months of the year.

DIAMOND TRENDS

Botswana's diamond production declined again in 2025, falling 15 percent to 15.5 million carats from a recent peak of 25.1 million carats in 2023.

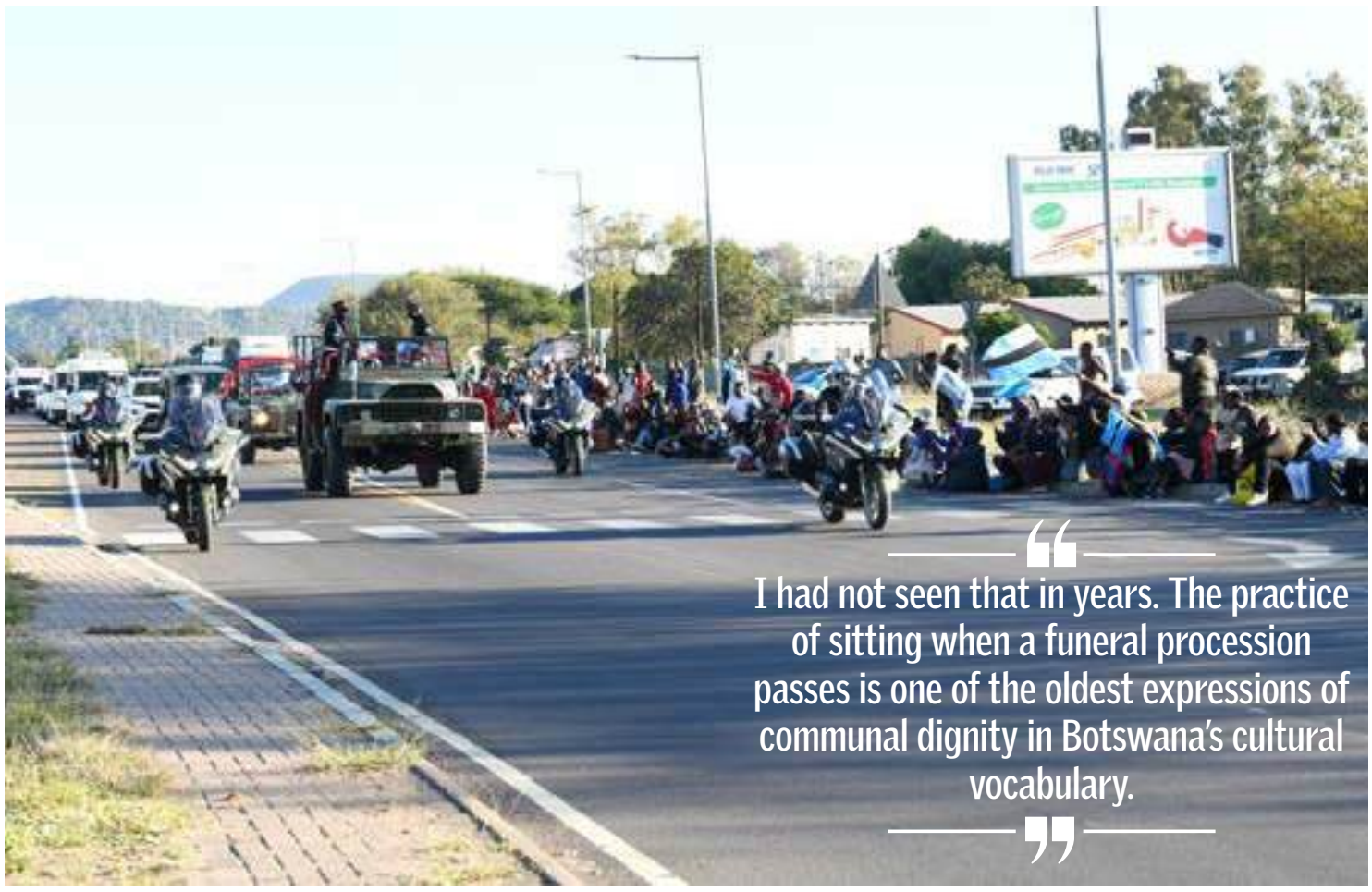
Despite the lower output, diamond exports increased 24 percent in U.S. dollar value terms.

Jefferis said part of the increase came from the sale of accumulated stockpiles, estimated at around four million carats, which reduced inventory levels.

He also pointed to reduced U.S. tariffs on diamond imports to 10 percent following a Supreme Court ruling against the Trump administration.

"More generally, there has been an improvement in pricing and demand at the upper end of the diamond market, especially for larger stones, where natural diamonds dominate," he said.

Still, he warned that the ongoing conflict in the Middle East and uncertainty over global economic growth prospects could delay further recovery and affect Debswana's plans to increase output in 2026.



The Cultural Paradox: Why the Brands That Bow to Culture Win the Market

MANUEL VEIRUAPI RUHAPO | THE BRAND PARADOX | THE BOTSWANA GAZETTE

I was watching television when the procession appeared on screen. And then something happened that stopped me completely. People along the road sat down. Not in an organised way. Spontaneously. Without instruction. Strangers on the pavement. A man lowering himself onto a low wall. A woman pulling her children down beside her.

It was the funeral procession of former President Dr. Festus Gontebanye Mogae.

I had not seen that in years. The practice of sitting when a funeral procession passes is one of the oldest expressions of communal dignity in Botswana's cultural vocabulary. Somewhere in the noise of the last two decades, it had quietly disappeared from the daily life of the country's roads and streets. Mogae's procession brought it back.

And in that return, it revealed something every brand operating in Botswana, local or foreign, needs to understand: culture does not disappear. It waits. The brands that understand what it is waiting for earn something no advertising budget can buy.

THE PARADOX

Here is the counterintuitive truth this article is built on.

The brands with the most resources, the widest reach, and the strongest global reputations are the ones least likely to win deep loyalty in Botswana. Not despite their power. Because of it. The very scale and confidence that makes them globally dominant makes them culturally arrogant locally. They arrive assuming their formula works everywhere. It does not. The market that appears easiest to enter, small, aspirational, English-speaking, exposed to global media, turns out to be the hardest to truly win. Because beneath the surface familiarity is a communal cultural logic that rewards presence, humility, and relational warmth over product superiority and budget size.

The foreign brand that sits down when the procession passes beats the foreign brand with the bigger campaign. Every time. That is the paradox.

WHAT FOREIGN BRANDS GET WRONG

Most foreign brands arrive with a playbook that worked elsewhere and apply it here with minimal adaptation. The product is the same. The strategy is the same. The only thing that changes is the language of the tagline and, occasionally, the faces in the advertising. This is not cultural adaptation. It is cultural substitution. The result is a brand that looks local and feels foreign.

Two failures are consistent. The first is communicating transactionally in a relational market. Botswana's consumer culture is built on relationships. The brand that speaks only in product features and price is understood but not felt. The brand that acknowledges the relational context, that treats the customer as a member of a community rather than an individual transaction, speaks a language the market responds to.

The second failure is showing up only when there is something to sell. The brands that disappear when the community is grieving, celebrating, or deliberating are correctly identified as extractive. In a market where communal belonging is a primary value, being extractive is a position from which recovery is very difficult.

WHAT GETTING IT RIGHT LOOKS LIKE

The foreign brands that have earned genuine loyalty in Botswana share specific behaviours. They show up during cultural moments without a commercial agenda. They give culturally literate people decision-making authority, not just execution roles. They adapt their service model to relational expectations: warmth is not optional in this market, it is the service. And they learn Setswana at the level of meaning, not translation. The proverbs, the forms of address, the vocabulary for communal obligation carry meanings that no English equivalent captures. The brand that demonstrates that understanding earns credibility that is immediately legible to the market.

THE MOGAE MOMENT

The revival of the sitting practice during Dr. Mogae's procession demonstrated, in real time, that the value of communal dignity was not gone from Botswana's cultural life. It was dormant. Waiting for an occasion significant enough to call it forward.

The brands paying attention had access to information no research report could provide. A brand that understood what it was watching would have asked: what cultural practice, communal value, or shared meaning could our brand activate, honour, and sustain? Not as a campaign. As a practice.

The brands that ask that question, and answer it honestly, will still be in this market in twenty years with loyalty no competitor can buy away. The brands that do not will keep spending more to earn less.

Culture is not a barrier to entry. It is the entry. The funeral procession is passing. The question is whether you know to sit down.

About The Brand Paradox

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



Government Has Lost the Plot

Time for a new development paradigm

DOUGLAS RASBASH

Despite billions in development spending, Douglas Rasbash argues that Botswana's planning model has drifted from transformation to performance, with weaker growth and higher unemployment exposing the need for sharper, outcome focused development policy.

By the time a country has spent over P660 billion in development expenditure and still finds itself trapped in weak growth, rising unemployment and declining economic confidence, something has gone fundamentally wrong. Not marginally wrong but structurally wrong. The latest long-term development analysis compiled by the 2nd Republic Policy Think Tank comparing Botswana's National Development Plans tells a deeply uncomfortable story. Since NDP9, accumulated development spending has exploded from around P35.7 billion to roughly P662.8 billion under NDP12. Yet instead of stronger growth, the economy has progressively weakened. GDP growth has deteriorated from around 5% during the NDP9 era to a contraction of about 5.4% in the current period. Meanwhile unemployment has climbed relentlessly from approximately 18% to around 30%. In simple terms, Botswana is spending vastly more money to achieve progressively worse outcomes. That should alarm every citizen.

> "Development is not measured by how much concrete is poured or how many billions are allocated in budget speeches."

SPENDING TRAP

For years government has defended rising development expenditure by arguing that infrastructure investment automatically creates growth. Roads, flyovers, airports, office complexes, utilities, corridors, industrial parks and "economic enablers" were all presented as catalysts for transformation. But transformation has stubbornly refused to appear. The problem is that Botswana increasingly confuses spending with development. Development is not measured by how much concrete is poured or how many billions are allocated in budget speeches. It is measured by whether citizens become more productive, more employed, more prosperous and more economically secure. Those outcomes are deteriorating.

WEAKENING RETURNS

The chart is devastating because it exposes a long-term trend rather than a temporary crisis. This is not simply about COVID, diamonds, global shocks or drought. The weakening trajectory stretches across successive planning periods. The economy has gradually become less responsive to public investment despite ever larger expenditure envelopes. Why? Because government has increasingly lost sight of the difference between productive investment and enabling expenditure. A productive investment directly generates economic output, exports, productivity gains, enterprise creation or employment. A factory producing goods. A solar manufacturing cluster. Export agriculture. Tourism product development. ICT services exports. Logistics businesses. Commercial innovation ecosystems.



By contrast, much of Botswana's spending has drifted toward enablers and administrative infrastructure whose economic returns are often indirect, uncertain or overstated. Roads linking low-density settlements to other low-density settlements do not automatically create industries. Airports without traffic do not create aviation sectors. Industrial parks without globally competitive industries become expensive real estate projects. Botswana now risks entering the classic middle-income infrastructure trap: building more and more public assets while the productive economy underneath weakens. Even more worrying is that public investment increasingly appears disconnected from rigorous economic appraisal. One has to ask whether many projects entering national plans would survive proper scrutiny using Net Present Value (NPV), Economic Internal Rate of Return (EIRR), affordability testing, lifecycle costing and employment impact analysis. Would all these projects genuinely demonstrate strong economic returns if independently stress tested? Or have development plans gradually become politically assembled shopping lists? The evidence increasingly points toward the latter.

> "NDP12 risks becoming not the plan that transformed the economy, but the plan that finally exposed that government had lost the plot."

DANGEROUS ILLUSION

The most dangerous illusion in Botswana today is the belief that government expenditure itself is economic transformation. It is not. In fact excessive state-led capital expansion can crowd out productive private sector activity, increase debt pressure, weaken foreign reserves, raise operating costs and ultimately undermine competitiveness. This is precisely what Botswana may now be experiencing. Despite decades of investment, the economy remains heavily dependent on diamonds, SACU revenues and government spending itself. That is not diversification. It is chronic dependency. Meanwhile youth unemployment continues rising. Labour force participation weakens. The private sector struggles to expand. Formal job creation is inadequate. Productivity growth is poor. Export diversification remains limited. And increasingly educated young people are becoming disconnected from the economy altogether.

Yet the official response remains largely unchanged: spend more. Another road. Another hub. Another authority. A Convention Centre. A Mega Airport. A Thermal Power Station. A Smart City. Another strategy. Another masterplan. Another ground breaking ceremony. But where is the corresponding growth? Where are the jobs? Where is the diversification? Where is the productivity revolution?

SMARTER PLANS

Botswana urgently needs to rediscover the original purpose of development planning. National plans should not primarily be expenditure frameworks with each MDA trying to outbid the other. They should be transformation frameworks tied to measurable outcomes. Ministers must consider themselves CEOs aiming to maximise revenues, minimise expenditure, generate jobs and raise living

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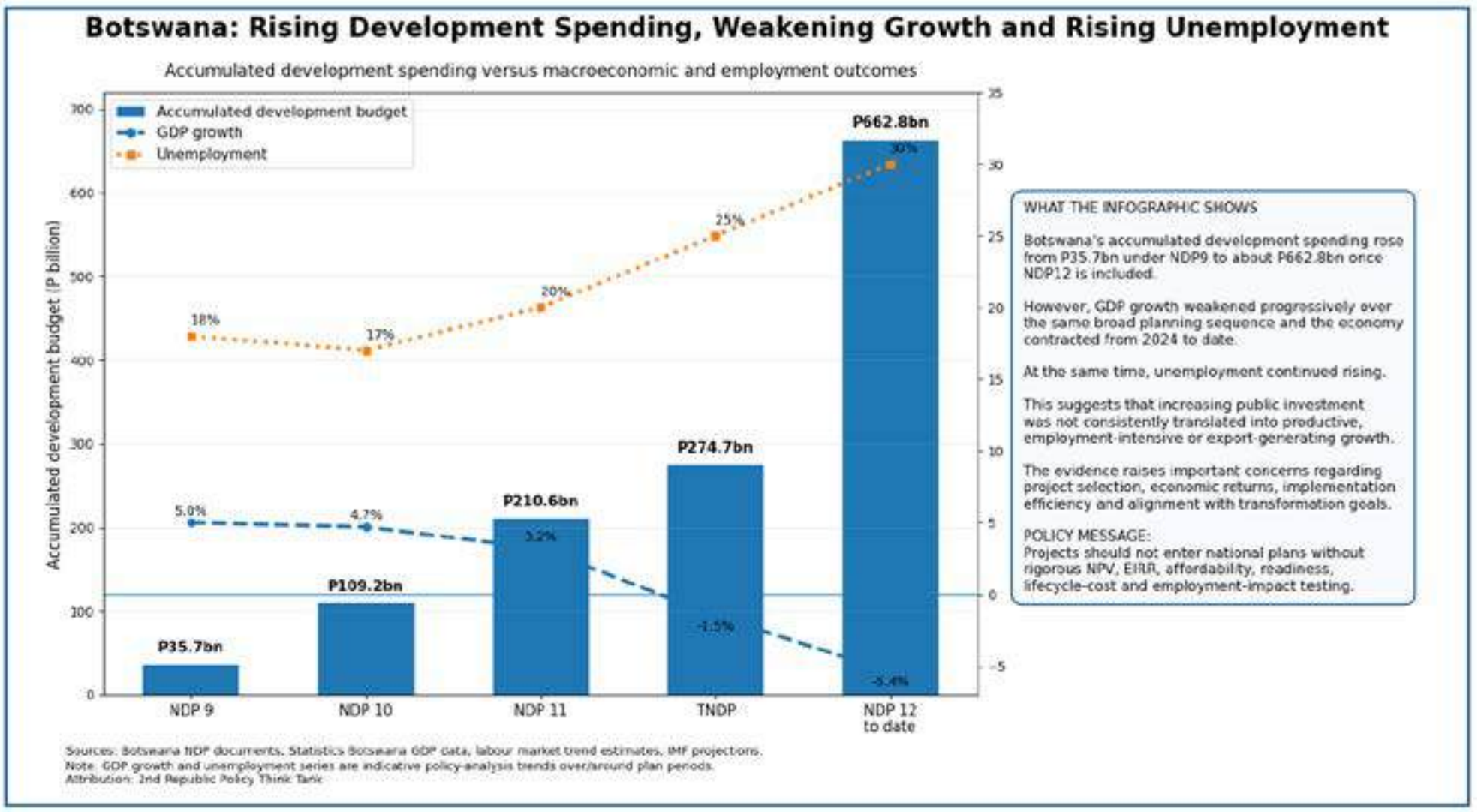
standards – not merely spending champions. Every pula invested should answer four basic questions. Does it create sustainable employment? Does it improve productivity? Does it strengthen export competitiveness? Does it generate measurable economic returns greater than its long-term cost? If not, it should not proceed. This requires a complete shift in planning philosophy. Botswana does not necessarily need bigger plans. It needs smarter plans. Smaller, sharper, commercially grounded and rigorously evaluated.

INPUTS OVER OUTCOMES

The country also needs to stop assuming that all infrastructure is automatically developmental. Some infrastructure supports growth. Some merely supports more expenditure. There is a difference. The uncomfortable truth is that Botswana's development model may have become increasingly performative rather than transformative. Planning has become obsessed with inputs instead of outcomes. Billions are announced, projects launched, ground broken, consultants appointed and speeches delivered — while the economy beneath quietly weakens.

At some point government must confront reality. If spending nearly twenty times more development money produces weaker growth and higher unemployment, then the problem is no longer implementation alone. The problem is the model itself. NDP 12 must be scrapped. It is simply wrong for Botswana. Needed is a serious development policy. Not a vision, not another plan, but a new way of thinking about development. And unless Botswana regains economic discipline, prioritisation and rigorous project selection, NDP12 risks becoming not the plan that transformed the economy, but the plan that finally exposed that government had lost the plot.



Development Spending vs Economic Outcomes The graph compares Botswana's rising development expenditure across National Development Plans with weakening GDP growth and rising unemployment, highlighting the growing gap between public investment and real economic returns.

COMMENT

What Is The 2nd Republic Policy Think Tank?

Botswana's new 2nd Republic Policy Think Tank enters the national conversation at a time when the country needs deeper policy reflection beyond party politics and daily headlines.

A POLICY SPACE

The newly established 2nd Republic Policy Think Tank has emerged as one of Botswana's more interesting intellectual initiatives at a time of mounting economic, social and institutional pressure. Conceived as a strictly apolitical platform for evidence based policy dialogue, the think tank aims to create space for long term strategic thinking beyond party politics and electoral cycles.

The core team behind the initiative consists of Masego Manyaapelo, Biggie Butale and Douglas Rasbash, bringing together experience in public policy, governance, economics and strategic analysis. According to its founding concept, the think tank intends to draw contributions from academia, consultancy, business, government, civil society and international experts.

EARLY WORK

Although relatively new, the think tank has already produced substantive discussion papers and policy reviews that have generated interest within governance and policy circles.

> "Botswana's new think tank appears to be attempting something increasingly rare: slow thinking, difficult questions and long term policy reflection."

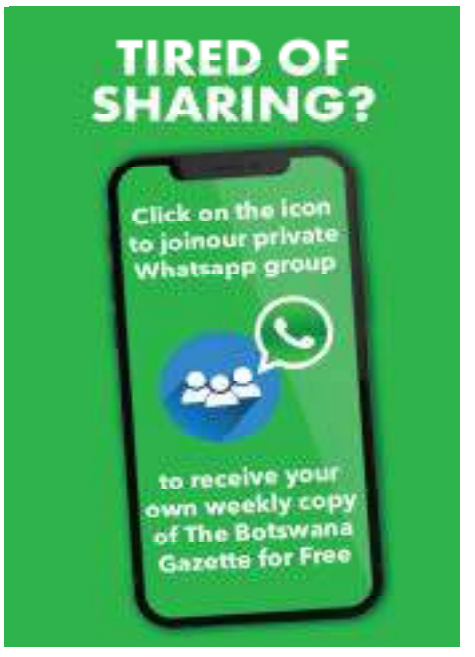
Among its early works is a policy paper on Gender Based Violence, which approaches GBV not only as a criminal justice concern but as a broader social, economic and cultural challenge. It also examines outsourcing and insourcing in the public sector, questioning whether decades of outsourcing have improved efficiency or contributed to a tender driven economy and weakened state capacity.

Its analysis of Botswana's recent forensic audit findings has also drawn attention. The report examines accountability, procurement systems, fiscal leakage and investor confidence, framing the audit as an opportunity for institutional learning and reform.

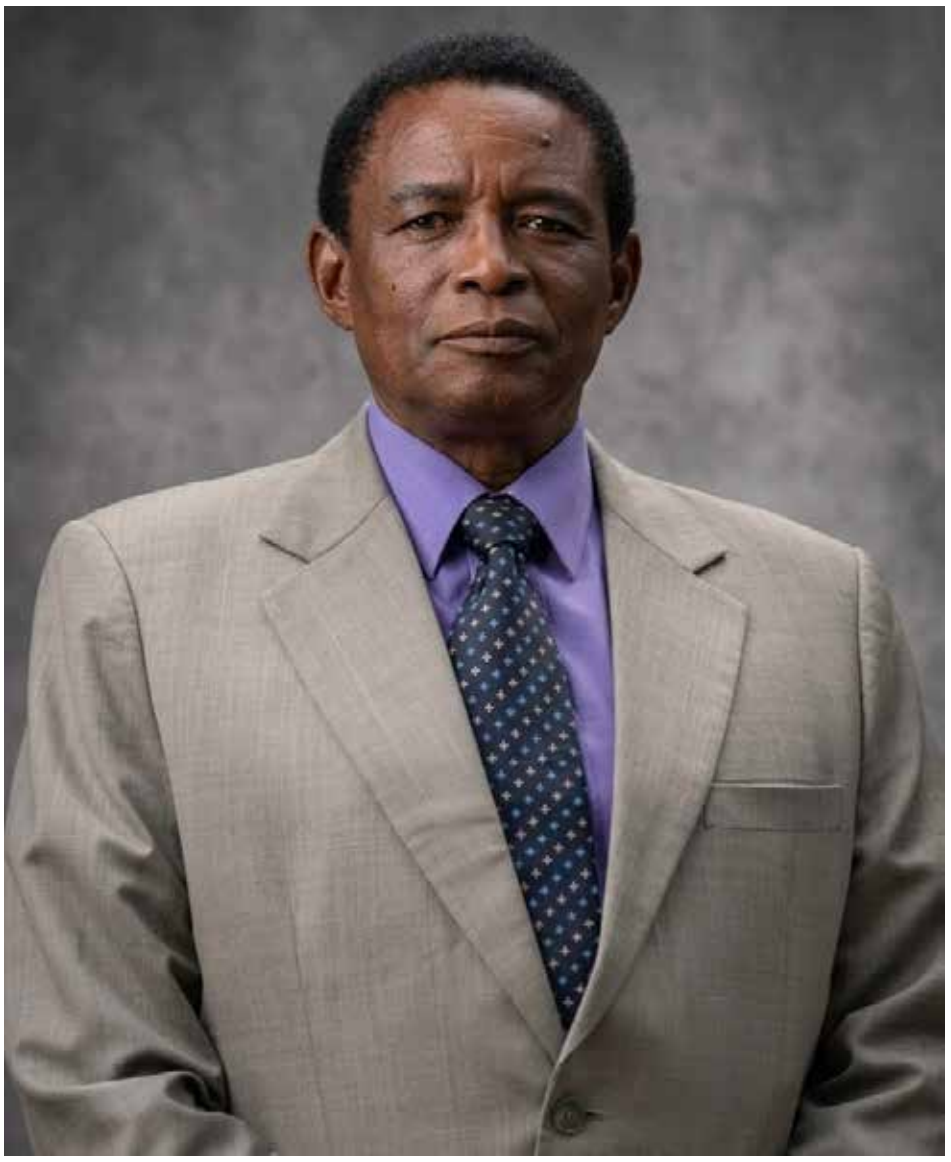
FUTURE FOCUS

Two major studies are understood to be in the pipeline. One focuses on government restructuring and public sector reform. The other is described as Botswana's first fully integrated National Economic Policy, aimed at bringing industrialisation, diversification, climate resilience, technology, trade, fiscal policy and the post diamond transition into one coherent framework.

In an era of social media soundbites and polarised debate, the think tank appears to be attempting something increasingly rare: slow thinking, difficult questions and long term policy reflection.



Mogae's Gentle Power



AMBASSADOR OTENG JENAMO TEBAPE

A close aide remembers former President Festus Gontebanye Mogae as a humble servant of the people, a disciplined guardian of public resources, and a compassionate leader whose fight against HIV/AIDS helped save a nation.

HUMBLE ROOTS

I had the rare privilege of serving former President Rre Festus Gontebanye Mogae as his Senior Private Secretary and Clerk to Cabinet. Following his retirement, I continued to serve and help to settle him into his new capacity as former president.

My close interaction with Rre Mogae exposed me to many of the personal attributes and blessings with which our leader was richly endowed. His modest upbringing, which he readily shared with others, evidently laid the foundation for his close bond with ordinary citizens.

Even as President, Rre Mogae felt at home with ordinary citizens with whom he would readily share traditional cuisine like thogo ya pudi, or goat head, well into the night.

PEOPLE FIRST

Managing my late President's official programme was a challenging task because, if he had his way, Ra Nametso would accept to meet every citizen who asked to do so. He was evidently pained by having to regret a request to meet anybody or to patronise an event he was asked to attend.

I still recall the sarcastic comment someone once made: "Wena boss ya gago kooteng ha ke ka mo laletsa go bula toilet o ka dumela."

On the positive side, that negative sounding remark said a lot about our late leader's love for the people he led and his humble spirit. May his humility be a guide to all Batswana in leadership positions.

A LEARNED MIND

One cannot speak about President Mogae without mentioning his intellectual prowess and admirable ability to discuss any topic. Our late President was a fountain of knowledge, and those of us who were privileged to work closely with him reaped enormously from the outstanding consultant that he was.

As I witnessed his commendable fight to reverse the ravages of HIV/AIDS, I could tell that Rre Mogae was not only appealing for help from other countries as the President. More than that, his campaign to save the nation's youth in particular was more like that of a compassionate fellow citizen, a patriot and a loving father who felt the loss of his children personally.

SAVING LIVES

On trips to countries such as the United States, where there were numerous groups willing to listen to his appeal for help, Ra Nametso would work well into the night to relate his message to everyone who had the potential to help with resources.

May Rre Mogae's name go down in history as a leader who saved us and our children from the ravages of HIV/AIDS.

Another evident attribute about our late President was his serious attention to the custody of public funds and his demand for accountability. As one example, every Presidential delegation list our supporting team recommended to him had to be put through a fine comb and was most often trimmed down. His local trips were no exception.

PUBLIC DISCIPLINE

Our former President disliked heavy security and excessive protocol. I recall that on many occasions during local visits, I had to explain why it was necessary for him to be received by a long convoy of public officers who drove expensive Landcruisers. To him, that practice was both wasteful and unnecessary.

There is yet another example that I recall. During one of his public meetings in Serowe, President Mogae noticed that many old people were sitting on school chairs. Before he started addressing the group, he complained strongly against the practice of adults using and breaking their grandchildren's school chairs. He strongly reminded the old men in particular that they had lost their tradition of carrying their own chairs to meetings.

> "May Rre Mogae's name go down in history as a leader who saved us and our children from the ravages of HIV/AIDS."

CONSENSUS BUILDER

President Mogae's Cabinet meetings used to take many hours because he was a firm believer in consultation, consensus building and democratic practice. Although, as President, he had the power to overrule his Cabinet as the chief executive, Rre Mogae hardly saw the need to do so.

One other evident attribute former President Mogae had was that he did not only receive a good education at Oxford but was also well grounded in the public service, having served Botswana in senior positions for many years. Rre Mogae's service abroad had also built him into a formidable source of information and performer.

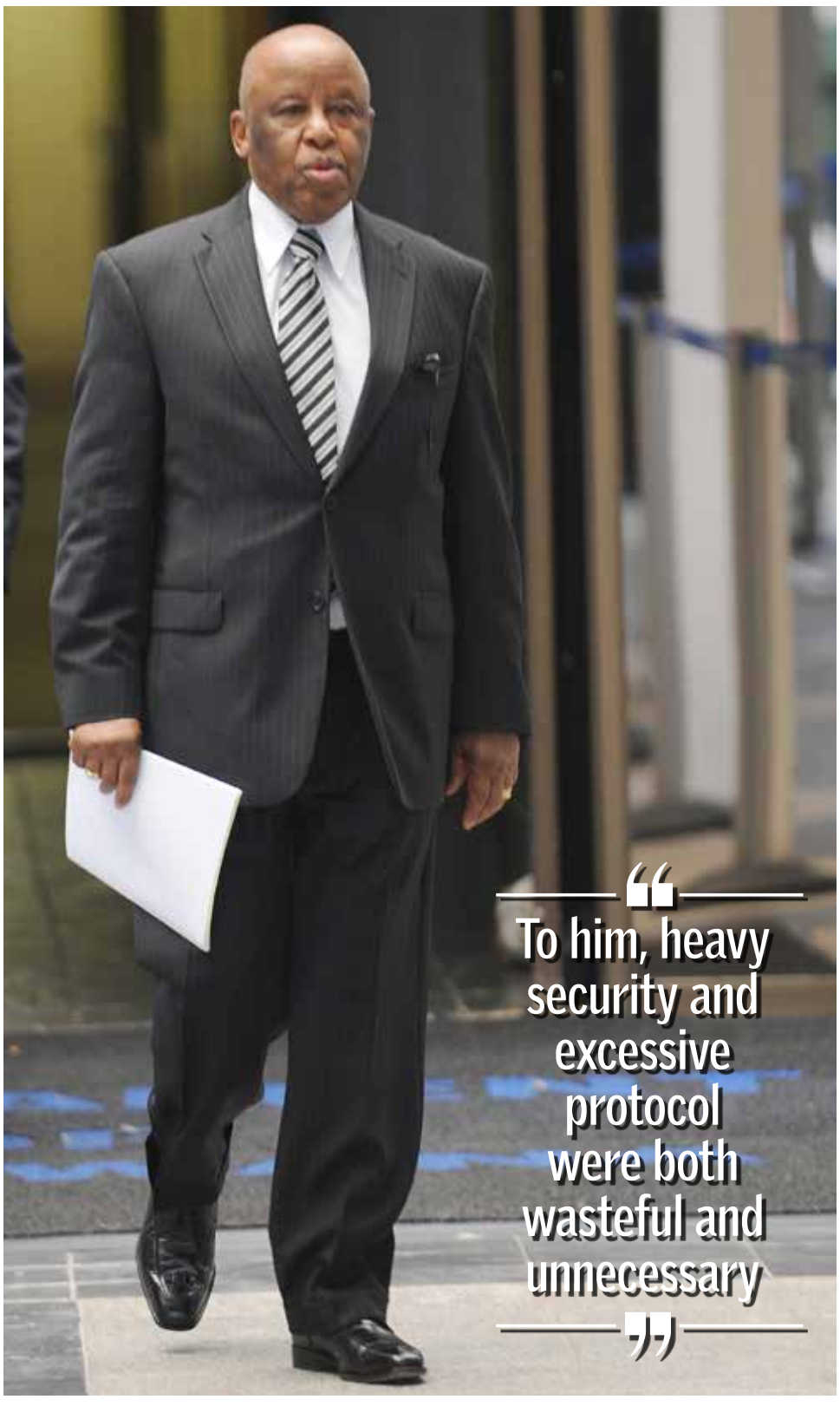
FINAL GRATITUDE

As we mourn the passing of our leader, former President Mogae, we need to be grateful to him for many things. We thank him for leaving us a well performing national economy, for promoting accountability in the use of public resources, for maintaining and promoting our democratic tradition, for the national unity we enjoyed under him, for his evident patriotism, for his humility and, above all, for saving the nation from the ravages of HIV/AIDS.

I extend my deepest condolences to Mme MmaNametso, to the children and to all family members. May Ra Nametso's soul rest in peace.

AUTHOR NOTE

Ambassador Oteng Jenamo Tebape is a former Botswana Ambassador to Japan who was appointed Senior Private Secretary in the Office of former President Festus Mogae after Mogae left office. His relevance to President Mogae's life comes from that close official service, first as Senior Private Secretary and Clerk to Cabinet, and later as part of the former president's post retirement office.





Bomaid Corporate Communications Manager Tshepo Happy Maphanyane said the campaign seeks to encourage consistent wellness practices.

Bomaid Pushes Preventive Wellness

Bomaid is ramping up its wellness campaign through media challenges, workplace partnerships and digital health initiatives aimed at promoting preventive healthcare

Bomaid is intensifying its national wellness campaign through a series of partnerships and public health initiatives focused on promoting healthier lifestyles and preventive healthcare.

The medical aid provider is participating in several wellness-focused activities this week as it continues to promote the recently launched Thrive with Bomaid App, a digital platform that tracks physical activity and offers wellness-related engagement tools.

MEDIA WELLNESS INITIATIVE

One of the initiatives includes the Thrive with Bomaid Media Health Challenge, which targets journalists across Botswana and encourages them to prioritise their health through monitored wellness activities linked to the app and fitness devices.

Bomaid Corporate Communications Manager Tshepo Happy Maphanyane said the campaign seeks to encourage consistent wellness practices.

"We are encouraged by the growing interest around Thrive with Bomaid and the willingness by different sectors to participate in conversations around prevention, wellness, and healthier living," Maphanyane said.

"Wellness cannot only become important when people fall ill. It must become part of how we live, work, engage, and support one another daily," she added.

WINTER HEALTH CAMPAIGNS

As part of its winter health awareness efforts, Bomaid is scheduled to host a flu vaccination drive at its offices on May 20 for staff, customers and stakeholders.

The organisation will also continue its health awareness messaging through RB2's weekly First Things First radio segment, which focuses on preventive healthcare and digital health access.

WORKPLACE WELLNESS FOCUS

Bomaid is also collaborating with wellness and lifestyle partners through fitness activities, incentives and educational sessions aimed at encouraging long-term healthy habits.

The organisation is expected to participate in the Retirement Wellness Summit hosted by NMG Administrators Botswana on May 21 at Hotel 430, where Bomaid Chief Executive Officer Moraki Mokgosana will join a panel discussion on healthcare sustainability and retirement.

Bomaid will also support the Human Resources Professional Society Botswana Wellness Day at Ba Isago University on 22 May 2026 through a P10,000 sponsorship.

CITW Makes Global Impact List

Wilderness and Children in the Wilderness have been recognised internationally for their work linking conservation, education, and community development through tourism



Wilderness and Children in the Wilderness (CITW) have been named on Virtuoso Magazine's 2026 Impact List, which recognises organisations using travel and tourism to support conservation and community development initiatives.

The list acknowledges 26 organisations from around the world that are considered to be making measurable contributions through tourism-related projects.

FOCUS ON CONSERVATION

In Botswana, CITW has worked with children and communities for more than 25 years through environmental education and youth development programmes aimed at promoting conservation awareness.

Joe Matome, Caretaker Managing Director of Wilderness Botswana, said the recognition reflected years of collaboration between communities, educators, and conservation stakeholders.

"Children in the Wilderness represents one of the most important investments we can make in conservation: investing in young people," he said.

Matome added that the programme aimed to strengthen the connection between communities, conservation, and sustainable tourism.

He also said the recognition highlighted Botswana's role in contributing to international discussions around responsible tourism and conservation practices.

YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

Community Development Projects and Stakeholder representative Keneilwe Mathaba said the recognition acknowledged both the programme's history and the role young people continue to play in conservation efforts.

"For 25 years, Children in the Wilderness has focused on creating opportunities for children to learn, grow and see themselves as part of the future of conservation," said Mathaba.

> "Children in the Wilderness represents one of the most important investments we can make in conservation: investing in young people."

She added: "This recognition is ultimately about the young people, communities, teachers, facilitators and partners who continue to believe in the power of education and environmental stewardship to change lives."

The Virtuoso Impact List recognises organisations involved in sustainability, community empowerment, and conservation initiatives linked to travel and tourism. This latest recognition adds to a growing body of international acknowledgement for Wilderness' conservation-led tourism model and its long-term commitment to creating lasting positive impact across Africa.

GIS Invests in Advanced Learning Technology

Gaborone International School (GIS) says its latest investment in new computers and tablets reflects the school's ongoing commitment to improving the learning experience for students and ensuring its facilities remain aligned with the demands of modern education.



EXPANDING DIGITAL LEARNING

Over the years, the school has continued strengthening its learning environment through ongoing campus and technology development. GIS already offers one of the strongest technology infrastructures in the region, with ten dedicated computer laboratories across the campus, including specialist labs for Pre-Primary, Primary School, and High School students. The latest upgrade, which includes new computers for the High School and tablets for the Primary School, forms part of that continued investment.

The school says that while its technology facilities have long been regarded as a strength, the pace of digital advancement means that what was considered advanced only a few years ago may no longer meet the needs of today's students. The updated technology is aimed at enhancing classroom efficiency, supporting curriculum delivery, and ensuring students are equipped for a rapidly changing digital world.

PREPARING STUDENTS FOR THE FUTURE

According to Hannelie Raubenheimer, Executive Head of GIS, the investment reflects the school's commitment to future-focused learning.

"At GIS, we have always prioritised providing students with access to leading facilities and learning environments, but technology evolves incredibly quickly. A computer lab that was considered excellent four years ago is simply not sufficient for the needs of students today. We therefore must continue evolving alongside the world around us to ensure our students remain equipped with the skills, tools, and confidence they need to thrive," she said.

Raubenheimer added that technology is also transforming the quality of learning taking place in classrooms.

"Through immersive learning experiences such as virtual reality and our innovative interactive digital platforms like Advlearn, students are able to engage with concepts in far more meaningful ways. We are seeing stronger levels of participation, confidence, and academic engagement from students across the school," she said.

> "We therefore must continue evolving alongside the world around us to ensure our students remain equipped with the skills, tools, and confidence they need to thrive."

TECHNOLOGY IN THE CLASSROOM

Thomas Ramakgoakgoa, High School Principal at GIS, said the upgraded technology will further strengthen teaching and student outcomes.

"Modern technology plays a critical role in preparing students for higher education and the workplace. By upgrading our systems, students can work more efficiently, collaborate more effectively, and engage more deeply with practical learning experiences. We have also seen how immersive technologies can improve concentration, motivation, and overall academic performance," he said.

"In the High School, technology is most valuable when it helps learners think, create, collaborate, and solve problems more effectively. In a Cambridge environment, students need to move beyond simply knowing information. They need to apply it, analyse it, and communicate their thinking clearly. These upgrades give our teachers and learners stronger tools to support that kind of learning."

At Primary School level, the use of tablets is aimed at enriching the classroom experience through interactive and engaging learning methods. GIS says the devices will support foundational literacy and numeracy development while encouraging creativity, curiosity, and digital confidence from an early age.

INTERACTIVE LEARNING EXPERIENCES

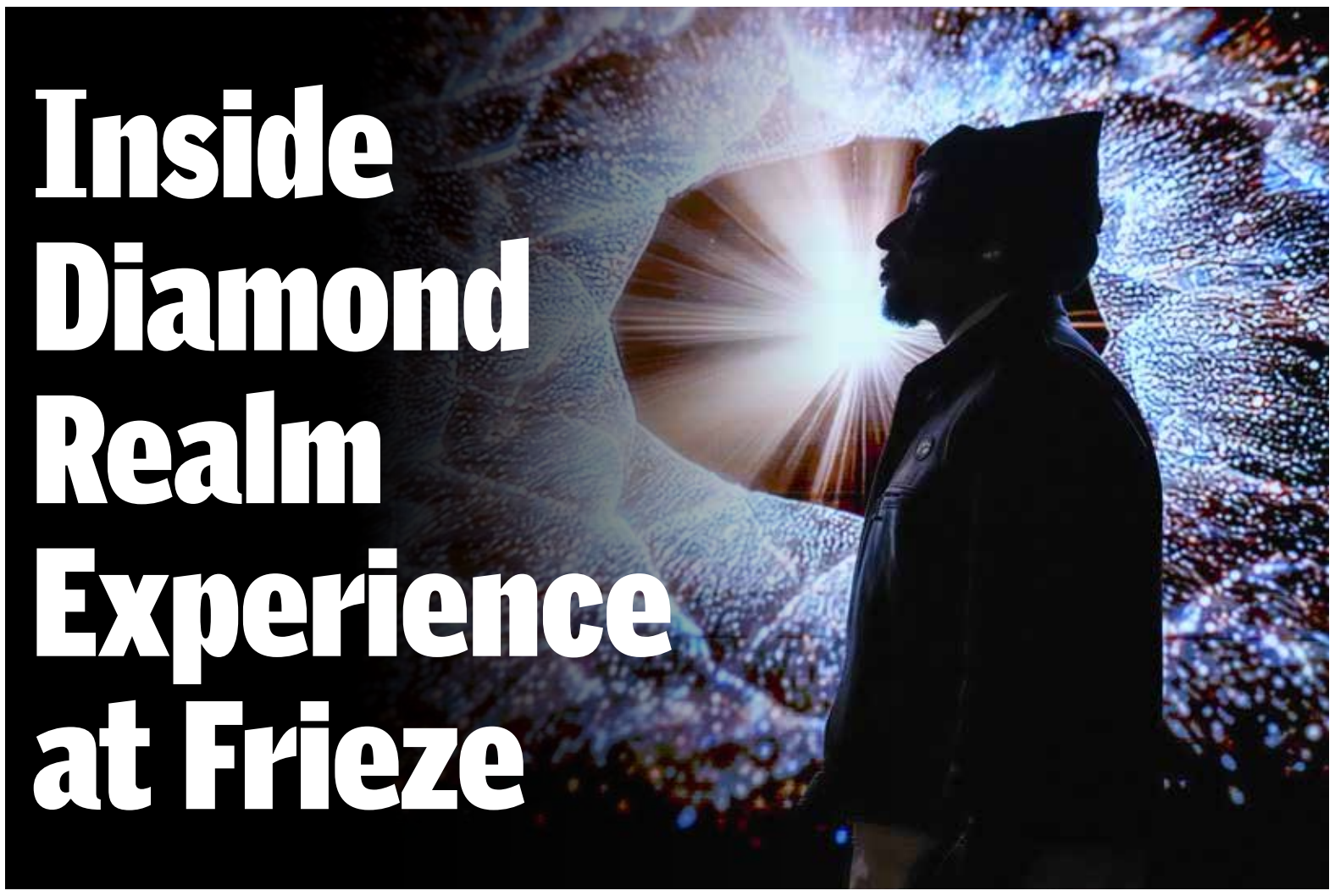
Lisedi Phuti, Head of Primary School at GIS, said the integration of tablets allows teachers to create more engaging and personalised learning experiences for students.

"Interactive technology makes learning more exciting, accessible, and meaningful for young learners. Through tablets and immersive learning opportunities, students can engage with concepts in a more hands-on and visual way, which supports deeper understanding and retention. We have seen an impressive improvement in our international benchmarking (MAP testing) results for reading after having implemented Guided Readers in Standards 1 to 3. Students become more confident, more curious, and more willing to participate in classroom activities, while also strengthening important foundational academic skills," she said.

The investment is not simply about keeping pace with technology trends, but about building on the strong foundation already in place at GIS. By continuing to upgrade facilities and learning tools, the school aims to create an environment where students and teachers alike are empowered to thrive while preparing students with the digital fluency and adaptability needed for the future.



The Botswana Gazette
TIME OUT
THE BOTSWANA GAZETTE
WEDNESDAY 20 MAY 2026



Inside Diamond Realm Experience at Frieze

From cosmic origins to Botswana-inspired artistry, an immersive diamond installation at Frieze New York explored the cultural symbolism and mythology surrounding natural diamonds



GAZETTE REPORTER

A Diamond Is Forever presented "Voyage Through the Diamond Realm," an immersive experience presented during Frieze New York alongside a cocktail reception at Markette.

The experience, created in partnership with De Beers, explored the origins of diamonds through visual storytelling, scenography, and soundscapes. The installation traced diamonds from their formation in stars to their discovery in deserts and riverbeds, while examining the symbolism attached to them across cultures.

GLOBAL COLLABORATION

The project brought together artists, artisans, and heritage specialists from Botswana, Namibia, South Africa, the United Kingdom, and France. The exhibition combined artistic interpretation with narratives linked to the history and cultural significance of natural diamonds.

"Diamonds connect us to our origins, and this idea sits at the heart of *Voyage Through the Diamond Realm*," said Lynn Serfaty, General Manager of Natural Diamonds at De Beers. "This work explores the journey of the diamond and the meaning it carries in human culture today."

The evening later continued with a dinner at Markette featuring *Matter of Eternity*, an installation created by Dreamcore co-founder and creative director Nasir Dean.

BOTSWANA-INSPIRED INSTALLATION

Dean's work positioned natural diamonds as symbols shaped by geological and cosmic forces over time. Through celestial imagery and organic structures, the installation drew parallels between the formation of diamonds and the structure of the universe.

"In my installation, I created the Diamond Zebra as a tribute to Botswana, a fusion of the elegance of nature and national identity," said Dean.

"In Botswana, the zebra symbolizes strength, unity, resilience, and the harmony of individuality. By transforming that symbol into living light through diamonds, the Diamond Zebra becomes a monument that nods to permanence, survival, and the rare natural beauty . A reflection of Botswana itself, a nation whose spirit moves with elegance, endurance, and unmistakable presence across the world stage."

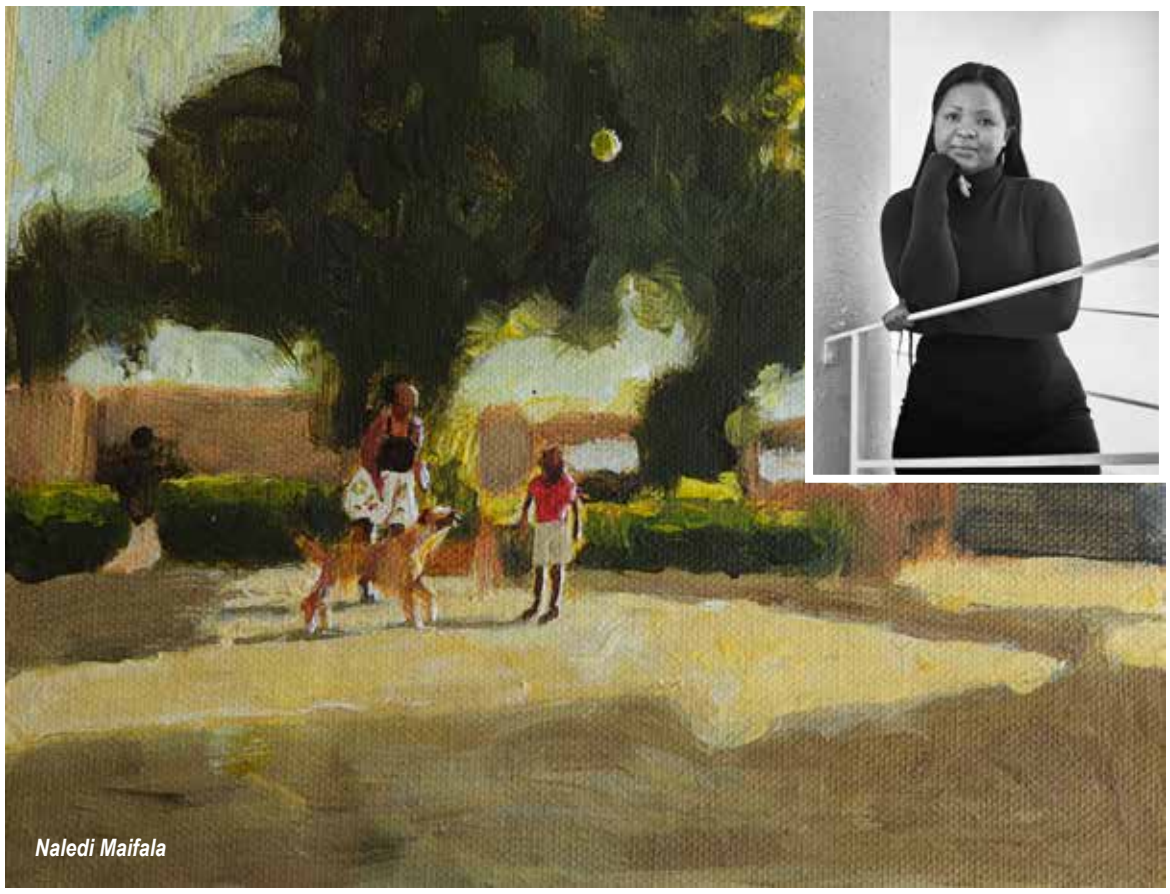
> "In my installation, I created the Diamond Zebra as a tribute to Botswana, a fusion of the elegance of nature and national identity."

Guests included actress Sharon Stone, musician Swizz Beatz, singer Ciara, actress Julia Fox, and Namibia's ambassador H.E. Ambassador Wilbard Hellao, amongst others.



Inside Local Artist's Jozi Takeover

At the 2026 RMB Latitudes Art Fair in Johannesburg, ReCurate isn't just exhibiting art, it's exporting Botswana's emotional memory, cultural complexity, and creative future to the continental stage



Naledi Maifala

GOSEGO MOTSUMI

There's a quiet revolution leaving Botswana for Johannesburg this month and it's wrapped in acrylic paint, beadwork, memory, and migration.

For the third consecutive year, ReCurate will step into the spotlight at the RMB Latitudes Art Fair happening from 22-24 May 2026, carrying with it a trio of Batswana artists whose work feels less like decoration and more like emotional archaeology.

"As a curatorial entity dedicated to the promotion of Batswana artists, ReCurate's participation at the RMB Latitudes Art Fair 2026 highlights the growing influence of the region's creative voices within the broader African art market," said founder of ReCurate, Renée Eisen-Khonat in a statement.

"This milestone underscores the agency's core mission to act as a principal private promoter of Botswana's talent on the international stage by providing the structured guidance, professional mentorship, and strategic market access necessary to navigate the global contemporary landscape."



Neo Matome

The exhibition, Presence, Pattern and Place, brings together Naledi Maifala, Neo Matome, and Oteng Keabetswe, three artists wrestling with time, identity, and the strange business of becoming human in a rapidly shifting Southern Africa.

ART THAT REMEMBERS

The presentation is highlighted by a dedicated solo booth for Maifala, winner of the 2025 ANNA Award, who arrives with Now Is Enough, a deeply personal meditation on presence and impermanence. Her paintings, inspired by family photo albums and rural childhood memories, freeze fleeting joy before it disappears.



Children chase goats. A nephew imagines himself Superman. Ordinary moments suddenly become sacred.

> For the third consecutive year, ReCurate will step into the spotlight at the RMB Latitudes Art Fair.

BEADS, POWER, AND HISTORY

Then comes Matome, one of Botswana's most influential contemporary artists whose bodies of work, Bead Story explores the significant role beads play in the cultures of the African continent as signifiers in rites of passage, social status and wealth, ethnic identity, spirituality, protection and healing

Beads become symbols of status, spirituality, womanhood, healing, and survival. But Matome also digs into their darker history as currency during the transatlantic slave trade, forcing viewers to confront how beauty and violence often coexist.

Her work doesn't sit politely on gallery walls. It interrogates power.

By examining the shift from the symbolic to the aesthetic, Matome highlights that culture is not static, questioning how these ancient material markers continue to shape and reflect contemporary social values.

THE PSYCHOLOGY OF MOVING

Meanwhile, Keabetswe's The Journey Before Arrival explores migration not as geography, but as emotion. His geometric compositions capture the silent anxiety between leaving and arriving, the internal migration that happens long before the physical one.



Oteng Keabetswe



Together, these artists signal something bigger than an exhibition.

"The exhibition invites the viewer to reflect on the markers—both tangible and intangible—that we carry as we move through the world, exploring how we remember where we have been and how we imagine who we are becoming."

Lerato-Our Stories Opens GBV Dialogue

An 11-minute film screening in Gaborone is turning pain into protest, forcing Botswana to confront the violence too many women are expected to survive quietly

GAZETTE REPORTER

Some films entertain. Others disturb the peace.

Lerato – Our Stories belongs firmly in the second category. The upcoming advocacy screening in Alliance Française Gaborone on 20 May 2026 is not arriving with blockbuster glamour or cinematic escapism. Instead, it arrives carrying testimonies — raw, uncomfortable, and painfully familiar stories from Botswana women who have experienced gender-based violence.

Hosted by Alliance Française Gaborone in partnership with Feminist Alliance Botswana, Women in Film Guild Botswana and Friedrich Ebert Stiftung Botswana, the screening is shaping up to be more than another cultural calendar event. It is a public reckoning.



Written and directed by Wendile Laba, the 11-minute-45-second film was developed during the last 16 Days of Activism campaign using anonymised testimonies collected from Botswana women. But Lerato refuses to frame violence as only bruises and headlines. The film dives into psychological abuse, online harassment, economic control, marital rape, and the invisible damage society often dismisses as "normal."

And that is exactly what makes it unsettling.

WHEN ART BECOMES EVIDENCE

Botswana's creative scene has long celebrated beauty, identity, and cultural pride. Lerato – Our Stories pushes art into more dangerous territory: accountability.

The film forces audiences to confront how violence survives not only through perpetrators, but through silence, excuses, weak systems, and social conditioning. In a country where an estimated 67% of women reportedly experience violence during their lifetime, the statistics no longer feel abstract. They feel personal.

"Through film and dialogue, we hope to contribute to a broader cultural shift that recognises the full spectrum of violence and prioritises justice, dignity, and collective care."

That quote from Feminist Alliance Botswana lands like a mission statement.

BEYOND THE SCREEN

After the screening, the conversation continues through a Q&A session bringing together advocates, creatives, youth leaders, and civic voices. The aim is not just awareness, but reflection and action.

> "Through film and dialogue, we hope to contribute to a broader cultural shift that recognises the full spectrum of violence."

By supporting initiatives such as Lerato – Our Stories, the Alliance Française Gaborone aims to create thoughtful and inclusive spaces for dialogue, where art and storytelling can encourage reflection, amplify local voices, and foster awareness and empathy around important social issues.

Why Mekgwe's Anthology is a Must Read

In a world ruled by scrolling, streaming and shrinking attention spans, Loretta Mekgwe is dragging Botswana's folktales back into the spotlight — not as dusty relics, but as cinematic, emotionally charged stories powerful enough to compete with global fantasy franchises

GOSEGO MOTSUMI

Somewhere between TikTok doomscrolling and Netflix autoplay, something sacred quietly disappeared: the fireside story.

That is exactly why Echoes from the Cradle of Mankind: Folktales that Celebrate the Heart and Soul of Botswana feels less like a debut book and more like a cultural rescue mission.

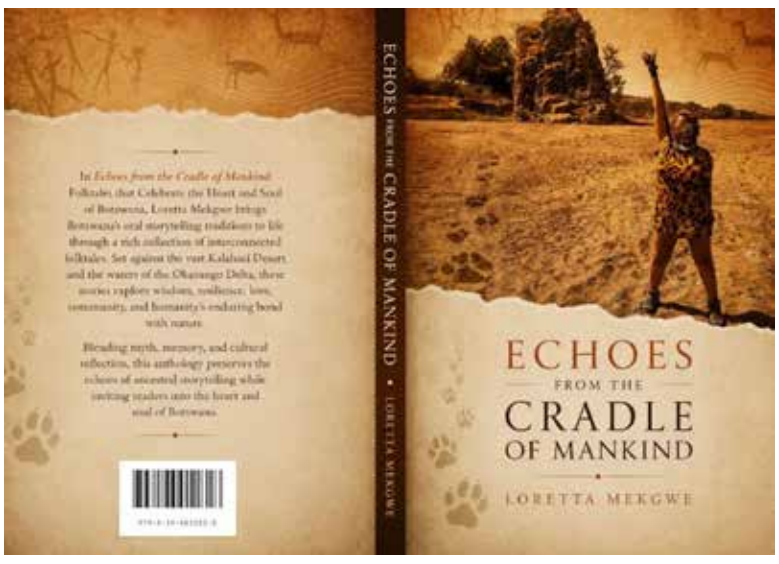
With cinematic prose, ancestral echoes and landscapes that breathe like living characters, artist and author Loretta Mekgwe is not simply preserving Botswana folklore with this new read, she is reviving it with swagger.

"What makes this anthology stand out is that it does not simply retell old stories," Mekgwe told Time Out. "It reimagines Botswana's storytelling traditions through cinematic, emotionally immersive writing that contemporary readers can connect with."

And that may be the book's greatest triumph. It refuses to treat African folklore like museum material.

STORIES THAT WALK, BREATHE AND ROAR

Inside the anthology, Botswana is not a postcard country of wildlife and sunsets. It becomes an emotional universe alive with spirituality, memory, grief, humour and resilience. Rivers whisper. Landscapes remember. Animals carry symbolism. Village spaces become sacred archives.



"The landscapes featured in the anthology are also real places that many Batswana know and love from the Kalahari to the Okavango Delta and village spaces rich with memory and tradition," she said.

"In many ways, the book also becomes a literary journey through Botswana, positioning the country not only as a cultural archive but as a place of beauty, imagination, spirituality, and tourism significance."

Mekgwe writes Botswana the way fantasy writers build fictional kingdoms, except these stories are rooted in real soil.

The result is a book that feels urgently modern while remaining deeply ancestral.

A LOVE LETTER TO CULTURAL MEMORY

Echoes from the Cradle of Mankind also asks a haunting question: what happens when a generation stops hearing its own stories?

For Mekgwe, documenting folklore is about more than nostalgia. It is about survival.

"If we do not document our own stories, other people will define us for us, or worse, entire cultural memories may disappear," she said.

That tension gives the anthology emotional weight. Beneath the poetic language lies a fierce argument for intellectual sovereignty, cultural pride and creative ownership.

"Young Batswana deserve to encounter themselves in literature."

WHY THIS BOOK MATTERS NOW

What makes this anthology a must-read is not just its literary beauty. It is the timing.

At a moment when global culture dominates bookshelves and algorithms shape identity, Mekgwe's work reminds readers that Botswana's stories are not secondary. They are cinematic. Philosophical. Global.

Most importantly, they are alive.

And perhaps that is the real magic of Echoes from the Cradle of Mankind: it makes folklore feel dangerous again, in the best possible way.

The book is available on Amazon.

Actress, motivational speaker and philanthropist Kgomotso Tshwenyego is being remembered for a life dedicated to storytelling, community upliftment and giving dignity to the elderly



REMEMBERING KGOMOTSO TSHWENYEGO

GOSEGO MOTSUMI

Botswana is mourning the death of veteran actress, author, media personality and social entrepreneur Kgomotso Tshwenyego, whose work in entertainment and community development left a lasting impact across the country.

In an official bereavement notice, the Tshwenyego family confirmed that she passed away on the night of May 14, 2026. A memorial service is scheduled for May 21, while funeral and burial arrangements are set for May 23.

A LIFE OF SERVICE

Known affectionately as "Ausi Kgomotso," Tshwenyego built a reputation as a compassionate public figure whose work centred on uplifting communities and advocating for the elderly.

She founded the Lepatla La Bagodi Foundation, an organisation focused on empowering and celebrating senior citizens through retreats and open discussions on issues affecting older people.

Tshwenyego also hosted The Family Show and Tea with Kgomotso on Duma FM until 2021, programmes that amplified conversations around family life and the welfare of elders.

She consistently used her platforms to uplift others and inspire hope.

A CAREER ON SCREEN

The Mochudi creative became widely recognised after appearing in the local drama Re Bina Mmogo, a role that established her as one of Botswana's respected actresses.

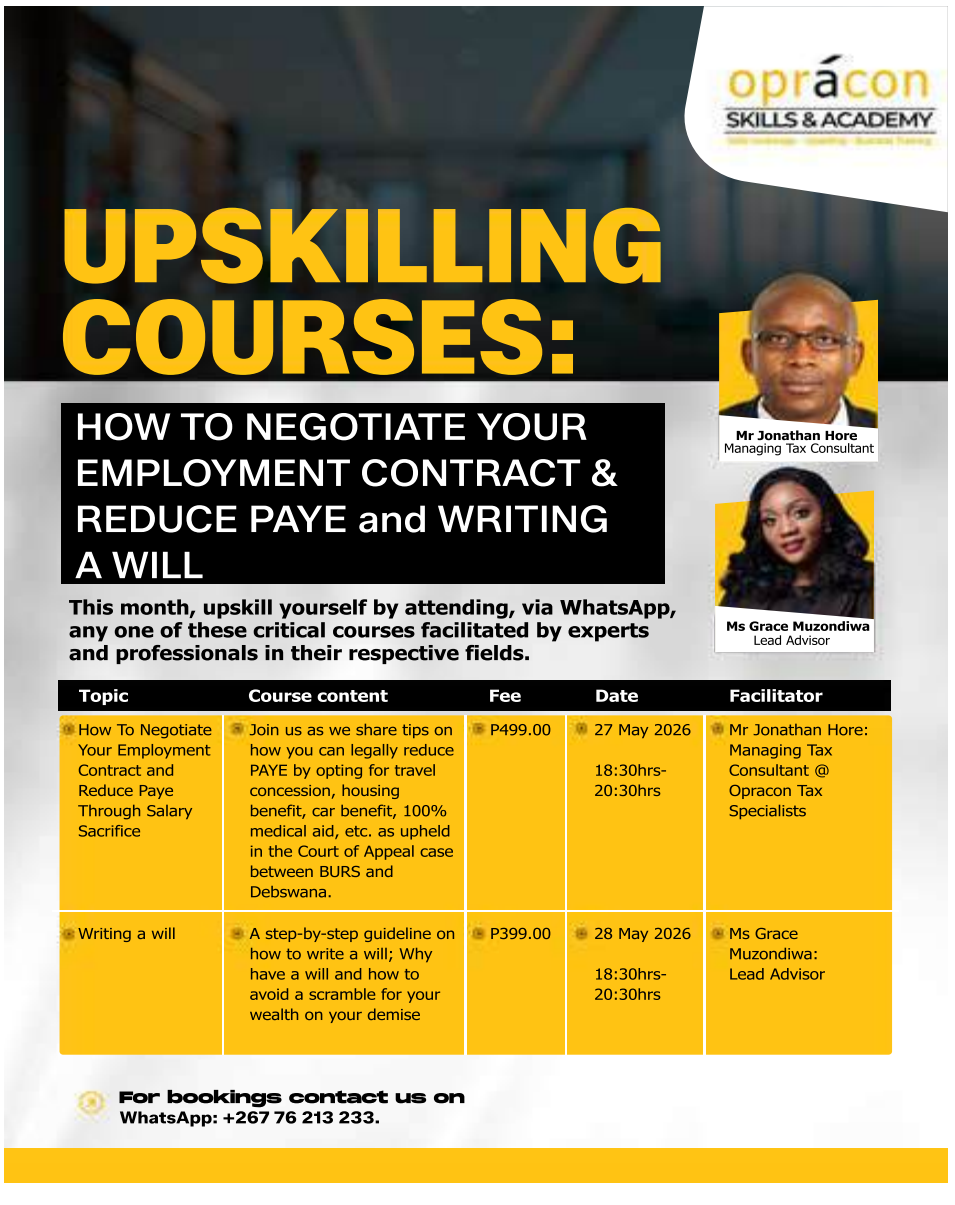
She later featured in productions such as A United Kingdom, The No. 1 Ladies' Detective Agency and Dithunya Tsa Rona.

Her appearance in The No. 1 Ladies' Detective Agency alongside Jill Scott exposed her work to international audiences, while her role as a judge on My Star Botswana made her a household name locally.

A LASTING LEGACY

Beyond acting and broadcasting, Tshwenyego was admired as an inspirational speaker and charity advocate whose public image reflected warmth, dignity and cultural pride.

As tributes continue to pour in, many are remembering her as a motherly figure whose influence stretched beyond television and radio into the hearts of ordinary Batswana.



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

CASE NO. CVHGB – 001420 -16

In the matter between

STANBIC BANK BOTSWANA LIMITED	**Plaintiff**
and	
MALCOM STEEL & SHEETS MANUFACTURERS (PTY) LTD	**1st Defendant**
LORATO TAPOLOGO TSHWENE	**2nd Defendant**

NOTICE OF SALE IN EXECUTION

BE PLEASED TO TAKE NOTICE THAT pursuant to a Judgment granted by the above Honourable Court on the 21st September 2016 the following immovable property of the abovementioned 2nd Defendant will be sold by means of public auction to the highest bidder by Deputy Sheriff U J CHILISA as follows:

DATE OF SALE : Friday 19th June 2026
VENUE : Plot 2512, Metlhabeng, Tlokweng
TIME OF SALE : 1030 Hours

TERMS OF SALE : All participating bidders are required to make an upfront payment of BWP 10 000.00 directly to the undersigned Attorneys, refundable only to those who did not succeed in the sale. Only cash or bank guaranteed cheques will be accepted. The detailed conditions of sale are available for inspection at the undersigned Attorneys' offices.

PROPERTY TO BE SOLD : The 2nd Defendant's rights title and interest in a certain piece of land being Tribal Lot 2512, Tlokweng, situate in the Batlokwa Tribal Territory measuring 936m² (Nine Hundred and Thirty Six Square Metres) which property is held under Memorandum of Agreement of Lease No. TL 270/2003 dated 25th June 2003 made in favour of Lorato Tapologo Tshwene together with all the improvements thereon being a 4 bedroomed, house, master ensuite, dining room, kitchen, garage, sitting room with air condition, screen wall, sliding gate and electrified wall.

DATED AT GABORONE ON THIS 12TH DAY OF MAY 2026.

COLLINS CHILISA CONSULTANTS
Attorneys • Notaries • Conveyancers

COLLINS CHILISA CONSULTANTS
Plaintiff's Attorneys
Plot 4858, Lecha Close
Off Marakanelo Way, Extension 11
P O Box 45136
GABORONE
Deputy Sheriff U J CHILISA
[Cell No. 71594008/74770666]



Makgadikgadi Pans Are Calling

What happens when horse racing, music, Boro dance and Botswana's largest salt pans collide? The Makgadikgadi Salt Pan Challenge is turning one of the country's quietest landscapes into a roaring cultural playground without losing sight of the people and ecosystem that make it magical

GOSEGO MOTSUMI

For years, the Makgadikgadi Salt Pans have existed like a beautiful secret — vast, cinematic and strangely underused. But come 29-31 May 2026, the silence of the area will be interrupted by galloping horses, jazz melodies, roaring crowds and the rhythm of traditional Boro dance.

The second edition of the Makgadikgadi Salt Pan Challenge is not trying to be another sporting event. It is positioning itself as Botswana's bold new cultural frontier where tourism, music, community and adventure crash into one another under the desert sky.

And honestly? That collision sounds electric.

MORE THAN JUST HORSEPOWER

Event coordinator Oteng Vicer Eleck in an interview said the idea was born from frustration that the Nata/Gweta region remained overlooked despite sitting on one of the world's most breathtaking natural wonders.

"The Makgadikgadi Salt Pans Challenge was therefore designed as a multidimensional experience that combines sport, culture and tourism," he explained.

This year's edition is bigger, louder and more intentional. Nearly 90 percent of the music lineup is local, turning the festival into an unapologetic celebration of Botswana talent. Saturday belongs to horse racing and the music festival, while Sunday slows things down with a jazz session designed for families and easy vibes.

But perhaps the event's most radical move is how deeply local it is.

THE PEOPLE BEFORE THE SPECTACLE

More than 10 cultural groups will perform traditional Boro dance on the Friday opening night. Local vendors have received food stalls. Young people have been hired for promotions, sanitation and security. Some residents are even transforming their yards into campsites because lodges are already fully booked.

"Just like in the previous edition, our Member of Parliament, Lawrence Ookeditse, has donated approximately 15 food stalls, which are distributed across villages within the constituency to allow local vendors to participate and generate income during the event," he said.

That is the thing about the Makgadikgadi Challenge: it is not parachuting entertainment into a community. The community is the entertainment, the workforce and the heartbeat.

He said: "The event is designed to ensure that the surrounding communities are not just spectators, but active participants and beneficiaries."

> "The event is designed to ensure that the surrounding communities are not just spectators, but active participants and beneficiaries."

SAVING THE PANS WHILE SELLING THE DREAM

In an age where tourism often bulldozes the very beauty it markets, the organizers insist environmental protection remains central. Hosted in partnership with the Nata Bird Sanctuary, the event aims to balance economic opportunity with ecological preservation.

Tickets are available at Choppies and Liquorama outlets throughout the country priced at P100 for a standard ticket and P750 for VIP. "I urge everyone to come and experience the Pans with us."

How Scrap Transformed into Powerful Art

At the National Museum's Art Gallery, artist Totang Motoloki is turning discarded metal into emotional, rebellious art and forcing audiences to rethink what society throws away

GOSEGO MOTSUMI

There's something deliciously rebellious about watching rust become beautiful.

Inside the halls of the National Art Gallery in Gaborone, scrap metal, abandoned fragments, and forgotten industrial leftovers now breathe with startling new life in Beyond The Scrap, a solo exhibition by Totang Motoloki that feels less like an art show and more like a cultural wake-up call.

Running until May 28, the exhibition does not politely whisper about sustainability. It grabs Botswana by the collar and asks audiences to reconsider what they throw away, and whether "waste" is truly useless or simply misunderstood.

Motoloki's work refuses to let waste die quietly.

THE POETRY OF RUST

The mixed-media pieces pulse with energy. Bent metal sheets morph into layered visual stories carrying the scars of urban survival, African identity, resilience, and reinvention. The works feel alive precisely because they once lived another life before being thrown away.

Curator Thabo Kgatlwane said the exhibition was designed to challenge the idea of value itself.

"It's about shifting mindsets, from disposal to reimagination," he told Time Out.

That philosophy hangs over the gallery like smoke. Every rusted edge and salvaged texture becomes evidence that beauty is often hiding inside neglect.



ART WITH GREASE UNDER ITS NAILS

Unlike many eco-conscious exhibitions that drift into polished activism, Beyond The Scrap stays grounded in Botswana's lived realities. There's grit here. The artworks echo scrapyards, crowded streets, survival economies, and the quiet creativity people use every day to make something from almost nothing.

Kgatlwane deliberately avoided framing the works as simple "recycled art." Instead, the exhibition unfolds like a journey from abandonment to rebirth.

"We also framed the exhibition around the themes of conservation and resilience, ensuring that

every element; from the curatorial text to the viewing experience, reinforced the idea that these

works are not just objects, but reflections of society, environment, and human experience."

And audiences are responding.

Opening night drew conservationists, collectors, business leaders, and curious first-time gallery visitors. Several pieces sold immediately, while others sparked commissioned requests.

WHEN WASTE BECOMES A MOVEMENT

At a time when climate anxiety dominates global conversation, Beyond The Scrap arrives with perfect timing. But its real power lies in making sustainability feel human rather than fashionable.

The exhibition argues that artistic responsibility now extends beyond aesthetics. Young artists, especially, are being challenged to create with intention, conscience, and courage.

"Art has a responsibility; not just to be seen, but to

contribute to conversations that matter. And right now, sustainability and environmental awareness are among the most critical conversations we can be part of," Kgatlwane added.

From First Sip to "I Get It Now"

Wine begins as something easy and agreeable, then slowly becomes a language of memory, mood and discovery. Phenyo Motlhagodi traces the quiet journey from simply drinking what tastes good to recognising the moment when wine finally starts to make sense.



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.

Everyone remembers their first wine, even if they pretend not to. It was probably something easy. Slightly sweet, very agreeable, and doing absolutely nothing to challenge you. You didn't need to think about it. You didn't need to analyse it. It went down smoothly, you nodded, and that was that. Wine, at that point, was simple. And to be fair, it should be.

No one starts their wine journey looking for complexity. You start by looking for something you like, something that doesn't fight back too much. Something that meets you where you are. The interesting part is what happens next, because whether you realise it or not, your palate doesn't stay there.

THE SHIFT YOU DON'T NOTICE AT FIRST

At some point, something changes. It's subtle, almost unannounced. You try a different bottle, then another. One feels a bit too sweet. Another feels fresher, sharper, and a little more structured. You don't quite have the language for it yet, but you know something is different. And then it happens again.

You start to lean toward certain styles without consciously deciding to. Wines you used to enjoy feel slightly heavy. Others feel cleaner, more precise. You might not be able to explain why, but you start choosing differently. This is how a palate develops — not through study, but through repetition. Through exposure. Through small, consistent moments of noticing. Wine doesn't suddenly become complicated. You just become more aware.

You're Building a Memory Bank (Quietly)

Every glass you have is doing more work than you think. You're building reference points. That Sauvignon Blanc you had last week starts to connect to the one you're having now. That red you thought was "a bit much" begins to make sense when you try something similar again, this time with food. Patterns start to form.

You begin to recognise fruit profiles, textures, even structure, without necessarily naming them. A wine feels bright. Another feels round. One feels tight and closed, another open and generous. You're not guessing anymore. You're remembering. And that's when things start to get interesting.

> "Wine doesn't suddenly become complicated. You just become more aware."

> "Disliking a wine is not failure. It's information."

CONTEXT CHANGES EVERYTHING

One of the biggest misconceptions about wine is that it exists on its own, as though it should perform the same way regardless of where or how it's being consumed. It doesn't.

Wine is deeply influenced by context. The same bottle can feel completely different depending on the setting. A rushed glass at the end of a long day will never land the same way as a bottle shared over a slow meal with good company. Food changes wine. Temperature changes wine. Even your mood changes wine.

A crisp white on a warm afternoon feels like it was designed for that exact moment. A structured red with a proper meal suddenly makes sense in a way it didn't when you tried it on its own. This is where many people have their first real "shift" — when they realise that wine is not just about the liquid, but about the experience around it.

THE MOMENT IT CLICKS

Then, one day, without warning, it happens. You take a sip and pause. Not because you saw someone else do it, not because you're trying to look like you understand what's going on — but because something actually registered.

You notice balance. You notice how the wine evolves in the glass. You pick up more than one flavour, more than one layer. You might not have the technical vocabulary for it yet, but you know you're experiencing something more than just "nice" or "not nice."

That's the moment. The "I get it now" moment. It doesn't mean you've arrived. In wine, no one really does. It just means you've crossed a line — from passive drinking to active appreciation. And once you cross that line, it's very difficult to go back.

THE TRAP OF TRYING TOO HARD

This is usually where things can go slightly wrong. Once people feel like they "get it," there's a temptation to accelerate. To move quickly toward wines that are considered more serious, more complex, and more impressive. To drink what they think they should like, rather than what they actually enjoy. That's where wine starts to feel like work.

You find yourself overthinking. Analysing instead of enjoying. Trying to identify things you're not even sure you're tasting. It becomes less about experience and more about performance, and that's when people quietly lose the plot.

STAY CURIOUS, NOT CORRECT

The better approach is simpler. Stay curious. Try new things, yes. Explore different styles, absolutely. But stay anchored in your own experience. If you like something, that matters. If you don't, that matters just as much.

Disliking a wine is not failure. It's information. It sharpens your understanding of your own palate. It helps you navigate better the next time. It builds confidence, slowly but surely. Wine is not about being right. It's about becoming more aware.

FROM DRINKING TO UNDERSTANDING

Over time, your relationship with wine evolves. You stop asking basic questions like, "Do I like this?" and start asking better ones. What is this wine doing? Why does it taste like this? What changed between the first sip and the last?

You begin to notice structure, balance, texture — not because you were taught to, but because you've experienced enough to recognise it. Wine becomes less about consumption and more about understanding, and that's where the real enjoyment lives. Because once you start paying attention, wine stops being just something you drink. It becomes something you experience, remember, and return to — differently, every time.



Global Confidence in Botswana Tennis Rising

ITF World Tennis Tour events in Gaborone draw players from 28 countries, with organisers pointing to rising confidence in Botswana's safety, organisation and tennis standards

GAZETTE REPORTER

The ITF World Tennis Tour M15 and W15 events at Botswana's National Tennis Centre have attracted significant international participation, according to Botswana Tennis Association vice president Nonofo Othusitse, who is also the tournament director. The competitions began last week and run until 23 May, featuring four tournaments staged over a two-week period.

Othusitse said interest surged once entries opened. "We had over 300 men entering the first week and then women we had around 200 entries," he said on the sidelines of the tournament yesterday (Tuesday).

Players have travelled from more than 28 countries across all continents, including Australia, Asia, Europe, North America and South America. "So I think for us the most important part is the interest that we received from international players from over 28 countries, from all the continents," Othusitse said.

He added that the turnout reflected confidence in the host nation. "Players know that they will be safe, they will be secure."

TOURNAMENT FORMAT

The events include men's and women's competitions at ITF 15k level, with prize money of $15,000 per event. The format features draws of 32 players for both men and women, with qualifiers used to complete the main draw where necessary.

> "Players know that they will be safe, they will be secure."

"We are using the draw of 32 men, 32 women. So we had to play qualifiers to get some people to qualify for the men's draw," Othusitse explained.

He noted that four tournaments are being staged over the two weeks, including two men's and two women's events. Higher tiers, he said, can reach 25k and up to 35k in prize money for women.

OFFICIALS EXPOSURE

Beyond player participation, Othusitse highlighted the development of local officiating talent during the events. Some officials involved are still building experience at international level.

"We are using them here. They are gaining exposure, they are gaining experience," he said.

He added that the exposure is part of a longer-term pathway toward international certification opportunities, including potential white badge qualifications.

LOCAL CROWD

Othusitse said the presence of Botswana players and growing spectator turnout has also been notable, particularly during key matches and finals.

"Botswana have shown up," he said, adding that crowds have responded positively where local players are involved.

He noted that several players ranked between 400 and 500 in the world have competed, contributing to the competitive standard of play.

"So that means the quality itself was very high, not just the quantity," he said.

Othusitse added that the tournament experience is contributing to broader efforts to professionalise and commercialise tennis in Botswana.



Hard Work Delivers Karate Success

Botswana's nine-athlete squad returned from Luanda with 13 medals, attributing their Region 5 Championships breakthrough to discipline, preparation and relentless effort

GAZETTE REPORTER



Team Botswana produced a striking performance at the Region 5 Championships in Luanda, Angola, after sending only nine athletes and returning home with 13 medals.

The team competed against countries that fielded more than 40 athletes, yet still emerged among the top-performing nations at the championships.

The medal haul reflected a balanced campaign across divisions, underlining consistency from a compact squad operating under pressure.

FINAL SURGE

Botswana's decisive momentum came on the final day, when Lethabo Sekano (-68kg), Lesika Motswagole (-50kg) and Tshegofatso Chepete (-55kg) each secured gold medals.

The country finished with five gold, one silver and seven bronze medals in total.

Additional gold medals came through Centy Kgosikoma in senior female individual kata and Kutlo Thomas in senior male individual kata, strengthening Botswana's overall standing in the competition.

COACH REFLECTION

Coach Sensei Peter Molefhe said the results were rooted in preparation and discipline rather than numbers.

"This is a huge statement by Botswana karate," he said. "We may have had a small team, but we fought like champions."

He added that the squad's mindset was shaped by sustained hard work in training.

"It is not about how many athletes you bring," Molefhe said. "It is about how much effort you put into every session, every bout, and every moment of preparation."

He described the medal return as evidence of discipline under pressure.

"What we saw in Luanda was a group that stayed committed to the basics," he said. "Hard work does not always make noise before competition, but it speaks clearly in results."

LEADERSHIP PRAISE

Molefhe also paid tribute to BOKA President Shihan Mpho Bakwadi, crediting his leadership and support for the technical team.

"The trust from leadership matters," he said. "When people are given responsibility and space to prepare properly, it reflects in performance."

He said the achievement highlighted a broader culture within the sport's national setup.

"This is about consistency over time," Molefhe said. "The discipline of the athletes and the structure behind them worked together."

Botswana's performance, achieved with one of the smallest squads in the competition, was widely framed within the camp as a product of preparation meeting opportunity on the international stage.

Betway Boosts Legends Tournament



P1.5 million sponsorship reshapes Botswana's "Clash of the Legends," as football icons gather in Gaborone for today's announcement ahead of the 20 June tournament

GAZETTE REPORTER

The Betway Clash of the Legends Football Tournament was officially announced yesterday (Tuesday) following a P1.5 million sponsorship from Betway, which has now become the title sponsor of the event.

The tournament will be hosted in Gaborone, moving from Francistown where it was staged last year, and is scheduled for 20 June.

"At Betway, our passion for sports isn't just about the game on the pitch; it is about the community, the history, and the heroes who have shaped the beautiful game," said Michelle Francemabiletsa, Betway Country Manager representing Betway.

"We are incredibly proud to unveil a total sponsorship package of 1.5 million Pula toward the Clash of the Legends," she added.

LEGENDS UNITE

Former players used the announcement to reflect on recognition and reunion opportunities for retired footballers.

Michael Mogaladi of Mochudi Centre Chiefs Legends said the initiative restores visibility for past players.

"I am very happy that this had been made for the legends, we are mostly forgotten of, we used to dominate in the league," he said, naming players such as Pontsho Moloi, Dirang Moloi, Given Mpundu and James Kachinga.

Reneilwe Letsholonyane of Kaizer Chiefs Legends said the platform provides both entertainment and support for former players.

"It's a great initiative for us former players to come together to have fun and entertain the fans… and show them that we are still alive," he said. He added that participants will also conduct clinics on 19 June "to inspire young ones who want to make a life out of football."

He confirmed involvement of players including Josta Dladla, Tefo Mashamaite, Mandla Masango and Morgan Gould.

FORMAT SHIFT

This year's edition introduces a revised format featuring club legends rather than the previous "nation vs nation" structure.

The participating sides include Orlando Pirates, Township Rollers and Mochudi Centre Chiefs legends.

Thapelo Balepi of Township Rollers Legends said the team is aiming for victory.

"I urge people to come in large numbers to come and see us… our intention as Rollers is to claim this cup," he said, mentioning Phenyo Mongala and Boitumelo Mafoko among the squad.

COMMUNITY IMPACT

Orlando Pirates legend Happy Jele said the initiative highlights challenges faced by retired players while reconnecting them with fans.

"This is a great initiative… some of the legends are going through a lot and we never talk about," he said. "This kind of programs help us as legends to feel appreciated."

He added that fans will see former stars including Andile Jali, Lucky Lekgwathi and Oupa Manyisa.

The tournament, announced today, positions itself as both a competitive showcase and a reunion platform for regional football greats.

Tonota FC Link Football to Future Careers

Club president outlines education and business pathways as promoted side hosts awards ceremony in Francistown

GAZETTE REPORTER

Tonota FC marked their promotion to the FNB Premiership with an awards ceremony held this past weekend in Francistown, recognising players, technical staff and supporters after a successful First Division North campaign.

Club president Boikhutso Ramahobo used the occasion to thank those involved in the club's rise, beginning with what he described as gratitude for support received throughout the project.

"This is a very important day in the Tonota FC family and I want to start by being grateful," he said. "Obviously, I thank God. Without God, nothing of all these things would have happened."

He also acknowledged his family, players, technical team and supporters, saying their backing had made the club's progress possible.

"I would also like to thank the players, the coach, the technical team and the players. Without them, nothing of all the support and the highest champions would have happened."

CLUB VISION

Ramahobo said Tonota FC's promotion was only the beginning of a longer-term project that extends beyond results on the pitch.

"The project that we have in front of us has not even begun. This is just us warming up and making sure that we learn the ropes," he said.

> "The project that we have in front of us has not even begun. This is just us warming up and making sure that we learn the ropes."

He described the club as a community-focused organisation, stressing that its purpose went beyond football competition.

"The objective of Tonota FC is first, community development. The idea is to bring people together."



Ramahobo added that the club's structure and training model had been central to its success, noting the team's full-time approach compared with other sides in the division.

"We are not a normal team. Other teams in First Division, they meet on Wednesday and they play on Saturday. Now, our team stays together. They are on camp full-time."

PLAYER WELFARE

A key part of his address focused on player welfare and development, particularly preparing athletes for life after football.

Ramahobo said opportunities exist for players within his business interests, including HSNV Group, and encouraged them to think beyond their playing careers.

"With football, you are so talented and gifted, and it's only the beginning. I want you guys to use this platform to help yourself after football," he said.

"We've got a platform where if you are a player, you can join the business in some of the companies that we hold. Go to school, we'll support you."

He added that education and skills development would be supported for players who wished to pursue them.

"As a company, we have means and ways of supporting you to go to school if you want to go to school and learn a skill that you will use in your later life."

PLAYER AWARDS

On the pitch, defender Tlhalefang Kame was the night's standout winner, collecting both Defender of the Season and Player of the Season awards.

Kame received P10,000 for the defensive award and P15,000 for Player of the Season, taking home a total of P25,000 after a consistent campaign that helped secure promotion.

FUTURE PLANS

Ramahobo said the club would continue investing in structure, youth development and community programmes as it prepares for life in the Premiership.

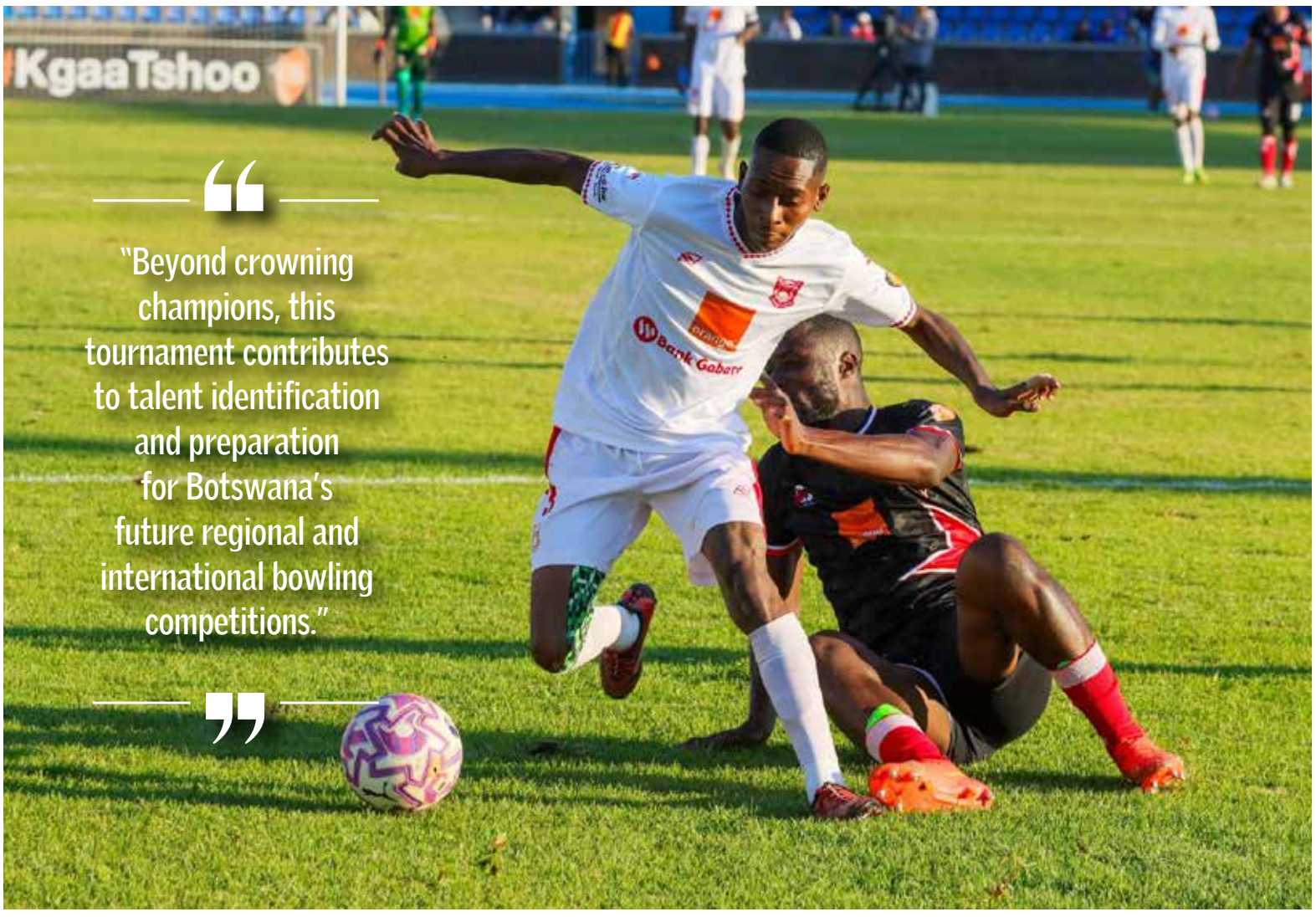
"The most important part of Tonota FC is community development," he said.

He added that the club's long-term aim remained focused on stability beyond football results.

"We want to make sure that after football, somebody is able to actually get a life for themselves."

FNB Premiership Set for Exciting Close

The 2025/26 FNB Premiership season will conclude in Gaborone this weekend as supporters gather for the final match and championship celebrations



The 2025/26 FNB Premiership season is set to conclude on Saturday, May 23, with Gaborone United taking on BDF XI at Gaborone United Stadium.

Kick-off for the season-ending fixture is scheduled for 3pm, with organisers expecting thousands of supporters to attend the final match of the season.

SEASON FINALE CELEBRATION

The match will also mark the end of the league's second season under the sponsorship of FNB Botswana, with activities planned around the fixture including fan activations, entertainment and hospitality experiences.

FNB Botswana Chief Marketing Officer Peo Porogo said the league had continued to strengthen ties between clubs, supporters and communities.

"The FNB Premiership has become more than just a football competition," Porogo said. "It is a platform that brings people together, inspires young talent and creates opportunities for communities across the country."

She added that the bank remained committed to supporting local sport and community initiatives through its partnership with the league.

FOCUS ON COMMUNITY IMPACT

Porogo said football continued to play an important role in uniting communities and creating opportunities for local talent.

"At FNB Botswana, we believe football has the power to unite people, uplift communities and create meaningful opportunities for local talent," she said.

The final fixture comes as the bank marks 35 years of operations in Botswana, a milestone Porogo said reflects the institution's long-term investment in community partnerships and sporting platforms.

SUPPORTERS EXPECTED IN NUMBERS

Supporters attending the match are expected to take part in a range of match-day activities as the league crowns its champions at the close of the season.

"We encourage football supporters, families and the broader community to join us at the Gaborone United Stadium," Porogo said.

Botswana Bowls Champions Conclude

National championships wrap in Orapa with MVP honours, medal winners confirmed, and national squads named for 2026 international events

GAZETTE REPORTER

The Botswana Bowling Association's 49th National Championships concluded at the Orapa Bowling Club from 09–16 May 2026, marking a week-long competition that drew athletes from across the country's bowling clubs.

"It was a very great and competitive tournament,"the association said in a statement as the tournament ended in the mining town of Orapa. The championships featured singles, pairs, triples, and fours events across both the men's and ladies' divisions.

MVP HONOURS

Boikhutso Mooketsi was named Ladies Player of the Tournament (MVP), receiving the Lebo Mascarenhas Floating Trophy after securing two gold medals and one silver.

In the men's category, Kabo Gaboutloeloe was named Player of the Tournament (MVP), awarded the Ray Mascarenhas Floating Trophy after also finishing with two gold medals.



SINGLES RESULTS

In the singles competition, Mooketsi (Jwaneng BC) won gold in the ladies' division, while Gaboutloeloe (Gaborone BC) secured gold in the men's category.

Silver medals went to Kefilwe Moleleki (Gaborone BC) in the ladies' section and Remmy Kebapetse (Jwaneng BC) in the men's.

Bronze was awarded to Marea Modutlwa (Gaborone BC) and Ookeditse Lekang (Gaborone BC).

TEAM EVENTS

In the pairs, Orapa teams secured gold in both men's and ladies' categories.

The triples saw Jwaneng take ladies' gold, while Phikwe won the men's title. Gaborone secured men's bronze in the same discipline.

In the fours, Gaborone won both men's and ladies' gold medals, with Orapa and Jwaneng finishing in silver positions.

NATIONAL SELECTION

Following the championships, national teams were selected for the Commonwealth Games in Glasgow, Scotland in July 2026, and the African States Tournament in Lusaka, Zambia in September 2026.

Edwin Nyoka, vice president of the Botswana Bowling Association, confirmed the selections in a statement released after the tournament.

For the Commonwealth Games, the men's team comprises Charles Diteko and Modisaotsile Mphotho, while the ladies' team includes Gaoromelwe Mpopi Pelemo, Boikhutso Mooketsi, and Sebathu Chinky Sinombe.

For the African States Tournament, the men's squad includes Charles Diteko, Kaizer Geche, Khumo Kebalatetse, Modisaotsile Mphotho, and Kabo Gaboutloeloe. The ladies' team features Gaoromelwe Mpopi Pelemo, Boikhutso Mooketsi, Sebathu Chinky Sinombe, Kefilwe Tompie Moleleki, and Goitsemodimo Peo Ramodise.

Nyoka said the championships also serve a wider developmental purpose beyond results.

TALENT PATHWAYS

"Beyond crowning champions, this tournament contributes to talent identification and preparation for Botswana's future regional and international bowling competitions," Nyoka said.

"In selecting teams for the prestigious tournaments, other young players with potential are also selected for international exposure, including events such as the Peter Richards Pairs and the Quadrangular Tournament," he said.

He added that these competitions are used to blend emerging talent with experienced players.

"In these tournaments, we mix up-and-coming players with more experienced players and compete against countries such as Zimbabwe, Namibia, and South Africa," Nyoka said.



RAGUIN NAMED ORANGE BRAND AMBASSADOR

Orange Botswana has signed rising tennis player Ntungamili Raguin as a brand ambassador, expanding its youth-focused sports partnerships

Orange Botswana has signed rising tennis player Ntungamili Raguin as its second brand ambassador as part of the company's youth engagement and sports development initiatives.

"Ntungamili represents a generation of young Batswana who are proving that talent, discipline and ambition can open doors onto the global stage."

The partnership, launched under the tagline "Dream Bigger," aligns the telecommunications company with one of Botswana's emerging tennis talents, who has represented the country in international competitions and secured several junior titles.

FOCUS ON YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

Orange Botswana said the partnership forms part of its broader strategy to support young people pursuing careers in different fields while strengthening its connection with younger audiences.

Speaking on the partnership, Orange Botswana CEO Néné Maïga said the company viewed sport as an important platform for youth inspiration.

"Ntungamili represents a generation of young Batswana who are proving that talent, discipline and ambition can open doors onto the global stage," she said.

Maïga added that the company hoped the partnership would encourage young people to pursue opportunities in their chosen fields.

"We want to encourage young Batswana to dream bigger and understand that their ambitions are valid regardless of the field they choose," she said.

SUPPORT FOR TENNIS

Maïga also noted that the partnership reflected Orange Botswana's intention to support different sporting disciplines.

"Tennis is one of the growing sports in Botswana and we believe Ntungamili's rise presents an important opportunity to shine a spotlight on emerging talent," she said.

Raguin described the partnership as a significant moment in his professional journey.

"I am honoured to join the Orange Botswana family and grateful for the support they have shown in my journey. This partnership motivates me even more to continue working hard, represent Botswana proudly on international stages and inspire other young people to Dream Bigger," he said.

Through the agreement, Raguin is expected to participate in Orange Botswana campaigns, youth engagements, community activations, and brand initiatives.





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