The Botswana
GAZETTE

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SINCE 1984



NO REFUGE FOR 'XENOPHOBIA' ESCAPEES

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GCC Crisis Deepens as Mayor, Clerk Clash

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Gaborone City Council Mayor Oarabile Motlaleng has suspended council proceedings for 14 days amid rising scrutiny over P1 million office refurbishment and furniture procurement claims, a move the Town Clerk says is unlawful

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NO REFUGE FOR 'XENOPHOBIA' ESCAPEES

As tensions build ahead of the controversial June 30 deadline for undocumented migrants to leave South Africa, Botswana has made it clear that it cannot afford to become a sanctuary for foreigners fleeing attacks in South Africa



Pic Credit news24.com

GAZETTE REPORTER

Botswana, a country facing economic headwinds and growing demands for jobs and social services from citizens, has taken a position that migrants fleeing 'xenophobic' attacks in South Africa those crossing into Botswana for refuge will not be treated as refugees but assisted to return to their countries of origin.

In an interview with this publication, the Minister of Labour and Home Affairs Major General (Rtd) Pius Mokgware said, "Botswana remains prepared for any potential spillover effects arising from renewed threats of violence in South Africa ahead of a controversial June 30 deadline being pushed by anti-immigrant groups demanding that undocumented foreign nationals leave the country".

"We are closely monitoring developments across the border but have not yet observed any unusual movements of people into Botswana. We have not experienced any increase in visa applications or entries through our border posts at this stage," Mokgware said.

MONITORING DEVELOPMENTS

His comments come amid growing anxiety in neighbouring countries following calls by some South African groups for undocumented foreigners to leave the country by the end of June. The calls have raised fears of a resurgence of xenophobic attacks similar to those witnessed in previous years.

The violence has often been linked to frustrations over unemployment, crime and competition for economic opportunities, with migrants from countries such as Zimbabwe, Mozambique, Malawi, Ethiopia, Somalia and Nigeria frequently bearing the brunt of the attacks.

NOT REFUGEES, SAYS BOTSWANA

Mokgware emphasized that Botswana's position remains clear should foreign nationals seek refuge in the country as a result of possible unrest.

"The government's position is that such individuals would not automatically qualify as refugees because they are not fleeing persecution from their countries of origin as defined under international refugee law," he said.

He explained that "if faced with requests from entry, Botswana would facilitate the safe return of affected individuals to their respective home countries if they attempted to use Botswana as a temporary safe haven."

Despite this position, Mokgware stressed that the country remains committed to observing international law and established protocols governing the treatment of displaced persons and migrants.

"We will continue to respect international legal frameworks and ensure that any persons affected are treated humanely and with dignity," he said.

> "The government's position is that such individuals would not automatically qualify as refugees because they are not fleeing persecution from their countries of origin as defined under international refugee law."

REGIONAL CONCERNS

The prospect of renewed xenophobic violence has sparked concern across the Southern African region, with governments closely watching developments in South Africa, which hosts millions of migrants from neighbouring countries.

Analysts warn that any large-scale unrest could trigger temporary population movements and place pressure on border management systems across the region.

For now, the Minister said there is no cause for alarm, but insist that contingency plans remain in place should the situation deteriorate in the coming weeks.

GCC Crisis Deepens as Mayor, Clerk Clash

Gaborone City Council Mayor Oarabile Motlaleng has suspended council proceedings for 14 days amid rising scrutiny over P1 million office refurbishment and furniture procurement claims, a move the Town Clerk says is unlawful

BONGANI MALUNGA

Gaborone City Council (GCC) Mayor Oarabile Motlaleng on Tuesday suspended council proceedings for 14 days in a dramatic move that temporarily halts growing efforts by councillors to intensify scrutiny over allegations surrounding a controversial office refurbishment and furniture procurement.

The adjournment has come at a politically sensitive time, amid plans to table a motion of no confidence against the Mayor.

The decision effectively stalls formal council proceedings, delaying an opportunity for councillors to reconvene and press for answers over allegations that Motlaleng improperly influenced procurement linked to furniture supply and renovation works reportedly valued at P1 million.

MOVE IS ILLEGAL-CLERK

The Mayor's decision to suspend council proceedings has, however, already triggered an institutional pushback from inside the council administration. In a memo dated June 16, Town Clerk Daniel Katjinotjiwa advised the Mayor, Deputy Mayor and councillors that the unilateral adjournment of the Full Council for 14 days was allegedly not done in accordance with the law.

Katjinotjiwa cited Section 26(5) of the Local Government Act, stating that a Mayor is required to consult councillors present before adjourning a scheduled meeting, while Section 26(6) requires such a decision to be validated through a two-thirds majority vote of members present. According to the memo, neither process was followed, rendering the adjournment "without legal foundation" and therefore null and void. The Town Clerk further advised that council should immediately resume normal business and that Full Council proceedings should continue on June 17 as originally scheduled.

TENSE PERIOD

The suspension follows a tense period inside the council after councillors sought an urgent consultation meeting on Monday to interrogate allegations and establish exactly what transpired in the procurement process.

The allegations escalated further amid claims that Town Clerk Daniel Katjinotjiwa had allegedly been locked out of his office after reportedly refusing to approve payment connected to the procurement. Motlaleng has denied those allegations.

COUNCILLORS UNHAPPY

Councillors' dissatisfaction has been growing over both the handling of the matter and the manner in which it entered public debate before being formally presented through internal governance structures Several councillors argued that issues carrying procurement and governance implications should first have been ventilated through official council channels before becoming subjects of public commentary and media discussion.

> "I will not apologise. No procedure was followed, the same company that procured furniture for the Mayor's office is the same one that supplied furniture for Minister Ketlhalefile Motshegwa's office."

The situation intensified after Motlaleng publicly responded through a video statement rejecting allegations made against him, a development some councillors believed complicated efforts to resolve the matter internally.

OVERTAKING PROCEEDINGS

Monday's council session became dominated by the issue despite it not appearing on the official agenda, with councillors openly questioning how a matter of such significance had overtaken proceedings without formal submission.

Sejoe doubled down on his accusations. "I will not apologise. No procedure was followed, the same company that procured furniture for the Mayor's office is the same one that supplied furniture for Minister Ketlhalefile Motshegwa's office."

Motlaleng has maintained that no irregular conduct occurred and rejected suggestions that he played any role in procurement decisions.

"I am in no way involved in procurement processes. The P1 million figure being thrown around is wide of the mark, it is a figure that is exaggerated, we are also puzzled by it," Motlaleng told councillors.

Doctors Warn Govt on 'False Victory' in Meds Crisis

Botswana Doctors Union said stock-outs remain widespread, particularly in remote areas, and cautioned that public statements of progress risk eroding trust in the health system

GAZETTE REPORTER



Doctors have accused government of undermining public trust by celebrating improvements in medicine supply chains while patients across the country continue to face life-threatening drug shortages in public health facilities.

Through their union, the Botswana Doctors Union (BDU), the doctors said recent declarations suggesting progress in medicine availability do not reflect the reality on the ground in hospitals and clinics.

The warning comes in response to an update by Health Minister Stephen Modise on efforts to stabilise medicine procurement and distribution.

"VICTORY IS PREMATURE," SAYS BDU

In a briefing note, the union cautioned the Ministry of Health against what it described as "declaring victory over an ongoing crisis," arguing that true success can only be measured by consistent access to prescribed medication for every patient.

"The true measure of success will be when every patient who presents at any public health facility can consistently access the medicines prescribed to them without delay, interruption, or unnecessary financial burden," the BDU said.

The doctors acknowledged ongoing interventions aimed at improving supply chains but warned that stock-outs remain widespread in public facilities.

"Our members continue to report stock-outs of vital and essential medicines as well as supply inconsistencies in several facilities," the union stated.

PERSISTENT SHORTAGES ACROSS REGIONS

The BDU said improvements, where they exist, are uneven and have not reached all parts of the country. It highlighted continued shortages in remote areas such as Maun, Shakawe and Ghanzi, where patients are often forced to go without treatment or seek alternatives.

The union stressed that the situation on the ground remains fragile and inconsistent despite official assurances of progress.

DOCTORS REJECT BLAME

The union also pushed back against past suggestions that healthcare workers were responsible for medicine shortages, saying doctors have long warned about procurement inefficiencies, supply chain failures and poor stock management.

"These claims not only undermined public confidence in healthcare professionals but also diverted attention from the systemic challenges that were at the heart of the crisis," the statement said.

BDU emphasised that frontline medical staff neither procure medicines nor control national supply chains, adding that their role is limited to patient care and advocacy for adequate resources.

HUMAN COST OF SHORTAGES

The doctors further warned that the continued shortages have had severe consequences, including preventable deaths.

"Across the country, families continue to mourn the loss of loved ones whose deaths may have been preventable had timely access to essential medicines and healthcare services been guaranteed," the union said.

"Our members continue to report stock-outs of vital and essential medicines as well as supply inconsistencies in several facilities,"

"These are not merely administrative failures; they represent real human suffering and loss."

The union argued that government has a statutory obligation under Section 136 of the Public Health Act to ensure access to basic healthcare services. It said accountability will be essential in rebuilding public trust in the health system.

Farmers Panic as BVI Runs Out of FMD Boosters

North East cattle owners fear livestock sales could be affected as vaccine shortage disrupts disease control programme

SESUPO RANTSIMAKO

Farmers in North East Zone 3C and Zone 6B are raising alarm after the Botswana Vaccine Institute (BVI) reportedly ran out of Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) booster vaccines, leaving thousands of cattle with only partial protection against the highly contagious disease.

The development has triggered anxiety among cattle owners who fear that failure to administer the crucial second dose could undermine disease control efforts and prevent them from selling their animals.

FARMERS FEAR INCREASED RISK

During an interview with The Botswana Gazette one of the affected farmers, Esman Monyere, said cattle in the area remain vulnerable because they received only the first dose of the vaccine.

Monyere said the situation is particularly worrying given the proximity of livestock to buffalo populations, which are known carriers of FMD, and because sections of the cordon fence separating wildlife from livestock have been damaged.

"Our cattle are at risk because they only received the first dose. The situation is made worse by the damaged cordon fence, which increases the risk of contact with wildlife," he said.

Speaking on behalf of farmers in Maitengwe, councilor Mbi Witness Khanda said residents were worried about the implications of failing to complete the vaccination programme.

"We were only told that the vaccine is in short supply and that our cattle would not receive the booster dose," Khanda said. "Farmers are concerned and want to know whether the booster dose will eventually be made available."

PRODUCTION DISRUPTIONS BLAMED

Khanda said farmers had been informed that production disruptions at BVI were responsible for the shortage.

The development has raised questions about whether cattle that received only the initial dose will be adequately protected against FMD and whether they will be cleared for sale.

"We were expecting our cattle to receive the booster dose, but now we are being told there is no vaccine available. What worries us is that nobody is explaining what this means for our cattle," Khanda added.

FEARS OVER LIVESTOCK SALES

The biggest concern among farmers is that cattle that have not completed the full vaccination schedule may fail to qualify for movement permits and market access.



Some fear they could be prevented from selling their cattle, potentially resulting in significant financial losses for livestock-dependent households.

Farmers say authorities have yet to provide clear guidance on the consequences of missing the booster dose and whether alternative arrangements are being considered.

INDUSTRY AT RISK

Farmers argue that FMD remains one of the most economically damaging livestock diseases and those disruptions in vaccine supply could undermine years of progress in controlling outbreaks.

By the time of going to press, Dr Bernard Mbeha, the National Coordinator for Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD), had not responded to questions from *The Botswana Gazette* regarding the vaccine shortage, its implications for affected cattle, and when booster doses would become available.

Motshegwa Sued Over Palapye Council Chairmanship

A Palapye District Council leadership dispute has reached the High Court, where BPF councillor David Ikanyeng is challenging Minister Motshegwa's decision to reinstate a UDC councillor removed through a motion of no confidence as chairperson



SESUPO RANTSIMAKO

The leadership tussle at the Palapye District Council (PDC) has escalated into a full-blown legal confrontation, with Botswana Patriotic Front (BPF) councilor David Ikanyeng filing an urgent application in the Gaborone High Court to challenge the Minister of Local Government and Traditional Affairs' decision to reinstate an Umbrella for Democratic Change (UDC) councilor as council chairperson.

Court papers indicate that Ikanyeng is seeking to overturn the directive by Minister Ketlhalefile Motshegwa, arguing that the intervention unlawfully reversed a resolution taken by elected councilors.

He has cited the Minister as the first respondent, alongside the Palapye District Council, UDC councilor Kabo Ketshogile, and the Attorney General. His legal representatives are Abel Lawyers.

COUNCIL POWER SHIFT SPARKS DISPUTE

The dispute originates from a recent motion of no confidence passed by councilors that led to the removal of Ketshogile from the council chairmanship. Following his removal, Ikanyeng was elected to replace him and briefly assumed the position.

However, the leadership transition triggered swift intervention from the minister, who suspended council and committee meetings, citing governance failures and the council's alleged inability to effectively discharge its statutory responsibilities.

At the time, Motshegwa said the suspension was intended to restore order, strengthen governance systems, and ensure that council operations aligned with the interests of residents.

MINISTER REVERSES SUSPENSION DECISION

In a surprise turn of events, the minister later lifted the suspension and set aside the council's resolution removing Ketshogile. The decision effectively reinstated the UDC councilor as chairperson, reversing Ikanyeng's brief tenure.

The move has since sparked renewed tensions within the council, deepening political divisions between BPF and UDC aligned councillors. Critics argue that the minister's intervention undermines the autonomy of elected local authorities, while supporters maintain it was necessary to stabilise governance.

LEGAL QUESTIONS OVER MINISTERIAL AUTHORITY

The urgent application before the High Court now places the minister's actions under judicial scrutiny, with Ikanyeng arguing that the decision to overturn the council resolution exceeded lawful authority.

The respondents are expected to defend the minister's powers to intervene in local government affairs where governance breakdowns are alleged.

HIGH COURT TO DETERMINE OUTCOME

At the heart of the case is whether the minister acted within the confines of the law when he suspended council operations and subsequently reinstated Ketshogile as chairperson.

The High Court is expected to determine the legality of both the suspension and the reversal of the council's resolution, a ruling that could have wider implications for the balance of power between central government and local authorities in Botswana.

BVI
BOTSWANA VACCINE INSTITUTE

TENDER NOTICE

Botswana Vaccine Institute Limited (BVI) is inviting companies to submit proposal for the below mentioned tender.

1. **INVITATION TO TENDER FOR A WORKS CONTRACT FOR BVI S7-300 PLC SYSTEM UPGRADE TO A CENTRALIZED SCADA AT BOTSWANA VACCINE INSTITUTE**

NO	TENDER REF:	DESCRIPTION:	PPRA CODE:	PROCUREMENT METHOD	COMPULSORY SITE VISIT TIME AND DATE	TENDER CLOSING DATE & TIME
1.	BVI/ ENG/05/2026-2027	Invitation to tender for a works contract for BVI S7-300 PLC system upgrade to a centralized SCADA at Botswana Vaccine Institute Limited	Code: 02 – Electrical Engineering works and maintenance Sub code: 04 – Automated Machinery and Control systems, Grade E	Open International bidding method	30 June 2026 at 1000hrs (CAT)	13 July 2026 at 10:00HRS (CAT)

Tender documents will be available with effect from 12 June 2026 and will be sent to the bidders via email upon submission of proof of payment of a non-refundable fee of BWP1 100.00 (One thousand one hundred Pula Only) each. 100% Botswana citizen owned youth companies will pay BWP550.00 (five hundred and fifty pula only) each non-refundable fee upon submission of Identity Document (Omang) and company documentation payable to the BVI Account details provided below. Proof of payment must be emailed to procurement@bvi.co.bw. To access the full tender notice please visit https://bvi.co.bw/tenders/

The BVI banking details are as follows:

Bank: Access Bank **Account type:** Current **Branch code:** 552067 **Branch name:** Corporate **Account Number:** 1002533640701
Swift code: FMBZBWGA

The following Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) will be COMPULSORY during the site visit:

- Steel toe safety shoes/ boots
- Work wear (industrial clothing, such as, overalls/worksuit, jeans, etc.)
- Hard hat/bump cap

Choppies Defends Retrenchments

Choppies has defended its planned retrenchments, saying they form part of its long-term expansion strategy aimed at growing employment levels, rather than being driven by perceived pressure linked to the P4,000 minimum wage

BONGANI MALUNGA

Choppies Botswana has moved to reassure workers and the public that planned retrenchments across its operations are not linked to its widely publicised P4000 minimum wage policy, insisting instead that the job cuts form part of a broader restructuring programme aimed at positioning the retailer for future growth.

Responding to criticism from the Botswana Federation of Public Sector Unions (BOFEPUSU), Choppies Chief Executive Officer Ramachandran Ottapathu told The Botswana Gazette that the company's current restructuring is being driven by two key factors, the adoption of new technology and pressure from a slowing economy.

"We are restructuring the company from two angles, one from new technology and second from the slight downturn in the economy. This is temporary, as we open more stores in the 18 to 24 months we will be able to absorb most of the lost jobs," he told this publication.

CONDEMNING RETRENCHMENTS

Ottapathu's remarks come after BOFEPUSU issued a strongly worded statement condemning the retrenchments and alleging that the developments expose what it called the failure of Choppies' celebrated P4000 minimum wage initiative.

The labour federation argued that the retrenchments amount to a reversal of commitments made to workers less than a year after the retailer announced the wage policy. BOFEPUSU accused the company of using the minimum wage announcement as a public relations exercise while continuing practices it says undermine job security and decent work.

The union further questioned whether the company adequately assessed the financial implications of the wage commitment before implementation and criticised the cost-to-company structure attached to the policy, arguing that portions of employee compensation packaged through non-cash benefits weakened the intended impact of the minimum wage.

TRANSITIONAL MEASURE

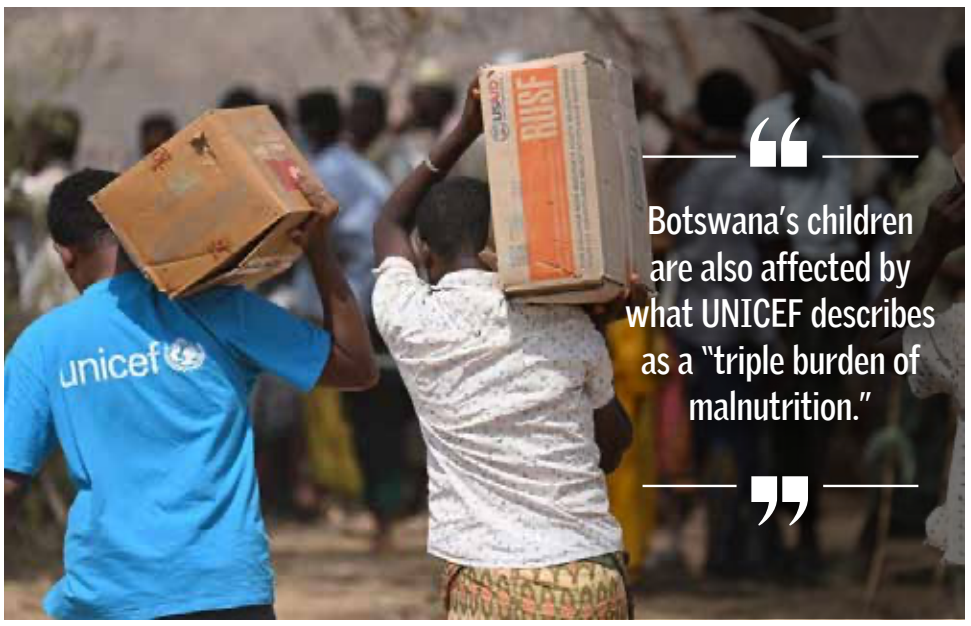
However, Ottapathu has signaled that the retailer sees the retrenchments as a transitional measure rather than a long-term contraction. The emphasis on expansion over the next 18 to 24 months suggests Choppies is betting that operational efficiencies created through technology and restructuring will eventually support additional store openings and renewed employment opportunities.

> "This is temporary, as we open more stores in the 18 to 24 months we will be able to absorb most of the lost jobs."

For affected workers, the immediate reality remains uncertainty but Choppies maintains that the current restructuring phase is intended to create conditions for future job absorption rather than permanent workforce reduction.



Children Pay the Price for Medicine Crisis



UNICEF has warned that children in Botswana are increasingly bearing the brunt of a strained health system marked by medicine shortages, declining immunisation coverage and widening inequalities

GAZETTE REPORTER

Children in Botswana are increasingly paying the price for a strained health system marked by medicine shortages and widening inequalities that threaten the wellbeing of thousands, according to a new UNICEF report.

A newly released UNICEF country programme document warns that despite Botswana's upper-middle-income status and historically high public spending on social services, the country continues to grapple with poor child health outcomes, persistent poverty and uneven access to care.

SERVICE QUALITY GAPS PERSIST

The report by UNICEF says healthcare service quality is being weakened by shortages of community health workers, limited community engagement, and ongoing challenges in supply chain management for essential medicines and commodities.

While about 85 percent of the population lives within five kilometres of a health facility, UNICEF notes that proximity does not guarantee quality or consistent access to care, particularly in remote areas where infrastructure deficits deepen urban-rural inequalities.

These disparities, the agency says, leave many children vulnerable despite nominal geographic access to healthcare services.

WORRYING CHILD MORTALITY TRENDS

The consequences of these systemic weaknesses are reflected in child survival indicators. The under-five mortality rate remained at 40 deaths per 1,000 live births in 2023, while neonatal mortality stood at 21 deaths per 1,000 live births.

UNICEF says these figures are concerning for an upper-middle-income country and signal gaps in maternal and child health interventions.

IMMUNISATION COVERAGE COLLAPSE

The report also highlights a sharp decline in childhood immunisation coverage. Full diphtheria-tetanus-pertussis vaccination dropped from 78.8 percent in 2019 to 50 percent in 2023, while measles-rubella coverage stood at 68 percent over the same period.

UNICEF attributes the decline largely to disruptions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, alongside reduced prioritisation of routine immunisation programmes.

Significant regional disparities persist, with full immunisation coverage ranging from 79.5 percent in Serowe to just 18.6 percent in Jwaneng, underscoring unequal access to preventive healthcare.

MALNUTRITION REMAINS A MAJOR CHALLENGE

Botswana's children are also affected by what UNICEF describes as a "triple burden of malnutrition." Nearly 28.9 percent of children under five are stunted, 7.3 percent are wasted, while 10 percent are overweight.

The report notes low infant feeding practices, with only 20 percent of infants exclusively breastfed for the first six months and fewer than half receiving appropriate complementary feeding between six and nine months.

ECONOMIC PRESSURES WORSENING OUTCOMES

Beyond health challenges, the report warns that economic pressures are compounding risks for children. Economic growth has slowed sharply, from 13.6 percent in 2021 to a 3.0 percent contraction in 2024, with further contraction projected for 2025 due to weakness in the diamond sector.

UNICEF says 26 percent of children experience income poverty, while about half face multidimensional poverty — rising to 68 percent in rural areas compared to 27 percent in urban centres.

REPUBLIC OF BOTSWANA
MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT AND INFRASTRUCTURE

REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA
MINISTRY OF INFRASTRUCTURE, HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

KAZUNGULA BRIDGE AUTHORITY

P/Bag 00416, Kasane, Botswana. Tel: (+267) 267 625 3029, DRTS Plot, Along A33 Road, Kazungula, Botswana

PRESSS RELEASE

10 June 2026

The Kazungula Bridge Authority (KBA) wishes to notify stakeholders and road users of truck congestion currently being experienced along the A33 Road between Lesoma and the Kazungula One Stop Border Post (OSBP). The KBA has been closely monitoring the situation and is engaging with the relevant Border Agencies to establish the root causes of the congestion and identify appropriate mitigation measures.

The delayed border crossing has resulted in disruption to cargo movement, sanitation concerns, road safety risks, and pressure on border operations and supporting infrastructure along the A33 Road. The respective institutions agreed to review their operational procedures, and proposed immediate, medium-term, and long-term interventions aimed at improving traffic flow, enhancing operational efficiency, and strengthening compliance with OSBP procedures and pre-clearance requirements.

The KBA further established that the congestion situation at the Kazungula OSBP is, among other factors, exacerbated by failure by some transporters to complete pre-clearance procedures prior to arrival at the border.

In view of the above, the KBA resolved that;

1. All **NORTH** bound trucks travelling to Zambia must be pre-cleared with fully paid related statutory fees such as road toll, bridge toll and council. Trucks must have Special Release Order (blue), Release Orders (green), whilst declarations in Yellow and Red should be paid as they await Customs finalization. Release Orders for Transits will be admitted, (completed T1 documents are encouraged).

2. All **SOUTH** bound trucks travelling to Botswana should only approach the border after they have been pre-cleared by both BOTSWANA and ZAMBIA and issued with the release order or proceed to border notification.

3. Non-precleared and released bound trucks to Kazungula OSBP are advised not to depart for the OSBP before completion of all required documentation and pre-clearance procedures;

4. All Trucks without complete documentation shall not be permitted entry into the OSBP.

In this regard, all stakeholders are advised to strictly adhere to the above resolutions. Our stakeholders are urged to comply with the order to minimise negative impacts associated with congestion along the A33 Road.

The Authority commends all clients utilising the safe and reliable Kazungula Bridge Corridor and reaffirms its commitment to advancing regional integration through efficient and seamless border crossing operations.

Issued by:

Mukela Muyunda

KBA Executive Director

"Established by the Governments of the Republic of Botswana and the Republic of Zambia"

When Women Rise, Botswana Rises

As Standard Chartered's Women in Tech Accelerator moves through its third cohort, the programme is sharpening its focus on women-led businesses that are ready to scale, create jobs and compete in a digital economy.





LEATILE ZACHARIAH

Standard Chartered Botswana's Women in Tech Accelerator has moved beyond the call for applications and into the heart of its third cohort, where women-led businesses are being prepared for the next stage of growth.

The programme, implemented in partnership with Dream Factory Foundation, is now focused on equipping participating entrepreneurs with the structure, mentorship and digital tools needed to strengthen their businesses before winners are selected for equity-free seed funding.

For Standard Chartered, the accelerator is not simply about awarding money. It is about building a stronger pipeline of women-led enterprises that can grow sustainably, create jobs and contribute meaningfully to Botswana's private sector.

BEYOND TECH

Bame Moremong-Tshweneyagae, Head of Corporate Affairs, Brand and Marketing at Standard Chartered Bank Botswana, says the programme is broader than the name may suggest.

"When we say Women in Tech, we don't only mean pure technology start-ups," she explains. "The programme is for women-led businesses that are looking to use technology as an enabler to scale."

That distinction is important in a market where many entrepreneurs may not see themselves as operating in the technology space, even when digital tools could dramatically improve how they run their businesses.



Previous cohorts have included women-led ventures in horticulture, agriculture, fashion design, software development, beauty and wellness. Agriculture has been one of the dominant sectors, showing that technology is not confined to software companies, but can support farms, service businesses, creative enterprises and community-based ventures.

According to Moremong-Tshweneyagae, the common thread is women in leadership, a scalable model and a willingness to embrace digital tools to grow.

GROWTH GAP

Since launching in Botswana in 2024, the Women in Tech Accelerator has already produced measurable results. Businesses incubated through the programme have generated more than P5 million in increased revenue, created 128 jobs and received over P1.4 million in seed funding.

By the end of the 2nd cohort in 2025, some of the participants had gone on to secure more than P400,000 in external funding after completing the programme.

For Standard Chartered, these outcomes show what can happen when women entrepreneurs are given more than a once-off financial injection.



"We've seen tangible business growth: women formalising their businesses, improving their financial management and increasing revenue," says Moremong-Tshweneyagae.

She adds that many participants also grow in confidence, becoming clearer in how they pitch, stronger in how they negotiate and bolder in the decisions they make for their businesses.



That confidence matters because many women-led businesses are not limited by the absence of ideas, but by limited access to structured support, mentorship, networks and visibility.

DIGITAL POWER

The programme's emphasis on digital enablement reflects the changing nature of business itself.

"Digital is no longer a nice to have," says Moremong-Tshweneyagae. "It determines how efficiently you operate and how far you can reach."



For small businesses, digital tools can support cash flow management, inventory tracking, customer engagement and access to new markets. In Botswana, where distance can be a barrier to opportunity, digital platforms can help entrepreneurs reach customers beyond their immediate location.

Moremong-Tshweneyagae says this is especially important for businesses that want to plug into modern financial services and wider value chains.

STRONGER ECOSYSTEMS

As the current cohort progresses towards the funding stage, the programme is also raising a larger question about the future of entrepreneurship in Botswana.

Standard Chartered sees its role as that of a catalyst, using its expertise, networks and brand to unlock opportunities for under-represented entrepreneurs, particularly women.

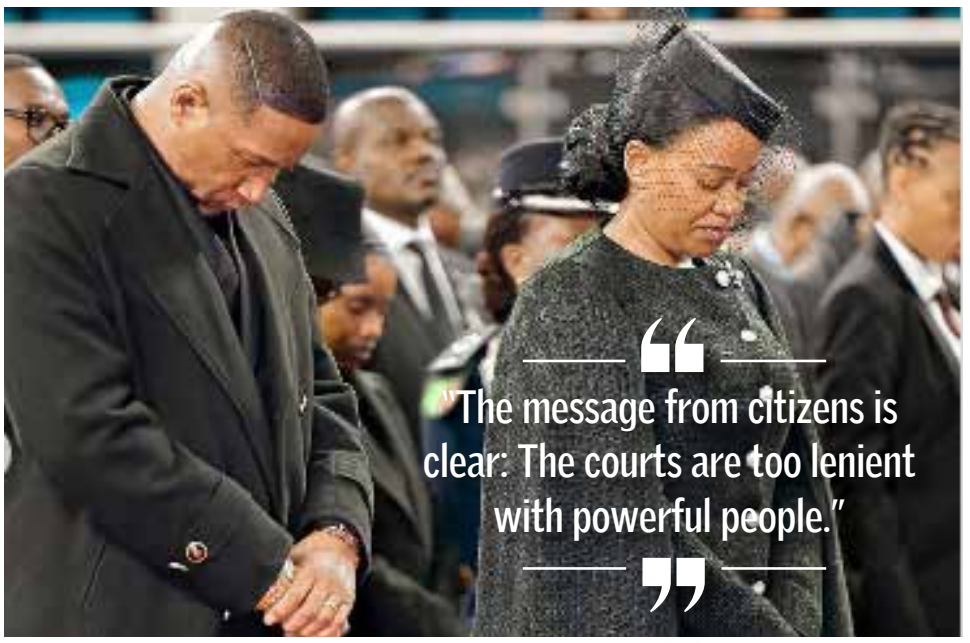
The expansion of previous cohorts beyond Gaborone into areas such as Maun, Kauxwi Village in Okavango East and Selebi-Phikwe suggests that the appetite for this kind of support is national.

For the women currently in the programme, the final award of funding will matter. But the deeper value may lie in the coaching, mentorship, financial literacy, strategic guidance and community that remain long after the winners are announced.

If women-led businesses are given the tools to scale, the benefit will not sit only with individual founders. It will be felt in jobs created, families supported, communities strengthened and a private sector made more inclusive.

Batswana Top Africa in Death Penalty Support

Botswana has emerged as Africa's strongest supporter of the death penalty, with 82 percent of citizens backing capital punishment according to a new Afrobarometer report



GAZETTE REPORTER

Batswana have emerged as Africa's strongest supporters of the death penalty, with more than eight in every 10 citizens backing capital punishment for the most serious crimes.

A new Afrobarometer report shows that 82 percent of respondents in Botswana believe the death penalty is a fair punishment for crimes such as murder. The findings place Botswana at the top of the continent in support for capital punishment, reflecting a tough public stance on violent crime.

The report, titled "Concerns about inequality and lack of integrity in the courts leave access to justice out of reach for many Africans," was published by Afrobarometer.

BOTSWANA AMONG AFRICA'S HIGHEST SUPPORTERS

Botswana's level of support is closely matched by a few other countries. Tunisia (85%), Senegal (83%) and Comoros (82%) recorded similar levels, while Nigeria stood at 81 percent and The Gambia at 80 percent.

Across the 37 African countries surveyed, Afrobarometer found that 57 percent of citizens support the death penalty for the most serious offences, while 40 percent oppose it entirely.

The results underline a continent divided on capital punishment, even as debates intensify over justice reform and human rights.

PERCEIVED LENIENCY FOR POWERFUL INDIVIDUALS

Beyond the death penalty debate, the report highlights widespread frustration with judicial inequality across Africa. Many citizens believe that powerful individuals often receive softer treatment than ordinary people when convicted.

"The message from citizens is clear: The courts are too lenient with powerful people," the report states.

Across the 38 countries surveyed, 48 percent of respondents said punishments for political leaders, government officials and influential figures are too lenient, compared to only 10 percent who believe they are too harsh.

By contrast, 33 percent said punishments for ordinary citizens are too harsh, while only 13 percent felt they are too lenient.

ORDINARY OFFENDERS

In a notable finding, Botswana stands out as one of only four countries where more people believe punishments for ordinary offenders are too lenient rather than too harsh.

About 28 percent of Batswana say punishments such as fines and prison sentences are too lenient, while 20 percent say they are too harsh. This positions Botswana alongside South Africa, Mauritius and Seychelles in showing stronger appetite for stricter sentencing.

NO TRUST IN JUSTICE SYSTEMS

Respondents were asked to assess whether punishments for both ordinary citizens and powerful individuals were too harsh, too lenient, or about right. They were also asked whether the death penalty is justified for the most serious crimes or should never be used.

The findings suggest a broader crisis of trust in African justice systems, where perceptions of inequality persist alongside strong public support for harsh punishment.



BOTSWANA POWER CORPORATION

CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

Botswana Power Corporation (BPC) is the national power utility responsible for the generation, transmission, distribution and supply of electricity in Botswana. With a renewed focus on transformation, commercial sustainability and operational excellence, BPC is inviting suitably qualified, visionary and seasoned finance leaders to join its executive leadership team as **Chief Financial Officer**.

Job Purpose

Reporting to the Chief Executive Officer, the Chief Financial Officer will provide strategic leadership and oversight of the Corporation's financial management. The role will lead financial strategy, planning, reporting, controls and risk management to support long-term stability, growth and transformation. The CFO will also play a key role in structuring and mobilising capital for large-scale infrastructure projects and positioning BPC as a bankable, investment-ready utility.

The Job

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

- Developing and implementing the Corporation's financial strategy.
- Leading financial planning, budgeting, forecasting and reporting.
- Strengthening business controls, governance and financial risk management.
- Ensuring compliance with statutory, regulatory and accounting requirements.
- Providing strategic financial advice to the CEO, Board and executive leadership.
- Leading capital structuring, mobilisation and optimisation for major infrastructure projects.
- Driving financial sustainability frameworks, tariff modelling and long-term capital planning.
- Supporting investment strategies and optimisation of the Corporation's capital structure.
- Managing relationships with lenders, DFIs, ECAs, commercial banks, regulators, investors and other key stakeholders.
- Leading and developing the finance function to support transformation, accountability and performance.

The Person

The right candidate will possess the following:

- Full qualification and membership of a recognised professional accounting body such as ACCA, CIMA, CA or equivalent.
- Additional qualifications in Finance, Investment Banking or Corporate Finance (CFA, MBA Finance or equivalent) is necessary requirement.
- At least 15 years' post-qualification experience in a large commercial setting with complex financial accounting and reporting systems.
- Proven experience in statutory reporting.
- Extensive capital markets and or, investment banking experience.
- Proven track record in capital-intensive energy infrastructure projects, including structured debt and equity financing.
- Experience in raising financing from DFIs, ECAs, commercial banks and capital markets.
- Experience in developing bankable power project financial models and tariff frameworks.
- Experience engaging major regulators, lenders, government and investors.

Core Competencies

- Financial management and reporting.
- Public reporting.
- Leadership and governance.
- Commercial orientation.
- Strategy orientation.
- Capital structuring and investment analysis.

CANDIDATES WHO HAVE PREVIOUSLY SHOWED INTEREST IN THIS ROLE NEED NOT RE-APPLY AS WE ALREADY HAVE THEIR APPLICATIONS

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

Closing Date: 05 July 2026

For enquiries: Contact 3975917 / 3915503

PEOPLE CONNECTIONS
connecting people and business

Botswana Sitting on P800M Ivory Fortune

As CITES ban blocks cash-in



SESUPO RANTSIMAKO

Botswana is sitting on an ivory stockpile worth up to P800 million but remains unable to convert the resource into revenue because of international restrictions that prohibit commercial ivory sales.

Appearing before the Parliamentary Committee on Government Assurances recently, the Ministry of Environment and Tourism's Director, Moemi Batshabang, revealed that Botswana's ivory stockpile has reached approximately 300 tonnes and continues to grow every year.

Batshabang said the stockpile comprises tusks recovered from elephants that die naturally, animals killed by poachers, and those destroyed during human-wildlife conflict incidents.

"We currently have approximately 300 tonnes of ivory in our stockpile, and the quantity continues to increase every year," he told legislators.

Although Botswana is barred from selling ivory under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), Batshabang estimated that the stockpile could be worth between US$30 million and US$60 million on the international market.

PARLIAMENT QUESTIONS LOST REVENUE

The disclosure prompted concerns from members of the committee, who questioned whether Botswana was allowing a potentially lucrative national asset to sit idle while government faces mounting fiscal pressures.

The debate comes against the backdrop of growing calls for countries that have successfully conserved wildlife to benefit economically from the resources they manage.

GOV'T CHALLENGES GLOBAL CONSERVATION STANCE

Permanent Secretary Abigail Khumoyame said Botswana remains dissatisfied with the international position that ivory should never be commercialized.

"As a country, we do not fully agree with the position that ivory should never be commercialized," Khumoyame said. "We believe there should be mechanisms that allow countries like Botswana to derive economic value from these resources while continuing to invest in conservation."

LOOKING BEYOND CONVENTIONAL MARKETS

Unable to break the international deadlock, government is now exploring alternative ways of extracting value from its growing ivory reserves.

"What was agreed at last year's conference of the parties is that countries should investigate domestic industries and identify ways of promoting beneficiation and broader wildlife-based economic activities," she said.

However, she acknowledged that Botswana has yet to identify a viable model capable of unlocking meaningful value from the stockpile without breaching international obligations.

SOUTHERN AFRICA'S BATTLE WITH CITES

For years, Botswana and other Southern African countries have lobbied for controlled sales of government-owned ivory stockpiles accumulated through natural elephant deaths and confiscations.

Those proposals have repeatedly been rejected amid concerns that legal ivory sales could provide cover for illegal trade and fuel poaching across Africa.

While conservation groups argue that reopening ivory markets would undermine decades of progress against wildlife crime, Southern African governments maintain that managing large elephant populations comes with significant costs, including crop destruction, property damage, and threats to human life.

> "We currently have approximately 300 tonnes of ivory in our stockpile, and the quantity continues to increase every year"

The standoff remains one of the most contentious issues in global wildlife conservation, leaving Botswana's growing ivory stockpile locked away despite its potential economic value.

Botswana CEO Awards™

Interested bodies are hereby invited to submit proposals for the hosting license of the **Botswana Chief Executive Officer Awards 2026/2027.**

This invitation is open to duly registered and valid events management companies with proven experience in organizing high-profile corporate events.

Bidders are requested to forward their detailed proposals, including company profile, relevant experience, proposed event concept, and financial quotation before **30th June 2026.**

Only shortlisted companies will be contacted for further engagement. Submissions should be sent to boceoorg@gmail.com.

For further equiries please contact: Tefo on 75 216 031 (orange)/ 76 205 671 (mascom)



US Diamond Demand Rebound A Lifeline For Botswana

Renewed US demand for natural diamonds, driven by Gen Z buyers, offers Botswana fresh hope for economic recovery

BONGANI MALUNGA

Botswana's diamond-dependent economy could be in line for a timely recovery after new consumer research from De Beers revealed renewed appetite for natural diamonds in the United States, the country's most important export destination.

The latest findings come at a critical time for Botswana, which has endured months of pressure from a depressed global diamond market that has weighed on exports, weakened government revenues and raised concerns over economic growth.

According to De Beers' latest US Diamond Acquisition Study contained in The Diamond Report, American consumers, particularly younger buyers, are showing stronger than expected demand for natural diamonds, signalling a potential turnaround for producers such as Botswana.

GEN Z CONSUMERS

The report found that Generation Z consumers, born between 1997 and 2012, now account for 23 percent of natural diamond demand value in the United States despite representing only 18 percent of the population. Their influence has become increasingly important as the industry seeks new buyers to replace slowing traditional demand.

The study also revealed that Gen Z consumers spend an average of US$4,080 (approximately P54,696) per natural diamond purchase, almost double the spending levels of older generations in some categories. Purchases are increasingly linked not only to engagements and weddings but also to personal achievements, promotions, birthdays and self-reward. Non-bridal purchases now account for about three-quarters of overall natural diamond demand in the US market.

For Botswana, these trends could carry major economic significance. The United States remains one of the most important markets for Botswana's diamonds and stronger retail demand could eventually feed back into higher rough diamond sales, improved prices and increased mining activity. This would have knock-on benefits across the economy through government revenues, employment, foreign exchange earnings and activity in downstream industries.

AVERAGE SPENDING ON THE UP

The De Beers report also noted that average spending on natural diamond jewellery has increased by 25 percent in recent years while sales among independent US jewellers have continued to rise, suggesting that consumers remain willing to pay for natural stones despite competition from lab-grown alternatives.

De Beers Chief Economist Eirik Wærness expressed confidence that the current weakness in the market will not be permanent, arguing that supply and demand conditions are expected to normalise over time.

"I am confident that the balance between supply and demand in the natural diamond industry will be restored. When it happens, and how fast, is harder to predict, but the underlying drivers of today's disruption are well understood and, importantly, not permanent." said Wærness in the report.

For Botswana, whose economic fortunes remain closely tied to diamonds, that recovery cannot come soon enough. If stronger US demand translates into renewed global buying momentum, it could provide the breathing room needed to stabilise public finances and restore confidence in one of the country's most important industries.

Ombudsman Blames PSs for Costly Legal Bills

Continued resistance to implementing the Ombudsman's recommendations is fuelling administrative backlogs and exposing government to growing legal costs, according to the Ombudsman

BONGANI MALUNGA

The Office of the Ombudsman is preparing an aggressive push against uncooperative ministerial permanent secretaries (PS), warning that continued resistance to implementing its recommendations is fuelling administrative backlogs and exposing government to growing legal costs.

Ombudsman Stephen Tiroyakgosi says the office is seeking stronger enforcement powers through amendments to the Ombudsman Act so that Botswana aligns with jurisdictions where Ombudsman findings carry binding legal force rather than remaining advisory.

The proposed shift comes at a time when government institutions are increasingly facing litigation across multiple fronts, raising concerns over accountability, governance failures and the financial implications of unresolved disputes.

CONCERNING PICTURE

Recent presentations before Parliament's Standing Committees painted a concerning picture of the state's legal exposure. Legislators were informed that the government faces mounting court action ranging from civil rights matters and medical malpractice lawsuits to procurement and tender disputes.

Parliament was recently told that more than 250 medical malpractice and negligence cases have been filed against government since 2021, with total claims exceeding P6.5 billion. Separately, last year the High Court interdicted the Ministry of Child Welfare from proceeding with a P662 million e-learning tender after finding breaches of the Public Procurement Act.

Against this backdrop, concerns have intensified that government departments are failing to address administrative shortcomings before they escalate into costly legal battles. It is also understood that the Attorney General's Chambers are increasingly under pressure from the growing volume of civil litigation.

STATUTORY FRAMEWORK

Appearing before the Parliamentary Accounts Committee (PAC) on Monday, Tiroyakgosi argued that Botswana needs a statutory framework that compels ministries and departments to act on Ombudsman directives and face consequences for non-compliance.

"We continue to have slow responsiveness to complaints and communication by various ministries, departments and agencies. Then we have delays in implementing agreed corrective action resulting in a backlog of cases. When ministries don't implement the recommendations, many of their affairs end up in court," Tiroyakgosi stated.

ESCALATING PRESSURE

He indicated that the Ombudsman's office has begun escalating pressure directly onto accounting officers at the highest administrative level. "In light of these difficulties we have summoned permanent secretaries who are recalcitrant to explain to us why they have not acted on the recommendations," he continued.

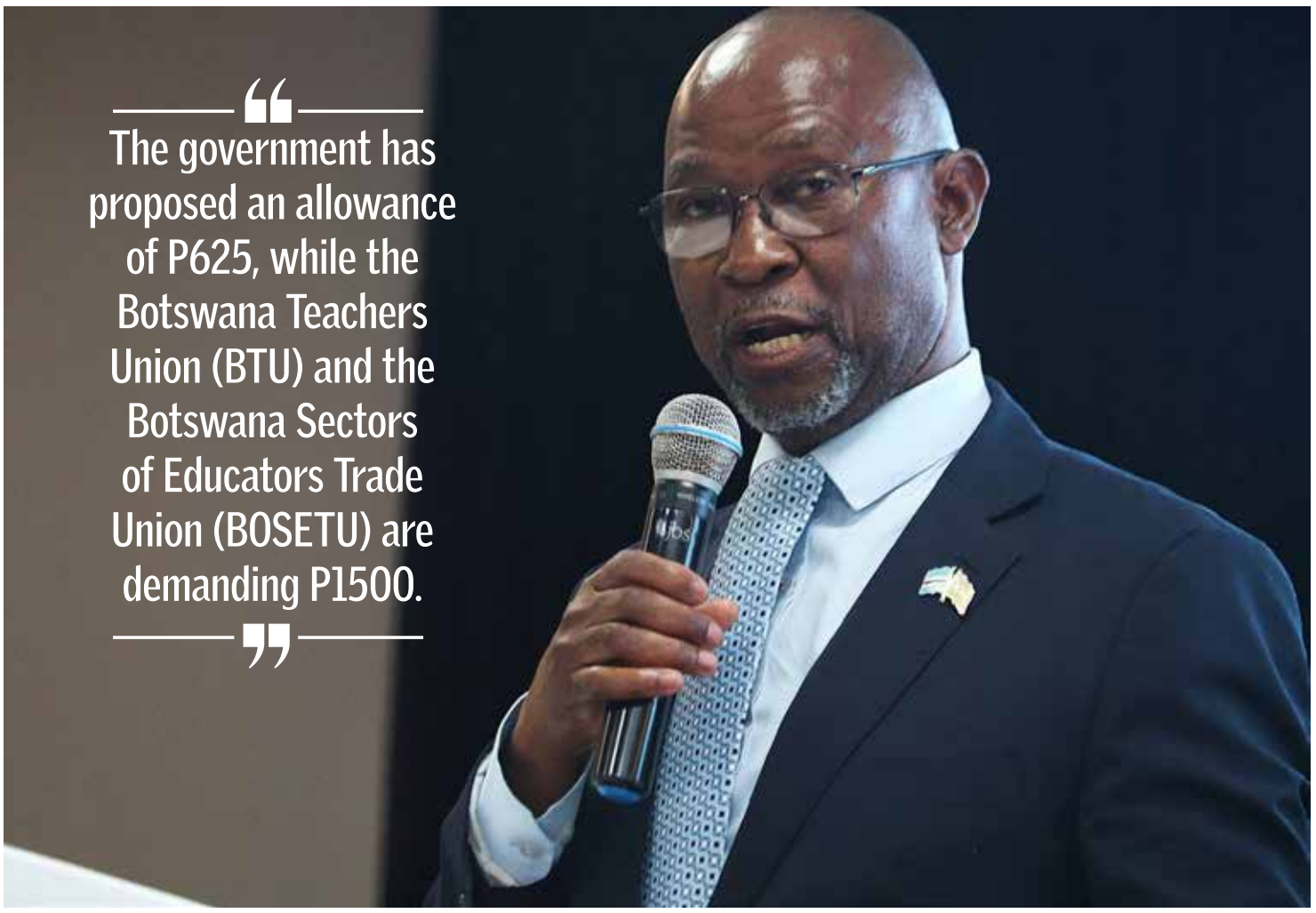
Tiroyakgosi said the current legal framework weakens the office's ability to enforce outcomes even when investigations establish wrongdoing or maladministration. "The law as it is does not make it compulsory for the Ombudsman's recommendations to be effected as if they are court orders," Tiroyakgosi explained.

> "We continue to have slow responsiveness to complaints and communication by various ministries, departments and agencies."

Tiroyakgosi argues that should the proposed legislative changes proceed, ministries that ignore Ombudsman findings will have to face stronger legal obligations to implement corrective action, potentially reducing administrative delays, lowering litigation risks and improving public sector accountability.

Govt, Teachers' Unions Resume School Sports Talks

School sports talks have resumed between the ministry and teachers' unions as both sides seek a compromise on teacher allowances following last week's deadlocked negotiations



BONGANI MALUNGA

The Ministry of Child Welfare and Basic Education and teachers' unions are heading back to the negotiating table in a renewed attempt to break the impasse over the long-awaited revival of school sports, after talks last week ended without an agreement.

At the centre of the dispute is a sharp difference in proposals over compensation for teachers who supervise and facilitate school sports activities. The government has proposed an allowance of P625, while the Botswana Teachers Union (BTU) and the Botswana Sectors of Educators Trade Union (BOSETU) are demanding P1500, arguing that the amount better reflects current economic realities and the practical costs teachers incur while travelling and supervising learners.

P875 GAP - A STICKING POINT

The P875 gap between both positions has emerged as the key sticking point but indications from the latest engagement suggest neither side has abandoned efforts to find middle ground. Representatives from the unions met with Assistant Minister of Child Welfare and Basic Education Justin Hunyepa last week to discuss possible pathways to restore school sports, which have remained dormant amid disagreements over teachers' conditions of service.

Speaking to the media following the meeting, BTU Acting Secretary General Othusitse Kgaswane said although discussions did not produce an immediate breakthrough, the union was encouraged by what it viewed as government's willingness to continue engaging.

PRACTICAL OUTCOMES

However, Kgaswane stressed that goodwill alone would not resolve the issue, arguing that negotiations now need to move beyond statements of intent and translate into practical outcomes that address teachers' concerns.

According to Kgaswane, teachers rejected the P625 proposal outright and tabled three alternatives: implementation of a 26-day pay model, payment for overtime worked during sports assignments, or the introduction of a P1500 allowance. The Ministry reportedly informed the unions that the 26-day pay model falls outside its mandate and would instead need to be referred to the Public Service Bargaining Council.

DIFFERENT WORKING CONDITIONS

Kgaswane argued that teachers assigned to school sports operate under conditions that differ significantly from those of other public service employees deployed on official duties.

"The set up for a primary and secondary school teacher on school sports assignment is very different from that of any other public service employee. While others are accommodated in hotels and lodges, the picture is different for teachers as they sleep in classrooms during school sports assignments. They have to provide and wash their own blankets. P625 is not enough to buy essentials such as bathing soap, washing powder and meals on a regular basis," Kgaswane explained in an interview with radio station Yarona FM last week.

He added that the Ministry has agreed to engage jointly with the Ministry of Sport and Arts to review the unions' proposals.

Economic Growth Downgraded as Pula Faces Pressure

Botswana's recovery has suffered another setback after Business Monitor International cut its 2026 growth forecast, citing a weak Pula, high inflation and continued strain in the diamond sector

GAZETTE REPORTER

Botswana's fragile economic recovery has suffered another setback after global research firm Business Monitor International (BMI) downgraded the country's 2026 growth forecast, citing mounting pressure from a weakening currency, stubborn inflation and a prolonged downturn in the diamond sector.

In its latest outlook, BMI now projects Botswana to grow by 1.6 percent in 2026, down from an earlier forecast of 2.2 percent. The revision comes despite expectations of a mild recovery from an estimated 0.7 percent contraction in 2025.

BMI said the downgrade reflects "elevated inflation, tighter financial conditions and ongoing structural weakness in the diamond sector."

WEAK DOMESTIC DEMAND

The report warns that domestic demand will remain subdued as households continue to struggle under rising prices and higher borrowing costs.

Private consumption is expected to contribute just 0.1 percentage points to growth in 2026, with government spending offering only limited support to the broader economy.

"The recovery will be fragile and narrowly based," BMI noted.

DIAMOND SECTOR DRAG PERSISTS

Botswana's external sector is also expected to remain under pressure, with export growth constrained by ongoing uncertainty in global diamond markets.

BMI points to weakening demand, growing competition from lab-grown diamonds, and uncertainty surrounding the long-term role of De Beers as key risks weighing on export earnings.

At the same time, rising global oil prices are expected to increase import costs, further straining the country's trade balance.

FOREIGN RESERVES AND CURRENCY PRESSURE

The report warns that Botswana's external position is weakening, with foreign exchange reserves already declining and sitting below historical norms.

BMI also cautions that the Pula is likely to face increasing depreciation pressure in the months ahead. While the currency has remained relatively stable around P14 to the US dollar, the firm says this stability is largely policy-driven rather than supported by strong fundamentals.

"Combined with persistently weak diamond export revenues and fragile foreign exchange reserves, these dynamics point to a gradual but accelerating depreciation trend," BMI said.

It further warns that under sustained pressure, the central bank may be forced to allow a faster depreciation or consider a more significant adjustment of the currency.

DOWNSIDE RISKS DOMINATE OUTLOOK

BMI says risks to the outlook remain firmly tilted to the downside, highlighting a 45 percent probability of escalation in global geopolitical tensions, including the US-Iran conflict.

Such a scenario, it warns, could push oil prices higher, worsen inflation, and further strain Botswana's balance of payments.

If realised, the shock could force tighter monetary policy and trigger yet another downgrade to the country's already fragile growth outlook.

Building Better Healthcare Through Engagement

Bomaid's stakeholder engagements are helping customers, providers and partners understand medical aid as a continuous relationship built around prevention, information, wellness and value.



LEATILE ZACHARIAH

Bomaid's countrywide stakeholder engagements are more than a communications exercise. They are a deliberate effort to take healthcare conversations closer to customers, providers and communities, while reminding customers that medical aid should be understood as a partnership rather than a service used only during illness.

Listening First

The engagements have taken Bomaid to Palapye, Francistown, Ghanzi and surrounding areas, with the journey recently extending to Maun as the organisation builds momentum towards its Annual General Meeting (AGM) scheduled for 25 June 2026.

MAUN FEEDBACK

The Fund recently concluded a series of engagements in Maun, where customers, healthcare providers, employers, media and stakeholders shared valuable feedback on healthcare access, service delivery and customer expectations. Bomaid extends its appreciation to the Maun community for the warm reception and meaningful conversations throughout the engagements.

GUIDING QUESTION

Across these platforms, one question has guided the conversation: "What more can we do for Batswana?"

According to Bomaid Corporate Communications Manager Tshepo Happy Maphanyane, the engagements are intended to ensure that useful information reaches the Fund's broad stakeholder network.

"The thinking behind these conversations we're having with everyone is premised on ensuring that there's as much information as possible that is reaching the wide stakeholder network that we have," she says.

For Maphanyane, the engagements matter because they help different groups understand how they contribute to value for the customer, from individual and corporate customers to providers, regulators, service partners and staff.

"We're having these conversations because it's important for us to be able to understand what one is doing, to be able to derive value at the end of the day for all of us," she says.

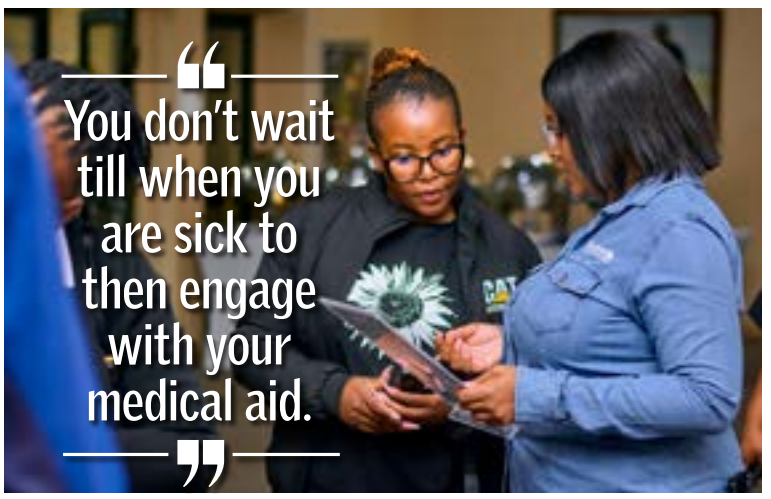
WELLNESS PLATFORMS

Bomaid has maintained a visible presence at wellness platforms such as the Kazungula and Diacore Marathons, the BPC CEO Cycle Challenge, customer webinars and media engagements. The recently launched Thrive with Bomaid platform further reflects the organisation's commitment to preventative care and healthier lifestyles through digital wellness support.





Partner In Health



For customers, the most important message is that engagement should not begin only when they are sick. Maphanyane says many people traditionally interact with their medical aid only when they require treatment, yet Bomaid wants customers to see the relationship differently.

"Your medical aid is your companion, is your friend, is a partner," she says. "As a partner, as a companion, I want to provide you with the tools to be able to make the right decisions in terms of your health."

She adds that customers' needs change through life and that regular engagement helps ensure their medical aid cover continues to meet their needs.

"The package or the plan where you are at, is it still servicing you?" she asks.

BEYOND SESSIONS

The conversation continues beyond the stakeholder sessions. As part of its ongoing customer engagement programme, Bomaid has commenced the distribution of AGM packs, including its latest Integrated Report. Customers are encouraged to monitor their email communications and review the information ahead of the AGM.

Customers can also look forward to receiving the latest Customer Bulletin, which contains important updates and information about Fund activities and services.

In addition, Bomaid will host its Community Health & Wellness Day on Saturday, 20 June 2026, in partnership with the Dutch Reformed Church Gaborone. The event forms part of the Fund's broader commitment to bringing health promotion, wellness education and preventative care closer to the communities it serves.

EVERYDAY WELLBEING

By creating platforms for dialogue across the country, Bomaid is helping customers better understand their benefits, make informed healthcare decisions and view medical aid as part of everyday wellbeing.

"You don't wait till when you are sick to then engage with your medical aid," Maphanyane says.

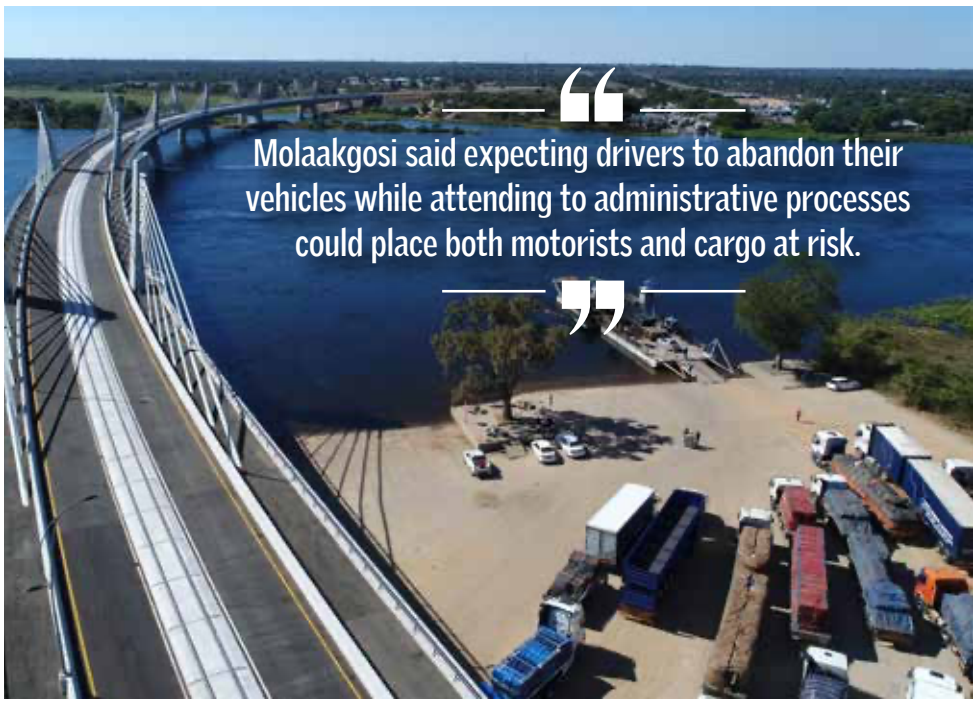
Kazungula Truckers Resist New Border Rules

Kazungula Bridge truck operators have rejected new rules requiring full pre-clearance before border entry to ease congestion, calling them impractical, while the authority insist they are necessary

SESUPO RANTSIMAKO

A standoff is looming between the Kazungula Bridge Authority (KBA) and truck operators after the authority announced that trucks arriving at the Kazungula One Stop Border Post (OSBP) without complete documentation and pre-clearance will be denied entry in a bid to tackle growing congestion along the A33 road.

The move comes as long queues of trucks continue to build up between Lesoma and the Kazungula border crossing, disrupting the flow of cargo and placing increasing strain on one of Southern Africa's key trade corridors.



KBA TIGHTENS BORDER ACCESS

In a notice issued to stakeholders and road users, the KBA said investigations had revealed that many transporters were arriving at the border without completing mandatory customs clearances and paying statutory fees.

According to the authority, the failure to finalise documentation before travelling to the border has become a major contributor to delays and congestion at the OSBP.

"All trucks without complete documentation shall not be permitted entry into the OSBP," the authority stated.

Under the new measures, transporters will be required to possess all relevant customs documents and release orders before being allowed to proceed to the border. Trucks entering and leaving Botswana will only be permitted to approach the crossing after obtaining the necessary clearances from both Botswana and Zambia.

The authority warned that non-compliant vehicles will be turned away.

TRUCK OPERATORS REJECT NEW MEASURES

The announcement has drawn criticism from truck operators, who argue that the new requirements are impractical and fail to reflect operational realities at the border.

Chairperson of the Botswana Truck Drivers Association (BTDA), Thomas Molaakgosi, said some of the documents demanded by the authority can only be processed at the border itself, making full compliance before arrival impossible.

"What KBA is demanding is not practical because some of the documentation is processed at the OSBP," Molaakgosi said.

He added that drivers are often required to leave their vehicles and travel to border offices to complete paperwork, exposing trucks and cargo to potential security risks.

SAFETY CONCERNS RAISED

The association has also raised concerns about safety along the Kazungula-Lesoma corridor, noting that the area is known for frequent wildlife activity.

Molaakgosi said expecting drivers to abandon their vehicles while attending to administrative processes could place both motorists and cargo at risk.

He argued that authorities should first establish a properly serviced truck stop with secure parking, water and sanitation facilities before implementing stricter compliance measures.

SEARCH FOR LASTING SOLUTIONS

Despite the criticism, the KBA maintains that stricter enforcement is necessary to improve efficiency and reduce congestion at the busy border crossing.

The authority said it is working with border agencies to review operational procedures and implement measures aimed at improving traffic flow while strengthening compliance with OSBP requirements.



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

The position is based at BIUST Campus, Palapye.

SCHOOL OF EARTH SCIENCES AND ENGINEERING

SENIOR LECTURER, MATERIALS AND METALLURGICAL ENGINEERING

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

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

QUALIFICATIONS/REQUIREMENTS:
Academic Qualification:

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

Professional Certification:
Must be registered with ERB

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

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

2. ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR, CHEMICAL ENGINEERING

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

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

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

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

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

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

If you meet the requirements of the above-stated position, please send your application letter and a detailed Curriculum Vitae including at least three (3) recent professional referees to;

Director, Human Resources at the email address below.

recruitment.chemeng@biust.ac.bw

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

Closing Date: July 01, 2026.

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BDP Condemns Moswaane's P33bn Claims

The BDP has accused the UDC government of spending too much time blaming its predecessors instead of addressing the country's pressing challenge



SESUPO RANTSIMAKO

The Botswana Democratic Party (BDP) has launched a fresh attack on the Assistant Minister of Local Government and Traditional Affairs, Ignatius Moswaane, accusing him of misleading the public and making serious allegations without evidence while the country grapples with persistent medicine shortages.

In a strongly worded statement, the former ruling party took issue with remarks made by Moswaane at Tati Siding Umbrella for Democratic Change (UDC) rally over the weekend, where he claimed that P33 billion had been stolen by the previous government.

> "The medicine shortage crisis is real. Patients are suffering. Batswana want medicines, not excuses."

The BDP said such allegations should not be made lightly and warned that unsubstantiated claims risk inflaming public anger while diverting attention from the challenges facing the country's healthcare system.

P33 BILLION CLAIM QUESTIONED

According to the BDP, Moswaane has failed to provide evidence to support the claim that billions of pula were stolen under the previous administration.

The party argued that if such wrongdoing occurred, the current government should present evidence and pursue legal action rather than making political statements at public gatherings.

"His reported claim that P33 billion was stolen by the previous government is a serious allegation that cannot be made casually or without evidence," the party said.

The BDP further accused Moswaane of engaging in political grandstanding instead of focusing on resolving problems confronting ordinary citizens.

CREDIBILITY UNDER SCRUTINY

The opposition party also questioned Moswaane's credibility, citing previous controversies surrounding statements he allegedly made about medicine shortages in public health facilities.

According to the BDP, the Speaker of the National Assembly had previously required Moswaane to substantiate claims relating to medicines, while public sector unions had criticized allegations that health workers were deliberately hiding medicines from patients.

The party said these incidents had raised concerns about the reliability of the Assistant Minister's public pronouncements.

MEDICINE SHORTAGES REMAIN CENTRAL ISSUE

The BDP argued that government should focus its attention on resolving the ongoing shortage of medicines rather than blaming the previous administration.

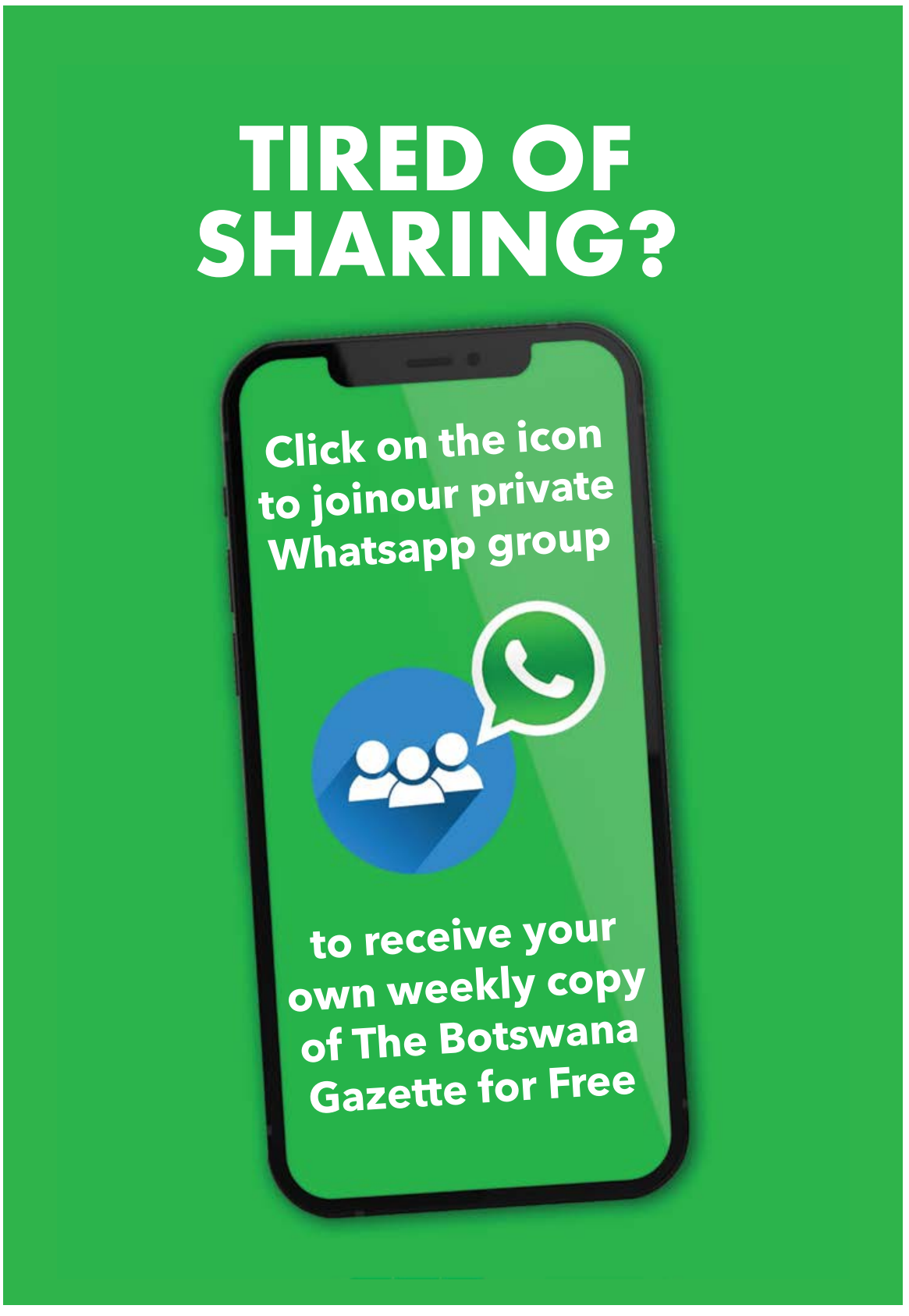
According to the opposition, many families remain anxious about the availability of medicines, particularly for vulnerable groups such as children and the elderly.

CALLS FOR ACTION, NOT EXCUSES

The former ruling party accused the UDC administration of focusing excessively on blame instead of delivering solutions to pressing national challenges.

"The medicine shortage crisis is real. Patients are suffering. Batswana want medicines, not excuses. They want solutions, not scapegoats," the party said.

The statement is the latest exchange in an increasingly heated political battle over responsibility for medicine shortages, with both the government and opposition seeking to shape public perception of the crisis ahead of what is expected to be a prolonged debate on the state of the country's healthcare system.



Stanbic Backs Youth Through Golf

Stanbic Bank's Youth Development Programme is using golf as a platform to build discipline, confidence and opportunity among young Batswana, with plans to grow beyond Gaborone once the model is established.



LEATILE ZACHARIAH

Stanbic Bank has launched the Stanbic Bank Youth Development Programme at the Stanbic Bank Gaborone Golf Club, positioning golf not as the end goal, but as a platform for building discipline, confidence and opportunity among young Batswana.

For Stanbic Bank Chief Executive Chose Modise, the programme is rooted in a bigger question about what happens when young people are not given space to realise their potential.

SEEDS OF POTENTIAL

"Imagine if all the seeds in this world could die before they release their potential," Modise said. "Imagine the impact. That would be a disaster."



He said Stanbic wants young people exposed to environments where they can discover their strengths and test their limits.

"We want to make sure that we give young people the opportunity to discover their strengths, discover their limits, how far they can push these," he said. "And again, it's not just about golf. Golf is the platform. The key thing is youth development."

Modise said Stanbic's involvement is tied to national development, describing the wellbeing of young people as central to Botswana's stability.

"As a bank, our future profitability is dependent on the well-being and stability of this country," he said. "So youth is part of that equation."

GOLF AS PLATFORM

The programme is being rolled out through the Stanbic Bank Gaborone Golf Club, with the bank and the club using sport to create a structured pathway for children and teenagers.

According to club president Thebe Malipiti, the programme will reach into schools and communities, with particular attention to underserved children, while remaining open to public and private school pupils.

"The program entails going out to schools, getting kids from walks of all lives, but particularly targeting the underserved community," Malipiti said. "We won't discriminate though. We will welcome participants from both public schools and private schools."

Malipiti said the club will work with teachers through a "train the trainer" approach so they can become ambassadors for golf in their schools and communities. The programme will include three sessions a week, with more than 30 children expected per day.

SAFE ACCESS

The arrangements are being designed around safety and accessibility, including school pickups and drop-offs, secure registration and child-friendly spaces where participants can sit after sessions or do homework.

For Malipiti, golf is well suited to youth development because of the values it teaches beyond the course.

"Golf builds character, it builds confidence, it builds integrity, it builds a sense of teamwork and it also brings out leaders in you," he said.

> "Golf is the platform. The key thing is youth development." - Chose Modise

Modise said the bank chose to start in Gaborone because the programme is new and needs to be tested, especially around transport and parental involvement. But he said the intention is to grow it beyond the capital.

BUILDING BEYOND GOLF

"Anything that is sustainable has to be inclusive," he said, adding that once the programme is established in Gaborone, Stanbic would consider expansion to clubs in Francistown, Jwaneng, Orapa and Lobatse.

Ultimately, Modise said, the programme is about shaping young people through sport.

"It's not just about golf," he said. "It's about youth development. This sport teaches you discipline, teaches you perseverance. So it's really to build a holistic human being from the young people."



> "Golf builds character, it builds confidence, it builds integrity, it builds a sense of teamwork." — Thebe Malipiti



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Standard Chartered Sale Process Continues

The bank says it will maintain operations and support staffas it moves toward the sale of its Botswana franchise

GAZETTE REPORTER

Standard Chartered Bank Botswana says it will continue operating with the same focus on clients, employees and stakeholders as it progresses toward the sale of its local franchise.

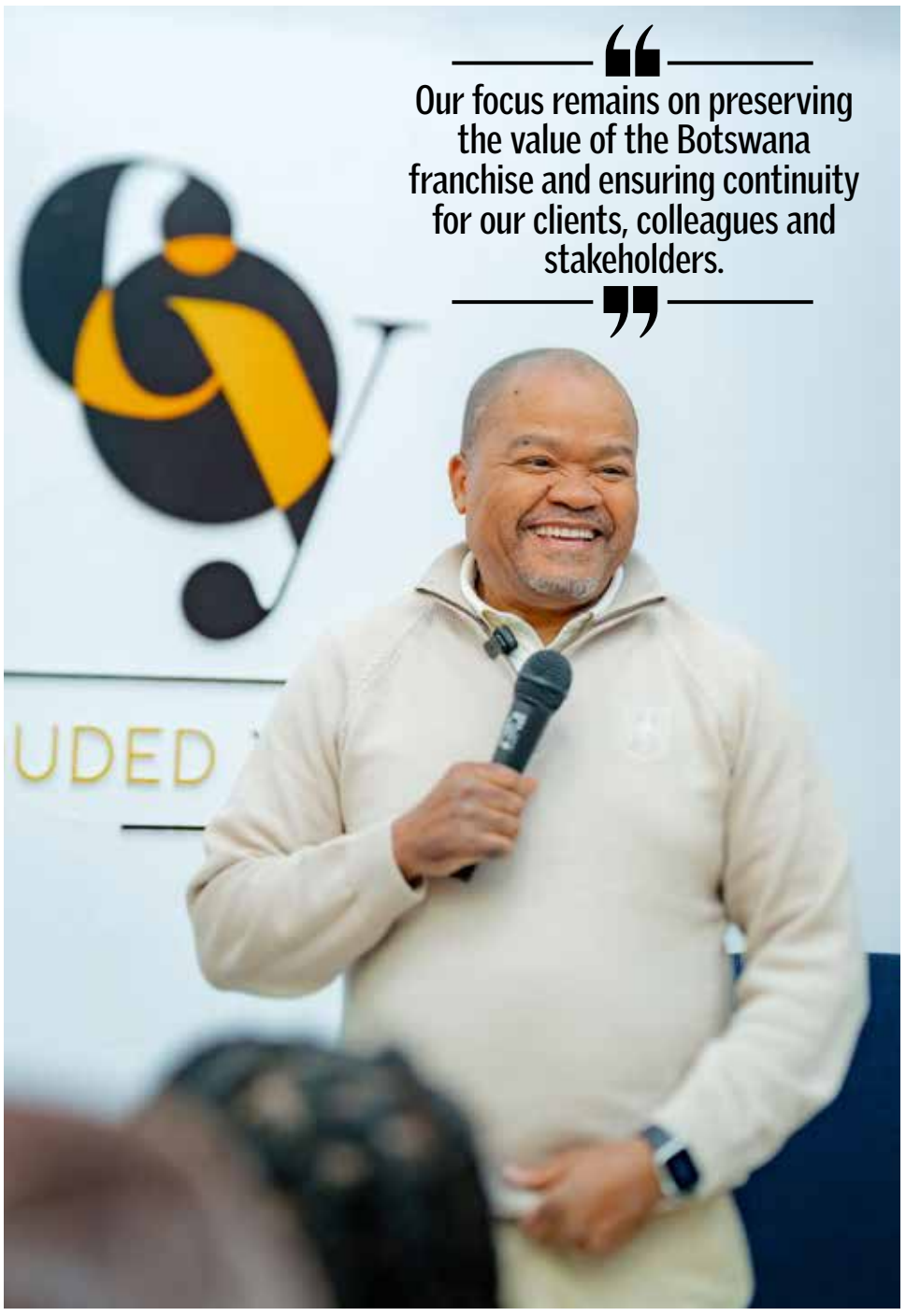
In its 2025 Integrated Report, Chief Executive Officer Mpho Masupe said the bank remains committed to preserving the value of its Botswana business while ensuring continuity throughout the transition process.

"Our focus remains on preserving the value of the Botswana franchise and ensuring continuity for our clients, colleagues and stakeholders," Masupe said.

The bank will continue to leverage its local presence and international network while maintaining what Masupe described as the discipline, integrity and client-centricity that define the institution.

SALE PROCESS

The planned sale follows a strategic review that began in November 2024, when the bank announced it was exploring the sale of its Wealth and Retail Banking segment.



In its 2025 Integrated Report, Chief Executive Officer Mpho Masupe said the bank remains committed to preserving the value of its Botswana business while ensuring continuity throughout the transition process.

After approximately a year of assessment, Standard Chartered PLC announced in January 2026 that it would move toward the sale of the entire Botswana franchise.

According to Masupe, the decision reflects the value of the Botswana operation, including its client relationships, brand strength and workforce.

"The Bank has demonstrated sustained performance, resilience and strategic relevance, making it a highly attractive proposition for prospective buyers," he said.

The bank said it would continue providing updates on the transaction through the Botswana Stock Exchange in line with regulatory requirements until the process is completed.

SUPPORTING STAFF

Masupe said employees had maintained stability for clients and stakeholders despite significant organisational change.

He said the bank was investing in upskilling and reskilling initiatives aimed at preparing employees for a smooth transition to a new owner.

The measures include capability development programmes, internal talent mobility initiatives, transparent communication and structured change management processes.

"Maintaining employee well-being and engagement remains a priority as we sustain performance throughout the transition," Masupe said.

FINANCIAL RESULTS

The bank's 2025 financial performance was affected by a volatile liquidity environment and worsening macroeconomic conditions, according to the report.

Masupe said those conditions placed pressure on margins and required a more cautious approach to new lending and asset growth in order to protect balance sheet strength and preserve asset quality.

The results also included a once-off impairment charge linked to an accounting adjustment reversing duplicated interest in suspense.

Masupe said the charge was non-recurring and did not indicate a deterioration in the bank's asset quality or credit fundamentals.

"Importantly, it does not reflect any deterioration in the Bank's underlying asset quality or credit fundamentals, which remain stable and well managed," he said.

Tati Solar Enters Construction Phase

The P1 billion project near Francistown is expected to create about 600 construction jobs as Botswana expands its renewable energy capacity

GAZETTE REPORTER

Shumba Energy Limited has announced that the Tati Solar Project has entered its construction phase, marking a significant step for one of Botswana's largest planned solar power developments.

In a recent statement, the company said that a full notice to proceed had been issued to the appointed contractor and that site mobilization was underway.

"Full notice to proceed has been issued to the appointed contractor and site mobilisation is under way," the company said.

Commercial operations are targeted for 2027.

PROJECT DETAILS

The Tati Solar Project is a 100-megawatt solar photovoltaic facility located near Francistown in Botswana's North-East District. The project occupies approximately 160 hectares and is expected to sell electricity into the regional Southern African Power Pool market once operational.

According to Shumba Energy, the project is owned through Tati Solar (Pty) Limited, which is held 51 percent by Etavi Renewables, the project's co-sponsor and developer, and 49 percent by its co-sponsor and equity partner.

Shumba Energy holds a 75 percent interest in Etavi Renewables through its wholly owned subsidiary, Asase Investments (Pty) Limited.

ECONOMIC IMPACT

The company said the project represents an investment of more than P1 billion and is expected to create approximately 600 jobs during the construction phase.

"Full notice to proceed has been issued to the appointed contractor and site mobilisation is under way."

In addition to temporary employment opportunities, the project is expected to support permanent positions once operations begin. Shumba said the development would place emphasis on local employment and skills development.

Located within a Special Economic Zone, the project is also expected to contribute to economic activity in the North-East District and support further investment in the region.

COMPANY STRATEGY

Shumba Energy said the start of construction advances its renewable energy strategy and supports efforts to expand electricity generation capacity in Botswana.

"The commencement of construction underscores the strength of this flagship partnership and advances Shumba's commitment to delivering competitive, clean energy that supports Botswana's energy security and contributes to the regional market," the company said.

Shumba Energy, which is listed on the Botswana Stock Exchange under the ticker SHUM-EQO, develops energy projects across Southern Africa, with activities spanning renewable energy, fuels, trading and mining.

Stanbic Holds Profit Steady

Bank reports resilient earnings despite tighter margins, rising funding costs and a challenging operating environment

GAZETTE REPORTER

Stanbic Bank Botswana maintained stable profitability in 2025 despite mounting pressure on margins and higher funding costs, according to the bank's Integrated Report 2025.

Chief Executive Officer Chose Modise said the bank closed the year with a profit after tax of P710 million, marginally above the previous year, reflecting what he described as deliberate management actions and strong execution in a difficult environment.

"Despite tighter margins and rising funding costs, the bank delivered a full-year performance, closing with a profit after tax of P710 million, marginally above the prior year," Modise said.

Total income increased by 3.2 percent year-on-year, although the composition of earnings shifted. Interest income benefited from portfolio reshaping and disciplined repricing, but higher fixed deposit costs pushed interest expenses sharply upward, resulting in lower net interest income.

Impairments increased compared with the previous year but remained within budget. The bank attributed this to proactive monitoring and customer-support initiatives, including Ledilame, which was designed to assist clients during a challenging economic period.

Non-interest revenue provided a significant boost to performance. Growth was supported by increased transactional activity, targeted segment-led campaigns and strong foreign exchange performance.

"This diversification reflects our deliberate strategic emphasis on building resilient revenue streams in a shifting operating environment," Modise said.



Chief Executive Officer Chose Modise said the bank closed the year with a profit after tax of P710 million, marginally above the previous year, reflecting what he described as deliberate management actions and strong execution in a difficult environment.

CLIENT STRATEGY

The bank said its strategy remained focused on clients, with emphasis on improving lending and deposit offerings, enhancing transactional value and strengthening service quality and speed.

According to the report, real-time feedback tools introduced across key customer touchpoints contributed to measurable improvements in customer satisfaction scores.

Within Enterprise Banking, Stanbic implemented a refreshed branch service model aimed at strengthening client engagement while continuing to encourage digital adoption.

The bank also expanded market engagement through several platforms, including Corporate and Investment Banking Connect sessions, the Budget Speech Economic Review and Analysis Webinar, and the inaugural Virtual Assets Conference held in partnership with NBFIRA. It also supported initiatives such as the Domestic Investor Roadshow and the Manufacturing Summit.

GROWTH AGENDA

Looking ahead, Modise said the bank launched its new 2026–2028 strategy, known as Kgolo, in December 2025.

The strategy is intended to deepen client relationships through digitally enabled and insight-driven solutions while strengthening capital and liquidity resilience through disciplined balance sheet management.

It also aims to expand digital and data capabilities, improve productivity and operational speed, and accelerate growth in sectors aligned with Botswana's economic transformation agenda.

"Our purpose – Botswana is our home, we drive her growth – remains the anchor of this strategy, guiding how we show up for our clients, our people, and our country," Modise said.

The bank said Kgolo reinforces its commitment to supporting Botswana's national transformation agenda and developing stronger trade and enterprise ecosystems for long-term shared value.

Botala Advances Serowe Gas Pilot

Company says key production well is ready for stimulation as it moves toward testing the commercial viability of its coal bed methane project in Botswana

GAZETTE REPORTER

Dual-listed energy company Botala Energy Ltd has completed a key stage of development at its Pitse Pilot project in Botswana, clearing the way for stimulation and extended production testing at its central production well, known as 3.5B.

The company said the well is now ready for stimulation after the completion of cementing, pressure testing and perforation of the production casing.

"The completion of the casing, cementing, integrity testing and perforation program represents an important milestone for our central production well 3.5B and the broader Pitse Pilot, which is the first step towards establishing production at our Serowe Coal Bed Methane (CBM) Project," Chief Executive Officer Kris Martinick said.

Testing Ahead

According to Botala, the production casing was run to total depth and cemented following wireline logging results reported earlier this month. A Cement Bond Log subsequently confirmed a strong bond between the casing, cement and surrounding formation across the Serowe seam.

The company said pressure testing confirmed the mechanical integrity of the well, allowing perforation of four stimulation intervals across the Serowe seam using a methodology previously applied at another pilot well.

Martinick said support wells surrounding 3.5B continue to dewater and manage reservoir pressure, with gas already observed at two of those wells.

"The upcoming stimulation and 90-day flow test will provide the most important assessment to date of the Serowe seam's ability to deliver sustained gas production and will help inform the next stage of the project's commercial development," he said.

COAL CHARACTERISTICS

> "The upcoming stimulation and 90-day flow test will provide the most important assessment to date of the Serowe seam's ability to deliver sustained gas production."

Botala said wireline logging confirmed the Serowe seam has a total thickness of 13 metres, including an 11-metre continuous clean coal section without internal breaks or weaker rock layers.

The company said gamma ray and density logs indicated a high-vitrinite, low-ash coal, while caliper data showed evidence of natural fracturing and a developed cleat network within the coal seam.

PROJECT PLANS

The Serowe CBM Project, located in central Botswana, is intended to supply natural gas for power generation, industrial use and liquefied natural gas exports within Southern Africa.

Botala owns 100 percent of the project through its subsidiary, Botala Gas (Pty) Ltd.

Project Pitse is the first of four planned development phases and is designed to demonstrate commercial CBM production ahead of a bankable feasibility study for a larger Serowe-to-Leupane gas development. The proposed development is initially targeting LNG production of 3.5 petajoules annually from approximately 108 wells.

Inflation Climbs to 10.7 Percent in May

Transport costs remained the biggest driver of rising consumer prices in May, while inflation increased across cities, urban villages and rural areas



> "Strong non-interest revenue performance, disciplined cost management, and prudent balance sheet strategies enabled us to deliver sustainable earnings and remain competitively positioned."

GAZETTE REPORTER

Botswana's annual inflation rate rose to 10.7 percent in May 2026, up from 10.3 percent in April, according to the latest Consumer Price Index report released by Statistics Botswana.

The increase marks a rise of 0.4 of a percentage point and reflects continued pressure on household costs across the country.

MAIN DRIVERS

Statistics Botswana said transport remained the largest contributor to annual inflation, accounting for 7.4 percentage points. Miscellaneous Goods & Services contributed 1.1 percentage points, while Food & Non-Alcoholic Beverages added 0.9 of a percentage point.

"The major contributors to the annual inflation rate in May 2026 were Transport group with the largest share of 7.4 percentage points, followed by Miscellaneous Goods & Services with a contribution of 1.1 percentage points, and Food & Non-Alcoholic Beverages contributing 0.9 of a percentage point," the agency said.

REGIONAL TRENDS

Inflation increased across all regions during the month.

In Cities & Towns, the inflation rate rose to 10.2 percent in May from 9.6 percent in April. Urban Villages recorded an increase from 10.1 percent to 10.5 percent, while Rural Villages saw inflation climb from 11.8 percent to 12.1 percent.

The national Consumer Price Index increased by 0.3 percent, rising from 150.9 in April to 151.3 in May.

Cities & Towns recorded an index of 150.2, up from 149.7, while Urban Villages increased from 150.9 to 151.3. Rural Villages rose from 153.1 to 153.6.

SECTOR GAINS

Most group indices recorded monthly changes of less than 1.0 percent. However, the Restaurants & Hotels group increased by 1.0 percent, with its index rising from 133.3 to 134.7.

Statistics Botswana attributed the increase to higher prices in restaurants, cafés and accommodation services.

The Miscellaneous Goods & Services index rose by 0.9 percent to 173.0, driven by increases in Financial Services, Taxes, Licences & Fees, Personal Care and Insurance.

The Health group index increased by 0.5 percent to 118.8, supported by higher costs for medical products and out-patient services.

TRADEABLES RISE

The All-Tradeables inflation rate increased to 15.3 percent in May from 15.0 percent in April. Imported Tradeables inflation rose to 18.1 percent, while Domestic Tradeables inflation increased to 7.6 percent.

Non-Tradeables inflation recorded the sharpest monthly rise, increasing from 3.1 percent to 3.9 percent.

Maele Calls for Skills Links

The Minister's visit to Botho University turned attention to graduate outcomes, curriculum relevance and the growing pressure to align higher education with labour market demands



The Minister of Higher Education, Prince Maele, has called for closer collaboration between tertiary institutions and industry to address skills shortages and unemployment following a visit to Botho University in Gaborone on 15 June 2026.

The visit formed part of a series of engagements with tertiary institutions aimed at assessing the effectiveness of government investment in higher education and skills development and included a briefing session with university leadership.

GRADUATE OUTCOMES

During the session, Botho University Vice-Chancellor, Dr Sheela Raja Ram, presented an overview of the institution's operations, student outcomes and partnerships.

According to the university, approximately 7,500 students are enrolled across its campuses and online platforms, representing 12 countries and studying programmes ranging from certificate to doctoral level.

University data from its latest graduate tracer study indicated that 98 per cent of surveyed graduates would recommend the institution, while 88 per cent of employed graduates reported that skills gained during their studies contributed to securing employment.

INDUSTRY PARTNERSHIPS

University officials said curriculum development is informed by industry participation and supported through work-integrated learning initiatives, including internships and dual-learning programmes.

The institution reported facilitating 107 virtual internships this year, connecting students with employers in more than 20 countries. University management said about 60 per cent of participants later secured employment opportunities.

Dr Raja Ram said higher education institutions face ongoing challenges in aligning curricula with rapidly changing industry needs.

GOVERNMENT PERSPECTIVE

Addressing staff and stakeholders, Maele said the ministry's engagement with institutions is intended to strengthen understanding between government and education providers while ensuring public investment delivers results.

"Higher education has a central role to play in tackling unemployment through skills development, entrepreneurship and stronger links with industry," he said.

Maele also encouraged institutions to involve employers in curriculum design to reduce skills mismatches in the labour market and noted that government sponsorship of students across public and private institutions makes outcome assessment necessary.

The visit included a campus tour, presentations by university leadership and discussions on technical and vocational education, graduate employability and higher education policy.

The Brand Is the Business: Why the Most Important Brand Decision Happens in the Boardroom, Not the Brief

Most organisations treat brand as a marketing function. The smartest ones recognise that every executive decision from pricing and hiring to service standards and partnerships either strengthens or weakens the brand. The real brand strategy is not written in a creative brief; it is revealed in the boardroom.



MANUEL VEIRUAPI RUHAPO

Ask most executives in Botswana what their brand is, and they will describe their logo, their tagline, or their advertising. Ask them what their business is, and they will describe their revenue model, their product portfolio, or their market position. They will answer as though these are two separate questions.

They are not. They are the same question. And the organisations that understand this are the ones building durable competitive advantage. The ones that do not are the ones spending money on marketing that cannot compensate for the brand damage being created in the boardroom.

The brand is not what the marketing department says about the business. The brand is what the business actually is. Every decision made at executive level, every product launched, every price set, every service standard upheld or abandoned, every crisis managed or mismanaged, every hire made, every value stated and then contradicted by behaviour, all of it is the brand. The marketing department can communicate it. It cannot create it.

WHAT BRAND REALLY MEANS

Brand is the accumulated impression that an organisation creates in the minds of the people it serves. It is built not through communication but through experience. Not through what the organisation says it is, but through what the organisation repeatedly proves itself to be.

This means that the CEO who approves a cost reduction that degrades service quality has made a brand decision. The CFO who rejects an investment in customer experience infrastructure has made a brand decision. The COO whose operational standards slip in ways that customers notice has made a brand decision. The HR director who hires people who do not embody the organisation's stated values has made a brand decision. None of these decisions appear in a marketing brief. All of them shape the brand more profoundly than any campaign the marketing department will ever produce.

The organisations that treat brand as a marketing function have made a structural error. They have assigned accountability for the brand to the people with the least power over it, and exempted accountability from the people with the most.

THE EXCO BRAND TEST

There is a simple test for whether brand understanding exists at executive level in any organisation. It is not whether the executives can recite the brand values. It is whether those values are present in the room when the decisions that matter are being made.

When the executive committee is evaluating a cost reduction proposal, is the question asked: what does this do to our brand? When a new product is being approved, is the question asked: does this reflect who we say we are? When a crisis communication strategy is being debated, is the question asked: what does this response say about our character? When a strategic partnership is being considered, is the question asked: does this partner's brand reinforce or dilute ours?

In most organisations in Botswana,

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these questions are not asked. Not because the executives are indifferent to the brand, but because they have not been equipped to understand that these are brand questions. They have been taught that brand is a marketing concern, and so they apply marketing thinking to marketing decisions and business thinking to business decisions, without recognising that every business decision is simultaneously a brand decision.

The consequence is a systematic gap between what the brand promises and what the business delivers. The marketing team builds a promise. The executive committee makes decisions that contradict it. The customer experiences the contradiction. The brand erodes.

AUTHENTICITY BEATS ADVERTISING

The most powerful brands in the world are not the ones with the most sophisticated marketing. They are the ones where the internal reality matches the external promise so precisely that the marketing is almost redundant. Apple does not need to tell you it values design. Every product proves it. Chick-fil-A does not need to tell you it values service. Every interaction demonstrates it. These brands are powerful not because of what they say but because of what they consistently are.

This is the Paradox of Brand Authenticity: the brands that invest the most in communication are often the ones with the widest gap between promise and reality. And the brands that invest the most in being genuinely what they claim to be often need the least communication, because the experience does the work that the advertising would otherwise have to do.

In Botswana's market, where the population is small, where word of mouth travels fast, and where personal experience is the primary driver of brand perception, this paradox is acute. A brand can run the most sophisticated campaign in the country and have it undone by a single consistent pattern of poor service, because in a market of 2.6 million people, that pattern becomes common knowledge faster than any campaign can counter it.

> Every business decision is simultaneously a brand decision, whether executives recognise it or not.

KEEPING BRAND IN EXCO

Remaining true to the brand in the executive committee does not mean that every business decision must be filtered through a brand lens at the expense of commercial logic. It means that brand is understood as a commercial variable, not a soft one. That the long-term cost of brand erosion is weighed against the short-term gain of the decision that causes it. That the executives who set the strategic direction of the organisation understand that they are simultaneously setting the strategic direction of the brand, whether they intend to or not.

> No marketing budget is large enough to close the gap between a brand promise and a business reality that has drifted apart.

It means that when the brand values are stated, they are tested against the decisions being made in the room. Not as a compliance exercise. As a genuine question: are we being what we say we are?

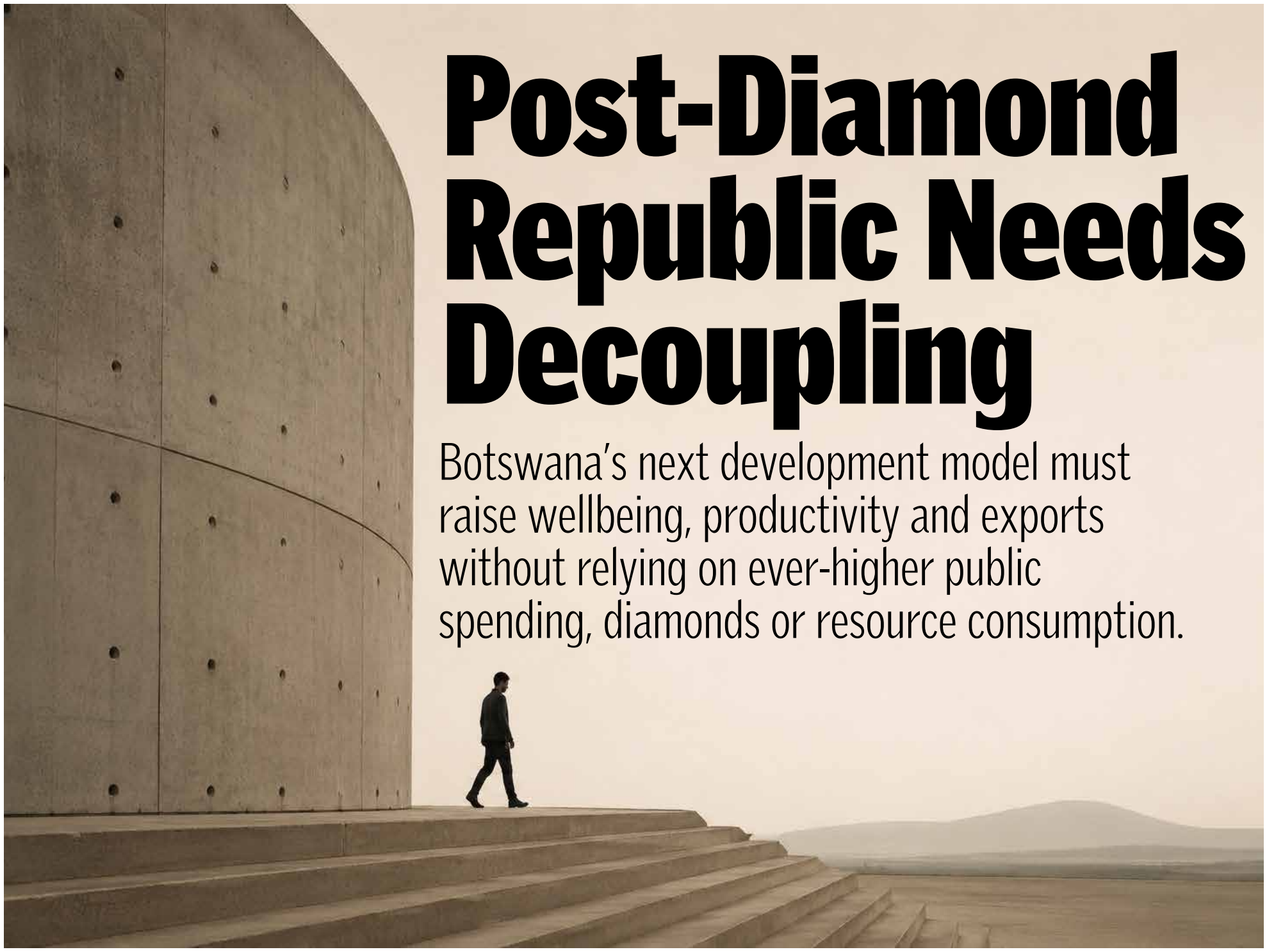
The organisations that can answer yes to that question consistently are the ones building brands that compound in value over time. The organisations that cannot are the ones discovering, usually too late, that no marketing budget is large enough to close the gap between a brand promise and a business reality that has drifted apart.

The brand is the business. That truth does not stop at the marketing department's door. It belongs in every room where decisions are made.





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



Post-Diamond Republic Needs Decoupling

Botswana's next development model must raise wellbeing, productivity and exports without relying on ever-higher public spending, diamonds or resource consumption.

DOUGLAS RASBASH

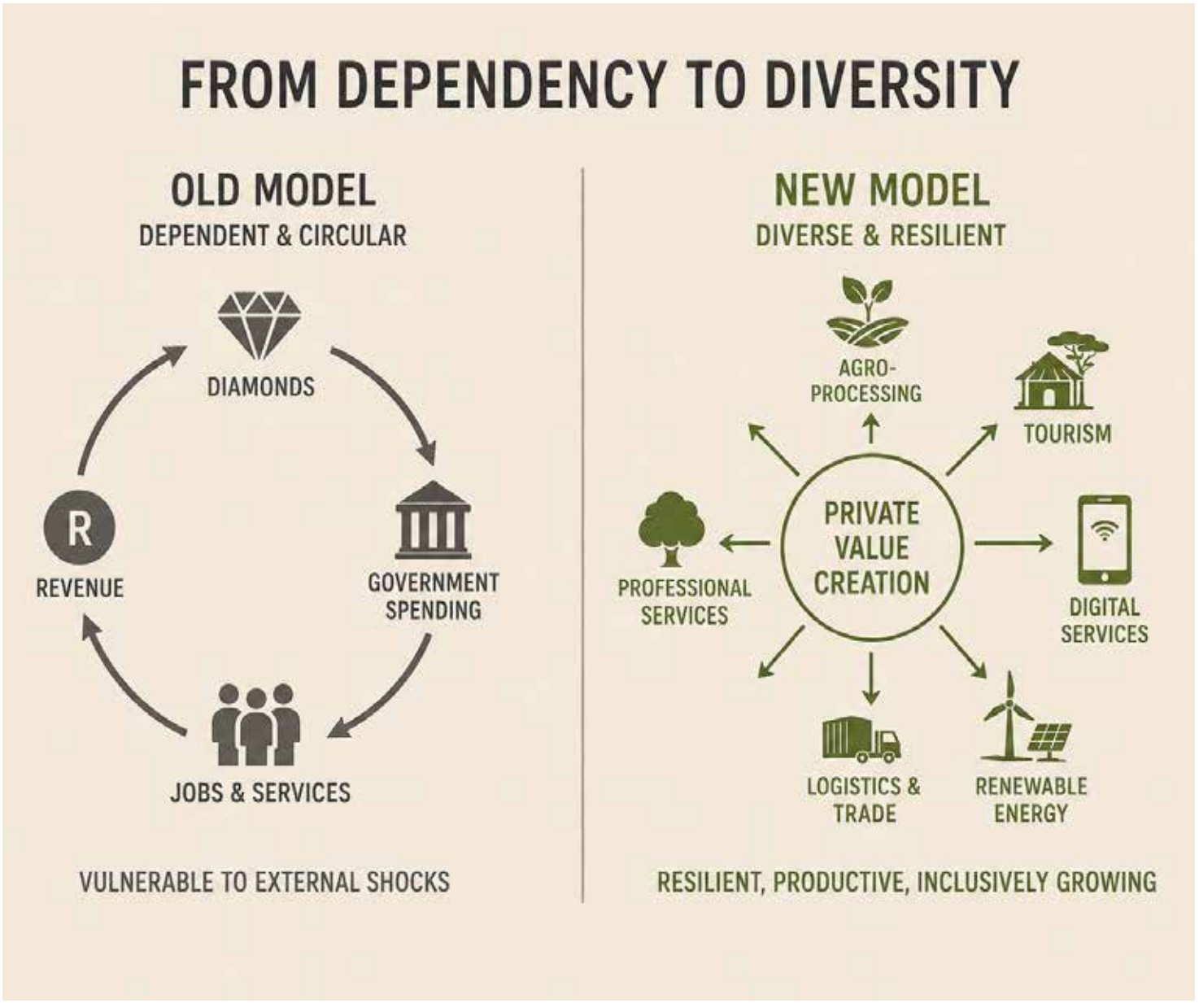
Botswana's old development model was simple: spend more, build more, import more, employ more through the state, and assume that wellbeing would follow. Diamonds made that model look successful. But the last decade has exposed its weakness. Growth has slowed, unemployment remains structurally high, poverty reduction has stalled, fiscal buffers have weakened, and diamond dependence has become a national vulnerability. The World Bank now warns that Botswana's growth and welfare gains have lost momentum, while the IMF describes the country as being at a critical juncture because weak diamond demand has intensified the need to diversify sources of growth.

The lesson is brutal but liberating: development is not the volume of money spent. Development is the value created per pula, per litre, per hectare, per kilowatt, per public servant, per kilometre of road, and per child educated.

That is decoupling. It is not austerity. It is intelligence. It is doing more with less, and doing better with what already exists.

WELLBEING BEYOND SPENDING

Botswana has treated wellbeing as if it rises automatically with government expenditure. It does not. More ministries, more schemes, more buildings, more conferences, more allowances and more procurement do not necessarily produce



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healthier families, safer women, employable youth or better schools.

The first decoupling is this: wellbeing must rise even when fiscal space is tight. That means targeting outcomes, not inputs. A clinic without medicines is not healthcare. A school without literacy is not education. A youth programme without jobs is not empowerment. A road without maintenance is not infrastructure.

> Development is not the volume of money spent. Development is the value created per pula.

Singapore is the clearest lesson. Its success was not built on endless natural resources, but on relentless productivity, housing efficiency, education quality, logistics discipline and state capability.

For Botswana, the Second Republic must ask of every pula: does it reduce unemployment, improve health, raise learning, increase exports, or reduce dependency? If not, it is not development spending. It is leakage.

BEYOND DIAMONDS

Botswana's economy remains dangerously coupled to diamonds and government spending. When diamonds fall, revenue falls. When revenue falls, government spending falls. When government spending falls, construction, services, suppliers and jobs suffer. That is not diversification. That is a circular dependency.

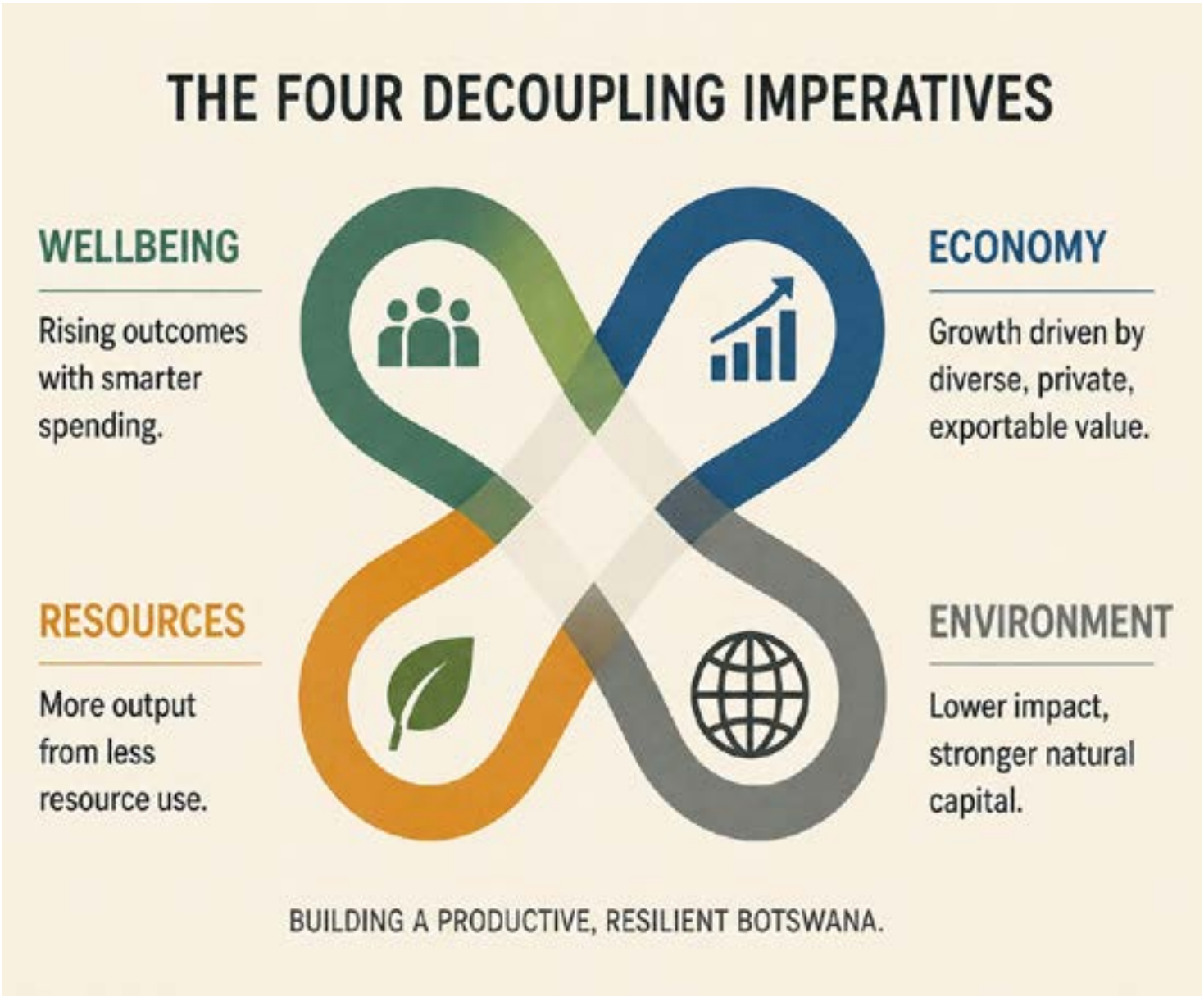
The IMF has noted that Botswana's economic contraction is linked to diamond weakness, while diversification is now central to fiscal and employment recovery.

The Second Republic must break this

> That is not diversification. That is a circular dependency.

chain. GDP must increasingly come from activities that are not merely downstream of the state budget: outsourced services, tourism value chains, agro-processing, beef branding, digital work, maintenance industries, renewable energy, logistics, regional trade, and professional exports.

Ireland did this by converting human capital into exportable services. Mauritius moved from sugar into textiles, tourism, financial services and ICT. The common lesson is not that Botswana should copy them mechanically. It is that a small country survives by becoming specialised, efficient and externally connected.



RESOURCE PRODUCTIVITY

The third curve is resource use. Botswana's inherited model assumes that higher GDP requires more fuel imports, more water extraction, more land consumption, more imported materials, more public vehicles, more buildings and more electricity demand.

That is obsolete. Relative decoupling means resource use grows more slowly than GDP; absolute decoupling means resource use falls while GDP still rises.

Botswana should make this a national productivity doctrine. Every sector should have a resource-productivity target: GDP per kilowatt-hour, jobs per hectare, output per litre of water, freight value per litre of diesel, patients treated per pula, learning gain per classroom, exports per square metre of industrial land.

Denmark grew while reducing energy intensity and emissions through efficiency, renewables and district energy systems. Japan built industrial competitiveness around lean production: less waste, less inventory, less energy, higher quality. Botswana's equivalent should be lean government, lean logistics, lean water, lean energy, lean land allocation.

NATURE AS INFRASTRUCTURE

The fourth curve is environmental impact. Botswana's natural capital is not peripheral. It is the basis of tourism, livestock, rural livelihoods, climate resilience and national identity. If growth consumes water, degrades rangelands, expands inefficient settlements and increases fuel dependence, it is not growth. It is deferred decline.

Botswana already has the Okavango, Chobe, Kalahari landscapes, premium beef potential and solar abundance. But it must now treat nature as infrastructure.

> Botswana does not need a smaller dream. It needs a smarter growth model.

Impact decoupling means that even where resources are used, the damage per unit falls. A litre of water should produce more food. A hectare should support more value. A tourist bed-night should generate more local income with less ecological pressure. A cattle industry should move toward traceability, rangeland restoration and premium branding.

The Second Republic should make one principle unavoidable: no project is strategic if it raises GDP today by destroying the resource base of tomorrow.

THE POLITICAL ARGUMENT

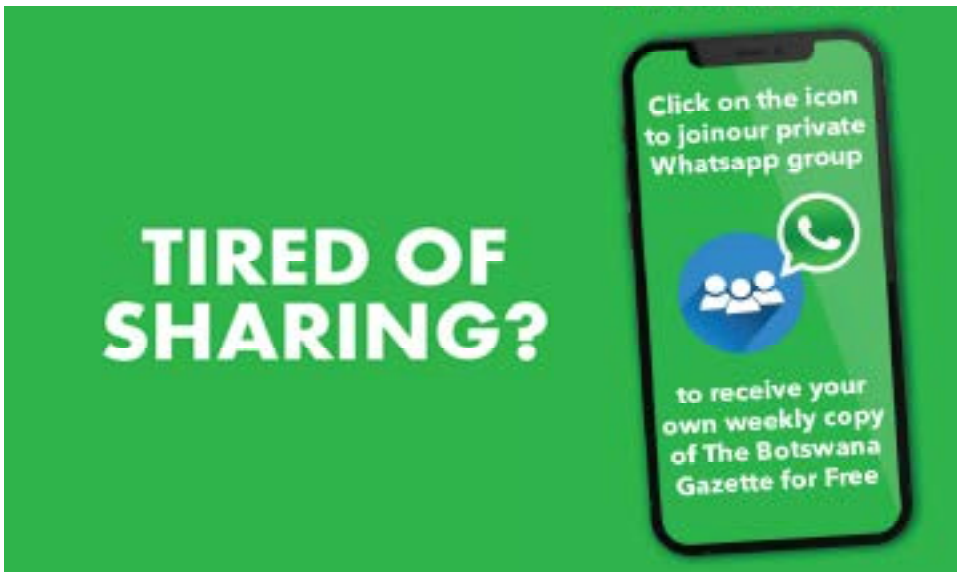
This is the message influencers must hear: Botswana does not need a smaller dream. It needs a smarter growth model.

The First Republic converted diamonds into roads, schools, clinics and stability. That was historic. But the next republic cannot be built by repeating yesterday's formula with weaker revenues and greater social stress. More spending without more productivity will deepen debt. More programmes without outcomes will deepen cynicism. More extraction without resilience will deepen vulnerability.

Decoupling is the new national discipline. It says: raise wellbeing faster than spending; raise GDP faster than resource use; reduce environmental damage while increasing prosperity; and turn every pula into measurable public value.

That is not anti-Keynesian for its own sake. It is post-diamond realism.

The Second Republic must be the republic of productivity, precision and proof.



Employee Experience Takes Centre Stage

As competition for skilled workers intensifies, employee experience is emerging as a business strategy rather than an HR function



MODIRI NLANDA ORANGE BOTSWANA HR DIRECTOR

By focusing on everyday workplace interactions, organisations are increasingly viewing employee experience as a factor shaping talent retention and performance.

For many organisations in Botswana and across Africa, competitive advantage has traditionally been linked to strategy, infrastructure and operational efficiency. However, employee experience is increasingly being discussed as another factor influencing long-term business performance.

Companies operating in more mobile and digitally connected labour markets are facing growing pressure to retain skilled employees. According to Orange Botswana HR Director Modiri Nlanda, employee experience has moved beyond human resources and into broader business strategy.

"Retaining and engaging talent is no longer just an HR priority; it is a business priority."

THE EMPLOYEE JOURNEY

Employee experience refers to the collection of everyday workplace interactions across an employee's journey within an organisation. These include onboarding, relationships with managers, communication systems, and performance processes.

> "Retaining and engaging talent is no longer just an HR priority; it is a business priority."

Nlanda said onboarding often shapes employees' first impressions of an organisation.

"A structured onboarding process with clear milestones, access to the right tools, and early engagement with teams can significantly influence how quickly an employee becomes productive and connected."

Internal communication was also identified as a factor affecting employee trust and alignment.

"Employees need clarity, consistency and transparency, especially during periods of change," Nlanda said.

BEYOND PERFORMANCE REVIEWS

Performance management, career growth opportunities and workplace conditions were highlighted as areas that influence employee engagement.

Employees are more likely to remain with organisations that provide clear goals, regular feedback, learning opportunities and visible career pathways.

Workplace culture and psychological safety were also identified as important considerations.

"Employees need to feel comfortable expressing ideas, raising concerns and contributing without fear of negative consequences," Nlanda said.

Practical measures highlighted included improving onboarding, strengthening leadership communication, creating fair performance systems and reducing friction in workplace processes.

Article edited for length

Botswana Wraps Up AviaDev Africa 2026

More than 600 delegates gathered in Gaborone as aviation leaders focused on routes, partnerships and Africa's air connectivity agenda



Botswana has concluded hosting AviaDev Africa 2026, an aviation and route development conference that brought together more than 600 regional and international delegates to discuss improving air connectivity across the **continent.**

Over three days in Gaborone, more than 1,500 pre-arranged meetings were held between airlines, airports, tourism authorities and aviation stakeholders.

CONNECTIVITY IN FOCUS

According to AviaDev Africa CEO Jon Howell, the meetings were aimed at creating opportunities for route expansion and collaboration.

"These discussions are expected to translate into new routes, strategic partnerships and increased investment in the continent's aviation sector in the months ahead," Howell said.

AviaDev also estimated that the event generated more than US$1.2 million for Botswana's economy through delegate spending and related activities.

The conference brought together investors, aviation operators and tourism representatives from across Africa and beyond to explore opportunities for stronger regional links.

BOTSWANA'S AVIATION AMBITIONS

Dr Bao Mosinyi, General Manager of Air Botswana and Chairperson of the Botswana Air Access Project, said aviation remains an important enabler of economic activity.

"Aviation has a unique ability to connect people, markets and opportunities," Mosinyi said.

Botswana Air Access spokesperson and Civil Aviation Authority of Botswana CEO Captain Thuto Toise said the organising team held discussions with more than 10 regional and international carriers regarding existing and potential air services to Botswana.

"The success of AviaDev Africa 2026 belongs to everyone who participated and contributed to it," Toise said.

Botswana's hosting programme concluded with a golf day sponsored by Botswana Oil and attended by more than 50 representatives.

Pull Quote: "These discussions are expected to translate into new routes, strategic partnerships and increased investment in the continent's aviation sector in the months ahead."

Article edited for length



DRC Seeks Stronger Botswana Ties

Ambassador Patrick Mutombo Kambila outlines plans to expand trade, investment, security and cultural cooperation between the Democratic Republic of Congo and Botswana





The Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) is seeking to strengthen political, economic and cultural ties with Botswana as part of broader efforts to enhance regional cooperation and economic integration in Southern Africa.

Speaking during a press breakfast meeting at the Embassy Garden of the Democratic Republic of Congo in Extension 9, Gaborone, on Monday, DRC Ambassador to Botswana and Permanent Representative to SADC, Patrick Mutombo Kambila, said the two countries share longstanding relations founded on friendship and cooperation.

ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES

Kambila said the DRC was working to broaden international perceptions of the country beyond the security challenges that have dominated attention in recent years. He highlighted opportunities in mining, agriculture, energy, tourism, infrastructure and technology, noting that the DRC's population of more than 100 million people represents a significant market within Africa.

The ambassador said the country possesses extensive agricultural land, vast rainforest resources and substantial deposits of minerals such as cobalt, copper, lithium and coltan, which are widely used in technologies associated with the global energy transition.

SECURITY CHALLENGES

Kambila said the government's economic agenda includes promoting local value addition, industrialisation and job creation rather than relying primarily on the export of raw materials.

He also addressed security concerns in eastern DRC, where armed groups, population displacement and the illegal exploitation of natural resources continue to affect parts of the country. He said the DRC remains engaged in regional and international initiatives aimed at finding negotiated solutions to ongoing conflicts and restoring stability in the Great Lakes region.

AREAS OF COOPERATION

The ambassador thanked Botswana for supporting regional peace efforts and for hosting Congolese refugees at DukwiRefugee Camp.

> The DRC has proposed a roadmap for cooperation with Botswana covering political dialogue, trade and investment, defence and security collaboration, as well as cultural and educational exchanges.

According to Kambila, the DRC has proposed a roadmap for cooperation with Botswana covering political dialogue, trade and investment, defence and security collaboration, as well as cultural and educational exchanges. He said the two countries could benefit from stronger business partnerships and increased people-to-people engagement through academic exchanges, scholarship programmes and cultural initiatives.

Kambila also noted plans for a Rumba Festival in 2027 as part of efforts to promote cultural links between the DRC, Botswana and the wider Southern African region.



The Botswana Gazette
TIME OUT
THE BOTSWANA GAZETTE
WEDNESDAY 17 JUNE 2026



"My parents always made sure they speak life into me... and made me fully believe in myself from a very young age,"

THE POWERHOUSE YOU DIDN'T SEE COMING

Kele Megano cooks. She creates. She DJs. She performs across continents. But behind the lights and loud sets is a girl with restless ambition and a refusal to shrink herself



GOSEGO MOTSUMI

Before the decks. Before the flights. Before the followers.

There was a girl nick-named Lenono. A tiny girl from Omaweneno with a loud personality, endless confidence and a home that made believing in herself feel normal.

"My parents always made sure they speak life into me… and made me fully believe in myself from a very young age," she told Time Out.

Today, that girl is Kele Megano — DJ, chef, digital creator and one of Botswana's most compelling exports quietly building a life across Johannesburg, Australia, Bali and Southern Africa.

Her story doesn't move in straight lines. It pulses.

THE GIRL WHO TURNED ENERGY INTO A CAREER

Kele says she never set out to become a brand.

"I just saw myself as a little girl who enjoyed taking pictures and showcasing her life to her community."

Then she realised people were watching. Then she realised she could build and she could leave.

Moving to South Africa wasn't glamorous. It was hunger. "I wanted more for myself."

And that hunger found another lane unexpectedly, in a car.

During a road trip with her partner of six years, she became the unofficial DJ. He suggested she try the real thing.

"The rest is history."

Now she commands rooms with deep house, Afro house, Afro tech, 3-Step and Gqom sets that turn dance floors into release.

Her favourite part? Knowing she's the reason people move. Calling herself a "Mood Doctor."



NOT HERE FOR VIBES

Kele speaks openly about barriers in a male-dominated space. Being underestimated. Having to repeatedly prove she has skill and isn't simply aesthetics. Rejecting unwanted advances disguised as opportunity.

And outside the spotlight, she pushes back against assumptions. One of the biggest misconceptions, she says, is that her energy means substance use.

She said: "There's nothing I despise like drugs."

Now she commands rooms with deep house, Afro house, Afro tech, 3-Step and Gqom sets that turn dance floors into release.

"I hope people look back and talk about how the hardworking powerhouse I was."

THE HANDS THAT BUILD EVERYTHING

When the music stops, she cooks. Food, she says, is her love language.

If her life had a flavour? Lamb stew and creamy samp.

She is a girl with global dreams. "The next mountain is just to release music, branch out of Africa and be recognised in my dream career destinations like Europe, America and others."



NO MEMBERSHIP, NO SPOTLIGHT

After a year's hiatus, the BOMU Awards returned with nominations, viral songs category and star power, but the loudest message wasn't just the nominations, it was also about who gets to belong

GOSEGO MOTSUMI

Awards launches are usually predictable affairs: camera flashes, nervous nominees and excitement.

After a one-year pause, this year's BOMU Awards returned under the theme Music Beyond and suddenly the conversation shifted from who made the hottest song to who gets to stand on the stage at all.

Nearly 2,000 submissions landed on the judges' table this year, a dramatic leap from 483 entries in 2024.

That number tells its own story.

Botswana's music scene isn't shrinking. It's exploding.

"While the judging process presented a few challenges, we are encouraged by the quality and diversity of the submissions. Amid the changing landscape of music, it is inspiring to see that our artists remain committed to their craft," said BOMU Awards Coordinator, Seabelo Modibe.

He further noted that one of the categories with the highest number of submissions was the Best Single category. The award ceremony is slated for 29 August 2026.

MORE THAN A TROPHY

There was excitement over returning names, fresh contenders and category battles. Vee Mampeezy returned to the BOMU nominations after several years away from the awards spotlight while Han C emerged as the season's front-runner with six nominations. Issa Sisdoh arrived as the breakout force. Even the late ATI received a posthumous nod, proving music often outlives the people who make it.

But then came the statement that highlighted new changes. BOMU President Papi Rakhudu made it clear that participation would no longer be open to everyone.

"We opened our arms to all musicians, we hoped you would join us willingly but leniency without commitment has weakened our collective power. No more," Rakhudu said.

Effective immediately, only members in good standing will be eligible as nominees, performers or winners.

"This a promise to protect the very artists who make BOMU proud. Membership means access to resources, legal support, fair representation, and a united front."

> Effective immediately, only members in good standing will be eligible as nominees, performers or winners.

THE MOST VIRAL SONG

Adding a fresh twist to this year's awards is the introduction of the Most Viral Song category, recognising songs that captured the public imagination and dominated conversations both online and offline.

Public voting will determine the winners in the Top six categories, including the newly introduced Most Viral Song category. Winners in all other categories will be determined by the adjudication panel.

Calling Botswana's Filmmakers

Botswana's filmmakers have been handed a rare invitation by the Alliance Française de Gaborone: tell a story, make it unforgettable, and let the world decide what happens next

GAZETTE REPORTER

Every filmmaker knows the feeling.

That dangerous little thought that arrives after exporting a film at 2AM: What if people actually saw this? Now Botswana's storytellers have been given something increasingly rare in creative industries, a doorway.

The next edition of the European Film Festival is opening its screens to local short films and impossible dreams feel a little less impossible.

Three Botswana films will make the final cut and will be screened in September 2026.

SHORT FILMS, BIG QUESTIONS

This isn't a call for polished perfection. It's a search for stories that leave fingerprints.

The themes read less like instructions and more like provocations: Family as a space of conflict and reconciliation, coming-of-age and youth in transition, personal stories reflecting political or social realities, art as a form of resistance, redemption, or transformation, ambitious and philosophical approaches to animation, rural–urban transitions and questions of belonging, evolving masculinities and identity

and tradition in dialogue with modernity.

In other words, the kind of stories Botswana quietly carries every day.

All genres are welcome. Previously released films are welcome too but films previously selected or screened at the European Film Festival are not eligible.



> Three Botswana films will make the final cut and will be screened in September 2026.

THE SIX-MINUTE CHALLENGE

Two lanes are open: very short films under six minutes and short films running between six and twenty. Selected films will be announced in July 2026 and applicants must hold the screening rights for the submitted film.

Applications close on 20 June 2026. By applying, filmmakers authorize the Alliance Française de Gaborone and the European Film Festival Botswana to screen the selected films during the next edition of the festival.



SEREETSI: BORN LOCAL, PLAYING GLOBAL

From the poetry of Setswana storytelling to the pulse of live folk-jazz, Sereetsi & The Natives are not crossing borders to fit in, they are arriving to remind the continent what home sounds like

GOSEGO MOTSUMI

Botswana has never struggled for stories. Sometimes, it has simply needed a louder stage.

This December, that stage becomes Casalinga Farm in Johannesburg, where Sereetsi & The Natives will carry the pulse of Gaborone into the heart of South Africa's boutique jazz circuit at UmanyanoLweJazz Festival under a fitting theme: Rooted.

And perhaps no act embodies that word quite like them.

Fronted by composer, guitarist, storyteller and cultural activist Tomeletso Sereetsi, the band has spent years doing something quietly radical, refusing to dilute heritage in order to travel. Their four-string folk guitar does not chase trends. It remembers.

After building momentum across Africa and Europe and returning from major stages including Windhoek Jazz Festival, the band now arrives at another milestone with the confidence of artists who know exactly who they are.

NOT EXPORTING, EXTENDING

For Sereetsi, this invitation is bigger than performance.

He told Time Out: "This is a big proud moment for Sereetsi & The Natives. We are happy that it shows our growth in the international festival scene, especially that which celebrates rooted live music."

The statement lands differently because it does not sound like conquest. It sounds like confirmation.

That audiences across borders continue connecting with their work suggests something deeper: authenticity still travels.

"The booking confirms that the Sereetsi & The Natives sound speaks to natives across borders."

THE MUSICAL SAFARI

Preparation for the festival is not about polishing a formula.

Sereetsi says the band is constantly refining stage presentation, reworking arrangements and writing new material to create unforgettable cultural experiences.

Their promise? Fearless fusion.

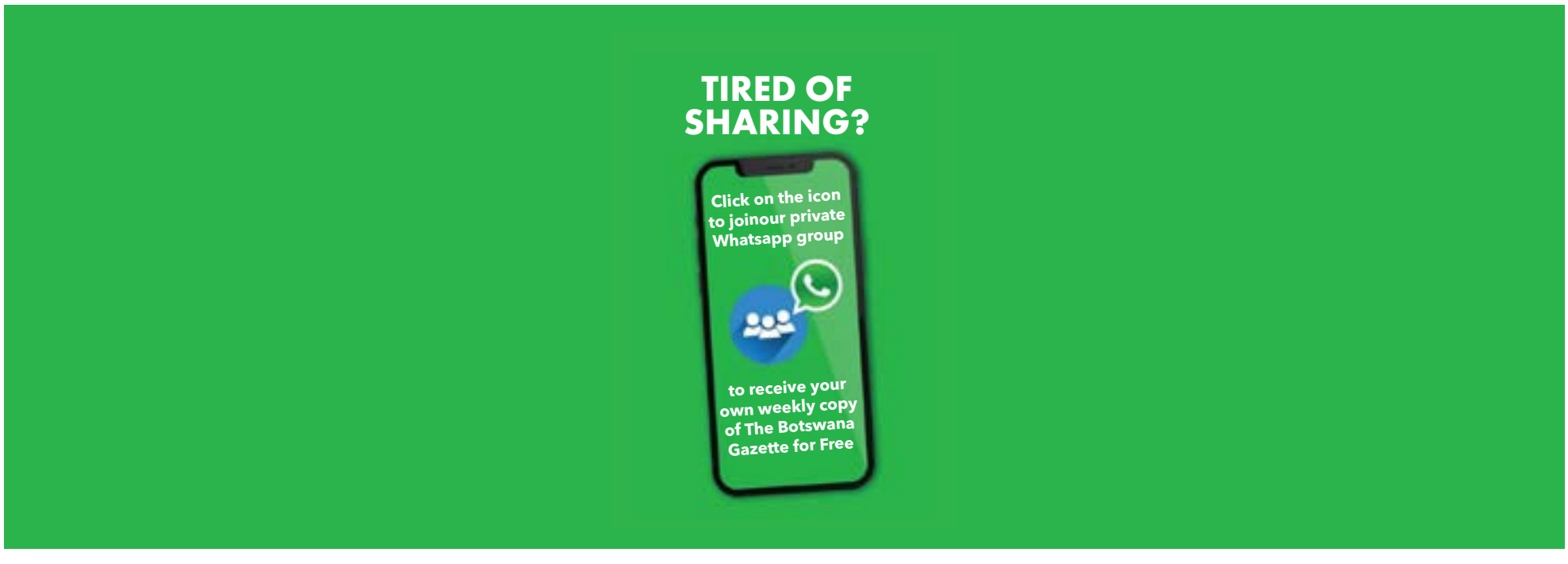
Tswana folk collides with jazz, blues and oral tradition, not as nostalgia, but as movement.

"The booking confirms that the Sereetsi & The Natives sound speaks to natives across borders."

"Our sound celebrates the unique rhythms of Batswana as well as the beauty of the Setswana language. We will certainly take them on a musical safari that they will never ever forget."

And maybe that is the real power of being rooted.

You do not stay still. You grow.



Why Nkele Walked 500km

Most people celebrate turning 50 with cake and candles. Neo Roberta Nkele chose swollen feet, long roads and 500 kilometres of conversation, all to make Botswana look differently at Down syndrome

GOSEGO MOTSUMI

There are birthdays, and then there are statements.

When Neo Roberta Nkele turned 50, she did not throw a lavish party or disappear on holiday. Instead, she laced up her walking shoes and stepped onto the A1 highway for an 18-day journey from Francistown to Gaborone, one kilometre at a time, carrying a message larger than the distance itself.

The campaign, Strides of 50: Walking for Every Extra Chromosome, was never just about endurance. It was about visibility.

Joined by her husband and co-walker Bokang Nkele, Neo transformed movement into protest, celebration and public education, all aimed at challenging how Botswana sees and supports people living with Down syndrome.



EVERY STEP HAD A FACE

Along the road, something unexpected happened.

Families emerged.

"Having families come out in the open to say 'I am here and have a child with a disability, please help me' is what made me feel every step and every sacrifice was worth it. Beyond that having other community members raising their hands to say 'how do we help'?"

Those roadside conversations became proof that silence still surrounds disability, but also that people are willing to learn.

Neo says one myth keeps appearing.

"The most common misconception is that Down Syndrome is an illness. It is not an illness but a disability."

THE WALK THAT ASKED BIGGER QUESTIONS

The journey itself started much earlier.

In 2024, Neo's daughter Bone Storom-Nkele launched The Gurlll Empowerment in honour of her friend Tigele Nhlatho who lives with DS, creating youth-led advocacy around inclusion and destigmatising Down syndrome.

For Neo, turning 50 became an opportunity to continue that work.

"For my 50th birthday I wanted to impact and inspire change hence the decison to continue the work of The Gurlll in partnership with the Down Syndrome Association of Botswana and the name Strides of 50," Neo told Time Out.



But awareness alone is not enough.

She wants policymakers to rethink education pathways and create vocational spaces that prepare young people with Down syndrome for independent futures and meaningful work.

She said: "My wish is that after the swollen feet return to normal we don't stop, but keep the conversations going."

"Raising a child with a disability is not easy as it is but made harder by us in society because we ostracize them. You are not alone and we will keep preaching and fighting for inclusion until it is part of our DNA."

The walk ended in Gaborone. The conversation, she hopes, has only just begun.

Vision Is the New Flex

A new self-help release is asking a provocative question: what if success is less about luck and more about what you choose to see before the world sees it too?

GAZETTE REPORTER

There are books you underline. Then there are books that quietly accuse you.

Have you written your goals down? Do you know where you're going? Or are you just moving?

That tension sits at the centre of Get Your Vision Right, a newly published book by first-time author Colleen Lebanna, a compact but ambitious 52-page guide that treats dreams less like wishes and more like architecture.

The book arrives with a simple proposition: intentional living should not be reserved for boardrooms, strategy retreats and high-performing teams.

For Lebanna, the inspiration came from years of teaching and applying visualisation concepts through images and noticing something missing.



"People seemed to live by chance not with intention," Lebanna said.

THE AGE OF INTENTIONAL LIVING

Vision boards have become internet wallpaper in recent years, aesthetic collages of destinations, houses and ideal selves. But Lebanna argues the exercise should go deeper than decoration.

"During my experience teaching and applying concepts of the power of visualization through images, I came to realise that there is a knowledge gap and lack of personal development awareness and information," she said.

Her answer was to write a practical roadmap that encourages readers to create personal life trackers, define goals and become active participants in shaping their futures.

The underlying message is less motivational poster and more mirror: attention creates direction.

DREAMS NEED SYSTEMS

Outside authorship, Lebanna is known professionally as Director at Gracephysio Clinic and for working with top local athletes as an elite physiotherapist, environments where discipline and measurable progress are part of the culture.

"People seemed to live by chance not with intention."

"I want people reading this book to ultimately use their suited vision boards to track their goals and stay motivated," she said.

Whether readers arrive at the book in January with fresh resolutions or halfway through the year looking for a reset, Get Your Vision Right makes one argument impossible to ignore: Before life becomes visible, it usually becomes imaginable.

The book is officially due to be launched on the 11th July 2026 at The Conservatory in

Phakalane. Copies of the book will be available at the launch. Toget tickets or to preorder the book, contact +267 75 459 51.



THE BEST WINE PAIRING NOBODY TALKS ABOUT

Wine's most powerful pairing is not with food but with memory — the people, rooms, laughter, heartbreak and ordinary moments that turn a bottle into part of a life.



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.

Last week, we spent some time on the delicious chaos of tasting itself — why the same wine can pull strawberries from one person, grapefruit from another, and "wet stone" from the gentleman who looks like he has already written the conclusion. This week, we move one step further down the road. Because once we accept that wine is not an exam, the next great truth is this: the wines we remember are rarely the ones with the biggest score. They are the ones that attached themselves to a moment in our lives.

Wine people love a good pairing conversation. We can go on for ages about acidity, tannin, sweetness, whether that bottle needed so much oak. We will behave like food scientists with opinions.

THE MISSING PAIRING

But there is one pairing nobody talks about enough, and it is arguably the most powerful one of all: memory.

Because when people remember a wine, they are rarely remembering the technical score. They are not sitting at home years later thinking, "Ah yes, that was a well-balanced 95-pointer with integrated oak and a medium-length finish." Nobody has ever raised a glass at a reunion and said that with a straight face. What people remember is the moment. The promotion. The wedding. The holiday. The difficult year. The old friend. The table. The room. The laugh that happened just after the second bottle, when everyone started telling the truth.



> "The wines we remember are rarely the ones with the biggest score."



That is the real magic of wine. It does not just sit in the glass. It attaches itself to a life.

A LIFE IN THE GLASS

I learned this early, before I had the language for it. Some of the wines I remember most fondly are not the most expensive, the rarest, or the most technically perfect. They are the wines that arrived at the right emotional address. A bottle opened after good news will always taste a little better than it should. The same wine opened in the middle of heartbreak may become a bit of a consolation prize and sometimes a tiny bit of therapy. Wine does not fix life, but it is often a very agreeable witness.

There is also something beautifully human about how memory and wine work together. You can smell a wine years later and be transported instantly. Not just to the vineyard, but to the moment itself. The place, the weather, the people, the conversation. Wine has this inconvenient habit of storing emotion alongside flavour. It is one of its most charming qualities and one of its most annoying ones.

WINE PAIRED WITH TIME

We tend to think of pairing as something that happens on the plate, but memory proves that wine also pairs with time. A bottle at a wedding does not just taste like wine. It tastes like the speeches, the dancing, the uncle who took over the microphone, the cousin who insisted on one more photo, and the small miracle of a room full of people pretending they are not emotional while secretly being deeply emotional. That bottle is no longer just a bottle. It is an archive.

> "Wine does not fix life, but it is often a very agreeable witness."

The same is true for the quieter moments, which are often the ones that stay with us longest. The bottle shared with an old friend after too much time apart. The glass poured on a balcony after a brutal week. The red opened on a rainy night when nobody felt particularly glamorous, but everyone needed something to soften the edges. Those wines are rarely the ones people post first. But they become part of the story, and stories are where wine really lives.

THE BOTTLES WE REMEMBER

This is why I have a soft spot for wines that are linked to people and places, not just to tasting notes. A great bottle can impress you. A great moment can imprint itself on you. And if the two happen at the same time, then congratulations, you have just created one of those bottles you will talk about for years.

We all do this. "That bottle from that dinner," we say, as though that description is enough to identify a wine, a year, a region, and possibly the exact emotional state we were in at the time. And often it is enough, because wine people are not always chasing precision. Sometimes we are chasing recall. We are trying to remember who we were when we drank it.

> "People rarely remember the best wine they ever drank. They remember the moment they drank it."

That is why people often talk more lovingly about a bottle they shared than a bottle they studied. A perfect wine on a difficult day can become a lifelong favourite. A simple wine in a joyful moment can become untouchable. The reverse is also true. A serious, beautifully made wine can be almost forgotten if the evening around it was awkward, distracted, or just a bit too full of small talk and bad lighting.

MEMORY MATTERS MOST

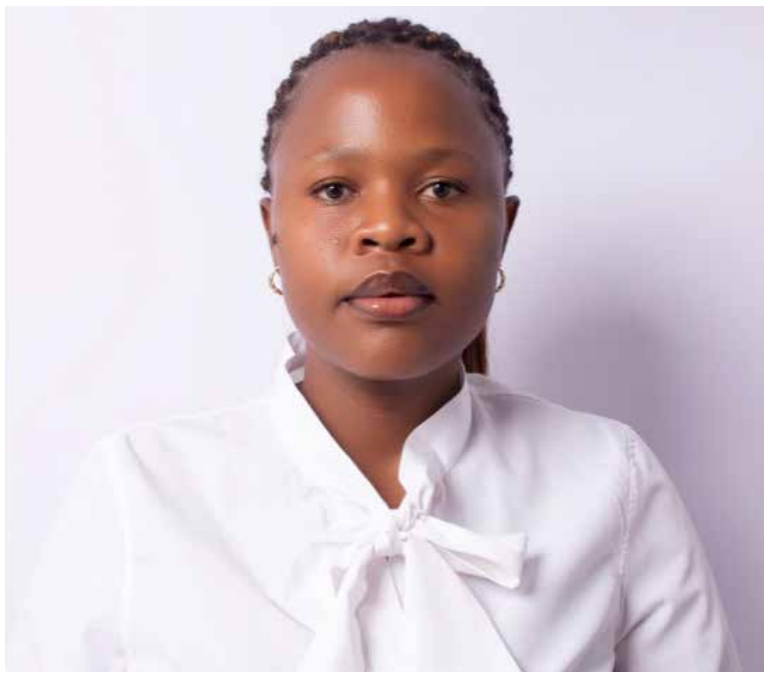
So yes, let us keep talking about food and wine. Let us keep getting clever about pairings. Let us keep arguing about whether a certain red can handle a braai or whether a sparkling wine is good with fries or just because it is Wednesday and the world feels like it needs a little fizz.

But let us also remember this: the greatest wine pairing is often not food at all. It is memory.

People rarely remember the best wine they ever drank. They remember the moment they drank it.

And that, for me, is the pair that matters most.

Common Mistakes in Data Protection



Rebaone F. Ditlale

Many organizations still make common mistakes that expose them to regulatory risk, reputational damage and potential data breaches. Often, these mistakes are not the result of deliberate non-compliance, but rather weak internal controls, limited awareness etc. In this article, we will go over some of the frequent mistakes that organisations make; keep reading.

DATA MINIMISATION

One of the most common mistakes organizations make is collecting more personal data than they actually need. In the rush to gather customer, employee or client data, some organizations request excessive details without considering whether

every piece of information is necessary for the purpose for which it is collected. This creates unnecessary risk. The more personal data an organization holds, the greater its responsibility to secure it and the greater the exposure if something goes wrong.

TREATING COMPLIANCE AS A ONE- TIME EXERCISE

Data protection cannot be treated as a one-time compliance exercise, but rather an ongoing governance responsibility. Some organizations draft policies to satisfy legal requirements but fail to enforce them. A Data Protection Policy sitting in a folder does little to protect data if employees are not trained, procedures are not followed and controls are not monitored. Compliance must move beyond paperwork into day-to-day practice.

WEAK ACCESS CONTROLS

Too many employees may have access to sensitive personal data, often without clear business justification. Shared passwords, weak authentication controls and

unrestricted access to records can increase the likelihood of unauthorized disclosure, misuse or insider-related breaches. Access to personal data should always be limited to those who need it to perform their duties.

HUMAN ERROR

Misdirected emails, unsecured documents, careless handling of records and falling victim to phishing scams remain common causes of data breaches. Technology alone cannot solve this problem. Staff awareness and regular training are essential components of any effective data protection framework.

POOR DATA RETENTION PRACTICES

Some organizations keep records indefinitely simply because there is no retention policy in place. Yet retaining personal data longer than necessary can itself be a

compliance concern and increases exposure to Data Protection Act breaches.

Organizations should have clear retention and disposal procedures aligned with legal and operational requirements.

Embedding Data protection into governance

Avoiding the above mistakes requires organizations to view data protection as part of broader risk management and corporate governance. It starts with understanding what personal data is, why it is processed, who has access to it and how it is

secured. It also requires leadership commitment, practical policies, employee awareness and periodic reviews of existing controls.

OUR SERVICES

The Data Protection Act (DP Act) mandates every organization to put strict

safeguards regarding personal data and in that regard, we can assist with crafting Data Protection Policies in line with the said Act. Some organizations such as

schools, hospitals, regulatory bodies etc, are required to have full-time Data

Protection Officers (DPO). If you cannot afford a full-time DPO, we can act as your organization's DPO on contract basis. If you need training for your staff on the provisions of the Data Protection Act and other business courses such as Leadership & Supervisory Skills, Customer Care, Team Building as well as secondments of Tax,

HR and DPOs, contact us at: +267 76 213 233 or +267 393 9435 or

skills@aupracontax.co.bw. This article is general, and written advice or training is recommended if decisions are to be made. If you require to join our free WhatsApp groups or to know more about our services, please send us a text/ WhatsApp on the numbers above.

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SKILLS & ACADEMY
Skills brokerage - Upskilling - Business Training

H/W NKAU
IN THE MAGISTRATE COURT OF THE REPUBLIC OF BOTSWANA
HELD AT VILLAGE IN GABORONE

Case No. CCMVL-002041-25

KITSOYAONE M LEKANG	**Plaintiff**
t/a LEKANG MOTLOTLEGI LEGAL CONSULTANY	
And	
KELEDIRETSE TIDIMALO	**1st Defendant**
EDWIN LETOTA	**2nd Defendant**
ITUMELENG BOREKILWE	**3rd Defendant**
MODIRI ARON	**4th Defendant**
BALEBAMANG NABANI	**5th Defendant**
MMOLOKI LEBAKENG	**6th Defendant**

SUBSTITUTED SERVICE

1. The Plaintiff is **KITSOYAONE M LEKANG T/A LEKANG MOTLOTLEGI LEGAL CONSULTANY**, an adult male of full legal capacity, whose address for the purposes of this suit **is c/o LEKANG MOTLOTLEGI LEGAL CONSULTANCY**, Fairgrounds Mall, Office F7, P. O. Box 501427 Railpark, Gaborone.
2. **KELEDIRETSE TIDIMALO**, (1st Defendant herein), an adult male, whose last known address is Palapye whose further and better particulars and details are unknown to then Plaintiff
3. **EDWIN LETOTA** (2nd Defendant herein) an adult male, whose last known residence is Palapye whose further and better particulars and details are unknown to then Plaintiff.
4. ITUMELENG BOREKILWE (3rd Defendant herein) an adult male, whose last known residence is Palapye whose further and better particulars and details are unknown to then Plaintiff.
5. **MODIRI ARON** (4th Defendant herein) an adult male, whose last known residence is Palaype whose further and better particulars are unknown to me.
6. **BALEBAMANG NABANI** (5th Defendant herein) an adult male, whose last known residence is Palapye whose further and better particulars and details are unknown to then Plaintiff.
7. **MMOLOKI LEBAKENG** (6th Defendant herein) an adult male, whose last known residence is Palapye whose further and better particulars and details are unknown to then Plaintiff.

YOU ARE INFORMED that you should:

I. Within **seven (7) Days** of the publication of this summons you enter an Appearance to Defend. An appearance is entered by properly completing and delivering a Memorandum of Appearance to the Registrar and to the Plaintiff. Delivering to the Plaintiff may be effected by sending by registered post to the Plaintiff, if the Plaintiff sues in person, but otherwise to the Plaintiff's attorneys' address for service, a copy of the memorandum of appearance on the day it is delivered to the Registrar.
II. The memorandum of appearance shall state an address within the jurisdiction at or to which documents for you may be delivered or sent;
III. The Memorandum of appearance shall specify concisely the nature and the grounds of the defence and relief or remedy required;
IV. Thereafter, and

FURTHER if you fail to enter appearance as aforesaid, judgment as claimed may be given against you without further notice to you.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff prays for judgment against the Defendant for:
a. **Payment of the sum of BWP 9 600.00 (nine thousand six hundred pula)**;
b. Interest at the rate of 10% a tempore morae;
c. Costs of suit

DATED AT GABORONE THIS 16TH DAY OF JUNE 2026

LEKANG MOTLOTLEGI LEGAL CONSULTANCY
Plaintiff's Attorneys
Fairgrounds Mall Unit F7
P.O. Box 501427 Railpark Mall
GABORONE

TO: THE CLERK OF COURT
Gaborone Magistrate Court

Get training on the new 2025 VAT Amendment Act



Jonathan Hore, Managing Tax Consultant



Gavin Mashiri, Senior Tax Consultant



Phenyo Nkele, Tax Consultant

The Ministry of Finance gazetted the Value Added Tax Amendment Bill 2025 on 8 August 2025 and the said Amendment Bill was then passed by Parliament in the week ending on 16 August 2025. The said Bill was then enacted as the Value Added Tax Amendment Act Number 16 of 2025 on 17 October 2025. In this article, we seek to examine the major details of the Amendment Act, at a high level. We highly recommend that organisations obtain bespoke internal training on this new law which, as stated above, was assented to on 17 October 2025. The law commenced as from 1 June 2026 and affected taxpayers must therefore comply with the said law.

REVERSE VAT ON VAT REGISTRANTS

The Amendment Act introduces a reverse VAT mechanism, requiring every VAT registrant to account for output VAT on services imported from outside the country. In practice, nearly all businesses import services with common examples including Microsoft 365 licenses, consultancy or management services, trademark royalties, and similar cross-border transactions. Under the proposed framework, VAT registrants will be obligated to charge output VAT on such imported services and adhere with other compliance matters. This results in notional sales which mustn't affect profits or revenue. Input tax may be claimed in certain circumstances.

Reverse VAT on non-VAT registrants

Notably, even suppliers who are ordinarily exempt from VAT such as educational institutions, medical facilities, churches and NGOs (among many others) will be required to pay VAT when they procure services from non-residents as long as their annual income exceeds P1m.The same will apply to government ministries, independent government bodies, city or rural councils, landboards and other parastatals that are currently not registered for VAT. Such entities will also be required to first register for Reverse VAT, followed by regular VAT returns filings. Mixed suppliers, such as banks will continue to account for VAT on imported services as currently practiced, albeit under the framework of Reverse VAT.

ELECTRONIC FISCAL DEVICES

The Ministry of Finance, through various public addresses, highlighted loopholes in the VAT collection system, particularly the under-declaration of output VAT by some traders. In response, the Ministry seeks to close such tax gaps through the new legislation. The Amendment Act introduces a requirement for every VAT-registered person to procure VAT Billing machines that will interface directly with the BURS system. Once acquired, all invoicing must be conducted through these machines. As invoices are generated, the system will automatically transmit the data to BURS, thereby eliminating the manipulation of sales figures and output VAT. This still awaits VAT regulations which will make the practical application matters plain and clearer.

VAT ON TECH-GIANTS

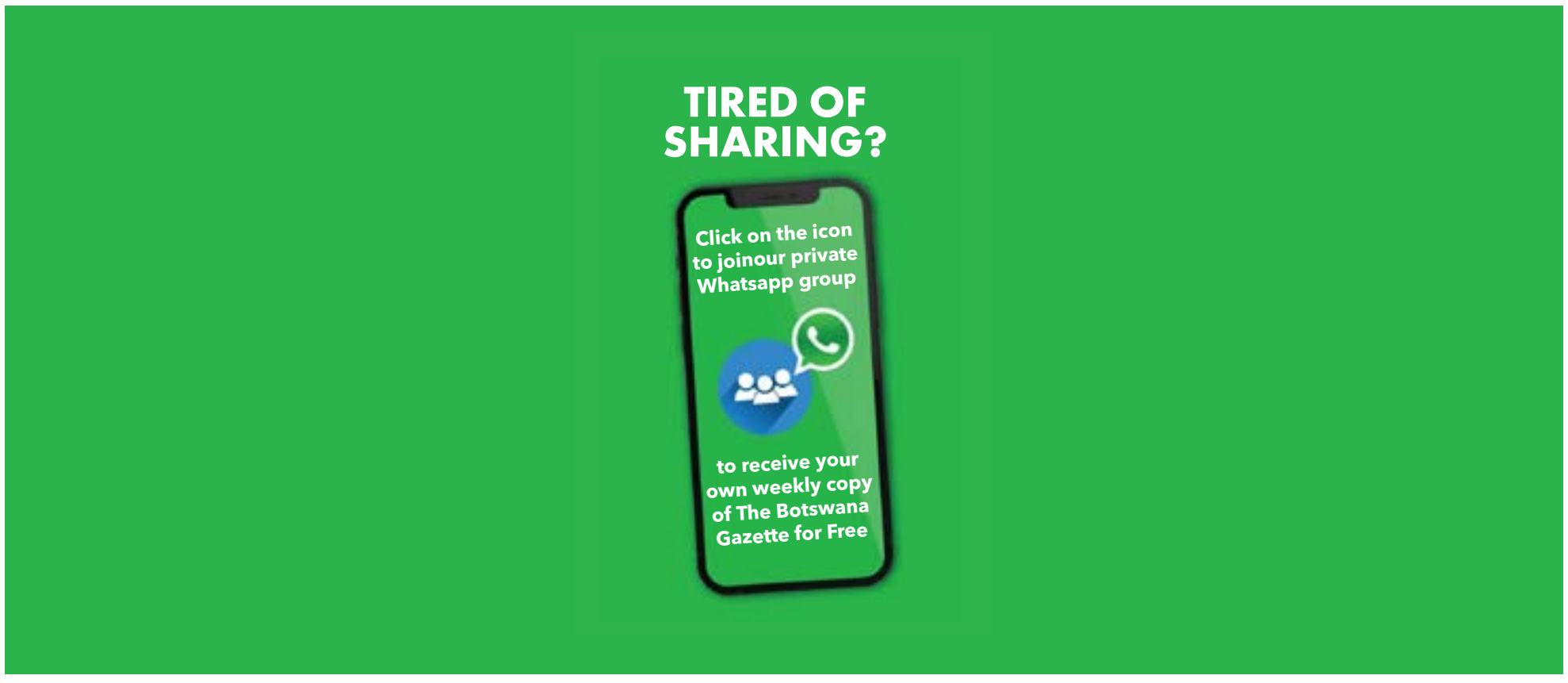
The tax authorities have long signalled their intention to introduce VAT on digital services supplied by international tech giants that have no physical presence in Botswana who nonetheless derive substantial revenue from the local market. These include the likes of Netflix, iTunes, Google, Facebook, and similar service providers, who are now required to register for VAT in Botswana. Offshore tourism agents will also be required to register for VAT with BURS.

PROCURE TAX TRAINING!

We urge corporates and other organizations to seek bespoke in-house training which addresses the pertinent features of the new law in as far as they affect their businesses. This, unlike general training at workshops, is designed after considering the exact business of the impacted entity and it is therefore precise in as much as it is relevant. The new law introduces highly technical matters which will affect businesses' IT systems and tax records. Various penalties will be levied for non-compliance with the said laws.

Contacts: You may contact us at +267 7181 5836 or +267 393 9435 or jhore@aupra-contax.co.bw or www.aupra-contax.co.bw. This article is general, and tax advice is recommended if decisions are to be made. If you require to join our free Tax WhatsApp groups or to know more about our 9 Tax e-books, please send us a text/whatsapp on the number above.

opracon
TAX SPECIALISTS
Consulting . Training . Compliance



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

CASE NO: CVHFT 000 324/24

In the matter between:
ABSA BANK BOTSWANA LIMITED
formerly BARCLAYS BANK OF BOTSWANA LIMITED **Plaintiff**
And
SEGAMETSI LEJAGE **Defendant**

NOTICE OF SALE IN EXECUTION

BE PLEASED TO TAKE NOTICE THAT pursuant to a Writ of Execution issued out of the above Honourable Court in the above matter, the right, title and interest to and in the following immovable property of the Defendant will be sold by Public Auction by **Deputy Sheriff Ookeditse Masolotate** to the highest bidder as follows:

DATE OF SALE : 16th July 2026
VENUE : Tribal Lot 333, Tatisiding
TIME : **1400 Hours**
PROPERTY TO BE SOLD : The Defendant's right, title and interest to and in certain piece of Land being Tribal Lot 333, Tatisiding, measuring **1000m² (One Thousand Square Metres)**, held under Memorandum of Agreement of **Lease No. FT TL 1059/2019** dated the **4th day of October 2019** and made in favour of **SEGAMETSI LEJAGE** together with developments thereon, being a walled yard consisting of a Three bedroomed house with Master ensuite, bathroom/ toilet, living room, dining room, kitchen, laundry room and a double door garage.

TERMS OF SALE : Cash or bank transfer only.

CONDITIONS OF SALE may be inspected at the offices of the hereunder mentioned Deputy's Sheriff's offices at Lotsane Ward, Palapye, Gampone's Complex, Next to Standard Chartered Bank, Palapye. He can be contacted at 74724543.

DATED AT FRANCISTOWN ON THIS THE 4TH DAY OF JUNE 2026

VAN NIEKERK ATTORNEYS
Plot 4660, Area G, Ditau Street, P.O Box 37, Francistown
Telephone No. 241 3421

IN THE MAGISTRATE COURT FOR THE GABORONE MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT
HELD AT EXTENSION II

Case No: CCMEX-001911-25

In the matter between:
OLERATO MOOKODI **1st PLAINTIFF**
OBONETSE MPHETANG **2nd PLAINTIFF**
And
MOAGI KEHAKGAMETSE **DEFENDANT**

NOTICE OF SALE IN EXECUTION

BE PLEASED TO TAKE NOTICE that pursuant to a judgment of the above Honourable Court of the following movable property of the Defendant will be sold by public auction by **Deputy Sheriff Seikise Manyapetsa** to the highest bidder as follows;

DATE OF SALE : 26th June 2026
TIME OF SALE : 10.00am
VENUE : Broadhurst Magistrate Court
PROPERTY TO BE SOLD : Motor Vehicle Reg No. B 698 BLP Mercedes Benz (Silver)

TERMS OF SALE : Cash or bank guaranteed cheques.

DATE AT GABORONE THIS 2nd day of June 2026.

Deputy Sheriff Seikise Manyapetsa
c/o ,MASUKU LEGAL PRACTICE,
(Plaintiff's Attorneys)
Plot 128, Unit 7 1st Floor, Kgale Court(GIFP)
P O BOX AE 463 AEH GABORONE

H/W MMESI
IN THE MAGISTRATES' COURT OF THE REPUBLIC OF BOTSWANA
HELD AT EXTENSION II

CASE NO. CCMEX-001200-25

In the matter between:
LETSAPA BENAH MODIAKGOTLA **PLAINTIFF**
And
CRIBGUARD SUPREME **DEFENDANT**

SUBSTITUTED SERVICE

TO: CRIBGUARD SUPREME of Gaborone and whose further and better particulars are unknown to the Plaintiff.

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

(a) Payment of the sum of P 14,685.00
(b) Interest at the rate of 10% per month.
(c) Costs of suit; and
(d) Further and/or alternative relief

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

DATED AT GABORONE THIS 10TH DAY OF JUNE 2026

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

MORIMA ATTORNEYS
Attorneys | Notaries | Conveyancers

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

CASE NO: CVHFT 000274-23

In the matter between:
ABSA BANK BOTSWANA LIMITED
formerly BARCLAYS BANK OF BOTSWANA LIMITED **Plaintiff**
And
DINKWETSI JENNIFER SMITH **Defendant**

NOTICE OF SALE IN EXECUTION

BE PLEASED TO TAKE NOTICE THAT pursuant to a Writ of Execution issued out of the above Honourable Court in the above matter, the following immovable property of the Defendant will be sold by Public Auction by **Deputy Sheriff Ookeditse Masolotate** to the highest bidder as follows:

DATE OF SALE : 16th July 2026
VENUE : Lot 10367, Francistown
TIME : 1100 Hours
PROPERTY TO BE SOLD : Piece of Land being **Lot 10367, Francistown,** measuring **675m²** (Six Hundred and Seventy Five Square Metres), held under Deed of **Transfer No. FT 267/2008** dated the **18th day** of **April 2008** and made in favour of **DINKWETSI JENNIFER SMITH,** together with developments thereon, being a Three Bedroomed house with master ensuite, bathroom Toilet and open kitchen.

TERMS OF SALE : Cash or bank transfer only.

CONDITIONS OF SALE may be inspected at the offices of the hereunder mentioned Deputy's Sheriff's offices at Lotsane Ward, Palapye, Gampone's Complex, Next to Standard Chartered Bank, Palapye. He can be contacted at 74724543

DATED AT FRANCISTOWN ON THIS 4TH DAY OF JUNE 2026

VAN NIEKERK ATTORNEYS
Plot 4660, Area G, Ditau Street, P.O Box 37, Francistown
Telephone No. 241 3421

SLAVE. J
IN THE HIGH COURT OF BOTSWANA
HELD AT FRANCISTOWN

CASE NO: CVHFT-000746/17

In the matter between
LESEGO SEMANA **PLAINTIFF**
And
METSI DRILLING (PTY) LTD **1ST DEFENDANT**
ISAAC DAVIDS **2ND DEFENDANT**
BANYENYE V.DAVIDS **3RD DEFENDANT**

NOTICE OF SALE IN EXECUTION

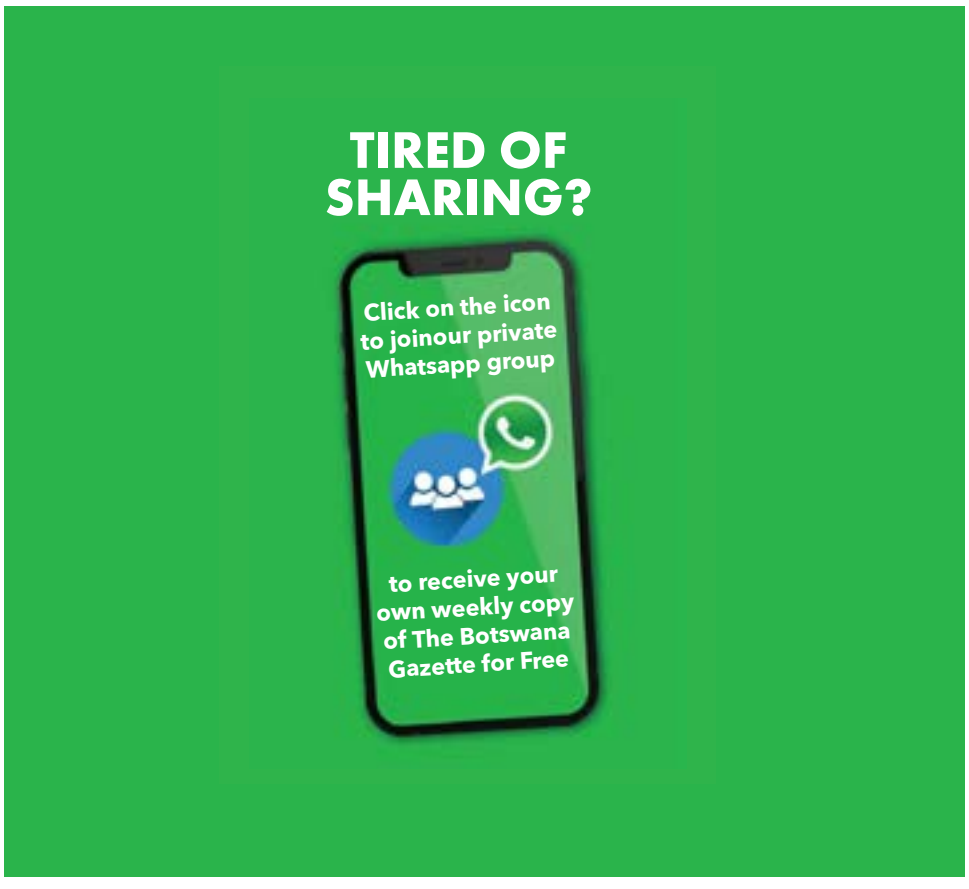
BE PLEASED TO TAKE NOTICE that pursuant to a judgment granted by the Honourable Court, the following property shall be sold by public auction by **Deputy Sheriff OMPHEMETSE PETER KAISARA** to the highest bidder.

DATE OF SALE : 27th June 2026
TIME OF SALE : 10:30 a.m.
VENUE OF SALE : Monametsana
PROPERTY TO BE SOLD : certain piece of land situate in the Bakgatla Tribal Administration at Monametsana measuring 253.1076 x 242.5715 x 291.1902 x 235.813m in favour of Banyenye Davids.

CONDITIONS OF SALE : EFT(Electronic Funds Transfer). Further Detailed conditions of sale are obtainable from the Deputy Sheriff.

DATED AT GABORONE ON THIS 28TH DAY OF APRIL 2026

DEPUTY SHERIFF OMPHEMETSE PETER KAISARA
C/o Motlhala Ketshabile & Company
Plot 23671, Phase 4
Private Bag Br 320
GABORONE-cell no: 71222244/72195113



CLASH OF LEGENDS WEEKEND

Bona Life has renewed its title sponsorship of the 2026 Betway Clash of Legends, set for this weekend at the National Stadium. The event will bring together former football greats from Township Rollers, Mochudi Centre Chiefs, Kaizer Chiefs and Orlando Pirates in a celebration of football heritage, community pride and sporting nostalgia



> "Having them come on board as title sponsor in 2025 and continuing that partnership this year demonstrates confidence in the concept, its impact and its growth potential,"

GAZETTE REPORTER

Bona Life has reaffirmed its commitment to Botswana sport and community development through its continued sponsorship of the 2026 Betway Clash of Legends, which takes place over the weekend at the National Stadium.

The citizen-owned life insurer returns as a key partner of the event after serving as title sponsor in 2025, a move organisers say reflects growing confidence in the tournament's impact and long-term potential.

This weekend's event will bring together former football stars from Township Rollers, Mochudi Centre Chiefs, Kaizer Chiefs and Orlando Pirates in a celebration of football heritage, nostalgia and community pride.

For Bona Life Chief Executive Officer Phatsimo Keakabetse, the sponsorship reflects the company's wider mission of empowering communities while protecting futures.

"Clash of Legends aligns strongly with Bona Life's purpose of protecting futures and empowering communities," said Keakabetse. "The event celebrates resilience, discipline, teamwork and excellence; values that are fundamental both in sport and in life."

She said the insurer's involvement goes beyond sponsorship visibility, focusing instead on long-term social impact and community upliftment.

"As Botswana's citizen-owned life insurer, we believe that investing in people extends beyond financial protection. It includes supporting initiatives that inspire individuals, strengthen communities and promote healthy, active lifestyles," she said.

Keakabetse added that the event plays an important role in promoting social cohesion by bringing people together around sport.

"Through our support of Clash of Legends, we honour sporting excellence while contributing to social cohesion and community development, creating opportunities for people to come together around a shared sense of pride and achievement."

Sports development remains a core part of Bona Life's broader strategy, with investments spanning football, golf, swimming and other disciplines aimed at encouraging discipline, teamwork and healthy living.

"These values closely mirror our role as a life insurer," Keakabetse said. "Just as we help individuals and families prepare for and protect their futures, sport equips people with the confidence, resilience and life skills needed to succeed."

She also noted the importance of preserving Botswana's football legacy by recognising former players who helped shape the sport.

"We hope our support contributes to preserving and celebrating Botswana's rich football heritage by recognising the players whose achievements helped shape the sport and inspire generations of Batswana."

For organisers, Bona Life's continued partnership provides stability and strengthens the credibility of the event.

Organizer Sekhana Koko said the sponsorship reflects trust in the concept and its growth.

"Having them come on board as title sponsor in 2025 and continuing that partnership this year demonstrates confidence in the concept, its impact and its growth potential," said Koko.

He added that sustained sponsorship is essential for building long-term sporting events.

"For us as organisers, Bona Life's continued support provides stability and credibility. Sponsorships are most meaningful when sustained over time because they allow events to grow, improve the experience for supporters and participants, and create a lasting impact."

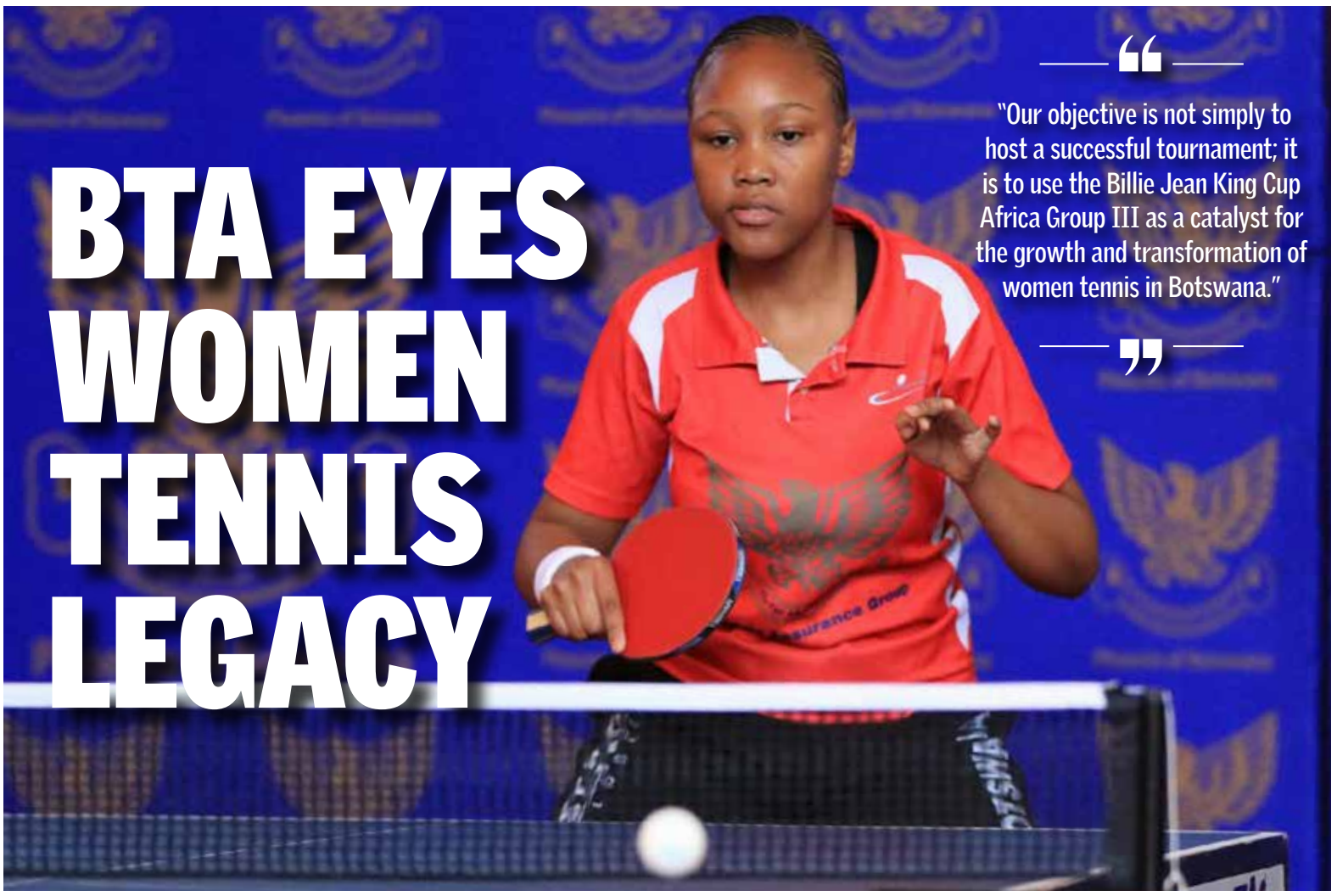
Koko said the Clash of Legends is more than a match, describing it as a cultural and sporting celebration.

"It is a celebration of Botswana's football heritage, an opportunity to honour players who contributed immensely to the game, and a platform that reconnects supporters with some of their favourite football personalities."

He added that the weekend event also promotes unity and generates economic activity for local stakeholders.

"Football has a unique ability to bring people together across generations, and Clash of Legends creates an environment where families, supporters and communities can unite around a positive sporting experience."

BTA EYES WOMEN TENNIS LEGACY



"Our objective is not simply to host a successful tournament; it is to use the Billie Jean King Cup Africa Group III as a catalyst for the growth and transformation of women tennis in Botswana."

As Botswana prepares to host its first-ever Billie Jean King Cup event, organizers say the tournament is designed to leave a lasting impact on women's tennis, youth development and sports tourism

GAZETTE REPORTER

Botswana will make history from July 13 to 18, 2026, when it hosts the Billie Jean King Cup Africa Group III tournament for the first time at the National Tennis Centre in Gaborone.

The event, the premier international women's team tennis competition, will bring together teams from Algeria, Botswana, Burundi, Cameroon, Ghana, Kenya, Madagascar, Namibia, Nigeria, Tunisia and Zimbabwe.

DEVELOPMENT FOCUS

According to Gomolemo Mahuma, Public Relations and Communications representative for the Billie Jean King Cup Africa Group III Local Organising Committee (LOC), the tournament is intended to serve as more than a week-long sporting event.

"Our objective is not simply to host a successful tournament; it is to use the Billie Jean King Cup Africa Group III as a catalyst for the growth and transformation of women tennis in Botswana," Mahuma said.

She said hosting the competition would provide local players with the opportunity to compete against some of Africa's top talent on home soil while exposing coaches, officials, administrators and volunteers to international standards.

The LOC also expects the tournament to increase participation in tennis, particularly among girls and young women, while strengthening development pathways and attracting future investment into the sport.

SEEKING SUPPORT

Mahuma said discussions with public and private sector stakeholders have progressed positively as organizers seek sponsorship and strategic partnerships.

"The Billie Jean King Cup provides a unique platform for organisations to align themselves with excellence, diversity, gender equality and community development," she said.

While progress has been made, the LOC continues to seek support in areas including hospitality, transport and logistics, event production, broadcasting, volunteer programmes and legacy development projects.

NATIONAL CELEBRATION

The tournament comes as Botswana marks its 60th Independence Anniversary later this year, creating opportunities to showcase the country beyond sport.

Mahuma said organizers plan to incorporate cultural displays and tourism promotion into the tournament experience, allowing visiting teams and officials to engage with Botswana's heritage.

"Hosting the Billie Jean King Cup during this historic milestone sends a powerful message that Botswana is a nation that continues to grow, innovate and compete on the international stage," she said.

COMMUNITY IMPACT

Organizers say local communities are expected to benefit through business opportunities generated by visiting teams and delegations.

Young tennis players will have opportunities to serve as ball persons, while sports volunteers will assist in tournament operations.

LASTING LEGACY

Beyond the competition, the LOC hopes the event will leave a long-term legacy through increased participation in tennis, improved technical expertise among coaches and officials, stronger partnerships across sectors and greater international recognition for Botswana as a sporting destination.

"We also hope the tournament will stimulate future investment in tennis infrastructure, development programmes, talent identification initiatives and additional international competitions," Mahuma said.

She added that the greatest measure of success may be the inspiration the tournament provides to young people.

"If a young girl in Botswana watches this tournament and decides to pick up a tennis racket for the first time, and or if a young player begins to believe that representing Botswana on the world stage is achievable, then we will have accomplished something truly meaningful."

TITANS WOMEN SECURE BSA TITLE, EUROPE CALL

Botswana champions secure continental invitation following BSA triumph and dominant 7–0 final victory

GAZETTE REPORTER

Titans Softball Club have described their Botswana Softball Association Championship victory as a major milestone for both the women's team and softball in Botswana, following confirmation of a Women's Softball European Cup invitation received in March from WBSC Europe.

Winning the Botswana Softball Association Championship reinforced the team's consistency and competitiveness, while the European invitation marked a significant step onto the international stage.

"This achievement is highly significant for both Titans Softball Club and Botswana softball as a whole," said club secretary Atlang Gabantese. "For a club from Botswana to be officially recognised and invited shows that our structures, competitiveness, and ambition meet international standards."



She added: "This is more than just participation; it is a statement that our domestic game is growing."

FINAL CONTROL

The championship final ended in a commanding 7–0 win over Ghetto Yankees, a result attributed to disciplined preparation and coordinated team execution across all departments.

The team reported strong performance in pitching, batting, and defence, with emphasis on controlling key moments of the match and converting scoring opportunities. Defensive organisation and pitching consistency limited opposition chances throughout the contest.

EUROPE CALL

The club confirmed that the invitation to the Women's Softball European Cup, received in March from WBSC Europe, was met with excitement and pride across the squad.

It described the opportunity as particularly significant for players who will be competing internationally for the first time, framing it as both recognition of their progress and responsibility to represent Botswana.

PREPARATION FOCUS

The team's objective for the European Cup is to compete respectably while gaining experience against higher-level European opposition and different playing styles.

Preparation has been intensified with structured training sessions focusing on fitness, situational play, and technical fundamentals including pitching, batting, and defensive coordination. Video analysis of European competitions has also been introduced to study tactical approaches and match tempo.

Financial planning is ongoing, with the club engaging sponsors and partners to support travel, accommodation, and equipment needs. "International participation requires significant resources. We are putting structured fundraising plans in place to ensure the team travels fully prepared and without compromise," Gabantese said.

WIDER IMPACT

The club said the achievement extends beyond Titans, with potential benefits for Botswana softball through increased exposure and experience.

"To our supporters, sponsors, and the wider softball community in Botswana, we extend sincere gratitude for your continued belief in Titans Softball Club," she said.

It added that lessons from international competition will be brought back to strengthen domestic development and support emerging players: "This journey is not just ours—it belongs to everyone who has supported the growth of the game locally."



BDF KARATE OPEN SET

Championship aims to strengthen karate development, competitive exposure, and talent pathways across Botswana

GAZETTE REPORTER

The Botswana Defence Force Karate Open Championships scheduled for 20 June 2026 are set to bring together karate athletes from across Botswana in a national competition focused on development, discipline, and performance. The initiative is organised by the Botswana Defence Force and is positioned as a structured platform for athletes to compete at a high level while contributing to the broader growth of the sport.

According to Col Nlisi Hobona, the main objective of the championships is to promote karate development and provide athletes with meaningful competitive opportunities. "The main objective of the Botswana Defence Force Karate Open Championships is to promote the development and growth of karate in Botswana by providing a structured national platform for athletes to compete at a high level," he said.

OBJECTIVE

Col Hobona said the tournament is intended to strengthen discipline, sportsmanship, and talent identification within the sport. He added that the event also supports athlete preparation for regional and international competitions, positioning it as part of a broader competitive pathway for karate practitioners.

PARTICIPANTS

The championships are expected to attract a wide pool of competitors, including karate clubs from across the country, school-based teams, tertiary institutions, and institutional teams such as security and disciplined forces. Athletes across different age groups and experience levels are expected to participate, making the competition inclusive in scope.

DEVELOPMENT PATHWAY

Organisers say the event will contribute to the development of karate in Botswana by providing consistent competitive exposure and improving technical standards among athletes. It is also expected to support talent identification efforts and strengthen national ranking systems that track athlete progress over time.

COMPETITION FORMAT

The tournament will feature multiple age divisions, including cadet, junior, and senior categories, with veteran divisions included in some instances. Competition will be conducted in both kata, which focuses on forms, and kumite, which involves sparring, allowing athletes with different strengths to compete in structured formats.

SPECTATOR EXPERIENCE

Spectators can expect a high-energy sporting event defined by disciplined and competitive performances. The championships will showcase emerging national talent and structured bouts that reflect the core values of karate, including respect, discipline, and sportsmanship.

Col Hobona emphasised the competitive and developmental nature of the event, stating: "The tournament aims to strengthen discipline, sportsmanship, and talent identification while preparing athletes for regional and international events."

Botswana Youths Test Global Chess Elite

Young Botswana players are taking on the world's strongest youth chess talents in Italy, gaining experience that officials say will help shape the future of the game at home

GAZETTE REPORTER



Botswana's brightest young chess talents are currently competing against some of the world's best players at the World Youth Chess Championship 2026 in Montesilvano, Italy, where they are carrying the country's hopes onto one of the sport's biggest international stages.

Representing Botswana at the championship, which runs from June 14 to 27, are Eesha Reddy Nalamalpu, Madhav Mohanakrisnan, Zeyin Wu and Adeola Moshoboro.

According to Botswana Chess Federation (BCF) president Kutlwano Tatolo, the team departed for Italy after months of preparation designed to equip the players for the challenges of world-level competition.

PREPARATION COMPLETE

"We are satisfied with the level of preparation undertaken by Team Botswana ahead of these prestigious international championships," Tatolo said.

She said the players participated in regular training sessions, local competitions and targeted preparation programmes aimed at strengthening their technical and competitive abilities.

The federation also worked closely with coaches, parents and team officials to ensure the young players were prepared for the demands of competing internationally.

While acknowledging the difficulty of facing elite opposition, Tatolo said the federation believes the players are ready to represent Botswana "with pride and determination."

DEVELOPMENT FOCUS

Rather than setting specific medal targets, the federation is focusing on performance, learning and long-term development.

"Our primary objective is for every player to perform to the best of their ability and gain valuable experience competing against some of the strongest young chess players in the world," Tatolo said.

The federation hopes the players will improve their ratings, deliver strong individual performances and continue progressing throughout the tournament.

Tatolo said success would not be measured solely by final standings, but also by the quality of performances, learning outcomes and personal growth achieved during the championship.

LASTING IMPACT

The federation views participation in world championships as a critical component of chess development in Botswana.

Tatolo said exposure to international competition helps accelerate player development, broadens understanding of modern chess and inspires younger players aspiring to represent the country in future.

She added that the experience gained in Italy would contribute to raising the standard of chess locally when the players return home.

"Participation in world championships is essential for the development of both individual players and the broader chess ecosystem in Botswana," she said.

NATIONAL SUPPORT

The federation has called on Batswana to support the young team throughout the tournament.

Tatolo described the players as ambassadors for Botswana and role models for future generations, noting that they have worked hard to earn the opportunity to compete on the world stage.

"We call upon the nation and the entire Botswana chess community to rally behind our young players as they proudly represent our country on the world stage," she said.

TIRED OF SHARING?



BACKPAGE
WEDNESDAY 17 JUNE 2026
SINCE 1984

The Botswana Gazette
SPORT

CLASH OF LEGENDS WEEKEND

The event will bring together former football greats from Township Rollers, Mochudi Centre Chiefs, Kaizer Chiefs and Orlando Pirates in a celebration of football heritage, community pride and sporting nostalgia

34.

