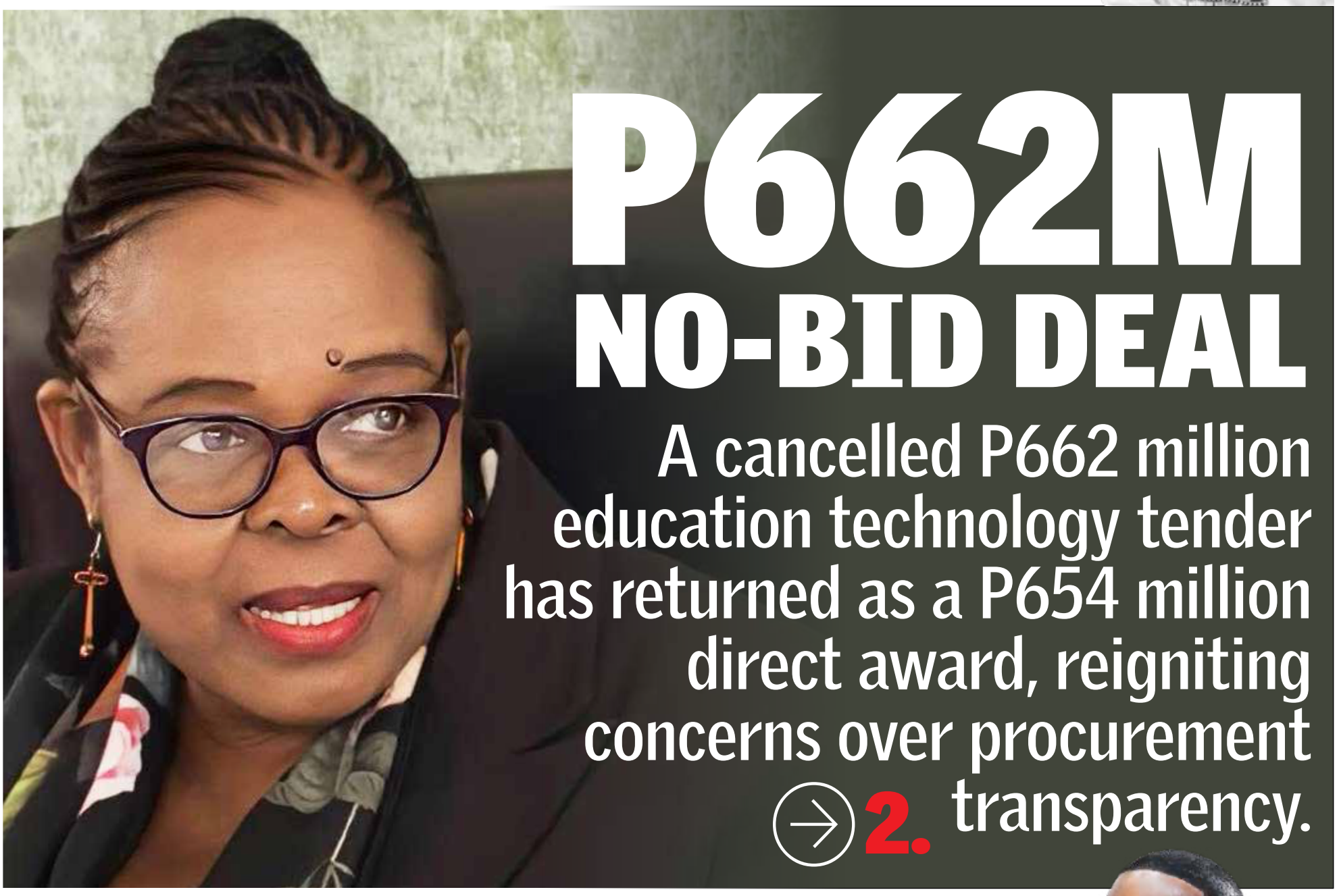
The Botswana
# GAZETTE
WEDNESDAY 15 JULY 2026 | SINCE 1984

33.

## REMEMBERING KABO LEBURU





# P662M NO-BID DEAL

A cancelled P662 million education technology tender has returned as a P654 million direct award, reigniting concerns over procurement transparency.

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# Medical Sector Rejects Healthcare VAT

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The Botswana Doctors Union (BDU), Botswana Dental Association (BODA) and the Medical Practitioners Group of Botswana have jointly raised concerns over the proposed tax measure.



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# P662M NO-BID DEAL

In an interview with this publication, the Minister of Child Welfare and Basic Education Nono Kgafela-Mokoka defended the decision, saying "all legal disputes surrounding the procurement had been resolved, allowing government to proceed with the project".

**SESUPO RANTSIMAKO**




A controversial education technology project that was previously cancelled after procurement irregularities were flagged has resurfaced as a P654.4 million direct award, raising fresh concerns.

The Ministry of Child Welfare and Basic Education has approved the direct appointment of Emeritus Training Academy to implement an integrated STEM e-learning solution, coding and robotics programme, as well as teacher capacity building over a five-year period.

The contract, valued at P654,444,869.46, is for a project that previously attracted intense scrutiny after the Public Procurement Regulatory Authority (PPRA) found that the ministry had failed to comply with procurement requirements in awarding a tender then valued at approximately P662 million.

The procurement was subsequently challenged in court before it was suspended and later cancelled.

**PROCUREMENT CONCERNS**

The PPRA's review of the original tender process found several irregularities, including inadequate transparency, insufficient justification for the procurement method used, and failure by the ministry to comply with prescribed procurement procedures.

However, the project has now returned through a direct award to Emeritus Training Academy.

Concerns Emerge

The latest development has reignited debate over transparency in public procurement and previous regulatory concerns.

Questions remain over what has changed since the cancellation of the original tender, whether the issues raised by the PPRA have been addressed, and the basis for selecting a direct award as the preferred procurement method.

**AMID MOUNTING FISCAL CHALLENGES..**

The revival of the project comes at a time when government is facing significant fiscal pressures, with public finances under strain and competing demands for resources across key sectors. Critics question whether committing hundreds of millions of pula to the project represents the best use of scarce public resources, particularly as government struggles to meet its primary financial obligations.

**MINISTER DEFENDS AWARD**

In an interview with this publication, the Minister of Child Welfare and Basic Education Nono Kgafela-Mokoka defended the decision, saying "all legal disputes surrounding the procurement had been resolved, allowing government to proceed with the project".

She said "Emeritus Training Academy was selected because of its expertise and ability to support government's plans to modernise the education system".

The minister said the P654 million allocation was not enough to fully realise government's e-learning ambitions, adding that the reduction from the original tender value was influenced by government's current financial position.

**BCP THREATENS ACTION**

Meanwhile, the Botswana Congress Party (BCP) has indicated that it will seek clarity on the revived project.

BCP Shadow Minister for Education Caterpillar Hikuama told the Botswana Gazette that "the party's parliamentary caucus would meet to determine its next steps, including the possibility of legal action or petitioning the minister".

"The caucus will meet and decide on the appropriate action to take. We are not ruling out legal action or petitioning the minister," Hikuama said.

# Medical Sector Rejects Healthcare VAT

The Botswana Doctors Union (BDU), Botswana Dental Association (BODA) and the Medical Practitioners Group of Botswana have jointly raised concerns over the proposed tax measure, arguing that healthcare is an essential service and not a taxable good

**GAZETTE REPORTER**


Sir Ketumile Masire Teaching Hospital-SKMTH

Botswana's medical fraternity has warned that government's proposal to introduce Value Added Tax (VAT) on private healthcare services could make medical treatment unaffordable for many citizens and place further strain on an already overstretched public health system.

The Botswana Doctors Union (BDU), Botswana Dental Association (BODA) and the Medical Practitioners Group of Botswana have jointly raised concerns over the proposed tax measure, arguing that healthcare is an essential service and should not be treated like ordinary taxable goods.

**POSITION PAPER**

In a position paper, the three organisations said the introduction of VAT on healthcare services requires extensive national consultation, warning that increased costs could discourage patients from seeking medical attention until their conditions become more severe and expensive to manage.

"Healthcare is an essential service, not a discretionary purchase. Increasing the cost of medical care risks making healthcare less affordable for patients, many of whom may delay seeking treatment until illnesses become more advanced and more expensive to manage," the organisations said.

They cautioned that the consequences of the proposed tax would not be limited to private healthcare providers but would affect patients, medical aid schemes, insurers and employers.

**THE BAD NEWS**

According to the medical bodies, patients would face higher out-of-pocket expenses, while medical aid schemes and insurance companies could be forced to increase premiums or reduce benefits in response to the additional financial burden.

Employers who provide medical aid benefits to workers could also experience rising healthcare costs, potentially increasing the cost of doing business.

The organisations expressed particular concern about the impact on small general practitioner practices, which often serve as the first point of contact for patients and play a key role in preventative healthcare.

They warned that higher consultation fees could result in declining patient numbers as people postpone seeking medical attention due to affordability concerns.

Private hospitals and specialist practices, they added, would likely pass the additional tax burden directly to patients through increased fees for consultations, procedures and treatments.

**BURDENSOME**

The medical bodies warned that the ultimate impact could be a heavier burden on Botswana's public healthcare system, which is already facing challenges.

"The likely consequence is greater pressure on Botswana's already overstretched public health system as more people are unable to afford private healthcare. This risks longer waiting times, delayed diagnosis, poorer health outcomes and ultimately higher healthcare costs for the country," they said.

**REFORMS**

The concerns come as government implements reforms to Botswana's tax system following amendments to the Value Added Tax Act and related legislation. The reforms include reducing the standard VAT rate to 15 percent while introducing changes affecting taxable and exempt supplies, tax compliance and registration requirements.

However, healthcare practitioners argue that taxation of medical services requires a more careful approach because of its impact on access to essential services.

While acknowledging government's need to strengthen public finances, the organisations said fiscal reforms should not undermine citizens' ability to access healthcare.

They called for meaningful engagement involving healthcare professionals, patient representatives, insurers, employers and other stakeholders before any decision is implemented.

# Health Tax Revolt Tests UDC's Human Rights Agenda

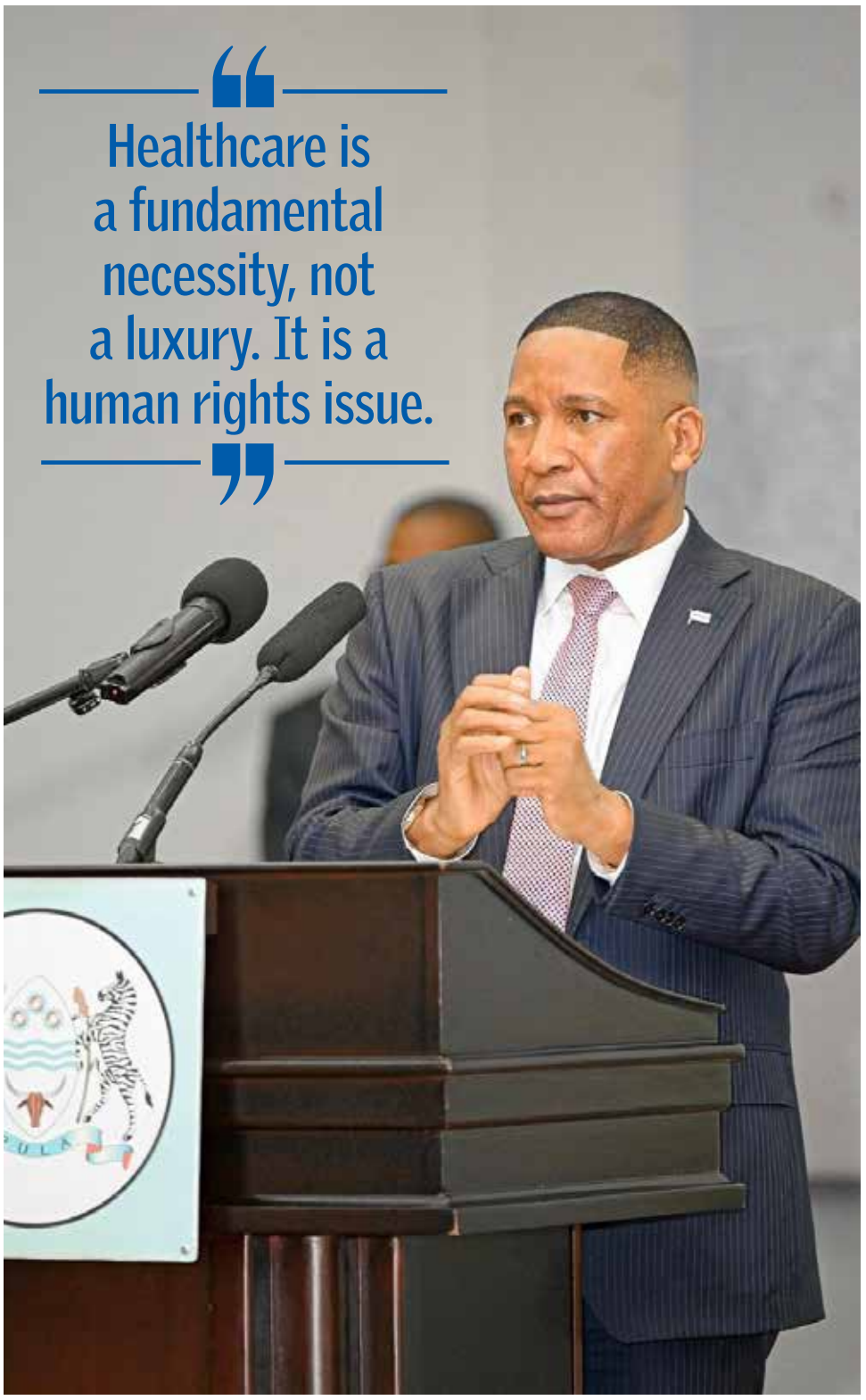
A rapidly growing petition is challenging Botswana's private health tax, testing President Duma Boko's affordable healthcare and 'human rights' pledges

**BONGANI MALUNGA**

A growing petition against the taxation of private healthcare services has put President Duma Boko's human rights credentials under scrutiny, with campaigners warning that the policy could make medical care less affordable for ordinary citizens.

The petition, which has gathered more than 7,600 signatures within four days of its launch, calls on the government to reconsider the introduction of Value Added Tax (VAT) on private medical services, arguing that healthcare is a fundamental right rather than a privilege for those who can afford it.

The campaign directly appeals to Boko's background as a human rights lawyer, challenging his administration to ensure that revenue reforms do not undermine access to essential healthcare.




**FUNDAMENTAL NECESSITY**

"Healthcare is a fundamental necessity not a luxury. It's a human rights issue," the petition stressed. "In Government headed by His Excellency, Advocate Duma Boko, a Human Rights Specialist Lawyer, we hold informed he leads a Human Rights Government. What could be a more basic human right than the right to health?" the petition reads.

"Healthcare is a fundamental necessity, not a luxury. It is a human rights issue," the petition states.

The petitioners argue that a government led by a human rights specialist lawyer should prioritise policies that protect citizens' right to health.

They are calling on government to maintain VAT exemptions on private medical services, protect vulnerable groups from increased healthcare costs, and consult healthcare providers, patient organisations and the public before implementing reforms affecting access to medical care.

**REVENUE VERSUS ACCESS**

The controversy follows government's broader tax reforms aimed at expanding the revenue base by introducing VAT on selected goods and services previously exempted.

However, critics argue that taxing healthcare could have unintended consequences by increasing the cost of consultations, procedures and medical aid contributions, potentially pushing more citizens towards an already pressured public healthcare system.

The debate has also revived scrutiny of the Umbrella for Democratic Change's (UDC) 2024 election promise for affordable healthcare.

Health sector organisations have warned that additional financial pressure on patients could deepen inequalities in access to medic.

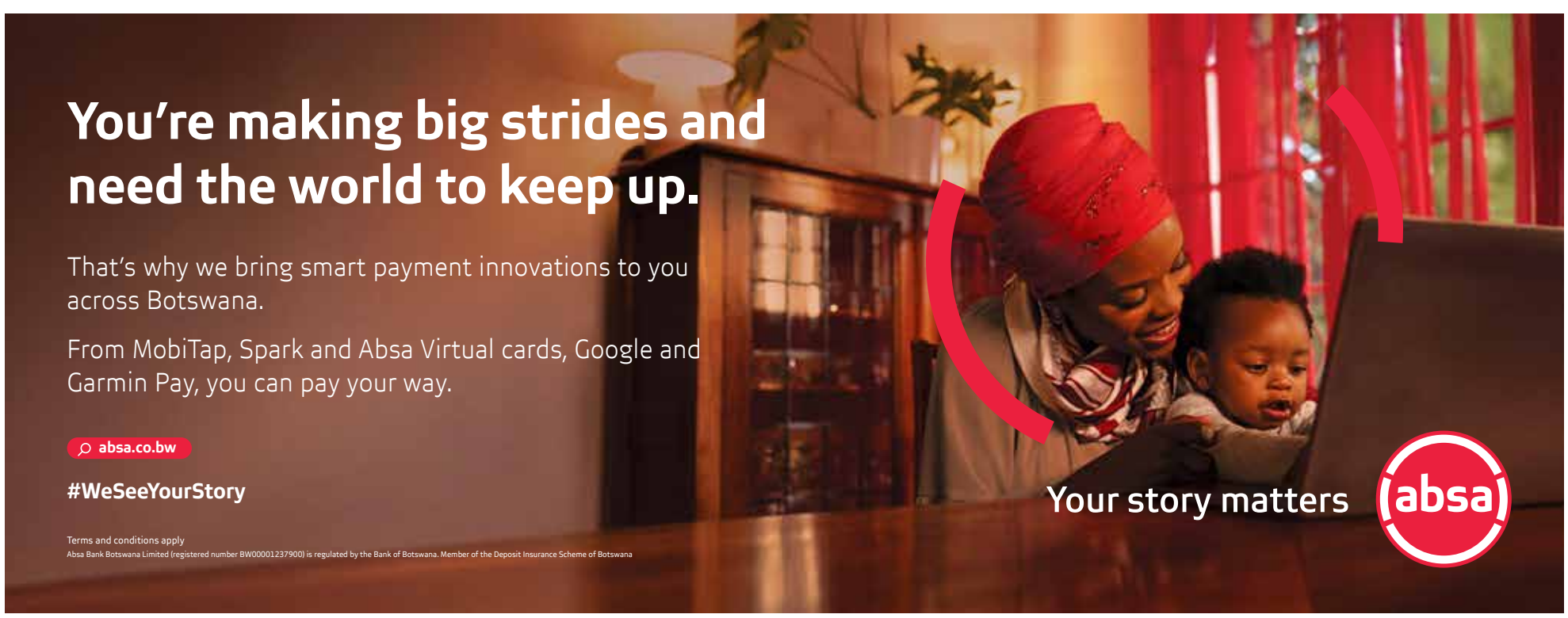
Several health and medical care bodies have raised concerns that healthcare policies must reflect the realities faced by patients and healthcare workers, further cautioned against measures that could make medical treatment more expensive.

Their concerns come amid existing challenges in Botswana's health system, including medicine shortages, capacity constraints and growing pressure on public facilities.

Neighbouring countries have adopted different approaches to healthcare affordability, with Zimbabwe protecting emergency access regardless of a patient's ability to pay, while South Africa provides tax relief to medical scheme contributors rather than taxing healthcare contributions directly.

**A POLITICAL TEST**

The private healthcare tax has become an early political test for President Boko, with critics arguing that it contradicts the UDC's human rights agenda and promise to put citizens' welfare first.





# Blood Supply Crisis Looms

## As WHO flags gaps

GAZETTE REPORTER

Botswana's blood transfusion services are facing significant structural and operational weaknesses that could threaten the availability of safe blood supplies, a World Health Organisation (WHO) assessment has warned.

The WHO Botswana Country Office Biennial Report 2024–2025, released recently, highlights a series of challenges affecting the National Blood Transfusion Service (NBTS), including fragmented coordination, ageing equipment, weak information systems and recurring shortages of critical laboratory supplies.

The report calls for urgent reforms to strengthen the country's blood management system, warning that existing gaps could undermine the safety, reliability and sustainability of blood transfusion services.

According to the assessment, Botswana's National Blood Policy, drafted in 2018, has not been finalised and lacks an implementation strategy, while the absence of a national advisory body has weakened governance, oversight and accountability.

"Blood transfusion services coordination remains fragmented," the report states, noting that several blood centres continue to operate with outdated equipment, inadequate cold-chain infrastructure and manual processes for blood component preparation.

**PROCUREMENT BOTTLENECKS FUEL SHORTAGES**

WHO says procurement challenges have contributed to periodic shortages of essential reagents and consumables required for blood testing and processing.

These supply interruptions, the report warns, pose risks to continuity of services and the ability of health facilities to maintain adequate blood stocks.

The assessment further identifies shortages of specialised personnel, particularly in laboratory services, quality management and donor recruitment.

"Staff require further training in quality assurance, automation and regulatory standards," WHO notes.

The report also raises concern over the absence of a unified national blood information system, which limits the ability of health authorities to track blood availability, demand trends and safety indicators in real time.

Hospitals, WHO says, do not consistently submit blood-related data to the NBTS, making effective planning and resource allocation difficult.

**WEAK OVERSIGHT OF TRANSFUSION SAFETY**

The global health agency also highlighted weaknesses in monitoring transfusion safety, revealing that most hospitals do not have functioning transfusion committees. This has contributed to under-reporting of adverse transfusion reactions and gaps in quality assurance mechanisms.

> "Botswana's National Blood Policy, drafted in 2018, has not been finalised and lacks an implementation strategy, while the absence of a national advisory body has weakened governance, oversight and accountability."

WHO has recommended a comprehensive overhaul of the blood system, including the completion of the National Blood Policy, establishment of a National Blood Advisory Group and strengthening of the NBTS organisational structure.

The agency has also called for investment in automated blood component production technologies, improved cold-chain systems and stronger procurement processes to prevent future shortages.

"The path forward requires deliberate reforms, sustained investment and strengthened partnerships," the report says.

WHO further recommends the establishment of a national blood information system integrated into Botswana's broader health information framework.

**BROADER HEALTH SYSTEM PRESSURES**

The concerns over blood services come amid wider pressures facing Botswana's health sector.

Beyond blood transfusion services, WHO highlighted continuing challenges in maternal and child health programmes, including shortages of healthcare workers, vaccine stockouts, weak data reporting systems and limitations in cold-chain capacity.

Botswana's emergency response capacity remains weak, with delayed approval of key emergency plans and no fully operational centre to coordinate outbreak responses.

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# GCC Raid Spar in Food Poisoning Lawsuit




**GAZETTE REPORTER**

Court documents have revealed that Gaborone City Council (GCC) inspected and fined Spar Broadhurst after a customer allegedly suffered food poisoning from consuming expired Spar-branded mabele mageu purchased from the supermarket.

The revelations are contained in a High Court case in which Gaborone resident Again Pachawo is suing Tsetseng Retail Group (Pty) Ltd, trading as Spar Broadhurst, for damages arising from what he claims were injuries sustained after consuming the allegedly expired product.

**'EXPIRED MAGEU'**

According to correspondence filed before court, Pachawo reported the matter to GCC on May 19, 2025, after allegedly buying and consuming the mageu before falling ill.

In a letter dated July 11, 2025, the council confirmed that Pachawo presented a carton of the mageu to inspectors, who found that it carried a best-before date of May 7, 2025. Following the complaint, GCC inspectors conducted an inspection at Spar Broadhurst on May 20, 2025.

The inspection found that the expired mageu was no longer available for sale at the supermarket, as it had been removed from shelves and placed in a condemned goods storage area. However, inspectors found other hygiene-related concerns at the premises.

**FINED**

"Broadhurst Spar was fined for trading under unhygienic conditions in accordance with the Council's authority under the Food Control Act," the Town Clerk's office said in its correspondence. The council confirmed that the retailer had since paid the fine, stating that proof of payment was held on record.

GCC further explained that no laboratory testing was conducted on the mageu because expired food products are automatically considered unfit for human consumption and are required to be destroyed.

The council said inspectors acted under Section 6 of the Food Control Act, which empowers them to inspect premises and seize products where necessary.

**LEGAL CLAIM**

The development has since become central to Pachawo's legal claim, with his lawyers arguing that the council's findings support allegations that Spar failed to comply with food safety requirements.

In correspondence to Spar's lawyers, Bogopa Manewe Tobedza & Co. argued that the retailer acknowledged responsibility by completing a "Reported Public Liability Occurrence" form and indicating that it would cover Pachawo's medical expenses.

The lawyers further contend that the subsequent inspection, enforcement action and fine imposed by GCC demonstrate that the supermarket had breached food safety standards.

According to court papers, Pachawo alleges that he became ill shortly after consuming the mageu, and was hospitalized. His legal team has attached medical documentation indicating that he remains under specialist assessment.

However, Spar Broadhurst has not admitted liability.

Through its attorneys, Minchin & Kelly Botswana, the retailer said it would not respond to all allegations at that stage and cautioned that its correspondence should not be interpreted as an admission of responsibility.

The company has requested a comprehensive medico-legal report detailing Pachawo's injuries, treatment, prognosis, future medical needs and any permanent impairment before considering the claim further.

The matter remains before the High Court.




**Job Title** : **Group Technology & Transformation Executive**
**Business Portfolio** : Old Mutual Financial Services Botswana
**Reporting to** : Group Chief Executive Officer
**Location** : Gaborone

Old Mutual Botswana is a member of the Old Mutual Group. We offer a wide range of short-term and long-term insurance services in Botswana with branches in Gaborone and Francistown. Our products provide insurance services to personal, commercial and corporate clients.
We are rooted in our purpose of Championing Mutually Positive Futures Every Day and believe that a great customer experience is anchored in a great employee experience.

**ROLE DETAILS**

| | |
|---|---|
| **Role overview** | **The Group Technology & Transformation Executive** for Botswana provides executive leadership for Old Mutual Botswana's technology, digital, data and transformation agenda.<br><br>The role is accountable for stable, secure and resilient IT operations, disciplined technology investment, effective transformation delivery, responsible use of data and AI, and technology risk management. It ensures technology enables business strategy, customer experience, operational efficiency and regulatory compliance.<br>It partners with the Botswana Executive Committee (Exco) and Old Mutual Limited (OML) Group Technology to prioritize technology investment, make clear commercial trade-offs, and deliver business value within Group architecture, security, governance and platform standards.<br><br>Success will be demonstrated through reliable technology services, delivery of priority transformation outcomes, improved digital and data capability, strong vendor and cost management, reduced technology and cyber risk, responsible AI adoption, and measurable value from technology investment.<br><br>The role reports to the Botswana Group Chief Executive Officer. |
| **Key Result Areas** | **Key Result Areas Technology Strategy Formulation & Business Alignment**<br>• Lead the development and implementation of the country Technology strategy, anticipating complex issues, challenges, and opportunities and ensuring integration with wider corporate strategy.<br>• Translate business strategy into country-specific technology roadmaps aligned to OML Group target architecture, platforms and guardrails.<br>• Develop a strategic enterprise architecture plan that embeds digital assets and capabilities, supporting the design and implementation of digital strategy and organization, process, and policies. Lead analysis, evaluation, and development of enterprise long-term strategic and operating plans to ensure that the enterprise architecture is synchronized with ever-changing business needs and the complexity of digital transformation.<br>• Horizon scanning: Identify new external developments and/or emerging issues within an area of technology or business function and evaluate their potential impact on, or usefulness to, the organization.<br><br>**Full Country IT Accountability**<br>• Lead and develop the Botswana IT function and teams, including digital and data teams, infrastructure and service teams.<br>• Ensure stable, secure and resilient IT service delivery that supports business continuity, customer service and employee productivity.<br>• Ownership of country IT budget and IT Total Cost of Ownership optimization, ensuring spend is prioritized, commercially justified and aligned to business value.<br>• Ensure the Botswana technology function operates effectively within Group governance, architecture, security and platform standards.<br>• Provide Exco with clear visibility on IT performance, technology risks, delivery priorities, cost drivers, vendor performance and key technology decisions.<br><br>**Digital, Data & Analytics Engineering**<br>• Accountable for local engineering and delivery of digital channels and customer-facing platforms, data pipelines, integration, and analytics enablement and AI-enabled capabilities, automation and advanced analytics<br>• Ensure digital, data and analytics delivery supports measurable outcomes, including improved customer experience, operational efficiency, service quality, risk management and revenue enablement.<br>• Strengthen data governance through clear data ownership, data quality, secure data use, regulatory compliance and alignment to Group data standards.<br>• Ensure AI and automation initiatives are responsibly governed, risk-assessed, appropriately prioritized and aligned to business value, regulatory expectations and Group standards.<br>• Partner with business leaders to identify high-impact digital, data, AI and analytics use cases and convert them into practical delivery roadmaps.<br><br>**Transformation Delivery & Business Enablement**<br>• Lead the delivery of priority technology and business transformation initiatives.<br>• Drive automation, process improvement and customer experience enhancement through technology.<br>• Partner with business leaders to identify transformation opportunities and convert them into clear delivery roadmaps.<br>• Ensure transformation initiatives deliver measurable benefits, including efficiency, service quality, risk reduction and revenue enablement.<br>• Embed change adoption through effective stakeholder engagement, communication and implementation support and post-implementation benefits tracking.<br><br>**Service Operations & Vendor Management**<br>• Ensure reliable IT service delivery across: Infrastructure, applications, end-user services, vendor-delivered services and platforms.<br>• Manage local vendor relationships and performance in line with, agreed service levels, contractual obligations, risk requirements, and Group service governance expectations.<br>• Engage effectively with Group Technology & Operations Governance Lead for escalations, service performance, incidents and operational and alignment.<br><br>**Leadership & Capability Development**<br>• Build and lead the Botswana technology team that can deliver stable operations, transformation priorities and digital, data and AI outcomes.<br>• Set clear performance expectations and ensure accountability for delivery, service quality, risk management, stakeholder engagement and commercial discipline.<br>• Develop team capability across technology leadership, service delivery, transformation delivery, digital, data, AI, vendor management, risk management and business partnering.<br>• Building succession, talent depth and sustainable local capability in line with business needs and Group technology direction.<br>• Balancing internal capability with vendors and partners to ensure the function has the right skills, capacity and cost structure. |
| **Experience** | Minimum of 10–15 years' experience in IT, with at least 5–8 years in a senior leadership or executive role. Senior IT leadership experience in financial services or regulated industries is strongly preferred.<br>• Proven experience leading transformation, technology operations and digital and data initiatives, vendor-managed environments and technology risk management.<br>• Strong commercial acumen, with experience in technology investment prioritization, budget ownership, cost optimization, business case development and benefits realization.<br>• Experience working with executive teams and senior stakeholders to align technology decisions with business strategy.<br>Strong understanding of multi-business environments, including Life Insurance, General insurance, Asset Management, Banking, or other regulated financial services. |
| **Qualifications** | • Relevant degree in IT, Computer Science, Information Systems, Engineering, Business or a related field.<br>• Master's degree (e.g., MBA, MSc in IT, or related discipline) is strongly preferred.<br>• Enterprise architecture literacy certification, cybersecurity and cloud platform fluency certification, cloud professional-level certification, transformation delivery credentials and track record. Certifications such as TOGAF, CISM, CISSP, PMP, PRINCE2, SAFe, PROSCI, ACMP, AWS or Azure are strongly preferred. |

Interested candidates who meet the minimum requirements can submit their applications, to below link by Saturday 18 July 2026. https://oldmutual.wd3.myworkdayjobs.com/Old_Mutual_Careers

**INSURE** | INVEST

# Batswana Frustrate Govt Vehicle Auctions

## Only 40 percent of reserved vehicles are eventually bought, the PAC was told

**SESUPO RANTSIMAKO**

The Ministry of Transport and Infrastructure has accused some Batswana of frustrating government vehicle auctions by reserving vehicles they ultimately fail to purchase, a practice it says is undermining the auction process and leaving hundreds of vehicles stranded.

RESERVATION SYSTEM UNDER SCRUTINY

Appearing before the Public Accounts Committee (PAC) this week, Acting Permanent Secretary Pius Seone said the problem has become a recurring challenge, with many prospective buyers paying the reservation fee to secure vehicles but failing to honour the final purchase.

> Many reserved vehicles remain tied up for extended periods before being re-listed for sale, delaying the disposal process and reducing the efficiency of government auctions.

**LOW PURCHASE COMPLETION RATE**

Seone told the committee that interested buyers are required to pay a non-refundable reservation fee of P500 before participating in government vehicle auctions.

However, he revealed that only about 40 percent of the vehicles reserved are eventually paid for and collected, while the remaining 60 percent are carried over to subsequent auction sales after buyers fail to settle the final purchase price.

POTENTIAL BUYERS LOCKED OUT

According to Seone, the practice disadvantages genuine buyers who are ready and able to purchase the vehicles but are denied the opportunity because the vehicles have already been reserved.

He said the ministry is concerned that many reserved vehicles remain tied up for extended periods before being re-listed for sale, delaying the disposal process and reducing the efficiency of government auctions.

**VEHICLES DEPRECIATING**

Seone further warned that the delays are also affecting the condition and value of government vehicles.

He said vehicles left unattended for prolonged periods deteriorate while awaiting resale, potentially reducing the returns government can realise from future auctions.

The acting permanent secretary urged prospective buyers to reserve vehicles only if they intend and are financially able to complete the purchase, saying doing so would improve the efficiency of the auction process and ensure government assets are disposed of in a timely manner.




The Lead Economist of World Bank Group Jacques Morisset delivering his speech during the launch of the maiden edition of the Botswana Economic Update, with the theme "Seizing the Moment: Turning a Crisis into Opportunity" in Gaborone on 14 July 2026. The World Bank Group, in collaboration with the Ministry of Finance, launch this update. Pic:Monirul Bhuiyan/PRESS PHOTO



# Business Botswana Warns of Job Losses, Closures

## The business community has warned that the simultaneous implementation of tax and labour reforms could lead to job losses and business closures unless government adopts a carefully phased approach



The warning was delivered by Business Botswana Chief Executive Officer Tumi Mbaakanyi during the Business Botswana and Botswana Unified Revenue Service (BURS) Tax Reform Workshop held on Monday, where government and the private sector discussed proposed tax changes aimed at broadening revenue collection.

**BONGANI MALUNGA**

Business Botswana has cautioned that while government tax reforms are necessary to strengthen Botswana's strained fiscal position, introducing multiple regulatory changes simultaneously could force companies to retrench workers or shut down altogether.

The country's leading private sector lobby group says businesses are already operating under significant economic pressure and has urged government to carefully phase in planned reforms to avoid placing an unsustainable burden on employers.

The warning was delivered by Business Botswana Chief Executive Officer Tumi Mbaakanyi during the Business Botswana and Botswana Unified Revenue Service (BURS) Tax Reform Workshop held on Monday, where government and the private sector discussed proposed tax changes aimed at broadening revenue collection.

**INCREASINGLY CONCERNED**

Mbaakanyi said the private sector is increasingly concerned about the cumulative impact of several policy changes, including proposed tax reforms, an increase in corporate tax and the pending Employment and Labour Relations Act, arguing that the combined effect could undermine business sustainability.

"It would be remiss of me not to share our concern as the private sector with all the regulatory reforms that are coming up that the private sector has to carry. As we speak now there's an emerging and pending Employment and Labour Relations Act, there's also an increase in corporate tax. We appeal to the government that while we understand that the economy is where it is, the timing (is not ideal)," Mbaakanyi remarked.

She acknowledged government's need to introduce measures aimed at improving public finances but stressed that implementation should take into account the fragile state of the private sector and the broader economy.

> "What we appeal for is phasing out some of these implementations because we might end up with businesses that are closed up or retrenching."

**COSTLY REFORMS**

According to Mbaakanyi, introducing several costly reforms at once could have unintended consequences, particularly for businesses already battling slowing economic activity, rising operating costs and subdued consumer demand.

"What we appeal for is phasing out some of these implementations because we might end up with businesses that are closed up or retrenching. Where we are now, we cannot afford to lose even a single job. Our appeal is that as these are rolled out, they should not negatively impact the private sector but we do agree that this is also another avenue to improve our fiscal position as a country," she added.

Meanwhile the government has maintained that it is pursuing a series of fiscal reforms intended to boost domestic revenue and reduce pressure on public finances amid declining mineral revenues and widening budget constraints.


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**TENDER NOTICE and INVITATION TO TENDER**

**Tender BUAN: 3/2026 Provision of Insurance Brokerage Services for the Botswana University of Agriculture and Natural Resources (BUAN) for a duration of three (3) years.**

1. Sealed Tender offers are invited for the Provision of Insurance Brokerage Services for the Botswana University of Agriculture and Natural Resources (BUAN) for a duration of three (3) years.
2. Procurement Method is: **Open Domestic bidding method**
3. Tenderers who are domiciled in Botswana must, in order to be considered for the award of the contract, be registered with the Public Procurement Regulatory Authority in the following categories:
   **Code: 127 – Insurance and Pension**
   **Sub code 06 – Brokerage and risk-related services**
4. The tender is reserved for 100% Citizens or Citizen Contractors as stated under Section 76 (2) of the Public Procurement Act.
5. The Preference margins stated below will be applied to qualifying bidders in line with the prescribed Preference Scheme
   i. **Economic Diversification Drive initiative (EDD) -CAB 11 (A) of 2011)**
   ii. **Local Procurement Scheme (LPS) shall apply to this tender – Presidential Directive – CAB19 (B) 2013 where applicable**
6. **Submission Method: Single Envelope**
7. Tender Documents will be available with effect from **13th July 2026 to 6th August 2026 at a Non- Refundable fee of P200.00**

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Purchase of tender documents shall be made through electronic fund transfer or deposit made to BUAN account (banking details below) only. The proof of payment must be sent to purchasing@buan.ac.bw with a request for the tender document to be sent via email.

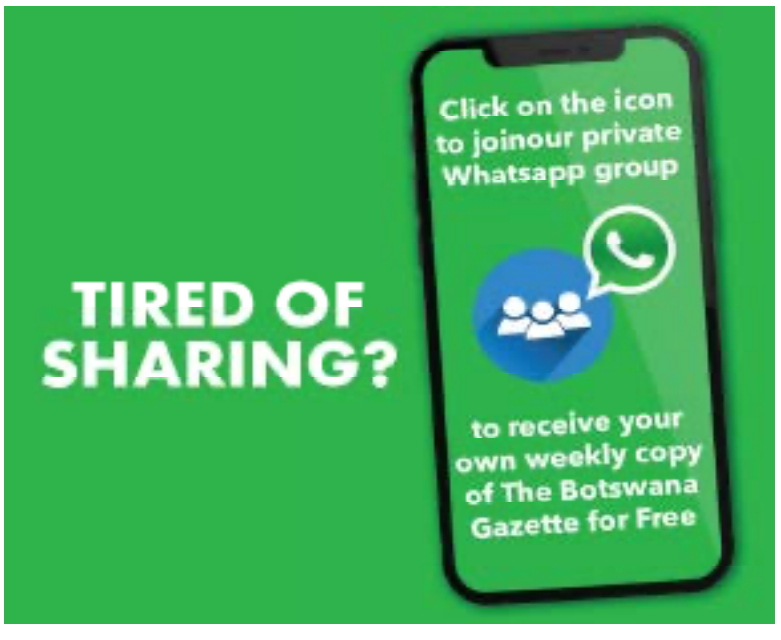
Documents shall be emailed during working hours between 0830 hours and 1600 hrs.

**BUAN Banking Details:**
**Beneficiary Name: Botswana University of Agriculture and Natural Resources (BUAN) Account No: 0100150424100**
**Bank: Standard Chartered Bank Branch: Mall Branch Code: 662167**
**Swift Code: SCHBBWGXXXX**
**Reference: TENDER NUMBER AND COMPANY NAME**

8. Queries or clarifications relating to the issuance of these documents may be addressed in writing not later than Seven (7) days before the tender closing date to Manager Procurement and Supply at Tel: 3650294/177/384/385 Fax: 3928753 or Email: purchasing@buan.ac.bw
9. The closing date and time for receipt of sealed tender offers is **6th August 2026 at 1100 hours** at the following physical address: Botswana University of Agriculture and Natural Resources Content Farm, Sebele, Office No: 1,Block 304 Gaborone.

www.buan.ac.bw info@buan.ac.bw








# MMG KHOEMACAU BETS ON TECHNOLOGY AND SUSTAINABILITY




**LEATILE ZACHARIAH**

As Botswana's mining sector pivots from diamonds to copper, MMG Khoemacau is ramping up investment in technology, sustainability and human capital to drive its next phase of growth.

Speaking in an interview, Communications Lead Nicole Senuku said the Ngamiland-based operation is leveraging mechanised underground mining and digital systems to improve safety, efficiency and productivity.

"We are highly mechanised, which means digital and innovative ways of working are at the centre of what we do," she said.

**EXPANSION DRIVE**

Khoemacau, located along the Kalahari Copper Belt, is targeting a significant production increase from 60,000 tonnes of copper to 200,000 tonnes in the coming years. The expansion will see the operation grow from three to six mines, positioning the company as a key player in Botswana's emerging copper industry.

Senuku said the growth strategy is underpinned by a skilled local workforce, with 90 percent of employees being Batswana.

**GREEN TRANSITION AND CONSERVATION**

On sustainability, the company is investing in renewable energy, including solar-powered systems, as part of its long-term goal to reduce carbon emissions.

"We are moving towards green energy and zero carbon emissions," she said.

Khoemacau is also exploring biodiversity conservation projects, including plans for a game reserve within its operational area an initiative aimed at balancing mining activity with environmental protection and boosting eco-tourism potential in the Maun region.

**WOMEN IN MINING**

Senuku said the company is deliberately addressing gender imbalances in the sector. Women currently make up 27 percent of the workforce, with representation across leadership, engineering, geology and plant operations.

Recruitment processes actively encourage female applicants, while graduate and skills development programmes aim to increase participation.

"We have women across exploration, mine planning, engineering and support services," she noted.

**MODERN MINING MISCONCEPTIONS**

Senuku dismissed the notion that technology and artificial intelligence threaten jobs in the sector, saying they are tools to enhance not replace human labour.

"Technology improves efficiency and optimises operations, but people remain central," she said, adding that continuous training ensures workers remain competitive.

**COMMUNITY IMPACT**

Beyond production, Khoemacau is investing in local communities through employment, education, healthcare and enterprise development. Youth from surrounding villages are prioritised for opportunities, while partnerships support broader economic participation.

As Botswana marks six decades of mining, Senuku said copper is set to play a bigger role in the country's economic future.

"Our expansion is not just about production, but economic transformation and diversification," she said.



# Access Bank Botswana
## SUMMARISED CONSOLIDATED AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
## FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

access more than banking

## Key Financial Highlights

- **P103.6m** ▼ 2024: P134.6m — Profit before tax
- **P373.8m** ▲ 2024: P296.5m — Non interest income
- **P545.6m** ▲ 2024: P526.6m — Expenses
- **P368.8m** ▼ 2024: P413.9m — Net interest income
- **P6,754m** ▲ 2024: P5,954m — Gross loans
- **P7,476m** ▲ 2024: P7,259m — Deposits from customers
- **18.3%** ▼ 2024: 21.7% — Capital adequacy ratio
- **73.5%** ▼ 2024: 74.1% — Cost to income ratio

### ECONOMY AND ENVIRONMENT
According to the International Monetary Fund's (IMF) World Economic Outlook (WEO) of March 2026, global GDP is projected to grow at 3.3% in 2026 and 3.2% in 2027, a slight upward revision from October 2025 estimates. Growth is supported by technology investment, AI-driven productivity gains, and resilient private sector adaptability, despite trade tensions and geopolitical risks.

Botswana's economy is projected to grow by 2.3%, with inflation averaging 4.7%, signalling a modest recovery following two consecutive years of contraction, according to the March 2026 World Economic Outlook by the International Monetary Fund. The Bank of Botswana, in its October 2025 Monetary Policy Report, projected that inflation would remain within the medium-term objective range of 3% to 6%. However, it highlighted several upside risks, including rising global oil and food prices, as well as exchange rate pressures. While exchange rate adjustments may support reserve stabilisation, they could also increase import costs, potentially pushing inflation above the target range.

The pressure on inflation could further be exacerbated by ongoing tensions in the Middle East, which could shortly result in a drop in the supply of oil, and a resultant rise in cost of production across various industries.

### SUMMARY OF FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE
The Bank maintained its recent consistency, entrenching the previous period results while fortifying the foundation in 2025 for performance in the coming strategic period, and still being able to maintain a solid return on deliberate investments in the current economic climate. A notable increase in top-line revenue was driven by a 26% surge in non-interest income, with significant growth of 117% in trading revenue. Investments in technology have not only enhanced operational stability, but have also enhanced the bank's product offering, enabling our customers to do more with us. With a strengthened foundation and enhanced offerings, the bank is well positioned to deliver sustainable growth.

### INCOME STATEMENT

- **Net Interest Income:** Interest income grew strongly by 6%, driven by effective portfolio and liquidity management that supported solid improvements in top-line revenue. However, overall net interest income was subdued by elevated funding costs, reflecting constrained margins in a market characterised by tightening liquidity. Looking ahead, disciplined balance sheet management and strategic funding initiatives will be key to sustaining growth in this environment.
- **Non-Interest Revenue:** The Bank achieved a robust 26% year-on-year increase in financial year 2025, largely driven by higher volumes in the digital banking space. Trading income also rose by 117%, supported by increased transaction volumes and underpinned by the Bank's expanding suite of product offerings. These developments significantly enhanced the customer value proposition, reinforcing the Bank's position as a trusted partner in the evolving financial landscape.
- **Impairments:** The Bank recorded a net impairment charge of P94 million, largely reflecting challenges in the broader economic environment. Despite these headwinds, the Bank remains steadfast in its commitment to supporting the nation during these economically challenging times, ensuring resilience and continued service to customers and communities.
- **Operating Expenses:** Operating expenses rose by 4% during the period. The increase was primarily driven by heightened investments in human capital, aimed at supporting the Bank's growth trajectory and enhancing long-term competitiveness. Our people are our biggest asset. The Bank was able to ensure strong cost efficiencies measures in other areas to make room for this growth. Further the Bank continues realization of synergies from being part of a world-class banking group.

### BALANCE SHEET
Total assets increased by 7% from December 2024, supported by robust loan book growth. Deposits from customers rose by 3% compared to December 2024, reflecting continued efforts to optimise funding efficiency amid significant market liquidity constraints. With a strengthened balance sheet and disciplined funding approach, the Bank is well-positioned to capitalise on upcoming opportunities, including the planned introduction of market-leading enhancements to its deposit offerings.

### CAPITAL ADEQUACY
The Bank's capital adequacy ratio declined from 21.7% in December 2024 to 18.3% as at December 2025. This level remains well above the regulatory minimum of 12.5%, leaving the Bank well capitalised to drive continued growth through the strategic period.

### STRATEGIC FOCUS
Notwithstanding the current trials faced in the country with deepening macroeconomic challenges, the Bank continues to look positively at the country's prospects going into the period as the key pillars that underpin what we do: loyalty to customers, customer centricity, supporting Small, Medium and Micro Enterprises and economic growth remain unchanged. To this end, the Bank remains driven not just on commercial considerations, but critically on aiding customers and stakeholders on their strategic journeys. During the year, the Bank rolled out an enhanced digital banking solutions for the corporate, commercial, and business banking clients with the launch of Primus+. This digital platform is expected to drive efficiency and allow for clients to do more. The retail segment remains committed on customer-centric banking solutions, with revamped digital offering on the horizon.

As the Bank continues its strategic journey, management remains focused on optimising operational efficiencies and accelerating digital innovation ultimately enabling customers to do more, with greater ease and convenience.

### BOARD CHANGES
In January 2025, the Bank sadly bid farewell to two distinguished board members, Ms. Lorato Mosetlhanyane and Mr. Joshua Galeforolwe, following the successful completion of their tenures. The two Directors who had served as the Board Chairperson and Chairperson of the Remuneration Committee respectively, have made a significant contribution in the Bank's expansion over the years and for that the Bank expresses its heartfelt appreciation to the outgoing board members for their exemplary leadership and unwavering commitment to the Bank's growth.

Access Bank Botswana appointed Mr. Davis Tele as a new Board Member in April 2025. Mr. Tele brings extensive experience, and the necessary skill sets to support the bank's ambitious growth plans.

### ACKNOWLEDGEMENT
We extend our heartfelt gratitude to our valued customers, stakeholders, regulators, partners, and the entire Access Bank family. Their unwavering support and collaboration have been the cornerstone of our success. We recognize and appreciate our leadership and our dedicated staff, and their commitment to excellence, which continues to drive our vision forward. Together, we are building a stronger, more resilient institution, and none of this would be possible without you. A very special thanks go out to our customers - we exist because of you. Your trust and support inspire everything we do, and we are deeply grateful for the continued confidence you place in us.

Mr. Boiki Matema Wabo Tema
**Chairman**

Mr. Sheperd Aisam
**Managing Director**

Member of the Deposit Insurance Scheme of Botswana.



### Access Bank Botswana Limited Summarised Consolidated Audited Statements of Profit or Loss and Other Comprehensive income
for the year ended 31 December 2025

| | 31 December 2025 P'000 | 31 December 2024 P'000 | % Change |
|---|---|---|---|
| Effective interest and similar income | 939,000 | 888,503 | 6% |
| Effective interest expense and similar charges | (570,178) | (474,639) | (20%) |
| **Net interest income** | **368,822** | **413,864** | **(11%)** |
| Impairment credit on financial assets | (80,209) | (39,534) | (103%) |
| **Net interest income after impairment credit on financial assets** | **288,613** | **374,330** | **(23%)** |
| Net trading income | 84,034 | 38,662 | 117% |
| Fair value loss on financial assets at fair value through profit and loss | (13,309) | (9,545) | (39%) |
| Net fee and commission income | 289,810 | 257,792 | 12% |
| **Income from operations** | **649,148** | **661,239** | **(2%)** |
| Personnel expenses | (252,495) | (211,671) | (19%) |
| General and administrative expenses | (192,955) | (210,547) | 8% |
| Depreciation and amortisation expenses | (44,818) | (47,519) | 6% |
| Other operating expenses | (55,308) | (56,870) | 3% |
| **Total operating expenses** | **(545,576)** | **(526,607)** | **(4%)** |
| **Profit before tax** | **103,572** | **134,632** | **(23%)** |
| Income taxation expense | (23,695) | (34,504) | (31%) |
| **Profit for the year** | **79,877** | **100,128** | **(20%)** |
| **Other comprehensive income for the year** | | | |
| Changes in revaluation of property | 570 | 1,005 | (43%) |
| Deferred tax effect on the above | (125) | (221) | 43% |
| **Other comprehensive income** | **445** | **784** | **(43%)** |
| **Total comprehensive income for the year** | **80,322** | **100,912** | **(20%)** |
| | | | |
| **Earnings per share** | | | |
| Basic and diluted earnings per share (thebe) | 11.00 | 13.81 | |

### Access Bank Botswana Limited Summarised Consolidated Audited Statements of Financial Position
as at 31 December 2025

| | 31 December 2025 P'000 | 31 December 2024 P'000 |
|---|---|---|
| **ASSETS** | | |
| Cash and balances with the central bank | 489,134 | 621,903 |
| Balances with other banks | 1,733,949 | 1,203,115 |
| Balances due from related parties | 7,944 | 140,491 |
| Derivative financial assets | 4 | 4,744 |
| Investment securities | 1,526,879 | 1,796,122 |
| Loans and advances to customers | 6,456,871 | 5,711,480 |
| Current tax receivable | 25,817 | 8,131 |
| Other assets | 374,074 | 359,466 |
| Property and equipment | 151,866 | 165,815 |
| Intangible assets | 40,243 | 49,818 |
| Deferred tax asset | 1,313 | 9,407 |
| **Total assets** | **10,808,094** | **10,070,492** |
| | | |
| **LIABILITIES** | | |
| Balances due to related parties | 16,311 | 49,473 |
| Deposits from banks | 1,227,892 | 570,813 |
| Deposits from customers | 7,475,965 | 7,258,555 |
| Borrowings | 765,668 | 851,478 |
| Derivative financial liabilities | 1,053 | 547 |
| Other liabilities | 170,389 | 269,132 |
| **Total liabilities** | **9,657,278** | **8,999,998** |
| | | |
| **EQUITY** | | |
| Stated capital | 222,479 | 222,479 |
| Retained earnings | 910,950 | 831,073 |
| Revaluation reserve | 11,296 | 10,851 |
| Other reserves | 6,091 | 6,091 |
| **Total equity** | **1,150,816** | **1,070,494** |
| **Total equity and liabilities** | **10,808,094** | **10,070,492** |

### Access Bank Botswana Limited Summarised Consolidated Audited Statement of Changes in Equity
for the year ended 31 December 2025

| | Stated capital P'000 | Revaluation reserve P'000 | Other reserves P'000 | Retained earnings P'000 | Total Equity P'000 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Balance at 1 January 2024** | **222,479** | **10,067** | **6,091** | **802,945** | **1,041,582** |
| Profit for the period | - | - | - | 100,128 | 100,128 |
| **Other comprehensive income** | | | | | |
| Revaluation of land and buildings | - | 1,005 | - | - | 1,005 |
| Deferred tax on revaluation of land and buildings | - | (221) | - | - | (221) |
| **Total other comprehensive income** | | **784** | | **-** | **784** |
| **Total comprehensive income** | **-** | **784** | **-** | **100,128** | **100,912** |
| **Transactions with owners of the group** | | | | | |
| Dividend declared and unpaid | - | - | - | (43,000) | (43,000) |
| Dividend declared and paid | - | - | - | (29,000) | (29,000) |
| **Total other movements in reserves** | **-** | **-** | **-** | **(72,000)** | **(72,000)** |
| **At 31 December 2024** | **222,479** | **10,851** | **6,091** | **831,073** | **1,070,494** |
| **Balance at 1 January 2025** | **222,479** | **10,851** | **6,091** | **831,073** | **1,070,494** |
| Profit for the period | - | - | - | 79,877 | 79,877 |
| **Other comprehensive income** | | | | | |
| Revaluation of land and buildings | - | 570 | - | - | 570 |
| Deferred tax on revaluation of land and buildings | - | (125) | - | - | (125) |
| **Total other comprehensive income** | **-** | **445** | **-** | **-** | **445** |
| **Total Comprehensive income** | **-** | **445** | **-** | **79,877** | **80,322** |
| **Transactions with owners of the group** | | | | | |
| Reserves transferred | - | - | - | - | - |
| Dividend declared and unpaid | - | - | - | - | - |
| Dividend declared and paid | - | - | - | - | - |
| **Total other movements in reserves** | **-** | **-** | **-** | **-** | **-** |
| **Balance at 31 December 2025** | **222,479** | **11,296** | **6,091** | **910,950** | **1,150,816** |

### Access Bank Botswana Limited Summarised Consolidated Audited Statement of Cash Flows
for the year ended 31 December 2025

| | 31 December 2025 P'000 | 31 December 2024 P'000 |
|---|---|---|
| **Cash flows from operating activities** | | |
| Profit before tax | 103,572 | 134,632 |
| **Adjusted for:** | | |
| Depreciation and amortisation | 44,818 | 47,519 |
| Impairment credit on financial assets | 83,225 | 42,380 |
| Fair value loss on financial assets at fair value though profit and loss | 13,309 | 9,545 |
| Net exchange (gains)/ losses | (9,512) | 14,382 |
| Currency revaluations | - | (17) |
| Net interest income | (368,822) | (413,864) |
| **Cash flows from operating activities before changes in operating assets and liabilities** | **(133,410)** | **(165,423)** |
| | | |
| **Movement in operating assets / liabilities:** | **281,301** | **53,530** |
| Loans and advances to customers | (775,878) | 406,418 |
| Balances with other banks | 211,646 | (211,525) |
| Balances due from related parties | 139,333 | (148,124) |
| Other assets | (2,016) | (123,518) |
| Derivative financial assets | 4,740 | (4,744) |
| Deposits from customers and banks | 835,584 | 74,289 |
| Other liabilities | (99,451) | 16,622 |
| Derivative financial liabilities | 505 | 547 |
| Balances due to related parties | (33,162) | 43,565 |
| | | |
| Interest received | 907,169 | 867,282 |
| Interest paid | (527,077) | (468,600) |
| Tax (paid)/refund | (31,880) | (26,095) |
| **Net cash from operating activities** | **496,103** | **260,694** |
| | | |
| **Cash flows from investing activities** | | |
| Purchase of property and equipment | (17,454) | (25,077) |
| Purchase of intangibles assets | (18,300) | (21,219) |
| Additions to investment securities | (1,570,427) | (27,074,918) |
| Disposals of investment securities | 1,847,597 | 26,254,508 |
| **Net cash generated from / (used in) investing activities** | **241,417** | **(866,706)** |
| | | |
| **Cash flows from financing activities** | | |
| Dividend paid | (43,000) | (29,000) |
| Proceeds from borrowed funds | - | 25,000 |
| Repayments on borrowed funds | (57,695) | - |
| Payment of principal on lease liabilities | (8,515) | (8,382) |
| **Net cash utilised in financing activities** | **(109,210)** | **(12,382)** |
| | | |
| Net increase in cash and cash equivalents | 628,310 | (618,393) |
| Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of the period | 1,583,803 | 2,198,176 |
| Effect of exchange rate fluctuations on cash balances | (17,514) | 4,020 |
| **Cash and cash equivalents at end of year** | **2,194,599** | **1,583,803** |
| | | |
| **Cash and cash equivalents comprised of:** | | |
| Balances with other banks | 1,705,465 | 961,900 |
| Cash and balances with the Central Bank | 489,134 | 621,903 |
| | **2,194,599** | **1,583,803** |

### General information
Access Bank Botswana Limited ("Access Bank" or "the Bank") provides corporate banking, retail and treasury activities. The company is a limited liability company and is incorporated and domiciled in Botswana (registration number BW00001089931). A 100% owned subsidiary company of Access Bank, Kaleu Pty Ltd was registered as an insurance agency in 2012, with the bank in 2024 registering a 100% owned nominee company named Access Bank Botswana Nominees Co Pty Ltd. The registered address of the Group and Company is Plot 62433, Access House, Fairgrounds Office Park, Private Bag 00303, Gaborone. The Group's holding company is Access Bank plc with a shareholding of 70%. Access Bank Botswana Limited was listed on the Botswana Stock Exchange on 13 December 2018.

The summarised consolidated audited annual financial statements for the period ended 31 December 2025 have been approved for issue by the members of the Board on 9th July 2026. Neither the members of the Board nor others have the power to amend financial statements after issue.

### 1. Basis of presentation
**1.1. Statement of compliance**

**Accounting policies**
The summarised consolidated audited annual financial statements have been prepared on the going concern basis in accordance with, and in compliance with, IFRS® Accounting Standards (IFRS Accounting Standards) and International Financial Reporting Interpretations Committee ("IFRIC") interpretations issued and effective at the time of preparing these consolidated and separate annual financial statements and the Companies Act, 2003.
The summarised consolidated audited annual financial statements have been prepared on the historic cost convention, except as modified by the revaluation of financial instruments measured as fair value through profit and loss and property measured at revalued amounts. They are presented in Pula, which is the company's functional currency.

**New Accounting Standards and Changes in Accounting policies**

**Effective 1 January 2025 - Amendments to IAS 21, 'The Effects of Changes in Foreign Exchange Rates' - Lack of Exchangeability (Amendments to IAS 21)**

An entity is impacted by the amendments when it has a transaction or an operation in a foreign currency that is not exchangeable into another currency at a measurement date for a specified purpose. A currency is exchangeable when there is an ability to obtain the other currency (with a normal administrative delay), and the transaction would take place through a market or exchange mechanism that creates enforceable rights and obligations.

These amendments were considered in the current financial year and they were found to not be applicable to the Group as there were no circumstances in which exchangeability of a currency was lacking. Accordingly, the amendments had no impact on the financial statements."

**Use of estimates and judgements**
The preparation of consolidated and separate annual financial statements in conformity with IFRS Accounting Standards requires management, from time to time, to make judgements, estimates and assumptions that affect the application of policies and reported amounts of assets, liabilities, income and expenses. These estimates and associated assumptions are based on experience and various other factors that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances. Actual results may differ from these estimates. The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimates are revised and in any future periods affected.

Information about assumptions and estimation uncertainties that have a significant risk of resulting in material adjustment for the year ended 31 December 2025 have been included in the following notes:

- Determination of the fair value of financial instruments with significant unobservable inputs
- Impairment of financial instruments: key assumptions used in estimating recoverable cash flows
- Determination of the fair value of land and buildings with significant unobservable inputs
- Determination of the lease period (impact of lease renewals) and incremental borrowing rate

# Govt Secures P450m for BR Workers Crisis

## The government has secured P450 million to clear Botswana Railways debts, prioritising employee loan deductions after strike action paralysed operations



The Ministry of Transport and Infrastructure has moved swiftly to contain the industrial unrest that has gripped Botswana Railways (BR), with Minister Noah Salakae confirming that the government has secured a P450 million funding package to clear the parastatal's mounting creditor backlog,

**BONGANI MALUNGA**

The Ministry of Transport and Infrastructure has moved swiftly to contain the industrial unrest that has gripped Botswana Railways (BR), with Minister Noah Salakae confirming that the government has secured a P450 million funding package to clear the parastatal's mounting creditor backlog, with workers' unremitted loan deductions set to be addressed as a matter of urgency.

The intervention comes after two consecutive days of disruption at Botswana Railways, where workers staged protests over deductions that had been withheld from their salaries but were allegedly never remitted to banks and other third-party institutions. On Monday, employees locked the railway premises and downed tools before repeating the action on Tuesday morning, displaying letters of demand issued by lawyers representing commercial banks seeking repayment of overdue loans.

The protests highlighted growing frustration among employees who say they have been left exposed to legal action despite their monthly loan repayments being deducted from their salaries.

ACKNOWLEDGING THE SITUATION

Responding to the unrest in an interview with The Botswana Gazette, Salakae acknowledged the seriousness of the situation while noting that the dispute was fundamentally between Botswana Railways and its employees.

"As you may be aware there was an incident at BR yesterday with employee action as a result of letters of demand from the bank for employee loans that BR has not been servicing even though deductions from employee salary were made. This is an issue of BR and BR employees. At the time of this correspondence, I had not asked the BR leadership about whether or not they addressed the employees. I expect them to do that anyway as part of their daily leadership operation," Salakae told this reporter.

However, the minister revealed that his ministry had already taken concrete steps to resolve the financial crisis underpinning the industrial action by securing funding from the Ministry of Finance.

IMMEDIATE SETTLEMENT

According to Salakae, the first tranche of the funding was expected to reach Botswana Railways on Tuesday, paving the way for immediate settlement of employee-related obligations.

"This notwithstanding, We have as a ministry helped to secure funding from the Ministry of Finance, We are expecting P39 million today (Tuesday) and the total approved was P450 million to be allocated through virement from other MTI votes. This is a major development to finally address this extremely difficult backlog of creditors and position BR much better for growth. The employee loan situation will be prioritised and addressed immediately," Salakae explained.

The minister stated that the action is the first move in stabilising the financially troubled rail utility, whose operational challenges have increasingly spilled over into labour relations.

# Botswana Open to China Visa Talks

## Botswana says future visa-free travel talks with China remain possible as both nations explore stronger trade, tourism and people-to-people relations

**BONGANI MALUNGA**




Botswana says it remains open to discussions with China on expanding travel arrangements for its citizens after the Asian country extended visa-free entry to selected countries, leaving African nations, including Botswana, off the latest list.

Responding to questions from The Botswana Gazette, the Minister of International Relations Phenyo Butale said Botswana was aware of China's expanded unilateral visa-free policy announced in February 2026 but confirmed that no African country was included among the beneficiaries.

"The Ministry is aware that in February 2026, the Government of the People's Republic of China expanded its unilateral visa free policy, allowing holders of ordinary passports from selected countries to enter Mainland China without visa for stays up to 30 days. The arrangement applies to 35 European countries, two from Oceania, seven from Asia and six from the Americas. No African country including Botswana, was included on the expanded visa free list," Butale said.

**GROWING QUESTIONS**

The clarification comes amid growing questions over whether Botswana could seek similar treatment as China continues to deepen economic and diplomatic engagement with countries around the world. Butale said Botswana and China currently only have a visa exemption agreement covering diplomatic and official passport holders, which came into effect in 2018.

"Botswana and China currently have an Agreement on Visa exemption for diplomatic and official passport holders of both countries. The Agreement entered into force in December 2018. Expansion of this arrangement has not yet been discussed," he said.

**BILATERAL AGREEMENTS**

The Minister, however, indicated that broader visa facilitation could form part of future bilateral engagements, particularly as both countries seek to strengthen trade, investment, tourism and people-to-people exchanges.

"Botswana and China continue to engage on ways to strengthen bilateral relations, with particular emphasis on promoting trade, investment, tourism and people to people exchanges. Both Governments remain committed to exploring measures that facilitate these interactions while advancing shared interests," Butale said.

# Skelemani Urges Executive to Back Speaker's Agenda

## Former Speaker Phandu Skelemani has urged President Boko, his Cabinet and legislators to back Speaker Dithapelo Keorapetse's push for an independent Parliament to strengthen Botswana's democracy

**SESUPO RANTSIMAKO**

Former Speaker of the National Assembly Phandu Skelemani has thrown his weight behind Speaker Dithapelo Keorapetse's campaign for an independent Parliament, calling on President Duma Boko and his Cabinet to support reforms that would free the legislature from executive control.

Speaking to The Botswana Gazette on the sidelines of the official opening of Parliament's legislative meeting this week, Skelemani said the time had come for Botswana to establish a Parliament that operates independently of the Executive, arguing that the move would strengthen the country's democratic institutions.

**'THE TIME HAS COME'**

Skelemani said the debate over parliamentary independence is not new, having been discussed for decades during his time in the public service and later while serving as Speaker of the National Assembly.

He stressed that Parliament and the Executive are separate constitutional institutions with distinct responsibilities.

"It has to be made clear that government and Parliament are two different institutions," he said.

Skelemani urged President Boko and his Cabinet to embrace the reforms championed by Keorapetse, saying an independent Parliament would enhance democratic governance rather than undermine the Executive.

**CONFIDENCE IN KEORAPETSE**

The former Speaker expressed confidence that Keorapetse would succeed in advancing the reforms, describing the Speaker as a long-time advocate of parliamentary autonomy.

According to Skelemani, Keorapetse consistently argued for an independent Parliament during his years as an opposition Member of Parliament, making the issue a long-standing principle rather than a recent political position.

"I have no doubt that he will succeed because this is something he has always believed in," Skelemani said.



Former Speaker of the National Assembly Phandu Skelemani

WARNING ON UNFULFILLED PROMISES

While supporting Parliament's reform agenda, Skelemani cautioned lawmakers against raising public expectations they may not be able to meet.

He warned that failure to pass promised legislation before Parliament is prorogued could undermine public confidence, noting that Bills that have not completed the legislative process automatically lapse once Parliament is prorogued.

"If Parliament fails to pass promised legislation before prorogation, those Bills die, and that could disappoint voters who expected those reforms," he said.

**KEORAPETSE RENEWS CALL**

Skelemani's endorsement comes after Keorapetse used the official opening of Parliament's legislative meeting this week to renew calls for Parliament's institutional and financial independence.

The Speaker argued that Botswana cannot claim to have an effective system of democratic oversight while Parliament remains financially and institutionally dependent on the Executive it is constitutionally mandated to scrutinise.

Keorapetse maintained that reliance on the Executive for funding and administrative operations weakens Parliament's oversight role and limits its ability to hold government accountable.

He argued that genuine institutional independence is essential if Parliament is to effectively discharge its constitutional mandate and strengthen Botswana's democratic governance.

BOTASH
STAFF PENSION FUND
Mosireletsi wa bokamoso jwa gago

BOTSWANA ASH STAFF PENSION FUND

INVITATION TO TENDER
FOR PROVISION OF INDEPENDENT BOARD ASSESSMENT SERVICES

Tenders are invited from interested Companies to tender for the Provision of independent Board Assessment services for the Botswana Ash Staff Pension Fund Board of Trustees.

1. Tender documents containing details of the requirements may be requested via e mail from the following:

**Ms N Pule** at npule@mmila.co.bw
**Mr A Mokgadi** at BMokgadi@mmila.co.bw

2. Tenders must be structured in the same manner as detailed in the Tender document.

3. Hand-delivered, telegraphic, telephone and facsimile tenders will not be considered.

4. Notwithstanding anything contained above and in the tender document, the Client is not bound to accept the lowest or any tender nor to incur any expenses in the preparation thereof.

5. Tenders shall be **submitted via e-mail with the e-mail** subject line clearly marked "**Botswana Ash Staff Pension Fund, Tender for provision of Independent Board Assessment Services – BOTASH PF 2026**" to the following:

BMokgadi@mmila.co.bw
npule@mmila.co.bw
LKuswani@botash.bw

6. All tenders must be received no later than 09:00rs on 30 July 2026.

7. A non-refundable deposit of P500.00 will be required prior to issuance of the RFP document and all such payments shall be made payable to **Botswana Ash Staff Pension Fund c/o Mmila Fund Administrators (Pty) Ltd**. Method of payment shall be via Electronic Fund Transfer (EFT).

Request for bank details for EFT payment shall be emailed to ophiri@mmila.co.bw and BMokgadi@mmila.co.bw.

Proof of payment shall be emailed to ophiri@mmila.co.bw copied in BMokgadi@mmila.co.bw prior to issuance of the RFP document.

Mmila Fund Administrators
Service Excellence Assured

# Debswana Jwaneng Mine Hands over Resource Centre

DEBSWANA
Mining diamonds, enriching the nation



Leadership delegation and community in attendance for the handover of the Mmalekwa Cemetery Heritage Site Resource Centre



Paramount Chief of the Bangwaketse and Chairperson of Ntlo ya Dikgosi, Kgosi Malope II providing Welcome Remarks



Jwaneng Mine General Manager – Goitseone Gadifele providing overview of Debswana Socio-Economic Development program



Head of Sustainability and Social Impact, Rachel Mothibatsela



Mmalekwa Cemetery Heritage Site Resource Centre



Mmalekwa Trust Solomon, Mr Ofentse Solomon providing Mmalekwa project overview



Leadership delegation being taken on tour of the Mmalekwa Cemetery Heritage Site Resource Centre



Member of Parliament for Kanye West – Hon. Victor Phologolo providing closing remarks





Leadership delegation being taken on tour of the Mmalekwa Cemetery Heritage Site Resource Centre



Mmalekwa



Ribbon cutting by Paramount Chief of the Bangwaketse and Chairperson of Ntlo ya Dikgosi, Kgosikgolo Malope II and Head of Sustainability and Social Impact, Rachel Mothibatsela

**Debswana Jwaneng Mine has handed over the P1.7 million Mmalekwa Cultural Heritage Site Resource Centre, a project aimed at preserving a historic cemetery while supporting community use and heritage tourism.**

Debswana Jwaneng Mine handed over the P1.7 million Mmalekwa Cultural Heritage Site Resource Centre to the Kanye District Council and the Mmalekwa Trust Committee, marking the completion of a project intended to preserve one of the Bangwaketse's historic burial sites.

**HERITAGE PRESERVATION**

The handover, held at Mmalekwa Cemetery Cultural Heritage Site included presentations on the site's history, the development project, and Jwaneng Mine's socio-economic development programme, before the official ribbon-cutting and a tour of the new facilities. Speaking at the event, Jwaneng Mine General Manager, Goitseone Gadifele said the project was intended to preserve a site of historical and cultural significance while providing facilities that could support community activities.

He described Mmalekwa as the final resting place of Bangwaketse Dikgosi, missionaries, colonial administrators, and other historical figures, adding that preserving such sites helps to safeguard Botswana's cultural heritage for future generations.

**COMMUNITY FACILITIES**

The development includes a mini-hall for meetings and educational activities, a library, a kitchen and cafeteria, ablution facilities, a kiosk, parking areas, paving, and perimeter security infrastructure.

Gadifele said the facilities are expected to improve access for visitors, researchers, students, and tourists, while providing opportunities for the Mmalekwa Trust Committee to generate revenue through activities at the site.

He also noted that the project forms part of Jwaneng Mine's socio-economic development programme and aligns with the Debswana's Ya Masa strategy, which focuses on responsible mining, partnerships, and sustainable development.

***"Buildings alone cannot preserve heritage. People do."***

**ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES**

According to Gadifele, heritage sites can contribute to Botswana's economic diversification by supporting cultural tourism, creating employment opportunities, and generating business activity for surrounding communities.

He said the project builds on Debswana's existing partnership with the Kanye District Council, which also includes initiatives such as the Maranyane Bokamoso STEM Programme.

Receiving the facility on behalf of the community, Kgosi Malope II thanked Debswana for supporting the preservation of the Mmalekwa Heritage Site, and said the community would take responsibility for maintaining and protecting the facility.

During his address, Gadifele stated, "Buildings alone cannot preserve heritage. People do," urging the Mmalekwa Trust Committee and the community to safeguard and utilise the site.



Naledi Mining Service Company chief executive officer Bokang Thitoyamore (R) and Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of labour and home affairs Rule Jimmy Opelo (L) and Minister in the Ministry of labour and home affairs Major General (Rtd) Pius Mokgware pose for a picture after signing the document of agreement between Naledi Mining Service Company and Ministry of Labour and Home affairs cooperation on labour export for the mining sector in Gaborone. Pic:Monirul Bhuiyan/PRESS PHOTO

# BPP Expels Youth Leaders

## The BPP has expelled Youth League President and eight committee members for rejecting the proposed constitutional amendments they claim would automatically disqualify potential presidential contenders

SESUPO RANTSIMAKO

Fresh divisions have emerged within the Botswana People's Party (BPP) after the party expelled Youth League president Montlatsi Masalila and eight members of his committee for rejecting proposed constitutional amendments they claim are designed to pave the way for Secretary General Mmantlha Sankoloba to become the party's next president.

**CONSTITUTION AT CENTRE OF DISPUTE**

Speaking to The Botswana Gazette after receiving his expulsion letter this week, Masalila alleged that the proposed amendments would effectively bar other presidential hopefuls from contesting the party's top position, leaving Sankoloba as the only eligible candidate.

Masalila said the Youth League rejected the proposed constitution because it fails to recognize the party's Youth League and Women's Wing, weakening key party structures.

He said the most controversial provision requires anyone seeking the presidency not to have previously held a position in another political party.

"The amendments are clearly meant to serve the interests of one person. It is simply a transitional constitution designed to usher Mmantlha Sankoloba into the presidency," he said.

**RIVALS COULD BE LOCKED OUT**

According to Masalila, the clause would effectively disqualify several potential contenders, including Francistown West MP Ignatius Moswaane and BPP vice president Dr Philip Bulawa. The duo are reportedly unwanted by the party president Motlatsi Molapise.

He argued that the amendment was deliberately crafted to narrow the field and predetermine the outcome of the party's leadership race.

**MISCONDUCT CITED**

In the expulsion letter, Sankoloba said Masalila had been dismissed on grounds of misconduct.

The letter accuses him of conduct incompatible with the party's values, constitution, principles and disciplinary code, bringing the BPP into disrepute through public attacks on its leadership and structures, and defying lawful resolutions of the Central Committee.

The expulsion also extends to eight members of the Youth League committee who supported the resolution rejecting the proposed amendments.

**SANKOLOBA RESPONDS**

Responding to The Botswana Gazette, Sankoloba dismissed claims that the amendments were designed to advance her presidential ambitions.

> "The amendments are clearly meant to serve the interests of one person. It is simply a transitional constitution designed to usher Mmantlha Sankoloba into the presidency."

She said constitutional amendments are not the decision of one individual but are the collective responsibility of the Central Committee and other party structures before being adopted through the party's constitutional processes.

On allegations that the changes are intended to pave the way for her presidency, Sankoloba said she remains focused on her current role as Secretary General.

She added that if an elective congress is held and members nominate her, she would be willing to serve in whatever capacity the party entrusts her with in accordance with its constitution and democratic processes.

**TENSIONS MOUNT**

The expulsions are expected to deepen divisions within the BPP ahead of its elective congress, with the proposed constitutional amendments emerging as the latest flashpoint in an increasingly bitter leadership contest.

AIR BOTSWANA

**INVITATION TO TENDER**

**FOR PROVISION OF ASSET MANAGEMENT SERVICES JULY 2026**

The Air Botswana Pension Fund (ABPF) wishes to invite companies licensed by the Non-Bank Financial Institutions Regulatory Authority (NBFIRA) to tender for the provision of asset management services to the Air Botswana Pension Fund (ABPF) on its Growth Portfolio (Global Balanced). The Fund is seeking **pooled investment solutions**. Segregated solutions will not be considered.

1. Tender documents containing details of the requirements are available from Thursday 9 July 2026:

   **Mr Matong Matong**
   **Air Botswana Pension Fund**
   **c/o Alexander Forbes Asset Consultants**
   **Plot 54359, Motswere Building, Prime Plaza II, CBD**
   **Gaborone**

   By email:
   matongm@airbotswana.co.bw , newmans@alexforbes.com
   (cc) AFACBW@alexforbes.com

2. **Tenders must be structured in the same way as detailed in the document**.
3. Facsimile submissions will not be considered.
4. Notwithstanding anything contained above and in the tender document, Air Botswana Pension Fund is not bound to accept the lowest or any tender nor to incur any expenses in the preparation thereof.
5. Tenders shall be HAND delivered to the address stated above and shall be clearly marked:

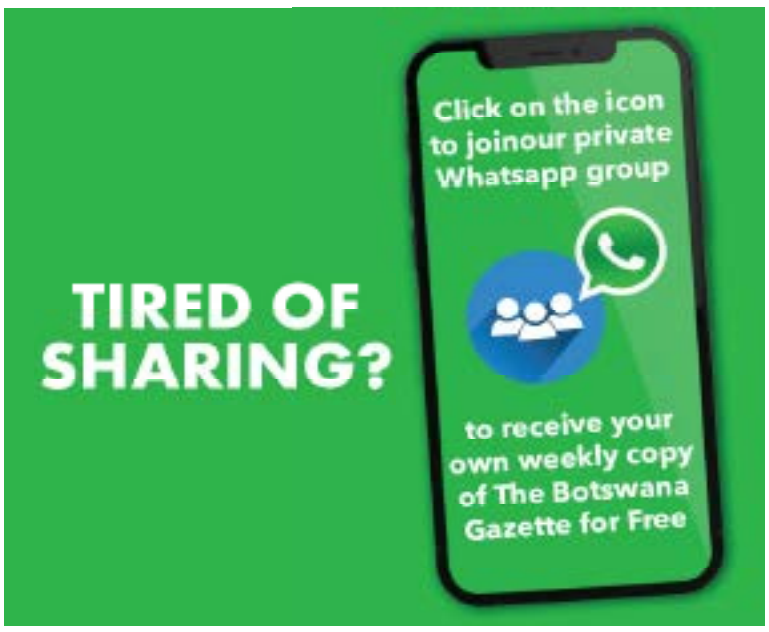
**"AIR BOTSWANA PENSION FUND, PROVISION OF ASSET MANAGEMENT SERVICES FOR THE GROWTH PORTFOLIO (GLOBAL BALANCED MANDATE)"**

Both envelopes should be placed into an outer sealed envelope that should **NOT bear the name of the bidder**.

6. Email submissions are to be made to the following addresses:
   Mr Matong Matong at matongm@airbotswana.co.bw, Stephinah Newman at newmans@alexforbes.com & AFACBW@alexforbes.com

7. All tenders (both hard copies and electronic submissions) must be received by Air Botswana Pension Fund(ABPF) (c/o Alexander Forbes Asset Consultants) not later than **12H00 on Thursday 30 July 2026**.
8. A non-refundable deposit of P1,000.00 will be required upon collection of the Tender documents and all such payments shall be made **payable to Air Botswana Pension Fund (ABPF) c/o Alexander Forbes Asset Consultants (Pty) Ltd. Method of payment shall be via Electronic Fund Transfer (EFT)**.
9. Request for bank details for EFT payment shall be emailed to Stephinah Newman at newmans@alexforbes.com.

10. **Proof of payment shall be emailed to** newmans@alexforbes.com (copied in matongm@airbotswana.co.bw & AFACBW@alexforbes.com ) **prior to collection of tender**.



# Govt To Expand DUI Laws to Cover Illicit Drugs

## Government plans to amend the Road Traffic Act to criminalise driving under the influence of illicit drugs, broadening impaired driving offences beyond alcohol in a bid to improve road safety

BONGANI MALUNGA

The government is preparing to amend the Road Traffic Act to broaden impaired driving offences beyond alcohol, allowing authorities to prosecute motorists driving under the influence (DUI) of illicit drugs.

In many jurisdictions, laws are used to punish motorists whose judgment, reaction time, coordination, or concentration is affected, increasing the risk of road accidents.

In Botswana, the term is often associated mainly with driving under the influence of alcohol, but the proposed Road Traffic Act amendments would expand the scope to include drug-impaired driving as well.

Speaking on the sidelines of the opening of Parliament this week, the Assistant Minister of Transport and Infrastructure Keoagile Atamelang said the review is intended to address gaps in the current law, which primarily focuses on alcohol-related offences despite growing concerns over drug-impaired driving.

> "We are working on amending the Road Traffic Act to make sure that all illicit drugs are recognised under traffic offences."

**LAW REVIEW UNDERWAY**

Atamelang said the revised legislation will recognise illicit drugs as traffic offences because they impair judgment, concentration and reaction time in much the same way as alcohol.

"We are working on amending the Road Traffic Act to make sure that all illicit drugs are recognised under traffic offences," he said.

**TOUGHER ENFORCEMENT**

The amendments are expected to give law enforcement broader powers to prosecute drug-impaired drivers and strengthen road safety enforcement. While the government has not yet outlined the specific substances or penalties to be included, the reforms are aimed at reducing road crashes linked to impaired driving.

The proposed amendments will be tabled before Parliament once the legislative review is complete.







AIR BOTSWANA

**INVITATION TO TENDER**

**FOR PROVISION OF ASSET MANAGEMENT SERVICES JULY 2026**

The Air Botswana Pension Fund (ABPF) wishes to invite companies licensed by the Non-Bank Financial Institutions Regulatory Authority (NBFIRA) to tender for the provision of asset management services to the Air Botswana Pension Fund (ABPF) on its Pre – Retirement Switch Portfolio (Local Balanced Mandate). The Fund is seeking **pooled investment solutions**. Segregated solutions will not be considered.

1. Tender documents containing details of the requirements are available from 9 July 2026:

**Mr Matong Matong**
**Air Botswana Pension Fund**
**c/o Alexander Forbes Asset Consultants**
**Plot 54359, Motswere Building, Prime Plaza II, CBD**
**Gaborone**

By email:
matongm@airbotswana.co.bw , newmans@alexforbes.com
(cc) AFACBW@alexforbes.com

2. Tenders must be structured in the same way as detailed in the document.
3. Facsimile submissions will not be considered.
4. Notwithstanding anything contained above and in the tender document, Air Botswana Pension Fund(ABPF) is not bound to accept the lowest or any tender nor to incur any expenses in the preparation thereof.
5. Tenders shall be HAND delivered to the address stated above and shall be clearly marked:

**"AIR BOTSWANA PENSION FUND, PROVISION OF ASSET MANAGEMENT SERVICES FOR THE PRE – RETIREMENT SWITCH PORTFOLIO (LOCAL BALANCED MANDATE)"**

Both envelopes should be placed into an outer sealed envelope that should **NOT bear the name of the bidder**.

6. Email submissions are to be made to the following addresses:
Mr Matong Matong at matongm@airbotswana.co.bw, Stephinah Newman at newmans@alexforbes.com & AFACBW@alexforbes.com

7. All tenders (both hard copies and electronic submissions) must be received by Air Botswana Pension Fund(ABPF) (c/o Alexander Forbes Asset Consultants) not later than **12H00 on Thursday 30 July 2026**.
8. A non-refundable deposit of P1,000.00 will be required upon collection of the Tender documents and all such payments shall be made **payable to Air Botswana Pension Fund (ABPF) c/o Alexander Forbes Asset Consultants (Pty) Ltd. Method of payment shall be via Electronic Fund Transfer (EFT)**.
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10. **Proof of payment shall be emailed to** newmans@alexforbes.com (copied in matongm@airbotswana.co.bw & AFACBW@alexforbes.com ) **prior to collection of tender**.

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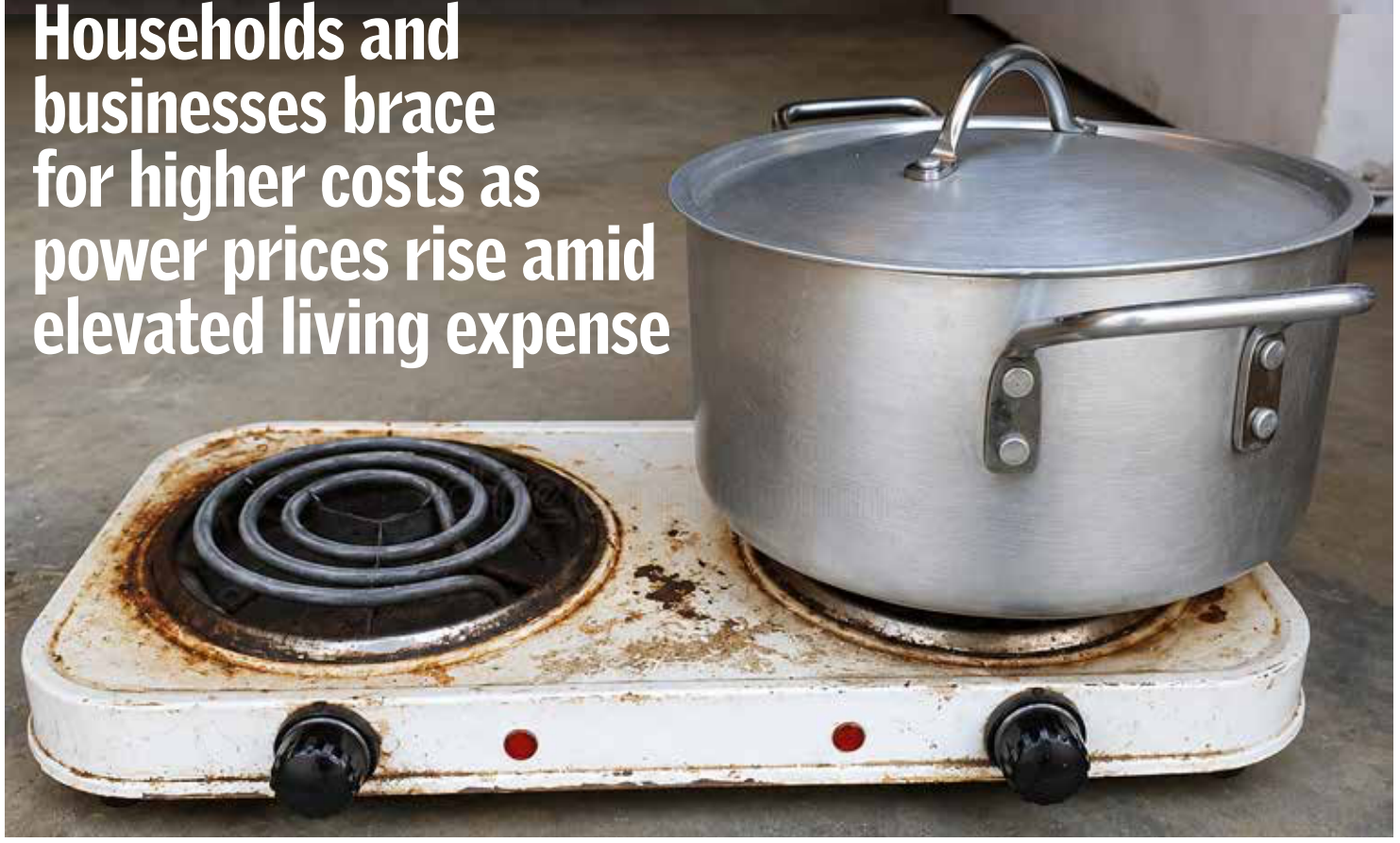
# Electricity Tariffs Add Pressure To Households, Businesses

## Households and businesses brace for higher costs as power prices rise amid elevated living expense



**GAZETTE REPORTER**

Botswana households and businesses are set to face higher electricity costs after the Botswana Energy Regulatory Authority (BERA) approved a nine percent tariff increase for the 2026/27 financial year, adding pressure to consumers already dealing with rising living costs.

The new tariffs will come into effect on August 1, 2026, following an application submitted by the Botswana Power Corporation (BPC) on December 3. The utility had initially applied for an average tariff increase of 46 percent across consumer categories.

While the approved adjustment is significantly lower than BPC's request, households are expected to feel the impact as electricity joins a growing list of essential expenses competing for limited income.

For many families, monthly budgets are already under pressure from rising costs of food, transport, housing, education and debt repayments. The increase in electricity charges could force households to adjust spending elsewhere or find ways to manage their energy consumption.

**GROWING CAPACITY**

The tariff increase comes against the backdrop of improvements in Botswana's electricity generation capacity.

According to the Electricity Generation and Distribution Statistics Brief for the First Quarter of 2026, local electricity generation increased by 20 percent quarter-on-quarter, rising from 751,514 MWh during the fourth quarter of 2025 to 901,903 MWh in the first quarter of 2026.

The increase was largely driven by higher output from Morupule A and Morupule B power stations, alongside growing contributions from solar power plants.

The report notes that the record-breaking generation figures demonstrate that solar infrastructure is operating at scale, providing a more stable alternative to diesel-powered generation.

During the first quarter of 2026, Morupule A and B accounted for 90.8 percent of total electricity generation, producing 818,873.9 MWh, while solar plants contributed 9.1 percent, equivalent to 82,519.96 MWh.

Solar facilities in Bobonong, Phakalane, Shakawe and Mmadinare contributed to the growing diversification of Botswana's electricity sources.

However, economists caution that higher electricity production does not automatically translate into lower tariffs, as the cost of producing, maintaining and distributing power remains a key factor.

> "Given sort of the pressure that government is currently facing, they're not able to support them to the same degree that they have been."

**PRODUCTION COSTS**

Gomolemo Basele, a quantitative analyst with a banking background, said the cost of production remains one of the main factors influencing electricity tariffs.

"I think generally, the cost of production is a key factor," Basele said. "Fuel prices being one, as well as possibly even the cost of just maintaining some of this infrastructure."

He said ageing infrastructure, particularly at Morupule B, could contribute to higher operating costs as power stations require more maintenance.

"I think Morupule B for example, we've heard of, just cost that just an unending game. So, I think the closer that these power plants get to retirement, the costlier it is to keep them running."

Basele said government's current fiscal pressures have also created challenges in maintaining the previous level of support for the utility, increasing the need for tariffs

To Page 19



# Access Bank Bets on Growth

## Despite Botswana's difficult economic environment, Access Bank Botswana says it remains focused on customers, digital innovation and sustainable growth after reporting stronger assets, loan growth and non-interest income for 2025

**GAZETTE REPORTER**

Despite deepening macroeconomic challenges in Botswana, Access Bank Botswana says it remains optimistic about the country's long-term prospects, arguing that its commitment to customers, small businesses and economic growth has not changed.

In the bank's audited financial statements for the year ended December 31, 2025, released this week, Board Chairman Boiki Mathema Wabo Tema and Managing Director Shepherd Aisam said the institution remains committed to supporting customers while advancing its strategic priorities.

"To this end, the Bank remains driven not just on commercial considerations, but critically on aiding customers and stakeholders on their strategic journeys," the two said.

They said the bank strengthened its digital offering during the year with the launch of Primus+, an enhanced digital banking platform for corporate, commercial and business banking clients.

According to the two, the platform is expected to improve efficiency by allowing clients to conduct more banking services digitally. They also said the



bank's retail banking division remains committed to customer-centric solutions, with revamped digital offerings expected in the near future.

**DIGITAL STRATEGY**

Tema and Aisam said management remains focused on improving operational efficiencies while accelerating digital innovation to make banking easier and more convenient for customers.

They said investments in technology have strengthened operational stability while expanding the bank's product offering.

> "While the year's financial results were constrained by liquidity challenges and rising funding costs, the bank remained focused on preserving financial stability, enhancing operational efficiency, and positioning itself to capitalise on future growth opportunities."

"Investments in technology have not only enhanced operational stability, but have also enhanced the bank's product offering, enabling our customers to do more with us," they said.

The bank added that the stronger operational foundation positions it to pursue sustainable growth.

**FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE**

Access Bank Botswana reported that total assets increased by 7 percent compared with December 2024, supported by growth in its loan book.

Customer deposits rose by 3 percent over the same period despite what the bank described as significant market liquidity constraints.

The two said the bank's strengthened balance sheet and disciplined funding approach leave it well positioned to capitalise on future opportunities, including planned enhancements to its deposit products.

They also said the bank maintained the consistency achieved in the previous financial period while laying the foundation for future strategic growth and continuing to generate returns on deliberate investments despite the current economic environment.

Top-line revenue was supported by a 26 percent increase in non-interest income, while trading revenue rose by 117 percent.

Interest income grew by 6 percent, driven by portfolio and liquidity management that supported revenue growth.

However, they noted that the bank's net interest income remained under pressure because of elevated funding costs in a market characterised by tightening liquidity.

They added that disciplined balance sheet management and strategic funding initiatives will remain important in sustaining growth going forward.

They attributed the 26 percent increase in non-interest revenue largely to higher transaction volumes in its digital banking business.

Trading income also increased by 117 percent, supported by growing transaction volumes and an expanding range of products.

They said these developments strengthened its customer value proposition.

**Economic Pressure**

Access Bank Botswana recorded a net impairment charge of P94 million, which it said largely reflected challenges in the broader economic environment.

Despite those conditions, they noted that the bank remains committed to supporting customers and communities during difficult economic times.

Operating expenses increased by 4 percent during the year, mainly because of higher investment in human capital to support future growth and strengthen long-term competitiveness.

They stated that the bank implemented cost-efficiency measures in other areas to accommodate the additional investment while continuing to realise synergies from being part of an international banking group.

## From Page 19

to move closer towards reflecting the cost of electricity production and distribution.

"Given sort of the pressure that government is currently facing, they're not able to support them to the same degree that they have been," he said.

He said BPC had for a long time not necessarily made tariff adjustments that reflected increases in power production and distribution costs, contributing to the sharp 46 percent tariff application.

"For a long time, BPC has not necessarily been making adjustments that reflect any escalation in power production, for example, or power distribution, which is why the last proposal, 46 percent was so steep," he said.

"It was almost playing catch up."

Basele said the approved nine percent increase could represent a phased approach towards aligning tariffs with the actual costs associated with producing and distributing electricity.

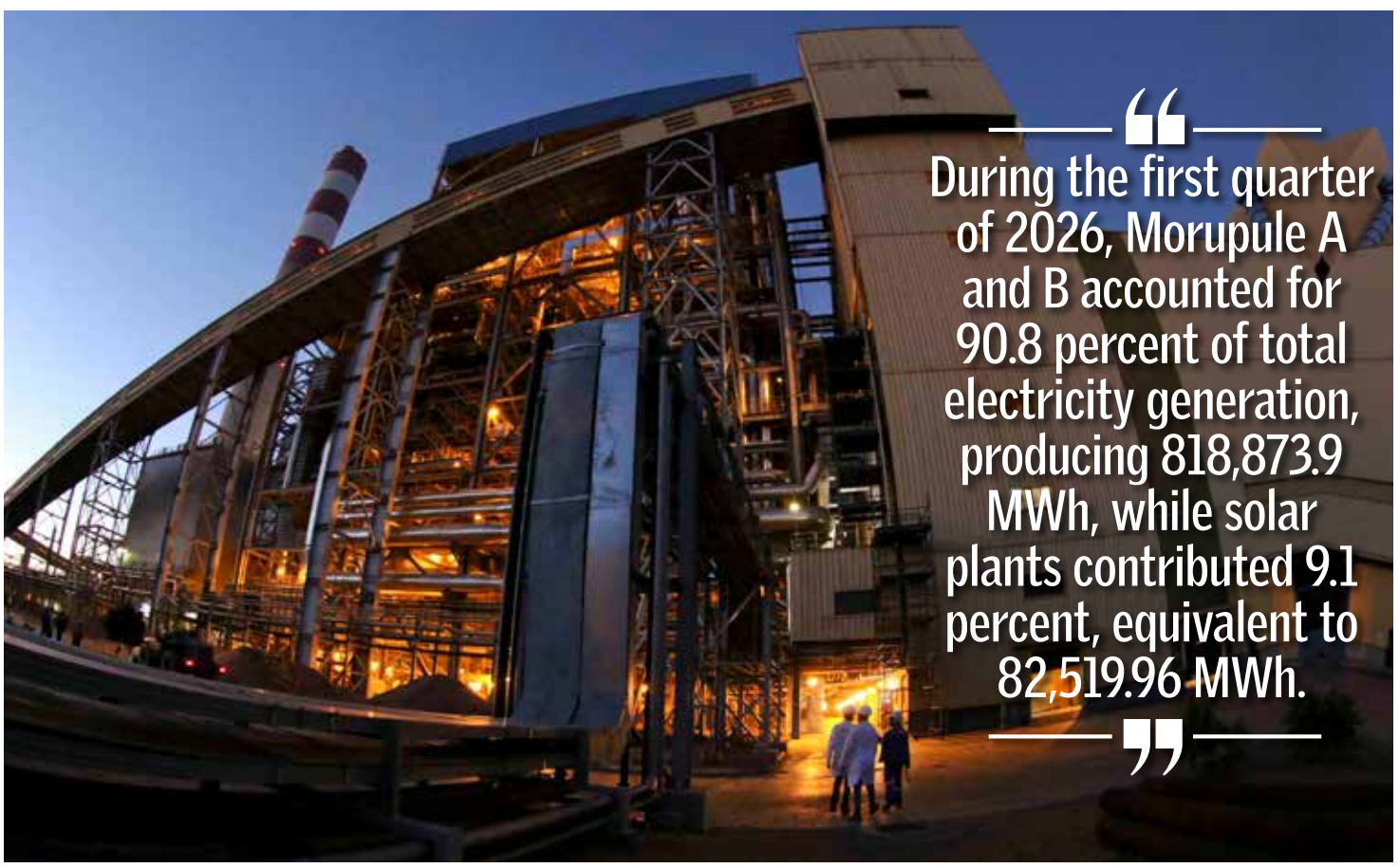
"I think from that proposal, there's more of a phased approach possibly being taken because that was a very steep proposal," he said.

**INFLATION EFFECTS**

Basele said the tariff increase would have an inflationary impact, affecting both households and businesses.

"The impact is obviously inflationary. So it increases the cost of quite a few things," he said.

He explained that electricity is a key input for many businesses, meaning higher tariffs could increase production costs and eventually affect prices of goods and services.




"If you consider water and electricity are key inputs for most businesses, increasing the electricity tariffs increases their input costs, which will most likely also feed through in terms of whatever goods and services that they're producing."

He said the increase comes at a time when consumers are already experiencing pressure from higher living costs.

"So if they're producing for households or for other businesses or for government, for example, the final cost of these products is going to increase on the back of this tariff increase as well," Basele said.

He added that the adjustment adds further pressure to an already challenging environment, although recent fuel price reductions may have provided some relief.

"It's adding to already elevated pressure that households are experiencing," he said.

# JWANENG MINE, BOTSWANA OIL AND JWANENG TOWN COUNCIL PARTNER TO LAUNCH TRUCK STAGING FACILITY

DEBSWANA
Mining diamonds, enriching the nation



Jwaneng Mayor, His Worship Ronica Ntsimako welcoming delegation to groundbreaking ceremony


Botswana Oil General Manager – Operations, Otto Keitumetse sharing project overview



Jwaneng Mine General Manager – Goitseone Gadifele sharing remarks on the significance and anticipated impact of the project during groundbreaking ceremony


Leadership delegation breaking ground


Member of Parliament for Jwaneng-Mabutsane, Hon. Omphemetse Kwapa, breaking ground, accompanied by leadership delegation



Member of Parliament for Jwaneng-Mabutsane, Hon. Omphemetse Kwapa sharing closing remarks


Botswana Oil Chief Executive Officer - Latelang Chakalisa, Head of Sustainability and Social Impact - Rachel Mothibatsela (L)


(R-L) Head of Sustainability and Social Impact - Rachel Mothibatsela, Jwaneng Mine Assistant General Manager Elvidge Radithongwa


Leadership delegation in attendance during groundbreaking ceremony


Leadership delegation breaking ground



Entertainment during the groundbreaking ceremony

**A new P18.8 million truck-staging facility is expected to improve freight movement, enhance road safety, and support Jwaneng's economic diversification beyond mining.**

Jwaneng's efforts to diversify its economy beyond mining have received a boost following the groundbreaking of a P18.8 million truck-staging facility. Stakeholders state the project will strengthen freight logistics, improve road safety, and create opportunities for local businesses.

The project is being developed through a partnership between Botswana Oil Limited (BOL), Debswana Jwaneng Mine and Jwaneng Town Council.

Construction is scheduled to begin in August 2026, with completion expected in March 2027. The facility will support heavy-duty trucks transporting fuel, mining supplies, and other cargo to Jwaneng Mine, while also serving vehicles travelling along the Trans-Kalahari Highway.

**SUPPORTING LOGISTICS**

Botswana Oil General Manager – Operations, Otto Keitumetse, said the project is intended to improve fuel transportation efficiency, strengthen operational risk management, and provide a secure staging area for heavy vehicles carrying hazardous materials before they enter the mine.

The development will include 25 truck parking bays, driver rest facilities, sanitation amenities, lighting, waste management systems, and other logistics infrastructure designed to improve traffic management and safety for transport operators.

**ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES**

Jwaneng Mine General Manager, Goitseone Gadifele, said the facility aligns with the Debswana's recently launched Ya Masa Strategy, which focuses on building a safer, more resilient, and sustainable business while creating value for surrounding communities.

***"The project is expected to create about 200 jobs during construction and 18 permanent positions once operational."***

He noted that the project is expected to create about 200 jobs during construction and 18 permanent positions once operational.

Gadifele added that the facility could also encourage investment in complementary businesses, such as fuel retail, vehicle maintenance, tyre services, truck wash facilities, accommodation, and hospitality.

**REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

Jwaneng Town Mayor, Ronica Ntsimako, said the town is positioning itself as a centre for investment, commerce, logistics, tourism, and sport, citing its strategic location along the Trans-Kalahari Highway.

He said the truck-staging facility is expected to improve road safety, reduce congestion caused by heavy vehicles, and strengthen the movement of goods along one of Botswana's key regional trade corridors.

**LOCAL PARTICIPATION**

Jwaneng-Mabutsane Member of Parliament, Omphemetse Kwapa, described the project as long overdue and encouraged project partners and contractors to prioritise local contractors, suppliers, and workers during implementation.

He said the facility has the potential to support broader economic activity by attracting investment and expanding Jwaneng Mine's role beyond mining through logistics and commercial services.

# Classic Run Breaks Records




**LEATILE ZACHARIAH**

A marathon gaining regional recognition

The Botswana Life Classic Run National Half Marathon 2026 concluded with a celebration of athletic excellence, community spirit and growing interest in road running, attracting participants from across Botswana and beyond.

Speaking at the event, Botswana Life **Public Relations, Communications and Marketing Manager Kelebogile Chunga** said the annual marathon continues to grow into one of the company's flagship events, bringing together runners from different backgrounds and countries.

"We are so proud of it. Every year, we bring together different runners from different countries, from Botswana, Kenya, Zimbabwe, Namibia and different parts of the country. It really gives us joy to see this much participation," said Chunga.

She said the continued growth of the Classic Run reflects the increasing popularity of running and the commitment by Botswana Life to create platforms that promote wellness and community engagement.




**Athletes DELIVER MEMORABLE PERFORMANCES**

The 21.1km race produced exciting competition, with Andrew Dick taking first position in the men's category, followed by Matias Simon in second place and Moses Tarakinyu in third.

In the women's 21.1km category, Namibia's Lavinia Mereyafela emerged victorious, while Mosadikwe Gotswakgosi and Kefilwe Unnie secured second and third positions respectively.

The 10km categories also saw impressive performances, with Melody Kaseke winning the women's race ahead of Gaone Bathoeng and Olebogeng Segolame.

In the men's 10km category, Wilson Othusitse claimed the top spot, followed by Matsapa M. Isheunesu and Andrew Tiragalo who contributed to the successful hosting of the event.

Sponsors and partners, including BIHL Trust, Access and other supporting organisations, played a key role in strengthening the event, including supporting the introduction of the wheelchair category.

**FUTURE GROWTH ON THE HORIZON**

Looking ahead, Botswana Life hopes to continue expanding the Classic Run and eventually double its size, while maintaining high standards in runner safety and event management.

Chunga said growth comes with greater responsibility, particularly in ensuring participants have a safe and well-organised experience.

**PROMOTING HEALTH AND COMMUNITY IMPACT**

Chunga said the Classic Run goes beyond competition, with the event aligned to Botswana Life's goal of positively impacting communities.

Last year, the company contributed P100,000 towards oncology support at the Oncology Ward in Gaborone, and this year Botswana Life is looking to increase its contribution after witnessing the impact of the initiative.

"At the core of what we do, it is really about impacting the lives of Batswana," she said.

She added that the marathon also supports the growing culture of fitness in Botswana, with more people embracing running as part of a healthier lifestyle.

Through partnerships with health professionals and organisations, Botswana Life continues to encourage participants to prioritise wellness and make informed decisions about their health.

**PARTICIPATION EXCEEDS EXPECTATIONS**

According to Chunga, this year's event surpassed expectations after organisers recorded growth of between 75 and 80 percent, exceeding their initial target of 40 percent growth.

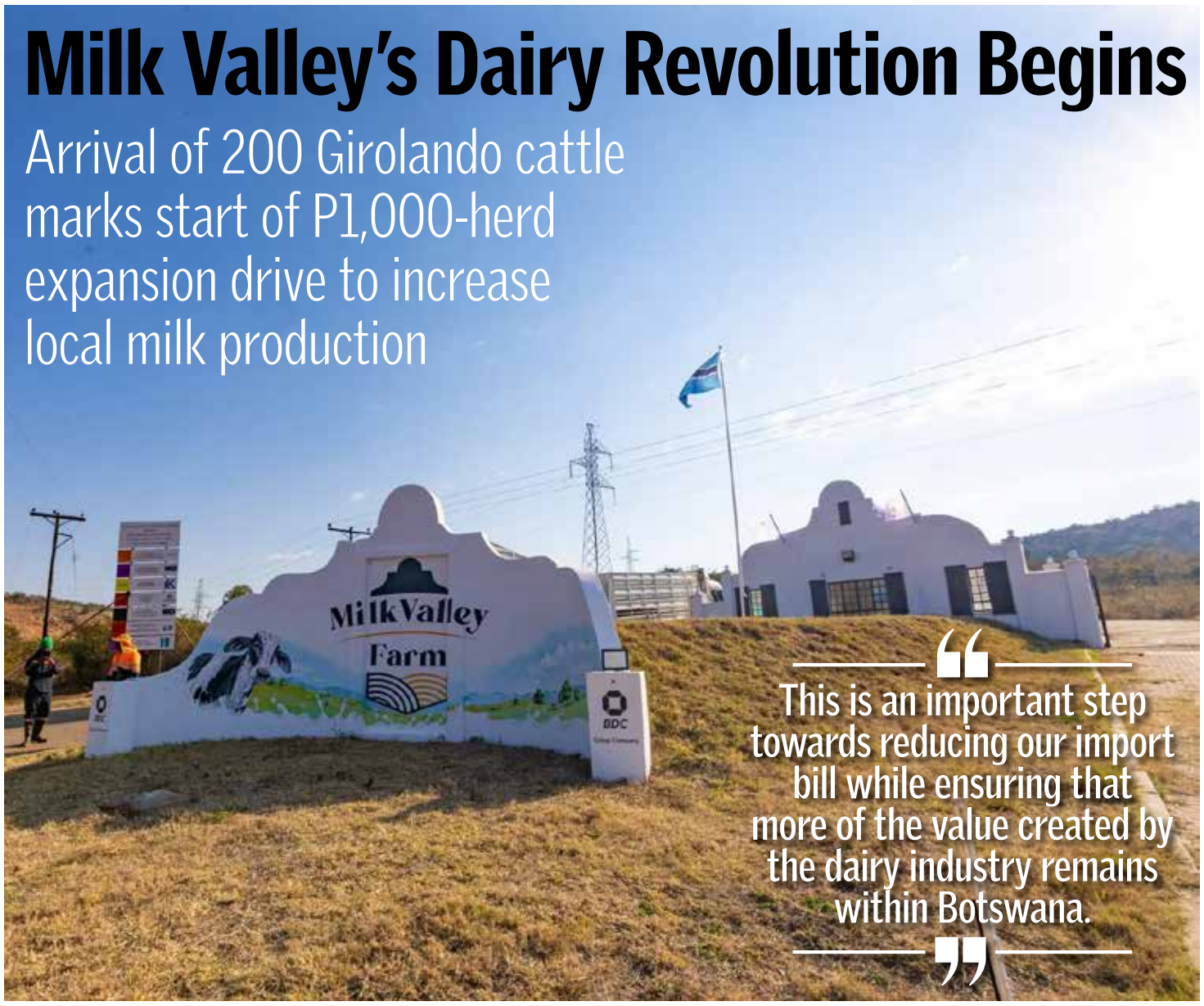
She credited the achievement to the support of runners, partners, volunteers, marshals, security teams and other stakeholders






# Milk Valley's Dairy Revolution Begins

## Arrival of 200 Girolando cattle marks start of P1,000-herd expansion drive to increase local milk production




> This is an important step towards reducing our import bill while ensuring that more of the value created by the dairy industry remains within Botswana.

**GAZETTE REPORTER**

Botswana's dairy industry has entered a new phase following the arrival (on Monday) of the first consignment of 200 high-yield pregnant Girolando dairy cattle from Brazil, marking the beginning of an ambitious programme aimed at expanding local milk production.

The cattle are the first batch of a planned 1,000 Girolando herd that will support Milk Valley Farm's expansion into a modern dairy operation.

The initiative comes as Botswana continues efforts to strengthen domestic agricultural production and reduce reliance on imported dairy products.

Minister of Trade and Entrepreneurship Tiroeaone Ntsima said the arrival of the cattle represents an important milestone in efforts to build a stronger and more self-sufficient dairy sector.

"For many years, the country has relied significantly on imported dairy products to meet local demand," Ntsima said in a interview

He said investments such as Milk Valley Farm are intended to increase domestic production capacity, improve productivity through superior genetics and create a more resilient dairy sector.

"This is an important step towards reducing our import bill while ensuring that more of the value created by the dairy industry remains within Botswana," Ntsima said.

**PRODUCTION GOALS**

The introduction of the Girolando cattle is expected to increase milk production through improved genetics and modern farming practices.

Ntsima said the project supports Botswana's food security and agricultural transformation objectives by strengthening the country's ability to produce food locally.

"Food security is about ensuring that Botswana has a reliable and sustainable supply of nutritious food," he said.

According to the minister, the project demonstrates a shift towards a more technology-driven agricultural sector through investments in biosecurity, improved animal husbandry and commercial farming systems.

He said the initiative reflects Botswana's ambition to develop a more productive, competitive and climate-resilient agricultural sector.

**VALUE CHAIN**

The government expects the dairy expansion to create opportunities beyond milk production, including employment and skills development in specialised areas.

Ntsima said the project could support growth in areas such as dairy farming, animal health, breeding, farm management and agricultural technologies.

"We also anticipate increased opportunities for citizen-owned businesses across the dairy value chain, including fodder production, veterinary services, transport and logistics, engineering and equipment maintenance, milk processing, packaging, cold chain logistics and distribution," he said.

The minister said the introduction of 1,000 Girolando cattle could significantly increase Botswana's dairy production capacity, strengthen the national breeding herd and improve the availability of locally produced milk.

He added that Milk Valley Farm is expected to contribute to the development of modern dairy farming standards through investments in infrastructure, biosecurity, animal welfare and management systems.

"We expect Milk Valley Farm to serve as a catalyst for broader sector growth, encouraging further investment, fostering innovation, and strengthening Botswana's long-term food security," Ntsima said.

# The Salary That Vanishes

## As household debt rises, more workers find their salaries disappearing before payday arrives

**GAZETTE REPORTER**

Payday does not seem as exciting as it used to.

For many workers, the arrival of a salary notification is no longer a moment of relief or celebration, but a reminder of how quickly the money will disappear.

Before some employees can think about groceries, school fees, rent or savings, their salaries have already been divided among banks, micro-lenders loosely referred to as Machonisa in Setswana and other financial obligations. For a growing number of households, debt has quietly shifted from being a financial tool to becoming a means of survival.

"I used to look forward to month-end, but now I know my salary is already gone before it enters my account," says a government employee, whose name is known to this publication, who has several deductions running on his payslip.

"Sometimes I borrow just to make it to the next payday, then repay that money with the next salary. It becomes a cycle."

**GROWING BURDEN**

Across Botswana, household debt has become a silent burden carried by thousands of workers.

In 2026, household debt is estimated at around P60 billion, reflecting the growing role of borrowing in household finances. The latest financial stability data from the Bank of Botswana shows that household credit continues to expand, with personal loans remaining the biggest contributor to household debt, followed by property loans, motor vehicle loans and credit card borrowing.

For many workers, personal loans and salary advances have become a lifeline in an environment where incomes are increasingly stretched by the rising cost of living.

While borrowing can provide important support during emergencies or help households acquire assets, excessive reliance on credit can create a difficult cycle where one loan is used to repay another.

**DEBT CYCLE**

Economist  in Kago Ngwato said credit becomes a burden when borrowing is used to sustain everyday living expenses or when a significant portion of a person's income is committed to servicing debt, leaving little room for essential expenses, savings or unexpected emergencies.

> Sometimes I borrow just to make it to the next payday, then repay that money with the next salary. It becomes a cycle.

"A key warning sign is when households begin borrowing simply to repay other existing loans," he told this publication in a telephone interview.

"This creates a cycle of debt that becomes increasingly difficult to break."

Ngwato said while there is no single benchmark that applies to everyone, many financial services experts suggest that debt repayments should ideally not exceed about 30–40 percent of net monthly income.

Beyond this level, he said households become more vulnerable to financial shocks such as inflation, rising interest rates or a loss of income.

**BREAKING FREE**

To avoid falling into a debt trap, Ngwato advised households to borrow only for necessary or income-generating purposes, prepare and stick to realistic budgets, avoid taking multiple loans simultaneously and build emergency savings where possible.

"It is also important to understand the full cost of borrowing, including interest rates and repayment terms before committing to any loan," he said.

He added that access to credit should improve financial wellbeing rather than simply provide temporary relief.

"Responsible borrowing, coupled with sound financial planning and disciplined spending, is the best way for households to benefit from credit without compromising their long-term financial security."

As household borrowing continues to grow, the challenge for many workers is no longer simply accessing credit, but ensuring that debt remains a tool for progress rather than a cycle that consumes their income.




# Stanbic Bets On Green




LARONA MAKGOENG , MANAGER ESG & SUSTAINABILITY

**LEATILE ZACHARIAH**

Stanbic Bank Botswana has launched its Sustainability Academy, a programme designed to help businesses develop the skills and knowledge needed to compete in an increasingly sustainability-driven global economy.

The initiative, launched on July 14, aims to provide organisations with practical guidance on integrating environmental, social and governance (ESG) principles into their operations while positioning sustainability as a driver of economic growth rather than simply a regulatory requirement.

Sustainability Linked to Future Competitiveness

Delivering the keynote address at the launch, Stanbic Bank Botswana Chief Executive Chose Modise said the academy represents an investment in Botswana's future competitiveness as global investment decisions increasingly take sustainability considerations into account.

He said while profitability remains central to business success, investors are now placing greater emphasis on issues such as governance, transparency, resilience and long-term value creation.

"The definition of business success is expanding," Modise said, explaining that investors, regulators, customers and employees are increasingly interested in the purpose behind organisations and how it contributes to sustainable performance.

He said businesses that will succeed in the future will not necessarily be those that are the most profitable today, but those that are adaptable, resilient and prepared to respond to changing market expectations.

Turning Sustainability into an Economic Opportunity

Modise said Botswana's strong reputation for stability, governance and responsible stewardship provides a foundation for attracting investment, but warned that future competitiveness will require businesses to embrace sustainability as a strategic priority.

He emphasised that sustainability should not be viewed as a cost or a reporting obligation, but as a catalyst for growth.

"Sustainability improves efficiency. It strengthens resilience. It reduces risk. It builds trust," he said.

According to Modise, future economic growth will increasingly depend on how countries and businesses respond to key challenges in areas such as food security, energy, water and climate resilience.

He identified climate-smart agriculture, renewable energy, responsible water management, carbon markets and sustainable finance as critical areas where investment and innovation will shape future economies.

"Sustainability is no longer just about protecting the future. It is about enabling growth today without borrowing from tomorrow," he said.




Bringing Global Sustainability Knowledge to Local Businesses

Acting Head of Business and Commercial Banking at Stanbic Bank Botswana, Basimane Tshepe, said the Sustainability Academy was created to help businesses translate sustainability concepts into practical action.

"This is an important milestone not only for our bank, but also for the broader business community we proudly serve," Tshepe said.

He said many organisations understand the importance of sustainability but often require support in developing strategies, measuring progress and aligning their operations with global expectations.

The academy, which is part of a Standard Bank Group-wide initiative, provides businesses with learning opportunities covering sustainability fundamentals, climate-smart agriculture, water and wastewater management, carbon markets and renewable energy.

Tshepe said the programme is designed to give businesses the confidence and capabilities required to navigate a changing economic environment.

"Knowledge should never be a barrier to opportunity," Modise said, highlighting the bank's belief that access to information can help businesses make informed decisions and drive meaningful action.

Supporting Botswana's Sustainable Growth Agenda

The launch comes as Botswana continues efforts to diversify its economy and attract investment beyond traditional sectors.

Modise said industries including mining, tourism, renewable energy and sustainable enterprise are already demonstrating opportunities for responsible growth.

He said Stanbic Bank's commitment extends beyond providing financial services, with the institution seeking to support clients as they transition towards more sustainable business models.

"Our commitment is simple: to strengthen our own practices, support our clients on their transition journeys, and contribute positively to the economy and society we serve," he said.

The Sustainability Academy will be available to businesses at no cost, reflecting Stanbic's commitment to making sustainability knowledge accessible across the business community.

Modise said the choices businesses make today will determine the strength and resilience of Botswana's economy in the years ahead.

"If we prepare well, act boldly and work together, we can build an economy that is more competitive, more resilient, more inclusive and more prosperous for generations to come," he said.

The initiative is expected to play a key role in helping businesses prepare for a future where sustainability is increasingly linked to growth, investment and economic success.



# BSB Profit Plunges Amid Liquidity Strain

## Bank reports sharp earnings decline as higher funding costs weigh on performance

**GAZETTE REPORTER**

Botswana Savings Bank (BSB) recorded a significant decline in profitability for the financial year ended 31 March 2026, as liquidity pressures across the financial sector, rising funding costs and reduced lending activity weighed on its financial performance.

The results were announced in the bank's financial statements by Deputy Chairperson Emmanuel Kgantumo and Acting Chief Executive Officer Dr. Wabo Moswate, who described the period as a strategic transition year following the completion of the Lesedi Strategy (2022–2025).

The Board approved the transition year to consolidate the gains achieved during the transformation journey, while ensuring that investments made during the strategy period translated into sustainable institutional capability.

"The transition year was intended to embed the capabilities developed during the strategy period, optimise the benefits of the bank's transformation initiatives and position the institution for its next phase of strategic growth," they said said in the Bank's financials.

**PROFIT DECLINE**

BSB reported a profit after tax of BWP 0.4 million for the year under review, compared with BWP 76.8 million recorded in the previous financial year.



Botswana Savings Bank (BSB) Acting Chief Executive Officer Dr. Wabo Moswate

The bank attributed the sharp decline primarily to elevated funding costs caused by persistent liquidity pressures, which compressed margins and affected overall financial performance.

"While the year's financial results were constrained by liquidity challenges and rising funding costs, the bank remained focused on preserving financial stability, enhancing operational efficiency, and positioning itself to capitalise on future growth opportunities," Kgantumo and Dr. Moswate said.

Net Interest Income (NII), a key measure of banking performance, declined to BWP 234 million from BWP 312 million in the prior year.

The reduction was linked to higher funding costs and a moderate contraction in the loan book. Net loans and advances decreased to BWP 4.0 billion from BWP 4.4 billion, reflecting subdued credit demand and prudent risk management.

**INCOME PRESSURE**

Non-funded income also declined during the year, falling to BWP 12.7 million from BWP 60.3 million.

The bank said the decline reflected lower transactional volumes, reduced fee-based activity and weaker subsidiary performance. Commission revenue from credit life premiums was also affected by limited growth in the loan book.

BSB's funding base contracted during the period, with customer deposits declining to BWP 3.96 billion from BWP 4.08 billion.

Despite the decline in deposits, the bank improved its liquidity asset ratio to 20 percent from 11 percent in the previous year, supported by deliberate liquidity preservation and prudent balance sheet management.

The capital adequacy ratio stood at 15.9 percent, reflecting continued compliance with regulatory requirements and a focus on risk management.

**FUTURE STRATEGY**

Looking ahead, BSB said it would focus on resilience, disciplined execution and long-term sustainability as it enters a new strategic cycle guided by the Pinagare Strategy.

"The bank remains committed to delivering sustainable value to its shareholder, creating meaningful impact for customers and communities, and strengthening its position as a trusted financial institution," they said.

The bank maintained that the challenges experienced during the year had reinforced the importance of prudent risk management, operational efficiency and sustained stakeholder confidence.

# Gov't Debt Pressures Mount

## Government debt is projected to breach the statutory ceiling within two years as foreign reserves remain broadly stable despite weaker export earnings

**GAZETTE REPORTER**

Botswana's government debt reached an estimated P90 billion, or 33 percent of gross domestic product (GDP), as of December 2025, with domestic borrowing accounting for the largest share, according to the Bank of Botswana's 2025 Annual Report.

Domestic debt stood at P56 billion, equivalent to 20.5 percent of GDP, slightly exceeding the statutory domestic limit of 20 percent. External debt was estimated at P34.1 billion, representing 12.5 percent of GDP.

The central bank said the country's debt position could deteriorate further if fiscal deficits continue to widen over the short to medium term, increasing the risk of sovereign debt distress.

It projects the debt-to-GDP ratio to reach 38.8 percent by the end of the 2025/26 financial year before rising to 44.7 percent by the end of 2026/27, surpassing the statutory debt ceiling of 40 percent.




"Debt sustainability continues to be challenged by revenue uncertainty, fragile mineral earnings and external shocks," the report said.

The report added that the Government has reaffirmed its commitment to prudent debt management, enhanced monitoring of short- to medium-term debt risks and maintaining its capacity to meet repayment obligations.

It also noted that sustained fiscal consolidation, stronger economic growth and structural diversification will be critical to stabilising the country's debt trajectory over the medium term.

**RESERVE POSITION**

Despite lower export earnings, Botswana's foreign exchange reserves declined only marginally by 1.4 percent, falling from P48.1 billion in 2024 to P47.4 billion in 2025.

According to the report, the relative stability reflected a combination of external borrowing, adjustments to exchange rate parameters aimed at promoting exports and containing imports, as well as Southern African Customs Union (SACU) revenues that helped limit the drawdown in reserves.

Import cover remained broadly unchanged at about 5.5 months in both 2024 and 2025.

**EXTERNAL ASSETS**

Preliminary estimates showed Botswana maintained a positive net international investment position, which increased by 22.6 percent from a revised P43 billion in 2024 to P52.7 billion in 2025.

Foreign assets edged up to P198.5 billion from P195.8 billion, while liabilities declined to P145.8 billion from P152.8 billion, largely reflecting a fall in foreign direct investment.

Portfolio investments abroad rose 4.2 percent to P91.5 billion, accounting for 46.1 percent of foreign assets. Official foreign exchange reserves represented 23.9 percent of foreign assets after declining by 1.5 percent to P47.4 billion, while direct investment abroad remained unchanged at P9.8 billion.

# Access Bank Welcomes New Graduates

## Eleven graduates have returned from specialist training in Nigeria and are set to begin roles across Access Bank Botswana's business divisions.




Access Bank Botswana has welcomed its second cohort of graduate trainees after the group completed a three-month Entry Level Training Programme at the Business School of Excellence in Lagos, Nigeria. The cohort comprises 11 graduates who are expected to take up roles across various departments as part of the bank's graduate development initiative, launched in late 2024.

**GRADUATE DEVELOPMENT**

According to the bank, the programme is intended to help graduates transition from university into the workplace through training, mentorship and exposure to different areas of banking.

Head of Human Resources, Njalakangwa Ndzinge, said the latest group had demonstrated qualities the bank values in emerging professionals.

"This group has demonstrated the qualities we seek in emerging talent: drive, adaptability, and a clear willingness to learn. As they assume their roles, they will contribute to building a more dynamic and future-ready organisation," she said.

**ROTATION ACROSS DEPARTMENTS**

The graduates will work across divisions including Retail Banking, Corporate and Institutional Banking, Business and Commercial Banking, Risk, Compliance, Operations and Strategy. The rotational structure is intended to provide broad industry exposure while helping participants identify career paths suited to their skills.

Managing Director Sheperd Aisam said the programme forms part of the bank's investment in developing young professionals.

"Our Graduate Trainee Programme remains one of the most meaningful investments we make as a business," he said.

**PARTICIPANTS' EXPERIENCE**

Speaking on behalf of the cohort, Kago Katlego Marumo said the programme challenged her to move beyond her legal background and gain knowledge of banking and finance.

"The transition has not always been easy, but it has strengthened me and expanded my capacity. I am ready to take on the next phase of this journey and deliver more by applying my curious, innovative, and growth-driven mindset."

# De Beers Reshapes Operations

## De Beers is restructuring its operations, pausing production at one mine while seeking to reduce costs amid a challenging diamond market.

De Beers Group has announced a series of portfolio and organisational changes aimed at reducing costs and reshaping its business as the global diamond industry continues to face difficult trading conditions. The company said the measures are intended to strengthen its financial resilience while maintaining long-term growth opportunities.

**STREAMLINING OPERATIONS**

The company said it has been implementing its Origins strategy since 2024, removing more than US$100 million in annual overhead costs, divesting non-core assets and redirecting investment towards core operations. It also increased spending on natural diamond marketing, reporting improved consumer demand for natural diamond jewellery in 2025 and continued sales growth among independent jewellers in the United States through the first quarter of 2026.



**VENETIA MINE PAUSE**

As part of the restructuring, De Beers plans to pause production at its Venetia mine in South Africa for two years while continuing infrastructure work linked to the underground project. The company said it is consulting stakeholders and will continue to meet its community and Social and Labour Plan commitments while supporting affected employees.

The decision follows an earlier announcement to pause the Tuzo Phase 3 expansion project at the Gahcho Kué mine in Canada.

**CEO COMMENTS**

Chief Executive Officer Al Cook said the changes are intended to strengthen the company's position during a difficult period.

"We are making a number of changes to De Beers to ensure greater business resilience in the near-term, while supporting long-term value creation," Cook said.

De Beers said production guidance for its remaining operations remains unchanged.

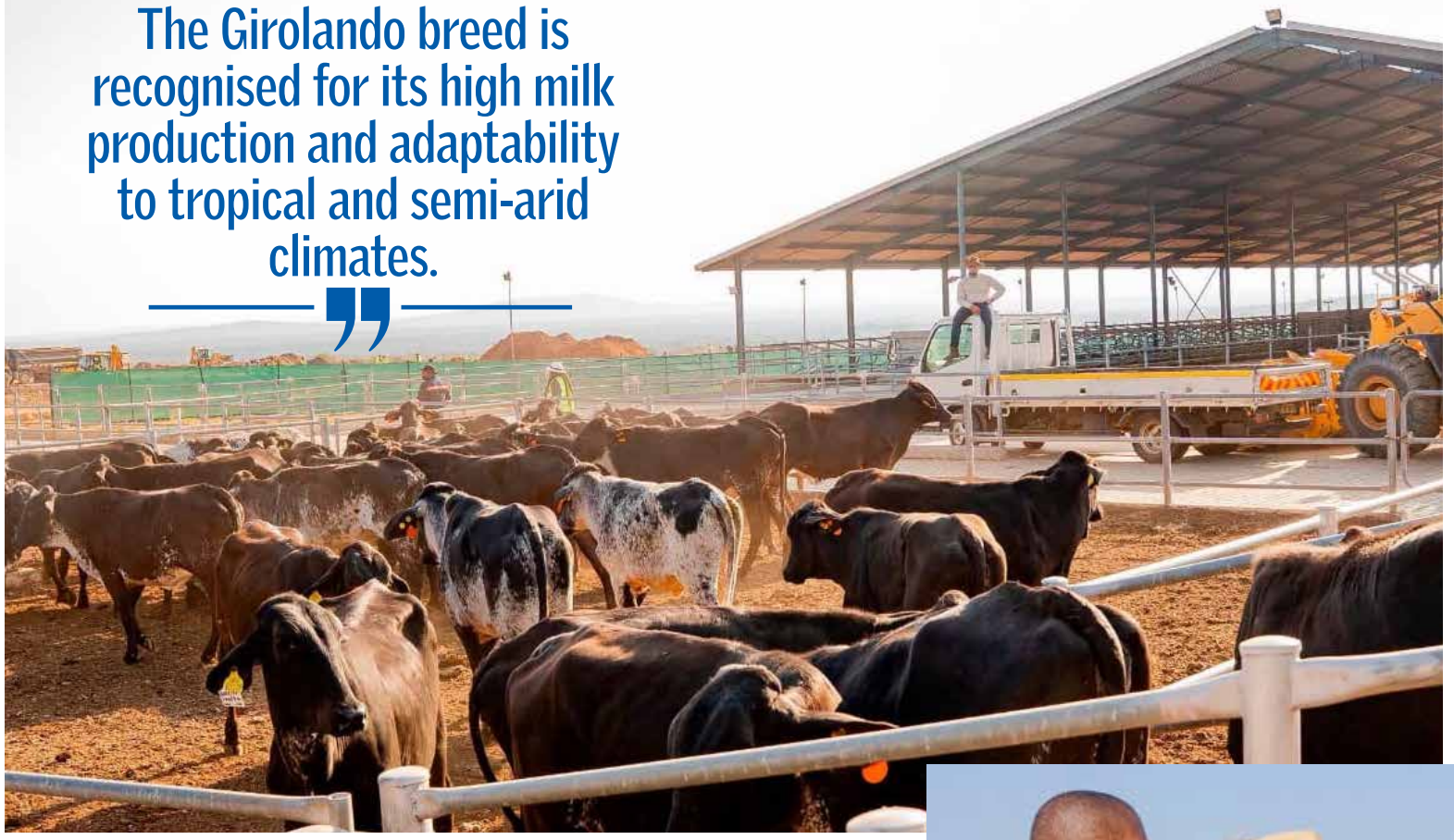
**Article edited for length**

# BDC Imports Dairy Cattle

## The first shipment of high-yield dairy cattle from Brazil has arrived as Botswana begins a phased expansion of Milk Valley Farm



> The Girolando breed is recognised for its high milk production and adaptability to tropical and semi-arid climates.



Botswana Development Corporation (BDC) has received the first consignment of 200 pregnant Girolando dairy cattle from Brazil, marking the start of a phased programme to import 1,000 high-yield dairy cattle for Milk Valley Farm. The initiative forms part of efforts to increase domestic milk production and reduce reliance on imported dairy products.

**PHASED HERD EXPANSION**

Milk Valley Farm is being developed into a large-scale commercial dairy operation through investments in dairy genetics, infrastructure, technology and biosecurity. BDC said the farm aims to expand its herd to about 3,000 cattle over the long term.

The Girolando breed is recognised for its high milk production and adaptability to tropical and semi-arid climates. The initial import of 200 pregnant cows is intended to allow the animals to acclimatise while the farm monitors their health, welfare and productivity before additional consignments arrive.

**FOCUS ON DAIRY PRODUCTION**

BDC Managing Director Oteng Keabetswe said the phased approach would support sustainable growth of the project.

"Through this phased importation programme, we are introducing world-class dairy genetics while ensuring that every stage of the expansion is underpinned by the highest standards of animal welfare, biosecurity and operational excellence," he said.

He added that the investment is expected to strengthen domestic milk production, create employment opportunities and contribute to Botswana's food security objectives.

**FMD-FREE CERTIFICATION**

The cattle arrive after Milk Valley Farm was awarded Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD)-Free Dairy Compartment Status by the Department of Veterinary Services. According to BDC, the certification confirms that the farm's animal health and biosecurity systems meet standards set by the World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH) and could support future dairy export opportunities, subject to importing countries' requirements.

**Article edited for length**



# Step Up for Child Safety

## The eighth Mascom Batanani Walk will focus on child protection, with proceeds supporting child-friendly centres for young victims and witnesses of abuse

Protecting children is the focus of this year's Mascom Batanani Walk, which returns on 8 August under the theme "Step Up for Child Safety." The annual community event aims to raise awareness about child protection while supporting initiatives designed to create safer environments for children across Botswana.

**GROWING CONCERN**

The campaign comes amid concerns over violence against children. According to Botswana's Violence Against Children Survey (VACS), one in four girls aged 13 to 17 who have ever had sexual intercourse experienced unwanted sex during their sexual debut, while nearly one in 20 boys reported the same experience. Organisers say the findings highlight the need for greater awareness, stronger child protection systems and broader community involvement.

This year's walk will raise funds for child-friendly centres being developed through a partnership involving Mascom, the Botswana Police Service and UNICEF Botswana. Planned centres in areas including Francistown, Boteti and Shakawe are intended to provide safe spaces where child victims and witnesses of abuse can report cases and receive support.

**CALL FOR COLLECTIVE ACTION**

Mascom Chief Executive Officer Dzene Makhwade-Seboni said protecting children requires a collective effort.

"Every child deserves to grow up feeling safe, protected and able to realise their full potential. Child safety cannot be left to one institution or one organisation. It requires families, communities, business and government to work together."

She added: "Every registration, every conversation and every step taken on 8 August is a visible commitment to building a Botswana where children are safer."

The Batanani Walk was launched in 2019 and has previously focused on issues including gender-based violence, children's rights, mental health, disability inclusion, substance abuse, digital safety and breast cancer awareness. Registration is open to individuals, families, schools, workplaces and community groups.

***Article edited for length***



Mascom Chief Executive Officer Dzene Makhwade-Seboni said protecting children requires a collective effort.

# Grant Thornton Marks 50 Years

## Grant Thornton Botswana marked its 50th anniversary in Francistown while outlining plans to expand its regional presence and invest in future-ready skills




Grant Thornton Botswana has marked its 50th anniversary, launching a year-long programme of celebrations in Francistown. The event brought together clients, business leaders and stakeholders to reflect on the firm's history and future direction.

**FIVE DECADES OF BUSINESS**

Founded in 1976 as Acumen Associates, the firm later joined the Grant Thornton global network and now provides assurance, tax, advisory, business process and corporate services. The company said it currently employs more than 160 professionals, with women making up about 70% of its workforce and youth accounting for 65%.

Managing Partner Kalyanaraman Vijay said the anniversary recognised the relationships that have shaped the firm's growth.

"Celebrating 50 years is an opportunity to reflect on the relationships, trust and partnerships that have shaped our journey," Vijay said. "Our focus remains on helping clients adapt, grow and create lasting value."



**EXPANSION IN THE NORTH**

Grant Thornton said it has expanded its presence in Francistown over the past year, doubling its regional team through the acquisition of an existing accounting practice. The office now serves clients across northern Botswana, including Selebi-Phikwe, Letlhakane, Maun and Kasane.

Partner and Chief Operating Officer Aswin Vaidyanathan said the investment was intended to strengthen support for businesses in the region.

"Our investment in Francistown reflects our commitment to being closer to our clients, supporting business growth in the region and ensuring organisations have access to the expertise they need to succeed," Vaidyanathan said.

**INVESTING IN SKILLS**

The firm also highlighted investments in technology, digital transformation and the BQA-accredited Grant Thornton Training Academy, which aims to strengthen professional skills and support talent development in Botswana.






# Show Up or Shut Up

## The Banter Paradox: the brands that participate in the world's conversations without permission always outperform the brands that wait to be invited. And the counter-argument that holds equally true: a brand that forces itself into every conversation eventually becomes the person at the party nobody wants to talk to.

**MANUEL VEIRUAPI RUHAPO**

On July 9, 2026, Norwegian Air Shuttle posted a single Instagram message to British Airways.

"Hey @british_airways, do you wanna make a bet? If Norway wins, you have to switch to our logo on Instagram on Sunday (one day). And vice versa. Deal?"

British Airways replied in four words: "Don't make bets you can't win."

That was it. Two airlines. One exchange. No budget. No agency brief. No campaign approval process. No media buy.

What followed was one of the most watched brand moments of the World Cup. The post reached tens of millions of people. Every comment was positive. Malaysia Airlines joined the thread: "We'll be watching with our satay in one hand and signature drink in the other." Austrian Airlines wrote: "You two fight over the logo. We'll bring the Schnitzel." The two airlines filmed a joint video of an official handshake at British Airways' headquarters. They traded playful jabs for days. Norwegian's social media team replied to British Airways' pre-match taunt with three words: "just chilling innit xx."

On July 11, England beat Norway 2-1 in the World Cup quarter-final in Miami. Jude Bellingham scored twice. Erling Haaland, who had carried Norway to the quarter-finals almost single-handedly, left the pitch in tears.

The next morning, Norwegian Air changed its Instagram profile picture to the British Airways logo and posted a message beneath it: "While the tournament is over for us, this friendly bet will forever live in all our hearts. We wish England and British Airways all the best in the semi-final, and we sincerely hope you'll get to bring football home."

The internet loved it. Not because it was clever. Because it was real.

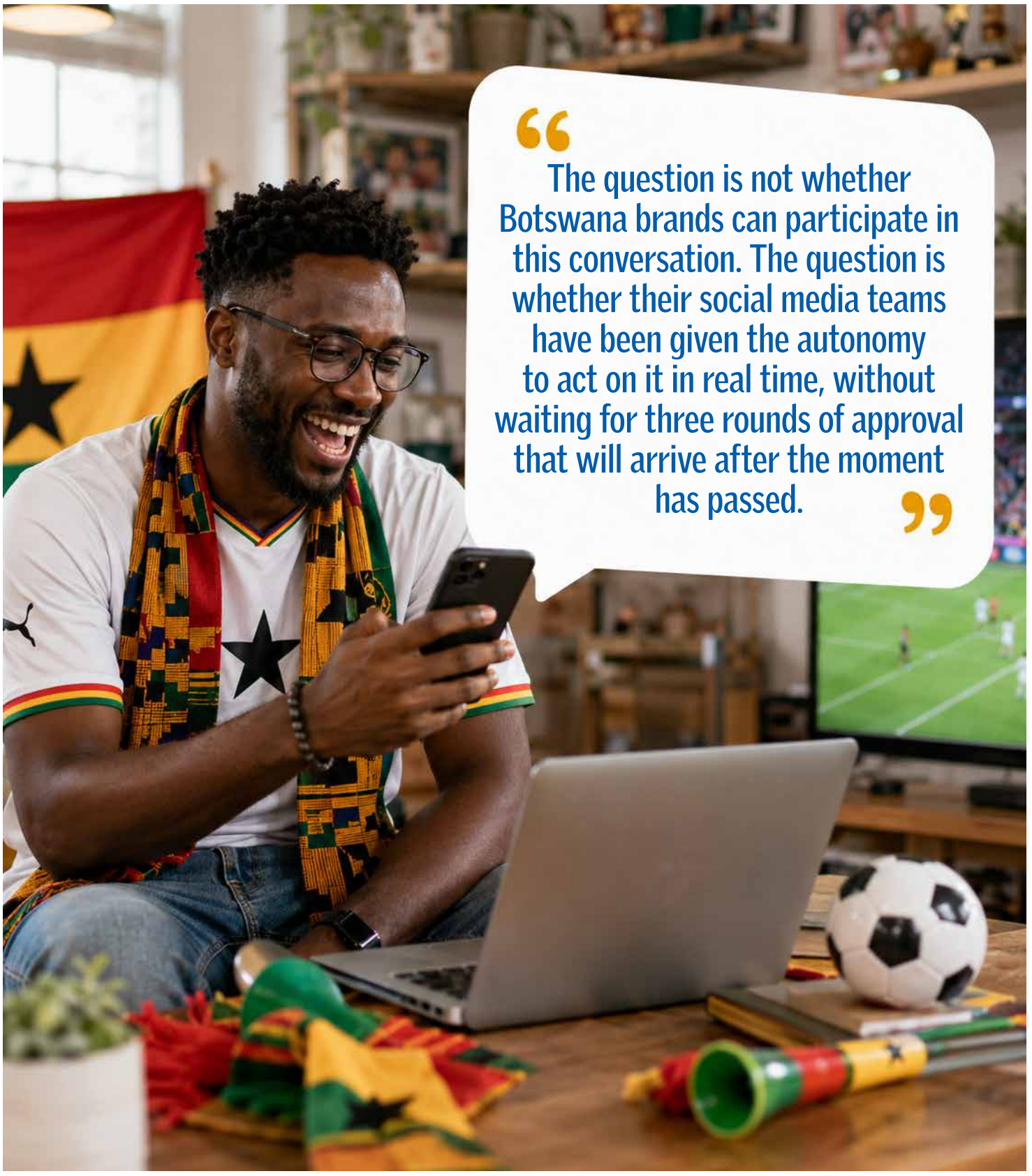
**WHAT MADE IT WORK**

Eivind Hammer Myhre, Norwegian's spokesperson, told Business Insider that the social media team came up with the idea themselves. No external agency. No strategy document. "We would never in a million years have anticipated this kind of reception," he said.

That is the first lesson. The moment was not manufactured. It was recognised. The Norwegian social media team saw a natural connection between their brand and the match, and they acted on it. The bet was low-stakes enough to be fun and high-visibility enough to matter.

To Page 30






beverage brand in the country is feeding the people watching these games. Every mobile network is carrying the streams. Every bank is processing the transactions. Every retailer is selling the merchandise. The connection is real. The permission is there.

The question is not whether Botswana brands can participate in this conversation. The question is whether their social media teams have been given the autonomy to act on it in real time, without waiting for three rounds of approval that will arrive after the moment has passed.

Norwegian Air’s social media team did not wait for permission from the board. They had a clear enough understanding of their brand to know what it would and would not do, and they acted within that understanding. That is what brand clarity enables. Not just consistency in campaigns. Speed in moments.

**WHAT IT MEANS TO YOU**

*If you are a business owner or executive:* The most expensive thing you can do on social media is nothing. The brands that show up in the world’s conversations, when they have a genuine reason to be there, build more equity in a single post than most campaigns build in a quarter.

*If you are a marketing professional:* Real-time brand participation is not about being funny. It is about being present and genuine. The brief is not “create a viral post.” The brief is “find the moments where our brand has a natural right to speak, and speak quickly.”

*If you are a brand manager:* Give your social media team a clear enough understanding of the brand that they can act without asking. The moment Norwegian Air’s team had to wait for approval, the moment would have been gone.

The World Cup ends in weeks. The moments are happening now. The brands that show up

will be remembered. The brands that waited for a strategy document will not.

## From Page 29

The logo, the most protected asset in any brand’s toolkit, became the chip on the table. That is what gave the moment its weight.

The second lesson is in the follow-through. Norwegian lost. And they paid up immediately, graciously, and publicly. The concession post was warmer than most brands’ victory posts. That is not just good sportsmanship. It is brand character. The brands that show who they are when they lose are more trusted than the brands that only show up when they are winning.

The third lesson is in the timing. This was not a campaign planned six months in advance. It was a response to a live event, executed within hours, with no production budget. The entire creative output was a text post and a handshake video. The reach was tens of millions. The cost was approximately zero.

**THE PARADOX**

Here is the counter-argument that also holds true.

For every Norwegian Air, there are a hundred brands that tried the same thing and failed. The brands that insert themselves into conversations they have no natural connection to. The brands that post “we stand with” statements about events that have nothing to do with them. The brands that try to be funny and are not. The brands that use a tragedy to sell a product. The brands that jump on a trending hashtag without reading what the hashtag is actually about.

The difference between Norwegian Air and those brands is not execution. It is permission. Norwegian Air had a genuine, logical connection to the match: a Norwegian airline and a British airline, with a Norway vs England game as the context. The bet made sense. It was not forced. The brand did not have to explain why it was relevant. The relevance was self-evident.

This is the test for any brand considering real-time participation: can you explain your connection to this moment in one sentence, without any stretch? If the answer is no, do not post.

**WHAT BOTSWANA BRANDS CAN DO**

The World Cup is happening now. Botswana is watching. Every bar, every office, every household with a television is engaged with this tournament. The conversation is live, global, and open.

Botswana brands have a genuine connection to this moment. Debonairs Pizza, Nandos, Choppies, and every food and



**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**

# An End to Free Plots?

## As Botswana's land waiting lists grow and the costs of sprawling development rise, the country faces difficult questions about whether a nation-building policy designed for an earlier era can remain sustainable in its present form.



**DR DOUGLAS RASBASH**

Few public policies in Botswana carry the emotional, historical and political significance of free residential land allocation. For generations, access to land has been understood not merely as an administrative entitlement, but almost as a civil right, a tangible expression of citizenship, dignity, equality and belonging.

> That does not mean abandoning culture and values. It simply means asking whether the methods that solved yesterday's problems are still best suited to solving tomorrow's.

The policy helped build the modern nation. At independence, Botswana was poor, sparsely developed and socially fragile. The allocation of tribal land gave ordinary citizens a direct stake in the country. It reduced the risk of landlessness, promoted stability and helped avoid some of the extreme urban inequalities seen elsewhere. In many respects, it was one of Botswana's great nation-building successes.

That history matters. Precisely because it matters, the conversation today requires sensitivity, balance and honesty rather than ideology or accusation. The question is not whether the policy was right. It clearly was. The more difficult question is whether the conditions that shaped the policy still exist in the same form today.

**A CHANGED BOTSWANA**

Botswana in 2026 is no longer Botswana in 1966. The country is more urbanised, more motorised, more infrastructure-intensive, more fiscally constrained and more environmentally stressed. Population growth, rising expectations, climate change, infrastructure costs and changing settlement patterns are creating pressures that earlier generations never had to confront.

One figure alone forces reflection: approximately 650,000 to 700,000 people are currently estimated to be on land waiting lists nationally. In a country of around 2.6 million people, that is extraordinary. In some areas, waiting lists exceed the resident population itself. Waiting periods stretch back decades.

At what point does a waiting list stop being a queue and start becoming evidence that demand and delivery are structurally out of balance? That is not criticism. It is simply a question worth asking.

**THE COST QUESTION**

Another difficult question concerns sustainability. The financial cost of servicing low-density residential plots is extremely high. Roads, water pipelines, sewerage, electricity, drainage, schools, clinics and transport networks must all stretch across increasingly dispersed settlements.

The further settlements spread outward, the more infrastructure is required per household. This creates a geometry problem as much as a planning problem.

Greater Gaborone's population density remains extremely low by international urban standards. Sprawling settlement patterns increase infrastructure costs, transport distances, fuel use and long-term maintenance obligations.

The issue is not whether citizens deserve land. Of course they do. The issue is whether the current settlement model remains economically and environmentally sustainable at scale.

Perhaps the real need is not immediate answers, but better national questions. Should future allocations continue following the same low-density spatial model? Can Botswana continue servicing hundreds of thousands of plots affordably under tightening fiscal conditions? How should the country balance individual plot ownership with the rising need for efficient urban infrastructure and public transport?

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## From Page 31

What happens when climate change, water scarcity and infrastructure costs begin converging simultaneously? And perhaps most sensitively of all, can a policy remain socially equitable if delivery becomes increasingly delayed, uneven and financially strained?

None of these questions diminish the principle of fairness that originally underpinned the policy. In fact, they may arise precisely because citizens value fairness so deeply.

**LAND AND IDENTITY**

There is also an important cultural dimension. In Botswana, land has never been viewed purely as a market commodity. It carries identity, ancestry, security and social legitimacy. For many citizens, owning a plot is inseparable from the idea of full participation in society itself.

That reality cannot simply be brushed aside by technocratic arguments about density ratios and infrastructure efficiency. Yet neither can economic realities be ignored indefinitely.

> "At what point does a waiting list stop being a queue and start becoming evidence that demand and delivery are structurally out of balance?"

Servicing land at ever-expanding urban edges carries very large costs that future generations may ultimately have to absorb through taxes, debt, fuel costs, transport inefficiencies and environmental degradation. Low-density development also consumes significantly more land and increases dependence on private vehicles, longer travel distances and expensive infrastructure networks.

These are no longer abstract planning concerns. They increasingly shape household costs, commuting times, government budgets and environmental resilience.

**A DIFFERENT MODEL**

Perhaps the deeper issue is not "free land" itself, but the model through which land is delivered and developed.

Could future policy gradually evolve towards more compact, serviced, mixed-use communities while still preserving fairness and citizen access? Could densification coexist with dignity? Could alternative tenure systems, affordable housing models or phased servicing approaches reduce waiting times while improving sustainability? Could urban policy shift from simply allocating land towards creating functioning communities?

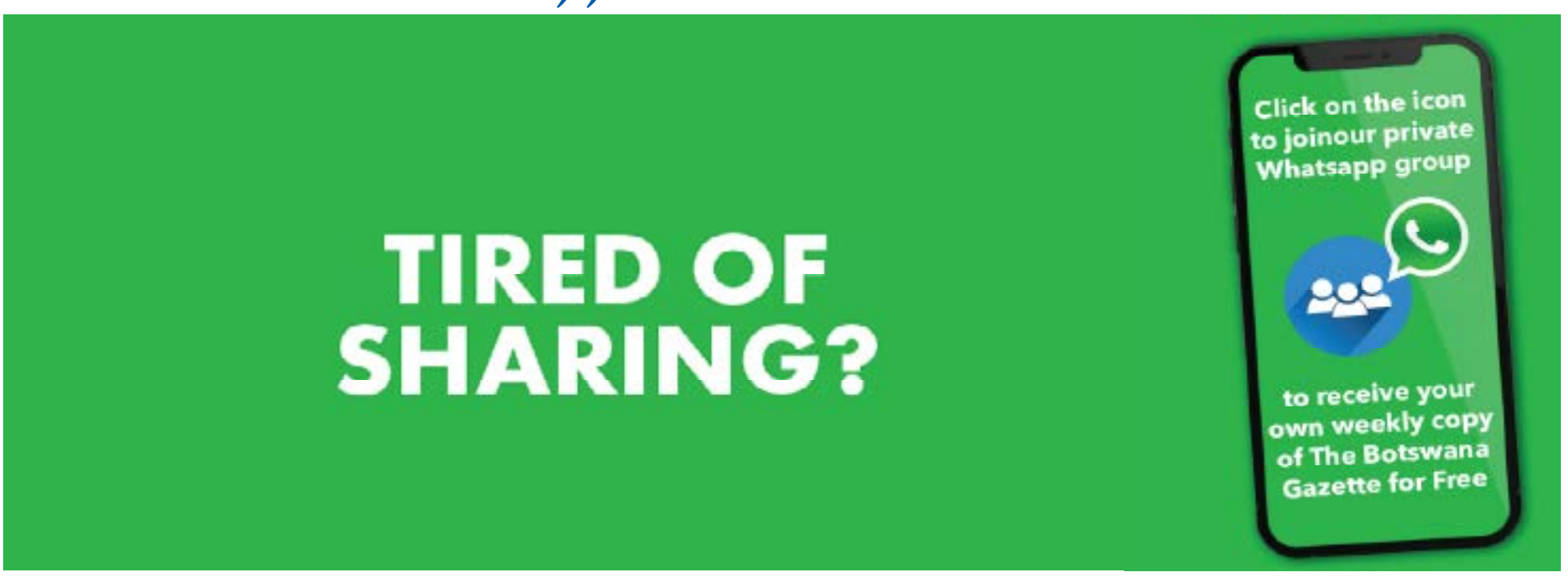
These are delicate questions because they touch something foundational in Botswana's social contract. But avoiding difficult conversations rarely removes difficult realities.

The challenge for Botswana now may be how to preserve the original spirit of the policy, dignity, inclusion, fairness and national belonging, while adapting its implementation to the realities of a hotter, more urbanised, infrastructure-constrained twenty-first century economy.

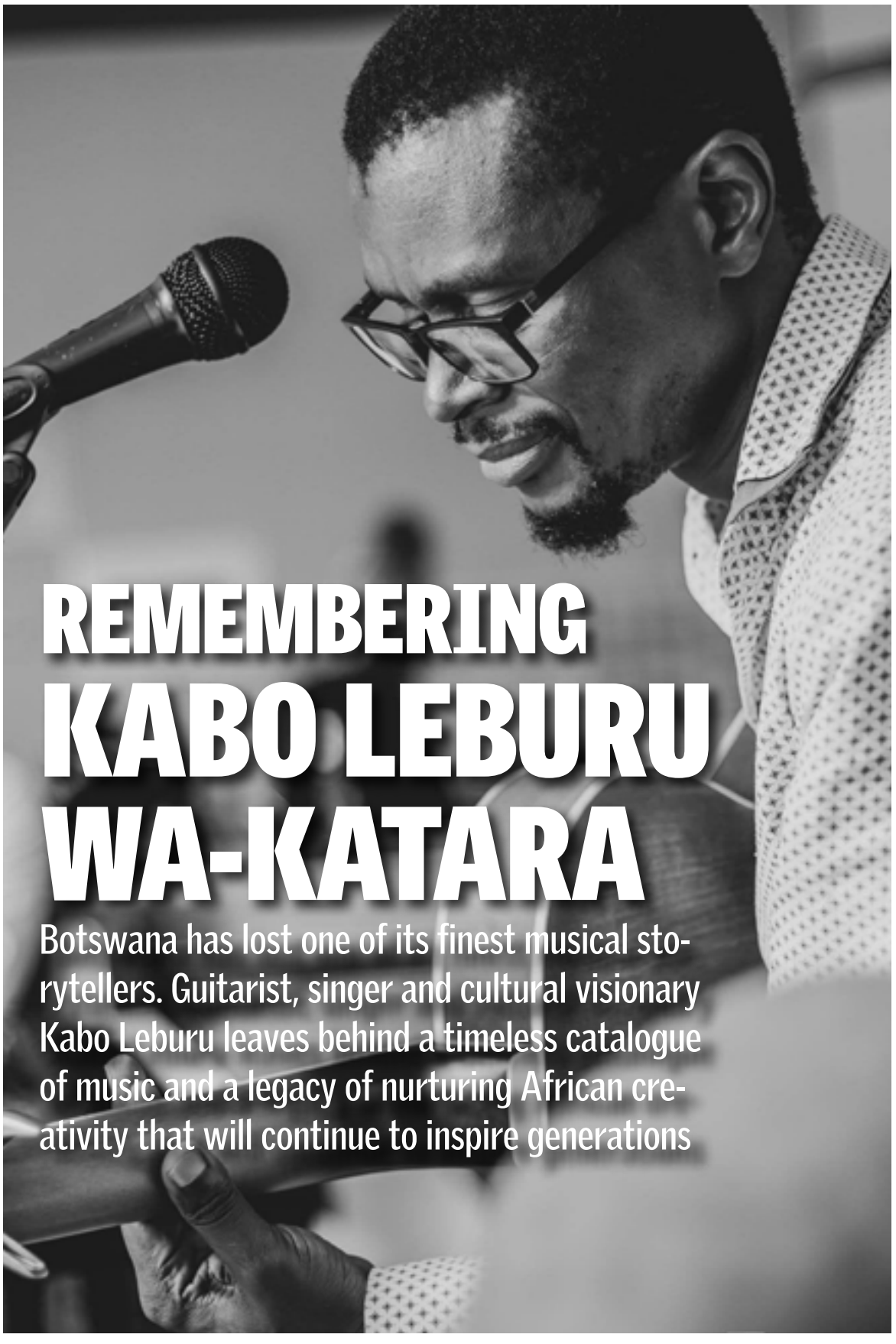
Even successful policies eventually encounter new conditions, new constraints and new evidence. No policy is eternally fixed. Other African countries with similar cultural roots in land may help to chart a path forward for Botswana.

That does not mean abandoning culture and values. It simply means asking whether the methods that solved yesterday's problems are still best suited to solving tomorrow's.



The Botswana Gazette
TIME OUT
THE BOTSWANA GAZETTE
WEDNESDAY 15 JULY 2026



# REMEMBERING KABO LEBURU WA-KATARA

Botswana has lost one of its finest musical storytellers. Guitarist, singer and cultural visionary Kabo Leburu leaves behind a timeless catalogue of music and a legacy of nurturing African creativity that will continue to inspire generations

**GOSEGO MOTSUMI**

Botswana's music fraternity is mourning the loss of acclaimed Afro-jazz guitarist, singer and songwriter Kabo Leburu, who passed away on 9 July 2026, bringing to a close an extraordinary career defined by artistry, humility and an unwavering commitment to African music.

**A SOUND UNIQUELY HIS OWN**

Born in Lobatse, Leburu established himself as one of Botswana's most respected Afro-jazz and world music musicians. His distinctive sound fused indigenous African rhythms, contemporary jazz and intricate fingerpicking guitar techniques into a style that was both authentic and instantly recognisable. A self-taught multi-instrumentalist, he earned admiration not only for his musicianship but also for his ability to bridge cultures through music.

**FROM LOBATSE TO THE WORLD**

Leburu first rose to prominence as guitarist and co-founder of Dance Afrika, before collaborating with renowned African musicians including Louis Mhlanga, Regis Gizavo, Berry Heart, Shanti and John Selolwane. His work earned him recognition locally and internationally, cementing his place among Botswana's most influential contemporary musicians.

His songs, including Mmapaseka, Sejaro and Kedi Kaba, became staples of Botswana's Afro-jazz landscape, reflecting his deep appreciation for tradition while embracing modern musical influences. In 2024, he expanded that vision through an international collaboration with celebrated Chilean musician Alejandro Vega on Kedi Kaba, a vibrant fusion of Afro-jazz and Latin rhythms that celebrated cultural exchange across continents.

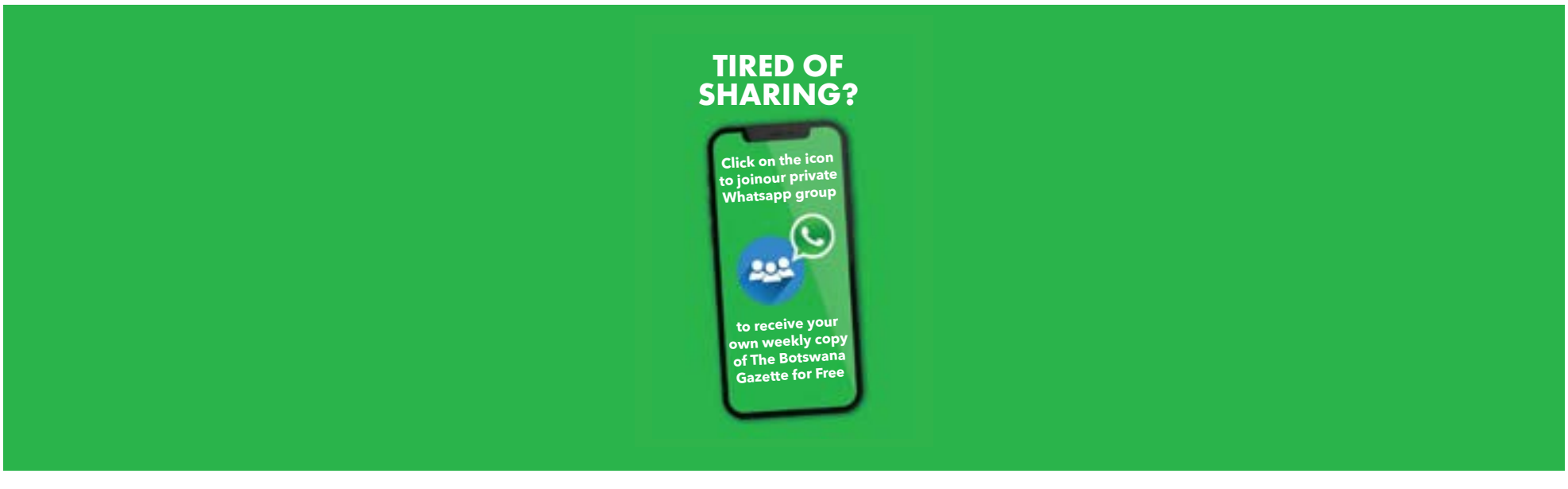
**A CHAMPION OF AFRICAN CREATIVITY**

Beyond the stage, Leburu was a passionate advocate for the creative industry. As one of the founding members of JAAM Fest, he helped establish a platform dedicated to showcasing African artists and creating opportunities for collaboration, growth and cultural expression. Friends and colleagues remember him as a generous mentor whose belief in African creativity extended far beyond his own performances.

> While Botswana has lost one of its most gifted musicians, Kabo Leburu Wa-Katara's legacy will continue to resonate through the melodies he created.

**A LEGACY THAT WILL ENDURE**

While Botswana has lost one of its most gifted musicians, Kabo Leburu Wa-Katara's legacy will continue to resonate through the melodies he created, the artists he inspired and the cultural foundations he helped build. His music remains a lasting reminder that true artistry never fades, it lives on in the hearts of those it touched.



# Inside Maitisong's Return this August



Three days. Five shows. One theatre with nearly four decades of stories to tell. Maitisong Festival 2026 is tuning up for a celebration where community, creativity and live performance take the spotlight

GOSEGO MOTSUMI

For one weekend this August, Maitisong Theatre won't just host performances, it will become Botswana's biggest living room. As the iconic festival returns from 21 to 23 August 2026, the stage is set for artists, audiences, families and first-time theatre-goers to meet under one roof for a celebration that promises more than entertainment. It's a reunion with culture, and everyone has an invitation.

**BACK TO WHERE IT ALL BEGAN**

Presented under the theme "In Concert with the Community," this year's edition revisits the festival's original purpose. First launched in 1987 to open the doors of Maitisong Theatre, the event was designed to introduce the public to a new cultural home through performance, exhibitions and shared experiences.

Nearly four decades later, that mission remains intact as the festival begins building excitement towards Maitisong Theatre's milestone 40th anniversary in 2027.

Festival Director Kgopiso Tibe believes the idea of being "in concert" reaches far beyond music.

Tibe said: "Maitisong belongs to the community. This festival is theirs, and we cannot have it without them. We invite you to gather with us, in Concert."

**A WEEKEND MADE TO CONNECT**

This year's programme has been intentionally condensed into one vibrant weekend featuring five performances across three days, including matinee and evening shows.

Tibe said the goal is to create something audiences genuinely feel part of.

"It is about creating an experience that feels special, considered and memorable; something audiences can step into and feel they have not quite experienced before."

**MORE THAN A FESTIVAL**

As theatres worldwide compete with streaming platforms and shrinking attention spans, Maitisong is doubling down on what screens cannot replicate, people sharing the same room, the same laughter, the same silence and the same applause.

"In a world that can often feel uncertain, we still need spaces that remind us to appreciate life, gathering, art and one another. Theatre has always had that power. It asks us to pause, sit together, listen, laugh, feel and leave changed in some small but meaningful way," said Tibe.

With students, families, artists and the wider public all expected to attend, Maitisong Festival 2026 is shaping up to be less about watching a show and more about becoming part of one.

# NYALA O... PULLS NO PUNCHES

Forget fairy-tale endings. New telenovela, Nyala O... is flipping the script on marriage, proving that the real drama begins long after the confetti settles. Three women, three marriages and they discover that the wedding was the easy part

GAZETTE REPORTER

The dress has been packed away. The cake is long gone. Now comes the hard part.

This July, Mzansi Magic introduces Nyala O…, a gripping new telenovela premiering on 20 July. Airing Monday to Wednesday at 7pm, the series peels back the multiple layers of a marriage and exposes the beauty, sacrifices, secrets and the difficult choices that come with it

**THREE WOMEN, ONE UNCOMFORTABLE TRUTH**

At the heart of the series are three women whose seemingly different marriages are united by one question: What happens when love is no longer enough?



> "Every episode circles back to one haunting question: "Why did I get married, and is that reason still enough to keep me in this marriage?"

Kea Maponya, played by Mapaseka Koetle, believes she has cracked the code to a successful marriage. But after 15 years with her husband Rhami (Motlatsi Mafatshe), one devastating secret threatens to destroy everything she has built. The betrayal cuts even deeper when she discovers that those closest to her have known the truth all along.

Meanwhile, her older sister Mapula (Tsholofelo Matshaba) enters the unfamiliar territory of an empty nest, forcing her and husband Ernest (Aubrey Mmakola) to rediscover both themselves and each other.

Then there's Lerato (Cindy Mahlangu), a fiercely ambitious woman accustomed to the "princess treatment." As fortunes shift within her marriage to Mondli (Unathi Mkhize), pride and resentment begin to challenge everything she thought she wanted.

**MORE THAN A SOAP**

Nyala O… isn't just another relationship drama. It dives headfirst into love, money, forgiveness, identity and the quiet battles couples fight behind closed doors.

With a cast that also includes Amanda Seome, Elizabeth Serunye, Slindile Nodangala, Kgomotso Moshia and Sluleko Zungu, the series promises emotional twists, layered performances and conversations that will continue long after the credits roll.

**THE QUESTION EVERY COUPLE FEARS**

Every episode circles back to one haunting question: "Why did I get married, and is that reason still enough to keep me in this marriage?"

It's a bold premise and one that suggests the biggest relationship drama doesn't happen at the altar. It begins the moment the wedding ends.

# ZEE NXUMALO SHUTS THE HOUSE DOWN

The Red Bull Dance Your Style dance battles were fierce, but when Zee Nxumalo stepped onto the stage in a cowboy inspired outfit and hit after hit, Molapo Crossing transformed into one giant singalong

GOSEGO MOTSUMI

The dance battles may have been the main event, but Zee Nxumalo made sure everyone left talking about the event.

Fresh off a wave of chart domination and a place on Forbes Africa's 30 Under 30, the South African hitmaker turned Molapo Crossing Piazza into her own musical playground during the Red Bull Dance Your Style Botswana National Final this past weekend. Dressed in a cowboy-inspired outfit, the 23-year-old delivered a performance bursting with confidence, charisma and undeniable star power.

**HIT AFTER HIT**

From the opening beat, the crowd was hooked.

Backed by two energetic male dancers, Zee rolled through fan favourites including Mamma, Awe Mah, Ngithathiwe, Thula Mabota and Rato Laka, with every chorus echoed back by an enthusiastic audience.

She paused between songs to shower local fans with appreciation, creating moments that felt as personal as they were electric.

**A STAR ON THE RISE**

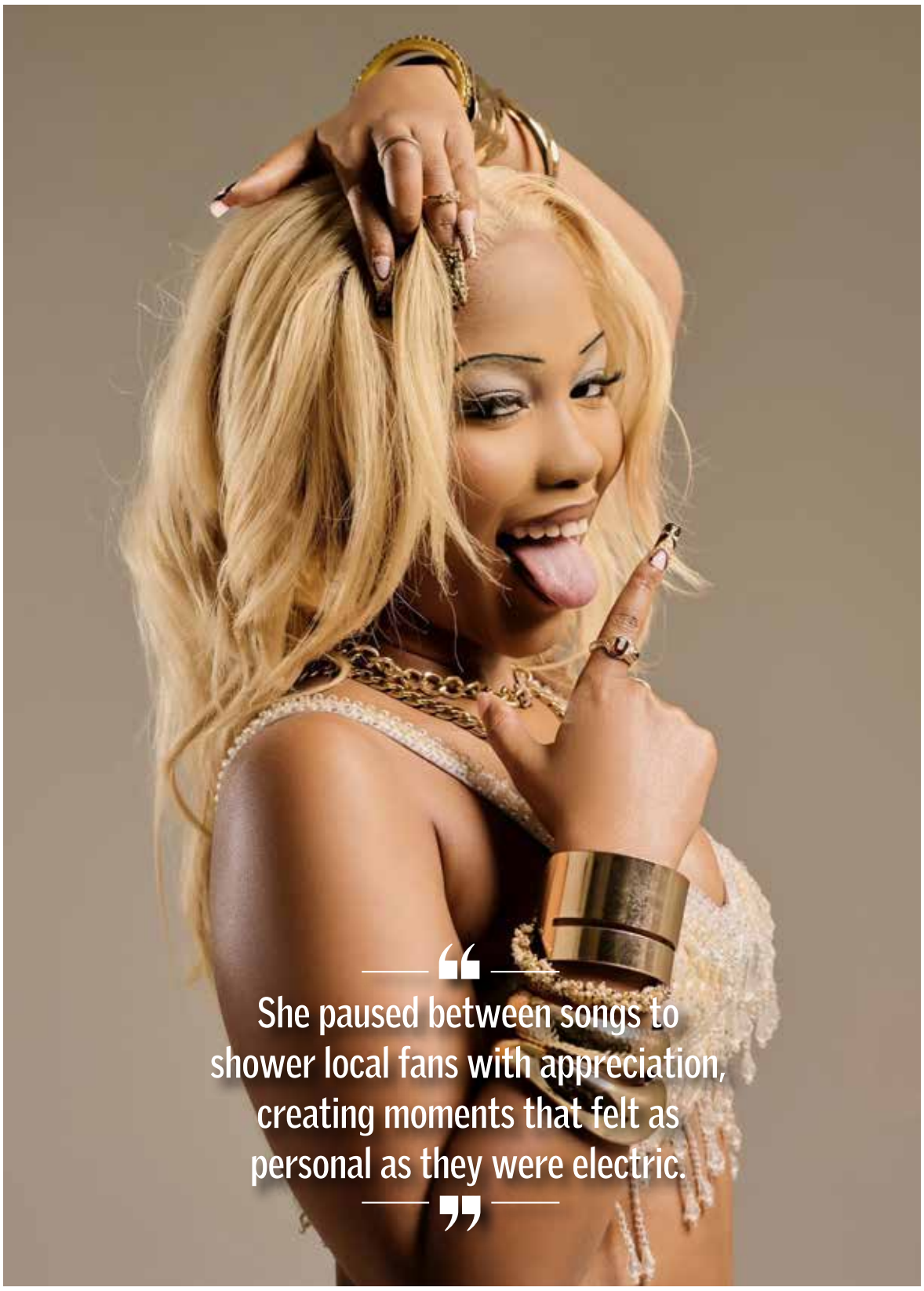
Zee's performance underscored why she has become one of the continent's fastest-rising stars.

Her music has surpassed 300 million streams, while Ngisakuthanda has earned triple-platinum certification. Mamma is double platinum, and Thula Mabota has also reached platinum status, proof that her infectious blend of amapiano and pop continues to resonate beyond South Africa.

**THE PERFECT FINALE**

While dancers battled for freestyle supremacy, Zee Nxumalo reminded everyone that great events are about more than competition, they're about unforgettable moments.

For one unforgettable night in Gaborone, she didn't simply perform. She shut the house down.




# RNB GETS A FRESH SPIN

After one of the country's biggest event shake-ups, DJ Frostbite is back with a fresh RnB experience that promises nostalgia, new talent and a playlist built entirely around the people

GOSEGO MOTSUMI

Sometimes the best playlists begin after the record scratches.

Weeks after the dramatic split that ended his association with the hugely popular RnB on the Lawn, DJ Frostbite is pressing play on a new chapter. His latest venture, RnB and the People, arrives on Saturday, 1 August 2026 at Kgale Cableway (Game City) in Gaborone, carrying familiar soul but a completely new rhythm.

**EVERY HOUR, A DIFFERENT ERA**

Forget a random shuffle. Frostbite wants guests to travel through the soundtrack of R&B history.

"I was a founding partner of RnB on the Lawn which was a household name and the new event is pretty much the same except this time around the execution will be different," he told Time Out.

Instead of one continuous vibe, each hour will celebrate a different generation of R&B, moving from Barry White classics through Boyz II Men, Taio Cruz and beyond. The rotating format also gives different DJs a chance to own the decks while introducing fresh talent to audiences.

"We are going to use the platform to usher in new and upcoming DJs and pay them as well," he explained.

"The future of events is experiential, what the guests experience at the event is what will make them come back."

**BUILT FOR THE PEOPLE**

For Frostbite, the name isn't just clever branding, it's the entire philosophy.

"What influenced the concept of RnB and the People is that we are saying it's not about us," he said. "The number one complaint that we have had was that we played the same sort of music and that is why this time we curated it a little better where different DJs will focus on different music from different eras. This was done for the people."

He believes Botswana's appetite for R&B has never disappeared. Sold-out venues over the past year, he says, proved there is still a loyal audience for the genre, especially when local R&B artists are part of the soundtrack.

**TURNING THE PAGE**

Addressing the split from the previous event, Frostbite describes it as the result of "irreconcilable differences" and contrasting ambitions.




Weeks after the dramatic split that ended his association with the hugely popular RnB event, DJ Frostbite is pressing play on a new chapter.

"I wanted to make it as big as I can and for it to live on even after I've been gone but we weren't on the same page."

Now, with a new name, a new format and a crowd-first approach, RnB and the People is betting that Botswana's love affair with slow jams is ready for its next chapter. Tickets are available online at www.webtickets.co.bw and at Spar outlets.




# SWITZERLAND, HERE COMES MICHAEL

One year after falling short in the Red Bull Dance Your Style national final, Alvan-Michael Okere flipped the script. Now Botswana's newest street dance champion is heading to Switzerland, carrying a dream powered by grit, groove and unstoppable rhythm

GOSEGO MOTSUMI

Sometimes the biggest comeback doesn't need words, it just needs the right beat.

One year after watching the title slip through his fingers, 21-year-old Alvan-Michael Okere turned heartbreak into triumph, claiming the Red Bull Dance Your Style Botswana National Final crown at Molapo Crossing Piazza this past weekend. His victory books him a ticket to the Red Bull Dance Your Style World Final in Zurich, Switzerland, on October 24, where he will fly Botswana's flag on one of street dance's biggest stages.

**A COMEBACK WRITTEN IN RHYTHM**

Last year's finalist returned sharper, stronger and impossible to ignore. Battling through 15 of Botswana's best freestyle dancers, Okere survived unpredictable music choices and high-pressure one-on-one clashes before winning over the only judges that mattered, the crowd.

Unlike conventional competitions, every battle was decided by audience votes, rewarding creativity, musicality and the ability to own any track, from hip hop and amapiano to house, Afrobeats and chart-topping anthems.

**THE STUDENT WITH GLOBAL DREAMS**

Away from the dance floor, Okere is a full-time student at Gaborone University College (GUC). Dance, however, has always been his first love.

"It's an honour to win. It shows that my hard work has paid off," he told Time Out.

"I have been intensively preparing for this competition for a year and I hope this exposure brings a career in dance for me because I am a real creative, especially when it comes to dance. I love the art."

Inspired by films like Stomp the Yard and Step Up, Okere says his signature style blends hip hop with locking, popping and breaking.

> 21-year-old Alvan-Michael Okere turned heartbreak into triumph, claiming the Red Bull Dance Your Style Botswana National Final crown.

**NEXT STOP: ZURICH**

The celebration may be over, but the work has already begun.

"In Switzerland I am going to perfect my musicality, stamina and power boost," Okere said.

Botswana has found its newest freestyle ambassador and if his comeback story is anything to go by, Zurich might just be the beginning.

# GBF Gets Its Groove Back

After a three-year hiatus, the Gaborone Book Festival is back with fresh voices, bold environmental conversations, a children's writing workshop and a mission to prove that books are still the hottest place to start a national conversation

GOSEGO MOTSUMI

Three years is a long time to leave a bookmark hanging. But the Gaborone Book Festival (GBF) is finally flipping the page. From 20-22 August, Botswana's biggest literary celebration returns determined to remind readers that books don't just tell stories, they spark movements, shape identities and challenge the future.

**MORE THAN JUST BOOKS**

This year's comeback leans into the classics—book launches, author conversations, panel discussions and bustling book sales—but adds a new chapter with a dedicated children's festival.

Around 50 children from schools in low-income and hard-to-reach communities around Gaborone will take part in a writing workshop designed to nurture tomorrow's storytellers.

"We are bringing the traditional format of the festival… What we are also excited about this year is the fact that we will have the children's festival," co-founder of GBF Kenanao Phele told Time Out.

"We want to inspire Batswana to keep writing their own stories and view writing as an essential and critical part of national discourse."



**THE ENVIRONMENT TAKES CENTRE STAGE**

Forget the idea that literature only belongs on library shelves.

The festival's central theme—the environment—will stretch far beyond books, inviting filmmakers, artists, chefs and creatives whose work is inspired by nature to join the conversation. The aim is to show that storytelling lives everywhere, from cinema screens to kitchens and canvases.

"We will feature film makers, artists, chefs and others whose focus is also inspired by the environment in their everyday work," Phele explained.

**A FESTIVAL FOR A COUNTRY AT 60**

As Botswana marks six decades of independence, GBF 2026 will also reflect on where the nation has been and where it's heading. The programme promises conversations that connect literature with identity, national progress and the questions shaping modern Botswana.

Rather than simply celebrating books, the festival wants to strengthen the entire literary ecosystem by creating a rare meeting place where readers, established authors and emerging writers can exchange ideas.

With new collaboration with the Office of the Vice Chancellor for Research at the University of Wisconsin-Madison and more guest announcements still to come, GBF 2026 isn't just making a return. It's making a statement: the best stories are the ones that bring everyone into the conversation.

# Holding Shapes Makes Its Debut



In his bold new exhibition, Karabo Maine showcases a series of collage work that explores abstraction as an expression of the recovery process. Constructed from acrylic-painted paper that is cut, fragmented, and reassembled on white paper, the work draws on the visual language of a childhood classic The Very Hungry Caterpillar

GOSEGO MOTSUMI

A tiny caterpillar once taught millions of children about growth and change. Now, it is helping a local artist tell the hardest story of his life.

In Holding Shapes, now showing at Alliance Française de Gaborone until 30 July, visual artist Karabo Maine borrows the colourful visual language of Eric Carle's The Very Hungry Caterpillar—not to revisit childhood nostalgia, but to unpack addiction, recovery and the slow, deliberate work of rebuilding a fractured identity. The result is an exhibition that is as emotionally raw as it is visually striking.

**WHEN A CHILDHOOD CLASSIC MEETS RECOVERY**

Forget neat lines and predictable patterns. Maine slices acrylic-painted paper into fragments before rebuilding it into layered abstract collages that pulse with colour and emotion.

> The result is an exhibition that is as emotionally raw as it is visually striking.

"As a recovering person, abstraction in the form of collages mirrors my experience of addiction," he said. "The disease of addiction strips the human being down until there's only hunger and desperation."

Each tear in the paper becomes symbolic. Every reconstructed shape represents another step towards healing, proving that beauty doesn't arrive despite brokenness, it often emerges because of it.

"Not becoming someone new, but finding a way to hold together what remains and make something meaningful from it," he said.

**THE POWER OF PIECES**

The exhibition's title is as poetic as the work itself. Holding Shapes isn't about chasing perfection. It's about holding onto the fragments that survive life's hardest seasons.

"Cutting disrupts what was once whole, while reassembly becomes an act of repair," Maine explained.

Recurring forms appear throughout the series like memories refusing to disappear. Colours clash, overlap and settle into harmony, echoing the emotional push and pull of recovery.

**MORE THAN AN EXHIBITION**

Making its public debut, Holding Shapes introduces one of Maine's most intimate bodies of work to date. The Gaborone-based artist transforms collage into something far greater than an artistic technique, it becomes evidence that identity can survive even when life falls apart.

> "Cutting disrupts what was once whole, while reassembly becomes an act of repair,"

As visitors leave the gallery, one truth lingers in every layered composition: healing isn't about erasing the past. It's about choosing, piece by piece, what comes next.

"The painted surface survives the cut. The colour remains. Something altered, but resilient, emerges."



TIRED OF SHARING?



# A Guide on International Personal Data Transfers



*Rebaone F. Ditlale- Lead Skills Consultant*

Businesses increasingly operate worldwide and transmission of personal data outside borders has become common and uninvertible. An international data transfer occurs when personal data is sent, stored, accessed, or processed outside Botswana. The Data Protection Act No. 10 of 2025 (DPA) specifies explicit rules for international data transfers to secure the privacy rights of persons and maintain accountability in the processing of personal information. In this article, we will focus on enlightening readers on the principles of data protection concerning international personal data transfers.

**LAWFUL CROSS-BORDER TRANSFERS**

The DPA states that personal data can only be sent to another country or international organization if appropriate safeguards are in place. The main consideration is whether the destination state provides an acceptable level of protection for personal data. Organisations must ensure that the recipient can uphold security, integrity, privacy, and confidentiality standards comparable to those required in Botswana. These safeguards may include contractual agreements, binding corporate rules, or other legally enforceable measures designed to protect the rights of data subjects.

**RESPONSIBILITIES OF ORGANISATIONS**

Organisations remain accountable for personal data even after it has been transferred outside Botswana. To safeguard personal data during the transfer process and while it is being processed overseas, they must put in place the necessary organisational and technical safeguards. Records of overseas transfers should be kept on file, risk assessments should be carried out, and data subjects should be notified when necessary. As laws, technology, and business practices change, it is also crucial to regularly review international transfer agreements to ensure ongoing compliance. Organisations must create clear policies managing international data transfers to comply with the Act.

**EXCEPTIONS**

The Act permits transfers based on adequacy decisions, but it also allows for some exceptions, allowing transfers to take place even in the absence of adequacy decisions or suitable protections. These include (i) circumstances in which the data subject has provided explicit informed consent, (ii) circumstances in which the transfer is required to carry out a contract, for significant public interest reasons, for the establishment or defence of legal claims, to safeguard the data subject's interests, and / or (iii) circumstances in which the transfer is necessary to pursue compelling legitimate interests that do not override the individual's rights and freedoms. These exceptions should not be perceived as the standard basis for routine transfers but instead be applied cautiously and supported by proper documentation demonstrating compliance with the Act.

**OUR SERVICES**

The Data Protection Act (DPA) 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.


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

**CASE NO. MAHGB - 000526- 25**

In the matter between
**STANBIC BANK BOTSWANA LIMITED** **Applicant**
and
**SEGOMOTSO MOLOI** **Respondent**

## NOTICE OF SALE IN EXECUTION

**BE PLEASED TO TAKE NOTICE THAT** pursuant to a Court Order granted by the above Honourable Court on the 9th February 2026 the following movable property of the abovementioned Respondent will be sold by means of public auction to the highest bidder by **Deputy Sheriff Urgent J. Chilisa** as follows:

**DATE OF SALE** : Friday 7 August 2026
**VENUE** : Stanbic Warehouse Plot 10216, Noko Road Broadhurst Industrial
**TIME OF SALE** : 1000 hours

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

**PROPERTY TO BE SOLD: 2023 FORD RANGER PICK UP D/CAB** with registration letters and numbers **B 464 BTR.**

**DATED AT GABORONE ON THIS 13TH DAY OF JULY 2026.**

COLLINS CHILISA CONSULTANTS
Attorneys • Notaries • Conveyancers

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



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Skills brokerage - Upskilling - Business Training

**IN THE MAGISTRATE COURT FOR THE DISTRICT OF LOBATSE**
**HELD AT LOBATSE**

**CASE NO: CCMLB-000042/26**

**BOGOSI O MALEKA** **PLAINTIFF**
And
**MOSES NGAMOLANE** **DEFENDANT**

## NOTICE OF SALE IN EXECUTION

**BE PLEASED TO TAKE NOTICE** that pursuant to the judgment granted by the above Honorable court the following property will be sold by public auction by **Deputy sheriff OMPHEMETSE KAISARA** to the highest bidder as follows:

**DATE OF SALE** : 30th July 2026
**VENUE** : Broadhurst Police Station
**TIME** : 10: 30 am

**PROPERTY TO BE SOLD** : Toyota Runx Reg no: B 582 BFA, Silver in colour, Chasis no:NZE1210275750.

**DATED AT GABORONE ON THE 14TH DAY OF JULY 2026**

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**OMPHEMETSE KAISARA**
**DEPUTY SHERIFF**
**PLOT 163, UNIT 13, COMMERCE PARK**
**GABORONE**
**CELL NO: 72195113/71222244/73008800**

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**LETSIDIDI J**
**IN THE HIGH COURT OF THE REPUBLIC OF BOTSWANA**
**HELD AT LOBATSE**

**CASE NO. CVHGB 00 2199-22**

In the matter between:
**STANBIC BANK BOTSWANA LIMITED** **Plaintiff**
And
**MALEBOGO MOETI** **Defendant**

## NOTICE OF SALE IN EXECUTION

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

**DATE OF SALE** : 18th SEPTEMBER 2026
**TIME** : 10:00 Hours
**VENUE** : Tribal Lot 3459, Mogoditshane
**PROPERTY TO BE SOLD** : Certain piece of land being Tribal Lot 3459, Mogoditshane, situated in the Bakwena Tribal Territory, measuring 982 M² Held under Memorandum of Agreement of Lease No. TL 388/2000 dated the 12th May 2000 in favour of **MALEBOGO MOETI,** the developments therein consists of a house comparised of 4 bedroomed house inclusive of master bedroom, toilet and bathroom, sitting room, dining room, kitchen, garage, screen wall, electricity with some improvements therein.

**TERMS OF SALE** : Cash or bank transfer. Detailed conditions of sale may be inspected at the offices of Deputy Sheriff Stanley Sikalesele Mbolai on cell No. 71635200/4925987

**DATED AT FRANCISTOWN ON THIS 9th DAY OF JULY 2026**

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

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

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

**CASE N0. CVHFT 000 700-16**

In the matter between:
**STANBIC BANK BOTSWANA LIMITED** **Plaintiff**
**And**
**RACHEL MAUPONG** **Defendant**

## NOTICE OF SALE IN EXECUTION

**BE PLEASED TO TAKE NOTICE** that pursuant to a judgment granted by the above Honourable Court, the following immovable property will be sold by public auction by **Deputy Sheriff Ikageng Seloi** to the Highest Bidder as follows:

**DATE OF SALE** : **29th August 2026**
**TIME** : 1000 hrs
**VENUE** : Lot No. 9666, Selebi Phikwe
**PROPERTY TO BE SOLD** : a certain piece of land being Lot No. 9666, situated at Selibe Phikwe Township, Extension 17, measuring 405m² (Four Hundred and Five Square Metres) held under Deed of Transfer No. FT 282/2003 dated the 11th June 2003, made in favour of Rachel Maupong together with developments thereon being a 3 bedroomed house with ensuite, dinning room combined with sitting room, kitchen fitted and ceramic tile on the floor.

**CONDITIONS OF SALE** : Cash or Bank Transfer

Detailed terms and conditions of sale together with details of property may be inspected at the Deputy Sheriff **Ikageng Seloi Cellphone No. 71 472 478** and Plaintiff's Attorneys, Lowa Attorneys, **2412300, 73966100 and 78541541** Unit 16, Haskins Building, Plot No. 469/70, Blue Jacket Street, Francistown

**DATED AT FRANCISTOWN ON THIS 9TH DAY OF JULY 2026**

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

**IKAGENG SELOI**
Deputy Sheriff
P O Box 20951
**GABORONE**
**Tel: 3915479**

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

**CASE NO. CVHFT 0000 668-22**

In the matter between:
**STANBIC BANK BOTSWANA LIMITED** **PLAINTIFF**
**And**
**NORMAN WRIGHT** **DEFENDANT**

## NOTICE OF SALE EXECUTION

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

**DATE OF SALE** : 25th September 2026
**TIME** : 10:00 Hours
**VENUE** : Tribal Lot 2929, Boseja Ward, Maun
**PROPERTY TO BE SOLD** : The Defendant's rights, title and interest to Tribal Lot 2929, Maun, situated at Maun in the Batawana Tribal Territory, Measuring 2297 m², held under memorandum of agreement of lease No. FT TL 62/2005 dated the 17th February 2005 registered in favour of the said Norman Wright, 5 roomed house comprising of two (2) bedrooms, sitting room, kitchen and toilet and bathroom sharing, connected with electricity and have running water. The plot is fenced and some improvements therein.

**TERMS OF SALE** : Cash or bank transfer. Detailed conditions of sale may be inspected at the offices of Deputy Sheriff Stanley Sikalesele Mbolai on cell No. 71635200/4925987

**DATED AT FRANCISTOWN ON THIS 9TH DAY OF JULY 2026**

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

Deputy Sheriff Stanley S. Mbolai
Plot NO. 8766
Extension 7
P O Box 867
**PALAPYE**
**Tel No. 4925987/71635200**

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**H/W MASONYA**
**IN THE MAGISTERIAL COURT FOR THE FRANCISTOWN MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT**
**HELD AT FRANCISTOWN**

**CASE NO: CCMFT-000235-26**

In the matter between:
**DAWN GLOW (PTY) LTD** **APPLICANT**
**t/a ADANSONIA HOTEL AND CONFERENCE CENTER**
And
**KENALEONE FANKIE MOTSAATHEBE** **RESPONDENT**
In Re:
**DAWN GLOW (PTY) LTD** **PLAINTIFF**
**t/a ADANSONIA HOTEL AND CONFERENCE CENTER**
And
**KENALEONE FANKIE MOTSAATHEBE** **DEFENDANT**

## SUBSTITUTED SERVICE

**TO: KENALEONE FANKIE MOTSAATHEBE**
**P O Box 1396**
**GABORONE**

**Formerly residing at Gaborone, but whose present whereabouts are unknown**:

**TAKE NOTICE** that by summons issued out of this Honourable Court, you have been called upon to give notice, within **Twenty-One (21)** days after publication hereof, to the Registrar and to DAWN GLOW (PTY) LTD t/a ADANSONIA HOTEL AND CONFERENCE CENTER c/o M MMOHE ATTORNEYS (Applicant's Attorneys) of intention to defend (if any) in an action wherein DAWN GLOW (PTY) LTD t/a ADANSONIA HOTEL AND CONFERENCE CENTER claims: -

(a) Payment of the sum of P10 255.00;
(b) Interest thereon at the rate of 10% tempora morae per annum to date of final payment;
(c) Costs of the suit at attorney and own client; and
(d) Further and/or alternative relief.

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

**DATED AT FRANCISTOWN THIS 15TH DAY OF JULY 2026**.

**M MMOHE ATTORNEYS**
(Applicant's Attorneys)
Plot 3936, Peolwane Street, Minestone
P.O. Box 1860
**FRANCISTOWN**

**CLERK OF COURT**

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**IN THE MAGISTRATE COURT FOR THE DISTRICT OF GABORONE**
**HELD AT VILLAGE**

**Case No. CCMVL – 002219/24**

In the matter between:
**WILL-LAKE (PTY) LTD** **PLAINTIF**
And
**UNAMI VIRGINIA MATHUMO** **DEFENDANT**

## NOTICE OF SALE IN EXECUTION -MOVABLE PROPERTY

**BE PLEASED TO TAKE NOTICE** that pursuant to the judgment of the above Honorable Court the following property of the abovenamed Defendant will be sold by public auction by Deputy Sheriff **D.J MOYO** to the highest bidder as follows:

**DATE OF SALE** : **23rd July 2026**
**TIME** : 10:00 am
**VENUE** : **BROADHURST MAGISTRATE COURT, GABORONE**

**PROPERTY TO BE SOLD** : 4 Chairs Dunning, 8 x 1, Chairs Table Dunning, 1 x 1 Big Screen Samsung TV, 1 x 6 Piece Sofas, 1 x 1 Double Door Fridge, 5 Set Couches

**CONDITIONS OF SALE** : Cash or Bank transfers

**DATED AT GABORONE THIS 13th DAY OF JULY 2026**

**DEPUTY SHERIFF D.J MOYO**
**C/O JOINA & ASSOCIATES**
**P.O Box 20572**
**Gaborone**

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

**CASE NO. CVHFT 0000 257-22**

In the matter between:
**STANBIC BANK BOTSWANA LIMITED** **PLAINTIFF**
And
**LUKE TAWANA** **DEFENDANT**

## NOTICE OF SALE EXECUTION

**BE PLEASED TO TAKE NOTICE** that pursuant to a judgment of the above Honourable Court, the following property of the Defendant shall be sold by Public Auction to the Highest Bidder by Deputy Sheriff Stanley Sikalesele Mbolai :

**DATE OF SALE** : 11th September 2026
**TIME** : 10:00 Hours
**VENUE** : Tribal Lot 2191, Maaloswana Ward, Serowe Village
**PROPERTY TO BE SOLD** : The Defendant's rights, title and interest to Tribal Lot 2191, Serowe, situated at Serowe in the Bangwato Tribal Territory, Measuring 1604 m², held under memorandum of agreement of lease No. TL 301/2001 dated the 29th June 2001 registered in favour of the said Luke Tawana, 3 bedroomed house with master bedroom with a toilet and bathroom, kitchen, sitting room, bathroom and toilet, separate 2 roomed house and some improvements therein.

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

**DATED AT FRANCISTOWN ON THIS 9TH DAY OF JULY 2026**

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

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

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# INTENTION TO CHANGE MARRIAGE PROPERTY REGIME

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

1. **DEBORAH MOTSEBE** who is married to **GABANKIMELE MOTSEBE**, in community of property on the 7th day of December 1996 at Lentsweletau in the Kweneng District, intends to make an application to the High Court of Botswana for leave to change their property regime to out of community.

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

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

**DATED IN GABORONE ON THIS 6th DAY OF JULY 2026.**

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

# BOTSWANA PADDLERS CLAIM TWO MEDALS



Botswana returned from the regional World Qualifiers with women's silver and men's bronze, reinforcing belief that the country is closing the gap on Southern Africa's table tennis powers.

**GAZETTE REPORTER**

Botswana's national table tennis team returned from the ITTF Africa Southern Africa Region World Qualifiers in Harare, Zimbabwe, with two team medals after strong performances in both the men's and women's competitions.

The women's team reached the final before losing to regional powerhouse South Africa to settle for silver, while the men battled through a competitive field to claim bronze after a tightly contested semifinal against Angola.

**SINGLES PUSH**

Botswana also enjoyed strong representation in the women's singles knockout stages.

Tshepiso Rebatenne, Emmah Lelatisitswe and Tsholofelo Gaokgalelwe all advanced to the quarterfinals, where their campaigns ended after lively performances against higher ranked opponents. Boitlamo Nkele reached the Round of 16 before being eliminated.

In the men's singles competition, Boago Malobela, Bakang Maloka, Tshireletso Samuel and Reneilwe Lekorwe all reached the Round of 16. None progressed to the quarterfinals, bringing Botswana's hopes of an individual medal to an end.

**REGIONAL PROGRESS**

Speaking to Gazette Sport, national team coach Thobo Matlhatsi said that although Botswana narrowly missed out on individual honours, the team was encouraged by its overall performance.

"The team's performance demonstrated the depth of talent within Botswana's national setup, with several players consistently reaching the latter stages of the competition against some of the region's strongest opponents. This is a true reflection that we are surely becoming a powerhouse in the region. We are all happy with the progress that both teams have made in the tournament," he said.

Senior player Tshepiso Rebatenne said the results were another encouraging sign for the team as it continued working to build a competitive side capable of challenging for honours at regional and continental tournaments.

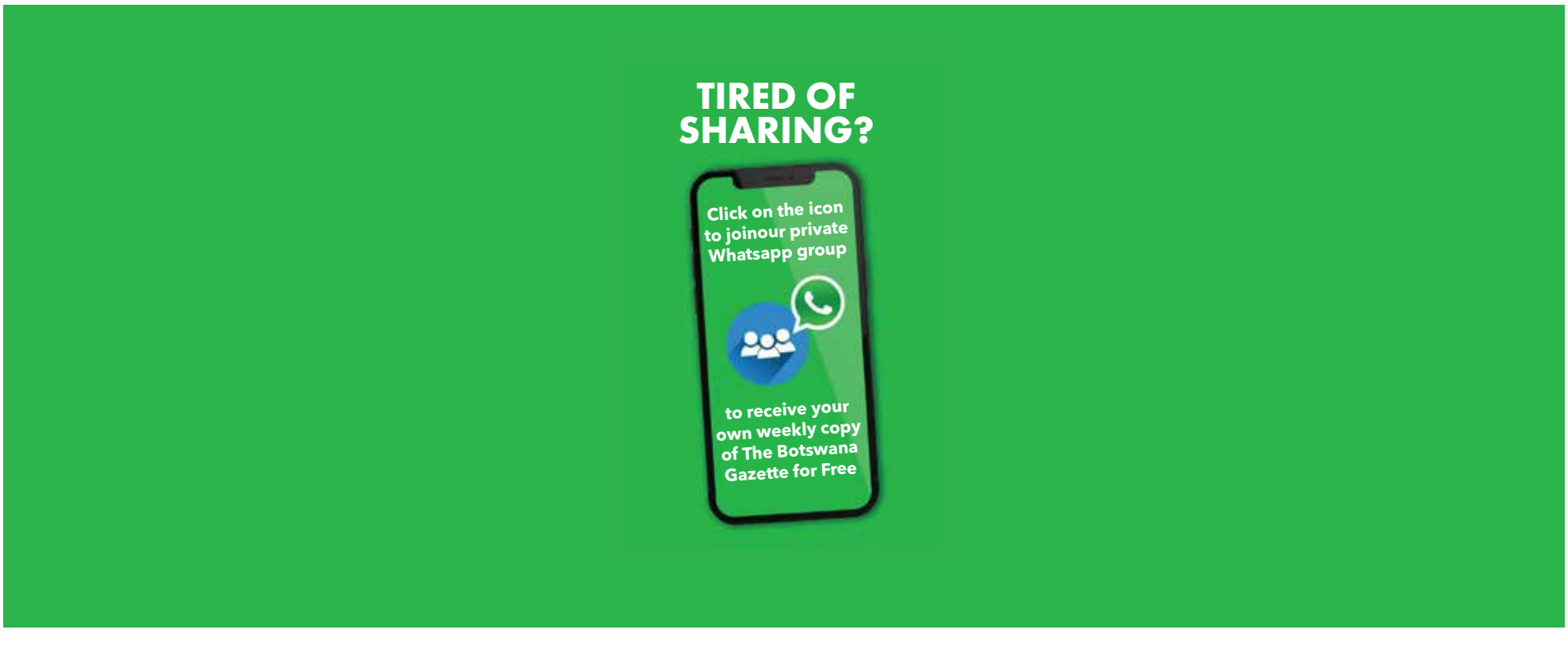
"This tournament has shown us that we are moving the right direction and the medals we won are proof that our hard work is beginning to pay off. We remain committed to improving every aspect of our game as we continue building a formidable national team. With continued dedication, discipline and exposure to high-level competition, I have no doubt that Botswana can become one of the leading table tennis nations in the region," she added.

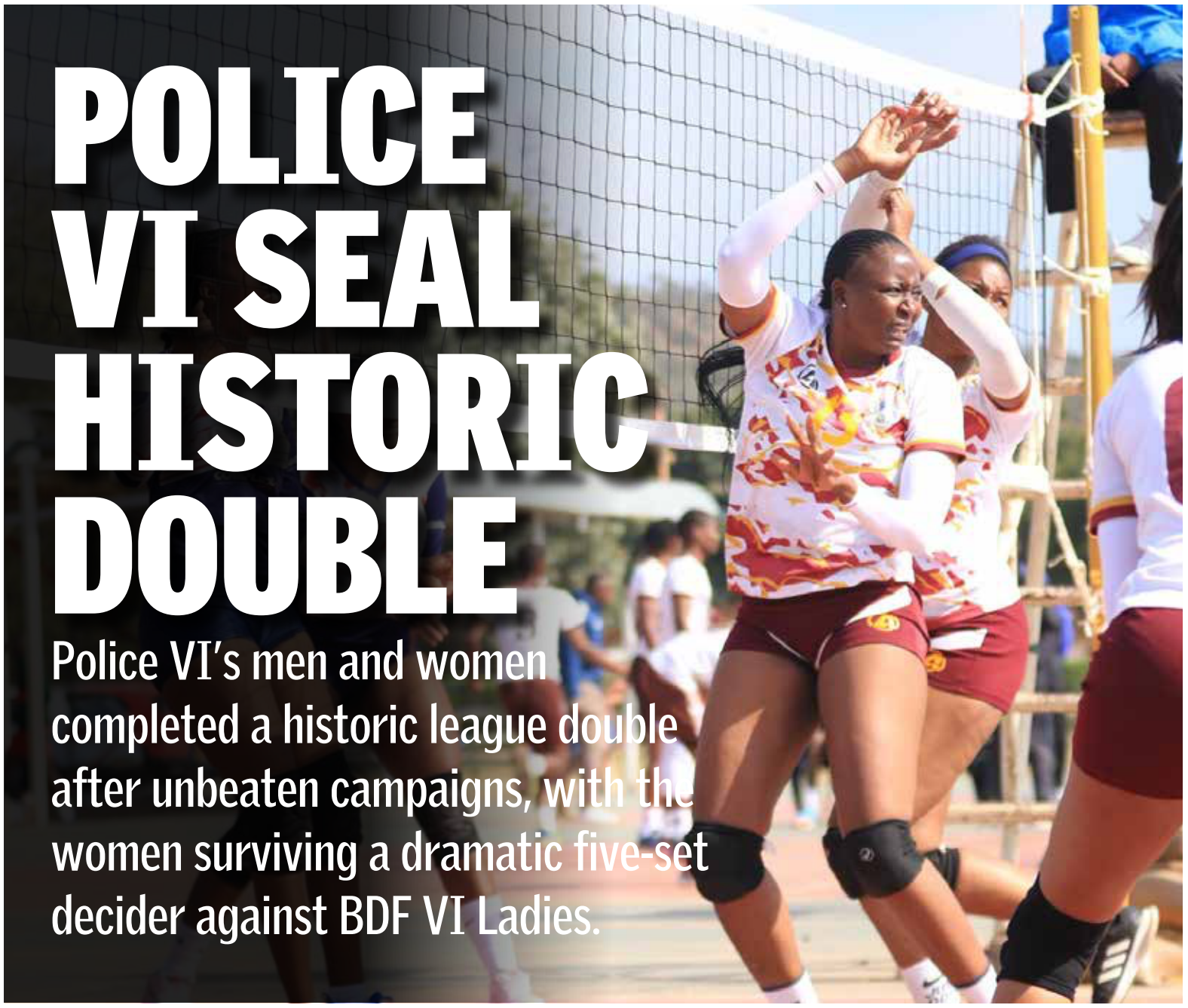
> "This is a true reflection that we are surely becoming a powerhouse in the region."

**YOUTH PATHWAY**

Meanwhile, Botswana Table Tennis Association junior player Stephaney Batsholeng and BTTA Development Officer Godirileone Bagwasi departed for Accra, Ghana, on Monday to participate in the ITTF Africa Youth Hopes Week, scheduled for 12 to 21 July 2026.

The ITTF Africa Youth Hopes Week forms part of the International Table Tennis Federation's talent identification and development pathway, giving young players an opportunity to improve their skills, gain international exposure and compete alongside the continent's rising stars.





# POLICE VI SEAL HISTORIC DOUBLE

Police VI's men and women completed a historic league double after unbeaten campaigns, with the women surviving a dramatic five-set decider against BDF VI Ladies.

**GAZETTE REPORTER**

Police VI confirmed their dominance of local volleyball after both the men's and women's teams were crowned Botswana National Volleyball League champions at the finals held at the Royal Aria Indoor Sports Centre in Tlokweng over the weekend.

Known as Ditau and Ditaugadi, the men and women completed unbeaten campaigns of 13 and 10 matches respectively to secure a historic league double.

**FINAL THRILLER**

The women's team survived a fierce challenge from BDF VI Ladies to claim a dramatic 3-2 victory in the league decider and complete a clean sweep.

The five-set contest lived up to expectations as both teams showed determination and resilience before Police VI prevailed to complete a memorable double for the club.

The titles marked the culmination of months of hard work, discipline and consistency for Police VI, who maintained their composure throughout the campaign despite stiff competition from leading clubs including Kutlwano, BDF and Spiking Stars, who finished in the top four.

**COLLECTIVE EFFORT**

Speaking after the historic triumph, Police VI assistant coach Boitirelo Steve Odisitse said the league success reflected the team's dedication and collective effort throughout the season.

"We are impressed with what the players have achieved. It has been a long and demanding season, but they remained focused from the beginning until the final whistle. Every player contributed to this success, and that is what makes this title special," he said.

Odisitse said the final against BDF VI Ladies tested the team's character and that their ability to remain calm during crucial moments proved decisive.

"There were moments when the match could have gone either way, but the players trusted each other and stuck to the game plan. Their mental strength and fighting spirit made the difference when it mattered most," he added.

**CAPTAIN'S PRIDE**

Police VI women's captain Tshiamo Chakalisa described lifting the trophy as a proud moment for the entire squad, saying the players had worked tirelessly to reach the finals.

"This championship means everything to us because we know how much effort everyone has invested throughout the season. We trained hard, supported one another and never lost sight of our goal. Winning the title is a reward for all those sacrifices, we are very happy and vow to remain consistent," she said.

> "Every player contributed to this success, and that is what makes this title special."

Chakalisa praised BDF VI Ladies for providing a stern challenge, saying the closely contested final reflected the growing competitiveness of women's volleyball in Botswana.

"They pushed us all the way and made us work for every point. Matches like these are good for the sport because they show the quality that exists in our league. This will also better and boost the national team performance in the upcoming national team tournaments if we carry on with this performance," she added.

**ZONE 6 NEXT**

Following their impressive domestic campaign and historic league double, the Police VI teams will head into the Zone 6 Championships full of confidence and determination, hoping to convert national success into regional glory while flying Botswana's flag on one of Southern Africa's biggest volleyball stages.

# STARS SKIP GAMES FOR DIAMOND LEAGUE

Botswana will chase its Commonwealth Games medal target without three of its biggest track stars as workload management shifts their focus to the Diamond League and September's Ultimate Championship.

**GAZETTE REPORTER**

Team Botswana has departed for the 2026 Commonwealth Games without three of its biggest athletics stars after they opted to prioritise the Diamond League circuit during a demanding international season.

Olympic champion Letsile Tebogo, Bayapo Ndori and Collen Kebinatshipi will not compete at the Games, which will be held in Glasgow, Scotland, from 23 July to 2 August. Instead, the trio will continue competing at Diamond League meetings across Europe as part of their preparations for the World Athletics Ultimate Championship, scheduled for 11 to 13 September in Budapest, Hungary.

The newly introduced championship is expected to bring together the world's top track and field athletes and has already become one of the season's premier events.

**WORKLOAD CALL**

Speaking to Gazette Sport, Team Botswana athletics coach Collar Mosimakoko said the decision followed requests from the athletes' respective personal coaches, who wanted their workloads carefully managed during a crowded international season.

"The requests were primarily aimed at managing the athletes' workload during an already demanding international season. With several major competitions taking place within a short period, careful planning has become essential to ensure the athletes remain in peak condition for the year's biggest competitions. The World Athletics Ultimate Championship carries significant prestige and is regarded as being on the same level as the World Athletics Championships, making it a competition the athletes cannot afford to miss. We therefore acceded to the request," said Mosimakoko.

Tebogo and Ndori are coached by Kebonyemodisa "Dose" Mosimanyane, while Kebinatshipi trains under Chilume "Chippa" Ntshwarang. The three athletes have been regular members of Botswana's relay teams and have played a significant role in the country's recent rise on the international athletics stage.

**MEDAL IMPACT**

Mosimakoko acknowledged that the absence of the trio would reduce Botswana's medal prospects in Glasgow, but said it also opened the door for the country's emerging athletes.

"The absence of our senior athletes undoubtedly affects the strength of the team, but it also creates opportunities for others. We have a pool of young and promising athletes at our disposal, and this is their time to shine and showcase their potential. I am confident that by the time we return from Glasgow, we will have discovered a new star who will have emerged from these Games," he added.

**NEXT GENERATION**

Despite missing some of its biggest names, Team Botswana will rely on a blend of experienced and seasoned athletes, including Lee Eppie, Kemorena Tiisang, Justice Oratile, Oratile Nowe and Tshepiso Masalela, among others.

> "The absence of our senior athletes undoubtedly affects the strength of the team, but it also creates opportunities for others."

Team Botswana has set itself a target of seven medals at the Games. The 25-member team will compete in five sporting codes: athletics, boxing, judo, bowling and swimming.

# Orebonye Launches Foundation

## Zebras striker turns football success into a community support drive



GAZETTE REPORTER

Botswana international striker Tumisang Orebonye has launched the Tumisang Orebonye Foundation, a community initiative aimed at empowering communities and changing lives through sport and social support.

Speaking at the launch, Orebonye said the foundation was inspired by his own journey from the dusty fields of Lecheng to becoming a professional footballer.

"For years you have supported me on the pitch," he said at the launch held in Gaborone yesterday ( Tuesday). "You have cheered my name, you have prayed for me, and you have carried me from the dusty fields of Lecheng to where I am today. Today, I stand here to give some of that back."

Orebonye said football had provided him with a platform and a voice, but that success also came with responsibility.

"I did not start playing football to only score goals," he said. "I started playing to change my story, and to one day help change other people's stories too."

**CHARITY TOURNAMENT**

The launch coincides with the third edition of the Tumisang Orebonye Charity Tournament, which will take place from 18 to 20 July 2026 in Lecheng.

Orebonye said the tournament was designed to use football as a vehicle for broader community impact.

"This year I am proud to share that through this tournament, we have built a house for one disadvantaged family in Lecheng," he noted. "A real home. A safe place. That is what this is all about."

He thanked teams, sponsors, volunteers and supporters who had contributed to the tournament over the past two years, saying their involvement demonstrated the impact of collective action.

**FUTURE PLANS**

Orebonye said that from 2027, all Tumisang Orebonye Charity Tournaments would be hosted under the foundation, allowing for expanded programmes targeting families and young people.

"This means bigger impact. More programs. More families helped. More kids given school supplies, skills training, and opportunities through sport," he said.

Closing the launch, Orebonye encouraged young people to believe that their circumstances did not determine their future.

"Your background does not define your future. Lecheng made me. Botswana made me. Africa made me. And now it's our turn to make sure no one is left behind," he said.

# FRANCISTOWN AWAITS TATI RIVER CUP



## The inaugural Tati River Pre-Season Tournament aims to kick-start the new Botswana Premier League season while boosting business activity in the country's second city

TLOTLO KEBINAKGABO

The countdown to the new Botswana Premier League season will begin on August 8 when Francistown hosts the inaugural HSNV-sponsored Tati River Pre-Season Tournament, a one-day competition designed to combine pre-season football with efforts to stimulate the local economy.

The tournament, to be staged at Obed Itani Chilume Stadium, will feature newly promoted Tonota FC, Tafic FC, record Botswana champions Township Rollers and Zambian side Nkana FC.

Organisers say the event is intended to give clubs meaningful preparation ahead of the new campaign while establishing a football attraction capable of drawing supporters and visitors to Francistown.

**ECONOMIC FOCUS**

Speaking at the launch, HSNV Managing Director Boikhutso Ramahobo said the company's involvement is rooted in its commitment to community development and its belief that football can contribute to broader economic activity.

"Based in Francistown, HSNV sees the north as its home and regards investment in local sport as a natural extension of its corporate responsibility efforts," Ramahobo said.

He said a major football event creates opportunities beyond the stadium.

"A major football event has a ripple effect across the local economy, benefiting hotels, restaurants, artists and small businesses that stand to gain from the influx of supporters," he said.

Ramahobo added that the inclusion of Nkana FC would raise the level of competition while exposing local players to different styles of play ahead of the new season.

While the winners' prize has not yet been announced, he said organisers are still engaging additional partners and sponsors before confirming the final prize package.

**LOCAL SUPPORT**

Francistown Regional Football Association chairperson Carlos Motaung described the tournament as an important step in reviving football activity in the city.

"It aligns with efforts to keep Francistown vibrant through sport," Motaung said, adding that more events, including the Mayor's Cup, are planned.

Francistown Mayor Thatayaone Majere also said the tournament is expected to generate significant socio-economic activity for the city, highlighting sport's growing role in local development.

**CLUB PREPARATIONS**

For the participating clubs, the tournament provides an opportunity to assess new signings and refine tactics before the league campaign begins.

Tafic FC officials said the competition would help the club evaluate its preparations following a period of rebuilding.

Tonota FC chairman Tumo Toteng reiterated the newly promoted side's ambition to compete for major honours in its first season in the Botswana Premier League.

Nkana FC, one of Zambia's most successful clubs, welcomed the invitation, saying its supporters expect the team to compete for victory regardless of whether the fixture is regarded as a friendly.

Township Rollers also pledged long-term support for the initiative and called on their supporters in northern Botswana to attend the tournament.

**GROWING FIXTURE**

The event brings together four clubs from two countries at a time when teams are fine-tuning preparations for the new season.

Although conceived as a pre-season competition, organisers have also positioned it as a platform to attract visitors to Francistown while creating opportunities for businesses that benefit from increased foot traffic during sporting events.

If the level of support shown during the launch is sustained, the Tati River Pre-Season Tournament could establish itself as a regular fixture on Botswana's football calendar.

# FNB PREMIERSHIP TRANSFER RUSH




## Clubs make bold moves as the new season approaches

**GAZETTE REPORTER**

FNB Premiership clubs are intensifying their preparations for the new season (expected to commence on August 30), with several teams strengthening their squads through high-profile acquisitions.

Mochudi Centre Chiefs, popularly known as Magosi, have been among the busiest clubs in the transfer market, securing a number of experienced players as they look to build a competitive squad.

The Kgatleng giants have signed Mosha Gaolaolwe from arch-rivals Township Rollers on a two-year contract. The defender, who can also operate in midfield, previously served as vice captain of Rollers and has captained the Zebras on several occasions.

Chiefs have also added midfielder Phenyo Serameng from Sua Flamingoes and Omphile Vissage from Township Rollers, with both players joining on two-year contracts.

The club has further strengthened its attack with the signing of Brazilian centre-forward John Kennedy Xavier da Costa. The 25-year-old arrives with experience from Brazil and India, having featured in competitions including the Campeonato Brasileiro Série D, Paulista A3, Copa Paulista and the Super League Kerala.

Da Costa was the Golden Boot winner in the 2025 Super League Kerala season.

Chiefs have also announced the signing of Gaborone United attacker Mpho Kgaswane on a two-year contract. The club previously confirmed the signing of Zimbabwean attacker Kelvin Ndebele from Morupule Wanderers Football Club on a two-year deal.

**NICO REBUILDS**

Nico United, known as Majombolo, have also been active during the transfer window as they prepare for the new campaign.

The Selebi-Phikwe side has signed striker Onkabetse Makgantai from Jwaneng Galaxy, alongside Karamelo Kgosipula, Kago Monyake, Botshelo Mangena and Freedman Molosi from Township Rollers.

Other additions include Godfrey Tauyatswala from Mochudi Centre Chiefs and Kagisano Mungu from TAFIC.

The club's recruitment drive comes as teams across the top flight seek to strengthen their squads before the start of the new season.

**TONOTA ADDITIONS**

Newly promoted Tonota FC have also moved to reinforce their squad ahead of their Botswana Premier League campaign.

The club has signed experienced attacker Thero Setsile, who is expected to add creativity and quality to the team's midfield.

Born on 8 October 1995 in Maun, Botswana, Setsile has built a career that includes spells with ECCO City Green, Sankoyo Bush Bucks, Jwaneng Galaxy, TS Galaxy in South Africa and Gaborone United.

Tonota have also signed attacking midfielder Mompati Mbidzo from Matebele FC on a two-year deal.

The club announced the signing of 22-year-old midfielder Nonofo "Labile" Dikutu from Matebele FC on a two-year contract. Dikutu has also earned a national team call-up.

Tonota have further strengthened their attacking options with the addition of 23-year-old attacking midfielder and winger Mothusi "Drago" Ipotseng on a two-year contract. The former Police XI, Nico United and Enesia player brings experience and attacking ability to the squad.

The club has also signed 21-year-old forward Otiniel Nsunzu. The striker from Lubumbashi, Democratic Republic of Congo, joins after an impressive spell with Orapa United, where he scored 11 goals in 22 games last season.

With clubs making significant moves before the new season begins, the transfer window is shaping up as one of the busiest periods of squad rebuilding in Botswana's top flight.

# BFL OUSTER BID HITS DEADLOCK

## Shareholders pushing to remove BFL chairperson Sipho Showa were blocked by a constitutional dispute, leaving the league's leadership battle unresolved ahead of the new season.

**GAZETTE REPORTER**

Efforts to remove Botswana Football League board chairperson Sipho Showa have hit a constitutional deadlock after shareholders failed to agree on whether the league's governing document allows a motion of no confidence against the chairperson.

A shareholders' meeting held in Gaborone over the weekend ended without a resolution, leaving the current leadership in place and exposing deep divisions over the interpretation of the BFL constitution.

**GOVERNANCE PRESSURE**

The meeting had been widely anticipated as a decisive moment for the current board following mounting criticism from some shareholders.

Disgruntled members have accused the Showa-led board of poor corporate governance, weak financial oversight and failure to secure commercial sponsorships while the league continues to face financial constraints.

At the centre of the dispute is an alleged resolution reached at a previous shareholders' meeting last year, where it was reportedly agreed that the existing board would step aside to allow for the rotation of directors.

Shareholders pushing for leadership changes argue that the agreement has never been implemented and accuse the current board of disregarding decisions taken by the league's owners.

**SHOWA RESPONDS**

The apparent failure to implement the alleged resolution has intensified calls for Showa's removal, with critics claiming the board has lost the confidence of a significant section of shareholders.

Showa has consistently rejected suggestions that he lacks shareholder support, maintaining that the BFL is governed collectively rather than by one individual.

"The BFL Board works as a collective, it is not run by an individual. It is also important to point out that the Board includes four shareholder representatives, and they have not expressed any concerns to me as far as I know. It is very important for us to do all the process accordingly and as per the constitution," he said.

**CONSTITUTIONAL BLOCK**

Saturday's meeting, which was expected to chart a way forward ahead of preparations for the new season, instead became centred on a constitutional dispute.

Sources at Lekidi Football Centre said the central question was whether the BFL constitution expressly allows shareholders to table a motion of no confidence against the board chairperson.

Without a clear constitutional provision authorising such a process, discussions stalled before any vote could be held, effectively preserving the status quo.

**STANDOFF REMAINS**

The outcome leaves the current board in office despite sustained pressure from sections of the league's membership. It also leaves unresolved broader questions about governance, accountability and the mechanisms available to shareholders seeking leadership changes.

With the new football season approaching, attention is expected to shift towards finding a constitutional pathway to resolve the standoff. Shareholders are likely to hold further consultations on possible amendments or legal interpretations that could clarify the process for removing board members and prevent similar disputes in future.

# KEBINATSHIPI'S RECORD SURGE

## Botswana's 400m champion continues a remarkable season, closing the gap on athletics' greatest mark




GAZETTE REPORTER

Collen Kebinatshipi's 2026 season has developed into a record-breaking campaign, with the Botswana 400m sensation steadily improving across individual races and relay events as he builds towards the global stage.

Kebinatshipi opened his season on 08 March with a 100m time of 10.53 seconds before switching focus to the 400m, where he clocked 44.55 seconds on 21 March. His momentum continued in April when he recorded 9.89 seconds in the 100m on 03 April, a time he matched later the same day, while also producing a 4x100m relay split of 39.18 seconds.

His progression has been reflected in both speed and endurance, with performances that have placed him among the world's leading quarter-milers.

**RELAY IMPACT**

Kebinatshipi also played a key role in Botswana's relay performances during the season. On 02 May, he helped the national team record 2:57.52 in the 4x400m before improving that mark to 2:54.47 the following day.

He closed May with his strongest 400m performance at the time, running 43.92 seconds on 23 May 2026.

The improvement continued into June and July, with Kebinatshipi clocking 43.54 seconds on 28 June and 44.00 seconds on 04 July before producing a national record performance on 10 July.

**RECORD BREAKING**

Kebinatshipi ran 43.44 seconds on 10 July 2026 to set a new Botswana national record and register a personal best, moving closer to Wayde van Niekerk's world record of 43.03 seconds set nearly a decade ago.

The performance also placed him alongside Briton Matthew Hudson-Smith as the sixth-fastest 400m athlete of all time. He further broke his own Diamond League record with the performance.

The season's progression highlights Kebinatshipi's continued rise in the event, with his performances showing a consistent improvement from his opening race in March to his latest record-breaking run in July.

His 43.44-second performance represents a significant milestone in Botswana's athletics history and places him among the leading names in the global 400m conversation as he continues his pursuit of further success.

# Duiker Bowling Tourney Draws Southern Africa

## The annual lawn bowls competition continues to attract interest from across Southern Africa, while organisers expect local players to raise the standard despite fewer international entries this year

GAZETTE REPORTER

The Orapa Duiker Tournament continues to strengthen its reputation as one of Botswana's notable lawn bowls competitions, attracting teams from across Southern Africa while helping to raise the profile of the sport.

According to Botswana Bowling Association Vice President Edwin Nyoka, the tournament's growing regional appeal reflects the importance of neighbouring countries supporting one another in developing lawn bowls.




"It first defines the support neighbouring countries offer each other in the growth of the sport," Nyoka said in an interview. "It also provides the exposure to gauge the level of competitiveness across the region."

The tournament has previously attracted teams from Botswana, Namibia, South Africa and Zimbabwe, giving players an opportunity to compete against regional opposition.

**COMPETITION LEVEL**

A total of 24 teams have registered for this year's tournament.

Nyoka expects the competition to remain intense, although he noted that this year's edition differs from previous tournaments because no international teams have entered.

"It will be high but not as high as before because, for some reason, we have not received any international entries like in the previous years," he said.

"However, the local lads will raise the bar to battle for the prize money at hand."

**GROWING FOLLOWING**

Beyond competition, Nyoka said the tournament has played an important role in building interest in lawn bowls among residents of Orapa.

He said attendance has steadily increased over the years, particularly during the holiday period when the tournament is staged.

"The tournament has attracted an increase in following and attendance over the years for the Orapa residents over these holidays," Nyoka said. "We experience a good following and understanding of the game now."

**OPEN CONTEST**

Nyoka said spectators can expect another unpredictable competition, noting that previous editions have shown there is no dominant team.

"Anything or anyone can win on the day as evidenced during the past years," he said. "There has not been any consistent winners."

The absence of repeat champions, he said, has helped maintain the tournament's competitive nature, with every edition presenting a fresh opportunity for participating teams to challenge for honours.

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# KEBINATSHIPI'S RECORD SURGE

## After pre-World Relays camp tensions exposed familiar cracks in athlete welfare, BNOC says the IOC grant could shift support closer to competitors and protect Botswana sport from damaging last-minute standoffs.




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*Photo Cedit: BWGovernment*

# FNB PREMIERSHIP TRANSFER RUSH



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## Clubs make bold moves as the new season approaches