The Botswana GAZETTE
"Kitso ke maatla"



35 THE DELTA, SEEN AT LAST IN THEIR VOICES

Wednesday 29 July 2026 | sInCe 1984

MAGOSI REOPENS 100BN WOUND

In one of the PAC's most explosive moments, the Director-General revived the disputed P100 billion claim, pouring fresh fuel on government's P83 million legal fire.

2



DIAMOND TARIFF RELIEF WON'T REVERSE TRENDS

US duty-free access helps, but lab-grown diamonds remain the greater threat.

29-30

"Chema Chema Was Doomed to Fail" – PS

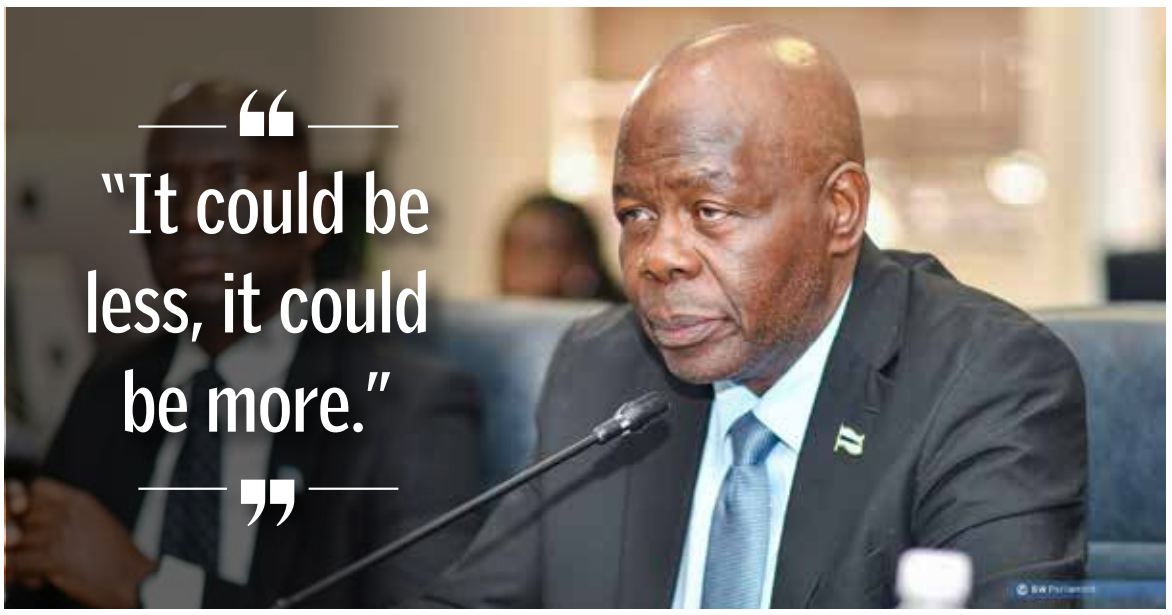
Claims many beneficiaries lacked business training, and another P195 million was needed.

3



MAGOSI BECOMES P100BN LIABILITY

The Director-General's decision to revive the disputed P100 billion claim, while the government is still battling a P83 million legal bill, now casts the DIS chief as a serious liability to President Boko's administration.



BONGANI MALUNGA

Director General of the Directorate of Intelligence and Security Services (DIS), Peter Magosi, has reopened the controversial P100 billion saga, insisting that investigations into the alleged missing funds are still active despite government and prosecutorial positions that appeared to have closed the matter.

Magosi told the Public Accounts Committee (PAC) on Monday that the DIS was actively tracing the money and had already established the whereabouts of some of the funds, suggesting that the intelligence agency's investigation remains alive and could potentially produce fresh revelations.

His testimony places the DIS at odds with previous pronouncements by senior government officials, including President Duma Boko, the Directorate of Public Prosecutions (DPP), the Bank of Botswana and positions advanced before the courts over the disputed funds.

Financial experts say the renewed claims could complicate Botswana's efforts to draw a line under a costly chapter that the government had sought to close.

REOPENING A CLOSED SAGA

The government has spent considerable resources addressing the financial and legal fallout from the Bridgette Motsepe-Radebe case, with efforts to resolve the matter continuing to this day.

The state is currently battling a legal bill of about P83 million owed to Motsepe-Radebe, while Attorney General Dick Bayford previously told the PAC that government was focused on challenging the hefty bill. He also revealed that the state was struggling to meet the costs associated with publishing a court-ordered apology to Motsepe-Radebe in international media platforms.

Boko is on record criticising the case, saying the "Butterfly" matter became an existential threat to the country. "How did we come to accuse a young Motswana of financing terrorism? Which terrorist organisation was referred to that she was alleged to have financed? Investor confidence plummeted during that period," he said.

The DPP had also sought to distance itself from the P100 billion allegations. Appearing before the PAC in June, DPP Director Kgosietsile Ngakaagae dismissed the case as a non-starter.

FRESH UNCERTAINTY

However, Magosi's testimony has now thrown that position into fresh uncertainty. Defending the DIS investigation, Magosi told the committee: "What I can assure you is that, the facts are there, funds are gone. We are tracing them. Dealing with money laundering is not an easy case, it takes time."

> "What I can assure you is that, the facts are there, funds are gone. We are tracing them. Dealing with money laundering is not an easy case, it takes time."

Pressed by the PAC to confirm whether the funds allegedly missing were indeed in the region of P100 billion, Magosi said "it could be less, it could be more".

Magosi's DIS Expenditure Irks PAC

The PAC's grilling exposes questionable DIS spending, procurement decisions, conflicts of interest and costly personnel disputes under Magosi's leadership



BONGANI MALUNGA

The Directorate of Intelligence and Security (DIS) walked into the Public Accounts Committee (PAC) on Monday expecting to account for its operations, but emerged facing a barrage of questions that exposed troubling cracks in the way the country's intelligence agency manages public money, personnel and internal affairs.

At the centre of the grilling was Director General Peter Magosi, whose explanations repeatedly collided with concerns from legislators over expenditure decisions, procurement practices and the management of officers embroiled in disputes with the agency.

The Tautona Lodge saga once again became the clearest window into the DIS's controversial financial decisions.

GOING AGAINST VALUATION ADVICE

Magosi confirmed that the agency went ahead with the acquisition despite a valuation report putting the property at P52 million, VAT inclusive. The government ultimately paid P58.2 million, VAT inclusive, meaning the state paid P6.2 million above the valuation.

Magosi defended the decision, arguing that the acquisition was driven by strategic and operational considerations that could benefit government in the long term. However, PAC members were not convinced, questioning why an agency entrusted with protecting the state would knowingly commit public funds to an asset whose valuation was lower than the purchase price.

The issue became even more striking when Magosi disclosed that the DIS had subsequently acquired another property, also close to P50 million, almost the same amount spent on Tautona Lodge.

RAISING MORE QUESTIONS THAN ANSWERS

For legislators, the disclosures raised questions about whether the DIS was exercising sufficient financial discipline when committing tens of millions of pula to properties. The Tautona controversy took another awkward turn when Magosi disclosed that he personally bought 30 cattle from the lodge after the government transaction, paying about P150 000.

PAC members immediately flagged a potential conflict of interest, arguing that Magosi, by virtue of his position and knowledge of the lodge's assets, was privy to information that an ordinary buyer would not necessarily have.

UNRESOLVED DISPUTES

In another matter, Magosi revealed that the government has spent more than P8.1 million over the past three years paying salaries to 11 DIS officers for sitting idly at home amid unresolved disputes with the agency directed by the court to reinstate them. Magosi defended his decision not to reinstate them but the revelation placed another financial burden under the PAC microscope.

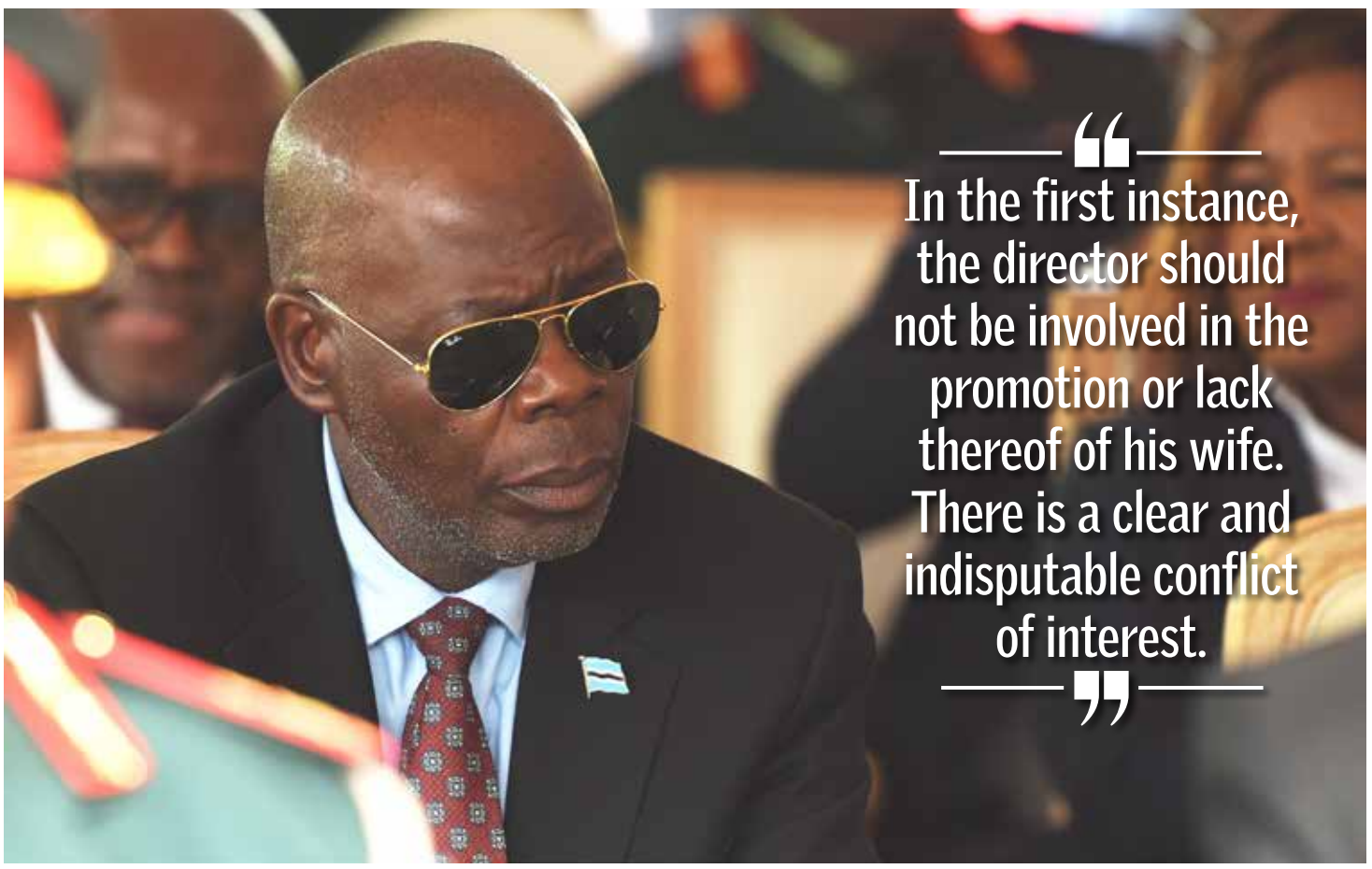
Magosi's own expenditure also came under scrutiny. PAC members questioned a June 2026 trip involving Magosi, his wife, who is also a DIS employee, and two other officers. The four travelled to three countries over 10 days at a reported cost of P333 000. Magosi maintained that he and his wife were on official duty.

BUDGET ALLOCATION

The questions come as the Ministry for State President, Defence and Security has allocated P150 million for the DIS in the 2026/27 financial year to implement geospatial, security and communication projects.

BNF Youth Rebels Over DIS Chief

BNF Youth League has broken ranks with party leadership over DIS Director General Peter Magosi, accusing him of undermining accountability and calling for action over allegations of conflict of interest and abuse of office



BONGANI MALUNGA

The BNF Youth League has called for action against Directorate of Intelligence and Security Services (DIS) Director General Peter Magosi, breaking ranks with the ruling UDC coalition's perceived reluctance to confront the controversy surrounding the spy chief.

The development comes amid growing perceptions that UDC coalition leaders have softened their stance on Magosi, whom the opposition alliance had for years portrayed as a rogue liability to the DIS and government institutions.

The attacks follow Magosi's Public Accounts Committee (PAC) appearance on Monday, which the Youth League described as "characterized by shocking revelations and a show of outright disregard for accountability."

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

The youth league's criticism centres on the promotion of Magosi's wife within the DIS, which it said raised an indisputable conflict of interest. The BNFYL alleged that Magosi defended the promotion, which reportedly moved his wife from the C2 scale to E2, arguing that he should not have been involved in decisions concerning her employment.

"In the first instance, the director should not be involved in the promotion or lack thereof of his wife. There is a clear and indisputable conflict of interest," the statement said.

The youth league further accused Magosi of failing to respect the PAC's oversight role, claiming that he was unwilling to answer questions and repeatedly invoked national security, including on matters the organisation said were unrelated to security.

DISREGARD FOR DUE PROCESS

"It is our view that the DIS cannot be reformed under such leadership that is still hung up on the old BDP way of doing things, that cares little about due process and accountability," the BNFYL said.

It called on the UDC government to take immediate action against Magosi and other senior officials it believes are frustrating the administration's reform agenda.

NOT ABOVE SCRUTINY

The BNF Youth League was not the only party that raised concerns. The BCPYL in a press release stressed that no public official should be exempt from scrutiny because of rank or position, calling for an independent investigation into all allegations involving the DIS director general. It further demanded that anyone found to have breached the law or public service ethics be held accountable, while calling for stronger oversight mechanisms to protect public institutions from abuse of power and political interference.

Chema Chema Was Doomed to Fail – PS

The Chema Chema programme was bound to fail, according to the Permanent Secretary in the Ministry, who said it was not budgeted for, many beneficiaries lacked business training, and an additional P195 million was still needed to fund approved applicants

SESUPO RANTSIMAKO

The Chema Chema programme was rushed and bound to fail because it was not properly budgeted for, Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Trade and Entrepreneurship Joel Duke Ramaphoi has told the Public Accounts Committee (PAC).

Appearing before the PAC this week, Ramaphoi said the programme had several loopholes, with beneficiaries receiving funds without being adequately capacitated or trained in the businesses they were venturing into.

'SPOONFED' PROGRAMME

Chema Chema was launched in April 2024 by the Botswana Democratic Party (BDP) regime with an initial capital allocation of P500 million, targeting informal businesses and entrepreneurs who struggled to access conventional financing. By July 2024, about 12,000 beneficiaries had received approximately P175 million under the programme.

However, Ramaphoi described the initiative as a poorly thought-out programme that effectively spoon-fed beneficiaries instead of equipping them with the skills and knowledge required to run sustainable businesses.


Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Trade and Entrepreneurship Joel Duke Ramaphoi

He said the programme was rolled out without adequate preparation, resulting in beneficiaries struggling to manage their businesses and repay the funds they had received.

FUNDING SHORTFALL

According to Ramaphoi, the lack of proper business training and capacity building among beneficiaries contributed to the challenges facing the programme.

He revealed that government still needs P195 million to finance beneficiaries who have already been approved under the programme but have yet to receive funding.

However, only P50 million is currently available in the programme's account, leaving a significant funding shortfall and raising questions over whether government should continue financing the existing programme.

BENEFICIARIES STRUGGLING

Ramaphoi said beneficiaries were struggling to return the funds, further highlighting the challenges facing the programme.

He said the difficulties experienced by beneficiaries were among the issues that needed to be addressed as government considers the future of Chema Chema.

FUTURE UNCERTAIN

Ramaphoi said discussions were underway to establish whether government should proceed with funding the outstanding beneficiaries or whether they should wait for a new programme that is expected to replace Chema Chema.

NEW PROGRAMME LOOMS

The possibility of replacing Chema Chema with a new initiative could signal a major shift in government's approach to supporting citizen entrepreneurship.

However, the unresolved issue of the P195 million required to fund already-approved beneficiaries remains a key challenge, particularly given that only P50 million is currently available in the programme's account.

PAC Probes BDC CEO's Reported P400,000 Salary

Trade and Entrepreneurship PS has promised PAC answers on BDC CEO's alleged P400,000 salary and competence concerns

BONGANI MALUNGA

The Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Trade and Entrepreneurship, Joel Ramaphoi, has promised a probe into claims that Botswana Development Corporation (BDC) Managing Director Oteng Keabetswe earns P400 000 a month, amid questions over the dramatic increase in executive remuneration.

Ramaphoi made the commitment when appearing before the Public Accounts Committee (PAC) on Tuesday, where legislators pressed the ministry for answers on Keabetswe's appointment, recruitment process and reported salary package.

The PAC questioned the rationale behind the alleged salary increase, particularly after it emerged that the previous BDC managing director was earning about P150 000 per month. The legislators also wanted to establish who authorised the reported remuneration package and whether the prescribed recruitment and approval procedures were followed in appointing Keabetswe.



The Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Trade and Entrepreneurship, Joel Ramaphoi, has promised a probe into claims that Botswana Development Corporation (BDC) Managing Director Oteng Keabetswe earns P400 000 a month, amid questions over the dramatic increase in executive remuneration.

NO COMPREHENSIVE ANSWERS

Ramaphoi, however, indicated that he could not provide comprehensive answers to the committee at this stage, pointing to circumstances surrounding Keabetswe's appointment. "He was appointed at a time when there was no board. He was appointed by the Minister," Ramaphoi told the PAC.

His response immediately placed the appointment process under scrutiny, with the committee seeking clarity on how a substantive managing director could have been appointed in the absence of a BDC board and what authority was exercised in determining the executive's remuneration.

LIMITED RESPONSE

Ramaphoi told the legislators that his ability to respond to the questions was limited, prompting him to commit the ministry to conducting a probe into the matter.

He said the probe would seek to establish the circumstances surrounding the appointment, the remuneration package and the decision-making process that led to the reported P400 000 monthly salary.

However, the PAC was informed that it would have to wait for the investigation to be completed before receiving comprehensive answers.

TWO MONTH TIMELINE

Ramaphoi said the investigation would take no less than two months, after which the ministry would forward the findings and explanations to the committee.

The controversy comes as the PAC continues to scrutinise the administration and financial decisions of public entities, with legislators increasingly demanding accountability over executive appointments and remuneration.

The committee underlined that their line of questioning seeks to find out whether the appointment complied with the applicable governance procedures. The ministry's promised probe is therefore expected to provide the PAC with a clearer account of the events surrounding Keabetswe's appointment and the reported remuneration package.

PUBLIC NOTICE

BOCRA

PUBLIC TENDER NOTICE

TENDER NO: BOCRA/PT/002/2026.27

SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF NETWORKING EQUIPMENT (FIREWALLS, SWITCHES AND ROUTERS)

1. The Botswana Communications Regulatory Authority (BOCRA or the Authority) hereby invites 100% citizen owned companies as stated under Section 76 (2) of the Public Procurement Act, to tender for the Supply and Delivery of Networking Equipment (Firewalls, Switches and Routers).

2. Procurement Method: Open Domestic Bidding

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

Code 203: Electrical, Electronic, Mechanical and ICT Supplies

Subcode 01: Electrical and Electronic Equipment, Spares and Accessories (includes ICT, photographic equipment and others)

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

5. Preference margins will be applied to qualifying bidders in line with the Economic Diversification Drive (EDD).

6. A non-refundable deposit of **BWP285.00 (Two Hundred and Eighty-Five Pula Only)** VAT inclusive payable by bank transfer or deposit at the following banking details, is required on collection of the tender documents:

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

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

8. Queries and Clarifications relating to this tender may be addressed in writing no later than **31 July 2026** to tenders@bocra.org.bw and will be responded to no later than **04 August 2026**.

9. Bids and all supporting documents should be submitted not later than **10:00 HRS** on **07 August 2026** or such other later date as the Authority may advise in writing, at the **Tender Box** located at the following BOCRA Secretariat physical address:

Botswana Communications Regulatory Authority
Plot 50671
Independence Avenue
Gaborone

10. Bids will be opened at **10:05 HRS** on the **07 August 2026** at the BOCRA Head office, bidders and the public are invited. Tender opening results will be shared with bidders through BOCRA Website.

11. Late tender submissions will not be accepted.

12. One envelope submission method shall be used for the tender.

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

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

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

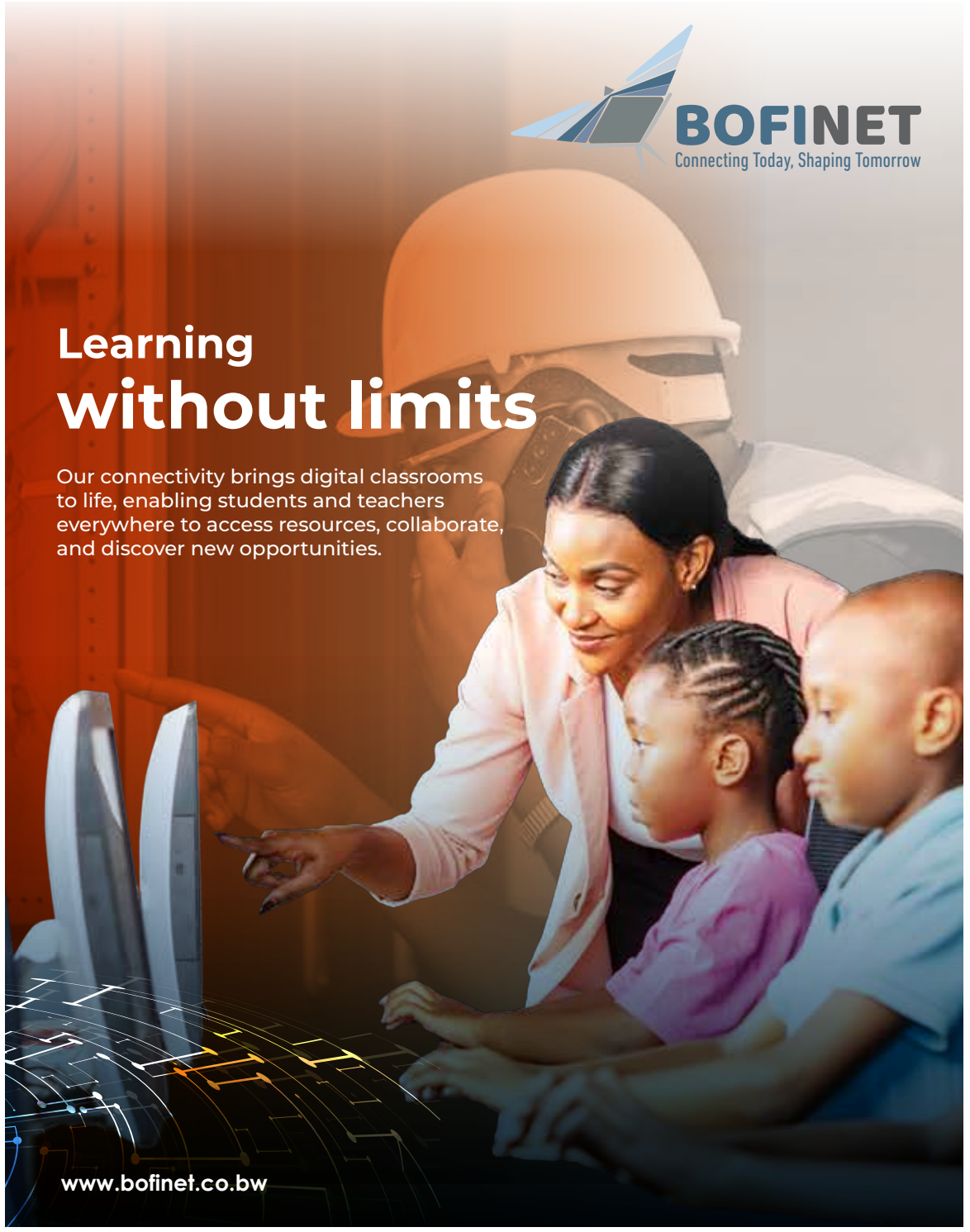
BOTSWANA COMMUNICATIONS REGULATORY AUTHORITY
PLOT 50671 INDEPENDENCE AVENUE
PRIVATE BAG 00495, GABORONE, BOTSWANA
TEL: +267 3957755 FAX: +267 3957976
info@bocra.org.bw | www.bocra.org.bw

Imagine the world without order
Imagine Botswana without BOCRA

Kapinga Warns DIS Over "Blanket Classification" of Info



Former deputy police commissioner and newly elected member of Parliament's Intelligence and Security Oversight Committee, Kenny Kapinga



A member of Parliament's Intelligence and Security Oversight Committee Kenny Kapinga has warned the DIS that national security and classified information are not blank cheques, saying there are clear limits to what can be shielded from scrutiny

GAZETTE REPORTER

Former deputy police commissioner and newly elected member of Parliament's Intelligence and Security Oversight Committee, Kenny Kapinga, has criticised the Directorate of Intelligence and Security (DIS) for what he describes as the excessive use of national security and classification arguments to avoid accountability.

> How do we even begin to explain to our children and other nations that even sheep procurement can be a national security threat as advanced by the DIS director?

Kapinga, speaking to this publication following DIS Director General Peter Magosi's controversial appearance before the Public Accounts Committee (PAC), said he watched the proceedings with disappointment, though he was not surprised by what he described as the agency's now familiar approach.

Magosi repeatedly invoked classified information and national security considerations when responding to questions from legislators, a move that triggered public criticism and renewed debate over the extent of secrecy surrounding the agency.

'YOU CANNOT CLASSIFY ANYTHING'

Kapinga said the DIS must understand that while national security considerations are legitimate, they have boundaries that cannot be stretched to shield institutions from scrutiny.

"I watched the proceedings with disappointment, although I cannot say I was surprised. This has become a familiar pattern with the DIS whenever it is faced with legitimate questions of accountability," he said.

He argued that there is a growing misunderstanding around what qualifies as classified information and matters of national security, warning that these concepts should not be used as a blanket defence.

"There is a misconception on what constitutes national security and classified information. There are limits to these concepts, and the time has come for those providing oversight, like legislators, and those accounting to know of these parameters," Kapinga said.

"Classification cannot become a blanket tool for shielding information from scrutiny, especially under a new political administration that has promised to correct past wrongs and strengthen accountability," he said.

NEW COMMITTEE TARGETS INTELLIGENCE OVERSIGHT

Kapinga said strengthening parliamentary oversight of the DIS would be among the priorities of the newly elected Intelligence and Security Committee.

He said Parliament must be able to effectively scrutinise the intelligence agency while working with relevant stakeholders to ensure reforms that improve accountability and public confidence.

"We really pray that the new administration is genuine and want support in this regard; otherwise, it will be very unfortunate," he said, referring to the government's commitment to reforming state institutions.

Kapinga said the committee's mandate presents an opportunity to address longstanding concerns around transparency and oversight within the intelligence sector.

The former police boss questioned some of the issues presented by Magosi during his PAC appearance.

"How do we even begin to explain to our children and other nations that even sheep procurement can be a national security threat as advanced by the DIS director?" he questioned.

MAGOSI APPEARANCE SPARKS BACKLASH

Magosi's PAC appearance has reignited scrutiny of the DIS, an institution that has remained controversial since its establishment.

Kapinga said the new parliamentary committee has an important role in ensuring that intelligence operations are conducted within the boundaries of democratic accountability.

He stressed that national security remains essential, but warned that it should not become a mechanism for avoiding legitimate questions from oversight bodies.

Over 700 Companies Give Notice to Retrench

Over 5000 workers lost their jobs between January 2024 and May 2026, according to Minister Mokgware

SESUPO RANTSIMAKO

A total of 700 companies submitted notifications of intention to retrench workers to the Commissioner of Labour between January 2024 and May 2026, with 5,392 employees losing their jobs during the period under review.

UDC JOB CREATION PLEDGE

The figures emerged in Parliament in response to a question by Serowe South MP Leepetswe Lesedi, who sought an update on the number of jobs created by the UDC-led government since it took over from the Botswana Democratic Party (BDP) in 2024, in line with its manifesto commitments.



(Pic:Monirul Bhuiyan/PRESS PHOTO)

In its 2024 manifesto, the UDC committed to creating between 450,000 and 500,000 new jobs within five years. During the 2024 election campaign, the party also promoted a target of creating 100,000 jobs within its first 12 months in office.

RETRENCHMENTS ACROSS KEY SECTORS

Responding to the parliamentary question, the Minister of Labour and Home Affairs Pius Mokgware said 5,392 workers had lost their jobs through retrenchments between January 2024 and May 2026. He said the figure was based on notifications submitted by 700 companies to the Commissioner of Labour in terms of the Employment Act.

The retrenchments affected workers across several sectors, including manufacturing, security, retail, hotels, catering and entertainment, as well as building and construction.

LEGAL REQUIREMENT

Under Section 25 of the Employment Act, employers intending to retrench employees are required to notify the Commissioner of Labour of their intention to do so.

The scale of the job losses raises questions about employment security and the ability of businesses to retain workers amid economic pressures. The retrenchments could also place additional financial strain on affected households while adding pressure to an already competitive labour market.

DIVERSIFICATION AS JOB DRIVER

The UDC's manifesto envisaged job creation through a diversified economy, with opportunities expected to emerge from major infrastructure projects, agriculture and agro-processing, tourism, the creative economy, green energy and renewable energy, as well as support for small and medium-sized enterprises.

The party also pledged to pursue an economic growth rate of at least 10 percent annually and attract investment as part of its strategy to create more sustainable and diversified employment opportunities.

EMPLOYMENT PICTURE

The figures come against the backdrop of Botswana's broader employment situation. According to Statistics Botswana's latest Botswana Multi-Topic Household Survey 2024/25, an estimated 804,663 people were employed.

With 5,392 workers reported to have lost their jobs to retrenchment during the period, the figures are likely to fuel scrutiny of the government's progress towards its ambitious job-creation commitments, particularly its pledge to create hundreds of thousands of jobs within its five-year term.

Gaborone Office
Debswana Pension Fund
Plot 50361, Block D
Carlton House, Fairgrounds
Gaborone, Botswana
Private Bag 00512, Gaborone, Botswana
Tel: +267 361 4288 Fax: +267 393 6239

DPF
DEBSWANA · PENSION · FUND

FIRST AND FINAL CALL FOR BENEFICIARIES - DEATH BENEFITS CLAIMS

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

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

Full Name	Member Status	Date of Death	Place of Residence
Tshupoeng Gwamulumba	Pensioner	31.12.2025	Senete / Gaborone
Pelotshweu Ramontsho	Pensioner	07.02.2026	Mahalapye / Orapa
Lesego Moiteelasilo	Pensioner	20.03.2026	Francistown / Orapa
Mosimanegape Sekwakwa	Pensioner	09.05.2026	Bobonong / Orapa
France Dekoker	Pensioner	21.03.2026	Werda / Jwaneng
Emang Batsile	Pensioner	12.06.2026	Mmathethe / Jwaneng
Joseph Phalanyane	Pensioner	11.06.2026	Gabane / Jwaneng
Mathodi J. Masebo	Active	03.06.2026	Bobonong / Orapa
Richard Makgetha	Active	30.04.2026	Tlhareseleele / Orapa
Keamogetse Gakeleinee	Active	06.05.2026	Dutlwe / Jwaneng
Mavis Mathemabe	Deferred	22.12.2025	Kumakwane
Moabi Keaikitse	Deferred	11.02.2026	Kanye / Gaborone

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

Follow us on | www.dpf.co.bw

DPF Values:
Customer focused | Trust and Integrity | Innovation | Agility | Self-Driven and Motivated

Mmila Fund Administrators
Service Excellence Assured

AG Seeks to Reverse DIS Back Pay Order

Following a verification exercise that reduced eligible multi-grading claimants from over 400 to 138, the Attorney General now wants the DIS back pay order rescinded

BONGANI MALUNGA

The Attorney General's Office is seeking to rescind a court order directing the Directorate of Intelligence and Security (DIS) to pay salary back pay to hundreds of officers, following a verification exercise that significantly reduced the number of eligible claimants.

The verification process found that only 138 officers qualified for the multi-grading payments, down from the more than 400 claimants initially cited in the legal proceedings. The AG's move is based on the argument that the original order was issued on figures that no longer reflect the verified number of beneficiaries.

The development emerged during the DIS appearance before the Public Accounts Committee (PAC) on Monday, where officials sought to justify why the agency believes the court order should not be implemented in its current form.

DIS Director of Corporate Services Kesentseng Rakwadi told the PAC that a verification exercise had established that many of the officers initially listed in the case did not qualify for payment, while duplication of names further reduced the number of legitimate applicants.

138 OFFICERS INELIGIBLE

On the 138 officers who remain in the claim but allegedly do not qualify for the multi-titling and multi-grading benefits, Rakwadi said: "the remaining 138 applicants are all at C-scale. A majority of them are at C4 scale, which is an entry level for the DIS. The officers want to progress to C1 like it is required for officers within the C-band to progress through the multi-titling dispensation. These officers don't have the qualifications, they are JC and BGCSE holders. In the public service for you to progress from C4 to C3 you should be in possession of a certificate. In order to progress beyond C1 you should have a diploma, they don't have those qualifications."

The DIS legal department told the PAC that procedural mishaps resulted in a summary judgment being granted, arguing that the dispute had never been fully litigated on its merits. The legal team is now adamant that enforcing the order would create a problematic precedent by allowing officers who do not meet the prescribed qualifications to benefit from the multi-titling arrangement.

UNPAID SALARY BACK PAYS

The case initially involved 401 DIS officers who sued the government and the intelligence agency over unpaid salary back pays linked to the multiple grading and titling of C-Band positions. The officers relied on DPSM Directive No. 6 of 2008 and a 2007 Savingram on multiple grading.

Then High Court judge Justice Zein Kebonang ruled that withholding the back pays, effective from 2008 and backdated to 2001, was unlawful and violated the parity principle. The Court of Appeal subsequently dismissed the DIS challenge following procedural failures, leaving the payment order active.



The Minister of Transport and Infrastructure for Botswana Noah Salakae cutting a ribbon to mark the relaunch of the Pula Lounge in Gaborone, while the General Manager of Air Botswana Dr. Bao Mosinyi and Thando Silongo, Managing Director of Soft Landing Concierge look on. *Pic:Monirul Bhuiyan/PRESS PHOTO*

Deposit and Lending Interest Rates

Quarterly Report

April - June 2026

Type of Deposit	April 2026 Interest Rates (%)	May 2026 Interest Rates (%)	June 2026 Interest Rates (%)	Q2 Range Interest Rates (%)
Current	0.00 - 0.04	0.00 - 0.04	0.00 - 0.04	0.00 - 0.04
Global Account	0.00 - 2.00	0.00 - 2.00	0.00 - 2.00	0.00 - 2.00
Call	0.00 - 3.35	0.00 - 3.35	0.00 - 3.35	0.00 - 3.35
Savings	0.00 - 2.75	0.00 - 3.40	0.00 - 3.40	0.00 - 3.40
1 Month	0.15 - 3.50	0.15 - 5.50	0.15 - 5.00	0.15 - 5.50
3 Months	0.00 - 9.50	0.00 - 4.75	0.00 - 4.00	0.00 - 9.50
6 Months	0.00 - 8.00	0.00 - 7.50	0.00 - 7.50	0.00 - 8.00
12 Months	0.00 - 13.00	0.00 - 10.00	0.00 - 10.50	0.00 - 13.00
24 Months	-	-	-	-
Over 24 Months	-	-	-	-

	April 2026	May 2026	June 2026	Average Pricing
Monetary Policy Rate	5.50%	5.50%	5.50%	-
Prime Lending Rate	7.01%	7.01%	7.01%	-
Mortgage Facility	3.50% - 10.01%	3.50% - 20.85%	3.50% - 22.13%	4.17%
Overdraft Facility *(Revolving Credit Lines)*	7.01% - 24.51%	7.01% - 22.01%	7.01% - 27.01%	14.67%
Credit Card	22.00% - 25.00%	22.00% - 25.00%	22.00% - 25.00%	20.05%
Lease Loans *(VAF)*	5.51% - 25.76%	5.51% - 27.01%	5.51% - 28.01%	12.12%
Unsecured Personal Loans *(excluding overdrafts, mortgage and credit cards)*	5.00% - 29.01%	5.00% - 29.01%	5.00% - 29.01%	15.53%
Other Term Loans	-	-	-	-

**Scheme related lending is as per the scheme contract*

For more information please enquire at your nearest

Visit FNB Branch Visit fnbbotswana.co.bw

First National Bank of Botswana Limited Registration Number BW00000790476. Member of the Deposit Insurance Scheme of Botswana

Boko Pleads for Patience Over Meds Crisis

Amid growing reports that the medicine shortage is costing lives, President Duma Boko has appealed for patience, saying his government is working to dismantle years of corruption, procurement failures and systemic weaknesses blamed for the crisis

GAZETTE REPORTER

President Duma Boko has pleaded for patience from Batswana as his administration battles to resolve the country's medicine shortages, blaming years of alleged corruption, procurement failures and weak supply chain systems for the crisis.

Addressing residents at Monarch kgotla in Francistown, Boko said the shortage of essential medicines was not a problem that emerged overnight, but the result of a procurement system he described as deeply flawed and vulnerable to abuse.

His remarks come amid growing public frustration over shortages of critical medicines in health facilities, with some citizens questioning why the government has struggled to restore consistent supplies months after taking office.

BOKO BLAMES LEGACY PROCUREMENT FAILURES

Boko said the crisis was rooted in past practices where medicines were allegedly procured in excessive quantities, resulting in wastage, expiry and financial losses.

"Medicines were sometimes purchased for populations far beyond actual demand, creating situations where supplies expired before reaching patients. Government also paid inflated prices," he said.

He cited the destruction of expired medicines worth P95 million as evidence of the scale of the problem.

CRITICS QUESTION FOCUS ON THE PAST

However, the President's explanation comes against the backdrop of criticism from some quarters that his administration has spent too much time highlighting problems inherited from previous administrations while struggling to deliver immediate solutions.

Critics argue that while investigating past failures is necessary, citizens currently facing medicine shortages need urgent interventions and accountability measures against those responsible for previous procurement failures.

Questions have also been raised over why no individuals have been held accountable for alleged wrongdoing linked to past procurement practices, despite repeated references to corruption and systemic failures.

The debate has placed pressure on the new administration to demonstrate that identifying the causes of the crisis will translate into swift action and tangible improvements for patients.

TECHNOLOGY SOLUTION TO FIX SUPPLY CHAIN

Boko said government was implementing measures aimed at preventing similar shortages in future, including the introduction of technology-driven medicine tracking systems.

He said the current supply chain was slowed by manual recording processes at Central Medical Stores (CMS), where medicines could take weeks to be recorded, stored and distributed to health facilities.

Under the proposed system, medicines will be tracked using scanners and real-time digital records from arrival at CMS until delivery to patients

"This will show what has arrived, where it has gone and how many patients have received it," Boko said.

> Questions have also been raised over why no individuals have been held accountable for alleged wrongdoing linked to past procurement practices, despite repeated references to corruption and systemic failures.

RACING AGAINST TIME

The President said government had already taken emergency steps to improve supply, including dispatching teams to monitor medicine shipments and exploring the use of the Botswana Defence Force (BDF) to assist with transportation if required.

"We ask the public not to lose hope. We understand the challenges, the difficulties and the suffering people have experienced," he said.



BOTSWANA BUREAU OF STANDARDS BOBS

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

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

1. PRINCIPAL STANDARDS ENGINEER: Vacancy No. 4/2026/2027

Job Summary
The successful candidate will be expected to develop and promote adoption of national standards within a particular industrial, commercial or environmental sector and the modification of international standards to meet Botswana conditions and thereby promote the delivery of quality goods and services to consumers.

Minimum Job Requirements
The successful candidate will have at least a Degree in Mechanical Engineering or equivalent and at least two years practical experience in the development and/or implementation of standards. Light duty driving license is a requirement.

Specialised postgraduate training in standards research and development or implementation, recognised expertise in a particular industrial, commercial or environmental sector would be an advantage.

2. SENIOR STANDARDS ENGINEER: Vacancy No. 5/2026/2027

Job Summary
The successful candidate will be expected to develop and promote adoption of national standards within a particular industrial, commercial or environmental sector and the modification of international standards to meet Botswana conditions and thereby promote the delivery of quality goods and services to consumers.

Minimum Job Requirements
The successful candidate will have at least a Degree in Mechanical Engineering or equivalent. Light duty driving license is a requirement.

Specialised post graduate training in standards research and development will be an added advantage. At least **two** years practical experience in the development of standards. Recognised expertise in a particular industrial, commercial or environmental sector.

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

These positions are offered on a permanent and pensionable basis.

A detailed CV, names of three referees, and certified copies of certificates should accompany applications and be emailed to: recruitment@bobstandards.bw not later than **7th August 2026**. BOBS will enter into correspondence with shortlisted candidates only.

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

OKAVANGO DIAMOND COMPANY

VACANCIES RE-ADVERTISEMENT

Okavango Diamond Company, or ODC, is a rough diamond marketing company that is wholly owned by the Botswana Government. We offer our global customer base open access to scale supply of the full range of rough diamonds sourced from Botswana. With access to 30% of Debswana's run-of-mine production, ODC is an important supplier to the market with sales in the region of $900 million per annum. The organisation has exciting opportunities for individuals driven by a quest for excellence to take on the following positions:

1. Senior Security Officer

Job Purpose
Reporting to Senior Specialist: Monitoring (Physical & Surveillance), the position will be responsible for leading and managing security officers in the delivery of security services and procedures (access control, surveillance, perimeter and building patrols, customer care and asset protection).

The Job
The incumbent will be responsible for, among others, the following:
- Coordinating the movement of customers, visitors and service providers into and out of the building by ensuring smooth and organised flow.
- Ensuring that security policies align with legal and regulatory equipment by keeping informed about relevant laws, regulations and industry standards that impact organisation's security posture.
- Ensuring the building is safe and secure daily for the movement of goods, protection of employees and customers by implementing safety measures and security protocols.
- Ensuring compliance to the Security Standard Operations Procedures (SOPs) by following established protocols.
- Ensuring compliance to the Precious and semi - precious Act by strictly adhering to the statutory requirements.
- Ensuring that the vault is locked after the removal and return of diamonds by following designated procedures.
- Assisting in securing the safe movement of goods during importing and exporting using a trustworthy shipment company.
- Responding to medical emergencies, fire, or intrusion alarms by following emergency response procedures.

The Person
The right candidate will possess a minimum of:
- A Diploma in Security Management.
- 3 years' security experience, at Supervisory level in high value / protected security area can be accepted in lieu of formal education.
- 2 years security experience high security and professional environment.
- Strong expertise in the security and movement of diamond products and or high value products.
- Solid knowledge and understanding of diamond security systems, protocols and access controls.

2. Security Officer

Job Purpose
Reporting to the Senior Security Officer, the position will be responsible for safeguarding ODC's diamonds, assets, personnel, visitors and customers through implementing security searches and access control in a critical infrastructure environment as per compliance to the Buildings Control Act and adherence to the Precious and Semi-Precious Stones Act.

The Job
The incumbent will be responsible for, among others, the following:
- Ensuring compliance to the Security Standard Operations Procedures (SOPs).
- Signing off all products and assets that come in and out of the ODC premises.
- Assisting in securing the safe movement of goods during import and export.
- Matching the dispatch authorisation and the pre-alert forms from the shipping agents before export.
- Reporting any security breaches and potential security problems to the Senior Security Officer.

The Person
The right candidate will possess a minimum of:
- A BGCSE plus a Certificate in General Security Management.
- 4 years' security experience, including experience in a relevant high security and professional environment.

3. CCTV Operator

Job Purpose
Reporting to the Specialist: Control Room, the position will be responsible for monitoring employees, customers and the product by operating and maintaining CCTV system, watching both live and recorded video surveillance footage, reporting incidents or suspicious behaviour and contacting their seniors, when necessary, in adherence with security processes, protocols, policies and procedures.

The Job
The incumbent will be responsible for, among others, the following:
- Preventing potential security threats by monitoring security surveillance for the live feeds.
- Preventing technical issues that could compromise the effectiveness of the security infrastructure by conducting regular checks on the functionality of CCTV cameras, associated equipment, routine maintenance and troubleshooting.
- Ensuring a comprehensive record of security-related events by documenting and lodging accidents through the CCTV system.
- Enhancing a robust security posture and responding effectively to emerging threats or policy violations by reporting all security breaches ad potential security problems, irregularities and violators of policies and procedures.
- Ensuring a safe, accurate and on time movement of goods during import and export by collaborating with a trustworthy shipment partner for the execution of shipment protocols diligently.
- Securing diamond inventory and preventing losses by adhering to security protocols during movement of people and product through adherence to SOPs.
- Reducing security risks by detecting and noticing emergencies / risks, deterring potential criminals through patrols, observing areas using tactical training and CCTV for surveillance and reporting.
- Ensuring effective cost control and governance compliance by adhering to corporate policies.
- Improving SHEQ compliance by applying standards, following procedures, attending training, and promoting safety awareness.

The Person
The right candidate will possess the following minimum requirements:
- A BGCSE and a CCTV Operator Certificate.
- 3 years' CCTV operation experience including experience in a relevant high security and professional environment.
- Strong expertise in the security and movement of diamond products.
- Solid knowledge and understanding of diamond security systems, protocols and access controls.
- A pronounced knowledge of body language and paying attention to detail.

All positions require the following Skills and Competencies:
- Security
- Investigations and loss management
- Patrol and Surveillance
- Alarm and Emergency Response
- Rule Enforcement
- Risk Identification & Risk Assessment
- Risk Monitoring and Reporting
- Health and Safety
- Security Policy and Compliance
- Training and Awareness Programs
- Professionalism and Ethics
- Conflict Resolution and Mediation
- Communication and Interpersonal Skills

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

Closing Date: 2 August 2026

For enquiries: Contact 3975917 / 3915503

PEOPLE CONNECTIONS
connecting people and business

UK Eases Visa Rules for Botswana 'Students'

The UK has announced that nationals from Botswana applying for Student and Child Student visas will no longer be required to submit bank statements or other financial documents at the initial application stage



GAZETTE REPORTER

Botswana students planning to pursue studies in the United Kingdom (UK) have received a major boost after British authorities relaxed financial evidence requirements for student visa applications, placing Botswana among only three African countries to benefit from the exemption.

The UK Home Office updated its immigration guidance on Monday, July 27, 2026, announcing that nationals from Botswana, Mauritius and Tunisia applying for Student and Child Student visas will no longer be required to submit bank statements or other financial documents at the initial application stage.

SIMPLIFYING THE VISA PROCESS

The change is expected to simplify the visa process for Botswana students, although UK authorities stressed that the exemption does not remove the requirement for applicants to have sufficient funds to cover tuition, accommodation and living expenses while in the UK.

Under the revised rules, applicants must still be able to prove they meet the financial requirements if requested by UK Visas and Immigration (UKVI) during the assessment process. Failure to provide the required evidence when asked could result in visa refusal.

FINANCIAL REQUIREMENTS REMAIN

While the upfront document requirement has been removed, the financial thresholds for international students remain unchanged.

Students studying outside London must demonstrate access to £1,171 per month for up to nine months, while those studying in London must show £1,529 per month for the same period.

Applicants travelling with dependants are subject to additional financial requirements, including £680 per month outside London and £845 per month in London for up to nine months.

Accepted sources of funding include government-backed student loans, official sponsorships, personal savings, and financial support from parents or eligible partners.

The exemption places Botswana in a select group of African countries receiving preferential treatment under the new UKVI arrangements. Out of Africa's 54 countries, only Botswana, Mauritius and Tunisia have been removed from the list requiring financial evidence upfront.

SHIFT AFTER VISA RESTRICTIONS

The development comes months after the UK introduced stricter travel controls for Botswana nationals, ending visa-free entry and removing Botswana from the Electronic Travel Authorisation (ETA) scheme in October 2025.

Britain introduced the visa requirement following a rise in asylum applications from Botswana citizens. Between January 2022 and June 2025, UK authorities recorded 1,332 asylum claims from Botswana nationals, including 329 applications in the year ending June 2025.

The Home Office said the increase placed additional pressure on border systems, with many claims being made after arrival without prior screening.

The UK remains one of the most popular destinations for Botswana students, with universities attracting applicants seeking internationally recognised qualifications, research opportunities and professional networks.

LION PARK RESORT

THIS IS A RE-ADVERT, CANDIDATES WHO PREVIOUSLY APPLIED NEED NOT APPLY

VACANCY: RE-ADVERTISEMENT

OPERATIONS MANAGER X 1

The Lion Park Resort is looking for an experienced operations manager who is passionate about the customer service industry.

Job Purpose
Reporting to the General Manager, the incumbent will be responsible for all the day-to-day operational aspects of the Lion Park Resort.

Education
- BGCSE or equivalent qualification
- Technical qualification at diploma level (Electric/Mechanical engineering or Hospitality Management)
- Traceable references

Experience
- Minimum six years of operations experience in the amusement park industry
- Minimum three years at the managerial level at an amusement park

Skills and Knowledge
- Business policies, procedures and processes
- Programmable logic controllers, Variable speed drives
- Standards relating to amusement park installations (ASTM 24, F770, F2291)
- Knowledge of industry practices
- Safety orientated
- Cost management

Key Performance Areas
- Customer service
- Technical support
- Quality control
- Asset management
- Staff resource management
- Staff training and development

Please e-mail your CV with a cover letter to info@lionpark.co.bw Closing date is 14 August 2026.
Postal Address Private Bag 160, Gaborone, Tel: 3960576, Physical address: Portion 184, Portion 12 Crocodile Pools 15-KO Lion Park, Gaborone



UN Pursues Botswana for P52M Debt

A new UNDP audit has revealed that Botswana is carrying an outstanding bill of about P52 million owed to the global development agency, with the unpaid contributions dating back to 2008



GAZETTE REPORTER

Botswana owes the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) an estimated P52 million in outstanding contributions dating back nearly two decades, with a new audit revealing that the debt remains unresolved despite repeated engagements between the UN agency and government.

The Office of Audit and Investigations (OAI) audit of the UNDP Botswana office found that, as of February 2026, the country had accumulated an outstanding Government Contributions towards Local Office Costs (GLOC) balance of about US$3.8 million, equivalent to approximately P52 million.

The outstanding amount is not a loan or money borrowed by government from UNDP. Rather, it represents Botswana's contractual obligation under the Standard Basic Assistance Agreement, which requires host governments to contribute towards the operational costs of UNDP country offices.

The contributions cover expenses associated with maintaining local UNDP operations that support the implementation of development programmes in partner countries.

DEBT STRETCHES BACK TO 2008

According to the audit, Botswana's unpaid GLOC obligations accumulated between 2008 and 2015, a period during which the country remitted, on average, only 22 percent of the annual contribution expected under the arrangement.

"The Office reported a cumulative outstanding GLOC balance of approximately US$3.8 million relating to the period 2008 to 2015," the auditors said.

The report indicates that UNDP Botswana has repeatedly raised the matter with government, while also escalating the issue to the UNDP Regional Bureau for Africa in efforts to recover the outstanding amounts.

"The Office has engaged with the Government at various levels. It continues to follow up regularly with the aim of recovering the outstanding amounts," the audit states.

However, auditors noted that despite these efforts, the country office had not succeeded in fully recovering the contributions.

UNDP OPERATIONS UNDER FINANCIAL PRESSURE

The unpaid contributions come at a time when UNDP Botswana is facing growing financial pressures, with the audit revealing a significant decline in programme delivery over recent years.

Programme expenditure fell from US$7.76 million in 2021 to US$3.75 million (about P51 million) in 2025, marking the lowest level recorded in seven years.

Auditors attributed the decline largely to Botswana's political transition following the 2024 general elections, which resulted in a temporary freeze on government spending and recruitment.

Since most UNDP projects in Botswana are implemented through government institutions under the national implementation modality, the spending restrictions disrupted project execution.

> "The contributions cover expenses associated with maintaining local UNDP operations that support the implementation of development programmes in partner countries."

"The decline was largely attributable to political transition in the Country, which resulted in a temporary suspension of government spending and recruitments," the report states.

FINANCIAL SUSTAINABILITY CONCERNS

The audit also found that UNDP Botswana's institutional expenditure has consistently exceeded its income, resulting in operating deficits of US$167,000 in 2024 and US$97,000 in 2025. The shortfalls were covered by the UNDP Regional Bureau for Africa.

Beyond the unpaid GLOC contributions, auditors warned that the Botswana office faces broader structural financial risks, including high fixed management costs, a narrow funding base and heavy reliance on government-supported programmes.

BCL's 10-Year Liquidation Nears Closure

The regulator clears safe closure works, with access road blockage remaining before license surrender

SESUPO RANTSIMAKO

The long-running liquidation of BCL Mine is nearing completion after the mining regulator confirmed that all major safe closure works at the mine site have been completed, paving the way for the liquidator to surrender the company's mining license.

FINAL CLOSURE WORKS

Responding to a parliamentary question from Selibe Phikwe West Member of Parliament Reuben Kaizer on when the liquidation process, which has now stretched over 10 years, will be concluded, the Minister of Minerals and Energy Bogolo Kenewendo said the process could be completed within a week.

BCL Mine ceased operations in October 2016 after the government decided to place the loss-making state-owned mining company under provisional liquidation, bringing an end to mining operations in Selebi-Phikwe. The liquidation process has since stretched for nearly a decade and has cost the government billions of pula.

SAFE CLOSURE PROGRAMME

Kenewendo revealed that, following the completion of the safe closure programme, the mining regulator conducted a final onsite inspection of the BCL Mine Site on 16 July 2026.

"The safe closure programme, undertaken by the liquidator and overseen by a government-appointed Task Team, commenced on 29 October 2025 after several closure work streams were identified as necessary before the surrender of the mining licence," the minister stated.

REGULATOR GIVES CLEARANCE

According to Kenewendo, the final inspection found that all safe closure works had been completed to the regulator's satisfaction, with only one outstanding requirement: for the liquidator to block the access road leading to the open pit.

The process of blocking the access road is expected to take less than a week to complete.

LICENCE SURRENDER IMMINENT

"Once this has been done, the liquidator is expected to surrender the BCL mining license and will be released from any further rehabilitation obligations relating to the mine site," the minister added.

The development marks a significant step towards concluding the liquidation of the state-owned mining company, which has been under liquidation for almost 10 years.

> "The development marks a significant step towards concluding the liquidation of the state-owned mining company, which has been under liquidation for almost 10 years."

GOV'T DISTANCES ITSELF

However, Kenewendo indicated that the remaining matters required to finalize the liquidation process are outside the ministry's control.

According to the ministry, these matters are regulated by the applicable provisions of the Companies Act, under which the Master of the High Court and the High Court supervise the liquidator in the performance of her duties.

BILLIONS ADVANCED

The liquidation has also placed a significant financial burden on the government. By December 2022, the government had advanced more than P1.6 billion to the BCL liquidator to fund the liquidation process.

Government has nevertheless reiterated its commitment to bringing the costly liquidation process to an end.

COSTLY LIQUIDATION

The completion of the safe closure works is expected to remove one of the major outstanding technical requirements associated with the surrender of the BCL mining license, leaving the remaining liquidation matters to be concluded in accordance with the legal framework governing the winding-up of the company.

Kenewendo, Mine Workers Union Move to Bridge Rift

Kenewendo's meeting with BMWU signals a possible thaw after accusations of strained relations over worker safety, representation and collective bargaining



BONGANI MALUNGA

The Minister of Minerals and Energy Bogolo Kenewendo has moved to open a fresh channel of engagement with the Botswana Mine Workers Union (BMWU), meeting the union's leadership in Gaborone on Tuesday amid accusations that her ministry has been shutting organised labour out of critical mining-sector discussions.

Kenewendo met BMWU representatives at the Ministry of Minerals and Energy headquarters in an engagement the ministry described as part of the government's pursuit of consultation with key stakeholders in the mining industry.

According to the ministry, the meeting provided an opportunity for both sides to exchange views on challenges affecting the sector and to strengthen collaboration towards a safe, productive and sustainable mining industry.

MOUNTING CONCERNS

The engagement comes against the backdrop of mounting concerns from BMWU president Joseph Tsimako, who has, in recent weeks, accused Kenewendo of failing to adequately engage the union on issues directly affecting mine workers.

Tsimako has previously raised concerns over the union's exclusion from the High Level Consultative Council (HLCC), worker safety and the establishment of a bargaining council for the mining sector.

Speaking on the Comrade Podcast on 16 July, Tsimako claimed the union had previously arrived for a scheduled engagement with the minister, only to be informed that Kenewendo had left the premises.

NO INTEREST

"She has no interest in working with trade unions which exists in her sector. That's why she has not considered the HLCC issue, safety topics and the bargaining council. She is only interested in minerals, not the workforce that produces those diamonds, workers who are under her ministry," he alleged.

The issues raised by Tsimako placed greater significance on the latest meeting, as the union represents workers at the heart of Botswana's mining industry, one of the country's most important economic sectors.

For BMWU, the meeting therefore offers an opportunity to place labour concerns directly before the minister, while for the ministry it creates space to reinforce its stated commitment to stakeholder consultation.

The ministry said the engagement was aimed at strengthening collaboration, signalling a renewed attempt to ensure that the government and organised labour remain part of the same conversation on the future of Botswana's mining industry.

Teachers' Unions Reject Corporal Punishment Motion

Teachers' unions BOSETU and BTU have rejected calls to reintroduce corporal punishment, a practice abolished in 2018, warning of legal risks

SESUPO RANTSIMAKO

Molepolole North Member of Parliament (MP) Arafat Khan's motion seeking the reinstatement of corporal punishment in schools as a regulated disciplinary measure has met strong resistance from teachers' unions, which maintain that the practice is outdated and could expose teachers to litigation.

CALL TO RESTORE PUNISHMENT

Khan's motion seeks to have government bring back corporal punishment as a regulated disciplinary measure, arguing that it could strengthen discipline, promote respect for authority and help create a safe and conducive learning environment in schools.

UNIONS STAND FIRM

However, the proposal has been rejected by the Botswana Sectors of Educators Trade Union (BOSETU) and the Botswana Teachers' Union (BTU), which say corporal punishment is no longer an appropriate method of disciplining learners.

Corporal punishment was abolished in Botswana's schools after the Umbrella for Democratic Change (UDC) government took power, following a resolution by teachers in 2018 calling for the practice to be discontinued. Reacting to Khan's motion, BOSETU president Winston Radikolo told The Botswana Gazette that teachers had taken a clear position on the matter and believed government had done the right thing by listening to them and abolishing corporal punishment.



Molepolole North Member of Parliament (MP) Arafat Khan'

NO CHANGE IN POSITION

Radikolo said the union's position remained unchanged, arguing that there was no need to reverse the decision to abolish the disciplinary measure.

He said instead of returning to corporal punishment, government should strengthen the pastoral system in schools, employ professional counsellors and introduce outreach programmes aimed at addressing behavioural challenges among learners.

LITIGATION CONCERNS

Radikolo further warned that reinstating corporal punishment could expose teachers to litigation from parents and students, creating additional challenges for educators in the execution of their duties, as was the case before the practice was abolished.

He said teachers should not be placed in a position where disciplinary measures could result in legal action against them, arguing that alternative approaches were needed to deal with indiscipline in schools.

BTU QUESTIONS EFFECTIVENESS

BTU spokesperson Kenneth Lonkokile also rejected the proposed return of corporal punishment, describing the practice as outdated.

Lonkokile argued that bringing back corporal punishment would amount to running away from the responsibility of finding more effective ways of instilling discipline among students.

PARENTAL RESPONSIBILITY

According to Lonkokile, discipline should not be viewed as the sole responsibility of teachers, with parents also having an important role to play in shaping their children's behaviour and ensuring that they grow up with respect for authority and acceptable social values.

CALL FOR ALTERNATIVES

While Khan's motion argues that regulated corporal punishment could contribute to improved discipline and safer learning environments, teachers' unions believe the focus should instead be placed on strengthening support systems for learners and involving parents more directly in the disciplinary process.

The debate is now expected to test whether Parliament will support Khan's call for a return to corporal punishment or whether the country's education authorities will maintain the position adopted in 2018 and pursue alternative approaches to discipline in schools.

LSB ROPES IN UCT LEGAL EXPERT

Professor Chirwa's report questions the academic, regulatory and professional suitability of the qualification for admission into Botswana's legal profession

GAZETTE REPORTER

The Law Society of Botswana (LSB) has strengthened its legal challenge against the Bachelor of Laws (LLB Hons) degree offered by the Gaborone University College of Law and Professional Studies (GUC), engaging a University of Cape Town (UCT) law professor to argue that the qualification does not meet the standards required for admission into legal practice in Botswana.

In an expert report commissioned by the LSB, Professor Danwood Mzikenge Chirwa concluded that the LLB programme offered by GUC through its partnership with Leeds Beckett University falls short of the regulatory, academic and professional requirements expected of a qualifying law degree.

The report, which forms part of a High Court dispute over the admission of GUC graduates into the legal profession, examined the programme's compliance with the Legal Practitioners Act, Botswana Qualifications Authority (BQA) requirements, curriculum structure, teaching methods, assessment systems and quality assurance mechanisms.

> Professor Danwood Mzikenge Chirwa concluded that the LLB programme offered by GUC through its partnership with Leeds Beckett University falls short of the regulatory, academic and professional requirements expected of a qualifying law degree.

CONCERNS OVER ACCREDITATION AND CURRICULUM

Chirwa raises concerns over whether the GUC programme has received accreditation in the United Kingdom, arguing that there is insufficient evidence demonstrating that the qualification meets the required standards within the UK system.

He states that accreditation serves as an important safeguard for maintaining academic quality, protecting students and ensuring confidence in professional qualifications.

"A qualification delivered outside the national qualifications framework cannot satisfy the qualitative requirements implicit in section 4 of the Legal Practitioners Act," the report states.

The professor also questions the three-year structure of the programme, direct admission from secondary school and the range of subjects covered.

He argues that the curriculum does not sufficiently cover key areas of law necessary for preparing students for professional practice. Among the subjects he identifies as missing as compulsory courses are Constitutional Law, Administrative Law, Jurisprudence, Legal Methods and Research, International Law, African Customary Law, Criminal Procedure, Law of Evidence, Civil Procedure, Company Law, Family Law and Law of Succession.

According to the report, gaps in these areas could affect graduates' ability to acquire the broad legal foundation required before entering practical legal training.

QUESTIONS OVER BOTSWANA'S LEGAL NEEDS

Chirwa further argues that the programme places too much emphasis on English law while providing limited engagement with Botswana's mixed legal system, regional legal developments and comparative law.

While acknowledging that Botswana's Legal Practitioners Act recognises certain UK law degrees, he notes that legal education in the United Kingdom has changed significantly since 2019, with universities no longer occupying the same role in preparing students for professional qualification.

He argues that Botswana's situation is different because the country does not have an extensive post-LLB professional training system capable of addressing weaknesses at undergraduate level.

GUC'S ASSESSMENT METHODS QUESTIONED

The report also questions GUC's assessment methods, including reliance on coursework, multiple-choice assessments and uncertainty around examination controls. Chirwa warns that these weaknesses could create risks to academic integrity, particularly amid growing concerns around artificial intelligence and contract cheating.

He further raises concerns about GUC's governance structures, staffing capacity and the absence of senior academic leadership in law.

Chirwa concludes that the LLB (Hons) degree offered by GUC and awarded by Leeds Beckett University is "not suitable as an academic qualification for purposes of admission to legal practice in Botswana."

The matter remains before the High Court, with the LSB opposing the admission of GUC graduates on professional standards grounds, while graduates maintain that their qualifications are legitimate and recognised.



VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

The University is looking for qualified and experienced individual for the below stated position:

The position is based at BIUST Campus, Palapye and is offered on a fixed term contract.

SCHOOL OF LIFE SCIENCES- DEPARTMENT OF BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES AND BIOTECHNOLOGY

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR, PLANT BIOTECHNOLOGY

To teach, supervise and educate undergraduate and postgraduate students in academic discipline and to build the knowledge base of the discipline through research and publication. To administer teaching and research activities within the discipline of Plant Biotechnology. To give academic leadership in the University, the School, and the Department and develop the next generation of academics. To play a leading role in improving the teaching and research infrastructure of the Department, School, and University. To establish a national reputation in the chosen discipline. To be active in professional service related to the chosen discipline.

Qualifications
PhD in Plant Biotechnology or in a related area with a strong focus on Plant Genetics and Metabolic Engineering from a recognized Institution.

Experience
A minimum of ten (6) years post-doctoral experience in teaching and research in Plant Biotechnology.

- Research and teaching experience in undergraduate/ postgraduate Plant Biotechnology, preferably with a speciality in Plant Genetics and Metabolic Engineering and evidence of building and leading a research team in this field of study.
- A record of recent and continuing publications of at least sixteen (16) original scientific articles in peer-reviewed journals that are indexed in Scopus.
- Evidence of attracting research grants and managing research projects.
- Evidence of experience of successful supervision of postgraduate students.
- Evidence of accreditation as assessor and moderator from a recognized Qualification Authority (e.g. BQA).
- Evidence of engagement in university, professional, and community services.
- Evidence of involvement in academic leadership and management.

Competencies requirements

- Ability to prepare and submit proposals and applications to external bodies, e.g.,for funding and accreditation purposes.
- Computer proficiency.
- Good knowledge of the academic discipline environment.
- Involvement in professional activities where applicable.
- Knowledge of Research Methodology.
- Understanding of Higher Education environment.
- Ability to be a team player and ability to work independently.
- Ability to facilitate student learning.
- Ability to coach and mentor students and staff.

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

If you meet the requirements of the above stated position, please send your application letter, educational certificates and transcripts and a detailed Curriculum Vitae including at least two (2) recent professional referees to:
Director, Human Capital at the email address below.
recruitment.bioscibiotech@biust.ac.bw

For any further enquiries, you may call Ms Taolo @ 4931305 or Ms Jobe @ 4931317

Disclaimer: Only citizens will be considered.
By submitting your application, you authorize the Botswana University of Science and Technology (BIUST) to collect, process, and retain your personal information for purposes related to recruitment and selection, including verification and background checks where applicable, in compliance with relevant data protection laws. All information provided will be handled in strict confidence and may be disclosed to authorized individuals directly involved in the recruitment process.

CLOSING DATE: August 13, 2026

BIUST
BOTSWANA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

www.biust.ac.bw
BIUST | Driving Change

Debswana Delivers Hope to Betesankwe



Jwaneng Mine General Manager, Mr. Goitseone Gadifele, speaking on creating lifestyle value for communities surrounding the mine.

A football tournament that united employees, sponsors and the community has delivered far more than goals, bringing a permanent health facility and renewed hope to one of Botswana's underserved villages.

For years, accessing healthcare meant an exhausting journey for the people of Betesankwe. Elderly residents, mothers with young children and those needing urgent medical attention often had to travel long distances, sometimes to Sese, simply to receive basic medical care. Last Friday, that hardship came to an end when Debswana Jwaneng Mine officially handed over a new P1.4 million clinic, bringing essential healthcare services closer to the community.

CLICK! WATCH

A LONG WAIT ENDS

One resident, Tshiamiso Tlhakoyakgomo, said the village had endured years of unnecessary hardship because of the lack of nearby healthcare services.

"We have suffered for a long time. We travelled very far, even to Sese, to get help. It was not easy, especially for the elderly and those who were sick," she said.

Tlhakoyakgomo thanked Debswana Jwaneng Mine for responding to the community's needs, saying the health facility would make a significant difference to the lives of residents. "We thank Debswana Jwaneng Mine for this Clinic. It will help us a lot. We hope to see more developments in Betesankwe," she said.

A VILLAGE FINALLY HEARD

The facility was officially handed over during a ceremony attended by the area Member of Parliament, community members, Debswana representatives and other stakeholders. It is expected to transform healthcare delivery by reducing the distance residents must travel for treatment and

"We have suffered for a long time. We travelled very far, even to Sese, to get help."

MORE THAN A CLINIC

Speaking during the ceremony, Jwaneng Mine General Manager, Goitseone Gadifele described the project as an investment in people rather than simply infrastructure.

"We are not simply handing over a clinic. We are handing over hope, dignity, and a healthier future for the people of Betesankwe," Gadifele said.

He said Debswana's approach to community development focuses on creating lasting value by improving lives through sustainable projects.



Jwaneng Mine, General Manager's Soccer Fiesta Chairperson and Senior Technical Support Services Manager, Mr. Segolame Ntwayagae, addressing attendees.



Member of Parliament for Jwaneng-Mabutsane, Hon. Omphemetse Kwapa, delivering his remarks.



The Betesankwe Clinic project placard on display.



Event delegates touring exhibition stalls showcasing products and services.



Jwaneng Mine Maintenance Engineer, Mr. Thabo Tsoebebe, leading the SHE and IMSAFE moment.



Mabutsane Deputy District Commissioner, Mr. Mosepedi Mokgolele, delivering the welcome remarks.



Some of the business partners who attended the handover ceremony after participating in the 2025 General Manager's Soccer Fiesta.

FOOTBALL FUNDING HEALTHCARE

What makes the health post particularly significant is the way it was funded. Approximately P1.4 million of the project cost came from proceeds of the 2025 General Manager's Soccer Fiesta, an initiative that has evolved beyond football into a platform for community development.

Senior Technical Support Services Manager at Jwaneng Mine and Chairperson of the General Manager's Soccer Fiesta, Segolame Ntwayagae, said the project was motivated by the need to improve access to healthcare for Betesankwe residents. Although the village is only about 25 kilometres from Jwaneng, poor road conditions have historically made travel difficult.

The new Clinic includes consultation rooms, a reception area, waiting areas, storage facilities, ablution facilities and accommodation for healthcare workers - two staff houses constructed alongside the clinic. Preparations are under way to furnish the facility before services are fully relocated from the temporary structure.

Ntwayagae said the Soccer Fiesta has become a vehicle for lasting community impact. Since its establishment in 2022, it has supported projects including the development of Galaxy Football Club's women's team and improvements to boarding facilities at Maokane's Mogale JSS.

"We are using soccer to transform lives. We want projects that create an impact in areas such as health, education and address other community needs," he said.

BUILDING A LASTING LEGACY

Gadifele encouraged residents to protect the facility so it can continue serving future generations.

"This facility now belongs to you. Protect it, care for it, and let it continue serving your children, your grandchildren and generations to come," he said.

The community development journey is set to continue, with proceeds from the next General Manager's Soccer Fiesta expected to support a project in Thankane village, reinforcing the tournament's growing legacy as a catalyst for meaningful change.

Ministry Uncovers Rampant Fronting in Reserved Businesses

LEGAE PRIMARY
EVERY CHILD IS YOURS
Celebrating 40+ Years

Legae English Medium School is inviting applications for the following teaching positions to start in 2027

CLASS TEACHER (STD 1-7); SPORTS; ICT.

REQUIREMENTS:

- BEd or Degree and Postgraduate qualification in Education
- Fluent in English First Additional Language, written and spoken (Cambridge Level)
- Experience in an English Medium or international school environment
- Minimum experience 3 (three) years, prefer 5 (Five)
- Experience in teaching the Cambridge International Assessment Curriculum at Primary Level preferred
- For Sports, must have swimming and equipment management.
- For ICT, must have a have a strong understanding in programming, Robotics and STEAM

TRADITIONAL DANCE INSTRUCTOR / TEACHER AIDE

REQUIREMENTS:

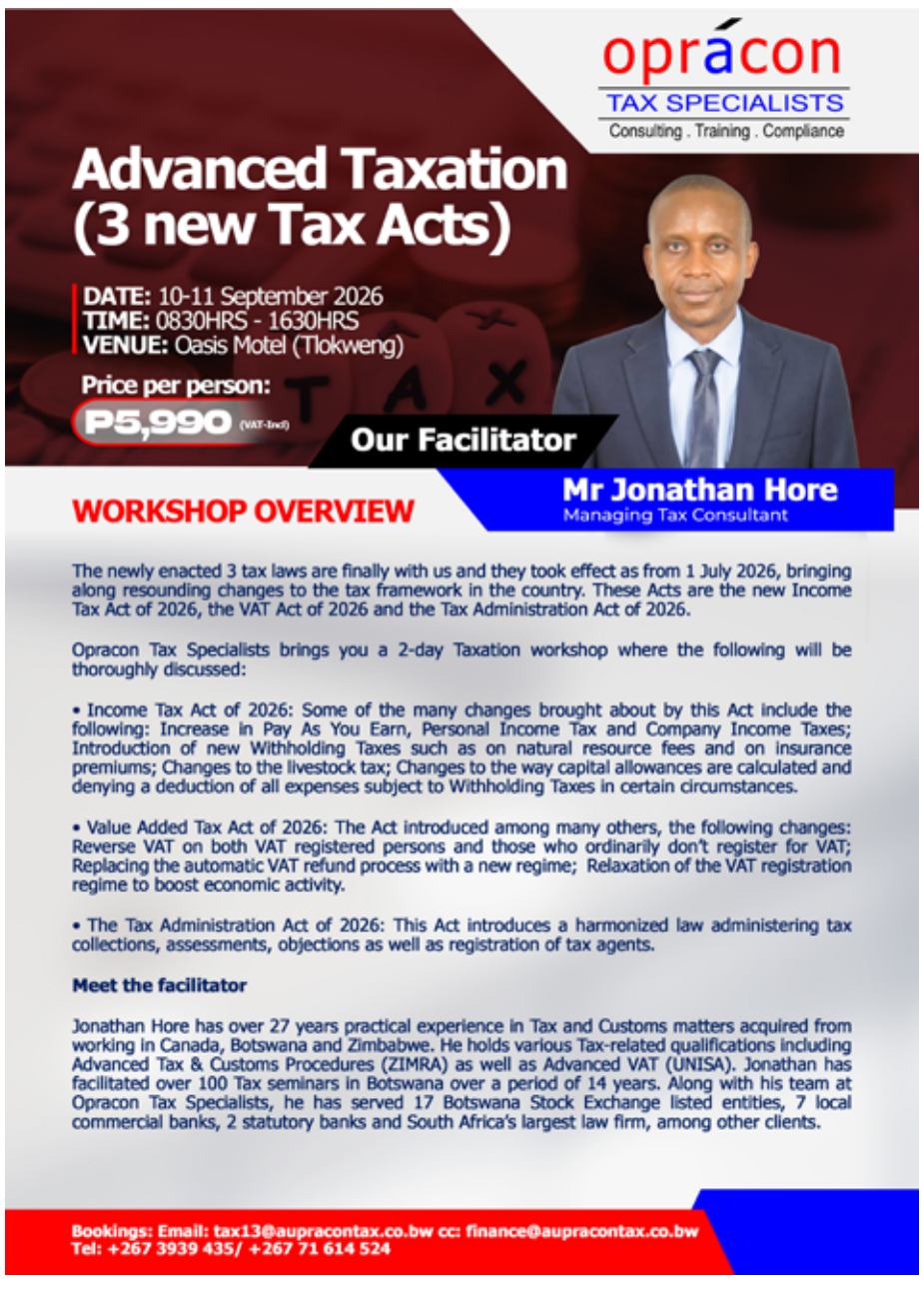
- Must have the ability to coach different / common dance sets
- Knowledgeable about Botswana customs, culture, traditions, arts and crafts

Please forward Letter of Application, CV, certified copies of certificates and names of 2 (two) referees to:

The Managing Director, Legae English Medium School, PO Box 641 Gaborone – Botswana.
Email: legae@legaeinvestors.com

NOTE: ONLY SHORT-LISTED CANDIDATES WILL BE CONTACTED.

Closing date for Applications: 18 of August 2026



Trade Ministry says rampant fronting is allowing foreign nationals to control citizen-reserved businesses, undermining efforts to empower Batswana economically

BONGANI MALUNGA

The Ministry of Trade and Entrepreneurship has uncovered rampant fronting practices that are undermining efforts to empower Batswana and ensure that citizens benefit from business opportunities reserved for them by law.

Appearing before the Public Accounts Committee (PAC) on Tuesday, the ministry's Permanent Secretary, Joel Ramaphoi, said the government was grappling with cases in which citizens are allegedly being used as stand-ins or licence holders to bypass laws restricting certain businesses to Batswana.

"We are currently handling a number of cases where Batswana acquire licences or win contracts only to yield the operational control and benefits to foreign nationals for nominal fees. This tends to undermine efforts to empower Batswana and to upgrade them to the existing business development opportunities," Ramaphoi told the PAC.

FRUSTRATING THE MINISTRY

Ramaphoi said the practice was frustrating the ministry's mandate of creating opportunities for citizens to participate meaningfully in the economy, particularly in sectors where legislation specifically provides for citizen ownership.

He revealed that the ministry's investigations and multiple site visits in Kgatleng District, Mogoditshane and surrounding areas had uncovered suspected fronting involving businesses that are legally reserved for Batswana. According to the ministry, several butcheries and bakeries inspected during the visits were found to be allegedly owned or controlled by foreign nationals despite being registered under citizens.

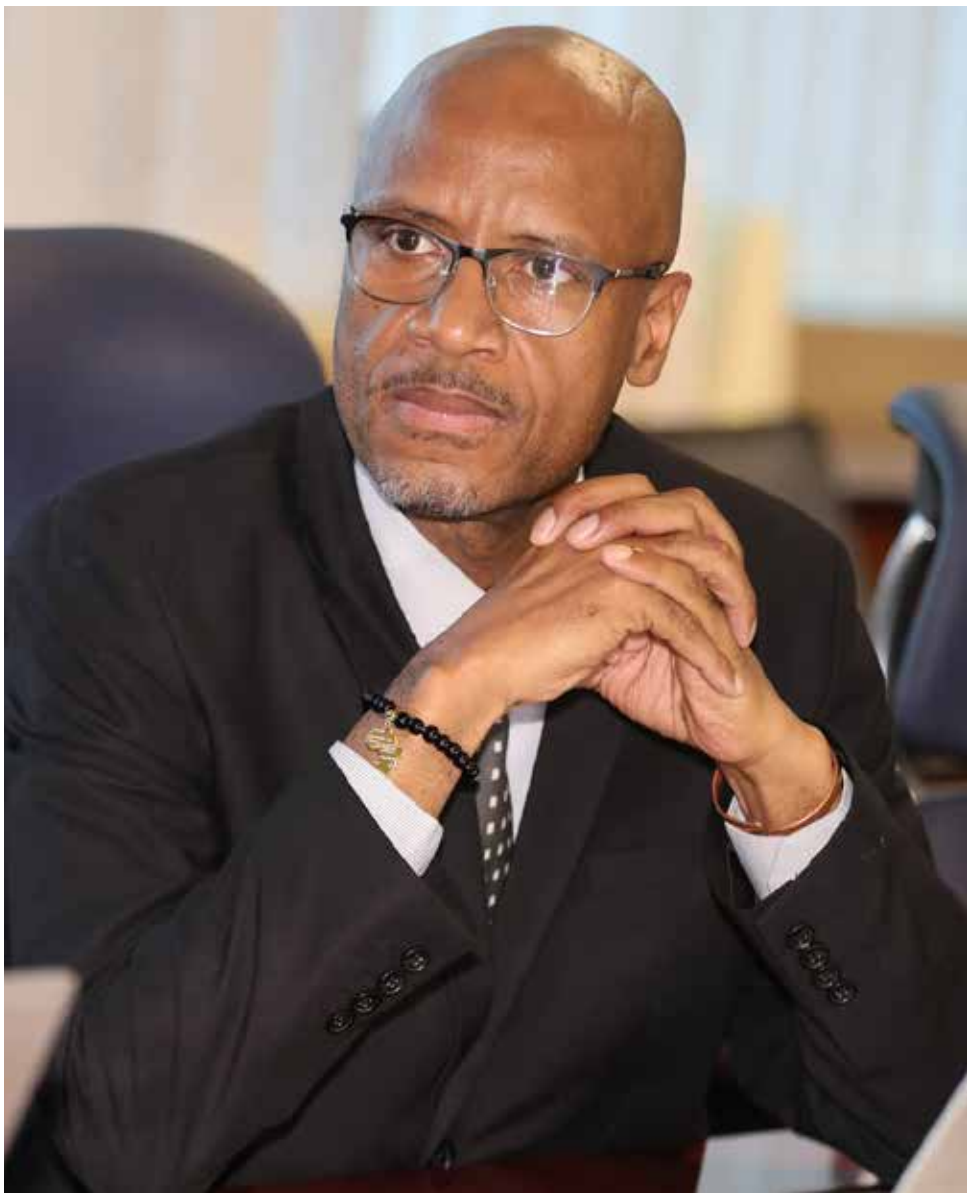
RAISING CONCERNS

The revelations have raised concerns over the effectiveness of existing measures intended to protect citizen participation in reserved sectors, with the ministry calling on MPs to intervene in addressing the problem.

The ministry said fronting not only defeats the purpose of citizen economic empowerment but also allows foreign nationals to gain operational control and financial benefits from businesses that legislation intends to reserve for Batswana.

The practice is contrary to provisions of the Trade Act and the Industrial Development Act, which reserve ownership and licensing of butcheries, meat processing businesses and bakeries for Botswana citizens and wholly citizen-owned companies.

Ramaphoi's revelation highlighted the extent to which fronting remains a challenge across communities, with the ministry's field inspections exposing cases that it says undermine the intended benefits of laws designed to give Batswana greater access to business opportunities.



Appearing before the Public Accounts Committee (PAC) on Tuesday, the ministry's Permanent Secretary, Joel Ramaphoi, said the government was grappling with cases in which citizens are allegedly being used as stand-ins or licence holders to bypass laws restricting certain businesses to Batswana.

Contract The Permanent Secretaries – But For What?

Botswana's proposed performance contracts demand a period of introspection about whether Government should reward administrative activity or measurable improvements in citizens' lives.



ELLIOT MAJOVA AND DOUGLAS RASBASH

Botswana's proposal to place Permanent Secretaries on performance contracts deserves broad support. Yet before a single contract is signed, Government must answer a far more important question than whether performance should be rewarded. It must first decide what performance actually means.

The debate comes at an important moment in Botswana's history. After almost six decades of political stability, administrative continuity and diamond-led development, the country is entering a period of introspection. Economic growth has become more difficult to sustain, unemployment remains stubbornly high, public finances are under pressure and citizens increasingly expect more from Government than competent administration. They expect results.

ACCOUNTABILITY QUESTION

At the centre of this discussion sit Permanent Secretaries. Ministers determine political direction, but Permanent Secretaries are the chief executives of Government ministries. They control the machinery that translates policy into action and therefore carry much of the responsibility for whether Government succeeds or fails. Like chief executives in the private sector, they should rightly be held accountable for performance. The challenge is deciding how that performance should be measured.

ACTIVITY OR IMPACT

For decades, Government has measured its performance largely by activity. Ministries report how many classrooms have been built, kilometres of road surfaced, megawatt-hours of electricity generated, million cubic metres of water supplied, internet penetration achieved, cattle numbers recorded, workshops conducted, people trained, the percentage of the National Development Plan implemented and, perhaps most importantly, whether the annual budget has been fully spent. These are useful administrative measures, but they reveal surprisingly little about whether the lives of Batswana have actually improved. Experience suggests they often do not. Expanding infrastructure has not automatically generated faster economic growth. Licensing more vehicles has not increased national productivity. High rates of National Development Plan implementation have not consistently translated into higher incomes or more jobs. Ministries have regularly spent almost all of their allocated budgets without delivering the inclusive growth and broad-based prosperity that citizens expect.

OUTPUTS AND OUTCOMES

This illustrates the fundamental distinction between outputs and outcomes. Outputs measure what Government does;

To Page 18-19



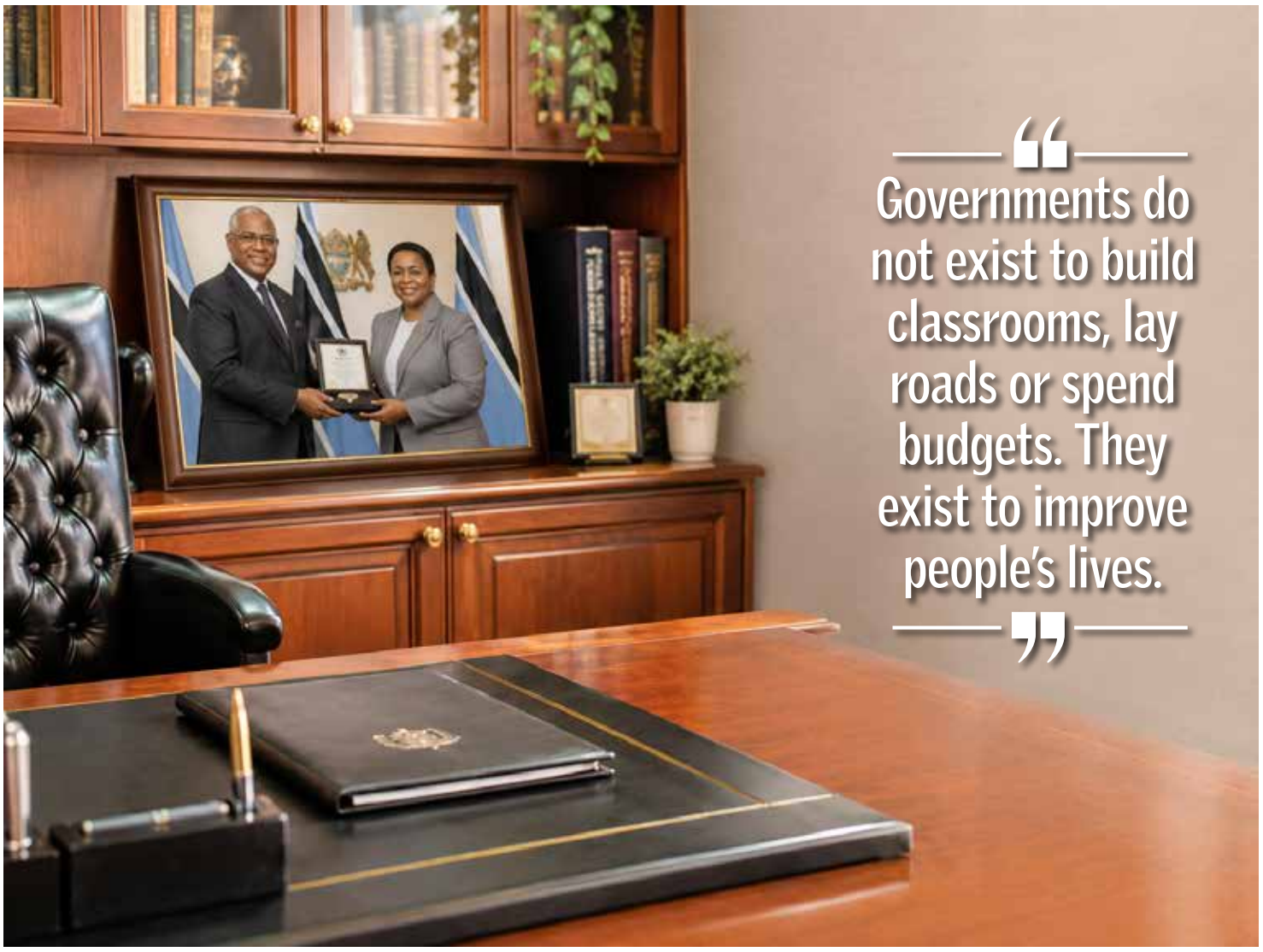
To Page 19

MINISTERIAL OUTCOME PERFORMANCE FRAMEWORK

One principal outcome KPI for each ministry

1. **State President, Defence and Security**
   Public confidence in the safety, integrity and effectiveness of the State
2. **Finance**
   Real non-mining GDP growth per capita
3. **International Relations**
   Annual value of investment, trade and economic opportunities secured through international engagement
4. **Health**
   Healthy life expectancy at birth
5. **Child Welfare and Basic Education**
   Percentage of learners achieving minimum age-appropriate literacy and numeracy standards
6. **Higher Education**
   Percentage of graduates in productive employment or further study within 12 months
7. **Lands and Agriculture**
   Real agricultural value added per hectare of productive land
8. **Minerals and Energy**
   Reduction in the economy's dependence on imported energy and unprocessed mineral exports
9. **Trade and Entrepreneurship**
   Growth in the number and value added of sustainable citizen-owned productive enterprises
10. **Labour and Home Affairs**
    Employment-to-working-age-population ratio
11. **Transport and Infrastructure**
    Reduction in the national cost and time of moving people and goods
12. **Communications and Innovation**
    Growth in digitally enabled productivity across the economy
13. **Local Government and Traditional Affairs**
    Percentage of citizens receiving defined essential local services to national standards
14. **Environment and Tourism**
    Real tourism value added per unit of natural capital consumed
15. **Youth and Gender Affairs**
    Reduction in the proportion of young people not in employment, education or training (NEET)
16. **Sports and Arts**
    Growth in sustainable employment and income generated by the sports and creative economy
17. **Justice and Correctional Services**
    Median time from initiation of a case to final judicial resolution
18. **Water and Human Settlements**
    Percentage of households with reliable access to adequate water and affordable, adequate housing

Outcome-based performance: measuring the change experienced by citizens and the economy, not merely the volume of government activity.



From Page 18

outcomes measure what Government achieves. Every Budget Speech speaks of improving the welfare of Batswana, yet our performance management systems continue to reward activity more than impact. If Botswana is serious about performance contracts for Permanent Secretaries, that must change. The Permanent Secretary responsible for Labour cannot claim success simply because another employment programme or regulation has been introduced. Success is reflected in higher labour force participation, more sustainable jobs and falling unemployment. The Permanent Secretary for Lands and Agriculture should not be judged by the number of ISPAAD fields planted, LIMID grants awarded, livestock vaccinated, boreholes drilled, acres under irrigation, extension visits conducted, tractors subsidised or farmers trained. These are important means, not ends. The true measure of success is higher crop and livestock productivity, a wider diversity of agricultural products, greater value addition, lower food imports, stronger exports, improved nutrition and rising rural incomes.

DEFINING SUCCESS

Every ministry should therefore have one defining national outcome against which its leadership is ultimately judged. Supporting indicators will always be necessary, but a single principal outcome forces every ministry to answer one simple question: what measurable improvement happened because this ministry exists?

Botswana would not be pioneering this approach. Countries such as New Zealand, Singapore and Rwanda increasingly evaluate public sector performance through improvements in productivity, education, health, employment, investment and citizen well-being rather than the volume of Government activity.

The principle is straightforward. Governments do not exist to build classrooms, lay roads or spend budgets. They exist to improve people's lives. If performance contracts are built around measurable national outcomes rather than administrative outputs, Permanent Secretaries will stop managing activities and start managing results. That simple shift could fundamentally change the culture of Government.

CULTURAL SHIFT

The deeper reform is cultural rather than administrative. For decades, Permanent Secretaries have been viewed primarily as accounting officers responsible for compliance, procedure and financial discipline. Those responsibilities remain indispensable, but Botswana now requires something more. It needs leaders who constantly ask whether policies are producing results, whether programmes deliver value for money, whether ministries are collaborating effectively and whether public expenditure is genuinely improving the lives of citizens. In short, it needs chief executives of national outcomes rather than custodians of administrative processes.

PUBLIC ACCOUNTABILITY

Transparency should become part of that transformation. Imagine Government publishing a real-time online dashboard allowing every citizen to follow progress against each ministry's agreed outcomes throughout the year. Imagine every Permanent Secretary appearing annually before Parliament not simply to explain how money was spent but to account for whether measurable improvements were achieved and, where they were not, how performance would be improved. Such openness would strengthen both accountability and public confidence.

NATIONAL SCORECARD

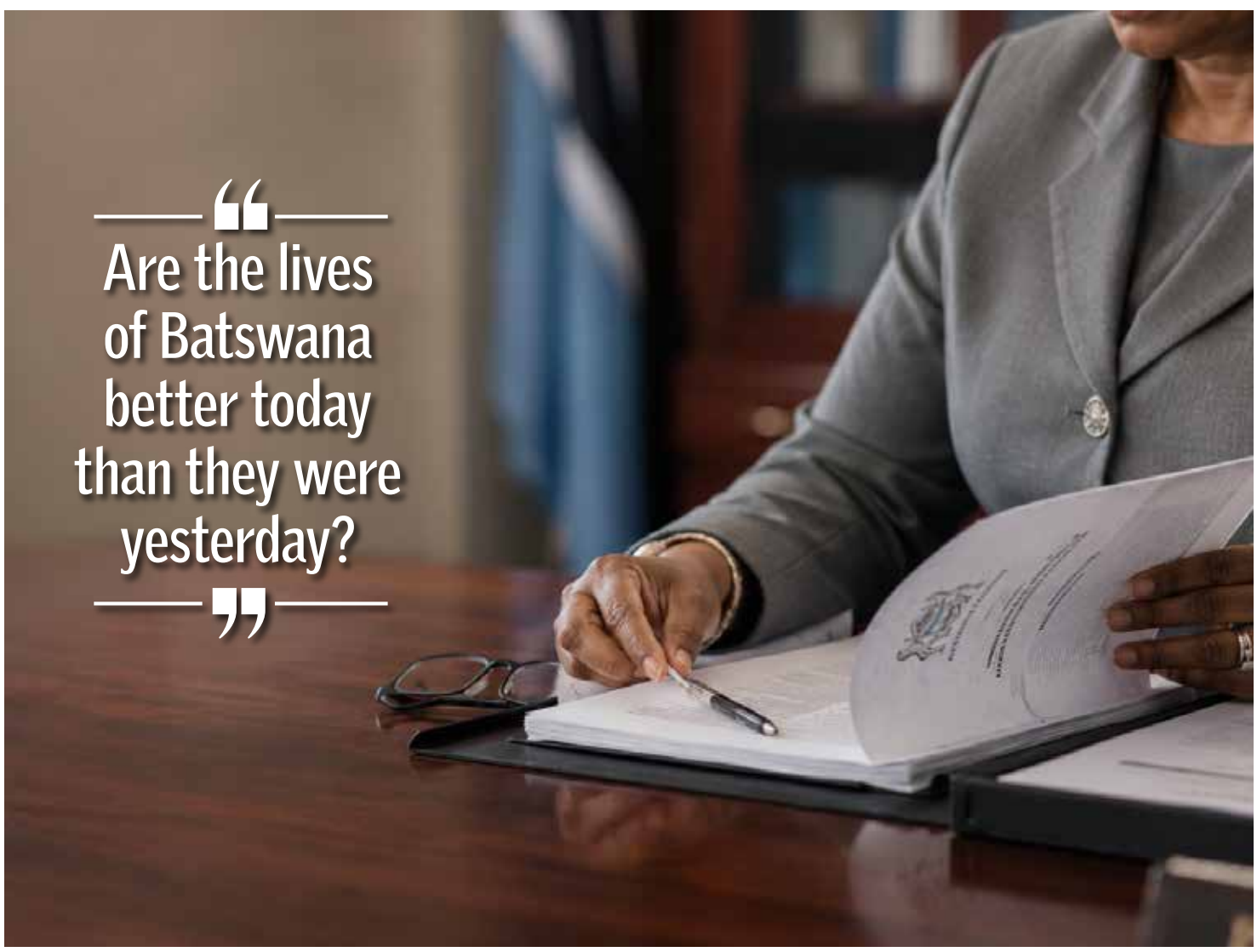
It is equally possible to imagine a future State of the Nation Address accompanied by a concise national performance scorecard. Instead of launching programmes of change and cataloguing projects completed, Government could report whether programme objectives had achieved the expected outcomes and whether Botswana had become more prosperous and resilient than the previous year. Those are the questions citizens understand because they reflect everyday experience. Performance contracts therefore represent an important opportunity. But the contract itself is not the reform. The key performance indicator applied is the true reform.

REWARD RESULTS

Reward expenditure and Government will maximise expenditure. Reward activities and Government will produce more activities. Reward the production of regulations and more regulations will be produced. Reward measurable improvements in health, education, employment, productivity and national prosperity, however, and Government's entire culture begins to change. Ministries start asking not whether programmes have been delivered, but whether they have worked.

ULTIMATE MEASURE

Ultimately there is only one measure that captures the purpose of Government itself. Are the lives of Batswana better today than they were yesterday? If Botswana builds its performance contracts around that principle, the reform will become far more than another administrative initiative. It could fundamentally redefine what Government believes it exists to achieve.

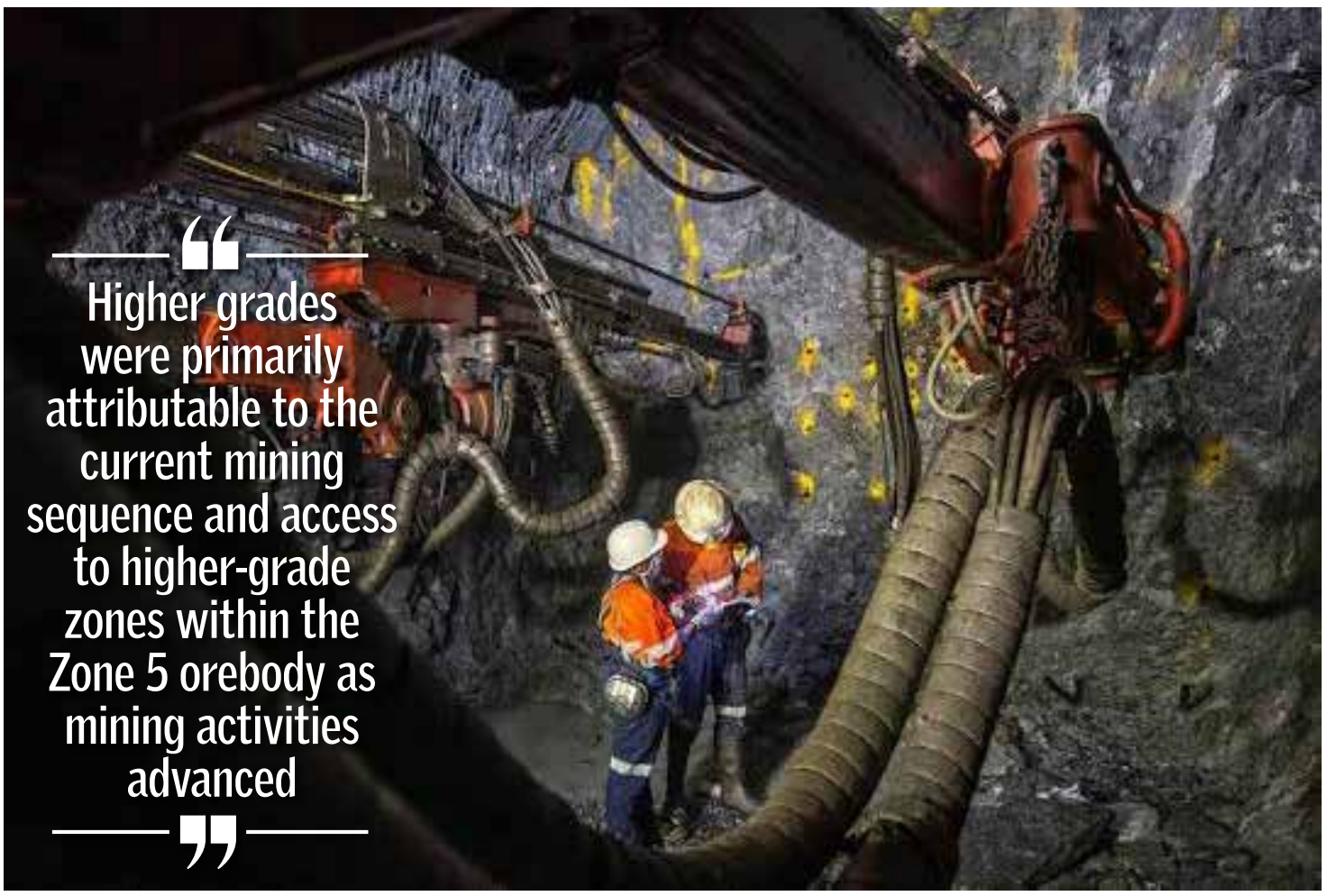


The Botswana Gazette
BUSINESS NEWS

CLICK HERE
To Join our private Whatsapp Goup

Khoemacau Copper Output Climbs As Expansion Advances

Higher grades and expansion plans support production growth as the mine targets a major output increase



GAZETTE REPORTER

Khoemacau produced 11,423 tonnes of copper in copper concentrate during the second quarter of 2026, representing a 7 percent increase from the previous quarter and broadly matching production levels recorded during the same period in 2025.

The figures are contained in the second quarter production report for the three months ended 30 June 2026 by MMG Limited, the parent company of Khoemacau.

Ore milled volumes declined by 6 percent year-on-year, but the impact was largely offset by improved copper grades, which increased to 1.62 percent from 1.59 percent in the second quarter of 2025. Metallurgical recovery remained stable at 88.2 percent, compared with 88.5 percent during the same period last year.

"Higher grades were primarily attributable to the current mining sequence and access to higher-grade zones within the Zone 5 orebody as mining activities advanced," the report stated.

The company said access to higher-grade mining areas is expected to continue throughout the remainder of 2026.

MINING CHALLENGES

Khoemacau recorded lower ore mined volumes compared with the same period last year, mainly due to previous development delays and reduced equipment availability during the quarter.

The company said it continued to focus on development priorities while advancing the refurbishment of older equipment. New equipment units are expected to ease operational constraints and improve performance in the coming quarters.

Silver production reached 370,877 ounces during the quarter, representing a 13 percent increase compared with the previous quarter, but a 6 percent decline year-on-year. MMG attributed the annual decline mainly to lower ore throughput.

2026 OUTLOOK

Khoemacau's copper production guidance for 2026 remains unchanged at between 48,000 and 53,000 tonnes.

"Although first-half production was affected by development delays and equipment availability constraints, the operation is expected to benefit from improved equipment utilisation, the introduction of new mining equipment, continued access to higher-grade mining areas and the progressive commissioning of refurbished fleet units in the second half of the year," the report said.

The mine's C1 costs for the first half of 2026 were US$1.25 per pound, below the previous full-year guidance range of US$2.00–2.30 per pound. The company attributed the lower costs primarily to higher-than-anticipated silver prices.

Following first-half performance and current market conditions, Khoemacau revised its 2026 C1 cost guidance downward to US$1.70–2.00 per pound.

EXPANSION PLANS

Khoemacau is pursuing a major expansion project aimed at increasing copper production to 130,000 tonnes of copper in copper concentrate annually, with associated silver output expected to exceed 4 million ounces per year.

The expansion will involve construction of a new 4.5 million tonnes per annum processing plant and extending mining operations to the Zone 5 North, Mango and Zeta North-East deposits.

Construction activities progressed during the quarter, with engineering, procurement and site works advancing. Key milestones included completion of foundation backfilling in the milling area and flotation area excavation, while bulk earthworks and boxcut development continued according to plan.

First concentrate production from the expansion project is expected in the first half of 2028.

Khoemacau said the life-of-mine average C1 cost is expected to remain below US$1.60 per pound, subject to prevailing silver prices and other planning assumptions.

The company has also identified potential for further expansion of up to 200,000 tonnes of copper in copper concentrate annually, with a pre-feasibility study underway to assess the scope, development pathways and economics of a possible expansion beyond the approved 130,000-tonne-per-annum project.

Botswana Posts P3.2 Billion Trade Deficit

Falling diamond and copper exports pushed Botswana to its second-largest trade deficit of 2026, even as imports also declined

GAZETTE REPORTER

Botswana recorded a trade deficit of P3.2 billion in May 2026, the country's second-largest deficit of the year, according to Statistics Botswana. The largest deficit in 2026 was P4.4 billion in February.

The agency's International Merchandise Trade Statistics Monthly Digest – May 2026 shows that export earnings fell 22.4 percent, declining by P1.4 billion from the revised P6.2 billion recorded in April to P4.8 billion in May.

Statistics Botswana attributed the decline mainly to lower diamond and copper exports.

"The fall was mainly driven by Diamonds and Copper exports, which fell by 23.1 percent (P856.0 million) and 27.9 percent (P477.9 million) correspondingly," the report says.

Diamonds remained Botswana's leading export commodity, contributing 59.0 percent of total exports, followed by copper at 25.6 percent. Machinery and Electrical Equipment ranked third, accounting for 5.6 percent or P270.6 million.

KEY MARKETS

Asia remained Botswana's largest export

To Page 22

Announcement

Appointment of New Board Members



Ms. Thato Kontle

Thato Kontle is an accomplished investment and risk professional with over a decade of experience that spans in banking, corporate finance, enterprise risk management, and investment advisory. Her career is a reflection of consistent focus that lies in strengthening financial systems, supporting capital mobilisation, as well as advancing sustainable investment across both the public and private sector.

Thato currently serves as an Investment Officer at the Botswana Development Corporation (BDC), where she plays a very key role in evaluating and structuring investments across priority sectors, that include infrastructure, energy, real estate. She has also contributed to academic research on financial inclusion, co-authoring work that not only examines barriers to access to finance but is positioned to inform and advocate for meaningful policy reform in emerging markets. Her expertise is built in accurate financial analysis and modelling, with a strong emphasis on due diligence, valuation, and portfolio performance oversight.

Her experience is distinguished by her ability to tie in technical financial expertise with strategic insight. She has led and supported complex deal structuring processes, developed investor-ready materials, and engaged a wide range of stakeholders, that include institutional investors, development finance institutions, not excluding legal and transaction advisors. Her exposure to capital markets has been further strengthened through her work with The Investor Interchange Hub, where she contributed to aligning international capital with bankable opportunities all across Africa.

Earlier in her career, Thato built a strong foundation in risk and advisory through her role at Bakaintu Consultancy Services, where she advised on investment readiness, financial restructuring, and enterprise risk management. She has also played a very important and meaningful role, lecturing in finance, banking, and risk management at BA ISAGO University and Botswana Accountancy College.

Thato holds a Master of Commerce in Development Finance from the University of Cape Town Graduate School of Business and a Master of Science in Risk Management and Insurance from the National University of Science and Technology in Zimbabwe. She also holds a Bachelor's Degree with a double major in Banking and Finance and Financial Risk Management.

Thato brings to the Botswana Savings Bank Board a well-rounded perspective, that boasts hands-on investment experience, deep risk management capability, and a clear understanding of financial sector development. Her ability to navigate complex financial landscapes while maintaining a focus on governance, sustainability, and long-term value creation positions her as a valuable addition to the Board.



Ms. Laone Nthaga

Laone Nthaga is a Chartered Development Finance Analyst and accomplished investment professional whose career has been defined by a clear purpose: unlocking capital to drive meaningful economic transformation across Africa. With over a decade of experience spanning trade finance, project finance, and investment strategy, she operates at the intersection of finance and development, ensuring that she structures solutions that enable growth in sectors critical to the continent's future.

She currently serves as an Investment Officer at the Trade and Development Bank, where she leads and supports complex, cross-border transactions and resource mobilisation initiatives. Her work is both very technical but also very deeply impactful; having successfully structured and closed multi-million-dollar deals across Southern and East Africa, ranging from trade finance facilities to infrastructure and SME funding.

Laone brings a rare combination of financial precision and strategic foresight. Her expertise spans project finance, credit risk, ESG assessment, and blended finance structuring, allowing her to design bankable solutions in environments often defined by complexity and constraint. She has worked closely with international financial institutions, export credit agencies, and development partners, mobilising capital and aligning diverse stakeholders behind shared development goals.

Prior to joining the Trade and Development Bank, Laone held a pivotal leadership role at First National Bank Botswana, where she established and led the Portfolio Management and Analytics function. In this capacity, she played a central role in shaping the bank's credit risk architecture, ensuring that she develops risk appetite frameworks, that make use of environmental and social risk assessment tools, and strengthening data-driven decision-making across the organisation. Her earlier experience at Standard Chartered Bank further grounded her in strategy, operations, and the discipline required to deliver within high-performance financial institutions.

Alongside her professional achievements, Laone is also deeply committed to advancing inclusive development and empowering the next generation of leaders. She is a co-founder of Bellona Women's Network, a platform dedicated to equipping women with the tools, networks, and confidence to advance their careers. She has also played an active role in initiatives supporting women-led enterprises and youth development, including contributing to funds and programmes that expand access to finance and opportunity.

Her academic background reflects both excellence and intent. Laone holds a Master of Commerce in Development Finance from the University of Cape Town, where she graduated with distinction, and a Bachelor of Arts in Finance from the University of Botswana. She has further strengthened her expertise through professional certifications in risk management, monitoring and evaluation, and financial modelling, alongside continuous training in areas such as climate finance, trade, and infrastructure development.

Laone Nthaga brings to the Board a powerful blend of technical expertise, leadership maturity, and a deep commitment to development impact. She is not only a seasoned finance professional, but a forward-thinking leader shaping how capital can be deployed more inclusively, more strategically, and with lasting effect.

Member Of The Deposit Insurance Scheme Of Botswana.

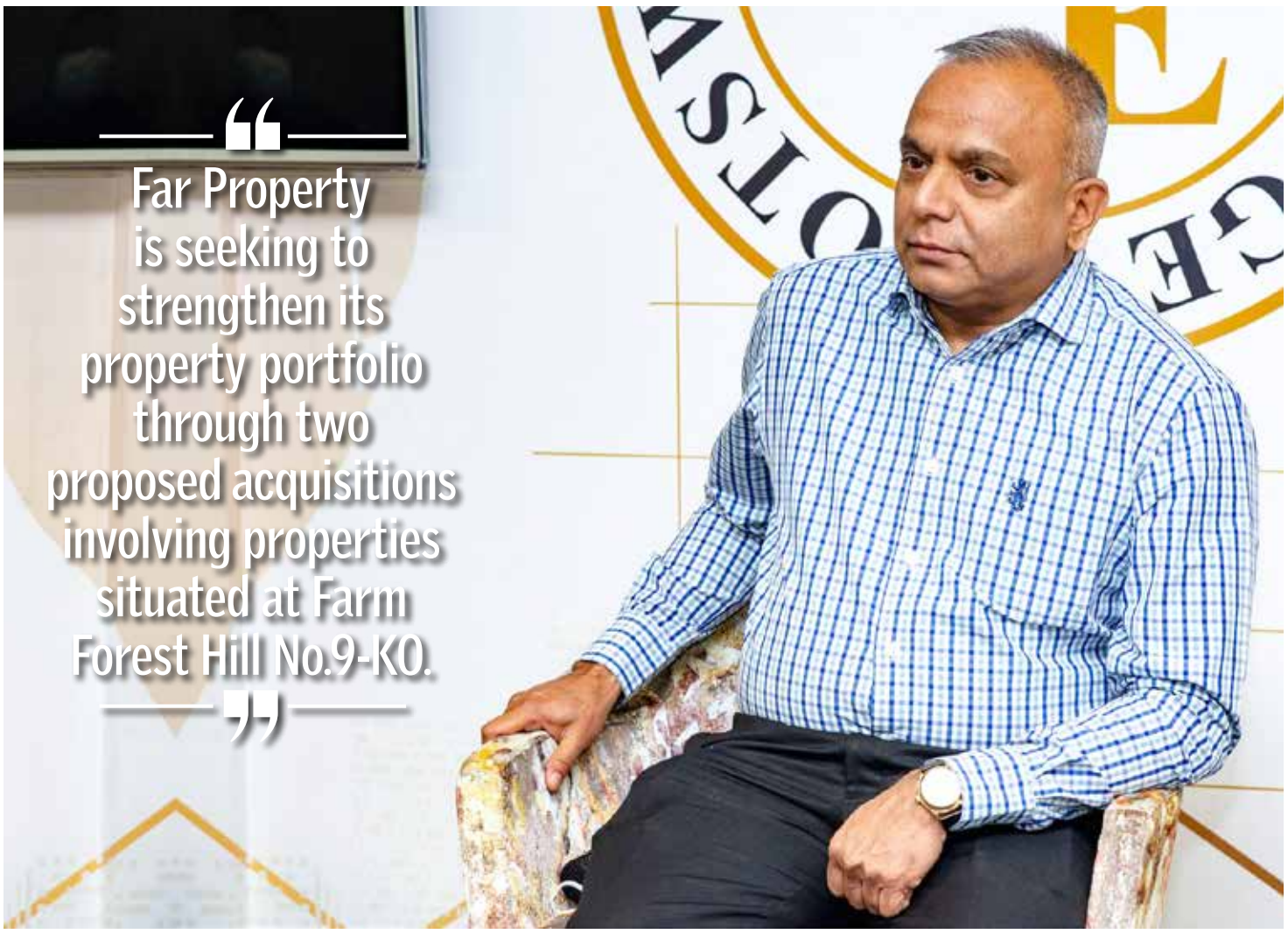
www.bsb.bw

Botswana Savings Bank

Simple. Secure. Everyday

Ram-Led Far Property Eyes Forest Hill

Botswana Stock Exchange-listed Far Property Limited is pursuing two separate acquisitions of immovable properties at Farm Forest Hill No.9-KO, in deals involving Merlin Integer and The 868 On Kgale Trust, as the Competition and Consumer Authority reviews the proposed transactions



GAZETTE REPORTER

Far Property Limited is seeking to strengthen its property portfolio through two proposed acquisitions involving properties situated at Farm Forest Hill No.9-KO in the South-East Administrative District.

The Competition and Consumer Authority (CCA) has received merger notifications for the proposed purchase of Portion 1637 (a portion of Portion 1619) from Merlin Integer (Pty) Ltd, as well as Portion 868 from The 868 On Kgale Trust (Pty) Ltd.

The transactions, if approved, will give Far Property control of the targeted properties.

According to the CCA, "upon the implementation of the Proposed Transaction, the Acquiring Enterprise will solely control the Target Property."

The regulator has invited interested stakeholders to submit views, documents, affidavits or any relevant information regarding the proposed mergers within 10 days from the date of publication.

"Any person, including a third party not a party to the proposed merger, may voluntarily submit to the investigator or the Authority any document, affidavit, statement or other relevant information in respect of a proposed merger," the Authority said.

RAM'S EXPANSION MOVE

Far Property is a Botswana-incorporated public company listed on the Botswana Stock Exchange, with a diversified property portfolio covering commercial, retail, industrial and residential assets in Botswana, South Africa and Zambia.

The company's major shareholders include businessman Ramachandran Ottapathu, Farouk Ismail, Platinum Compass (Pty) Limited, Botswana Public Officers Pension Fund and Botswana Insurance Fund Management.

Ottapathu and Ismail are among shareholders holding significant stakes in the company and have established business interests across Botswana.

The company's board comprises Ramachandran Ottapathu, Ranjith Priyalal De Silva, Faizel Ismail, Rajeshkumar Jayrajh, Gobusamang Dempsey Keebine and Vidya Sanooj.

The Forest Hill acquisitions are expected to further expand Far Property's footprint as it continues to grow its real estate holdings.

MERLIN TRUST LINK

The proposed acquisitions also highlight the connection between Merlin Integer and The 868 On Kgale Trust.

Merlin Integer is a Botswana-registered property investment company involved in leasing, acquiring and selling immovable property. It is controlled by Viki International Limited, a Bahamas-based entity.

The company is also the registered lessee of one of the Forest Hill properties through a lease agreement with the Roman Catholic Church.

Meanwhile, The 868 On Kgale Trust, which owns Portion 868, is jointly controlled on a 50/50 basis by the Roman Catholic Church and Merlin Integer.

The trust is involved in property investment activities, including leasing, acquiring and selling immovable assets.

Its board of trustees includes Angus John Boxshall Smith, Brendan Colin Whatley, Frank Atese Nubuasah and Andrew Godiraone Makgetla.

COMPETITION REVIEW

The CCA will now assess the proposed transactions to determine their possible impact on competition, market concentration and consumer interests before making a final decision.

The review comes amid continued activity in Botswana's property sector, where major investors are seeking opportunities to expand their asset portfolios through strategic acquisitions.

The outcome of the regulatory assessment will determine whether Far Property can proceed with gaining control of the Forest Hill properties.

From Page 20

destination, receiving 58.5 percent of total exports during the month under review. Diamonds and copper dominated exports to the region, accounting for 75.6 percent and 24.0 percent, respectively.

"Top export destinations within Asia were the UAE and China which received 27.8 percent and 14.0 percent of total exports, respectively," the report states.

India followed with 12.9 percent or P623.5 million of total exports.

Exports to the Southern African Customs Union (SACU) accounted for 15.0 percent or P724.6 million. Machinery and Electrical Equipment and Diamonds contributed 32.4 percent and 32.1 percent of exports to the customs union, while Salt and Soda Ash accounted for 7.1 percent.

South Africa remained the largest destination within SACU, receiving 11.0 percent or P529.6 million of Botswana's total exports.

IMPORTS EASE

The report also shows that total imports declined 4.1 percent to P8 billion in May from the revised P8.4 billion recorded in April.

Statistics Botswana said the contraction was mainly driven by lower imports of Vehicles and Transport Equipment, which fell 67.2 percent or P915.2 million, and Machinery and Electrical Equipment, which declined 15.8 percent or P227.8 million.

Fuel was the largest imported commodity group, accounting for 24.5 percent of total imports, followed by Diamonds at 19.1 percent. Machinery and Electrical Equipment contributed 15.0 percent, while Food, Beverages and Tobacco accounted for 13.9 percent.

The SACU region remained Botswana's largest source of imports, supplying 69.6 percent of total imports. South Africa accounted for 57.4 percent of all imports, while Namibia contributed 11.8 percent or P954.6 million.

Imports from Asia totalled P954.0 million, representing 11.8 percent of total imports. China was the region's largest supplier, contributing 4.9 percent or P396.1 million, followed by India at 3.0 percent and Japan at 1.2 percent.



Consumers Tighten Their Belts

From salon chairs to ride-hailing vehicles, small business owners say customers are spending less, forcing them to adjust to a tougher trading environment

GAZETTE REPORTER



For some small business owners in Botswana, the biggest challenge is no longer attracting customers but getting them to spend.

Entrepreneurs in the personal grooming and transport sectors say consumer spending habits have shifted, with customers increasingly delaying or avoiding purchases and services they once used regularly.

SALON STRUGGLES

At The Wash Day Salon in White City, Gaborone, owner Kenamile Mogapi says his business has slowed significantly as more customers choose to cut their own hair at home.

According to Mogapi, many of his regular clients have bought their own hair-cutting machines, reducing the need for routine visits to the salon.

“People who used to cut with me in the salon have now bought machines,” he said. “They are not cutting like before. They will only come when they have important functions to attend when they want stylish cuts. Otherwise, when they are home they just cut at home.”

The change, he says, has had a direct impact on his income.

“Before I used to make around P2,000 a week. Nowadays it’s tough. Now it’s about P400 a week,” he said.

Mogapi said the decline in customers has made trading increasingly difficult compared with previous years.

FEWER PASSENGERS

The slowdown is also being felt by ride-hailing drivers.

Vincent Benoni, an InDrive driver, says lower demand and higher operating costs have reduced his weekly earnings.

“Things are tough, very tough,” he said. “As we are speaking, I don’t have money to pay rent.”

Benoni said that during busier periods he generated between P4,500 and P4,800 a week, but his earnings have since fallen sharply.

“Now the maximum that I make is about P1,600,” he said.

He attributes the decline to increased competition among drivers as well as changing consumer behaviour.

“Even though there’s competition, people have opted to walking,” he said. “On the other hand, we have fuel challenges because fuel is expensive.”

CHANGING HABITS

The experiences shared by Mogapi and Benoni point to changing spending patterns among consumers, with both saying customers are finding ways to reduce expenses.

For Mogapi, that has meant customers investing in home hair-cutting machines and visiting the salon only for special occasions.

For Benoni, it has meant fewer passengers choosing paid transport, with some opting to walk instead, while rising fuel costs continue to squeeze drivers’ earnings.

Although they operate in different industries, both say their businesses are generating considerably less income than they did previously, reflecting the financial pressures they face in the current trading environment.

De Beers Rough Diamond Production Rebounds Strongly

Production rebounds, but the company says planned maintenance and weak trading conditions are expected to weigh on output later this year

GAZETTE REPORTER

De Beers’ rough diamond production rose 88 percent to 7.8 million carats in the second quarter of 2026, reflecting the impact of an extended maintenance shutdown at Orapa in Botswana during the comparative period, as well as the planned mining of higher-grade ore at Jwaneng in Botswana and Gahcho Kué in Canada.

According to parent company Anglo American’s Production Report for the second quarter ended June 30, 2026, production in Botswana increased to 5.5 million carats.

The report said the increase was driven by “the impact of the extended maintenance at Orapa in the comparative period as well as the planned mining of higher-grade ore at Jwaneng to optimise plant throughput.”

However, Anglo American said planned plant maintenance at Orapa and Jwaneng during the second half of the year is expected to substantially reduce production levels from current rates.

REGIONAL OUTPUT

Production in Namibia remained broadly unchanged at 0.5 million carats.

“The retirement of the Coral Sea vessel in the comparative period and planned maintenance of the Mafuta vessel at Debmarine Namibia were largely offset by the planned mining of higher-grade areas at Namdeb,” the report said.

In South Africa, production at Venetia increased to 0.7 million carats, largely because of higher volumes of underground ore being processed.

The report also noted that, as announced by De Beers on July 13, 2026, “a pause in production at Venetia is proposed to start in the second half of the year.”

In Canada, production increased to 1.0 million carats as Gahcho Kué benefited from the planned processing of higher-grade ore from a new mining area.

TRADING PRESSURE

Anglo American said rough diamond trading conditions remained challenging during the first half of 2026.

“The geopolitical and macroeconomic landscape remains uncertain, with the onset of the conflict in the Middle East adding to economic and consumer confidence risks,” the report said.

It added that “synthetic lab-grown diamonds also continued to affect demand for lower value natural diamonds, adding pressure in more price-sensitive categories. However, stronger pricing for higher value goods supported a stable overall average price index throughout the period.”

The consolidated average realised price for the first half of 2026 declined 32 percent to $105 per carat. The report attributed the decline to a sales mix containing a higher proportion of lower-value goods and a 16 percent decrease in the average rough price index.

Rough diamond sales in the second quarter totalled 7.1 million carats, or 6.0 million carats on a consolidated basis, generating consolidated revenue of $665 million.

That compared with 7.6 million carats, or 6.8 million carats on a consolidated basis, sold during the same period in 2025, when consolidated rough diamond sales revenue reached $1.2 billion.

> “De Beers continues to monitor rough diamond trading conditions in order to align output with prevailing demand.”

GUIDANCE

Production guidance for 2026 remains unchanged at 21 million to 26 million carats.

The company said planned maintenance at Orapa and Jwaneng, together with the proposed production pause at Venetia, is expected to reduce production during the second half of the year.

“De Beers continues to monitor rough diamond trading conditions in order to align output with prevailing demand,” the report said.

Chobe Holdings Builds Momentum

Eco-tourism group enters 2027 financial year with P92 million in customer advances and stronger demand signals



GAZETTE REPORTER

Botswana’s leading BSE-listed eco-tourism group, Chobe Holdings, says it is entering the 2027 financial year with momentum, supported by a robust sales pipeline and customer advances exceeding P92 million.

In its Integrated Report 2026, Chief Executive Officer John Gibson said the advances reflect medium and long-term confidence in the company’s destinations and brands.

“We are monitoring this closely,” Gibson said, referring to global risks that could affect travel demand.

The CEO said Chobe was aware of challenges in the operating environment, including continued instability in the Middle East, which could affect travel confidence in some markets. While the direct impact on the business had been insignificant to date, he said prolonged geopolitical uncertainty could soften demand for travel, particularly in the short term.

GROWTH DESPITE PRESSURE

During the period under review, Chobe Holdings recorded revenue growth of 12 percent to P714 million. Gibson said the company’s operating leverage meant that increased revenue translated into higher profits.

However, he noted that the year was not without challenges, with cost inflation exceeding targets and geopolitical uncertainty affecting guests’ willingness to travel.

“To deliver meaningful growth against this backdrop reflects, above all, the underlying strength of our product and the calibre of our operational and managerial team,” he said.

Chobe remains the only eco-tourism company listed on the Botswana Stock Exchange, a position Gibson said carries both privilege and responsibility.

“Every Motswana who holds our shares is a partner in the stewardship of this country’s most precious and enduring natural asset,” he said.

EXPANDING PORTFOLIO

Chobe increased its bed capacity following the opening of Maxa under the Ker & Downey Botswana brand and the reopening of the rebuilt Xugana Island Lodge under Desert & Delta Safaris.

Gibson described Maxa as a property in a pristine part of the Okavango Delta that the company believes will become one of the standout addresses in its circuit.

“Both these developments were the product of extensive planning and development work, which makes it enormously satisfying to see them so positively received by guests and industry partners,” he said.

The company is also undertaking further investments, with Chobe Savanna Lodge undergoing a comprehensive rebuild and the Sedia Hotel receiving a significant refurbishment of its public areas.

Gibson said these investments represent the company’s continued capital deployment aimed at protecting its brands and guest experience.

AVIATION RECOVERY

Chobe’s flying operations also recorded improvement during the year, with aircraft availability increasing significantly.

The company said this was reflected in stronger financial contributions from Safari Air and North West Air, with reliable air transfers remaining an important part of the guest experience.

Revenue per available room improved across both Desert & Delta Safaris and Ker & Downey Botswana, supported by continued investment in marketing and sales.

Gibson said the company’s growing presence in key source markets, particularly North America and Europe, was contributing to improvements in both volume and yield.

“The premium positioning of our brands remains non-negotiable,” he said.

Through its subsidiaries, Chobe operates 16 lodges and camps across northern Botswana, the Zambezi region of Namibia and Zambia, with a combined capacity of 365 beds.



MMG Khoemacau, Govt Seal Deal

A new partnership aims to strengthen Botswana's mining workforce through technical training and industry-focused education in Maun.



LEATILE ZACHARIAH

MMG Khoemacau and the Ministry of Higher Education have signed an agreement to establish a Centre of Mining Excellence at Maun Technical College, with the initiative aimed at strengthening technical and vocational education for the country's mining sector. The partnership was formalised on July 24, 2026, bringing together government, industry and international partners to address skills shortages.

FOCUS ON MODERN MINING SKILLS

Located in the Kalahari Copper Belt, the Centre is expected to offer training in underground mining, automation, digital systems and heavy equipment operation. The initiative comes as Botswana expands its focus beyond diamonds into copper and other base metals, increasing demand for specialised technical skills.

The Minister of Higher Education Prince Maele said the project was intended to better align education with industry requirements. "This initiative reflects our shared commitment to developing a workforce that is ready to meet the demands of a modern, evolving mining industry while contributing to national development," he said.

INDUSTRY AND ACADEMIC COLLABORATION

The programme will combine classroom instruction with practical training to prepare graduates for employment in the mining sector. International partners, including the University of Queensland's Sustainable Minerals Institute, are expected to contribute to curriculum development and training standards.

MMG Khoemacau has committed seed funding for the Centre, equipment valued at **P145,000**, and an underground mining vehicle for practical training. The company will also provide technical expertise to support the programme.

SUPPORTING FUTURE WORKFORCE

MMG Khoemacau Director of Finance and Acting President of Africa Operations, Wei Gao, said the partnership represented a long-term investment in skills development.

"By partnering with the Ministry of Higher Education, we are investing in people, communities, and the long-term prosperity of Botswana," Gao said.

The project also aligns with the company's plans to increase copper production to 130,000 tonnes annually by 2028, supporting future workforce requirements.

Phikwe Marathon Marks Decade

A decade after its launch, the Orange Phikwe National Marathon is being recognised for its role in supporting local businesses, developing athletes and attracting visitors to Selebi-Phikwe.



The Orange Phikwe National Marathon is marking its 10th anniversary, with organisers highlighting its contribution to sports development, tourism and economic activity in Selebi-Phikwe. Since its launch, the event has grown from a community race into a national competition that attracts athletes and spectators from across Botswana and the Southern African region.

ECONOMIC IMPACT

Race weekends have become a source of business for hotels, food vendors, transport operators and retailers in Selebi-Phikwe. Orange Botswana Public Relations and Communication Manager Tebogo Nadisah said the marathon has evolved beyond sport. "The Orange Phikwe National Marathon has grown into much more than a sporting event. Over the last 10 years, it has become a platform that stimulates economic activity, supports local businesses and creates meaningful opportunities for communities in Selebi-Phikwe," she said.

> "The Orange Phikwe National Marathon has grown into much more than a sporting event. Over the last 10 years, it has become a platform that stimulates economic activity, supports local businesses and creates meaningful opportunities for communities in Selebi-Phikwe."

SUPPORTING ATHLETES

The marathon is organised in partnership with the Selebi-Phikwe Town Council and the Botswana Athletics Association. It provides athletes with an opportunity to compete under official athletics structures while improving their rankings and qualification prospects for international competitions. "We have seen the marathon create real opportunities for athletes, from grassroots participation to elite competition," Nadisah said.

COMMUNITY INITIATIVES

The event has also supported community projects, including donations of learning equipment and digital tools to schools, as well as digital classrooms and Women's Digital Centres. Pre-event activities such as fun runs and aerobics sessions have also been used to encourage healthy living and community participation.

Article edited for length

FNB Wins Double Euromoney Honour

FNB Botswana has received two Euromoney Awards for Excellence as it marks 35 years of operating in Botswana.



FNB Botswana has received two honours at the 2026 Euromoney Awards for Excellence, being named Botswana's Best Bank 2026 and Botswana's Best Bank for ESG 2026. The recognition comes as the bank marks 35 years of operations in Botswana.

INDUSTRY RECOGNITION

The Euromoney Awards for Excellence recognise banks for leadership, innovation, resilience and performance across the global banking industry. According to FNB Botswana, the awards acknowledge its financial services, environmental, social and governance (ESG) initiatives, and its role in supporting clients, businesses and communities.

"Being recognised as Botswana's Best Bank is a tremendous honour and a reflection of the trust our clients place in us every day," said FNB Botswana Chief Executive Officer Steven Lefentse Bogatsu.

ESG FOCUS

The bank said the Best Bank for ESG award recognises its work in areas including financial inclusion, environmental stewardship, responsible governance and community development. It stated that these initiatives are intended to support Botswana's sustainable development goals while expanding access to financial opportunities.

"The award for Botswana's Best Bank for ESG validates our belief that business success and positive societal impact go hand in hand," Bogatsu said. "For 35 years, we have remained committed to helping communities thrive, expanding access to opportunities, and embedding sustainability into everything we do."

35 YEARS OF OPERATIONS

The awards coincide with FNB Botswana's 35th anniversary. The bank said the milestone reflects its continued focus on providing financial services to individuals, businesses and communities while strengthening its sustainability initiatives.



Mining Technology Partnership Announced

A new partnership aims to introduce metal recovery and water treatment technology to Botswana and the wider Southern African mining sector.



Periodic Products Inc. and Square Gate Group have announced a strategic partnership to support the deployment of metal recovery and environmental remediation technologies across Botswana and the Southern African Development Community (SADC). The collaboration targets the mining, extractives, water treatment and industrial sectors by combining technology with regional market expertise.

TECHNOLOGY FOR METAL RECOVERY

The partnership will introduce Periodic Products Chelok® Polymer Technology, which is designed to remove, concentrate and recover metals from industrial and environmental sources. According to the companies, the reusable, non-toxic polymer technology can be applied to mining operations, mine tailings, environmental remediation projects and water treatment systems.

The companies said the technology is intended to improve resource recovery while supporting efforts to reduce environmental impacts associated with mining and industrial activities.

REGIONAL MINING FOCUS

The announcement follows Periodic Products' participation in the Future of Mining Summit in Botswana, where the company engaged with mining industry representatives, government officials and technical stakeholders. The discussions focused on mine tailings management, resource recovery and environmental management.

"This is an exciting moment for both Periodic Products and the Square Gate Group," said Dr. Joseph Laurino, President and CEO of Periodic Products. "Together we look forward to bringing this breakthrough technology to mining companies, national and regional governments, water utilities, and communities in the SADC region."

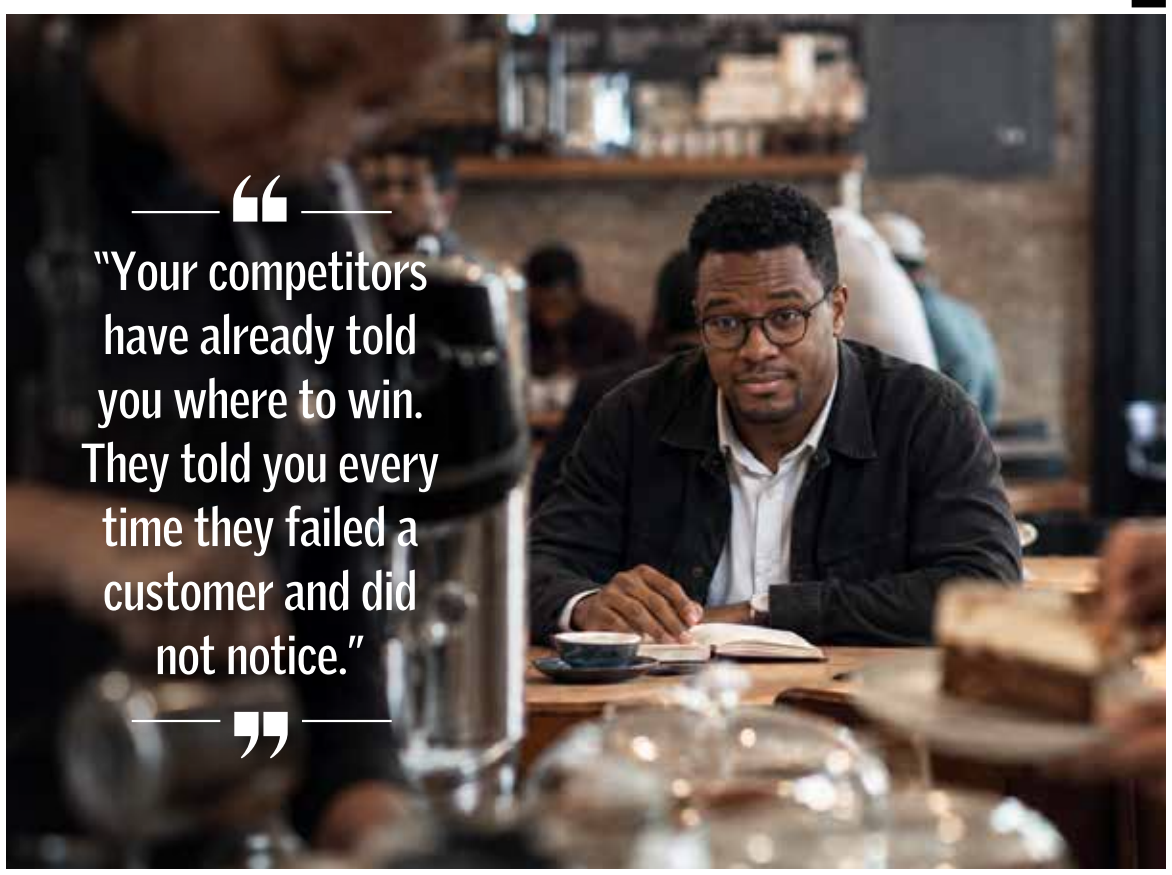
EXPANSION ACROSS SADC

Square Gate Group Founder and Managing Director Shamil Agosi said the partnership aligns with the company's goal of connecting African opportunities with international technologies and investment.

Chelok® Polymer Technology directly addresses some of the region's most important priorities responsible resource recovery, cleaner water, improved environmental performance, and stronger ESG outcomes," Agosi said.

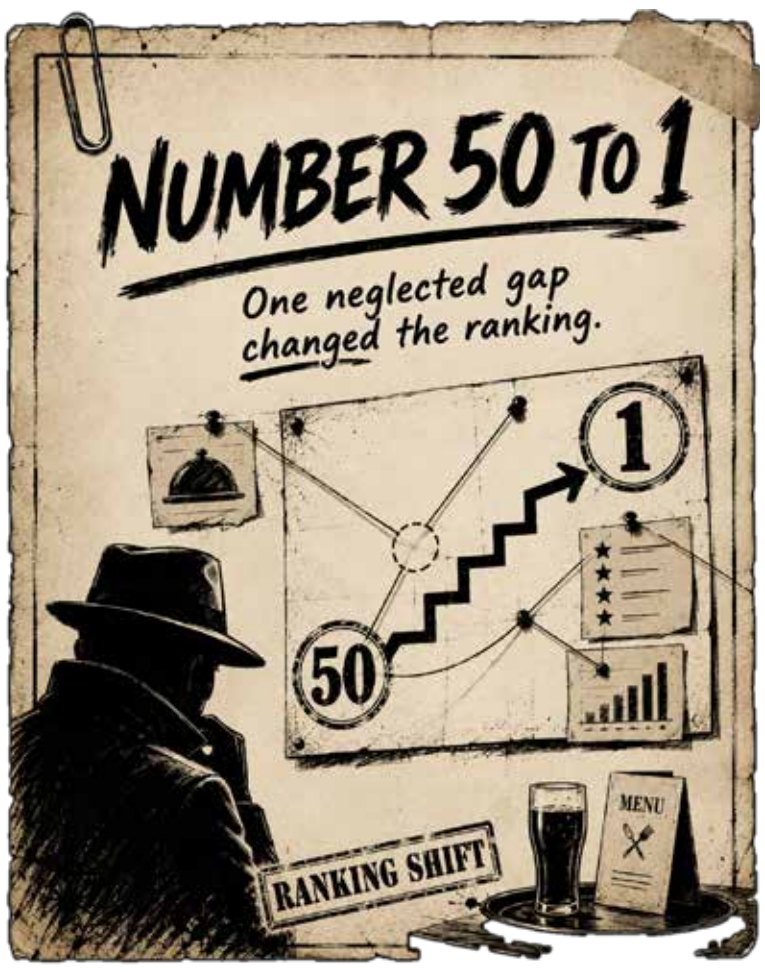
Article edited for length

Win Where Competitors Fail



Reverse benchmarking reveals that the strongest competitive advantage may lie not in copying what rivals do well, but in owning the customer need they all neglect.

Every marketing agency in the world will tell you to benchmark the best. Find out who is winning, study what they are doing and apply it to your own business. The logic is clean: identify best practice, replicate it and improve on it.



REVERSE BENCHMARKING

Rory Sutherland, Vice Chairman of Ogilvy UK and one of marketing's most counterintuitive thinkers, says this is exactly backwards.

Sutherland calls his alternative approach reverse benchmarking. Instead of asking, "What are the best players in this category doing well?" you ask, "What are all the players in this category doing badly?" Then you take that gap, own it completely and build your brand around it.

The result, when done correctly, is not a brand that is slightly better than its competitors. It is a brand that is incomparable to them.

THE RESTAURANT

Sutherland tells the story of a research team visiting top-tier restaurants on behalf of a client. The food was excellent. The service was refined. The wine lists were curated, and the staff were knowledgeable.

> "The result, when done correctly, is not a brand that is slightly better than its competitors. It is a brand that is incomparable to them."

But when two members of the research party asked for beer instead of wine, something changed. The beer drinkers were handed a short list with minimal explanation and treated, as Sutherland put it, like second-class citizens. The sommelier's expertise and careful recommendations evaporated the moment someone chose not to drink wine.

The research team's recommendation was not to improve the already excellent food or wine service. It was to treat beer drinkers with the same care, knowledge and ceremony that the best restaurants reserved for wine. Introduce a considered beer menu. Train staff to pair craft beers with dishes. Make the beer drinker feel as valued as the wine drinker.



The restaurant did exactly that. It went from number 50 in the world to number 1.

The food did not change. The gap that nobody else had filled did.

THE PARADOX

Here is the counterargument that holds equally true.

Reverse benchmarking only works when the gap you identify is real and the customers who live in that gap are actually worth serving. An extraordinary beer programme succeeds because fine-dining beer drinkers are numerous, underserved and willing to pay for the experience. The gap was real. The audience was real.

A brand that identifies a gap that does not correspond to a genuine unmet need is not reverse benchmarking. It is differentiation for its own sake. The test is not, "Can we do this differently?" The test is, "Is there a customer who is currently being failed by everyone in this category, and are we willing to serve them better than anyone else?"

If the answer to both questions is yes, the gap is yours to own. If the answer to either question is no, you are building a feature, not a brand.

BOTSWANA BRANDS

The banking sector in Botswana benchmarks against itself. Every bank competes on interest rates, branch locations, digital platforms and product bundles. Research teams visit the same competitors, identify the same best practices and produce the same recommendations. The result is a category where every brand looks and sounds like every other brand.

Continues to page 28



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

from page 27

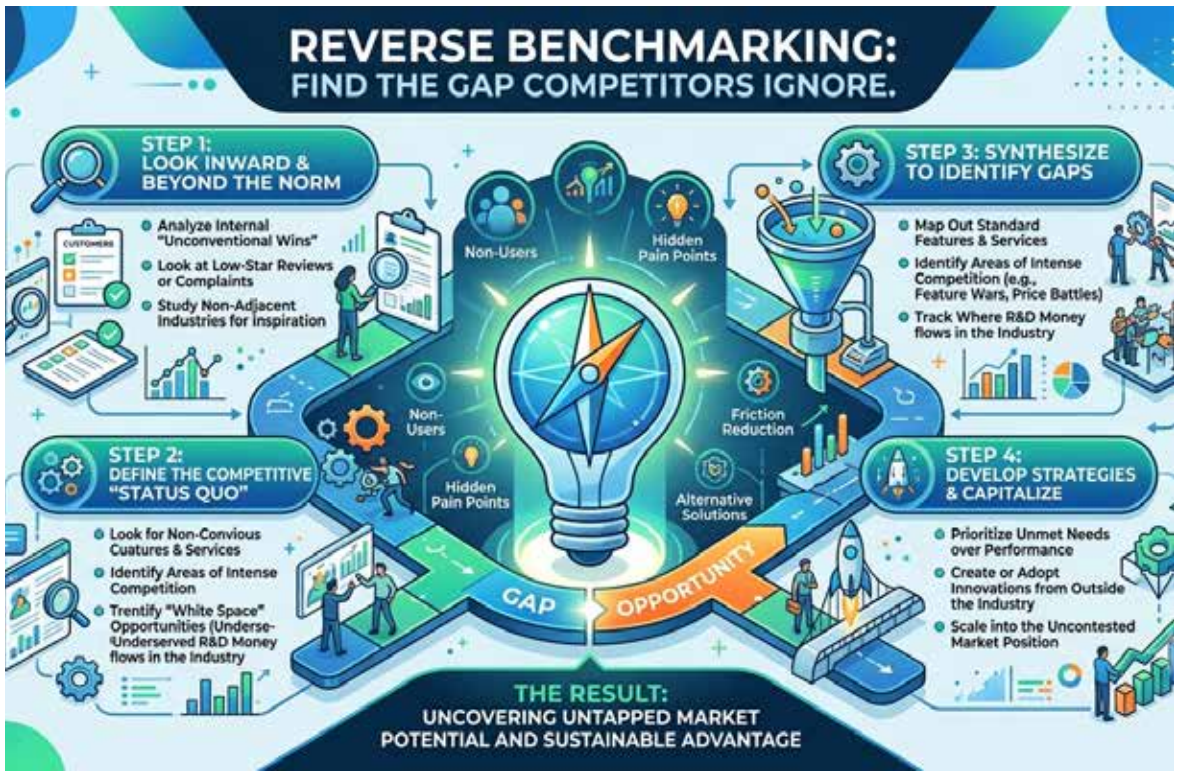
The gap that every bank in Botswana is failing to fill is not a product gap. It is a language gap. No bank communicates in the financial reality of most customers: extended family obligations, informal income, cattle as savings, the financial weight of funerals, and the complexity of supporting parents and siblings on a single salary. Every bank speaks to an idealised customer with a stable income, a single household and a straightforward financial life. That customer is not the majority.

> "If the answer to either question is no, you are building a feature, not a brand."

The bank that looks at what every other bank does badly and builds its communication strategy around the customer everyone else ignores does not need a better interest rate to win. It needs a better question.

The same gap exists in the funeral industry, where every provider competes on price and package contents while the customer's actual need is dignity, relief and the cultural weight of how Batswana honour the dead. It exists in the restaurant sector, where every establishment competes on cuisine and price while the experience of the customer who does not drink alcohol, who brings children or who arrives after 8pm is an afterthought.

The gap is sitting in plain sight in every category in this market. The question is whether any brand is willing to look at what its competitors do badly and decide that is where it will be extraordinary.



WHAT IT MEANS

If you are a business owner or executive: Next time you commission competitive research, change the brief. Do not ask what your competitors do well. Ask what they all do badly, consistently and without exception. That list is your strategic opportunity.

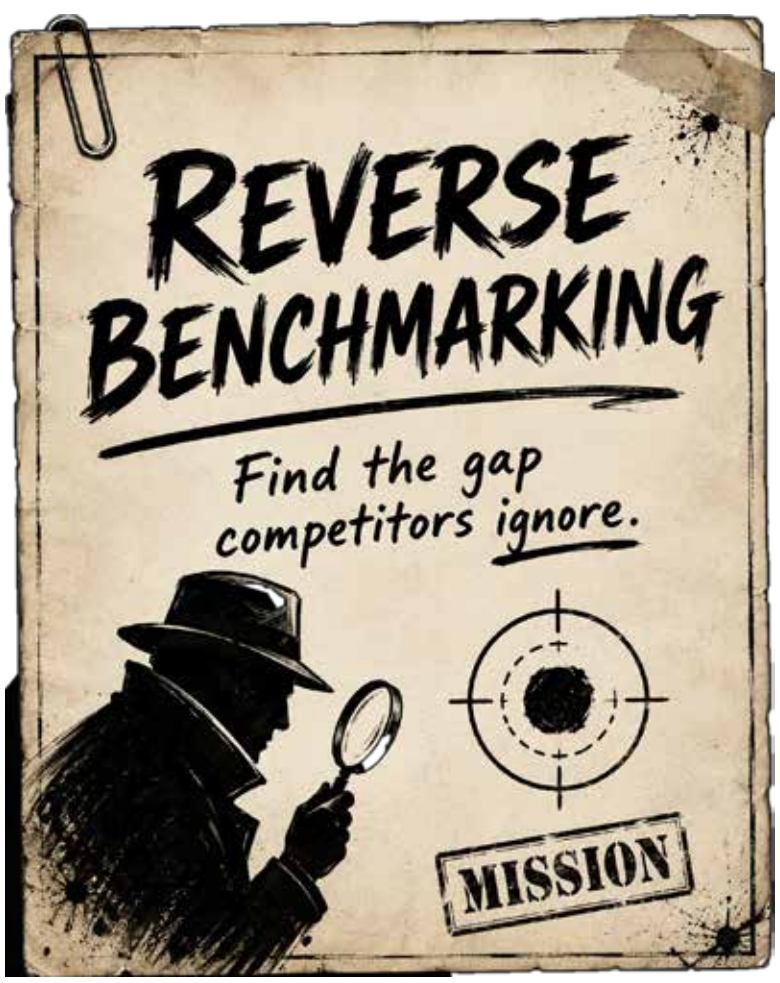
If you are a marketing professional: Reverse benchmarking begins with observation, not data. Spend time as a customer in your category. Notice where the experience fails, staff disengage or the service falls short of the promise. Those moments are the brief.

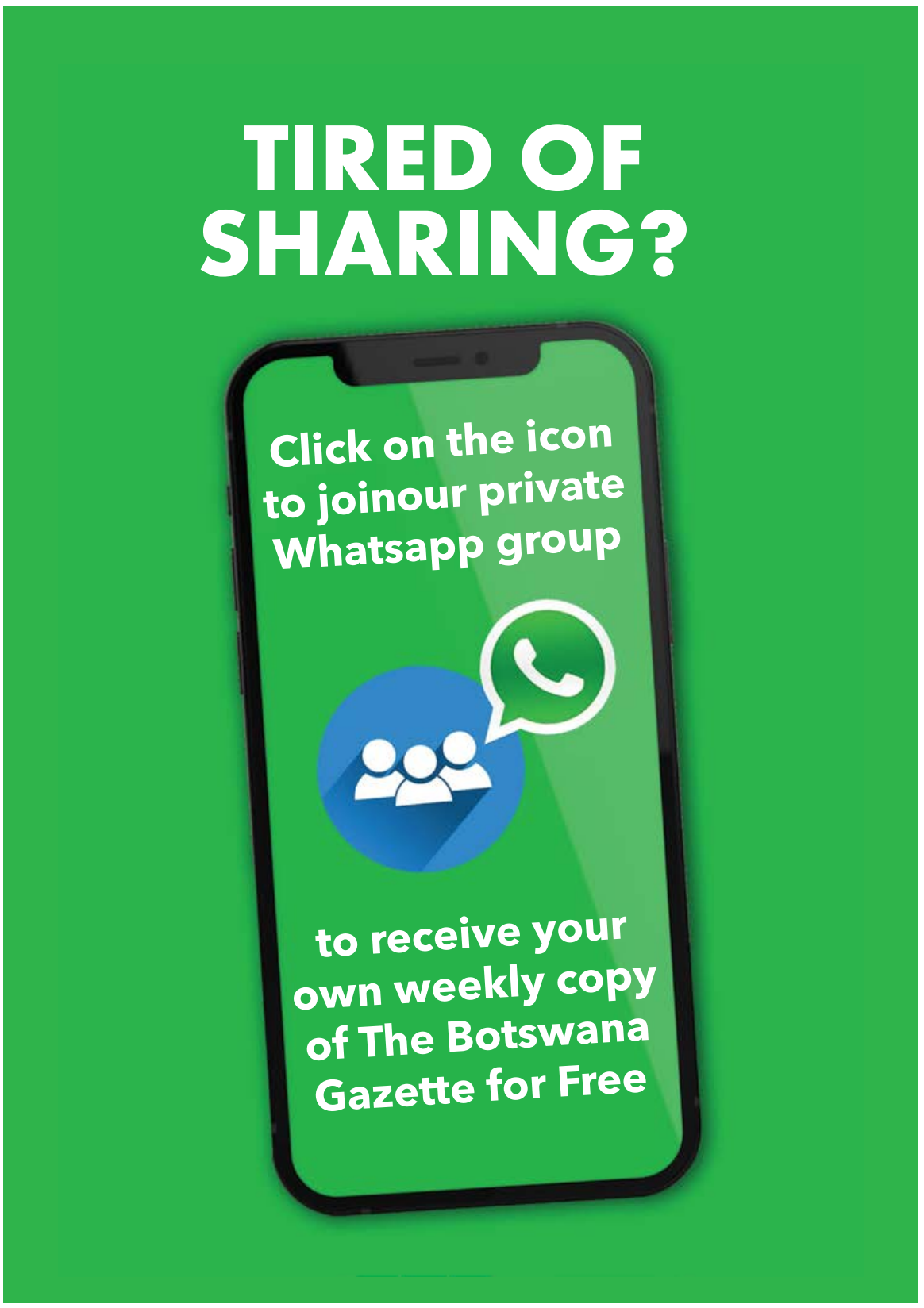
If you are a brand manager: The restaurant did not become number one by improving what was already excellent. It became number one by filling a gap that everyone else had decided was not worth filling. That decision is available to you in almost every category in Botswana.

Your competitors have already told you where to win. They told you every time they failed a customer and did not notice.

ABOUT THE COLUMN

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 that helps businesses solve their most complex brand challenges.





Diamond Tariff Relief Won't Reverse Trends

Botswana's restored duty-free access to the United States is welcome, but lab-grown diamonds remain the far greater threat to natural stones.



> The real battle is being fought over consumer preferences, technological innovation and the ability of producing countries such as Botswana to redefine what makes a natural diamond worth buying.

DR DOUGLAS RASBASH

Botswana has every reason to welcome the United States' decision to remove the additional import tariff on Botswana-origin diamonds. The decision restores competitiveness in one of the world's most important jewellery markets and reinforces confidence in Botswana as a trusted supplier of natural diamonds. However, it would be a mistake to conclude that it will fundamentally change the outlook for Botswana's diamond industry.

TARIFF RESET

From 24 July 2026, Botswana-origin natural diamonds once again enter the United States without the additional tariff imposed earlier this year. Importantly, this was not the result of a special bilateral agreement or a diamond-specific exemption negotiated for Botswana. Rather, the temporary 10% global tariff expired and was replaced by new Section 301 tariffs on 60 named trading economies. Botswana was not included on that list, allowing qualifying Botswana-origin diamonds to revert automatically to the normal U.S. tariff rate of zero.

The tariff relief therefore applies to:

- HS 7102.31.00: Rough non-industrial natural diamonds (unworked, sawn, cleaved or bruited).
- HS 7102.39.00: Loose worked or polished natural diamonds not mounted or set.

> The existential challenge confronting natural diamonds is no longer primarily tariffs. It is technology, consumer preference and economics.

ORIGIN RULES

It does not automatically extend to finished diamond jewellery, which falls under different tariff classifications and may still be subject to normal import duties. A further qualification concerns country of origin. To benefit from tariff-free treatment, U.S. Customs must recognise the diamonds as products of Botswana. Diamonds mined in Botswana but substantially transformed in another country may acquire the origin of the processing country, potentially losing Botswana's tariff advantage. The decision therefore restores duty-free access for Botswana's principal diamond export categories while reinforcing the commercial case for mining, cutting, polishing and certifying diamonds in Botswana before direct export to the United States.

MARKET DISRUPTION

The existential challenge confronting natural diamonds is no longer primarily tariffs. It is technology, consumer preference and economics. The accompanying chart produced by The Botswana Gazette tells the story.

Between 2019 and 2025, the share of U.S. engagement rings containing natural diamonds

To Page 30



From Page 29

fell dramatically from 88% to just 39%. Over the same period, lab-grown diamonds increased their market share from 12% to 61%, becoming the majority choice for American consumers. This is not a temporary fluctuation. It represents one of the fastest disruptions ever experienced by a luxury consumer product. Even more revealing is the third line on the graph. In 2019, a comparable lab-grown diamond cost around 20% less than a natural diamond. Today, the price difference has widened to more than 80%.

Consumers therefore face a straightforward economic decision. For roughly the same budget, they can purchase a much larger, visually identical lab-grown diamond than a natural one. For many younger buyers, particularly first-time engagement ring purchasers, that value proposition has proved irresistible. The result has been a rapid shift in purchasing behaviour, despite extensive marketing campaigns promoting the rarity and emotional value of natural diamonds. Against this backdrop, the removal of a 10% tariff, while undoubtedly positive, is unlikely to reverse the underlying trend.





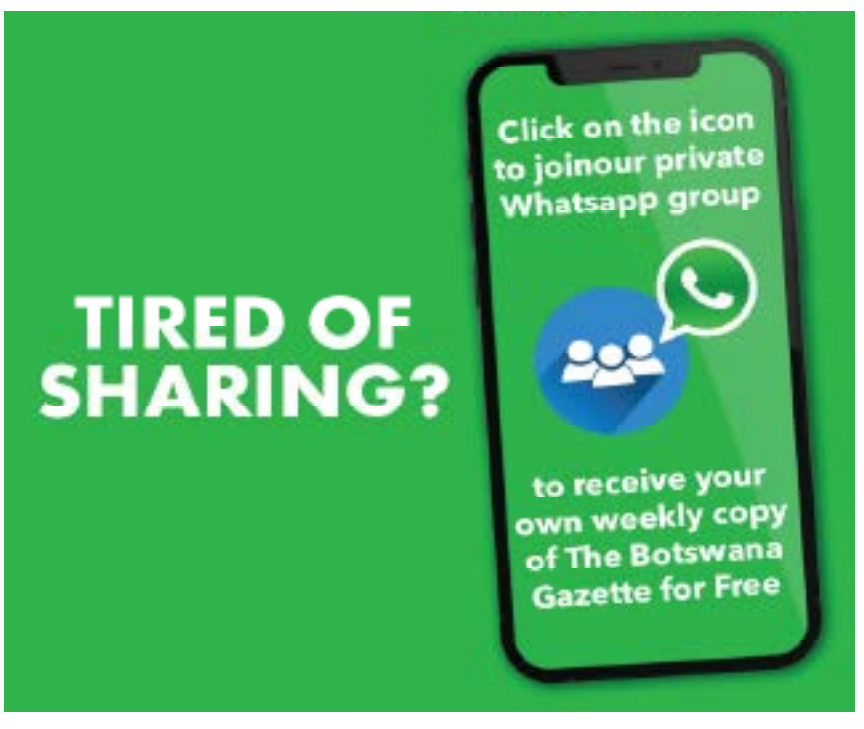
PRICE GAP

A tariff affects price at the margin. Technology changes the market itself. If a lab-grown diamond already sells for 70% to 80% less than an equivalent natural stone, removing a 10% tariff on natural diamonds narrows only a small part of the gap. The competitive advantage enjoyed by lab-grown diamonds remains overwhelming. This does not mean Botswana's diamond industry has no future. Far from it. It means the industry must adapt to a fundamentally different marketplace. Rather than compete directly with laboratory-produced diamonds on price, Botswana should compete where synthetic diamonds cannot: provenance, rarity, trust and luxury branding.

BOTSWANA'S EDGE

Botswana has one of the world's strongest ethical mining reputations. Its diamonds support schools, hospitals, roads and national development. Every natural diamond carries a geological history spanning billions of years, something no laboratory can reproduce. These attributes have value, but only if they are marketed effectively. The removal of U.S. tariffs therefore provides Botswana with an opportunity rather than a solution. It gives the country breathing space to accelerate the transformation of its diamond sector through branding, traceability, jewellery manufacturing and greater local value addition. The lesson is clear. The future competitiveness of Botswana's diamond industry will be determined far less by customs duties than by how successfully it differentiates natural diamonds from increasingly affordable laboratory alternatives.

Tariff relief is good news. But it is not the reason natural diamonds will succeed or fail. The real battle is being fought over consumer preferences, technological innovation and the ability of producing countries such as Botswana to redefine what makes a natural diamond worth buying.



GOSEGO MOTSUMI

Creators Assembly's All-Star Line-Up



Pic Credit: sundayworld.co.za

Botswana's first-ever Creators Assembly Summit is pulling out the big names. From legendary actor Sello Maake kaNcube to media powerhouse Samuel Ngwenya and multi-hyphenate Scar, the summit is assembling the cream of the crop to prove that creativity isn't just art, it's serious business

If Botswana's creative industry has been waiting for its Avengers moment, this might just be it.

The inaugural Creators Assembly Summit, powered by BBS Bank isn't merely announcing speakers, it's curating a hall of fame. With legendary storytellers, media pioneers and cultural tastemakers all heading to Grand Aria Gardens and Conference Centre this August, the country's first dedicated creative industry summit is making one thing abundantly clear: the future belongs to those bold enough to create it.

Held from 20 to 21 August under the theme "Creativity, the New Currency," the summit is bringing together some of the region's most influential creative minds to challenge how Botswana values talent, ideas and innovation.

> "We believe that Botswana's creatives are not simply creating art, they are building businesses, creating jobs, shaping culture and contributing to national development."

THE BIG NAMES, THE BIG CONVERSATIONS

Leading the charge is celebrated South African actor, director and theatre icon Sello Maake kaNcube, whose decades-long career has made him one of Africa's most respected storytellers.

Joining him is Botswana's own filmmaking heavyweight Samuel Ngwenya, the co-creator and series producer of the internationally acclaimed television drama COLOURS, alongside musician, radio personality and podcaster Thato Scar Matlhabaphiri, whose career has become a blueprint for thriving across music, broadcasting and digital media.

Together with more than 20 speakers, facilitators and panellists, including the initiative's founder and music artist Hanceford Han-C Magapatona, they will unpack everything from storytelling and intellectual property to branding, entrepreneurship and the business of creativity.

"We believe that Botswana's creatives are not simply creating art, they are building businesses, creating jobs, shaping culture and contributing to national development," Creative Director of Creators Assembly, Joyce Moseki told Time Out.

MORE THAN CELEBRITY POWER

For Moseki, the lineup isn't about famous faces, it's about meaningful conversations.

"We intentionally sought a balance between established industry leaders and emerging voices, ensuring participants are exposed to diverse perspectives, practical insights and authentic experiences," she said.

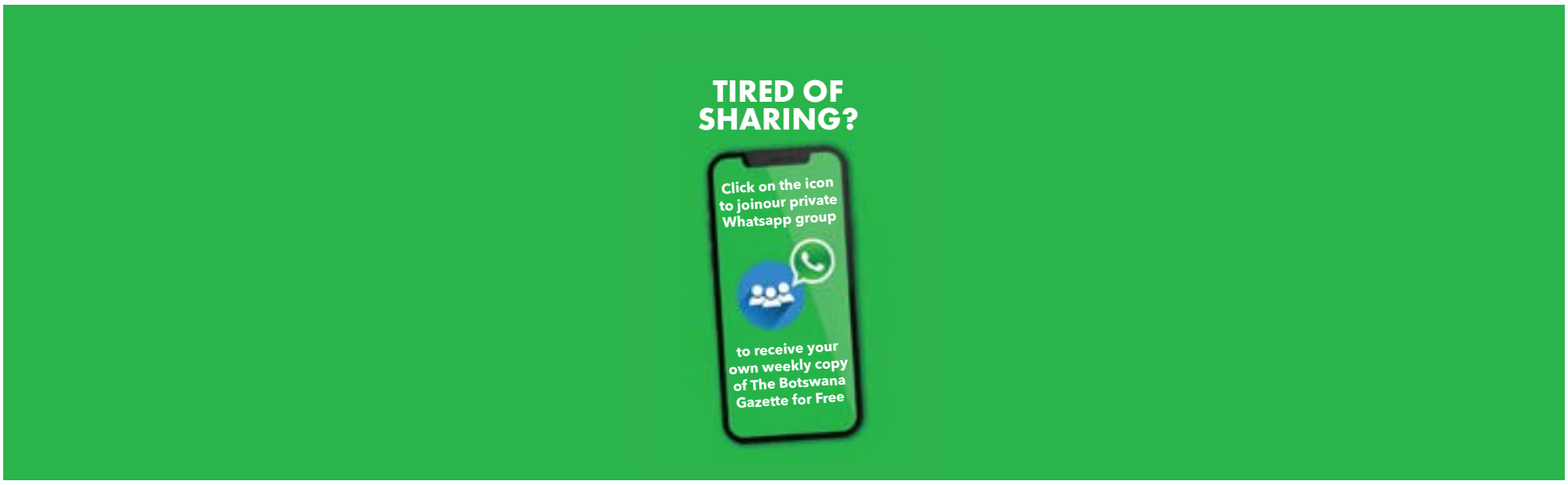
The summit has been carefully designed to serve creators across music, fashion, beauty, dance, film, podcasting, visual arts and content creation while connecting them with policymakers, brands, financial institutions and industry leaders.

BUILDING TOMORROW'S CREATIVE ECONOMY

The ambition stretches well beyond a two-day gathering.

Creators Assembly plans to evolve into a year-round ecosystem of mentorship, networking, workshops and regional activations designed to help creatives transform talent into thriving businesses.

Because in Botswana's new creative economy, the biggest stars won't just inspire audiences, they'll inspire industries.



Inside Katlego's Rich Kasi Lifestyle

Forget designer bags and private jets. Katlego Ramphaleng's My Rich Kasi Lifestyle is rewriting what success looks like, proving that real wealth is found in purpose, multiple income streams and staying proudly rooted in the township that raised you

GOSEGO MOTSUMI

If social media has taught us anything, it's that luxury usually comes wrapped in marble kitchens, first-class flights and endless shopping hauls. But singer and entrepreneur Katlego Ramphaleng is flipping the script. Her viral vlog series, My Rich Kasi Lifestyle, argues that the richest life isn't always the flashiest, sometimes it's built in the streets that raised you.

REDEFINING RICH

Inspired by Maruapula, the township she calls home, Katlego deliberately chose authenticity over aesthetics.

"The vlogs were inspired by the fact that I always saw the flashy side of vlogs and not the relatable content. I was showing people my reality and authentic life that most people could relate to and inspire them through my life story," she told Time Out.

The message has resonated because it swaps aspiration for accessibility. Instead of pretending success looks one way, Katlego celebrates everyday wins, family, community and relentless ambition.

"Don't let society determine what a celebrity life should be like and put yourself under pressure," she said.

THE POWER OF MORE THAN ONE TALENT

Katlego said she possesses more than 20 talents, and she's determined to use them. Music introduced her to the public, but she refused to stop there.

She has ventured into cooking, fashion, beauty products and recently opened Simply Fresh, and currently employs seven people. Her fast-food brand, Mmantlo Goodies, launched during the COVID-19 pandemic in 2019 through personal investment and determination, proving that building from scratch can still create opportunities for others.

"It is important to do more and explore your talents… I always make sure I don't dwell in one place and not limit myself," she said.

MUSIC CAN WAIT, PURPOSE CAN'T

Despite entrepreneurship keeping her busy, music still lives close to her heart. Following the passing of her brother, Dramaboi, she admits the grief reshaped her relationship with her craft.

"I still have the trauma of losing everything, music is taking everything from me spiritually and financially… however my music journey is not closed and I am coming back soon because there are people out there who need my music."



In Katlego's world, being "rich" isn't about looking expensive, it's about multiplying your gifts, creating jobs and proudly carrying your authentic self wherever success takes you.

Growing Up Just Got A Guide

The newly launched journal is not another motivational book gathering dust on a shelf. Teen Thrive is part journal, part life coach and part reality check, inviting teenagers to stop drifting through adolescence and start designing the future they actually want



GOSEGO MOTSUMI

For generations, teenagers have been told to "figure it out." Certified life coach Phemelo Minja has a different idea: hand them the tools before life hands them the lessons.

Launched at the National Museum in Gaborone over the weekend, the 168-page self-published Teen Thrive journal isn't chasing bestseller lists. It's chasing better habits, bigger dreams and bolder teenagers. Built as an interactive journal rather than a traditional read, it asks young people to reflect, write, plan and confront the questions that school timetables rarely cover.

TURNING REGRETS INTO ROADMAPS

Minja doesn't hide behind polished success stories. Instead, she opens with her own.

"I was simply moving through life, hoping that somehow things will work out," she admits, reflecting on a teenage version of herself that had academic ability but little direction.

She said the journal was born from everything she wishes someone had told her earlier, from understanding career possibilities to discovering personal strengths before distractions take over.

Social media may dominate today's teenage years, but Minja believes every generation has had its own version of the same challenge.

She said: "You cannot dream about the future you've never been exposed to."

She urges parents to create experiences that expand a child's imagination, arguing that exposure—not money—is often the spark that shapes ambition.

MORE THAN A DIARY

Former First Lady and executive coach Neo Jane Masisi described Teen Thrive as "not the usual book, not the usual journal but a treasure of wisdom," praising its relatable approach to one of life's most defining stages.

The journal's impact is already reaching beyond teenagers. Parent Botho Ratshosa shared how using it alongside her daughters helped rebuild family routines during a difficult period, while also inspiring her own journaling habit and a 15-kilogram weight-loss journey.

"You cannot dream about the future you've never been exposed to."

EMPOWER. EVOLVE. EXCEL.

Those three words anchor every page of Teen Thrive. Through goal-setting, time management, self-reflection and practical exercises, Minja's message is simple: thriving doesn't happen by accident. It begins the moment teenagers stop waiting for the future and start writing it themselves.



THE CROWN QUEST IS OFFICIALLY ON

The auditions are over, the introductions have begun, and Botswana has its first glimpse of the women chasing the Miss Universe Botswana 2027 crown. With a reality-show twist, fierce competition and a conversation about inclusivity already taking centre stage, the race promises far more than glamour

GOSEGO MOTSUMI

The search for Miss Universe Botswana 2027 has stepped into the spotlight, and if first impressions are anything to go by, this year's competition isn't playing it safe. With the preliminary contestants finally unveiled, Botswana has met the women hoping to wear the country's most coveted crown and social media is already picking favourites.

FROM ROUGH DIAMONDS TO ETERNAL DIAMONDS

Reigning queen Dabilo Moses mapped out a competition designed less like a traditional pageant and more like an elimination series.

Contestants begin as "Rough Diamonds," introducing themselves through self-produced videos before tackling challenges that gradually trim the field from hopefuls to the Top 24, then 18, then 12 finalists. Those who survive will head into intensive boot camps across Botswana and South Africa before the December 5 grand finale at the Gaborone International Convention Centre.

She said: "For the first time, fans will enjoy an all-access pass from the preliminary stage straight through the semifinals. The competition will unfold in a gripping reality show format."

A STAR IS ALREADY EMERGING

While the introduction videos aren't being judged, they are winning hearts.

Beauty queen Tshepo Nthaga has quickly become the early fan favourite, attracting the most online engagement with a confident introduction that reflects years of pageantry experience. Calm, polished and self-assured, she has already positioned herself as one of the contestants to beat long before the judges begin scoring.

The videos are intended to reveal more than polished smiles, they introduce the women, sharing where they come from, what drives them and the causes that inspire them.

MORE THAN A BEAUTY PAGEANT

Beyond the sparkle, the organisation is putting diversity front and centre.

National Director Safie Sekgwa revealed that Bakalaka contestants make up the largest share of 36% of this year's preliminary group, saying the data highlights why representation matters rather than divides.

"Our socioeconomic growth depends on the equal recognition and inclusion of every tribe," Sekgwa said, adding that contestants will once again wear traditional attire from cultures other than their own to celebrate Botswana's rich heritage.

> "Ultimately, the woman who claims the crown does not represent her tribe. She represents every single one of us. She is Brand Botswana."

"Ultimately, the woman who claims the crown does not represent her tribe. She represents every single one of us. She is Brand Botswana."

As the countdown to December begins, one thing is already clear: this year's crown race is about beauty, identity, culture and telling Botswana's story to the world.

Kearoma Drops Mmamodisana

With Mmamodisana, the award-winning Afro-Jazz star delivers a moving celebration of culture, family and identity while setting the stage for the boldest chapter of her musical journey yet

GOSEGO MOTSUMI

Some songs are made for playlists. Others are made to preserve a people. Kearoma Rantao's latest single, Mmamodisana, featuring Mosiko, lands firmly in the second category—a rich, soulful celebration of Botswana's cultural identity that arrives wrapped in striking visuals and heartfelt storytelling.

Freshly released on YouTube, the single sees the award-winning Afro-Jazz vocalist leaning into the values that have long shaped her music while reminding listeners that tradition never goes out of style.

A LOVE LETTER TO HERITAGE

With warm vocals and organic instrumentation alongside Mosiko, Mmamodisana embraces African heritage as something to be celebrated rather than remembered from a distance.

"The song honours African heritage, family values, and Botswana's cultural identity through soulful storytelling and music," said Kearoma.

The music video, directed by Cyc Jouzy and produced by Bangu alongside Kearoma, complements the song's message with imagery that reflects the beauty of culture, belonging and community.

A NEW CHAPTER BEGINS

While Mmamodisana looks proudly to the past, it also opens the door to Kearoma's future.



The single a taste of Zambezi Soul, her forthcoming eight-track album produced by Bangu, which launches on 8 August during her Rhythm Through the Ages concert at Avani Gaborone Resort & Casino.

The project marks a creative shift, moving beyond her signature Afro-fusion sound and embracing a fresh three-step-inspired direction.

"It's a new sound of me that I can't wait for everyone to enjoy," she previously told Time Out.

The launch concert will also feature tribute performances celebrating the legendary artists of the 1960s, 1970s and 1980s who helped shape her musical identity.

> "The song honours African heritage, family values, and Botswana's cultural identity through soulful storytelling and music."

"The song honours African heritage, family values, and Botswana's cultural identity through soulful storytelling and music."

A VOICE WITH PURPOSE

The momentum keeps building for the singer, who has also earned a Basadi in Music Awards nomination for Jazz Artist of the Year. Her nominated single, Keledi Marameng, confronts Gender-Based Violence with compassion and conviction, reinforcing Kearoma's reputation as an artist who doesn't just entertain, she tells stories that matter.

With Mmamodisana, Kearoma isn't simply releasing another song. She's giving Botswana's heritage a fresh soundtrack.

Botswana's Biggest Punchline Yet

Botswana's comedy scene has come a long way from pioneering comics to a nationwide movement. But while the laughs are getting louder, turning stand-up into a thriving industry remains the biggest joke no one is laughing at

GOSEGO MOTSUMI

There was a time when Botswana's stand-up comedy scene could fit into one green room. Today, punchlines are flying from Gaborone to Kasane, Tsabong to Francistown, proving that the country's funniest people are no longer confined to the capital. The laughs have multiplied, the audiences are growing, and comedy is finally demanding a seat at Botswana's creative table.

FROM THREE COMEDIANS TO A MOVEMENT

Events organiser of Major Moves Gaolatlhe Kediemetse has watched the transformation from the front row. He recalls a scene led by pioneer Dignash before comedians like Mod and Ribcracker expanded the stage.

Today, social media has become the industry's loudest microphone, allowing comedians to build audiences, collaborate on skits, launch podcasts and land corporate gigs.

The growth has also produced regional success stories. Phenyo The Master presented at the Savanna Comics Choice Awards, Jonny Pula became the face of Savanna Botswana, while Thapelo Malani has taken Botswana's humour across Southern and East Africa, opening doors for others to follow.



THE BIGGEST JOKE? MAKING MONEY

Despite the momentum, comedy remains a labour of love.

Small audiences, expensive venues, limited sponsorships and fierce competition from free online entertainment continue to make live comedy a financial gamble. Most comedians still balance full-time jobs with writing jokes, rehearsing and performing.

"The industry is still mainly based on passion rather than profit," he told Time Out.

BUILDING A COMEDY ECOSYSTEM

Kediemetse believes Botswana doesn't lack talent, it lacks infrastructure.

Regular comedy clubs, mentorship programmes, touring circuits, television exposure and stronger corporate support are among the missing ingredients needed to produce comedians capable of consistently competing internationally.

He also wants more festivals, regional collaborations and government recognition of comedy as a serious creative industry that creates jobs and attracts tourism.



THE LAUGH ISN'T OVER

Even with the challenges, Kediemetse sees reason to smile.

"If promoters, comedians, sponsors, media, and government collaborate to build a more structured comedy ecosystem, Botswana will develop a sustainable industry that produces acts capable of competing across Southern Africa and beyond."

The country's comedy scene may still be driven by passion, but if Botswana gets the formula right, today's open-mic hopefuls could become tomorrow's continental headliners.

The Nightlife Cash Crunch

Botswana's nightlife is sounding the alarm. As the recent liquor trading hours squeeze dance floors and empty cash tills, nightclub owners warn that the country's after-dark economy could be heading for its toughest encore yet

GOSEGO MOTSUMI

For years, Botswana's nightlife has thrived after sunset. DJs filled dance floors, bartenders kept the drinks flowing and thousands of workers earned a living. But now, with the recent liquor trading restricted to 6:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., the country's nightlife industry said the lights are dimming long before the party begins.

THE SILENT DANCE FLOOR

The Association of Botswana Nightclubs and Bars (ABONIC) said the recent trading hours have triggered severe financial losses across the sector, with some clubs opening only on Fridays and still attracting painfully low crowds.

Chairman Gilbert PP Seagile argues that the issue goes far beyond empty venues.

"Protecting jobs, ensuring fair competition, and sustaining businesses should remain a priority for all stakeholders," he said in an interview.

According to ABONIC, the biggest fear isn't just lower profits, it's the ripple effect on employees, entertainers, suppliers and tourism.



THE PRICE OF SURVIVAL

With revenues shrinking, nightclub operators said drastic cost-cutting may become unavoidable. Some businesses are considering retrenching as much as 70 percent of their workforce just to stay afloat.

Seagile insists the industry is willing to adapt but said the rules must be fair.

"If nightclubs are expected to operate under the same trading hours as bars, then fairness demands that they also pay liquor licence fees equivalent to those paid by bars," he said. "A business cannot be expected to operate under the same conditions while carrying much higher costs."

A CALL FOR A FAIRER STAGE

ABONIC is now gathering data from members to quantify job losses, financial damage and the burden of current licence fees before engaging government and relevant stakeholders on possible solutions.

For now, Botswana's nightlife isn't asking for another round. It's asking for a conversation before the music fades completely.

THE DELTA, IN THEIR VOICES

In Batho ba Metsi, filmmaker Moabi Mogorosi turns the camera away from the Okavango's postcard beauty and towards the people whose knowledge, labour and memory have sustained it for generations.

LEATILE ZACHARIAH

The Okavango Delta has long been captured as a kind of earthly paradise: water curling through reeds, elephants crossing floodplains and mokoro silhouettes gliding beneath an immense African sky.

It is one of Botswana's most recognisable images. Yet in many of those images, the people who live there are little more than figures in the distance.

Batho ba Metsi, meaning "People of the Water," begins where that familiar portrait ends.

BEYOND SCENERY

For producer-director Moabi Mogorosi, the documentary is not simply about the Okavango. It is a tribute to the communities that have carried its knowledge, protected its waterways and built their lives around its changing rhythms.

"*Batho ba Metsi* is a tribute," he says. "It is a celebration of the people who took care of, and continue to take care of, the Delta. They are the custodians of the Delta."

The feature documentary is an Nkashi Trust production, developed with support from Okavango Diamond Company, which came on board as a partner and principal sponsor. Presented by Palesa Molefe, the film journeys through Delta communities, meeting polers, farmers, guides, elders, basket weavers, artists and cultural custodians whose lives reveal the deep relationship between water, identity and survival.

For Mogorosi, the central question was simple but uncomfortable: How can the Delta be celebrated globally while its people remain in the background?

"The people who have been taking care of the Delta for so many years should not be in the background," he says. "They should be in the foreground. Who are they? What are their needs? What are their concerns? Are we taking care of them?"



BECOMING A STUDENT

Mogorosi entered the Delta not as an authority, but as a filmmaker prepared to surrender his assumptions.

"When you go into an environment that you are familiar with, but which is not primarily your area, you become a student, not a teacher," he says. "I was there in the Delta learning."

That distinction became fundamental to the film. *Batho ba Metsi* does not present its subjects as relics of an older Botswana, nor does it romanticise hardship as simplicity.

"Lack of something is not going to rob them of their joy or their humanity," Mogorosi says. "Just like all of us, they have needs. We have different expectations, but the same needs."

LIVING KNOWLEDGE

The filmmaker describes the people of the Delta as its "primary scientists," custodians of knowledge developed not in laboratories, but through generations of observing water, wildlife, fire and land.

During filming, Mogorosi recalls being alarmed by a controlled fire, believing that the landscape was being destroyed. When he later returned, the same area was flourishing.

"If we had not done what seemed to worry you, you would not see what you are seeing right now," a resident told him.

The encounter exposed the gap between observing the Delta and truly understanding it.



"They have been in that environment forever. They know," Mogorosi says. "But we are quick to judge."

SEEN AT LAST

Before the film's wider release, *Batho ba Metsi* was screened in Delta communities. Those pre-screenings became more than previews. They allowed the people on screen to respond, correct, expand and recognise themselves.

"They start telling you more," Mogorosi says. "Then you realise there is a lot more to do."

The reaction crystallised the film's purpose.

"There is joy in people seeing that we are not background actors," he says. "We are not props in the story. We are the story."

WIDER WATERS

Batho ba Metsi is scheduled to premiere in Gaborone on 4 August 2026. A student screening and a tribute to the late Professor Lydia Nyati-Ramahobo will follow on 5 August.

> "We are not background actors. We are not props in the story. We are the story."

The documentary will then begin an international festival run before eventually screening freely on BTV. Wider broadcast discussions are underway, after which the film is expected to become available through the Nkashi Trust YouTube channel.

For Mogorosi, however, the film's journey will matter only if it changes how audiences see the Delta and how visitors enter the homes of others.

"We need to honour the people we find there," he says. "We must learn to be received. We must never be teachers."

The Youth Take The Stage

After a pause, the Botswana Youth Awards are back with a bigger mission: finding the young game-changers who are quietly rewriting Botswana's future and making sure the nation finally sees them

GOSEGO MOTSUMI

Botswana's next generation isn't waiting for permission anymore. They're building businesses, solving problems, leading communities and quietly shaping the country's future. Now, after a brief hiatus, the Botswana Youth Awards are returning to make one thing clear: it's time to put the spotlight where it belongs.

Launched by the ReMmogo Foundation recently at UB Hotel in Gaborone, the seventh edition arrives as Botswana celebrates its 60th year of independence, turning the awards into more than just another glamorous night of trophies. It's a celebration of the country's next chapter and the young people writing it.

MORE THAN A TROPHY

Founded in 2011, the initiative has grown into a platform that rewards ambition while creating visibility for young trailblazers. This year's expanded format features 20 award categories across four economic sectors, recognising everyone from entrepreneurs to innovators and community leaders.

Founder Kagiso Morebodi said the awards are rooted in the Foundation's 2026-2030 Strategic Plan on Youth Engagement, Empowerment and Development, recognising young Batswana who continue to make meaningful contributions to national progress.

The message is simple: these are the people Botswana should be paying attention to.

"Our greatest resource is not beneath the ground. It is the talent, creativity, and determination of our young people," said Lion Tutoring Botswana CEO Thobo Khathola at the launch.

PRESSURE MAKES DIAMONDS

Fittingly themed "Be the Change, Shine Like a Diamond," the 2026 awards lean into Botswana's most famous symbol while flipping the narrative.

Khathola reminded young people that diamonds only sparkle after enduring immense pressure.

"Every setback teaches resilience. Every failure teaches wisdom. Every obstacle presents an opportunity to grow," he said.

His challenge was equally direct: "Dream boldly, work consistently, keep learning, stay humble."

BUILDING BOTSWANA'S NEXT CHAPTER

The Botswana Youth Awards are positioning themselves as more than a recognition ceremony. They're becoming a national scoreboard for courage, creativity and impact.

Whether someone walks away with a trophy later this year or not, the bigger message is impossible to ignore: Botswana's future won't simply be inherited. It will be built by young people bold enough to create opportunities instead of waiting for them and brave enough to keep shining, even under pressure.



OPRACON CELEBRATES 10 YEARS OF CONSULTING

Last week, Friday 24th of July 2026, Opracon marked 10 years of service with an anniversary celebration held at Oasis Motel, bringing together clients, staff, and partners to reflect on a decade of growth. What began in 2016 as a small home-based consultancy has grown into a firm trusted by 17 BSE-listed companies, 2 SA-listed entities, banks, telecommunication companies, state-owned enterprises and SMEs.

The event was a moment to thank the people who have supported Opracon's journey. Guests included long-standing clients, finance professionals, and members of the business community who have worked with the firm on tax, HR, training and Data Protection matters.

In his address, the firm's founder and Managing Director, Jonathan Hore looked back at the early days of sending emails and building relationships one client at a time. He said the company's growth has been built on trust, accuracy, and a commitment to helping businesses make sound decisions. "Ten years ago, we started with a simple goal: to make tax and business advisory accessible and practical for Batswana. Today, we are proud of the partnerships we've built and the impact we've made together," Hore said.



Corporate executives highlighted Opracon's role beyond just numbers but value addition. Clients shared how the firm's advice has helped them stay compliant with the tax laws, upskill their staff, comply with Employment laws and build stronger internal systems. Many described Opracon as a partner that understands both the technical and human-side of business.

The evening also looked ahead. Opracon reaffirmed its commitment to supporting local businesses, skills development through its division, Opracon Skills & Academy, HR and creating solutions that help companies grow sustainably.

> "Ten years ago, we started with a simple goal: to make tax and business advisory accessible and practical for Batswana. Today, we are proud of the partnerships we've built and the impact we've made together,"

As Opracon enters its second decade, the message was clear: the foundation is strong, and the future is about even greater impact.





You Are Collecting Too Much Data: Understanding Data Minimization



Rebaone F. Ditlale- Lead Skills Consultant

Data minimization is a fundamental principle of data protection that requires organizations to collect only the personal data that is necessary for a specific and lawful purpose. According to Section 21 of the Data Protection Act No.18 of 2025 it is explained as "Personal data shall be adequate, relevant and limited to what is necessary in relation to the purpose for which it is processed." In simple terms it says, if you do not need the information, do not collect it. Continue reading as we analyse the aforementioned principle.

WHAT IS THE ISSUE?

Collecting unnecessary data can lead to non-compliance with data protection laws, potentially resulting in regulatory penalties, reputational damage, and legal consequences. Every piece of personal data collected carries a responsibility to be protected from unauthorized access, loss, misuse, or disclosure. When organizations collect excessive information, they increase the amount of data that must be managed and secured. This expands the organization's risk in the event of a data breach. For example, if a job applicant needs to provide a name, qualifications, experience and contact number for recruitment purpose, requesting additional information such as marital status, religion, or Omang details may be unnecessary and unjustifiable.

IMPLEMENTING DATA MINIMIZATION

Data minimization should be integrated into every stage of an organization's data lifecycle. Finding the specific reason for collecting personal data is the first step. After defining the purpose, organisations should carefully consider what information is actually needed to accomplish that goal. To remove unnecessary data categories, entities should regularly examine application forms, recruitment processes, client onboarding procedures, and digital platforms. Every question asked during mentioned processes should have a clear justification.

THE BENEFITS OF LESS DATA

Adopting data minimization approach provides a numerous benefit beyond regulatory compliance. It reduces the organization's overall risk by limiting the amount of sensitive information that could be compromised during a data breach. Less data means fewer opportunities for misuse or unauthorized access. Additionally, data minimization strengthens customer trust, individuals are more likely to engage with organizations that demonstrate respect for their privacy and collect information responsibly. Transparency about data collection practices can enhance an organization's reputation and foster stronger relationships with customers and employees.

OUR SERVICES

The Data Protection Act (DP Act) mandates every organization to put strict safeguards regarding personal data and in that regard, we can assist with crafting Data Protection Policies in line with the said Act. Some organizations such as schools, hospitals, regulatory bodies etc, are required to have full-time Data Protection Officers (DPO). If you cannot afford a full-time DPO, we can act as your organization's DPO on contract basis. If you need training for your staff on the provisions of the Data Protection Act and other business courses such as Leadership & Supervisory Skills, Customer Care, Team Building as well as secondments of Tax, HR and DPOs, contact us at: +267 76 213 233 or +267 393 9435 or skills@aupracontax.co.bw. This article is general, and written advice or training is recommended if decisions are to be made. If you require to join our free WhatsApp groups or to know more about our services, please send us a text/WhatsApp on the numbers above.

oprácon
SKILLS & ACADEMY
Skills brokerage - Upskilling - Business Training

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

CASE NO: IC EX 149/26

In the matter between:
RAYMOND MADUMETSA **PLAINTIFF**
And
CLOUD NETWORKS (PTY) LTD **DEFENDANT**

NOTICE OF SALE IN EXECUTION

BE PLEASED TO TAKE NOTICE that pursuant to the judgment granted in favor of Plaintiff by the above Honorable court the following property will be sold by public auction by Deputy Sheriff OMPHEMETSE PETER KAISARA to the highest bidder as follows:

DATE OF SALE : 19.08.2026
VENUE : BROADHURST POLICE & DOMBOSHABA COMPLEX, BLOCK 8, GABORONE
TIME : 10: 00 AM
PROPERTY TO BE SOLD : Porter cabin, brother printer, 6 chairs, fellows book printer, 2 industrial staplers, Lenovo laptop

DATED AT GABORONE ON THE 28TH DAY OF JULY 2026.

DEPUTY SHERIFF OMPHEMETSE KAISARA
CELL NO: 72195113/71222244/3190188
PLOT 163 UNIT 13 GICP
P. O. BOX 4433
GABORONE

NOTIFICATION OF INTENTION TO DISPOSE TRIBAL LAND TO A NON –CITIZEN

Notice is issued in a Certificate of the Tribal Land Act of 2018, section 16, subsection (1) (a to e), the transaction involves the following property:

CERTAIN : Residential Lot No 64;
SITUATE : at Boseja, Mahalapye
MEASURING : 30mx50mx30mx50m (1500sqm)

TITLE : Held under an agreement of Certificate of Customary Land Grants and Leases for residential purposes signed on 22nd April 2004 between **Mahalapye Sub Land Board** and **Anthony Monthe**.

The transaction between Briton Nyoni and Anthony Monthe for the sum of **P135, 000.00** (One Hundred and Thirty Five Thousand Pula Only.) This is a subject to such other terms and conditions as available for inspection and consideration of the plot.

By virtue of this notice, any citizen of Botswana Interested in entering into a similar offer of the above property must give their submission to the contacts below within (30) days of this publication of this notice.

Cellphone: +26773360786, +26772189700

Email: kambaiattorneys@outlook.com

MONCHO J
IN THE HIGH COURT OF THE REPUBLIC OBOTSWANA
HELD AT LOBATSE

CASE NO: CVHGB-003713-25

In the matter between:
FIRST NATIONAL BANK BOTSWANA LIMITED **Plaintiff**
and
BOJOSI MIKE SAPELO **Defendant**

NOTICE OF SALE IN EXECUTION

BE PLEASED TO TAKE NOTICE that pursuant to a Judgment of the above Honourable Court, the following property of the Defendant will be sold by public auction to the highest bidder by Deputy Sheriff **AUGUSTINE MOKALAKE** as follows:

DATE OF SALE : 07 August 2026
PLACE : Lot 76265, GABORONE
TIME : 10:00 am
PROPERTY TO BE SOLD : Defendant's right, title and interest on a Certain Piece of Land being **Lot 76265**, Gaborone North, Gaborone, Measuring **545m²**

CONDITIONS OF SALE : May be inspected at the office of the Deputy Sheriff.

DATED AT GABORONE THIS DAY OF 2026.

Olsen LEGAL

DEPUTY SHERIFF AUGUSTINE MOKALAKE
C/O OLSEN LEGAL
OLSEN LEGAL
Plaintiff Attorneys
Plot 7828, Maruapula
P.O. Box 1605
GABORONE
(TEL: 3932028/73573777)
(Ref: PO.tn.FRS-035)

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

CASE NO. CCMBR- 000921/25

In the matter between:
VIPRE SECURITY (PTY) LTD **PLAINTIFF**
And
MOTHUSI LENTSWE **DEFENDANT**

NOTICE OF SALE IN EXECUTION

BE PLEASED TO TAKE NOTICE that pursuant to judgement of the above honorable Court the following property of the above-mentioned Respondent/Defendant will be sold by public Auction by Deputy Sherriff Kebonyekgosi Ntebele to the highest bidder as follows:

DATE OF SALE : 27th August 2026
VENUE : In front of Broadhurst Magistrate Court, Gaborone
TIME : 11:30 AM

PROPERTY TO BE SOLD : 1x1 Hisense TV, 2 TV Stand, Couch, Coffee Table, Ottoman Chair 2 Washing Machine, Double Door Fridge, Dinner Table, 5 Chairs 3 Couches, TV, Chest of Drawer, King Size Bed, Headboard, Side Tables, Queen Bed, Table 9kg Cylinder, Braai Stand, Outdoor Table & Chairs

TERMS OF SALE : Cash or Electronic Fund Transfer

DEPUTY SHERRIF KEBONYEKGOSI NTEBELE
P O BOX 774 ABG SEBELE
GABORONE
Contact Mr. Ntebele @ +267 71694303

BOBA STAYS ON COURSE

The Botswana Boxing Association says it has largely kept to its 2026 calendar, with major competitions, club development and national team programmes continuing as planned

TLOTLO KEBINAKGABO

The Botswana Boxing Association (BoBA) says it remains largely on track with the implementation of its 2026 calendar, despite making what it described as a few unavoidable adjustments.

BoBA spokesperson Kabelo Seleka said the association has already delivered several key activities scheduled for the year, including the National Boxing League, club licensing engagements, development programmes and the recently concluded 3rd UB Open Boxing Championship.

"Yes, we are largely on track. Despite a few unavoidable adjustments, we have successfully delivered key activities on our calendar, including the National Boxing League, club licensing engagements, development programmes, and most recently the successful 3rd UB Open Boxing Championship," Seleka said in a telephone interview.

He said the association continues working with its affiliates and stakeholders to ensure the remaining activities are delivered as planned.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Seleka said boxing supporters can expect more competitions and development initiatives over the coming months.

These include the continuation of the National Boxing League, additional club-hosted tournaments, youth development programmes, coaching and technical development initiatives, and the implementation of the Club Licensing Programme.

"We also have preparations for regional and international competitions as we continue strengthening our development pathway," he said.

NATIONAL TEAM

Seleka said the senior national team is currently competing at the Commonwealth Games after completing preparations that included local training camps, participation in a regional camp in Zambia and structured technical programmes.

He said once the Commonwealth Games campaign concludes, the association's attention will turn to continental and international competitions as part of its long-term high-performance programme.

"Our expectation is for the team to compete confidently and represent Botswana with pride," Seleka said.

He added that while performance remains a priority, the association also places importance on exposing athletes to high-level international competition.

According to Seleka, training has focused on conditioning, technical refinement, tactical awareness, ring management and adapting to different fighting styles to prepare boxers for international opposition.

YEAR PRIORITIES

Seleka said Botswana boxing is on a positive trajectory, citing increased participation, stronger club engagement, improved governance structures and growing interest from partners and stakeholders.

> "Our goal is to build a sustainable boxing ecosystem where strong clubs build a strong BoBA, and a strong BoBA builds stronger boxing in Botswana."

He said BoBA's priorities for the remainder of the year include strengthening club development through club licensing, growing the National Boxing League, enhancing technical capacity, investing in youth development and continuing to implement its Strategic Plan 2025–2028.



"Our goal is to build a sustainable boxing ecosystem where strong clubs build a strong BoBA, and a strong BoBA builds stronger boxing in Botswana," he said.

Orange Phikwe Marathon Weekend



A decade-long race driving sport and business growth

GAZETTE REPORTER

The Orange Phikwe National Marathon returns this Saturday at Sam Sono Stadium in Selebi-Phikwe, bringing together elite and recreational runners from Botswana and neighbouring countries.

Organised by the Selebi-Phikwe Town Council in partnership with Orange Botswana, the event will feature a 10km race, a 21.1km half marathon, the full 42.2km marathon and a 5km fun run.

The marathon will also include veteran and master veteran categories for both men and women competing in the 42.2km race.

Formerly known as the Bosele Marathon, the event has been held in Selebi-Phikwe since 1985. It was founded by the late Boet Kahts and Phil Roberts as a community fun run before developing into a national-level competition that attracts runners from countries including Zimbabwe, Kenya and South Africa.

ECONOMIC IMPACT

Orange Botswana Public Relations and Communication Manager Tebogo Nadisah said the Orange Phikwe National Marathon has reached a significant milestone, celebrating 10 years of growth under the company's involvement.

She said Orange Botswana's investment in the event reflects a long-term commitment to using sport as a tool for economic growth and social transformation.

"The Orange Phikwe National Marathon has grown into much more than a sporting event. Over the last 10 years, it has become a platform that stimulates economic activity, supports local businesses and creates meaningful opportunities for communities in Selebi-Phikwe," said Nadisah.

The marathon has become an important period for businesses in the town, with hotels often fully booked during marathon weekends. Food vendors, transport operators, retailers and small businesses also experience increased demand as visitors travel to Selebi-Phikwe for the event.

Organisers say the race has helped position Selebi-Phikwe as an emerging sports tourism destination.

ATHLETE DEVELOPMENT

Beyond its economic contribution, the marathon continues to provide a competitive platform for athletes under official athletics structures.

The race gives local runners an opportunity to compete for prize money while improving their rankings and qualification prospects for international competitions, including the Olympic Games.

Nadisah said the marathon has become a platform for identifying and developing athletic talent in Botswana.

"We have seen the marathon create real opportunities for athletes, from grassroots participation to elite competition. It provides a credible stage for talent identification and athlete development while inspiring the next generation of runners," she said.

The event is delivered in partnership with the Selebi-Phikwe Town Council and the Botswana Athletics Association, with stakeholders working to identify and support promising young athletes through nutrition, equipment and travel assistance.

> "The Orange Phikwe National Marathon has grown into much more than a sporting event."

As the marathon enters another chapter, organisers expect this year's edition to continue the event's long-standing role in promoting athletics, supporting local businesses and strengthening Selebi-Phikwe's profile as a sporting destination.



BOTSWANA PUSHES SPORT INTEGRITY

At Commonwealth meetings in Glasgow, Botswana outlined plans to strengthen sports governance while positioning the sector as a driver of economic growth and investment

GAZETTE REPORTER

Botswana has reaffirmed its commitment to strengthening sports integrity and positioning sport as a key contributor to economic development during the Interministerial Meetings held on the sidelines of the ongoing Glasgow Commonwealth Games.

Minister of Sport and Arts Jacob Kelebeng said protecting the integrity of sport was essential to preserving fair play, ethics, respect and public confidence. He said Botswana welcomed the practical tools and guidance developed through the International Partnership against Corruption in Sport to strengthen governance, transparency, accountability and integrity across the sporting ecosystem.

"At the national level, Botswana has made significant progress in strengthening its anti-doping framework," Kelebeng said.

He said the government had enacted the Anti-Doping Act and accompanying regulations, creating a legislative framework aligned with the UNESCO International Convention against Doping in Sport and the World Anti-Doping Code. The legislation paves the way for the establishment of Botswana's National Anti-Doping Organization.

Kelebeng also announced that Botswana would host the second edition of the UNESCO Regional Capacity-Building Programme for the 2024–2025 non-compliant African States Parties. The programme will bring together 16 African states to strengthen legislative and institutional anti-doping frameworks.

"In line with the 11th Commonwealth Sports Ministers Meeting mandate to enhance sport integrity and combat corruption, Botswana has also institutionalised compulsory integrity education for elite national teams ahead of major international competitions," he said.

ECONOMIC VISION

Kelebeng said Botswana viewed sport as an emerging economic sector capable of creating jobs, stimulating tourism, attracting investment and contributing to sustainable national development.

He pointed to Botswana's hosting of the Debswana World Athletics Relays as evidence of the sector's economic potential, saying the event generated activity across tourism, hospitality, transport, retail and small businesses while raising Botswana's international profile as a destination for major sporting events.

"We continue to invite sporting organizations to consider Botswana as an ideal host country," he said.

Despite economic challenges, Kelebeng said the government remained committed to investing in sports infrastructure under the National Development Plan.

"We intend to build a new 40 000-seater national stadium. We will also build community stadiums across the country as well as integrated sporting facilities," he said.

> "Together, we can ensure that investment in sport is recognized not as an expense, but as a strategic investment in our economies, our people, and our future."

He welcomed the proposal to establish a Commonwealth Centre of Excellence and hub for sport and economic growth, saying it would support research, knowledge sharing, capacity building and the exchange of best practices.

Kelebeng also urged Commonwealth countries to conduct research into sport's economic contribution.

"Together, we can ensure that investment in sport is recognized not as an expense, but as a strategic investment in our economies, our people, and our future," he said, adding that evidence-based research would help attract investors and strengthen government investment in sport.

Debswana GM's Soccer Fiesta Deepens Community Impact

As the Debswana Jwaneng Mine GM's Soccer Fiesta enters its fifth edition, organisers say rising attendance and fundraising have enabled projects in health and education, with another community set to benefit this year

GAZETTE REPORTER

The Debswana Jwaneng Mine GM's Soccer Fiesta will return from July 31 to August 2, with organisers saying proceeds from this year's tournament will be directed towards health and education initiatives in Tlhankane.

Speaking ahead of the event, Njabulo Gilika said the tournament has evolved from a football competition into a platform for community development, with each edition funding social projects in and around Jwaneng.

COMMUNITY IMPACT

Gilika said the initiative began in 2022, with proceeds initially channelled towards grassroots development.

By 2023, organisers had raised and quantified P225,000, which was used to support the establishment of the Jwaneng Galaxy women's team.

"We found it fit to support the girl child through the women's team," Gilika said.

The third edition, held in 2024, featured Zimbabwean side Highlanders and attracted about 4,000 spectators.

According to Gilika, the event raised P750,000, which was used to refurbish hostels at Mogale Junior Secondary School, benefiting more than 200 students living there.

Attendance doubled in 2025 to about 8,000 spectators, while fundraising reached P1.4 million.

"This shows that there's continuous growth. This means we can impact more," Gilika said.

He said the funds were used to address the lack of health facilities in Betesankwe, culminating in the handover of a fully fledged clinic on July 17 at a cost of P1.4 million.

FIFTH EDITION

This year's tournament will feature Gaborone United, Mochudi Centre Chiefs, Jwaneng Galaxy and Namibia's African Stars in the men's competition.

Gilika said organisers have maintained the practice of inviting at least one team from outside Botswana.

He added that Gaborone United and Jwaneng Galaxy are also preparing for continental competitions, saying the tournament supports their preparations.

Gilika said the call for additional sponsors remains open ahead of the event.



"We are pleading for them," he said.

SPONSOR SUPPORT

Speaking on behalf of title sponsor Barloworld Equipment, Derrick Musa said the company has operated in Botswana for more than 60 years, supplying mining and construction equipment.

He said the company has partnered with Debswana since the mining company's inception and continues to support the tournament despite economic pressures.

"Even in the current challenging economic environment we have sponsored with about P400,000. Last year we pumped about P1 million. We pleaded with Debswana to reduce the amount because the trading environment is not favourable," Musa said.

He also encouraged participating clubs to introduce younger teams and said the tournament would generate economic activity in Jwaneng over the three-day period.

Sunbet's P6.5 Million Sport Bet



Betting operator deepens Botswana sport investment with new Gaborone United commitment

TLOTLO KEBINAKGABO

Sunbet has reaffirmed its commitment to Botswana sport after announcing a P4 million sponsorship for Gaborone United over the next two seasons, as the betting operator continues to expand its investment in local sporting initiatives.

Speaking at an awards ceremony, Sunbet Country Manager Tsholofelo Makgoeng said the company's support for sport was driven by a belief in its ability to unite communities, inspire young people and create opportunities.

"At Sunbet, we believe greatness is never accidental—it is built through hard work, resilience, ambition, and the courage to dream bigger," Makgoeng said.

The latest commitment forms part of Sunbet's broader investment in Botswana sport, with the company stating that it has invested more than P6.5 million in Gaborone United and Township Rollers over the past two years.

GROWING FOOTPRINT

Makgoeng said Sunbet's involvement extends beyond football, with the company also committing P1 million towards health through sport through its partnership with Fearless Fitness Botswana and its 10k Run series.

The operator continues to support initiatives including Siwelele Social Club and horse racing in Letlhakane and Maun.

"Our support does not end there. We continue to back initiatives in the social space and horse racing because we understand that every sporting code deserves an opportunity to grow, develop talent, and inspire future generations," she said.

Sunbet, which was the first betting operator licensed by the Gambling Authority, also outlined plans to expand its physical presence beyond its current Betting Halls in Gaborone and Palapye, while maintaining accessibility through its digital platforms.

> "Sport has the power to unite communities, inspire young people, and create opportunities that extend far beyond the field of play."

Makgoeng said the expansion would focus on bringing services closer to customers while contributing to local economic growth through employment opportunities, support for suppliers and businesses.

"Being first is not simply about leading the market; it is about leading with responsibility, integrity, and a long-term commitment to Botswana and its people," she said.



BFA president says Gaborone United's transformation shows how investment, professionalism and sustainability can reshape Botswana football

GAZETTE REPORTER

Botswana Football Association (BFA) president Tariq Babitseng has commended Gaborone United chairman Nicolas Zachem's investment approach, describing the club's transformation as an example of how football institutions can be built through vision, planning and sustainable investment.

Speaking at the Gaborone United Sunbet Build for Greatness Awards Gala on Friday, Babitseng, who is also the COSAFA president, said the club's achievements went beyond winning trophies, highlighting its infrastructure, professional systems and commercial approach.

"Gaborone United has transformed itself from being one of Botswana's biggest clubs into one of Botswana's best-run football institutions," Babitseng said.

The remarks came after a historic season for the club, with both the men's and women's teams winning their respective competitions and earning the opportunity to represent Botswana in CAF competitions.

"What a season it has been for Gaborone United Football Club. The men's team are champions. The Red Roses are champions," Babitseng said. "These trophies are more than silverware. They are symbols of discipline, planning, unity, resilience and belief."

ZACHEM'S VISION

Babitseng said Zachem's contribution demonstrated the difference between simply funding a football club and building a long-term institution.

"Many people invest in football, but very few transform football," he said. "There is a difference between spending money and building a legacy."

He said genuine investment was reflected through facilities, professional structures, commercial assets and systems that create opportunities for players and communities.

"Zachem, you have not simply invested in Gaborone United; you have invested in Botswana football," Babitseng said.

He encouraged other clubs and football administrators to learn from Gaborone United's model.

"I encourage every football investor, every club chairman and every executive committee in Botswana to come here, not to admire it, but to learn from it. Benchmark it. Study it. Then go back and build something even greater," he said.

AWARDS CELEBRATED

The gala also recognised players and staff members who contributed to the club's successful season.

Each award winner received P5,000 and a cellphone courtesy of Yash Cell, a club partner.

Alford Velaphi and Nancy Baeletsi were named the Most Disciplined Players for the men's and ladies' teams respectively, while Nancy Baeletsi and Mothusi Johnson won the Supporters' Player of the Season awards.

Thatayaone Kgamanyane and Jessica Yaone Modise were recognised as the top goal scorers, while Thabo Motswagole and Tlamelo Pheresi were named Goalkeepers of the Season.

Karabo Phiri and Oratile Rathari received the Players' Player of the Season awards for the men's and ladies' teams respectively.

FOOTBALL FUTURE

Babitseng said Gaborone United's progress should motivate other clubs to focus on building sustainable football structures.

"Do not envy what Gaborone United has achieved. Learn from it. Benchmark it. Improve upon it," he said.

He added that the growth of well-run clubs would strengthen Botswana football and help the country compete at continental level.

"Tonight, celebrate your success. Tomorrow morning, wake up like champions who have won nothing yet. Because Africa will not remember what you achieved in Botswana. Africa will remember what you achieve when you carry Botswana's flag," Babitseng said.



TEBOGO FOUNDATION BEGINS JOURNEY

Foundation launches with a pledge to support cancer survivors as Orange Botswana commits P250,000 towards the initiative

TLOTLO KEBINAKGABO

The Letsile Tebogo Charitable Foundation has been officially launched, with a commitment to supporting cancer survivors and their families while promoting awareness, early detection and improved access to support services.

Speaking at the launch held yesterday (Tuesday)Ano Tebogo delivered a speech on behalf of Letsile Tebogo, describing the Foundation as more than a charitable organisation, but a legacy built from personal loss, love and a commitment to serve others.

"This Foundation is not simply an organisation. It is my mother's legacy," she said.

Letsile Tebogo lost his mother in May 2024 after a nine-year battle with cancer. Ano said the experience shaped the vision behind the Foundation, which seeks to ensure that cancer survivors do not feel forgotten after treatment.

"The Letsile Tebogo Charitable Foundation was not established simply to become another charitable organisation. It was born from a conviction that no cancer survivor should ever feel forgotten once treatment ends," she said.

She highlighted that while ringing the hospital bell may represent victory for many patients, survivors often face additional challenges, including emotional healing, rebuilding confidence, financial hardship, uncertainty and fear of recurrence.

PERSONAL JOURNEY

Ano said cancer affected not only her mother but the entire family, changing their daily lives and priorities.

"For nine years, cancer became part of our everyday life. Hospitals became our second home. Medical appointments filled our calendars. Medication became routine. Hope and heartbreak became constant companions," she said.

She said watching her mother endure the illness was one of the most difficult experiences for the family.

"As a son, there is no pain greater than watching your mother suffer while feeling completely powerless to take that pain away," she said.

Ano added that after his mother's passing, Letsile made a promise that her battle would continue through efforts to support others affected by cancer.

"I promised that my mother's battle would not end with her passing. I promised that her suffering would become someone else's hope," she said.

The Foundation's programmes will focus on psychosocial counselling, emotional support, cancer awareness, early detection campaigns, survivor support groups, empowerment programmes, skills development, healthcare support initiatives and strategic partnerships.

CORPORATE SUPPORT

Orange Botswana Acting Chief Executive Officer Gobe Mbayi said the company was proud to support the Foundation, describing it as an initiative centred on purpose and social impact.

"This morning is about much more than the launch of a charity. It is about purpose. It is about courage. And it is about choosing to use success not only as a measure of personal achievement, but as a platform to uplift others," Mbayi said.

He said Letsile's decision to establish the Foundation demonstrated that greatness was not only measured by sporting achievements, but also by the lives impacted.

"The Letsile Foundation is a powerful reminder that true greatness is measured not only by the medals we win, but by the lives we touch," he said.

Mbayi said the Foundation's focus on breast cancer awareness was important, noting that the disease affects families across Botswana.

"By shining a spotlight on this cause, the Letsile Foundation is helping to break down stigma, encourage early screening and remind every person facing this journey that they are not alone," he said.

He added that Orange Botswana would work with the Foundation to amplify awareness messages and mobilise communities.

"We are not simply supporting an event. We are supporting a vision," Mbayi said.

FUTURE PLANS

The Foundation announced that its first major national initiative will be a Cancer Symposium scheduled for November 2026.

The symposium will bring together healthcare professionals, researchers, policymakers, survivors, caregivers, students, corporate leaders and community organisations to share knowledge, strengthen support systems and promote early detection.

Ano called on government, businesses, healthcare institutions, development partners and citizens to support the Foundation's mission.

"Dreams alone do not change lives. Passion alone does not change lives. Foundations alone do not change lives. People do. Partnerships do. Compassion does," she said.

She said the Foundation's success would ultimately be measured by transformed lives.

"Our success will be measured by transformed lives. By the survivor who smiles again. By the mother who regains hope. By the father who finds strength," she said.

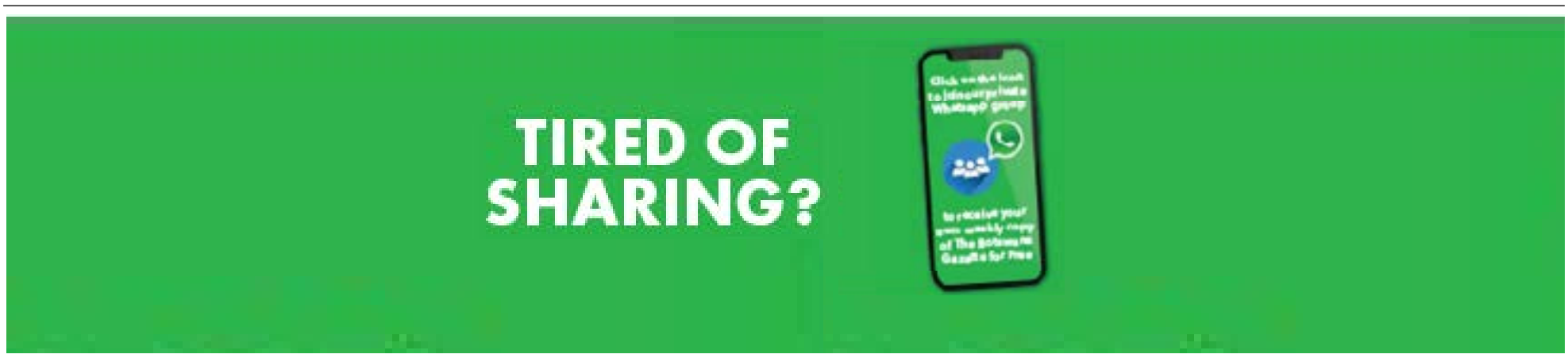
ORANGE PLEDGE

Orange Botswana has pledged P250,000 towards the Letsile Tebogo Charitable Foundation as part of its commitment to supporting the initiative.

> "This Foundation is not simply an organisation. It is my mother's legacy."

The announcement was made by Orange Botswana Public Relations and Communication Manager Tebogo Nadisah during the launch, where she said the company was committed to partnering with the Foundation in advancing its mission of supporting cancer survivors and raising awareness.

The contribution adds to Orange Botswana's partnership with Letsile Tebogo, with the company saying it will continue using its platforms and resources to amplify messages around cancer awareness, early detection and community support.



TIRED OF SHARING?



BACKPAGE
WEDNESDAY 29 JULY 2026
SINCE 1984

The Botswana Gazette
SPORT



BOTSWANA PUSHES SPORT INTEGRITY

At Commonwealth meetings in Glasgow, Botswana outlined plans to strengthen sports governance while positioning the sector as a driver of economic growth and investment

39.

BOBA STAYS ON COURSE



The Botswana Boxing Association says it has largely kept to its 2026 calendar, with major competitions, club development and national team programmes continuing as planned

38.