The Botswana
GAZETTE
WEDNESDAY 05 AUGUST 2026 | SINCE 1984

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DE BEERS REJECTS P14BN TAX CLAIM

The diamond giant insists it has met its obligations as opposition pressure grows for government to clarify whether Botswana is owed P14 billion in unpaid tax.

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4.

More IDs Proposed for Voting

Russia Talks Shadowed By Recruitment Crisis

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DE BEERS REJECTS P14BN TAX CLAIM

The diamond giant insists it has met its obligations as opposition pressure grows for government to clarify whether Botswana is owed P14 billion in unpaid tax.



BONGANI MALUNGA

De Beers has rejected renewed claims that it owes Botswana billions of pula in unpaid taxes as opposition pressure mounts on government to explain its handling of an alleged P14 billion liability.

The denial follows growing scrutiny from opposition parties demanding clarity over the long-running tax controversy.

The Botswana Democratic Party (BDP) was the first political party to raise the issue publicly after its defeat in the 2024 general elections, questioning whether the new administration would pursue what it described as a potentially significant revenue recovery matter.

PARLIAMENT WAITS

The matter has since reached Parliament, where BDP legislator Palelo Mataosane is seeking answers from Finance Minister and Vice President Ndaba Gaolatlhe on government's position regarding the alleged tax debt.

Mataosane's question was placed on the National Assembly order paper on 14 July and remained listed as recently as Tuesday, 4 August.

On both occasions, he was unable to pose it because question time expired before Parliament moved to scheduled motions.

DE BEERS DENIAL

De Beers insists it has met its tax obligations and rejects suggestions that it avoided paying what was legally due to the Botswana Unified Revenue Service (BURS).

Speaking during the company's 2026 half-year results presentation last week, De Beers Executive Vice President for Diamond Trading Paul Rowley said the company had consistently operated within tax regulations in every jurisdiction where it does business.

"All I can say is that actually we spent a lot of time with BURS over many years on their advanced pricing agreements. It's fair to say, De Beers has been committed to, throughout where it works as a global international company and remains committed to compliance with relevant tax laws in any jurisdictions, to be quite honest. And we make sure that we operate and we pay the right amount of taxes at the right time. And we've never done anything different to that. And as I said, that's, you know, it took a long time from when we moved to making sure that we had the relevant Advance Pricing Agreements in place and everything, as far as I'm concerned, for sure, the De Beers group is in place. So that's as far as I can state on that particular question, if that's okay," Rowley remarked.

ANSWERS DEMANDED

The alleged dispute has become politically charged, with opposition figures arguing that government must account for why it has not pursued the reported claim if such a liability exists.

The controversy comes as Botswana seeks greater value from its diamond industry and enters a new phase in its decades-long relationship with De Beers.

While the company maintains that the allegations have no basis, opposition parties continue to demand clarity on whether Botswana is owed billions and, if so, why recovery efforts have not been publicly pursued.

Botswana Sinks As Neighbours Rebound

The AfDB says Botswana remained in contraction in 2025 as diamond dependence and collapsing investment left it behind rebounding regional economies.

GAZETTE REPORTER

Botswana emerged as the weakest-performing economy among Southern Africa's major economies in 2025, with the African Development Bank (AfDB) warning that heavy dependence on diamonds has left the country exposed to global commodity shocks.

The AfDB's Southern Africa Economic Outlook 2026 shows that Botswana recorded negative growth in 2025, placing it at the bottom of the region's growth rankings as neighbouring economies rebounded.

GROWTH CONTRACTS

According to the report, Botswana's economy contracted by 2.8 percent in 2024 before recording growth of minus 0.3 percent in 2025. The subdued performance was largely driven by a collapse in investment and severe external pressures linked to the downturn in the global diamond market.

"Botswana's economy shows a contraction of 2.8% in 2024 and records a subdued recovery to -0.3% in 2025," the AfDB states. It warns that "the downturn in the global diamond market underscores the risks associated with commodity dependence."

NEIGHBOURS REBOUND

Zimbabwe recorded the strongest economic performance in Southern Africa in 2025, with growth of 7.6 percent. Zambia followed at 5.2 percent, while Eswatini achieved 4.6 percent.

Botswana remained in contraction, reflecting what the AfDB describes as structural weaknesses, including limited diversification and over-reliance on extractive industries.

"Growth remained negative in Botswana (-0.3%), reflecting a significant contraction in investment alongside sizeable external adjustments," the report states.

DIAMOND EXPOSURE

The assessment has renewed concern over Botswana's decades-long reliance on diamonds as the backbone of government revenue, exports and economic growth.

Diamonds have historically contributed significantly to foreign exchange earnings and fiscal stability, but weaker global demand and prices have exposed an economy that has struggled to develop alternative growth engines.



The report says industrial activity across Southern Africa remains concentrated in extractive and resource-based industries, with manufacturing capacity still limited.

"Industrial activity remained concentrated in extractive and resource-based industries, reflecting the region's continued dependence on mining and primary commodity production," AfDB says.

UNEVEN RECOVERY

Botswana's contraction comes as other regional economies recover through agriculture, investment and consumption. Zimbabwe's growth was strongly supported by household consumption, while Zambia benefited from consumption and investment.

The AfDB says regional growth improved from 2.0 percent in 2024 to 2.3 percent in 2025, with further expansion expected, although the recovery remains uneven.

"Quality of growth remains uneven across the region," the report warns. It says much of the expansion is driven by agriculture and extractive industries, which create limited formal employment opportunities.

> "The downturn in the global diamond market underscores the risks associated with commodity dependence."

Services added 1.7 percentage points to regional GDP growth, while industry remained a drag, subtracting 0.1 percentage points.

The AfDB says finance, tourism, telecommunications and public administration have helped more diversified economies perform better, while resource-dependent countries remain vulnerable.

Russia Talks Shadowed By Recruitment Crisis

Plans for a Botswana embassy in Moscow are advancing as government confronts reports that citizens are being deceived into combat in the Russia-Ukraine war.



On 18 July, Botswana’s Ministry of International Relations issued a warning after receiving reports that increasing numbers of Batswana were being lured abroad through deceptive recruitment campaigns.

GAZETTE REPORTER

Botswana and Russia have intensified talks over the possible opening of a Botswana embassy in Moscow, days after Gaborone warned that a growing number of citizens were allegedly being deceived into joining the Russia-Ukraine war.

The diplomatic engagement gained momentum after a meeting between Russia’s Deputy Foreign Minister Gennady Borisenko and Botswana’s Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of International Relations, Tyco Ramodimosi, on 28 July 2026.

EMBASSY TALKS

Russia’s Ministry of Foreign Affairs said the officials discussed strengthening bilateral cooperation in trade, economic relations, politics, humanitarian affairs and other areas.

“Special attention was paid to the issue of opening a diplomatic mission of Botswana in Russia,” the Russian ministry said.

RECRUITMENT WARNING

The talks come amid growing concern in Botswana over citizens allegedly being recruited through fraudulent job schemes and sent to fight in the Russia-Ukraine conflict.

On 18 July, Botswana’s Ministry of International Relations issued a warning after receiving reports that increasing numbers of Batswana were being lured abroad through deceptive recruitment campaigns.

The government said some citizens had been promised employment opportunities, only to discover after arrival that they were allegedly being forced into combat roles.

“These individuals are often promised employment opportunities, only to discover upon arrival that they are being forced into active combat,” the ministry said.

DISTRESS CALLS

The warning revealed that government had received distress calls from Batswana already on the frontline, describing dangerous conditions and seeking help to return home.

“The Ministry continues to receive heartbreaking calls from Batswana already on the front line, describing the perilous conditions they face,” the statement said.

The ministry warned that Botswana’s ability to provide consular assistance to citizens in conflict zones was ‘extremely limited’.

RED FLAGS

Government urged citizens to verify overseas employment opportunities through official channels before travelling, warning that recruiters often disguise military enlistment as legitimate work.

The warning signs include offers without clear contracts, pressure to travel quickly, unusually high salaries, foreign-language documents that recruits do not understand, sudden changes in travel arrangements and unclear information about accommodation and legal protection.

SENSITIVE DIPLOMACY

The recruitment concerns have added a sensitive dimension to Botswana’s engagement with Russia as Gaborone considers expanding its diplomatic presence in Moscow.

> “These individuals are often promised employment opportunities, only to discover upon arrival that they are being forced into active combat.”

A Botswana embassy could strengthen consular support for citizens, but it would also place government at the centre of managing relations with a country involved in an ongoing international conflict.

The Ministry of International Relations has urged Batswana seeking overseas opportunities to contact official channels before accepting offers.

“The lives and dignity of Batswana must never be put at risk by deception,” the ministry said.

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More IDs Proposed for Voting

Government says accepting passports and driver's licences at polling stations could prevent eligible voters from losing their chance to cast a ballot.

BONGANI MALUNGA

A proposal to allow voters to use driver's licences and passports alongside the national identity card, Omang, at polling stations has emerged as a key electoral reform following last week's All-Party Conference, with the government arguing that it could prevent eligible citizens from being turned away on voting day.

Speaking to the media after the conference, Minister for State President, Defence and Security Moeti Mohwasa said the proposal was among several recommendations to be considered during the planned review of Botswana's Electoral Act. He said the objective was to make voting more accessible while protecting the credibility and integrity of the electoral process.

WIDER ACCESS

"In some instances some people cannot vote despite having identification documents such as driver's licences and passports. We should explore ways of introducing new identification methods for voting such as licences and passports, without diminishing the integrity ID cards (omang)," Mohwasa stated.

> The proposal seeks to address cases in which eligible voters arrive at polling stations without their Omang but have other government-issued documents that can establish their identity.

The proposal seeks to address cases in which eligible voters arrive at polling stations without their Omang but have other government-issued documents that can establish their identity. Under the current system, Omang remains the primary document used to verify a voter's identity before a ballot is issued.

Mohwasa said discussions at the All-Party Conference reflected a shared commitment among political stakeholders to modernise Botswana's electoral framework and remove unnecessary barriers that may prevent citizens from exercising their constitutional right to vote.

ELECTORAL REVIEW

The proposed amendment is expected to form part of broader reforms under the review of the Electoral Act. The process is anticipated to examine voter registration procedures, polling processes and measures aimed at strengthening transparency, accessibility and public confidence in elections.

Mohwasa said allowing alternative forms of identification could increase voter participation, particularly among citizens who have misplaced their Omang, are awaiting replacements or encounter unforeseen circumstances on election day. He maintained that driver's licences and passports are official government-issued documents carrying sufficient identifying information.

However, he stressed that any changes would be carefully designed to preserve the integrity of Botswana's electoral system and ensure that broader identification options do not weaken safeguards against electoral fraud or duplicate voting.

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For Enquiries Contact: **spgsadmin@bac.ac.bw** or
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CLOSING DATE: 31/08/2026

BOTSWANA SCHOOL OF BUSINESS SCIENCES

www.bac.ac.bw

Deposit and Lending Interest Rates Quarterly Report as at July 2026

Deposit rates

BWP – Botswana Pula

	April	May	June	Quarter
Type of deposit account	**Actual interest rate**	**Actual interest rate**	**Actual interest rate**	**Average effective rate**
Current	0.00% - 1.00%	0.00% - 1.00%	0.00% - 1.00%	0.22%
Call	N/A	N/A	0.00% - 0.15%	0.09%
Savings	0.00% - 2.72%	0.00% - 2.72%	0.00% - 2.72%	1.46%
91 days fixed deposit	1.46% - 6.00%	1.46% - 6.00%	1.30% - 8.00%	1.61%
6 months fixed deposit	1.46% - 10.50%	1.46% - 11.00%	1.46% - 9.80%	2.01%
12 months fixed deposit	2.07% - 10.50%	2.07% - 9.00%	1.85% - 11.70%	3.54%
24 months fixed deposit	2.92% - 3.17%	2.92% - 9.00%	2.97% - 5.50%	3.61%
36 months fixed deposit	3.32% - 3.87%	3.17% - 5.00%	3.02% - 3.62%	3.52%

ZAR – South African Rand

	April	May	June	Quarter
Type of deposit account	**Actual interest rate**	**Actual interest rate**	**Actual interest rate**	**Average effective rate**
Call	0.00%	0.00%	N/A	0.00%
91 days fixed deposit	N/A	N/A	3.00%	3.00%

USD – U.S Dollar

	April	May	June	Quarter
Type of deposit account	**Actual interest rate**	**Actual interest rate**	**Actual interest rate**	**Average effective rate**
91 days fixed deposit	N/A	0.20% - 0.80%	3.50% - 3.50%	1.50%
6 months fixed deposit	N/A	2.27% - 2.53%	2.89% - 3.82%	1.92%
12 months fixed deposit	2.00%	1.80%	2.00% - 3.50%	2.69%

EUR – Euro

	April	May	June	Quarter
Type of deposit account	**Actual interest rate**	**Actual interest rate**	**Actual interest rate**	**Average effective rate**
12 months fixed deposit	2.00%	N/A	2.00%	2.00%

Lending rates

	April	May	June	Quarter
Lending rates	**Actual interest rate**	**Actual interest rate**	**Actual interest rate**	**Average effective rate**
Monetary policy rate (MoPR)	5.50%			
Mortgage Facility	Absa PLR + 0.5% - Absa PLR + 10.75%	Absa PLR + 0.5% - Absa PLR + 9.25%	Absa PLR + 0.5% - Absa PLR + 10.75%	13.11%
Overdraft facility (revolving credit lines)	Absa PLR + 10% - Absa PLR + 20%	Absa PLR + 10% - Absa PLR + 20%	Absa PLR + 10% - Absa PLR + 20%	24.07%
Credit card	24% - 36%	24% - 36%	24% - 36%	34.49%
Lease loans (VAF)	Absa PLR + 7% - Absa PLR + 12.50%	Absa PLR + 4.75% - Absa PLR + 12.25%	Absa PLR + 7% - Absa PLR + 13%	21.35%
Unsecured Personal Loans (Excluding Overdrafts, Mortgage and Credit Cards)	Absa PLR + 1.5% - Absa PLR + 25%	Absa PLR + 1.5% - Absa PLR + 25%	Absa PLR + 1.5% - Absa PLR + 25%	21.95%
Other long-term loans	Negotiable			
Absa Prime Lending Rate (Absa PLR)	6.76%			

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Court Clears Road Project Funds

The Court of Appeal has lifted orders that froze project funds and stalled the Modipane-Mabalane Road after finding serious procedural and disclosure failures.

GAZETTE REPORTER

The Court of Appeal (CoA) has overturned interim orders that froze Pro-Serve Consulting Botswana's project funds and halted work on the Modipane-Mabalane Road Project, finding that Tau Grading improperly invoked urgent ex parte proceedings, failed to disclose material facts fully and did not meet the strict requirements for an anti-dissipation interdict.

The CoA ruled that Tau Grading improperly obtained urgent interim orders against Pro-Serve Consulting Botswana, Absa Bank Botswana and Unik Construction Engineering through ex parte proceedings that denied the respondents an opportunity to be heard.



The judgment was delivered by Justice of Appeal Isaac Lesetedi, sitting with Court of Appeal President Tebogo Tau and Justice Cameron. It discharged the interim orders that had frozen the project funds and prevented work on the Modipane-Mabalane Road Project from continuing.

DISCLOSURE FAILURE

A central finding was that Tau Grading failed in its duty to make full and frank disclosure when seeking relief without notifying the other parties.

The court found that Tau Grading did not adequately disclose that its dispute with Pro-Serve had crystallised weeks earlier after the construction contract was terminated. It also failed to present fairly Pro-Serve's position that payment obligations were governed by the contract's "pay when paid" clause.

According to the judgment, Tau Grading also failed to explain that Pro-Serve had consistently maintained that Tau Grading was itself in breach of the agreement and had demanded that it vacate the construction site.

Justice Lesetedi stated that presenting the High Court with the complete background "may likely have influenced the court… against the grant of the order sought."

NO DISSIPATION

The Court of Appeal further found that Tau Grading had failed to justify the extraordinary anti-dissipation interdict granted by the High Court.

The judges ruled that there was no evidence that Pro-Serve or Unik Construction was deliberately dissipating assets or acting to frustrate the enforcement of any future judgment.

Instead, the court found that Pro-Serve's decision to engage another contractor appeared consistent with its stated position that it had lawfully terminated Tau Grading's contract and needed to advance a delayed public infrastructure project.

The judgment also criticised Tau Grading for using the interim order to institute contempt proceedings and seek access to Pro-Serve's bank records before the respondents had filed their answering papers.

Justice Lesetedi noted that Tau Grading had leveraged the order to place the appellants at an unfair disadvantage while litigation unfolded on multiple fronts.

ORDERS SET ASIDE

Having found procedural defects, insufficient disclosure and no basis for the anti-dissipation order, the appellate court set aside the High Court decision, released the frozen project funds and cleared the way for the road project to proceed.



EXTENSION OF DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION OF HRDF REIMBURSEMENT CLAIMS – 2025/2026 FINANCIAL YEAR TO 29TH SEPTEMBER 2026

The Human Resource Development Council (HRDC) wishes to inform clients that the deadline for submission of reimbursement claims for the financial year ended 31st March 2026 has been extended to **29th September 2026.**

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

1. All claims for the 2025/2026 financial year must be submitted by 29th September 2026.
2. Claims must be submitted with **all the required supporting documents before the deadline.**
3. Companies are advised to contact the Claims Department at their earliest convenience for assistance with queries.
4. Companies with previously **returned claim**s are encouraged to resubmit their claims before the deadline.
5. Companies should use the current **Reimbursement Form** (Issue 4) available on the HRDC website: **www.hrdc.org.bw**

For more information on the claims process contact HRDC at:

HRDC Direct line: +267 3930741
Contact Centre Direct line: +267 3162169
Cell Numbers: +267 73530402 | 71707120 | 72264542
Email: hrdfclaims@hrdc.org.bw

Physical Address: Plot 60113, Block 7, Sekoma Road, Ext 48, Gaborone, Botswana
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P355.9m Fleet Renewal Falters



Only half of Air Botswana's six aircraft are operational despite P355.9 million spent on fleet renewal over five years, leaving losses and disruptions unresolved.

BONGANI MALUNGA

Air Botswana's P355.9 million fleet modernisation programme has yet to deliver the promised operational turnaround, with Parliament hearing that the national airline continues to suffer persistent flight disruptions and operating losses.

Responding to a question from Serowe South MP Leepetswe Lesedi in the National Assembly on Monday, Transport and Infrastructure Minister Noah Salakae acknowledged that the fleet renewal programme had not produced the expected financial and operational returns.

Salakae revealed that only three of the airline's six aircraft are currently operational, forcing Air Botswana to reduce its schedule to match the limited fleet available.

HALF GROUNDED

One Embraer E170 remains grounded while awaiting an engine overhaul and a mandatory 15,000-hour C-Check. Two Embraer ERJ145 aircraft are in Namibia awaiting engine and Auxiliary Power Unit (APU) repairs.

"Over the past five (5) years, Air Botswana has invested approximately BWP355.9 million in fleet renewal as part of its fleet modernisation programme. The investment included the acquisition of two Embraer ERJ145 aircraft and one Embraer E175 aircraft to improve operational reliability, increase network flexibility and reduce the average age of the fleet," Salakae told Parliament.

LOSSES CONTINUE

However, the minister conceded that the investment had yet to translate into improved financial performance.

"While this investment has strengthened the airline's long-term operational capability, the financial benefits have not yet been fully realised due to a combination of operational challenges, including aircraft groundings, global supply chain constraints affecting maintenance, rising operating costs, and the continued recovery of the aviation industry following the COVID-19 pandemic. Consequently, the airline has continued to record operating losses during this period despite the strategic investment in fleet renewal."

RECENT PURCHASES

In 2024, Air Botswana spent P131.33 million to procure two Embraer ERJ145 aircraft through a restricted international competitive bidding process after Embraer supplied a list of prospective aircraft brokers.

The first aircraft cost P64.55 million and the second P65.78 million. The procurement costs included maintenance work and repainting before delivery.

Both aircraft were grounded within months of entering service. The first ERJ145 was grounded on 17 August 2025, followed by the second on 6 September 2025, after the airline failed to secure funding for critical engine and APU repairs.

FUNDING DELAYS

Salakae attributed the prolonged groundings to financial constraints, saying the lack of funds had significantly delayed the aircraft's return to service and worsened the airline's operational problems.

The newer Embraer E175, delivered in 2024, remains operational. Salakae said plans were underway to return the grounded E170 to service once the required engine overhaul and mandatory maintenance checks were completed.



DEPOSIT RATES

Type of Deposit Account	Nominal Interest Rate (Lowest - Highest)	Actual Interest Rate (Lowest - Highest)	Minimum Opening Balance (Pula)
Current	NIL	NIL	
Savings	-	-	-
Sesigo	1.75% - 2.75%	1.76% - 2.78%	P200. 00
Ordinary	1.75% - 1.75%	1.76% - 1.76%	P50. 00
SAYE	1.25% - 2.00%	1.26% - 2.02%	P200. 00
Fixed Deposits			
3 Months	0.80% - 1.00%	0.80% - 1.00%	1,000. 00
6 Months	1.40% - 1.75%	1.41% - 1.76%	1,000. 00
12 Months	1.85% - 2.20%	1.87% - 2.22%	1,000. 00
24 Months	2.25% - 2.55%	2.27% - 2.58%	1,000. 00
Over 24 months	3.35% - 3.80%	3.40% - 3.87%	1,000. 00
PRIME LENDING RATE	8.01% 8.01%	8.01% 8.01%	

LENDING RATES

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

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Pilot Exodus Disrupts Air Botswana

Eleven pilot resignations, delayed recurrent training and expired licences are driving cancellations at an airline already struggling to maintain reliable operations.

BONGANI MALUNGA

Air Botswana has blamed persistent flight delays and cancellations on a worsening pilot shortage after 11 cockpit crew members resigned during the first six months of 2026.

Responding to a parliamentary question from Serowe South MP Leepetswe Lesedi, the Ministry of Transport and Infrastructure acknowledged that staffing shortages and delays in pilot training had disrupted the national airline's operations.

PILOTS DEPART

According to the ministry, the departure of experienced pilots, several of whom left for better employment opportunities, has significantly reduced the airline's operational capacity.

"The airline is experiencing a crew shortage following the resignation of 11 pilots between January and June 2026, with some pursuing better offers elsewhere while others left for personal reasons," the ministry said.



"The Middle East war has delayed recurrent training, while a shortage of simulator examiners in Bangkok has prevented the airline from utilising available simulator slots,"

TRAINING DELAYS

The ministry said recurrent training had also been disrupted by external factors, including the conflict in the Middle East, where Air Botswana's ATR72-600 pilots ordinarily undergo training.

"The Middle East war has delayed recurrent training, while a shortage of simulator examiners in Bangkok has prevented the airline from utilising available simulator slots," the response stated.

Several pilots have consequently been grounded after their licences expired while they awaited mandatory recurrent training and requalification.

HOURS EXHAUSTED

The ministry said the remaining qualified pilots were frequently reaching the maximum number of legally permitted flight hours, leaving Air Botswana with little flexibility to operate its scheduled services.

"The available pilots often reach their maximum allowable flight hours, resulting in schedule changes, flight delays and cancellations."

"The available pilots often reach their maximum allowable flight hours, resulting in schedule changes, flight delays and cancellations," the ministry noted.

BOTSWANA BUREAU OF STANDARDS BOBS

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

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

DEPUTY MANAGING DIRECTOR: VACANCY NO: 6/2026/2027

Job Summary
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Minimum Job Requirements:

Qualification	:	Masters Degree in Science or Engineering. MBA would be an added advantage
Experience	:	At least eight (8) years of post qualifying experience of which at least 3 years should be at Management level. Experience in Standardization and Quality Management is essential and good communication and PR skills are desirable.
Competencies	:	Management and leadership skills. Strategic vision, innovation and initiative Pro-active and assertive Strong communication and interpersonal skills

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A detailed CV, names of three referees and certified copies of certificates should accompany applications which should be clearly marked on the envelope the position and vacancy number applied for. Applicants are also advised to indicate their current salary packages. **BOBS will only enter into correspondence with candidates that comply with the specified requirements and are shortlisted**.

Applications should be received on or before **19th August 2026** and should be addressed to:

The Standards Council Chairman
Botswana Bureau of Standards
Private Bag BO 48
Plot 55745, Main Airport Road,
Block 8, Gaborone
Botswana
Or E-mail to: recruitment@bobstandards.bw

Telephone Number	:	3903200.
Fax Number	:	3903120.
Toll Free Number	:	0800 600 941

Stanbic Bank

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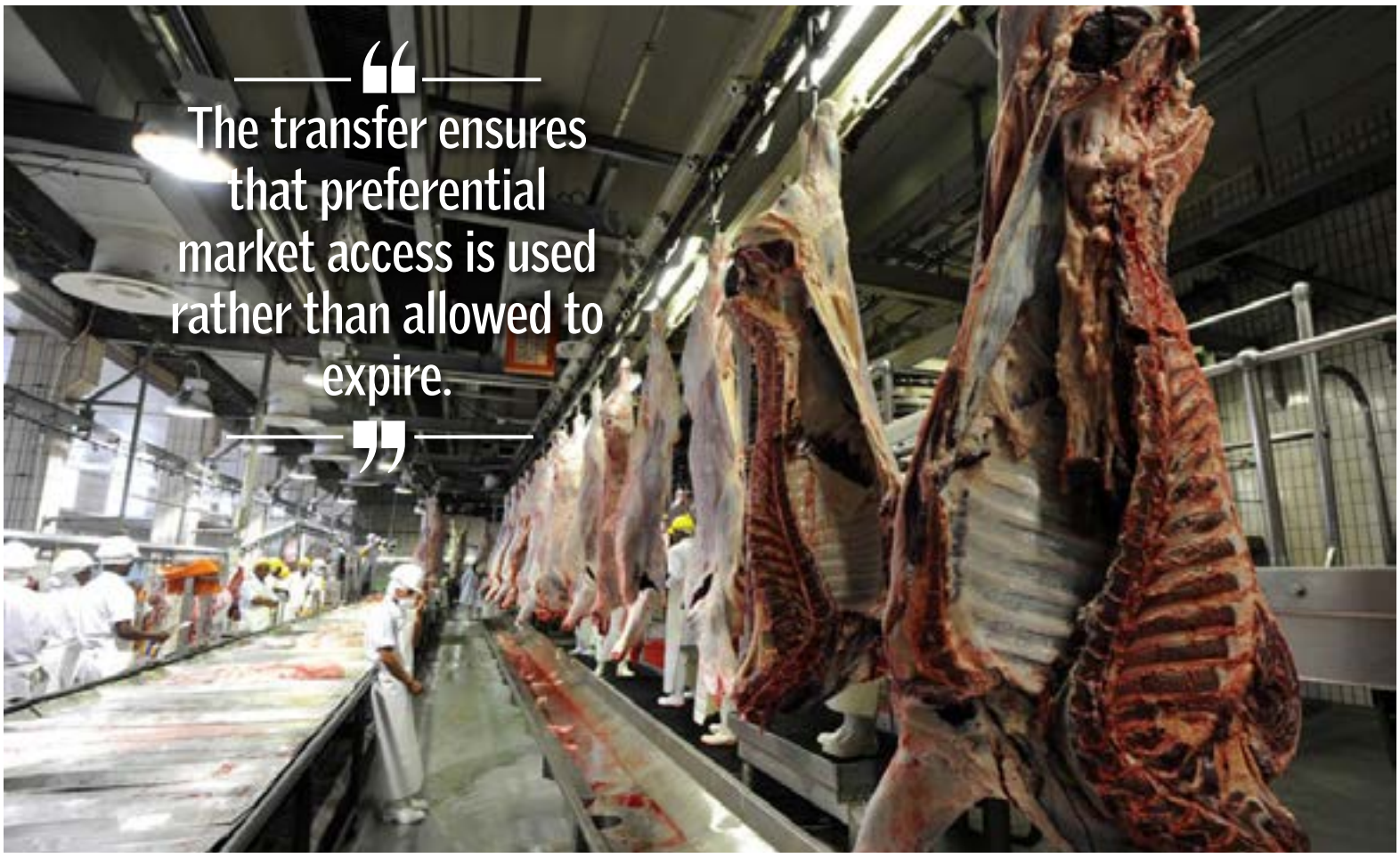
Your trust, ambition and partnership continue to inspire us. Thank you for choosing **Stanbic Bank Botswana** to support your dreams, your business and your future. These achievements belong to you.

Chose Modise
Chief Executive

Member of the Deposit Insurance Scheme of Botswana.

Botswana Extends Namibia Beef Lifeline

Botswana's unused Norwegian beef quota has unlocked about N$100 million for Namibia while ensuring valuable regional market access does not expire.



BONGANI MALUNGA

Botswana has made part of its unused Norwegian beef export quota available to Namibia, enabling the neighbouring country to unlock an additional N$100 million in projected export earnings.

According to Namibian media outlet The Namibian Economist, the transfer was made under the Southern African Customs Union-European Free Trade Association (SACU-EFTA) arrangement.

The move allowed Namibia's state-owned Meat Corporation of Namibia (Meatco) to secure an additional 344,766 kilograms of Norwegian beef export quota after exhausting its original allocation by the end of June.

The additional quota is expected to lift the projected value of Meatco's Norwegian exports for the 2026 calendar year to about N$365 million.

REGIONAL LIFELINE

The transfer ensures that preferential market access available under the SACU-EFTA framework is used rather than allowed to expire.

According to The Namibian Economist, Namibia's annual Norwegian beef export quota is managed under a Cabinet-approved framework, with Meatco receiving 75 percent of the allocation and Beefcor Namibia receiving the remaining 25 percent.

Meatco exhausted its share by the end of June, around five months earlier than in 2025, when the allocation ran out in November. The governments of Botswana and Namibia then concluded an agreement allowing Namibia to access part of Botswana's unused quota.

EXPORT GAINS

The arrangement is expected to maximise export earnings within SACU by ensuring the regional quota is fully used before the end of the year.

Meatco Interim Chief Executive Ambassador Albertus Aochamub described the early exhaustion of Namibia's quota as a major achievement for the country's beef industry.

"It demonstrates the continued confidence that international customers place in premium Namibian beef. It also reflects Meatco's stronger commercial execution and our focus on maximizing value from premium export markets," Aochamub was quoted as saying.

QUOTA SHARED

Aochamub welcomed the bilateral agreement, saying it would allow Meatco to continue supplying Norway and fully use the additional allocation before 31 December.

The quota-sharing arrangement allows SACU member states to reallocate unused preferential quotas to countries where demand and export capacity are strongest.

Norway remains one of Southern Africa's most valuable premium beef destinations under the SACU-EFTA trade agreement. The latest allocation is expected to strengthen trade ties between Botswana and Namibia while keeping the value of the quota within the region.

Vivo energy Botswana

VIVO ENERGY BOTSWANA STAFF PENSION FUND

VACANCY FOR AN INDEPENDENT TRUSTEE

In compliance with legislative requirements, the Board of Trustees of the VIVO Energy Botswana (VIVO) Staff Pension Fund invites applications from suitably qualified and experienced individuals to serve as an Independent Trustee on the Board of Trustees of the Fund.

The Fund is a defined contribution fund which is licensed by the Non-Bank Financial Institutions Regulatory Authority and approved by the Botswana Unified Revenue Service. The Fund has been established with the primary objective of providing post-retirement and other benefits for individuals.

The successful candidate should be well versed in the retirement funds industry, an independent and strategic thinker who is expected to add depth, expertise, and diversity to the Fund's Board of Trustees in carrying out its fiduciary responsibilities on behalf of its members.

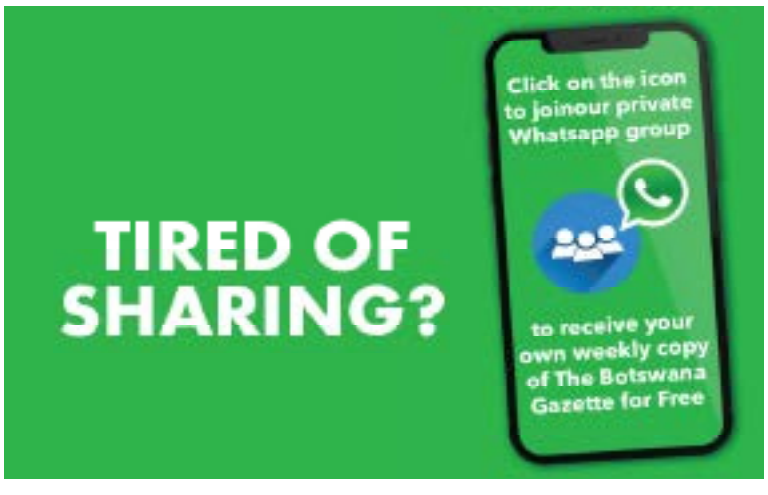
Qualifications and Eligibility of Candidates

- The candidate should be an individual who is not an employee of Minet Botswana, its subsidiaries/related entities or any service provider to the Fund.
- The candidate should have an investment management background and expertise with practical working experience in the fund management industry. This should be an individual who is presently not tied directly or indirectly to a local asset management firm.
- A degree in Finance/investments, actuarial science or risk management supported by at least 5 years practical experience within the financial services environment/investments. Well versed in pension fund and legislative issues
- The individual must be of good standing to be approved by the Regulatory Authority (NBFIRA) to be a Controller of a Retirement Fund.
- Experience in infrastructure funds, and ESG investing would be an added advantage

Only shortlisted candidates will be responded to.

Interested candidates should submit their application letter together with Curriculum Vitae and Certified Certificates to the following email address by no later than 28 August 2026.

E-Mail: masa.ishmael@minet.co.bw
tshegofatso.garemmogo@minet.co.bw



Fictitious Farms Fuel Permit Abuse

Government raids have exposed companies allegedly using farm worker permits to place expatriates in unrelated jobs, forcing tighter immigration checks.



BONGANI MALUNGA

The alleged misuse of farm worker permits to employ expatriates outside agriculture has emerged as a major loophole in Botswana's immigration system, prompting the government to tighten scrutiny and intensify enforcement against offending employers.

Minister of Labour and Home Affairs Pius Mokgware told Parliament that investigations had uncovered a widespread practice in which companies obtained permits intended for farm labourers and then deployed the holders in unrelated industries, undermining the country's labour and immigration laws.

Mokgware made the revelations during debate on a motion seeking a task force to investigate the extent of foreign work permit abuse. He said the government had already launched targeted operations, with raids exposing what appeared to be organised abuse of the permit system.

TARGETED RAIDS

According to the minister, enforcement teams recently inspected Loapi House, Khoemacau Mine in Toteng and Jindal Power Botswana's Mmamabula project, which combines a coal mine and power generation facility.

The operations led to the arrest and prosecution of individuals and companies found to have violated immigration and labour regulations. Mokgware alleged that Jindal Power Botswana was among the companies convicted and was fined P45,000 following the investigations.

He said the raids confirmed government concerns that permits intended for agricultural workers were increasingly being used to recruit expatriates into occupations unrelated to farming, including driving.

PERMITS CONFISCATED

"We went to Loapi House and confiscated all the permits in question. We raided a mine in Toteng and apprehended a lot of people. We also raided Jindal and charged fines to individuals and companies in the wrong. We have realised that a lot of people use farming permits, even drivers. The farms many claim to work for do not exist. We have now enhanced our safeguards against such actions. When someone applies for farm worker permits we now insist on making site visits to verify whether or not the applicants are trying to cheat the system. All farming permits are being looked at in a very special way," Mokgware stated.

SITE CHECKS

Mokgware said the discovery of fictitious farms used to justify work permit applications had forced the government to overhaul its verification process.

> "The farms many claim to work for do not exist. We have now enhanced our safeguards against such actions."

Officials now conduct physical inspections before approving farm worker permits to establish whether the farms genuinely exist and require the requested workforce.

BPP Suspends Moswaane Over Presidency Bid

The Francistown West MP's leadership ambitions now depend on a party investigation launched after he formally declared his intention to seek the BPP presidency.

SESUPO RANTSIMAKO

Francistown West MP Ignatius Moswaane has been suspended from the Botswana People's Party (BPP) after formally declaring his intention to contest the party presidency ahead of its forthcoming elective congress.

DECLARATION TRIGGERS

Moswaane's suspension followed a letter to the BPP Central Committee formally expressing his interest in challenging for the presidency.

In a letter seen by The Botswana Gazette, the party confirmed receiving his correspondence dated 27 July and titled 'Formal Declaration of Interest to Contest for the Office of the Party President'.

PROBE LAUNCHED

The BPP said its Central Committee had resolved that matters arising from the letter required formal investigation to establish whether Moswaane's conduct was consistent with the party's constitution, code of conduct and governance processes.


(Pic:Monirul Bhuiyan/PRESS PHOTO)

"The Central Committee is of the view that pending such investigations, it is necessary to preserve the integrity of the party's constitutional processes, maintain organisational discipline and avoid any actions that may prejudice the investigations or orderly administration of the party," the letter states.

BID THREATENED

The suspension places Moswaane's presidential ambitions in jeopardy as the BPP prepares for an elective congress that has yet to be scheduled.

His eligibility to contest could depend on the investigation's outcome and the party's interpretation of its constitutional provisions.

Moswaane's declaration came shortly after the BPP reviewed and amended its constitution, including provisions affecting eligibility for candidates seeking positions on the Central Committee.

SUCCESSION RACE

Moswaane was among four potential successors to long-serving BPP president Motlatsi Molapise. His suspension leaves Phillip Bulawa and Mmantlha Sankoloba as the remaining potential contenders named in the emerging succession race.

The development could significantly alter the leadership contest, particularly if Moswaane is prevented from participating.

DEMOCRACY TEST

The suspension brings the party's succession question back into focus as the BPP confronts the challenge of managing competing ambitions without deepening internal divisions.

> "The suspension places Moswaane's presidential ambitions in jeopardy."

It follows previous disciplinary action involving senior BPP members accused of misconduct. Party insiders have previously alleged that disciplinary measures were being used to frustrate potential leadership contenders.

Moswaane could not be drawn into discussing the matter because the terms of his suspension bar him from discussing party affairs or engaging with the media on BPP matters.

FMD Costs Botswana Beef Millions

Disease-related export restrictions have forced Botswana to surrender premium Norwegian beef quota worth about P75 million to Namibia.



GAZETTE REPORTER

Botswana's prolonged battle with foot-and-mouth disease (FMD) has handed Namibia an estimated N$100 million, about P75 million, export boost after disease-related restrictions prevented Botswana from fully using its premium Norwegian beef quota.

The loss exposes the economic cost of recurring FMD outbreaks, which continue to erode Botswana's competitiveness in high-value international beef markets while allowing regional rivals to expand their share.

QUOTA LOST

Namibia's Meat Corporation (Meatco) confirmed that it had secured an additional 344,766 kilograms of Norway-bound beef quota made available by Botswana under the Southern African Customs Union-European Free Trade Association (SACU-EFTA) quota-sharing arrangement.

The extra allocation is projected to earn Namibia around N$100 million, lifting the expected value of Meatco's Norwegian beef exports for 2026 to approximately N$365 million.

The transfer came after Meatco exhausted its own quota by the end of June, five months earlier than it did last year. The Namibian government then negotiated access to Botswana's unused allocation rather than allowing it to expire.

"Namibia has fully utilised the 2026 Norwegian beef export quota allocated to Meatco by the end of June," the corporation said in an updated statement.

Meatco said Botswana had made 459,688 kilograms of unused quota available, with 344,766 kilograms allocated to Namibia under the agreed SACU formula.

NAMIBIA GAINS

Meatco Interim Chief Executive Officer Ambassador Albertus Aochamub described the allocation as a significant breakthrough for Namibia's livestock sector.

"Fully utilising our Norwegian quota by June is a significant milestone for Namibia's beef industry and demonstrates the continued confidence that international customers place in premium Namibian beef," said Aochamub.

He added: "We welcome the agreement between the Governments of Namibia and Botswana, which enables Namibia to further benefit from this important market, and we are committed to fully utilising the additional allocation before 31 December 2026."

DISEASE COST

Addressing Namibian Prime Minister Elijah Ngurare during a visit to Meatco's Windhoek abattoir, Aochamub acknowledged that Botswana's disease challenges had created the opportunity.

"This year Botswana is unable to utilise its allocation, and they have given Namibia the remainder of their quota to execute on their behalf," he said.

He said Namibia expected to ship the additional allocation within two months.

Although the arrangement keeps the SACU-EFTA quota within the regional bloc, it also highlights the financial damage Botswana continues to suffer from recurring FMD outbreaks.

MARKETS CLOSED

Repeated outbreaks have locked Botswana out of premium export destinations, including Norway and the European Union, disrupting one of the country's most important agricultural export industries.

As Botswana contends with movement restrictions and market closures, competing beef exporters are strengthening their positions in markets traditionally served by Botswana.

> "This year Botswana is unable to utilise its allocation."

Namibia says demand for its premium beef remains robust despite softer returns from the European Union and South African markets. Meatco says Norway remains among its most profitable destinations because of the premium prices paid for high-quality beef.

"The milestone underscores Meatco's continued focus on improving commercial performance, maximising value from premium export markets and strengthening returns for Namibian livestock producers," the corporation said.

Insurers Face Price-Fixing Tribunal

Botswana's competition watchdog is pressing a landmark case alleging that major insurers dictated repair costs, restricted parts sourcing and reduced consumer choice.

GAZETTE REPORTER

Botswana's largest insurance companies face mounting pressure as the Competition and Consumer Authority (CCA) pursues a landmark case over alleged anti-competitive practices in the motor vehicle repair market.

The Competition and Consumer Tribunal is set to hear an interlocutory application on 28 August 2026 in a case involving Botswana Insurance Company Limited (BIC), Hollard Insurance Company of Botswana, Old Mutual Short-Term Insurance Botswana Limited and Parts Portal (Pty) Ltd, trading as Autoboys Evolve.

ALLEGED COLLUSION

The Authority alleges that the companies may have breached several provisions of the Competition Act through price fixing, abuse of market power and restrictive agreements that reduced competition among vehicle repairers.

In a briefing note dated 4 June 2026, the Tribunal said the Authority was seeking orders compelling the insurers to stop practices that allegedly allowed them to dictate terms to independent repair businesses.

"The Authority is seeking orders that the insurance companies immediately cease dictating labour costs to auto body repairers in Botswana," the briefing note states.

PARTS RESTRICTED

The watchdog is also seeking an end to alleged restrictions on spare parts procurement, including claims that repairers were forced to obtain parts through Parts Portal.

The Authority wants the insurers to "stop imposing a fixed mark-up on the procurement of spare parts" and "cease requiring repairers to procure spare parts only through Parts Portal."

> "These practices may restrict competition, limit the independence of repairers and negatively affect consumers."

The case centres on allegations that the conduct weakened competition, reduced repairers' independence and harmed motorists by increasing repair costs and limiting consumer choice.

"The Authority maintains that these practices may restrict competition, limit the independence of repairers and negatively affect consumers by increasing repair costs and reducing choice in the market," the Tribunal briefing note says.

HOLLARD SETTLES

Pressure on the insurers intensified after Hollard reached a settlement with the Authority, becoming the first company in Botswana to conclude a cartel settlement with the competition regulator.

Under the agreement, Hollard acknowledged that "certain of its past conduct was in contravention of the relevant provisions of the Act" and confirmed that it had stopped the conduct.

The insurer agreed to pay a financial penalty of P4,828,510.08 and introduce a competition law compliance programme.

The settlement also requires Hollard to cooperate with the Authority's continuing prosecution of the remaining respondents.

"This settlement is a milestone for the Authority due to it being the first cartel settlement in Botswana," the Authority said.

CASE CONTINUES

While Hollard has exited the litigation through the settlement, proceedings against BIC, Old Mutual and Autoboys remain ongoing.

The Authority's referral followed an investigation that allegedly uncovered the 'direct or indirect fixing of prices and terms of trade to car repairers'.

It further alleges that the respondents engaged in 'active cooperation and sharing of trade secrets' through horizontal and vertical agreements that substantially reduced competition.

Condom Shortage Threatens HIV Fight

Procurement failures have depleted public-sector condom supplies, raising fears that Botswana's HIV prevention gains could be placed at risk.



SESUPO RANTSIMAKO

Botswana is facing a public-sector condom shortage, with the National AIDS and Health Promotion Agency (NAHPHA) warning that the supply failure could expose Batswana to an increased risk of new HIV infections.

SUPPLIES DISRUPTED

NAHPHA National Coordinator Ontiretse Letlhare acknowledged the shortage while responding to questions from the Public Accounts Committee (PAC), saying condoms were among the medical commodities affected by procurement challenges that emerged several months ago.

Letlhare said the country's broader procurement problems had disrupted condom availability and caused shortages at public health facilities.

Asked by PAC members to confirm whether Botswana was experiencing an acute condom shortage, Letlhare acknowledged that the supply problem was a serious concern.

PREVENTION AT RISK

He said the shortage was particularly worrying because condoms remain one of the central pillars of Botswana's HIV prevention strategy.

The shortage could place people who depend on publicly supplied condoms at greater risk of new HIV infections if they are unable to access them.

"We are concerned because condoms are one of the prevention pillars," Letlhare told the committee.

Botswana continues to rely on a combination of measures to reduce new HIV infections, including condom use, HIV testing, treatment and other prevention interventions.

EMERGENCY PROCUREMENT

As an immediate response, Letlhare told PAC that NAHPHA had floated Requests for Quotations (RFQs) to different suppliers in an effort to accelerate the procurement of condoms.

He said the approach was intended to speed up the process and restore supplies to public health facilities.

NO TIMELINE

NAHPHA expressed optimism that the procurement process would resolve the shortage, although Letlhare did not provide a specific timeframe for the restoration of normal supplies.

The admission before PAC raises questions about Botswana's preparedness to maintain essential HIV prevention commodities during procurement disruptions. A prolonged shortage could undermine efforts to prevent new infections and sustain progress in the national HIV response.

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

BOTHO UNIVERSITY
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About Us

Botho University (BU), a leader in academic excellence and research innovation, invites applications from highly competent, strategic, and results-driven professionals to join our institution as a Dean/Manager-Finance. The successful candidate will support the Deputy Pro-Vice Chancellor – Finance in managing financial operations across multiple campuses while ensuring financial integrity, statutory compliance, robust internal controls, operational efficiency, and accurate financial reporting. The role requires a dynamic leader with strong analytical capabilities and a commitment to financial governance and continuous improvement. This position will be based at our Gaborone Campus, Botswana.

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Qualifications and Experience required:

- BCom Accounting and ACCA, CIMA, or an equivalent professional accounting qualification.
- Membership with BICA or another recognized international professional accounting body is mandatory.
- Minimum of 5–8 years' relevant experience in finance and accounting.
- Experience managing finance operations within a multi-campus or multi-branch environment will be an added advantage.
- Experience in financial reporting, audits, reconciliations, statutory compliance, and financial controls.
- Exposure to ERP financial systems and student management systems is preferred.

Job Responsibilities for the Position:

- Manage and oversee finance operations across multiple campuses while ensuring standardization of financial processes and internal controls.
- Lead and supervise finance teams to ensure efficient, accurate, and timely completion of financial activities.
- Prepare and oversee monthly management accounts, financial statements, reconciliations, and management reports.
- Monitor revenue processes, debtor collections, supplier payments, fixed assets, bank reconciliations, and cash management.
- Ensure compliance with statutory, taxation, regulatory, and institutional financial governance requirements.
- Analyse financial and operational data to identify trends, risks, variances, and opportunities that support strategic decision-making.
- Develop financial reporting models, dashboards, and analytical tools to enhance business intelligence and management reporting.
- Coordinate internal and external audits and ensure timely implementation of audit recommendations.
- Liaise with tax authorities, auditors, banks, consultants, and other external stakeholders.
- Support strategic financial planning, institutional growth initiatives, and continuous improvement of financial systems, policies, and procedures.
- Provide leadership, mentorship, and professional development to finance teams across all campuses.

Skills & Competencies

- Strong understanding of International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS).
- Sound knowledge of taxation principles, statutory compliance, and financial governance.
- Understanding of the application of tax requirements across different countries and jurisdictions.
- Strong analytical, logical reasoning, and problem-solving skills.
- Advanced Microsoft Excel and financial modelling skills.
- Ability to analyse raw financial data and transform it into meaningful management information.
- Knowledge of ERP systems such as Microsoft Dynamics 365 Business Central, Great Plains, Campus Nexus, Academia, or similar financial systems.
- Excellent leadership, communication, interpersonal, stakeholder management, and time management skills.
- High level of integrity, professionalism, accuracy, and attention to detail.
- Ability to work independently and collaboratively while meeting strict deadlines

To apply for this vacancy, please follow the link below :
https://bothouniversity.breezy.hr/

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

Closing Date: August 14, 2026

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ESWATINI MANZINI CAMPUS: TEL: +268 2505 2288 FAX: +268 2505 2299 | LOT 132, MBHABHA STREET, MANZINI, ESWATINI

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Jwaneng General Manager, Goitseone Gadifele delivers his opening remarks at the 2026 General Manager's Soccer Fiesta



Spectators follow the action closely as they cheer on their favourite teams during the Jwaneng Mine General Manager's Soccer Fiesta



Barloworld Director and Country Manager Derick Musa delivers remarks as the main sponsor of the 2026 Jwaneng Mine 's General Manager Soccer Fiesta



Minister of Sports and Arts, Honourable Jacob Kelebeng giving a keynote address

FIESTA ENDS, CHANGE BEGINS

The football is over, but the Fiesta's work is only beginning. Thankane now stands to benefit from its lasting legacy.

The football and celebrations are over, but the Jwaneng Mine Soccer Fiesta now enters its most important phase: turning tournament proceeds into lasting change in Thankane.

For three days, the Jwaneng Galaxy Stadium was transformed into a hub of football, entertainment and community engagement as the fifth edition of the Jwaneng Mine Soccer Fiesta brought together professional men's and women's teams, social clubs, supporters, sponsors and local businesses.

Mochudi Centre Chiefs claimed the men's professional title after defeating Gaborone United 3-1, while Gaborone United Ladies dominated Double Action with a 5-0 victory in the women's final. Bajanala SC completed the weekend's winners after securing a convincing 7-0 victory over Barloworld SC in the social clubs category.

BEYOND FOOTBALL

While the tournament delivered exciting football action, organisers say its greatest purpose extends beyond the pitch, with proceeds channelled towards initiatives that improve the lives of communities in need.

Jwaneng Mine General Manager Goitseone Gadifele said carrying the name of Jwaneng Mine through the tournament comes with a responsibility to create meaningful impact.

"The trophies have been lifted, but the Fiesta's greatest victory will be measured by lives transformed beyond the stadium."

"The purpose of this tournament is to create impact and to touch lives in vulnerable communities," he said.

Gadifele said the Fiesta has grown from a small event into a major national attraction, bringing visitors into Jwaneng while creating opportunities for local businesses.

"There are a lot of small businesses outside, and you can see the smiles. That shows the impact is there. The economic activity of this town this weekend was very huge," he said.

One of those who benefited from the increased activity was young entrepreneur Rebaone Phagane, who used the Fiesta as an opportunity to generate income while gaining practical exposure linked to her hospitality studies.

Phagane, who is studying through a scholarship, said although her tuition is covered, she remains responsible for other necessities including accommodation, food and transport.

"I saw the Fiesta as an opportunity to make money and support myself with some of the things I need while studying. A scholarship helps with school fees, but there are other responsibilities that still need to be taken care of," she said.

She added that participating in the event also helped her understand the hospitality industry beyond the classroom.

"Being around an event like this allows me to see how businesses operate, how customers are served and what is expected in the industry. It gives me real-world experience before I enter the workplace," Phagane said.

A PROVEN LEGACY

The Jwaneng Mine Soccer Fiesta has already demonstrated its ability to turn sport into lasting community projects.

Funds raised from the 2023 edition supported the establishment of Jwaneng Galaxy Ladies, while the 2024 edition raised P750,000 towards refurbishing hostels at Mogale Junior Secondary School, benefiting more than 200 learners.

In 2025, fundraising reached P1.4 million, which contributed towards the construction of a health facility in Betesankwe, providing improved access to healthcare services for residents.

For the 2026 edition, attention now shifts to Thankane, a village located approximately 70 kilometres from Jwaneng. Organisers are assessing priority needs, which may include healthcare, education or accommodation for essential workers.

The Soccer Fiesta Chairman Segolame Ntwayagae said the goal is to create sustainable projects that will continue serving communities long after the tournament ends."The legacy must be seen through tangible and sustainable facilities that continue touching lives," he said.

The trophies have been lifted, but the Fiesta's greatest victory will be measured not only by goals scored, but by the lives transformed beyond the stadium.

DEBSWANA | ya masa

CLICK WATCH



Mochudi Centre Chiefs celebrate after being crowned champions of the 2026 Jwaneng Mine General Manager's Soccer Fiesta.

DEBSWANA | ya masa



Galaxy Football Club and Mochudi Centre Chiefs display sportsmanship with a pre-match handshake before kicking off their encounter.



Bajanala Social Team celebrates after claiming top honours in the Social Clubs category at the 2026 Jwaneng Mine General Manager's Soccer Fiesta.



Mochudi Centre Chiefs players celebrate after finding the back of the net during the 2026 Jwaneng Mine General Manager's Soccer Fiesta.



Gaborone United Ladies take on BDF Ladies in one of the women's tournament fixtures at the 2026 Jwaneng Mine General Manager's Soccer Fiesta.



Spectators cheer on their respective teams during the 2026 Jwaneng Mine General Manager's Soccer Fiesta.



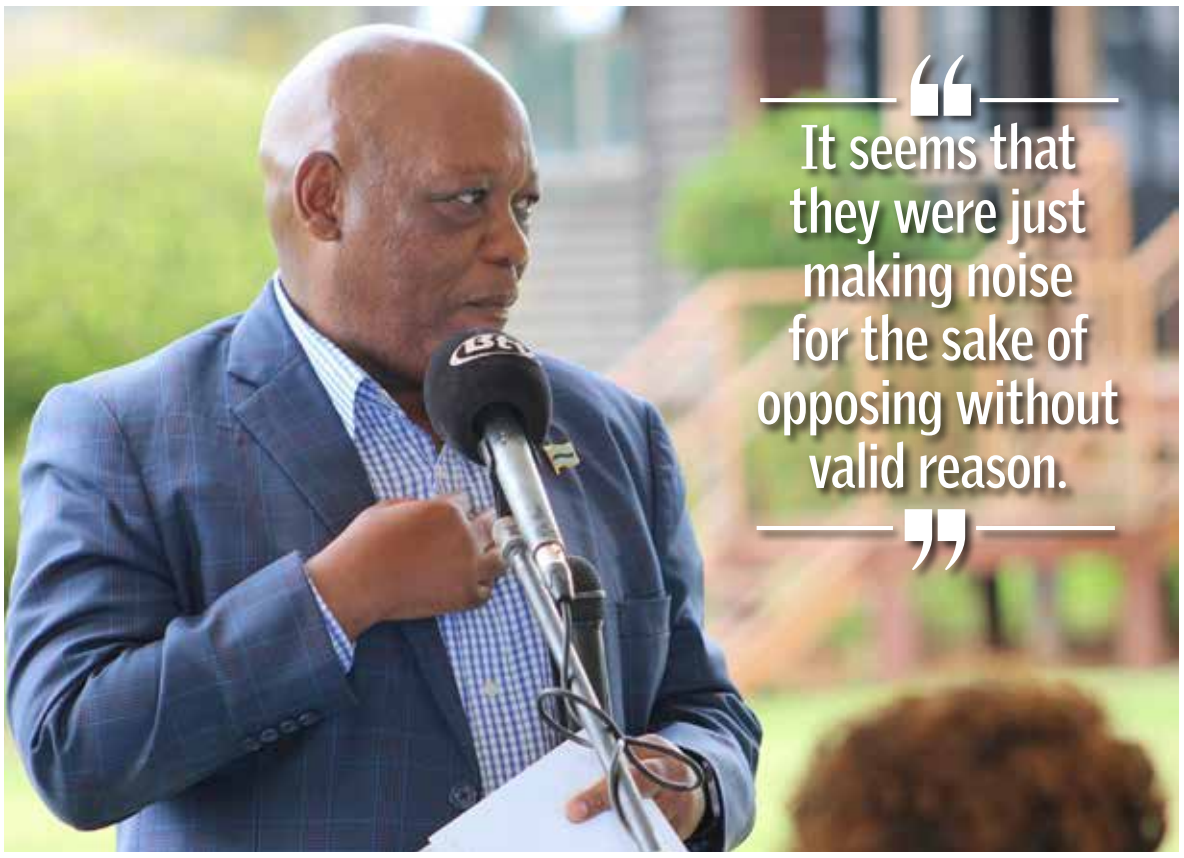
Kelvin Ndebele of Mochudi Centre Chiefs was crowned Player of the Tournament at the 2026 Jwaneng Mine General Manager's Soccer Fiesta.



The Parachute Association of Botswana entertains spectators with a spectacular aerial exhibition during the festivities.

UDC Keeps Floor-Crossing Law

The UDC government has left intact the constitutional amendment it fiercely opposed while in opposition, drawing questions about whether its resistance was based on principle.



SESUPO RANTSIMAKO

The Umbrella for Democratic Change (UDC) government has no immediate plans to repeal the controversial floor-crossing law, despite strongly opposing the constitutional amendment when it was introduced by the former Botswana Democratic Party (BDP) government.

STATUS QUO

Responding to questions from Gabane-Mankgodi MP Kagiso Mmusi, Assistant Minister for State President, Defence and Security Dr Maipelo Mophuting Dikoloti said the government had not taken a decision to repeal or reverse the floor-crossing provisions.

The position leaves in force legislation that the UDC opposed while it was in opposition.

EARLIER OPPOSITION

The floor-crossing provisions were introduced by the BDP government in 2021 and became a major political controversy, with opposition parties questioning their implications for elected representatives and political parties.

The UDC, together with the Botswana Congress Party (BCP) and Botswana Patriotic Front (BPF), opposed the amendment and accused the BDP government of undermining politicians' freedom of association.

Despite that resistance, the constitutional amendment was enacted, establishing provisions governing MPs who leave the political party under whose banner they were elected.

The law has remained in force after the 2024 general elections, in which the UDC removed the BDP from power.

MMUSI CHALLENGES

Dr Mophuting Dikoloti's response means the UDC administration is maintaining the legal framework it inherited from the previous government despite its earlier opposition.

Speaking to The Botswana Gazette, Mmusi said his parliamentary question was intended to establish whether the UDC had been genuine in opposing the amendment while it was out of government.

He questioned why the UDC had not moved to repeal the law now that it had the numbers in Parliament to do so.

"If they were genuine, they could have reasons why they are not reversing this law," Mmusi said.

POLITICAL TEST

Mmusi said the UDC's failure to repeal the amendment could suggest that its earlier opposition was driven more by political expediency than principle.

"It seems that they were just making noise for the sake of opposing without valid reason," he said.

The floor-crossing law remains politically sensitive because of its potential impact on MPs who change political allegiance, political parties and the composition of Parliament. The UDC's decision to leave it untouched gives critics fresh grounds to question whether its earlier opposition reflected principle or political circumstance.

Opposition Presses UDC on Funding

Opposition parties say the UDC is using financial constraints to delay implementing the political party funding law passed in 2024.

SESUPO RANTSIMAKO

Opposition parties have accused the UDC government of lacking commitment to political party funding, arguing that the administration is using financial constraints to delay implementing a law passed by Parliament in 2024.

The accusations follow the recent All-Party Conference, where political parties discussed issues affecting the country's political landscape. Opposition parties said the exclusion of political party funding from the agenda was further evidence that the government was not serious about operationalising the legislation.

BDP Secretary General Kentse Rammidi said the government had failed to demonstrate any commitment to bringing the political funding law into operation since its passage in 2024.

FUNDING DELAY

Rammidi accused the UDC administration of hiding behind financial constraints while benefiting from political arrangements and access to state resources that opposition parties do not enjoy.

He argued that the government was reluctant to introduce political party funding because it was enjoying the advantages of the existing system.

However, Rammidi cautioned the UDC against repeating the mistakes of the BDP, which also failed to prioritise political party funding while it was in power.

BDP WARNING

Rammidi said the BDP was now experiencing the consequences of failing to act when it had the opportunity to introduce and implement political party funding.

He said African leaders should recognise that laws enacted while they are in power could eventually benefit them when political circumstances change.

BCP CHALLENGE

BCP Secretary General Goretetse Kekgonegile also accused Minister of State President Moeti Mohwasa of delaying implementation because the UDC was in government and had access to state resources.



BDP Secretary General Kentse Rammidi said the government had failed to demonstrate any commitment to bringing the political funding law into operation since its passage in 2024.

Kekgonegile said the omission of political party funding from the All-Party Conference agenda showed a lack of commitment by the UDC government to funding and nurturing democracy.

He questioned why the government continued to cite financial constraints when Minister of Finance Ndaba Gaolatlhe had recently told Parliament that the country's economic situation was improving.

Kekgonegile said Mohwasa should submit a political party funding budget for allocation instead of continuing to delay the process.

BUTALE DOUBTS

Botswana Republican Party President Biggie Butale also questioned whether the UDC government was genuinely committed to assisting opposition parties through political funding.

"I don't think the government is committed to helping opposition parties," Butale said, arguing that the UDC might regard funding its political rivals as dangerous.

GOVERNMENT RESPONSE

Responding to a parliamentary question from Moshupa-Manyana MP Karabo Gare, Mohwasa said the UDC believed in political party funding but maintained that the government could not currently implement it because of financial constraints.

He said the country's financial position would determine when political party funding would begin.

DEBSWANA AND BOTETI DISTRICT COUNCIL BOOST FOOD SECURITY THROUGH KHWEE COMMUNITY RANCH



Debswana's Orapa, Letlhakane and Damtshaa Mines (OLDM), in partnership with Boteti District Council, has officially handed over the Khwee Community Ranch, a project aimed at strengthening food security, creating sustainable livelihoods and improving economic resilience in the community.

> Debswana invested over P2.7 million towards the development of the ranch, complementing Boteti District Council's P2.3 million contribution.

Debswana invested over P2.7 million towards the development of the ranch, complementing Boteti District Council's P2.3 million contribution.

Speaking at the handover, OLDM General Manager Mr. Mogakolodi Maoketsa said the project, which Debswana has supported since 2022, demonstrates the company's commitment to empowering communities beyond the life of mine through sustainable livelihoods and food security initiatives. He said Debswana's investment delivered critical infrastructure, including a fully equipped borehole, a 209,000-litre water reservoir and livestock handling facilities, as well as an initial herd of 46 cows inclusive of two breeding bulls and 31 goats including 1 buck. Maoketsa noted that the ranch has already recorded the birth of 19 calves, reflecting its promising long-term sustainability. He added that Debswana complemented the infrastructure investment with governance, business leadership and technical training equipping the community with management skills to ensure long term sustainability.

Boteti District Council Secretary Mr. Mpaphi Kgomotso commended the partnership between the Council and Debswana, describing the ranch as a valuable investment in the people of Khwee. He urged the community to safeguard the project, maintain its infrastructure and report any challenges promptly to ensure its long-term success, while encouraging the two organisations to continue collaborating on sustainable community development initiatives.



> creating economic opportunities for local farmers, and urged the community to work closely with Veterinary Services to ensure the health and productivity of the livestock.

For his part, Boteti District Council Chairperson Mr. Onkhuparetse Monnaatsie encouraged the community to take ownership of the ranch and maintain it for future generations. He expressed hope that the ranch would eventually host livestock auctions, creating economic opportunities for local farmers, and urged the community to work closely with Veterinary Services to ensure the health and productivity of the livestock.

> The project intends to improve livestock production, strengthen food security and create sustainable income-generating opportunities for the people of Khwee, marking another milestone in Debswana's ongoing commitment to delivering lasting value through partnerships with government and local communities.

Closing the ceremony, Khwee Village Councillor Hon. Kenosi Meleko thanked Debswana and Boteti District Council for their investment in the project and pledged, together with the village leadership, to ensure the ranch is well managed for the benefit of the community.

The project intends to improve livestock production, strengthen food security and create sustainable income-generating opportunities for the people of Khwee, marking another milestone in Debswana's ongoing commitment to delivering lasting value through partnerships with government and local communities.



Work Permit Cartel Exposed

Nearly 10 Labour and Home Affairs employees, including senior officials, have been suspended over an alleged network issuing work permits and visas illegally.

BONGANI MALUNGA

The government has uncovered an alleged deep-rooted cartel within the Ministry of Labour and Home Affairs, with Minister Pius Mokgware revealing that ministry employees, including senior officials, have been implicated in the illegal issuance of work permits and visas.

Addressing Parliament on Tuesday, Mokgware said preliminary investigations had led to the suspension of nearly 10 employees as authorities intensified efforts to dismantle what he described as an organised network facilitating immigration fraud.

The revelation came during debate on a motion seeking the establishment of a parliamentary task force to investigate alleged abuse of foreign work permits and non-compliance with citizen subcontracting requirements in government projects.

MOTION REJECTED

While acknowledging the seriousness of the allegations, the government opposed the motion, arguing that investigations were already underway and that another inquiry would duplicate existing efforts.

> "Close to 10 people are currently on suspension, including high ranking officials. They are part of a bigger cartel."

Mokgware's admission was one of the strongest acknowledgements yet that corruption linked to work permits is not confined to external syndicates but extends into the institution responsible for regulating immigration and employment.

"This has been happening for a long time. Even our own workers at the Ministry of Labour and Home Affairs are involved. Close to 10 people are currently on suspension, including high ranking officials. They are part of a bigger cartel," Mokgware told legislators.

ENTRENCHED ABUSE

Mokgware alleged that the corruption was neither isolated nor recent, but an entrenched operation that had infiltrated the ministry over an extended period.

Fraudulent work permits have become a growing national concern, with local businesses, labour organisations and Members of Parliament repeatedly alleging that the system has been manipulated to favour foreign nationals at the expense of qualified Batswana seeking employment.

The rejected motion, tabled by Nkange MP Motlhaleemang Moalosi, sought a dedicated task force to establish the scale of abuse in the work permit system and examine whether contractors awarded government projects were bypassing citizen subcontractors in favour of foreign companies and workers.

Mokgware assured Parliament that the government was already pursuing the matter through ongoing investigations and intended to hold those responsible accountable.

Young Women Bear HIV Burden

More than 1,000 young people acquired HIV in 2025, with females accounting for nearly 78 percent of infections in the 15-to-24 age group.

BONGANI MALUNGA



Pic Credit; politicshome.com/thehouse

Botswana's fight against HIV has come under renewed scrutiny after the National AIDS and Health Promotion Agency (NAHPA) raised alarm over the number of teenagers and young people contracting the virus, identifying intergenerational sexual relationships as a possible driver of the trend.

Appearing before the Public Accounts Committee (PAC) on Tuesday, NAHPA National Coordinator Ontiretse Letlhare questioned why adolescent girls and young women continue to account for the overwhelming majority of new HIV infections, arguing that the pattern points to older sexual partners as a significant source of transmission.

"Statistics show that young kids start being sexually active as early as 15 years, some even as early as 13. The fact of the matter is, new infections occur on the females more than their male counterparts in the 15-24 age group. The question we need to be asking ourselves is 'Where are they getting the virus from?' The brief answer could be that we see a lot of intergenerational sexual relations within our communities," Letlhare explained.

YOUNG WOMEN

The UNAIDS 2025 Epidemic Estimates Report paints a concerning picture of HIV infections among Botswana's youth. It estimates that 1,077 people aged between 15 and 24 acquired HIV in 2025, with 839 of those infections occurring among females.

The figures mean that nearly 78 percent of all new infections in the age group were recorded among young women, highlighting the disproportionate burden they continue to carry.

The data reinforces long-standing observations by UNAIDS and NAHPA that adolescent girls and young women remain among the most vulnerable populations in Botswana's HIV epidemic.

Health experts have attributed this vulnerability to a combination of social and economic factors, including age-disparate relationships, transactional sex, gender inequality and limited power to negotiate safer sexual practices.

DEEPER QUESTIONS

Letlhare said the statistics should prompt deeper national introspection rather than a focus on the numbers alone. He argued that understanding who young women are contracting HIV from is critical if Botswana is to reduce new infections and achieve its epidemic control targets.

PREVENTION GAP

According to UNAIDS, Botswana has made remarkable progress in expanding HIV treatment and reducing AIDS-related deaths over the past two decades, but preventing new infections, particularly among adolescents and young women, remains one of the country's biggest public health challenges.

> "The question we need to be asking ourselves is 'Where are they getting the virus from?'"

NAHPA has stressed that ending the epidemic will require more than medical interventions. The agency says Botswana must strengthen prevention programmes, address harmful social norms, tackle gender-based vulnerabilities and confront intergenerational sexual relationships to reverse new infections among young people.

The Botswana Gazette
BUSINESSNEWS

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De Beers Signals Recovery Momentum Despite Challenging Market Conditions

LEATILE ZACHARIAH

De Beers Group has reaffirmed its long-term confidence in the global diamond industry, reporting steady operational progress and early signs of recovery despite a challenging first half of 2026.

The company's latest results highlight resilience across its operations, with production increasing significantly to 14.9 million carats, up from 10.2 million carats in the same period last year. This growth reflects strong operational delivery and the group's ability to maintain output in a complex global environment.

While revenue for the period stood at $1.6 billion, the group made notable strides in improving its financial position, narrowing its EBITDA loss to $113 million from $189 million in 2025. This improvement underscores the impact of disciplined cost management and strategic adjustments implemented across the business.

Efficiency Gains and Strategic Focus

A key highlight of the period was the significant reduction in unit costs, which fell to $64 per carat from $87 per carat a year earlier. This achievement reflects the success of ongoing efficiency programmes and a streamlined operating model designed to enhance competitiveness.

De Beers has also taken proactive steps to align its operations with market conditions, including optimising production plans and focusing capital allocation on high-value opportunities. These measures position the company to respond effectively as demand strengthens.

At the same time, the group continues to advance its "Origins" strategy, aimed at strengthening the entire diamond value chain—from mining to retail. Central to this is the introduction of a new Sightholder contract period, designed to build deeper, more sustainable partnerships with clients.

Chief Financial Officer Niranjan Mylvaganam said the company's financial discipline is beginning to show results, noting that the focus remains on "careful cost management while continuing to invest in the areas that will drive long-term value," as De Beers positions itself for recovery.

The expansion of the Tracr blockchain platform, now registering over five million diamonds, further reinforces transparency and consumer confidence in natural diamonds.

Strengthening Demand Through Innovation

De Beers has intensified its marketing and consumer engagement efforts, with campaigns such as "Desert Diamonds" delivering encouraging results, particularly in the United States. These initiatives are aimed at reinforcing the enduring appeal and rarity of natural diamonds in a changing retail landscape.

The group is also actively responding to the rise of synthetic diamonds by repositioning its Element Six business towards advanced technological applications, while continuing to promote the distinct value of natural stones.

Executive Vice President of Diamond Trading Paul Rowley said the group's approach to supply discipline is playing a key role in stabilising the market, adding that maintaining a balanced pipeline is essential to rebuilding confidence across the diamond value chain.

> "As the industry adapts to new challenges, De Beers' focus on innovation, partnerships and operational excellence positions it well to capture future growth"

Partnerships Driving Growth in Botswana

Botswana remains central to De Beers' strategy, with ongoing collaboration with government continuing to deliver value for both the country and the company.

Through its "Building Forever" sustainability framework, De Beers is making measurable contributions to economic development. Initiatives such as the Tokafala enterprise programme and the Stanford Seed partnership have supported 128 small businesses, generating $226 million in additional revenue and creating 4,598 jobs.

In Botswana alone, the Tokafala programme has facilitated significant market access and financing for local enterprises, strengthening the country's broader economic resilience.

Outlook Brightens

Looking ahead, De Beers notes that while short-term trading conditions remain influenced by global economic uncertainty, there are growing indications of a gradual market recovery.

The company expects improvements to be supported by disciplined supply management, sustained marketing investment and evolving retail dynamics. Over the longer term, De Beers remains confident in the natural diamond sector, citing strong consumer demand in key markets and favourable supply fundamentals.

As the industry adapts to new challenges, De Beers' focus on innovation, partnerships and operational excellence positions it well to capture future growth opportunities and reinforce the enduring value of natural diamonds.



Orange Marathon Fuels Phikwe Economy

From fully booked hotels to bustling shopping centres and sold-out informal traders, this year's Orange Phikwe Marathon is being credited with injecting millions of pula into Selebi Phikwe's local economy while creating business opportunities for residents

TLOTLO KEBINAKGABO

The Orange Phikwe Marathon has once again extended its impact beyond the finish line, with businesses across Selebi Phikwe reporting increased activity as thousands of visitors descended on the town for the annual event.

Among those benefiting was Phase 4 resident Kgatlhego Mosong, who operated a food stall selling hotdogs and other refreshments during the marathon weekend.

"This business is not something I do all the time. It's mostly part-time during tournaments and activities in Phikwe," Mosong said on the sidelines of the tournament that took place over the weekend in Selibe Phikwe. "This year is much better in terms of attendance compared to last year. More people came. Even as we are speaking, my stock has finished, and this is the second time we are restocking. It's really promising, and I think I'm going to generate three times more in profits than I usually do."

GROWING ATTENDANCE

According to Orange Botswana Communications and Public Relations Manager Tebogo Nadisah, the marathon attracted more than 2,700 runners, bringing with them spending that reached businesses throughout the town.

"We have had a great weekend as we have seen Phikwe turn literally Orange," Nadisah said. "We have had over 2,700 runners and the great thing about it is that we have people who are not only running but who are bringing an economic boost to Phikwe."

He said the event had generated business for accommodation providers, shopping centres and small enterprises.

"I mean all hotels are booked, malls are busy and SMMEs have had a way of benefiting from this marathon, and this is exactly how we want to see economic empowerment being done," he said.

ECONOMIC LIFELINE

Selebi Phikwe Mayor Oageng Makgosa said the marathon has played an important economic role since the closure of the town's mine in 2016.

"The economic impact of this marathon is so immense given that when the mine closed in 2016, we took a nose dive economically, which meant that we didn't have anywhere to go, but Orange has been there," Makgosa said.

He said the event has delivered sustained benefits over the past decade by creating activity across multiple sectors.

"Hotel rooms are booked, petrol is bought, and the estimation shows that P6 million circulates in Phikwe during the marathon weekend," he said.

Makgosa added that residents, particularly young people operating small food businesses, continue to benefit from the increased visitor numbers.

"We can see that our kids are benefiting, those who are selling food and so on. People of Phikwe are benefiting greatly. That's what we want—for people to benefit. We don't have time to cry but rather to see how we can diversify."



Zana Mall Targets 2027

An over P200 million retail development has broken ground in Selebi Phikwe, with developers and local leaders presenting the project as part of the town's broader economic renewal

TLOTLO KEBINAKGABO

Construction has officially begun on the over P200 million Zana Junction Mall in Selebi Phikwe, with developers targeting a September 2027 opening for the retail development.

The project is being undertaken by Zana Copper Leaf, a joint venture between JTTM Properties and Nickelhead, and is expected to contribute to economic activity and employment in the town.

Presenting the project overview during Friday's groundbreaking ceremony, Zana Copper Leaf Board Chairperson Abel Apollo Bogatsu said the developers were working towards completing the project within a year.

"We have given ourselves one year to finish this project, and we will do it. We want it to be open in September 2027," Bogatsu said.

INVESTMENT BACKING

Speaking at the ceremony, Letlole La Rona Chief Executive Officer Ronil Besele said the development had been made possible through the support of the company's shareholders.

"The Zana Mall development project is a significant undertaking that requires significant funds," Besele said. He acknowledged Letlole La Rona's four major shareholders — BPOPF, BDC, BIFM and Debswana PF — saying "their investment and faith in LLR is what enables us to undertake such developments."

Besele said the company viewed the project as an investment in the wider Selebi Phikwe community rather than solely a commercial development.

"By building this mall, LLR was not just investing in bricks and mortar, we are investing in the community of Selebi Phikwe and surrounds," he said, adding that Letlole La Rona's Rail Park Mall in Gaborone and Watershed Mall in Mahalapye had developed distinct local identities that resonated with residents.

PARTNERSHIP MODEL

Besele also told the Minister of Local Government and Traditional Affairs that the town's bus rank, filling station, KFC and the planned Zana Mall were all being developed with private sector funding.

He said the projects demonstrated a working public-private partnership between Letlole La Rona and the Selebi Phikwe Town Council, reflecting the role local government could play in supporting economic development.

Besele said Letlole La Rona and its subsidiaries, JTTM Properties and Zana Copper Leaf, were looking forward to becoming part of the Selebi Phikwe community, adding that the appointed contractor would begin work immediately following the groundbreaking.

Earlier, Selebi Phikwe Town Clerk Lawrence Mokotedi said SPEDU had played a key role in securing an investor, with an agreement reached in November 2017 before a site was identified and designs completed. He said the council hoped the project would prioritise employment for people from Selebi Phikwe and surrounding areas and that ownership of the development would transfer to the town council after 50 years under the agreement.

Mayor Oageng Makgosa described the project as an important foundation for the town's future, saying: "It's an over P200 million project that we are thankful for. This project is for the people of Phikwe."



Tlou Hits Revenue Milestone

Botswana gas-to-power company advances Lesedi development while navigating funding challenges

GAZETTE REPORTER

Tlou Energy has recorded its first revenue milestone as the company continues efforts to optimise gas production and expand its Lesedi gas-to-power project in Botswana.

In its Quarterly Activities Report for the quarter ended 30 June 2026, the company said the Kala Data Centre completed its first full quarter of continuous operation, marking progress from pre-revenue activities to initial commercial operations.

“The transition from pre-revenue activities to initial revenue generation reflects the Company’s progress in monetising its gas resources and establishing commercial operations,” Tlou said.

The Kala Data Centre, owned and operated by Kala Data, is fully commissioned and has generated initial revenues at a proof-of-concept scale. However, Tlou noted that revenue levels remain modest as systems continue to be optimised.

LESEDI PROGRESS

The Lesedi Project remains Tlou’s core development asset, combining gas production and power generation at a single site.

The company said it is continuing work to improve gas production efficiency, with production testing and dewatering at the Lesedi 4 and Lesedi 6 wells progressing. Both wells are producing gas and water, while independent technical reviews are ongoing to assess performance and identify optimisation opportunities.

Planning has also commenced for a proposed Lesedi 6P pipeline, which is intended to connect the production well to the Kala Data Centre generators.

“If progressed, the pipeline is expected to support additional gas availability to the facility, subject to funding, approvals, construction, commissioning and well performance,” the company said.

Tlou said achieving sustainable commercial gas flow rates remains a key technical milestone for the Lesedi Project.

POWER EXPANSION

The company is also advancing its hybrid gas and solar power strategy.

During the quarter, Tlou assessed options for an initial 5MW solar development, with scalability under review. Battery Energy Storage Systems and compressed natural gas storage solutions are also being evaluated to support system flexibility.

The company said its data centre partner has indicated interest in installing 1MW of solar photovoltaic capacity at the facility.

Tlou’s proposed hybrid configuration is intended to combine gas-fired generation with solar PV and associated storage technologies. The company said no binding agreements are currently in place, with all initiatives subject to funding and required approvals.

FUNDING NEEDS

Funding remains a key consideration for Tlou as it works to advance development activities.

The company’s shareholder loan facility remains at A$10 million, with A$6.50 million drawn to date and approximately A$3.62 million available at the end of the quarter.

Tlou said the facility is being used to support operating expenditure while it seeks additional funding needed to execute and scale its development activities.

“The Company remains dependent on securing additional funding to progress material development activities,” Tlou said.

The Lesedi substation construction remains approximately 90 percent complete, with final works deferred pending funding availability. Grid connection remains a near-term priority for the project.

Tlou ended the quarter with approximately A$128,000 in cash as of 30 June 2026.

BPOPF Assets Reach P128 Billion

Pension fund reports 10 percent growth despite global market pressures and Botswana’s diamond sector downturn

TLOTLO KEBINAKGABO

The Botswana Public Officers Pension Fund (BPOPF) has reported a strong financial performance for the year ending March 2026, with its assets increasing by 10 percent to P128.337 billion from P116.506 billion recorded in 2025.

Speaking at the fund’s audited financial results presentation, BPOPF Board Chairperson Gaone Machola said the performance demonstrated the fund’s commitment to prudent management, transparency and accountability.

“This is a very significant moment for us as BPOPF because it demonstrates commitment to prudent management of the fund and it also demonstrates transparency and accountability to our members,” Machola said.

She said the results were achieved against a challenging economic environment characterised by slower global growth, heightened trade tensions and persistent geopolitical uncertainty.

“While Botswana’s growth in terms of our economy was constrained by a prolonged downturn of our diamond market, we as the pension fund have been able to manage our investments such that this year, once again, has resulted in great performance,” she said.

FINANCIAL STABILITY

Machola said the fund maintained strong financial health, supported by prudent investments, governance and risk management processes.

“In terms of our financial health and stability, the fund has maintained a very strong and stable financial health,” she said.

BPOPF’s funding ratio stood at 102.9 percent, which Machola said demonstrated the fund’s ability to meet both current and future obligations.

She highlighted the fund’s diversified investment portfolio as one of the key contributors to its performance, allowing BPOPF to manage risks and deliver positive returns despite volatile markets.

“In terms of our diversification, we have been able to mitigate the risks that we were faced with, and that has resulted in the fund being able to declare positive returns,” Machola said.

MEMBER FOCUS

The board chairperson said BPOPF continued to prioritise creating and preserving value for its members through various initiatives aimed at protecting retirement savings and improving service delivery.

“Despite all of these challenges, our Botswana, or our economy, maintained macroeconomic stability.”

“Our strategic intent is always and continues to be to create and preserve value for our members,” she said.

She said the fund had implemented measures to capture growth opportunities while protecting members’ savings during periods of market uncertainty.

Machola also pointed to enhanced governance measures, including integrated assurance processes under a combined assurance framework aimed at strengthening oversight of risk, governance and internal controls.

On service delivery, she said BPOPF had introduced digital solutions, including a mobile application that allows members to access their data and benefit statements.

The fund has also introduced mobile offices to improve access for members, particularly those in remote locations.

FUTURE OUTLOOK

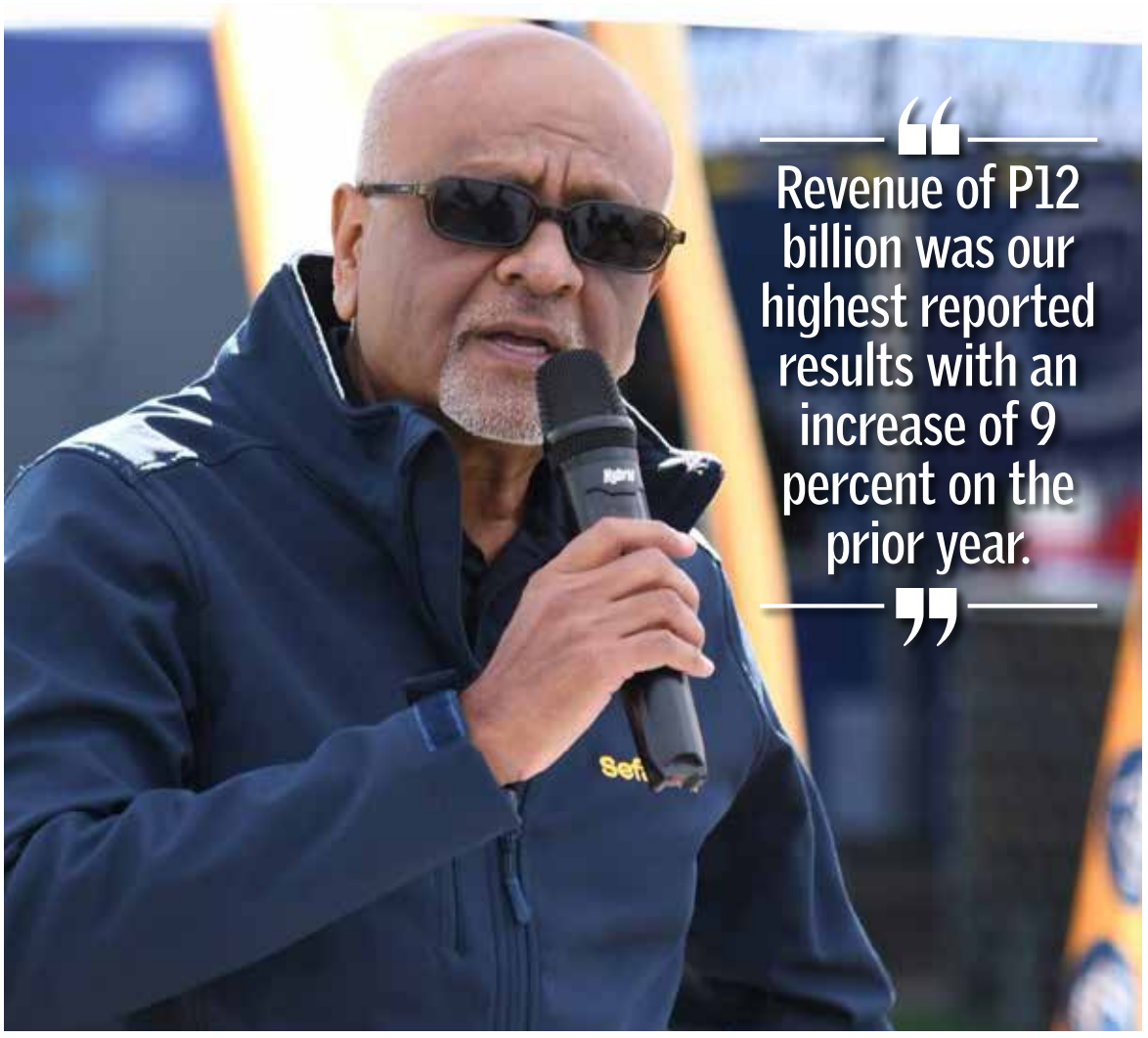
Looking ahead, Machola said BPOPF remained cautiously optimistic about the future, with sustainable investment growth remaining a key priority.

“Our strategies for the year include investment growth. So top of our priority, like it has been the whole time, is to ensure that we have sustainable and impactful investment growth,” she said.

She added that the fund would continue focusing on increasing stakeholder value while responding to emerging environmental and social governance realities.

BPOPF’s future strategy will also emphasise accountability and performance, with Machola saying prudence and accountability remained central to the fund’s operations.

Sefalana Sees Recovery Ahead



Managing Director Chandra Chauhan said the company believes efforts by both the public and private sectors to stimulate economic activity will gradually improve business conditions. *Photo Credit: Social Media*

Despite a tougher trading environment that weighed on profits, Botswana's largest retailer says record revenue, regional expansion and continued investment leave it cautiously optimistic about the future

GAZETTE REPORTER

Sefalana Group says it remains cautiously optimistic about its prospects despite difficult trading conditions across the region, particularly in Botswana, where weaker consumer spending weighed on profitability.

Releasing its audited group financial results for the 52-week period ended 26 April 2026, the company reported record revenue of P12 billion, up 9 percent from the previous year. However, earnings before interest, tax and amortisation (EBITA) declined 39 percent to P336 million, while profit before tax fell 40 percent to P331 million. Excluding once-off items, both EBITA and profit before tax were down 19 percent.

Total comprehensive income rose 6 percent to P469 million, while the board declared a final dividend of 20 thebe per share. Total employment increased by 100 people to 8,272.

Managing Director Chandra Chauhan said the company believes efforts by both the public and private sectors to stimulate economic activity will gradually improve business conditions.

“Encouragingly, both the private and public sectors are actively implementing initiatives aimed at stimulating economic growth and restoring business confidence. We are confident that these collective efforts will, in time, deliver positive outcomes and contribute to a stronger and more resilient economy.”

He added that the group remains committed to supporting Botswana's economic development through continued investment.

“We believe that our continued investment in people, infrastructure, and communities will position them well to contribute meaningfully to the country's recovery and long-term prosperity.”

REVENUE RECORD

Chauhan said the P12 billion revenue represented the highest reported turnover in the company's history, reflecting continued market share gains despite economic headwinds.

“Revenue of P12 billion was our highest reported results with an increase of 9 percent on the prior year. Top line growth is an indication of market share penetration. We are pleased with the level of growth despite the challenges being experienced in the various economies.”

Sefcash Botswana increased turnover by 5 percent, Metro Namibia by 16 percent in pula terms and Sefalana Lesotho by 24 percent in pula terms. Like-for-like sales increased by 2 percent in Namibia and 8 percent in Lesotho, while Botswana recorded a 1 percent decline.

CONSUMER PRESSURE

Botswana business units contributed 56 percent of group profit before tax, down from 62 percent in the previous year. Chauhan said Botswana, which typically accounts for around two-thirds of group earnings, generated P186 million in profit before tax compared with P339 million a year earlier.

He said consumers were visiting stores more frequently but spending less during each trip.

“The consumer is still somewhat cautious and tends to focus more on value packs, necessities, and private label products, rather than luxuries.”

The company said this shift continued to put pressure on gross margins, prompting it to expand product ranges and services while prioritising local producers.

By the end of the reporting period, Sefalana operated 146 stores in Botswana, up from 135 a year earlier, including six hyper stores, 22 cash and carry outlets, 38 supermarkets, 66 liquor stores, eight convenience stores and six fuel stations.

Beyond Botswana, Sefalana said its expansion into Lesotho and Namibia over the past 13 years has helped sustain the group's overall performance. The company also maintains a presence in Australia.

Botswana Open University

JOB ADVERTISEMENT

DIRECTOR, CENTRE FOR TECHNOLOGY-ENHANCED LEARNING AND TEACHING (CTELT)

The mandate of the Botswana Open University (BOU) is to make education accessible to all Batswana, especially out-of-school youth and adults, using open and distance learning (ODL) methods. This means providing flexible learning environments that cater to diverse needs and preferences, allowing individuals to study at their own pace and convenience.The university's mission is to offer quality education, research, and community engagement through ODL solutions

Botswana Open University invites applications from suitably qualified, innovative, and results-oriented individuals for the position of Director, Centre for Technology-Enhanced Learning and Teaching (CTELT).

Main Purpose of the Job

To provide strategic leadership, operational oversight, and innovation in the design, development, and implementation of technology-enhanced teaching and learning initiatives. The Director will drive the University's digital learning agenda by promoting excellence in instructional design, educational technology, multimedia development, and learning management systems to ensure world-class online and blended programme delivery.

Key Performance Areas

1. Lead the development and implementation of strategies, policies, frameworks, and standards governing technology-enhanced learning and teaching.
2. Drive innovation and research in instructional technologies and digital pedagogy to enhance teaching effectiveness and student success.
3. Oversee the design, development, and delivery of high-quality digital learning resources and multimedia content.
4. Provide leadership in the implementation, administration, and continuous improvement of Learning Management Systems (LMS) and related eLearning platforms.
5. Promote best practices in online, blended, and hybrid learning environments across the University.
6. Collaborate with Schools and support units to identify and implement technology solutions that meet teaching and learning needs.
7. Ensure effective risk management, compliance, quality assurance, and process improvement within the Centre.
8. Manage budgets, projects, resources, and stakeholder relationships.
9. Lead, mentor, and develop multidisciplinary teams while fostering a culture of innovation and service excellence.
10. Represent the University in national and international forums relating to technology-enhanced education.

Qualifications and Experience

A minimum of a Masters Degree in Educational Technology, Instructional Technology, Instructional Design and Technology, Multimedia Instructional Technology, or a related field from a recognised institution.

1. A PhD/Doctorate in a relevant field will be an added advantage.
2. Proficiency in ICT applications and educational technologies relevant to the position.
3. Demonstrated expertise in instructional design, digital pedagogy, multimedia-supported learning, and Learning Management Systems (e.g., Moodle or similar platforms).
4. At least ten (10) years' relevant experience in a higher education environment, preferably within ODL, including a minimum of five (5) years in a senior management or leadership role.

Competencies

1. Strategic leadership and execution
2. Communication and interpersonal effectiveness
3. Decision-making and conflict management
4. Stakeholder engagement and relationship management
5. Mentoring, coaching, and team building
6. Research, innovation, and analytical thinking
7. Planning, budgeting, and project management
8. Negotiation, advocacy, and networking
9. Strong understanding of educational technology support and emerging technologies

Remuneration

BOU offers a competitive remuneration package commensurate with qualifications and experience.

How to Apply

Interested candidates who meet the above requirements should submit their applications, detailed Curriculum Vitae, certified copies of qualifications, Identity document, two recent references and contact details of two recent referees to:

The Director,
Human Resources
BotswanaOpen University
Private Bag BO 187, Gaborone
and emailed to:recruitment@staff.bou.ac.bw
Tel: 3646024 / 3646029 / 3646049

NB: Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted.

Closing Date: 21st August 2026

“Data Privacy: Botswana Open University will process your personal information in accordance with applicable data protection laws for l egitimate recruitment and selection purposes. For more information, please refer to our Privacy Notice available on our website.”

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TIME OUT
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SINCE 1984

Bouncy, Mpho Sebina's Latest Soul Anthem



The country's newest soulful collaboration isn't chasing heartbreak, it's chasing healing. With Mpho Sebina's velvet vocals meeting Bouncy's emotional honesty, Pelo Yame turns vulnerability into a singalong anthem that listeners are already embracing

GOSEGO MOTSUMI

There are songs that demand attention, and then there are songs that quietly settle into your chest. Pelo Yame belongs to the second category. Bouncy, born Maureen Koketso Maila has teamed up with soul powerhouse Mpho Sebina for a collaboration that fans are already calling the duet they never knew they needed. Produced by Bangu Matenge, the track trades flashy theatrics for something far rarer: emotional honesty.

HEALING IN HARMONY

At its core, Pelo Yame is less about romance than it is about rebuilding trust in yourself.

Bouncy in an interview said the song arrived during a period of self-discovery.

"Music is my ultimate form of therapy, and opening up this part of my heart felt necessary to connect with listeners who are healing from something as well while trying to be the better more confident versions of themselves."

Rather than writing from heartbreak alone, she leans into intuition, inner peace and choosing the right people, subjects that resonate in an era where self-preservation has become its own love language.

THE MPHO MAGIC

When Bangu Matenge played the instrumental, Bouncy immediately knew only one voice could carry the song's emotional weight.

Mpho Sebina did more than deliver a guest verse, she reshaped the record.

"I told her this is not a verse anymore… it's the pre-chorus," Bouncy recalls, describing a recording session she calls the easiest and most natural she has experienced.

The chemistry isn't manufactured; it feels effortless, allowing both artists to shine without competing for the spotlight.

"I want listeners to find comfort in their vulnerability and listening to their heart."





A NEW CHAPTER

For Bouncy, Pelo Yame marks several firsts. It is the first time she has reached out to another artist for a feature and a moment where she intentionally let simplicity win over lyrical complexity. She also embraced accessible Setswana to give the song a communal, singalong feel.

With more music already in the works, Bouncy said consistency, not perfection is now the mission.

Not All Heroes Wear Capes

It started with a schoolboy crush, a packet of chips and a cold drink. Twenty-seven years later, Bofelo Kgaodi has donated blood 85 times, helped save an estimated 255 lives and proved that Botswana's quietest heroes don't need applause, just rolled-up sleeves

GOSEGO MOTSUMI

Every superhero has an origin story.

For local creative and blood donation advocate Bofelo Kgaodi, it wasn't a dramatic rescue or a lightning strike. It was a teenage crush, a free drink and a packet of chips.

At just 16, Kgaodi walked into a blood donation centre with one mission: donate blood, collect the refreshments and impress the girl he couldn't afford to buy snacks for. Nearly three decades later, that innocent teenage gesture has become one of the most remarkable acts of quiet service imaginable.

Eighty-five blood donations. An estimated 255 lives touched.

A LOVE STORY THAT GREW UP

"My blood donation story is a story of love," Kgaodi told Time Out.

That love soon outgrew schoolyard romance. After joining the Youth Health Organisation (YOHO) after Form Five, he discovered the life-changing power of blood donation and made a promise to himself: this wasn't going to be a once-off good deed. It would become a way of life.

Today, every pint he gives carries the possibility of saving up to three lives.



"Saving lives is a big thing," he said.

THE REAL SHORTAGE ISN'T BLOOD

For Kgaodi, the greatest challenge isn't the needle.

"Most people are afraid of needles," he said, "but the biggest challenge is that people don't take blood donation that seriously until it's one of their own in hospital in need of blood."

It's a familiar pattern. Blood banks fill only after emergencies, when the real solution is a steady stream of regular donors long before crisis strikes.

His message is refreshingly simple: donate consistently, not reactively.

THE NEXT CHAPTER

To celebrate his 85th donation, Kgaodi challenged 85 other people to donate alongside him. He didn't hit the target, but he refuses to call it a failure.

"I am happy more people reached out… the support from the media was amazing. I will be starting another campaign soon."

Because heroes like Kgaodi know something the rest of us often forget: changing the world doesn't always require extraordinary powers. Sometimes, it only takes one arm, one pint and the willingness to show up again and again.



Logang! Rokang! Takang! Exhibiting Up Next

At Logang! Rokang! Takang!, Botswana's artists prove that textiles are far more than cloth, they are living archives where memory, identity and sustainability are stitched into every fibre

GAZETTE REPORTER

Some stories are written with ink. Others are stitched, woven and painted.

This August, Logang! Rokang! Takang! arrives at Alliance Française de Gaborone with a bold reminder that textiles have always been one of humanity's oldest storytelling tools. From meticulously woven tapestries to sculptural assemblages built from discarded clothing and fabric scraps, the exhibition transforms everyday materials into artworks that carry history, identity and fresh imagination.

A CALL TO CREATE

Borrowing its name from the Setswana commands to weave, sew and paint, *Logang! Rokang! Takang!* is less an exhibition title than an invitation.

Visitors are encouraged to see weaving, sewing and painting as interconnected creative languages where every thread, stitch and brushstroke becomes part of a larger narrative about Botswana's evolving artistic identity.

The exhibition celebrates traditional craftsmanship without trapping it in nostalgia. Instead, ancestral techniques meet contemporary practice, proving that heritage is something to be continuously remade rather than simply preserved.

The exhibition's title… functions as both an invitation and a call to create.

THREADS WITH A SECOND LIFE

One of the exhibition's strongest statements comes through textile assemblage.

Discarded denim, worn clothing, fabric offcuts and woven objects are rescued from ordinary life and reconstructed into tactile artworks through layering, stitching and painting. Waste becomes wonder, giving familiar materials a second life while quietly speaking to sustainability and conscious making.

Meanwhile, woven tapestries showcase the patience and precision of the loom, where countless threads build landscapes, abstract forms and deeply personal stories one fibre at a time.

WEAVING THE FUTURE

Rather than treating textiles as decorative craft, *Logang! Rokang! Takang!* positions fibre art as a serious contemporary artistic practice capable of carrying cultural memory, innovation and personal expression.

In a world increasingly driven by speed and digital creation, this exhibition slows everything down, celebrating the enduring power of human hands to transform simple materials into extraordinary stories.

Running from 6 to 27 August, the free exhibition opens with an artist Q&A, inviting audiences not only to admire the finished works but to discover the stories woven into every stitch.

A Historic Win, Tough Job

Botswana's music industry has finally crowned its first woman union president. But Gloria Dzwikiti's biggest challenge isn't making history, it's convincing artists that BOMU can still change their lives in an industry battling piracy, shrinking revenues and the AI revolution

GOSEGO MOTSUMI

For years, Botswana Musicians Union (BOMU) presidents have come and gone without breaking one stubborn pattern: they were all men. That changed in Palapye recently when Gloria Dzwikiti swept to an unopposed victory, becoming the first woman to lead the organisation.

History, however, doesn't pay royalties.

The celebrations barely faded before reality walked into the room. Botswana's musicians are still wrestling with piracy, unreliable royalty systems, streaming economics, copyright battles and an AI-powered future that threatens to reshape the value of creativity itself. Dzwikiti isn't inheriting a victory lap, she's inheriting a rescue mission.

FROM SYMBOL TO SUBSTANCE

Dzwikiti appears aware that symbolism alone won't satisfy musicians who have grown tired of promises.

"The best way to restore confidence is through results, not promises," she said in an interview.

Her blueprint starts with making BOMU visible, accessible and accountable before chasing strategic partnerships that could unlock business opportunities,



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skills development and stronger advocacy for artists.

The message is simple: credibility has to be earned.

THE DIGITAL FIGHT AHEAD

While piracy remains a familiar villain, Dzwikiti believes the bigger battle lies in helping musicians survive the digital economy.

She argued that artists must learn to monetise their work across streaming platforms while understanding intellectual property, digital distribution and artificial intelligence before technology leaves them behind.

Her call is equally directed at policymakers.

"We must also ensure that legislation and industry practices evolve alongside technology so that innovation benefits creators rather than exploiting them."

MORE THAN A FIRST

Being BOMU's first female president may become her headline, but Dzwikiti insists it shouldn't be her legacy.

"My election should not be viewed as the destination but as the beginning of a broader movement," she said.

If that movement succeeds, her greatest achievement won't simply be breaking the union's glass ceiling. It will be building a music industry where future leaders, women or men are judged less by who they are and more by whether they can help artists turn talent into sustainable careers.

Can Culture, Heritage Be Copyrighted?

An ancient San rock painting. A Mogagolwane motif. A piece of German print. They belong to generations of Botswana's cultural memory, but what happens when they inspire luxury fashion? Koki Kamala's Heritage Reimagined:Living Archives has opened a bigger conversation about ownership, originality and whether culture itself can ever be copyrighted

GOSEGO MOTSUMI

The question arrived after the applause.

Following Botswana luxury brand Koki Kamala's *Heritage Reimagined:Living Archives* exhibition and fashion show, where Botswana's landscapes and traditions walked the runway as luxury garments, the conversation shifted from beauty to ownership.

Can a designer own culture? Can a traditional motif become intellectual property?

Or does heritage remain forever belonging to the people who created and carried it through generations?

For designer and founder of Koki Kamala, Koketso Koki Chiepe the answer lies somewhere between respect and originality.

HERITAGE IS THE STARTING POINT

Chiepe's designs draw from the Okavango Delta's waterways, the Makgadikgadi Salt Pans, Tsodilo Hills San art, Mogagolwane motifs and German print (leteisi). But Chiepe in an interview said inspiration is only where the creative journey begins.

"My work begins with Botswana's landscapes, history and cultural traditions, but it never ends there. Inspiration is only the starting point."

An ancient San rock painting or ceremonial blanket is not simply copied onto fabric. It is transformed through original textile development, print design, colour, silhouette, craftsmanship and storytelling.

By the time it becomes a garment, she said, it becomes a new creative expression.

"What I own is my original artistic interpretation of that heritage," Chiepe pointed out.

THE LINE BETWEEN CULTURE AND COPYRIGHT

The intellectual property debate becomes complicated because cultural heritage and creative ownership are not the same thing.

"Heritage belongs to all of us," Chiepe said.

Traditional cultural expressions that have existed for generations form part of a shared identity. But original designs, textile artwork and print compositions created through a designer's creative process can be protected.

The goal, she said, is not to claim ownership over Botswana's history, but to protect innovation built from it.

KEEPING STORIES ALIVE

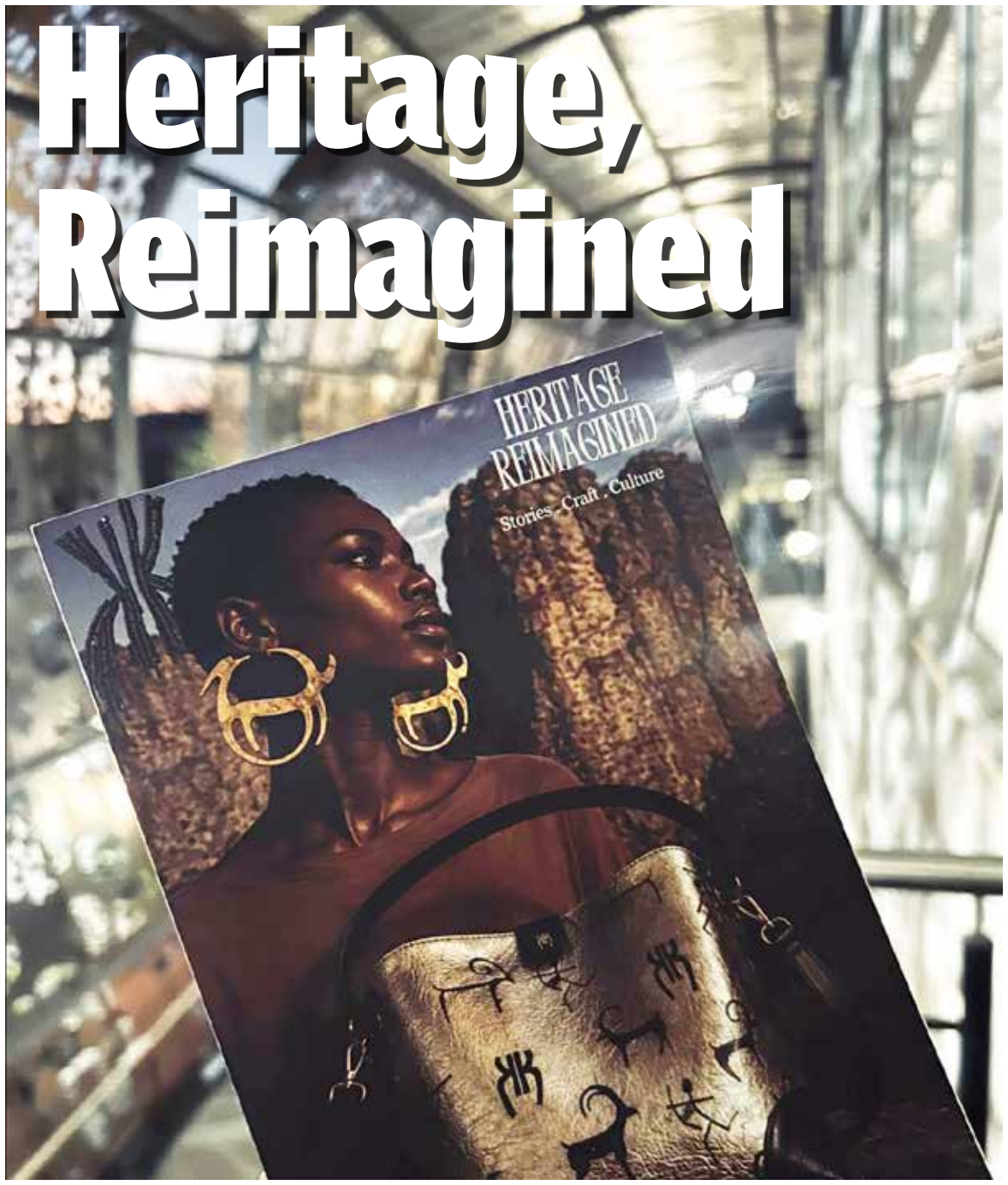
Some fear that turning cultural symbols into fashion risks stripping them of meaning. Chiepe believes the bigger danger is allowing them to disappear from everyday life.

"I believe the greater risk is that they disappear from everyday life altogether."

For her, fashion is another language of preservation. It allows younger generations to engage with heritage in new ways while understanding the stories behind what they wear.



Heritage, Reimagined



Koki Kamala transformed the National Museum into a living runway where Tsodilo Hills, the Okavango Delta and Makgadikgadi Salt Pans stepped offthe walls and onto the catwalk, proving heritage is at its most powerful when it's worn

GOSEGO MOTSUMI

Museums usually ask visitors to look. Local luxury fashion brand, Koki Kamala asked them to feel.

Inside the National Museum in Gaborone last week, Heritage Reimagined: Living Archives blurred the lines between exhibition and runway, turning fashion into a moving museum where every garment carried the memory of a landscape, a culture and a story. Instead of preserving Botswana's heritage behind glass, designer Koketso "Koki" Chiepe sent it walking.

STORIES YOU CAN WEAR

"I carry our stories with me, our stories of home, stories about textile, our landscapes, symbols, and everything that makes Botswana beautiful," Chiepe said. "Fashion has become my language for storytelling."

That philosophy shaped every piece. Inspired by the winding waterways of the Okavango Delta, the cracked Makgadikgadi Salt Pans and the ancient rock paintings of Tsodilo Hills, the collection transformed familiar places into wearable art through striking textiles, sculptural silhouettes and meticulous craftsmanship.

Guests wandered through an immersive exhibition before the space shifted into a live fashion presentation, where garments no longer sat as objects but moved with purpose, giving Botswana's cultural narratives fresh energy.

HERITAGE IN MOTION

Rather than treating tradition as something frozen in time, the presentation argued that culture grows stronger when it evolves.

"This exhibition is an invitation to see our traditions not as relics of the past, but as living expressions of culture constantly evolving, inspiring, and shaping the future," Chiepe said.

That message resonated throughout the evening, with each look feeling less like a costume and more like a conversation between history and contemporary African luxury.

RUNWAY REVIEW

The fashion show delivered intimacy instead of spectacle and that proved to be its greatest strength. The museum setting amplified every detail, allowing guests to appreciate the rich textures, thoughtful prints and craftsmanship up close. Models moved through the space like living exhibits, making the audience feel part of the story rather than mere spectators. It was elegant, immersive and emotionally grounded, offering a refreshing reminder that Botswana's greatest fashion inspiration has always been its own landscapes, people and heritage.

By the final walk, *Living Archives* had made its point: the country's history doesn't belong only in museums. Sometimes, it belongs on the runway.





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> "From recording a morning travel vlog to taking a family selfie in a new city, the iPhone 17 becomes more than a smartphone."





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> "Travel is about more than reaching a destination. It is about the smiles at the arrivals gate, shared meals, unforgettable views and the stories that stay with you long after you return home."



COMPETITION DETAILS

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: Certificates
: Transcripts
: Curriculum Vitae (CV)
: Cover letter
: Copy of Identity document
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Job Summary: Prospective teachers will be required plan, prepare, and deliver engaging lessons, assessing student learning, maintaining a positive and safe classroom environment. They will be required to collaborate with parents and colleagues to foster student development.

Email all correspondence to : vacancies@phakalaneinternational.co.bw
Physical Address : Plot 21475 Magang Avenue, Phakalane, Gaborone
Postal Address : Private Bag BR 307 Gaborone

Contact number : 3907010
Closing Date : 20 August 2026

Please note: No physical applications will be accepted. All applications should be sent via the school email or postal address; referencing the position being applied for.

Due to the number of applications that we normally receive, we will ONLY REPLY to short-listed applicants

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- Physical Education (x1)
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- Music (x1)
- Art (x2)
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- Diploma in Secondary Education
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- Experience in teaching IGCSE will be an added advantage

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Email Address : vacancies@phakalaneinternational.co.bw
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Contact number : 3975991

Closing Date : 20 August 2026

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Dignity Foundation Launches 60-4-60 Challenge

An 80km ride. Eighty children. One powerful reminder that breaking a sweat can also help restore hope, dignity and opportunity



GAZETTE REPORTER

Some races are about beating the clock. Others are about beating the odds.

On September 26, the 60-4-60 Challenge returns to Oodi with a bigger ambition, transforming cycling shoes, running trainers and community spirit into practical support for 80 vulnerable children at Bana Ba Letsatsi Trust in Maun. This time, every kilometre carries a deeper meaning.

FROM FITNESS TO IMPACT

After last year's inaugural challenge exceeded expectations growing from a planned 60km ride for 60 children into a 62km ride supporting 62 children, the Dignity Foundation Trust is raising the bar again.

The headline act is an 80km cycling challenge, symbolising the 80 children currently cared for by Bana Ba Letsatsi Trust. But not everyone needs to be an endurance athlete to make a difference. The event also features a 10km run or walk, a 5km walk and a 50-metre sprint, turning the day into a community festival where every pace matters.

The atmosphere promises more than finish lines, blending sport with entertainment, networking and family-friendly activities that celebrate giving back.

DIGNITY IN MOTION

The challenge is rooted in an idea that's refreshingly simple: movement can create momentum for change.

Last year's campaign delivered personalised school bags packed with clothing, toiletries and stationery for every child supported by Bana Ba Letsatsi Trust, proving that collective action can produce tangible results.

Now, founder Mokgadi Nteta hopes to inspire even greater participation from businesses, development partners and everyday Batswana through sponsorships, donations, volunteerism and in-kind support.

"Through the 60-4-60 Challenge, we are doing more than raising funds; we are restoring dignity and hope for every vulnerable child. One kilometre, one child, one act of dignity at a time," Nteta said.

> "Through the 60-4-60 Challenge, we are doing more than raising funds; we are restoring dignity and hope for every vulnerable child. One kilometre, one child, one act of dignity at a time."

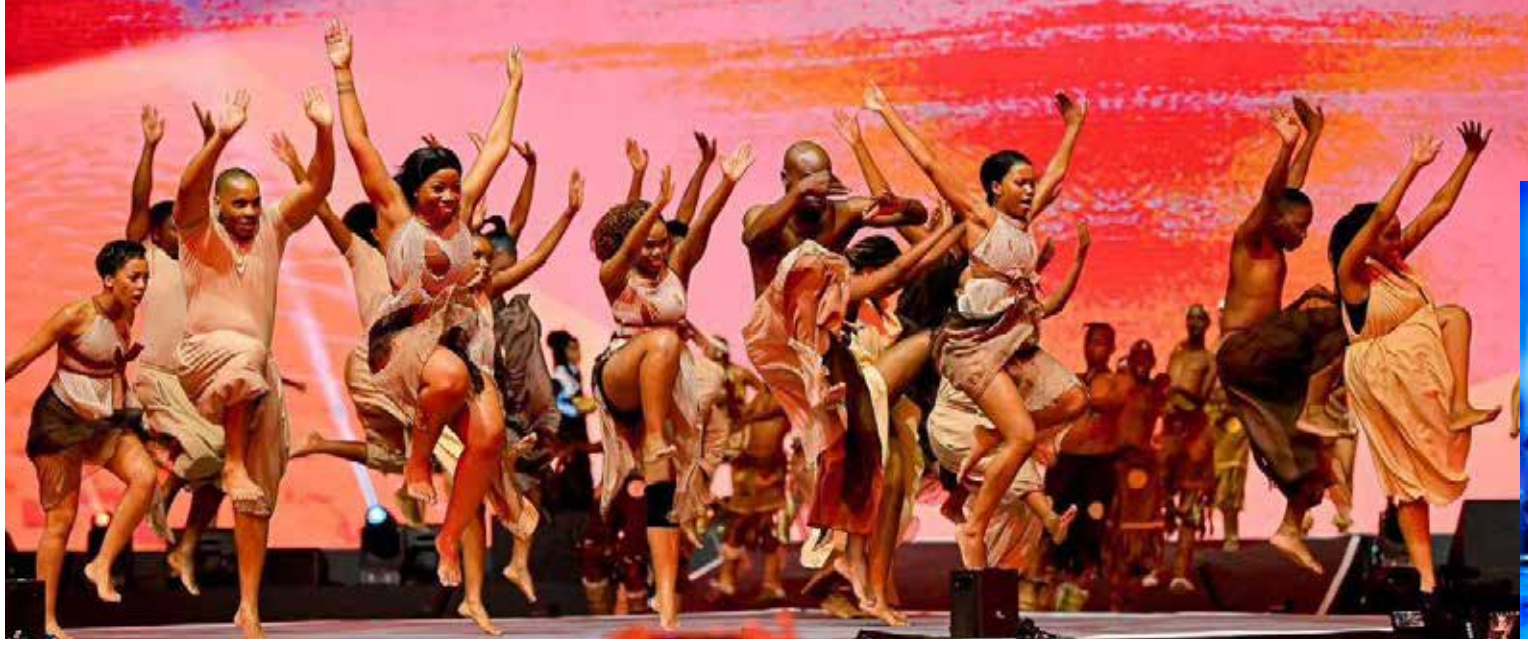
MORE THAN A FINISH LINE

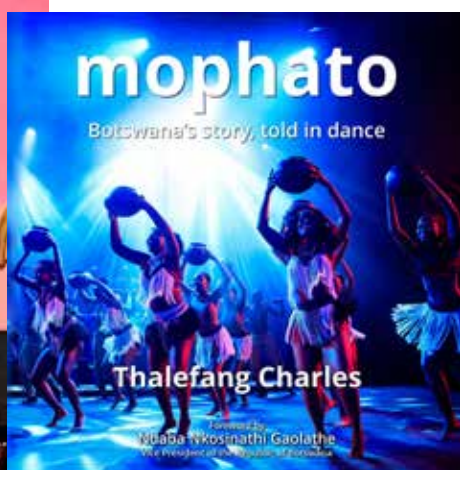
For the Dignity Foundation Trust, the challenge is another chapter in a broader mission that began by tackling period poverty and has evolved into empowering vulnerable girls and children across Botswana.

On this course, the finish line isn't measured in medals, it's measured in futures changed, one kilometre at a time.

Mophato Celebrates with Chaba

Mophato Dance Theatre celebrates 15 years with a landmark production and a new book that honours Botswana's heritage through movement, music and storytelling.





For 15 years, Mophato Dance Theatre has been proving that some of Botswana's most powerful stories don't need words. This September, the acclaimed company celebrates the milestone with Chaba, a major production that promises to blend dance, culture and history into one unforgettable performance.

The celebrations go beyond the stage. The company will also launch "Mophato: Botswana's Story, Told in Dance," a new book by Thalefang Charles documenting the troupe's remarkable journey and artistic legacy.

Timed to coincide with Botswana's 60th Independence celebrations, *Chaba* is expected to showcase the rhythms, traditions and contemporary spirit that have defined Mophato's work over the past decade and a half.

The production runs at the Gaborone City Council Civic Centre from September 1-3 and September 5, with performances beginning at 7:30pm. Tickets are priced at P250 for singles and P450 for doubles.

For dance lovers and culture enthusiasts alike, this promises to be a celebration where Botswana's past, present and future move to the same beat.

> "The company will also launch "Mophato: Botswana's Story, Told in Dance," a new book by Thalefang Charles documenting the troupe's remarkable journey and artistic legacy."



KingBee is Back Behind the Mic

Media personality Loungo Andre Pitse has made his long-awaited radio comeback, bringing his signature energy to RB2 with a brand-new weekday afternoon show.



Botswana's afternoon radio has welcomed back a familiar voice.

Media personality Loungo Andre Pitse, better known as KingBee, has returned to the airwaves, joining RB2, where he is hosting *The King's Drive with KingBee*.

The new weekday show airs Monday to Friday from 12 pm to 3 pm, placing the seasoned broadcaster back behind the microphone during one of radio's busiest time slots.

Sharing the news, KingBee described the moment as one filled with excitement and gratitude, inviting listeners to welcome him back into their homes, cars, workplaces and everyday moments.

His return marks a new chapter for one of Botswana's best-known media personalities, whose vibrant style and connection with audiences have made him a familiar name in local broadcasting.

For fans who have been waiting to hear his voice again, the wait is over. *The King's Drive* is set to bring fresh conversations, entertainment and KingBee's unmistakable personality back to the airwaves.

Stop Apologising For Sweet Wine

From Tokaji and Sauternes to local Muscadel, celebrated sweet wines show that sweetness is a style to savour, not a taste to outgrow.



Phenyo Motlhagodi formally trained wine enthusiast (trained at the Cape Wine Academy); Chartered PR Practitioner (Chart.PR) with the Chartered Institute of Public Relations; and founder of a pan-African boutique PR, Influence & Reputation Management consultancy. Instagram: @phenyomotlhagodi.

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PHENYO MOTHAGODI

There are few things in the wine world that are judged more harshly than admitting, usually in a hushed voice over dinner, "I actually like sweet wine."

The confession is often followed by an apology, as though the speaker has just admitted to putting tomato sauce on a perfectly good steak. Why?

Somewhere along the way, we've allowed ourselves to believe that enjoying sweet wine is merely a stepping stone to "real" wine, and that once you've graduated to Cabernet Sauvignon, Shiraz or a nervy Sauvignon Blanc, you're expected to leave sweetness behind like an embarrassing fashion phase from your teenage years. Rubbish.

It's time we stopped treating sweet wine like the guilty pleasure of the wine world. Here's the delicious irony: some of the most celebrated, sought-after and expensive wines on the planet are sweet.

SWEET PRESTIGE

Take Hungary's legendary Tokaji, once described as "the wine of kings and the king of wines." Or France's revered Sauternes, where nature conspires in the most remarkable way. Morning mists encourage a beneficial fungus known as Botrytis cinerea, romantically called "noble rot", which gently shrivels the grapes, concentrating their sugars, acidity and flavour into something almost magical. Then there's Canada's famous Ice Wine, made from grapes harvested while frozen on the vine, producing tiny quantities of intensely flavoured nectar.





These are hardly the sort of wines you'd dismiss as "beginner's wine." And yet, somewhere between these world-class dessert wines and the supermarket shelf, sweetness developed an image problem.

Perhaps it's because many of us were introduced to wine through sweeter styles. Perhaps it's because sweetness is often confused with simplicity. Or perhaps wine snobbery simply needed a convenient target. Whatever the reason, sweetness deserves a fair hearing.

NOT SIMPLE

Let's clear something up. Sweet does not mean unsophisticated.

A well-made dessert wine is a balancing act. The sweetness should never dominate. It should dance with fresh acidity, fruit concentration and texture, creating a wine that's rich without becoming cloying. Think of it like a well-written joke. Timing is everything. Too much of one ingredient and the magic disappears.

The same is true in the kitchen. Nobody complains that crème brûlée is too sweet simply because it's dessert. Nobody expects baklava or malva pudding to taste like a green salad. So why do we expect every wine to finish bone dry?

MAKING SWEETNESS

One of the easiest ways to understand sweet wine is to know how it's made. Unlike dry wines, where yeast converts virtually all the grape sugars into alcohol, dessert wines are crafted to retain some of that natural sweetness. Sometimes fermentation is stopped before all the sugar is consumed. Sometimes the grapes are left on the vine longer to naturally concentrate their sugars. In other cases, nature lends a helping hand through freezing temperatures or the miraculous work of noble rot.

The beauty of sweet wine is that it invites you to slow down. It isn't designed to be rushed through while catching the second half of Sunday soccer. It's a wine that asks for smaller pours, longer conversations and perhaps a moment to wonder how grapes manage to produce flavours that remind us of honey, apricots, marmalade, dried figs, orange peel or toasted nuts.

WORTH DISCOVERING

Closer to home, we don't have to search particularly hard to find excellent examples. One bottle that continues to put a smile on my face is the Jakkalsvlei Red Muscadel 2024. This isn't simply sweet; it's gloriously indulgent. Expect aromas that immediately transport you to Turkish delight, sun-drenched raisins and dried fruit, with a nostalgic lift that reminds me of old-fashioned sherry. It's the sort of wine that refuses to be ignored.

Serve it slightly chilled over ice on a warm Botswana afternoon, pour it alongside vanilla ice cream, or simply enjoy a small glass on its own after dinner. It doesn't need an occasion. It creates one.

Then there is the wine that has completely stolen my attention: Constantia Uitsig Red Muscat d'Alexandrie. It's one of those rare bottles that seems to keep unfolding in the glass. Every sip reveals another layer: ripe berries, exotic spice, dried fruit, floral perfume and remarkable freshness that keeps the sweetness beautifully in check. It's rich without being heavy, luxurious without becoming tiring, and manages the difficult trick of being both comforting and elegant at the same time. It's the sort of wine that reminds you why dessert wines have fascinated wine lovers for centuries.

Of course, not every sweet wine will be extraordinary. Just as not every Cabernet Sauvignon deserves a standing ovation, some dessert wines will delight while others may disappoint. That's part of the adventure.

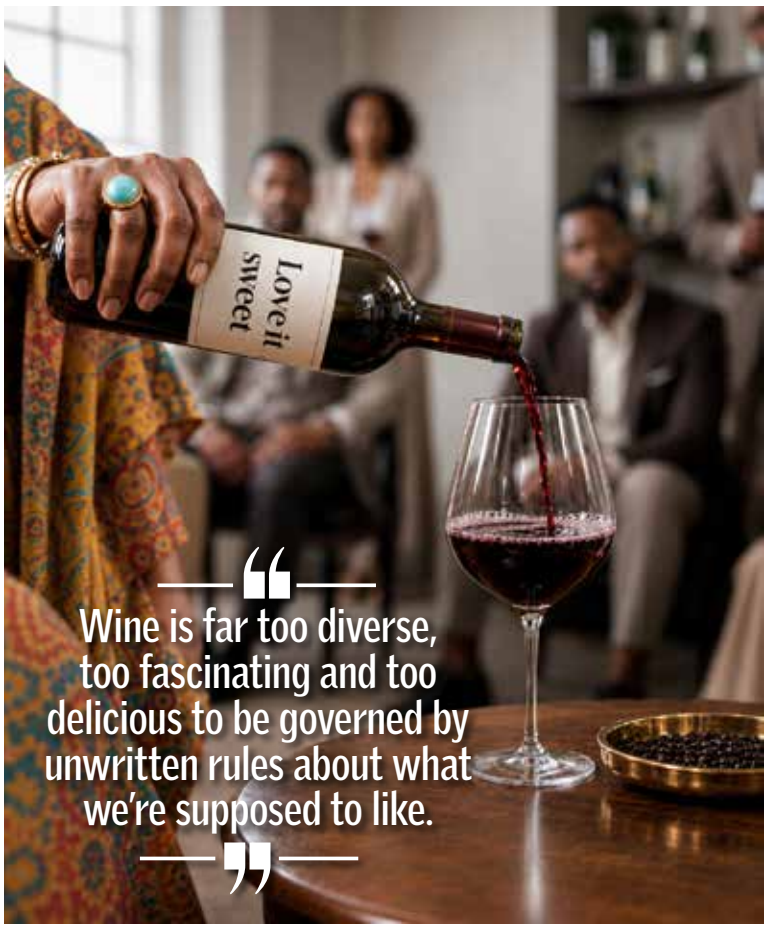
GIVE IT CHANCE

But dismissing an entire style because it's sweet would be like deciding never to read another novel because you once picked up a bad one at the airport.

So here's my challenge. The next time you're browsing the shelves, resist reaching automatically for your usual bottle. Pick up a Moscato. Try a Red Muscadel. If you happen to come across a Sauternes, Tokaji or Ice Wine, treat yourself to the experience. Better yet, share it with friends who insist they "don't do sweet wine" and watch their expressions after the first sip.

Wine is far too diverse, too fascinating and too delicious to be governed by unwritten rules about what we're supposed to like.

And if your palate genuinely enjoys a sweeter style, don't apologise for it. Smile, pour another glass and remember: taste is personal, but good wine, whether dry, off-dry or gloriously sweet, never asks for permission to be enjoyed.



STOP MAKING THEM THINK

The brand that says less, clearly, will usually outsell the brand that says more brilliantly, but a message simplified to the point of saying nothing has achieved invisibility, not clarity.



MANUEL VEIRUAPI RUHAPO

There is a rule in copywriting that has been around for decades and violated by almost every business that has ever existed: confused customers do not buy. Not "confused customers buy less." Not "confused customers need more convincing." Confused customers do not buy. They leave, scroll past, walk out or call a competitor. The confusion does not slow the sale down. It ends it.

Donald Miller, founder of StoryBrand, built an entire methodology around this insight. Most businesses are not ignored because their product is bad. They are ignored because their message is unclear. The customer arrives and cannot immediately answer three questions: What do you offer? Why does it matter to me? What should I do next? If those questions are not answered within the first few seconds, the brain moves on.

Miller's explanation draws on neuroscience. The brain is wired for survival, not shopping. When it encounters information it cannot quickly process, it registers a low-level threat: this will cost me energy. The default response is to disengage. The brain does not stay and work harder. It leaves.

FOUR RULES

The StoryBrand framework is built on four rules. The first is that the brain ignores what it cannot immediately categorise as relevant. Leading with your history, awards or values is not merely ineffective. The customer's brain may already have left by the time you get to the part that matters.

The second rule is that people do not buy products. They buy the feeling the product makes possible. A bank account is not simply a bank account. It represents security, control or the ability to take care of the people who depend on you. The brand that communicates the feeling wins over the brand that communicates only the feature.

> "The clarity comes from that understanding, not from the removal of words."

The third rule is that a message simple enough to repeat becomes a message that travels. When a customer can describe your brand in one sentence to someone else, that sentence does the work of a sales team. When they cannot, the referral stops at: "You should check them out. I cannot really explain what they do."

The fourth rule is that the brand which positions the customer as the hero and itself as the guide wins the trust that self-promotion never can. The guide does not need to be the most impressive person in the room. The guide needs to understand the hero's problem better than anyone else.

> "Creativity that confuses is not creativity. It is noise with a production budget."

THE PARADOX

Here is where the counter-argument holds equally true. Clarity without substance is not a strategy. It is a shortcut to a different kind of failure. A brand that strips its message down to a single, perfectly clear sentence, and then fails

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to deliver on the promise that sentence makes, has not solved a messaging problem. It has created a trust problem. The clearer the promise, the more visible the gap becomes when the product does not deliver it.

The brands that apply StoryBrand's rules most effectively are not necessarily those with the simplest products. They are those with the deepest understanding of their customer's actual problem. The clarity comes from that understanding, not from the removal of words. You cannot simplify your way to a great message if you do not know what the customer actually needs to hear.

That is the distinction too many brands miss. Simplicity is not the absence of detail. It is the ability to identify which detail matters most. A message can be brief and still be empty. It can be beautifully written and still fail to communicate anything useful. The goal is not to say less for the sake of saying less. The goal is to remove everything that stands between the customer and the meaning.

BOTSWANA BRANDS

Walk through any commercial district in Gaborone, Francistown or Maun and look at the signage, social media pages, radio adverts and brochures. The most common pattern is a brand talking about itself: our quality, our experience, our commitment to excellence, our passion for service.

None of those phrases answers the three questions: What do you offer? Why does it matter to me? What should I do next? They are not necessarily false statements, but they are statements almost any competitor could make. They ask the customer to do the work of translating vague corporate language into a personal reason to care. Most customers will not do that work.

The funeral industry in Botswana communicates packages and prices. The customer's actual question is: Will you help my family honour this person with dignity, and will you make this easier for us when we are at our worst? No funeral parlour in Botswana has answered that question clearly in its advertising. The brand that does will not need to compete on price.

The banking sector communicates products and interest rates. The customer's actual question is: Can I trust you with the money I am responsible for, and will you help me take care of the people who depend on me? No bank in Botswana has answered that question in a single sentence that a customer could repeat to a friend. The bank that does will not need a bigger branch network to grow.

> **Confused customers do not buy.**

The informal sector, ironically, applies Miller's rules instinctively. The fat cake vendor at the school gate does not explain the ingredients or the history of the recipe. She is there every morning, the product is visible, the price is clear and the smell does the rest. The message is: hot food, right now, you know what it costs. That is StoryBrand in four words.

There is no unnecessary introduction, no corporate history and no attempt to position the vendor as the hero. The customer understands the offer, the value and the next action without needing to decode anything.

WHAT IT MEANS

If you are a business owner or executive, test your message using the three-question rule. Hand your website or brochure to someone who does not know your business and ask them: What do we offer? Why does it matter? What should they do next?

Do not explain the business to them first or guide them towards the right answer. Let the message stand on its own. If they cannot answer all three questions in under ten seconds, you have a messaging problem, not a marketing budget problem. Spending more money to distribute an unclear message does not solve the problem. It simply allows more people to become confused by it.

FOR MARKETERS

If you are a marketing professional, the brief is not "make it creative." The brief is "make it clear." Creativity still matters, but it must serve understanding. It should make the message easier to notice, remember and repeat. It should not force the customer to admire the execution while wondering what is being sold.

Creativity that confuses is not creativity. It is noise with a production budget.

FOR MANAGERS

If you are a brand manager, your customer is the hero and your brand is the guide. The moment your communication positions your brand as the hero of its own story, you have lost the customer's attention. The customer does not care about your journey. They care about theirs.

This does not mean your history, expertise, values or achievements are irrelevant. They matter when they help the customer believe you can guide them. They do not matter merely because the organisation is proud of them.

Confused customers do not buy. That is not a theory. It is a description of what happens every day in every market in the world, including this one.





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



AFTER ANGLO DIVESTS DEBEERS IT LEAVES THE BSE

Anglo American's likely departure from the Botswana Stock Exchange could expose the true scale of the domestic market while intensifying pressure on pension funds required to invest more of their assets locally.

DR DOUGLAS RASBASH

The proposed sale of Anglo American's controlling stake in De Beers is widely regarded as one of the most significant developments in Botswana's diamond industry for a generation. Public attention has understandably focused on who will ultimately own De Beers and what that may mean for Botswana's long-standing partnership in one of the world's most successful diamond businesses.

Yet another consequence has received remarkably little attention.

Once Anglo American divests its interest in De Beers, there will be little strategic rationale for maintaining its secondary listing on the Botswana Stock Exchange (BSE). Although no formal announcement has been made, a subsequent delisting appears a logical and highly probable consequence of the restructuring.

If that happens, the implications will extend far beyond the mining sector.

DEFINING MOMENT

The likely departure of Anglo American could become one of the most significant structural events in Botswana's financial system since the Botswana Stock Exchange was established. It will not reduce Botswana's mineral wealth, nor will it alter Debswana's day-to-day operations.

Instead, it is likely to expose structural weaknesses that have existed within Botswana's capital market for many years while simultaneously presenting Government with a rare opportunity to reshape the country's financial future.

For more than a decade, the BSE has proudly reported a market capitalisation exceeding P1 trillion. On paper, Botswana appears to possess one of Africa's largest stock exchanges, with a market value exceeding three times the country's Gross Domestic Product.

Such figures naturally project an image of depth, liquidity and financial maturity.

However, headline statistics can sometimes conceal as much as they reveal.

A significant proportion of the BSE's reported market capitalisation reflects the global value of Anglo American rather than the underlying strength of Botswana's domestic corporate sector. Once Anglo's secondary listing disappears, that valuation will disappear with it.

Current estimates suggest the exchange's market capitalisation could contract from more than P1 trillion to below P200 billion, reducing its apparent size by more than 80 percent.

Botswana itself will not become poorer because of this statistical adjustment. Diamonds will continue to be mined, businesses will continue to operate and the wider economy will continue to function.

What changes is the picture presented by Botswana's capital market.

The likely delisting will reveal a domestic exchange that is considerably smaller, more concentrated and less diversified than headline figures have long implied.

Ordinarily, this would be an important story in its own right. However, another major policy change is unfolding simultaneously, and together the two developments have the potential to reshape Botswana's investment landscape.



> The likely delisting will reveal a domestic exchange that is considerably smaller, more concentrated and less diversified than headline figures have long implied

PENSION PRESSURE

Over recent years, Government, through revised Pension Fund Rules administered by the Non-Bank Financial Institutions Regulatory Authority (NBFIRA), has progressively increased the proportion of retirement savings that must be invested within Botswana.

The policy objective is both understandable and commendable.

Botswana's own savings should play a greater role in financing domestic investment, infrastructure and economic development rather than flowing predominantly into overseas markets.

The difficulty lies in the timing.

At precisely the moment pension funds are being required to increase domestic investment, Botswana's single largest listed investment is likely to move offshore.

Botswana's pension industry now manages assets approaching P170 billion. By the end of 2027, around half of those assets will be required to remain invested domestically.

Finding investments of sufficient scale, liquidity and quality has always been challenging. The

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likely departure of Anglo American removes one of the few assets capable of absorbing substantial institutional investment while simultaneously providing international diversification.

The implications become even more significant when one follows the shares themselves.

OFFSHORE SHIFT

Anglo American is not disappearing. It is simply changing markets.

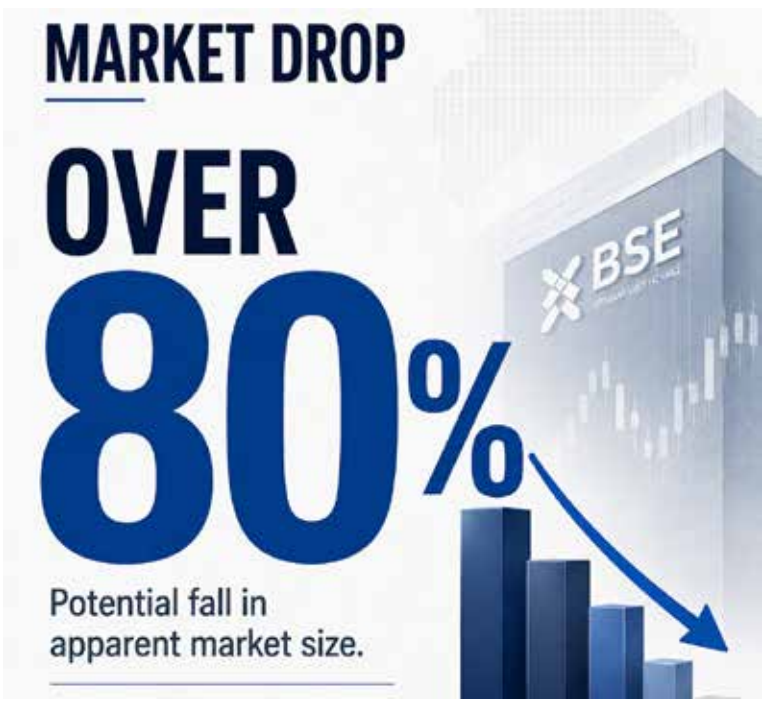
Today, its Botswana-listed shares are traded and settled in Botswana pula. Following any delisting, those same shares would continue trading in London, denominated in British pounds.

For individual investors, this may simply represent a change of marketplace and currency. Indeed, continued ownership of a hard-currency asset may provide useful protection against movements in the pula while maintaining exposure to one of the world's largest diversified mining companies.

Institutional investors face a very different reality.

Once Anglo American ceases to be listed on the Botswana Stock Exchange, those holdings become





offshore assets for regulatory purposes. Pension fund managers may therefore find themselves under increasing pressure to reduce positions, not because the investment has become less attractive, but because the regulatory framework requires a growing proportion of retirement savings to remain within Botswana.

This creates a remarkable paradox.

Pension funds may be forced to exchange a globally diversified investment denominated in British pounds for a much smaller pool of domestic investments denominated in Botswana pula.

Billions of pula that once had access to one of the world's largest listed companies could instead be channelled into a relatively small number of domestic shares.

The consequences are predictable. Competition for quality domestic assets intensifies, share prices become increasingly detached from underlying earnings, dividend yields compress and institutional portfolios become progressively more concentrated.

Ultimately, the issue is not whether the Botswana Stock Exchange rises or falls, but whether the country's pension system continues to generate the long-term returns needed to support future generations of retirees.

CONCENTRATION RISK

A smaller investment universe also increases the risk that pension funds become overly exposed to the same companies, sectors and economic conditions.

This is particularly important in a country whose economic performance remains closely linked to diamonds, Government expenditure and a relatively limited number of large domestic businesses.

Diversification is not simply a technical preference exercised by fund managers. It is one of the principal ways in which long-term savings are protected against economic shocks, currency movements and the decline of individual companies or industries.

By reducing access to a large, internationally diversified company while increasing domestic investment requirements, the regulatory framework could unintentionally weaken the diversification available to pension funds.

The danger is not necessarily immediate. Domestic share prices may initially benefit from additional demand. Companies may find it easier to raise capital, and local investors may enjoy higher valuations.

However, if too much capital is directed towards too few assets, rising prices may reflect regulatory demand rather than improvements in the productive capacity or profitability of the underlying businesses.

That would create the appearance of capital market growth without necessarily creating corresponding economic value.

DIAMOND EXPOSURE

At the same time, Government has indicated its desire to secure a larger ownership position in De Beers once Anglo American exits.

Such a strategy may strengthen Botswana's influence within the global diamond industry, but it also changes the distribution of commercial risk.

Historically, much of the volatility associated with the international diamond market has been absorbed by Anglo American's global balance sheet. As ownership shifts, a greater share of that commercial risk could increasingly reside with Botswana itself.

This matters at a time when the diamond industry is facing changing consumer preferences, growing competition from laboratory-grown diamonds and uncertainty within major international markets.

Greater national ownership may provide Botswana with greater influence and a larger share of future returns, but it may also increase the country's exposure during periods of weak demand and declining profitability.

None of this should be interpreted as an argument against greater national ownership or against encouraging more domestic investment.

Rather, it demonstrates that these policies cannot be considered in isolation.

Capital market regulation, pension policy and national investment strategy are becoming increasingly interconnected. The challenge for policymakers is therefore not simply to manage Anglo American's likely departure, but to use it as a catalyst for strengthening Botswana's capital market.

"Pension funds may be forced to exchange a globally diversified investment denominated in British pounds for a much smaller pool of domestic investments denominated in Botswana pula."

POLICY RESPONSE

Several policy responses deserve serious consideration.

First, Government and NBFIRA should review the implementation timetable for domestic pension investment requirements to ensure that regulatory objectives remain aligned with the availability of suitable domestic investment opportunities.

The objective of increasing domestic investment should remain, but the pace of implementation should reflect the capacity of the market to absorb additional capital without compromising returns or creating excessive concentration.

Secondly, the supply of investable domestic assets should be expanded through the accelerated listing of commercially viable state-owned enterprises and other strategic public assets.

A broader market is the most sustainable response to the loss of a major listed company. It would provide pension funds with greater choice while improving transparency, corporate governance and public participation in nationally significant enterprises.

Thirdly, Botswana should accelerate the development of alternative domestic investment instruments, including infrastructure bonds, green bonds, Real Estate Investment Trusts, private equity and other long-term investment vehicles.

These instruments could finance productive economic development while providing institutional investors with greater portfolio choice.

Fourthly, regulators should consider transitional arrangements for existing Anglo American holdings so that pension funds are not forced into unnecessary and potentially value-destructive sales simply because the shares migrate to London.

Finally, the time has come to develop a comprehensive National Capital Market Strategy involving Government, the Botswana Stock Exchange, the Bank of Botswana, NBFIRA, institutional investors and the private sector.

Botswana has accumulated substantial domestic savings over many decades. The next challenge is ensuring that those savings are matched by an equally strong pipeline of productive investment opportunities.

REFORM OPPORTUNITY

In many respects, this story is not really about Anglo American.

It is about what Anglo American's likely departure may reveal about Botswana's financial system.

The potential delisting should therefore be seen not simply as the loss of one listed company, but as a defining moment in the evolution of Botswana's capital market.

If policymakers respond with vision and determination, Anglo American's departure may ultimately be remembered less for the company that left than for the reforms it inspired.

Botswana now has an opportunity to build a deeper, broader and more resilient capital market capable of supporting economic transformation long after the diamond era has passed.



MAKGADIKGADI GRAND SLAM LAUNCHED

Softball tournament targets competition growth, sports tourism and a P75,000 champions' prize

TLOTLO KEBINAKGABO

The inaugural Makgadikgadi Grand Slam Series 2026 has been unveiled as a national softball competition aimed at expanding competitive opportunities, developing talent and promoting sports tourism in the Makgadikgadi region.

GROWING GAME

Speaking at the launch of the tournament on Monday, Makgadikgadi Grand Slam Series 2026 Local Organising Committee (LOC) Marketing, Media and Communications Lead, Atlang Gabantese, said the competition represents a new chapter in the development of softball in Botswana.

"The Makgadikgadi Grand Slam Series has been designed as a premier national softball competition that will strengthen the country's competitive landscape while positioning the Makgadikgadi region as a destination for sports tourism," Gabantese said.

The tournament, powered by Titans Softball Club, will feature 16 men's teams and 15 women's teams competing across six playing series, with the final series determining the overall champions.

The first series will begin this weekend with eight women's teams competing, followed by the men's competition the following weekend in Jwaneng, where another eight teams will take part.

WIDER IMPACT

Organisers said the tournament is intended to go beyond competition by creating opportunities for athlete exposure, sponsorship



partnerships, youth participation and community engagement.

According to Gabantese, the event will also showcase the Makgadikgadi region's hospitality and tourism potential by attracting visitors from across Botswana.

"The tournament is more than a sporting event, it is a platform for talent development, community engagement, economic growth, and national pride," he said.

The climax of the competition will be the Grand Finale scheduled for 28 September to 3 October 2026 in Makgadikgadi. The event will feature championship games, an opening ceremony, media coverage, sponsor activations and community engagement activities.

ECONOMIC PROSPECTS

Organisers expect the tournament to create economic opportunities for businesses in the host region through increased demand for accommodation, restaurants, transport services and other local businesses.

The tournament is also expected to contribute to social development through increased youth participation in sport, volunteer development, healthier lifestyles and stronger community pride.

"The Makgadikgadi Grand Slam Series is more than a tournament. It is an investment in the future of Botswana softball," Gabantese said.

The competition will be managed by a Local Organising Committee working alongside the Botswana Softball Association to ensure compliance with competition regulations, transparent financial management and coordination with clubs, sponsors, government, tourism partners and the media.

GRAND PRIZE

As part of efforts to promote excellence, organisers announced that the champions of the Makgadikgadi Grand Slam Series 2026 will receive a grand prize of P75,000.

Gabantese said the tournament aims to establish itself as a flagship event on Botswana's sporting calendar while creating a lasting legacy for softball development.

"Together, let us build a tournament that not only crowns champions but also leaves a lasting legacy for softball and for Botswana," he said.

Orange Phikwe Marathon Winners Overcome Wind And Endurance Test



Galeitsiwe and Too overcome late-race pressure, challenging conditions and strong winds to claim the prestigious 42.2km titles

TLOTLO KEBINAKGABO

Kefilwe Galeitsiwe and Lazarus Too delivered determined performances at the Orange Phikwe Marathon, winning the women's and men's 42.2km races after navigating a demanding course and difficult conditions.

Galeitsiwe crossed the finish line first in the women's marathon in 2:50:22, ahead of Kitsiso Joseph, who finished in 2:52:19, while Rudo Mohunderwa secured third position in 2:52:43.

The victory followed a challenging race for the athlete, who admitted that maintaining momentum over the final kilometres required both physical and mental strength.

"The race was quite hectic," Galeitsiwe said. "I would say in the first half of it I was cruising nicely and towards 30km I shut down a bit."

She said she realised she could not maintain the lead for the entire race without risking being caught towards the finish. The runner from Molepolole was eventually overtaken before the 38km mark but managed to fight her way back into contention.

"I told myself that I can't give up at the last half of the race when I came all the way from Molepolole to Phikwe, that's when I fought myself back into the race," she said.

WIND CHALLENGE

Galeitsiwe described the route as challenging, particularly due to strong winds experienced around the 35km mark.

The marathon winner said her first 42.2km race in April produced a national record and encouraged her to return with the aim of achieving a better time.

"I did my first 42.2 km on April and did a national record, it was such a great move for me because I wanted to do a better time," she said.

In the men's race, Kenya's Lazarus Too defended his title after winning in 2:20:09. Amos Kipchirchir finished second in 2:20:13, while Israel Mudimba completed the podium in 2:22:16.

Too said the race was difficult, especially after dealing with injuries during the year.

"The race was tough, I was struggling because I had injuries this year because I didn't perform well this year but I thank God I managed to defend my title," he said.

He added that he secured victory after applying pressure at 31km and noticing that his competitor could not respond.

"The running course was okay, the only thing that made it difficult was the wind," he said.

The winners of the 42.2km category received P30 000.

FINAL LIQUIDATION AND DISTRIBUTION ACCOUNT
Masters Reference: ESHGB 000389-24

IN THE ESTATE of the late **ABUWENG MAFIKA** who died at Nkoyaphiri Clinic, Mogoditshane, Kweneng District Republic of Botswana on the 6th day of July 2022.

THE FINAL LIQUIDATION AND DISTRIBUTION ACCOUNT In the Estate will be open for inspection at the offices of the master of High Court at Gaborone for a period of (Twenty- one) 21 Days from the date of publication hereof.

Any objection to the Estate Account may be lodged with the Master within the 21 days stated above

DATED AT GABORONE ON THIS 4TH DAY OF AUGUST 2026

THE EXECUTER
GABRIEL MAFIKA
P. O. BOX 2179 ABG
SEBELE
TEL: 72646313

LOST NOTARIAL DEED OF CESSION

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the undersigned intends to apply for a certified copy of **Memorandum of Agreement of Lease No. TG 279/2014 dated 13th October 2014**, made in favour of **GRACE MUZILA** in respect of

Certain : Piece of land being Tribal Grant NO.1298-KO

Situate : at Molongwane in the Bakgatla Tribal Territory

Measuring : 2.7442 HA(Two point Seven Four Four Two hectares)

All persons having objection to the issue of such copy are hereby required to lodge the same in writing with the Registrar of Deeds within three (3) weeks of the last publication of this notice.

DATED AT GABORONE THIS 28th DAY OF JULY 2026

MASUKU LEGAL PRACTICE,
(Applicant's Attorneys)
Plot 128, Unit 7,Gaborone International Finance Park
P.O. Box AE 463 AEH
Gaborone
Tel: 3113331



TATI RIVER CUP WEEKEND

Organisers believe next week's inaugural HSNV-sponsored Tati River Pre-Season Tournament can transform Francistown into Botswana's football destination while driving tourism, business and regional football development

TLOTLO KEBINAKGABO

The inaugural HSNV-sponsored Tati River Pre-Season Tournament is being positioned as more than a curtain-raiser to the Botswana Premier League season, with organisers hoping it evolves into one of the country's premier annual sporting events.

Scheduled for 8 August at Obed Itani Chilume Stadium, the one-day tournament will feature newly promoted Tonota FC, northern rivals Tafic FC, Botswana football heavyweights Township Rollers and Zambian giants Nkana FC.

Organisers say the tournament is the first step towards establishing Francistown as Botswana's football capital every August while creating lasting economic opportunities for the city.

Tonota FC chairman Tumelo Toteng said the ambition extends well beyond hosting a successful pre-season competition.

"Our objective is to create a football property that supporters, clubs and sponsors look forward to every year. We believe Francistown deserves a signature sporting event that showcases both the city's passion for football and its potential as a destination," Toteng said.

ECONOMIC BOOST

Thousands of supporters are expected to travel to Francistown for the tournament, providing business for hotels, restaurants, transport operators, retailers and informal traders.

Toteng said football has become an important driver of local economies, with major sporting events creating value long after the final whistle.

"Every supporter who comes to Francistown spends money on accommodation, food, transport and shopping. That is why this tournament is not only about football but also about supporting local businesses and stimulating economic activity," he said.

The tournament has secured support from HSNV as title sponsor alongside partners including the Botswana Tourism Organisation, Bet267, Unik Construction, Cresta Hotels, VTH, Okavango Consortium, the Gambling Authority, the Ministry of Sport and Arts, the Ministry of Tourism, the Ministry of Trade and Entrepreneurship, Spur Francistown, RocoMamas and SuperSport.

REGIONAL VISION

Toteng said the participation of Nkana FC underlines the organisers' ambition to give the tournament a regional profile while exposing Botswana clubs to stronger competition before the new season.

> "We are creating a football property that supporters, clubs and sponsors look forward to every year."

"We want supporters to experience international football without leaving Botswana while giving our clubs the opportunity to compete against quality opposition. That is how standards improve," he said.

Although the tournament will provide Tonota FC with valuable preparation ahead of its debut Botswana Premier League campaign, Toteng said the broader objective is to build an event that benefits northern Botswana and the country's football industry.

"If we establish a successful first edition, we are confident the tournament will attract even bigger clubs, stronger partnerships and more supporters in the years ahead."

BFL Rift Deepens

Only five clubs attended the league's AGM as pressure mounts on Sipho Showa's board, but the chairperson insists the leadership remains focused on completing its mandate.

GAZETTE REPORTER

The Botswana Football League (BFL) is facing renewed uncertainty after a disrupted annual general meeting exposed deep divisions among shareholders, with chairperson Sipho Showa maintaining that his board remains in office and focused on its responsibilities.

The AGM, held at the UB Hotel and Conference Centre last Saturday, proceeded with only five clubs in attendance after several teams stayed away amid growing dissatisfaction with the current leadership.

The boycott followed an earlier shareholders meeting where attempts were made to pass a motion of no confidence against the Showa-led board. The move did not proceed after it emerged that the BFL constitution does not contain a provision allowing such a motion.

BOARD POSITION

Showa has rejected calls for the board to leave office, arguing that similar challenges have confronted previous administrations within the league.

"The Zakhem, Ralebala and Kesitilwe led BFL Boards were also harassed to vacate office without justification and well before their terms. So the current Board is not facing anything new," Showa said in a interview.

The chairperson said the current board, which still has two years remaining on its term, remains committed to its responsibilities despite the recent developments.



"The Board, which has two years left, is busy doing its work," he said.

SHAREHOLDER CONCERNS

The leadership dispute comes amid concerns from some shareholders over the financial position of the league. The BFL is reportedly technically insolvent, with the organisation carrying a deficit of P3.5 million.

The financial concerns, alongside disagreements over governance, have contributed to increasing pressure on the Showa-led board.

Showa said shareholders with grievances should use the structures provided within the league's constitution rather than attempting to remove directors outside the prescribed process.

"However, if any shareholder has a grievance, they must approach the relevant structure where both parties will be heard by a neutral party with the outcome providing direction on the way forward," he said.

"Any actions to force directors to leave other than those outlined in the Constitution will not succeed," Showa added.

UNCERTAIN PATH

The BFL is expected to convene again on Saturday, regardless of attendance, as efforts continue to address the challenges affecting the organisation.

The timing of the meeting coincides with the Botswana Football Association (BFA) general assembly, adding further attention to developments within football administration.

A source aligned to the group calling for Showa and the rest of the board to step aside said the position of dissatisfied members had not changed.

"It is a matter of time. Clearly it will be difficult to work with the Board after recent events, and the honourable thing to do is to leave office as the message is clear," the official said.

With divisions continuing among shareholders, the BFL now faces a crucial period as the Showa-led board attempts to maintain stability while some clubs push for leadership change.



GU LADIES' COSAFA OPPONENTS DECIDED

A repeat of last year's final headlines a challenging path for Gaborone United Ladies after today's CAF Women's Champions Leaguwe | COSAFA Qualifier draw in Gaborone

GAZETTE REPORTER

Gaborone United Ladies will begin the defence of their CAF Women's Champions League | COSAFA Qualifier crown against familiar opposition after yesterday (Tuesday's) tournament draw in Gaborone placed them in a competitive Group A.

The Botswana champions were drawn with Zambia's ZESCO Ndola Girls, Zimbabwe's Herentals Queens and Lesotho Defence Force for the regional competition, which runs from August 20 to 29 in Gaborone.

The meeting with ZESCO Ndola Girls revives last year's final, where Gaborone United claimed the title after prevailing in a penalty shootout. Herentals Queens also return to the competition after proving difficult opponents in previous campaigns, while Lesotho Defence Force add further experience to the group.

Second Pool

Group B brings together South African side Mamelodi Sundowns, two-time winners of the tournament, with Eswatini's Nsingizini Hotspurs, Mozambique's Costa do Sol and Malawi's Silver Strikers.

The leading two teams from each group will qualify for the semi-finals before competing for the single place reserved for the COSAFA region at this year's CAF Women's Champions League finals.

REGIONAL RECORD

Botswana will host the qualifier for the first time, becoming the third nation to stage the event after South Africa and Malawi. The 2026 competition is the sixth edition of the regional tournament.

> "The leading two teams from each group will qualify for the semi-finals before competing for the single place reserved for the COSAFA region at this year's CAF Women's Champions League finals."

Four COSAFA clubs have previously progressed to the continental finals: Mamelodi Sundowns, Green Buffaloes, the University of the Western Cape and Gaborone United.

Last year's qualifier produced a record 63 goals in 15 matches, highlighted by Gaborone United's 10-1 victory over Kick4Life. Gaonyadiwe Ontlametse scored five times in that match, finished the tournament with seven goals and remains the competition's all-time leading scorer with 11.

Gotswakgosi Eyes Tougher Competition

After another half-marathon victory, the Botswana Defence Force Athletics Club runner says her focus is shifting to the BDF AC Mogoditshane Half Marathon later this month while calling for stronger local competition

GAZETTE REPORTER

Mosadikwane Gotswakgosi of Botswana Defence Force (BDF) Athletics Club says the Orange Phikwe Marathon served as part of her preparations for the BDF AC Mogoditshane Half Marathon after claiming the women's 21.1-kilometre title over the weekend.

Gotswakgosi won in 1:18:24, finishing ahead of Gaone Bathoeng, who clocked 1:19:24, while Banyana Motlhabane placed third in 1:50:21.

"I am the one who did the national record at the Botswana Life Marathon in a time of 1:14:55," Gotswakgosi said after her win.

She added that her latest race was intended as preparation for the BDF AC Mogoditshane Half Marathon, scheduled for August 29, 2026, at SSKB in Mogoditshane.

RACE ASSESSMENT

Reflecting on her performance, Gotswakgosi said she encountered few difficulties during the race.

"Today I just came to prepare for BDF half marathon. The race was just okay. I didn't have any challenges and I didn't have any pressure and ran according to my race plan," she said.

She also praised the event's organisation, saying, "The route was okay, water point was fine."

COMPETITION GAP

Despite another victory, Gotswakgosi said she believes the women's 21.1-kilometre field lacks sufficient domestic competition.

"The competition is not there in the 21.1km race. I always push hard because of internationals but locals are not giving me the much needed competition in the 21.1km race," she said.

Meanwhile ,

> "The competition is not there in the 21.1km race. I always push hard because of internationals but locals are not giving me the much needed competition."

The BDF AC Mogoditshane Half Marathon has extended registration until August 21, 2026, with a total prize pool of P164,000 across the 21.1-kilometre half-marathon and 10-kilometre races.



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