The Botswana
GAZETTE
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ANALYSIS 22-23

RIGHT LAW, WRONG ECONOMY?

THE DEAL NOBODY ASKED FOR

More than P1 billion was committed to developing Botswana's creative economy. Much of that value flowed beyond its borders. Five years later, the Steve Harvey deal stands as a symbol of questionable procurement and a generational blow to BW's creative economy. Yet the contract remains in force.

2&6



Boko Blames Board For BR Woes

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Govt Seeks Another P3.7 Billion

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THE DEAL NOBODY ASKED FOR

More than P1 billion was committed in the name of developing Botswana's creative economy, yet much of that value flowed beyond its borders. Five years later, the Steve Harvey deal has become a symbol of squandered opportunity, questionable procurement practices and a generational blow to the local creative economy, while the contract itself remains in force.

BONGANI MALUNGA

The Steve Harvey Global deal has become an expensive inheritance for the UDC government, which is now caught between its desire to distance itself from a controversial procurement decision of the previous administration and the potentially punishing financial consequences of pulling the plug.

The Public Accounts Committee (PAC) heard last week that government has paid approximately P355 million for the first year of Botswana Ignite, while the three-year partnership with the Steve Harvey Group is valued at more than P1 billion. Officials say all first-year contractual deliverables were met, including remodelling the Mass Media Complex auditorium, installing equipment, producing television content including Family Feud Botswana, and conducting training.

Yet phases two and three have stalled because of government's financial constraints, leaving significant future spending attached to a deal that has attracted sustained criticism over its procurement, secrecy and benefit to Botswana's creative industry.

WEIGHING OPTIONS

The government is now weighing what to do with an agreement it did not originate. Acting Permanent Secretary in the Ministry for State President, Defence and Security Jeremiah Makgwa told the PAC last week that the ministry was consulting the Ministry of Finance on whether the contract should continue or be terminated. With the contract still live, any attempt to exit it could carry legal and financial consequences, while continuing it would commit government to further expenditure on a deal the UDC inherited from the previous administration.

At the heart of the controversy is the manner in which Steve Harvey Global entered the public procurement system. In June 2021, the Public Procurement and Asset Disposal Board (PPADB) approved the use of direct procurement by the Department of Broadcasting Services (DBS) to engage Steve Harvey Global for radio and television production services over three years. Contemporary reporting put the proposed value at about P470 million. The PAC has now been told that the three-year Botswana Ignite partnership is valued at more than P1 billion.

RAISING QUESTIONS

The procurement decision immediately raised questions about why a competitive process was not used to test whether other companies could provide the same services at better value for money.

> "What did we buy for this money that we can visibly see so far? A television game show produced in a studio built in South Africa, paid for by us. This is not an investment in the creative economy; it is an extraction from it."

The controversy was not merely political. The procurement trail itself became a source of concern because government initially maintained that the PPADB decision was approval of a procurement method rather than an award of the actual contract. Then Permanent Secretary Pearl Ramokoka said the approval authorised negotiations with Steve Harvey Global and that those negotiations might or might not result in a contract.

Yet the underlying question remained: why was direct procurement deemed appropriate in a field with numerous potential local and international production companies?



In 2021, the Botswana Congress Party (BCP) raised precisely that concern, arguing that commonly cited grounds for direct procurement, such as an emergency or a sole capable supplier, did not apply to television production services.

VINDICATED

Reached for comment, BCP president Dumelang Saleshando told this publication that his party feels vindicated after challenging the decision five years earlier. Saleshando said the party had discovered that the PPADB was initially reluctant and had reservations about the direct allocation, but government nevertheless moved to justify it.

"We went to court and sought this allocation to be reviewed. We got stuck when the Department of Broadcasting Services (DBS) refused to disclose the motivation that was used to justify the direct allocation. We went to court before Justice Omphemetse Motumise who ruled that we had no basis to involve ourselves in the matter. We feel vindicated now that what is now coming out seems to clearly suggest that this was possibly a compromised or not a clean transaction resulting in possible loss of public funds to a foreign company that was offering what could actually be sourced comparatively both from Botswana and other international bidders," Saleshando told this publication on Tuesday. Years later, the same procurement question continues to haunt the project.

A DEVASTATING LEGACY

Speaking on Yarona FM's News Today lunchtime programme on Tuesday, Tonderai Tsara, chairperson of the Creative Arts and Media Sector at Business Botswana, questioned the legacy footprint of the deal on the local entertainment industry and whether proper procurement protocols were followed.

"What did we buy for this money that we can see visibly so far? A television game show produced in a studio built in South Africa paid for by us. This is not an investment in the creative economy, it is an extraction from it. Just one year of this budget could have financed local production for a generation. This is abuse of taxpayers' money. There was no need being fulfilled here. There is no value for money and a contract that cannot stand the litmus test of procurement law must fall," Tsara said on the programme.

These allegations go to the heart of the controversy: whether government went through the motions of procurement after the decision to engage Steve Harvey Global had effectively already been made.

According to Botswana Screen Society chairperson Earnest Seakgosing, a task team established by local film industry players found that there was no genuine Invitation to Tender (ITT) underpinning the appointment. "The ITT that was eventually availed was just a formality, the contents of the ITT do not match what's happening on the ground," Seakgosing told The Botswana Gazette.

The historical record shows that government publicly presented the project as a partnership intended to transform Botswana's creative economy. When Botswana Ignite was launched in April 2024, officials said the three-year project would provide training and development, nurture local talent and grow the television and video production industry.

But the local industry says the reality has fallen far short of those promises.

Seakgosing says the task team found that local participation at the core of production was limited. He says, for example the 49 Batswana involved in the Family Feud production were placed on arrangements resembling internships, while Steve Harvey Global relied on South African production companies that were formally subcontracted.

Government, however, told Parliament in April that 613 Batswana participated across the project, a broader figure that included 21 Film Development Training Academy graduates, 260 contesting families and 332 support personnel.

Botswana Film Association Secretary General Oarabile Carol Keosedile similarly says the industry was effectively presented with a fait accompli. She says local filmmakers first learned about the deal through the media rather than through an opportunity to compete for the work. The secrecy surrounding the arrangement has become another major flashpoint. Keosedile says only selected industry players were invited to some meetings and that they were made to feel that questioning the project was unwelcome. Industry participants, she says, were effectively presented with a choice: climb aboard an already moving train or be left behind.

"When the new government took over in 2024, we held countless meetings with Minister Mohwasa in a series of talks from November 2024 to June 2025. We were able to demonstrate that this deal does not benefit our industry. It was politically motivated," Keosedile said. She says Minister Moeti Mohwasa advised the industry to take its concerns to the Directorate on Corruption and Economic Crime (DCEC), where, according to Keosedile, the matter has remained since last year while investigations continue.

CONTINUES TO PAGE 6

Boko Blames Board For BR Woes

President Duma Boko has blamed Botswana Railways' former board for frustrating a private-sector partnership he says could have helped turn around the loss-making parastatal.



SESUPO RANTSIMAKO

President Duma Boko has turned his criticism on the former Botswana Railways (BR) board after the state-owned rail operator failed to meet his public promise of returning to profitability by the end of 2025.

Speaking at the Public Sector Leadership Conference this week, Boko said the board frustrated a private-sector partnership that, in his view, could have placed the struggling parastatal on a path to recovery.

BOARD BLAMED

The President accused some former board members of prioritising their influence within BR over decisions that could improve the organisation's financial position. He suggested that some were reluctant to support the proposed partnership because they feared losing control over aspects of the parastatal's operations.

His criticism comes months after he publicly declared that BR would be profitable by December 2025. Addressing a kgotla meeting in Ramotswa last year, Boko said: "By end of 2025 BR will be profitable, I declare and decree."

LOSSES MOUNT

That deadline has passed while BR continues to struggle with losses, ageing infrastructure and inadequate rolling stock. Parliament was told in May that the railway accumulated an operating loss of P235 million between 2021 and 2024.

Losses stood at P90 million in 2021/22, falling to P45 million and P40 million in the subsequent two years before increasing to P60 million in 2024.

The operational picture is also strained. Of BR's 1,155 wagons, fewer than 200 were reportedly operational, while only 11 of its 34 locomotives remained in service.

BAAITSE LINK

Boko did not name the investor involved in the rejected proposal. However, The Botswana Gazette understands that his comments relate to a P25 million contract involving businessman Shadrack "Shaduf" Baaitse's company, Life Compass Botswana, which BR terminated in 2025.

> "By end of 2025 BR will be profitable, I declare and decree."

The arrangement reportedly contemplated profit-sharing and capital injection, but BR argued that it unlawfully transferred functions reserved for the railway operator under the Botswana Railways Act. Baaitse challenged the termination in court.



Baaitse Returns With 25-Year BR Deal

As settlement talks continue over his cancelled P25 million contract, businessman Shadrack Baaitse has secured a new 25-year concession aimed at expanding Botswana Railways' freight capacity.


(Pic:Monirul Bhuiyan/PRESS PHOTO)

GAZETTE REPORTER

Businessman Shadrack Baaitse and Botswana Railways (BR) are negotiating a settlement over the cancellation of a P25 million contract while his company, Life Compass Botswana, moves into a new 25-year arrangement with the state-owned rail operator.

Baaitse confirmed that the two sides were "engaged in discussions aimed at reaching a settlement" over the earlier deal, which was intended to assist BR with commercialisation, recapitalisation and investment in rolling stock.

SETTLEMENT TALKS

"Remember, we had already started work," Baaitse said, adding that the discussions would have to take into account commitments and work undertaken before the cancellation.

Life Compass challenged the termination in August 2025 after BR argued that the agreement unlawfully transferred functions reserved for the railway operator under the Botswana Railways Act. Baaitse's lawyers rejected that interpretation and maintained that the company was assisting BR to improve its commercial viability.

NEW CONCESSION

Against that backdrop, Baaitse has now secured a 25-year concession aimed at strengthening BR's freight operations. He told The Botswana Gazette that Life Compass had been selected for the long-term arrangement and would work with partners from Africa, Europe and the Middle East.

"We will invest US$70 million into the project," he said.

Documents seen by this publication show that the investment is expected to provide additional rolling stock and financial support while addressing maintenance and capacity constraints. The partnership will initially focus heavily on salt and soda ash traffic, where BR documents indicate existing market demand.

CAPACITY PRESSURE

The new arrangement is structured around private financing of rolling stock, with the consortium expected to recover its investment through charges linked to deployed assets and the revenue they generate. It also provides for profit-sharing, technical support, spare parts, employee training and maintenance systems.

BOARD RELATIONS

Baaitse has meanwhile praised BR's current leadership as "more open, accessible and communicating", while describing the former board as "arrogant". His remarks follow President Duma Boko's criticism of a previous BR board that he said frustrated investors seeking to help revive the railway.

> "Baaitse has meanwhile praised BR's current leadership as "more open, accessible and communicating", while describing the former board as "arrogant"

Efforts to obtain comment from implicated former board members were unsuccessful. One former board member, who requested anonymity, said only that "party politics are actively at play".

BOTSWANA VACCINE INSTITUTE

TENDER NOTICE

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

INVITATION TO TENDER FOR THE SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF DIESEL FUEL 50PPM TO BOTSWANA VACCINE INSTITUTE LIMITED FOR A PERIOD OF THREE (3) YEARS

NO	TENDER REF:	DESCRIPTION:	PPRA CODE:	PROCUREMENT METHOD	COMPULSORY SITE VISIT TIME AND DATE	TENDER CLOSING DATE & TIME
1.	BVI/ WAR/17/2026-27	INVITATION TO TENDER FOR THE SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF DIESEL FUEL 50PPM TO BOTSWANA VACCINE INSTITUTE LIMITED FOR A PERIOD OF THREE (3) YEARS	CODE: 214- PETROLEUM PRODUCTS SUB CODE(S): 01 – FUEL	OPEN DOMESTIC BIDDING- (RESERVED FOR CITIZENS OR CITIZEN OWNED CONTRACTORS AS STATED UNDER SECTION 76(2) OF THE PUBLIC PROCUREMENT ACT)	14 AUGUST 2026 at 1000 HRS (CAT)	21 AUGUST 2026 at 1000 HRS (CAT)

Tender documents will be available with effect from 07 August 2026 and will be sent to the bidders via email upon submission of proof of payment of a non-refundable fee of **BWP250.00 (two hundred and fifty Pula Only) each.** 100% Botswana citizen owned youth companies will pay **BWP125.00 (one hundred and twenty-five pula only)** each non-refundable payable to the BVI Account details provided below. Proof of payment must be emailed to procurement@bvi.co.bw. To access the full tender notice please visit https://bvi.co.bw/tenders/

The BVI banking details are as follows:

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

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

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

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

The following standard Savings, Lending and Investment rates will apply

Local Currency Deposit Interest Rates

Type of Deposit Account	Nominal Rate per Annum (NACM)	Annual Effective Rate	Minimum Opening Balance (BWP)
Current	-	-	Nil
Call	0.00% - 0.46%	0.00% - 0.46%	1,000
Money Maximiser	0.00% - 3.35%	0.00% - 3.40%	100,000
Savings (Poloko)	0.00% - 3.40%	0.00% - 3.45%	100
FutureSave	0.00% - 0.40%	0.00% - 0.40%	100
Future Forward	0.00% - 2.50%	0.00% - 2.53%	50
Savings Pocket	0.00% - 1.60%	0.00% - 1.61%	-
FNB Motshelo Savings Account	2.25% - 3.35%	2.27% - 3.40%	500
Flexi Fixed (3 Months)	2.95% - 3.20%	2.99% - 3.25%	100
Flexi Fixed (6 Months)	4.05% - 4.35%	4.13% - 4.44%	100
Flexi Fixed (12 Months)	4.85% - 5.35%	4.96% - 5.48%	100
7 Day Notice	0.15% - 1.25%	0.15% - 1.26%	100
32 Day Notice Plus	1.25% - 2.00%	1.26% - 2.02%	1,000
1 Month Fixed Deposit	2.50% - 2.55%	2.53% - 2.58%	1,000
3 Months Fixed Deposit	3.20%	3.24%	1,000
6 Months Fixed Deposit	4.10% - 4.35%	4.14% - 4.40%	1,000
12 Months Fixed Deposit	4.95% - 5.35%	4.95% - 5.35%	1,000
24 Months Fixed Deposit	5.00% - 5.45%	4.88% - 5.31%	1,000
Over 36 Months Fixed Deposit	5.05% - 5.50%	4.77% - 5.17%	1,000
MoPR	5.50%		

***For term deposits the minimum amount is BWP 500,000 to qualify for a special rate.
- Interest is calculated on the daily account closing balance and credited in to the account monthly (For all interest bearing products excluding fixed deposits).
- Fixed deposits interest is calculated based on the principal amount, agreed term and applicable interest rate. The accrued interest is credited at Maturity or termination.

Local Currency Lending Interest Rates

Lending Rates	Nominal Interest Rate Per Annum (%)	Average Effective Interest Rate
MoPR	5.50%	5.50%
Prime Lending Rate	7.01%	7.01%
Mortgage Facility	3.5% to Prime +12.11%	3.56% to Prime + 13.88%
Overdraft Facility (Revolving Credit Lines)	Prime +14% to 18%	Prime +16.15% to 21.08%
Credit Card	22% to 28%	24.36% to 31.89%
Lease Loans (VAF)	Prime -1.50% to Prime +23%	Prime -1.36% to 27.49%
Unsecured Personal Loans (Excluding Overdraft, Mortgage and Credit Card)	5% to Prime 22%	5.12% to Prime 26.19%
Other Term Loans	-	-

*Scheme related lending is as per the scheme contract.

Foreign Currency Deposit Rates

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

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

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

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

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

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

For more information:

Visit FNB Branch Visit fnbbotswana.co.bw

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

FROM PAGE 2



EXPORTED VALUE CHAIN

The controversial project resurfaced in Parliament in April, when Serowe South MP Leepetswe Lesedi asked how much government had paid for Family Feud and why the programme was filmed outside Botswana. Minister for State President, Defence and Security Moeti Mohwasa replied that 26 episodes had been produced at a cost of US$1,533,711, or P20,932,731.89, and said the show required a set larger than the space available at the Mass Media Complex.

The answer came against the backdrop of an increasingly awkward reality: Botswana had invested over P56 million in upgrading its own broadcasting infrastructure, yet the flagship production associated with the project was filmed in South Africa.

Project officials had acknowledged the problem before filming began. In May 2024, Botswana Ignite project director Duncan Irvine said the Family Feud set did not fit in the auditorium but that plans were for future seasons to be produced in Botswana. The PAC was again told last week that the South African shoot was caused by the set and renovation constraints, and that later production was intended to take place in Botswana.

THE MODEL, NOT THE MAN

Direct appointment is not unlawful in itself. Under the procurement rules then in force, open domestic bidding was the default, but direct procurement could be used in defined circumstances, including emergencies, sole-provider situations, contract extensions, compatibility or continuity needs, or other circumstances the Board found justified.

Crucially, procurement could not begin until the PPADB had accepted a full justification and approved the method, and any award still had to demonstrate value for money. The unresolved issue with the Harvey project is therefore not whether direct procurement was legally possible, but what justification was relied upon and whether it withstands scrutiny.

Government's 2025 review of the Development Manager model dealt with a different stream of projects under a different framework, but it sharpened the same wider debate about procurement and value for money. The review found that estimated costs under the model had risen from about P13 billion to P56 billion and called for stronger financial controls, greater transparency and a more robust value-for-money framework.

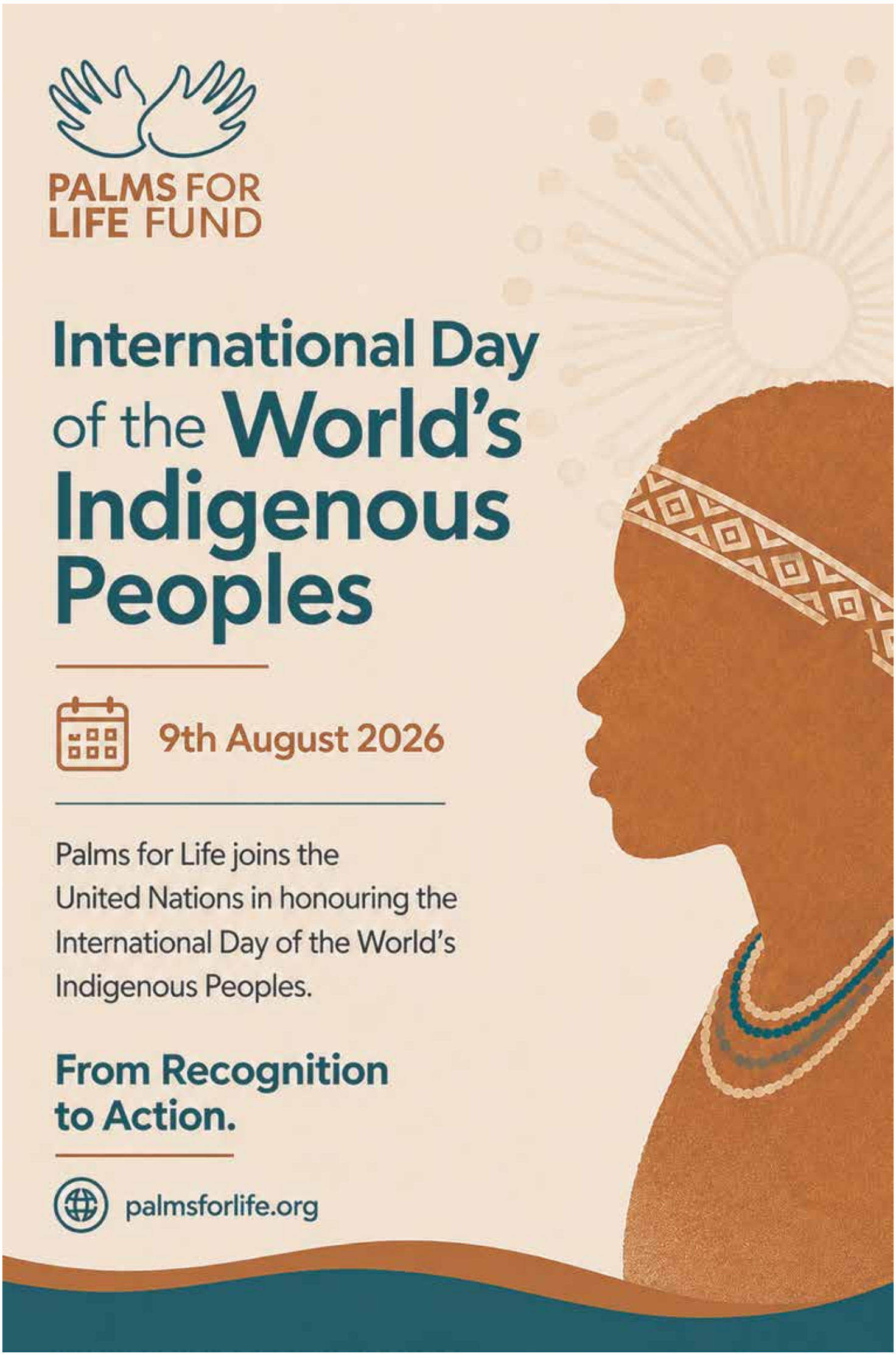
It is not the same procurement exercise as the Steve Harvey deal, but both have put renewed focus on how government explains departures from ordinary competition and demonstrates public value.

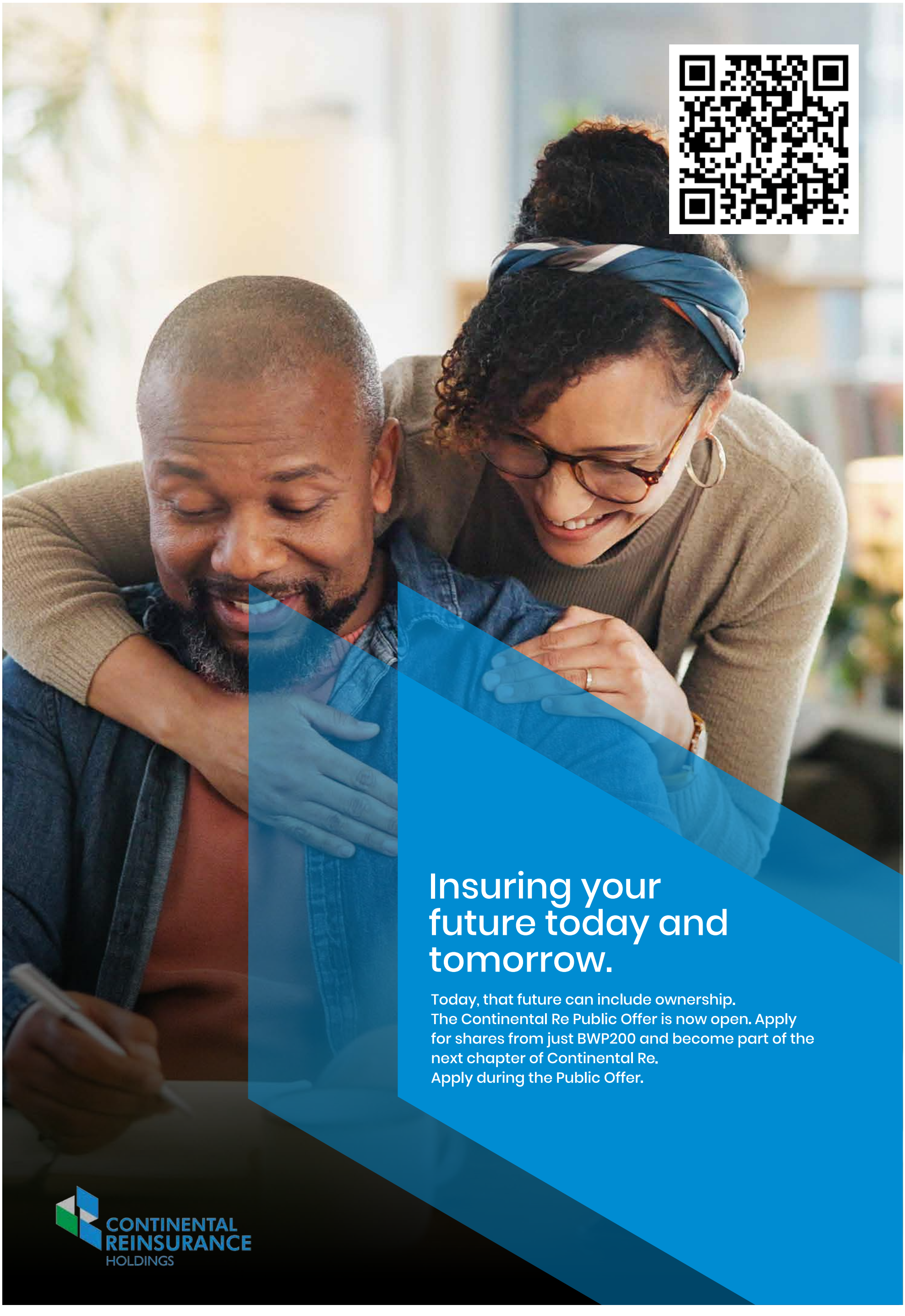
> "We have not postponed or suspended the contract. It remains ongoing."

DEAL NOT CANCELLED

While recent reports have described the project as suspended, information available to The Botswana Gazette indicates that the contract itself has not been suspended. That distinction is consistent with the PAC evidence: phases two and three have stalled because of financial constraints, but government still regards the contract as live and says implementation can resume when funding becomes available.

"We have not postponed or suspended the contract. It remains ongoing. There are financial challenges that the government is dealing with but it doesn't in any way mean that the government has suspended the contract. Even from the Public Accounts Committee (PAC) deliberations, there has been contention on the deliverables of the contract," said Lawrence Seretse, Deputy Director of the Botswana Government Communications and Information System (BGCIS), in an interview with this publication.

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CONTINENTAL REINSURANCE HOLDINGS



BOFEPUSU Secretary General Robert Ronny Rabasimane

BOFEPUSU Rejects Central Bargaining

BOFEPUSU warns that replacing sector bargaining with a single public-service structure could weaken unions and undermine existing recognition agreements.

GAZETTE REPORTER

The Botswana Federation of Public, Private and Parastatal Sector Unions (BOFEPUSU) has rejected government's reported plans to introduce centralised bargaining in the public service, warning that the move could undermine trade union rights and render existing recognition agreements meaningless.

TWO-TIER DEMAND

In a letter dated 10 August 2026 to the Minister of Labour and Home Affairs, BOFEPUSU Secretary General Robert Ronny Rabasimane and Gotlamang Oitsile formally objected to what they described as an attempt to replace decentralised bargaining with a single bargaining structure.

The federation said it supports the re-establishment of the Public Service Bargaining Collective Council (PSBC) under the new Public Service Act, but believes the council should operate alongside decentralised bargaining through recognition agreements between the Directorate of Public Service Management (DPSM) and individual unions.

SECTOR DIFFERENCES

BOFEPUSU argued that occupational groups across the public service have different working conditions and bargaining priorities, making a one-size-fits-all approach inappropriate.

"Teachers, nurses and administrative staff cannot and should not be lumped into one basket," the federation said.

AGREEMENTS AT RISK

The federation warned that moving all conditions-of-service negotiations to one national table would strip unions of their ability to negotiate issues affecting specific sectors and departments.

"If all matters of conditions of service are determined at a central table, Recognition Agreements become meaningless," BOFEPUSU said, describing such a development as "de-recognition by another name."

It also raised concern over reports that DPSM intends to alter existing recognition agreements, which it says provide the legal basis for union representation, access to facilities and collective bargaining on substantive issues. BOFEPUSU warned that unilateral changes, coupled with centralised bargaining, could weaken unions, demotivate workers and ultimately affect service delivery.

ACT REVIEW

The federation also questioned the decision to remove the Public Service Act from the Labour Law Review Committee (LLRC), which was established to review the Employment and Labour Relations Act, Public Service Act and Industrial Court Act.

BOFEPUSU said removing the Public Service Act from the review process could deny unions an opportunity to participate in shaping legislation governing public-sector workers.

NATIONAL ROLE

The federation stressed that it is not opposed to a functional PSBC and supports national-level negotiations on matters of common interest, including general salary adjustments and conditions affecting the entire public service.

However, it wants a two-tier system in which the PSBC handles broad public-service matters while unions retain the ability to negotiate sector-specific issues through recognition agreements.

VACANCY – FINANCE MANAGER

Jackstands Projects (Pty) Ltd t/a Olspa Botswana
Location: Gaborone, Botswana

About Us

Olspa Botswana is a well-established transport and logistics company specialising in the transportation of petroleum products. We are seeking an experienced and commercially minded Finance Manager to join our management team.

Minimum Qualifications & Experience
- Degree in Accounting, Finance or a related field
- BICA, ACCA or CIMA membership/ qualification advantageous; part-qualified candidates with strong relevant experience will also be considered
- Minimum 8 years' accounting/finance experience, with at least 3 years in a senior finance role
- Sound working knowledge of IFRS for SMEs
- Strong knowledge of BURS tax compliance, including VAT and PAYE
- Experience in transport, logistics or another capital-intensive industry will be an advantage
- Experience with external audits, banking facilities, asset finance and fixed asset management
- Proficiency in Xero and Microsoft Excel

Key Responsibilities
The successful candidate will be responsible for:
- Preparing monthly management accounts and financial reports for management and the Board
- Preparing annual financial statements and coordinating the year-end audit
- Managing cash flow forecasts, budgets and banking relationships
- Monitoring borrowings, asset finance and repayment obligations
- Managing VAT, PAYE and other statutory tax compliance
- Maintaining the fixed asset register and financial controls
- Monitoring and analysing operating costs and financial performance
- Identifying and reporting financial, cash flow and liquidity risks
- Supporting management with financial analysis, budgeting and strategic decision-making

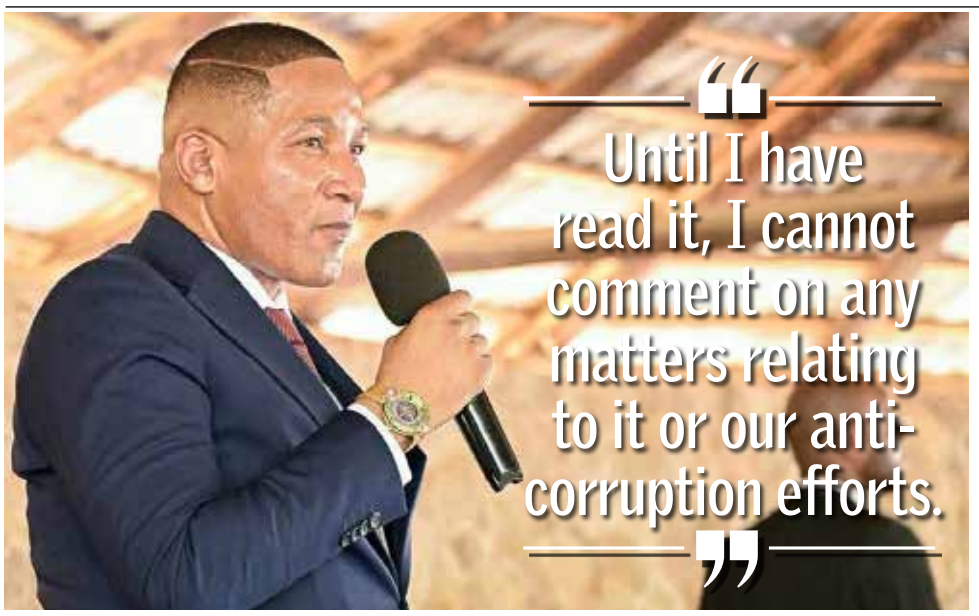
Key Competencies
- Strong financial and analytical ability
- Advanced Excel and Financial Modelling Skills
- Excellent attention to detail
- High level of integrity, confidentiality and accountability
- Strong communication skills with the ability to present financial information clearly to non-finance management
- Ability to work independently and meet strict reporting deadlines

How to Apply
This position forms part of Olspa Botswana's commitment to developing and strengthening local management capacity. Suitably qualified Botswana citizens are invited to apply.

Please submit your CV, certified copies of qualifications, proof of professional membership, and a cover letter stating your salary expectations to:
Email: melanie@olspabotswana.co.bw

Closing Date: 21/08/2026

Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted.



Molapisi, who advises the President on governance and policy, told The Botswana Gazette that he had yet to read the report and could therefore not comment on its findings or their implications for the administration’s fight against corruption.

Boko Adviser Still Awaits Audit

Months after the forensic audit reached President Duma Boko, his governance adviser Motlatsi Molapisi says he has yet to read it and cannot comment on its findings.

SESUPO RANTSIMAKO

President Duma Boko’s Special Adviser, Motlatsi Molapisi, says he has not seen the forensic audit report months after it was handed to the President.

Molapisi, who advises the President on governance and policy, told The Botswana Gazette that he had yet to read the report and could therefore not comment on its findings or their implications for the administration’s fight against corruption.

REPORT UNSEEN

“I will request a copy when I return to Gaborone. Until I have read it, I cannot comment on any matters relating to it or our anti-corruption efforts,” he said.

Molapisi’s admission places him alongside several key UDC figures who have acknowledged that they have not seen the report. The UDC came to power on a pledge to wage a tougher fight against corruption, with its manifesto committing the Government to strengthening accountability, transparency and the protection of public resources.

APPOINTMENT QUESTIONS

Molapisi’s disclosure comes against the backdrop of controversy surrounding his appointment as a Special Adviser to the President, with officials within the Presidency reportedly indicating that his position does not appear on the Government’s official organisational structure.

Opposition parties have previously questioned his appointment, including the role of presidential advisers within the Government’s administrative structure.

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Govt Seeks Another P3.7 Billion

Government is seeking another P3.7 billion from local commercial banks to finance the 2026/27 deficit, intensifying scrutiny of its growing debt and future servicing costs.



GAZETTE REPORTER

The Government is seeking to borrow up to US$270 million, about P3.7 billion, from three local commercial banks to help finance the 2026/27 budget deficit, raising fresh questions about its growing reliance on debt to meet spending commitments.

P3.7BN FACILITY

The proposal is contained in the Syndicated Loan Facility (ABSA Bank Botswana, First National Bank Botswana and Stanbic Bank Botswana) (Loan Authorisation) Bill, 2026, which seeks to give Finance Minister Ndaba Gaolathe authority to raise the funds from the banking consortium.

The Bill has moved into Parliament's consideration, with the Finance and Estimates Committee receiving a briefing from the Ministry of Finance on 5 August. Parliamentary briefing notes show that Director of Budget Analysis and Debt Management Seitebaleng Fologang briefed the committee on the Ministry's request for approval of the US$270 million facility.

The Bill's memorandum says the loan is intended to finance the 2026/27 budget deficit. Government argues that the borrowing is necessary to maintain fiscal sustainability, safeguard macroeconomic resilience and ensure continuity of priority development programmes.

PUBLIC PURSE

Under the proposed arrangement, the entire proceeds of the loan will be paid into the Development Fund, while repayments, interest and other charges will be drawn from the Consolidated Fund, placing the ultimate repayment burden on the public purse.

BORROWING STREAK

The latest request follows a series of financing arrangements involving commercial banks.

In March, Gaolathe tabled legislation seeking parliamentary approval to raise up to US$216.67 million, approximately P3 billion, through another syndicated facility involving ABSA Bank Botswana, First National Bank Botswana and Stanbic Bank Botswana to help finance the national budget.

Earlier this year, Parliament also considered a P750 million loan from Standard Chartered Bank Botswana, with Government saying the facility was urgently required to address a backlog of outstanding government invoices. Government has previously accessed other commercial-bank facilities, including a US$90 million, approximately P1.24 billion, facility from Stanbic Bank Botswana and large euro-denominated facilities involving Standard Chartered Bank Botswana.

DEBT PRESSURE

The succession of borrowing arrangements is likely to intensify scrutiny of Botswana's debt trajectory as Government seeks financing to sustain spending while protecting priority development programmes.

The proposed legislation would empower Gaolathe to negotiate and sign the loan agreements with the banking syndicate or authorise public officers to do so on behalf of Government. He would, however, be required to table before the National Assembly a report setting out the terms and conditions of the loan after it has been raised.

The latest borrowing leaves Parliament to weigh Government's immediate financing needs against the longer-term cost of servicing rising debt.

Lekau Dares Churches Over Motion

The prostitution legalisation debate is spilling beyond Parliament as MP Galenawabo Lekau challenges churches to march against his motion and vows to mobilise sex workers in response.



SESUPO RANTSIMAKO

Mogoditshane North MP Galenawabo Lekau has refused to back down from his controversial push to legalise prostitution, saying opposition from the Evangelical Fellowship of Botswana (EFB) will not intimidate him or derail his motion before Parliament.

STILL UNSHAKEN

Lekau told The Botswana Gazette that the EFB's opposition represents the position of only one section of society and should not be interpreted as the voice of Botswana as a whole.

"I remain unshaken by the Evangelical Fellowship because it is a particular group that is opposing the motion," he said.

The MP recently tabled a motion calling on government to legalise prostitution. The motion is under parliamentary consideration and has sparked opposition from religious groups, which have warned about potential moral and social consequences.

SECULAR STATE

Lekau says the debate should not be dictated by religious considerations, pointing out that Botswana is a secular state.

"Therefore, it is not like everyone supports what they want," he said.

He said his position is informed by the need to give political representation to a vulnerable section of society whose interests he believes have largely been overlooked.

MARCH CHALLENGE

Lekau's comments come as the EFB steps up its campaign against the motion through a public statement and petition, setting the stage for a wider confrontation as Parliament considers the proposal.

The MP has challenged churches to take their opposition directly to Parliament if they believe strongly enough in their position.

"If the churches want to block my motion, they can march to Parliament. I will also tell the group I am advocating for to also march," he said.

POLICY DIVIDE

The remarks suggest the dispute could move beyond parliamentary debate into a wider contest for public support, with both sides potentially mobilising their constituencies.

For Lekau, the issue is not simply whether prostitution is morally acceptable, but whether the interests and welfare of people engaged in the sex trade should be recognised in public policy.

His position places him against religious organisations that regard prostitution as incompatible with Botswana's moral and social values. The debate also touches on individual rights, public health, social protection and the role of religion in shaping public policy.

Nurses Take Fee Fight to Cabinet

Nurses, midwives and supporters have petitioned Cabinet to reject proposed NMCB fee increases, warning that higher charges could deepen financial pressure and push professionals out of practice.



BONGANI MALUNGA

A group of nurses, midwives, students and supporters of Botswana's healthcare system has petitioned Cabinet to reject proposed increases in Nursing and Midwifery Council of Botswana (NMCB) subscription, licensing and penalty fees that rise from P50 to P850 per annum.

The petition, received by the Office of the President on 5 August, argues that the proposed charges would place an excessive financial burden on an already stretched nursing and midwifery workforce.

FEES UNDER FIRE

The nurses also have union backing, with the Botswana Nurses Union (BONU) opposing the increase and arguing that nurses should not fund public regulators.

The petitioners say the move is particularly concerning for unemployed and underemployed nurses who must continue paying to maintain their professional registration while searching for jobs.

REGISTRATION PRESSURE

"For many years, nurses have struggled to meet the current annual subscription fee of P50," the petition states, warning that substantially higher fees could make it increasingly difficult for professionals to remain registered and legally practise.

The petition is backed by signatures collected through Change.org, with campaigners calling on government to intervene before the proposed fee structure takes effect. They also criticise penalties for late payment as disproportionate and warn that the charges could push nurses and midwives out of the profession rather than improve compliance.

"Rather than encouraging compliance, such penalties risk forcing many nurses and midwives out of the profession because they simply cannot afford the financial burden," the petition says.

CONSULTATION DISPUTE

A further concern is the alleged lack of consultation with nurses and midwives before the proposals were submitted to Cabinet. The petitioners contend that those directly affected were "neither adequately informed nor given a genuine opportunity to participate" in the process.

REGULATORY ROLE

The dispute comes as the NMCB continues to regulate nursing and midwifery education and practice, including registration, licensing and professional standards. Its statutory mandate includes maintaining professional registers and dealing with breaches of professional ethics and discipline.

> "For many years, nurses have struggled to meet the current annual subscription fee of P50."

The council also requires nurses and midwives to maintain professional development, with its continuing professional development framework requiring 20 points annually for practising professionals.

Gambling Age Row Deepens

Opposition MPs are resisting plans to lower the legal gambling age to 18 as the Gambling Authority warns that illegal betting drains an estimated P850 million from the economy each year and exposes young people to unregulated platforms.

BONGANI MALUNGA

Opposition legislators have intensified resistance to proposed amendments to the Gambling Authority Act that would lower Botswana's legal gambling age from 21 to 18, arguing that the move could expose more young people to gambling while illegal betting is already spiralling out of control.

AGE CUT OPPOSED

During the Committee Stage debate on the Gambling (Amendment) Bill, 2026 (Bill No. 15 of 2026), Botswana Congress Party (BCP) legislator Kenny Kapinga urged Parliament to retain the current minimum gambling age of 21.

Kapinga argued that 18-year-olds remain vulnerable and should be protected from early exposure to gambling. Other opposition MPs echoed his concerns and questioned whether the country has adequate safeguards to protect young gamblers.

YOUTH EXPOSURE

The parliamentary debate comes as the Gambling Authority warns that unlicensed betting platforms are "siphoning an estimated P850 million from the economy every year while exposing children and teenagers to unregulated gambling."

Speaking at the South East Region Staff Excellence Awards 2026 in Gaborone, Gambling Authority Chief Executive Officer Moruntshi Kemoreale said the rapid growth of illegal online betting has become one of the industry's biggest threats.

ILLEGAL BETTING

According to Kemoreale, unlicensed operators continue to evade Botswana's regulatory framework, avoiding taxation, licensing requirements and responsible-gambling obligations while aggressively targeting users through digital platforms.

He said the Authority is particularly concerned that many illegal gambling websites lack effective age-verification systems, allowing underage users to participate with ease. Critics argue that Parliament should therefore focus on strengthening protections for young people instead of broadening access to gambling.



Kemoreale also warned that illegal gambling deprives government of revenue and leaves consumers vulnerable because players have little legal protection when disputes arise with unlicensed operators.

NATIONAL RESPONSE

He called for a united national response involving regulators, licensed operators, parents, educators, financial institutions and the wider public.

"Responsible gambling is everyone's responsibility. We must protect our young people, support licensed operators and stop illegal gambling from draining our economy. Together, we can build a safer and more responsible gambling environment for Botswana," he said.

The dilemma confronting Parliament is that while the amendment Bill seeks to modernise Botswana's gaming laws, the Authority's own assessment suggests illegal operators are already bypassing age restrictions and drawing young people into gambling. Opposition legislators say that strengthens the case for keeping the legal age at 21 until enforcement mechanisms are stronger.

Govt Slammed Over Late Zotus Checks

Government faces scrutiny after conducting due diligence on Zotus Group only after formal cooperation agreements had been signed around the much-publicised Zotus City project.



BONGANI MALUNGA

The government has come under fire for conducting due diligence on the company behind the much-publicised Zotus City project only after committing to the controversial development.

Leader of Opposition Dumelang Saleshando questioned why government proceeded with engagements around the ambitious project before verifying the credentials and operations of Zotus Group.

MOUS ALREADY SIGNED

The project was unveiled with considerable public fanfare last year, including the involvement of former Ivorian football star Didier Drogba, as government sought to position Zotus City as a major investment and economic development initiative.

Zotus Group subsequently signed Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) with the Botswana Investment and Trade Centre (BITC), the Trans-Kalahari Corridor Secretariat and the Ghanzi District Council during the 2025 Global Expo Botswana.

The agreements were intended to facilitate cooperation and effective implementation of the proposed project, raising questions about the extent of government verification undertaken before the commitments were made.

CHECKS CAME LATER

Providing an update in Parliament following sustained pressure from the opposition, Assistant Minister of Trade and Industry Baratiwa Mathoothe revealed that government officials had only recently conducted due diligence on Zotus Group. Mathoothe said the exercise involved multiple government institutions, including security agencies.

"A due diligence visit has been conducted to the company's offices in Manchester, UK, by officials of BITC, the Botswana High Commission in London, and representations of the Botswana Security Agencies," Mathoothe told Parliament.

SALESHANDO CRITICISM

The disclosure drew sharp criticism from Saleshando, who argued that due diligence should have preceded the signing of the MoUs rather than followed it.

"You have just recently conducted due diligence on Zotus. That should have been done long before the MoU was signed. That is standard practice, you cannot sign off on deals and undertake due diligence checks later," Saleshando asserted.

VETTING UNDER FIRE

The exchange puts the spotlight on government's process for vetting major investment proposals, particularly projects presented as potentially transformative for the economy.

The Zotus City proposal has attracted significant attention because of its scale and the high-profile figures associated with its launch, but the latest parliamentary exchange has shifted focus to government's due-diligence procedures and the sequence in which commitments were made.

> "That should have been done long before the MoU was signed. That is standard practice, you cannot sign off on deals and undertake due diligence checks later."

Government's latest update suggests verification of Zotus Group was undertaken only after the project had entered the public domain and formal cooperation agreements had been signed, raising the question of whether the company was sufficiently scrutinised before those agreements were concluded.

Unions Fight Central Bargaining Push

Public-service unions accuse government of undermining sector bargaining and recognition agreements through proposed centralisation, warning that worker representation could be weakened without meaningful consultation.

BONGANI MALUNGA

Public-service trade unions have mounted a fresh challenge against government's proposed overhaul of public-service bargaining, warning that centralised bargaining could erode recognition agreements and weaken their ability to represent workers at sector level.

The unions, operating under the Botswana Federation of Public, Private and Parastatal Sector Unions (BOFEPUSU) and Botswana Federation of Trade Unions (BFTU), held a press conference on Tuesday to reinforce their opposition to government's intention to introduce centralised bargaining within the public service.

SECTOR BARGAINING

At the centre of the dispute is the unions' contention that moving all substantive bargaining to a central structure would undermine decentralised bargaining currently secured through Recognition Agreements between the Directorate of Public Service Management (DPSM) and individual unions.

The unions argue that while the Public Service Bargaining Council (PSBC) should provide a platform for national-level negotiations on issues affecting the entire public service, it should not replace sector-specific bargaining.

CONSULTATION DEMANDS

BOFEPUSU president Gotlamang Oitsile said the unions recently discovered that the Ministry for State President, Defence and Security intends to table a Bill seeking to repeal and replace the Public Service Act. According to Oitsile, the move is particularly concerning because unions were not adequately consulted despite the legislation directly affecting their operations and bargaining rights.

The unions maintain that any amendments to the Public Service Act and changes to the PSBC must be preceded by meaningful negotiations with affected stakeholders.

UNION UNITY

BOSETU Secretary General Oreeditse Nyatse said unions must resist attempts to divide them during the process.

"Trade unions should be united in this course, we cannot allow the employer to use any of us as pawns in its schemes. We will not allow the government to make recommendations that are against the principle of good faith and collective responsibility. We believe in dealing in good faith where consultations form part of any decision making process," said Nyatse.

PSBC POSITION

Botswana Teachers Union Secretary General Norman Baraedi stressed that the unions are not opposed to the PSBC or the Public Service Act itself, but to changes introduced without negotiation.

"We are not against the PSBC or the Public Service Act. We believe that any change that needs to be enacted in all statutes that govern the public service must take place after negotiations. That's where we are," said Baraedi.

AGREEMENTS AT RISK

The unions' formal objection to government, issued a day before the press conference, argues that centralised bargaining would concentrate power and decision-making in one structure, potentially rendering Recognition Agreements meaningless.

They say different occupational groups have distinct working conditions and priorities, making a one-size-fits-all bargaining model unsuitable. Teachers, nurses and administrative employees, for example, face different workplace challenges and require the ability to negotiate sector-specific issues.

The unions have also raised concern over reports that DPSM intends to alter existing Recognition Agreements, which they describe as the legal foundation through which unions represent workers, access workplace facilities and negotiate substantive issues.

ACT REVIEW

The unions further object to removing proposed Public Service Act reforms from the Labour Law Review Committee, arguing that the committee provided an established platform for transparent engagement on labour legislation. They say removing the Act from the committee risks shutting unions out of the process of shaping legislation that directly governs public servants.

TWO-TIER DEMAND

Rather than scrapping decentralised bargaining, the unions want a two-tier system in which the PSBC handles broad issues such as general salary adjustments and service-wide conditions, while Recognition Agreements preserve sector-specific negotiations.

They are demanding that government abandon any centralised bargaining model that supplants decentralised bargaining, return the Public Service Act to the Labour Law Review Committee for full stakeholder consultation, and engage unions through the PSBC before making changes to existing Recognition Agreements.

The unions say they remain willing to make the PSBC work but will resist reforms that, in their view, use administrative efficiency as a justification for weakening trade union rights.



DE BEERS GROUP PHD SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMME CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

The Botswana International University of Science and Technology (BIUST), in partnership with De Beers Group, invites applications from suitably qualified and highly motivated Botswana citizens for fully funded PhD scholarship opportunities commencing in the 2026/2027 Academic Year.

The scholarship programme aims to support the development of highly skilled researchers capable of generating innovative solutions to Botswana's national development challenges through research aligned with the country's priority research areas.

Scholarship Objectives
The scholarship seeks to support doctoral research that contributes to Botswana's socio-economic development, industrial transformation, environmental sustainability, technological advancement, and community well-being. Research proposals should demonstrate clear alignment with one or more of Botswana's National Research Priorities

Priority Research Areas
Applications are invited in, but not limited to, the following national priority areas:

Agriculture	• Food Security • Water Security • Vaccine Manufacturing • Precision Agriculture
Digital Economy	• Digital Government • Digital Science and Technologies
Energy	• Biomass • Advanced Energy Storage
Environmental Sustainability	• Biomass • Advanced Energy Storage • Natural Resources Management
Health	• High-Tech Holistic Medicine • Community Health
Manufacturing	• Bio-manufacturing • Industrialisation • Specialty Chemicals • Advanced Materials
Social Development	• Smart Communities • Resilient Built Ecosystems • Social Inequality and Instability • Early Childhood Development
Mineral Beneficiation	• Advanced Mineral Processing • Tailings and Waste Valorisation

Successful applicants will be registered in one of the following BIUST doctoral programmes, subject to the suitability of the proposed research topic and the availability of appropriate supervision:

Engineering Programmes

- PhD in Geological Engineering
- PhD in Mechatronics and Industrial Instrumentation

Science Programmes

- PhD in Biology
- PhD in Chemistry
- PhD in Computer Science
- PhD in Forensic Sciences
- PhD in Geological Sciences
- PhD in Computer Information Systems
- PhD in Physics
- PhD in Mathematical Sciences
- PhD in Statistics

Eligibility Requirements
Applicants must:
- Be **youth** citizens of Botswana;
- Hold a relevant Master's degree from a recognized institution prior to enrolment into the PhD programme;
- Meet the admission requirements of the relevant BIUST PhD programme;
- Demonstrate strong academic and research potential;
- Propose a research project aligned with one or more of Botswana's National Research Priorities;
- Secure the support of a prospective BIUST supervisor willing to supervise the proposed research.

Application Requirements
1. Detailed Curriculum Vitae (CV);
2. Cover letter outlining research interests and demonstrating alignment with one or more of Botswana's National Research Priorities;
3. Letter of support from prospective supervisor(s) at BIUST indicating willingness to supervise the proposed research;
4. Research proposal developed in consultation with the prospective supervisor(s), which should include:

   i.) Proposed research topic;
   ii) Background and justification;
   iii) Problem statement;
   iv) Key research questions;
   v) Proposed methodology;
   vi) Expected contribution to knowledge and national development;
   vii) Clear alignment with one or more of Botswana's National Research Priorities;

5. Contact details of two academic referees;
6. Certified copies of academic certificates and transcripts;
7. Any supporting documents demonstrating relevant work experience, professional training, publications, patents, innovations, or other research achievements.

Selection Criteria
Applications will be evaluated based on:
- Academic merit and research capability;
- Quality, originality, and feasibility of the proposed research;
- Alignment with Botswana's National Research Priorities;
- Potential impact of the proposed research on national development;
- Availability of suitable supervision and research resources at BIUST.

Preference will be given to research proposals that demonstrate strong potential for innovation, industrial development, mineral beneficiation, environmental sustainability, technological advancement, or socio-economic impact.

Application Deadline
Closing Date: 31st August 2026 (Late or incomplete applications will not be considered.)

Submission of Applications:
Applications should be submitted electronically to this link:
https://custom.biust.ac.bw/onlineApplication

Application Fees: No application.

For enquiries, please contact:

The Dean
Postgraduate School
Botswana International University of Science and Technology (BIUST)

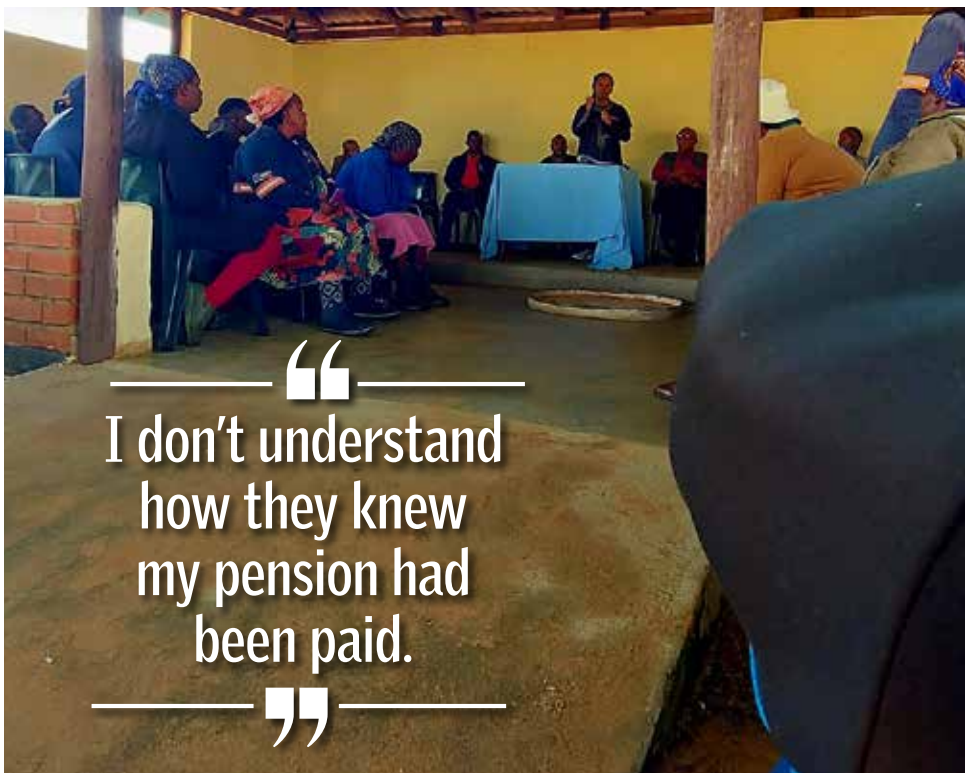
Telephone: **+267 4931762**
Email: DeBeersscholarship@biust.ac.bw

DE BEERS GROUP

BIUST
BOTSWANA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Villages Sound Alarm on Cybercrime

From mobile money scams to identity theft, rural communities are confronting digital threats and calling for practical tools to protect themselves.



The warning did not come from a cybersecurity company or government report, but from a pensioner in a Botswana village.

"I don't understand how they knew my pension had been paid," she said during a community discussion on digital safety.

SCAMS HIT HOME

Her question prompted other participants to share experiences of mobile money fraud, impersonation calls and suspicious messages. Some said they had lost money, while others had become reluctant to answer unfamiliar calls or open unsolicited messages.

The discussions form part of the Village Digital Safety Botswana Initiative, a voluntary community outreach programme founded by Itumeleng Garebatshabe of Intellegere Holdings. The initiative uses village workshops to discuss practical ways of identifying and avoiding cybercrime.

THREATS EMERGE

Participants have reported mobile money scams, compromised social media accounts, fake competitions, online investment schemes and identity theft. Workshops also highlight risks such as reusing passwords and sharing personal information over the phone.

The experiences are consistent with concerns raised in the INTERPOL African Cyberthreat Assessment Report 2026, which warns that cybercrime on the continent is becoming more sophisticated and increasingly influenced by technologies such as artificial intelligence.

PENSIONERS AT RISK

Older residents have emerged as a particular concern, with some pensioners questioning how fraudsters appear to know when pension payments are made or when individuals retire. The incidents have raised concerns about the vulnerability of older people using digital financial services.

DEMAND FOR TRAINING

At the end of workshops, participants frequently ask, "When are you coming back?" The response reflects demand for continued digital-safety education as more services move online.

Garebatshabe has called for collaboration among government, financial institutions, telecommunications companies, technology firms and development partners to strengthen digital-safety awareness.



UNHCR Targets Refugee Self-Reliance

A US$49,504 UNHCR initiative is targeting jobs, entrepreneurship, agriculture and skills development to help refugees and asylum-seekers build sustainable incomes in Botswana.

GAZETTE REPORTER

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) is rolling out an economic empowerment initiative aimed at helping refugees, asylum-seekers and stateless persons in Botswana move away from poverty and dependence on humanitarian assistance.

Under the Refugees and Asylum-Seekers Livelihood Empowerment Initiative in Botswana, UNHCR is inviting Refugee-Led Organizations (RLOs) to submit concept notes for projects designed to create sustainable livelihoods and promote economic inclusion among displaced communities.

FUNDING ENVELOPE

The initiative comes with an indicative funding envelope of US$49,504, equivalent to about P658,400.

Rather than focusing solely on humanitarian assistance, the programme seeks to place refugees at the centre of efforts to build their own economic futures through employment, entrepreneurship, agriculture and skills development.

UNHCR says it is seeking "community-led solutions" that strengthen livelihoods, self-reliance and economic opportunities for forcibly displaced populations. The initiative targets communities in Central District, Kgalagadi, North West, Ghanzi and Dukwi Settlement.

SKILLS AND JOBS

Skills development and vocational training are among the programme's key intervention areas, including technical and vocational education, employment-oriented learning, professional development and training linked to actual market demand.

For young refugees and women struggling to enter the formal economy, the initiative could provide opportunities to develop skills, enter employment and establish businesses. UNHCR is also encouraging projects involving micro-enterprise development, business mentoring, start-up support and other income-generating activities.

The agency says projects should ultimately help refugees establish "sustainable sources of income", signalling a shift from short-term relief towards greater economic independence.

FARMING AND DIGITAL

Agriculture is another major component, with projects encouraged to focus on food production, sustainable farming, agricultural livelihoods and small-scale agricultural enterprises.

The programme also seeks to improve access to technology and financial services through digital skills, digital entrepreneurship, financial literacy and access to financial services. Women and young people are singled out for particular attention, including refugee women entrepreneurs, youth-led businesses and young people seeking employment.

REFUGEE-LED PROJECTS

UNHCR argues that refugee-led organisations are well placed to deliver the interventions because they understand their communities, their challenges and the cultural context in which solutions must operate.

Applicants are expected to demonstrate experience working with refugees and displaced populations and present realistic, measurable and sustainable projects. Refugees must also be involved in identifying community problems, designing solutions and leading implementation.

ECONOMIC BARRIERS

The programme comes against a backdrop of barriers that can limit the economic independence of displaced populations, including restricted employment opportunities, limited access to markets, inadequate skills, financial exclusion and reliance on humanitarian assistance.

UNHCR says the initiative ultimately seeks to change the narrative around refugees, from communities dependent on assistance to communities capable of acquiring skills, creating businesses, generating income and contributing to Botswana's economy.

Boko Audit Withheld From Investigators

Months after President Duma Boko received a forensic audit covering a decade of alleged corruption, key law-enforcement agencies say they have not seen the report or acted on its findings.

SESUPO RANTSIMAKO

President Duma Boko's long-awaited forensic audit has yet to reach Botswana's principal law-enforcement agencies, months after he received the report and warned that heads would roll over wrongdoing uncovered by the investigation.

The revelation raises fresh questions over the President's plans for the findings and how any evidence of wrongdoing will be converted into investigations, prosecutions or other action.

AUDIT WITH BOKO

Boko officially received the forensic audit report on 30 April 2026 from Moses Pelaelo, Chairman of the Project Steering Committee.

The investigation, conducted by international firm Alvarez & Marsal Middle East Limited, covered the period from 2014 to 2024 and was presented as a major examination of alleged corruption and financial misconduct during the decade.

Yet officials heading key institutions responsible for investigating and prosecuting corruption have publicly said they have no knowledge of the report and are not investigating or prosecuting matters arising from it.AGENCIES UNINFORMED

Among them are Director of Public Prosecutions Kgosietsile Ngakayagae, Attorney General Dick Bayford, Directorate on Corruption and Economic Crime (DCEC) Director General Botlhale Makgekgenene and Police Commissioner Dinah Marathe.

Their positions raise questions about why the findings have not been formally referred to law-enforcement agencies if they contain evidence of criminal conduct.

TRUST DILEMMA

President Boko has argued that the very institutions expected to act on the audit findings are compromised, potentially explaining his reluctance to hand the report to established law-enforcement agencies.

That position creates its own dilemma, according to legal experts: if Government does not trust its investigative and prosecutorial institutions, it must explain what credible and legally accountable mechanism will be used to turn the audit findings into action.

GOVERNMENT SILENT

Efforts to establish Government's position were unsuccessful after Minister of State, Defence and Security Moeti Mohwasa referred The Botswana Gazette's enquiries to Botswana Government Communications and Information Services.

BCP DEMANDS ACTION

In a statement this week, the main opposition Botswana Congress Party said it "will not stand by while that warning goes unheeded".

The statement read: "The forensic audit itself warns: 'The findings will not correct themselves.' It demands investigations, asset recovery, implementation of recommendations and structural reform, and cautions that without these, 'the same patterns are likely to continue.'"

MAUNDENI HOPEFUL

Political analyst Professor Zibani Maundeni told The Botswana Gazette that "Boko, by virtue of his position, would be aware of institutions allegedly implicated in corrupt activities". He expressed hope that the President was genuine in his stated commitment to fighting corruption.



Former DCEC Director General Tymon Katlholo, while declining to comment directly on Boko's remarks that law-enforcement agencies are compromised, said "Government can engage private investigators subject to existing laws and exigencies of the requirement".

CREDIBILITY TEST

Some observers say the handling of the forensic audit is emerging as a major test of Boko's anti-corruption credentials, particularly after the President's earlier warning that those responsible for wrongdoing would face consequences. There is already speculation that some members of his administration could feature among those implicated in matters arising from the 10-year investigation.

Jobs Crisis Fuels Risky Migration

Government links rising outward migration to economic pressure and unemployment as police warn that job seekers are being exposed to trafficking, labour exploitation and deceptive overseas recruitment.

GAZETTE REPORTER

Botswana's long-promoted image as a land of opportunity is coming under increasing strain, with government acknowledging that growing numbers of Batswana are leaving the country in search of jobs, specialised skills opportunities and better healthcare abroad.

The admission is contained in government's National Voluntary Report on the Implementation of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration, which records an increase in outward migration in recent years.

MIGRATION RISES

According to the report, outward migration has increased particularly towards Europe, driven by perceptions of better economic opportunities, access to specialised skills markets and healthcare systems abroad.

"In more recent years, Botswana has experienced an increase in outward migration, especially to Europe, driven by perceived economic opportunities, access to specialised skills markets and better health care systems abroad," the report states.

Government links the trend to economic difficulties, citing periods of low and declining economic growth, increased fiscal pressures and declining mineral revenues. High unemployment, particularly among young people, and perceptions of better opportunities abroad are also identified as key drivers.

22 REPORTED MISSING

The Botswana Police Service has warned that some Batswana seeking opportunities abroad may be falling victim to human trafficking and labour exploitation.

In a media release issued on 5 August, police said 22 Batswana had been reported missing after allegedly travelling abroad in search of employment opportunities. Another eight people were intercepted before reaching their intended destinations, while two of those intercepted were successfully rescued in a foreign country through intervention by relevant authorities.

The missing persons range in age from 19 to 48, indicating that the vulnerability extends beyond young and inexperienced job seekers.

TRAFFICKING RISKS

Police say desperate job seekers are being lured by promises of lucrative overseas employment, attractive salaries, funded travel and accommodation, only for communication with some of them to abruptly cease.

The force fears the 22 reported cases may represent only the visible part of a wider problem, warning that additional cases may have gone unreported. It says unscrupulous individuals and criminal networks are exploiting job seekers through offers that can lead to human trafficking, labour exploitation and other forms of transnational organised crime.

The government report similarly warns young people about deceptive recruitment practices, misinformation and online fraud.

ECONOMIC WARNING

The developments expose a contradiction in Botswana's migration story. While the country continues to attract skilled and unskilled migrants because of opportunities in sectors such as industry and mining, some citizens are increasingly looking outward because they believe better prospects exist elsewhere.

> "Police revealed that 22 Batswana have been reported missing after allegedly travelling abroad in search of employment opportunities."

The migration report therefore presents outward migration as more than the movement of people. It is also a warning signal about Botswana's economic health, employment prospects and ability to retain its workforce.

The Botswana Gazette
BUSINESS NEWS

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BURS Targets P400m Digital VAT

Regional tax expertise is helping BURS extend VAT to remote services as Botswana looks for new public revenue beyond its traditional dependence on diamonds.



> We hope to generate over 400 million Pula in VAT revenue through the assistance of ATAF.

BONGANI MALUNGA

The Botswana Unified Revenue Service (BURS) is tapping continental tax expertise as it targets more than P400 million in additional VAT revenue from the rapidly expanding remote-services economy.

REGIONAL EXPERTISE

The revenue authority has leaned on the African Tax Administration Forum (ATAF) to help Botswana navigate the introduction of VAT on remote services supplied by non-resident businesses operating in the local market.

The move forms part of BURS' drive to broaden Botswana's revenue base beyond its traditional dependence on diamond proceeds, while ensuring that businesses generating income from Botswana's digital economy contribute to the fiscus.

According to the ATAF website, Itumeleng Kgosietsile, Acting Director of Domestic Taxes at BURS and chairperson of ATAF's Indirect Taxes Technical Committee, said the continental organisation played a key role in helping the revenue authority implement the reform.

"ATAF assisted us through the implementation of remote services. Botswana has been working on the review of the Value Added Tax to modernise it. Within the VAT Act, we introduced remote services, allowing Botswana to register remote service suppliers doing business in the country. ATAF facilitated benchmarking with the Kenya Revenue Authority and coordinated in-country technical assistance from Uganda and South Africa," said Kgosietsile on the ATAF platform.

The assistance included a benchmarking mission to the Kenya Revenue Authority, allowing BURS officials to examine how another African tax administration approaches the taxation of remote and digital services.

P400M TARGET

BURS then drew on technical expertise from Uganda and South Africa as it developed the regulations and implementation framework needed to operationalise the new VAT regime. The continental support could now have a significant payoff for Botswana's revenue mobilisation efforts, with BURS projecting more than P400 million from the new tax stream.

"With this introduction of remote services we are hoping to raise revenue. Botswana has been more reliant on diamonds and we are now pursuing another form of revenue raising through taxes. We hope to generate over 400 million Pula in VAT revenue through the assistance of ATAF," she added.

DIGITAL TAX REACH

Remote-service taxation also allows Botswana to extend its tax reach to economic activity taking place beyond the country's physical borders, particularly where foreign-based companies provide services to local consumers.

Kgosietsile underlined that the move is an attempt to modernise tax collection, close potential gaps created by the digital economy and convert Botswana's growing consumption of remote services into a new source of public revenue.

The reliance on Kenya, Uganda and South Africa also underscores the increasing role of African tax cooperation in helping countries develop systems suited to an economy that is becoming progressively more digital.

Surplus Masks Structural Pressure

Diamond exports pushed Botswana's current account back into surplus in 2025, but a persistent non-mining deficit and rising external debt expose deeper structural pressure.

> Botswana remains a net creditor to the rest of the world.

GAZETTE REPORTER

Botswana's external position improved sharply in 2025, with the current account moving from a P11.7 billion deficit in 2024 to a P7.9 billion surplus, according to the Bank of Botswana's (BoB) External Sector Statistics Bulletin, June 2026.

DIAMOND REBOUND

The turnaround was largely driven by stronger diamond exports as demand improved for larger, higher-quality and premium natural diamonds. The De Beers Group also undertook "stock rebalancing initiatives", accepting lower margins to sell specific assortments of rough diamonds.

"The current account shifted from a deficit of P17 billion in 2020 to a surplus of P7.9 billion in 2025," the bulletin said, reflecting the improvement in diamond exports despite a setback in 2024.

The current account had improved steadily following the Covid-19 pandemic, moving from a P17 billion deficit in 2020 to P3.8 billion in 2023,

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Stanbic Bank

Stanbic Bank Botswana
DEPOSIT, LENDING AND FOREIGN CURRENCY DEPOSIT RATES
August 2026



Stanbic Bank Botswana Prime Lending Rate (SBBPLR) - 7.01%

BWP Deposit Interest Rates

Type of Deposit Account	Nominal Interest Rates % (Lowest - Highest)	Actual Interest Rates % (Lowest - Highest)	Minimum Opening Balance
Current	NIL	NIL	P50
Youth Account	2.00%	2.02%	P50
Call	0.05% - 1.00%	0.05% - 1.00%	P10,000
Premium Call	0.80% - 1.30%	0.80% - 1.31%	P50,000
32 Day Notice	0.25% - 1.00%	0.25% - 1.00%	P1,000
Savings (Pure Save)	0.25% - 0.75%	0.25%-0.75%	P50
Koketso Savings	2.40%	2.43%	P100
Matshelo Savings	0.50% - 1.50%	0.50% - 1.51%	P500
Maitlamo Savings (12 - 36 months)	2.30% - 2.80%	2.32% - 2.84%	P100
91 day fixed deposit *[a]	1.90%	1.92%	P1,000
6 month fixed deposit [a]	2.10% - 2.30%	2.12% - 2.32%	P1,000
12 month fixed deposit [a]	2.20% - 2.35%	2.22%-2.38%	P1,000
24 month fixed deposit [a]	2.55% - 2.80%	2.58% - 2.84%	P1,000
Over 24 month fixed deposit [a]	2.80% - 3.30%	2.84% - 3.35%	P1,000
Stanbic Bank Prime Lending Rate	7.01%		

* Reference rate
[a] Rate applies to Flexi - Access Account
All interest rates quoted are on annual basis

Lending Interest Rates

Lending Rates	Nominal Interest Rates % (Lowest - Highest)	Actual Interest Rates % (Lowest - Highest)
MoPR	5.50%	
SBBPLR Lending Rate	7.01%	
Mortgage Facility	SBBPLR - SBBPLR + 15%	SBBPLR - SBBPLR + 16.08%
Overdraft Facility (Revolving credit lines)	SBBPLR +5% - SBBPLR +18%	SBBPLR + 5.12% - SBBPLR + 19.56%
Credit Card	28% - 32%	31.89% - 37.14%
Lease Loans	SBBPLR - SBBPLR + 15%	SBBPLR - SBBPLR + 16.08%
Unsecured Personal Loans (excluding overdrafts, mortgage and credit cards)	SBBPLR +8% - SBBPLR +22%	SBBPLR + 8.30% - SBBPLR + 24.36%
Other Long-Term Loans	SBBPLR - SBBPLR + 18%	SBBPLR - SBBPLR + 19.56%
*Scheme related lending is per the scheme contract and is negotiable.		

All interest rates quoted are on annual basis

Foreign Currency Deposit Interest Rates

Type of Deposit Account	Nominal Interest Rates (%)	Actual Interest Rates (%)	Minimum Opening Balance
SA RAND	**SA RAND**	**SA RAND**	**SA RAND**
Current	0.0%	0.0%	100.00
Call	0.00%-1.75%	0%-1.76%	500.00
1 Month	1.50%-2.50%	1.51%-2.53%	1,000.00
2 Months	1.60%-2.60%	1.61%-2.63%	1,000.00
3 Months	1.70%-2.70%	1.71%-2.73%	1,000.00
6 Months	1.80%-2.80%	1.81%-2.84%	1,000.00
12 Months	2.20%-3.20%	2.22%-3.25%	1,000.00
Over 24 Months	2.40%-3.50%	2.43%-3.56%	1,000.00

Type of Deposit Account	Nominal Interest Rates (%)	Actual Interest Rates (%)	Minimum Opening Balance
U.S. DOLLAR	**U.S. DOLLAR**	**U.S. DOLLAR**	**U.S. DOLLAR**
Current	0.0%	0.0%	50.00
Call	0.05%-1.00%	0.05%-1.00%	100.00
1 Month	0.25%-0.35%	0.25%-0.35%	100.00
2 Months	0.35%-0.42%	0.35%-0.42%	100.00
3 Months	0.37%-0.45%	0.37%-0.45%	100.00
6 Months	0.40%-0.60%	0.40%-0.60%	100.00
12 Months	0.45%-0.75%	0.45%-0.75%	100.00
Over 24 Months	0.75%-1.25%	0.75%-1.26%	100.00

Type of Deposit Account	Nominal Interest Rates (%)	Actual Interest Rates (%)	Minimum Opening Balance
BRITISH POUND	**BRITISH POUND**	**BRITISH POUND**	**BRITISH POUND**
Current	0.0%	0.0%	50.00
Call	0.05%	0.05%	100.00
1 Month	0.05%-0.07%	0.05%-0.07%	100.00
2 Months	0.07%-0.09%	0.07%-0.09%	100.00
3 Months	0.09%-0.10%	0.09%-0.10%	100.00
6 Months	0.10%-0.15%	0.10%-0.15%	100.00
12 Months	0.20%-0.30%	0.20%-0.30%	100.00
Over 24 Months	0.25%-0.40%	0.25%-0.40%	100.00

Type of Deposit Account	Nominal Interest Rates (%)	Actual Interest Rates (%)	Minimum Opening Balance
EURO, AUD & JPY	**EURO, AUD & JPY**	**EURO, AUD & JPY**	**EURO, AUD & JPY**
Current	0.0%	0.0%	50.00
Call	0.00%	0.00%	100.00
1 Month	0.00%	0.00%	100.00
2 Months	0.00%	0.00%	100.00
3 Months	0.00%	0.00%	100.00
6 Months	0.00%	0.00%	100.00
12 Months	0.00%	0.00%	100.00
Over 24 Months	0.00%	0.00%	100.00

- All interest rates quoted are on annual basis
- Interest is calculated based on the daily closing balance and is credited to the account monthly. Interest begins to accrue from the day a deposit is made, if the minimum balance requirement is met. This applies to all interest-bearing products, except fixed deposits.
- Fixed Deposit interest is calculated based on the principal amount, agreed term and applicable interest rate. The accrued interest is paid at maturity or termination.

Member of Deposit Insurance Scheme of Botswana

WUC Posts P555m Loss

Water Utilities Corporation is battling a P554.6 million loss, shrinking cash reserves and heavy customer debt while funding projects aimed at water security and stronger revenue collection.

GAZETTE REPORTER

Water Utilities Corporation (WUC) recorded a net loss after tax of P554.6 million for the financial year ended March 31, 2024, as higher production and operational costs, together with additional legal provisions, weighed on its financial performance.

COSTS BITE

WUC CEO Gaselemogwe Senai disclosed the figures at a recent press briefing, where he outlined the corporation's operational and financial position and its progress towards improving water and sanitation services.

Revenue declined to P2.12 billion from P2.16 billion the previous year, while cost of sales increased to P2.09 billion. Gross profit fell to P28.5 million, while the corporation recorded an operating loss of P643.3 million.

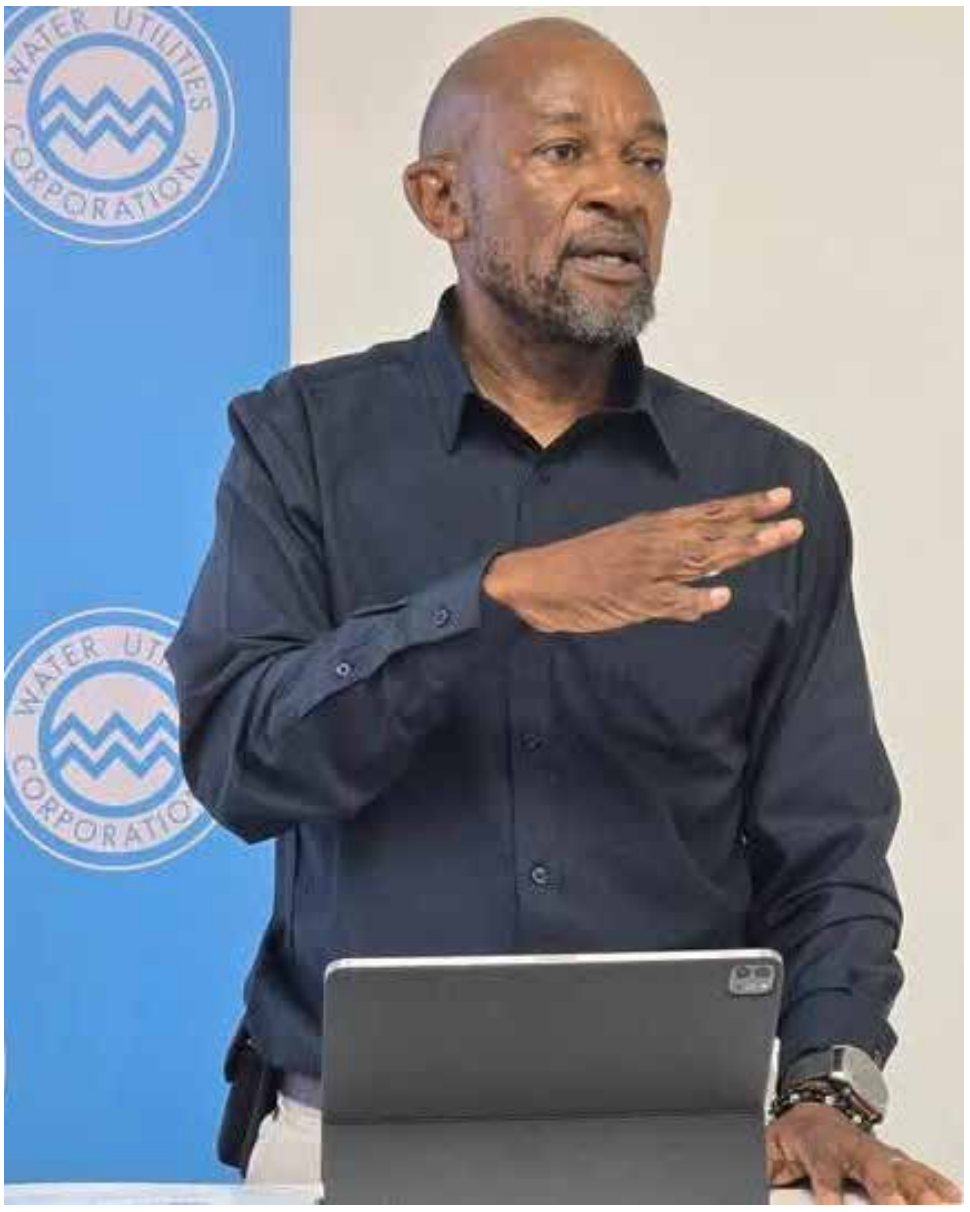
"Management remains focused on strengthening liquidity through improved collections, prudent cost management, and enhanced working capital management," Senai said.

WUC's total assets increased 6 percent to P7.80 billion, while total liabilities rose 41 percent to P3.51 billion. Cash and cash equivalents fell from P773.6 million to P184.1 million.

Senai said cost-containment measures, including a recruitment moratorium and controlled travel, accommodation and overtime, could be eroded by the recent 9 percent increase in electricity tariffs.

WATER SECURITY

Despite forecasts of a strong El Niño during the 2026/27 rainy season, Senai said Botswana's water supply remained secure.



WUC CEO Gaselemogwe Senai disclosed the figures at a recent press briefing, where he outlined the corporation's operational and financial position and its progress towards improving water and sanitation services.

"All WUC major dams remain at healthy storage levels, averaging approximately 90% capacity, providing sufficient reserves to meet domestic water demand under current operating conditions," he said.

WUC has completed the North-South Carrier 2.2 and 2.3 projects, improving water supply security for Gaborone, Greater Gaborone, Lobatse, Kanye, Kweneng, Palapye, Mahalapye and other areas, benefiting approximately 700,000 people across more than 100 villages.

The expansion of the Mmamashia Water Treatment Plant has doubled treatment capacity from 110 million litres per day to 220 million litres.

SERVICE BACKLOG

WUC has a backlog of 6,595 connection requests nationwide, largely attributed to multi-residential developments and ongoing land allocation initiatives.

Outstanding queries and repairs stand at 45,898, down from 53,000 in April 2026. Gaborone accounts for 26 percent of the outstanding queries.

"The Corporation introduced Instant Quotation initiative in April 2026, designed to accelerate service fulfilment, improve customer experience, reduce operating costs, and strengthen cash flow through immediate quotation and payment processing," Senai said.

The WUC Contact Centre will begin operating 24 hours a day from September 1, while its website, app and USSD self-service channels are scheduled to be accessible from August 15.

NEW REVENUE

WUC has established Sego Sa Metsi, a wholly owned subsidiary registered with CIPA on June 27, 2026. The company will initially provide engineering consultancy services, with its mandate expected to expand into other government projects and eventually the region.

The corporation has also launched a P500 million programme to roll out 60,000 smart prepaid water meters, which it says will improve billing accuracy, reduce water losses and strengthen revenue collection.

DEBT BURDEN

WUC's outstanding debt includes P784 million owed by government, P81 million by councils, P648 million by domestic customers and P159 million by business customers.

Water losses currently average 45 percent, with Kanye and Molepolole recording losses of more than 55 percent.



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before weakening sharply in 2024 amid weaker global diamond demand, high inventories and falling prices.

In 2025, the goods account recorded a deficit of P8 billion, significantly lower than the P30 billion deficit recorded in 2024.

STRUCTURAL PRESSURE

Despite the improvement, Botswana's non-mining current account remained in deficit throughout 2020 to 2025. The deficit stood at P48.3 billion, or 19.7 percent of GDP, in 2025, compared with P48.2 billion, or 20.5 percent of GDP, in 2024.

The bulletin said the persistent deficits reflected "dependence on imports and continued net outflows in services and primary income."

The services account also remained in deficit, although it improved to P3.6 billion in 2025 from P4.8 billion in 2024. Travel services generated a P6.2 billion surplus, while transportation recorded a P6.5 billion deficit.

The primary income account remained in deficit, driven largely by dividends and retained earnings paid to foreign investors, with mining accounting for a significant share of those payments.

DEBT BUILDS

Botswana remained a net creditor to the rest of the world, although its net international investment position narrowed from P64.7 billion in 2020 to P52.7 billion in 2025.

Gross external debt rose from P33.3 billion in 2021 to P60.2 billion in 2025, driven by private-sector intercompany loans and increased government external borrowing amid reduced diamond-related revenues.

The financial account recorded net outflows of P10.9 billion in 2025, following P11.2 billion in 2024, driven by increased offshore investments and loan repayments by government and the private sector.

BSE Bets On 10X Growth

The BSE wants deeper markets, more investment and broader ownership as Botswana faces mounting pressure to build growth beyond diamonds.



GAZETTE REPORTER

The Botswana Stock Exchange (BSE) is seeking to expand the role of capital markets in Botswana’s economy through its 10X by 2030 strategy as the country faces growing pressure to diversify beyond diamonds.

Investment Gap

BSE Board Chairperson Neo Mooki said Botswana could not indefinitely depend on government spending, borrowing and diamonds to drive growth.

“Growth without investment is fragile,” Mooki said.

Her comments come after the economy grew 3.5 percent in the first quarter of 2026, while gross fixed capital formation, a measure of investment in productive assets, fell 10.4 percent.

Mooki said Botswana had substantial capital available but lacked enough credible and well-structured opportunities to absorb it.

Retirement funds managed about P170 billion at the end of 2025, with roughly P75 billion, or 45 percent, invested locally, she said.

At the BSE, listed equities and bonds exceeded P1 trillion by the end of May, but average daily turnover remained about P2.8 million.

Five Pillars

Chief Executive Officer Aupa Monyatsi said the strategy rests on five pillars: talent and culture, technology modernisation, product innovation, internationalisation and force for good.

“We are not an exchange that is in austerity or trying to shrink. We are an exchange that is trying to grow,” he said.

The BSE is pursuing technology modernisation, including artificial intelligence and automation, while exploring new products such as exchange-traded funds. It is also working on reforms that would allow municipalities to raise financing through bonds.

The exchange is seeking greater international participation through initiatives including the Tabadul platform, engagements with the London Stock Exchange and membership of the World Federation of Diamond Bourses.

Monyatsi said the BSE’s broader ambition was to position Botswana as a regional capital-markets hub.

Beyond Diamonds

The Botswana Mercantile Exchange is also being expanded to facilitate trading in agricultural commodities and minerals, while warehouse receipts could help producers access finance.

Mooki said diversification was no longer optional.

“The question is no longer whether we diversify,” she said. “We’re backed against the wall.”

Monyatsi said 95 percent of commitments under Horizon One had been delivered, with the exchange now entering Horizon Two.

For Mooki, the ultimate goal is to turn Botswana’s savings into productive economic assets.

“Botswana’s best economic chapter, the last chapter was about diamonds. Our next chapter must convert our savings into institutions, into credibility, into growth.”



Ahmed Bin Sulayem, Executive Chairman and CEO of the DMCC

ODC Eyes Dubai Diamond Buyers

A planned place on DMCC’s diamond tender platform could expose Okavango Diamond Company to a wider global buyer network as Botswana seeks greater value from its mineral exports.

BONGANI MALUNGA

Botswana’s state-owned Okavango Diamond Company (ODC) is set to gain greater access to international buyers through the country’s new partnership with the Dubai Multi Commodities Centre (DMCC), potentially strengthening its position in the global diamond trade.

BUYER BASE

The Dubai-based commodities hub plans to onboard ODC into its in-house diamond tender platform, which hosts over 26 000 member companies from 180 countries, giving the state-owned diamond marketer an additional avenue to showcase and sell Botswana’s diamonds to a wider pool of international buyers.

The arrangement could help ODC broaden its buyer base while improving exposure to Dubai’s established commodities ecosystem, which serves as a major trading hub between producers, buyers and financial markets.

FLEXIBLE FRAMEWORK

Ahmed Bin Sulayem, Executive Chairman and CEO of the DMCC, said the partnership was deliberately designed to remain flexible, allowing Botswana to determine which commodities should be prioritised.

“Botswana will determine its own economic and export priorities, and the framework is built to accommodate those priorities rather than presume them. Whichever sectors lead over the next decade, the infrastructure is already in place to support them,” Sulayem told Forbes Africa last week.

BEYOND DIAMONDS

The initiative also comes as Botswana continues to pursue new international markets and trading channels for its mineral wealth, with diamonds remaining the country’s dominant export commodity. The DMCC framework could eventually accommodate other Botswana commodities, including copper, coal and soda ash, alongside agricultural products such as beef and maize.

However, the proposed onboarding of ODC places diamonds at the immediate centre of the partnership, potentially giving the state-owned company a new platform to connect Botswana’s rough diamonds with global buyers.

Diamond Recovery Remains Uneven

Lucara's second-quarter results show early signs of diamond-market stabilisation, but higher-value stones are recovering faster while commercial categories remain under pressure.

GAZETTE REPORTER



The global natural diamond market is showing early signs of stabilisation, although recovery remains uneven across categories, according to Lucara Diamond Corp.'s second-quarter 2026 results.

SUPPLY TIGHTENS

Global natural diamond production is forecast at approximately 100 million carats in 2026, down from more than 150 million carats less than a decade ago. The decline reflects the depletion of legacy mines, limited new discoveries and the suspension or closure of several mines across the industry.

At the same time, lab-grown diamond wholesale and retail prices have continued to decline through 2026, in line with continued growth in production capacity.

SPLIT RECOVERY

Lucara described the near-term natural diamond market as showing signs of a "K-shaped recovery", with larger, rarer and higher-value diamonds recording stronger price performance.

The company said this segment is being supported by constrained supply and resilient demand, while smaller commercial categories are recovering more slowly and remain under pricing pressure.

"Encouragingly, positive price movement is becoming evident across rough and polished markets," Lucara said, suggesting that conditions are beginning to stabilise after a prolonged downturn.

Macroeconomic uncertainty and competition from lab-grown diamonds remain headwinds, particularly in price-sensitive categories. However, tightening natural diamond supply, improving sentiment and emerging price momentum point to a more positive outlook for the remainder of 2026.

KAROWE SALES

Diamonds from Lucara's Karowe mine are sold through three channels: a diamond sales agreement with HB Trading BV, quarterly tenders and the Clara Diamond Solutions sales platform.

For the three months ended June 30, 2026, revenue from HB stood at $33.9 million, compared with $34 million in the same period last year. HB accounted for 83 percent of total revenue recognised during the quarter, up from 78 percent in the second quarter of 2025.

Lucara said HB revenue includes "top-up" and "top-down" payments, made to or from the company when the final polished diamond sales price differs from the estimated initial polished value. The time required to fully monetise a stone through this process can introduce quarter-to-quarter variability in HB revenue.

Tender sales totalled $5.4 million in the quarter, down from $7.8 million in Q2 2025, while Clara sales declined to $1.7 million from $1.9 million.

Average prices per carat fell across both channels, with tender prices declining 5 percent and Clara prices falling 17 percent. Lucara attributed the pressure to continued weakness in mid-range and lower-grade stones and cautious consumer sentiment.

UNDERGROUND SPEND

Lucara expects capital costs for its underground expansion project to reach up to $110 million in 2026.

Spending will focus predominantly on shaft equipping and advancing lateral development. Surface works will include the removal of stage and ropes, headgear changeover and installation of the main ventilation fan.

Sustaining capital is expected to reach up to $11.5 million, focused on replacing and refurbishing key asset components and advancing tailings.

Karowe Resource Quality "Undeniable"

Lucara says Karowe's exceptional resource remains its core strength as open-pit mining nears completion and the underground project advances towards the mine's next production phase.

GAZETTE REPORTER



Lucara President and Chief Executive Officer William Lamb says the quality of the resource at the company's Karowe Diamond Mine remains a central strength as the operation moves towards its next phase of production.

RESOURCE STRENGTH

"The quality of the Karowe re-

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Power Metal Hits Suspected Nickel

Power Metal says its first Molopo Farms drill hole intersected suspected nickel mineralisation, but laboratory assays are still needed to confirm the result.



GAZETTE REPORTER

Power Metal Resources PLC, the London-listed exploration company and project incubator with a global project portfolio, has completed the first hole of its latest drilling programme at the Molopo Farms Igneous Complex in southwestern Botswana.

ASSAYS PENDING

The company is targeting a district-scale nickel and platinum group element discovery at Molopo Farms, with the current programme focused on the eastern feeder dyke to the complex.

Power Metal said Hole 1-9 was drilled to a depth of 382 metres and intersected disseminated suspected nickel mineralisation associated with a leuconorite band between 243 and 269 metres downhole.

Sampling and assaying of the interval is now underway. The company said results will be announced once they have been received, analysed and verified.

DRILLING PROGRAMME

The completed hole forms part of a previously announced 1,600-metre core drilling programme targeting five high-interest geological and geophysical targets on the eastern feeder zone to the Molopo Farms Igneous Complex.

The programme is results-driven and may be optimised as additional data is acquired, according to the company. Drilling is continuing on the remaining targets.

Sean Wade, chief executive officer of Power Metal Resources, said the completion of the first hole was encouraging, particularly because of the suspected nickel mineralisation encountered within the target structure.

"I am delighted to report the completion of the first hole of our current drilling campaign at Molopo Farms, and particularly the intersection of suspected nickel mineralisation within the target structure," Wade said.

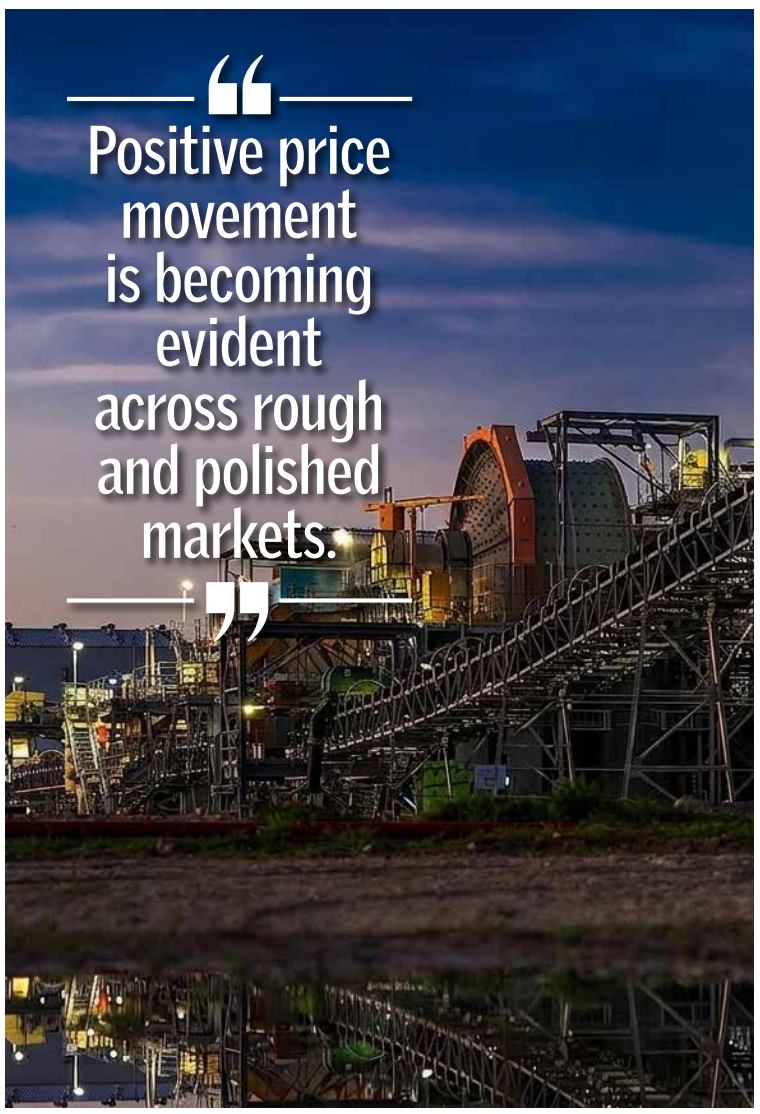
He said the company would await the sampling and assay results, adding that the early indication supported its revised targeting approach, which is focused on the controlling structure and feeder dykes to the complex.

"It reinforces our belief that a district-scale discovery remains within our reach," Wade said.

COMPANY INTEREST

Power Metal holds an 87.71 percent interest in Kalahari Key Mineral Exploration Pty Ltd, a Botswana private company that holds a 100 percent interest in the Molopo Farms Complex Project.

The company said it will provide further updates as assay results are received and as the drilling programme progresses.



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source is undeniable," Lamb said in Lucara's second-quarter 2026 results, citing the recovery of the company's tenth diamond weighing more than 1,000 carats.

Lucara owns 100 percent of Karowe, which has been in production since 2012. The company says the mine is the only diamond operation in the world to have recovered 10 diamonds exceeding 1,000 carats.

Lamb said Lucara continued to execute its strategic priorities during the second quarter while maintaining its focus on safe and disciplined operations.

"With open pit mining substantially complete and the UGP advancing well, we continue to make meaningful progress toward the mine's next phase of production and long-term value creation," he said.

FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE

Lucara reported second-quarter revenue of $41.0 million, compared with $43.7 million in the same period of 2025, a decline of 6 percent.

The company attributed the decrease primarily to lower carats sold through tender and a lower average dollar-per-carat from stones weighing less than 10.8 carats. Second-quarter 2025 revenue included the sale of the 1,094-carat Seriti, while this year's quarter included the sale of the 2,488-carat Motswedi.

Operating costs fell 11 percent to $23.76 per tonne processed, from $26.76 a year earlier. Lucara attributed the decrease primarily to increased tonnes processed, partly offset by higher electricity and fuel costs.

The company recovered 90,082 carats during the quarter, including 83,109 carats from direct ore feed from the pit and run-of-mine stockpiles. A further 6,973 carats came from historical recovery tailings.

Lucara recovered 176 Specials, defined as stones above 10.8 carats, compared with 242 in the second quarter of 2025.

The company maintained its full-year revenue guidance of $100 million to $130 million.

UNDERGROUND PROGRESS

Open-pit mining remains on track to conclude in the fourth quarter of 2026. Lucara will then continue processing run-of-mine stockpiles containing previously mined but unprocessed ore.

The Underground Project has progressed, with the production shaft reaching 776 metres and the ventilation shaft reaching 729 metres in 2025. In July, the Botswana Department of Mines licensed the production shaft's 15-person auxiliary winder and 105-person man-and-material winder.

Lamb said the company's priorities for the second half of 2026 remained focused on the "safe and timely delivery" of the UGP.

"The UGP is expected to extend access to one of the world's most exceptional diamond orebodies," he said.

SAFETY RECORD

The project has achieved 2,340 lost-time injury-free days. Its project-to-date Total Recordable Injury Frequency Rate was 0.57, below the target of 0.90, while the 12-month rolling rate stood at 0.63.



RIGHT LAW, WRONG ECONOMY?

Botswana's most consequential labour statute since Independence takes effect on 1 September, and it lands in an economy that has stopped creating jobs. Business Botswana calls it "heavily anti-business" and warns that operationalising it could be "catastrophic". The Manual Workers Union is broadly happy with the Act but shocked at how little has been done to prepare for it. Two tripartite insiders, opposite positions, one verdict: the country is not ready.

DOUGLAS RASBASH AND TEFO PHEAGE

The Employment and Labour Relations Act, 2025 (No. 27 of 2025) takes effect on 1 September, and is the most significant labour legislation enacted in Botswana since Independence. It consolidates three statutes into one, strengthens protection against discrimination and harassment, expands statutory leave, and establishes an independent Mediation and Arbitration Commission to relieve an Industrial Court backlog that has left workers waiting years for terminal benefits. Eight years in the making, it is in many respects thoughtful and progressive.

The question is not whether it is good labour law. It is whether it is the right labour law for Botswana at this moment. Good policy is not simply about doing the right thing. It is about doing the right thing at the right time.

A SHRINKING MARKET

The headline unemployment rate in Statistics Botswana's Multi-Topic Household Survey 2024/25 stands at 21.0%, representing 213,437 people actively seeking work, up from 147,206 a decade earlier. That is an increase of roughly 45% since 2015/16.

The headline understates the position. A further 88,671 people are classified as discouraged job seekers, wanting work and available for it but no longer searching because they believe no opportunities exist. Under international definitions they fall outside the labour force altogether. Add them back and unemployment rises to at least 27.3%. The survey itself cautions that apparent improvements may reflect rising discouragement rather than job creation. People are not finding work. They are giving up looking for it.

Youth unemployment stands at 28.9% on the narrow definition. Vice President and Minister of Finance Ndaba Gaolathe has called youth unemployment a national emergency, noting that the economy contracted by 3% in the preceding year and was expected to contract again.

Botswana's greatest labour challenge, then, is not the exploitation of workers. It is the absence of work itself. Labour law should be judged against two objectives: protecting those who already have jobs, and helping the unemployed obtain them. The Act performs strongly on the first. Its contribution to the second is where the trouble begins.

THE EMPLOYERS OBJECT

Until now this has been a theoretical argument. It is no longer.

On 10 August, Business Botswana issued an advisory note to members under the signature of Chief Executive Officer Tumi Mbaakanyi. It is a remarkable document, not least because Business Botswana is itself a tripartite partner and therefore party to the process that produced the Act.

It records that the organisation has consistently raised concerns within the tripartite structure about what it calls a heavily anti-business law, warning of adverse impacts on employment, investment, productivity and growth. Operationalising the Act in its current unbalanced state, the letter states, could be catastrophic. It warns of financial, administrative and operational burdens falling on MSMEs and informal entities, threats to sectoral viability, and erosion of what it frankly concedes is the minimal competitiveness leverage the country still possesses, leverage needed for a production-led recovery and job creation.

Note what is not being said. The country's principal business organisation is not arguing that workers deserve less protection. It is arguing that this law, at this moment, works against job creation.

> "The legislation is fundamentally an employment protection law. It is not an employment creation law."

The provisions giving that warning its force are identifiable. Section 157 limits fixed-term contracts to twelve months absent objective justification. The intention is understandable, since some employers used rolling short-term contracts to avoid creating permanent employment. But construction firms depend on project pipelines, tourism operators face seasonal demand, and manufacturers cannot always predict orders. Where that flexibility is removed, employers may not replace temporary contracts

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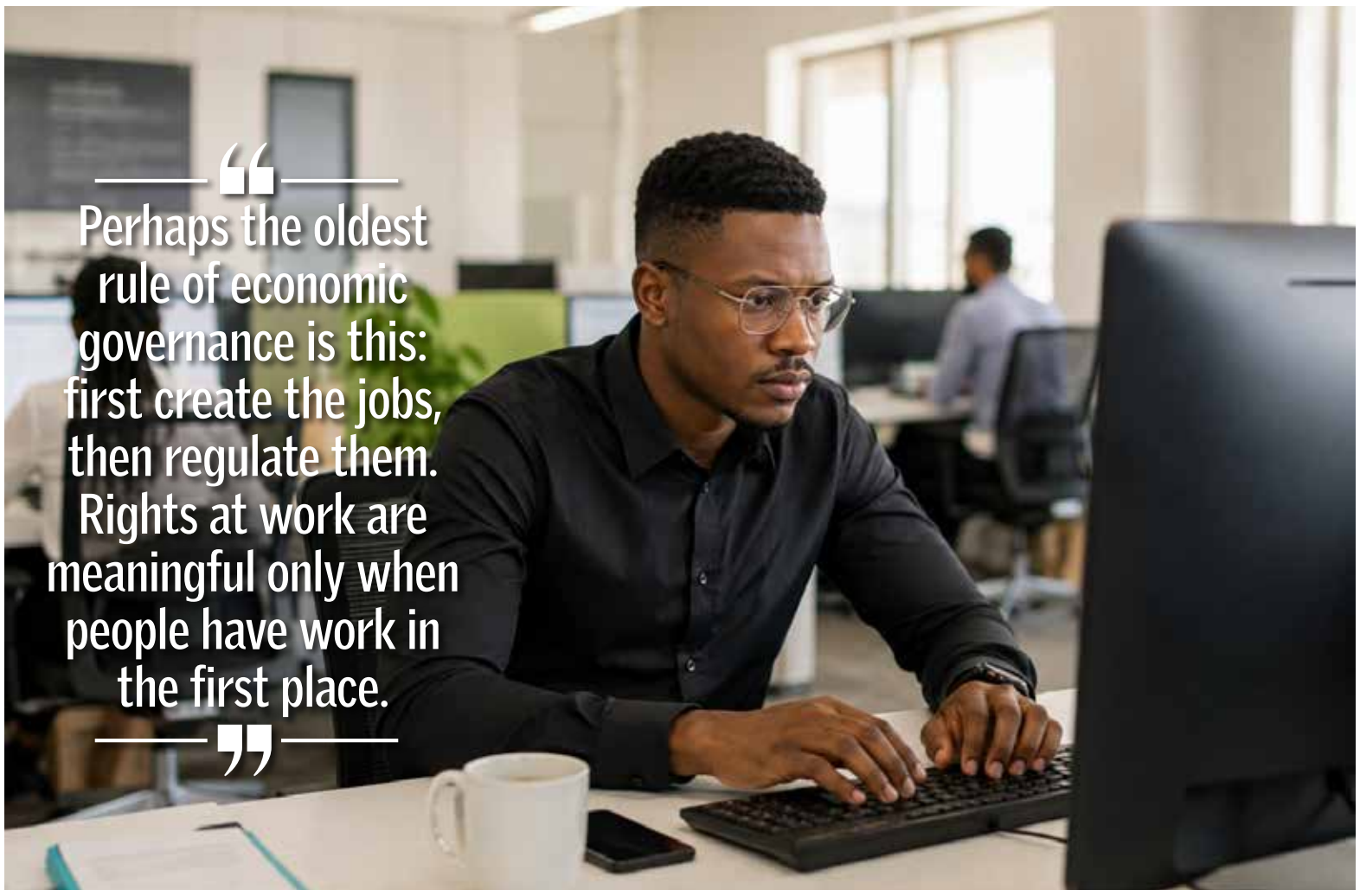

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with permanent ones. Many will simply not recruit, and the first casualties are young people seeking a first job.

Section 155 limits probation and requires structured feedback before termination. Every additional procedural requirement raises the perceived risk of hiring someone whose capabilities are unknown. Part XII increases maternity leave to fourteen weeks and introduces paternity, adoption and hospitalisation leave. Each reform is individually difficult to oppose. Collectively they raise the cost of employing labour, and firms compare that cost against the value an employee produces. Large corporations absorb such obligations. Small and medium enterprises, the principal job creators in most economies, often cannot.

Enforcement sharpens the point. Failure to pay wages on time attracts a fine of up to P10,000 or twelve months' imprisonment, and discrimination offences up to P50,000 or five years. The Director of Labour acquires power to seize and sell an employer's assets to recover unpaid wages. For a firm acting in bad faith these are proportionate. For a small firm navigating unfamiliar obligations without in-house HR capacity, they are a reason for caution about hiring at all.

Nor is the architecture settled. Business Botswana puts on record that tripartite discussions on the Regulations ended without consensus, and that it still awaits the amended drafts weeks before commencement.

THE COMPLIANCE BURDEN

The most telling passage in the advisory is the least rhetorical. Members are told to align new contracts with the Act, audit operations for compliance gaps, and develop roadmaps covering revised discrimination and harassment policies, mandatory complaint processes, child labour schedules, voluntariness documentation, HR systems tracking leave entitlements and union dues deductions, inspection records, welfare audit protocols, 30-day shutdown notices, mediation procedures and 21-day appeals against directives.

Read that list again and consider a firm of eight employees in Kanye or Maun.

None of it is unreasonable in isolation. But the aggregate is a compliance function, and a compliance function is a fixed cost. Large employers spread it across hundreds of staff. Small employers absorb it personally, or decline to grow past the point where it becomes unavoidable. The checklist Business Botswana published as a service to members is, inadvertently, the clearest illustration of the burden it fears.

LABOUR PUSHES BACK

Organised labour sees it differently, though not reassuringly so. Robert Rabasimane, Deputy Chief Executive Officer of the Manual Workers Union, has no quarrel with the legislation. His objection is to the state of preparation. "We are generally happy with the Act, but we are deeply concerned and, frankly, shocked by the level of preparedness for its implementation," he says.

His example is the Mediation and Arbitration Commission itself. Rabasimane says there is no visible preparation for its establishment, no clarity on offices, staffing or training, and no indication of what happens to cases already before existing structures. The same applies, he says, to labour inspection.

The union is not disinterested. It is currently before the Maun High Court challenging the Public Service Bargaining Council's constitution, with judgment due on 30 October. But its preparedness critique does not depend on that litigation, and Business Botswana's own letter corroborates it.

CART BEFORE HORSE

Countries near full employment strengthen labour protections because employers are already competing for scarce workers. Botswana is in the opposite position. Businesses are not struggling to find workers. Workers are struggling to find businesses willing to employ them.

The employers say the law is wrong. The union says the law is right but the state cannot deliver it. Both spent eight years in the room, and both conclude that 1 September will arrive too soon.

One might have expected provisions encouraging apprenticeships, youth employment contracts, startup exemptions or incentives for firms hiring first-time workers. Such measures could have complemented stronger protections while recognising the country's most pressing reality, which is too few jobs. This is fundamentally an employment protection law. It is not an employment creation law.

This is not an argument against protecting workers. But a young person without a job enjoys none of the protections in this Act. Labour rights begin only when employment begins.

Perhaps the oldest rule of economic governance is this: first create the jobs, then regulate them. Rights at work are meaningful only when people have work in the first place.

Unemployment figures are drawn from Statistics Botswana's Multi-Topic Household Survey 2024/25. Business Botswana's advisory note to members is dated 10 August 2026.



Stanbic Backs Child Safety Walk



The eighth edition of the Mascom Batanani Walk brought together members of the public, private sector, civil society and other stakeholders under the theme "Step Up for Child Safety".

P50,000 CONTRIBUTION

Stanbic Bank Botswana contributed P50,000 towards this year's initiative, joining participants in raising awareness around the protection and well-being of children.

Stanbic Bank chief executive Chose Modise said the bank's participation reflected the need for different sectors to work together on issues affecting communities.

"Every thriving economy is built on strong foundations, and those foundations are people. When children grow up in safe environments, they are better able to learn, realise their potential and contribute meaningfully to the country's future," Modise said.

FOCUS ON COLLECTIVE ACTION

Modise said the bank viewed child protection as part of broader community development efforts.

"Supporting initiatives that protect children is part of that growth story because Botswana's future depends on the well-being of the next generation," he said.

The bank said its contribution formed part of its Kgolo Strategy, which it described as an approach focused on supporting initiatives with social and economic impact.

The Mascom Batanani Walk has used its annual event to draw attention to issues affecting communities. This year's focus was on creating safer environments for children and highlighting the shared responsibility of families, institutions, organisations and the wider public.

Article edited for length

Blood Drive Targets Maternal Care

A Gaborone blood drive is seeking to address Botswana's ongoing blood supply gap, with organisers highlighting the risks shortages pose to mothers during childbirth.



Botswana's blood supply deficit is prompting a maternal-health-focused donation drive at Tsholofelo Primary School in Gaborone on Saturday, August 15.

The initiative is being organised by Thari Foundation in partnership with Pledge 25 Botswana and the National Blood Transfusion Service (NBTS), with donations scheduled from 10am to 3:30pm.

A PERSISTENT SHORTFALL

According to figures cited by the organisers, Botswana requires about 45,000 units of blood annually to meet the needs of health facilities, while current collections average between 24,000 and 27,000 units. This leaves an estimated shortfall of nearly 45 percent.

The organisers said the shortage has implications for maternal healthcare, particularly in cases of severe postpartum haemorrhage, or uncontrolled bleeding following childbirth.

"No mother should lose her life during childbirth simply because a hospital shelf is empty of compatible blood," said Thari Foundation chairperson and founder Kagiso Setuke.

YOUTH MOBILISATION

Pledge 25 Botswana chairperson Gaone Gaefiwe said young people could play a role in addressing the shortage through voluntary blood donation.

"Youth advocacy and peer-to-peer mobilization are at the heart of building a reliable, safe blood supply in Botswana," Gaefiwe said.

NBTS staff will conduct donor screening, blood collection and related medical procedures during the drive.

The organisers said eligible donors should be aged between 16 and 65, weigh at least 50kg and be in good general health. Every donor will receive post-donation refreshments on-site. For more information regarding donation guidelines or event details, contact Gaone Gaefiwe +26772969395 or email pledge-25club.botswana@gmail.com.

The Math of Failure



The brands that fear failure most may be the ones most likely to produce it, because progress comes from processing mistakes rather than avoiding them.



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

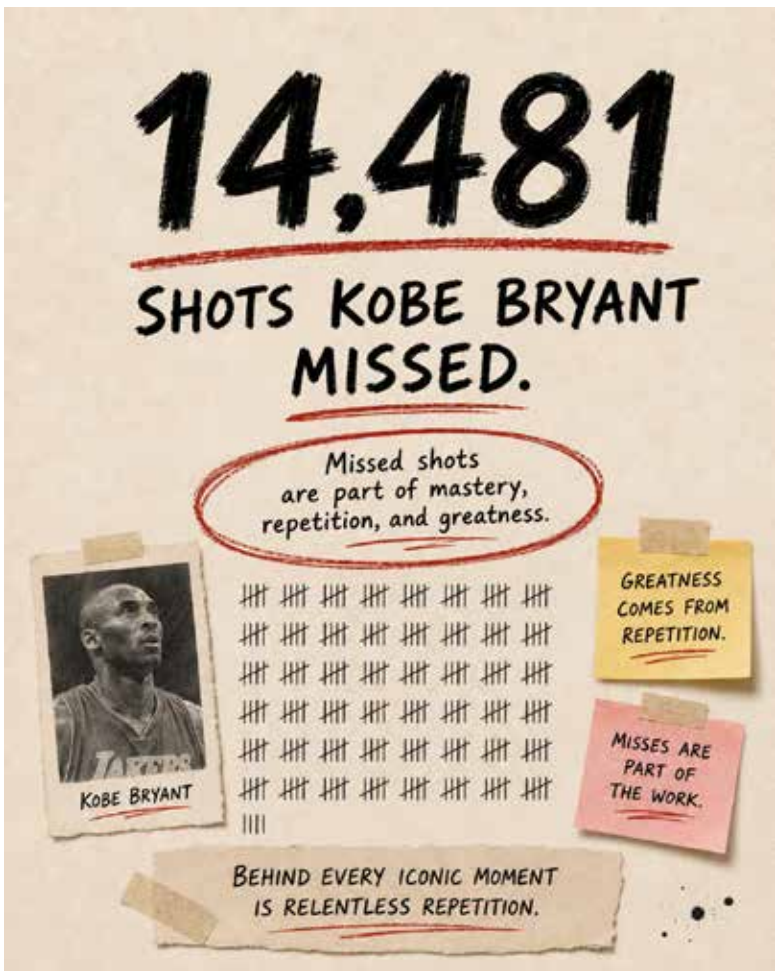
Frank Sinatra recorded over 1,200 songs. Only 209 became major hits. That is a 17 percent success rate. Pablo Picasso created an estimated 147,800 works across his lifetime. Approximately 1,170 are considered masterpieces. Less than 1 percent. Kobe Bryant missed 14,481 shots in his NBA career, more than almost any player in history.

The math says it all. Keep going.

This is the Failure Paradox: the most successful brands are not the ones that fail the least. They are the ones that fail the most, learn the fastest, and stop treating failure as a verdict.

FAILURE DEFINED

Most organisations treat failure as an event to be buried. A campaign that does not perform gets pulled quietly. A product launch that misses its target gets reclassified in the report. The organisation moves on but takes nothing from the experience. The failure was not processed. It was simply ended.



This is the most expensive form of failure: the kind you do not learn from.

Sinatra did not record 1,200 songs despite the failures. He recorded them because of them. Each recording refined his understanding of what resonated and what the audience was ready to hear. The failures were not obstacles to the masterpieces. They were the process by which the masterpieces became possible.

Brands that treat every failed campaign as a crisis and every missed target as a reason to change direction are not being prudent. They are discarding the most valuable raw material available: real information about what their market actually responds to.

BOTSWANA'S FEAR

There is a specific version of this failure avoidance that has taken root in corporate Botswana, and it deserves to be named directly.

Botswana's organisational culture has long been shaped by values of consensus, deference to authority, and preference for stability. These are not bad values. They built a functioning state from very little in a very short time. But in a commercial context, the same instincts that produce social cohesion produce brand timidity. The preference for consensus means bold ideas get committee-reviewed until they are safe. Deference to authority means the most senior person in the room determines the creative direction, regardless of whether that person is closest to the customer. The preference for stability means brands stay with what worked last time, even when the market has moved.

The result is visible in the advertising landscape. Marketing in Botswana has been criticised, including by practitioners within the industry, for being too corporate, too generic, and too detached from the human beings it is meant to reach. The messaging talks about what the brand offers rather than what the customer fears, desires, or needs. It is safe. It is inoffensive. And it is largely forgettable.

> "The most successful brands are not the ones that fail the least. They are the ones that fail the most, learn the fastest, and stop treating failure as a verdict."

This is not a talent problem. The creative capability exists. The problem is structural. Organisations have built approval processes optimised for risk elimination rather than im-

Continues to page 26



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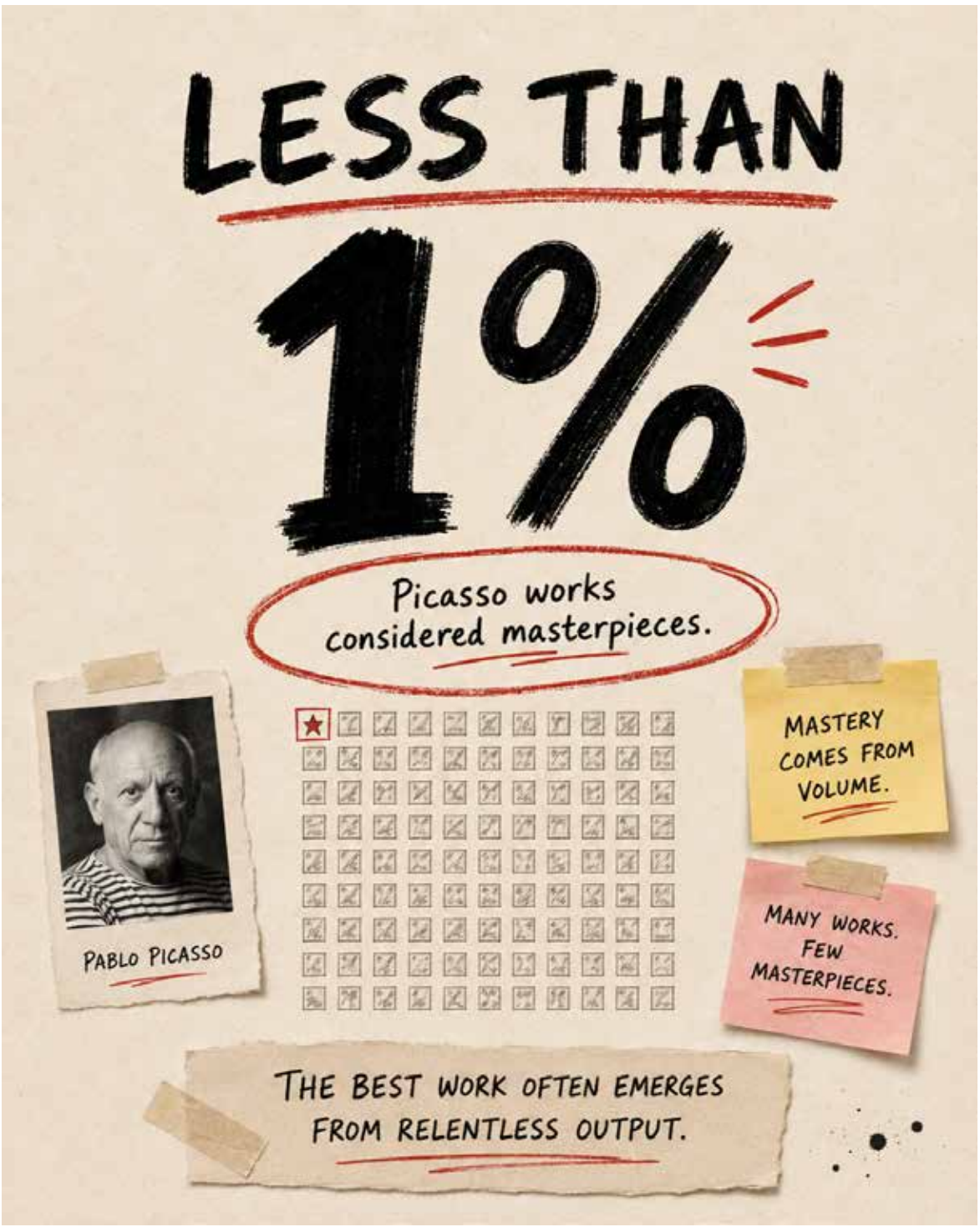
pact creation. Every layer of sign-off removes a degree of boldness. By the time the campaign reaches the public, it has been reviewed by enough people with enough different concerns that nothing genuinely challenging remains.

> "The data from a campaign that did not work is worth more than the data from a campaign that was never run."

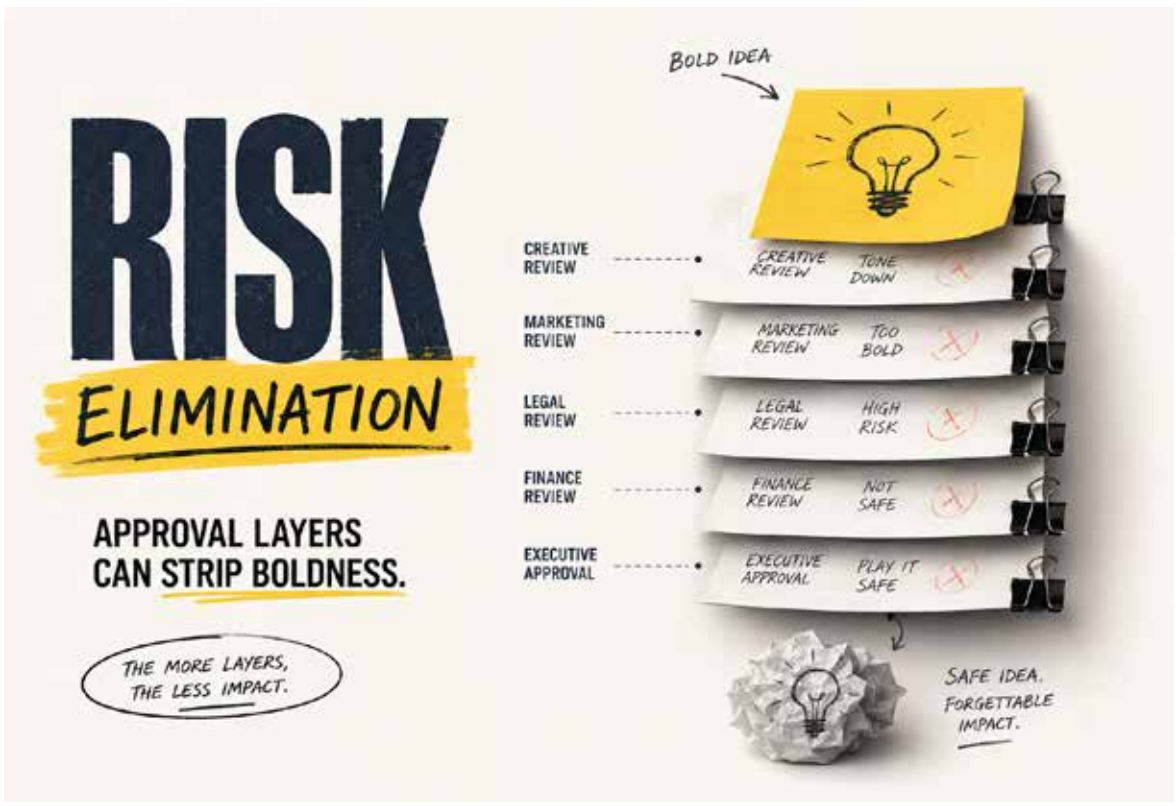
The brands that break through in this market are the ones with leaders willing to accept the discomfort of trying something that might not work. That willingness is not recklessness. It is the minimum requirement for building a brand anyone remembers.



BOLDNESS PARADOX

The brands that appear most confident are often the ones that have failed the most. Their confidence is not the absence of failure. It is the product of having processed enough failure to know it does not end them.

Choppies built its early retail footprint by entering markets established players considered too risky. Not every location worked. But the organisation treated each underperforming store as data, not defeat. Collections by BK Proctor built its premium positioning by holding its price and quality discipline through seasons when the market did not respond. The brands that hold through those seasons, learn and refine without abandoning their positioning are the ones that eventually own the space they committed to.



Picasso did not become Picasso by painting only when he was certain the work would be a masterpiece. He painted every day. Most of it was not extraordinary. The extraordinary work was only possible because of the volume of ordinary work that preceded it.

WHAT IT MEANS

For business owners and executives: build a culture where failure is reported accurately, not managed upward. The most dangerous failure is the one reclassified as a learning exercise before anyone has actually learned from it. Require post-mortems. The organisation that knows what went wrong is always more capable than the one that pretends nothing did.

For marketing professionals: do not let measurement become a reason not to try. The data from a campaign that did not work is worth more than the data from a campaign that was never run. Ship the work. Learn from the result. Adjust.

> "The creative capability exists. The problem is structural."

For brand managers: failure is not always a signal to change direction. Sometimes it is a signal to improve execution. Know the difference. The brand that changes strategy every time a campaign underperforms will never build the consistency that produces recognition.

The math is not against you. The math is the point. Keep going.



The Botswana Gazette
TIME OUT
THE BOTSWANA GAZETTE
WEDNESDAY 12 AUGUST 2026

THIS IS NOT A TASTING. THIS IS A TOAST.

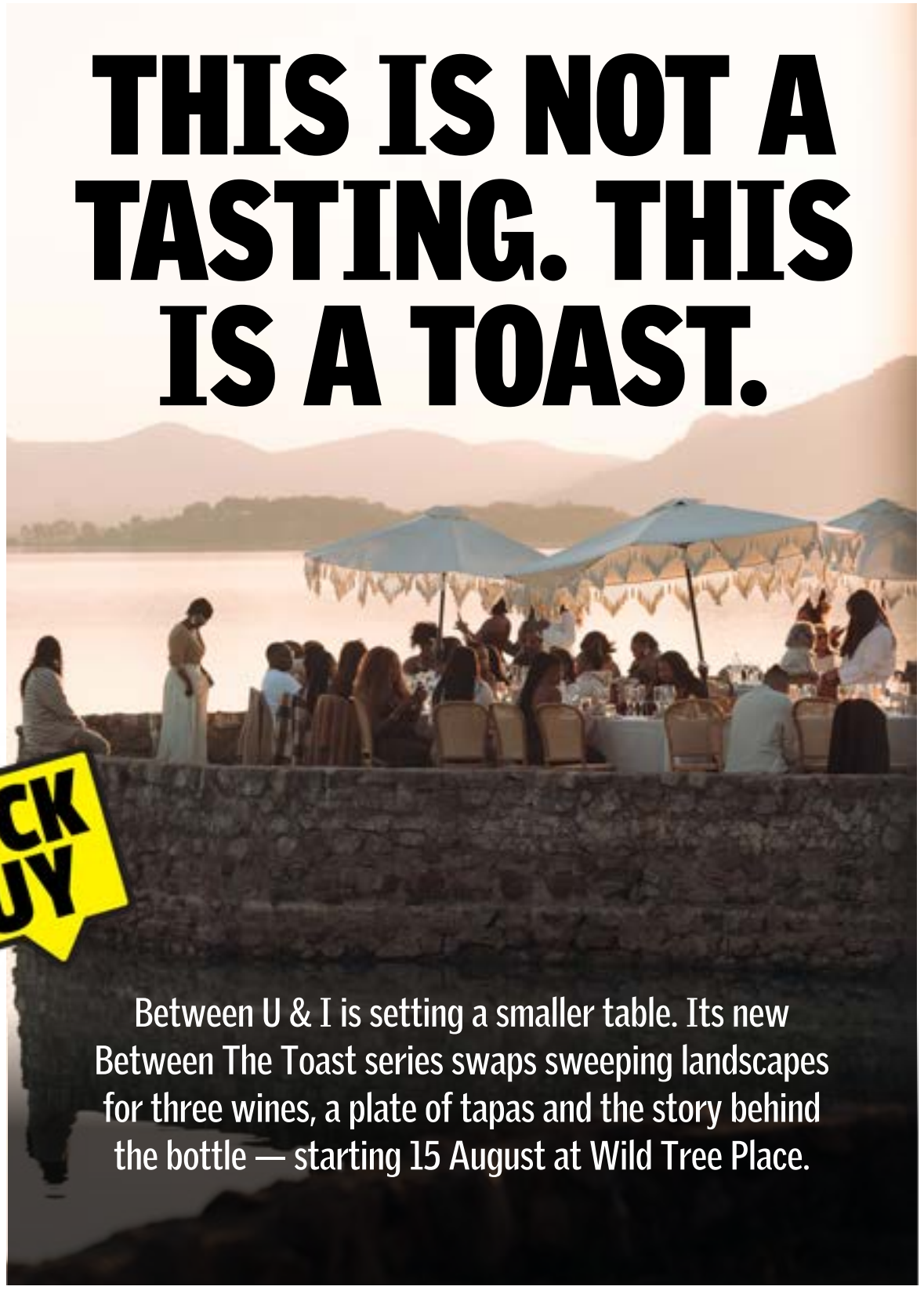
GAZETTE REPORTER

There is a new table being set in Gaborone, and this one is deliberately smaller, slower and built entirely around what is in the glass.

Between U & I, the outfit behind the roving Long Table Experience, launches Between The Toast on 15 August at Wild Tree Place — an intimate afternoon of wine, tapas and conversation at P750 a seat.

PRODUCT LED

The Long Table has carried guests from Mogobane to Maun, Chobe and Mokolodi, revealing the country through setting and scale. Between The Toast turns the lens inward. "Where the Long Table is largely destination-led, Between The Toast is product-led," says founder Uyapo Ketogetswe, describing the format as closer to a pop-up restaurant: fewer people, considered pairings and access to the people who can tell the story behind what is being served. It frees the team to build an entire experience around a single brand, chef or ingredient.



FIRST POUR

The debut partner is Rupert & Rothschild Vignerons, the Franschhoek estate born of two dynasties — the Ruperts of Stellenbosch and the Rothschilds of Bordeaux. Three wines carry the afternoon. Baroness Nadine Chardonnay opens, refined and built for food. Classique sits in the middle, approachable but complex enough to keep a table talking. Baron Edmond closes as what Ketogetswe calls the crescendo, structured enough to make guests slow down. Hosting is Carla Malherbe, the estate's Global Sales and Marketing Manager, in from the vineyards with the stories to match.

NO CLASSROOM

The tapas are not incidental. Each dish is built to reveal something specific in the glass — acidity, texture, richness, structure. What Ketogetswe is avoiding is the lecture. "Wine can sometimes be presented in a way that makes people feel they need to know the correct terminology before they are allowed to enjoy it," the founder says. "We want to remove that barrier." Taste the wine. Taste it with the dish. Notice what changes. Ask why.

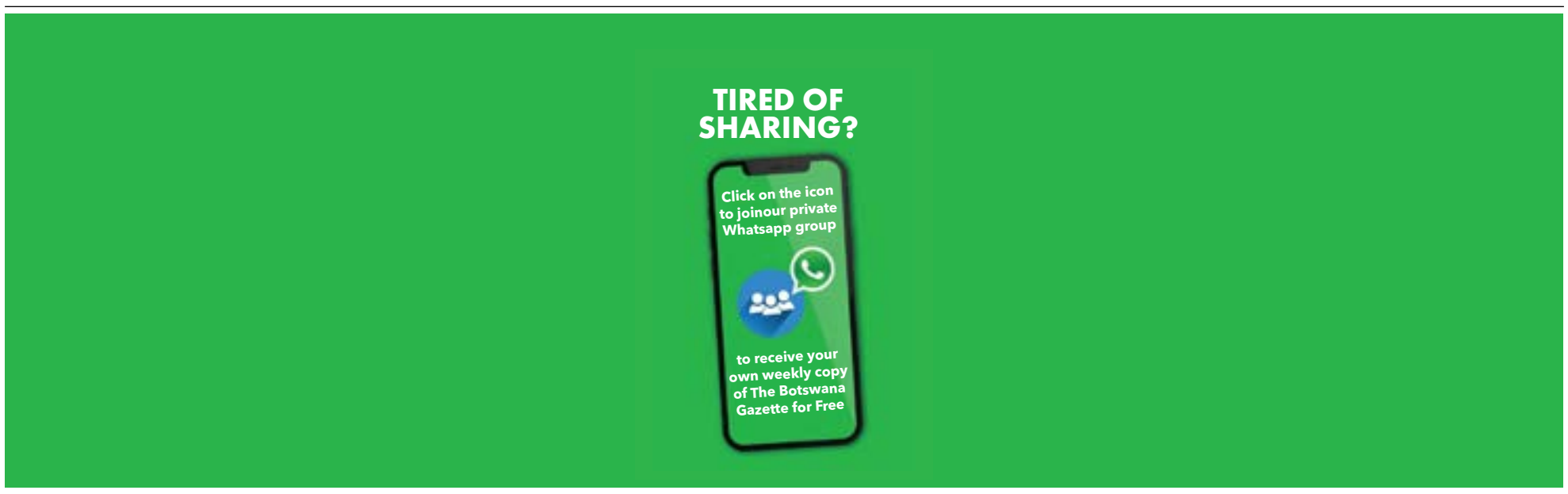
WHAT NEXT

The ambition runs past one afternoon: a series of intimate encounters with wine estates, spirit houses, chefs and producers from Botswana and beyond, and a firmer gastronomy culture to go with the country's landscapes.

> "Between U & I has never simply been about setting a beautiful table. It is about what that table can introduce people to."

Seats are secured by filling in the guest form at https://forms.gle/uH6XsbJT1UsKm1pEA, making payment and sending proof of payment, with your name, to betweenuandibw@gmail.com.

— Uyapo Ketogetswe, Founder, Between U & I





RUTH'S WORLD STAGE MOMENT

Miss World Botswana 2026, Ruth Thomas has landed in Vietnam joining more than 120 queens for a month of culture, purpose and serious pageant action.

Beauty queen, Ruth Thomas has officially entered the global pageant arena.

Miss World Botswana 2026 is now in Vietnam after leaving Botswana this past weekend to represent the country at the 73rd Miss World Festival, running from 9 August to 5 September.

MORE THAN A CROWN

The month-long festival brings together queens from more than 120 countries for cultural activities, fast-track competitions, sisterhood and the Miss World "Beauty With A Purpose" programme, before the big finale on 5 September.

Ruth's journey began with a warm send-off back home, where family, friends, pageant insiders, media and members of the public gathered to show their support. Miss Botswana 2026 Magdeline Modipane was also there, lending her support to the departing queen.

Now the glamour moves to Vietnam, with Ruth carrying more than a sash. She is representing Botswana's culture, confidence and national pride on an international platform.

Batswana have been urged to get behind Ruth as she takes the flag to the world stage. The crown may be the prize, but the journey is the headline.

TIMEOUT BRIEFS

BY GOSEGO MOTSUMI

> "Miss Botswana 2026 Magdeline Modipane was also there, lending her support to the departing queen"

Berry Heart Pens New Book

Berry Heart is turning years of building brands, navigating business and commanding attention into a new book about making influence work harder and last longer.

For years, Keotshepile Motseonageng, better known as Berry Heart, has been building brands in full public view. Now she is opening the playbook.

Her debut business book, The Business of Influence: How to Turn Your Brand into Business, launches on 21 November 2026, exploring what happens when influence moves beyond likes, visibility and reputation and becomes an asset.

BUILDING BEYOND THE BRAND

The book tackles branding, sustainable enterprise and intellectual property, with Berry Heart arguing that IP can be one of the most powerful tools available to creators and entrepreneurs seeking long-term wealth.

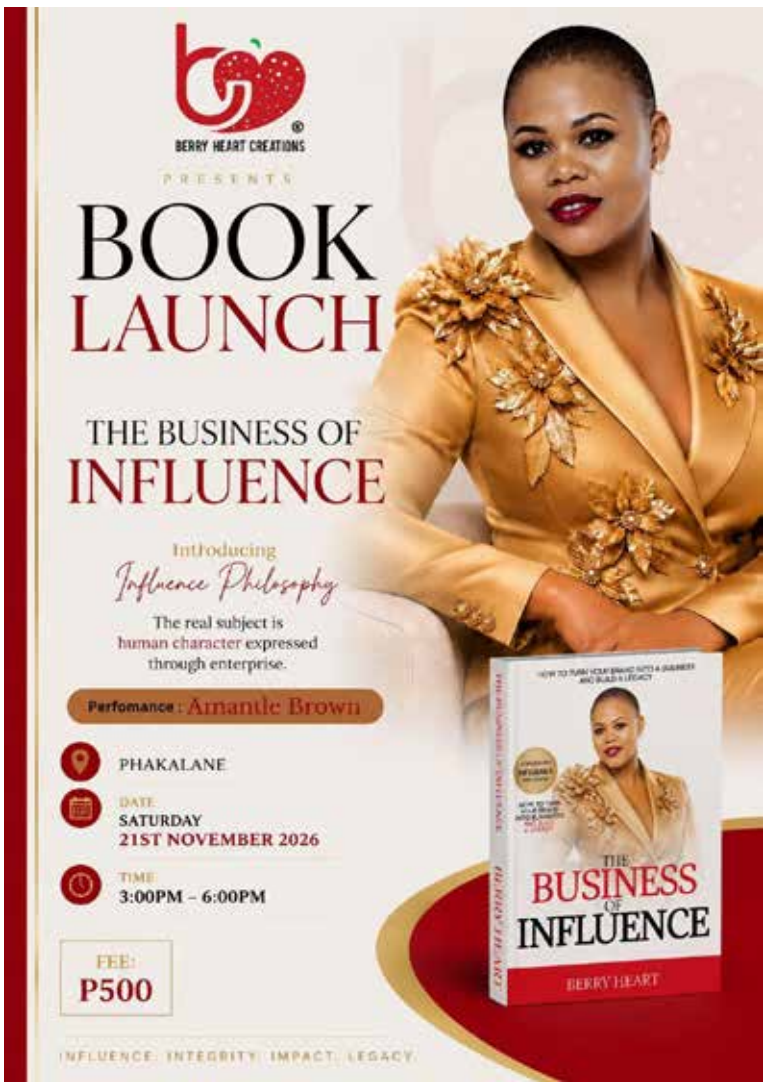
"This is more than a book launch," she said. "It is the beginning of a movement that will change how Africa thinks about influence, branding, intellectual property and legacy."

Aimed at entrepreneurs, professionals, creators and students, the book promises practical thinking around turning personal brands into sustainable businesses.

The launch will feature Amantle Brown, with entry set at P500.

> "It is the beginning of a movement that will change how Africa thinks about influence, branding, intellectual property and legacy."

For Berry Heart, the message is bigger than her own story: influence is nice. Ownership is better.



BATHO BA METSI OFFICIALLY LAUNCHED

Batho Ba Metsi moves beyond the postcard image of the Okavango to spotlight the people whose lives, traditions and knowledge flow with its waters.



The Okavango Delta has no shortage of spectacular photographs. But Batho Ba Metsi asks viewers to look beyond the scenery.

The locally produced documentary had its official world premiere last week at the BTV Auditorium in Gaborone, hosted by the Okavango Diamond Company and The Nkashi Trust in the presence of President Duma Gideon Boko.

BEYOND THE POSTCARD

Meaning "People of the Water", the film follows Palesa Molefe into the Delta, where she encounters mokoro polers, basket weavers, elders, young storytellers and community leaders.

Directed by Moabi Mogorosi and filmed entirely in Botswana by an all-Batswana production crew, the unscripted documentary presents the Delta as more than a conservation success story. It is a living cultural homeland.

Its deeper conversation is about who gets to tell conservation stories and whose knowledge counts.

By placing community voices alongside questions of conservation, tourism and wellbeing, Batho Ba Metsi makes the case that protecting the Delta is not only about protecting water, wildlife and landscapes. It is also about recognising the people whose lives are intertwined with them.

Botswana's creative industry gets another win, too: a local story, made locally, ready for the world.

Maitisong Fest is Calling

Maitisong Festival 2026 is less a comeback than a homecoming — three days of music, theatre, dance, storytelling and raw human connection designed to remind Gaborone why this stage still matters

GOSEGO MOTSUMI

There are places in a city that become more than buildings. Maitisong Theatre is one of them. Since 1987, its stage has absorbed songs, speeches, school concerts, dramatic exits, standing ovations and the restless energy of generations finding their creative voice. Now, as the theatre heads towards its 40th anniversary in 2027, Maitisong Festival 2026 is throwing the doors open again.



From August 21 to 23, the theatre at Maru-a-Pula School becomes a meeting point for artists, families, learners and audiences with one invitation at the centre of it all: In Concert.

THE STAGE IS YOURS

Festival coordinator Kgopiso Tibe said the theme stretches beyond music.

"Maitisong Festival 2026 is built around the idea of being In Concert. For us, this means more than music," she said. "It speaks to artists, audiences, learners, families, partners and the wider community coming together in one shared rhythm."

The weekend kicks off with For Tha Kulcha, bringing together Zeus, 267Shay and Mafitlhakgosi in a collision of hip-hop, indigenous dance, storytelling and high-energy performance. Zeus, who has spent years expanding Botswana hip-hop's borders, promises a memorable opening night.

"I cannot wait to present what we have instore for Maitisong InConcert," he said.

But this isn't a music-only affair.

STORIES THAT STAY

Arts for Life Global Health brings to the festival Holding Stories and Tell Me a Story — performances built around real community stories, witnessed and transformed on stage.

Motherland Legends and BAOTA follow with Victoria's Boys, while Ayanda closes the festival with Between These Walls, bringing her neo-soul, R&B and jazz sensibilities to the stage.

For Tibe, that gathering matters.

"A festival is an ecosystem," she said. "Maitisong belongs to the community. This festival is theirs, and we cannot have it without them."

"Maitisong Festival 2026 is built around the idea of being In Concert. For us, this means more than music."

And perhaps that is the real point. As Botswana's cultural calendar keeps evolving, Maitisong is betting that the oldest magic still works: people in one room, artists on stage, and a story unfolding in real time.

Playback Theatre: Your Story, On Stage

Forget the script. At this year's Maitisong Arts Festival, your story could become the show. Playback Theatre turns everyday experiences into improvised performance, inviting audiences to speak, watch themselves reflected on stage and, perhaps, see their own stories differently

GOSEGO MOTSUMI

There is theatre you watch. Then there is theatre that watches you.

At this year's Maitisong Arts Festival, running from August 21 to 23 at Maru-a-Pula School in Gaborone, Arts for Life Global Health & Wellness Centre (AFLGH) is bringing a theatrical format many audiences may never have encountered: Playback Theatre.

The premise is wonderfully simple and slightly nerve-racking. Someone from the audience tells a real story. The actors listen. Then, without a script or rehearsal, they turn that story into a live performance.

"It's improvisation and the only difference is that the audience are the ones that tell their personal stories, and the playbackers then play it back to them," explains AFLGH artist Nick Ram.

NO SCRIPT. NO WRONG STORY.

That story could be profound, a childhood memory, a difficult experience, a moment of triumph or hilariously ordinary. There is no audition for the "best" story.

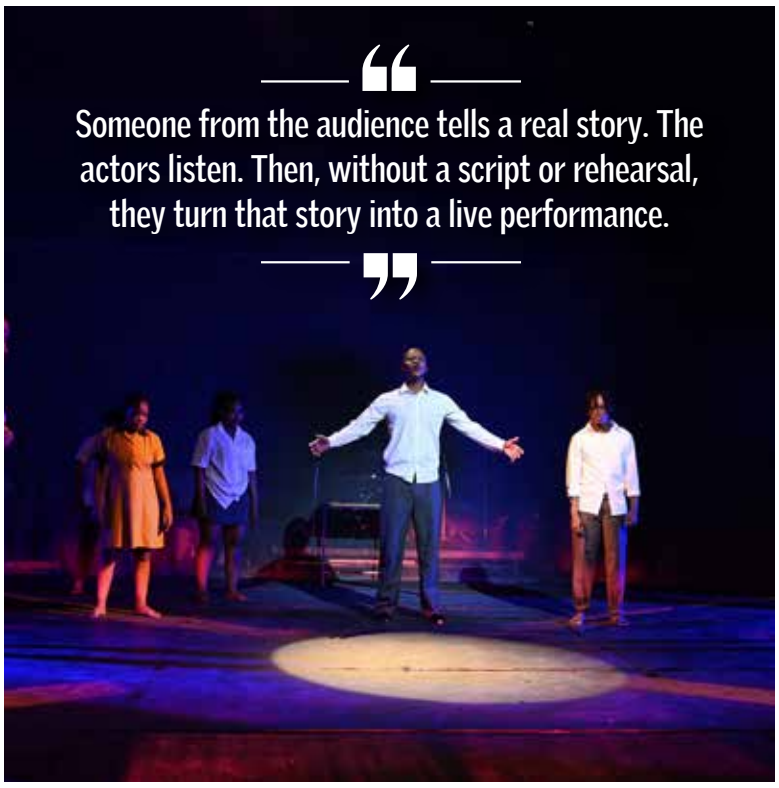
"You might feel pressure in the audience to bring out a story that you think is worthwhile or interesting, but there's not a wrong way to tell a story or to do playback," added Anah Moorad.

A story about having a boring day? Bring it on.

The performers might recreate it through a tableau— freezing into a living image or use movement and improvisation to capture its emotional heartbeat. The point isn't theatrical perfection. It is recognition.

YOUR STORY, REFLECTED BACK

For AFLGH, Playback Theatre sits at the intersection of arts, community psychology, public health and healing. Its trauma-informed approach aims to create a space where stories are treated with care rather than mined for entertainment.



"So basically what we're doing is we are honoring and respecting the stories that are given to us," Ram said. "Because they're not our stories."

That six-member ensemble — Ram, Moorad, Gabriella Kalayamotho, Kgosi Tau, May Alpajora and Lauri Kubuitsile is offering Maitisong audiences something more intimate than a conventional performance.

At Maitisong, the audience won't simply sit in the dark and watch. They might just become the story.

Can Ai Win A BOMU Award?

After a one-year hiatus, the BOMU Awards are back — bigger, shinier and asking harder questions. From AI-generated music and recycled songs to the often-invisible creatives behind Botswana's biggest sounds, this year's "Beyond Music" edition wants to redefine what deserves a trophy

GOSEGO MOTSUMI



The comeback has a soundtrack. It also has questions.

After sitting out a year, the Botswana Musicians Union (BOMU) Awards are returning to the Gaborone International Convention Centre on 29 August, promising the usual red carpet energy, and industry bragging rights. But this time, the party comes with a serious subplot: what exactly counts as musical excellence in 2026?

At a recent Stakeholders and Media Engagement, Awards Coordinator Seabelo Modibe revealed that the evolving use of artificial intelligence is becoming one of the industry's headaches.

"Some of the challenges of the BOMU Awards is evolution of AI music," Modibe said. "AI takes adaptation of other people's songs. It's the issue of ownership. It's a global challenge. There is another challenge, some entrants use old songs to compete for awards."

THE MACHINE IN THE STUDIO

AI has gone from sci-fi novelty to studio companion, capable of assisting with vocals, production and composition. That technological leap is forcing music awards worldwide to wrestle with a deceptively simple question: where does human creativity end and machine authorship begin?

For BOMU, the challenge is not simply keeping up with technology. It is protecting the meaning of the awards themselves.

BEYOND THE HEADLINERS

That makes this year's theme, "Beyond Music," particularly timely. The ceremony aims to recognise not only performers but also producers, songwriters, sound engineers, promoters and other creative workers who keep Botswana's music machine running.

Newly elected BOMU President Gloria Dzwikiti said the people behind the music deserve their moment.

"Making music is not easy," she said. "Yet they continue to create, perform, entertain and tell Botswana's stories through their music."

> "Some of the challenges of the BOMU Awards is evolution of AI music."

With public voting closing on 26 August, the countdown is officially on. By the time the lights hit GICC, BOMU will be celebrating the artists who made the music while confronting a new question about how much of that music is still unmistakably human.

Say I Do To The Wedding Expo

Forget 47 browser tabs, endless WhatsApp referrals and the dreaded "I know a guy" wedding hunt. The Grand Palm Wedding Expo 2026 is turning wedding planning into a one-stop celebration of Botswana's bridal talent.

GOSEGO MOTSUMI



Wedding planning has officially entered its shopping-festival era.

On August 15, The Grand Palm Hotel Casino Convention Resort will swap its usual hotel hustle for something decidedly more romantic: a full-scale marketplace of Botswana's wedding industry, bringing the people behind the big day under one roof.

For engaged couples, it is less "where do we even start?" and more "where do we sign?"

THE BIG WEDDING SHOP

From bridal boutiques and florists to photographers, decorators, caterers, jewellers, cake designers, beauty specialists and event planners, the Wedding Expo 2026 is designed to compress months of supplier hunting into one day.

And that is the real attraction. Couples can compare services, collect ideas, meet vendors face-to-face and sniff out exclusive offers without having to criss-cross Gaborone in search of the perfect cake, dress or DJ.

"The Wedding Expo is about creating opportunities for Botswana's wedding industry while making wedding planning easier for couples," said Grand Palm Marketing Manager Malebogo Motlaleng.

FROM "I DO" TO AFTER-PARTY

The event is not just about spreadsheets and quotations. A live Wedding Entertainment Showcase will put musicians, DJs and performers on stage, giving couples a chance to hear exactly what could soundtrack their first dance or send the aunties onto the dancefloor.

The Grand Palm will also unveil its newly revised wedding packages, complete with booking incentives, making the expo as much about choosing the venue as imagining the entire celebration.

> "The Wedding Expo is about creating opportunities for Botswana's wedding industry while making wedding planning easier for couples."

Motlaleng said the resort wants to be "a one-stop destination" where couples can meet trusted suppliers and discover new ideas.

For P20, visitors can spend Saturday browsing Botswana's bridal ecosystem from 10am to 8pm. Exhibitor stalls range from P500 to P2,000.

The Return Of The Soirée

Forget rushing from booth to booth. This September, Botswana's Wine Soiree & Art Experience is inviting guests to slow down, sip with intention and discover what happens when a glass of wine starts a conversation with a painting



GOSEGO MOTSUMI

Wine has always been described as expressive. This time, it will have artwork answering back.

Returning for its third edition on 5 September 2026, at a venue to be announced soon, the Wine Soiree & Art Experience isn't trying to become Botswana's biggest wine event. It's aiming to become its most memorable by pairing every pour with a work of art, every tasting note with an artist's perspective and every guest with a reason to linger just a little longer.

MORE THAN A WINE TASTING

Founder and Concept Development Manager Drew Chadhall in an interview said the concept was born after noticing that wine and art events rarely spoke to each other.

"We kept seeing wine events that felt like tastings in a tent, and art events that felt a bit distant and quiet."

Instead of separating the two worlds, Wine Soiree lets them collide. Guests won't simply walk through aisles. They'll move through curated "chapters" where paintings respond to wines and wines reflect the mood, colour and texture of artworks created by local artists.

The experience will also feature guided storytelling from wine educators, distributors and artists, turning every glass into a lesson in culture rather than simply another drink.

A TASTE OF CRAFT

Premium wine houses including Fine Brands, Heineken Beverages Botswana, Degree Beverage Solutions and Botswana's woman-led Fabiolla Wine will





pour alongside emerging labels, creating a journey through classic favourites and bold newcomers.

"We didn't just want big names," Chadhall explained. "We wanted houses that care about origin, about people, and about craft."

SOUNDTRACK FOR THE SIP

Of course, no soirée is complete without music.

South African house music power couple Sir LSG and DJ Soul Diva headline a lineup featuring Botswana favourites DJ Maths, Austin, DJ Bats, Happex Guru and Benyboi, with MC Phly Honey steering the evening.

The music won't overpower the experience. It'll evolve with it, gentle during tastings before gradually lifting the room into celebration.

THE SLOW MOVEMENT

In a world obsessed with speed, Wine Soiree is betting on something increasingly rare: presence.

> "We kept seeing wine events that felt like tastings in a tent, and art events that felt a bit distant and quiet."

Chadhall's five-year vision is for the event to become a cultural institution that champions local artists, supports wine makers of every size and proves that Botswana's creative scene deserves experiences that are as thoughtful as they are beautiful. Early bird tickets are selling fast and include tasting coupons available via Spar, Webtickets, and ClickNPAYTicketing.co.bw.

Consumer Fair Introduces Taste & Sip Village

The Botswana Consumer Fair is getting a lifestyle upgrade. This August, Taste & Sip Village brings food, cocktails, music, lounging and serious social energy to the seven-day exhibition because nobody said shopping, networking and family day outs had to happen on an empty stomach

GAZETTE REPORTER

The Botswana Consumer Fair has always been about discovery. This year, discovery comes with a side of cocktails, sizzling plates and somewhere comfortable to sit.

From 24–30 August, the 19th Botswana Consumer Fair returns to the Botswana Conference and Exhibition Centre under the colourful banner "Showcasing Botswana in Full Colour." But tucked inside the familiar exhibition bustle will be something decidedly different: the inaugural



Taste & Sip Village, a lifestyle destination designed to turn a day at the fair into an experience.

NOT YOUR AVERAGE FOOD COURT

Forget grabbing a quick bite between exhibitors. Taste & Sip Village is being billed as an experiential space where visitors can eat well, sip something interesting, unwind and soak up live entertainment throughout the day and into the evening.

The idea was born from visitor feedback. Families wanted somewhere to escape the exhibition hustle, especially when children were in tow. Fairground Holdings listened and answered with shaded seating, relaxed spaces and a social atmosphere.

COME HUNGRY, STAY LONGER

The village brings together established and emerging hospitality brands, including Meat on Fire Africa, Perfect Pour, Bella Chow, Burger808, Rebel Cook, Cakeman, FGH Bar, KBL and Stribe Right.

The menu of experiences is deliberately varied, with signature beverages, cocktails, premium food offerings and entertainment creating a destination within the destination.

> Taste & Sip Village is being billed as an experiential space where visitors can eat well, sip something interesting, unwind and soak up live entertainment throughout the day and into the evening.

Behind the scenes, Native Events will handle the village infrastructure, décor, furniture and logistics, while KBL takes charge of beverage activations, entertainment and consumer engagement.

The bigger play? Keeping visitors at the fair longer and giving them another reason to return.

DRAWING A FUTURE THAT PAYS FORWARD

Botswana's animation scene is ready for its next plot twist. Animator and creative entrepreneur Theo Silitshena has landed a coveted residency in Türkiye, but his biggest project isn't the trip itself. It's turning one international opportunity into seven free classrooms where the country's next generation of storytellers can learn to bring their imaginations to life.



GOSEGO MOTSUMI

Botswana has produced musicians, filmmakers and fashion designers with global ambitions. Now, an animator wants to prove that cartoons can travel just as far.

When Theo Silitshena received the email confirming his place at The Cartoon Mill's prestigious seven-day animation residency in Kaş, Türkiye, it wasn't just another passport stamp. It was proof that Botswana's stories are ready for international screens. Before boarding that flight, however, he faces one final obstacle: raising P70,000.



"Attending The Cartoon Mill requires P70,000 to cover the lean, non-negotiable travel, program and operational costs associated with participating in an international residency in Europe," he told Time Out.

FROM PIXAR TO THE MEDITERRANEAN

For Silitshena, founder of Learn Animation, the acceptance marks another milestone following his Mandela Washington Fellowship, where he engaged with creatives from Pixar, Titmouse and the Walt Disney Family Museum.

"It proves that the creative work we are producing here in Botswana is being recognized on an international level. Knowing that our local stories have global resonance gives me immense personal pride and fuels my commitment to this craft," he said.

His goal in Türkiye is to develop original animation concepts inspired by Setswana culture, heritage and contemporary life, refining them alongside international mentors into projects that can resonate with audiences around the world.

THE REAL MASTERPIECE COMES HOME

The residency may last only seven days, but Silitshena wants its impact to extend far beyond the experience itself.

If fully funded, he has pledged to return and deliver free animation workshops, complete with learning materials, to seven government school art classes. Students will be introduced to animation fundamentals, digital production workflows, storytelling, cultural identity and creative career pathways.

Having spent the past four years teaching in private schools, Silitshena says he has seen how access to creative education often depends on circumstance rather than talent.

He said: "Government schools house vast, untapped talent… young people who have the drive and imagination but lack exposure to modern creative industries."

Even if the fundraising falls short, he said every pula raised will still go towards delivering those workshops.

> "Government schools house vast, untapped talent... young people who have the drive and imagination but lack exposure to modern creative industries."

In a country where the animation industry is only beginning to find its footing, Silitshena isn't simply asking people to fund a trip. He is inviting them to invest in Botswana's creative future, where the next internationally acclaimed animator could be sitting in a government school classroom, waiting for someone to help draw the first frame.

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

CASE NO. CVHGB – 001840 - 22

In the matter between
BBS LIMITED **Plaintiff**
and
MOTHUSI DARLY MAKHIWA **Defendant**

NOTICE OF SALE IN EXECUTION

BE PLEASED TO TAKE NOTICE THAT pursuant to a Judgment granted by the above Honourable Court on the 6th July 2023 the following immovable property of the above mentioned Defendant will be sold by means of public auction to the highest bidder by **Deputy Sheriff U J CHILISA** as follows:

DATE OF SALE : Friday 11th September 2026
VENUE : Tribal Lot 9507, Mogoditshane
TIME OF SALE : 1030 Hours
TERMS OF SALE : All participating bidders are required to make an **UP-FRONT** payment of BWP 10 000.00 directly to the undersigned Attorneys, refundable only to those who did not succeed in the sale. Only cash or bank guaranteed cheques will be accepted. The detailed conditions of sale are available for inspection at the undersigned Attorneys' offices.

PROPERTY TO BE SOLD : The Defendant's rights, title and interest in a certain piece of land being Tribal Lot 9507, Mogoditshane, situated at Mogoditshane in the Kweneng Tribal Territory measuring 969 m² (Nine Hundred and Sixty Nine Square Metres) held under Notarial Deed of Cession of Lease No. MA 685/2010 dated 21st December 2010 made in favour of Mothusi Makhiwa, together with all the improvements thereon a sitting room, kitchen, living room, dinning room, two bed room, master bedroom with toilet with bathing room, bedroom, double garage, and swimming pool.

DATED AT GABORONE ON THIS 03RD DAY OF AUGUST 2026.

COLLINS CHILISA CONSULTANTS
Attorneys • Notaries • Conveyancers

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

Blind Tasting: The Great Wine Equaliser

Blind tasting strips away labels, prices and reputations, reminding wine lovers that the most honest judgment begins with what is actually in the glass.



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.
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.

PHENYO MOTHAGODI

Wine has a fascinating ability to make us both confident and uncertain at the same time. Place a beautiful bottle on the table with an impressive label, a prestigious region, a recognisable producer and perhaps a story involving generations of winemakers, and suddenly our expectations begin forming before the first drop touches our lips. We are not just tasting wine anymore; we are tasting the story, the reputation and sometimes even the price.

Then take away the bottle. Remove the label. Hide the producer. Forget the region. Suddenly, everyone becomes a little more humble. This is the magic of blind tasting. It is the great equaliser of the wine world because it forces us to engage with what is actually in the glass, rather than what we think should be in the glass.

POWER OF PERCEPTION

Humans are influenced by context. It happens everywhere, not just with wine. We pay more attention to a meal when it is served in an elegant restaurant. We expect a luxury car to feel different from an ordinary vehicle. We assume an expensive product must be better because, surely, someone would not charge that much if it wasn't. Wine is no different.



A label can create anticipation before we even smell the wine. A famous region can make us search for certain characteristics. A high price can convince us that what we are drinking must be exceptional. Sometimes our brains are tasting before our palates have had a chance.

That is why blind tasting is so fascinating. It removes the influence of expectation and leaves us with a much more honest question: do I actually enjoy this wine?

Not, "Am I supposed to enjoy this wine?" Not, "Will people think I know what I am talking about if I say I like this wine?" Simply, "What is happening in my glass?"

EXPERTS GET SURPRISED

There is a popular misconception that wine experts have some magical ability to identify every wine with complete confidence. They don't. They have trained palates. They have experience. They understand regions, grape varieties and winemaking techniques. But they are still human, and wine remains wonderfully unpredictable.

Nothing humbles a wine expert faster than confidently describing a wine's "Old World elegance" before discovering it came from a bottle they bought at a supermarket. That moment of silence is usually followed by a very thoughtful sip and perhaps a quick adjustment of vocabulary.

In fact, it is one of the reasons wine remains exciting. If every bottle behaved exactly as expected, perhaps we would eventually lose interest. The best wine experiences often happen when our assumptions are challenged and when a bottle forces us to reconsider what we thought we knew.

CAPE TOWN LESSON

This idea was brought to life during the July gathering of the Gaborone Wine Club, when the Cape Town Wine Society joined us virtually for part of the evening.

One of the fascinating things they shared was their approach to blind tasting. Wines are tasted without the identity of the producer, region or grape variety being revealed. Members then assess the wine, discuss what they experience and score it out of 100. It is a simple concept, but a powerful one.

Without knowing the story behind the bottle, the conversation changes. People focus on the wine itself: the aromas, flavours, structure, balance and overall enjoyment. A person who may normally dismiss a particular grape variety suddenly finds themselves enjoying it. Someone who always reaches for a familiar producer discovers another wine that deserves attention.

The blind tasting table becomes a place where curiosity replaces assumption. What I found particularly interesting about the Cape Town Wine Society's approach is that the score is not the end of the conversation; it is the beginning. A number out of 100 creates a framework for discussion, but it does not remove the most important question: did you enjoy it?

Because a technically impressive wine that does not excite you is still not necessarily your wine.

PRICE TAG TEST

One of the most entertaining parts of blind tastings is seeing how often price and preference do not align.

This does not mean expensive wines are not worth their price. Many premium wines command their value because of vineyard location, limited production, ageing potential and extraordinary craftsmanship. There are wines that deserve their reputation and their price tags. But price does not guarantee personal enjoyment.

A P2,000 bottle may be technically impressive, beautifully made and highly regarded, but if your palate prefers the P250 bottle sitting next to it, that is a perfectly valid opinion. Wine is not an investment portfolio where the most expensive option automatically wins. The best wine is the one that creates the best experience for you.

Blind tastings remind us of this. They separate appreciation from expectation and remind us that enjoyment is deeply personal.

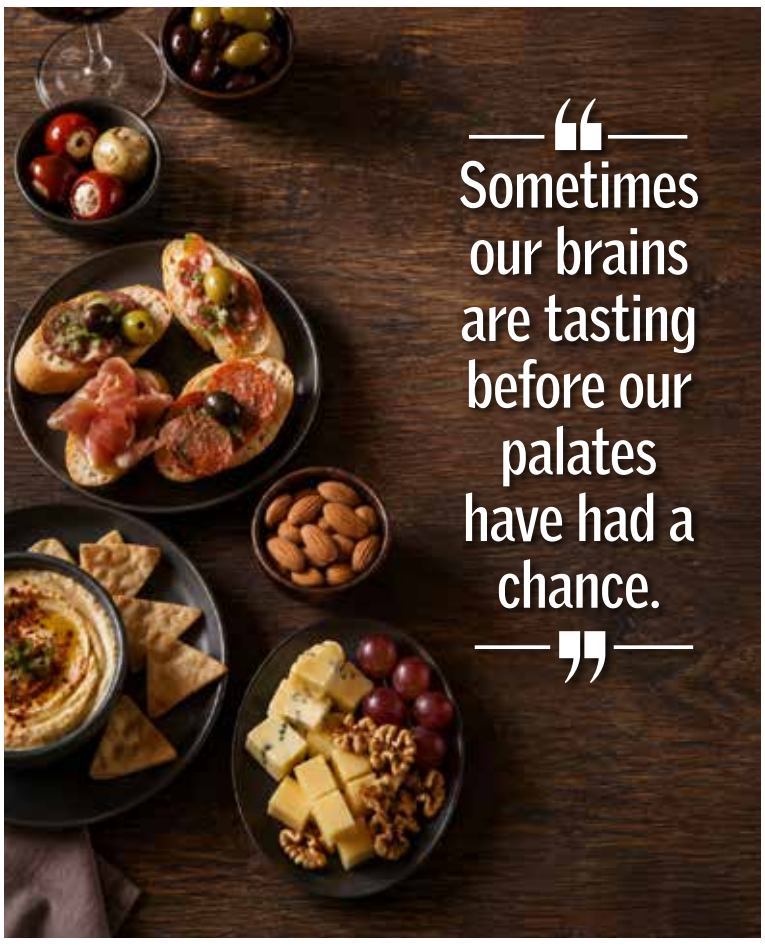
NOT KNOWING

Perhaps that is why blind tasting remains one of the most enjoyable parts of wine culture. It reminds us that discovery is still possible.

Even people who have spent years exploring wine can be surprised. Experienced enthusiasts can find themselves reconsidering old opinions. Even experts can be reminded that wine always has another story to tell.

That is the beauty of the journey. Wine is not a destination where you eventually know everything. The moment you think you have figured it all out, a new grape, region, producer or bottle arrives to challenge you.

So the next time you open a bottle, try forgetting the label for a moment. Taste first. Judge later.







Are you ready for a Data Protection Audit?

The implementation of Botswana's Data Protection Act No. 18 of 2025 (DPA) necessitates compliance with data protection principles. Private, government and parastatal institutions are expected to demonstrate that they process personal data lawfully, securely and transparently. A data protection audit is a formal review of how an organisation manages personal data to ensure it complies with the DPA, protects individuals' privacy, and implements effective security measures. The Act gives the Information and Data Protection Commission (IDPC) powers to conduct audits and investigations to assess compliance. This article has one question "are you prepared for a data protection audit?" If not, read on as we unpack how to be.

ASSESS YOUR COMPLIANCE

Understanding how personal data is handled within your company is the first step towards being audit ready. In order to maintain compliance, organisations should specify what personal data they collect, why they collect it, how it is processed, where they store it, who can access it, and for how long they keep it. Additionally, organisations should also maintain accurate records of processing activities and regularly review privacy notices, consent mechanisms, and contracts with third-party service providers.

STRENGTHEN SECURITY MEASURES

A successful data protection audit examines whether appropriate technical and organisational measures are in place to safeguard personal data. Organisations should put in place strong cybersecurity measures, including access controls, password management, encryption where appropriate, secure backups, antivirus protection, and regular software updates. Also, for employees to understand their duties when handling personal data, employee awareness should be taken into consideration as a security measure. Additionally, entities that are obliged to designate a Data Protection Officer (DPO) should make sure the officer has sufficient authority, resources, and independence to monitor compliance. Lastly on security measures, organisations should craft data protection policies, effectively communicated throughout the organisation and regularly review them to ensure ongoing compliance.

PREPARE FOR THE AUDITOR

Being audit-ready means having your personal data processing records in order. Organisations should conduct periodic internal audits and address identified gaps without delay. The commission has the power to search, seize and detain an organisation's gadgets and equipment when conducting an audit and may request amongst others policies, staff training records, breach registers, consent records, contracts with processors, and documentation showing how data subject rights are handled. Management should also continuously monitor compliance rather than waiting for regulatory inspections to prevent being caught off guard.

OUR SERVICES

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

opracon
SKILLS & ACADEMY
Skills brokerage - Upskilling - Business Training

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

CASE No. CVHFT 000 164/25

In the matter between
ABSA BANK BOTSWANA LIMITED — **PLAINTIFF**
And
SEOKODI MAKGOBI — **DEFENDANT**

NOTICE OF SALE IN EXECUTION

BE PLEASED TO TAKE NOTICE that pursuant to a judgment of the above Honourable Court, the following property will be sold by Public Auction by Deputy Sheriff **ZACHARIAH MASHAMAITE** to the Highest Bidder:

DATE OF SALE : 15th September 2026
TIME : 14:00 p.m.
VENUE : Tribal Lot 17267, Maun
PROPERTY TO BE SOLD : Tribal Lot 17267, Maun
SITUATE : at Maun in the Batawana Tribal Territory

MEASURING : 1551m² (One Thousand Five Hundred and Fifty One Square Metres) which property is held under Notarial Deed of Cession No FT MA 185/2018 registered in favour of the Appearer's Constituent the said SEOKODI MAKGOBI on the 5th July 2018

The property comprises of one bedroom, kitchen, living room, bathroom and toilet with some improvements thereon.

CONDITIONS OF SALE : Detailed conditions of sale may be inspected with Deputy Sheriff Zachariah Mashamaite on cell No. 77638433 /74271019
CONDITION OF SALE : Cash or Bank guarantee cheques

DATED AT FRANCISTOWN ON THIS 11TH DAY OF AUGUST,2026

MMOHE ATTORNEYS
ATTORNEYS. NOTARIES & CONVEYANCERS

DEPUTY SHERIFF ZACHARIAH MASHAMAITE
C/O M MMOHE ATTORNEYS
Plot No. 3936, Peolwane Street, Minestone
P.O. Box 1860, **FRANCISTOWN**

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

CASE No. CVHFT 000 020/25

In the matter between
ABSA BANK BOTSWANA LIMITED — **PLAINTIFF**
And
LESEGO SERUMOLA — **DEFENDANT**

NOTICE OF SALE IN EXECUTION

BE PLEASED TO TAKE NOTICE that pursuant to a judgment of the above Honourable Court, the following property will be sold by Public Auction by Deputy Sheriff **ZACHARIAH MASHAMAITE** to the Highest Bidder:

DATE OF SALE : 24th September 2026
TIME : 10:00 a.m.
VENUE : Lot 18802, Palapye
PROPERTY TO BE SOLD : Lot 18802, Palapye
SITUATE : at Palapye in the Bamangwato Tribal Territory
MEASURING : 1328m² (One Thousand Three Hundred and Twenty Eight Square Metres) which property is held under Notarial Deed of Cession No. FT MA 241 /2020 registered on the 19th day of October 2020 made in favour of LESEGO SERUMOLA

The property comprises of a three bedroomed house, kitchen, sitting room, bathroom and toilet, fence with some improvements thereon.

CONDITIONS OF SALE : Detailed conditions of sale may be inspected with Deputy Sheriff Zachariah Mashamaite on cell No. 77638433 / 74271019
CONDITION OF SALE : Cash or Bank guarantee cheques

DATED AT FRANCISTOWN ON THIS 11TH DAY OF AUGUST,2026

MMOHE ATTORNEYS
ATTORNEYS. NOTARIES & CONVEYANCERS

DEPUTY SHERIFF ZACHARIAH MASHAMAITE
C/O M MMOHE ATTORNEYS
Plot No. 3936, Peolwane Street, Minestone
P.O. Box 1860, **FRANCISTOWN**

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

CASE No. CVHFT 000 291/25

In the matter between
ABSA BANK BOTSWANA LIMITED — **PLAINTIFF**
And
PEARL MBUYA LUNGISANI — **DEFENDANT**

NOTICE OF SALE IN EXECUTION

BE PLEASED TO TAKE NOTICE that pursuant to a judgment of the above Honourable Court, the following property will be sold by Public Auction by Deputy Sheriff **ZACHARIAH MASHAMAITE** to the Highest Bidder:

DATE OF SALE : 9th October 2026
TIME : 10:00 a.m.
VENUE : Lot 17071, Extension 32 (Donga), Francistown
PROPERTY TO BE SOLD : Lot 17071, Extension 32 (Donga), Francistown
SITUATE : in Francistown Extension 32
MEASURING : 540m² (Five Hundred and Forty Square Metres) which property is held under Deed of Transfer No. FT 606/2016 registered on the 28th day of July 2016 made in favour of PEARL MBUYA LUNGISANI

The property comprises of a two bedroomed house, kitchen, sitting room, dining area, bathroom and toilet, screen wall with some improvements thereon.

CONDITIONS OF SALE : Detailed conditions of sale may be inspected with Deputy Sheriff Zachariah Mashamaite on cell No. 77638433 / 74271019

CONDITION OF SALE : Cash or Bank guarantee cheques

DATED AT FRANCISTOWN ON THIS 11TH DAY OF AUGUST,2026

MMOHE ATTORNEYS
ATTORNEYS. NOTARIES & CONVEYANCERS

DEPUTY SHERIFF ZACHARIAH MASHAMAITE
C/O M MMOHE ATTORNEYS
Plot No. 3936, Peolwane Street, Minestone
P.O. Box 1860, FRANCISTOWN



Botswana Builds Tennis Hosting Clout

Two legs of the World Tennis Tour Juniors are giving local players home ranking opportunities while strengthening Botswana's ambitions to host more international and senior events.

GAZETTE REPORTER

Botswana's ability to consistently host international tennis tournaments is strengthening its position as a preferred destination for players on the global junior circuit, according to Botswana Tennis Association mouthpiece Tshephang Tlhankane.

The country is hosting the World Tennis Tour Juniors from August 10 to 22, with the first leg running from August 10 to 15 and the second from August 17 to 22.

Tlhankane said Botswana's track record in delivering tournaments, combined with its broader environment, has helped attract international players.

"This basically means that Botswana's capabilities are noticeable and are noted by World Tennis and since every tournament is delivered to perfection, it makes Botswana a preferred nation to play at by international players," he said in a telephone interview.

He said international players also consider factors beyond sporting arrangements when choosing where to compete.

"One can't ignore issues of peace and safety and political stability which are some of the things players from abroad look at before deciding to participate in a particular country," Tlhankane said.

Home Exposure

For Botswana, the tournaments provide local juniors with opportunities that could otherwise require costly travel abroad.

Tlhankane said hosting international events exposes junior players to some of the best young players in the world while allowing local competitors to earn ranking points without incurring significant travel and accommodation expenses.

"It gives a lot of our junior players exposure to some of the best juniors in the world and also our players are able to gain world ranking points here at home without having to spend a lot on travel and accommodation to play same events elsewhere," he said.

He said the impact of hosting international competitions can already be seen among Botswana's players.

"The likes of Danzel Seetso, Mark Nawa and Chelsea Chakanyuka are an example of benefits of hosting these events," Tlhankane said.

He added that players who accumulate strong ranking points have also been able to secure opportunities to study and play tennis at universities in the United States.

Senior Ambition

The association's immediate objective remains expanding opportunities for local players.

"Well obviously the objective is to give as many locals an opportunity to play and improve their world ranking," Tlhankane said.

But the association now wants to extend Botswana's hosting record beyond junior competitions.

"The plan is to now work on building momentum for more senior pro events," he said.

Tlhankane said the association had "without a doubt solidified hosting junior events" and that the next priority was creating similar opportunities for senior players.

> "There is still tennis after junior years so players need to also benefit from the same arrangement at senior level."

"There is still tennis after junior years so players need to also benefit from the same arrangement at senior level," he said.

The two-leg junior tournament forms part of a broader effort to use international competition as a platform for player development, ranking opportunities and a stronger senior professional tennis calendar in Botswana.

BEYOND 40 CALLS FOR SPONSORS

The inaugural September 5 wellness walk has secured early corporate backing as organisers seek more sponsors and participants for the Gaborone event.

GAZETTE REPORTER

The inaugural Beyond 40: Stride by Stride Walk is attracting support from businesses and organisations as preparations continue for the September 5, 2026 event at the Three Dikgosi Monument in Gaborone.

Organised by TM Media Consultancy, the walk has already attracted the Citizen Entrepreneurship Development Agency (CEDA) and Boitekanelo College as sponsors. Diagnofirm, Bartender, Urban Better Cityzens and Em Tyre are among the partners supporting the initiative.

In a statement, the organisers called on more businesses and organisations to come on board as sponsors and partners.

"We are calling on businesses and organisations that share our commitment to health, wellness and active living to come on board and support the Beyond 40: Stride by Stride Walk," the organisers said in the statement.

ACTIVE AGEING

The initiative is aimed at encouraging adults aged 40 years and above to embrace regular physical activity, healthy living and preventive healthcare, while fostering community engagement and active ageing.

The event will be held under the theme "Every Step Towards Health and Wellness."

REGISTRATION OPEN

Registration is ongoing, with participants able to choose between 2.5 km, 5 km and 10 km distances according to their fitness level and preference.



The P120 package includes a walk bib, hydration, a finisher's medal and participation in any of the three distances.

Those opting for the P250 package will receive all of the above, together with an official event T-shirt.

The organisers are encouraging members of the public to register and participate in the inaugural walk.

"Beyond 40 is about taking every step towards better health and wellness, while bringing people together through an active and inclusive community initiative," they said.

CHIEF WALKER

The walk will be led by the Chief Walker, the Minister for State President, Defence and Security, Honourable Moeti Mohwasa.

Prospective participants can register at https://forms.gle/pNBigrW7ajfAxdYr8.

IS BOTSWANA SPORT ON A NOSEDIVE?

Recent medal-less campaigns and the prolonged disruption of school sport are raising uncomfortable questions about the depth of Botswana's athlete development pipeline.

GUEST COLUMN

There is a danger in judging the health of a country's sport purely by medals. Sport moves in cycles. One poor competition does not necessarily constitute a crisis.

But when several warning signs begin appearing at the same time, it would be irresponsible not to ask difficult questions. Is Botswana sport on a nosedive? The question is becoming increasingly difficult to ignore.

WARNING SIGNS

Botswana has returned from the Glasgow 2026 Commonwealth Games without a medal. The country had won medals at every Commonwealth Games from Manchester 2002 through Birmingham 2022. Glasgow therefore represents Botswana's first medal-less Commonwealth Games since 1998.

Glasgow 2026 had a reduced programme and Letsile Tebogo, Collen Kebinatshipi and Bayapo Ndori were not part of the team. But that raises another uncomfortable question: where is the depth?

Before the Games, Botswana reportedly targeted seven medals, partly expecting a new generation to emerge in the absence of established stars. None came. A healthy sporting system cannot depend indefinitely on three or four exceptional individuals.

JUNIOR PIPELINE

The concern grows when Glasgow is considered alongside the World Athletics U20 Championships in Oregon, where Botswana again returned without a medal. Botswana also failed to medal at the 2024 World U20 Championships in Lima. We have therefore now gone two consecutive World U20 Championships without a medal.

Contrast that with Nairobi 2021, when Botswana won three gold medals. Tebogo then successfully defended his world U20 100m title in Cali in 2022.

There were encouraging performances in Oregon. Botswana's men's 4x400m relay reached the final. The cupboard is therefore not empty. But junior championships are fundamentally about the pipeline. They indicate what may eventually feed the senior national team.



"Medals are an outcome, and the priority should instead be rebuilding the machinery that produces athletes."

Botswana remains formidable at the top of men's sprinting. Kebinatshipi is among the world's elite quarter-milers, while Tebogo is one of global athletics' biggest stars. But Botswana's elite performances may currently be disguising weaknesses underneath them.

These senior athletes are products of development pathways that began many years ago. Their success tells us what Botswana sport did right previously. It does not necessarily tell us whether the system is producing their successors today.

ISOLATED EXCELLENCE

The same distinction can be made in tennis. Ntungamili Raguin became the first player representing Botswana to compete in a Grand Slam main draw at the 2026 Australian Open Junior Championships. His emergence shows what sustained development and international exposure can produce. But isolated excellence should not be mistaken for a healthy national system.

Football provides another warning. Botswana's senior women's national team qualified for its first Women's Africa Cup of Nations in 2022 and then for the next edition. For the 2026 WAFCON, however, Botswana was eliminated by the Democratic Republic of Congo despite the tournament expanding to 16 teams.

One unsuccessful campaign does not amount to a national sporting crisis. But put it next to Glasgow 2026 and two consecutive medal-less World U20 athletics championships, then look further down the development pathway. That is where the biggest concern lies.

SCHOOL SPORT

Government school sport has effectively been disrupted for years. School sport in public schools was suspended in 2019 following disagreements involving teachers' participation, allowances and funding. Its reintroduction was formally launched in Lobatse in August 2025.

"A healthy sporting system cannot depend indefinitely on three or four exceptional individuals."

Yet, a year later, school sport has still not returned. Government itself has acknowledged the consequences. The Ministry of Sport and Arts has conceded that the prolonged absence of school sport has damaged talent identification and resulted in promising young talent being lost during the competitive drought.

Sporting time does not stop. A child who was 12 when competitive school sport disappeared is now approximately 18 or 19. That is almost an entire development cycle.

Schools have historically been Botswana sport's biggest scouting network. District competition leads to zonal competition, then national championships and eventually federation programmes. Remove the bottom layers of that pyramid for six years and the effect will not necessarily appear immediately. It appears later.

REBUILD THE SYSTEM

The senior stars remain because they were already in the pipeline. The generation immediately behind them becomes thinner, junior international results begin declining, national teams struggle for depth and eventually the senior medal count follows.

That is why the current results should not trigger panic, but they should trigger urgency. The wrong response would be to chase medals. Medals are an outcome, and the priority should instead be rebuilding the machinery that produces athletes.

That starts with getting competitive sport genuinely functioning across public schools, with a sustainable arrangement that recognises teachers' contribution. It means rebuilding school championships, linking schools with national sport associations and clubs, and strengthening junior national competitions.

Botswana should also identify its most promising 12 to 18-year-olds across priority sports and know what competition, coaching, sport science and international exposure each requires.

Botswana's extraordinary success in the 400m and 200m should be celebrated. But an entire national sporting system cannot be judged healthy because one cluster of extraordinarily talented sprinters is winning internationally.

EARLY WARNING

The real measure of a country's sporting health is not merely the champions it has today. It is how many potential champions are coming behind them.

Glasgow may simply have been a bad Commonwealth Games. Two consecutive medal-less World U20 Championships may represent a temporary dip. The Mares may bounce straight back. Any one of these things, viewed alone, could be dismissed. But sport administrators should never wait for a pattern to become a crisis before responding.

Declining results in important competitions, apparent lack of depth behind established performers and, most worryingly, the prolonged disruption of public school sport should be treated as an early warning.

Botswana sport may not yet be in a nosedive. But the nose appears to be pointing downwards. Unless the development pipeline is urgently repaired, the spectacular achievements of athletes such as Tebogo and Kebinatshipi may one day be remembered not as evidence of the strength of the system that followed them, but as the final harvest of the system that preceded them.

TATI CUP EYES ANNUAL GROWTH



Tonota FC's 2-1 win over Nkana capped the inaugural tournament as organisers set their sights on attracting more clubs, partners and international opposition to Francistown each year.

GAZETTE REPORTER

Tonota FC ended the inaugural Tati River Cup with the trophy after defeating Zambian side Nkana FC 2-1 in the final at Obed Itani Chilume Stadium on Saturday.

Nkana opened the scoring through Gift Msiska in the 31st minute, but Tonota responded through Arnold Mampori just before halftime. Emmanuel Timu completed the comeback in the 61st minute to secure the title for the Botswana Premier League newcomers.

The tournament was organised by Tonota FC in partnership with HSNV and also featured Township Rollers and Tafic FC.

Bigger Vision

For Tonota chairman Tumelo Toteng, the outcome on the field was only one measure of the tournament's success. He said the event demonstrated that there was room for a larger football property in Francistown.

"Our dream is not simply to organise another pre-season tournament," he said. "We are building a football property that we want supporters, sponsors and clubs to look forward to every year."

Toteng said organisers intend to build on the first edition by attracting more clubs and partners while establishing the tournament as an annual event.

"This was the first edition, so naturally there are things we have learnt and areas we can improve," he noted. "Our ambition is to make this bigger every year, attract more international clubs and bring in even more partners."

The participation of Nkana provided the tournament with an international dimension, while the presence of three Botswana clubs created a competitive pre-season platform ahead of the new league campaign.

Rollers Benefit

For Township Rollers, the tournament provided an opportunity to test the squad before the new season.

Rollers representative Fish Pabalinga said the competition offered useful preparation against quality opposition.

"The tournament worked to our advantage because it gave us competitive minutes against quality opposition," he noted. "Playing teams like Tonota and Nkana allowed the technical team to assess the players, combinations and areas that still need work before the season begins."

He said tournaments of this nature could also expose local clubs to different styles of football and stronger competition.

Northern Property

For Toteng, the longer-term objective is to ensure that the Tati River Cup grows beyond its inaugural edition.

"This is bigger than Tonota FC. It is about creating something that benefits northern football, our sponsors, our supporters and Botswana football as a whole."

Orapa Bowls Bets On Youth

Five clubs meet in Orapa on August 15 as organisers point to rising youth participation while appealing for stronger sponsorship to grow the sport.



GAZETTE REPORTER

The Orapa Major Bowling Tournament will put a growing generation of young players in focus when five Botswana clubs compete at Orapa Bowls Club on August 15.

Francistown Bowls Club, Gaborone Bowls Club, Jwaneng Bowls Club, Orapa Bowls Club and Phikwe Bowls Club will contest the one-day tournament.

Edwin Nyoka, vice president of the Botswana Bowling Association, said the increased participation of young players was among the defining features of this year's competition.

"Gone are the days when Bowling was taken to be a sport for the old," Nyoka said in a telephone interview ahead of the tournament.

YOUNG TALENT

Nyoka said several young players were emerging as competitive participants, with some already holding national titles or having enjoyed success in previous competitions.

Among those standing out, he said, are Thabo Makopa, Kaone Maroku, Jordan Davids, Edwin Junior Nyoka and Peo Ramodise.

Champions Return

Jwaneng Bowls Club enters the tournament as defending champion and, on paper, may appear to be the team to beat.

Nyoka, however, said lawn bowls offered few guarantees, making it difficult to identify a clear favourite before competition begins.

"Of course on paper Jwaneng would look favourites, but in a game of bowls it is a completely different story," he said. "There is always no clear favourites."

He said differences in bowling surfaces could influence performances and how quickly teams adapt.

"One time may adopt quicker than the other and apply pressure and end up winning," Nyoka said.

FUNDING GAP

The tournament is being staged without a major financial sponsor, creating additional pressure for the hosts.

Nyoka said organisers usually have little choice but to use entry fees as prize money when major financial backing is unavailable.

"With no major financial sponsor the hosts usually have no option but to spend the entry fees submitted as prize money to the winning teams," he said.

He appealed to businesses to support the development of the sport, saying stronger backing could improve prizes and encourage more young players to participate.

"By giving financial support, there will be improved prizes which will definitely encourage Youth participation hence growth of the sport," he said.

FULL DAY

The tournament is scheduled to begin at 8:30 a.m. and continue into the evening.

Nyoka said spectators could expect an action-packed day, particularly those experiencing lawn bowls for the first time.

"The games will be entertaining all the way through," he said, adding that newcomers could learn more about the sport and be encouraged to return for future competitions.



Rollers Seal P2m Bet267 Deal

Township Rollers will receive P1 million a season for two years as Bet267 seeks a broader commercial partnership built around local football and brand value.

GAZETTE REPORTER

Bet267 will sponsor Township Rollers P1 million per season for the next two seasons, bringing the total value of the agreement to P2 million.

The deal was announced on Tuesday at a sponsorship launch, where Bet267 Managing Director Mpho Chamo said the company's logo would appear on the back of the club's shirt.

Chamo described the agreement as more than a sponsorship, saying Bet267 wanted a commercial relationship that would create value for both organisations.

"We are football people," Chamo said. "This conversation was fairly easy to partake in."

LOCAL PARTNERSHIP

Chamo said Bet267, which he described as a home-grown Botswana brand, chose Township Rollers because of the club's standing in the country.

"We chose Rollers because this is the biggest sporting institution. We are partnering with something that matters to many in Botswana," he said.

He said the company wanted to reinvest money generated from Batswana into football and work more closely with local brands.

"We often look far for help. We should work together as Botswana brands," he said. "We are reinvesting Batswana money into football."

BEYOND SPONSORSHIP

Chamo said the agreement would extend beyond the financial commitment announced at the launch.

"They are our commercial partner," he said. "Our relationship is going to be more than sponsorship."

He said Bet267 would use its position as the club's official shirt sponsor to develop the relationship further and ensure supporters experienced the partnership.

"We want to derive value and so that the club will benefit more than what we are announcing today," Chamo said.

Township Rollers representative Fish Pabalinga said the club's national support base made the partnership significant, describing Rollers as "a people's club" with representatives across the country.

"Sometimes we look too far in looking for help, while in actual fact the help is around," Pabalinga said.

He said Bet267's understanding of Township Rollers had helped make the discussions easier.

"The fact that Bet267 knows Rollers better made the conversation better. This is driven by passion," he said.

> "Suggestion "Our relationship is going to be more than sponsorship."



COMMERCIAL VALUE

For Rollers, the agreement is intended to strengthen the club beyond direct financial support.

Pabalinga said the partnership represented confidence in the club's vision and an opportunity to strengthen football operations, improve the environment for players and enhance professional standards.

He also said the relationship should create opportunities for supporters, players, commercial partners and the wider football community.

Chamo said Bet267 would have its "back" through the partnership, while Pabalinga said the club wanted the relationship to develop beyond the initial sponsorship announcement.

The Bet267 logo will appear on the back of the Township Rollers shirt for the duration of the two-year sponsorship.



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The inaugural September 5 wellness walk has secured early corporate backing as organisers seek more sponsors and participants for the Gaborone event.

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ROLLERS SEAL P2M BET267 DEAL



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