The Botswana
GAZETTE
WEDNESDAY 06 MAY 2026 | SINCE 1984



19.
The World Relays Paradox

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MEDIA RAISES FREEDOM CONCERNS

3.

Amid the fanfare of the World Relays, World Press Freedom Day passed with little public attention, even as editors warned that presidential attacks, delayed reforms and criminal defamation concerns are reviving old anxieties about press freedom.

BOFEPUSU Calls Out UDC on 'Happy Omang' Pseudo

7.

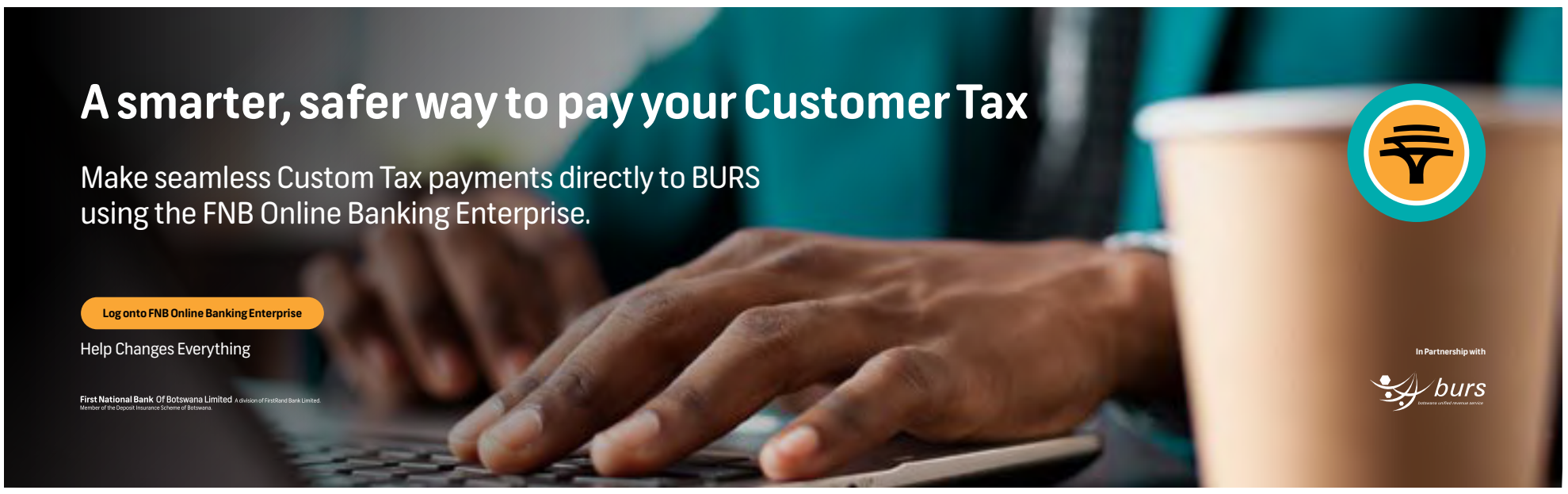
FEATURE



The Forensic Audit Iceberg:

23.

We Are Seeing Only One-Fifth of the Problem



TIRED OF SHARING?



MEDIA RAISES FREEDOM CONCERNS

As Botswana celebrated the World Relays, World Press Freedom Day quietly slipped by, leaving editors to reflect on a media environment they say is becoming increasingly strained.

BONGANI MALUNGA



Botswana's media fraternity enters this year's World Press Freedom Day with a deep sense of fatigue, frustration and guarded alarm.

For many editors and journalists, the optimism that followed the 2024 general elections has steadily given way to unease. The expectation was that a new administration would usher in a healthier relationship between the state and the press. Instead, MISA Botswana says that hope has faded, warning that "familiar patterns are re emerging, more subtle, more sophisticated and more difficult to confront."

TIRED MEDIA

But while MISA points to the more sophisticated ways in which pressure on the media can operate, editors say Botswana's current reality is also painfully direct.

They say one glaring issue cannot be ignored: the public tone set by the presidency itself. When the Head of State casts doubt on the credibility of the media, including claims that 90 percent of media reports are fake, MISA warns that such statements "risk legitimising hostility towards journalists and reinforcing a culture of self censorship."

STATE PRESSURE

The state broadcaster has become one of the clearest symbols of this concern. Reforms that were expected to move broadcasting towards genuine public media independence are, according to MISA, increasingly being viewed as leaning "towards control rather than autonomy." The organisation says Botswana is beginning to mirror a global pattern in which governments and powerful actors seek greater control over media spaces.

For private media, the uncertainty is compounded by the continued delay in releasing the 2025 Ministerial Media Law Review Task Team report. MISA says the delay has "deepened uncertainty in the media industry," adding that while a new Media Bill has been introduced, "legislation alone cannot substitute for transparency and meaningful reform."

NARROWING SPACE

This is the context in which editors are now speaking. Their message is not merely about professional discomfort. It is about the fear that Botswana's media space is narrowing, that journalists are being pushed to second guess themselves, and that a democracy once praised for its stability is beginning to show signs of strain in one of its most important institutions.

DELICATE POINT

"World Press Freedom Day should be a moment of reflection and recommitment. Instead, it finds Botswana at a delicate and concerning point. The relationship between the media and those in power has become increasingly strained. When the Head of State openly questions the credibility of the media and elevates informal sources over professional journalism, it does more than express an opinion, it sets a tone that risks legitimising hostility toward journalists," Tuesday Grill editor Letlhogile Mpuang told this publication.

"At Tuesday Grill, this is not abstract. We have faced sustained numerous threats from individuals aligned with the ruling Umbrella for Democratic Change, incidents we have formally reported. The danger is not only in these attacks, but in their normalisation," Mpuang added.

> "World Press Freedom Day should be a moment of reflection and recommitment."

DEFAMATION LAW

Mmegi editor Ryder Gabathuse expressed concern about the current government's stance on criminal defamation.

"As a lawyer and advocate of the High Court, President Boko understands the implications of such a law. Yet he appeared to defend it, arguing that it serves a function in correcting certain wrongs, particularly where media practitioners are accused of publishing false reports.

"For many in the media, criminal defamation is one of the laws that the new government should have prioritised for repeal. These are archaic laws that target the media and create fear among practitioners. The concern is that the UDC government is either moving too slowly, or failing altogether, to free the media space and allow journalists to work without fear," said Gabathuse.

WAIT AND SEE

Gabathuse further added, "At this stage, it may be best to wait and see what comes out of the government's proposed media bill, which is said to be aimed at introducing self regulation. However, based on the current picture, the outlook is gloomy.

"The media industry is already struggling. If new draconian laws are added to the existing pressures, the industry could collapse. We have already seen newspapers in other parts of the region folding because they can no longer sustain their operations."

FAMILIAR PATTERNS

The Botswana Gazette editor Shike Olsen said media practitioners are concerned that recent developments echo patterns seen under previous Botswana Democratic Party administrations. He noted that the Botswana Gazette has experienced direct pressure in the past, including the detention of journalists over published stories.

"When the current administration came into office, many of us had faith that things would be different. It presented itself as a government with strong human rights credentials, and from the onset, it gave the impression that it would work with the media as a partner in strengthening democracy," Olsen remarked.

"Unfortunately, it did not take long for that optimism to fade. What is particularly concerning now is that the intimidation appears to be coming from the highest office in the land, not through veiled threats as we may have seen before but through public statements that openly question the credibility of the media," the Gazette editor continued.

Olsen said the concern within the media is that the new administration has yet to demonstrate, in clear and practical terms, that it is committed to creating an environment in which journalists can work freely, independently and without fear or favour.

Efforts to obtain a comment from the Press Secretary to the President, Emang Mutapati, were unsuccessful as she had not responded to this publication's email by the time of press.

Public notice

Increase in Monetary Policy Rate (MoPR)

Following the Monetary Policy Committee's decision to increase the Monetary Policy Rate (MoPR) by 200 basis points, from 3.50% to 5.50%, MoPR linked facilities will be adjusted accordingly.

However, the Absa Prime Lending Rate (APLR) remains unchanged at 6.76%; therefore, all APLR linked facilities will remain unchanged.

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Cost of Living Crisis Explodes

Worsening cost of living crisis expected as sharp fuel price hikes, rising transport costs, and economic pressures drive inflation higher, squeezing household incomes and pushing prices across the economy upward



GAZETTE REPORTER

Households are facing a deepening cost of living crisis, with economists warning that surging fuel prices, transport fare hikes, and agricultural disruptions are combining into a perfect storm that will further strain already pressured incomes.

According to the latest Econsult Economic Review (First Quarter: Jan–Mar 2026), inflation is set for a sharp and sustained increase, driven primarily by unprecedented fuel price hikes. The report warns that "the impact of fuel price increases on inflation will be large, much larger than in many other countries."

The analysis highlights Botswana's structural vulnerability, noting its vast geography and heavy reliance on road transport. Econsult states that "Botswana has a very high weight for fuel in the CPI basket," meaning any increase at the pump quickly feeds through the entire economy.

FUEL SHOCKS DRIVE INFLATION SURGE

Fuel price adjustments at the end of March were severe, with petrol rising by 33%, diesel by 54%, and paraffin by a staggering 81%. However, the full impact is yet to be reflected in official data. Because the increases came too late to be captured in March inflation figures, the real shock is expected in April.

Econsult warns: "We expect that the fuel price increases alone will add four percentage points to inflation in April," pushing overall inflation "to over 10%… and to remain in double digits for the next 12 months."

HOUSEHOLDS FEEL THE SQUEEZE

For households, the consequences are immediate and severe. Rising fuel costs are already filtering into higher public transport fares and broader price increases across goods and services. The report notes that inflationary pressure will be amplified by "higher public transport fares and the inevitable impact of higher transport costs on other prices."

With wages largely stagnant, real incomes are being eroded at speed, deepening financial pressure on households.

AGRICULTURE HIT BY DISEASE OUTBREAK

The agricultural sector is also under stress following a renewed outbreak of foot and mouth disease, which has led to restrictions on cattle movement and a suspension of beef exports.

> "With stagnant wages and rapidly rising prices, purchasing power continues to fall sharply."

Econsult warns that this will "have a negative impact on the Botswana Meat Commission (BMC) and cattle farmers more generally."

For ordinary households, however, the crisis is already being felt in real time. With stagnant wages and rapidly rising prices, purchasing power continues to fall sharply.

As Econsult concludes: "This will impact real incomes for all Botswana households."

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BNFWL Pressures Boko Over 'Tshepi' Tragedy

Mounting outrage over the death of 13-year-old Tshepi has pushed the Botswana National Front Women's League to demand an independent probe, citing possible forensic interference, and a suspected cover-up

GAZETTE REPORTER

The Botswana National Front Women's League (BNFWL) has turned up the pressure on President Duma Boko, demanding urgent accountability and an independent probe into the death of 13-year-old Tshepi, a case that has ignited widespread public outrage.

The young girl's death has become a flashpoint for allegations of sexual abuse, institutional interference, and a possible cover-up, raising serious questions about the integrity of Botswana's justice and child protection systems.

CALLS FOR INDEPENDENT PROBE

In a strongly worded letter addressed to key state authorities—including the Presidency, Parliament, and law enforcement—the BNFWL says Tshepi's death "cannot be treated as an isolated tragedy," but must instead be viewed as part of a broader crisis affecting children across the country.

The league argues that the circumstances surrounding her death point to possible systemic failures, warning that ignoring the case would further erode already fragile public trust.

"Tshepi was a child who deserved protection; yet, it is alleged that she suffered unthinkable sexual abuse and rape at the hands of those entrusted with her safety," the organisation stated.

FORENSIC FINDINGS UNDER SCRUTINY

The Ministry for State President, Defence and Security, led by Minister Moeti Mohwasa, has confirmed that the matter has been escalated to the Directorate of Public Prosecutions (DPP) following post-mortem findings reportedly indicating signs consistent with sexual abuse.

However, the BNFWL has cast doubt on the official conclusion that Tshepi died by suicide, describing it as "shrouded in suspicion" and lacking sufficient supporting evidence.

The league further alleges possible interference in the post-mortem process, claiming that individuals linked to law enforcement may have attempted to influence or manipulate forensic findings.

If substantiated, the group warns, such actions would amount to grave violations including abuse of a minor, obstruction of justice, and abuse of power.

The BNFWL is now calling for what it terms a "full, independent and transparent investigation" into both the cause of Tshepi's death and any alleged prior abuse.

A BROADER NATIONAL CRISIS

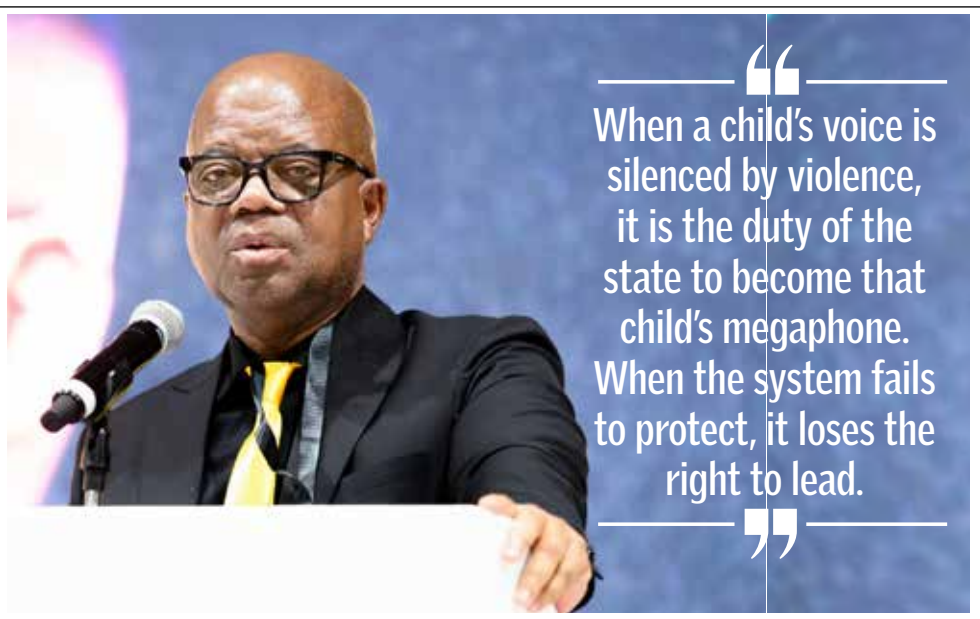
Positioning the case within a wider context, the BNFWL warned of what it described as a disturbing pattern of violent crimes involving children, including ritualistic killings and unresolved investigations.

The group cautioned that continued inaction would deepen public mistrust in state institutions and undermine confidence in the rule of law.

"When a child's voice is silenced by violence, it is the duty of the state to become that child's megaphone. When the system fails to protect, it loses the right to lead," the letter reads.

The BNFWL insists that Tshepi's case must serve as a turning point in strengthening Botswana's child protection and justice systems.

"We say no more silence. No more injustice. No more failures to protect our children. Justice for Tshepi must be pursued without fear or favour."



FNB Botswana
Local & Foreign Currency and Deposit and Lending Rates
May 2026

The following standard Savings, Lending and Investment rates will apply

Local Currency Deposit Interest Rates

Type of Deposit Account	Nominal Rate per Annum (NACM)	Annual Effective Rate	Minimum Opening Balance (BWP)
Current	-	-	Nil
Call	0.00% - 0.46%	0.00% - 0.46%	1,000
Money Maximiser	0.00% - 3.35%	0.00% - 3.40%	100,000
Savings (Poloko)	0.00% - 3.40%	0.00% - 3.45%	100
FutureSave	0.00% - 0.40%	0.00% - 0.40%	100
Future Forward	0.00% - 2.50%	0.00% - 2.53%	50
Savings Pocket	0.00% - 1.60%	0.00% - 1.61%	-
FNB Motshelo Savings Account	2.25% - 3.35%	2.27% - 3.40%	500
Flexi Fixed (3 Months)	2.95% - 3.20%	2.99% - 3.25%	100
Flexi Fixed (6 Months)	4.05% - 4.35%	4.13% - 4.44%	100
Flexi Fixed (12 Months)	4.85% - 5.35%	4.96% - 5.48%	100
7 Day Notice	0.15% - 1.25%	0.15% - 1.26%	100
32 Day Notice Plus	1.25% - 2.00%	1.26% - 2.02%	1,000
1 Month Fixed Deposit	2.50% - 2.55%	2.53% - 2.58%	1,000
3 Months Fixed Deposit	3.20%	3.25%	1,000
6 Months Fixed Deposit	4.75% - 5.00%	4.85% - 5.12%	1,000
12 Months Fixed Deposit	5.55% - 6.25%	5.69% - 6.43%	1,000
24 Months Fixed Deposit	5.65% - 6.60%	5.80% - 6.80%	1,000
Over 36 Months Fixed Deposit	5.85% - 6.80%	6.01% - 7.02%	1,000
MoPR	3.50%		

***For term deposits the minimum amount is BWP 1 million to qualify for a special rate.
• Interest is calculated on the daily account closing balance and credited in to the account monthly (For all interest bearing products excluding fixed deposits).
• Fixed deposits interest is calculated based on the principal amount, agreed term and applicable interest rate. The accrued interest is credited at Maturity or termination.
• Interest rates are linked to the Monetary Policy Rate (MoPR).

Local Currency Lending Interest Rates

Lending Rates	Nominal Interest Rate Per Annum (%)	Average Effective Interest Rate
MoPR	3.50%	3.50%
Prime Lending Rate	7.01%	7.01%
Mortgage Facility	Prime +12% to 17%	Prime +14% to 20.08%
Overdraft Facility (Revolving Credit Lines)	Prime +8% to 10%	Prime +9.33% to 11.64%
Credit Card	22% to 28%	24.36% to 31.89%
Lease Loans (VAF)	Prime +15.5% to 23%	Prime +18.22% to 27.74%
Unsecured Personal Loans (Excluding Overdraft, Mortgage and Credit Card)	Prime +17% to 22%	Prime +20.08% to 26.44%
Other Term Loans		

*Scheme related lending is as per the scheme contract.

Foreign Currency Deposit Rates

ZAR – South African Rand***	Nominal Interest Rates/Annum (%)	Annual Effective Rates	Minimum Opening Balance (ZAR)
Current (Global Account)	2.00%	2.00%	1,000
1 Month Fixed Deposit	1.00%	1.00%	1,000
2 Months Fixed Deposit	1.05%	1.05%	1,000
3 Months Fixed Deposit	1.25%	1.26%	1,000
6 Months Fixed Deposit	1.50%	1.51%	1,000
12 Months Fixed Deposit	2.00%	2.00%	1,000
24 Months Fixed Deposit	2.50%	2.50%	1,000

AUD – Australian Dollar	Nominal Interest Rates/Annum (%)	Annual Effective Rates	Minimum Opening Balance (AUD)
Current (Global Account)	-	-	100
1 Month Fixed Deposit	These rates are quoted on request		100
2 Months Fixed Deposit			100
3 Months Fixed Deposit			100
6 Months Fixed Deposit			100
12 Months Fixed Deposit			100
24 Months Fixed Deposit			100

USD – US Dollar***	Nominal Interest Rates/Annum (%)	Annual Effective Rates	Minimum Opening Balance (USD)
Current (Global Account)	-	-	100
1 Month Fixed Deposit	0.40%	0.40%	100
2 Months Fixed Deposit	0.47%	0.47%	100
3 Months Fixed Deposit	0.50%	0.50%	100
6 Months Fixed Deposit	0.55%	0.55%	100
12 Months Fixed Deposit	0.80%	0.80%	100
24 Months Fixed Deposit	1.30%	1.30%	100

EUR – Euro	Nominal Interest Rates/Annum (%)	Annual Effective Rates	Minimum Opening Balance (EUR)
Current (Global Account)	-	-	100
1 Month Fixed Deposit	These rates are quoted on request		100
2 Months Fixed Deposit			100
3 Months Fixed Deposit			100
6 Months Fixed Deposit			100
12 Months Fixed Deposit			100
24 Months Fixed Deposit			100
Over 36 Months Fixed Deposit			100

GBP – British Pound Sterling***	Nominal Interest Rates/Annum (%)	Annual Effective Rates	Minimum Opening Balance (GBP)
Current (Global Account)	-	-	100
1 Month Fixed Deposit	0.07%	0.07%	100
2 Months Fixed Deposit	0.09%	0.09%	100
3 Months Fixed Deposit	0.10%	0.10%	100
6 Months Fixed Deposit	0.15%	0.15%	100
12 Months Fixed Deposit	0.20%	0.20%	100
24 Months Fixed Deposit	0.20%	0.20%	100

***Note:
• Special rates offered for amounts of ZAR 1 000 000 and more
• Special rates offered for amounts of USD 100 000 and more
• Special rates offered for amounts of GBP 100 000 and more

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'Midwifery Crisis' Sparks Legal Threats

Nurses Union warns that the country's worsening midwifery crisis amounts to a violation of constitutional and international obligations, citing unsafe staffing levels, overworked nurses, and risks to maternal care

SESUPO RANTSIMAKO

The Botswana Nurses Union (BONU) has accused the country's health sector of failing to meet its constitutional and legal obligations, warning that the ongoing midwifery crisis amounts to a violation of both workers' and patients' fundamental rights.

In a statement marking the International Day of the Midwife, the union said Botswana is facing a worsening crisis in maternal healthcare, which it described as unsustainable, unsafe, and unlawful.

BONU warned that the situation is placing both expectant mothers and healthcare workers under severe strain due to persistent staffing shortages and overstretched maternity services.



The Botswana Nurses Union (BONU) has accused the country's health sector of failing to meet its constitutional and legal obligations, warning that the ongoing midwifery crisis amounts to a violation of both workers' and patients' fundamental rights.

CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS UNDER THREAT

The union argues that the crisis represents a breach of the Constitution of Botswana, which obliges the State to protect life, dignity, and personal security.

It said these protections are not symbolic but enforceable rights that are being undermined by weak health system planning and inadequate investment in the nursing workforce.

"The right to life is compromised when mothers do not receive timely and skilled care, while the right to dignity is violated by overstretched maternity services," the union stated.

BONU also says midwives' labour rights are being violated through excessive workloads and unsafe working conditions.

INTERNATIONAL OBLIGATIONS

The union further claims Botswana is falling short of international standards, including World Health Organization (World Health Organization) guidelines on safe staffing and maternal care, as well as International Labour Organization (International Labour Organization) conventions on safe and fair working conditions.

It has particularly criticised the slow progress in expanding postgraduate midwifery training programmes and increasing staffing levels in public health facilities.

BONU says midwives are being forced to sustain the system through personal sacrifice.

"Sacrifice is not a policy," the union said.

CALLS FOR URGENT REFORMS

The union is demanding immediate government intervention, including large-scale recruitment of midwives, enforcement of safe staffing standards, and urgent expansion of training programmes.

It is also calling for improved remuneration, safer working conditions, and clear career progression pathways to retain skilled professionals in the public health system.

LEGAL ACTION

BONU warned that failure to address the crisis could force it to pursue legal action and escalate industrial measures to compel government compliance.

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FIRST AND FINAL CALL FOR BENEFICIARIES - DEATH BENEFITS CLAIMS

Mmila Fund Administrators has received notifications regarding pension Death Benefits for Debswana Pension Fund members listed below. Investigations of these notifications are ongoing with the known family members. In order to ensure that all possible dependents and/or beneficiaries are accounted for, Mmila Fund Administrators wishes to give NOTICE to any unknown potential dependents and/or beneficiaries of the deceased members. Family members who have been contacted should ignore this notice.

Respondents are required to contact Mmila Fund Administrators no later than 14 days from date of publication of this notice.

Full Name	Member Status	Date of Death	Place of Residence
Maitiso Tekisi	Active	03.02.2026	Jwaneng / Moshopa
Balogi Ketsweletse	Pensioner	20.11.2025	Jwaneng / Kanye
Keekae Radipotsane	Pensioner	11.01.2026	Jwaneng / Pilikwe
Ofentse Kedule	Active	26.12.2025	Jwaneng / Thamaga

Contacts:
Mmila Member Relations Office: Gaborone: +267 373 5257 | Jwaneng: +267 588 4849 | Orapa: +267 290 2323
Mmila Member Relations and Investigations Coordinator: +267 7614 9610 or Fax to +267 395 6982

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BOFEPUSU Calls Out UDC on 'Happy Omang' Pseudo

As Police Cyber Forensics chief steers clear of row

SESUPO RANTSIMAKO

The Botswana Federation of Public Sector Unions (BOFEPUSU) has raised concerns over what it describes as government silence on a controversial Facebook pseudo account known as "Happy Omang," alleging it has been used to harass politicians, union leaders and other public figures.

GOVERNMENT UNDER PRESSURE

BOFEPUSU secretary general Robert Rabasimane says the account has been persistently targeting individuals online, yet the current Umbrella for Democratic Change (UDC) administration has not publicly condemned or acted against it.

Rabasimane raised the issue in an interview, also linking it to recent Workers' Day remarks by President Duma Boko, which the federation described as "impolite and unsettling."

He said the lack of response from government raises troubling questions about possible tolerance or involvement.

"The silence of the government raises suspicion that this could be a government-backed project or something being used by those in leadership," Rabasimane said.

> "As BOFEPUSU, we are prepared to assist in any way possible, including offering a reward."

CALLS FOR INVESTIGATION

BOFEPUSU is now calling for urgent investigations to identify the individuals behind the "Happy Omang" account, arguing that failure to act risks undermining public trust in state institutions.

The federation says authorities should consider involving external experts if necessary to trace the operators of the account and determine whether any state actors are involved.

Rabasimane stressed that transparency is essential to restore confidence in the government's commitment to protecting citizens from cyber harassment.

REWARD OFFERED FOR INFORMATION

In a rare move, BOFEPUSU has indicated it is willing to assist law enforcement efforts, including offering a reward for credible information that could help unmask those behind the account.

"We want the government to assure Batswana that it is not involved in these operations. As BOFEPUSU, we are prepared to assist in any way possible, including offering a reward," he said.

PATTERN OF ANONYMOUS ONLINE ACTIVITY

The "Happy Omang" account reportedly emerged after the UDC assumed office and has since been accused of targeting politicians, business leaders and union officials through repeated online posts.

BOFEPUSU has also drawn comparisons to a previous anonymous account, "France Museveni," which it says was strongly condemned when the UDC was still in opposition—raising questions about what it sees as inconsistent political responses.

POLICE DECLINE COMMENT

Efforts to obtain comment from law enforcement were unsuccessful. Senior Assistant Commissioner of Police Kealeboga Keeditse, Director of the Cyber Forensics Branch at the Botswana Police Service, declined to respond to queries on the matter.



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Botswana on High Alert as SA Fuel Prices Surge

Policymakers are now faced with the delicate task of balancing economic stability with the need to reflect global market realities



> "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."

BONGANI MALUNGA

Botswana is on high alert following a steep increase in fuel prices in South Africa, a development expected to have immediate ripple effects across the domestic economy. The South African Ministry of Mineral and Petroleum Resources confirmed that significant fuel price hikes took effect on Wednesday (today), driven by rising international oil prices and a weakening Rand.

According to the South African ministry, Petrol (93 and 95 ULP & LRP) has risen by R3.27 per litre, while diesel (0.05% and 0.005% sulphur) surged by R6.19 per litre, pushing fuel costs in South Africa to record highs. The increases are among the sharpest in recent years and are already raising concerns in Botswana, which relies heavily on fuel imports from its southern neighbour.

RELIANT ON FUEL IMPORTS

With Botswana relying on fuel imports from South Africa, the price shock will inevitably spill over into Botswana's market, placing pressure on local fuel prices and increasing the cost of doing business. Transport operators, who are among the largest consumers of diesel, are expected to feel the brunt of the hikes.

The anticipated rise in fuel prices is also likely to feed into inflation, affecting the cost of essential goods and services. Botswana's supply chains, many of which depend on road transport from South Africa, could face heightened operational costs, with retailers expected to pass some of the burden onto consumers.

AFFECTING BOTSWANA

Echoing broader concerns for Botswana, economist and financial sector specialist Keith Jefferis 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.

REGULATED TO CUSHION SHOCKS

While Botswana's fuel pricing structure is regulated to cushion sudden shocks, the magnitude of the increases in South Africa has sparked concerns that an upward adjustment locally may be unavoidable.

In recent weeks, Botswana Energy Regulatory Authority (BERA) has said it will keep a close eye on changes in global fuel prices.

Deposit & Lending Interest Rates

For the month of May 2026



Type of Deposit Account	Nominal Interest Rates (%) (Lowest-Highest)	Effective Interest Rates (%) (Lowest-Highest)	Minimum Opening Balance (Pula)
Current	Nil	Nil	Nil
Call	0.10% - 0.60%	0.10% - 0.60%	1000
Savings	0.15% - 5.50%	0.15% - 5.50%	100
91Day	1.00% - 3.50%	1.00% - 3.50%	1000
6 Months	1.76% - 4.01%	1.75% - 4.00%	1000
12 Months	2.05% - 6.25%	2.05% - 6.25%	1000
24 Months	2.25% - 6.25%	2.25% - 6.25%	1000
Over 24 Months	2.55% - 6.25%	2.55% - 6.25%	1000

Lending Rates	Nominal Interest Rates (%)	Average Effective Interest Rate (%)
MoPR	3.50%	3.50%
Access Bank Botswana Prime Lending Rate	7.16%	7.16%
Mortgage Facility	From ABB Prime +0.5% to ABB Prime +10%	From ABB Prime +0.50% to ABB Prime +10%
Overdraft Facility (Revolving Credit Lines)	From ABB Prime +1.0% to ABB Prime +20%	From ABB Prime +1% to ABB Prime +34.9%
Credit Card	Up to 32%	Up to 37.1%
Lease Loans	From ABB Prime +1% to ABB Prime +10%	From ABB Prime +1% to ABB Prime +10%
Unsecured Personal Loans (excluding overdrafts, mortgage and credit cards	From ABB Prime +1% to ABB Prime +25%	From ABB Prime +1% to ABB Prime +28.1%
Other Long-Term Loans	Not Available	

*Minimum Pricing Available

Effective from 1st April 2023, all commercial banks are authorized to set their own Prime Lending Rate (PLR). The Prime Lending Rate will now be referred to as the "Access Bank Botswana Prime Lending Rate". The Access Bank Botswana Prime Lending Rate is **7.16%** effective 14th May 2025.

Deposit Interest Rates shown are indicative only. For firm rates please contact any of our Branches and Sales and Service Centres:

Type of Deposit Account	Foreign Currency	Nominal Interest Rates (Lowest-Highest)	Effective Interest Rates (Lowest-Highest)	Minimum Opening Balance (Pula)
Current	USD	Nil	Nil	Nil
	ZAR	Nil	Nil	Nil
	EUR	Nil	Nil	Nil
	GBP	Nil	Nil	Nil
Call	USD	0.10% - 0.25%	0.10% - 0.25%	100
	ZAR	1.95% - 2.50%	1.97% - 2.53%	100
	EUR	0.10% - 0.25%	0.10% - 0.25%	100
	GBP	0.10% - 0.25%	0.10% - 0.25%	100
91 Day	USD	0.00% - 1.40%	0.00% - 1.41%	1000
	ZAR	2.50% - 3.15%	2.52% - 3.19%	1000
	EUR	0.10% - 0.25%	0.10% - 0.25%	1000
	GBP	0.10% - 0.25%	0.10% - 0.25%	1000
6 Months	USD	2.35% - 2.85%	2.36% - 2.87%	1000
	ZAR	3.70% - 4.70%	3.73% - 4.76%	1000
	EUR	0.10% - 0.25%	0.10% - 0.25%	1000
	GBP	0.10% - 0.25%	0.10% - 0.25%	1000
12 Months	USD	2.85% - 4.50%	2.85% - 4.50%	1000
	ZAR	4.71% - 5.50%	4.71% - 5.50%	1000
	EUR	0.10% - 0.25%	0.10% - 0.25%	1000
	GBP	0.10% - 0.25%	0.10% - 0.25%	1000
24 Months	USD	Negotiable		
	ZAR			
	EUR			
	GBP			
Over 24 Months	USD	Negotiable		
	ZAR			
	EUR			
	GBP			

Game City Branch	- 370 4700
Fairgrounds Branch	- 367 4600
Airport Junction Branch	- 371 9700
The Square Branch	- 398 5700
Ghanzi Sales and Service Centre	- 659 8800
Molepolole Sales and Service Centre	- 592 3050
Letlhakane Sales and Service Centre	- 298 5011
Kanye Sales and Service Centre	- 544 6300
Shakawe Sales and Service Centre	- 687 5244
Francistown Branch	- 245 0000
Selebi Phikwe Branch	- 263 1000
Palapye Branch	- 494 1000
Maun Branch	- 682 0000
Mahalapye Sales and Service Centre	- 474 9399
Lobatse Sales and Service Centre	- 533 0341
Kasane Sales and Service Centre	- 625 0017
Mochudi Sales and Service Centre	- 577 7162
Mogoditshane Sales and Service Centre	- 316 4584

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UDC Led Govt Fails Spending Discipline Test

Economists have criticised the Umbrella for Democratic Change government's 2026 Budget, warning it lacks credible measures to address rising deficits and debt

GAZETTE REPORTER

The Umbrella for Democratic Change (UDC) government is facing scrutiny after its 2026 Budget failed to convince economists that it has a credible plan to rein in ballooning deficits.

Analysts warn that the budget falls short of matching its bold promises of fiscal discipline with concrete action, exposing Botswana to rising debt risks and long-term economic instability.

ECONOMISTS DELIVER DAMNING VERDICT

In its First Quarter Economic Review (January–March 2026), Econsult Botswana paints a bleak picture of a budget that acknowledges fiscal dangers but avoids the tough decisions needed to correct course.

Expectations had been high when Finance Minister Ndaba Gaolathe presented the budget on February 9, given that the UDC had been in power for over a year. Economists argue that this period should have allowed government to fully grasp the "dire fiscal position" it inherited and implement meaningful reforms.

Instead, the review suggests the government hesitated.

"Whereas the 2025 Budget was presented very soon after the new UDC government had taken office, this year's budget came after more than a year in office… to appreciate the consequences of not undertaking necessary fiscal adjustments," the economists noted.

DEFICIT CONCERNS MOUNT

While the budget speech promises "fiscal consolidation, discipline and the rebuilding of buffers," Econsult says the numbers tell a different story.

"The budget as presented envisages a continued high level of spending… and a huge budget deficit," the report states, pointing to expenditure hovering around 35 percent of GDP and a deficit estimated at about 9 percent.

Economists caution that the deficit could be even larger than projected, citing what they describe as "implausibly low" allocations for debt interest payments—raising fears of hidden fiscal pressures.

Revenue projections offer little comfort. Government expects revenues to cover only about 75 percent of spending in 2026/27, leaving a significant financing gap that will likely require increased borrowing.

DEBT PRESSURES AND UNCERTAIN OUTLOOK

Public debt, already on an upward trajectory, is expected to rise sharply, with authorities likely to lift the statutory debt ceiling—an indication, economists say, of the absence of a sustainable fiscal anchor.

The review also casts doubt on government's medium-term projections. While the Medium-Term Fiscal Framework forecasts a reduced deficit by 2028/29, Econsult warns that such commitments have historically been delayed.

The budget itself acknowledges the severity of the situation, with Minister Gaolathe conceding that Botswana faces a "structurally overstretched fiscal framework," where spending consistently exceeds realistic revenues.

With a projected deficit of P26.35 billion for 2026/27 largely unfunded, concerns are growing that government lacks a concrete plan to stabilise public finances.

Econsult argues that the challenge is not only economic but political, warning that the Ministry of Finance has "not yet managed to sell the need for fiscal discipline to the rest of Government."



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The Monetary Policy Committee, at its meeting held on 30 April 2026, announced a 200 basis points increase in the Monetary Policy Rate (MoPR), from 3.50% to 5.50%.

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Top BGCSE Star Decries Scrapped Scholarship Award

Top BGCSE/BSSE achiever Desye Molome who scored 7A*s, 2A grades and 2 C grades wants government to reinstate the Top Achievers Programme

GAZETTE REPORTER

The country's top BGCSE/BSSE performer, Desye Lefika Molome of Ledumang Senior School, has expressed disappointment over the discontinuation of the government's Top Achievers Programme, describing it as a lost opportunity that once fuelled his academic ambition.

Molome, who hails from Bokaa village, emerged as the nation's brightest student after securing an impressive 7A*s, 2A grades, and 2C grades in the 2025 final examinations. The position previously guaranteed access to the now-scrapped international scholarship pathway.

The Programme, which was discontinued in 2025, had been designed to send students who obtained six A*s and above to leading international universities. Government cited escalating costs and a shift in education priorities for its removal, arguing that the resources could be redirected to benefit a larger number of learners locally.

SACRIFICES BEHIND ACADEMIC SUCCESS

For Molome, however, the decision has been disheartening. Speaking in an interview, he said the programme had been a key source of motivation throughout his secondary school journey. "It was one of those opportunities that pushed me to go beyond my limits. I can only urge those in authority to consider reinstating it," he said.



He attributed his academic success to discipline and sacrifice, noting that he deliberately distanced himself from social media to focus on his studies. "I pushed myself harder and knew results would come if I stayed focused," added Molome, whom peers and teachers describe as a consistent A-grade student throughout his academic journey.

BEC AWARDS NOW MAIN REWARD SYSTEM

Recognition of top-performing students now largely depends on Botswana Examinations Council (BEC) awards. These include cash prizes and iPads, with the top national performer receiving P15,000 handed by the President, second place P10,000 from the Minister, and third place P5,000 from the BEC chairperson—all sponsored by Stanbic Bank. Additional top ten achievers receive only ipads, while other sponsorships such as Debswana and the Ministry support PSLE and Junior Certificate awards with tablets.

GRAND CELEBRATION FOR ACADEMIC STAR

Bokaa village, where Molome was born and raised, is reportedly planning a major celebration in his honour following his outstanding academic achievement.

The village chief, Kgosi Sue Mosinyi, said Molome has emerged as a symbol of academic excellence, whose performance is expected to inspire learners not only in Bokaa but across the wider Kgatleng region.

At Ledumang Senior School, his performance has also sparked renewed pride.

LEDUMANG SCHOOL INTRODUCES P10,000 INTERNAL AWARD

Headteacher George Showa said Molome's success had "inspired a culture of self-belief among students." The school has introduced a P10,000 internal award for learners who achieve six A*s or more, funded through sponsorship efforts. "Molome will be the inaugural recipient," he said.

Molome's father, Otsile Molome, said the family is proud of his achievement, noting that his son "largely managed his own study approach without interference throughout his academic life."

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Applicants should have an undergraduate degree (at least a 2:2) with honours in any business-related subject, or an equivalent international qualification. Equivalent professional qualifications will also be considered for entry.

PROGRAMME STRUCTURE
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20 Credit Modules
-Strategy Formulation, Innovation and Entrepreneurship
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-International Business Strategy
-Strategic Risk Management
-Innovation in Marketing
-Financial Dimensions of Strategic Decisions

60 Credit Research Modules
-Independent Study
-Personal Development

Zero Credit Modules
-Transforming Personal Skills
-Career Coaching and Mentoring.

PROGRAM DURATION: 24 Months
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Masisi, BNF Clash Over Govt Failures

Former President Mokgweetsi Masisi has stirred political debate after urging citizens to embrace the current economic hardships, comments that have been widely interpreted as a swipe at the ruling UDC government's handling of the economy

GAZETTE REPORTER

Former President Mokgweetsi Masisi has sparked a political storm after remarks that appeared to criticise the ruling Umbrella for Democratic Change (UDC) in a recent speech at a tombstone unveiling of his party's former legislator.

The comments have drawn sharp rebuke from the Botswana National Front (BNF), which accuses his administration of being responsible for plunging the country into economic distress.

Speaking at a tombstone unveiling for former BDP legislator Boemetswe Mokgothu, Masisi used the occasion to urge political patience, suggesting to the attendees that impatience, likely with his administration, had ultimately cost them dearly.

He also drew on Mokgothu's legacy, urging those in attendance to learn to be patient and appreciative, and to remain thankful for what they have, "including the current situation", which he described as "a period of suffering."

The remarks were widely interpreted as a veiled critique of the current government, with the



Botswana National Front (BNF) arguing that Masisi was deflecting responsibility for Botswana's economic challenges.

BNF FIRES BACK, BLAMES BDP LEGACY

BNF, a key component of the ruling coalition, hit back strongly, accusing Masisi and the Botswana Democratic Party (BDP) of leaving behind a legacy of mismanagement, corruption, and looting of state resources.

BNF spokesperson Carter Joseph said the country is now "swimming in the mess" of the BDP's nearly six-decade rule, insisting that ongoing economic difficulties are a direct result of past governance failures.

"We are swimming in their mess and remedying their 58-year rule of mismanagement and corruption," said Joseph.

UDC DEFENDS EARLY REFORMS

Joseph argued that despite being in power for only two years, the UDC has already made significant progress in addressing structural challenges inherited from the previous administration.

He cited interventions such as the introduction of old age pensions, student allowances, the absorption of police constables into permanent positions, and the ongoing conversion of previously unpensionable workers into pensionable employment among many others as evidence of early reform efforts.

CALLS FOR ACCOUNTABILITY INTENSIFY

Joseph added that broader institutional and economic reforms are underway to stabilise the state and improve service delivery.

> "We are swimming in their mess and remedying their 58-year rule of mismanagement and corruption."

He further said that accountability for past governance failures must now take its course, adding that former leaders, including Masisi and his administration, "must now await the law to account."

NEWS BRIEFS

BONGANI MALUNGA

Hikuama Slams Boko's 'Arrogant' May Day Address

Opposition MP Kainangura Hikuama has sharply criticised President Duma Boko over his May Day remarks, calling them "unfortunate and deeply concerning in temperament." In a statement released on Monday, Hikuama said the President's dismissal of labour activism shows a fundamental misunderstanding of democratic labour relations, arguing union rhetoric is "not noise" but tradition. He further accused Boko of



abandoning campaign promises. The MP warned that responding with "arrogance" rather than solutions is a betrayal and urged leadership grounded in humility, accountability and constructive engagement with workers.

Border Fence Gaps Raise Security Concerns for Botswana

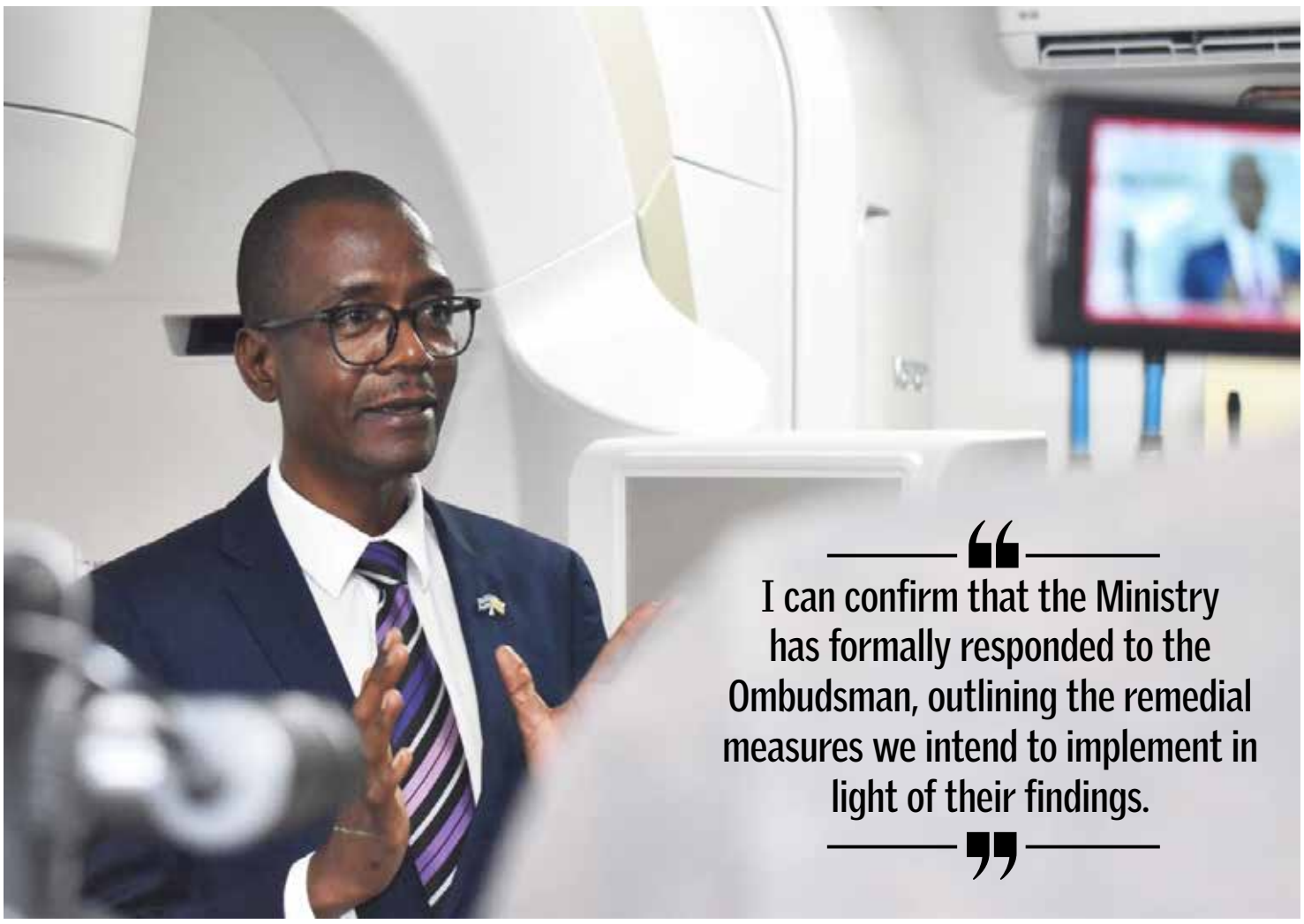
The South African National Defence Force (SANDF) has sounded the alarm over missing fencing along parts of South Africa, Botswana border, warning that the situation poses growing risks for Botswana. Troops deployed under Operation CORONA say some sections in North West province are completely unfenced, while others have been stripped and repurposed.



For Botswana, the gaps heighten exposure to illegal crossings, livestock theft and organised smuggling networks that operate across porous borders. Security officials caution that uncontrolled movement undermines law enforcement and economic stability, particularly in border communities. The development adds pressure on Botswana to strengthen its own surveillance, coordination and border management systems.

Govt, Ombudsman Strike Deal on 'Health Crisis'

The Ministry of Health has finally submitted its response to the Ombudsman's damning report on Botswana's failing public health sector, outlining proposed measures to address the entrenched service delivery failures it laid bare



GAZETTE REPORTER

The Ministry of Health has moved to ease tensions with the Office of the Ombudsman by responding to concerns raised over Botswana's troubled public health system.

In a response to The Gazette, the Ministry, through its spokesperson Dr Christopher Nyanga, said it has since engaged the Ombudsman and outlined corrective steps.

"The Ministry of Health treats the Ombudsman's report with the utmost seriousness and has favorably received its recommendations. I can confirm that the Ministry has formally responded to the Ombudsman, outlining the remedial measures we intend to implement in light of their findings," said Nyanga.

MATTERS NOT FULLY ADDRESSED

But the Ombudsman, in an interview, said, "While not all matters have been fully addressed in a timely manner, the Ministry has outlined the remedial measures it intends to implement in light of the findings."

The Ombudsman had previously flagged critical inefficiencies within the health system, warning of deep-rooted challenges affecting service delivery, including resource constraints, infrastructure gaps, and operational shortcomings.

PUBLIC OUTCRY CONTINUES

While the Ministry's response suggests progress, it remains to be seen how quickly the proposed measures will be implemented and whether they will translate into tangible improvements on the ground.

Public concern over the state of healthcare remains high, with citizens continuing to highlight persistent problems such as overcrowding, long waiting times, and shortages of essential medical supplies. Pressure continues to mount from the public and civil society organisations, who continue to demand that government urgently prioritise the health sector and move beyond commitments to tangible, on-the-ground improvements as people continue to die for lack of medicine.

Employers Warned Over FMD-Linked Job Cuts

Labour Minister Major General (rtd) Pius Mokgware has warned meat industry employers against using Foot-and-Mouth Disease (FMD) disruptions to unlawfully retrench workers

SESUPO RANTSIMAKO

The Minister of Labour, Major General (rtd) Pius Mokgware, has warned employers in the meat industry against using ongoing Foot-and-Mouth Disease (FMD) restrictions as a cover to unlawfully retrench workers, saying government will take action against any violations of labour laws.

NO RETRENCHMENT APPROVALS GRANTED

Speaking to The Botswana Gazette, Mokgware said while there have been reports of job losses in parts of the meat sector due to reduced operations linked to FMD restrictions, the Ministry of Labour has not received or approved any formal retrenchment applications.

He stressed that any dismissals carried out without official approval would be considered illegal.

"The Ministry has not received any applications or granted approval for retrenchments in relation to the current situation," Mokgware said.

The minister added that employers are legally required to follow established labour procedures before effecting any job cuts, including engaging the Department of Labour and securing clearance.

MISUSE OF FMD DISRUPTIONS

Mokgware cautioned that the disruptions caused by FMD must not be exploited to unfairly dismiss workers, urging employees to report suspected abuses.

He said government will act decisively where employers are found to be violating labour regulations or bypassing due process.

Any retrenchments linked to the outbreak, he noted, must comply fully with labour law and ensure fair treatment of affected workers.

EMPLOYERS URGED TO FOLLOW PROCEDURE

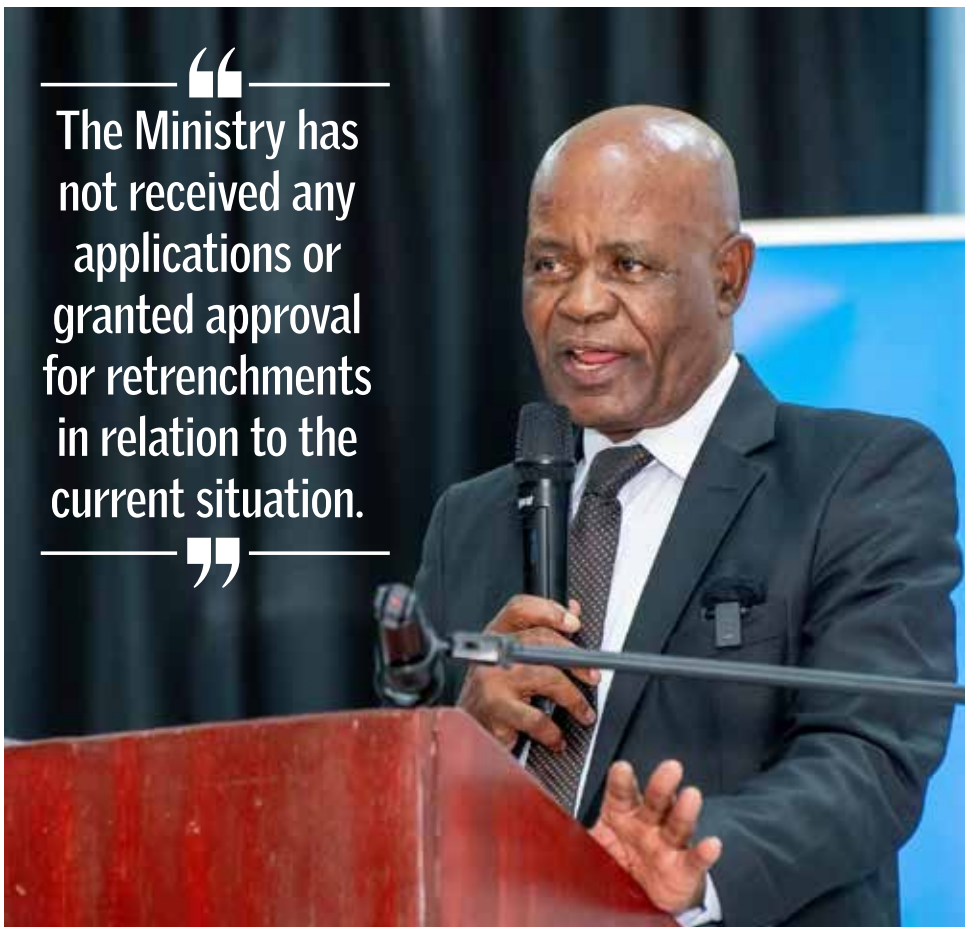
The minister reminded employers that retrenchment processes require prior approval from the Department of Labour, along with proper consultation and negotiated exit packages for workers.

He said failure to comply with these requirements would attract legal consequences.

NEW LABOUR LAW

Mokgware also highlighted that Botswana is preparing to implement the new Employment and Labour Relations Act of 2025 next month, which will introduce more structured retrenchment procedures and strengthen worker protections.

He urged workers to familiarise themselves with their rights under the new law and ensure they are properly represented in workplace negotiations.



FMD DISRUPTIONS HIT

The warning comes as the meat industry continues to feel the impact of FMD-related restrictions, which have disrupted livestock movement and reduced operations in affected areas.

The outbreak, which began in the North East before spreading southwards earlier this year, has forced some businesses to scale down or temporarily suspend operations, raising concerns over employment stability in the sector.

Govt on Alert as Xenophobic Protests Rock SA

Botswana is closely monitoring escalating xenophobic protests in South Africa, where violence and anti-migrant sentiment have led to deaths and business closures



Pic Credit.bbc.com

SESUPO RANTSIMAKO

The Minister of International Relations, Dr Phenyo Butale, says government is closely monitoring escalating xenophobic protests in South Africa, which have triggered concern across the continent.

Speaking in an interview amid the unrest, Dr Butale said Botswana is in contact with relevant South African authorities and is tracking developments to ensure the safety of Batswana living in or travelling to the country.

He stressed that while no reports of harm to Batswana have been confirmed, citizens should remain cautious as the situation remains fluid.

CALL FOR CAUTION

The Minister urged Batswana in South Africa to avoid areas affected by protests, adhere to official safety advisories, and maintain regular communication with family members as well as Botswana diplomatic missions in the region.

"We are closely monitoring the situation and engaging relevant authorities to ensure the safety and security of our citizens abroad," Dr Butale said.

RISING XENOPHOBIC TENSIONS

The protests come amid growing anti-migrant sentiment in parts of South Africa, where demonstrators have been targeting foreign nationals, including citizens from Mozambique, Nigeria, Malawi and Ghana.

Protesters have accused undocumented migrants of competing for jobs and contributing to economic pressures, demands that have fuelled tensions in several urban areas.

At least seven deaths have been reported in separate xenophobic-related incidents, including killings of Nigerian and Ethiopian nationals, according to local reports.

BUSINESSES SHUT DOWN

The unrest has led to the closure of numerous shops in Johannesburg and other affected areas, with both local and migrant-owned businesses shutting down amid fears of looting and opportunistic crime.

The protests have been organised by groups such as March and March, alongside organisations including Operation Dudula, and have also attracted support from political formations like ActionSA and the Patriotic Alliance.

While organisers insist their actions are not xenophobic, they argue the demonstrations are aimed at pushing for stricter immigration enforcement and prioritising South African citizens.

REGIONAL RESPONSE

Several African countries, including Mozambique and Ghana, have begun engaging South African authorities to safeguard their nationals, with some exploring voluntary repatriation options.

Botswana has meanwhile maintained that it will continue monitoring the situation closely while ensuring consular support remains available to its citizens affected by the unrest.



DEPOSIT RATES

Type of Deposit Account	Nominal Interest Rate (Lowest -Highest)	Actual Interest Rate (Lowest -Highest)	Minimum Opening Balance (Pula)
Current	NIL	NIL	
Savings			
Sesigo	1.75% - 2.75%	1.76% - 2.78%	200.00
Ordinary	1.75% - 1.75%	1.76% - 1.76%	50.00
SAYE	1.25% - 2.00%	1.26% - 2.02%	200.00
Fixed Deposits			
3 months	0.80% - 1.00%	0.80% - 1.00%	1,000.00
6 months	1.40% - 1.75%	1.41% - 1.76%	1,000.00
12 months	1.85% - 2.20%	1.87% - 2.22%	1,000.00
24 months	2.25% - 2.55%	2.27% - 2.58%	1,000.00
Over 24 months	3.35% - 3.80%	3.40% - 3.87%	1,000.00
PRIME LENDING RATE	8.01% 8.01%	8.01% 8.01%	

LENDING RATES

Lending Rates	Nominal Interest Rate	Average Effective Interest Rate
MoPR	5.50%	5.50%
Prime Lending Rate	8.01%	8.01%
Mortgage Facility	Prime to Prime + 5.00%	Prime to Prime + 5.12%
Overdraft Facility (Revolving credit lines)	N/A	N/A
Credit card	N/A	N/A
Eezi Auto	Prime +3.50% to Prime +8.0%	Prime +3.56% to Prime +8.30%
Lease Loans	N/A	N/A
Unsecured Personal Loans (excluding overdraft, mortgage and credits cards)	Prime +12% to Prime +22%	Prime +12.68% to Prime +24.36%
Other Long - Term Loans	N/A	N/A

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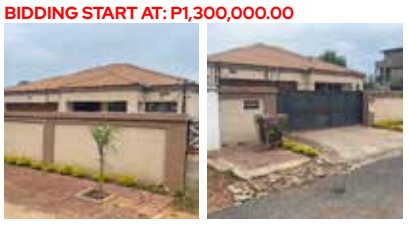


DEPUTY SHERIFF Bathusi Billy
CONTACT Cell: 71607940
DATE OF SALE 13th May 2026
TIME: 1030hrs
LOCATION Lot 62982, Gaborone (Tsholofelo)
PLOT SIZE 375m2

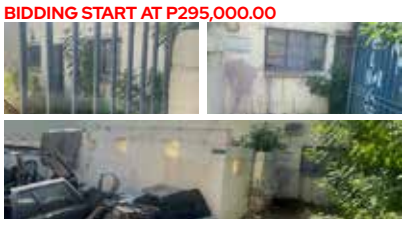
PROPERTY TO BE SOLD: A three bedroomed house with 1x master en-suite, sitting room, dining room, kitchen, guess toilet, double garage, sevrnt's quarter, partially paved, walled with a motorised gate .

BIDDING START AT P550,000.00



DEPUTY SHERIFF Bathusi Billy
CONTACT Cell: 71607940
DATE OF SALE 8th May 2026
TIME: 1430hrs
LOCATION Lot 7250, Mogoditshane (Tsolamosese)
PLOT SIZE 894m2
PROPERTY TO BE SOLD: A three bedroomed house, sitting room, kitchen, toilet and bathroom, walled and electric fence

BIDDING START AT P295,000.00



DEPUTY SHERIFF Bathusi Billy
CONTACT Cell: 71607940
DATE OF SALE 8th May 2026
TIME: 1130hrs
LOCATION Section No. 13 on Lot 70518, Gaborone, (the property is situated along Mahuditlhane Road inside Technology Park Scheme) (Along Ngomokasitwa Road facing Commerce Park just after Seabelo House take first left turn the first property on your left)
PLOT SIZE 97m2

PROPERTY TO BE SOLD: Two offices, toilet, kitchen and reception area.

BIDDING START AT: P475,000.00



DEPUTY SHERIFF Bathusi Billy
CONTACT Cell: 71607940
DATE OF SALE 11th May 2026
TIME 1030hrs
LOCATION Tribal Lot 455, Gakuto
PLOT SIZE 900m2
PROPERTY TO BE SOLD: A three bedroomed house with 1x master ensuite, sitting room, toilets, kitchen, double garage, walled sliding gates.

BIDDING START AT P850,000.00



DEPUTY SHERIFF Gaone Ratsoma
CONTACT Cell: 72199719
DATE OF SALE 15th May 2026
TIME: 1430hrs
LOCATION Lot 7028, Francistown (Next Galo Mall)
PLOT SIZE 924m2
PROPERTY TO BE SOLD: A 7 bedroomed house including 5 en-suites, guest toilet, fitted kitchen, sitting room, laundry room pentry room, store room, dinning room, walled, electric fence and morotised gate.

BIDDING START AT P1,450,000.00



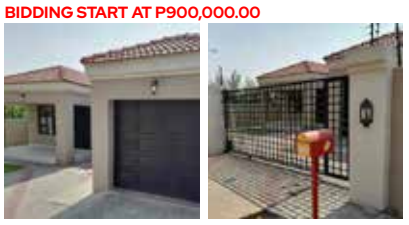
DEPUTY SHERIFF Nonofo Dingalo
CONTACT Cell: 72199719
DATE OF SALE 12th May 2026
TIME: 1430hrs
LOCATION Lot 38679, Gaborone (Block 6 Next Metlhaetsile Estate)
PLOT SIZE 598m2
PROPERTY TO BE SOLD: A 4 bedroomed house, all ensuite, dinning room, launge fitted kitchen, servant's quarter, swimming pool, the yard is paved with boundary wall and security fence

BIDDING START AT: P500,000.00



DEPUTY SHERIFF Bathusi Billy
CONTACT Cell: 71607940
DATE OF SALE 11th May 2026
TIME 1430hrs
LOCATION Lot 35591, Gaborone (Block 8)
PLOT SIZE 661m2
PROPERTY TO BE SOLD: A five bedroomed House with a common bath, toilet, fitted kitchen, study room, sitting room, dinning room, walled with electric fence.

BIDDING START AT P900,000.00



DEPUTY SHERIFF Gaone Ratsoma
CONTACT Cell: 72199719
DATE OF SALE 8th May 2026
TIME: 0930hrs
LOCATION Lot 37395, Gaborone (Block 8)
PLOT SIZE 417m2
PROPERTY TO BE SOLD: A three bedroomed house with one room being the master insuite, fitted kitchen, sitting room, dinning room, toilet, bathroom, walled with electric fence and motorised gate

BIDDING START AT P500,000.00



DEPUTY SHERIFF Caine Mogorosi
CONTACT Cell: 73242201
DATE OF SALE 15th May 2026
TIME 1430hrs
LOCATION Tribal Lot 653, Tatisiding
PLOT SIZE 1040m2
PROPERTY TO BE SOLD: A three bedroomed house with kitchen, toilet, bathroom. A batchelor pad with three rooms all tiled with toilet and shower, walled and sliding gate.

BIDDING START AT P2,000,000.00



DEPUTY SHERIFF Gaone Ratsoma
CONTACT Cell: 72199719
DATE OF SALE 15th May 2026
TIME: 0930hrs
LOCATION Portion 20 of Portion 4 of Farm No. 1-NG (Mathangwane)
PLOT SIZE 4,1611ha
PROPERTY TO BE SOLD: A double story house with two bedrooms, ensuit, sitting room, dinning room, fitted kitchen, office, 1x store-room, laundry-room, fenced with pallisade steel, workshop, farm-worker's house with 2 rooms, toilet and a shower, 10000L tank for fuel station, generator room with 30kva generator plus distribution box, 10000L Jojo for water and pressure pump.

BIDDING START AT P4,500,000.00



DEPUTY SHERIFF Gaone Ratsoma
CONTACT Cell: 72199719
DATE OF SALE 15th May 2026
TIME: 1030hrs
LOCATION Tribal Grant No. 481-NQ
PLOT SIZE 19.8635ha

PROPERTY TO BE SOLD: A 406m2 warehouse with office, store-room and ablution, cattle pens are constructed from 1.8 steel tubular poles cast in concrete footings and divided into 12 paddocks with holding capacity of 250 head of cattles per paddock, concrete water troughs and feeding bins, the facility has two processing areas for receiving and inducting animals into the feedlot, water is pumped from Shashe River with an hourly yield of 14000L into 10x 10000L Jojo tanks, 1x borehole with a depth of 78 metres yield 10000L per hour, three phase electricity, a backup 80 KVA generator.

BIDDING START AT: P1,500,000.00



DEPUTY SHERIFF Gaone Ratsoma
CONTACT Cell: 72199719
DATE OF SALE 12th May 2026
TIME 1030hrs
LOCATION Lot 35591, Gaborone (Block 8)
PLOT SIZE 661m2

PROPERTY TO BE SOLD: A five bedroomed House with a common bath, toilet, fitted kitchen, study room, sitting room, dinning room, walled with electric fence.

BIDDING START AT: 2,000,000.00



DEPUTY SHERIFF Gaone Ratoma
CONTACT Cell: 72199719
DATE OF SALE 15th May 2026
TIME: 1130hrs
LOCATION Portion 22 (A Portion of Portion 4) of Farm No. 1-MQ
PLOT SIZE 4,3579ha

PROPERTY TO BE SOLD: A three bedroomed double storey house with 1x master ensuite, sitting room, office, lounge, fitted kitchen, pentry scullery, toilets, double garage, servant's quarter with 2x bedrooms with shower, toilet and kitchenette, double garage, entertainment area with swimming pool.

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Game City - 318 1077 | Ghanzi - 659 7353 | Kang - 651 7190 Kasane - 625 0123
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Rights Under Strain Despite Political Change-Amnesty

A new Amnesty International report warns that Botswana's human rights record has worsened in key areas despite a change in government

GAZETTE REPORTER

Despite a historic political transition following the 2024 general elections, Botswana's human rights situation has deteriorated in key areas, according to Amnesty International's The State of the World's Human Rights 2025 report.

The Umbrella for Democratic Change (UDC) government, led by President Duma Boko, came to power after ending decades of Botswana Democratic Party (BDP) rule. However, Amnesty warns that the political shift has not translated into stronger protection of fundamental rights.

HEALTH SYSTEM IN CRISIS

"Severe shortages of essential medicines led to a public health emergency," Amnesty International noted, describing a crisis that crippled the country's health system and exposed deep structural weaknesses.

The report attributes the collapse of medical supply chains to months of unpaid government arrears to private suppliers, compounded by fiscal strain linked to the downturn in the diamond sector. Hospitals were forced to postpone non-urgent surgeries, while patients with cancer, diabetes, tuberculosis, and mental health conditions faced critical shortages.

Authorities later declared a national public health emergency and deployed the military to assist with distribution after allocating P250 million in emergency funding, but shortages persisted.

DIGITAL LAWS RAISE RED FLAGS

Amnesty also raised concern over new legislation passed in August 2025, warning that it could significantly expand state control over the digital space.

"New laws threatened to expand the authorities' power to regulate online services and usage," the report stated, referring to the Digital Services Act 2025 and the Cybersecurity Act 2025.

The organisation argues that the laws centralise executive authority without adequate safeguards for privacy and freedom of expression.

Botswana was also ranked 81st out of 180 countries in the 2025 World Press Freedom Index by Reporters Without Borders, which noted that while severe abuses against journalists had declined, structural barriers to press freedom remain.

PROTESTS AND CIVIL LIBERTIES UNDER PRESSURE

Amnesty reported that "the rights to freedom of expression and peaceful assembly were restricted," pointing to incidents such as the blocking of student-led protests in Gaborone by law enforcement agencies.

GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE PERSISTS

The report paints a bleak picture of gender equality and safety in Botswana. UN agencies have described gender-based violence as a national emergency, yet Amnesty notes that the government response remains inadequate.

"Gender-based violence remained widespread, while marital rape was not outlawed," the report highlights, underscoring ongoing legal and policy gaps that leave many women and girls without sufficient protection.

DEATH PENALTY STILL IN PLACE

Botswana's continued use of capital punishment also drew criticism. While no executions were carried out for a fourth consecutive year, several prisoners remain on death row.

"Botswana retained the death penalty," Amnesty stated, as local rights groups continue to call for an official moratorium as a step toward abolition.



"Gender-based violence remained widespread, while marital rape was not outlawed.

BOTSWANA BOBS BUREAU OF STANDARDS

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Applications are invited from suitably qualified candidates for the following position:

Manager – Finance: Vacancy No. 2/2026/2027

Job Summary
The successful applicant will be expected to plan, organise and implement financial management and accounting systems and procedures to ensure the timely and accurate maintenance of the Bureau's accounts and financial statements and adequacy of cash flows to meet the Bureau's requirements.

Key Performance Areas
Play key role managing the income generation from all assets to maximise return on investment.
Development and implementation of the corporate financial strategy, financial policies and procedures to ensure cost effective and efficient financial services delivery.
Identify and manage financial risks of BOBS
Actively participate in the implementation of Quality Management System
Availability and accuracy of financial statements and accounts.
Reduction in the new and recurring of audit queries.

Minimum Job Requirements
Degree in accounting or equivalent plus members of internationally recognised accounting professional body such as ACCA, CIMA, BICA and CA. 5 years post qualification qualifying experience in a computerised accounting environment, 3 years of which should have been at a supervisory level and a valid driving licence.

COMPETENCIES
Corporate management skills
Strong communications and interpersonal skills
Initiative, Pro-active, decisive and assertive
Computer literacy is essential
Analytical thinking
Supervisory abilities

REMUNERATION
BOBS offers competitive and attractive remuneration packages to the most suitable candidate.

This position is offered on a five (5) year fixed contract term.

A detailed CV, names of three referees and certified copies of certificates should accompany applications and be emailed to: recruitment@bobstandards.bw not later than **19th May 2026**. BOBS will enter into correspondence with shortlisted candidates only.

For any enquiries do not hesitate to contact Human Resources at Telephone Number: 3903200/3645560/3645561.

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Botswana Governance Summit Takes Shape

National Assembly Speaker Dithapelo Keorapetse is set to headline EHCC’s fourth Corporate Governance Summit, where governance architecture and accountability will take center stage

GAZETTE REPORTER

Exclusive Human Capital Consultancy will host its fourth Corporate Governance Summit on May 21 and 22 at Phakalane Golf Estate, bringing together business leaders and policymakers to discuss the evolving governance landscape in Botswana.

Among the headline speakers will be Dithapelo Lefhoko Keorapetse, Speaker of the National Assembly of the Republic of Botswana, who is expected to deliver a lecture on governance architecture in Botswana and its role in shaping the future of corporate governance.

Joe Ndadi, Executive Chairperson of EHCC, said the summit is intended to strengthen corporate governance standards by promoting accountability, transparency and ethical decision-making.

“The summit’s primary aim is to strengthen corporate governance by promoting accountability, transparency and ethical decision-making,” Ndadi said in an interview.

GOVERNANCE PILLARS

The summit’s discussions are expected to draw on the King IV Report on Corporate Governance, particularly Principle 6, which defines the board as the focal point and custodian of corporate governance, responsible for directing and controlling an organisation.

He said Principle 7 focuses on board composition, including the balance of skills, diversity and independence needed for effective oversight, while Principle 8 addresses delegation of authority and the establishment of board committees such as audit, risk and remuneration.

“Together, the principles form what governance practitioners describe as the governance architecture — the structures and systems through which organisations are directed,” he said.

FUTURE DIRECTION

He said the future of governance, according to the King IV framework, is increasingly linked to sustainability, technology and stakeholder inclusion. He noted Principle 4 integrates strategy, performance and sustainability, recognising the relationship between long-term business performance and sustainable practices.

Principle 12 focuses on technology and information governance, reflecting the growing role of artificial intelligence and data security in business operations, while Principle 16 promotes a stakeholder-inclusive model that prioritises legitimacy and trust beyond shareholder interests.

Ndadi said the summit would also examine how Botswana can reshape governance frameworks to support stronger and more sustainable economic growth.

“The Speaker will emphasise the reshaping of good governance in Botswana in building strong and sustainable economic growth based on principles of governance and accountability,” he said.

Botswana Urged to Cut Fuel Dependence

Economist Keith Jefferis warns that rising global energy prices could deepen Botswana’s trade deficit and accelerate the need for electric mobility and fuel security

GAZETTE REPORTER

Botswana should urgently reduce its dependence on imported fuel and accelerate plans for electric mobility, economist Keith Jefferis has said, warning that the global energy shock linked to the Middle East conflict has exposed the country’s economic vulnerability.

In the Econsult Economic Review, Jefferis said countries reliant on fuel imports are particularly vulnerable to supply disruptions and rising prices, both of which carry significant macroeconomic consequences.

For Botswana, fuel remains the single largest category of imports, according to Statistics Botswana, with total fuel imports valued at P16.9 billion in 2025 — equivalent to around 6 percent of gross domestic product.

Jefferis said a sustained rise in global fuel prices would place significant pressure on the economy.

“If global fuel prices rise by 50 percent and this is maintained for a full year, the cost to Botswana would be huge, around P8.5 billion, or some 3 percent of GDP,” he said.

RESERVE PRESSURE

He noted that such an increase would widen Botswana’s trade deficit and erode foreign exchange reserves by the same amount.

“With the reserves at around P47 billion at the end of 2025, this is a large negative impact,” Jefferis said.

Beyond higher prices, he said supply disruption remains a major risk for fuel-importing economies.

“Higher prices is one thing, as long as access to fuel imports is maintained,” he said. “But if the global flow of fuel supplies is physically disrupted, it is possible that physical shortages could result in some locations.”

So far, Botswana and the broader southern African region have avoided shortages, supported by multiple supply routes.

Jefferis said Botswana currently imports fuel through three channels: regionally via South Africa, and internationally through Walvis Bay in Namibia and Matola in Mozambique.

“So far, supplies through these channels have held up well,” he said.

POLICY RESPONSE

Jefferis outlined two policy priorities for Botswana to reduce its exposure to future fuel shocks.

The first is the long-delayed development of strategic fuel storage facilities. He said the major storage project at Tshele Hills has remained on the drawing board for at least a decade with limited progress.

“Smaller facilities are being constructed at Francistown and Ghanzi,” he said.

He added that while strategic reserves would not shield Botswana from rising prices, they could reduce the risk of shortages.

The second priority, he said, is reducing fuel dependence through electric mobility.

“Botswana needs to develop an EV strategy, particularly the provision of charging infrastructure,” Jefferis said.

He added that a proper urban public transport strategy built around electric vehicles could significantly cut petrol and diesel consumption while reducing vulnerability to future fuel shocks and supporting Botswana’s carbon emission commitments.

“Botswana needs to reduce its dependence on imported fuels.”

Letshego Reshapes African Footprint

Letshego Africa Holdings is selling five subsidiaries to Dubai-based Axian Group as part of a portfolio overhaul aimed at sharpening focus on Southern Africa and improving capital efficiency

GAZETTE REPORTER

Letshego Africa Holdings Limited has agreed to sell five of its African subsidiaries to Axian Group in a landmark transaction that signals a strategic shift toward its core Southern African markets.

The deal, structured through binding sale and purchase agreements with Axian Digital Venture Holdings and Management Limited, involves the sale of 100 percent of Letshego's issued share capital in subsidiaries in Ghana, Tanzania, Nigeria, Rwanda and Uganda.

The move marks a major step in the group's portfolio optimisation strategy, which has been previously communicated to investors as part of a broader effort to simplify operations and strengthen capital allocation.

STRATEGIC FOCUS

Letshego Group Chief Executive Officer Reinette van der Merwe said the transaction was designed to sharpen the group's strategic focus.

"This transaction reflects a strategic decision to focus capital and management attention on core priorities to support sustainable growth and value creation," van der Merwe said in an interview.



Letshego Group Chief Executive Officer Reinette van der Merwe said the transaction was designed to sharpen the group's strategic focus.

She said the disposal would allow the company to concentrate on markets where it has greater scale, stronger competitive positioning and clearer long-term growth prospects.

The transaction represents a full exit from the five businesses, meaning Letshego will not retain ownership or operational control once the deal is completed.

"The focus will be on ensuring a smooth and orderly handover, with limited, time-bound support in place to help the business transition effectively," she said.

WORKER IMPACT

Letshego said there are no immediate job cuts planned as a direct result of the transaction.

According to van der Merwe, employee roles, tenure and employment terms are expected to transfer in line with applicable laws and regulations, under legal frameworks designed to protect workers during ownership changes.

"The buyer's strategy is to grow the business in these markets, which supports continuity in the near term and long-term opportunities for employees over time," she said.

She added that leadership changes could happen over time as the businesses are integrated into Axian's governance and reporting structures, though continuity remains a priority during the transition.

TRANSITION PLAN

The transaction remains subject to customary regulatory approvals, a standard requirement in cross-border financial services acquisitions.

Letshego said operational continuity remains central to the deal, with systems, contracts and service arrangements expected to remain intact during and after the transfer.

"No disruption is expected," van der Merwe said, adding that detailed transition planning and transitional service agreements were being put in place to support uninterrupted customer service.

Existing customer contracts, pricing and service levels are expected to remain unchanged in the immediate term.

On valuation, Letshego said the transaction reflects fair value based on market conditions, business performance, growth prospects and comparable deals.

Proceeds from the sale, the company said, will be used in line with its capital allocation framework, including strengthening the balance sheet, reinvesting in core operations and improving financial flexibility.

The group said compliance, anti-money laundering, sanctions and know-your-customer controls would remain in place throughout the transition.

Global Humanitarian Leader Tsige Teferi Remembered for Transformative Work in Botswana and Beyond



The international development community is mourning the loss of Ms. Tsige Teferi, a respected humanitarian leader whose work spanned continents and touched countless lives—most notably through her impactful leadership in Botswana.

Tsige Teferi passed away on May 1, 2026, leaving behind a legacy defined by service, compassion, and an unwavering dedication to improving the lives of vulnerable communities. She was widely recognized for her leadership in global health and development programs, with Botswana representing a central chapter in her distinguished career.

Educated in Canada and Zambia, Tsige earned her Bachelor of Science from Dalhousie University and later obtained a Master's degree in Project Management from Cavendish University. Armed with academic excellence and a deep sense of purpose, she embarked on a career that would span Canada, Botswana, and Ethiopia.

Her most enduring professional contributions were made in Botswana, where she served in senior leadership roles for nearly a decade. From November 2012 to August 2021, Tsige served as Chief of Party with Project Concern International, overseeing major health and development initiatives aimed at strengthening community resilience and addressing public health challenges. Her tenure was marked by strategic program expansion, strong partnerships with local stakeholders, and measurable improvements in community well-being.

She later continued her leadership in Botswana as Chief of Party with Global Communities from September 2021 to March 2022. In this role, she further solidified her reputation as a results-driven leader committed to sustainable development and the empowerment of local systems.

Prior to her work in Botswana, Tsige held several influential positions in Ethiopia. She served as Chief of Party with Development Alternatives Incorporated (DAI), Chief HIV/AIDS Advisor with the Clinton Foundation, Deputy Country Director for Family Health International (FHI), and Project Manager with the Ethiopia-Netherlands AIDS Research Project (ENARP). Through these roles, she made significant contributions to HIV/AIDS research and programming in Addis Ababa.

In her later years, Tsige continued her commitment to service in Canada. In late 2022, she worked as a Manager with the Immigrant Services Association of Nova Scotia, supporting newcomers as they established new lives in Nova Scotia. Most recently, she served as a Manager with the YWCA Halifax from March 2025 until she fell ill later that year, advocating for safe and supportive housing for women in need.

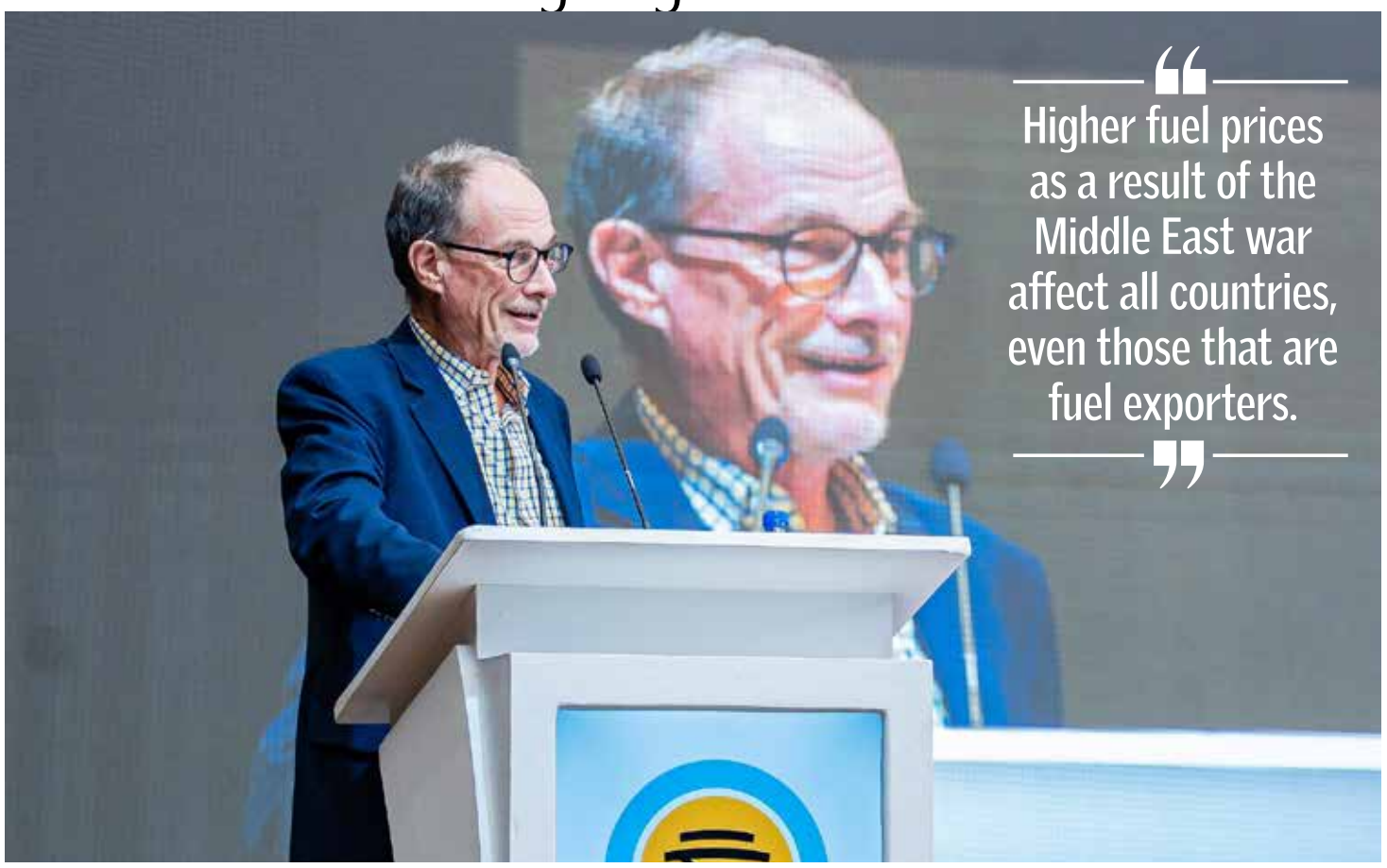
Beyond her professional accomplishments, Tsige was deeply devoted to her family. She is survived by her beloved husband, Professor Alfred Nhema, former director of the School of Government, University of the Western Cape, South Africa and four children. Family, friends, and colleagues remember her as a woman of exceptional compassion, integrity, and strength, whose life was dedicated to serving others.

A funeral service will be held in Canada on May 6, 2026, beginning at Saint Gabriel Ethiopian Orthodox Church, located at 1608 Hammonds Plains Road, Hammonds Plains, Nova Scotia, followed by a procession to St. John's Anglican Church, 2187 Larry Uteck Boulevard, Bedford. Burial will take place at Brookside Bedford Community Cemetery, with a reception and time for condolences to follow.

Tsige Teferi will be remembered not only for her professional excellence, but also for her warmth, generosity, and lifelong commitment to uplifting others. Her legacy lives on in the communities she strengthened and the many lives she transformed. May her soul rest in peace, and may her memory be a blessing to all who knew her.

Uncertainty Deepens Over Botswana Economy

War-driven fuel shocks, diamond uncertainty and inflation cloud a fragile growth rebound for 2026



> "Higher fuel prices as a result of the Middle East war affect all countries, even those that are fuel exporters."

GAZETTE REPORTER

Botswana's economic outlook for the rest of 2026 is being shaped by three major trends: a possible recovery in the diamond sector, ongoing reforms in the non-diamond economy under the Botswana Economic Transformation Plan (BETP), and the global energy shock linked to the ongoing US-Israel-Iran war.

According to the Econsult Economic Review First Quarter Jan-Mar 2026, compiled by economist Keith Jefferis, the third factor has now become the most influential.

"As of April 2026, it is the third trend that is dominant," Jefferis said in the report, which was released recently.

He said the uncertainty created by the conflict has made forecasting Botswana's economic performance increasingly difficult, particularly because there is no clear indication of how long the disruptions will continue.

The International Monetary Fund had forecast Botswana's economy to grow by 4.7 percent in 2026, largely on expectations of stronger diamond production. But Jefferis said that projection was made before the outbreak of war in the Middle East and now appears ambitious.

Forecast Trimmed

Jefferis said weaker global economic conditions are likely to reduce demand for diamonds, putting pressure on household incomes and slowing consumption.

"Our projection is that nonetheless there will still be a recovery in GDP growth from -0.7 percent in 2025 to 3.7 percent in 2026," he said.

That growth, he said, would be driven by a forecast 9 percent expansion in the diamond sector and 2 percent growth in the non-diamond private sector.

But the broader economy is expected to face significant pressure from rising inflation.

"As we noted above, inflation is set to rise to over 10 percent due to the increase in fuel prices," Jefferis said.

CONSUMER PRESSURE

Higher fuel prices are expected to reduce real incomes for households, affecting sectors that rely heavily on consumer spending, including wholesale and retail trade as well as financial services.

Jefferis also warned that tourism could be affected by reduced international visitor numbers as higher aviation fuel prices increase the cost of air travel.

At the same time, domestic challenges continue to weigh on other sectors.

Real estate services and construction, he said, remain constrained by limited bank credit and high borrowing costs linked to continued government borrowing.

AGRICULTURE STRUGGLES

The agricultural sector has also come under pressure from domestic factors, particularly the spread of foot-and-mouth disease in Botswana's cattle herd.

Jefferis said restrictions on cattle movement, slaughter and beef exports are expected to hurt the Botswana Meat Commission and cattle farmers.

Rising global fertilizer prices, driven by the war, are also expected to affect arable farming, though Jefferis said the impact will be felt more in the 2026/27 farming season.

In the short term, he noted that Southern Africa's expected bumper maize harvest could help keep prices relatively low this year.

Turnstar Weathers Tough Economy

Revenue rose and operations held steady, but falling property values and currency losses sharply cut pretax profit

GAZETTE REPORTER

Turnstar Holdings Limited, operator of the prominent Game City Mall, said its performance for the year ended January 31, 2026, remained resilient despite what it described as a challenging macroeconomic environment.

REVENUE GROWTH

In its latest financial results, Turnstar reported revenue of P354.4 million, a 3 percent increase from P344.1 million in 2025, supported by stable occupancy levels across its operations in Botswana, Tanzania and Dubai.

Operational profit before exchange differences and fair value adjustments rose 1.5 percent to P153.8 million from P151.5 million a year earlier, reflecting what the company said was resilient underlying performance and continued cost discipline.

Real earnings per share, before exchange differences and fair value adjustments, increased to 27 thebe from 26 thebe in the prior year.

PROFIT FALLS

Despite stronger revenue and operating profit, profit before taxation fell sharply by 66 percent to P64.3 million, compared with P188.6 million in 2025.

Turnstar attributed the decline mainly to a fair value loss on investment property of P79.96 million, compared with a gain of P41.1 million in the previous year.

The company said the losses reflected lower property valuations, particularly in Botswana, where higher discount and capitalisation rates weighed on valuations. Those losses were partly offset by gains in Tanzania and Dubai.

CURRENCY IMPACT

Turnstar also recorded a non-cash foreign currency translation loss of P137.8 million in other comprehensive income, compared with an P18 million gain in 2025.

The company said the loss arose from translating the results of foreign subsidiaries into Botswana pula amid exchange rate volatility.

"This movement was driven by exchange rate volatility during the year, including controlled devaluation of the Pula by Bank of Botswana and the widening of the FX buy/sell margin," the group said.

Turnstar added that the translation adjustment was a non-cash accounting effect under International Financial Reporting Standards and did not reflect a weakening in its underlying operations.

MARKET PERFORMANCE

In Botswana, the company said its portfolio, including Game City, Nzano and Supa Save malls, maintained high occupancy levels. However, Turnstar noted that tenant affordability, rental growth and collections remained under pressure, while maintenance costs rose because of ageing infrastructure.

At Mlimani City in Tanzania, Turnstar said the property operated at near full capacity, with steady rental growth and strong demand across retail, office and conference segments.

> "The Group maintained a strong liquidity position during the year."

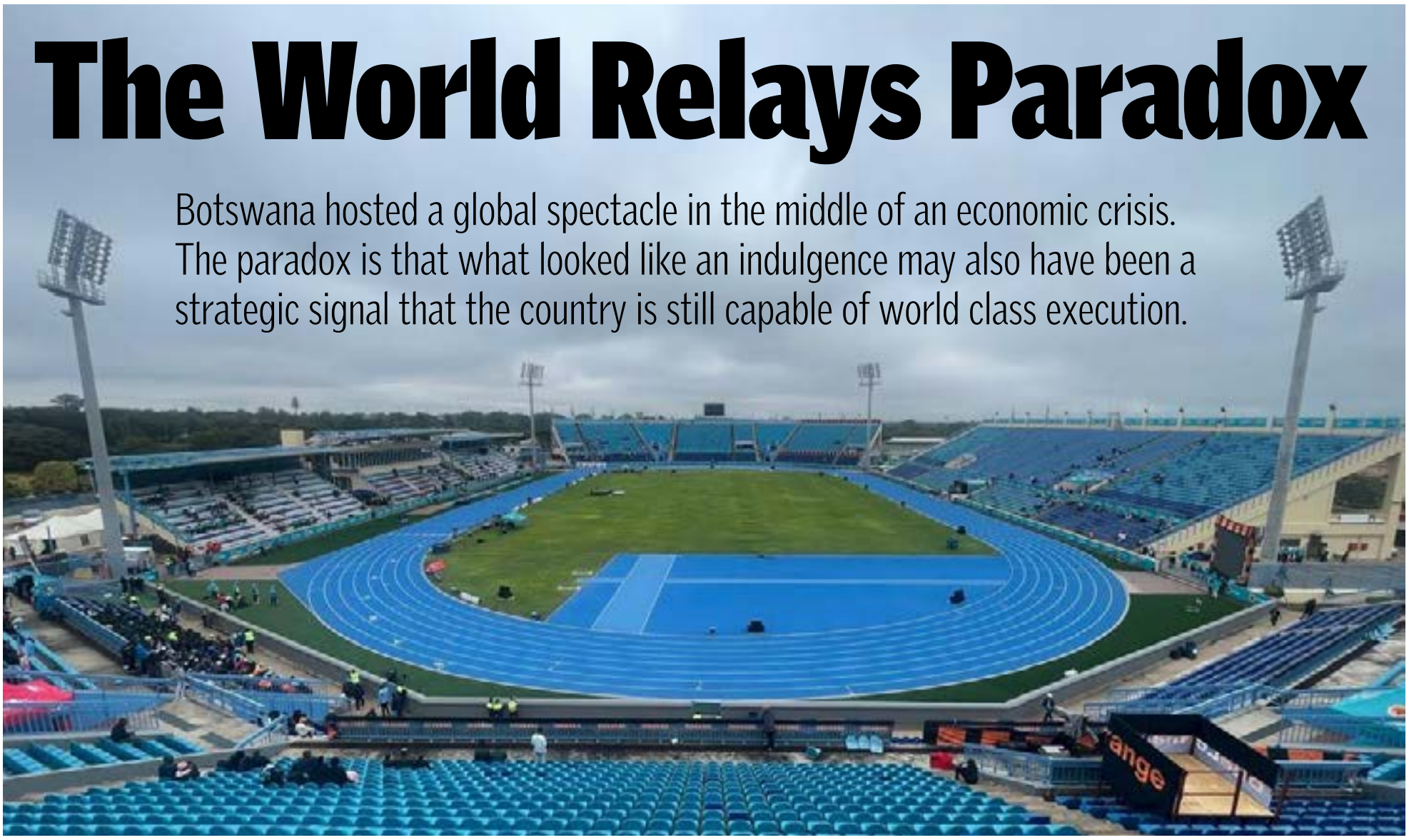
In Palazzo Versace Dubai, the group said the property remained fully let and continued to benefit from favourable market conditions and rental growth.

LIQUIDITY POSITION

"The Group maintained a strong liquidity position during the year," Turnstar said, adding that borrowings remained at prudent levels relative to total asset values, with all loan covenants met.

The company said cash flow generation remained robust, supported by stable rental income and disciplined capital management.

The World Relays Paradox



Botswana hosted a global spectacle in the middle of an economic crisis. The paradox is that what looked like an indulgence may also have been a strategic signal that the country is still capable of world class execution.

MANUEL VEIRUAPI RUHAPO, FOUNDER, BLACMARC GROUP

On the weekend of 2 to 3 May 2026, Gaborone did something no African city had done before. It hosted the Debswana World Athletics Relays, bringing roughly 700 athletes from 40 nations to the Botswana National Stadium.

For two days, the world watched Botswana. Letsile Tebogo electrified the home crowd, Botswana's men's 4x400m team won gold on home soil, and Gaborone became the centre of global athletics.

THE HARD QUESTION

But behind the celebration sat an uncomfortable question: how does a country facing serious economic pressure justify hosting the world?

Botswana is in the middle of one of the most difficult economic moments in its post independence history. Growth has slowed, public finances are under pressure, unemployment remains high, and the diamond economy that has long carried the country is facing structural strain. In that context, a global sporting event can easily look like pageantry at the wrong time.

That is the heart of the World Relays Paradox. The moment a country most needs to project confidence, capability and global relevance is often the very moment when it feels least able to do so.

A BRAND SIGNAL

The World Relays were not just a sporting event. They were a national brand moment.

Hosting a major World Athletics event required Botswana to show that it could deliver logistics, infrastructure, hospitality, security, broadcast quality and organisational discipline at a world class level. That matters because the country is trying to move beyond an economy defined mainly by diamonds into one that can attract investment, tourism, talent, events and knowledge industries.

Countries do not attract opportunity by disappearing from the world stage. They attract it by showing that they can compete, host, organise and deliver.

THE TEBOGO EFFECT

The event also placed Letsile Tebogo at the centre of Botswana's global story. Tebogo is no longer only a national sporting hero. He is one of the most recognisable faces in world athletics and the most commercially powerful athlete Botswana has produced.

His presence gave the relays emotional weight. It told young Batswana that excellence can happen here, that global attention can come here, and that the country's future does not have to be imagined somewhere else.

That is powerful brand territory. It is not just about medals. It is about belief.

DIAMONDS ON DISPLAY

Debswana's title sponsorship was also more than a corporate logo on an event. It was a deliberate positioning move at a time when natural diamonds face pressure from synthetic stones, weaker global demand and changing consumer habits.

By placing Botswana diamonds at the heart of a global sporting moment, Debswana reminded the world that its role is not only to mine diamonds, but to help carry the national story. The medals set with natural Botswana diamonds became more than prizes. They became symbols of value, identity and national pride.

In that sense, the World Relays offered Botswana a rare opportunity to connect sport, tourism, diamonds and national confidence in one global moment.

THE REAL TEST

That does not mean public concern about the cost is wrong. In a country facing fiscal strain and high unemployment, citizens are right to ask what the event cost, who paid for what, and what return Botswana expects from it.

Scrutiny is not cynicism. It is citizenship.

But the simpler argument, that a country in crisis should avoid all global spectacle, misses the larger point. A national brand is not a luxury to be protected only in good times. It is one of the tools a country needs when it is trying to recover, reposition and compete.

WHAT COMES NEXT

The real question is whether Botswana treats the World Relays as a one off moment or as part of a bigger strategy.

A single spectacle fades. A pattern of world class execution builds reputation. If Botswana can use the Relays to strengthen event tourism, deepen sports development, attract investment, and present Gaborone as a serious host city, then the paradox begins to resolve itself.

The country hosted the world while under economic pressure. That contradiction is real. But so is the opportunity.

The World Relays did not solve Botswana's economic crisis. They did something different. They showed that Botswana can still stand on a global stage, execute under pressure, and give the world a reason to look this way.

For the full argument, read the complete version online.



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

Batanani Walk Targets Child Protection

The 2026 Mascom Batanani Walk will focus on child protection and improving access to justice for young abuse victims in Botswana



Mascom Wireless has announced "Step Up for Child Safety" as the theme for the 2026 edition of the Mascom Batanani Walk, an initiative aimed at strengthening child protection systems and improving access to justice for children in Botswana.

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The annual walk, now in its eighth edition, is scheduled for 8 August 2026 and will support child-friendly centres operated by the Botswana Police Service.

CHILD PROTECTION CONCERNS

According to the Violence Against Children Survey (VACS), one in four girls aged 13 to 17 who have had sexual intercourse experienced unwanted sex during their sexual debut, compared to one in twenty boys. The study also found that only 10 percent of abuse cases are reported to authorities.

Organisers said the campaign seeks to encourage reporting of abuse cases and promote child-friendly justice systems.

"As a business rooted in connecting people, we recognise that connectivity also means being one with the communities we serve," said Boipelo Matenge, Chief Corporate Affairs Officer at Mascom Wireless.

SUPPORT FOR CHILD-FRIENDLY CENTRES

Funds raised through the initiative, together with support from donors and partner organisations, will go toward refurbishing and furnishing police child-friendly centres.

The centres are designed to provide safe spaces for children reporting abuse and to improve support for young victims and witnesses during investigations.

"Mascom is excited to lead an initiative that will meaningfully improve children's access to safety," Matenge said.

The company also cited its partnership with UNICEF Botswana as part of its ongoing involvement in child welfare initiatives.

Article edited for length

FNB and Africa's Eden Tourism Collaborate

FNB Botswana and Africa's Eden Tourism have launched a regional collaboration focused on financial access, cross-border trade and support for tourism businesses



First National Bank of Botswana and Africa's Eden Tourism have announced a strategic collaboration aimed at supporting tourism businesses and improving access to financial solutions across Southern Africa.

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Africa's Eden Tourism represents tourism stakeholders in Angola, Botswana, Madagascar, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, Zambia and Zimbabwe. The organisation focuses on promoting tourism growth through regional collaboration, market access and sustainable business practices.

FOCUS ON TOURISM SUPPORT

Under the agreement, FNB Botswana will serve as the Strategic Banking Partner to Africa's Eden Tourism. The collaboration is expected to strengthen engagement between the bank and tourism operators through workshops, industry discussions and events focused on financial resilience and cross-border transactions.

> "Access to the right financial tools and guidance is critical for businesses looking to grow and adapt in today's environment."

Dr. Lone Nthobelang, Dealmaker Tourism at FNB Botswana, said tourism remained an important contributor to regional economic growth. "Our partnership with Africa's Eden Tourism allows us to engage more directly with tourism operators across the region, providing financial solutions that enable businesses to grow, trade across borders, and build resilient enterprises," Nthobelang said.

SUPPORT FOR SMALL BUSINESSES

The partnership will also include joint marketing campaigns, webinars and knowledge-sharing initiatives targeting challenges faced by tourism operators. There would be a focus on small and medium-sized enterprises through mentorship programmes and financial literacy support.

Jillian Blackbeard, CEO of Africa's Eden Tourism, said the collaboration would benefit businesses across the sector. "Access to the right financial tools and guidance is critical for businesses looking to grow and adapt in today's environment," she said.

Africa's Eden Tourism already holds its operational banking relationship with FNB Botswana, with both organisations describing the latest agreement as an extension of their existing relationship.

Article edited for length

Kala Joins CIPR Editorial Board

Communications executive Taazima Kala has secured a place on the editorial board of one of the public relations industry's leading publications



Taazima Kala (Chart.PR, FCIPR), Chair of Chartered Institute of Publi c Relations International and General Manager and Chief Consultant at Hotwire in Botswana, has been appointed to the editorial board of Influence publication for the 2026/27 term.

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GLOBAL INDUSTRY REPRESENTATION

The editorial board brings together communications professionals from different international markets to help guide the publication's editorial direction. The Board contributes to identifying emerging issues, amplifying diverse perspectives, and shaping thought leadership across the profession.

The 2026/27 editorial board includes Marie-Noëlle Elissac-Foy, Tani Fatuga, Nicky Garsten, Laura Hamilton, Beth Lamey, Dipika Patel, Roopa Ramaiya, Tim Ridgway, Zainab Umar, Philippa Vass and Harry Yeates.

INDUSTRY PUBLICATION

The Chartered Institute of Public Relations describes itself as the world's only Royal Chartered professional body for public relations practitioners, while Influence serves as a platform for professional dialogue and industry insight.

> "The Board contributes to identifying emerging issues, amplifying diverse perspectives, and shaping thought leadership across the profession."

Workers' Day Golf Relays Spark Connections

Business leaders, executives and regional stakeholders gathered at Phakalane Golf Estate as the Workers' Day Golf Relays blended sport, networking and corporate engagement

Business leaders, executives and regional stakeholders gathered at Phakalane Golf Estate on April 30 for the Workers' Day Golf Relays, an event that combined sport with networking opportunities. Hosted by Beyond Africa, the gathering took place as Botswana continued preparations for the World Athletics Relays 2026.

NETWORKING THROUGH SPORT

Organisers described the event as more than a traditional golf tournament, with activities designed to encourage interaction among attendees from different industries. Participants moved between golf sessions, hospitality areas and entertainment spaces throughout the day.

Guests also took part in cocktail tastings and received signed books by Giovanni Ntshinogang. Brand activations by Red Bull and refreshments from Lenyora Drinks formed part of the event programme.

COMPETITION ON THE COURSE

On the course, Fish Pabalinga claimed first place after what organisers described as a strong performance. Lebo Morebodi finished second, while Tumelo Pabalinga secured third place.

Organisers said the event also created opportunities for business engagement away from the competition itself. "This is where relationships begin and opportunities take shape," the organisers said.

They added: "The Golf Relays aren't just about the scorecard; they are about opening doors and fostering the collaborations that will drive our economy forward."

GROWING BUSINESS INTEREST

According to organisers, stakeholders at the event discussed possible collaborations and future regional projects linked to the Golf Relays initiative.



Business leaders, executives and regional stakeholders gathered at Phakalane Golf Estate on April 30 for the Workers' Day Golf Relays, an event that combined sport with networking opportunities.

The Role of Beneficiary Funds in Protecting Dependants

As pension systems evolve, beneficiary funds are emerging as a critical safeguard for dependants left behind after a member's death

Lucia Gape Mosigi
Fund Administrator
Mmila Fund Administrators

In pension fund administration, much focus is placed on contributions, investment performance, and retirement outcomes. However, some of the most important work arises when a member passes on, particularly where minor children or financially dependent beneficiaries are involved. At that point, the responsibility shifts. It is no longer just about paying a benefit, but about ensuring that what the member has accumulated is used in a way that genuinely supports those left behind.

WHEN BENEFITS FALL SHORT

From experience, this is often where challenges begin to surface.

The issue is not necessarily the payment of the benefit itself, but what happens thereafter. Without the right structures in place, lump sum payments can be depleted far quicker than intended, and in some instances, not applied toward the needs of the bene-

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Golf Day Raises Autism Awareness

An autism awareness golf event in Gaborone combined sport, fundraising and personal storytelling to encourage greater understanding of Autism Spectrum Disorder

More than 90 players took part in the Autism Awareness Charity Golf Day held at the Stanbic Bank Botswana Golf Club on 30 April, raising more than P50,000 for autism advocacy and support initiatives.



More than 90 players took part in the Autism Awareness Charity Golf Day held at the Stanbic Bank Botswana Golf Club on 30 April, raising more than P50,000 for autism advocacy and support initiatives.

Organised under the theme Play With Purpose: Golf With a Twist, the event introduced interactive challenges designed to reflect some of the experiences faced by people living with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD).

PERSONAL STORY BEHIND EVENT

Event organiser Melissa Modise, whose seven-year-old son is autistic, said the initiative aimed to encourage empathy and understanding around autism.

"This was never just about golf," she said. "It was about creating a space where people could begin to understand autism in a more human way."

Participants took part in activities including silent communication challenges, sensory simulation holes with loud music and crowd noise, and games focused on non-verbal communication and adaptability.

Melissa said the format encouraged participants to reflect on the daily realities experienced by many autistic individuals. "People really leaned into it. They didn't just go through the motions; they engaged with each challenge," she said.

CALL FOR GREATER SUPPORT

Nlume Modise, a member of the organising committee and father to an autistic child, said the event highlighted the need for broader community support and improved access to services.

"The reality is that the journey is not easy," he said. "It is long, it is challenging, and it can be very confusing."

Organisers said proceeds from the event will go to Autism Botswana to support advocacy, awareness and family assistance programmes.

Sharps Celebrates Customer Loyalty

Sharps Electrical is marking nearly 60 years in business with a customer rewards campaign and renewed focus on loyalty initiatives



Sharps Electrical is celebrating nearly six decades of operations in Botswana, highlighting its customer loyalty initiatives and long-standing presence in the electrical retail and contracting sector.

Founded in 1967, the company said generations of customers have relied on its electrical products and contracting services across residential, commercial and industrial projects.

CUSTOMER APPRECIATION CAMPAIGN

As part of a year-long appreciation campaign, customers participated in monthly prize giveaways, with the initiative culminating in the awarding of a new Toyota Hilux.

"What has kept us going for 59 years is simple: our customers," the company said in a statement. "That trust is something we have never taken lightly."

Sharps also highlighted its loyalty cashback programme, which offers customers rewards on qualifying purchases.

FOCUS ON LONG-TERM GROWTH

The company said it plans to continue investing in customer-focused services while adapting to changes in technology and the electrical supply industry.

"Our promise remains unchanged: to serve Botswana with integrity, quality, and innovation — just as we have since 1967."

Sharps Electrical operates within Botswana's electrical retail and contracting market, supplying products and services to households, businesses and construction projects.

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ficiary. This can ultimately defeat the purpose of the benefit.

STRUCTURES THAT PROTECT DEPENDANTS

Beneficiary funds address this gap in a very practical way. They allow benefits to be managed and disbursed over time, rather than paid out in a single amount. Funds are directed toward defined needs such as education, healthcare, and general maintenance, creating a level of consistency and stability for the beneficiary.

From an administrative perspective, this also introduces an appropriate level of governance and accountability. Disbursements are assessed, documented, and aligned to the best interests of the beneficiary, ensuring that the funds are used for their intended purpose.

LONG-TERM SECURITY OVER LUMP SUMS

While the structure itself may appear straightforward, the impact is significant. It supports continuity in education, maintains access to essential services, and ensures that the benefit provides ongoing support rather than short-term relief.

> "At its core, this is a matter of responsible stewardship."

Strategically, beneficiary funds enhance the role of pension administrators as custodians of not just financial assets, but outcomes. They reduce disputes, improve governance, and align benefit distribution with the broader social objective of pension systems, providing security beyond the member's lifetime.

THE HUMAN SIDE OF PENSION ADMINISTRATION

The administration of death benefits requires more than regulatory compliance; it calls for thoughtful structures that safeguard the long-term interests of dependents. Beneficiary funds were established to ensure that benefits are not only preserved, but also managed in a way that provides meaningful and sustainable support over time. At its core, this is a matter of responsible stewardship. When a member is no longer present to provide for their dependants, the retirement system must respond in a manner that prioritises stability, transparency, and long-term financial security for those left behind.

Beneficiary funds therefore play a critical role in strengthening the protection framework within the retirement industry.



Lucia Gape Mosigi , Fund Administrator, Mmila Fund Administrators



The Forensic Audit Iceberg: We Are Seeing Only One-Fifth of the Problem

The forensic audit report should be read like an iceberg.

DOUGLAS RASBASH

What the public can see above the waterline is already alarming: 814 findings, 585 of them rated Very High or High severity, 80 special investigation referrals, contracts and payments with a combined gross value of about P160 billion, and a conservative preliminary estimate of P33 billion in potential loss or damage.

BUT THE REAL DANGER LIES BELOW THE SURFACE.

This report is not the whole iceberg. It is the visible tip.The forensic audit programme covered 30 selected audits, drawn from a Phase 1 risk assessment of 92 public sector entities. It focused mainly on the period from April 2014 to March 2024, and it was explicitly described as targeted and risk-based, not a statutory audit or whole-of-government review of every public body, project, contract, transaction or allegation. The report itself warns that the absence of a matter from the summary should not be read as meaning no issue exists.

THAT IS THE ICEBERG WARNING.

If 30 audits produced 814 findings, what might the full public sector contain? If 26 of the 30 audits produced special investigation referrals, what would be found across all high-risk entities not yet audited? If the known referral matters alone expose around P160 billion in gross value, what is the total value at risk across the wider state, parastatal and development-expenditure system?

The report gives us enough to understand the scale, but not enough to claim the full picture.

And what we can see is grave. Procurement and governance account for the largest share of findings. Procurement alone produced 238 findings, while governance produced 215. Together they account for about 56% of all findings. These are not side issues. Procurement is where the state decides what to buy, who to buy from, how much to pay, whether competition is genuine, whether delivery is verified, and whether public money becomes public value.

> "When procurement and governance fail together, the state loses its immune system."

Governance is where those decisions should be supervised, challenged and corrected.

When procurement and governance fail together, the state loses its immune system.

The audit found repeated use of non-competitive procurement, weakly justified direct awards, emergency procurement, tender manipulation, unsupported payments, weak contract management, compromised oversight, poor records, weak financial discipline and indicators of fraud, corruption, collusion, conflicts of interest and abuse of office. It also found stalled or incomplete projects, assets acquired but not used, services contracted but not delivered or utilised, and weaknesses in the allocation of high-value public resources.

This is not merely corruption in the narrow sense. It is something wider: the corrosion of public administration.

A country can survive individual cases of fraud. It cannot easily survive a system in which controls are ignored, procurement is manipulated, records disappear, oversight is weak, boards do not function, whistleblowers feel unsafe, and consequences are delayed or absent.

The report's most chilling finding is not the P33 billion estimate. It is the pattern.

The audit identifies systemic enablers: weak oversight mechanisms, ineffective control institutions, vulnerabilities in procurement, weak financial management, operational delivery failures, and a weak culture of accountability. These weaknesses reinforced each other. Poor oversight allowed bad decisions to continue. Weak control institutions failed to convert warning signs into investigation, prosecution, recovery or sanction. Poor records reduced visibility. Weak accountability discouraged challenge.

THAT IS HOW AN ICEBERG FORMS.

Not overnight. Not from one official. Not from one ministry. Not from one contract.

It forms slowly, under the waterline, through thousands of decisions: a waiver here, an emergency procurement there, a missing file, a silent board, a postponed audit recommendation, a conflicted official, a politically connected supplier, a whistleblower punished, a project certified without delivery, a payment made without evidence, a virement approved without scrutiny, a parastatal bailed out again.

Eventually the visible tip appears. But by then most of the damage is already below the surface.

The special investigation referrals show how serious this has become. The report states that the 80 referrals include more than 80 current and former senior office-holders and more than 150 contractors, suppliers and counterparties, including local and international entities. That means the most serious matters were not confined to junior staff, isolated suppliers or one rogue institution. They cut across public bodies, decision-making levels and counterparties.

This matters because Botswana is now entering a dangerous economic phase. The country is no longer cushioned by the old diamond economy. Fiscal space is shrinking. Debt is rising. Public expenditure is under pressure. NDP12 and the Botswana Economic Transformation Programme require enormous sums of money. Yet the forensic audit tells us that the machinery through which public money is planned, procured, spent and monitored has serious systemic weaknesses.

THAT IS THE NATIONAL DANGER.

Botswana is trying to fund transformation through a public-sector machine that the forensic audit says is leaking, distorted and weakly controlled.

This is why the audit cannot be treated as yesterday's scandal. It is tomorrow's growth problem.

Every pula lost to overpricing, collusion, non-delivery or weak contract management is a pula not spent on clinics, roads, water, schools, digital systems, agricultural resilience, energy security or youth employment. Every failed project increases future borrowing. Every unsupported payment weakens confidence. Every compromised procurement decision discourages honest investors. Every ignored audit finding raises the cost of capital.

The forensic audit is therefore not only about corruption. It is about the credibility of the state.

Can government implement NDP12? Can it deliver infrastructure? Can it manage public debt? Can it attract serious FDI? Can it protect pension funds? Can it convince markets that borrowing will produce transformation rather than waste? Can it persuade citizens that sacrifice is justified when public money may not be safe?

The answer depends on what happens next.

The report is clear that the remaining issue is execution. It says the programme has identified the issues, isolated the most serious matters for referral, and set out the reforms required. If implementation is weak, delayed or treated as a compliance exercise, the same patterns are likely to recur.

That sentence should be printed and placed on every minister's desk.

The danger now is that the report becomes theatre. There will be statements. There will be outrage. There may be press conferences, task teams, committees, and carefully worded promises. But unless there are investigations, recoveries, prosecutions where justified, procurement reform, board reform, systems reform, whistleblower protection and visible consequence management, the iceberg will remain.

THE PUBLIC HAS SEEN THE TIP.

The deeper question is whether government has the courage to dive below the waterline.

Botswana does not need another performance of accountability. It needs accountability.

It needs to publish progress without compromising investigations. It needs to recover what can be recovered. It needs to protect evidence. It needs to strengthen the Auditor General, DCEC, prosecution capability, procurement regulation, internal audit, boards, records systems and financial controls. It needs to professionalise procurement and remove excessive discretion. It needs to make public office risky for those who abuse it, not risky for those who report abuse.

Above all, it needs to understand that the forensic audit is not the end of the story. It is the beginning. The iceberg is now visible. The question is whether Botswana turns away before impact.

SPRINTERS RACE FORWARD, ECONOMY GOES BACKWARDS



Botswana's sprinters know something our economic planners seem to have forgotten you win races by running in the right direction. On the track, the baton moves forward with precision, discipline, timing and trust. Every runner knows the job. Every handover matters. Every mistake costs milliseconds. There is no room for theatre, speeches, fantasy, or wishful thinking.



DOUGLAS RASBASH

FORWARD MOTION

Performance is measured at the finish line. If only the economy were being run with the same seriousness. While our athletes race forward, the economy is moving backwards. The signs are no longer subtle. They are flashing orange in the most recent economic commentary from Econsult, but they should be red. Inflation is heading sharply upwards and could reach double digits. Growth is collapsing. The post-diamond fiscal model is breaking. Public spending is expanding just as revenues weaken.



The country is borrowing more, importing more, producing too little, and announcing too much.

WARNING SIGNS

Botswana is entering one of the most difficult economic periods since independence. GDP growth could swing from the temporary Q3 spike into renewed contraction. Inflation could rise towards 10%. The pula will remain under pressure. Bond yields will rise. Household incomes will be squeezed. Credit conditions will tighten. And unless corrective action is taken urgently,

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> The most dangerous illusion is that diamonds will save us again.

Botswana's credit rating could fall into junk status within the next twelve months.

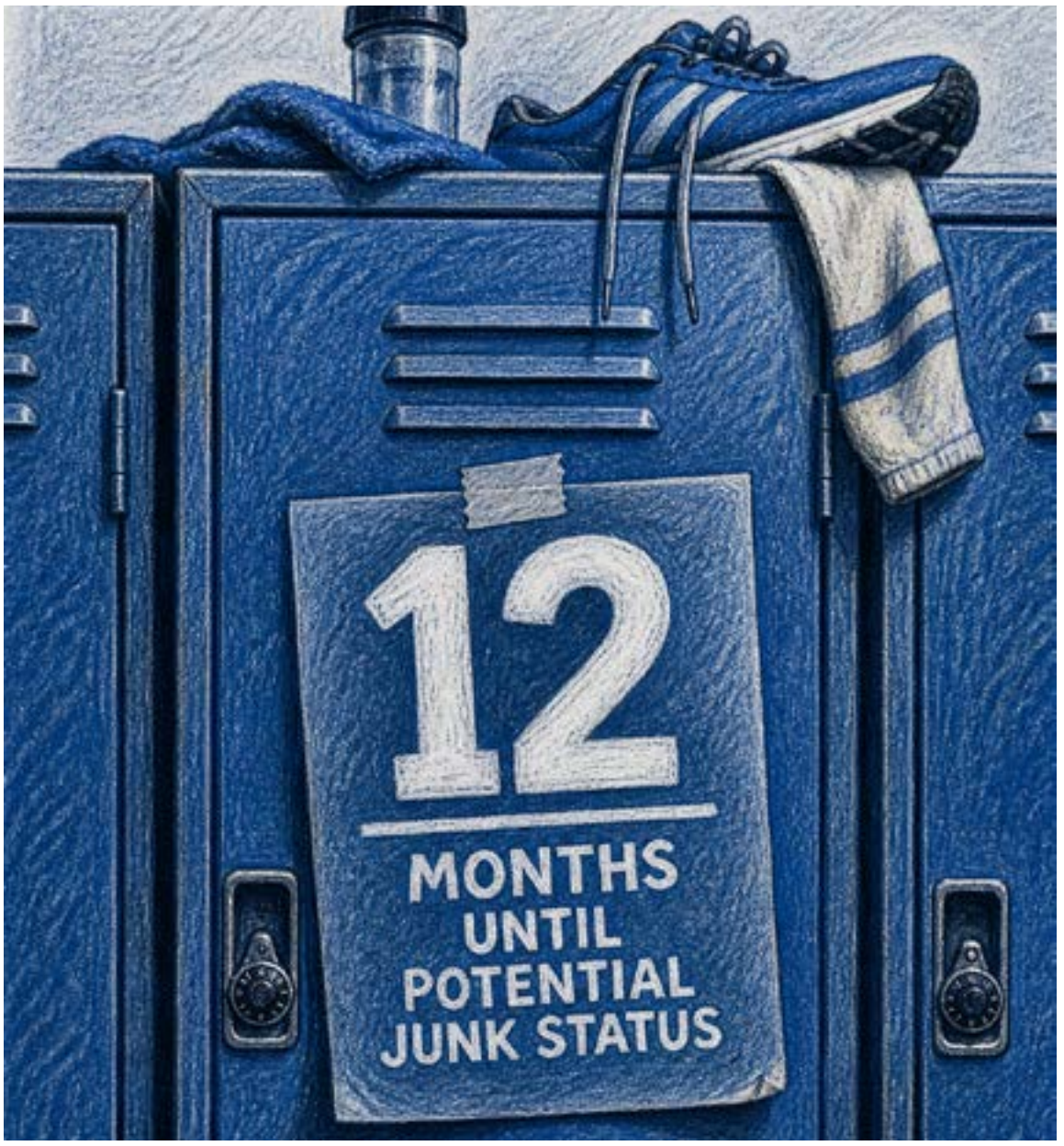
DIAMOND ILLUSION

The most dangerous illusion is that diamonds will save us again. They will not. There may be short recoveries, inventory adjustments, or temporary sales improvements, but the old diamond era is over. The global natural diamond market has changed structurally. Lab-grown diamonds, shifting consumer preferences, weak luxury demand and changing value perceptions have damaged the old certainty. Botswana cannot plan as if yesterday's diamond economy will return tomorrow.

FINAL TRUTH

Suspend unaffordable plans. Rebuild NDP12 around fiscal reality. Stop theatrical mega-project announcements. Right-size government. Protect pension funds. Defend the credit rating. Prioritise exports. Build regional financial services. Accelerate solar and e-mobility. Support real SMEs. Reform parastatals. Price risk honestly. Tell citizens the truth. Botswana does not lack talent. It lacks economic discipline. Our sprinters are racing toward the finish line. The economy, sadly, is running the other way.

> Botswana does not need more stage lighting. It needs hard numbers



TIRED OF SHARING?

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opracon
IT SPECIALISTS
Consulting & Training

DATA PROTECTION ACT WORKSHOP

MAUN : 19 JUNE 2026 , MAUN LODGE
GABORONE : 23 JUNE 2026, OASIS MOTEL

The Data protection Act No. 18 of 2024 which became operational in 2025 brings about notable obligations on all businesses who obtain, process or otherwise deal with personal data of natural persons. Non-compliance with this law attract some of the highest administrative fines in the country of between P10m and P50m, which can make many businesses technically insolvent. Effectively, the Act binds every employer (companies and not-4-profit organizations) since the employers cannot exist without employees, the latter whose information is classified as personal data by the said Act.

Opracon IT Specialists therefore brings you a 1-day workshop where employers/ other organizations obligations are discussed in detail under the following topics:

- The technical terms; personal data, sensitive personal data, data controller, data processor, data processing, data breaches etc
- The requirement for every organization that processes sensitive personal data on a large scale to appoint a Data Protection Officer (DPO)
- Data safeguards which must be employed by every business as well as cross-border data transmission

THE FACILITATORS

The workshop will be facilitated by Rachel Hore and Edwin Duta.

Rachel Hore has over 25 years' experience in Data Analysis as a Research Specialist, she holds a BSc Degree in Agricultural Economics as well as a MSc in Data Science from the University of East London (UK). Rachel is the Lead Research consultant at Data Collection and Analysis, research firm.

Edwin has around 4 years' experience in IT matters including hardware setup and maintenance, software installations, website designs, migration from manual systems to cloud based systems, among others. Edwin holds a Bachelor of Science Degree in IT Networking and Software Engineering from the Institute of Development Management (IDM).

Investment: P1,599.00 VAT inclusive
Bookings: E: finance@aupracontax.co.bw cc tax7@aupracontax.co.bw T: +267 3939 435 C: +267 75 933 630

Note This training is HRDC accredited. CPD certificates will be issued on request.

ATI'S SECOND POSTHUMOUS SINGLE DROPS

Months after his passing, ATI's music is doing what legends do best, refusing to fade quietly. With Goo Mo, the late rapper's story keeps unfolding one verse at a time



GAZETTE REPORTER

Beloved rap star ATI is once again shaking speakers and emotions with Goo Mo, the second posthumous single lifted from the forthcoming album Box Office. And if the first release, Nole Kae, cracked fans open over Valentine's weekend, Goo Mo arrives like the aftershock, heavier and impossible to ignore.

> The second posthumous single is lifted from the forthcoming album Box Office.

This isn't nostalgia bait. It feels alive.

The rollout surrounding ATI's posthumous music has become something deeper than streaming numbers or chart placements. It's grief meeting celebration in real time. One moment fans are mourning the artist they lost; the next, they're screaming lyrics like he never left.

A VOICE THAT WON'T SIT STILL

"This is more than a release, it's a continuation of a vision. A voice that refuses to be silenced," reads the message accompanying the first single.

ATI's energy still cuts through the speakers with the same charisma, unpredictability, and street-poet confidence that made him one of Botswana's most magnetic artists. The records don't sound archival. They sound unfinished in the best possible way, like conversations still happening between ATI and the streets that raised him.

THE ALBUM EVERYONE IS WAITING FOR

With Box Office expected before year-end, anticipation is becoming emotional currency. Fans aren't just waiting for an album anymore; they're waiting for closure, connection, maybe even one last dance with an artist whose presence still hangs heavily over Botswana's music culture.

The Band That Moved People

Before the starting gun fired at the World Athletics Relays, a brass band from Ramotswa turned Gaborone into one giant street party, proving that sometimes the real warm-up act is culture itself

GOSEGO MOTSUMI

Before the athletes sprinted for glory at the Debswana World Athletics Relays in Gaborone over the weekend, another kind of relay was already happening across Gaborone's streets: rhythm passing from one dancing body to another.

CUE THE HORNS.

One minute traffic was crawling. The next, people were filming, ululating and dancing behind the moving sound machine that is Ramotswa Brass Band. In a city usually powered by car horns and deadlines, the band delivered something radically different, joy with trumpets attached.

And honestly? Botswana looked alive.

Founded in 2017, the 15-member group began as a youth initiative in Ramotswa after Tshegofatso Tau donated instruments to young people eager to showcase their talent. What started as a community music project has now become one of the surprise cultural highlights surrounding the World Relays.

"We received so much appreciation and love from the audience," said founder and manager Tshepo Taukobong in an interview after the band's roaming performances around the capital.

WHEN BRASS BECOMES STREET CULTURE

There is something cinematic about a brass band moving through the city. It interrupts routine. It demands attention. It turns sidewalks into dance floors.

For a sporting event obsessed with speed, Ramotswa Brass Band slowed people down just enough to feel the moment.

The group was brought in after being recommended to a patriotic motswana, Salim Kegodile, and quickly became one of the unofficial emotional soundtracks of relay week. Residents danced in parking lots. Pedestrians abandoned their seriousness. Even government officials took notice.

The band later performed at the athletics medal handover ceremony at Orapa House, where Botswana unveiled the Diamond Gallery and attached national symbolism to every medal handed out during the relays.

THE SOUND OF A NEW BOTSWANA

What makes Ramotswa Brass Band fascinating is not just the music — it's the symbolism. A local youth brass band performing during a global sporting spectacle feels like Botswana finally understanding that culture is not decoration. It is identity.

With two albums under their belt, Pelo Robala (2020) and Pula ya Medupe (2022), plus radio play on RB1 and RB2, Ramotswa Brass Band is no longer just entertaining crowds.

They are becoming the sound of Botswana showing off.



THIS IS WHAT QUIET LUXURY LOOKS LIKE

Somewhere between safari, saffron samp, and soft brown fits, Between U & I transformed Mokolodi Nature Reserve into the coolest cultural dinner gathering, one where food, fashion, and connection shared the same seat at the table

GOSEGO MOTSUMI

The road to Botswana's chicest dinner gathering began with an off-road drive through the wild.

This past weekend, Between U & I's Long Table Experience returned to Greater Gaborone, taking guests deep into Mokolodi Nature Reserve for an evening suspended between nature, luxury, and soft glamour. Before a single plate touched the table, guests were already immersed in the experience spotting wildlife from chauffeured vehicles while heading toward the famed "World View" setup overlooking the reserve.

And when they arrived? Shades of Brown nudes was the unofficial currency of the night.

"Most people feel it's redundant but honestly I feel that browns make us look wealthy," said founder and curator of Between U & I Long table experience, Uyapo Ketogetswe, commenting about the now signature nude dress code that has become part of the event's identity.

The result looked less like a traditional dinner and more like a luxury fashion campaign shot in the middle of the bush.

He said: "We gather not just to dine, but to reconnect, to celebrate, and to experience the place in a way we've never felt before."

AFRO FUSION TAKES CENTER STAGE

But the real flex of the evening wasn't only the aesthetics, it was the menu.

Guests started with mapakiwa tea buns paired with burnt butter, French onion butter, and miso butter before moving into gumbo with mosutlhane (sorghum millets). Then came the showstopper: slow-braised osso buco served with saffron samp risotto and gremolata.

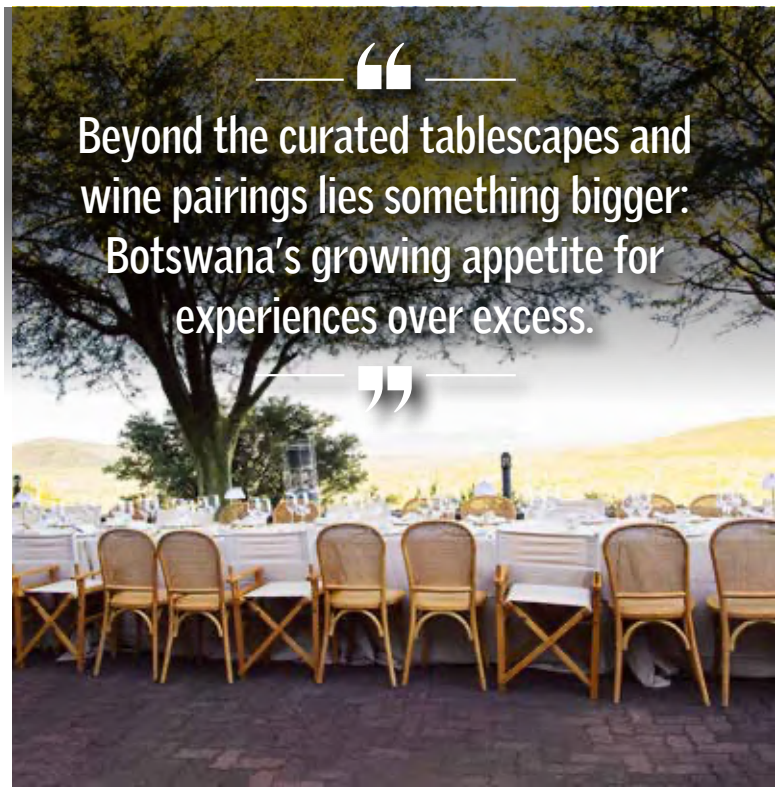
Dessert arrived unapologetically dramatic with chocolate glaze, edible gold, tiramisu ice cream, morula biscuits, espresso dusting. Botswana's ingredients, but plated like fine art.

Ketogetswe described the experience as an attempt to elevate Setswana flavours through gastronomy tourism. "The menu features mapakiwa, sorghum and samp which are all re-imagined and paired where you wouldn't have expected it to have that kind of flavour combination," he explained.

THE RISE OF EXPERIENCE CULTURE

Since launching last June, the sold-out experience has travelled from Mogobane, the National Museum to Maun and even Kasane's boat cruises. But beyond the curated tablescapes and wine pairings lies something bigger: Botswana's growing appetite for experiences over excess.

Between U & I understands modern luxury perfectly. It isn't loud. It arrives dressed in linen, pours Chardonnay, and lets the view do the talking.











"Most people feel it's redundant but honestly I feel that browns make us look wealthy,"





Diary34 Is Stitching Memory Into Modern Style

Botswana's new womenswear label Diary34 is turning nostalgia into luxury, and quiet femininity into the loudest fashion statement of the moment

GOSEGO MOTSUMI

In an era where fashion brands scream for attention with neon drops, algorithm bait, and micro-trends that expire faster than milk, Diary34 is doing something radically different: whispering.

And somehow, everyone is leaning in.

Born from a 2022 graduation collection and officially evolving into a company in 2024, the Botswana-based womenswear label is carving out a softer, slower lane in local fashion. Founder Thatayaone Modiitsane isn't interested in designing clothes that merely look good on Instagram. She's designing garments that remember.

"It's been about six months of us pushing and branding and we have two collections which is Bomme and Kwa Kgosing designed for any women to feel good and design pieces to match the nostalgia of the past and merge it with the modern," Modiitsane told Time Out.

THE GRANDMOTHER EFFECT

At the centre of Diary34 is a woman who never walked a runway.

Modiitsane's grandmother is the brand's spiritual blueprint, the quiet muse stitched into every silhouette, texture, and movement. The brand describes itself as "a quiet tribute to the women whose hands shape homes, whose garments carry memory, and whose presence guides generations forward."

That emotional intimacy is what separates Diary34 from the usual "African luxury" aesthetic currently flooding fashion spaces. Instead of chasing spectacle, the brand leans into memory, softness, dignity, and the poetry of ordinary women.

"Every garment is a story rendered in form."

KWA KGOSING ISN'T JUST FASHION

The label's collection, Kwa Kgosing, feels less like clothing and more like inherited wisdom tailored into fabric.

It explores womanhood through lived-in spaces, ancestral grace, and quiet power. Here, royalty is not about crowns or excess. It's embodied in how a woman carries herself, how she remembers where she comes from, and how she evolves without abandoning her roots.

"Kwa Kgosing is a quiet return to self a remembrance of the dignity and spirit carried by the women who came before us. lt lives in intimate spaces, where light, memory, and presence gently shape a woman into who she becomes."

INSIDE POETICBLOOD'S SACRED STAGE

For 13 years, Dr Lame Pusetso has been lending her voice to other people's stages. Now, with Setinkane, the poet known as Poeticblood is building her own emotional universe one poem and one truth at a time

GOSEGO MOTSUMI

There is a difference between attending a poetry show and surviving one emotionally.

Dr Lame Pusetso, widely known as Poeticblood, seems determined to blur that line completely with Setinkane, her first fully self-hosted live poetry experience happening on June 6 and 7 at TreeHaus, The Meeting Place in Block 5, Gaborone.

And no, this is not another spoken-word night where audiences clap at metaphors they barely understand before rushing home to tweet quotes out of context.

Setinkane sounds far more dangerous than that.

"Setinkane is not just a show for me, it is a becoming," Pusetso told Time Out.

After 13 years of performing poetry, shaping her voice and carrying Setswana storytelling traditions into modern spaces, the poet is finally stepping into full creative control. Not just as performer, but as architect of the room itself.

"I am not just the voice… I am the space," she said.

WHERE POETRY MEETS THERAPY

What makes Setinkane fascinating is its obsession with emotional intentionality. Every pause, transition and performance moment has reportedly been curated to make audiences feel something deeper than entertainment.

"This is not a show where people will sit back comfortably," Pusetso explained. "It is a space where vulnerability will be invited."

That alone feels revolutionary in a culture where people often consume art passively while hiding actively.

The intimacy of the show matters too. Limited tickets mean fewer distractions and more emotional exposure. Pusetso wants the audience to feel less like spectators and more like participants trapped beautifully inside one shared story.

MAKING SETSWANA POETRY FEEL ALIVE

At a time when younger audiences are rediscovering spoken word, Poeticblood is refusing to treat Setswana poetry like fragile heritage locked behind glass.

"I do not dilute culture, I translate it emotionally," she says.

And maybe that is the secret.

Setinkane appears determined to prove that Setswana storytelling, proverbs and emotional rhythms are not outdated, they simply need new rooms, new lighting and brave voices willing to carry them forward.

"Where truth will sit in the room without apology."

The line may end up defining the night itself.

Because beneath the poetry, the aesthetics and the intimacy, Setinkane sounds like an invitation for people to finally confront the things they usually bury quietly beneath daily survival.



And that kind of honesty rarely leaves audiences unchanged.

"If even one person walks away lighter, understood, or brave enough to face themselves, then Setinkane has done its work," she said.

THE BIG SIX

WINE'S EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS OF SOUTHERN AFRICA. A QUIET BOARDROOM THAT RUNS THE ENTIRE INDUSTRY

There is a comforting myth in wine culture that choice is infinite, that somewhere on a remote hillside a winemaker is bottling something so obscure it will liberate you from the tyranny of familiarity. The reality, at least in Southern Africa, is far less romantic and far more structured. You are, more often than not, drinking from a shortlist. A very confident shortlist. Six grapes, repeatedly selected, repeatedly repackaged, and repeatedly trusted to do the heavy lifting of an entire industry.

These are the Big Six: Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot, Shiraz, Chardonnay, Sauvignon Blanc, and Pinotage. Everything else may decorate the conversation, but these are the ones running the meeting. They are not suggestions. They are infrastructure.



CABERNET SAUVIGNON — THE CEO WHO NEVER LEAVES



THE TABLE EARLY

Cabernet Sauvignon is the executive who refuses to retire. It walks into the glass with blackcurrant, cedar, and tannins that behave like they have legal representation. It is structured to the point of seriousness, and in Southern Africa's warmer pockets it often arrives fully formed, as if it has already chaired the meeting before you sat down.

Cabernet does not negotiate with your palate. It sets terms and expects compliance.

MERLOT — THE COO OF BALANCE AND DAMAGE CONTROL

Merlot is what happens when someone in the room realises not everything needs to be a confrontation. It is softer, rounder, and often unfairly dismissed as "easy," which says more about the critic than the wine. Plums, cocoa, and quiet confidence define it, but its real skill is diplomacy.

In blends, it is the reason Cabernet behaves. Alone, it is the reason Cabernet is optional.

SHIRAZ — THE CREATIVE DIRECTOR WHO NEVER GOT THE MEMO ABOUT SUBTLETY

Shiraz is where the industry allows itself theatre. In its warmer expression it is generous, spicy, and slightly louder than necessary, as though it suspects restraint is a marketing conspiracy. In cooler expressions it becomes more composed, but in Southern Africa it tends to lean into ripeness and presence.





It is the grape equivalent of someone who improves the meeting simply by refusing to stay quiet.

CHARDONNAY — THE STRATEGIST EVERYONE MISREADS

Chardonnay is not confused. It is adaptive. The confusion exists in how it is handled. Oaked, it becomes textured, layered, and occasionally accused of excess. Unoaked, it turns precise, linear, and almost aggressively focused.

The mistake is assuming Chardonnay has an identity crisis. It simply reflects management style.

SAUVIGNON BLANC — THE HIGH-PERFORMANCE SPECIALIST WITH ZERO PATIENCE

Sauvignon Blanc has no interest in your emotional state. It is sharp, aromatic, and deliberately high-definition, offering gooseberry, citrus, and green edges that feel slightly overclocked. It is not subtle and does not apologise for that. In coastal regions it tightens further, becoming saline and brisk, like efficiency in liquid form.

PINOTAGE — THE LOCAL EXECUTIVE FINALLY BEING TAKEN SERIOUSLY

Pinotage has spent too long carrying the burden of outdated assumptions. What was once heavy, smoky caricature is now increasingly refined, structured, and site-driven in ways that reflect a maturing industry rather than a struggling grape.

Modern Pinotage is no longer a debate. It is a correction.

WHY THE BOARD STILL CONTROLS THE MARKET

The Big Six persist not because the industry lacks imagination, but because they work. They are commercially resilient, viticulturally reliable, and culturally embedded in how Southern Africa understands wine.

The shelves may look diverse, but structurally, they



are a rotating executive committee wearing different labels and occasionally pretending to be new.

You are not lacking choice. You are operating inside a highly efficient system of controlled repetition.



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.

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

CASE NO. CVHGB – 003909 - 24

In the matter between
BBS LIMITED **Plaintiff**
and
GAPE THATAYAONE MOTSWALEDI **Defendant**

NOTICE OF SALE IN EXECUTION

BE PLEASED TO TAKE NOTICE THAT pursuant to a Judgment granted by the above Honourable Court on the 18th September 2025 the following immovable property of the abovementioned Defendant will be sold by means of public auction to the highest bidder by **DEPUTY SHERIFF URGENT JAY CHILISA** as follows:

DATE OF SALE : Friday 05th June 2026
VENUE : Lot 28747, Gaborone
TIME OF SALE : 1030 hours
TERMS OF SALE : All participating bidders are required to make an **UPFRONT** payment of BWP 10 000.00 directly to the undersigned Attorneys, refundable only to those who did not succeed in the sale. Only cash or bank guaranteed cheques will be accepted. The detailed conditions of sale are available for inspection at the undersigned Attorneys' offices.

PROPERTY TO BE SOLD: The Defendant's title rights and interest in a certain piece of land being Lot **28747**, Gaborone situate in the Gaborone Administrative District; measuring 435m² held under Deed of Transfer no. 2924/2014 dated 29th day of December 2014 made in favour of **GAPE THATAYAONE MOTSWALEDI** specially executable. The developments therein are a sitting room, master bedroom, two bedrooms, toilet and bathroom, kitchen, dining room, study room, screen wall with electric fence.

DATED AT GABORONE ON THIS 28TH DAY OF APRIL 2026.

COLLINS CHILISA CONSULTANTS
Attorneys • Notaries • Conveyancers

COLLINS CHILISA CONSULTANTS
Plot 4858, Lecha Road
Off Marakanelo Way
Extension 11, Gaborone
P O Box 45136
GABORONE
Deputy Sheriff Urgent Jay Chilisa
[Cell No. 71594008/74770666]

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

CASE NO. CVHGB – 001620-25

In the matter between
NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT BANK **Plaintiff**
and
MARION BERRY INVESTMENTS (PROPRIETARY) LIMITED **1st Defendant**
ESTATE LATE DUMIZWENI MTHIMKHULU **2nd Defendant**

NOTICE OF SALE IN EXECUTION

BE PLEASED TO TAKE NOTICE THAT pursuant to a Judgment granted by the above Honourable Court on the 13th October 2025 the following immovable property of the abovementioned Defendant will be sold by means of public auction to the highest bidder by **Deputy Sheriff Opelo Mothibi** as follows:

DATE OF SALE : Monday 15th June 2026
VENUE : Lot 1016, Moshaweng
TIME OF SALE : 1000 hours
TERMS OF SALE : Only cash or bank guaranteed cheques will be accepted. The detailed conditions of sale are available for inspection at the undersigned Attorneys' offices.

PROPERTY TO BE SOLD : The 1st Defendant's title, rights and interests in a certain piece of land being Lot 1016, Moshaweng, situate in the Bakwena Tribal Territory, measuring 14, 3322 Ha, (Fourteen Comma Three Three Two Two Hectares) held under Memorandum of Agreement of Grant of Lease Number TG 54/2020 dated 05th day of June 2020 made in favour of **MARION BERRY INVESTMENTS PROPRIETARY LIMITED** together with all the improvements thereon being 2 boreholes with its equipment's both operating with their solar panels, 2 reservoirs, 1 room connected with storage, 4 rooms L shape, 2 Bedroomed house, fitted kitchen, toilet, sitting room, bathroom, separated toilet and shower, division of 8 kraals, 3 ploughing shelters and a small poultry house, 3 piece sofa set, bedroom suite set, double bed X 2, 1000L Jojo tank and 60 small stock.

DATED AT GABORONE ON THIS 16TH DAY OF APRIL 2026.

COLLINS CHILISA CONSULTANTS
Attorneys • Notaries • Conveyancers

COLLINS CHILISA CONSULTANTS
Plot 4858, Lecha Road
Off Marakanelo Way
Extension 11
P O Box 45136
GABORONE
Deputy Sheriff Opelo Mothibi
[Cell No. 72234419/77636760]



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

CVHGB-002034-25

In the matter between:
FIRST CAPITAL BANK LIMITED **Applicant/Plaintiff**
And
SAMUEL MATLOU **Respondent/Defendant**

SUBSTITUTED SERVICE

TO: SAMUEL MATLOU an adult male of full legal capacity, whose full and further particulars are to the Applicant/Plaintiff unknown, otherwise of **P. O. Box 25, MMATHUBUDUKWANE. Flat J Room 27, SSKB, Mogoditshane**

TAKE NOTICE THAT by summons issued out of this Court you have been called upon to give notice within **14 days** after publication hereof, to the registrar and to the Applicant/Defendant's attorneys of your intention to defend (if any) in an action wherein the Applicant/Plaintiff claims;

a) Payment in the sum of **BWP102,174.54;**
b) Interest thereon at the rate of 23.00% per annum calculated daily and compounded monthly from the 23RD JUNE 2025 todateof final payment, plus penalty interest not exceeding 10.00% per annum above the agreed normal rate of interest, on the arrear amounts;
c) Costs of suit on attorney and client scale;
d) Collection commission at 10.00% of the capital on every instalment collected;
e) Furtherand/or alternative relief.

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

DATED AT GABORONE ON THE 25TH DAY OF MARCH 2026.

FIRST FLOOR, UNIT 17, KGALE MEWS
P O BOX 403506, GABORONE
TEL: +267 3932315 **Mobile:** +267 71505586
Email daniel@swabi.co.bw

(DS.ms.S00332)

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

CVHGB- 002042-25

In the matter between:
FIRST CAPITAL BANK LIMITED **Applicant/Plaintiff**
And
MALEBOGO OABILE **Respondent/Defendant**

SUBSTITUTED SERVICE

TO: MALEBOGO OABILE an adult male of full legal capacity, whose full and further particulars are to the Applicant/Plaintiff unknown, otherwise of **P. O. Box 522, GA Khudu Ward, GOODHOPE**.

TAKE NOTICE THAT by summons issued out of this Court you have been called upon to give notice within **21 days** after publication hereof, to the registrar and to the Applicant/Defendant's attorneys of your intention to defend (if any) in an action wherein the Applicant/Plaintiff claims;

a) Payment in the sum of **BWP205, 332.24**;
b) Interest thereon at the rate of **26.00%** per annum calculated daily and compounded monthly from the **23RD JUNE 2025** to date of final payment, plus penalty interest not exceeding **10.00%** per annum above the agreed normal rate of interest, on the arrear amounts;
c) Costs of suit on attorney and client scale;
d) Collection commission at **10.00%** of the capital on every instalment collected;
e) Further and/or alternative relief.

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

DATED AT GABORONE ON THE 25th DAY OF MARCH 2026.

FIRST FLOOR, UNIT 17, KGALE MEWS
P O BOX 403506, GABORONE
TEL: +267 3932315 **Mobile:** +267 71505586
Email daniel@swabi.co.bw

(DS.ms.S00322)



IN THE MAGISTRATE'S COURT FOR THE DISTRICT OF GABORONE HELD AT EXTENSION II

CCMEX-001359-25

In the matter between:
FIRST CAPITAL BANK LIMITED — **Applicant**
and
KAGISO RAPHOTSHANA — **Respondent**

SUBSTITUTED SERVICE

TO: KAGISO RAPHOTSHANA an adult female of full legal capacity, whose full and further particulars are to the Applicant/Plaintiff unknown, otherwise residing at **UNIT 2, C290, P.O Box 125 JWANENG**.

TAKE NOTICE THAT by summons issued out of this Court you have been called upon to give notice within **21 days** after publication hereof, to the registrar and to the Applicant/Plaintiff's attorneys of your intention to defend (if any) in an action wherein the Applicant/Plaintiff claims;

a) payment in the sum of **BWP19, 904. 44**;
b) Interest thereon at the rate plus of **26.00%** per annum, calculated from **23RD JUNE 2025** to date of final payment, plus interest at the rate of **10.00%** per annum above the agreed normal rate of interest, on the arrear amounts;
c) Costs of suit on attorney and client scale;
d) Collection commission at **10%** of the capital on every instalment collected;
e) Further and/or alternative relief

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

DATED AT GABORONE ON THE 25TH DAY OF MARCH 2026.

FIRST FLOOR, UNIT 17, KGALE MEWS
P O BOX 403506, GABORONE
TEL: +267 3932315 **Mobile:** +267 71505586
Email daniel@swabi.co.bw

(DS.ms.S00324)

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.

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

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

CASE NO: CVHFT 000 541/25

In the matter between:
CITIZEN ENTREPRENEURIAL DEVELOPMENT AGENCY (CEDA) — **PLAINTIFF**
And
FIRST POWER (PTY) LTD — **FIRST DEFENDANT**
MICHAEL MOTLHABANE — **SECOND DEFENDANT**

SUBSTITUTED SERVICE

TO: **FIRST POWER (PTY) LTD**
(First Defendant)
P.O Box 36210
FRANCISTOWN

AND TO: **MICHAEL MOTLHABANE**
(Second Defendant)
P.O Box 36210
FRANCISTOWN

formerly residing in Francistown, but whose present whereabouts are unknown that by summons issued out of this Honourable Court, you have been called upon to give notice, within **Fourteen (14) days** after publication hereof, to the Registrar and to **CITIZEN ENTREPRENEURIAL DEVELOPMENT AGENCY (CEDA) c/o M MMOHE ATTORNEYS** (Plaintiff's Attorneys) of intention to defend (if any) in an action wherein **CITIZEN ENTREPRENEURIAL DEVELOPMENT AGENCY (CEDA)** claims:-

a) Payment of the sum of **P968 872.69** by the First and Second Defendant jointly and severally, the one paying, the other to be absolved;
b) Interest thereon at the rate of 3.5% per annum from 13th day of November 2025 to date of final payment;
c) Costs of the suit at attorney and own client scale.

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

DATED AT FRANCISTOWN THIS 5TH DAY OF APRIL, 2026

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

DEPUTY REGISTRAR & MASTER

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

CASE NO. CVHFT 000 870-18

In the matter between:
STANBIC BANK BOTSWANA LIMITED — **PLAINTIFF**
And
KHUMO WELCOME LEKAU — **DEFENDANT**

NOTICE OF SALE IN EXECUTION

BE PLEASED TO TAKE NOTICE that pursuant to a judgment of the above Honourable Court, the following property will be sold by Public Auction by Deputy Sheriff Stanley Sikalesele Mbolai to the highest bidder as follows:

DATE OF SALE : 31st July 2026
TIME : 10.00 a.m.
VENUE : Lot 23571, Gerald, Francistown
PROPERTY TO BE SOLD : **The Defendant's rights, title and interest to Lot 23571, Francistown Extension, situated in the Francistown Extension 37 Measuring 382 m², held under Deed of Transfer No. FT 1009/2012 dated 17th December 2012 registered in favor of KHUMO WELCOME LEKAU with some improvements thereon, comprised of house with 3 bedroomed house (master bedroom ensuite), 1 x bathroom and toilet, sitting room, dining room, kitchen, 1 x room separately, Pit Latrine Toilet, Fenced.**

TERMS OF SALE : Cash or electronic transfer. Detailed conditions of sale may be inspected at the offices of the Deputy Sheriff Stanley Sikalesele Mbolai on cell 71635200/4925987 / 78541541 or Plaintiff's Attorneys' Office

DATED AT FRANCISTOWN ON THIS 3RD DAY OF MAY , 2026.

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

Deputy Sheriff Stanley S.Mbolai
Plot No. 8766
Extension 7
P O Box 867
PALAPYE
TEL: 4925987/71635200

H/W RESHENG K.
Chief Magistrate
IN THE MAGISTRATE'S COURT FOR THE GABORONE DISTRICT
HELD AT VILLAGE

CASE NO. CCMVL-000410/26

In the matter between:
LEINA DIKHANA KENTSHENG — **Plaintiff**
and
KEIMETSWE OBUSENG — **Defendant**

NOTICE OF SALE IN EXECUTION

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

DATE OF SALE : 25th May 2026
TIME OF : 10:30 am
VENUE : Broadhurst Police Station
PROPERTY TO BE SOLD : 1 x 1 Toyota Auris Motor Veichle, Black in Colour, Registration No B998 BOG.

TERMS OF SALE : Cash or Bank Transfer Only.

DATED AT GABORONE ON THIS 4TH DAY OF MAY 2026

MALETE ATTORNEYS
Plaintiff's Attorneys
Plot 18573, Phase 2
Aresutalane Way
GABORONE
TEL:3972550/76650906

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

CASE NO. CCMVL-003268/25

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

NOTICE OF SALE IN EXECUTION

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

DATE OF SALE : 25th May 2026
TIME OF : 10:30 am
VENUE : Broadhurst Police Station
PROPERTY TO BE SOLD : 1 x 1 Motor Veichle Aud A3, Blue in Colour, Registration No B427 BRE.

TERMS OF SALE : Cash or Bank Transfer Only.

DATED AT GABORONE ON THIS 23RD DAY OF MARCH 2026

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

Botswana Sport Stars Weekend

Athletics, football, judo, chess and youth talent take centre stage as Botswana prepares to honour its best performers at the 45th Botswana Sport Awards this Saturday

GAZETTE REPORTER



The race for the highest individual honour at the 45th Botswana Sport Awards has narrowed to three contenders, setting up one of the ceremony's most closely watched categories.

Collen Kebinatshipi, Goitseone Phoko and Tumiso Phuthego will contest the Sportsman of the Year award when the ceremony is held on Saturday, May 9, at the Gaborone International Convention Centre.

Kebinatshipi enters the awards after a season defined by success at the highest level. The 400-metre runner claimed double gold at the World Athletics Championships in the individual event and the 4x400m relay, clocking a national record of 43.53 seconds and helping Botswana secure its first world title in the relay.

Phoko's nomination reflects his influence in football. He played a key role in Jwaneng Galaxy FC's Orange FA Cup triumph and featured in all six qualification matches for the Botswana national football team as they secured a place at the Africa Cup of Nations.

Phuthego completes the shortlist after building a strong season in judo, winning gold at the Zambia National Championships and reaching the round of 16 at the Abu Dhabi Grand Slam.

WOMEN'S RACE

The Sportswoman of the Year category presents another competitive field across multiple disciplines.

Oratile Nowe has been nominated for her performances in athletics, while Centy Kgosikoma earned recognition for her work in karate and international representation.

Naledi Banda completes the shortlist, marking the presence of chess in one of the awards' premier categories and reflecting broader recognition of mind sports.

The category underscores the diversity of achievement in Botswana sport, where physical performance, strategy and consistency continue to shape elite competition.

JUNIOR TALENT

The junior categories highlight athletes regarded as part of Botswana's next generation of sporting talent.

For Junior Male Sportsperson of the Year, Justice Oratile, Ntungamili Raguin and Edwin Nyoka have been nominated.

In the Junior Female category, Same Mhutsiwa, Melodi Saleshando and Neelo Modise make up the shortlist.

Their nominations reflect continued investment in youth development across athletics, tennis, bowling, swimming and judo.

> The Sportswoman of the Year category presents another competitive field across multiple disciplines

TEAM HONOUR

The Team of the Year category highlights collective success across sporting codes.

Botswana's men's 4x400m relay team has been nominated alongside the Botswana Davis Cup Team and the 4x400m mixed relay team from Botswana Secondary Schools Sports Association.

The nominations place teamwork and coordination at the centre of national sporting achievement, rounding off an awards ceremony that reflects the breadth of Botswana's sporting landscape.

Orapa Hosts Bowling Championships

National bowls return to Orapa as Botswana's five-club rotation system takes centre stage, with competition, youth development and national selection stakes converging in the 2026 Championships

TLOTLO KEBINAKGABO

The Botswana Bowling Association (BBA) National Championships will once again follow its established five-club rotation system, with Orapa set to host the 2026 edition from May 9 to 16.

BBA vice president Edwin Nyoka said the rotational model remains central to the sport's development across the country.

"This gives the host club the opportunity to market bowls as a sport as well as themselves as a club," Nyoka said in an interview. "This is an opportunity for membership growth as it would attract a lot of players and fans to the tournament."

He added that hosting also carries wider benefits beyond the sport itself. "It is a morale booster to be competing in your own facilities, hometown and watched by family, friends and your community at large. It also boosts chances of attracting financial sponsorship going forth if good results are attained."

COMPETITIVE FIELD

With Jwaneng Bowling Club entering as defending Rhodes Trophy champions, expectations are high for a tightly contested tournament.

"Bowls is a tricky sport to predict, but yes on paper Jwaneng seems to have an edge," Nyoka said. "Again all the clubs will come charged up and anything can happen."

He stressed that consistency and mental strength will be decisive over the week-long competition.

"It will all depend on who will be consistent, who has that resilience and mental strength throughout the week," he said.

HOME ADVANTAGE

Orapa's return as hosts brings renewed attention to the question of home advantage, especially after their overall victory the last time they staged the event in 2022.

Nyoka, however, cautioned against overstating its impact.

"It definitely will not be easy for any club as I mentioned earlier," he said. "The home ground impact is there in that the home fans give bowlers confidence with their support but overall it is difficult to say who will run away with the Rhodes Trophy."

> "It will all depend on who will be consistent, who has that resilience and mental strength throughout the week."

YOUTH IMPACT

This year's championship is also expected to highlight the growing influence of younger players within Botswana's bowls structure.

"I think the impact the youth players will bring into this year's championships will be exciting in that they are coming up more



mature and experienced," Nyoka said.

He noted that performances at the tournament could carry added significance for national team selection.

"I expect fierce competition for medals because most players would want to impress the National Selectors for a place in the National Teams for the 2026 Commonwealth Games in Glasgow and 2026 AST in Lusaka, hence the announcements will be made at the end of the tournament."

TALENT PATHWAY

Beyond the Rhodes Trophy, the championships also serve as a key platform for identifying talent for international competition.

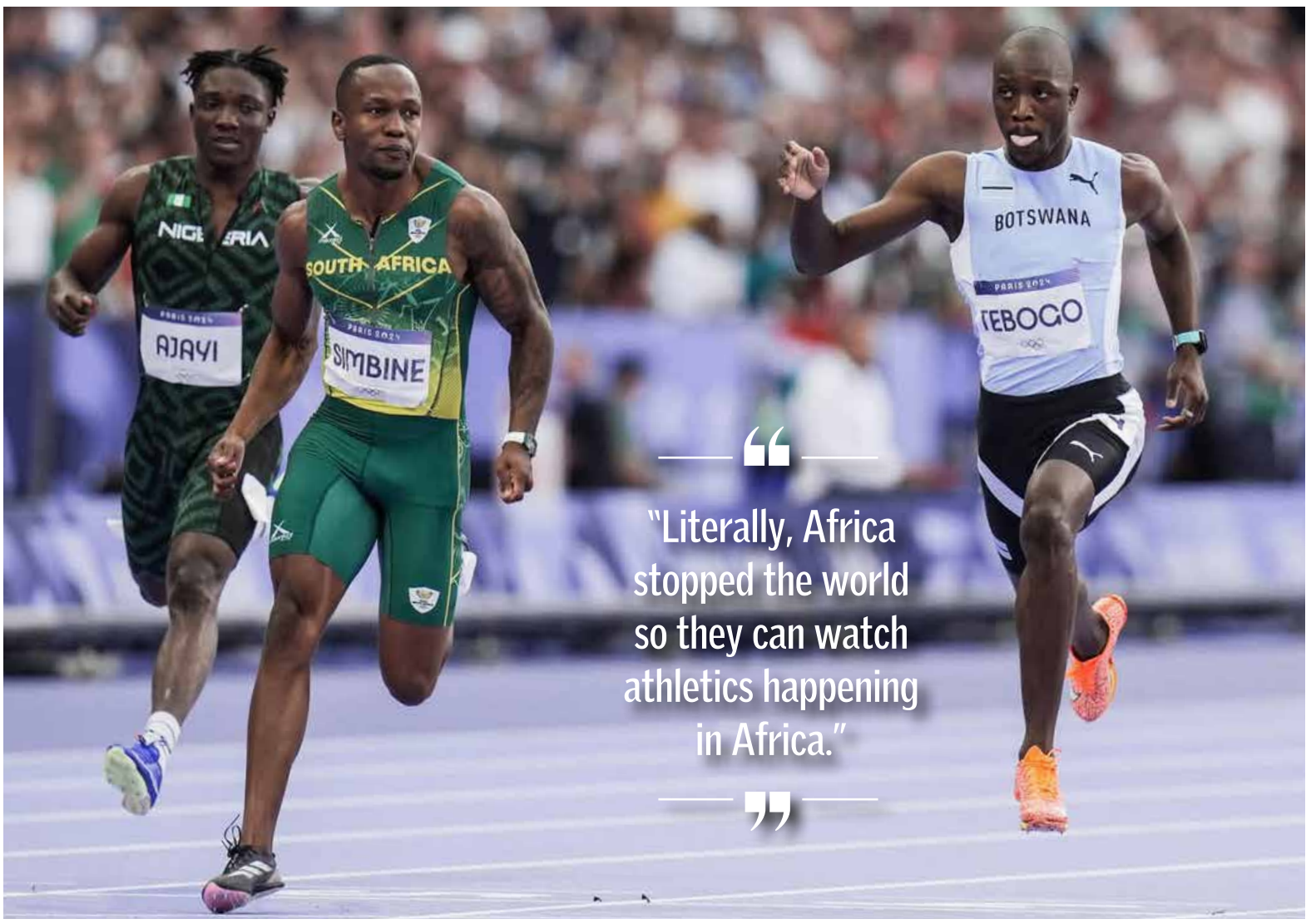
"In selecting teams for the prestigious tournaments I just mentioned, other young players with potential get selected to play other international tournaments to give them exposure," Nyoka said.

He highlighted events such as the Peter Richards Pairs and Quadrangular tournament as key development opportunities.

"In these tournaments we mix these up and coming players with the more experienced players and face countries like Zimbabwe, Namibia and South Africa."

SIMBINE, TEBOGO HIGHLIGHT AFRICA'S BIG MOMENT

At the World Athletics Relays in Gaborone, the two athletes framed victory and qualification as a continental statement, not only a national one



TLOTLO KEBINAKGABO

For two days in Gaborone, the spotlight of global athletics shifted to Africa, and for some of the continent's fastest men, that carried meaning beyond medals.

After South Africa claimed silver in the men's 4x100m at the Debswana World Athletics Relays Gaborone 2026, sprint star Akani Simbine described the event as a moment of continental significance.

"I think today just proved that we can do really great things in Africa," Simbine said. "We can host the world and we are able to show off the beauty of the continent."

For Simbine, the significance extended beyond South Africa's podium finish. The image of a packed stadium in Botswana, with a worldwide audience watching, represented something larger.

"It's proud to be able to say we packed out a stadium in Africa with the world watching," he said. "We stopped the world. Literally, Africa stopped the world so they can watch athletics happening in Africa."

BEYOND BORDERS

That sense of collective African ambition was echoed by Botswana's sprint contingent after securing qualification with the 4x100m for the 2027 World Athletics Championships in Beijing.

Letsile Tebogo , Botswana's sprint sensation said qualification was bigger than a single nation, framing it as part of a wider shift in sprinting's traditional balance of power.

"There's so many things that this qualification means, not just for Botswana, but for the African continent," he said.

He pointed to the long-standing dominance of Jamaica, the United States and Asian nations in the 4x100m, saying African athletes are working to alter that narrative.

"So now we are trying to change that narrative and just put Africa there," he said.

Tebogo also highlighted the growing spread of sprinting strength across the continent, noting the presence of Ethiopia alongside established powers such as South Africa and Kenya.

BIGGER STAGE

For Simbine and Tebogo , the weekend became more than a qualifying event or medal chase. It was a demonstration of Africa's capacity — as host, competitor and contender.

As Simbine put it: "It's a big stepping stone for Africa."

Babitseng Set for COSAFA Presidency

Unopposed ahead of the May 17 elective assembly in Harare, Botswana Football Association president Tariq Babitseng is set to become COSAFA's youngest president while pledging reforms aligned with CAF and FIFA standards



GAZETTE REPORTER

Tariq Babitseng is expected to assume the presidency of Council of Southern Africa Football Associations (COSAFA) after emerging unopposed ahead of the elective Annual General Assembly on May 17 in Harare.

His rise positions him as the youngest COSAFA president and only the second Motswana to hold the role after Ismail Bhamjee.

Babitseng described his unopposed candidacy as a reflection of regional trust.

"It is a humbling vote of confidence from the COSAFA family," he said. "Being unopposed is not something I take lightly; it reflects trust, unity, and a shared belief in the direction we can take Southern African football."

REFORM AGENDA

Babitseng said his immediate focus would be on competition structures, governance and development pathways for players, coaches and referees.

"My immediate focus will be on strengthening competitions, improving governance standards, and enhancing development pathways for young players, coaches, and referees," he said.

He added that commercial growth would be central to COSAFA's sustainability.

"We also want to improve commercial partnerships so that COSAFA competitions become stronger and more sustainable," he said.

CONTINENTAL ALIGNMENT

Babitseng said COSAFA's reform agenda would draw from global and continental governance principles, particularly those promoted by FIFA and CAF.

"FIFA also emphasizes unity, development, transparency and competitions," he said. "These are the things that we are going to benchmark from CAF and FIFA in efforts to unify COSAFA."

He said aligning regional structures with these principles would be essential to improving credibility and consistency across member associations.

LONG-TERM VISION

Babitseng said his long-term goal is to position COSAFA as the strongest regional football body in Africa, with structured investment in youth football, women's football and club competitiveness.

"Development must be deliberate, structured, and inclusive," he said.

He also highlighted his role within the Confederation of African Football Executive Committee, calling it an opportunity to strengthen Southern Africa's voice in continental decision-making.

"It is a proud moment for Botswana football," he said. "Serving at both COSAFA and CAF level creates an opportunity to amplify the voice of Southern African football in shaping the future of the game on the continent."



PATIENCE URGED ON WOMEN ATHLETES

Coach Justice Dipeba backs Botswana's women athletes after online criticism, insisting patience and protection are key to long-term progress

TLOTLO KEBINAKGABO

Botswana national athletics coach Justice Dipeba has urged patience with the women athletes particularly the 4x400m and 4x100m relay teams following criticism of their performance during and after the Debswana World Athletics Relays Gaborone 2026.

Speaking in an interview, Dipeba said the squad is still in a formative stage, with several athletes only recently identified through Botswana Athletics Association competitions.

"Improvement is there to be honest, those who follow athletics would know, it's a young team," he said.

> "We need to protect them, we see promise on them, they are young and we need to protect them."

He noted that many of the athletes had not yet competed at BISA, regional, or continental level prior to their current exposure.

"At that stage they didn't run BISA, or Regional and or Continental competitions, some were identified this year during BAA competitions," Dipeba said.

PROGRESS VIEW

Despite online backlash, including comments on social media platforms, Dipeba maintained that the trajectory of the team is positive.

"We are happy and positive that we are going on the right direction, we are seeing progress," he said, adding that the coaching team had specifically assessed the potential of the 4x400m squad.

"We wanted to see if their 4x400m can't do better, they will arrive," he said.

He stressed a collective responsibility between coaches and male athletes to manage expectations and development carefully.

"We are agreeing as coaches and athletes that we need to protect them, we see promise on them, they are young and we need to protect them," he said.

Dipeba added that investment and structured support would be critical for future success.

"If it was allowed this is the team that needs to be protected and invested on, with support we can go somewhere," he said.

MIXED REACTIONS

The coach acknowledged broader challenges in women's athletics in Botswana, describing long-standing struggles in the discipline.

"Some people haven't been following athletics, they don't know how we have been struggling on the ladies side, we are getting there," he said.

The plan, according to Dipeba, is to prepare the athletes for the ACRA Africa Senior Championships.

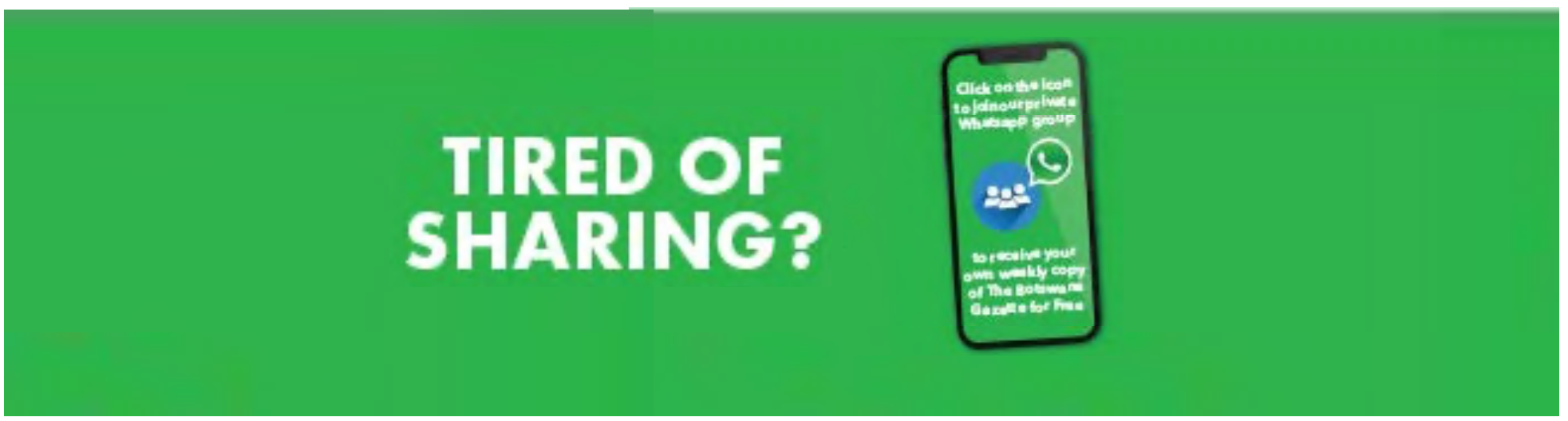
He also pointed to the role of senior male athletes, including Letsile Tebogo and Collen Kebinatshipi, in mentoring the younger group.

"The likes of Letsile Tebogo and Collen Kebinatshipi are there for them, they are showing them careers cannot begin the same way," he said.

He added that their presence has been motivational within the camp.

"It's really pleasing to see them being there for them. They will keep coming back, it was encouraging to see the male athletes encouraging them," Dipeba said.

On temperament, he remarked: "Women are not that tough, they easily get annoyed, but I would say they want to do better and they will do better."



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> My performance will be judged by the progress we make collectively.

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