The Botswana
GAZETTE
WEDNESDAY 27 MAY 2026 | SINCE 1984

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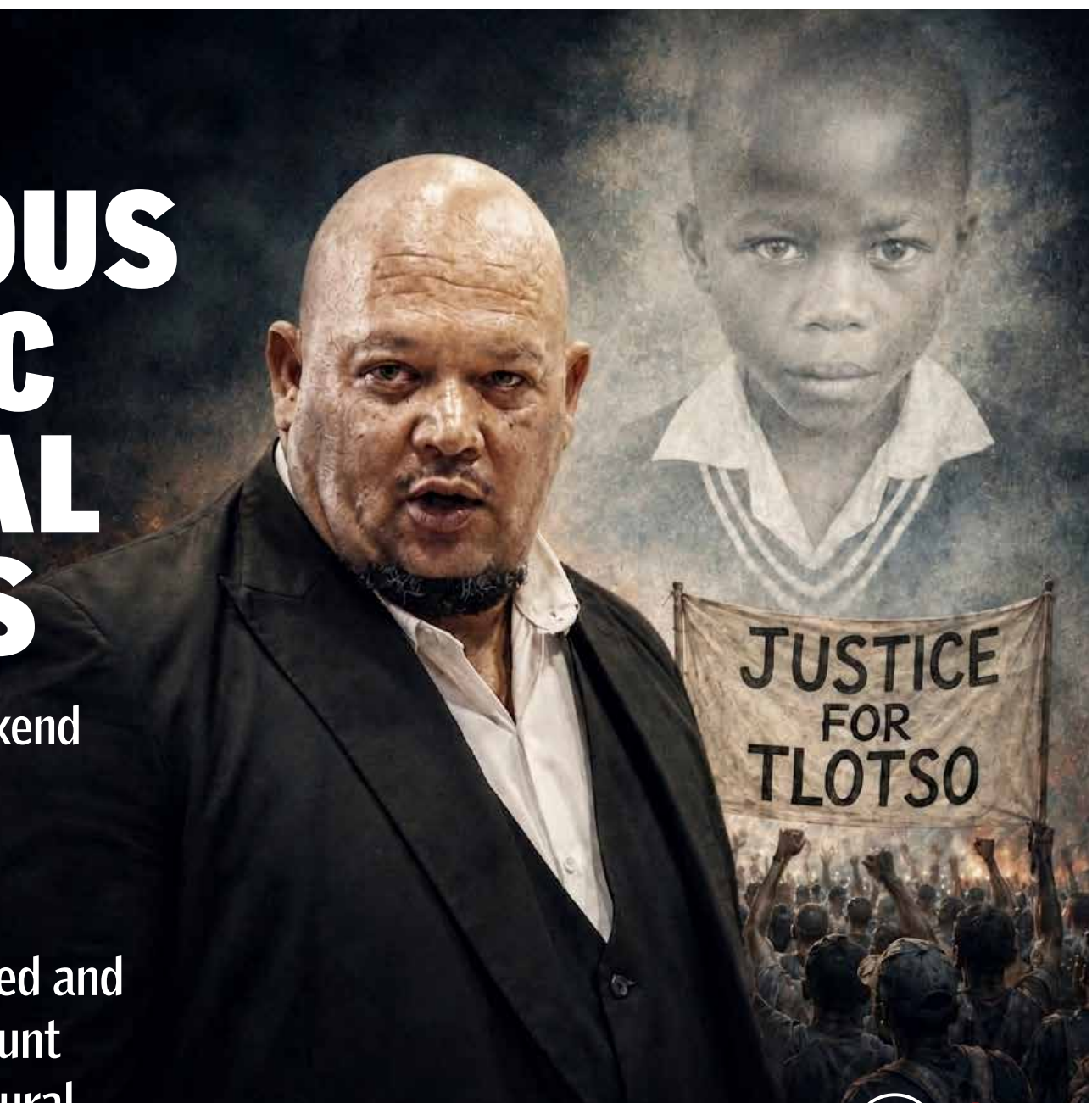
THE SILENT SPECTRUM

Why Botswana Must Begin Talking Seriously About Autism



BW'S DANGEROUS RHETORIC ON RITUAL KILLINGS



UDC MP Kamal Jacobs' weekend claims linking the BDP to ritual killings have reopened an uncomfortable national conversation about unresolved and suspicious cases that still haunt Botswana's psyche, feed cultural fears and shape political discourse

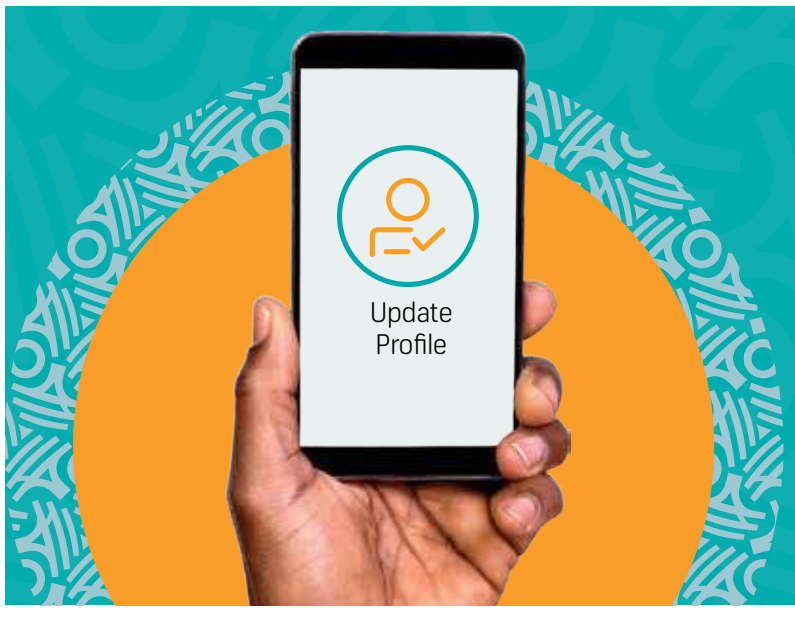
3.

Farmers Defend BMC Retail Expansion

7.

Seasoned cattle farmers argue that the BMC's presence in the local retail market is an expansion of a long-standing business model catering for domestic and export markets





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TIRED OF SHARING?



BW's Dangerous Rhetoric on Ritual Killings



BONGANI MALUNGA

Umbrella for Democratic Change legislator Kamal Jacobs has reignited one of Botswana's most emotionally charged and controversial debates after allegedly insinuating that members of the former ruling Botswana Democratic Party used ritual killings to gain political power.

Kamal's utterances at a political rally in Selibe Phikwe last weekend triggered outrage across the political divide but they also reopened painful national memories surrounding ritual murder allegations, unresolved public suspicions and the long-standing silence of the Botswana government on the issue.

His remarks revived memories of the 2022 murder of 7 year old Tlotso Karema, a case, currently before the courts, that rapidly spiralled beyond a criminal investigation and into the political arena. The killing drew widespread public speculation around ritualistic motives, with social media and public discourse linking the matter to powerful individuals despite limited publicly available evidence.

VICTIMISED

The case also engulfed former finance minister Thapelo Matsheka, who found himself heavily scrutinised and politically victimised after his name became associated with public speculation surrounding Karema's death. Although no conviction tied Matsheka to the murder, the controversy inflicted damage on his political and public image, demonstrating how ritual killing allegations in Botswana often evolve into tools of political destruction long before facts are conclusively established.

Kamal's remarks have therefore revived deeper concerns about Botswana's unresolved relationship with ritual killings, a subject that continues to exist in whispers, rumours, political accusations and community fears.

Despite presenting itself as a human rights-driven democracy with a stable justice system, Botswana remains alarmingly silent on ritual killings.

RITUAL KILLINGS NOT RECOGNISED

While murder is criminalised under Botswana law, the country does not legally recognise ritual killing as a distinct offence. Critics argue that this omission has created a dangerous grey area where allegations are politically weaponised, investigations become clouded by secrecy while communities are left haunted by suspicion and unresolved trauma.

The issue resurfaced sharply on March 24 this year when Minister for State President, Defence and Security, Moeti Mohwasa told Parliament that Botswana's statutes do not recognise ritual killings as a specific crime.

> The government's cautious approach may partly stem from fears of inflaming public panic, legitimising superstition or compromising criminal investigations. However, some argue that refusing to directly acknowledge ritual killings has instead deepened conspiracy theories and public distrust

CONSTRAINED TO SPEAK

"In our statutes in general and the Penal Code in particular, we don't have an offence called ritual killing. We are therefore constrained to speak to a crime that is not in our statutes. The taking of human life is criminalised as murder," Mohwasa told Parliament.

Mohwasa's remarks exposed what many legal and social commentators have long argued, that Botswana has historically chosen a pragmatic but evasive approach to ritual killing allegations. Local law enforcement prosecutes murder but avoids formally engaging with the cultural, political and spiritual dimensions often associated with ritualistic crimes.

That silence has become increasingly uncomfortable for a country where rumours and accusations of body mutilations, disappearances and killings linked to wealth-seeking rituals have persisted for decades.

REOPENING PAINFUL MEMORIES

Kamal's comments also revived memories of the murder of Segametsi Mogomotsi in 1994, a case that fundamentally altered public trust in Botswana's justice system and remains at the centre of the country's national trauma.

The 14-year-old secondary school student disappeared under mysterious circumstances before her mutilated body was later discovered. Reports surrounding the case alleged that certain body parts had been removed, fuelling widespread public suspicion that the killing may have involved ritual practices.

The state's handling of the matter ignited unprecedented unrest. Students protested violently, accusing authorities of attempting to suppress the truth and shield powerful individuals allegedly linked to the murder. The demonstrations spread nationally and became one of Botswana's most explosive moments of civil unrest post independence.

LASTING PERCEPTION

For many citizens, the Segametsi case established a lasting perception that Botswana's political and legal establishment preferred silence over confrontation whenever ritual killing allegations emerged. To this day, the case remains emotionally raw because many people believe justice was never fully served and critical questions were never adequately answered.

The government's cautious approach may partly stem from fears of inflaming public panic, legitimising superstition or compromising criminal investigations. However, some argue that refusing to directly acknowledge ritual killings has instead deepened conspiracy theories and public distrust.

REGIONAL COMPARISON

Botswana's position sharply contrasts with developments elsewhere in the region. In neighbouring Zimbabwe, authorities have openly condemned ritual killings and acknowledged their existence as a serious social problem. Zimbabwean President Emmerson Mnangagwa has publicly denounced such crimes amid growing reports linking murders to ritual practices and the pursuit of wealth.

According to reports from Zimbabwe, nearly 40 percent of that country's 3 600 murder cases in 2022 reportedly contained elements associated with ritual killings. In Botswana, however, the subject largely survives in courtroom rumours, political rallies, social media speculation and fearful community conversations.

> "In our statutes in general, and the Penal Code in particular, we don't have an offence called ritual killing. We are therefore constrained to speak to a crime that is not in our statutes."

Yet the political exploitation of ritual killing allegations has become increasingly common. Politicians often invoke the issue to discredit opponents, knowing fully that the topic carries deep emotional resonance among ordinary citizens.

ABSENCE OF A LEGAL FRAMEWORK

The danger, social commentators warn, is that the absence of a clear legal and national framework on ritual killings leaves Botswana vulnerable to both misinformation and manipulation. Without formal recognition, there is little room for specialised investigations, national data collection, victim profiling or public education around crimes suspected to involve ritualistic motives.

More importantly, Botswana's refusal to openly confront the subject risks breeding a culture of silence around one of the country's most feared and sensitive issues.

More than three decades after the death of Segametsi Mogomotsi and years after the controversy surrounding Tlotso Karema's murder and the political fallout suffered by Matsheka, Botswana still appears trapped between modern law, cultural fears and political expediency, uncertain whether ritual killings are merely myth, criminal opportunism or a reality too uncomfortable to officially acknowledge.

Govt Shuts Down Over 5,700 Societies

Thousands of organisations across Botswana, including churches, business associations, sporting clubs and civil society groups, have been struck off the register in a sweeping government deregistration exercise



botswana

VACANCY

Botswana Tourism Organisation (BTO) is a parastatal body set up through an Act of Parliament with the mandate to market Botswana's tourist product, grade and classify tourist accommodation facilities as well as to promote investment in the tourism sector.

Competent and qualified applicants are invited for the below position;

EXECUTIVE MANAGER-INTERNAL AUDIT

The role is directly responsible to:

- Provide an independent appraisal and risk assessment of the effectiveness of the policies, procedures and standards by which the organization's financial, physical, systems and information resources are managed.
- Manage the Internal Audit functionality, coordinating the specific processes to support the formulation of the audit plan and programme, monitoring compliance and conducting investigations to determine the extent of variation or non-conformance to statutory requirements, policies and procedures, preparing and presenting comments and opinions and provide guidance on the interpretation of principles to enable re-alignment of functions and responsibilities ensuring the activities are conducted and concluded in a credible manner.

KEY PERFORMANCE AREA

- Systems Controls
  - ◊ Appraisal of system of internal controls
  - ◊ Test for compliance
- Audit Plans
  - ◊ Develop and implement the annual audit plan
  - ◊ Develop audit programs and working papers
  - ◊ Ensure audits are conducted with International Standards for Professional Practice of Internal Auditing.
- Assessment of Financial Information
  - ◊ Review of financial information to ensure compliance with IFRS/IAS
  - ◊ Test for transactions to determine whether they make business sense
- Risk Management
  - ◊ Risk Governance and Strategic Alignment, assessing the adequacy, effectiveness and maturity of the Enterprise Risk Management (ERM) framework, including risk governance structures, policies and reporting processes.
  - ◊ Evaluate whether risks are systematically identified, assessed, prioritised and mitigated across strategic, operational, financial, compliance, IT and emerging risk categories.
  - ◊ Provide independent advice to the Board on emerging, strategic, systemic and cross cutting risks, including governance, financial sustainability, cyber, regulatory, ESG and reputational risks.
  - ◊ Risk-Based Internal Audit Planning - develop, maintain and implement a risk-based, rolling Internal Audit Plan, informed by the Organisation's strategy, risk register, risk appetite and emerging risk profile.
  - ◊ Present the annual Internal Audit Plan to the Audit Committee for approval, clearly articulating risk rationale and coverage and continuously update the audit plan to reflect changes in the risk environment, organisational strategy or external factors.
  - ◊ Ensure alignment between audit activities and the Organisation's risk appetite and strategy.
  - ◊ Advice on risks
- Safety, Health and Environment
  - ◊ Test for compliance with health and safety
  - ◊ Advice on health and safety issues
- Quality Assurance and Improvement
  - ◊ Ensure quality assurance in performance of audit reviews
  - ◊ Maintain Quality Assurance & Improvement Program (QAIP) for the internal Audit function.
  - ◊ Periodically review audit processes to enhance efficiency and effectiveness.
- Internal Audit Process
  - ◊ Report to Audit Committee and Board on the state of internal control
  - ◊ Carry out any special assignments and investigations as requested or directed by Senior Management and the Board.
- People Management
  - ◊ Managing the Internal Audit Department
  - ◊ Providing supervision, guidance, and training to the Internal Audit team.
  - ◊ Managing relationships with external stakeholders

KEY COMPETENCIES

- Internal Audit Operational Plans and Programmes implemented
- Internal audit queries managed
- Internal audit effectiveness
- Accounting, financial and operating controls adequately applied
- Adherence to approved budget
- Adherence to audit and quality standards
- Annual training plans in place and implemented accordingly

QUALIFICATIONS & EXPERIENCE

- Bachelor's degree in Accounting and/or Auditing or related field
- Postgraduate certification in Audit such as IIA
- Professional stage of an internationally recognised Institute of Accountants or Auditors (ACCA, CIMA, CIA). Ten (10) years' experience in auditing medium to large scale operations, five (5) of which should have been spent at senior management level.

If you meet the above requirements, please apply to:

Executive Manager – Human Resources & Administration

Botswana Tourism Organisation at:

Email: recruitment@botswanatourism.co.bw

Closing Date: 5th June 2026 at 1630hrs

Due to high number of responses to the job advert, correspondence shall be limited to shortlisted candidates only

www.botswanatourism.co.bw

GAZETTE REPORTER

The government has moved to deregister more than 5,700 societies in what appears to be one of the biggest regulatory crackdowns on civic organisations, churches, clubs and associations in Botswana's history.

The sweeping deregistration exercise was carried out through the Registrar of Societies, Ofentse Goajwang, and published recently in the Government Gazette under the provisions of the Societies Act (Cap 18:01).

The affected organisations cut across virtually every sector of society. They include churches, burial societies, sporting clubs, alumni associations, business associations, charitable organisations, civil society groups, community-based organisations, cultural bodies, farmers' associations, music and entertainment groups, social clubs and professional organisations.

LEGAL BASIS FOR CANCELLATIONS

In the notice, Goajwang stated that: "In pursuance of Section 11 of the Societies Act, notice is given that the societies listed in the first schedule hereto have been registered under the Societies Act."

He further revealed that while 2,240 societies were successfully registered, a staggering 5,796 organisations had been struck off the register. The Botswana Gazette understands that Section 11 of the Societies Act of Botswana empowers the Registrar of Societies to cancel a registered society's certificate if the group changes its objects without consent, fails to provide requested financial information, or breaches other written laws. In addition, the Registrar is required to cancel a society's registration if the organisation or its office-bearers violate provisions of the law.

"The societies listed in the second schedule hereto have been cancelled from the register of registered societies," the notice reads.

RECOGNISABLE ORGANISATIONS AFFECTED

The document shows that faith-based organisations, charitable bodies, religious movements and business associations dominate the lengthy cancellation list, raising questions about compliance failures within some of Botswana's most recognisable institutions. Among the sporting clubs affected is Boteti Young Fighters.

Several high-profile organisations also appear on the deregistration list under business and professional associations. These include Botswana Chamber of Commerce and Industry and Botswana Institute of Business Analysis.

The civil society sector has not been spared either. Organisations listed include Amnesty International Botswana.

Under community-based organisations, the casualties include Botswana Football Supporters Association, Botswana Red Cross Society, Elephant Protection Society, Life Line Botswana and Lions Club of Gaborone among others. Farmers' bodies such as Tuli Block Farmers Association have also been affected.

Professional associations appearing on the list include Hospitality and Tourism Association of Botswana, Insurance Institute of Botswana, Medical and Dental Association of Botswana and Writers Association of Botswana.

CONCERNS OVER OPERATIONAL UNCERTAINTY

It is also understood that the mass deregistration is expected to trigger widespread concern across the country, particularly among organisations that may now face legal and operational uncertainty following their removal from the official register.

BNF Implodes as Entire Elections Board Quits

The BNF's Elections Board has resigned en masse, accusing party structures of interference and manipulation

GAZETTE REPORTER

A war of words has erupted at the Botswana National Front (BNF) after the party's entire National Elections Board resigned, accusing party structures of interference, manipulation and undermining internal democratic processes.

In a strongly worded resignation letter dated May 25, 2026, board members said the handling of the Pretty Molefe Regional Congress left them with no choice but to step down, although they insisted they would remain ordinary party members.

The resignation exposes deepening factional tensions within the BNF at a time when the party is already grappling with internal instability ahead of key internal contests.

MASS RESIGNATION ROCKS ELECTIONS BOARD

Leading the resignation were Elections Board chairperson Chabuya Lowani, alongside members R. Boitshwarelo, Keikanetswe Moesi and Segametsi Ephraim-Mogapi.

"Our main reason for our collective decision to resign is how the Pretty Molefe Regional Congress was handled," the quartet wrote.

The outgoing members said they were tasked with preparing for an elective congress scheduled for May 23, working under pressure to meet readiness deadlines set for May 19.

"Despite preparing and making sure we are ready within the said challenging timeline, our preparations were all for nothing as the congress was postponed through a letter on the day scheduled for Congress," they said.

CONTESTED POSTPONEMENT OF CONGRESS

The board said there was no valid reason to halt the congress, arguing that all constituencies had submitted delegates and all election materials were ready.

"Delegates had already convened at the Congress venue and it was peaceful and comradely," they stated.

The resignation letter points to a dispute over delegates from the Mmopane-Metsimotlhabe constituency, with the Elections Board clashing with regional leadership.

According to the board, they had allowed the constituency's delegates to participate, believing they were properly elected through ward general membership meetings.

However, the regional committee reportedly disqualified the delegates, arguing that the constituency congress had been aborted due to irregularities.

"It appears the main reason for the postponement was because as the National Elections Board we took a decision to permit the Mmopane-Metsimotlhabe Constituency delegates to vote," the letter reads.

INTERFERENCE AND PROCEDURAL BREAKDOWN

The outgoing officials accused party structures of interfering in processes that were meant to be independently managed by the Elections Board.

"We had hoped that once we are seized with the electoral process, we will be allowed to run the processes without interference," they said.

They further argued that internal appellate structures already existed within the party to handle disputes, making external intervention unnecessary.



Botswana and South Africa sign four agreement in present of Botswana President Advocate Duma Boko and South African President Cyril Ramaphosa during the 6th Botswana–South Africa Bi-National Commission (BNC) summit in Gaborone. (Pic: PRESS PHOTO)



Govt Faces Petition Over Plot to Loot P1Billion

The Manual Workers Union has accused government of secretly pursuing plans to transfer control of the GEMVAS scheme, warning that more than P1 billion in workers' contributions could be placed at risk while lower-income public servants may be excluded from benefits



GAZETTE REPORTER

The government is facing mounting pressure over alleged attempts to hand over control of a public servants' housing and loan scheme linked to more than P1 billion in workers' contributions.

The Manual Workers Union is accusing senior officials of secrecy, deception and sidelining workers in a deal they claim could benefit a select few.

The allegations emerged during a heated press conference by the union's leadership, where they warned they were preparing a petition against government over the handling of the Government Employees Motor Vehicle and Housing Advance Scheme (GEMVAS).

CLAIMS OF SECRECY AND DECEPTION

Deputy Chief Executive Officer Robert Rabasimane accused government and Minister of State President Moeti Mohwasa of misleading public servants while allegedly pushing plans to transfer the scheme to a private joint venture company.

"We have been deceived by the minister," he said, adding that officials held consultations while pursuing "other plans behind our backs."

He said suspicions grew after Directorate of Public Service Management (DPSM) Director Gaone Macholo allegedly stated that the scheme had been terminated due to expired bank contracts.

"That is not true because the scheme is underwritten by seven banks. How can all contracts end at the same time?" he asked.

Rabasimane also alleged that an Invitation To Tender had been issued in February for companies to take over the scheme, despite assurances that GEMVAS had been suspended.

"The tender carries February dates but does not clearly indicate when it opened. On March 13, a savingram said the scheme had been suspended, yet meetings were already taking place at the Ministry of Finance," he said.

CONCERNS OVER WORKERS' FUNDS

He said public servants' contributions under the Government Loan Insurance Fund had grown to over P1 billion by March 30, 2026.

"This company is going to benefit from that money," he said, adding that workers' funds must not be used to benefit "a few individuals."

He also claimed unions were previously required to contribute P6 million under UNIGEM, while the new structure faces no similar requirement.

The union fears the new arrangement could exclude lower-paid workers from accessing housing and vehicle loans.

GOVERNMENT DEFENDS PROCESS

International Relations Manager Samuel Molaodi said GEMVAS formed part of workers' conditions of service and could not be changed without consultation.

"Government was initially happy with the UNIGEM arrangement, but things changed without explanation," he said. Union consultant Johnson Motshwarakgole said a planned petition march on May 25 was postponed after government officials raised concerns.

DPSM spokesperson Chandapiwa Maele said government had re-negotiated with banks to ensure continuity and sustainability. She added that DPSM and unions have established consultation structures, warning that press conferences by union employees fall outside agreed labour relations processes.



BABEREKI SACCOS Management Board has declared interest on savings at the rate of 6% for the year ended April 2026. All Shareholders who have been saving for over 12 months in the said period and have earned interest of P200.00 or more, qualify to withdraw the amount. Those who earned less than P200.00 will have the amount added to their savings balances.

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Farmers Defend BMC Retail Expansion

Seasoned cattle farmers argue that the BMC's presence in the local retail market is an expansion of a long-standing business model catering for domestic and export markets

BONGANI MALUNGA

As independent butcheries continue to shut down under the weight of Botswana's prolonged Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) crisis, some farmers are pushing back against criticism directed at the Botswana Meat Commission (BMC) over its decision to expand retail operations.

Cattle farmer and acting vice of the Botswana Brahman Breeders Society, Molefe Seitei, speaking on his own capacity, argues that BMC's move to open additional retail outlets should not be viewed as an attack on struggling butcheries but rather as a survival strategy in the face of mounting stockpiles caused by export restrictions linked to FMD outbreaks. With premium European Union markets effectively closed, BMC has been left holding millions of pula worth of meat originally destined for export.

"BMC has been the best buying butcher as it pays farmers far much better than the conventional butcheries (and their middleman agents) who at times fail to pay farmers. BMC has always been in the business of selling meat both for export and local market, its nothing new except they have broadened their sales outlets now," Seitei underlined.

WIDENING GAP

However, the farmer also raised concerns about the widening gap between what consumers pay for meat and what producers earn for their cattle.

The farmer suggested that the current retail prices being charged by BMC reveal how undervalued cattle producers have been for years, arguing that farmers have effectively subsidised processors, retailers and intermediaries for too long.

"The current pricing by BMC should set the tone on how farmers should price their product, we have subsidised the whole supply chain for way too long and that should end. There's a trend that has been going on for a while, owning most if not all the supply chain. Retail stores own bakeries, horticulture and cattle farms and butcheries more money going to fewer people. Farmers are price takers when they supply the same chain stores, which is a mockery to farmers who bare all the risks," Seitei stressed.

> "BMC has been the best buying butcher as it pays farmers far much better than the conventional butcheries who at times fail to pay farmers."



ZAMBIAN CASE STUDY

Reached for comment, another cattle farmer, Timothy Kathurima backed the BMC's move stating that it mirrors Zambia's Zambeef model.

For many other cattle farmers already grappling with movement restrictions, drought pressures and disease outbreaks, the fear is not only about market access but about becoming permanent price takers in an industry where fewer players hold greater control.

Expression Of Interest (EOI) notice

Provision of facilities management maintenance services

1. Introduction

Absa Bank Botswana Limited invites suitably qualified and experienced service providers to submit Expressions of Interest (EOI) for the Provision of Facilities Management Maintenance Services across the Bank portfolio covering all ten (10) districts in Botswana. Interested suppliers are encouraged to indicate the district(s) where they are based and able to provide services.

2. Scope of services

The selected service provider will be required to deliver comprehensive facilities maintenance services, including but not limited to:

- Preventative and corrective maintenance
- Electrical and mechanical maintenance
- Plumbing services
- Building fabric maintenance (carpentry, painting, general upkeep)
- Grounds and external area maintenance
- Emergency maintenance and breakdown response

3. Eligibility criteria

Interested bidders must demonstrate the following:

- Proven experience in facilities management and maintenance services
- Availability of qualified and certified technical personnel
- Valid company registration documents
- Relevant licenses and certifications
- Traceable references for similar work undertaken

4. Submission requirements

Interested parties must submit the following:

- Detailed Company profile
- Company registration documents (Certificate of Incorporation and the Company extract etc)
- Tax registration letter or VAT exemption letter
- At least three written reference letters for similar work done in the past 5 years
- Contact details of references

5. Submission details

Interested companies/individuals that wish to participate in the EOI must be submitted electronically clearly marked: "EOI/001 - Provision of Facilities Management Maintenance Services"

Submissions should be sent to:
Sourcing.BW@absa.africa
Closing date: Friday, 5 June 2026
Time: 17:00

Late submissions will not be considered.

6. Disclaimer

Absa Bank Botswana Limited reserves the right to accept or reject any submission and is not bound to shortlist any bidder.

Terms and conditions apply.

Absa Bank Botswana Limited (registered number BW00001237900) is regulated by the Bank of Botswana. Member of the Deposit Insurance Scheme of Botswana.

Your story matters absa

High Court Halts SKMTH Restructuring Plan

..to address nurses concerns

GAZETTE REPORTER

The High Court has blocked the restructuring exercise at Sir Ketumile Masire Teaching Hospital (SKMTH).

In a ruling delivered by Justice Michael Motlhabi, the court granted interim relief restraining SKMTH from continuing with its restructuring process until the main dispute is finalised in the Lobatse High Court.

The case pits the Botswana Nurses Union (BONU) against SKMTH in a dispute over whether the hospital can proceed with structural and administrative changes while a related contractual matter remains pending before another court.

At the centre of the matter is a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed on 19 March 2026 between BONU and SKMTH, which the union argues is binding and requires meaningful consultation before any restructuring affecting employees is implemented.



DISPUTE

According to court records, the dispute unfolds on two levels. First, the Government of Botswana, as shareholder, initiated a policy shift to transition SKMTH from a privately managed institution into a public healthcare facility. Second, SKMTH moved to implement restructuring measures arising from that transition—an action now frozen by the court.

Justice Motlhabi noted that BONU is not challenging the broader policy decision, but SKMTH's implementation of restructuring "pending finalisation of the declaratory relief" before Justice Mokibe in the Lobatse High Court under Case No. CVHGB-000913-26.

That matter seeks a declaration confirming whether the March 2026 MoU is legally binding and enforceable.

INTERDICTED

In its ruling, the High Court found that allowing the restructuring to proceed could prejudice the outcome of the pending case, justifying an urgent interdict.

BONU welcomed the ruling, describing it as a safeguard for workers' rights and procedural fairness.

In a statement, the union said: "The Court granted interim relief restraining Sir Ketumile Masire Teaching Hospital from proceeding with the restructuring exercise pending determination of the main matter before the Lobatse High Court."

The union argued that the MoU was intended to establish "a structured framework for consultation and engagement" during the transition process, adding that SKMTH had proceeded "as though the agreement was not binding."

BONU said the court intervention preserves the integrity of the pending proceedings and ensures the matter is not overtaken by events.

The union also called for calm among members, saying it remains committed to dialogue and cooperation while the legal process continues.

> BONU welcomed the ruling, describing it as a safeguard for workers' rights and procedural fairness.

"BONU remains committed to constructive engagement and meaningful dialogue in the interests of employees and the continued delivery of healthcare services to the people of Botswana," the statement said.

motswedisecurities
A member of the Botswana Stock Exchange

EQUITY AND BOND TRADER

Motswedi Securities (Pty) Ltd, a leading stockbroking firm and a Member of the Botswana Stock Exchange (BSE) is seeking a sharp, analytically driven **Equities and Bond Trader** to join its dynamic team in Gaborone.

Role Overview

Reporting to the Executive Director, the Equities and Bond Trader will facilitate the purchase and sale of listed securities across the Botswana Stock Exchange. The role encompasses trade execution, monitoring market trends, risk assessment, and the provision of strategic investment information to support client investment decisions and optimise portfolio outcomes.

Key Responsibilities

The role will include:

- **Trade Execution:** Executing transactions across all BSE-listed instruments on behalf of clients.
- **Market Analysis:** Monitor market conditions on an ongoing basis and assess risk-return dynamics to inform execution decisions metrics.
- **Compliance:** Ensuring all client trading accounts remain KYC compliant and adhere to all regulatory requirements.
- **Order Management:** Manage client order flow efficiently using internal trading systems and tools.
- **Reporting & Insights:** Preparing daily trade reports and contributing to internal and client-facing market commentary.
- **Client Relationship Management:** Maintain relationships with the company's clients through proactive communication and engagement.

Qualifications and Experience

The right candidate will possess the following:

- A minimum requirement of a Bachelor's Degree in Finance, Economics, Business, Statistics or a related field
- A minimum of two (2) years' experience in equities and/or fixed income trading or a similar role
- Strong understanding of financial markets and trading dynamics
- A certification in Registered Person Exam (RPE) will be advantageous

Core Competencies

- Strong analytical capability
- Ability to operate effectively in a fast-paced, execution-focused environment
- Negotiation skills
- Risk assessment proficiency
- Mastery of financial data platforms and trading systems
- Strong communication and stakeholder engagement skills
- High level of personal accountability, professionalism, and integrity

The company offers a competitive remuneration package commensurate with qualification and experience.

To apply in confidence, please visit **www.peopleconnections.co.bw.** Applicants should submit a Cover Letter, Detailed Curriculum Vitae, Certified Academic Certificates and at least three (3) referees. **Application documents should be in pdf format and merged.**

Closing Date: 05 June 2026

For enquiries: Contact 3975917 / 3915503

PEOPLE CONNECTIONS
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Boko Warns BDF Against GBV, Femicide

Rising violence and suicide cases within the BDF prompt Boko to demand restraint, discipline and accountability

BONGANI MALUNGA

President Duma Boko has issued a stern warning to members of the Botswana Defence Force (BDF) against Gender Based Violence (GBV) and femicide, cautioning that acts of violence continue to stain the army's image and undermine its disciplinary standing.

The warning comes as the BDF has increasingly found itself in the spotlight over violent incidents involving officers, with the institution recording an average of four to five murder or suicide cases annually over the past five years. Earlier this year, the BDF revealed that the highest number of GBV-related incidents recorded in a single year stood at 76 cases, ranging from common assault and emotional abuse to murder and suicide.

ACCEPTING REALITIES

Addressing the 21st BDF Senior Officers Strategic Conference in Gaborone on Monday, Boko said many of the violent incidents stem from an inability to accept difficult realities in relationships, including infidelity and separation.

He stressed that emotional pain or betrayal should never become justification for violence, urging officers to seek counselling, walk away from toxic situations or pursue divorce instead of resorting to deadly retaliation.

MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT

"You, women and men of discipline, are trained to protect lives, not to take away," he said.

Boko's remarks come amid calls mounting for stronger mental health support and disciplinary interventions within the armed forces. In March this year, the BDF launched a mental health and GBV roadshow, facilitated by mental health experts, psychologists and legal experts, to confront the realities of the problem.

Speaking to this publication, the founder of Valor Mental Health, Charlotte Ruwona underlined that mental health education is vital in combating GBV especially within institutions such as the military as it helps soldiers develop emotional awareness, healthy coping skills, stress management techniques, conflict resolution skills and help-seeking behaviour.

DEMANDING ENVIRONMENTS

"Soldiers operate in highly demanding environments that often expose them to chronic stress, trauma, emotional suppression, hyper-vigilance and aggressive conditioning as part of survival and combat readiness. While discipline and strength are essential in military structures, unresolved psychological distress can negatively affect emotional regulation, relationships, communication and coping mechanisms if not properly addressed," Ruwona stated.

"Many individuals within the armed forces may also enter service already carrying unresolved childhood trauma, exposure to violence, neglect, abuse or adverse family experiences. Without adequate support systems, these experiences can compound workplace trauma experienced during training, deployments, operational pressure or institutional culture," the mental health expert explained.

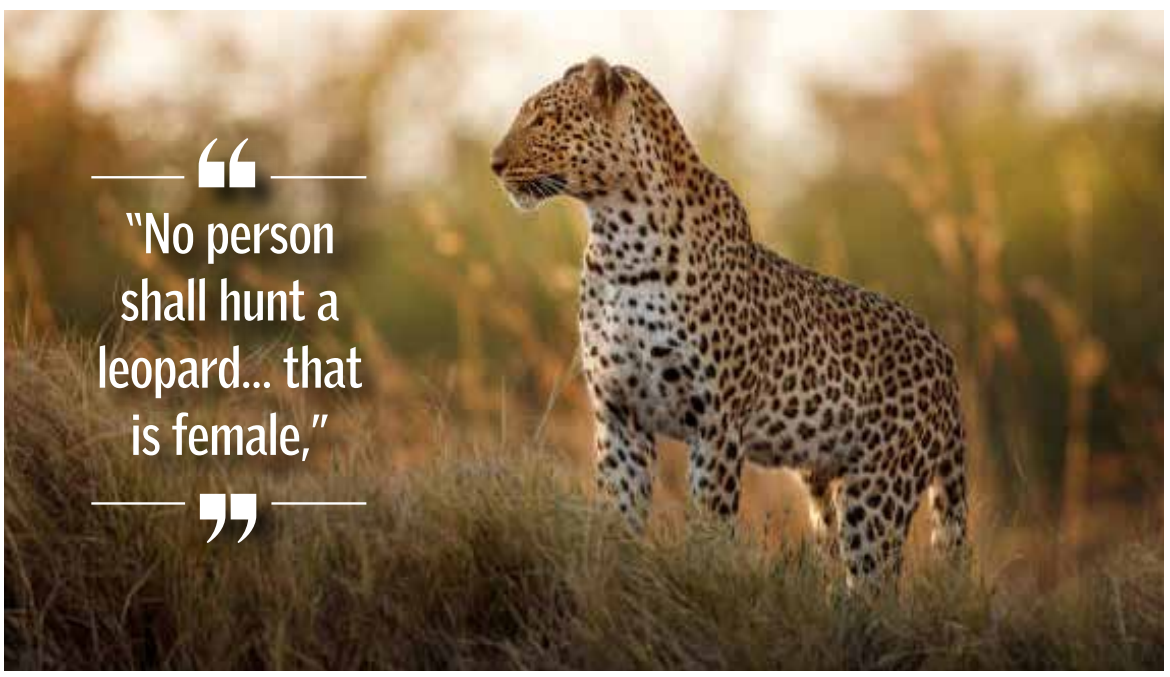
"I would advise government to approach GBV within security institutions through a holistic and preventative lens rather than only punitive measures. While accountability remains important, there is also a need for sustained investment in trauma-informed mental health services, routine psychological assessments, confidential counselling spaces, peer support programmes, family wellness programmes and ongoing emotional wellbeing education within the BDF," she added.





Hunting Ban Partially Back

Botswana has introduced strict new leopard hunting regulations, including a ban on hunting female leopards and tougher monitoring requirements, a move expected to reignite debate between conservation advocates and the trophy hunting industry



GAZETTE REPORTER

Botswana's controversial hunting debate is expected to intensify once again after government moved to tighten restrictions on leopard hunting. It is understood that the latest development has sparked concerns among some stakeholders that the country may be moving toward tighter controls on hunting activities.

Through Statutory Instrument No. 49 of 2026, the Minister of Environment and Tourism Wynter Mmolotsi has introduced strict new regulations governing the hunting of leopards under the Wildlife Conservation and National Parks Act.

The new regulations, published recently, come nearly seven years after Botswana lifted its nationwide hunting ban on May 23, 2019, overturning a blanket prohibition that had been imposed in 2014.

The new law, cited as the Wildlife Conservation and National Parks (Hunting and Licensing) (Amendment) Regulations, 2026, introduces what observers describe as one of the region's most stringent leopard hunting regulatory frameworks.

STRICTER HUNTING REQUIREMENTS INTRODUCED

Under the amendments, government has prohibited the hunting of female leopards. "No person shall hunt a leopard… that is female," the new regulations state.

The regulations further prohibit the hunting of male leopards that do not meet specific body and skull measurements. Hunters are now barred from shooting male leopards whose body length is less than 130 centimetres from the nose to the base of the tail, and whose skull size is below 13 inches.

The move is expected to have implications for Botswana's safari hunting industry, community trusts and operators involved in trophy hunting activities.

NEW MONITORING AND REPORTING OBLIGATIONS

Government has also introduced a detailed monitoring and reporting regime affecting hunters, professional guides and safari operators.

Every leopard hunt, whether successful or unsuccessful, must now be documented through a mandatory three-page Leopard Hunting Return Form to be submitted to the Department of Wildlife and National Parks (DWNP).

The form requires extensive information including GPS coordinates of the hunt, baiting activities, photographs of the animal, skull measurements, tooth condition, evidence of scars, and the presence or absence of a scrotum.

Hunters are also required to provide trail camera evidence, track records and photographs of leopard footprints around bait sites.

The regulations warn that failure to comply or submit the required forms to DWNP constitutes an offence punishable under Section 57 (6) of the Act.

DEBATE EXPECTED

The regulations also tighten controls around baiting methods used during hunts. Operators must now disclose the number of bait sites used, the number of bait nights, how many bait sites were fed on by leopards and detailed records of leopard activity around hunting zones.

> The new regulations, published recently, come nearly seven years after Botswana lifted its nationwide hunting ban on May 23, 2019, overturning a blanket prohibition that had been imposed in 2014.

The regulations further require high-quality colour photographs before skinning of the trophy, including detailed images of the face, teeth, scars, shoulders and hindquarters. The cleaned skull must also be photographed and documented before submission.

It is understood that the regulations are likely to reignite debate between conservationists and the trophy hunting sector, which has historically defended regulated hunting as a source of tourism revenue and community income.

Veteran Farmer Challenges CEDA's P1B Poultry Plan

Veteran farmer Timothy Kathurima says CEDA's P1 billion poultry plan risks entrenching monopolies instead of empowering small farmers

BONGANI MALUNGA

Veteran farmer Timothy Kathurima has urged the Citizen Entrepreneurial Development Agency (CEDA) to reconsider its planned P1 billion poultry funding initiative, arguing that the sector is already dominated by entrenched players and offers limited returns for ordinary Batswana farmers.

In a detailed proposal addressed to the CEDA chairperson, Kathurima warned that the poultry industry is structurally controlled by a powerful oligopoly, making it difficult for emerging farmers to compete fairly. He argued that the investment risks enriching a few dominant businesses instead of creating broad-based economic transformation.

"The poultry sector, as currently structured, represents neither the most effective nor the most inclusive deployment of this significant public capital," Kathurima stated in a letter addressed to the agency.

RELIANT ON IMPORTS

The seasoned farmer said Botswana's poultry value chain is heavily dependent on imported feed ingredients, exposing producers to exchange rate volatility and supply chain disruptions. He further noted that small-scale farmers face higher mortality rates and limited access to feed and chicks compared to large commercial operators.

Kathurima instead proposed that the P1 billion be redirected into aquaculture, leather processing, horticulture, dairy production and agro-processing, sectors he believes offer greater job creation and lower barriers to entry.



He proposed that P300 million be invested in fish farming, citing Botswana's heavy reliance on imported fish despite abundant water resources such as the Okavango Delta and Chobe River. "There is no dominant incumbent, no feed oligopoly, and no vertically integrated barrier to entry," he said of the aquaculture sector.

ALTERNATIVE SECTORS

Kathurima also called for P250 million to be channelled into leather and hides processing, arguing that Botswana continues to export raw hides while importing processed leather products worth hundreds of millions of pula annually.

On horticulture, he said Botswana still imports large volumes of vegetables despite favourable irrigation opportunities in areas such as Pandamatenga and Chobe. The farmer further suggested expanding dairy outgrower schemes and agro-processing facilities to reduce the country's dependence on imported milk and processed foods.

While acknowledging the political significance attached to the poultry programme, Kathurima cautioned against what he termed "symbolism" overriding sound economics.

"CEDA's P1 billion is a once-in-a-generation capital allocation," he wrote. "Deployed wisely, it could transform Botswana's agricultural economy, create thousands of sustainable jobs, and genuinely reduce import dependence."



Mohwasa's Phikwe Office Triggers Turf War

Selibe Phikwe East MP Kgoberego Nkawana has accused the Minister of State President Moeti Mohwasa of pursuing an unethical political strategy by allegedly using executive influence and resources to gain an advantage

GAZETTE REPORTER

A move by Minister of State President and specially elected Member of Parliament Moeti Mohwasa to establish an office in Selibe Phikwe has ignited a political confrontation, with accusations emerging that the initiative is less about public service and more about laying groundwork for future electoral ambitions.

The development has drawn sharp criticism from Selibe Phikwe East legislator Kgoberego Nkawana, who alleges that the minister is attempting to build an alternative power centre within the constituency by operating what he describes as a parallel constituency structure.

RESOURCE ADVANTAGE ABUSE

At the centre of the dispute is Nkawana's contention that Mohwasa, by virtue of his position within the executive, enjoys access to state machinery and resources that could create an uneven political playing field. "The establishment of the office risks blurring the lines between public service responsibilities and political manoeuvring," he said.

Nkawana believes the arrangement is intended to elevate Mohwasa's profile among residents by projecting him as a more effective channel for addressing local concerns and delivering assistance.

The criticism comes after Mohwasa told a weekend gathering in Selibe Phikwe that he had opened an office where members of "the public could seek assistance and support on matters affecting them".

ACT OF DESPERATION

But Nkawana suggests that the initiative amounts to using the influence of the executive to gain political leverage over an elected representative.

"Mohwasa's chicanery is at most embarrassing and an act of desperation. He will regret wasting state resources because the people have already read his mind," Nkawana said, further adding that Mohwasa must start by delivering at state level if he really is capable as he claims.

PUBLIC SERVICE

While Mohwasa framed the office as a service point intended to bring help closer to residents, Nkawana maintains that the development has instead created uncertainty within the constituency, with some residents allegedly unclear about which office carries official constituency responsibilities.

He also expressed concern over what he termed a lack of consultation, saying he had not been informed of Mohwasa's plans before the office was established.

> "The establishment of the office risks blurring the lines between public service responsibilities and political manoeuvring."

COMPETING POLITICAL INTERESTS

With Selibe Phikwe increasingly becoming the stage for competing political interests, the latest exchange may signal the beginning of a wider contest for influence in the constituency. Political observers argue that Mohwasa's move forms part of a broader BNF succession master plan, a calculated long-term strategy to elevate him towards the vice-presidency and ultimately the presidency.

Politics Still Dominates Ambassadorships

Career diplomats have complained that little has changed in Botswana's Foreign Service despite expectations that the new UDC government would reform ambassadorial appointments

GAZETTE REPORTER

Despite earlier assurances that reforms were being implemented to restore balance within Botswana's Foreign Service, career diplomats are increasingly concerned that opportunities for progression remain limited, with senior diplomatic postings still being filled from outside the profession rather than drawn from within the career diplomatic cadre.

PRACTICE MIRRORS THE PREVIOUS ADMINISTRATION

Under the former administration, career diplomats had long raised concerns that up to 75 percent of ambassadorial positions were awarded to political appointees rather than seasoned foreign service professionals. While the change in government raised expectations of a shift towards merit-based diplomatic appointments, insiders within the Foreign Service say little has changed in practice.

Minister of Foreign Affairs Phenyo Butale last year acknowledged the longstanding tensions within the system, telling Parliament that political appointments, while sometimes bringing "valuable dynamism and expertise," have also created "significant challenges" for institutional coherence and staff morale. He noted that the imbalance has particularly affected career diplomats who aspire to head missions abroad.

> "The new administration has not significantly altered the appointment culture inherited from the previous Botswana Democratic Party government."

COMPREHENSIVE REVIEW OF IMPACT

Butale further indicated that government is conducting a comprehensive review of the impact of political appointments on the Foreign Service, with a view to introducing clearer guidelines and appointment criteria. He warned that the current approach risks undermining the Ministry's ability to effectively execute its mandate and could deepen frustrations among long-serving diplomats.



However, despite these commitments, career diplomats say they are yet to see meaningful change, with some expressing disappointment that "the new administration has not significantly altered the appointment culture inherited from the previous Botswana Democratic Party (BDP) government". They argue that continued reliance on outsiders' risks demoralising the professional cadre and weakening institutional memory within Botswana's diplomatic corps.

QUESTIONABLE AND UNFAIR TRANSFERS

Ministry officials have also raised concerns over past transfers of career diplomats from key positions under unclear circumstances, describing the lack of transparency as detrimental to trust within the service. Officials maintain that any future reforms must prioritise fairness, professionalism, and alignment with national interest if Botswana's diplomatic credibility is to be preserved.

Ombudsman Eyes Private Sector Rights Violations

Following its newly conferred human rights mandate, the Ombudsman says the expanded role will extend beyond public service maladministration into the private sector, including the protection of human dignity in workplaces, service delivery, and corporate practices

GAZETTE REPORTER

Concerns over human rights violations within the private sector have emerged as a key target area in the Ombudsman's newly operationalised human rights mandate, following the formal conferral of National Human Rights Institution functions by Parliament.

The expanded mandate, now anchored in law, gives the Ombudsman authority not only to investigate maladministration in public service but also to address human rights violations across broader society, including private sector entities where issues such as labour conditions, service access, discrimination and corporate accountability increasingly arise.

The development follows the passage of legislation formalising a government decision to amend the Ombudsman Act of 1995, aligning Botswana's governance framework with international standards for National Human Rights Institutions.

PRIVATE SECTOR UNDER THE RADAR

At the centre of the rollout is a shift in focus towards violations that occur outside the traditional state machinery, with the private sector now firmly within the institution's emerging oversight radar.

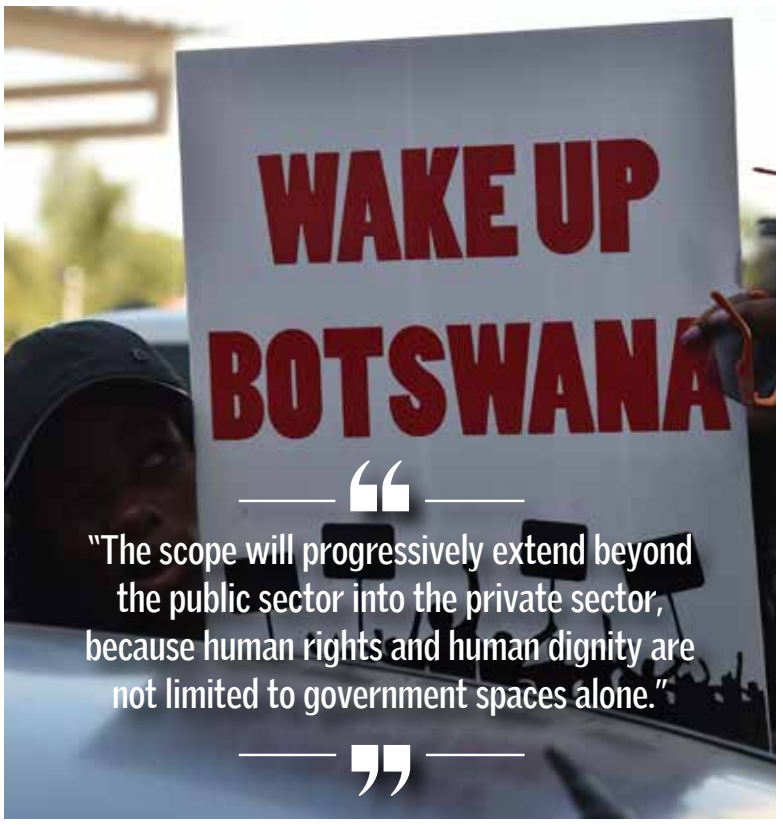
Speaking to this publication, Ombudsman Stephen Tiroyakgosi said the institution was already operationalising the expanded mandate and preparing to scale up its reach beyond government departments.

"We are now rolling down our human rights mandate in a structured manner," Tiroyakgosi said. "The scope will progressively extend beyond the public sector into the private sector, because human rights and human dignity are not limited to government spaces alone. Where there are violations—whether in employment, service delivery or access to basic rights—we are mandated to respond."

IDENTIFYING PRIORITY AREAS

He said early implementation work is already identifying priority areas in the private sector, including workplace conditions, unequal treatment in service provision, and potential abuses in corporate practices that affect vulnerable groups.

The Ombudsman stressed that the expansion does not dilute the office's traditional role but rather strengthens it by recognising that modern human rights challenges often arise in spaces where private actors exercise significant power over individuals' lives.



THE SHIFT

The shift effectively transforms the Ombudsman into a hybrid oversight institution, combining administrative justice with a broader human rights protection function, a model consistent with international best practice for National Human Rights Institutions.

The rollout is expected to be phased, with initial emphasis on awareness, complaint-handling systems, and institutional readiness before deeper enforcement and monitoring mechanisms are fully embedded across both public and private sectors.

Commenting on his recent work on the state of public health, Tiroyakgosi said engagements with the Ministry of Health are ongoing, adding that the public will soon be informed of the remedial measures and commitments agreed upon. He said his objective, resources permitting, is to conduct at least three to four such public interest investigations.

S/Africa Confronts Botswana Over Veggies Ban

Botswana's latest vegetable import restrictions have triggered renewed friction with South Africa, with Pretoria accusing Gaborone of inadequate communication and warning that trade uncertainty is disrupting agricultural producers and exporters across the region

GAZETTE REPORTER

South Africa has confronted Botswana over fresh restrictions on vegetable imports. The latest move has escalated tensions between the two neighbouring countries amid growing complaints from South African farmers and exporters over blocked agricultural produce at the border.

The issue took centre stage during the Sixth Session of the Bi-National Commission (BNC) between Botswana and South Africa held in Gaborone on May 21, 2026, where Cyril Ramaphosa led his country's delegation.

CONCERNS OVER TRADE TRANSPARENCY

South African Minister of Agriculture John Steenhuisen openly raised concerns over Botswana's handling of import restrictions, saying South African agricultural products were allegedly being blocked without formal communication despite previous agreements reached during the 2022 BNC talks.

Steenhuisen warned that the lack of transparency was undermining trade relations and creating uncertainty for producers and retailers on both sides of the border.



"We believe that trade matters affecting our two countries should always be addressed through constructive engagement, transparency, mutual respect and amicable bilateral solutions," Steenhuisen said.

The South African minister said the two governments have now endorsed a Communication Protocol and agreed to establish a Bilateral Agricultural Trade Task Team by June 2026 to prevent future disputes from escalating.

LONG-RUNNING DISPUTE RESURFACES

The latest standoff threatens to reopen tensions over Botswana's controversial restrictions on South African vegetables and other agricultural produce, a policy that has repeatedly angered farmers and exporters in South Africa who accuse Botswana of using protectionist measures to shield local producers.

Botswana has in recent years tightened import controls on several vegetables as part of efforts to promote domestic agricultural production and reduce dependence on imports. However, South African stakeholders argue that sudden border restrictions disrupt supply chains and hurt regional trade integration within the Southern African Development Community.

Steenhuisen said improved communication and coordination between the two countries were critical for restoring confidence in cross-border trade.

"Greater coordination and transparency will provide increased certainty to producers, exporters, retailers and agricultural stakeholders on both sides of the border while strengthening the long-term agricultural relationship between our countries," he said.

BROADER AGRICULTURAL AND SECURITY CONCERNS

Beyond the vegetable dispute, the two countries also discussed growing concerns over Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD), stock theft and animal traceability systems.

Steenhuisen welcomed the endorsement of a comprehensive 2026–2028 Action Plan aimed at strengthening cooperation in combating transboundary animal diseases. He called for urgent implementation of coordinated vaccination campaigns and stronger maintenance of border fences.

"With FMD posing an ongoing regional threat to livestock production, rural livelihoods and agricultural trade, it is clear that no country can defeat this disease in isolation," he said.

The ministers responsible for agriculture in both countries were directed by Cyril Ramaphosa and Duma Boko to accelerate implementation of measures aimed at eradicating transboundary diseases and improving market access for agricultural products.

The BNC further endorsed plans to establish a cross-border Stock Theft Management Task Force by September 2026 after law enforcement agencies identified stock theft as the leading cross-border crime affecting farmers in both Botswana and South Africa.

The two countries also agreed to strengthen regional biosecurity cooperation ahead of the upcoming SADC Agriculture Ministerial Meeting in Zimbabwe later this month, where disease control and agricultural trade are expected to dominate discussions.

SOEs Drain Billions



Year after year, the public hears of SOEs trapped in cycles of losses, rising debt and chronic reliance on the taxpayer. The big question is: at what point does continued absorption of failure become unsustainable for the state, and what will it take to enforce real accountability and reforms?

TEFO PHEAGE AND DOUGLAS RASBASH

The growing reliance on the taxpayer to sustain underperforming entities has intensified calls for tougher governance measures, stricter oversight and consequences for persistent failure.

The central question now confronting policymakers is whether the current model of state ownership is delivering value for money—or whether it is deepening a structural burden that the economy can ill afford.

The Parliamentary Standing Committee on Statutory Bodies and State-Owned Enterprises began examining SOEs this month but findings are that despite repeated restructuring efforts and governance reforms over the years, several key entities tasked with delivering essential services and driving economic development are now being funded to survive.

For many observers, the concern is no longer just about underperformance, but the systemic nature of the challenges. Weak financial controls and recurring bailouts have raised fresh concerns about whether corrective measures are yielding meaningful results or simply managing symptoms.

The findings, this time around, come at a time when the country is grappling with tightening fiscal space, where competing demands on public resources are increasing while revenue pressures remain evident.

SOCIALISES LOSSES WHILE DILUTING ACCOUNTABILITY

Economists argue that "Botswana's challenge is not just SOEs underperformance, but a system that socialises losses while diluting accountability". They advise on hardening discipline, reducing the SOE footprint, and ensuring that public money only supports entities that can justify their existence either economically or socially.

> "The SOE debate is now about whether Botswana's system of ownership, oversight and accountability is strong enough to manage some of the country's most important public assets."

Our review estimates that major commercial SOEs collectively turn over between P22 billion and P30 billion annually, with assets spread across electricity, telecommunications, transport, water, finance, agriculture, tourism, logistics and strategic infrastructure. The same review estimates annual transfers at about P6.6 billion, guarantees at P15.4 billion, aggregate losses above P2 billion and contingent liabilities exceeding P10 billion.

Those figures place SOEs at the centre of Botswana's public finance debate. They also raise a sharper question for Parliament and the Executive: whether the current model of state ownership is still able to deliver value for money.

The Leader of Opposition Dumelang Saleshando has urged the state to close down or privatise non-performing entities.

The issue is not that SOEs have no role. Many provide services the private sector may not deliver fully, including electricity, water, transport, agricultural support, development finance and strategic infrastructure. The difficulty is that several entities are expected to operate commercially while also carrying social, developmental and political obligations that are not always clearly costed.

AIR BOTSWANA

Air Botswana has provided one of the clearest recent examples of the strain inside the sector. Appearing before the committee on 12 May, General Manager Dr Bao Mosinyi told Parliament that the airline had suffered years of governance instability, including incomplete boards, weak quorum and acting appointments in key positions.

The airline also laid bare its financial position. According to reporting from the hearing, Air Botswana recorded peak revenue of P330 million at the end of 2024 but continued to post losses between 2021 and December 2025. Its highest net loss stood at P204 million, while government support over the same period amounted to more than P523 million.

The airline's debt burden has also deepened. A P230 million government loan advanced in 2018 has reportedly grown to more than P304 million with interest, with management now seeking to have the debt converted into equity because the airline is unable to repay it.

Operationally, the picture is equally strained. Air Botswana has six government purchased aircraft, but only three are operational. One aircraft reportedly needs more than P40 million in repairs, while two others have been held in Namibia over non-payment issues.

BAMB LOSSES

The Botswana Agricultural Marketing Board has also come under scrutiny. Recent reporting from the committee says BAMB is considering a major overhaul after losses of P112.4 million between 2022 and 2025, with allegations of fraud, procurement weaknesses and operational failures.

The pressure on BAMB also highlights the difficulty of judging SOEs that carry public policy responsibilities. The entity exists partly to support food security and provide a market for local farmers, but recent reports say it is owed about P48 million by debtors while struggling to pay around P66 million owed to farmers.

WEAK OVERSIGHT

Botswana, it appears, still manages many SOEs through fragmented ministerial structures rather than as a single national investment portfolio. Entities are spread across ministries with different reporting systems, governance standards, procurement practices and oversight arrangements.

This fragmentation can blur accountability. Ministries may be responsible for policy, board oversight, budget defence and sector supervision at the same time. In some cases, entities operate in sectors where the separation between owner, regulator and operator is not always clear.

Botswana Telecommunications Corporation, Gambling Authority and Botswana Power Corporation ranked among stronger performers, while Air Botswana, Botswana Railways, Botswana Agricultural Marketing Board, Botswana Tourism Organisation and Botswana Meat Commission appeared in higher risk categories.

REFORM DELAYS

Government has acknowledged the need for reform before. The 2024 Budget Speech said SOEs rationalisation was continuing, but also noted that most ministries, departments and agencies were lagging behind set targets because of the complexity of the process. It also referred to a Code of Corporate Governance and a State Owned Enterprises Ownership Policy intended to improve oversight and performance monitoring.

The latest Parliamentary Accounts Committee hearings suggested that the implementation gap remains wide. Parliament Speaker Dithapelo Keorapetse warned this month that audit reports should not be treated as historical records, but as warning signals requiring action.

For taxpayers, the question is becoming increasingly direct. How much public money should continue flowing into entities that repeatedly require bailouts, guarantees or debt relief, and what measurable public value is being received in return?

The SOEs debate is therefore no longer only about whether individual entities can be turned around. It is now about whether Botswana's entire system of ownership, oversight and accountability is strong enough to manage some of the country's most important public assets.



JWANENG MINE HOSTS TRIPLE PROGRAMME

DEBSWANA
Mining diamonds, enriching the nation



















1 – Minister of Sports and Arts, Hon. Jacob Kelebeng, together with Jwaneng Mine General Manager, Mr. Goitseone Gadifele, cutting the ribbon to officially open the Magagarape Road for use.

2 - Jwaneng Mine Corporate Affairs Manager, Mr. Allan Molefhe, directing the proceedings.

3 – Letlhakeng District Commissioner, Mr. Ian Tema, introducing the guests.

4 – Jwaneng District Commissioner, Mr. Goleba Kgari introducing the Jwaneng leadership.

5 – Jwaneng Town Mayor, His Worship, Ronica Ntsimako delivering the welcome remarks.

6 – Jwaneng Mine General Manager, Mr. Goitseone Gadifele, sharing the Jwaneng Socio- Economic Development Program

7 – Minister of Sports and Arts, Member of Parliament for Takatokwane, Hon. Jacob Kelebeng giving a keynote address

8 – Jwaneng Mine Project Manager, Mr. Motlhabani Kemorwale, presenting the Magagarape Road Project Overview.

9 – Letlhakeng Deputy Council Chairman. Mr. Johane Gaosafelwe delivering a vote of thanks.

Jwaneng Mine opens critical link road, breaks ground on a new arts centre and hosts a community open day in a single coordinated event.

JWANENG – Government officials, mine executives and community leaders gathered in Jwaneng on 22 May 2026 for a three-part programme comprising the official opening of the 40-kilometre Magagarape Road, the groundbreaking of the Jwaneng Arts and Crafts Centre, and a public open day at Jwaneng.

MAGAGARAPE ROAD OPENING
The programme started with the commissioning of the Magagarape Wellfields–Jwaneng Mine Road, which will serve to improve connectivity, safety and operational access between the wellfields and the mine.

Keynote speaker, Minister of Sports and Arts and Member of Parliament for Takatokwane, Hon. Jacob Kelebeng said infrastructure development played a central role in linking communities to economic opportunity and essential services, while also supporting national development priorities. He highlighted this as another example of the impact of our diamonds on the lives of Batswana through sustainable development.

Jwaneng Mine General Manager, Mr. Goitseone Gadifele said the road formed part of the mine's socio-economic development programme and would strengthen both operational efficiency and regional connectivity. He said that Jwaneng Mine would continue investing in surrounding communities

ARTS CENTRE GROUNDBREAKING
The programme later moved to the groundbreaking of the Jwaneng Arts and Crafts Centre, a project aimed at supporting creative industry development and alternative livelihoods.

Jwaneng-Mabutsane Member of Parliament, Hon. Omphemetse Kwapa said the initiative reflected efforts to promote economic diversification beyond mining, particularly for youth, women and people living with disabilities.

Jwaneng Mine Senior Technical Support Services Manager Mr. Segolame Ntwayagae said the centre would serve the 18 villages within the mine's area of influence, with a population of more than 32,000 people. It will focus on skills development, enterprise support, and improved market access for local producers in the arts and crafts sector.

The centre will form part of the bigger plan to develop and grow eco-tourism in Jwaneng, taking advantage of the already existing Jwaneng Game Park which sits strategically along the Trans-Kalahari Highway.

DEVELOPMENT FOCUS
Speakers linked the project to broader national development frameworks, including Vision 2036 and Debswana's long-term socio-economic strategy. They said the initiative was designed to strengthen cultural tourism and small business growth while reducing reliance on mining-related employment.
Presentations also highlighted existing training programmes and participation by local beneficiaries in exhibitions and trade fairs.

OPEN DAY ENGAGEMENT
The final segment of the programme featured the Jwaneng Mine Open Day, where the public toured exhibition stalls and engaged with various departments on operations, safety, environmental management, and community programmes.

The event concluded after stakeholder interactions and exhibitions showcasing ongoing mine and community development initiatives.

'The initiative reflects efforts to promote economic diversification beyond mining, particularly for youth, women, and people living with disabilities.'







10 – Minister of Sports and Arts and Member of Parliament for Takatokwane, Hon. Jacob Kelebeng, officiating the commencement of the Arts and Crafts Project

11 – Senior Technical Support Services Manager, Mr. Segolame Ntwayagae sharing the overview of the Arts and Crafts Project Overview

12 – Jwaneng Mabutsane Member of Parliament, Hon. Omphemetse Kwapa, giving a vote of thanks at the Arts and Crafts grounds.

13 – Leadership in attendance, witnessing a moment of truth – the groundbreaking of the Arts and Crafts project







14 – The Jwaneng Mine Support Services department exhibiting their work at the Jwaneng Open Day

15 – Jwaneng Mine Social Impact Manager, Ms. Tebogo Gareitsanye interacting with one of the exhibitors at the Open Day

16 – Social Performance Manager, Ms. Elsie Mvimi explaining their role in the Jwaneng Underground Project

17 – Attendants appreciating work in exhibition





The Botswana Gazette
BUSINESSNEWS

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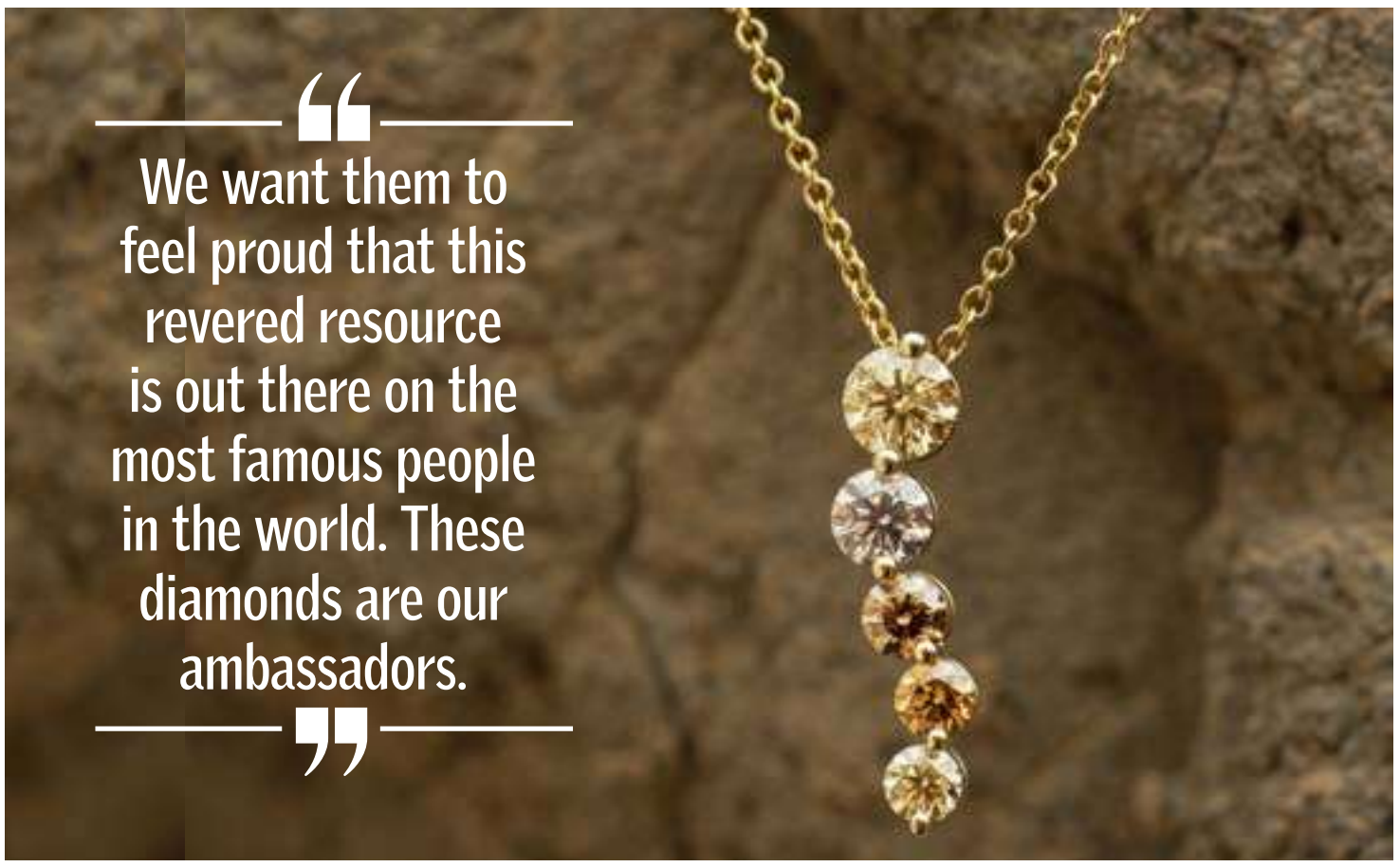

Desert Diamonds Take JCK Stage

As the global jewellery industry gathers in Las Vegas, De Beers' Desert Diamonds campaign places natural colour, individuality and origin at the centre of renewed demand for natural diamonds.

GAZETTE REPORTER

GLOBAL STAGE

The global jewellery industry gathers in Las Vegas this week for JCK, one of the world's most influential jewellery trade events, where De Beers is expected to continue pushing its Desert Diamonds campaign to retailers, designers, buyers and the wider luxury market.

JCK 2026 runs from 29 May to 1 June at The Venetian Expo in Las Vegas, with selected events opening on 28 May, including JCK Talks, GEMS featuring AGTA, and the Hong Kong Pavilion. The event is described by organisers as one of the jewellery industry's most important global gatherings, bringing together key players across the diamond, gemstone, retail and luxury jewellery value chain.

For De Beers, the Las Vegas platform comes at a time when natural diamonds are being repositioned for a younger, more expressive and more culturally aware consumer. At the centre of that effort is Desert Diamonds, a campaign that moves away from the narrow image of diamonds as only white, flawless and formal, and instead celebrates the full natural colour range of diamonds.

DESERT PALETTE

In written responses to The Botswana Gazette, Sally Morrison, De Beers' Natural Diamonds Market Lead, said the campaign is built around the naturally occurring colour palette of diamonds.

"The central idea of the campaign is to use the naturally occurring color palette of diamonds as a metaphor to represent the uniqueness of each and every diamond that comes from the earth," Morrison said. "These colors are reflective of the earth from which they come and the traces of their individual journeys."

NEW CONSUMER

The campaign also speaks to younger consumers who value individuality, culture, self expression and provenance alongside traditional luxury. Asked whether Desert Diamonds is aimed at that consumer shift, Morrison's answer was direct: "Definitely yes!"

"We know that consumers are looking to express their individuality, and want their jewelry to signal their own uniqueness and that of their most important relationships. By drawing attention to the vast range of naturally occurring colors, we are able to offer this."

CELEBRITY POWER

De Beers has also used major cultural figures to carry the campaign into mainstream visibility. Morrison said the choice of personalities is strategic and tied to where culture is moving.

"Each year, we give great strategic thought to who will be most visible in the culture and we seek to engage them," she said. "As an example, we knew that Bad Bunny would have a major international tour starting last summer, so we began to work with him to make sure he wore Desert Diamonds in his major appearances."

She said Ciara's involvement also grew naturally from her visibility and connection to Botswana.

"We had worked with Ciara from the launch of the campaign because she was very visibly promoting her music," Morrison said. "She had also had the opportunity to visit Botswana, and loved it there, so she immediately agreed to be part of this."

BOTSWANA SOURCE

For Botswana, the campaign carries added interest because Morrison says Botswana sourced diamonds are part of some of its most visible pieces.

"Since Botswana produces some of the most beautiful natural diamonds in the world, and those diamonds come from the rich earth of the country, it is very important to us to call out this origin story," she said, "particularly in some of the most important pieces for the red carpet, and the very visible pieces that appear in our most recent campaign, all of which are designed with Botswana source diamonds."

As JCK opens, the campaign gives Botswana audiences a window into how diamonds from the country are being positioned in the global market. Morrison said De Beers wants Batswana to recognise that visibility when they see international figures wearing diamonds connected to Botswana.

"We want them to feel proud that this revered resource is out there on the most famous people in the world," she said. "These diamonds are our ambassadors."



Huawei Unveils nova 15 Max in Botswana



LEATILE ZACHARIAH

Huawei Botswana has officially launched the new HUAWEI nova 15 Max in Gaborone this Tuesday, introducing a smartphone designed to meet the growing demands of modern digital lifestyles and strengthen the company's position in the local handset market.

The launch marks another step in Huawei's renewed focus on Botswana, where the company aims to offer devices that combine performance, durability and everyday practicality. Huawei also reaffirmed its partnership with Cell City, which will distribute the nova 15 Max through retail stores nationwide.

Focus on the Botswana Market

Speaking at the launch, Huawei Botswana Device Department Manager Frank Qi said Botswana continues to be a key market for the brand, driven by demand for reliable and innovative technology.

"Consumers today want devices that fit naturally into their daily lives, whether for work, entertainment, communication or content creation. The HUAWEI nova 15 Max was developed with those needs in mind," he said.

Addressing Consumer Concerns

Huawei Botswana Marketing Specialist Tumelo Mabifhi said the company is returning to the market with a stronger focus on usability and accessibility, particularly around app services that previously raised concern among consumers.

"Huawei has been quiet in the Botswana market, but we are back, and we are here to give Batswana something practical and efficient," she said. "Google services are available, and the experience is seamless. Users will have no issues using the apps they rely on every day."

Battery and Performance Highlights

A major highlight of the nova 15 Max is its 8500mAh battery, designed to support extended usage without frequent charging. The device also features reverse charging, enabling users to power other Huawei devices directly from the phone.

Tech content creator Waydacayn, who attended the event, said the device is particularly suited for heavy users and content creators who depend on their smartphones throughout the day.

"For me, battery life is at the top of the list," he said. "I've been using the phone for a couple of days while recording content, and it still holds charge very well. That kind of endurance is very important for creators."

Design, Camera and User Experience

He also noted the phone's design, quick-access features and seamless integration within Huawei's ecosystem.

The device further includes durability enhancements such as water and dust resistance, along with improved drop protection. For photography, it offers a 50MP Ultra Vision camera with AI-powered portrait capabilities, alongside a large OLED display and dual stereo speakers for an immersive viewing and audio experience.

When Every Pula Demands Hard Choices

Households across Botswana are recalculating daily spending as inflation reshapes food, transport, and basic living costs

GAZETTE REPORTER



At a butcher in Gaborone, meat is selling at about P120/kg, compared to around P60/kg in previous periods, reflecting broader price pressures affecting households across Botswana.

The Botswana Meat Commission (BMC) has listed a range of premium beef cuts at its Lobatse, Broadhurst and BAMB Grand Store outlets as consumers continue to face rising food costs.

According to prices published through BMC public relations platforms, fillet is priced at P305.55/kg, while ribeye and striploin are selling at P216.60/kg and P212.05/kg respectively. Rump heart is listed at P159.60/kg, topside at P156.20/kg, and eyeround at P125.40/kg. Silverside flats fat on is priced at P117.45/kg, knuckle at P116.30/kg, and stewing beef at P85.50/kg.

SUPPLY LIMITS

The increases come as Botswana experiences broader inflationary pressure, with the annual inflation rate recorded at 10.3 percent in April 2026. In the southern parts of the country, Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) restrictions have limited farmers' ability to slaughter cattle, tightening supply and contributing to upward pressure on beef prices, alongside wider inflation affecting essential goods including vegetables, fuel, cooking essentials, and transport costs.

For many households, the shift has turned routine grocery shopping into a calculation of priorities and trade-offs.

"Every week when I go shopping, something has gone up again," said 33-year-old gym instructor Lesly Molatlhegi. "Meat is now a luxury. I only buy it once in a while, not like before. Most of the time we eat simpler meals just to survive the month."

He added that shopping decisions are now more deliberate. "You stand in the shop and you start removing things from your basket. You ask yourself: do I need this, or can I leave it?"

TRANSPORT STRAIN

Transport costs are also adding pressure for commuters who rely on taxis or buses, forcing some to adjust travel habits or reduce spending elsewhere.

Tertiary student Kefilwe Sepotoka said the impact extends beyond food. "It's not just food. Transport to campus, data, printing—everything is expensive now. Sometimes I skip meals just to make sure I have money to get to school."

BUSINESS SQUEEZE

Small businesses are similarly affected. Onalenna Mogale, who operates a fruit and vegetable stall in Broadhurst, said rising supplier prices are affecting her margins.

"Customers complain that things are expensive, but even for us to restock, it costs more every week," she said. "It's like pressure from both sides."

A restaurant owner in Village, Gaborone, who requested anonymity, said pricing decisions have become increasingly difficult. The restaurant sells a plate of food for P45.00.

"We recently had a meeting with staff where we discussed whether to increase prices," the owner said. "But then we came to the conclusion that this will chase our customers. They are already feeling the pinch at their homes, so increasing would make things worse. We decided to control portions, more especially meat."

DAILY CALCULUS

As prices continue to rise across key essentials, households and businesses alike are adjusting consumption, pricing, and priorities.

"For many households, every pula now has to work harder than before," the report concludes.

Botswana Oil Profit Nears Half-Billion Pula

State-owned fuel supplier projects nearly half-a-billion pula in pre-tax profit as it expands storage capacity and strengthens supply operations amid regional fuel market volatility



GAZETTE REPORTER

Botswana Oil Limited recorded a sharp rise in profitability during the 2025-2026 financial year, with provisional profit before tax reaching approximately P498 million, according to Latelang Chakalisa.

Appearing before the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Statutory Bodies and State Enterprises Examination on Monday, Chakalisa said the company's profit after tax stood at P388 million, subject to external audit validation currently underway.

The latest figures mark a significant increase from previous years. Botswana Oil posted profit before tax of P99 million in the 2022-2023 financial year, before declining to approximately P69 million in 2023-2024 during what Chakalisa described as a "transitional operating period ahead of the implementation of the import mandate."

Profitability later accelerated following the implementation of the fuel import mandate and the scaling up of operations. In 2024-2025, profit before tax rose to P282 million, while profit after tax reached P246 million.

"One of the strongest indicators of Botswana Oil's transformation during the reporting period has been the significant improvement in the company's profitability and overall commercial sustainability," Chakalisa told the committee.

DIVIDEND PAYOUTS

The company also increased returns to government through dividend distributions.

Botswana Oil declared its first dividend payout of P10 million for the 2023-2024 financial year. The payout later increased to P44 million for 2024-2025, while a projected P80 million dividend is expected for the financial year ending March 2026, pending audit approval and internal processes.

Chakalisa said the company's dividend policy was designed to balance shareholder returns with the retention of sufficient capital for operations and long-term sustainability.

FUEL SECURITY

The company said Botswana remained vulnerable to fuel supply disruptions because of its dependence on regional supply routes as a land-linked country.

As of May 22, 2026, government strategic fuel stocks stood at approximately 41.5 million litres, translating to about 12.2 days of national fuel cover. Petrol stock stood at 8.4 days, while diesel stood at 16.4 days.

"With the current storage infrastructure that is both Gaborone and Francistown, Botswana is only able to maintain approximately 15 days of fuel cover," Chakalisa said.

EXPANSION PLANS

Botswana Oil said it was continuing work on fuel storage expansion projects in Francistown and Ghanzi.

The Francistown depot expansion is expected to add 60 million litres of storage capacity, increasing total capacity to 98 million litres. The planned Ghanzi depot is expected to add a further 30 million litres.

Upon completion, Botswana's strategic fuel cover is projected to increase to 60 days by late 2026 or early 2027.

"We acknowledge that progress has been slow as compared to anticipated," Chakalisa said.

Copper Anomalies Found In Northern Botswana

AI-assisted study identifies 36 copper targets across northern Botswana licences, signalling early-stage exploration momentum in an under-explored mineral corridor

GAZETTE REPORTER

Botswana Minerals plc, the AIM- and Botswana Stock Exchange-listed copper and diamond exploration company, says an AI-assisted exploration study across two of its eight northern Botswana licences has identified 36 copper anomalies grouped within six exploration corridors.

The company said the work is part of an ongoing programme to evaluate data from its wider licence portfolio, with the remaining six licences still under analysis. Fieldwork aimed at prioritising drilling targets is expected to begin within three months.

GEOLOGICAL CORRIDOR

The licences are located within a geological corridor linking Namibia's Damara Belt with the Central African Copperbelt of Zambia and the Democratic Republic of Congo. The company describes this region as one of Africa's most significant copper systems.

"There is no doubt that AI techniques are revolutionising identification of mineral targets."

According to the announcement, the anomalies share characteristics with several major operating and historical deposits. The broader belt is associated with sediment-hosted copper systems formed during the Pan-African collision of the Congo and Kalahari Cratons, and is considered highly prospective despite limited modern exploration in northern Botswana.

NEXT STEPS

Botswana Minerals said it will apply the same AI-assisted methodology across its remaining six licences, refine and rank the 36 identified targets, and plan field programmes focused on the highest-priority corridors.

Further announcements are expected as the exploration work advances.

COMPANY COMMENT

John Teeling, Chairman of Botswana Minerals, said: "There is no doubt that AI techniques are revolutionising identification of mineral targets. The ongoing analysis of our huge database continues to provide outstanding results."

He added: "The work complete to date, covering two of our eight licences in northern Botswana, has identified 36 copper anomalies."

Teeling said the next phase would involve deeper analysis to rank the anomalies and guide fieldwork and potential drilling decisions, using data drawn from copper deposits worldwide to identify comparable geological settings.





Botswana Launches Green Value Chains

EU-backed programme signals a shift toward sustainable industrial growth and job creation amid global economic transition

GAZETTE REPORTER

The Botswana government has launched a new Green Value Chain Development for Job Creation Programme under a financing agreement with the European Union, framing the initiative as part of a broader effort to strengthen sustainable economic growth and international cooperation.

Speaking at the official launch on 25 May 2026, Botswana Minister of Trade and Entrepreneurship, Tiroeaone Ntsima, said the programme marked more than a policy milestone.

“As this important day draws to a close, we do so with the quiet satisfaction of knowing that what we have witnessed is not merely the launch of a flagship programme, but the dawn of a new journey the opening of a promising chapter that we now begin to write together,” Ntsima said.

He described the event as “a mirror that reflects the strength of Botswana’s partnerships and the enduring value of sustained international cooperation in advancing our national development priorities.”

EU PARTNERSHIP

Ntsima acknowledged the role of the European Union, saying it had remained “a reliable partner a steady hand through changing seasons,” and commended its support for Botswana’s economic transformation agenda.

He said the programme reflected shared commitments to “sustainable development, inclusive growth, and the empowerment of our people.”

TECHNICAL SUPPORT

The minister also recognised the International Trade Centre for its role in providing technical leadership and working closely with Botswana state-owned enterprises.

“We have seen, with our own eyes, the depth of engagement between the ITC and our state-owned enterprises in ensuring that this programme delivers concrete and measurable results for our nation,” he said.

GLOBAL CONTEXT

Ntsima said the initiative comes at a time when “the global landscape is shifting beneath our feet,” with countries increasingly required to develop economies that are “not only competitive, but also resilient, sustainable, and firmly aligned with global environmental commitments.”

He said Botswana’s focus on green value chains was both strategic and timely, positioning the country for participation in emerging global markets where “sustainability is no longer a distant aspiration but the very currency of trade, of investment, and of consumer preference.”

IMPLEMENTATION

The minister emphasised the importance of execution, calling for “strong coordination, transparency, and an unbroken thread of dialogue among all stakeholders.”

He added that the government, as lead ministry, would “remain a steadfast partner to this programme, working hand in hand with all relevant stakeholders to ensure that the interests of Batswana are fully and faithfully advanced.”

Ntsima concluded by expressing optimism about the programme’s impact across the country, saying it would affect “communities, enterprises, and institutions across the length and breadth of Botswana.”

Inflation Seen Peaking Again In July

Botswana’s inflation is projected to peak in July before easing, as transport costs drive a sharp rise in consumer prices and household pressure builds

GAZETTE REPORTER

“The surge to 10.3 percent was driven largely by a sharp increase in transport prices, with the transport index contributing 7.4 ppts to the overall reading,” said Gomolemo Basele, an experienced quantitative analyst with a banking background.

He noted that a fuel price hike at the end of March resulted in a 33.8 percent m/m increase in the cost of operating personal transportation, while transport services rose 16.6 percent. As a result, the transport group index increased 21.1 percent m/m in April.

“We expect inflation to peak in July before moderating, and reverting to the central banks objective range in 2Q27.”

HOUSEHOLD PRESSURE BUILDS

Basele said other group indices have also continued to rise, including miscellaneous goods and services, as well as food and non-alcoholic beverages. He said this points to heightened pressure on household incomes and spending.

“In the absence of above-inflation salary increments, this pressure will persist for as long as inflation remains elevated by eroding consumer purchasing power,” he said in an interview.

PEAK BEFORE JULY

Basele expects inflation to peak in July before moderating, eventually reverting to the central bank’s objective range in the second quarter of 2027 (2Q27). He added that some measures have helped ease pressure, including the suspension of several levies that affect retail pump prices.

He also noted that fuel prices remain exposed to developments in the Middle East, leaving the outlook vulnerable to external shocks.

“Given that other group indices have continued to tick up… points to heightened pressure on household incomes and spending,” Basele said.

Access Bank Upgrades Deaf Centre

Access Bank Botswana staffraised more than P180,000 to refurbish the Ramotswa Centre for the Deaf library, giving hearing impaired learners improved access to books, specialised learning materials and a more child friendly learning environment.

LEATILE ZACHARIAH

COMMITMENT TO INCLUSIVE EDUCATION

Access Bank Botswana has reinforced its commitment to inclusive education through the refurbishment of learning facilities at the Ramotswa Centre for the Deaf, creating an improved environment aimed at strengthening early childhood development for hearing-impaired learners.

Employee-Led Community Investment

The upgrade was delivered through the Bank's Employee Volunteering Programme (EVP), with staff from the Banking Operations team collectively raising over P180,000 to fund the project. The initiative reflects a growing culture of employee-led social impact, where staff actively identify, design, and implement community development projects.

UPGRADED LEARNING ENVIRONMENT

The refurbishment transformed the Centre's library into a more functional and child-friendly space. Improvements included replacing the thatched roof, repainting interiors, installing new shelving, carpets and seating, as well as supplying books and specialised learning materials tailored to support literacy development among deaf learners.

The Centre accommodates around 100 children aged between 2 and 13, many of whom rely heavily on visual learning methods. The upgraded facility is expected to significantly improve access to educational resources and enhance the overall learning experience.



EMPLOYEE VOLUNTEERING IMPACT

Speaking at the handover, Access Bank Head of Brand, Marketing & Communications, Duduetsang Molloy, said the EVP enables employees to take ownership of meaningful community interventions. Molloy noted that the programme has been active since the bank's entry into Botswana five years ago, with initiatives including town clean-ups in Selebi-Phikwe, tree planting, and World Cleanup Day activities that have reached thousands of people.

Molloy added that the goal is to improve lives beyond banking services, ensuring employees actively contribute to communities through structured volunteering across education, health, entrepreneurship, and environmental projects.

PROJECT COORDINATION

The EVP project was coordinated by Finance Manager and EVP Project Coordinator, Elias Setshwantsho, who oversaw planning, staff mobilisation, and execution to ensure the successful delivery of the initiative.

COMMUNITY AND TRADITIONAL LEADERSHIP SUPPORT

Paramount Chief of GaMalete, Kgosi Mosadi Seboko, welcomed the initiative. She urged the community to protect and fully utilise the facility, noting that the library belongs not only to the school but to the wider community and will benefit surrounding communities for years to come. "Access to knowledge is a powerful tool for empowerment," she said.

She also expressed appreciation to Access Bank for its continued support and commitment to education and community development.

LONG-TERM COMMITMENT TO INCLUSIVE EDUCATION

The handover marks a key milestone in Access Bank's long-term CSR commitment to the Ramotswa Centre for the Deaf, with further support planned over the next three years aimed at sustaining learning resources and strengthening inclusive education outcomes.

NMG Summit Urges Retirement Rethink

NMG says Botswana must move beyond narrow pension planning and confront retirement as a wider national challenge involving money, health, family stability, emotional readiness and long term dignity.

LEATILE ZACHARIAH

A strong call for a more integrated and human centred approach to retirement planning emerged at the inaugural NMG Retirement Wellness Summit 2026, held in Gaborone on 21 May, as industry leaders and stakeholders challenged conventional models and advocated for solutions that address both the financial and non financial realities of life after work.

NATIONAL PRIORITY

Held under the theme **"Reimagining Retirement: Advancing Holistic Employee Wellbeing and Sustainable Member Outcomes,"** the summit brought together regulators, employers, trustees, insurers, investment managers, medical aid representatives, wellness practitioners and senior public sector officials to examine the pressures facing Botswana's retirement system.

NMG Administrators Botswana Chief Executive Officer, Ms Motshabi Mokone, said the industry must move beyond its traditional reliance on contribution adequacy and investment performance, noting that these alone are not sufficient to ensure meaningful retirement outcomes.

BEYOND SAVINGS

"For too long, the focus has been largely on contribution adequacy and investment performance, yet true retirement preparedness is far broader than that," Mokone said. "We need to reimagine retirement by placing greater emphasis on financial literacy, emotional readiness, behavioural support, holistic health and wellness, and more effective member engagement."



She said retirement readiness should not be treated as the responsibility of one institution, employer, regulator or individual alone, but as a shared national priority requiring coordination across the ecosystem.

SHARED DUTY

Mokone said NMG decided to convene the summit after observing emerging concerns around retirement readiness, long term sustainability and the overall financial wellbeing of Batswana.

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"These challenges are too significant and too complex for any single organisation to solve in isolation," she said in an interview with the Gazette. "The summit was therefore designed as a platform for meaningful dialogue, collaboration and shared problem solving."

She added that NMG's purpose of "Finding A Better Way" is rooted in developing more efficient and impactful solutions for Batswana, with a focus on improving member outcomes and contributing meaningfully to the communities it serves.

HOLISTIC WELLNESS

Mokone said true retirement readiness requires a holistic support system that prepares individuals socially and emotionally, in addition to financially. She pointed to NMG Wealth Solutions as a key intervention, offering tailored financial advice that integrates retirement planning, investments, preservation, healthcare and estate planning into a single personalised strategy.

"At the heart of this is the concept of holistic financial wellness at retirement, where individuals are not only financially secure, but also supported in their emotional and mental wellbeing, physical health, and broader social and family context," she said.

EARLY PLANNING

Mokone said one of the most concerning trends in the industry is that many people begin thinking seriously about retirement only when it is close, by which time their choices are already limited.

She said the decisions made years before retirement often determine whether a member retires with confidence or with anxiety. These include how early workers begin planning, whether they preserve savings when changing jobs, how they manage debt, how they prepare for healthcare costs, and whether they plan for family protection through estate planning.

CASHING OUT

Mokone also raised concern about members cashing out portions of their pension benefits when changing jobs, as well as retirees withdrawing substantial amounts of their savings at retirement.

"What this tells us is that retirement readiness is under pressure," she said. "While participation in retirement funds is relatively strong, the system is not yet fully supporting long term preservation of savings, which is essential for achieving meaningful retirement outcomes."

She said this behaviour reflects broader pressures, including gaps in financial literacy, limited engagement and the immediate financial difficulties faced by workers.

MEMBER SUPPORT

Echoing these sentiments, NMG Senior Employee Benefits Consultant, Ms One Mokokwe, said the summit was designed to foster collaboration across the retirement ecosystem. The platform brought together regulators, employers, trustees, insurers, investment managers and wellness practitioners to drive meaningful dialogue on improving member outcomes.

Mokokwe underscored the importance of behavioural science in financial decision making, noting that emotions play a significant role, particularly during major life transitions such as retirement. She stressed the importance of continuous member education, incremental financial planning and access to professional advice to help individuals make informed decisions.



FUTURE PLANNING

Adding an industry perspective, Principal Officer at Botswana Life, Mr Phodiso Brian Malope, said there is an urgent need to shift from "retirement planning" to "future planning," starting from the early stages of employment.

He emphasised the importance of cultivating a savings culture early and reengineering financial products to better meet the evolving needs of retirees. Malope further highlighted the need for greater collaboration across the sector, as well as regulatory alignment, to ensure equitable and effective retirement solutions for consumers.

HEALTH COSTS

From a healthcare perspective, BPOMAS Chief Financial Officer, Ms Thato Lesejane, said the summit provided valuable insights into the growing challenges faced by retirees, particularly rising medical costs.

She noted that pensioners account for the highest utilisation of medical aid services, often at a time when their incomes have significantly declined. Lesejane emphasised the importance of partnerships between medical aids, pension fund administrators and other service providers to develop sustainable solutions that ease the financial burden on retirees.

NATIONAL PRESSURE

Acting Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Finance, Dr Sayed Timuno, also widened the discussion by framing retirement preparedness as a national economic and fiscal concern. Business Weekly reported that Timuno warned poorly prepared retirees may eventually fall back on government funded social safety nets, placing pressure on public finances.

The summit also highlighted how longer life expectancy, contract work, career changes and informal employment are creating gaps in retirement contributions, increasing the risk of future financial insecurity among retirees.

MEMBER CENTRED

NMG Board Chairperson, Ms Maipelo Motshwane, said the summit aims to equip stakeholders with practical tools and insights to enhance decision making and improve long term outcomes.

She added that NMG will continue to evolve into a technology driven, member centric organisation focused on delivering holistic financial wellness solutions.

PressRelease

FNB Premiership Season Ends

Gaborone United closed the 2025/26 FNB Premiership season with a title win and a P1.4 million prize as sponsors reflected on football's growing impact



Gaborone United were crowned 2025/26 FNB Premiership champions on Saturday, May 23, receiving a P1.4 million winners' cheque from league sponsors FNB Botswana during the season-closing ceremony in Gaborone.

FOOTBALL AND COMMUNITY

FNB Botswana said its sponsorship of the league forms part of its broader efforts to support sports development and community engagement through football initiatives.

Speaking during the crowning ceremony, FNB Botswana Chief Marketing Officer Peo Porogo congratulated the club and highlighted the bank's long-term approach to sports investment.

"We believe in creating opportunities that drive sports development while at the same time uplift communities, inspire young talent, and contribute to sustainable socio-economic development," said Porogo.

She added that the bank's "Grassroots to Greatness" philosophy aims to support athletes from development stages through to professional competition.

SEASON CLOSE

Throughout the season, local teams attracted strong support from fans as the league continued to provide a platform for emerging football talent and community participation.

Porogo said the bank's involvement in football was intended to ensure that the benefits of sport extended to players, businesses, and communities across Botswana.

The crowning of Gaborone United as champions brought the curtain down on another memorable season; one that showcased the growth of Botswana football and reaffirmed FNB Botswana's role in driving impact through sport.

The 2025/26 season will officially conclude with an awards ceremony scheduled for Wednesday, May 27, 2026.

Wilderness Celebrates Botswana's Brave Tourism Decisions

Tourism and conservation stakeholders gathered in Gaborone to discuss Botswana's high-value tourism model and the challenges of protecting environmental assets

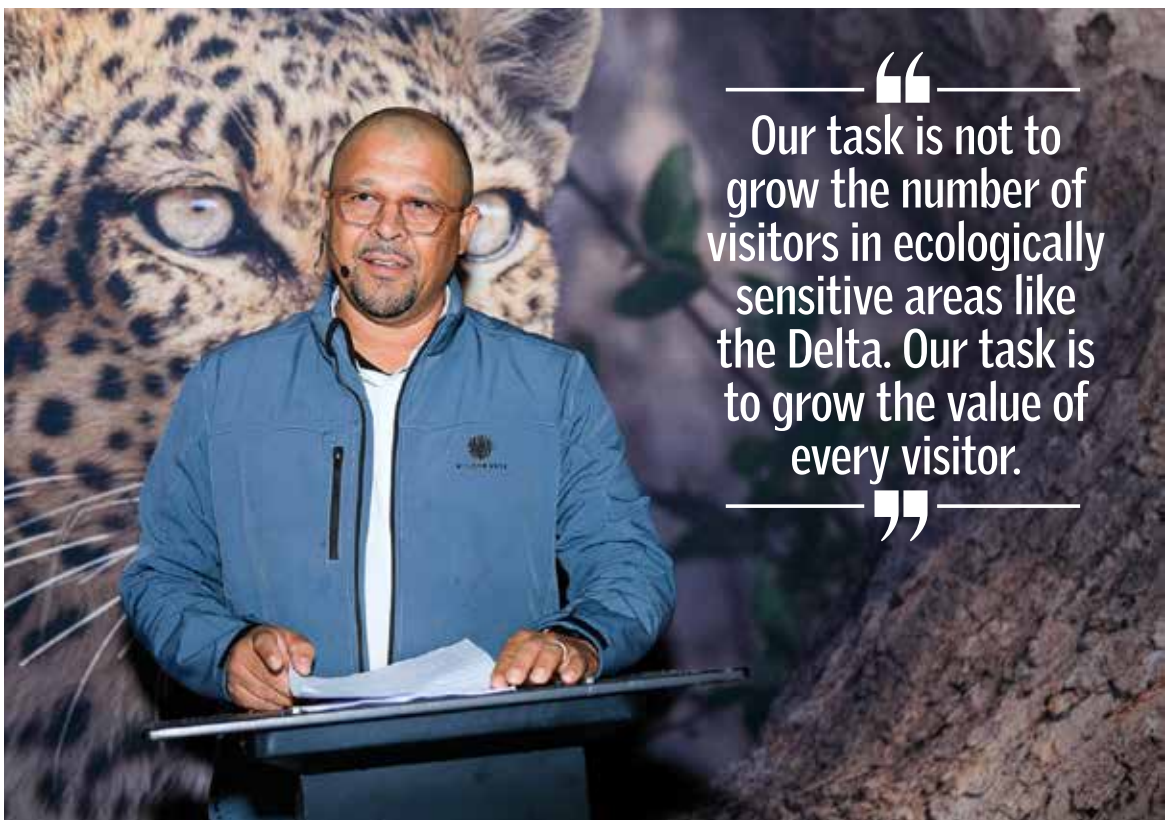


Wilderness Botswana hosted a stakeholder engagement in Gaborone recently, bringing together representatives from government, tourism, conservation, and business sectors to discuss Botswana's tourism model and long-term sustainability.

Held at the National Botanical Garden, the event focused on Botswana's conservation-led tourism approach and the need to maintain policies aimed at protecting environmentally sensitive areas.

TOURISM MODEL

Wilderness Botswana Chairman Kabelo Binns said Botswana's tourism strategy was shaped by long-term conservation decisions rather than high-volume tourism growth.



"At a time when many nations pursued extraction and high-volume growth, Botswana made the brave decision to protect wilderness, preserve ecological space and build value through conservation," said Binns.

He said Botswana's tourism advantage depended on maintaining low-impact tourism practices and increasing the value of visitor experiences instead of visitor numbers.

"Our task is not to grow the number of visitors in ecologically sensitive areas like the Delta. Our task is to grow the value of every visitor," he said.

ECONOMIC IMPACT

According to the latest Wilderness Botswana Impact Report, the company generated more than P700 million in foreign exchange during the last financial year. The report also stated that local procurement exceeded P292 million, with more than 80 percent of purchases sourced locally.

Wilderness Botswana said it currently employs about 1,000 people, 97 percent of whom are Batswana.

The significance of Botswana within the broader Wilderness network was also reaffirmed by Wilderness Group Chief Sales Officer and South Africa Managing Director, Simon Stobbs, who attended the engagement.

Botswana remains one of the most respected conservation tourism destinations anywhere in the world and continues to influence how many other markets think about sustainable tourism growth, he shared. Globally, travellers are increasingly seeking experiences that feel authentic, responsible and deeply connected to nature and community. Botswana pioneered many of those principles long before they became international trends.

SHARED RESPONSIBILITY

Caretaker Managing Director Joe Matome said conservation efforts required collaboration between communities, government, and private sector operators.

"Botswana's wilderness story has always been bigger than any one organisation," Matome said.

Article edited for length

FGH and Fearless Sign Partnership

A new three-year agreement will see Fairground Holdings host the Fearless 10K Run Series in Gaborone as both organisations look to expand wellness and lifestyle events



Fairground Holdings (FGH) and Fearless Fitness Group have signed a three-year Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) that will see FGH become the official venue partner for the Fearless 10K Run Series in Gaborone from 2026 to 2029.

The partnership was announced during a signing ceremony held at Fairground Holdings on May 20, 2026. Attendees included Batlokwa Paramount Chief Puso Gaborone, representatives from Fearless Fitness Group, Fairground Holdings executives, stakeholders, and members of the media.

VENUE SUPPORT

Under the agreement, Fairground Holdings will provide venue infrastructure and operational support for the annual Gaborone edition of the race. Planned activities include race village activations, hospitality experiences, expo activities, and start-and-finish line operations at the Botswana Conference and Exhibition Centre grounds.

Speaking at the event, Fairground Holdings Finance Manager Thabiso Sera said the partnership was intended to support wellness-focused events while creating opportunities for business participation and community engagement.

STRATEGIC PLANS

Fairground Holdings Sales and Marketing Manager Barati Phagane said the agreement aligned with the organisation's plans to expand beyond traditional conferencing and exhibition activities into lifestyle and experiential events.

According to Phagane, the partnership is expected to improve venue utilisation, broaden revenue opportunities, and strengthen collaboration between public and private sector stakeholders.

"The three-year arrangement will provide continuity and allow both organisations to plan future editions of the event over a longer timeframe," Phagane said.

Stanbic Supports Manufacturing Summit

Stanbic Bank Botswana has pledged P250,000 toward the 2026 Local Manufacturing Summit as stakeholders focus on export growth and industrial development



Stanbic Bank Botswana sponsored the 2026 Local Manufacturing Summit with P250,000, bringing its total contribution to more than P750,000 over the past three years.

The summit, held at Royal Aria in Gaborone, was hosted under the theme *"Shaping the Future of Botswana's Manufacturing Sector: Exploring Export Markets."*

ENTERPRISE SUPPORT

According to Stanbic Bank Botswana, the partnership provided structured support through annual sponsorships, enterprise development grants of up to P500,000, and access to the bank's Accelerate Centre.

The programme aimed to assist manufacturing businesses with operational development, competitiveness, and market access opportunities.

The collaboration was established through a Memorandum of Understanding with the Botswana Chamber of Mines and focused on strengthening links between industry, policymakers, and local enterprises.

ECONOMIC PARTICIPATION

Stanbic Bank Botswana Acting Head of Business and Commercial Banking Basimane Tshepe said the initiative highlighted the role of partnerships in supporting citizen-led economic participation.

"Over the past three years, this partnership has shown what is possible when industry, development partners, and local enterprise work with a shared purpose," Tshepe said.

He added that the programme sought to help manufacturing businesses improve resilience and expand into growth markets.

"Supporting manufacturing is ultimately about supporting citizens to participate meaningfully in the economy," he said.

Stanbic Bank Botswana stated that the partnership contributed to enterprise development, economic diversification, and employment creation within Botswana's manufacturing sector.

Climate Dialogue Held At Botho

Government officials, students, and environmental groups gathered at Botho University to discuss climate action, waste management, and renewable energy solutions



Botho University hosted a climate change and sustainability programme on May 20, 2026, bringing together government officials, environmental organisations, students, researchers, and private sector representatives at the Otse Building in Gaborone.

The event featured discussions on climate action, renewable energy, waste management, and sustainable development practices in Botswana.

INDIGENOUS KNOWLEDGE

The programme opened with remarks from Botho University students Dinifle Digwamage and Baikatlang Gabaitse of the GAYD Eco Club, followed by an address from Pro Vice Chancellor for Estates and Infrastructure Aditya Raja Ram.

Professor Patricia Mogomotsi of the Ministry of Environment and Tourism delivered the keynote address titled *Ancestral Wisdom and Modern Innovation: A Blueprint for a Green Botswana*.

Mogomotsi said Botswana's conservation practices were historically shaped by Indigenous knowledge systems and argued that environmental policies should reflect local realities and community experiences.

"Effective climate action requires stronger links between science, policy, and implementation," she said.

SUSTAINABILITY MEASURES

Presentations during the programme focused on renewable energy, water conservation, and infrastructure retrofitting. Participants discussed Botswana's solar energy potential and measures aimed at reducing water consumption through efficient technologies.

The event also included a screening of the documentary *Climate Change in Botswana and Botho University's Green Efforts on Campus*, produced in partnership with DIY Entertainment.

WASTE MANAGEMENT

Waste management formed part of the discussions, with demonstrations on campus recycling and waste segregation systems. Environmental practitioners outlined composting initiatives and the use of black soldier fly larvae to process organic waste.

"Effective climate action requires stronger links between science, policy, and implementation."

Former Botswana Climate Change Network chairman Dr Rosenthal said digitalisation could contribute to sustainability efforts by reducing paper consumption and fuel use through virtual meetings and online publications.

Other contributors discussed climate finance, circular economy initiatives, renewable energy opportunities, and community-led environmental projects.

THE SILENT SPECTRUM

Why Botswana Must Begin Talking Seriously About Autism



Botswana's autism conversation is still largely silent, yet thousands of children may already be passing through homes, schools and communities misunderstood, unsupported and unseen. This feature argues that recognising neurodiversity is not only a medical concern, but a cultural, social and developmental test of the country's capacity to see human potential differently.

ZODWA RAMORE AND DOUGLAS RASBASH

For generations, many such children were simply labelled "difficult," "withdrawn," "stubborn," "slow," or "strange." Today, the world increasingly understands that many of these children may in fact be on the autism spectrum. Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) is a neurodevelopmental condition affecting communication, sensory processing, social interaction, and behaviour. It exists across a broad spectrum. Some autistic people require substantial lifelong support. Others live independently and are known to excel in highly specialised fields.

Globally, autism recognition has increased dramatically. The United States now estimates prevalence at around 1 in 31 children. Much of Europe estimates autism at between 1% and 2% of the population. South Africa believes roughly one million citizens may be autistic, although formal diagnosis rates remain low.

MISSING DATA

Botswana, remarkably, possesses almost no comprehensive national data. Yet the absence of statistics does not imply the absence of autism itself. More likely, it reflects the fact that Botswana has only just begun the conversation. If autism prevalence in Botswana broadly mirrors international patterns, then somewhere between 25,000 and 50,000 Batswana may fall somewhere on the spectrum. Many may never receive diagnosis. Some may pass through childhood misunderstood. Others may quietly withdraw from educational systems unable to accommodate them.

And here the conversation becomes more complex than medicine alone. In many African societies, developmental differences are interpreted first through culture before they are understood through science. A child who avoids eye contact may be considered disrespectful. Delayed speech may be interpreted as stubbornness or poor parenting. Repetitive behaviours may attract ridicule. Social withdrawal may be viewed with suspicion. In some cases, developmental conditions may still be associated with curses, witchcraft, ancestral displeasure, spiritual attack, or family shame. This is not unique to Botswana. Throughout history, societies everywhere interpreted neurological and mental differences through the cultural frameworks available to them. But in many parts of Africa, these beliefs still carry major influence today, particularly where public awareness and diagnostic services remain limited. As a result, many families suffer quietly and privately.

HIDDEN STRUGGLES

Parents often embark on long and emotionally exhausting journeys seeking answers for children who do not fit conventional developmental expectations. Teachers may lack specialised training. Schools are frequently under-resourced to support neurodiverse learners. Some families may avoid discussing developmental challenges altogether for fear of stigma or social judgement. The consequences can be profound. Undiagnosed autism can affect educational attainment, employment opportunities, family stability, mental health, and long-term social inclusion. Some autistic children may be punished for behaviours linked to sensory overload or communication difficulty. Others may simply disappear into the margins of the education system entirely.

Yet the story of autism is not solely one of difficulty or deficit. Around the world, increasing attention is now being paid to the remarkable strengths often associated with neurodiversity. Many autistic individuals display exceptional concentration, honesty, precision, memory, creativity, or technical aptitude. Some possess unusual abilities to detect patterns, solve complex problems, or focus intensely on specialised subjects.

DIFFERENT MINDS

In a world increasingly shaped by artificial intelligence, data science, coding, systems engineering, robotics, and digital technologies, societies are beginning to recognise that distinct kinds of minds may offer various kinds of advantages. The question for Botswana is therefore not merely medical. It is developmental. How many potentially brilliant minds are currently passing unnoticed through our schools? How many children sitting silently in classrooms today possess extraordinary abilities that conventional systems neither recognise nor nurture?

> "The absence of statistics does not imply the absence of autism itself."

And how prepared is Botswana for a future in which cognitive diversity may become not only a social issue, but also an economic one?

This does not mean romanticising autism. For many families, the challenges are immense and lifelong. Support services, therapy, specialised education, and family assistance remain critically important. But neither should autism automatically be viewed only through the lens of disability. Modern societies increasingly speak about "neurodiversity" — the idea that human brains naturally vary, and that different neurological patterns can contribute positively to society when properly understood and supported. Botswana has already shown itself capable of substantial social progress in areas once poorly understood. Public attitudes toward mental health, disability rights, inclusive education, and child welfare have evolved significantly over time. Autism may now represent the next frontier in public understanding. Importantly, this conversation must be approached carefully and sensitively. Imported culture wars, social media sensationalism, or simplistic Western narratives are unlikely to help Botswana navigate this issue constructively. What is required instead is evidence, awareness, compassion, and institutional preparedness rooted within Botswana's own social and cultural context.

NEXT FRONTIER

Botswana may need better prevalence studies, improved early screening, teacher training, specialised educational support, speech and occupational therapy capacity, and broader public awareness campaigns. But perhaps most importantly, it may require a shift in perception. Not every child learns the same way. Not every mind processes the world identically. And not every difference should automatically be treated as failure, disobedience, or shame. African societies often place strong emphasis on social conformity, communal behaviour, and fitting within accepted norms. These values have historically strengthened social cohesion. Yet they can also make it more difficult for neurodiverse individuals to be recognised and accommodated.

SILENT NO MORE

At the same time, Botswana possesses strengths that many Western societies in-

To Page 25

From Page 24

creasingly lack, strong family structures, community support networks, intergenerational care, and deeply rooted traditions of social responsibility. These strengths could become powerful foundations for more compassionate and inclusive approaches to autism in the future. The autism conversation is therefore ultimately about something larger than diagnosis alone. It asks what kind of society Botswana wishes to become: one that forces every child into a narrow definition of normality, or one capable of recognising human potential in all its varied forms. The spectrum may still be largely silent today. But it is already here.

> How many potentially brilliant minds are currently passing unnoticed through our schools?

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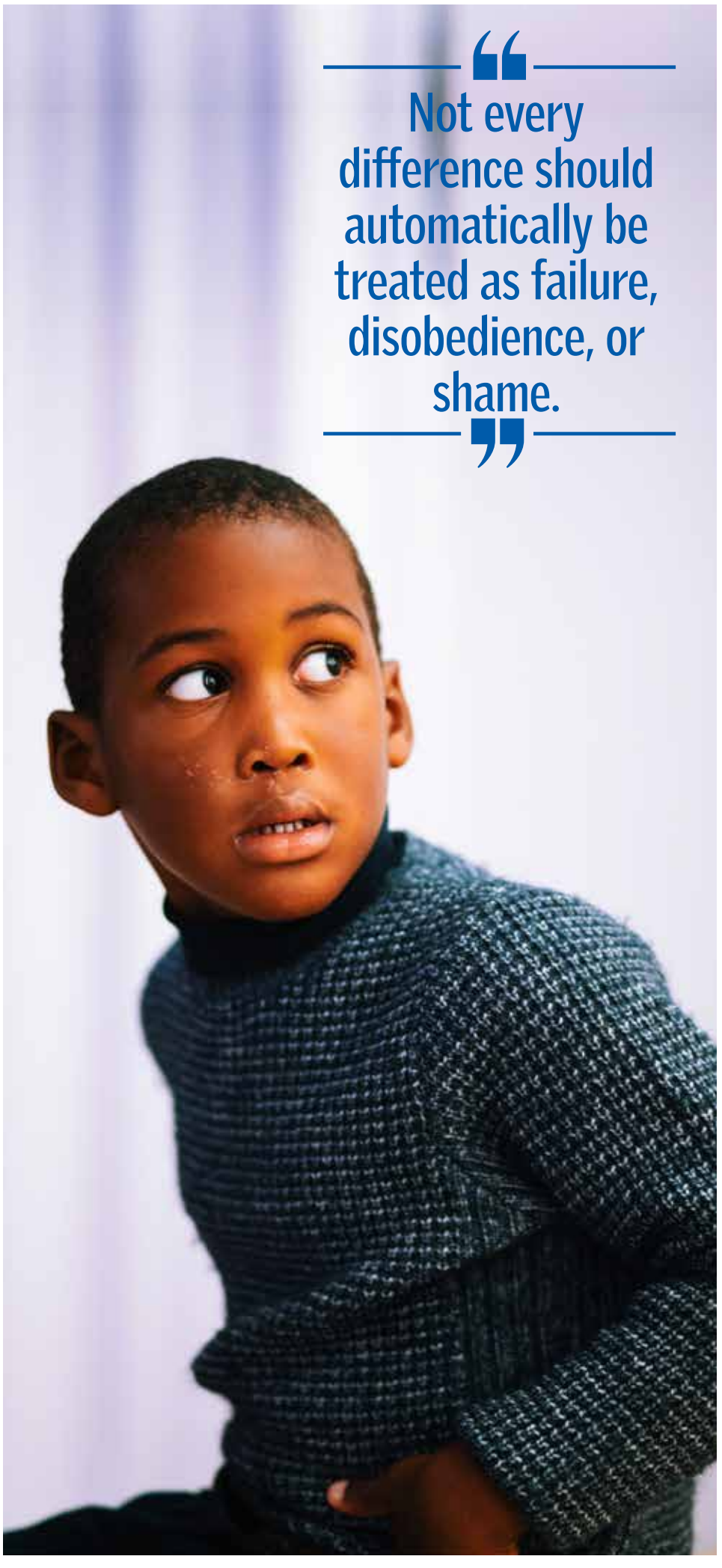

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At the same time, Botswana possesses strengths that many Western societies increasingly lack, strong family structures, community support networks, intergenerational care, and deeply rooted traditions of social responsibility. These strengths could become powerful foundations for more compassionate and inclusive approaches to autism in the future. The autism conversation is therefore ultimately about something larger than diagnosis alone. It asks what kind of society Botswana wishes to become: one that forces every child into a narrow definition of normality, or one capable of recognising human potential in all its varied forms. The spectrum may still be largely silent today. But it is already here.

> The 22-year wait did not weaken Arsenal's brand. It strengthened it.



The Arsenal Paradox: What 22 Years of Waiting Built That Money Never Could

MANUEL VEIRUAPI RUHAPO

On 24 May 2026, Martin Odegaard lifted the Premier League trophy at Selhurst Park, and the world came apart.

Streets in Nairobi. Bars in Singapore. Living rooms in Gaborone. People who had never been to London, who had no geographical connection to North London whatsoever, erupting in celebrations that looked indistinguishable from those of people who had waited their entire lives for this moment. Because for many of them, they had.

Arsenal had not won the Premier League in 22 years. The last time was 2003/04, the Invincibles season, when Arsène Wenger's side went the entire league campaign unbeaten. In the two decades that followed, Arsenal watched rivals win title after title while their supporters endured near-misses, mockery, and a particular kind of loyal suffering that only a certain type of fan understands.

And then, on a Sunday afternoon in May 2026, 22 years of accumulated longing became 22 years of accumulated joy, released simultaneously, across every time zone on earth.

This is not a football story. It is a brand story.

The Paradox of Deprivation

The 22-year wait did not weaken Arsenal's brand. It strengthened it. Every year without a title was a year in which the fanbase's emotional investment deepened, not because they were rewarded, but because they were not. The suffering created the stakes. The stakes created the meaning. And the meaning, accumulated over two decades, is what made the moment of victory so explosively emotional that it spilled onto streets across the world.

The joy of Arsenal fans on 24 May was not proportional to winning a football league. It was proportional to 22 years of wanting to win one. No marketing campaign produced what happened in Nairobi and Singapore and Gaborone. What produced it was the accumulated emotional investment of millions of people who had chosen to attach their identity to this club and held that attachment through years of disappointment.

The brand's job was simply to be worth holding onto.

What Arsenal's Brand Actually Is

Arsenal's global fanbase did not come from targeted advertising in Kenya or Singapore or Botswana. It came from being consistently excellent, consistently distinctive, and consistently true to a set of values that transcended geography. A style of play. A commitment to doing things a certain way. A particular kind of dignity, even in defeat.

The fans who celebrated in Gaborone did not choose Arsenal because of geography. They chose Arsenal because of identity. The brand represented something they wanted to be associated with: quality, style, and the belief that doing things the right way eventually produces the right result. The 22-year wait was the ultimate proof of that belief. They stayed. They held. And the belief was vindicated.

Arsenal did not conquer the world. The world chose Arsenal. That is the difference between marketing and branding.

What This Means for Botswana's Brands

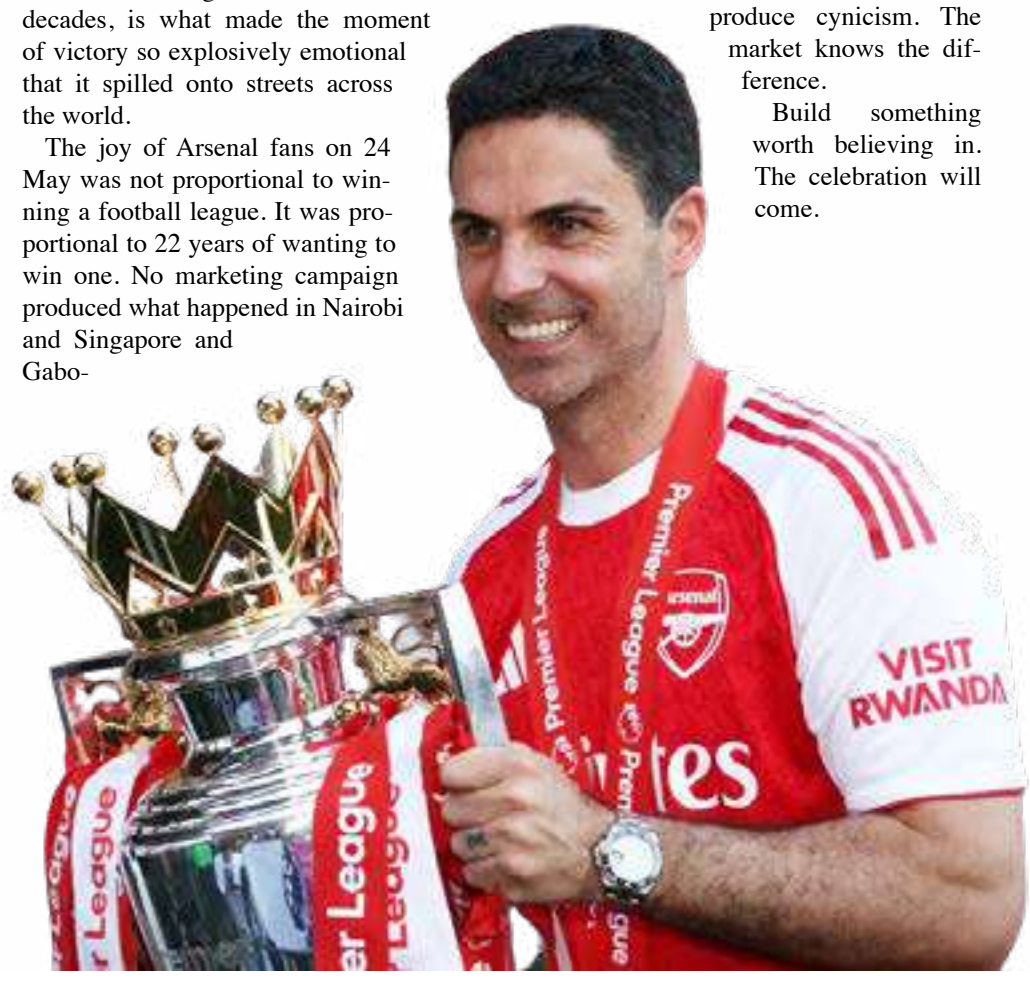
Three lessons, precisely stated.

Stand for something specific enough to be divisive. Arsenal's brand is not universally loved. It is intensely loved by some and actively disliked by others. That is not a weakness. A brand that everyone likes mildly is a brand that no one loves deeply. The brands in Botswana with the most loyal customers have made clear choices about what they stand for, choices that mean they are not for everyone.

Build for identity, not just transaction. Arsenal's fans support the club because it is part of who they are. The most powerful brands in any category achieve the same thing: they become part of how customers describe themselves. In a communal, identity-driven market like Botswana's, this is the highest brand position available.

Earn the right to the moment. The celebration on 24 May was as large as it was because Arsenal had earned it over 22 years of honest effort and genuine commitment to a style and set of values. Brands that manufacture moments without the substance to justify them produce cynicism. The market knows the difference.

Build something worth believing in. The celebration will come.





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

The Botswana Gazette
TIME OUT
THE BOTSWANA GAZETTE
WEDNESDAY 27 MAY 2026

HERE'S WHY SAMPLE BOTSWANA IS TIMELY

In a world obsessed with algorithms and global trends, Sample Botswana is flipping the script by turning ancestral sounds into digital gold, proving that Botswana's future might just lie in the echoes of its past



GOSEGO MOTSUMI

There is something poetic about Botswana finally sampling itself.

For years, local producers searching for authentic Setswana sounds online were met with silence. No segaba loops. No setinkane textures. Meanwhile, producers across the globe have long been packaging their cultures into exportable digital products. Botswana, rich in oral tradition and sonic identity, remained largely invisible in the digital sound economy.

Until now.

> "Our content and our craft are not visible online."

Sample Botswana, a new indigenous audio sample library launched last week by Tsodilo Music in collaboration with the Companies and Intellectual Property Authority (CIPA) feels less like a music project and more like a cultural correction.

The platform, funded by CIPA archives professionally recorded indigenous instruments, folk chants, ambient landscapes, and traditional rhythms for use in music, film, education, and audio production. But beneath the technology lies something deeper: a country trying to reclaim its voice before the internet forgets it exists.

CULTURE IS NOW A DOWNLOAD

"What inspired this platform is that the softwares that we use for production do not have our local sounds," founder and music artist Sego 'Mosako' Rakobe told Time Out. "So we went all around the country recording these professional sounds and created Sample Botswana to make these sounds available, to preserve and promote indigenous knowledge."

That urgency matters.

In today's creator economy, visibility is survival. If a culture cannot be searched, sampled, streamed, or shared, it risks becoming digitally extinct. Sample Botswana understands this frighteningly well. The project arrives at a time when African creatives are under increasing pressure to sound "global," often at the expense of sounding like themselves.

And yet originality is exactly what the world is craving.

He said: "Our content and our craft are not visible online."

TURNING HERITAGE INTO HARD DRIVES

From the earthy pulse of moropa drums to the hypnotic cry of segaba strings, the platform transforms Botswana's living heritage into usable creative currency. It allows young producers to build amapiano beats with local textures, filmmakers to score stories with authentic atmosphere, and educators to preserve traditions that risk fading into memory.

Mosako says the vision stretches beyond music. Visual archives and custom sound requests are already part of the dream.

That ambition makes Sample Botswana timely. It is not nostalgia disguised as patriotism. It is strategy.

Because in a world where everyone is chasing the same sound, Botswana may finally have realized its greatest advantage is sounding unmistakably like itself.

The sounds are available on samplebotswana.com



Africa's Joke Circuit Lands Here



From Kampala to Gaborone, Africa's comedy scene is moving like a rock band on tour as Ugandan comedy star Dr. Hilary Okello brings his explosive Jokes From Far Away tour to Botswana

GAZETTE REPORTER

For years, African stories travelled the world through music, film and fashion. Now comedy is grabbing the microphone — loud, fearless and deeply relatable. Enter Dr. Hilary Okello, the Ugandan comic turning awkward family dinners, cultural misunderstandings and everyday African chaos into sold-out entertainment across the continent.

This June, Major Moves Comedy features his touring comedy spectacle Jokes From Far Away in Botswana, bringing with it the energy of a travelling music festival disguised as stand-up comedy. After successful stops in Eswatini, Kenya, Rwanda, South Africa, Zambia and beyond, Botswana becomes the next audience ready to laugh.

And honestly? We probably need it.

COMEDY IS THE NEW CULTURAL EXCHANGE

The Botswana leg kicks off on Thursday,

4 June 2026 at Nuestra Casa Lounge (Molapo Crossing) in Gaborone before heading to Cresta Marang Gardens in Francistown on Friday, 5 June 2026. But beyond the venues and stage lights lies something bigger happening in African entertainment, comedians are building bridges where politics and borders often fail.

> Touring comedy spectacle Jokes From Far Away lands in Botswana, brings with it the energy of a travelling music festival disguised as stand-up comedy.

Hosted by local comedy heavyweight Thapelo Malani, the tour



also shines a spotlight on Botswana's own comedic voices, including Zoe Kgasa, Boldwin Ramokate, Augustus Phillemon and Bafana "Ribcracker" Letsatsi.

"Comedy is a universal language, and the 'Jokes From Far Away' tour is about bringing African people together through laughter, culture, and shared experiences," said Dr. Okello.

"Botswana has incredible talent and amazing audiences and I'm excited to finally bring this tour."

That sentence alone explains why African comedy suddenly feels important. These shows are no longer just about jokes. They are about recognition. About hearing someone from Kampala describe a situation that somehow sounds exactly like your uncle in Gaborone.

THE BUSINESS OF BEING FUNNY

African stand-up is evolving from side hustle to serious industry. Tours are crossing borders. Audiences are growing. Comics are becoming cultural commentators with microphones instead of newspapers.

And audiences are responding because the material feels real — unemployment jokes, dating disasters, taxi conversations and the glorious unpredictability of African life.

Events coordinator Gaolathe Kediemetse promises "a truly enjoyable, relaxing and funny event. We have a fresh new lineup, fresh new headliner and people must come and experience the best and ultimate entertainment from beginning to the end."

"Come ready for laughter and experience an evening where comedy meets culture."

Tickets for the comedy shows are available at Webtickets, Spar outlets and Cresta Marang Gardens. The shows starts at 8pm.



What Makes Where Stories Meet Fascinating

Inside a leafy Gaborone tea garden, ancient San stories, wild animals, dreamscapes and survival collide in colour. Where Stories Meet is not just an exhibition, it is a reminder that culture survives when people dare to keep telling their stories

GOSEGO MOTSUMI

At first glance, Sanitas Tea Garden in Gaborone feels too soft for revolution. The trees sway lazily, teacups clink politely and the city hums somewhere in the distance. But inside Where Stories Meet, the walls roar.

The new exhibition, curated by Ann Gollifer, gathers artists from the Kuru Art Project in D'Kar alongside creatives from the Art



Residency Centre in Gaborone. The result is less a formal exhibition and more a living conversation between worlds often kept apart — urban and rural, ancestral and modern, memory and survival.

Born from a July 2025 workshop in D'Kar with South African interdisciplinary artist Sam (!Xam) Fortuin, the exhibition pulses with emotional honesty. Animals appear everywhere. Birds perch gently on fingers. Geckos crawl across patterned huts. Guineafowl strut through landscapes like sacred messengers.

PAINTING AGAINST ERASURE

For decades, the Kuru Art Project has quietly documented the stories of the Naro and Dcui San communities in Western Botswana. The initiative gave artists a way to earn income while preserving histories rapidly disappearing under modernisation.

Today, those histories arrive in Gaborone unapologetically loud.

"This is a beautiful experience of different artists coming together, learning, sharing and inspiring each other."

The line from Fortuin hangs over the exhibition like a mission statement.

> "This is a beautiful experience of different artists coming together, learning, sharing and inspiring each other."

Maudie Brown, whose piece A Bird on My Finger feels both intimate and spiritual, described the collaboration as "special," particularly because artists from vastly different backgrounds managed to find common language through art.

THE NEW FACE OF BOTSWANA ART

What makes Where Stories Meet fascinating is how effortlessly it breaks the stereotype that indigenous art belongs only in history books or tourist shops. The works are contemporary, emotional and globally relevant. Tradition dances comfortably with experimentation.

The exhibition features artists like Cgoma Simon, Gamnqoa Kukama, Xagu Qoma, Lessie Morris, Naomi Loabile and Karabo Maine among others. It will be showing until the 7th of June.



Shanti Lo in Concert this Weekend

For 25 years, Shanti Lo has turned rhythm into memory and music into cultural identity. Now, Botswana Craft becomes the stage for a celebration that feels less like a concert and more like a national time capsule



GOSEGO MOTSUMI

There are musicians, and then there are cultural fixtures — the kind whose songs soundtrack weddings, road trips and Sunday afternoons all at once. In Botswana, Shanti Lo belongs firmly in the second category.

On 30 May 2026, Botswana Craft in Gaborone will transform into a living archive of sound as fans gather for the Shanti Lo 25 Years Music Anniversary Celebration, marking a quarter-century of the artist's influence on Botswana's cultural and musical identity. But this is not just another nostalgia-heavy concert banking on old hits. It is a loud reminder that local legends are still standing, still relevant, and still shaping the future.

MORE THAN MUSIC

For years, Shanti Lo has occupied a unique lane in Botswana's entertainment scene blending storytelling, rhythm, and cultural pride into music that refuses to age. His journey mirrors the evolution of Botswana's own creative industry: resilient, underdog-driven, and constantly reinventing itself despite limited structures.

Backed by Botswana Craft, the event promises a layered experience featuring live performances from Lebo KM, Gala, and surprise acts designed to pull multiple generations into one shared groove. Expect live instrumentation, emotional callbacks, and the kind of singalongs that only happen when music has lived with people for decades.

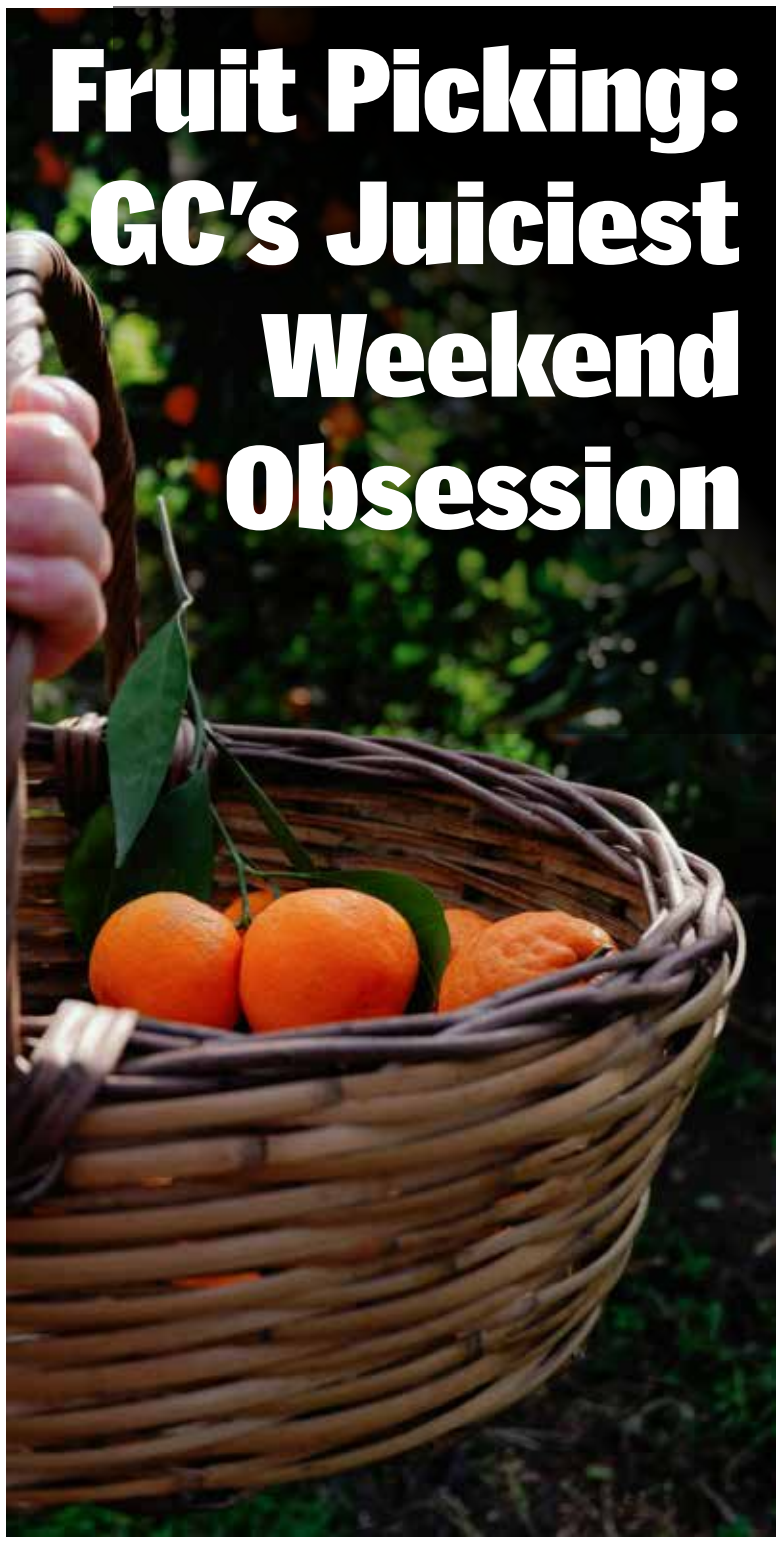
Shanti Lo himself says the celebration is about gratitude and preserving local artistry. "The importance of celebrating local artistry and cultural heritage" remains central to the milestone, he shared ahead of the event.

THE RETURN OF CULTURAL COOL

What makes this anniversary feel bigger than one artist is what it represents. Across Africa, audiences are increasingly returning to artists who built cultural foundations before algorithms dictated taste. Shanti Lo's anniversary arrives at a moment when authenticity feels fashionable again.

VIP Table (10 pax) tickets are available for P10,000 and P250 for a standard ticket.

Fruit Picking: GC's Juiciest Weekend Obsession



Between mall runs and restaurant hopping, Gaborone families are hunting for something different. Enter fruit picking, the countryside-style experience turning orchards into weekend playgrounds, sparking both excitement and eye-rolls in equal measure

GOSEGO MOTSUMI

Somewhere between overpriced brunches, endless coffee dates, and the annual struggle to answer "what are we doing this weekend?", Gaborone stumbled onto an unexpectedly juicy solution: fruit picking.

Yes, orange picking for this winter season.

What once sounded like a chore people survived in the farms has suddenly become one of the city's most talked about family activities. Every weekend, cars packed, selfie sticks, and children in oversized hats roll out toward orchards where people pay to pick oranges straight from the trees.

And surprisingly? People are loving it.

In a city often accused of having "nothing to do," fruit picking has landed like a fresh squeeze of energy into Gaborone's lifestyle scene. Families see it as wholesome. Friends see it as Instagram content. Couples see it as simple dates with rustic aesthetics.

"What a simple but wholesome activity. The city needs more of these activities," said one fruit picker over the weekend.

FROM FARM TO FEED

Social media has played a huge role in the trend's rise. Suddenly timelines are filled with photos of smiling groups holding bags of oranges like trophies from a harvest Olympics. There are reels and videos of people plucking oranges while music plays in the background.

For many parents, it is also about reconnecting children with food beyond supermarket shelves.

Fruit picking offers something increasingly rare in urban life: dirt under fingernails, fresh air, and an actual reason to put phones down even if only briefly.

And unlike packed restaurants or noisy entertainment spots, orchards offer room to breathe.

> In a city often accused of having "nothing to do," fruit picking has landed like a fresh squeeze of energy into Gaborone's lifestyle scene.

"FREE LABOUR" OR SMART EXPERIENCE?

Of course, internet detectives were never going to let the trend slide peacefully.

Critics have blasted the idea online, questioning why people are paying to do what farmers traditionally hire labourers for. The phrase "unpaid labour" has floated around social media with the same intensity as debates about expensive salads and luxury camping.

To some, fruit picking represents peak soft-life absurdity.

Why spend money sweating in a field when supermarkets already sell polished oranges under fluorescent lights?

But supporters argue the critics are missing the point completely.

Nobody says people at trampoline parks are being exploited for jumping. Nobody accuses hikers of unpaid roadwork. The activity is not about productivity, it is about experience.

And experience has become modern currency.

CAPE TOWN DID IT

Globally, fruit picking is hardly new. In places like Cape Town, strawberry farms, wine estates, and orchards have long transformed agricultural spaces into lifestyle destinations. Tourists flock there for exactly this kind of "pick-your-own" experience because it blends leisure, nature, and food into one outing.

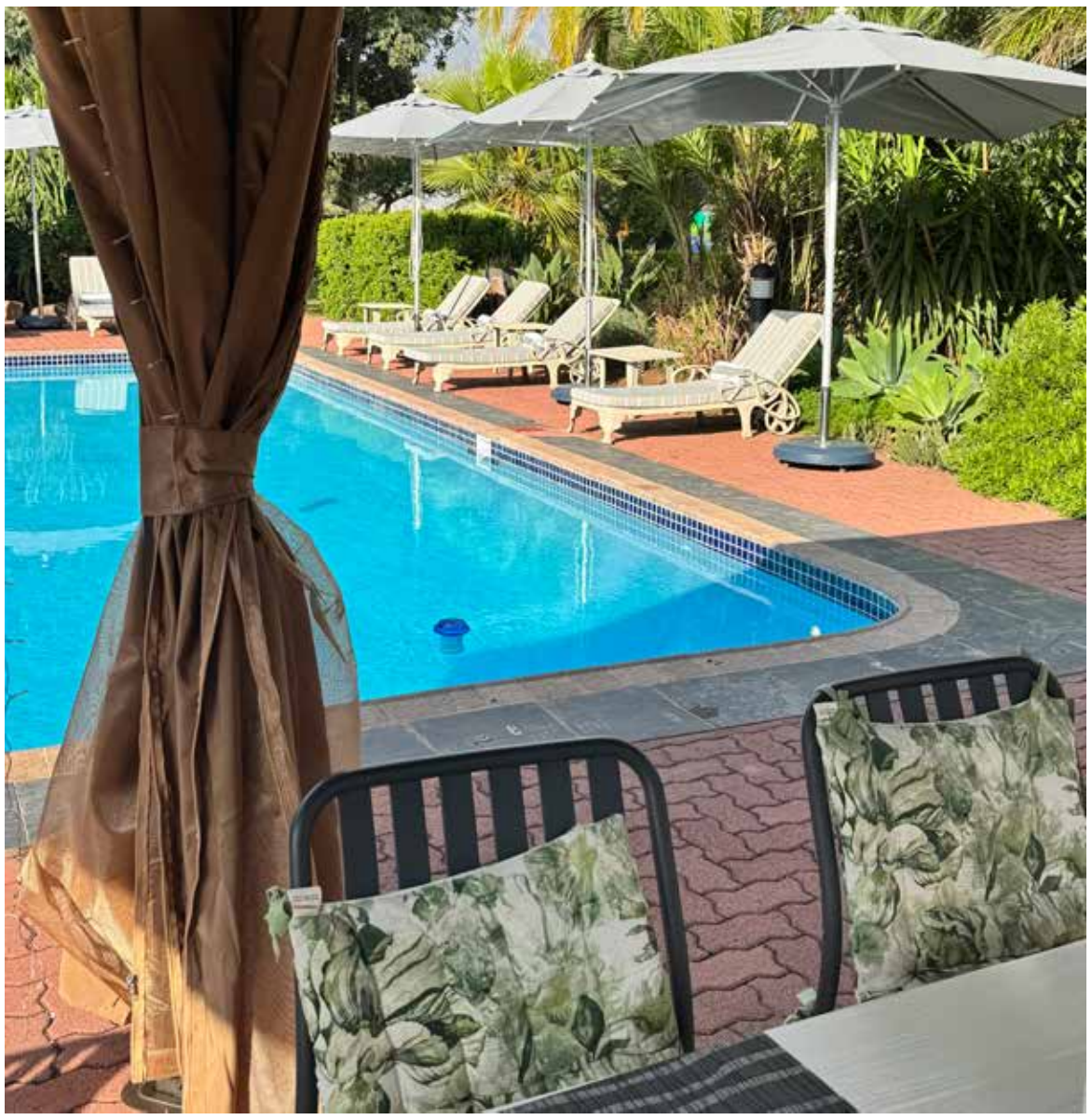
The difference is that Botswana is only now beginning to embrace the concept publicly and commercially.

And honestly, it makes sense.

At a time when many families want affordable activities away from screens and shopping malls, orchards suddenly feel like hidden goldmines. The experience is simple, interactive, and refreshingly offline.

Kasimba: The New City Escape

Just a stone's throw from the city, Kasimba Boutique Hotel is redefining the modern escape blending safari elegance, curated calm, and Instagram-ready interiors into one seductive escape in the hills of Mokolodi



GOSEGO MOTSUMI

Gaborone moves fast. Between traffic, meetings, deadlines, and the endless hum of city life, the modern luxury is no longer excess, it is escape.

And tucked quietly beneath the Mokolodi Hills sits Kasimba Boutique Hotel, the city's newest answer to burnout and relaxed staycations.



Barely a month old, the locally owned boutique hideaway feels designed for people obsessed with curated experiences, soft life living and disappearing without actually leaving town. Kasimba doesn't ask guests to travel far for peace. It simply changes the atmosphere.

The moment you walk through its doors, the city noise dissolves into earthy slate floors, iron chandeliers, warm wood textures, wildlife artwork, and soft neutral palettes that feel lifted from a contemporary safari dream. The interiors balance rugged African elegance with polished modern minimalism, less "hotel," more luxury sanctuary.

WHERE LUXURY SLOWS DOWN

The oversized upholstered headboards, black leather sofas framed in wood, cowhide accents, and soft natural lighting create a mood that whispers comfort instead of chasing trends. Even the colour palette — slate grey, sand, espresso brown, olive, cream, and black — feels intentionally calming.

The interiors communicate sophistication, calm, and quiet luxury while still celebrating an unmistakably African identity.

It is the kind of place where people suddenly remember to breathe.

Outside, manicured gardens and citrus-scented air soften the edges of city fatigue. Inside, every corner feels curated for stillness and style.

FOOD AS THE MAIN EVENT

At Kasimba, food is not simply served, it arrives like theatre.

Chef Jan Jacobus and his team have turned the restaurant into an experience where every plate tells a story. The amuse bouche of smoked chicken rillette with pickled, pureed, and powdered beetroot feels almost too pretty to eat. Then comes caldo verde soup, sautéed prawns in a parmesan crisp bowl with guacamole and sundried tomato salsa, before a fillet mignon café de Paris lands with onion jam, mustard beans, and potato galette.

Even dessert refuses to behave modestly: polenta and raisin cake paired with orange marmalade and vanilla ice cream.

Soft music hums through the restaurant while cocktails sparkle beneath ambient lighting.

Operations manager, Shadrack Ranthatsa said the place stands out because it is where, "leisure and business finds peace, where celebrations feel like poetry and where a quiet afternoon becomes a memory you carry forever."

BUILT FOR THE CAMERA AGE

Kasimba understands modern luxury's unspoken truth: if people cannot photograph it, did it even happen?

> "It is where celebrations feel like poetry and where a quiet afternoon becomes a memory you carry forever."

From curated breakfast setups to statement mirrors, panoramic suites, and carefully placed wall art, the hotel feels designed with both comfort and content creation in mind. Every corner begs for a slow-motion reel or a perfectly filtered selfie.



THE SOFT LIFE ERA

With 19 premium rooms, a pool, two bar areas, and a soon-to-open conference facility, Kasimba arrives at a moment when Batswana are craving experiences over excess.

And perhaps that's the hotel's greatest triumph. It doesn't try too hard. It simply invites you to slow down.

How Female Winemakers Are Changing South African Wine Without Making a Scene

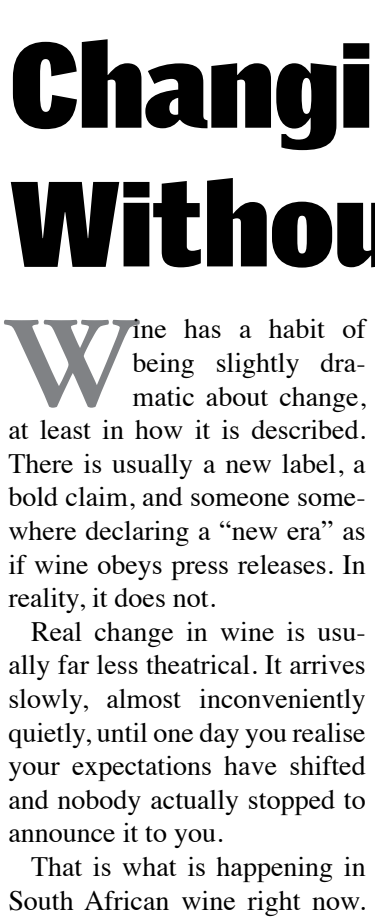
Wine has a habit of being slightly dramatic about change, at least in how it is described. There is usually a new label, a bold claim, and someone somewhere declaring a "new era" as if wine obeys press releases. In reality, it does not.

Real change in wine is usually far less theatrical. It arrives slowly, almost inconveniently quietly, until one day you realise your expectations have shifted and nobody actually stopped to announce it to you.

That is what is happening in South African wine right now. Not a rupture, not a reinvention, but a gradual recalibration of style, structure, and thinking. And increasingly, a meaningful part of that shift is being driven by female winemakers who are not trying to signal change, but simply making wines that behave differently in the glass.

From "Up-and-Coming" to Already Doing the Work

For years, women in wine were introduced with language that implied they were still on their way. "Emerging talent." "Rising stars." "Ones to watch." All perfectly polite, and all slightly awkward when you realise many of them were already making the wines being discussed.



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.



"It is less about how loudly a wine introduces itself and more about how well it holds together as it evolves."

That framing is now starting to feel outdated, not because of a branding exercise, but because the reality on the ground has moved ahead of it.

Structured pathways like the Cape Winemakers Guild Protégé Programme have helped accelerate this shift in a very practical way. They do not simply introduce people to wine; they place them directly into working cellars where decisions are real, timelines are tight, and the grapes are not interested in excuses.

What comes out of that environment is a generation of winemakers who are not waiting for permission to contribute. They are already contributing, already shaping decisions, and already influencing how wines are being made.

WINES THAT FEEL MORE COMPOSED

One of the most noticeable changes is not found in industry language or strategy documents, but in the wines themselves.

Across a growing number of wines made by women in South Africa, there is a clear stylistic shift toward wines that feel more integrated, more composed, and often more rounded in shape. Not softer in the sense of being weaker, but softer in the sense of being better resolved.

Tannins tend to feel less jagged. Fruit feels more settled and less pushed. Acidity supports structure rather than sitting on top of it. The overall impression is not of reduced power, but of better managed expression.

Where some wines arrive with a sense of urgency, almost trying to make an immediate impression, these wines tend to open more gradually. They feel less like they are performing for attention and more like they are comfortable unfolding over time.

It is not about restraint for its own sake. It is about control that is exercised with intention.

"What comes out of that environment is a generation of winemakers who are not waiting for permission to contribute."

CONSISTENCY OVER PERFORMANCE

Producers like Post House sit comfortably within this evolving landscape. The wines are not trying to announce themselves as part of a movement or trend. They are simply consistent in their intent and execution.

There is a sense of discipline in the winemaking that avoids unnecessary excess. Nothing feels overworked, but nothing feels casual either. The wines sit in that increasingly interesting space where clarity and balance matter more than volume or stylistic drama.

In a market where louder wines often get more immediate attention, this kind of restraint becomes noticeable precisely because it does not try to be.

Drinkers Are Paying Attention Differently Now

Consumers are also changing how they engage with wine, even if they are not always conscious of it.

There is a growing shift away from story-first evaluation toward performance-first evaluation. A compelling narrative still helps, but it no longer carries a wine that does not deliver in the glass.

Instead, more attention is being paid to how wines behave over time. Do they hold together? Do they stay interesting beyond the first sip? Do they feel balanced rather than front-loaded?

This shift quietly raises the bar. It means execution is becoming more important than positioning.

WHAT "GOOD WINE" IS BECOMING

For a long time, quality in wine was often associated with intensity. Bigger flavours, deeper colour, stronger first impressions. Wines that made an immediate statement were often assumed to be the best wines.

That definition is changing. Quality is increasingly being understood through balance, texture, and longevity in the glass. It is less about how loudly a wine introduces itself and more about how well it holds together as it evolves.

Quality is increasingly being understood through balance, texture, and longevity in the glass

This is where the influence of female winemakers becomes more visible, not through a single identifiable style, but through a shared tendency toward integration, clarity, and controlled expression.

A SHIFT THAT IS ALREADY NORMALISING ITSELF

What makes this moment interesting is that it is not being packaged as a movement. There are no slogans, no formal declarations, and no attempt to define it publicly as a shift. It is simply happening through repeated outcomes in the glass.

And by the time the industry fully describes it, it will already have become standard practice. More women will be in key decision-making roles, and more wines will reflect this quieter, more balanced approach without it being considered unusual at all.

In wine, that is usually how real change shows itself: not when it is announced, but when it no longer needs to be noticed to be understood.

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

CASE NO. CVHGB – 000097-2016

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

NOTICE OF SALE IN EXECUTION

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

DATE OF SALE : Friday 24 July 2026
VENUE : Tribal Lot 3800, Mahalapye
TIME OF SALE : 1100 hours
TERMS OF SAL : Only cash or Bank Transfer (EFT) will be accepted.

The detailed conditions of sale are available for inspection at the undersigned Attorneys' offices.

PROPERTY TO BE SOLD : The Defendant's title rights and interest in a certain piece of land being Tribal Lot **3800, Mahalapye** in the Bangwato Tribal Territory, measuring **4608 m²** (Four Thousand Six Hundred and Eight Square Metres) held under Notarial Deed of Cession Number FT MA 237/2011 dated 14th day of November 2011 made in favour of Bolele Bernard Bolele specially executable. The developments therein are a three bedroomed house consisting of three bedrooms, bath and toilet, sitting room, kitchen, separate two rooms at the back, paved, electric fence and a screen wall.

DATED AT GABORONE ON THIS 11TH DAY OF MAY 2026.

COLLINS CHILISA CONSULTANTS
Attorneys • Notaries • Conveyancers

COLLINS CHILISA CONSULTANTS
Plot 4858, Lecha Road
Off Marakanelo Way
Extension 11, Gaborone
P O Box 45136
GABORONE
Deputy Sheriff U.J. Chilisa
[Cell No. 74931240/71594008]

H/W NKAU
IN THE MAGISTRATE'S COURT FOR THE GABORONE DISTRICT
HELD AT VILLAGE

CASE NO. CCMVL-003268/25

In the matter between:
KESEGOFETSE MALETE **Plaintiff**
and
THABO MOLAPISI **Defendant**

NOTICE OF SALE IN EXECUTION

BE PLEASED TO TAKE NOTICE THAT pursuant to the Judgment granted by the Honourable Court, the following property will be sold by Public Auction by Deputy Sheriff **ONKEMETSE MEDUPE** to the highest bidder as follows:

DATE OF SALE : 12th June 2026
TIME OF : 10:30 am
VENUE : Broadhurst Police Station
PROPERTY TO BE SOLD : 1 x 1 Motor Veichle Aud A3, Blue in Colour, Registration No B427 BRE.

TERMS OF SALE : Cash or Bank Transfer Only.

DATED AT GABORONE ON THIS 23RD DAY OF MARCH 2026

JEREMIA ATTORNEYS
Plaintiff's Attorneys
Plot 1126, Feitelberg Street
Town Centre
FRANCISTOWN
TEL:3972550/76650906

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

CASE NO. CVHGB-000737/22

In the matter between:
STANBIC BANK BOTSWANA LIMITED NO (Cited in the capacity as the Trustees for the time being) for BIFM (LOCAL PROPERTY FUND) **Plaintiff**
and
NITRAM TECHNOLOGIES SERVICES **Defendant**

NOTICE OF SALE IN EXECUTION

BE PLEASED TO TAKE NOTICE THAT pursuant to the Judgment granted by the Honourable Court, the following property will be sold by Public Auction by Deputy Sheriff **ONKEMETSE MEDUPE** to the highest bidder as follows:

DATE OF SALE : 12th June 2026
TIME OF : 10:30 am
VENUE : Broadhurst Police Station

PROPERTY TO BE SOLD : 1 X 2 Solar Panels, 1 x 1.5 Solar Poat, 1 x (used) Solar Controller, 1 x Solar Inverter, 1 x 2 Solar Controller, 1 x 1 Solar Inverter, 1 x 2 Solar Inverter, 1 x 2 Solar Controller, 1 x 1 (used)Solar C0 ontroller, 1 x 2 (used) Solar Inverter, 1 x Solar Controller, 1 x (used) Solar Inverter, 1 x Solar, 1 x 1 Solar Charge Controller, 1 x Solar Inverter, 1 x 2 Solar Inverter, 1 x Solar Inverter, 1 x Solar Inverter, 1 x 2 Solar Inverter, 1 x 2 Inverter, 1 x 8 Pumps, 1 x Motor.

TERMS OF SALE : Cash or Bank Transfer only.

DATED AT GABORONE ON THIS 25TH DAY OF MAY 2026

Malete Attorneys
ATTORNEYS, CONVEYANCERS & NOTARIES

MALETE ATTORNEYS
Plaintiff's Attorneys
Plot 18573, Phase
(Aresutalane Way)
PO Box 748 AAH
GABORONE
Tel: 3972550

H/W MOKONE
IN THE MAGISTRATES' COURT OF THE REPUBLIC OF BOTSWANA
HELD AT BROADHURST

CASE NO. CCMBR-001606-24

In the matter between:
MARAMANE TEKAE **PLAINTIFF**
And
DANIEL ZINDIMU **DEFENDANT**

SUBSTITUTED SERVICE

TO: DANIEL ZINDIMU of Gaborone and whose further and better particulars are unknown to the Plaintiff.

TAKE NOTICE that by the Summons issued out of the court you have been called upon to give notice, within **14 days** after publication hereof, to the Registrar of Court and to **Morima Attorneys, Gaborone International Commerce Park, Plot 158, Unit 6, P. O. Box 201140, Bontleng, Gaborone,** the Plaintiff's Attorneys, of your intention to defend in an action wherein the Plaintiff claims:

(a) **Payment of the sum of P 12,510.00**
(b) Interest at the rate of 10% per month.
(c) Costs of suit; and
(d) Further and/or alternative relief

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

DATED AT GABORONE THIS 21ST DAY OF MAY 2026

MORIMA ATTORNEYS
Attorneys | Notaries | Conveyancers

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

NOTICE OF NEXT OF KIN MEETINGS

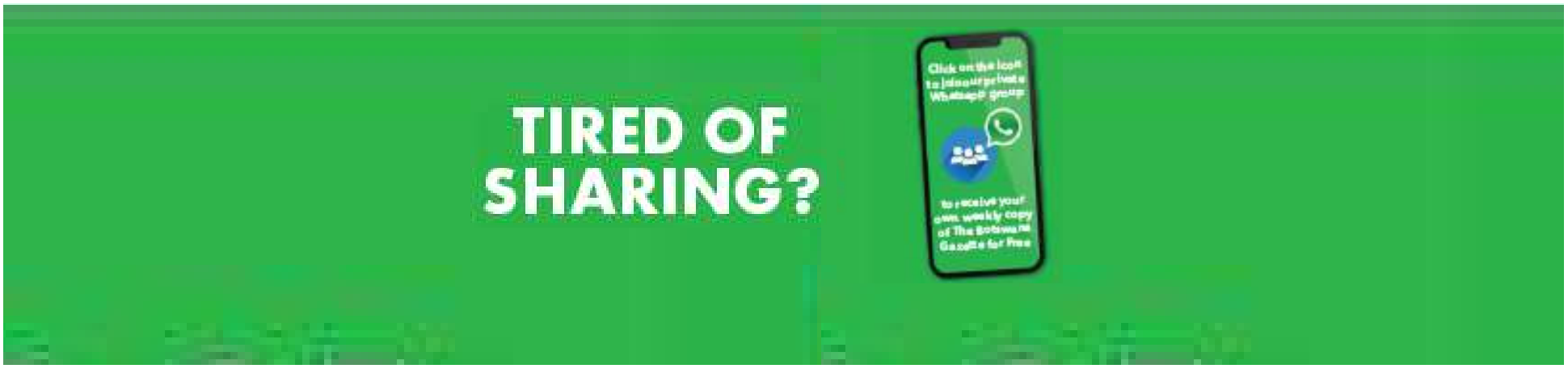
Administration of Estates Act
(Cap: 31:01)

NOTICE IS HEREBY given that by virtue of Section 31 of the Administration of Estates Act (Cap: 33:01), heirs and next of kin of the deceased and all persons having claims against the above estate, are being called upon to attend before the Master of the High Court at Mahalapye High Court on the date and time specified opposite the names of their deceased relatives for purposes of recommending for appointment, a person or persons as Executor / Executrix Dative as well as identifying beneficiaries and to discuss any other business relating to their deceased relative.

Name of Deceased Person	Estate Number	Date of Meeting	Time	Master
Ontefetse Ditlhako	ESHMY 000 157/26	15/06/26	0900HRS	SARM

DATED AT PALAPYE THIS 18TH MAY 2026

Mr. Max Dintwa, The Curator,
c/o **K. SEGABO ATTORNEYS,**
P. O Box 510, Palapye,
Telephone No. 4923174



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

CASE NO: CVHFT 000 092/26

In the matter between:
FIRST NATIONAL BANK OF BOTSWANA LIMITED **PLAINTIFF**
And
BAKANG I GAREBATHO **DEFENDANT**

SUBSTITUTED SERVICE

TO: **Bakang I Garebatho**
Defendant
P.O Box 404944
GABORONE

formerly residing at Plot No. 28681, Newstance, Gaborone, but whose present whereabouts are unknown that by summons issued out of this Honourable Court, you have been called upon to give notice, within **Twenty One (21) days** after publication hereof, to the Registrar and to **FIRST NATIONAL BANK OF BOTSWANA LIMITED c/o M MMOHE ATTORNEYS** (Plaintiff's Attorneys) of intention to defend (if any) in an action wherein **FIRST NATIONAL BANK OF BOTSWANA LIMITED** claims:-

a) Payment of the sum of **P68 614.30**;
b) Interest at the rate 26.26% per annum from 19th day of January 2026 to the date of payment;
c) 10% collection commission in the event of paying the amount in installment; and
d) Costs of the suit at attorney and own client scale.

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

DATED AT FRANCISTOWN THIS 26TH DAY OF MAY, 2026

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

DEPUTY REGISTRAR & MASTER

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

CASE NO: CVHFT 000 089/26

In the matter between:
FIRST NATIONAL BANK OF BOTSWANA LIMITED **PLAINTIFF**
And
MPHO CHABALALA **DEFENDANT**

SUBSTITUTED SERVICE

TO: **Mpho Chabalala**
Defendant
P.O Box 10357
KANYE

formerly residing at Plot No. 63238, Tsholofelo, Gaborone whose present whereabouts are unknown that by summons issued out of this Honourable Court, you have been called upon to give notice, within **Twenty One (21) days** after publication hereof, to the Registrar and to **FIRST NATIONAL BANK OF BOTSWANA LIMITED c/o M MMOHE ATTORNEYS** (Plaintiff's Attorneys) of intention to defend (if any) in an action wherein **FIRST NATIONAL BANK OF BOTSWANA LIMITED** claims:-

a) Payment of the sum of **P52 892.20**;
b) Interest at the rate of 24.76% per annum from 29th day of January 2026 to the date of payment;
c) 10% collection commission in the event of paying the amount in installment; and
d) Costs of the suit at attorney and own client scale.

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

DATED AT FRANCISTOWN THIS 26TH DAY OF MAY, 2026

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

DEPUTY REGISTRAR & MASTER

H/W OLAOTSE
IN THE MAGISTRATE COURT OF THE REPUBLIC OF BOTSWANA
HELD AT BROADHURST

CASE NO: CCMBR-000261-24

In the matter between:
OBONANYE AMOGELANG **PLAINTIFF**
and
ALEX MOSE **DEFENDANT**

SUBSTITUTED SERVICE

TO : **ALEX MOSE**, an adult male of full legal capacity, whose last known place of residence is GABORONE and whose postal address is unknown.

WHEREAS the Plaintiff commenced this action praying for judgment against you as follows:

a) Payment in the sum of **P45,000.00**;
b) 10% interest thereon a tempore morae;
c) Collection commission at the rate of 10%; and
d) Costs of the suit.

AND WHEREAS you did not appoint an address for service in your Appearance to Defend and Plea, merely indicating that it is Block 10, Gaborone.

AND WHEREAS the Plaintiff applied for substituted service and was granted the same on **18 March 2026**.

BE PLEASED TO TAKE NOTICE THAT the above matter has been set down for Initial Case Management Conference before the above Honourable Court on the **17th** day of **June 2026** at **08:30am** or soon thereafter as Counsel may be heard.

TAKE FURTHER NOTICE THAT in terms of Order 11 (2) of the Magistrate Court Rules, you are required to provide your full address for service and postal address and serve any Notice or responses upon our address indicated hereunder.

DATED AT GABORONE THIS 6TH DAY OF MAY 2026.

MAKATI LAW CONSULTANCY, Plaintiff's Attorneys, 28 Kgagodi Crescent, Plot 59860, Block 7, Off-Western Bypass (Basotho Drive), P O Box 108, Tel:3975726, **GABORONE**.

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

CASE NO: CVHFT 000 106/26

In the matter between:
FIRST NATIONAL BANK OF BOTSWANA LIMITED **PLAINTIFF**
And
KESEGO MONKGALA **DEFENDANT**

SUBSTITUTED SERVICE

TO: Kesego Monkgala
Defendant
P.O Box 504051
GABORONE

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

a) Payment of the sum of **P111 248.85**;
b) Interest at the rate of prime plus 22% per annum from 6th day of February 2026 to the date of payment;
c) 10% collection commission in the event of paying the amount in installment; and
d) Costs of the suit at attorney and own client scale.

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

DATED AT FRANCISTOWN THIS 26TH DAY OF MAY, 2026

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

DEPUTY REGISTRAR & MASTER

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

CASE NO: CVHFT 000 087/26

In the matter between:
FIRST NATIONAL BANK OF BOTSWANA LIMITED **PLAINTIFF**
And
MOGOMOTSI GHANEH NTSIMA **DEFENDANT**

SUBSTITUTED SERVICE

TO: **Mogomotsi Ghaneh Ntsima**
Defendant
P.O Box 976
GABORONE

formerly residing at Plot No. 2602, Extension 9, Gaborone, but whose present whereabouts are unknown that by summons issued out of this Honourable Court, you have been called upon to give notice, within **Twenty One (21) days** after publication hereof, to the Registrar and to **FIRST NATIONAL BANK OF BOTSWANA LIMITED c/o M MMOHE ATTORNEYS** (Plaintiff's Attorneys) of intention to defend (if any) in an action wherein **FIRST NATIONAL BANK OF BOTSWANA LIMITED** claims:-

a) Payment of the sum of **P343 489.13**;
b) Interest at the prime rate plus 3.75% per annum from 16th day of January 2026 to the date of payment;
c) 10% collection commission in the event of paying the amount in installment; and
d) Costs of the suit at attorney and own client scale.

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

DATED AT FRANCISTOWN THIS 26TH DAY OF MAY, 2026

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

DEPUTY REGISTRAR & MASTER

INTENTION TO CHANGE MARRIAGE PROPERTY REGIME

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

1. **GONTSE POONYANE** who is married to **KAGISO POONYANE**, in community of property on the 18th day of October 2019 at Bobonong in the Central District, intends to make an application to the High Court of Botswana for leave to change her property regime to out of community.

2. **GONTSE POONYANE** intends to apply to the High Court of Botswana after the expiration of the three (3) weeks statutory notice from the date of first publication hereof.

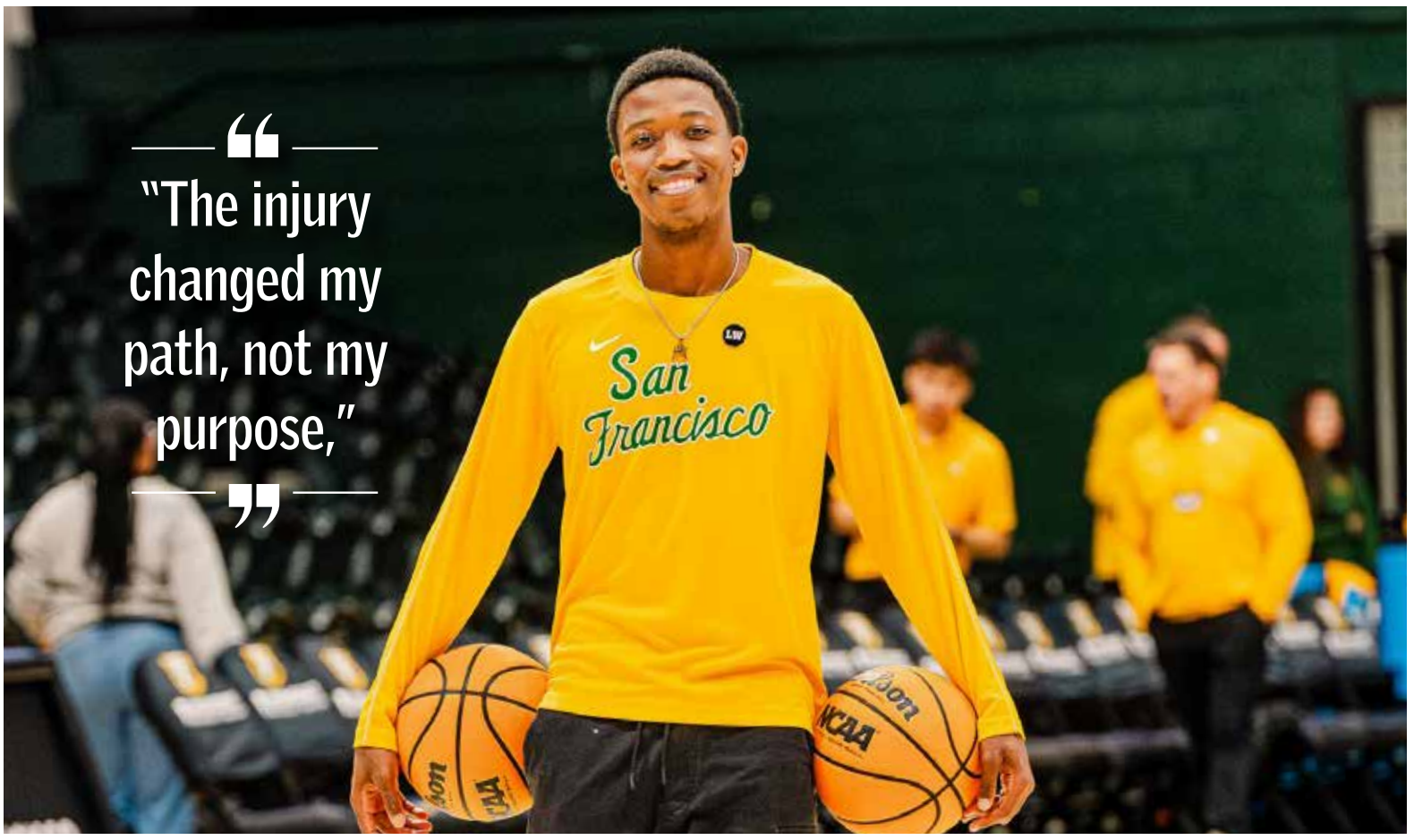
3. Any person, creditor or debtor, who may have an interest in the assets and/or liabilities of **GONTSE POONYANE and KAGISO POONYANE**'s estate, should they have objections to the proposed change of matrimonial property regime, should inform the Applicant's Attorneys, **WAME'S LEGAL CHAMBERS** in GABORONE, before the expiration of three (3) weeks period, or make representations before the High Court of Botswana once the contemplated application is lodged.

DATED IN GABORONE ON THIS 25th DAY OF MAY 2026.

WAME'S LEGAL CHAMBERS
Applicant's Attorneys
205 Independence Avenue, 1st Floor
GABORONE

Beyond The Court, Purpose Found

A promising young Motswana basketball player's career is disrupted by a devastating ACL injury in the United States. What follows is not the end of his journey, but a powerful transformation from athlete to analyst, student, and emerging sports professional redefining success beyond the court



ABALENG LESEGO

Atang Nkoane's journey began long before America. Raised as the youngest of four boys, he developed resilience early, shaped by competition, discipline, and family values. His talent on the basketball court grew steadily, leading him to represent Botswana internationally and earn a prestigious Elite Scholarship through the Ministry of Education.

INJURY ABROAD

At just 17, his dream was disrupted in the most difficult way. An ACL injury in the United States changed everything. Far from home, he faced rehabilitation inside a complex and unfamiliar healthcare system. Without family nearby, recovery became both physical and emotional.

FINDING PURPOSE

Yet within that isolation, something shifted. Basketball stopped being only about playing and became about understanding.

"The injury changed my path, not my purpose," Atang reflects. That mindset became the turning point, pushing him to remain connected to the sport even as he stepped off the court.

FILM ROOM GROWTH

His next chapter unfolded in Oakland, California, where he joined TEAM Inc. There, he entered the strategic side of basketball: film breakdowns, analytics, and performance systems. He earned certification in Hudl Sportscode and immersed himself in video coordination, building a new identity rooted in analysis, discipline, and curiosity.

DIVISION I ROLE

His consistency earned trust. He progressed into a Division I programme role as a video coordinator and later became a graduate assistant while completing a master's degree in Sport Management. Alongside his academic success in Computer Science, he carved out a rare dual identity: student and basketball professional operating behind the scenes of elite sport.

"The injury changed my path, not my purpose,"

FUTURE VISION

Today, Atang's ambition extends beyond personal achievement. He aims to become the first Motswana Division I basketball coach, while also contributing as an analyst and systems thinker. His journey reflects reinvention more than recovery, showing that success in sport is not only played on the court, but also built in the spaces beyond it.

Unaswi Matebu Remembered in Sport

GAZETTE REPORTER

The Botswana National Olympic Committee (BNOC) Board Botswana National Olympic Committee Board, together with Botswana Hockey Association (BHC) have announced the passing of Unaswi Matebu.

She served on the BNOC Board from 2021 to 2025 as an Additional Member and chaired the Sustainability Committee. At the time of her passing, she remained an active member of the same committee, contributing to sustainability initiatives within the Olympic movement.

Her involvement in sport administration spanned several years, including a long tenure as President of the BHA, where she played a central role in the development and growth of hockey in Botswana.



WASBO ROLE

"She was an active member of WASBO in such a way that she played a huge role in its wake and resuscitation, for it to be known and be very active," said Women and Sport Botswana Chairperson Keenese Katisenge-Tizhani. "She played a huge role in gender equality and was an active member in such a way that she contributed to our most recent strategy, and also through her roles in sustainability."

Matebu's work within Women and Sport Botswana extended to advocacy for the empowerment of girls and the promotion of gender equality in sport, according to the organisation.

SUSTAINABILITY FOCUS

Within BNOC structures, Matebu was also closely associated with sustainability work, which remained a key area of her contribution until her passing. Her role on the Sustainability Committee was described as consistent and committed to advancing environmental initiatives within sport governance.

She is being remembered across the sporting fraternity for her dedication to sport development, gender equality, and sustainability.

GU Eye Africa Challenge



Newly crowned champions shift focus from domestic dominance to a CAF Champions League campaign after retaining the league title with 74 points

GAZETTE REPORTER

Gaborone United have retained the 2025/26 FNB Premiership title after a dominant campaign that saw the club crowned champions with four games left to play.

The club secured the title with 74 points and walked away with P1.4 million in prize money following their final home match against BDF XI.

Speaking on the sidelines of the celebrations, Commercial and Communications Manager Tumo Mpatane said the club began the season determined to defend the championship.

"At the beginning of the season, when the planning was done, we wanted to defend the league and successfully so we did," Mpatane said.

"We wanted to finish the season undefeated and party poppers ended up being TAFIC and Sua Flamingoes, but what's important is that we won the league with 74 points."

AFRICA AMBITIONS

The club is now turning attention toward next season and a return to continental football as preparations begin for the CAF Champions League.

"We are planning for the next season, the biggest being the CAF Champions League," Mpatane said. "Planning is a recipe that ensures all push for one simple goal. This past season was testament of that."

Mpatane said consistency across the squad and limited injuries helped the club maintain momentum throughout the campaign.

"This season we had very few injuries and that might have worked for us," he said. "Everyone played an important role in getting us to dominate."

WINNING FORMULA

Mpatane also credited the club's leadership and technical staff for helping deliver back-to-back league titles.

"Hard work from everyone, more especially the Director, has been very vital in winning the league," he said. "The same goes to the effort of the league; they pushed. All members of the staff fought for this."

The title win comes as the club prepares to celebrate its 60th anniversary, with management already outlining ambitions both locally and on the continent.

"We are taking a break, off season, then we will take our focus to Africa," Mpatane said. "We want to go all out and get into the group stages of the CAF Champions League and dominate here at home."

> "What's important is that we won the league with 74 points."

RELEGATION CHANGES

Meanwhile, Black Lions, Santa Green and Calendar Stars have been relegated from the FNB Premiership.

The trio will be replaced next season by promoted sides Enesia FC, Tonota FC and Prisons XI.

Botswana Darts Selection Final Stage Set

Final trials in Palapye will determine national squad for Region V Games in Gaborone amid intensified competition among 52 qualifiers

GAZETTE REPORTER

The Botswana Darts Association (BDA) will stage its final selection on Saturday, 30 May 2026, at Lotsane Senior School in Palapye, beginning at 0830 hours. The process will reduce 52 players, who qualified from preliminary selections held on 18 April, to a final 26-member national squad.

According to BDA spokesperson Thato Maphorisa, the final phase will involve a round-robin format among all shortlisted players.

"Out of the players who made it to the final stage, they undergo another round robin against each other and the ones with more points will qualify for the national team," Maphorisa said.

SQUAD DEVELOPMENT



The final squad will represent Botswana at the Region V Games scheduled to take place at Aquarian Tide Hotel in Gaborone from 26 to 30 August this year. The competition will include Botswana as host nation, alongside Zimbabwe, South Africa, Eswatini, Namibia, Zambia, Lesotho, and Malawi.

Maphorisa said the selection process has been structured to ensure stronger representation across all categories, which include Under-25 boys and girls, Senior Men and Women, and Veterans Men and Women.

"This year we have ensured that we try to select the best players. For example, two of one of our best players who could not compete previously now have a chance to be included in the national team. This will boost the squad in the Senior Men. More practice matches will be conducted since we will be hosting, meaning no extra travelling expenses. Therefore we hope to have a fit squad," he said.

PERFORMANCE TARGETS

The association has set performance expectations for the team, with a focus on improving its regional standing.

"This year our plan is to bring back our Top 3 status we lost in Eswatini two years ago. That one is a guaranteed promise that if we don't emerge overall champions we will be in the Top 3," Maphorisa said.

The final selection is expected to be closely contested as players compete for limited places in the national team ahead of the August tournament.

ORANGE FA CUP P800K BATTLE FRIDAY



Mochudi Centre Chiefs will face Jwaneng Galaxy in the Orange FA Cup final at the National Stadium on Friday night, with P800,000 and pride on the line under the floodlights

GAZETTE REPORTER

The stage is set for a final that brings together momentum, pedigree and pressure in equal measure. Under the floodlights of the National Stadium, Botswana football will crown its Orange FA Cup champion on a night where margins will be thin and consequences heavy. For Mochudi Centre Chiefs and Jwaneng Galaxy, this is more than a trophy chase; it is a test of identity, belief and nerve, with P800,000 and national glory awaiting the victors.

CHIEFS ADVANCE

Mochudi Centre Chiefs booked their place in the final after a hard-fought 2-1 victory over Orapa United, a result that underlined their growing resilience since returning to the top flight. The "Magosi" once again leaned on discipline and collective belief to edge a tense semi-final and ignite hopes of a long-awaited return to silverware.

Orapa United pushed them throughout, but Chiefs showed greater composure in decisive moments, holding firm when it mattered most.

GALAXY STRIKE

In the second semi-final, Jwaneng Galaxy edged past Gaborone United 1-0 in a tight contest decided by fine margins. The defending champions once again demonstrated their cup pedigree, grinding out a result in a match that rarely opened up.

Despite spells of pressure from GU, Galaxy's experience and structure proved decisive as they managed the game into their rhythm and secured another final appearance.

COACH DEBATE

Football analyst Kagiso Mzambo Kgaogano believes the final may tilt in Chiefs' favour, pointing to uncertainty surrounding the Galaxy technical bench as a potential disruptor.

"There is uncertainty with their coach, there are issues about his future, and that disturbs the team," he said.

By contrast, he believes Chiefs carry momentum and emotional energy, driven by strong supporter backing since their return to elite football. He also highlighted the influence of key figures in their setup, including Gilbert Baruti and a creative Argentine presence who could unlock the final.

KEY BATTLE

However, Kgaogano warned that Galaxy's attacking experience remains dangerous, naming Thabang Sesinyi and Gift Moyo as players capable of changing the match in an instant.

"If Chiefs come in easy, Galaxy will punish them," he noted, stressing that experience in knockout football often outweighs form or narrative.

FINAL STAGE

The final will be staged under floodlights at the National Stadium in Gaborone at 19:00hrs, marking the seventh edition of the Orange FA Cup and once again placing P800,000 at the centre of Botswana football's most decisive night.

Botswana Youth Chess Impress

Strong performances in Uganda underline rising competitiveness despite narrow medal misses

GAZETTE REPORTER

The 17th Africa Youth Chess Championship 2026 concluded in Uganda, with Team Botswana delivering a mixed but largely encouraging performance against strong continental opposition.

Botswana Chess Federation (BCF) spokesperson Goitsemodimo Makgatle said the team showed resilience throughout the competition. "These performances show that the future of Botswana chess is bright, and the players have given us real confidence going forward," she said in a telephone interview after the event.

STANDOUT PLAY

Ngwao Keoletile produced Botswana's strongest result in the Under 10 Open section, scoring 7.5/9. He finished 4th out of 169 players, narrowly missing a medal on tie-breaks after three players were tied on 7.5 points for positions two and three. He entered the competition ranked 5th and ended just outside the podium.

Makgatle said Keoletile's performance reflected the team's broader progress. "Even when medals are just out of reach, the level of play shows real growth and potential," he said.

In the Under 10 Girls section, Atang Fidzani scored 6 points, improving significantly from a starting rank of 36th to finish 16th out of 91 players.

TEAM RESULTS

In the Under 8 Girls category, Sebaga Kefitlhile scored 5/9, finishing 18th of 53, up from a starting rank of 20th.

> "The future of Botswana chess remains incredibly bright."

In the Under 10 Open, Malcolm Muzinda finished on 3/9, placing 141st after starting 124th.



Under 12 Open players showed mixed progress: Yanbo Wu scored 6/9, rising from 197th to 37th of 198, while Cherillah Sarang Ram scored 6.5/9 to finish 22nd from 30th seed. Lefika Makgatho ended on 5/9, finishing 58th from 145th.

In the Under 12 Girls section, Vinah Mesotlo scored 3.5/9, finishing 77th of 104 from a 71st starting rank.

Under 14 Girls saw Eyana Dikwetla score 6/9, finishing 13th of 80 from 22nd seed, while Qudsia Toor Abrar scored 6.5/9 to retain 7th place.

In the Under 14 Open, Samuel Mukisa scored 4.5/9, finishing 84th from 42nd.

Under 16 Girls player Fatima Toor Abrar scored 4.5/9, finishing 30th from a 25th starting rank.

In the Under 16 Open, Suresh Babu Goutham and Zeyin Wu each scored 5/9, finishing 36th and 33rd respectively, while Madhav Mohanakrisnan scored 6/9 to climb to 18th from 36th seed.

Under 18 Girls competitor Maya Otimile scored 5.5/9, finishing 5th from 3rd seed.

Closing Outlook

Makgatle said the overall results should be seen in context of development and long-term progress. "The future of Botswana chess remains incredibly bright," she said.

TIRED OF SHARING?



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