The Botswana
GAZETTE
WEDNESDAY 13 MAY 2026 | SINCE 1984



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Mogae's Legacy Paradox
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2.

PAPER SHORTAGE CRISIS HITS COURTS

As the government pushes ahead with a costly Constitutional Court referendum, Botswana's existing courts are reportedly struggling with basic consumables, forcing the Law Society to coordinate donations of paper, toner and ink cartridges

Photo Crediti Industrial Court of Botswana



Travel Ban Sparks Debate

6.

Government says travel cuts will redirect funds toward anti-drug abuse efforts as President and Vice President remain exempt from restrictions



Paper Shortage Crisis Hits Courts

As the government pushes ahead with a costly Constitutional Court referendum, Botswana's existing courts are reportedly struggling with basic consumables, forcing the Law Society to coordinate donations of paper, toner and ink cartridges

BONGANI MALUNGA AND SESUPO RANTSIMAKO

Botswana's justice system is facing a distressing operational crisis, with courts across the country reportedly struggling with shortages of basic consumables such as printing paper, toner and ink cartridges, raising fears over disruptions to court processes and delays in the administration of justice.

The shortages have become so severe that the Law Society of Botswana (LSB), acting on behalf of the Administration of Justice, has launched an appeal within the legal fraternity to source donations of essential office supplies needed to keep court operations running.

POLITICALLY SENSITIVE TIME

The development comes at a politically sensitive time as government presses ahead with plans for a Constitutional Court referendum expected to cost taxpayers an estimated P275 million. The contrast between the planned expenditure on a new justice structure and the apparent inability of courts to secure day-to-day operational supplies has sparked concern.

A widely circulated email believed to be from the LSB exposed a reality of courts operating with limited printing capacity, potentially affecting the preparation of court records, judgments and other critical legal documents. The shortages threaten to worsen existing case backlogs and place further strain on the judiciary.



Pic Credit; Duma Gideon Boko (facebookpage)

> "There seems to be a reliance on the private sector or donations to cover for the government's shortcomings. It's clear that the government prioritises the President's pet projects over other responsibilities."

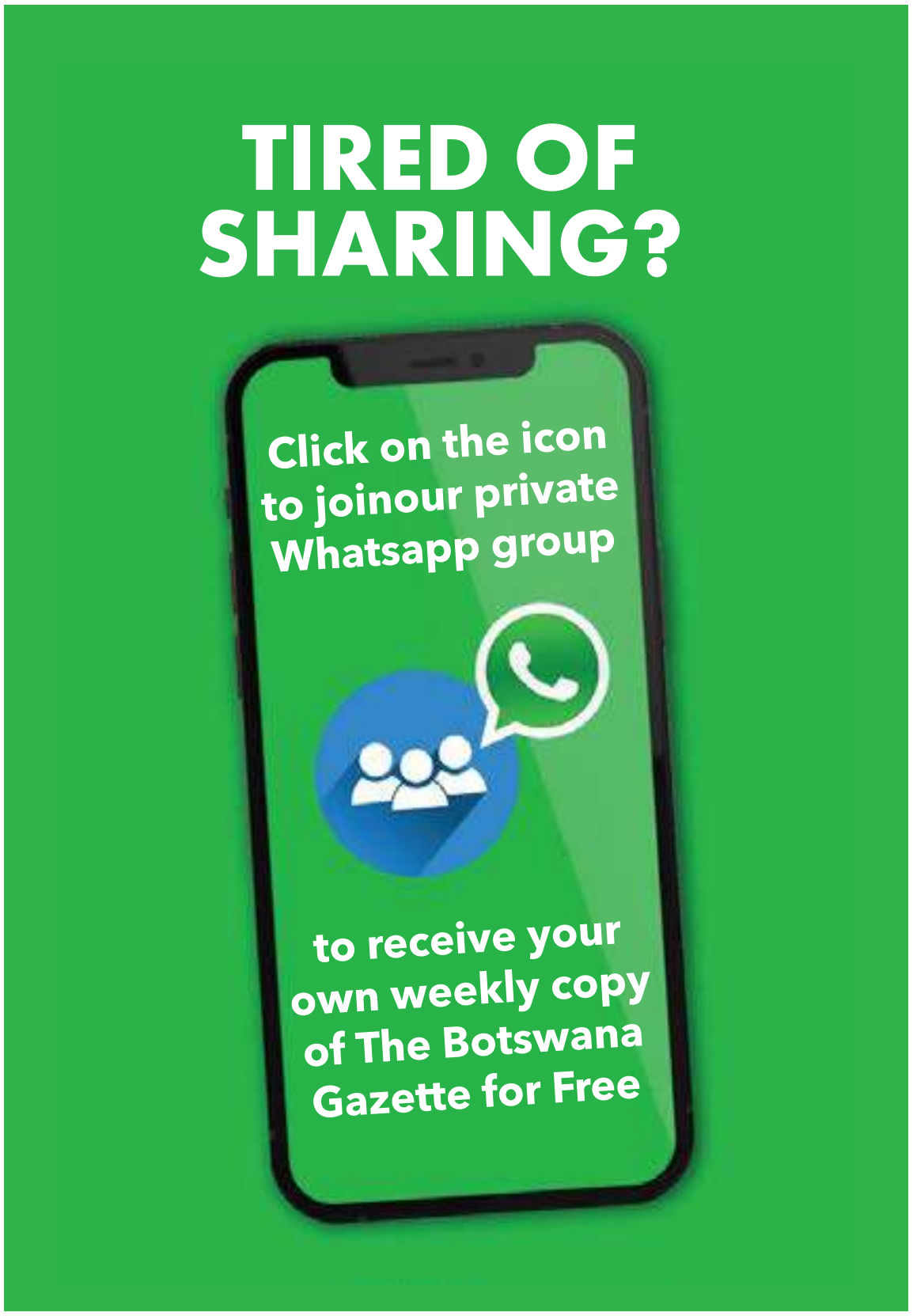
The consumables crisis has also raised questions about funding priorities within government while existing institutions reportedly lack the most basic resources to function effectively.

FUNDS ALLOCATED

This is despite the fact that in March 2025, the Administration of Justice was allocated P450 million by the National Assembly's Committee of Supply for administrative purposes. While a significant portion of the budget was earmarked for the maintenance of court facilities and judges' and magistrates' houses, the justice department also advanced plans to expand computerized systems such as e-filing. The e-filing system is intended to reduce reliance on paper by digitizing the submission, storage and management of legal documents, thereby cutting printing requirements.

In March 2026, the Ministry of Justice and Correctional Services, under which the Administration of Justice falls, also revealed to the Committee of Supply that the Case Management System (CMS) had not been operational due to system errors. The CMS is designed to ease processes such as case registration, status checks, requests for case summaries and the withdrawal of cases.

CONTINUES TO PAGE 3



FROM PAGE 2

Reached for comment on whether the Administration of Justice was allocated a budget dedicated to consumables, the Minister of Justice and Correctional Services, Nelson Ramaotwana stated that he was unable to comment as he was held up in a series of meetings in his constituency.

REFERENDUM

Asked whether the reported P275 million referendum cost had been budgeted for and if the exercise would be financed under the Independent Electoral Commission's (IEC) 2026/2027 development budget, IEC Secretary Jefferson Siamisang declined to disclose whether the commission has made financial provision for the process. Siamisang maintained that the IEC, which is constitutionally mandated to facilitate and conduct referendums, would only comment on the matter after the formal issuance of the writ of referendum.

"We can only talk about the matter after the President has issued the writ of referendum, so let us wait for that," he told The Botswana Gazette.

> "We can only talk about the matter after the President has issued the writ of referendum, so let us wait for that,"

At the time of going to press, Law Society Executive Secretary Lillian Marang Muzimo said they were not yet in a position to respond to The Botswana Gazette enquiries, as they were still deliberating on the matter in order to formulate a response.

PET PROJECTS

The Leader of Opposition, Dumelang Saleshando believes that the government has developed a trend of prioritising the President's most endeared projects over basic responsibilities.

"It's hardly surprising because the government has somewhat abdicated its role in handling its core responsibilities. This is happening across all sectors, it's a common problem. There seems to be a reliance on the private sector or donations to cover for the government's shortcomings. It's clear that the government prioritises the President's pet projects over other responsibilities," Saleshando told this publication.

The government is currently pushing ahead with plans to establish a standalone Constitutional Court, a move that proponents of the move believe will strengthen constitutional democracy and improve the handling of constitutional matters. For now, the unusual sight of lawyers and legal practitioners being asked to donate paper and printer supplies has become a stark symbol of the growing resource pressures confronting Botswana's courts.



21 Day Notice
Introduction of
ChatPay

First National Bank of Botswana Limited hereby notifies the public of the introduction of a new feature called ChatPay through the FNB App secure chat functionality. The secured chat functionality enables FNB clients to communicate with each other via the FNB app.

Payments can be made to recipients whose mobile numbers are linked to a Botswana-based FNB account, with transactions initiated directly through the chat functionality.

How secure chat works:

Any FNB client with access to the FNB App can start a chat with another FNB client who is also registered on the FNB App:

- The recipient's mobile number must be saved on the sender's smartphone.
- The sender must login to the FNB App and click on messages.
- Then select the add button under messages to search for the recipient's name from their contact list.
- Initiate a conversation by sending a message to the recipient.

How ChatPay works:

- To initiate a payment within the chat, the sender must click the attachment button then choose "Make a payment" option.
- Enter the amount and confirm the payment.
- The recipient will receive the funds in real time to the account number linked to the chatting cellphone number.
- Confirmation of payment will be displayed on the chat to show the details of the transaction.

Important Information for the Client:

- ChatPay messages are private and exchanged only between the two individuals involved.
- FNB does not access or monitor the content of these conversations, although transaction details are processed securely by the bank to complete payments.
- ChatPay transactions limits are in line with the existing FNB App payment limits.

Fees and Charges:

The following fees and charges will be applicable:

- ChatPay payments will be charged **P3.85 per transaction,**
- The Tariff Guide is available at all FNB Botswana branches and on the FNB Botswana website.

For more information:

Visit the FNB Botswana website to view the Terms and Conditions and the Tariff Guide.

Visit nearest FNB Branch

www.fnbbotswana.co.bw

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PUBLIC NOTICE

BOCRA

PUBLIC TENDER NOTICE

TENDER NO: BOCRA/PT/001/2026.27

PROVISION OF CONSULTANCY SERVICES FOR THE REGULATORY IMPACT ASSESSMENT OF NUMBER PORTABILITY IN BOTSWANA

The Botswana Communications Regulatory Authority (BOCRA or the Authority) hereby invites local and international companies to tender for the Provision of Consultancy Services for the Regulatory Impact Assessment of Number Portability (RIA) in Botswana. This RIA shall primarily consider portability on Mobile numbers, but will also include Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) and Fixed services.

Procurement Method: Open International Bidding.

Bidders who are domiciled in Botswana must in order to be considered for the tender, be registered with the Public Procurement Regulatory Autority (PPRA) under the following categories:

Code 319: ICT Consultancy Services
Subcode 05: Telecommunications

International companies are not required to have PPRA registration but must demonstrate legal registration in the country of origin.

International Bidders domiciled outside Botswana must, to be considered for the tender, submit company registration documents (in English or accompanied by an English translation) issued by the relevant authorities.

Citizen Economic Empowerment Policy (CEEP) shall apply to this tender. Bidders are requested to submit relevant certificates in order to benefit from the CEEP scheme.

Citizen youth-owned companies shall purchase the ITT at 50% of the fee as per **Presidential Directive CAB 14 (B)/ 2015.**

Licensed Service Providers by BOCRA are not allowed to participate in this tender.

The Invitation to Tender (ITT) document may be purchased by interested companies at a non-refundable fee of **P285.00 (Two Hundred and Eighty-Five Pula Only) VAT Inclusive.** Payment must be made in the form of bank transfer or deposit at the following bank details:

Bank Name:	**First National Bank Botswana Ltd**
Branch Name:	**Mall**
Branch Code:	**28-28-67**
Account Name:	**Botswana Communications Regulatory Authority**
Bank Account No:	**62011115088**
Swift Code:	**FIRNBWGX**
Reference:	**BTA0001**
Payment From:	**COMPANY NAME**

Tender documents shall be issued upon provision of **Proof of Payment (POP) at tenders@bocra.org.bw.** All funds transfer bank charges shall be borne by the bidder.

Queries and Clarifications relating to this tender may be addressed in writing no later than **27 May 2026** to tenders@bocra.org.bw and will be responded to no later than **29 May 2026**.

Bids and all supporting documents should be submitted not later than **10:00 Hours** on **5 June 2026** or such other later date as the Authority may advise in writing, at the **Tender Box** located at the following physical address:

Botswana Communications Regulatory Authority
Plot 50671
Independence Avenue
Gaborone

Bids will be opened at **10:05 Hours** on **5 June 2026** at the BOCRA offices, bidders and the public is invited. Tender opening results will be published on BOCRA Website**.**

Late tender submissions will not be accepted.

Two envelope submission method shall be used for the tender.

The Public Procurement Act and Regulations shall apply to this tender.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, the Authority is not bound to accept the lowest or any tender offer.

For any further information regarding the tender, please contact Procurement Office at: tenders@bocra.org.bw

BOTSWANA COMMUNICATIONS REGULATORY AUTHORITY
PLOT 50671 INDEPENDENCE AVENUE
PRIVATE BAG 00495, GABORONE, BOTSWANA
TEL: +267 3957755 FAX: +267 3957976
info@bocra.org.bw | www.bocra.org.bw

Imagine the world without order
Imagine Botswana without BOCRA



Auditor General Keneilwe Senyarelo

COVID-19 Looting Spree Escalates

A new Auditor General report has exposed how hundreds of millions of pula meant for Botswana's COVID-19 response were diverted to activities unrelated to the pandemic, including parties, retreats, boat cruises and other questionable expenses

GAZETTE REPORTER

Botswana's COVID-19 relief fund has been rocked by fresh explosive findings from Auditor General Keneilwe Senyarelo, who has uncovered widespread misuse, irregular spending and weak oversight involving hundreds of millions of pula meant to fight the deadly pandemic.

MISUSED MILLIONS

In her just released report for the 2022/23 financial year, Senyarelo revealed that a staggering P416.3 million was spent on activities "not related to COVID-19" in direct violation of the COVID-19 Pandemic Relief Fund Order of 2020.

The Auditor General said the expenditure represented "non-compliance with the governing legal framework" and exposed glaring weaknesses in financial controls and oversight mechanisms.

PARTIES AND RETREATS

Among the shocking revelations were payments linked to Christmas parties, recreational outings, accommodation, boat cruises and stress management retreats, all charged to the COVID-19 fund under the guise of psychosocial support.

"A total amount of P25 101 699.44 was used to finance psychosocial support activities specifically for employees, exceeding the authorised amount of P14 950 000," Senyarelo stated.

PUBLIC FUNDS

She noted that while psychosocial support formed part of the pandemic response, the law specifically intended such assistance for public counselling centres accessible to ordinary citizens, not internal staff recreational activities.

The report singled out questionable expenses, including P5 444.95 spent on a Ministry of Health Christmas party, P62 580 paid to Wild View Resort in Kasane for recreational activities and P80 080 paid to Key Intelligent Holdings Solution for accommodation, a boat cruise and game drive for 55 officers attending a stress management workshop in Kasane.

MISCLASSIFIED SPENDING

"The expenditure represents misclassification and misuse of funds under the guise of psychosocial support therapy," the Auditor General charged.

The report further exposed irregularities within the Ministry of Presidential Affairs, where P8 million from the COVID-19 fund was used to settle a lawsuit arising from the unlawful termination of a contract for electronic movement tracking devices.

LAWSUIT PAYMENT

"While I contend that this Special Fund may not be the correct vote of charge, I consider that the circumstances leading to nugatory expenditure should be investigated through a submission of loss report by the Ministry," Senyarelo warned.

The Ministry of Basic Education also came under sharp scrutiny after auditors failed to obtain supporting documents for expenditure amounting to P3.1 million.

MISSING RECORDS

Senyarelo said the missing records made it impossible to determine whether the money had been used in compliance with the law or whether transactions recorded were complete and accurate.

"Failure to provide adequate documentation represents non-compliance with the provisions of Section 124 (2) of the Constitution," she stated.

IDLE FUNDS

The report also showed that while ministries spent heavily, huge amounts of COVID-19 funds remained idle. The Ministry of Trade and Industry reportedly received P84 million from the COVID-19 fund but spent only P17 234 on a hospital bill, leaving almost the entire allocation untouched.

Meanwhile, the Ministry of Finance recorded total COVID-19 fund income of P2.36 billion, with 99 percent representing unutilised funds transferred back from ministries.



Travel Ban Sparks Debate

Government says travel cuts will redirect funds toward anti-drug abuse efforts as President and Vice President remain exempt from restrictions

GAZETTE REPORTER

The government has imposed a sweeping three-month ban on internal and external travel across the public service in a drastic cost-cutting move announced by President Duma Boko, while the President and Vice President Ndaba Gaolathe remain exempt from the restrictions.

COST CUTS

A confidential government savingram has exposed the scale of Botswana's deepening economic anxiety, with Cabinet ordering an immediate freeze on most government-funded travel as spiralling global fuel prices hammer the economy.



> Travel by the President and the Vice President" will continue despite the austerity drive.

The directive, issued recently by the Office of the President, follows a Cabinet resolution under Presidential Directive CAB 16 EXCO/2026 aimed at reducing government travel for three months.

In the savingram marked "CONFIDENTIAL," Acting Permanent Secretary to the President Matshidiso Bokole informed all Permanent Secretaries and heads of key state institutions that both local and international travel had been suspended for three months, effective April 6.

"Amongst other measures, a decision has been taken to suspend internal (local) and external travel for a period of three months in order to unlock funds for cushioning low-income groups," reads the directive.

OP RESPONDS

Responding to questions from The Botswana Gazette, Office of the President Deputy Press Secretary Cornelius C. Moloi said the Press Office acknowledged the inquiry and clarified that President Boko had publicly announced the travel reductions during an address on Botswana Television on 2 April 2026 at Mass Media.

"The Government will significantly reduce all government travel for a period of three months. The funds allocated for this travel will be pooled and redirected toward efforts to prevent the escalation of drug abuse in society. This will be done in a manner that ensures the temporary travel restrictions do not disrupt the delivery of essential public services," Moloi said, quoting the President's address.

Moloi said that following the President's pronouncement, internal communications were issued to relevant offices to ensure compliance with the directive.

Regarding the document referenced by The Botswana Gazette, Moloi said the Press Office was unable to verify or comment on its authenticity.

"It would be inappropriate for any internal government communication, intended solely for official administrative purposes, to be in the public domain," he said.

WIDE RESTRICTIONS

The savingram affects the entire machinery of government, including the judiciary, security agencies, Parliament, anti-corruption bodies and regulatory institutions.

But the directive also reveals clear exceptions.

"Travel by the President and the Vice President" will continue despite the austerity drive, alongside what government classifies as "essential travel."

It is understood that the exemptions are likely to ignite debate at a time when ordinary Batswana are grappling with mounting transport costs, food inflation and broader cost-of-living pressures linked to volatile fuel prices.

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CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

BOTHO UNIVERSITY

About Us

Botho University (BU), a leader in academic excellence and research innovation, invites applications from dynamic, experienced, and passionate intellectuals for the following position based at our Gaborone Campus, Botswana.

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Qualifications and Experience required:

- Master's degree or PhD in any of the following fields: Occupational Health & Safety or Environmental Management. Experience in designing and delivering undergraduate curricula is desirable.
- Experience with international academic collaborations is an added advantage.
- Strong communication and interpersonal skills with the ability to work in a multicultural environment
- Familiarity with digital tools for teaching, learning and research with minimum 2 years post-qualification experience in teaching at university level.
- Experience in research and publishing, including funded projects is desirable.

Job Responsibilities for the Position:

- Strong communication and interpersonal skills with the ability to work in a multicultural environment.
- Strategic thinking and ability to contribute to institutional development initiatives.
- Familiarity with digital tools for teaching, learning, and research.
- Competence in use of technology
- Ability to inspire and motivate students
- Strong communication and presentation skills with a good command of English
- Good organizational skills
- Ability to coordinate and mentor student projects and internships, including liaison with industry
- Maintain student records and manage day-to-day teaching administration
- Commitment to continuous professional development
- Be a constructive member of the Botho University team
- Ability to navigate online learning platforms effectively

To apply for this vacancy, please follow the link below :

https://bothouniversity.breezy.hr/

Please note that only applications submitted through the link above will be accepted. Short-listing of candidates will be based on academic qualifications, relevant experience, and general disposition. Only the shortlisted candidates will be called for an interview.

Closing Date: May 22, 2026

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Xenophobia Hits Informal Trade

Informal traders count losses as transport and business activities slow down



Photo Credit: Social Media

SESUPO RANTSIMAKO

Ongoing xenophobic protests in South Africa are beginning to take a heavy toll on Botswana's informal sector, with cross border traders reporting disrupted business operations and mounting financial losses.

TRADERS FEAR

Speaking to The Botswana Gazette amid the escalating unrest, Botswana Informal Sector Association (BOISA) Secretary General Mpho Matoteng said the protests, which have affected several parts of South Africa in recent days, have created uncertainty and fear among informal traders who rely on the neighbouring country for goods and business supplies.

Matoteng said the hardest hit are cross border businesses that import clothes and vegetables from South Africa for resale.

BORDER DISRUPTION

Matoteng said the ongoing unrest has slowed the movement of people and merchandise between Botswana and South Africa, threatening the livelihoods of hundreds of small scale entrepreneurs who depend on cross border trade for survival.

According to Matoteng, many cross border traders have suspended trips to South Africa amid safety concerns and fears of possible attacks on foreign nationals and businesses.

"This has negatively affected business because we rely on South Africa for imports. We have no option but to suspend operations until the situation calms," he said.

SUPPLY FEARS

The BOISA Secretary General also raised concerns that the disruptions are likely to affect the availability and prices of various products commonly imported from South Africa, including clothing, groceries, household goods, and electronics.

Botswana's informal sector depends heavily on cross border trading activities, particularly with South Africa, which remains the country's largest trading partner.

For many small business owners, regular trips across the border are essential for restocking merchandise and sustaining daily operations.

SECTOR PRESSURE

Traders have warned that prolonged instability in South Africa could severely affect their incomes and place additional strain on already struggling small businesses.

Matoteng said they are seeking intervention from the Southern African Traders Association, although no formal decision has yet been made.

Xenophobic protests have recently erupted in South Africa, with foreign nationals and their businesses being targeted. Some businesses have been forcibly closed, with foreigners accused of taking South African jobs.

GOVT WATCH

The Minister of International Relations, Dr Phenyo Butale, recently told The Botswana Gazette in an interview that government is closely monitoring the situation.

He said that although Batswana currently remain safe, particularly those living in or visiting South Africa, they should continue to exercise caution and remain vigila

From Page 6

The savingram shows that ministries and departments will only be permitted to undertake travel connected to statutory obligations, national security, international diplomacy, anti-money laundering coordination, tax enforcement, investigations, emergency response operations and oversight of critical infrastructure projects.

STRICT CONTROLS

The government has also moved to tighten bureaucratic controls around travel approvals.

All travel requests submitted to the Ministry of Finance must now first receive clearance from the Office of the Permanent Secretary to the President, while ministries have been ordered to submit applications at least two weeks before departure dates.

"Retroactive requests will not be approved, and all officials who travel without prior approval will not be refunded for any costs incurred," the savingram warns.

The annex attached to the directive shows a government under pressure to cut expenditure wherever possible.

Even local travel has been restricted to emergency deployments, court appearances, infrastructure inspections, investigations and critical service delivery operations in remote areas.

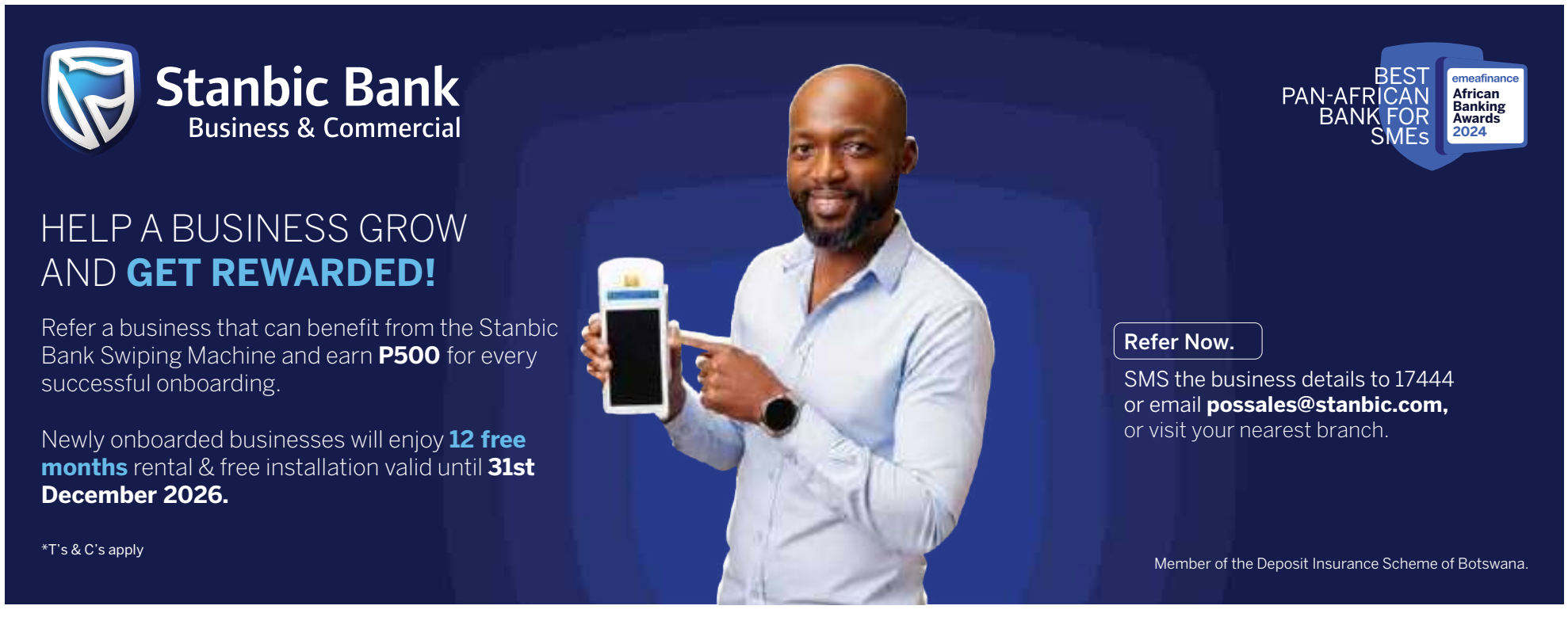
> "The Government will significantly reduce all government travel for a period of three months."

FUEL SHOCKS

The move comes amid growing concern over Botswana's vulnerability to imported fuel shocks. As a sparsely populated country heavily dependent on road transport, Botswana remains highly exposed to global oil price volatility, with fuel hikes rapidly feeding into inflation, transport fares and food prices.

Economist and financial sector specialist Keith Jefferis recently told The Botswana Gazette that rising fuel-related pressures could increase costs and alter fuel demand patterns in the country.

"It will obviously increase the transport costs of goods imported into Botswana. It will also increase demand for fuel in Botswana, as cross-border trucks will prefer to fill up in Botswana where fuel is cheaper," Jefferis told this publication.



Sharps Awards Hilux to Lucky Winner



Competition Winners



Gabriel Mokwena (1000 Pula Winner)



The Finalists



Onthusitse Reikeletseng (1000 Pula Winner)



Diau Molome (1000 Pula Winner)



Esther Yane (6000 Pula Winner)



Karabo Ramasa (1000 Pula Winner)



Keaboka Basiamebotlhe (1000 Pula Winner)



Monhadi Ntheledi (Toyota Hilux Winner)


Attendees



Jose Xavier (Sharps Electrical COO)


The Lucky Winner and his car

Sharps Electrical has handed over cash prizes and a Toyota Hilux to the winners of its customer loyalty competition held in Gaborone.

Sharps Electrical hosted a prize-giving ceremony on 8 May 2026 at its Gaborone premises. During the event, customers were presented with cash vouchers and the keys to a brand-new Toyota Hilux as part of the company's extensive loyalty rewards campaign.
The competition ran from July to December 2025 via the Sharps Rewards Card programme. The initiative allowed customers to qualify for monthly draws based on purchases made at participating branches across the country.

CUSTOMER LOYALTY INITIATIVE
Speaking during the event, the Sharps Electrical Chief Operating Officer (COO) Jose Xavier stated that the initiative was introduced to strengthen customer engagement and reward the long-term support of their clients. He noted that the company has operated in Botswana for nearly six decades, attributing its enduring market presence to steadfast customer loyalty over the years.

The COO Jose Xavier also explained that the slight delay in hosting the final price-giving ceremony was due to the logistics of coordinating the availability of the winners, independent auditors, and other key stakeholders to ensure a fair handover.

CASH PRICE WINNERS
Five customers were announced as winners of P1,000 vouchers during the ceremony:
* Onthisitse Reikeletseng
* Diau Molome
* Karabo Ramasa
* Keobaka Basimaebotlhe
* Gabriel Mokwena

The final draw saw Esther Yane and Monhadi Ntheledi emerge as the two finalists for the competition's top prices.

THE GRAND FINALE
In a tense final reveal, Esther Yane was awarded a P6,000 cash price, while Monhadi Ntheledi walked away with the grand price: a Toyota Hilux.

Representatives from the appointed auditing firm attended the event to oversee the proceedings. Company officials emphasised that the auditing process was a vital measure to ensure total transparency during the draw procedures.

The ceremony was well-attended by customers, employees, and members of the media, with the event being broadcast live across various social media platforms.

"The initiative was introduced as part of efforts to strengthen customer engagement and reward long-term support from clients."

SHARPS ELECTRICAL REWARDS

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Stanbic Bank



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

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

BWP Deposit Interest Rates

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

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

Lending Interest Rates

Lending Rates	Nominal Interest Rates % (Lowest - Highest)	Actual Interest Rates % (Lowest - Highest)
MoPR	5.50%	
SBBPLR Lending Rate	7.01%	
Mortgage Facility	SBBPLR - SBBPLR + 15%	SBBPLR - SBBPLR + 16.08%
Overdraft Facility (Revolving credit lines)	SBBPLR +5% - SBBPLR +18%	SBBPLR + 5.12% - SBBPLR + 19.56%
Credit Card	28% - 32%	31.89% - 37.14%
Lease Loans	SBBPLR - SBBPLR + 15%	SBBPLR - SBBPLR + 16.08%
Unsecured Personal Loans (excluding overdrafts, mortgage and credit cards)	SBBPLR +8% - SBBPLR +22%	SBBPLR + 8.30% - SBBPLR + 24.36%
Other Long-Term Loans	SBBPLR - SBBPLR + 18%	SBBPLR - SBBPLR + 19.56%
*Scheme related lending is per the scheme contract and is negotiable.		

All interest rates quoted are on annual basis

Foreign Currency Deposit Interest Rates

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

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

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

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

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

Member of Deposit Insurance Scheme of Botswana

MoH Pushes Back Against Polio Vaccine Conspiracies

Health authorities say misinformation threatens Botswana's fight against polio as officials defend emergency oral vaccination measures targeting young children

BONGANI MALUNGA

The Ministry of Health has moved to calm growing public concern and misinformation surrounding Botswana's nationwide oral polio vaccination campaign, insisting that the exercise is safe, necessary and designed to strengthen protection against a dangerous strain of the virus.

As the country wrapped up the final day of the four-day door-to-door campaign targeting children aged 0 to 59 months, health authorities addressed concerns raised by some members of the public questioning why children who already received routine vaccinations are being given an additional oral dose.



Photo Credit: WHO

EMERGENCY HEALTH MEASURE

The ministry explained that the campaign is not a replacement for routine childhood immunisation, but rather an emergency public health measure aimed specifically at boosting protection against Type 2 poliovirus, a strain not fully covered under the routine oral vaccine programme.

The ministry noted that false claims and conspiracy theories circulating on social media risk undermining efforts to keep children protected from preventable diseases. Health authorities stressed that the vaccine being administered during the campaign has been approved for use internationally and forms part of standard outbreak prevention strategies used in many countries.

BOTSWANA REMAINS AT RISK

According to the ministry, Botswana remains at risk due to increased regional movement and the continued detection of poliovirus cases in parts of Africa. They warned that even countries with strong immunisation records can experience outbreaks when immunity gaps emerge within communities.

The ministry further explained that children who are already vaccinated still benefit from the additional oral dose because it strengthens community immunity.

PUBLIC COOPERATION

In an interview with The Botswana Gazette, the ministry's spokesperson, Christopher Nyanga revealed that most Batswana cooperated with teams conducting the polio vaccination campaigns. According to Nyanga, as of Friday, 8 May 2026, approximately 204 158 children under five years of age received the polio vaccine, achieving 75% of the 272 100 target.

RESISTANCE

The ministry's spokesperson revealed that although the first phase of the vaccination campaign was a relative success, they still experienced some resistance in certain areas.

"Some parents declined polio vaccination for their children, citing religious reasons or a perceived lack of need. Our teams engaged them patiently, emphasizing the critical importance of protecting their children. While many ultimately heeded our advice, others stood firm in their decision. As vaccination is voluntary, we respected their wishes," Nyanga told this publication.

Botswana Institute of Banking & Finance
Transforming future capability



BIBF's Managing Director's Note of Condolences

The Botswana Institute of Banking and Finance (BIBF) extends its deepest and most heartfelt condolences to the family, friends, and the people of Botswana on the passing of His Excellency Dr Festus Gontebanye Mogae.

Dr Mogae's distinguished legacy as a former Governor of the Bank of Botswana and President of the Republic of Botswana remains a cornerstone in the development, stability, and global credibility of Botswana's financial system. His leadership was marked by prudence, integrity, and an unwavering commitment to sound economic governance.

Having previously served as an Honorary Member of BIBF, Dr Mogae held a special place within our institution. His contributions to the banking and financial services sector not only shaped policy and practice but also inspired generations of professionals committed to excellence, ethical leadership, and national development.

BIBF honours his remarkable life, his visionary leadership, and his enduring impact on the financial services landscape in Botswana and beyond. His legacy will continue to guide and inspire the Institute and the broader sector for years to come.

During this time of profound loss, our thoughts and prayers are with his family and all those whose lives he touched.

Robala ka kagiso Rre Mogae.

Mr Molaodi Menyatso
Managing Director

Tel: +267 395 2493 Email: enquiries@bibf.ac.bw Website: www.bibf.ac.bw

BDP Alleges "Trial by Public" Over Forensic Audit

Opposition party claims that the forensic audit may be politicized citing social media targeting and premature public judgement before final findings are released



The concerns centre on the distinction between an audit and a formal investigation, with Botswana Democratic Party (BDP) Secretary General Kentse Rammidi arguing that the public expectation has been inflated into something closer to a prosecutorial outcome.

BONGANI MALUNGA

Opposition voices in Botswana have raised concerns that the national forensic audit, widely anticipated as a key accountability mechanism, may ultimately fall short of producing conclusive findings, warning instead that the exercise risks being overtaken by political narratives and social media speculation.

The concerns centre on the distinction between an audit and a formal investigation, with Botswana Democratic Party (BDP) Secretary General Kentse Rammidi arguing that the public expectation has been inflated into something closer to a prosecutorial outcome. According to the opposition party, the audit's technical scope limits its ability to definitively establish wrongdoing, yet public discourse has already begun to treat preliminary interpretations as final verdicts.

POLITICAL MESSAGING

Tensions have been further heightened by the political messaging surrounding the process. President Duma Boko's earlier public remarks suggesting that individuals may have "looted the country" have been flagged by opposition figures as contributing to a climate in which citizens are effectively subjected to what they describe as a "trial by public opinion," well before the full report is released.

"We understand that findings from the audit couldn't be conclusive as this was not an investigation but an audit, the problem is the President of the Republic has given the nation an expectation that it will be released and his allegations before the release of the audit that people have looted the country are not helping. People are subjected to unfair public court," Rammidi told this publication.

PERCEPTIONS OF GUILT

A parallel concern raised by opposition voices is the growing role of social media in shaping perceptions of guilt. They argue that online discussions have already begun to isolate and implicate specific individuals, creating what they describe as a form of political warfare that risks undermining both due process and institutional credibility.

Despite these concerns, there remains acknowledgement of the institutions overseeing the process. Opposition commentary expresses confidence in the integrity of the audit coordination structures, urging them to safeguard the report from misuse and ensure that its findings are not distorted by political interests.

"We trust the integrity of those who were assigned to be an audit coordination committee and we trust they will intervene should the report be subjected to anything untoward," Rammidi concluded.



Governance Rot Leaves Air Botswana Playing Catch-Up on Financials

The governance paralysis has also seen the airline fall behind on statutory reporting obligation

BONGANI MALUNGA

Years of governance instability at Air Botswana have left the struggling state-owned airline scrambling to reconcile overdue financial reports, with audited accounts still stuck in 2022 amid a leadership vacuum and collapsed reporting structures, General Manager Dr Bao Mosinyi has revealed.

The airline has operated for years without a fully functional board of directors, while several key executive positions remain filled on an interim basis or vacant altogether. The situation has crippled oversight and decision-making, with the board reportedly failing to form a quorum for the past five years.

CRISIS LAID BARE

The extent of the crisis was laid bare on Monday when Dr Mosinyi appeared before the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Statutory Bodies and State Enterprises.

Mosinyi revealed that critical leadership posts across the airline have remained vacant for prolonged periods, further weakening operations at the troubled national carrier. The General Manager position had been vacant for 12 months before his appointment in February this year, while the Finance Manager post has been unfilled for eight months and the Human Resources Manager position for 23 months.

"As I sit here I'm the only substantive member of the executive management, everybody else, the six directors, are all acting. Our main problem at Air Botswana is a governance problem," Dr Mosinyi revealed.

Other strategic vacancies include the Director of Commercial position, which has remained unoccupied for 33 months, Customer and Ground Services for 19 months, Engineering Manager for 37 months and the Director of Flight Operations role, which has astonishingly gone unfilled for 62 months.

GOVERNANCE PARALYSIS

The governance paralysis has also seen the airline fall behind on statutory reporting obligations. Under Air Botswana's operational policy, audited financial statements are required to be presented within four months after the close of every financial year. The airline is also expected to submit annual reports to the Ministry of Transport and Infrastructure within six months after each financial year, a requirement that has repeatedly not been met.

"Financial reports for the year 2021 were signed in 2022, nine months after the permitted period. 2022 financials were only signed two months ago. We are currently on the verge of finalizing the 2023 financials. The review of the 2024 financials will be started while the 2025 records will be done in December. We plan to catch up on the 2026 financials in March 2027," the Air Botswana GM explained.

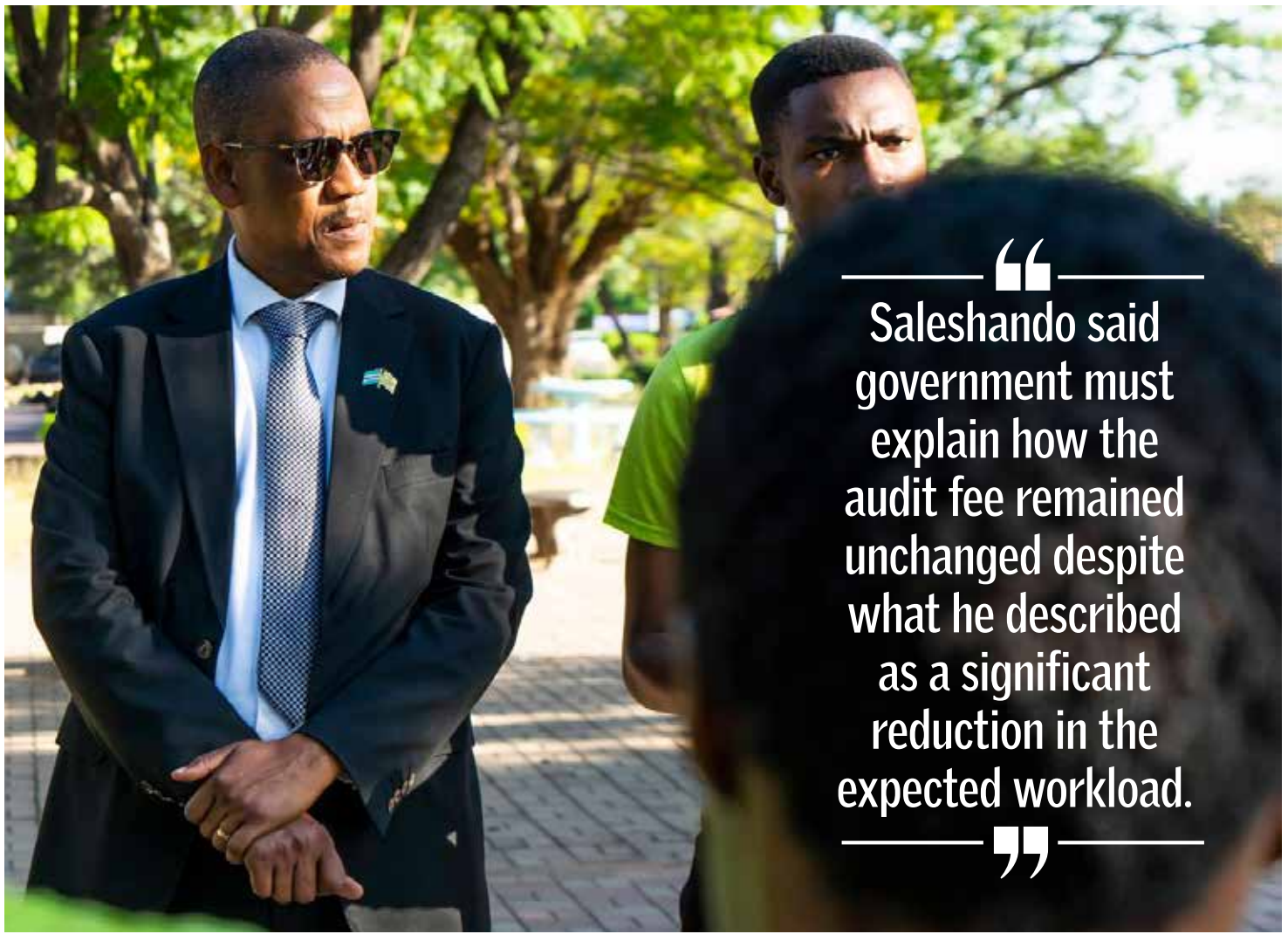
BACKLOG

"For the entire five year period under review, the only financial statements that have been reconciled are for the financial year ending 2022. This backlog is primarily due to several factors such as having the board non-curate most of the time, it creates such problems," Dr Mosinyi noted, adding that a complete restructuring of the airline's financial department also contributed to the problem.

Despite the governance issues and operational struggles, Dr Mosinyi expressed optimism that the airline would be profitable in due course as corrective measures are gradually being implemented.

BCP Queries P57m Forensic Audit Cost

BCP wants answers after forensic audit scope reportedly dropped from 92 entities to 30, with no clear explanation on whether taxpayers received value for money



SESUPO RANTSIMAKO

The Botswana Congress Party (BCP) has raised concerns over the P57 million paid to Dubai based Alvarez & Marsal Middle East Limited for the national forensic audit, questioning why the contract value was not reduced despite the reported decline in the number of ministries, departments and parastatals covered by the exercise.

SCOPE QUESTIONS RAISED

The Botswana government engaged Alvarez & Marsal Middle East Limited in 2025 to conduct a forensic audit into government departments, state owned enterprises and alleged public spending irregularities. The company was reportedly contracted at a cost of P57 million to audit 92 government entities.

However, the recently released summary of the report indicated that the audit was ultimately conducted on only 30 entities, prompting questions over whether the contract value was adjusted after the scope of work was reduced.

BCP DEMANDS CLARITY

In its position paper, the BCP demanded answers on why the scope of work was reduced and why the public was allegedly not informed of the changes. The party argued that a reduction in the number of targeted entities should have resulted in a corresponding reduction in the contract price.

"Who authorized the reduction of scope from 92 entities to 30? Was the contract price renegotiated? Was Cabinet or the project steering committee formally informed, and on what basis were 62 entities excluded from the full forensic audit?" the BCP asked in the position paper.

TAXPAYER CONCERNS RAISED

Addressing the media this week, BCP president Dumelang Saleshando said the party is concerned that taxpayers may have been shortchanged after the scope of the forensic audit was allegedly reduced from 92 government entities to only 30.

Saleshando said government must explain how the audit fee remained unchanged despite what he described as a significant reduction in the expected workload.

VALUE FOR MONEY

The opposition leader argued that if the number of entities being audited dropped substantially, there should have been a corresponding reduction in the contract value.

He said Batswana deserve transparency on how public funds are being spent, particularly on large scale investigations financed through taxpayers' money.

According to Saleshando, the matter raises broader concerns about accountability and value for money within government procurement processes.

PRESSURE ON GOVERNMENT

The BCP is now calling on authorities to publicly clarify the terms of the forensic audit agreement, including whether the contract was reviewed after the scope of work changed.

Saleshando further urged government to disclose how the P57 million figure was arrived at and explain whether any renegotiations took place after the number of targeted departments and parastatals reportedly fell from 92 to 30.

MINISTER YET TO RESPOND

At the time of going to press, the Minister of State President Moeti Mohwasa was yet to respond to *The Botswana Gazette* enquiries.

BPC pleads for tariffs adjustment



BONGANI MALUNGA

The Botswana Power Corporation (BPC) has appealed to the government for urgent tariff adjustments, warning that persistent net losses, tightening liquidity and mounting cash flow constraints have left the utility with a creditor's balance of P3.5 billion.

Appearing before the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Statutory Bodies and State Enterprises on Tuesday, BPC Chief Executive Officer David Kgoboko said the corporation's financial position remains under severe pressure despite notable progress in local electricity generation capacity over the past five years.

INCREASED DOMESTIC OUTPUT

Kgoboko noted that domestic generation has increased significantly from 30 percent to 60 percent, a development that was expected to ease import dependence and improve financial performance. However, he said the benefits have been offset by tariff structures that have failed to keep pace with rising operational and procurement costs, particularly electricity imports.

Kgoboko highlighted that the cost of imported power has escalated sharply, rising from 85 thebe per kilowatt five years ago to P2.68 per kilowatt at present, placing additional strain on the utility's cost recovery model.

According to the CEO, BPC has consistently engaged the Botswana Energy Regulatory Authority (BERA) through annual tariff adjustment submissions aimed at introducing gradual increases to avoid sharp price shocks to consumers and inflationary pressure on the economy.

TARIFF UNCHANGED

However, progress has been limited, Kgoboko stated: "Despite those efforts, only a three (3) percent tariff increase was approved in 2021 after which the selling tariff remained unchanged for three consecutive years. The lack of timely tariff adjustment has resulted in a build up of unrecovered cost."

He argued that the challenges facing the corporation are no longer purely operational in nature, but structural, requiring broader policy reform and regulatory intervention. In particular, BPC is advocating for a more market-responsive tariff framework that reflects the true cost of supply.

A further complication, according to the utility, lies in the National Electrification Fund (NEF) arrangements, under which BPC collects and remits levies on behalf of government to support rural electrification under the National Electrification Scheme Connection (NESC).

TIMING MISMATCH

"The levy is recognized on sales irrespective of actual cash collections, creating a timing mismatch between revenue recognition and cash inflows. The requirement for the BPC to fund customer connections upfront and recover costs at a later stage further complicates internal cash flow constraints," Kgoboko added.

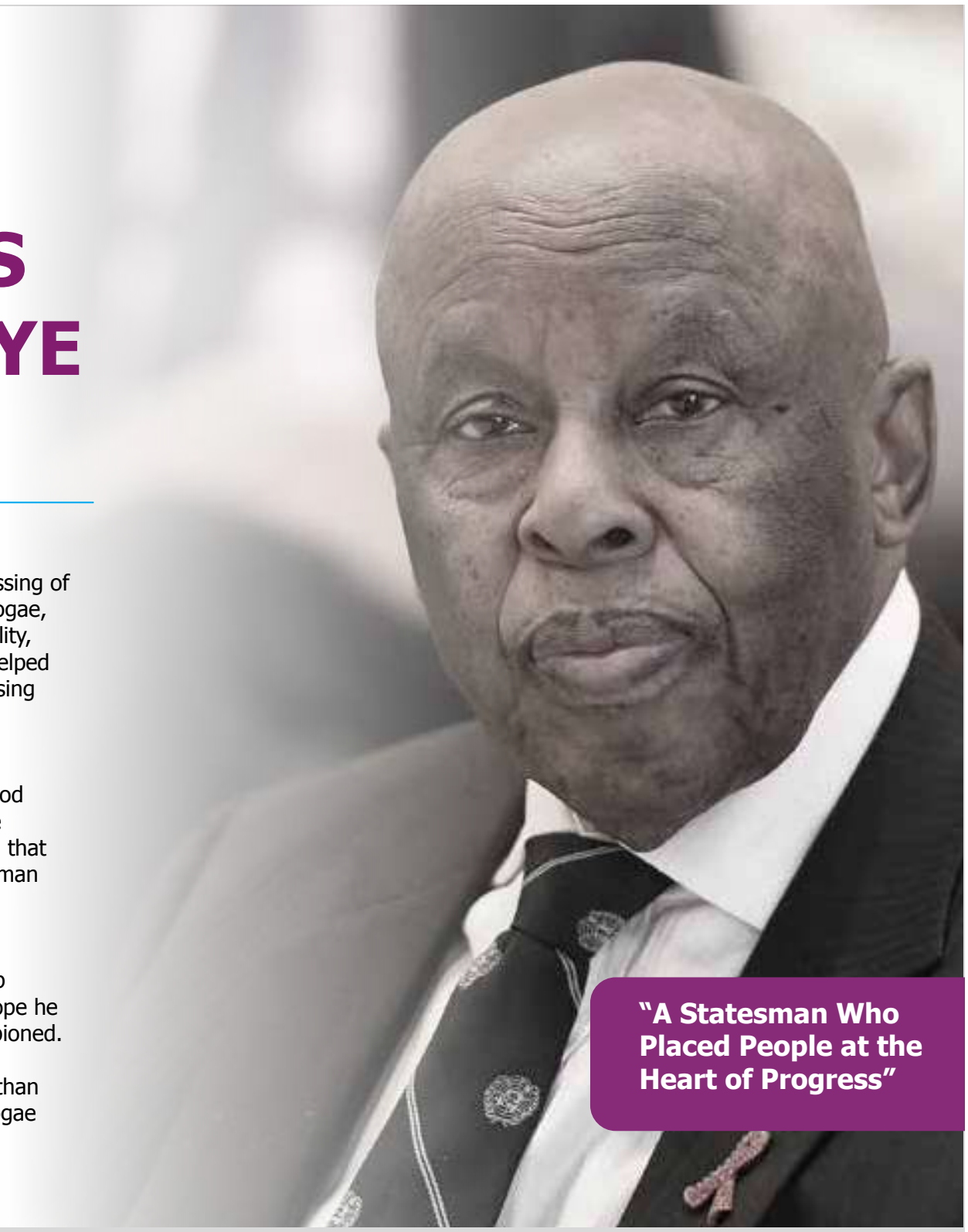
He further revealed that electricity imports currently account for 50 percent of BPC's liabilities. Kgoboko stressed the depth of the financial imbalance, saying: "Electricity tariffs covered only 55-60 percent of the cost of supply of electricity, resulting in a structural deficit where each unit of electricity sold generated a loss. Every unit that we sell generates a loss."

While the corporation has previously benefited from external financial support amounting to P1.72 billion to reduce accumulated liabilities, Kgoboko cautioned that the relief was temporary. He said recurring expenditure pressures and unresolved structural inefficiencies have led to a renewed accumulation of debt, pushing total creditor obligations back up to P3.5 billion.

IN REMEMBRANCE OF

RRE FESTUS GONTEBANYE MOGAE

1939 - 2026



"A Statesman Who Placed People at the Heart of Progress"

Bomaid joins the nation in mourning the passing of Former President Rre Festus Gontebanye Mogae, a distinguished leader whose courage, humility, and unwavering commitment to humanity helped shape Botswana's response to its most pressing health and social challenges.

At a time when HIV and AIDS brought fear and stigma to many families, Rre Mogae stood firmly for compassion, dignity, and collective responsibility. His leadership reminded us all that health is not merely a policy issue, but a human one.

As a Fund committed to building a healthier Botswana, we honour his memory with deep gratitude. His legacy lives on through the hope he restored and the values of service he championed.

"The goals that unite us remain far greater than any differences we may have." Festus G. Mogae

COMMUNITY HEALTH DAY: POSTPONEMENT NOTICE

In honour of the national mourning period and as a mark of respect to the late Rre Festus Gontebanye Mogae, the Community Health Day in collaboration with Dutch Reformed Church (Gaborone) scheduled for Saturday, 16 May 2026, has been postponed.

A new date will be communicated in due course. We thank our partners, stakeholders, and the public for their understanding and continued support during this time of national reflection.

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Govt Rejects Union Calls to Ban Mswati

The unions contend that allowing the monarch in Botswana could taint its long-standing image as a defender of democracy and human rights within the region

BONGANI MALUNGA

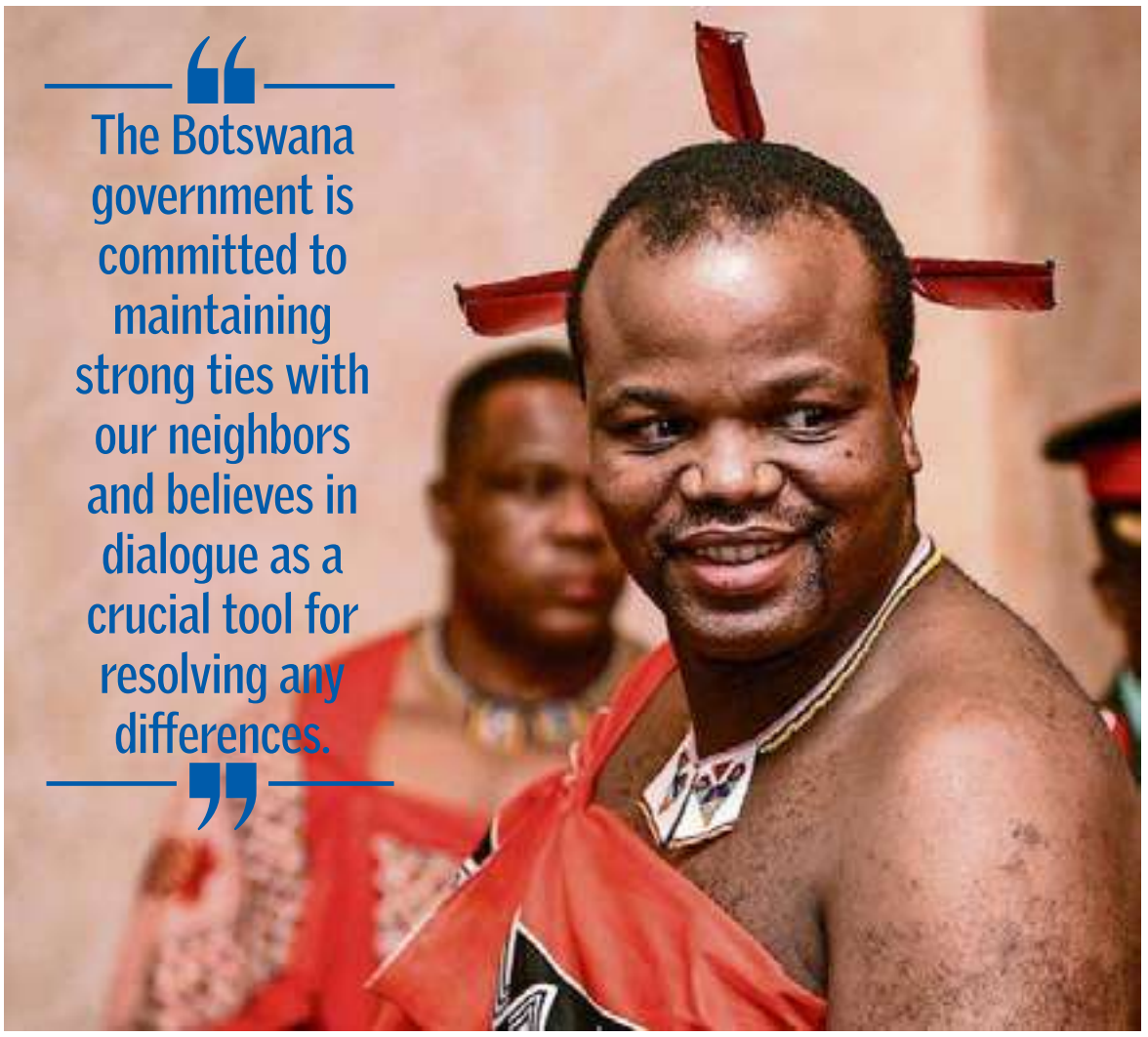
The Botswana government has rejected growing calls from trade unions to bar King Mswati III from entering the country, following renewed allegations of poor labour practices and human rights concerns in Eswatini. Labour organisations argue that Botswana should take a firm stance against alleged suppression of workers' rights, political freedoms and democratic reforms in the neighbouring kingdom.

Trade union leaders publicly have raised concerns about the reported suicide of senior military bodyguard Lieutenant Colani Mdluli, pointing to claims in Eswatini media that his death may have been influenced by poor working conditions and low remuneration.

UNION PRESSURE

The issue came to the forefront during May Day commemorations held in Letlhakane, where the Botswana Federation of Trade Unions (BFTU) president Martha Molema publicly expressed opposition to King Mswati's presence in Botswana.

"There is a recent unfortunate incident that took place in Eswatini of Lieutenant Colani Mdluli, who took his life due to economic stress caused by slavery salaries in a country where the royal family lives in luxury. It is the same government that does not allow for freedom of speech. We want to openly reiterate that King Mswati is not welcome in Botswana," Molema remarked earlier this month.



DIPLOMATIC ENGAGEMENT

However, the Ministry of International Relations has maintained that Botswana remains committed to diplomatic engagement and regional cooperation, insisting that bilateral relations between the two countries cannot be dictated by political commentary.

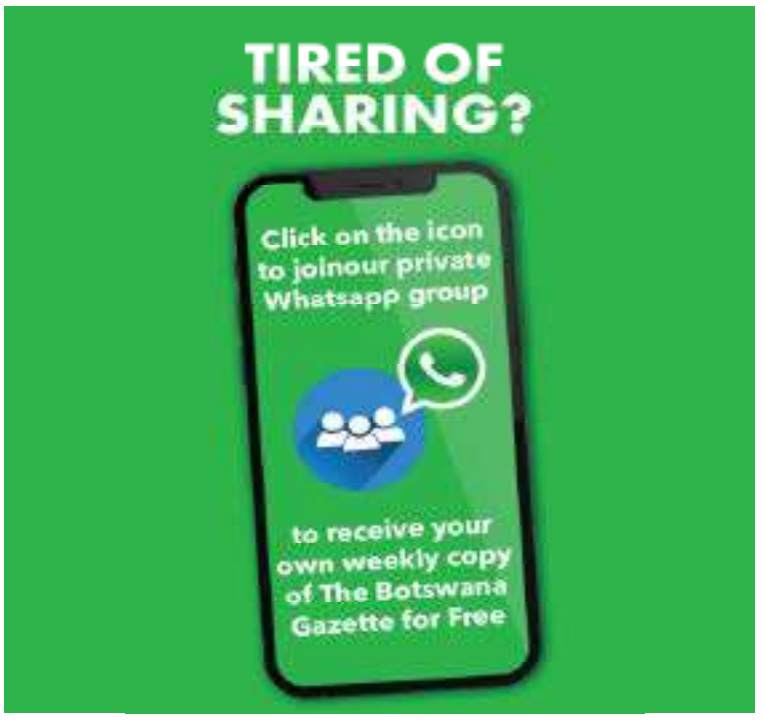
In an interview with The Botswana Gazette, the Minister of International Relations, Phenyo Butale stated that the union's views do not mirror the government's position.

AMICABLE RELATIONS

"The comments made by the BFTU President regarding King Mswati's visit do not reflect the official stance of the Botswana government. Our bilateral relations with Eswatini are amicable, highlighted by President Advocate Duma Gideon Boko's recent visit to the country. The Botswana government is committed to maintaining strong ties with our neighbors and believes in dialogue as a crucial tool for resolving any differences," Butale told this publication.

"We recognize the importance of workers' rights and are aware of the complexities involved in this issue in Eswatini. While we value our relationship with Eswatini, we are committed to encouraging constructive discussions that yield positive outcomes. Open dialogue is essential for addressing concerns and preserving the integrity of our diplomatic relations," the minister stressed.





Botswana Faces Condom Shortage Threat

Ministry confirms low stock levels amid fears of setback in HIV prevention efforts



SESUPO RANTSIMAKO

Botswana's fight against HIV/AIDS could face fresh strain as the Ministry of Health (MoH) confirms the country is experiencing low condom stock levels while global supply disruptions threaten higher prices and delayed deliveries.

GLOBAL SUPPLY PRESSURES MOUNT

The warning follows reports that Malaysian company Karex, the world's largest condom manufacturer, plans to increase prices by as much as 30 percent following rising production costs linked to geopolitical tensions involving Iran.

Responding to The Botswana Gazette enquiries, MoH spokesperson Dr Christopher Nyanga acknowledged that Botswana is vulnerable to the global supply shock, admitting that price increases and supply delays are likely.

THE MINISTRY WARNS OF PRICE SHOCKS

"It is likely that price shocks for condoms can be observed due to the ongoing geopolitical tensions," Dr Nyanga said.

The Ministry further revealed that longer lead times are already posing risks to the country's condom supply chain, raising concerns over whether Botswana could soon face widespread shortages in public health facilities and community distribution programmes.

HIV PREVENTION UNDER THREAT

The development threatens to undermine decades of progress in Botswana's HIV prevention campaign, particularly among vulnerable groups who rely heavily on free or subsidized condoms distributed by government.

Dr Nyanga warned that condom shortages carry immediate and measurable consequences for national HIV and STI prevention efforts.

CONDOMS REMAIN KEY PREVENTION TOOL

"Condoms remain the cornerstone of combination prevention because they provide dual protection, preventing both HIV transmission and other sexually transmitted infections, as well as unintended pregnancies," he said.

Health experts have long regarded condom access as one of Botswana's most critical weapons against HIV transmission in a country that continues to battle one of the highest HIV prevalence rates globally.

VULNERABLE COMMUNITIES AT RISK

Any disruption in supply is expected to hit hardest among young people, key populations and low-income communities that depend on public health facilities for free protection.

In a rare admission, the Ministry confirmed that current condom stock levels in Botswana are low, although it insists efforts are underway to replenish supplies before the situation deteriorates further.

THE MINISTRY ADMITS LOW STOCKS

"Currently the country has low stock levels for condoms. The Ministry is working very hard to expedite delivery of those that have been procured," Dr Nyanga said.

The revelation is likely to intensify concerns about the country's preparedness to withstand global supply chain shocks affecting essential health commodities.

GOV'T SEEKS ALTERNATIVES

Dr Nyanga said the Ministry is working with suppliers and international partners to minimize disruptions and avoid a complete shortage.

Despite the growing concerns, government is urging the public not to panic and to continue practicing safe sex.

"We encourage everyone to continue practicing safe sex including abstinence and being faithful to one partner," Dr Nyanga said.

'Every Week A Woman Is Killed'

A UK fact-finding report paints a damning picture of Botswana's GBV crisis, warning that restraining orders, police reports and court processes are failing to keep women alive

GAZETTE REPORTER

A newly released United Kingdom government fact-finding mission report has revealed how Botswana's justice and policing systems are repeatedly failing women facing gender-based violence.

LEGAL PROTECTION

The report, Botswana: Women Fearing Gender-Based Violence, warns that victims remain vulnerable even after obtaining restraining orders and reporting threats to police.

The report contains explosive testimony from diplomats, UN officials and advocacy groups who say Botswana's GBV crisis has spiralled into a national emergency.

NATIONAL EMERGENCY

"There is a lot of violence, every week a woman is killed," one international diplomatic source told investigators.

The report centres heavily on the June 2025 murder of a University of Botswana employee who was allegedly stabbed by her former partner despite securing legal protection against him.

French Embassy officials told investigators that the case shocked the nation because the woman "had taken several measures to protect herself."

FAILED SAFEGUARDS

"She had gone to the police, had got a restraining order, had talked about her concerns with colleagues," the official said.

"It's a perfect case study of a woman doing everything she could to protect herself but still being murdered."

A United Nations Population Fund official told investigators: "There are loopholes in the protection system."

RESTRAINING ORDERS

"Half the time, when a woman has a restraining order, no one knows about it. There are no first responders or anything to step in to protect her if the person who is subject to the restraining order violates it," the official said.

The official added that repeat offenders routinely secure bail before committing even more violent crimes.

"People feel like people perpetrate violence, they go to court, they are given bail, they come back, and they commit the same crime, or even worse, to the point of killing, because they're out on bail," the report states.

BAIL CONCERNS

According to the report, even the suspect in the UB murder case "was out on bail."

The report says many women are losing faith in law enforcement because police responses are often insensitive, under-resourced or ineffective.

A diplomatic source told investigators that some officers appeared sympathetic towards perpetrators in cases involving infidelity.

POLICE BIAS

"They felt it was justified," the source said.

"There's still a lot of unlearning to be done so that the police don't have bias."

A UNFPA official warned that Botswana's protection systems were collapsing under weak enforcement and poor investigations.

WEAK ENFORCEMENT

"The whole process will go to a point where there's a woman being given a restraining order," the official said.

"One then wonders where the police come in to make sure that restraining order is enforced."

The official added that police frequently cited shortages of vehicles and resources when victims sought urgent protection.

RESOURCE GAPS

"Half the time, the police are challenged, 'We don't have a car, we don't have resources,'" the official said.

Women's rights organisations interviewed by the UK team accused the bail system of putting survivors directly in danger.

BONELA representatives argued that bail in domestic violence cases should only be granted after authorities establish that there is "no risk for victims."

REPEAT OFFENDERS

"We are seeing perpetrators get bail and recommit offences," they warned.

Botswana GBV Prevention and Support Centre managers described "a whole lot of cases" where restraining orders were violated but perpetrators were not rearrested.

"It's a serious problem," they said.

INSTITUTIONAL FRUSTRATION

The report also revealed deep frustrations within Botswana's own institutions.

Botswana Police Service officials reportedly acknowledged that repeat offending while on bail had become "a big concern for all residents of Botswana."

The police admitted that although the Bail Act of 2024 sought to tighten loopholes, resource limitations continued to hamper implementation.

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- Minimum experience 3 (three) years, prefer 5 (five)
- Be able to play different instruments

Please forward Letter of Application, CV, certified copies of certificates and names of 2 (two) referees to:
The Managing Director, Legae English Medium School, PO Box 641 Gaborone, Botswana.
Email: legae@legaeinvestors.com

CLOSING DATE FOR APPLICATIONS: 25 May 2026

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BAMB Chief Executive Officer Lilian Scheepers said the parastatal could no longer continue operating under its current model and needed to be repositioned as a commercially driven agribusiness.

BAMB Eyes Business Overhaul After P112.4 Million Losses

BAMB plans sweeping reforms and possible private partnerships after fraud, procurement failures and operational weaknesses triggered losses exceeding P112 million

BONGANI MALUNGA

The Botswana Agricultural Marketing Board (BAMB) is considering a major strategic overhaul, including a possible Public Private Partnership (PPP), after suffering losses amounting to P112.4 million between 2022 and 2025 amid deep-rooted operational failures, fraud and weak procurement systems.

Appearing before Parliament's Standing Committee on Statutory Bodies and State Enterprises on Monday, BAMB Chief Executive Officer Lilian Scheepers said the parastatal could no longer continue operating under its current model and needed to be repositioned as a commercially driven agribusiness.

POTENTIAL INVESTORS

Scheepers revealed that preliminary engagements had already been held with potential investors who have existing investment portfolios across Africa, as BAMB looks to stabilise its finances and modernise operations.

"BAMB can make money. No other agribusiness is spread across the nation like we are. We need to rebuild the entity and treat BAMB like a business. I am hoping that the board that has been appointed is strong enough and a business minded one that knows how to turn around situations as critical as BAMB's," said Scheepers.

The CEO expressed optimism that a newly appointed board, sanctioned by the Ministry of Lands and Agriculture, would help ease operational pressures provided there is alignment between management and the board.

GRIM PICTURE

Scheepers painted a grim picture of an institution weighed down by years of internal inefficiencies, poor controls and suspected fraud.

Among the issues exposed was a logistics scandal involving tonnes of sorghum worth P450 000 that disappeared in February this year while being transported to BAMB's Pandamatenga branch. A random verification exercise reportedly found that 2160 bags of 50kg sorghum stock had not been captured in BAMB's retail system, raising concerns over supply chain accountability.

FUEL FRAUD

Scheepers also highlighted widespread fuel management irregularities, revealing that although BAMB has not had a fuel supply contract since 2018, there are still 218 active fuel tags in the supplier's system. She further disclosed that trucks which have long been out of service due to breakdowns continue to reflect fuel consumption records, while incomplete repair histories have not stopped payments to mechanical service providers.

The CEO also pointed to weak procurement discipline and incomplete paperwork trails affecting supplier payments, warning that the lack of proper documentation and accountability mechanisms had created loopholes for financial leakages across the organisation.

> "We need to rebuild the entity and treat BAMB like a business. I am hoping that the board that has been appointed is strong enough and a business minded one that knows how to turn around situations as critical as BAMB's."



Air Botswana's Mounting Financial Strain

Three months after taking office, the airline's chief executive laid bare mounting losses, debt pressures and fleet challenges before Parliament on Monday



GAZETTE REPORTER

Air Botswana recorded its highest revenue during the period under review at P330 million at the end of 2024, but the airline continued to post losses between 2021 and December 2025, according to its Chief Executive Officer, Dr. Bao Mosinyi.

Dr. Mosinyi, who was appointed earlier this year, appeared before Parliament's Statutory Bodies Committee Examinations on Monday, nearly three months into his tenure, where he detailed the airline's financial position and operational difficulties.

The airline's highest net loss during the period stood at P204 million. Over the same period, government support to the airline amounted to more than P523 million.

"This organization has been a cash losing machine," Dr. Mosinyi told the committee.

He said the airline's financial position had also been worsened by a government loan of P230 million advanced in 2018. According to Dr. Mosinyi, the airline had little realistic prospect of repaying the debt given its financial standing at the time.

"With interest, the loan now sits at over P304 million," he said.

DEBT BURDEN

Dr. Mosinyi said Air Botswana had requested that the loan be converted into equity, adding that the airline was awaiting a response from the minister.

"In its current state, the airline cannot pay the loan," he said.

The airline's operational challenges were also outlined during the committee session, particularly around its fleet.

FLEET CHALLENGES

Air Botswana currently has six aircraft purchased by the government, but only three are operational.

Dr. Mosinyi said one aircraft is parked at the airline's hangar with engine problems that would require more than P40 million to repair. Two additional aircraft remain in Namibia because of non-payment issues.

He said efforts had been made over the past three months to settle the outstanding payments, with the airline expecting the aircraft to return to Botswana at the beginning of June.

"Looking at the state of these aircraft which have not been operating, we need about P65 million to get them up," Dr. Mosinyi said.

The disclosures offered a detailed picture of the airline's financial and operational pressures, including rising liabilities, dependence on government support and the limited availability of aircraft within its fleet.

Botswana's Inflation Set To Surge

Fuel prices, transport fares and medical aid premiums are expected to push Botswana's inflation above the Bank of Botswana's 3 to 6 percent target range in the second quarter of 2026, according to the central bank's latest Monetary Policy Report

GAZETTE REPORTER

Botswana's inflation is projected to rise sharply and breach the upper bound of the Bank of Botswana's 3 to 6 percent objective range in the second quarter of 2026, according to the central bank's Monetary Policy Report of April 2026.

The report attributes the anticipated increase mainly to the combined impact of higher domestic fuel prices effected on March 28, 2026, increased public transport fares and higher medical aid premiums introduced on April 1, 2026. The central bank also cited broader cost-push pressures across the economy.

"Moreover, earlier adjustments to exchange rate policy parameters are assessed to contribute marginally to the expected increase in inflation, given the high import intensity of the Botswana economy," the report reads.

The report added that the direct market response to those exchange rate adjustments had "largely been absorbed."

MEDIUM-TERM OUTLOOK

Despite the expected surge, the Bank of Botswana said inflation is projected to gradually ease and return within the objective range over the medium term.

"Nonetheless, inflation is expected to ease and gradually revert to within the objective range in the medium term as the impact of the Middle East war on international oil prices subsides and associated pressures dissipate," the report states.

The projection also factors in the maintenance of the pula currency basket weights and the downward rate of crawl of 2.76 percent for 2026, alongside trading partner countries' inflation forecasts and movements in international food and oil prices.

EXPECTATIONS SHIFT

According to the March 2026 Business Expectations Survey, firms expected inflation to average 4.5 percent in 2026, remaining within the Bank's target range at the time of the survey.

However, the report noted that subsequent increases in international oil prices have already resulted in upward adjustments in domestic fuel prices and higher public transport fares.

"These developments are likely to exert upward pressure on inflation expectations," the report says. "Accordingly, inflation expectations may adjust upward in subsequent survey rounds."

"Oil inflation is expected to increase in the short term mainly due to the recent increase in domestic fuel prices."

FOOD COSTS

The report also showed that international food price forecasts were revised upward compared with the February 2026 outlook.

The central bank linked the revision mainly to rising cereal prices, particularly wheat, driven by adverse weather conditions in parts of Europe and the United States, as well as supply disruptions in Russia and the Black Sea region.

Karowe Underground Project Gains Momentum

Lucara says underground project financing and rare stone recoveries strengthened its position in the first quarter of 2026



GAZETTE REPORTER

Lucara Diamond Corp said the first quarter of 2026 marked a key phase in the execution of its financing strategy for the Karowe Underground Project (UGP), a development expected to extend the life of the Karowe Mine to 2038.

William Lamb, the company's President and Chief Executive Officer, said the financing measures had strengthened the company's balance sheet and improved its financial flexibility as it advances the project.

"The successful execution of its financing strategy for the Karowe Underground Project has strengthened its balance sheet, providing the financial flexibility to advance one of the world's most exceptional diamond assets," Lamb said.

The company said the underground project is designed to access the highest-value section of the Karowe orebody, with initial underground production expected to come mainly from the EM/PK(S)2 unit.

PROJECT COSTS

According to the company's updated feasibility study announced on January 30, 2026, the total cost at completion for the underground project stands at $779.2 million, including contingency.

Lucara said that by March 31, 2026, it had incurred $472.4 million in costs, while a further $117.7 million had been committed but not yet spent.

The study includes updated exchange rates, construction progress, revised hydrogeological and geomechanical models, adjustments to mine design and scheduling, and the inclusion of Legacy3 stone values.

From the first half of 2026 to the first half of 2028, the company said processing activities would continue using a combination of open-pit ore and run-of-mine stockpiled material previously mined but not yet processed.

Lucara added that the project had been "materially de-risked" after the completion of shaft sinking activities in 2025, including a 776-metre production shaft and a 729-metre ventilation shaft.

DIAMOND RECOVERIES

The company reported total UGP capital expenditures of $19.0 million during the first quarter, mainly linked to shaft equipping, lateral development and surface infrastructure.

Lucara also recovered 100 "specials" during the quarter, including five diamonds larger than 100 carats and one exceeding 300 carats.

Among the notable recoveries was a 36.92-carat blue Type IIB diamond recovered from run-of-mine stockpile material.

Lamb said the recovery highlighted Karowe's ability to continue producing high-value stones.

"Operationally, Karowe continues to demonstrate its resilience and unique value proposition," he said.

The company said processing throughput during the quarter remained aligned with operational expectations.

Lamb added that while global diamond market conditions remained mixed, Lucara's focus on large, high-value stones positioned the company to benefit from improving conditions in that segment.

DPF-Bona Life Deal Blocked

Competition watchdog says proposed Bona Life acquisition risked harming competition and increasing market concentration

GAZETTE REPORTER

The Competition and Consumer Authority has rejected a proposed acquisition in which Debswana Pension Fund sought to acquire 50 percent of the business of Bona Life Insurance from Foudello, citing concerns over competition and public interest.

The decision, published recently by the authority, was announced by Gideon Nkala under Section 53(4)(a)(ii) of the Competition Act, 2018.

According to the authority, the transaction would have created stronger ownership links between major pension funds, pension administrators and a long-term insurance provider operating in Botswana.

MARKET CONCERNS

The acquiring entity, Debswana Pension Fund, is a registered pension fund that manages retirement benefits for members through its controlled administrator, Mmila Fund Administrators. Bona Life operates in Botswana's long-term insurance market.

The authority noted that Bona Life is wholly owned by Foudello, which is owned by Botswana Opportunities Partnership at 99.72 percent and Botswana Public Officers Pension Fund at 0.28 percent, with Botswana Public Officers Pension Fund identified as the beneficial owner.

The regulator said the proposed transaction would result in both vertical integration and market concentration because the parties involved already operate across pension funds, pension administration and insurance services.

"The proposed merger will result in Substantial Lessening of Competition and lead to the establishment of dominance in the insurance market and reinforcement of existing concentration in the pension fund market," the authority said.

COMPETITION RISKS

The authority said the merger could create an environment that enables the sharing of trade secrets between the two largest pension funds and their appointed administrators, potentially undermining fair competition.

It also warned that the deal could distort procurement processes through preferential treatment across pension administration and insurance value chains, leading to market foreclosure and reduced competition over time.

According to the authority, the transaction could also create barriers for independent small and medium enterprises seeking to enter the market as fund administrators.

The regulator further stated that common ownership between a dominant pension fund and a life insurer could create "a structural conflict of interest" between securing competitive outcomes for members and advancing the profitability of an affiliated insurer.

PUBLIC INTEREST

The authority said the merger carried risks for consumers and the wider market, including higher costs, reduced innovation and weaker service quality over time.

It added that increased concentration in the sector could reduce diversity and resilience within the market and potentially expose retirement savings to broader risks if a dominant entity were to fail.

The authority concluded that proposed remedies, including behavioural undertakings and governance assurances, would not sufficiently address the concerns raised.

It therefore declined to approve the transaction under Section 53 of the Competition Act.



SMEs Urged Into Value Chains

Botswana's small businesses must integrate into supply chains and formal markets to unlock growth opportunities, Trade Minister Ntsima said at a business roundtable in Gaborone



GAZETTE REPORTER

Small and Medium Enterprises remain central to Botswana's economic transformation agenda, with government positioning the sector as a key driver of employment creation, innovation and economic diversification.

Addressing the FNB FirstPreneur Value Chain Roundtable in Gaborone, the Minister of Trade and Entrepreneurship, Tiroeaone Ntsima, said SMEs would play a critical role as Botswana seeks to reduce reliance on traditional sectors and build a more resilient economy.

"Small and Medium Enterprises remain central to Botswana's economic transformation agenda," Ntsima said during the event, which was convened under the theme: "Unlocking SME Potential Through Stronger Value Chain Linkages."

GROWING PRESSURES

Ntsima said businesses were operating in an increasingly complex environment marked by slower growth in some sectors, heightened competition and shifting market dynamics.

For SMEs, he said, the environment presented both challenges and opportunities.

"The challenge lies in navigating constrained conditions such access to markets, access to finance, and the ability to compete within structured supply chains," he said.

At the same time, Ntsima said growing demand for local capacity, local production and stronger domestic value chains created an opening for smaller businesses to expand their role in the economy.

SUPPLY INTEGRATION

The minister said many SMEs in Botswana had the potential and capability to grow, but remained excluded from formal economic systems, limiting their ability to access procurement opportunities, integrate into supply chains and secure partnerships.

"Unlocking SME potential requires deliberate efforts to strengthen value chain linkages connecting businesses to markets, to buyers, to financiers, and to opportunity," he said.

He added that government alone could not achieve this, calling for stronger collaboration between public institutions, the private sector and entrepreneurs.

Ntsima said government remained committed to policies aimed at improving the ease of doing business and promoting local participation in economic activity, but stressed that policy needed to be supported by practical engagement.

Private Sector

Addressing corporates, buyers, financiers and institutions attending the roundtable, Ntsima said their procurement and investment decisions would shape how inclusive Botswana's economy becomes.

"You are the gateways to opportunity," he said.

He encouraged companies to continue opening pathways for SMEs while providing clarity on standards and expectations required for businesses to participate in formal supply chains.

To entrepreneurs, Ntsima said competitiveness, reliability, scalability and compliance would be critical in positioning businesses for sustainable growth.

"The strength of any economy lies not only in its largest enterprises, but in the depth and resilience of its SME sector," he said.

Ntsima also commended FNB Botswana and Project124 Africa for convening the platform and supporting enterprise development initiatives in Botswana.

THOUGHT LEADERSHIP

Africa's Rising Relevance Amid Global Shifts: Banks Are Key Catalysts





By Refilwe Mokate, Head of African Banks Client Coverageand Zoya Sisulu, Head of Financial Institutions Group Client Coverage at Standard Bank Corporate & Investment Banking

BY REFILWE MOKATE, HEAD OF AFRICAN BANKS CLIENT COVERAGEAND ZOYA SISULU, HEAD OF FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS GROUP CLIENT COVERAGE AT STANDARD BANK CORPORATE & INVESTMENT BANKING

The first quarter of the year has passed, yet the number of significant events and shocks during these three months has equalled what one might expect over several years.

We, like many around the globe, have watched global developments unfold with a mixture of concern and apprehension. Even thoughmany of these events are occurring far from our shores, Africa has not remained untouched by their repercussions.

GLOBAL PRESSURES AND AFRICAN CONNECTIVITY

The ongoing geopolitical tensions have reshaped trade routes and disrupted supply chains across the world.

They have also restricted external financing and changingperceptions of risk have influenced capital flows into emerging markets, including those in Africa. These dynamics have a direct impact on liquidity, funding costs, commodity prices and the performance of African currencies, underscoring how closely Africa's economies are linked to the wider global economic cycle.

RESILIENCE AND ECONOMIC OUTLOOK

Despite these challenges, Africa's economic prospects remain comparatively robust. The continent's real GDP is projected to grow by more than 4% in 2026 and 2027, outpacing the anticipated global growth rate of about 3%.

This positive outlook is supported by the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), which, with over 48 ratifying states, is expected to boost collective income by US$450 billion by 2035 and increase intra-African trade by more than 80%. Such developments will benefit a rapidly expanding population of 1.4 billion people and provide Africa with a valuable buffer against ongoing global volatility.

African nations are reinforcing their fiscal frameworks and developing deeper capital markets. Investments in energy, spanning both substantial gas projects and renewable resources, are enhancing long-term energy security. Infrastructure investment is accelerating across the continent, modernising ports, improving logistics corridors, and upgrading transport networks.

The notion of "Africa direct investment" has become particularly relevant, emphasising the importance of regional integration now more than ever.

This blend of global challenge and African resilience framed discussions at Standard Bank's 29th African International Banking Seminar (AIBS) recently held in Johannesburg. The conference highlighted the opportunities that arise from strategic collaboration between African banks and the competitive edge gained by institutions that manage risk proactively, invest in technology, and adapt global trends for local benefit.

CAPITAL MOBILISATION AND INNOVATION

Mobilising capital remains crucial for achieving Africa's development ambitions. As global financial conditions shift, the need for deeper domestic markets becomes more pressing. This involves creating robust interbank mechanisms, diversifying sources of funding, establishing regional capital platforms, and promoting sustainable finance.

Innovation is a key driver of optimism. As global supply chains are reconfigured, Africa has a unique opportunity to enhance regional manufacturing and trade. Achieving this, however, depends on financial systems that facilitate seamless cross-border flows. Africa is rapidly upgrading its payments ecosystem, improving real-time interoperability, exploring digital assets, and adopting Artificial Intelligence (AI) and big data for improved fraud detection, customer service, and strategic decision-making. The African Development Bank estimates that AI could contribute up to US$1 trillion in GDP growth for the continent by 2035.

Africa's demographic profile strengthens its outlook. Over 60% of the population is under the age of 25, making it the youngest region globally. By 2050, the working-age population is projected to increase by more than 620 million people.

To harness these demographic strengths, Africa requires a financial ecosystem that fosters inclusive growth, which is reflected in the evolving relationship between banks and fintechs: A shift from competition to collaboration.

Wilderness Supports School Feeding Programme

A P110,000 food donation is set to support breakfast meals for hundreds of learners at Shorobe Primary School this term.



Wilderness, through its partner operating Wilderness Chitabe Camp, Flamingo Investments, has donated food supplies worth P110,000 to support the breakfast feeding programme at Shorobe Primary School.

The donation is expected to benefit 468 learners during the school term and is intended to complement the government's school feeding programme by helping provide breakfast meals for pupils.

SUPPORT FOR LEARNERS

The handover ceremony was attended by local leadership, including Kgosi Totang, the area councillor, Village Development Committee members, trust representatives, village elders and school stakeholders.

According to Wilderness, the initiative forms part of its community support programmes in areas neighbouring its tourism operations. The organisation has previously assisted the school through support for Standard 7 boot camps aimed at helping learners prepare for final examinations.

COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

Wilderness Botswana Stakeholder Manager Attorney Vasco said the company views education support as part of its broader community engagement efforts.

"Education remains one of the most important foundations for long-term community development," said Vasco.

"As Wilderness, we believe meaningful partnerships with communities must extend beyond tourism and conservation alone. Supporting the wellbeing of learners, particularly in communities neighbouring our operations, is part of our broader commitment to shared value and responsible impact."

Wilderness said it continues to work with communities across Botswana on projects linked to education, livelihoods, conservation and social development.

ONGOING INITIATIVES

"We are proud to support Shorobe Primary School and contribute towards creating a better learning environment for these children," Vasco said.

Bomaid Strengthens Customer Engagement

Bomaid's latest stakeholder sessions focused on digital healthcare tools, customer education, and how technology is reshaping access to medical services

LEATILE ZACHARIAH







Bomaid hosted stakeholder engagement sessions in Gaborone last week, bringing together customers, HR professionals, and corporate stakeholders to discuss healthcare access, digital tools, and member services.

The sessions, held at Cresta, focused on customer feedback, product awareness, and the organisation's expanding digital health platforms.

FOCUS ON CUSTOMER EDUCATION

Business Development Manager Tsaone Tlalanyane said the engagements were aimed at helping members better understand their healthcare benefits and available services.

"These engagements are about empowering our customers," she said. "It is important that members understand their benefits, coverage levels, and how to access healthcare services seamlessly."

Tlalanyane said Bomaid has introduced several self-service platforms, including a member portal, a mobile application with a digital e-card, and telehealth services that allow members to consult doctors remotely and receive e-prescriptions or referrals.

WELLNESS APP DRAWS INTEREST

One of the key topics discussed was "Thrive with Bomaid," a wellness application designed to track indicators such as steps, sleep patterns, and activity levels.

Masego Mogotsi, an HR officer at Maruapula Secondary School, said the app encourages users to monitor their wellbeing more closely.

"It helps you take action before small issues become serious health concerns," she said.

Kesego Rampha from Nando's Botswana said the app's stress and sleep monitoring features could support personal wellness goals.

DIGITAL SERVICES UNDER REVIEW

Tshepiso Gaopalelwe, a Human Capital Administrator at Botswana Insurance Company, said the engagements highlighted improvements in digital processes, including faster onboarding and reduced turnaround times through self-service systems.

Orange Launches School Initiative

Orange Botswana Foundation has launched the first phase of its BTS 2026 programme, targeting learners in underserved communities with school supplies



The Orange Botswana Foundation has launched Phase One of its Education+/ Back to School (BTS) 2026 initiative, aimed at distributing school kits to learners in underserved communities across Botswana.

The launch took place on May 7 at Kalakamati, Makaleng and Kutamogore schools, which became the first beneficiaries under the 2026 rollout.

SUPPORT FOR LEARNERS

The event was attended by government officials, educators and community representatives, with Assistant Minister of Child Welfare and Basic Education Justice Hunyepa officiating the launch.

"These kinds of partnerships remind us that education is a shared responsibility," Hunyepa said. He added that learners require adequate support and resources to participate effectively in education.

According to the foundation, the initiative will later expand to 12 additional schools, including Xhaoga, Tsodilo, Sesung, Maokane, Ukhwi, S/Phikwe, Semolale, Kjoe, Seolwane, Mmaphashalala, Kavimba and Sepako in the coming weeks.

SCHOOL KIT DISTRIBUTION

Learners received school kits containing backpacks, notebooks, pens, pencils, rulers, erasers and lunch boxes.

Orange Botswana Director of People and Social Impact Modiri Nlanda said the programme was intended to support learning readiness among pupils.

"This is not a charitable gesture. It is a deliberate investment in learning readiness — ensuring that learners are equipped to engage, to focus, and to thrive," Nlanda said.

She added: "When a child has their own tools, it changes how they show up. It builds confidence and reinforces their sense of belonging."

EXPANDING EDUCATION ACCESS

The BTS 2026 initiative forms part of the foundation's broader education support programmes, including the Digital Schools Network, which currently operates in 87 schools nationwide.

The foundation said Phase One distributions will continue before the programme expands to additional schools under Phase Two

Article edited for length

FNB Forum Sparks SME Growth

From funding struggles to untapped African markets, the FNB FirstPreneur Forum brought entrepreneurs, financiers and policymakers into one room to tackle the real barriers holding SMEs back while opening doors to collaboration, networking and growth opportunities



LEATILE ZACHARIAH

FNB Botswana's FirstPreneur initiative brought together entrepreneurs, policymakers, financiers and industry stakeholders in a high-level forum aimed at strengthening small and medium enterprises (SMEs) and advancing economic diversification.

SMES REMAIN CENTRAL TO ECONOMIC GROWTH

Speaking at the engagement, Acting Commercial Executive at FNB Botswana, Basimolodi Thekiso, said SMEs remain a critical driver of the economy but continue to face structural barriers that limit their growth potential.

"We have brilliant entrepreneurs out there, but the biggest challenge is access to funding and access to markets," he said, adding that many businesses struggle with clear pathways to scale and compete beyond the local market.

Thekiso said the FirstPreneur platform was created to bring all key stakeholders into one space to unlock practical solutions that can directly support business growth.

COLLABORATION AND MARKET EXPANSION

He stressed that collaboration between government, financial institutions and industry players is essential to building a stronger entrepreneurial ecosystem.

"In isolation, we cannot achieve the level of impact we envision," he said. "This is about sitting together and having conversations that lead to practical, actionable solutions."

Thekiso further noted that entrepreneurs must begin to think beyond Botswana's borders, highlighting Africa as a key growth market.

"One of the key takeaways is that we are in a global village. SMEs must not only focus on the Botswana market but also look at scaling across Africa and beyond," he said.

He added that the forum also connects entrepreneurs directly with funders, procurement networks and industry experts to simplify access to opportunities.

VALUE CHAINS AND NETWORKING

Thamiso Kylie Magoeng, founder and managing director of Food Forage, said the engagement provided valuable exposure to mentors, procurement officers and funding institutions.

"This session allows us to interact with people who can actually help our businesses grow," she said. "Working in value chains is very important. Farmers can produce raw materials, I process them, and others can distribute. That is how we grow together."

Magoeng also highlighted new business connections formed at the event, including procurement opportunities, media exposure and potential supply chain partnerships with farmers.

LESSONS ON BRANDING, FUNDING AND SUSTAINABLE GROWTH

Casey Metlhaleng of Energized Physiotherapy Clinic said the forum provided key insights into branding, funding access and sustainable business development.

"What stood out most is networking and continuous learning across different sectors," he said. "Such platforms help us grow our services while improving employee wellbeing and productivity."

FNB reiterated that SME development is a core strategic pillar under its shared prosperity agenda. The bank said initiatives like FirstPreneur are designed to bridge gaps between entrepreneurs and the resources they need to scale sustainably, both locally and globally.

Haven City Clinic Opens Doors

A new private medical clinic in Bontleng says it aims to improve access to reliable and patient-centred healthcare services in Gaborone

Botswana's demand for accessible and reliable healthcare services has received a boost following the opening of Haven City Medical Clinic in Bontleng, Gaborone.

The private medical facility officially opened on April 29 and will offer services including general consultations, chronic disease management, child and adolescent healthcare, women's and men's health services, laboratory testing, minor procedures and specialist referrals.

FOCUS ON ACCESSIBLE CARE

Founder Dr. Naomi Garenne said the clinic was established to provide professional and accessible healthcare services while contributing to Botswana's healthcare sector.

"We established Haven City Medical Clinic to provide professional, reliable and accessible healthcare services delivered by trusted medical practitioners," said Dr. Garenne. "Patients want confidence in the medical care they receive, and that is the standard we are committed to maintaining."

As part of the launch, the clinic hosted free consultations, health screenings and health education sessions, which drew members of the public to the facility.

COMMUNITY RESPONSE

Dr. Garenne said the outreach initiative was intended to encourage residents to prioritise their health and wellness.

"The response we received during the opening showed the importance of accessible healthcare services," she said. "Offering free consultations and screenings was our way of giving back while also encouraging people to prioritise their health and wellness."

The clinic also introduced temporary reduced consultation fees for cash-paying patients from April 29 to May 15 as part of its launch activities.

HEALTHCARE PRESSURES

The opening comes as Botswana's healthcare sector continues to face increasing patient volumes and growing demand for quality healthcare services.

"As healthcare professionals, we cannot ignore the challenges facing the health sector," Dr. Garenne said. "Haven City Medical Clinic was established not only to provide quality healthcare services, but also to contribute towards improving healthcare standards, accessibility and patient experience within Botswana."



Founder Dr. Naomi Garenne said the clinic was established to provide professional and accessible healthcare services while contributing to Botswana's healthcare sector.

Liquid Intelligent Expands Digital Services

Liquid Intelligent Technologies has introduced new cloud and cyber security services in Botswana as it marks 10 years of operations in the country



Cassava Technologies SA and Botswana CEO Ziaad Suleman said the expansion forms part of the group's broader strategy to provide integrated digital services through its "One Cassava" approach.

Liquid Intelligent Technologies Botswana has announced the expansion of its cloud and cyber security services for businesses and enterprises in Botswana.

The company, which operates under Cassava Technologies, said the services will be available to both existing and prospective customers as part of efforts to strengthen digital infrastructure and security capabilities in the country.

NEW SECURITY SERVICES

At the centre of the rollout is Secure360, an integrated cyber security framework aimed at helping organisations improve digital protection and risk management.

Liquid Intelligent Technologies Botswana Managing Director Odirile Tamajobe said the company has expanded its infrastructure footprint over the past decade.

"Over the last decade, Liquid has deployed over 1174.08 km of fibre, bringing multi-terabit capacity and resilience to the region," Tamajobe said.

He added that the company's fibre backbone along the A1 road links Botswana to networks in several African countries, including South Africa, Zimbabwe, Kenya and Zambia.

> By bringing the cloud and cyber security services into the country, we are empowering local businesses with digital solutions.

SUPPORTING DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION

Tamajobe said the introduction of cloud and cyber security services is intended to support businesses seeking digital solutions.

"By bringing the cloud and cyber security services into the country, we are empowering local businesses with digital solutions," he said.

Cassava Technologies SA and Botswana CEO Ziaad Suleman said the expansion forms part of the group's broader strategy to provide integrated digital services through its "One Cassava" approach.

NATIONAL DIGITAL PRIORITIES

"When organisations engage with Liquid Intelligent Technologies in Botswana, they are connecting to the strength of Cassava's integrated digital ecosystem," Suleman said.

According to the company, the services include access to data centres, AI readiness reviews and technology planning tools aimed at supporting digital transformation initiatives.

Article edited for length



IIA Hosts Dialogue on Governance

Audit and business leaders gathered in Gaborone to discuss governance reforms and the changing role of internal auditors in Botswana.



The Institute of Internal Auditors (IIA) Botswana recently hosted a Chief Audit Executive Breakfast in Gaborone, bringing together executives, audit committees and senior public and private sector leaders to discuss governance challenges in a changing business environment.

Held during Internal Audit Awareness Month, the event focused on the theme "Navigating Uncertainty: Strengthening Governance in an Evolving World".

PUSH FOR AUDIT LEGISLATION

IIA Botswana President Gontle Khupe announced that the organisation had submitted a draft Internal Audit Act to the Ministry of Finance.

According to Khupe, the proposed legislation seeks to strengthen the role of internal auditing within Botswana's governance structures.

"Legislation and professional advancement cannot be achieved by the Institute alone," Khupe said, adding that the initiative forms part of a broader Africa-wide advocacy strategy aimed at aligning standards with international benchmarks.

GOVERNANCE AND RISK

Keynote speaker Shirley Machaba, outgoing CEO of PwC Southern Africa, said organisations should move beyond viewing governance as a compliance exercise.

"Uncertainty today is not a disruption to manage. It is the context within which leadership must perform," Machaba said.

She identified foresight, collaboration and transparency as important elements in responding to risks such as technological disruption, cyber threats and economic volatility.

Machaba also said internal auditors are increasingly expected to provide strategic insight and use tools such as data analytics to identify risks proactively.

CHANGING ROLE OF AUDITORS

Discussions at the event highlighted the changing role of internal auditors, with speakers noting the need for stronger collaboration between executives, audit committees and internal audit teams.

Khupe urged leaders to play a more active role in shaping governance standards as Botswana continues to diversify its economy.

Article edited for length

AFTRA Conference Calls for Teacher Professionalisation



LEATILE ZACHARIAH

The 13th Africa Federation of Teaching Regulatory Authorities (AFTRA) Conference held in Gaborone has concluded with strong calls for the professionalisation of teaching, improved collaboration among African countries, and accelerated digital transformation in education systems.

The conference brought together education regulators, policymakers, and teachers from across the continent to discuss ways of strengthening teaching standards, improving governance in education, and promoting shared solutions to challenges facing African classrooms.

PUSH FOR A PROFESSIONAL TEACHING SYSTEM

A central message throughout the discussions was the need for African countries to formalise and regulate the teaching profession through registration, licensing, and continuous professional development in order to improve accountability and quality in education systems.

Botswana's education leadership, including Dr Raphael Dingalo, highlighted AFTRA as an important platform for knowledge sharing and professional development across the continent.

"AFTRA provides a platform for sharing best practices and advancing the teaching profession across the continent," Dr Dingalo said.

> "All teachers must be registered, must be licensed. You cannot go into the classroom if you are not registered and licensed.

STRONGER COLLABORATION ACROSS COUNTRIES

Delegates emphasised the importance of stronger collaboration between countries in areas such as teacher training, policy alignment, and professional standards. Many participants agreed that coordinated efforts are essential to improving learning outcomes and strengthening education systems across Africa.

Namibia's Konjeni Tjilale, Head of the Teaching Service Committee Secretariat, said professionalisation must be supported by regulation and political commitment.

"All teachers must be registered, must be licensed. You cannot go into the classroom if you are not registered and licensed."

He added that continuous engagement between stakeholders is critical to addressing challenges facing the teaching profession.

POSITIVE LEARNING EXPERIENCE

Fellow Namibian delegate Festus Ashipala Amputu described the conference as a valuable learning experience and platform for policy exchange.

"It is a very good experience, good exposure… to converge as educationalists and policymakers and discuss matters pertaining to the teaching profession."

He highlighted discussions on low-cost, high-impact interventions in education and the importance of professionalising teaching across the continent.

CALL FOR DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION IN EDUCATION

Kenyan teacher and African Union awardee Jepkosgei Chemoiwa pointed to digital transformation as a key takeaway, urging African countries to embrace competency-based education and expand digital access in schools.

Delegates commended Botswana for hosting a well-organised conference, noting the country's hospitality and the opportunity for meaningful continental engagement.



Mogae's Legacy Paradox

Festus Mogae never tried to build a legacy or a brand. He tried to solve a crisis. That may be why his leadership remains one of Botswana's most enduring national assets.

THE PARADOX

When Botswana announced the passing of former president Festus Mogae at the age of 86, the tributes that followed shared a striking consistency. He was described as principled, courageous, disciplined, visionary and deeply committed to good governance. What was equally striking, however, was what nobody said. Nobody praised him as a great communicator. Nobody referenced a sophisticated public relations machine, a memorable slogan, or a carefully managed public image. The praise was not about how Mogae presented himself. It was about what he actually did.

That contradiction sits at the centre of the legacy paradox. The leaders who leave behind the strongest and most durable legacies are often the

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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

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ones who never set out to build one. They focus on solving problems, making difficult decisions and confronting uncomfortable realities. Their legacy emerges as a consequence of action rather than an obsession with image. Meanwhile, those who spend too much time trying to manufacture legacy often create something far more fragile: reputation without substance.

THE CRISIS

Mogae's presidency offers one of Botswana's clearest examples of this paradox. When he became Botswana's third president in 1998, the country was already regarded as one of Africa's success stories. Botswana had functioning institutions, political stability and a reputation for fiscal discipline that made it stand apart from many of its regional peers. But beneath that stability sat a national emergency that threatened to undo decades of progress.

Botswana had one of the highest HIV prevalence rates in the world. Entire generations faced devastation. In some age groups, infection rates were catastrophic. The country's future itself appeared uncertain. At the time, many governments avoided speaking plainly about the scale of the crisis for fear of causing panic, damaging investor confidence or weakening the national image. Mogae did the opposite. In 2001, he publicly declared that Botswana was "threatened with extinction."

It was a shocking statement for a sitting president to make. Advisors and communications strategists would normally discourage such blunt language. Yet Mogae was not trying to protect optics. He was trying to confront reality. That distinction mattered because crises softened into polite language rarely generate meaningful action. Leadership begins with diagnosis before it can become strategy.

THE DECISION

His administration would go on to make one of the most important public health decisions in modern African governance. In 2002, Botswana became the first African country to provide free universal antiretroviral treatment to citizens living with HIV/AIDS who required it. At the time, much of the international consensus argued that treatment was too expensive and too complex for African health systems to sustain at scale. Prevention, many argued, was the more realistic path.

Mogae rejected that logic. His administration mobilised domestic resources, worked with international partners and treated the AIDS crisis as a genuine national emergency rather than a reputational inconvenience. Years later, Botswana would become one of the first countries to achieve the UNAIDS 95 95 95 targets ahead of schedule. The foundations for that achievement were built during the Mogae era.

The importance of those decisions extends beyond public health. They reveal the difference between managing a reputation and earning a legacy. A reputation can be manufactured through communication. A legacy is built through decisions. A reputation depends on perception. A legacy depends on evidence.

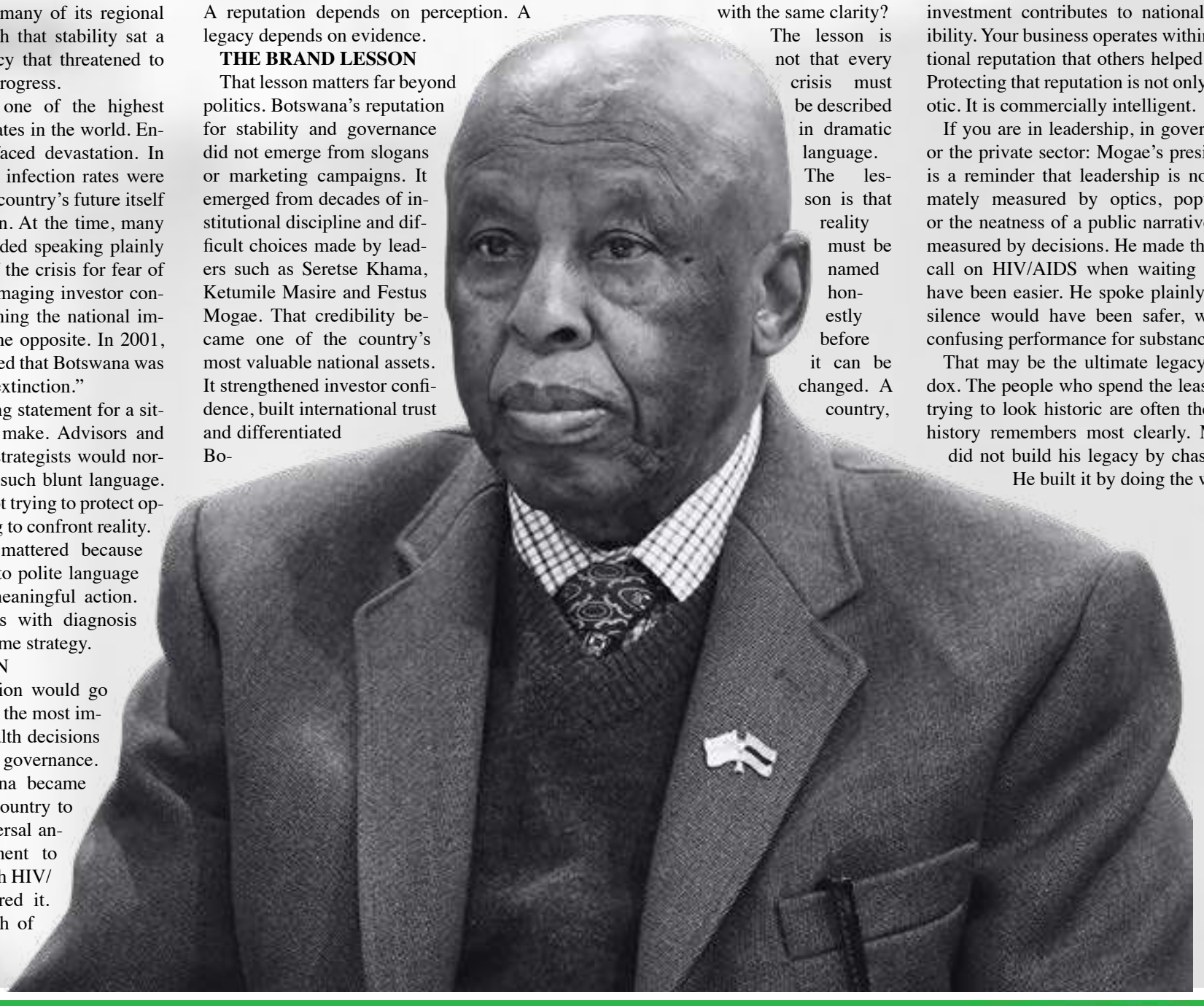
THE BRAND LESSON

That lesson matters far beyond politics. Botswana's reputation for stability and governance did not emerge from slogans or marketing campaigns. It emerged from decades of institutional discipline and difficult choices made by leaders such as Seretse Khama, Ketumile Masire and Festus Mogae. That credibility became one of the country's most valuable national assets. It strengthened investor confidence, built international trust and differentiated Botswana from many comparable economies.

Ironically, Mogae strengthened Botswana's national brand precisely because he was not trying to build one. He was trying to save lives, maintain stability and govern responsibly through a crisis that could have broken the country. The brand was the consequence of governance, not the purpose of it.

WHY IT MATTERS

The paradox becomes even more relevant when viewed against Botswana's current economic pressures. The country faces slowing growth, rising unemployment and questions around diamond dependency. These structural problems require difficult conversations and uncomfortable decisions. Mogae's legacy raises an uncomfortable question for Botswana's current leadership. Are today's leaders willing to speak about national challenges with the same clarity?



The lesson is not that every crisis must be described in dramatic language. The lesson is that reality must be named honestly before it can be changed. A country, company or institution that hides behind comforting language may preserve its image for a moment, but it weakens its capacity to act. Mogae's example suggests that the more honest path is often the more durable one.

WHAT IT MEANS TO YOU

If you are a citizen or young Botswana professional: Mogae's legacy is more than history. It is inheritance. The institutional stability, public health infrastructure and governance reputation many citizens take for granted were built through decisions made decades ago. Those assets can either be strengthened or depleted. The obligation created by that inheritance is not simply gratitude. It is stewardship.

If you are a marketer, entrepreneur or business owner: the Botswana brand is not separate from how businesses operate. Every honest transaction, ethical decision, fair treatment of employees and long term investment contributes to national credibility. Your business operates within a national reputation that others helped build. Protecting that reputation is not only patriotic. It is commercially intelligent.

If you are in leadership, in government or the private sector: Mogae's presidency is a reminder that leadership is not ultimately measured by optics, popularity or the neatness of a public narrative. It is measured by decisions. He made the hard call on HIV/AIDS when waiting would have been easier. He spoke plainly when silence would have been safer, without confusing performance for substance.

That may be the ultimate legacy paradox. The people who spend the least time trying to look historic are often the ones history remembers most clearly. Mogae did not build his legacy by chasing it. He built it by doing the work.



Botswana's Quiet Ecological Revolution

Recovering The Land Before It Is Too Late



As climate change intensifies and nearly half of Botswana's land shows signs of ecological stress, a quiet but ambitious national restoration programme is attempting to rebuild degraded communal rangelands before environmental decline begins threatening the country's long term economic survival.

BY DOUGLAS RASBASH

The Botswana CI GCF Ecosystem Based Adaptation and Mitigation in Botswana's Rangelands Project is being implemented by Conservation International Botswana in partnership with the Ministry of Lands and Agriculture. Funding includes approximately US$36.8 million from the Green Climate Fund (GCF), US$54 million from the Botswana Government, and US$6.8 million from Conservation International and associated partners. This is not simply another tree planting campaign. It is a large scale climate resilience programme designed to fundamentally improve the management of Botswana's communal grazing lands. The initiative directly targets some of the country's most climate vulnerable regions, where prolonged droughts, overgrazing, erosion, vegetation loss, and declining water retention increasingly threaten rural livelihoods.

LAND UNDER STRESS

The scale of degradation is serious. Environmental assessments suggest that close to half of Botswana's land now shows signs of significant ecological stress. Across many communal areas, natural vegetation has thinned dramatically. Bare soils are increasingly exposed to erosion. Carrying capacity declines. Livestock productivity falls. Water infiltration weakens. Climate change is intensifying all these pressures. Botswana is warming faster than the global average. Rainfall patterns are becoming more erratic and unpredictable. Longer drought cycles are increasingly interrupted by sudden heavy rainfall events that cause severe flooding and erosion because degraded landscapes can no longer absorb water effectively. In practical terms, land degradation is no longer merely an environmental issue. It is an economic issue, a social issue, and a national resilience issue.

That is why the project's implementation model matters. The programme uses the internationally recognised "Herding for Health" approach, which promotes sustainable grazing management while restoring ecosystem functionality. Rather than excluding livestock from landscapes, the model manages grazing more scientifically through rotational systems, grassland restoration, bush control, animal health improvements, and community based natural resource management. In practice, herders are trained to move livestock strategically across grazing areas in ways that mimic natural ecosystem processes. Properly managed grazing allows vegetation to recover, improves soil quality, increases water retention, and restores the long term productivity of degraded land.



A SHIFT IN THINKING

This represents a major shift in development thinking. For decades, development models across Africa often treated nature as secondary to economic growth. Progress was associated with roads, mines, urban expansion, and extraction. Ecological systems were frequently viewed as obstacles rather than productive assets. But climate change is forcing a reassessment of that thinking. Healthy ecosystems are increasingly understood as economic infrastructure in their own right. Grasslands store carbon. Wetlands reduce flooding. Soils retain water. Vegetation moderates temperatures. Functional ecosystems support agriculture, tourism, biodiversity, and long term economic resilience. The Botswana project therefore represents far more than environmental rehabilitation. It reflects a transition toward ecosystem based economics.

The timing is also symbolic. As the world reflects on the 100th birthday of David Attenborough, Botswana's initiative speaks directly to the message he has spent decades communicating. Humanity cannot continue treating ecological systems as infinitely expendable. Attenborough's documentaries progressively evolved from celebrating wilderness to warning about biodiversity collapse, desertification, pollution, and climate instability. Yet despite increasingly stark warnings, he consistently argues that restoration remains possible if societies choose regeneration over depletion. Botswana's programme embodies that principle.

REDISCOVERING ECOLOGY

The initiative also highlights an important contrast between Africa and Europe. In much of Europe, environmentalism emerged after industrialisation had already destroyed large portions of the natural environment. Conservation became a response to ecological loss. Many African societies historically viewed nature differently. Land, cattle, rivers, rainfall, wildlife, and seasonal cycles were deeply integrated into culture, spirituality, and survival. Ecological understanding existed long before modern environmental science formalised these concepts.

Ironically, post colonial development models often imported highly extractive approaches that weakened those older relationships with nature. Today the world may be rediscovering what traditional societies long understood: humanity is not separate from nature. It exists within it. This matters enormously for Botswana's future. The country possesses extraordinary natural capital assets, including the Okavango Delta, one of the world's great ecological treasures. Botswana's extensive rangelands, biodiversity, wildlife economy, and solar potential position it strongly within the emerging green economy.

Future economic systems are likely to place increasing value on ecosystem services, carbon sequestration, regenerative agriculture, biodiversity finance, and climate resilience. Countries that protect ecological functionality may ultimately gain major strategic advantages.

RESTORATION AS SURVIVAL

That is why restoring communal lands matters so profoundly. A restored landscape is not simply greener. It becomes more productive, more resilient to drought, more water efficient, and ultimately more economically valuable. And perhaps that is the deeper lesson emerging from Botswana's quiet ecological revolution. For most of modern history, humanity assumed that economic growth and environmental protection were opposing forces. But climate change is teaching a different reality entirely. There is no society without ecology.

The Botswana Gazette
TIME OUT
THE BOTSWANA GAZETTE
WEDNESDAY 13 MAY 2026



GET READY TO BOOGIE BACK IN TIME

Bell-bottoms, glitter fits and old-school anthems are making a loud comeback as Gaborone's favourite 70's & 80's Disco Party turns nostalgia into a full-blown lifestyle movement

GOSEGO MOTSUMI

Somewhere between the bassline of old-school disco and the shimmer of sequined jackets, Gaborone is preparing for a full-scale time warp.

The 16th edition of the 70's & 80's Disco Party lands at the GICC in Gaborone on June 6, and this year, the nostalgia machine is shifting gears. For the first time, the disco party is adding a 90s twist, a move tied to Grand Palm's 30-year milestone celebration. Translation? Expect a dancefloor collision between disco fever, township grooves, kwaito classics and vintage swagger.

Headlined by Brothers of Peace and Oskido, the event is shaping up to be less "ordinary throwback" and more cultural reset.

MORE THAN JUST A PARTY

What began as a staff brainstorm has quietly evolved into one of Botswana's most enduring themed experiences.

"It's the 16th edition and how the 70s and 80s came about was a staff initiative," said Grand Palm Resort Marketing Manager, Malebogo Motlaleng. "They suggested a disco party because most of them came from that era and it resonated with them."

That resonance never left.

Today, the party has become a rare social space where generations meet through music, fashion and memory. One minute it's a slick Afro-funk groove, the next it's synchronized dance moves from strangers dressed like they walked out of a vintage record sleeve.

And yes, the outfits matter.

> For the first time, the disco party is adding a 90s twist, a move tied to Grand Palm's 30-year milestone celebration.

"This is a themed party," Motlaleng explained. "The outfit and music resemble the 70s, 80s and 90s era."



DRIP, DANCE AND LEGACY

The best dressed and best dancer competitions are expected to turn the venue into a runway-meets-dance-battle spectacle, while local selectors including DJ Lefatshe, DJ Mimi, Buddahblaz and DJ Frostbite keep the energy unpredictable.

But beneath the glitter, organizers insist the event has a deeper mission.

"This platform has grown into more than a social gathering," said event coordinator Bame Motsomatshukudu. "It is an instrument for industry development and impact. Our objective is to create an event that not only delivers excellence but also leaves a lasting, positive footprint within the industry."

Tickets are currently available at the Grand Palm reception.



TIRED OF SHARING?



KEAROMA'S RHYTHM THROUGH THE AGES UNPACKED

For 27 years, Kearoma Rantao has carried jazz, township grooves and church harmonies like family heirlooms. Now, the Afro-jazz singer is throwing a celebration that sounds less like a concert and more like a time-travelling mixtape

GOSEGO MOTSUMI

There's something cinematic about the way Kearoma Rantao talks about music. You can almost hear the sound system humming through the streets of Lobatse, church choirs echoing in the distance and Whitney Houston wrestling for airtime with Miriam Makeba somewhere in the neighbourhood.

For the Afro-jazz vocalist, songwriter and entrepreneur, music was never discovered in a studio. It lived in the streets long before it lived on stage.

And now, after 27 years in the music industry, Rantao is turning memory into a live experience.

Scheduled for August 8, Rhythm Through the Ages promises to be less of a nostalgia trip and more of a sonic autobiography. Venue still pending, the concert will pull together DJs, collaborators and musicians who shaped her journey from Lobatse selectors DJ Ralph and DJ Mocks to the Women of Jazz collective.

THE SOUNDTRACK OF A SMALL TOWN

"I called it Rhythm of the Ages because I wanted to take it back to who Kearoma is and where she started," she told Time Out.

Lobatse, she explains, was loud in the best possible way. Church hymns collided with street music. School choirs met cassette culture. The result? A young girl absorbing rhythm like second nature.

She said: "The rhythm of ages is my journey, inspiration what happened and where I currently am."

That energy will spill into the concert through impersonations of legends who shaped her ear, Boom Shaka, Michael Jackson and the giants of '80s pop culture that raised an entire generation of dreamers.

A NEW SOUND, A NEW ERA

But Rantao isn't staying trapped in nostalgia.

Her upcoming album, Zambezi Soul, signals reinvention. Produced by Bangu, the eight-track project moves away from her familiar Afro-fusion palette and leans into a fresher, three-step-inspired sound.

> "Her eight-track project moves away from her familiar Afro-fusion palette and leans into a fresher, three-step-inspired sound."

"It's a new sound of me that i can't wait for everyone to enjoy. I will be releasing singles from the album as we work towards the August concert," she said.

Inside Overthrust Winter Metal Mania

This year, Overthrust Winter Metal Mania is not just a festival, it's a travelling metal revolution. From cowboy boots and chains to international film crews and roaring guitars, Botswana's most explosive underground movement is turning the country into a cinematic metal rock pilgrimage

GOSEGO MOTSUMI

Somewhere between the growl of electric guitars and the sight of metalheads riding horses in leather jackets, Overthrust Winter Metal Mania stopped being "just a music festival". It became mythology.

This year, Botswana's legendary rock pilgrimage is rewriting its own rules.

For the first time in 17 years, the festival is leaving its traditional single-location setup and hitting the road in a four-stop national tour stretching across Tlokweng, Letlhakane, Ghanzi and Maun. The result? A travelling heavy metal event roaring through Botswana at full volume.

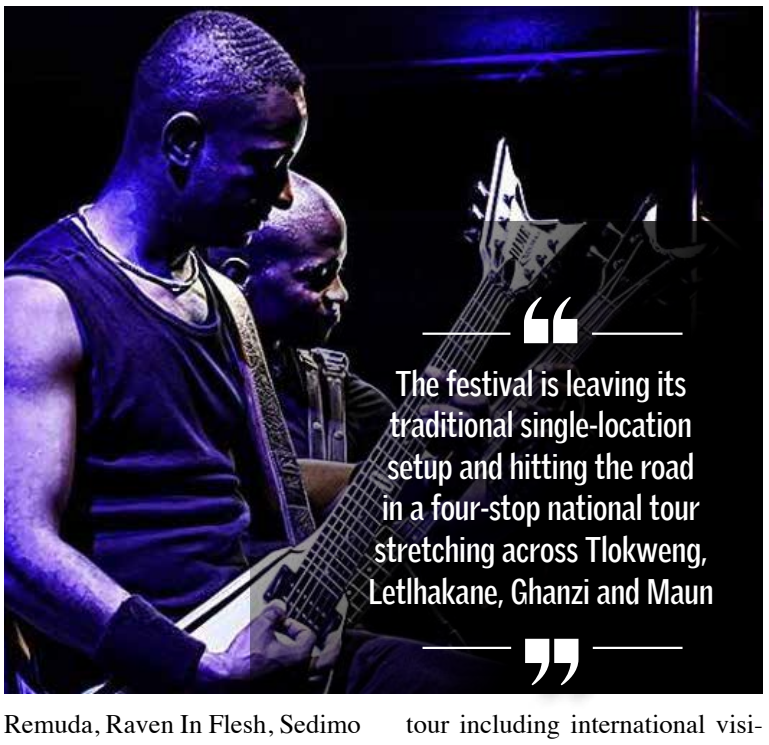
"People can expect powerful and most energetic live performances, cultural exchange, camping and the unique spirit of the Botswana metal community," said Overthrust founder and event organizer Tshomarelo Mosaka, better known as Vulture Thrust in an interview.

And that "spirit" is not subtle.

FOUR TOWNS, ONE LOUD MOVEMENT

The tour kicks off on May 28 at Eros Garden Bar in Tlokweng before moving to LM Garden Bar in Letlhakane, Hilltalk Night Club in Ghanzi and wrapping up at Adventure Bar in Maun on May 31.

The lineup is stacked like a biker bar jukebox on steroids. Botswana heavyweights Overthrust, Remuda, Raven In Flesh, Sedimo and PsychiatricNurseBand will share stages with Swiss metal act Vigljos and UK band Human Leather.



> The festival is leaving its traditional single-location setup and hitting the road in a four-stop national tour stretching across Tlokweng, Letlhakane, Ghanzi and Maun

The festival expects between 300 and 500 metalheads, rockers and curious first-timers across the tour including international visitors flying in from Germany, the UK, Holland and other parts of Africa.

"We are ready to ride and march once again!" Mosaka said.

A MOVIE INSIDE A FESTIVAL

This year's edition comes with something extra cinematic. An international production crew from Chicago is filming Leather In The Desert, a documentary following Overthrust's rise as one of Africa's most recognised metal band alongside Kenya's Chovu and South Africa's Vulvodynia.

"The filming started in September 2023 when Overthrust was recording it's third studio album in Cape Town and had continued in 2025 when Overthrust was performing live in Czech Republic at Obscene Extreme Festival in Trutnov and UK," Mosaka said.

"The final shooting of Overthrust film will be done here in Botswana during Overthrust's Winter Metal Mania Fest Tour."

HEART BENEATH THE NOISE

But behind the aggressive riffs and roaring crowds sits a softer pulse. The festival will donate blankets, heaters and food hampers to families in Kabakae Ward in Ghanzi as part of its annual community outreach.

Because Winter Metal Mania is no longer just a festival. It is Botswana's loudest cultural statement.

When Nature's Prescription Returns

In a world addicted to pharmaceuticals, local scientist Dr. David Takuwa is betting on natural herbs, ancestral wisdom and laboratory science to rewrite the future of wellness



GOSEGO MOTSUMI

There was a time when the village clinic was the bush.

Before pharmacies, before glossy supplement aisles, before the endless cycle of prescriptions and side effects, there were roots, leaves and elders who knew exactly what to boil when sickness came knocking. Now, as medicine shortages, rising healthcare costs and chronic illnesses continue to shake communities worldwide, Botswana scientist Dr. David Takuwa believes the future may actually be buried in the past.

The analytical chemist and University of Botswana lecturer is quietly leading a movement where indigenous African healing meets modern laboratory science and people are paying attention.

SCIENCE MEETS THE ANCESTORS

"This came up because of the level of education I was exposed to as I was growing, the indigenous knowledge and the benefits," said Takuwa in interview. "When I was young I was subjected to 100% herbs."

For Takuwa, the turning point came when studying drug development and realizing many modern medicines came with more side effects as opposed to natural herbs.

"We must be missing it," he said.

That realization inspired Takuwa Natural Products, a growing line of organic foods, drinks and supplements rooted in traditional African herbs but refined through scientific processes, dosage control and modern packaging.

"In my opinion natural herbs are our diamond."

It is a statement that lands with the force of a manifesto.

THE GLOBAL WELLNESS INDUSTRY

While wellness influencers in Europe and America obsess over sea moss, turmeric shots and herbal detoxes, African communities have long lived with plant-based healing traditions. The irony, Takuwa says, is that Africans themselves often dismiss their own knowledge systems as unscientific.

> "In my opinion natural herbs are our diamond."

"Even abroad people are gravitating towards natural products but we shun our own," he said.

But Takuwa insists this is not guesswork or folklore bottled in fancy packaging. His products undergo safety testing, quality control and are currently working toward licensing with BOMRA.

BOTSWANA'S NEXT DIAMOND?

Takuwa sees something bigger than supplements. He imagines community farming projects, employment creation and a healthcare system where traditional medicine stands alongside conventional treatment instead of outside it.

"Our parents have done their part to impart the knowledge," he said. "Most Batswana agree that it is where we belong."

And perhaps that is the real revolution here: not just healing bodies, but reclaiming belief in African knowledge itself.

Why Repatriation of Artifacts Matters

For decades, African history sat in foreign museums. Now, Botswana's latest repatriation story is proving that returning cultural artifacts is not just about the past, it is about identity, healing and finally reclaiming the right to remember

GOSEGO MOTSUMI

The most important arrivals at Sir Seretse Khama International Airport last week were not just celebrities, politicians or luxury imports.

They were pots. Beads. Clothing. Traditional tools.

Objects once taken from the Bangwato people in 1895 and shipped to Britain during the colonial era finally made their way back to Botswana after 130 years abroad. And somehow, their return feels louder than any political speech.

Because repatriation is not about dusty museum shelves. It is about power.

WHO OWNS THE STORY?

For generations, African artifacts have lived in European museums, labelled, archived and displayed far away from the communities that gave them life. Visitors admired them as "collections," while the descendants of the people who made them often never got the chance to see them at all.

That is why the return of 44 cultural heritage items to Serowe's Khama III Memorial Museum matters.

It is not simply the return of objects. It is the return of narrative.

"These items were collected by Rev Willoughby during his time with the Gammangwato community around 1893," said Mosupi Garebatho, Chair of the Publicity Committee of the repatriation project in an interview.

"Their return allows us to reconnect with objects that carry deep history and meaning for the community," he added.

And reconnect is the key word here.

Because colonialism did not only remove land and resources, it disrupted memory. Repatriation attempts to stitch those broken cultural threads back together.

MORE THAN A MUSEUM MOMENT

Across Southern Africa, repatriation remains rare, which makes Botswana's latest cultural homecoming feel deeply symbolic. Through collaboration between Khama III Memorial Museum and Royal Pavilion & Museums Brighton & Hove UK, the Bangwato artifacts are finally returning to the people whose stories shaped them.

"This is about bringing history back into the hands and hearts of the community it belongs to."

And Serowe is not treating this like a quiet academic event.

A summit on May 27-28 will gather historians, cultural activists and heritage stakeholders to discuss the issues around the artifacts. The first public exhibition of the repatriated cultural artifacts follows on May 28, before a closing festival on May 30 turns remembrance into celebration.

> The first public exhibition of the repatriated cultural artifacts follows on May 28.

"This is supposed to be the first time the public is seeing these artifacts in Serowe," Garebatho added.

Basadi Awards Breaks The Borders

The Basadi in Music Awards is no longer just a South African celebration. In a bold fifth-year expansion, the powerhouse awards platform is opening its doors to Botswana and the rest of Southern Africa and suddenly, the continent's women creatives are playing on a much bigger stage

GOSEGO MOTSUMI



For years, Botswana's women in music have watched from the sidelines as South Africa's glamorous Basadi in Music Awards celebrated the continent's female power players.

Now, the velvet rope has officially been cut.

In a landmark move marking its fifth anniversary, the Basadi in Music Awards (BIMA) has expanded beyond South Africa, welcoming entries from Botswana, Lesotho and Eswatini for the first time. Translation? Botswana's singers, DJs, producers, presenters, managers and media personalities finally have a shot at one of the region's fastest-growing cultural stages.

And honestly, it feels overdue.

A NEW ERA FOR WOMEN IN MUSIC

What started as an awards ceremony has quietly evolved into something bigger — part industry disruptor, part cultural movement and part glamorous rebellion against the music industry's long-standing boys' club.

"Opening nominations each year is a defining moment for us. It signals not only the start of awards season, but the continued growth of a movement that uplifts and recognises women across every corner the music industry," said Basadi in Music Awards founder and CEO Honi Modise Matau.

"We are building a platform that is inclusive, representative and forward looking."

That line alone feels like the mission statement for an entire generation of African women creatives refusing to shrink themselves anymore.

BOTSWANA'S MOMENT?

The expansion arrives at a fascinating time for Botswana's entertainment industry. Women artists are increasingly shaping conversations across music, radio, fashion, podcasts and nightlife culture, yet major continental recognition has often felt frustratingly out of reach.

BIMA changing that equation could be seismic.

And because supporters can nominate candidates multiple times before the May 30, 2026 deadline, fan communities now hold surprising power in determining who rises. Nominations can be made online at: www.basadiinmusicawards.co.za/nominate-2026/

MORE THAN AN AWARDS SHOW

The real genius of Basadi lies in its wide lens. This is not just about singers chasing trophies. The awards recognise journalists, radio producers, TV presenters, artist managers and behind-the-scenes architects who keep African entertainment alive long after the spotlight fades. That matters.

This August, during BIMA's signature two-night celebration, Africa's women will not just be attending the party. They will be owning it.

The Myth of Expensive Wine

There is a quiet confidence that comes with an expensive bottle of wine. It arrives at the table with presence, as though the price has already done half the work. You don't just open it — you present it. You look at it slightly differently, and you expect it to behave accordingly.

The assumption is simple: if it costs more, it must be better.

It's a convenient idea. It removes doubt. It allows you to believe that you've made a good decision without having to think too much about it. Unfortunately, wine does not always respect that arrangement.



What You're Actually Paying For

Price in wine is influenced by many things, and quality is only one of them. Where the wine comes from, how much of it exists, the reputation of the producer, the cost of land, the story behind the label — all of these factors contribute.

Some wines are expensive because they are genuinely rare. Others because they come from regions that carry prestige. Some because they have been marketed well enough to create demand that exceeds supply. None of this guarantees enjoyment.

You can have a technically brilliant wine that leaves you unmoved, and a modestly priced bottle that delivers exactly what you needed in that moment. The difference lies not in the price, but in the connection between the wine and the person drinking it.

Expectation vs Reality

Expensive wine comes with expectation, and expectation has a way of shaping experience. When we spend more, we expect more. We lean forward, ready to be impressed, ready to confirm that the decision was correct.

When the wine delivers, it feels justified. When it doesn't, we hesitate. We swirl, we pause, we try to find something to hold onto. We describe it as "complex" or "interesting," which are often polite ways of saying we are not entirely convinced.

This is where people begin to lose trust in their own palate. They assume the problem is them, not the wine.

Value Is Personal

The more useful approach is to shift focus from price to preference. What do you actually enjoy? Crisp, fresh whites? Fuller, textured ones? Light reds that you can drink easily, or something with more structure and depth?

Once you understand that, everything becomes easier. You begin to recognise patterns. Certain styles, regions, and producers consistently deliver for you. That's where value lives — in consistency, not cost.

There is also a question of timing. Some wines are built to age. They need time to soften, to develop, to reveal their full character. Opening them too early can feel disappointing, not because they are bad, but because they are not ready.

Paying more for potential and then not waiting for it is a very efficient way to misunderstand a wine.

Choose Better, Not Bigger

The real shift happens when you stop chasing price and start choosing with intention. A well-made wine, selected with some understanding of what you enjoy, will almost always deliver more satisfaction than an expensive bottle chosen blindly.

This is not about avoiding expensive wine. It's about approaching it with awareness. Knowing when it makes sense, when it's worth it, and when something simpler might be exactly right.

Over time, this approach builds confidence. You begin to trust your own judgement. You move through shelves and wine lists with a sense of direction.

And when that happens, the price tag returns to its proper role.

Not a guarantee of quality.

Just information.



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.

ORANGE FA CUP SEMI-FINAL DOUBLE HEADER



The National Stadium will host Saturday's blockbuster Orange FA Cup semi-final double header featuring giants, derby survivors and ambitious challengers battling for a place in the grand finale, after the matches were moved from Francistown

GAZETTE REPORTER

The Orange FA Cup semi-finals will light up Gaborone's football atmosphere on Saturday, 16 May 2026, with the National Stadium set to host a thrilling double-header expected to deliver drama, intensity and packed stands.

Four clubs will battle for a place in the prestigious final of Botswana's premier knockout competition as supporters prepare for an action-packed day featuring some of the country's biggest football brands.

The opening encounter will see Gaborone United take on reigning champions Jwaneng Galaxy at 15:30hrs in a heavyweight clash carrying all the ingredients of a classic cup showdown. Later in the evening at 19:00hrs, Orapa United will face Mochudi Centre Chiefs in what is expected to be a tightly contested affair between two sides that have shown resilience throughout the tournament.

ROAD HERE

All four semi-finalists endured difficult quarter-final assignments to book their places in the last four.

Defending champions Jwaneng Galaxy survived a tense and emotional Jwaneng Derby against Jwaneng Young Stars. After a goalless stalemate in regulation time, Galaxy held their nerve to secure a 5–4 victory in a dramatic penalty shootout.

Mochudi Centre Chiefs also had to dig deep against Black Lions. The two sides played to a 1–1 draw before Magosi prevailed 5–3 on penalties to continue their impressive cup run.

Gaborone United similarly relied on spot kicks after an entertaining 2–2 draw against Township Rollers in one of the most exciting matches of the round. GU eventually triumphed 5–4 on penalties.

Orapa United were the only semi-finalists to secure victory in normal time, edging Lokgwabe United 1–0 to complete the semi-final lineup.

STAKES HIGHER

With a place in the final now within touching distance, the stakes could hardly be higher for the remaining contenders.

Jwaneng Galaxy will aim to retain their crown and reaffirm their dominance in domestic football. Gaborone United and Mochudi Centre Chiefs will be chasing a return to national glory, while Orapa United look to cap an impressive campaign with silverware.

With the venue now shifted to the National Stadium, anticipation continues to build for what promises to be a memorable weekend of cup football in the capital city.

H/W THEDI
IN THE MAGISTRATE COURT OF BOTSWANA HELD AT VILLAGE

CASE NO: CCMVL-002840-25

In the matter between: -
KAONE CHRISTOPHER MONTSHO **PLAINTIFF**
AND
MODIBEDI CHARLES KEBANEETSE **DEFENDANT**

NOTICE OF SALE IN EXECUTION

BE PLEASED TO TAKE NOTICE that pursuant to a judgment of the above Honourable Court, the following property of the Defendant will be sold by public auction by Deputy Sherriff Onkgopotse Motlhagodi to the highest bidder as follows;

DATE OF SALE : 21st May 2026
TIME OF SALE : 10:00 am
PLACE OF SALE : Broadhurst Magistrate Court
PROPERTY TO BE SOLD : 1x Black LG TV, 1 x black and white Couch, 5 x black plastic Chairs, 1 x brown Couch, 1 x grey Defy Fridge, 1 x 4 Burner Stove, 1 x Defy Microwave, 1 x 19Kg Gas Cylinder, 4 x Cooler-boxes and 2 x Beds.

TERMS OF SALE : Cash or bank guaranteed cheque.

DATED AT GABORONE ON THIS 1st DAY OF MAY 2026.

PLOT 908, AFRICAN MALL
Cnr of Merafhe Rd & Phalane Cl
P. O BOX 481 AEJ, GABORONE
TEL: 311 3321 FAX: 390 79 42
CELL: 77885509
DEPUTY SHERIFF: O. Motlhagodi
CELL: 71868324 / 73321097

EZEKIEL ATTORNEYS
ATTORNEYS • NOTARIES • CONVEYANCERS

APPLICATION FOR ISSUE OF A CERTIFIED COPY OF LOST TITLE DEED

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the undersigned intends to apply for a certified copy of Sectional Scheme No. FT SS 1/2013 dated the 22nd day of May 2013 registered in favour of **KANU LEGACY SCHEME** in respect of the following property:

CERTAIN : piece of land being Lot 43481, Francistown;
SITUATE : in the Francistown Administrative District;
MEASURING : 6871m² (Six Thousand Eight Hundred and Seventy-One Square Metres);
SUBJECT : to the conditions and reservations contained in the aforesaid Deed.

All persons having objection to the issue of such copy are hereby required to lodge the same in writing with the Registrar of Deeds within twenty-one (21) days of the last publication of this notice.

DATED AT FRANCISTOWN ON THIS 5th DAY OF MAY 2026.

MMOHE ATTORNEYS
ATTORNEYS. NOTARIES & CONVEYANCERS

M. MMOHE ATTORNEYS
Plot No. 3936, Peolwane Street
Minestone
P.O. Box 1860
FRANCISTOWN
Telephone: 2441616

Chakanyuka Reflects on First WTA Point



Botswana tennis player Chelsea Chakanyuka speaks on her breakthrough moment after earning her first career WTA point at the World Tennis Tour M15/W15 event in Gaborone, describing a hard-fought win, home advantage, and her development journey in the United States

GAZETTE REPORTER

Chelsea Chakanyuka of Botswana secured her first career WTA point after defeating D'Estree Colalancia of Australia 7–5, 6–3 at the ongoing World Tennis Tour M15/W15 event at the National Tennis Centre in Gaborone, which runs until 23 May.

Speaking after the match, Chakanyuka admitted it was not her best performance despite the milestone victory.

"She is a really good player, she did give me a run for my money and I feel like I could have played better," she said. "I wasn't satisfied with the way I played but I had to get the job done and I ended up winning which is great because it is my first WTA win."

She described the significance of the moment, noting the level of international competition at the tournament.

"Getting this win is big because these guys come from all over the world wanting to win, so getting a first WTA win is something I couldn't really describe."

The Botswana player also highlighted the importance of hosting international events at home, pointing to the challenge of competing abroad.

"It is difficult for us to go to tournaments because most of them are in Europe or other continents, so us hosting is really amazing because we get the opportunity to show what we can do on home ground, so yeah it's really amazing."

Chakanyuka also acknowledged the pressure and encouragement from local supporters.

"The support at home is good even though it comes with pressure that we don't want to disappoint but I'm really grateful and show support, it shows that they believe in me."

Currently based at Hampton University in the United States, she said her training environment has been key to her development.

> "I had to get the job done and I ended up winning which is great because it is my first WTA win."

"Being based in USA really helps me to improve because we play with players in different schools and it helps to adjust in a way so that I'm able to play different types of players."

The World Tennis Tour M15/W15 event continues in Gaborone, bringing together international competitors as local players aim to make their mark on home soil.

Mabua Says 2028 Continental Athletics Hosting Will Be Easy

BAA chief Mabua Mabua says lessons from the World Relays and existing infrastructure will help Botswana stage the 25th African Senior Athletics Championships with confidence

GAZETTE REPORTER

Botswana has confirmed that it will host the 25th African Senior Athletics Championships in 2028, with Botswana Athletics Association chief executive officer Mabua Mabua expressing confidence in the country's readiness to stage the continental event.

Speaking from Accra, Ghana, Mabua said Botswana's confirmation came during a Confederation of African Athletics meeting held on Monday.

"Look we are happy that we are going to host this," Mabua said. "Remember we were given rights to host this in 2024 when we initially wanted to host this year which is 2026, so Ghana was given this year during that time and we were told that we would take 2028."

He added: "So during the Confederation of African Athletics meeting on Monday here in Ghana we were just asked to confirm if we are hosting in 2028 which we did."

LESSONS LEARNED

Mabua said the experience gained from hosting the recent World Relays would make preparations for the championships easier.

He said infrastructure was already in place and that the association had learned valuable lessons on organising a successful international competition.

"It should also be noted that hosting is beneficial," he said. "It gives us an opportunity to field a larger team which means we will be able to develop even more athletes and give them a chance to compete at continental level."

"We all know that there are other economical benefits for the country that comes with hosting," he added.

Mabua also said the Confederation of African Athletics had shown confidence in Botswana's ability to host more events following the World Relays.

TEAM EXPECTATIONS

Meanwhile, Mabua said he expected Botswana's team currently competing at the African Senior Athletics Championships to perform strongly as athletes seek places in the national team for the Commonwealth Games later this year.



The championships, organised by the Confederation of African Athletics, serve as one of the continent's major track and field competitions for elite athletes.



WORLD TENNIS IS HERE!

The Botswana Tennis Association is pleading with the public to turn up in numbers and support the ongoing World Tennis Tour M15/W15 at the National Tennis Centre, which runs until 23 May, as officials stress its impact on players and national development

GAZETTE REPORTER

The Botswana Tennis Association has called on Batswana to attend the ongoing World Tennis Tour M15/W15 event and show support for both local and visiting players.

"Yes definitely. Entrance is free and the likes of Mark Nawa, Seabo Saleshando and Ntungamili Raguin will be playing," said marketing and communications manager Tshepang Tlhankane.

The association said public attendance is essential in building atmosphere and supporting player performance during the tournament.

HOME IMPACT

Tlhankane said hosting international tournaments locally plays a key role in shaping athlete performance and mentality.

"Its very important because bringing these high level competitions home somehow positively affects the psychology of local athletes to outperform themselves with the support of the local crowd. In hindsight this prepares them for any competition in the world and propells them to grateness. Doing good at home boosts confidence that players can win any competition no matter where they are," he said.

GLOBAL PATHWAYS

He also noted that the World Tennis Tour provides players with opportunities to earn ATP points, which are crucial for international progression.

"It means great exposure and it means they have every opportunity to work towards gaining ATP points. These tournaments come with ATP points which puts players in a good global tennis space. Getting atp points opens up opportunities for good seeding and wild card opportunities at many tournaments," Tlhankane said.

HOSTING EXPERIENCE

Botswana's previous experience hosting international tennis has strengthened its readiness for such events.

"We are always prepared. This is not the first event of its nature therefore we already know what we need to do. Having successfully hosted two Davis Cup events has given us the confidence and knowledge to prepare well for such," he said.

DEVELOPMENT FOCUS

Tlhankane added that higher-grade tournaments are also key for youth development and long-term growth of tennis in Botswana.

"Its very important to host tournaments of higher grade because it gives both participants and young players great exposure. When younger players come to watch all these players from all over the world, they get to learn a lot and it also grows their interest in the sport which helps us retain, grow and develop," he said.

He further outlined plans to strengthen the National Tennis Centre's high performance programme.

"The plan is to grow our high performance program at the National Tennis Centre. Once we achieve this, we will close every gap which is often caused by players leaving junior tennis or some relocating or just stopping to play. The high performance will help us have a huge pool which is always feeding into our teams," he said.

BOSMA Hosts Masters Tournament

Veteran softball teams from Botswana, Lesotho, and South Africa are set to converge in Jwaneng for a three-day international masters competition focused on sport, unity, and regional camaraderie



(Pic:Monirul Bhuiyan/PRESS PHOTO)

GAZETTE REPORTER

The Botswana Softball Masters Association (BOSMA) has announced that it will host an international softball masters tournament from 14–16 June 2026 in Jwaneng, bringing together veteran teams from Botswana, Lesotho, and South Africa.

The participating teams include Freesouls, Saints, Diphala, Divas, Diamonds, Steelers, SoBall Dads, Kalahari Desert Kings, Orapa Masters (Botswana), Moletlane Texas, Best Batters, Flames, Olympia, Brewers (South Africa), and Kings (Lesotho).

BOSMA Chairperson Tsuna Makwa said the tournament carries significance beyond competition.

"We are extremely excited and honored to welcome our brothers and sisters from Lesotho and South Africa to Jwaneng for this prestigious tournament," Makwa said. "This event is not only about competition, but also about celebrating the love of softball, healthy living, friendship, and regional unity."

PREPARATIONS PROGRESSING

Organisers say preparations for the event are advancing, with committees working across logistics, accommodation, transport, officiating, and player welfare.

Makwa said BOSMA is focused on delivering a well-coordinated tournament experience for all visiting teams and supporters.

"BOSMA is fully committed to hosting a professional and successful tournament," she said. "We have assembled dedicated teams to oversee logistics, accommodation, transport, officiating, and player welfare. We want every participant to leave Jwaneng with great memories and appreciation for Botswana hospitality."

The tournament is expected to feature experienced masters' players who continue to contribute to the development of softball in their respective countries, with competitive fixtures scheduled across the three days.

COMMUNITY IMPACT

Beyond the field of play, the tournament is expected to generate economic and social activity in Jwaneng, particularly through tourism and local trade.

Local vendors and service providers are expected to benefit from increased visitor numbers during the event period. Entry has been set at P30 per day for spectators, while vehicle access will cost P20 per day.

BOSMA said the tournament is intended to strengthen both sport and community engagement through increased participation and attendance.

SPONSOR SUPPORT

The association also acknowledged the role of sponsors and partners in enabling the event, with Debswana Diamond Company named as the main sponsor providing financial and in-kind support.

Makwa expressed appreciation for the collaboration that has made the tournament possible.

"Sport has the power to unite communities and inspire future generations," she said. "As BOSMA, we are proud to play our part in keeping softball alive and creating opportunities for master's players to continue participating competitively."

BOSMA further extended appreciation to volunteers, stakeholders, and the Jwaneng community for their continued support.

The association has invited the public, softball enthusiasts, families, and corporate partners to attend the tournament and support regional masters' softball action.

The three-day event is expected to combine competitive fixtures with broader celebrations of friendship and shared sporting passion across Southern Africa.

TIRED OF SHARING?



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SPORT



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