The Botswana
GAZETTE
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16. Turn Problems Into Opportunities



SALAKAE RESIGNS, BLASTS DCEC

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Court Blocks Per Diem Rollout

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Govt Cannot Track Pension Overlaps

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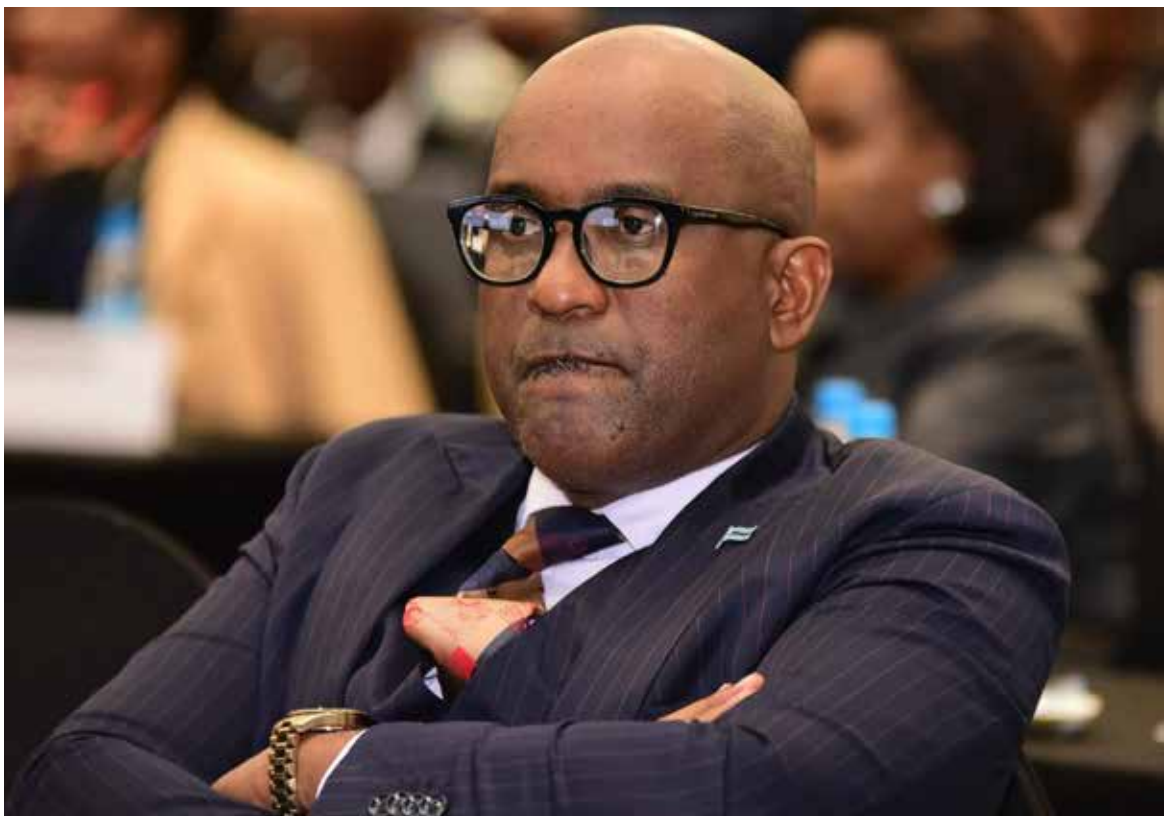


BONGANI MALUNGA

Minister of Transport and Infrastructure Noah Salakae has resigned from Cabinet, accusing the Directorate on Corruption and Economic Crime (DCEC) of handling the corruption allegations against him in a manner he says was unprofessional and not in good faith.

IMMEDIATE EXIT

Salakae announced his immediate resignation on Tuesday, days before he is due to appear in court on 20 August following corruption allegations brought against him by the DCEC. In a strongly worded statement, he accused a senior DCEC officer of driving what he described as a targeted campaign against him.

PERSONAL TOLL

"I've lived under the suffocating weight of state sponsored corruption allegations driven by none other than the notorious DCEC senior officer who reports directly to the Minister for State President, Defence and Security. When a government body decides to target an individual, the process is swift and isolating. The most painful part is when the allegations are arrived at through calculated leaks, sudden prukratic investigations and a presumption of guilt. The hardest part is realising that evidence matters less than the narrative the state wants to create," Salakae stated.

He said the allegations and investigations had taken a heavy personal toll, claiming that friends and associates had distanced themselves because they feared becoming targets themselves.

"Living under this kind of pain, has taken a massive toll on me. My constant wonder is what next? Friends and associates have distanced themselves, afraid that being near me will make them the state's next target," he said.

> "My resignation does not in any way constitute an admission of guilt."

SUMMONS TRIGGER

Salakae said his resignation was triggered by a DCEC summons issued on Thursday, 13 August, requiring him to appear in court over the corruption allegations.

"Against this backdrop, following a summons issued to me by the DCEC on Thursday, 13th August, 2026 to appear in court for corruption. For corruption allegations, it is with a profound sense of duty and deep regret that I stand before you today to announce my immediate resignation from my position as a member of the cabinet," he announced.

NO ADMISSION

Salakae said stepping down should not be interpreted as an admission of wrongdoing. He said he had chosen to leave Cabinet to concentrate on his legal battle and allow the courts to determine the matter.

"I want to be entirely clear at the onset, that my resignation does not in any way constitute an admission of guilt. I have made a deliberate and conscious decision to step down to address a personal legal matter, requiring my attendance in court on the 20th August, 2026. My sole focus is to fully cooperate with and allow the legal process to run its course."

AGENCIES ACCUSED

Salakae also accused state security and anti-corruption agencies of potentially abusing their powers, warning that corruption laws should not be used as instruments to target individuals.

"It is critical that state agencies, such as the DCEC and DIS, should not weaponise corruption laws, because by so doing, they stop protecting citizens and start protecting power," he said.

SEARCH RECOUNTED

His most detailed allegations centred on a DCEC search of his rented residence in the city on 10 September 2025. Salakae said he had cooperated with the DCEC from the day of the search.

He accused the agency of disregarding its own rules and protocols, particularly regarding the confidentiality of ongoing investigations. He alleged that a senior officer had been leaking information about the investigation to partisan associates who subsequently circulated what he described as fabricated reports on social media.

"What is most worrisome is the blunt and disregard of own rules and protocols by the DCEC. Section 44 of the corruption and economic crime act prohibits unauthorised disclosure of information relating to ongoing enquiries," he said.

RAID ALLEGATIONS

Salakae further alleged that approximately 15 operatives were involved in the search of his residence, including, according to what he was told, some individuals who were not DCEC officials. He said the raid took place in the presence of his wife and four children, who were aged 13, eight, five and five months at the time.

"When I was raided on the 10th of September 2025, the DCEC came with a crowd of 15 operatives. I was told some are often members of the public, not necessarily from the DCEC but I can confirm the operatives were about 15 in total."

> "It is critical that state agencies, such as the DCEC and DIS, should not weaponise corruption laws, because by so doing, they stop protecting citizens and start protecting power,

Salakae said the search lasted about nine hours and alleged that his request to contact his lawyer before it began was denied. "Worse still, I pleaded with them to allow me to call my lawyer before they could start their research, but to no avail. The search lasted for about 9 hours in the presence of my four innocent kids," he narrated.

REACTIONS

Reacting to Salakae's resignation after Parliament proceedings, Government Whip Sam Digwa told the media that the resignation caught many UDC Members of Parliament (MPs) off guard.

"We are shocked by the resignation. We were not aware that the situation would force the minister to step down. Some of us work closely with him but we were not aware of what is now before us. I am one of those who were deeply moved by his statement to the point of shedding a tear. The challenges he faced were not communicated to us to a point where we might have offered advice where we could. This really caught us off guard," Digwa stated.

The opposition, however, believes Salakae is a sacrificial lamb in a deeply rooted problem.

Leader of Opposition Dumelang Saleshando applauded Salakae for stepping down but warned that the government is complicit in the matter. He stated that Salakae suggested state agencies were being used to bully and scapegoat certain individuals while protecting the main players in the system.

THE HONOURABLE THING

"Minister Salakae did the honourable thing by resigning. In the past, ministers facing corruption allegations and charges continued serving in their roles despite the severity of allegations levelled against them. This must serve as a lesson, not many in his position would have taken the decision to resign under such circumstances. What is more worrying is that he suggested a deeper issue of the state using security agencies to single out individuals while a whole web of corrupt people remain untouched," Saleshando remarked.

In the same breath, Member of Parliament for Maun West Caterpillar Hikuama believes Salakae's resignation is only the surface level of a rotten system, as he stated the need for Salakae to be afforded a fair chance to defend himself before the courts.

"Salakae made the right choice. As he explained, he wants to clear his name away from Cabinet duty, that is commendable. In his own words, this seems like a state sponsored investigation. We need not take those words lightly. When a system is corrupt, only one can be sacrificed to sanitise corruption. We should look beyond that," Hikuama stated.

CABINET VACANCY

The resignation leaves President Duma Boko to decide how to fill the Cabinet vacancy. Boteti East MP Keoagile Atamelang is serving as Assistant Minister of Transport and Infrastructure, while the President could also appoint another MP or use the vacancy as part of a broader Cabinet reshuffle.

Govt Cannot Track Pension Overlaps

Government has no separate database identifying Old Age Pension recipients who also earn salaries or draw other pensions, leaving the number and cost of such overlaps unknown.



BONGANI MALUNGA

The Botswana Government has no separate record of elderly beneficiaries who receive the Old Age Pension while simultaneously earning salaries or receiving pensions from other institutions, Parliament heard on Monday.

UNIVERSAL BENEFIT

Responding to a question in Parliament, Minister of Local Government and Traditional Affairs Ketlhalefile Motshegwa said the Old Age Pension Scheme is universal and non-means-tested, meaning beneficiaries are not required to prove that they are unemployed, have no other income or are not receiving a pension elsewhere.

Under the current arrangement, an elderly citizen can receive the Government's Old Age Pension while also earning a salary, drawing a private pension or receiving another form of income without being classified as a "double dipper" under the current rules.

NO DATABASE

"Government does not maintain a separate category or database of beneficiaries classified as 'double dipping'," the Minister said, explaining that the scheme is designed as a universal benefit for all citizens who have reached the qualifying age of 65.

The Government therefore cannot currently provide a definitive figure for how many beneficiaries receive the Old Age Pension alongside other sources of income. There is also no corresponding figure for how much of the pension budget goes to such beneficiaries.

P1.348 BILLION

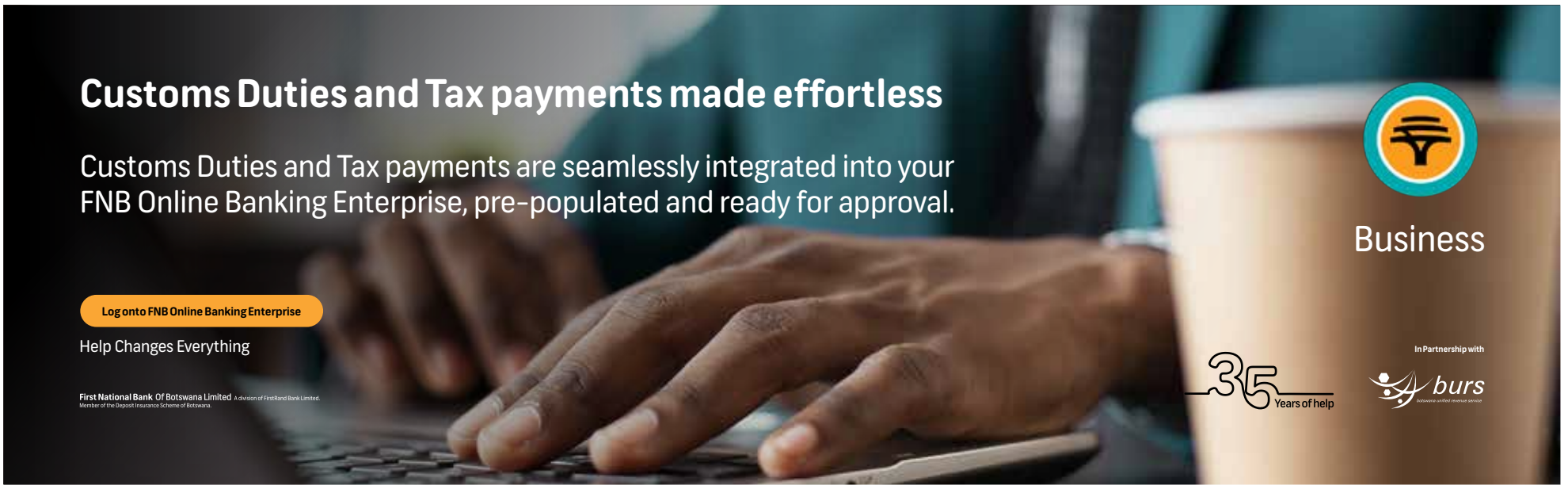
Government reported total expenditure of P1.348 billion on the Old Age Pension Scheme during the 2024/25 financial year, but said the figure represents the scheme's overall expenditure and not payments specifically made to beneficiaries who may have other sources of income.

REGISTRY REVIEW

Motshegwa said Government is reviewing the wider social protection system through initiatives including the Single Social Registry and Integrated Beneficiary Registry, which are intended to improve data integration and coordination.

Any future changes to the eligibility criteria for the Old Age Pension, he said, would be considered as part of the broader social protection reform agenda.





Court Blocks Per Diem Rollout

A High Court ruling has put Government's revised local per diem plans on hold, ordering fresh consultations with six public-sector unions before any final decision is made.



SESUPO RANTSIMAKO

The Lobatse High Court has stopped Government from implementing its revised local per diem arrangement from 1 September 2026 for public officers covered by six recognised trade unions, pending meaningful consultations with organised labour.

ROLLOUT HALTED

Delivering judgment in a case in which six public-service unions challenged Government over the implementation of the local per diem arrangement, Lobatse High Court Judge Michael Montsho directed Government not to implement the controversial arrangement in respect of members of BOPEU, BONU, BTU, BLLAHWU, Botswana Doctors Union (BDU) and BOSETU who are entitled to union representation in collective bargaining, as well as public officers in D-band and below.

BARGAINING DISPUTE

The court intervention is the latest development in a dispute that has been building since Government moved to revise local per diem arrangements.

The dispute intensified after Government issued a savingram on 30 June 2026 introducing revised local per diem measures, with unions accusing Government of moving ahead with changes to employees' conditions of service before negotiations had been concluded.

The unions argued that matters affecting employees' conditions of service should first be negotiated and agreed through the Public Service Bargaining Council (PSBC), warning that unilateral implementation would undermine the collective-bargaining process.

PLAN SUSPENDED

The dispute later spilled into further engagements between Government, the Directorate of Public Service Management (DPSM) and public-sector unions. In July, Government announced that implementation of both the Leadership Transformation Programme and the Local Per Diem arrangements had been suspended following engagements with the unions.

Despite the suspension, the dispute continued. Public-sector unions later halted a Government meeting on the Leadership Transformation Programme, insisting that the matter could not proceed until it had been subjected to formal negotiations between Government and organised labour.

WRITTEN REASONS

Judge Montsho has now ordered Government to provide the unions with written reasons for the proposed changes to the local per diem arrangement and the Leadership Transformation Programme.

Government is required to submit the reasons to the unions by close of business on 19 August 2026, giving them an opportunity to formally respond to the proposed changes.

TALKS DEADLINE

The court has given the unions until close of business on 26 August to make their representations on Government's reasons and proposals. The parties must then meet on or before 28 August to discuss their respective positions before DPSM makes a final decision on the proposed changes to the local per diem arrangement.

Judge Montsho further directed that, should disagreements remain after the consultations, either party may invoke the dispute-resolution mechanisms provided for under the applicable recognition agreement.

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CONTINENTAL REINSURANCE HOLDINGS

Boko Defends Moscow Mission

President Duma Boko says Botswana's planned Moscow mission corrects a diplomatic gap and opens economic opportunities despite scrutiny over Russia's war in Ukraine and international sanctions.

BONGANI MALUNGA

President Duma Boko has defended Botswana's decision to establish a physical diplomatic mission in Moscow, insisting the move is necessary despite Russia's increasingly controversial position in global geopolitics.

TIMING QUESTIONED

Speaking to RT TV on the sidelines of the SADC Summit in Durban, South Africa, Boko rejected concerns over the timing of deepening diplomatic ties with Russia, particularly as the country remains embroiled in the war in Ukraine and faces widespread criticism and sanctions from sections of the international community.



President Duma Boko has defended Botswana's decision to establish a physical diplomatic mission in Moscow, insisting the move is necessary despite Russia's increasingly controversial position in global geopolitics.

Asked whether Botswana's plans risked damaging its standing with Western countries given Russia's geopolitical crisis and global reputation, Boko argued that the decision was primarily about correcting a long-standing diplomatic gap.

DIPLOMATIC GAP

"It's in recognition of a fact that has always been staring us in the face, which is that of the five permanent members of the Security Council, Russia is the only one which we do not have a physical mission. That has been something of an anomaly which required correction at some point in time. That point happens to be now. As big an economy as Russia has, there had to be some correction of that absence," Boko stated.

CONSULAR NEED

The President said Botswana's lack of a diplomatic mission in Russia had also created practical challenges for Batswana living or travelling there, with some reportedly having to rely on Botswana's diplomatic representation in Sweden for consular assistance.

DIAMOND LINKS

Beyond diplomatic representation, Boko said Botswana saw significant opportunities to expand bilateral cooperation with Russia, particularly in areas where the two countries share economic interests.

He pointed to the diamond industry as one such area, noting that both countries are major diamond-producing nations and could benefit from closer cooperation. "We felt that we needed to establish a physical presence in Russia. They have had an embassy in our country for many years, we have enjoyed strong, cordial relations," Boko added.

PRAGMATIC REACH

The move comes as Botswana seeks to broaden its international economic and diplomatic partnerships at a time when geopolitical tensions are reshaping global trade, investment and strategic alliances. Boko maintained that the Moscow mission represents less a political alignment than a pragmatic effort to strengthen Botswana's diplomatic reach and pursue areas of mutual economic interest.



1) The Human Resource Development Council wishes to inform all key stakeholders that it is implementing enhancements to the Non-Credit Bearing Short Courses (NCBSCs) portfolio to improve quality assurance, relevance, and responsiveness to the evolving skills needs of Botswana's economy.

2) The enhancements are aimed at strengthening efficiency in course registration, monitoring, and reporting processes. Such enhancements include the following;

a. Cessation of Scope of Accreditation for NCBSCs
b. Introduction of three (3) new criteria to enhance the quality of NCBSCs
c. Introduction of module fees at 10% of the standard processing fees
d. Reduction of course duration from six (6) months to three (3) months to align to NCQF
e. Enhancement of M&E through observation of training sessions.

3) The Council remains committed to fostering a skilled and productive workforce that supports national development priorities. **The revised versions of NCBSC documents are accessible on the HRDC Website; www.hrdc.org.bw** and will take effect from **1st September 2026.**

4) For more information and further clarity on the matter, contact HRDC at:

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- Switchboard: +267 3930741
- Email: ncbsc@hrdc.org.bw

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Tel: +267 3930741 Fax: +267 393 0740
www.hrdc.org.bw

Human Resource Development Council of Botswana
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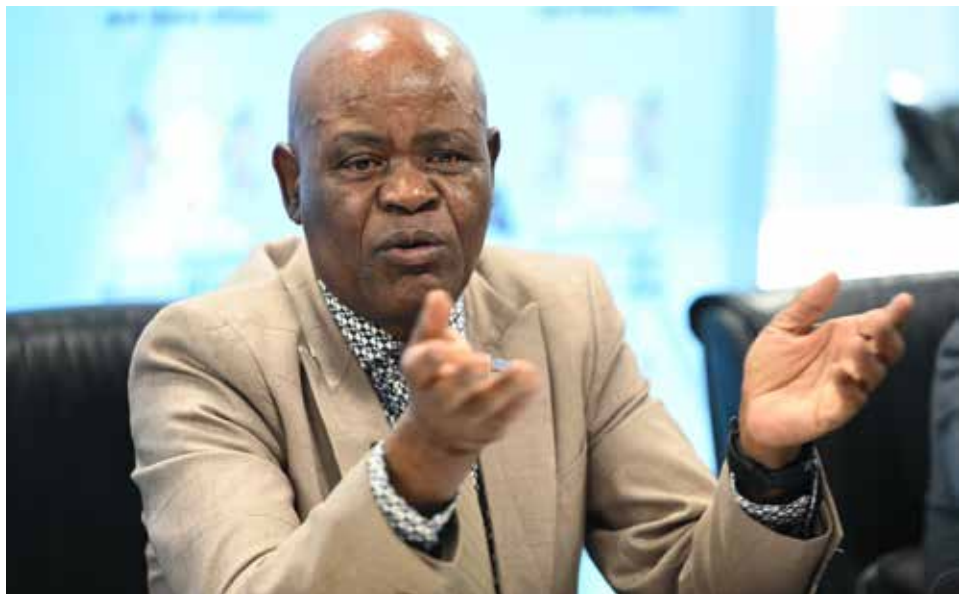

Addressing the media this week, Minister of Labour and Home Affairs Pius Mokgware revealed that 13 ministry employees have been implicated and suspended as investigations into the alleged scheme continue.

Fake Documents Rock Labour Ministry

Thirteen Labour and Home Affairs officials have been suspended after an alleged fake-document scheme involving Government stamps, fraudulent permits and identity documents was uncovered.

SESUPO RANTSIMAKO

The Ministry of Labour and Home Affairs has uncovered an alleged fake-document syndicate involving Batswana consultants and ministry officials accused of facilitating fraudulent identity documents and permits for foreign nationals.

13 SUSPENDED

Addressing the media this week, Minister of Labour and Home Affairs Pius Mokgware revealed that 13 ministry employees have been implicated and suspended as investigations into the alleged scheme continue.

STAMPS SEIZED

Mokgware said Batswana consultants had been caught allegedly processing fraudulent documents for foreigners, including work permits, identity documents and marriage certificates.

The consultants were reportedly found in possession of different Government stamps and application forms used to process the documents, raising questions about the security of Government documentation and the possible involvement of ministry insiders.

PERMIT ABUSE

Mokgware also revealed cases involving foreign nationals allegedly working in occupations that did not correspond with the permits under which they were employed.

Among those uncovered were foreign nationals found teaching in classrooms despite holding farm-work permits, while some heavy-duty truck drivers were also allegedly using farm-work permits. The Minister said the cases highlighted serious abuses of Botswana's work-permit system.

FOREIGN NATIONALS

According to Mokgware, foreign nationals from countries including Ethiopia, Bangladesh, Malawi and Nigeria are among those caught in possession of allegedly fraudulent documents.

The revelations raise questions about the scale of the alleged operation and whether fraudulent documents were being systematically produced to enable foreign nationals to obtain employment or legal status under false pretences.

SECURITY TIGHTENED

Mokgware said the alleged use of counterfeit work permits, identity documents and marriage certificates posed a serious threat to the integrity of Botswana's immigration and labour-control systems.

"The involvement of consultants allegedly operating with Government stamps and application forms has also raised concerns about the extent to



Minet Botswana (Pty) Ltd is part of the Minet Botswana Group of Companies, which is also part of Minet (Mauritius) Holdings Limited with operations across nine Sub-Saharan Africa countries. Minet is a leading pan-African risk and human capital advisory business with access to an extensive global insurance network and is a primary Aon Global network correspondent partner. The Company provides General Insurance, Healthcare and Reinsurance Broking and advisory solutions to a diverse client base in Botswana.

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WHEN YOU NEED PROFESSIONALS

Botswana Presses SADC on Migration

Botswana wants SADC to confront the region's migration crisis as anti-immigrant protests, xenophobic attacks and mass departures from South Africa intensify.



BONGANI MALUNGA

Botswana has pushed the escalating migrant crisis in South Africa onto the regional agenda, with Minister of International Relations Phenyo Butale calling for a SADC-wide response as anti-immigrant protests, xenophobic attacks and the mass departure of foreign nationals intensify.

REGIONAL CRISIS

Butale made the intervention at the SADC Summit in South Africa in an interview with SABC News, where he argued that the region cannot continue treating migration as an individual country's problem.

His stance comes after months of mounting hostility towards migrants in South Africa, where anti-immigration groups have staged demonstrations demanding that undocumented foreigners leave the country.

VIOLENT PROTESTS

The protests have repeatedly turned violent. Human Rights Watch reported that vigilante groups targeted African and Asian foreign nationals during April and May, with attacks occurring in Johannesburg, Pretoria and Durban. Some of the victims were documented migrants, refugees and asylum seekers, showing how campaigns directed at undocumented migrants can spill into broader xenophobic violence.

Anti-migrant groups, including March and March and Operation Dudula, have demanded the removal of undocumented foreigners, with a 30 June deadline becoming a focal point for protests. By the deadline, thousands had already fled their homes, while nationwide demonstrations were held in major South African cities.

MASS DEPARTURES

The consequences have extended beyond street protests. More than 178,000 immigrants have reportedly left or been deported from South Africa in recent months amid the crackdown and sometimes violent anti-immigrant protests.

SHARED PROSPERITY

Against this backdrop, Butale warned that the region needs to address the economic conditions driving migration.

"The migration issue requires us to come up with a way that we can ensure shared prosperity. Shared prosperity comes when we ensure that each one of our countries excels and our people are able to get jobs wherever they want," Butale told SABC.

"Therefore, migration becomes an option, not an escape. People don't go from one country to another because they are running away from hunger or starvation," he added.

ACEB
Association of Consulting Engineers Botswana

ACEB ONLINE COURSES (FIDIC CONTRACTS) CALENDAR 2026



MONTH	DATE	COURSE
October	26th - 27th	Practical Use of the FIDIC Conditions of Contracts (2 CPD Points)
	28th- 29th	FIDIC Contract Management and Administration Course (2 CPD Points)
	30th	Implementation and Management of FIDIC Professional Services Agreement (1 CPD Point)
November	23rd - 24th	Management of Claims and Resolution of Disputes(2 CPD Points)
	25th- 26th	Disputes Adjudication Boards (2 CPD Points)
	27th	FIDIC Short Form of Contract- Green Book (1 CPD Point)

HRDC Pre-Approval Reminder:
Please note that for trainings involving international facilitators, HRDC requires participants/ companies to apply for pre-approval before the training date in order to claim refunds. Kindly liaise with your HR/Training department early to avoid challenges in processing your claim.

FEES

	2 CPD POINTS COURSE FEES (EACH)	1 CPD POINT COURSE FEES (EACH)
ACEB Members:	P 11,600.00	P 5,800.00
Non- ACEB Members:	P 12,000.00	P 6,000.00

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Botswana Warned Over EU Rules

Botswana exporters risk losing access to lucrative European markets unless they can prove compliance with the EU's stringent deforestation rules across their supply chains.



Speaking at the Botswana Institute of Chartered Accountants (BICA) International Conference in Gaborone last week, Silolezya said businesses and governments needed to treat the regulations as a market-access issue rather than simply an environmental requirement.

BONGANI MALUNGA

Botswana risks being shut out of critical European markets unless it invests in compliance with the European Union's deforestation regulations, Zambia Institute of Chartered Accountants (ZICA) vice president Rabecca Silolezya has warned.

MARKET ACCESS

Speaking at the Botswana Institute of Chartered Accountants (BICA) International Conference in Gaborone last week, Silolezya said businesses and governments needed to treat the regulations as a market-access issue rather than simply an environmental requirement.

She said the regulation seeks to ensure products entering the EU trade bloc are not linked to activities that have contributed to deforestation, placing pressure on exporters to demonstrate that their supply chains meet the bloc's requirements.

COMPLIANCE PRESSURE

"If we do not invest in this agenda, we could be excluded from critical markets," Silolezya said.

Her warning highlights growing pressure on Botswana to align its production and export systems with increasingly stringent environmental standards in major international markets. Exporters may be required to provide evidence that commodities and their supply chains are not associated with deforestation.

REGIONAL RESPONSE

Silolezya's remarks come as Botswana and Namibia are already exploring ways to respond to the regulations. Earlier this month, Minister of Lands and Agriculture Dr Edwin Dikoloti told Parliament that Botswana and Namibia were working to "maneuver around" the EU anti-deforestation regulations or find a solution that would allow their exports to continue accessing the European market.

TRADE STAKES

Silolezya underlined the need for Botswana and other African countries to prepare for changing global trade rules, warning that failure to comply could have consequences beyond environmental concerns. For Botswana, she stressed, environmental compliance is increasingly becoming a prerequisite for market access, investment and competitiveness in global trade.



CHICKEN LICKEN WINNERS TAKE HOME TVS

SEVEN CUSTOMERS ACROSS BOTSWANA HAVE WON 40-INCH HISENSE SMART TVS IN CHICKEN LICKEN'S NATIONWIDE "WIN A TV" PROMOTION.

Seven Chicken Licken Botswana customers have walked away with 40-inch Hisense Smart TVs after emerging as winners in the fast-food chain's "Win a TV" promotion. The promotion, which ran from April 21 to August 4, gave customers across the country an opportunity to win by spending at least P100 at any of Chicken Licken's 20 outlets.



"I was over the moon."

The winners received their prizes at a handover ceremony held at Chicken Licken Sarona City Mall on Saturday, marking the conclusion of the nationwide promotion.

SIMPLE PURCHASE

For Tshiamo Moagi, the win came from what he described as a simple purchase.

After spending more than P100, he completed his details and entered the draw. He said he was "very, very excited" when he received the call informing him that he had won, adding that the television would be placed in his daughter's room.

Moagi also reflected on his long-standing connection with the brand, recalling Chicken Licken from the 1980s when he was young. He said the company's decision to give back to its customers was important, considering the support it had received from communities over the years.

















CLICK WATCH



FIRST-TIME WINNER

Another winner, Atang Raphane, said she initially thought the notification informing her of the win was a scam. After confirming that it was genuine, Raphane said she was "over the moon", describing it as her first competition win and adding that the prize would benefit not only her but her entire family.



GIVING BACK

Chicken Licken Botswana Managing Director Faizel Ismail said the promotion helped stimulate activity within the business while allowing the company to reward its customers and give back to the community.

The seven winners came from Gaborone, Jwaneng, Maun, Selibe-Phikwe and Francistown. The other winners were Peter Makanye, Poneso Sesuma, Hitira Johannes, Gaositwe Oabile and Linda Chicole.

BCP Moves Against Deputy Speaker

The BCP is preparing a no-confidence motion against Deputy Speaker Helen Manyeneng after rejecting Speaker Dithapelo Keorapetse's response to allegations of partisan conduct.



SESUPO RANTSIMAKO

The Botswana Congress Party (BCP) is preparing to table a motion of no confidence against Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly Helen Manyeneng after Speaker Dithapelo Keorapetse rejected calls for her to step down over allegations of partiality and lack of parliamentary integrity.

WHATSAPP CLAIMS

The development follows Keorapetse's response to a recent BCP letter calling on Manyeneng to step down. The Speaker said he had found insufficient grounds to conclude that his deputy was being controlled or manipulated for partisan purposes.

The BCP's complaint reportedly centred on alleged WhatsApp communications attributed to Manyeneng which, according to the party, contained instructions on parliamentary strategy, including calls to "dim BCP shine and lights" by ensuring that urgent questions flooded the Order Paper alongside urgent motions and ministerial statements.

SPEAKER'S DEFENCE

In his response to the BCP this week, Keorapetse maintained that the information before him did not provide sufficient grounds to conclude that Manyeneng was being controlled or manipulated for partisan purposes.

The response has failed to satisfy the BCP, which says its concerns over the alleged communication and Manyeneng's conduct have not been adequately addressed.

NO-CONFIDENCE ROUTE

BCP Chief Whip Caterpillar Hikuama said the party was not satisfied with Keorapetse's response, arguing that the Speaker's letter failed to address the opposition's concerns. He accused Keorapetse of attempting to "sugarcoat" what his deputy was doing instead of directly addressing the allegations against her.

Hikuama said the party had therefore been left with no other option but to pursue a motion of no confidence against Manyeneng. "Our caucus is meeting today to discuss the issue and map the way forward," he said.

"We want to look at all the possibilities of bringing the motion so that it can be impactful and how to tackle it."

The caucus is expected to consider the wording of the proposed motion and the strategy the party will adopt before formally bringing it before Parliament.

IMPARTIALITY TEST

The allegations have intensified scrutiny of the political neutrality expected of a presiding officer, particularly the Deputy Speaker's responsibility to oversee parliamentary proceedings fairly and without partisan influence. The opposition argues that the alleged communication is inconsistent with the independence and impartiality expected from the holder of the office.

> "We want to look at all the possibilities of bringing the motion so that it can be impactful and how to tackle it."

Keorapetse stressed that his position should not be understood as indifference to concerns regarding parliamentary impartiality. He said any properly substantiated instance of a presiding officer departing from the Constitution, Standing Orders or established principles of parliamentary fairness would be taken seriously and dealt with through the appropriate parliamentary mechanisms.

Five Inmates Serve Life Sentences

Five inmates serving life sentences face the psychological weight of indefinite incarceration, sharpening the Prison Service's focus on counselling, rehabilitation and keeping hope alive behind bars.

GAZETTE REPORTER

The Botswana Prison Service currently has five inmates serving life sentences, Commissioner of Prisons and Correctional Services Anthony Mokento has revealed.

KEEPING HOPE

Mokento said the inmates face unique psychological and emotional challenges associated with spending an indefinite period behind bars, making continued psychosocial support an important part of their rehabilitation.

He was speaking in Tlokweng this week during the signing of a five-year Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the Botswana Prison Service (BPS) and Boitekanelo College.

PSYCHOSOCIAL STRAIN

According to Mokento, prisoners serving life sentences can experience distress and lose hope as they contemplate spending the rest of their lives in prison. He said this makes continuous psychosocial support and counselling necessary to help them cope with their circumstances.

Mokento stressed that a life sentence does not necessarily mean an inmate will remain incarcerated until death, pointing to established mechanisms such as parole and considerations linked to good conduct. He said understanding this possibility could help inmates maintain hope and remain committed to rehabilitation.

FIVE-YEAR PARTNERSHIP

Mokento identified inmates' psychological and developmental needs, together with capacity constraints within the Prison Service, as challenges confronting correctional facilities. He said the complexity of these needs strengthened the case for partnerships with institutions that have



specialised health, counselling, training and research capabilities.

Under the MoU, BPS and Boitekanelo College will collaborate for five years to improve correctional health, mental health and rehabilitation services across Botswana's prison system. The partnership will expand access to counselling, trauma debriefing, pre-release counselling, case management and cognitive behavioural therapy for inmates and prison personnel. It will also introduce health screenings, health education and wellness initiatives.

TRAINING AND RESEARCH

Boitekanelo students in nursing, counselling, public health and allied health disciplines will receive structured opportunities to undertake practical placements within correctional facilities.

College founder Dr Tiro Mampane said the two institutions will also conduct joint research, programme reviews and evaluations intended to generate evidence that can improve correctional practices. "It is our hope that partnership will not only change lives, but also restore hope, dignity and purpose among inmates and correctional personnel," he stressed.

For BPS personnel, the partnership will provide refresher training as well as mental health and psychosocial first-aid programmes, including train-the-trainer initiatives and opportunities for specialised certification.

REINTEGRATION FOCUS

The agreement also places emphasis on rehabilitation and successful reintegration into society. The partners intend to strengthen restorative justice initiatives and establish post-release psychosocial referral pathways to assist former inmates as they return to their communities.

Morolong Takes Sign Language to SADC

MP Mpho Morolong is seeking regional backing for the recognition of sign language as an official language, extending Botswana's inclusion debate to the SADC Parliamentary Forum.



SESUPO RANTSIMAKO

Kgatleng Central MP Mpho Morolong is set to ask the Southern African Development Community (SADC) Parliamentary Forum to adopt a regional position calling for the recognition of sign language as an official language.

REGIONAL PUSH

Speaking in an interview with The Botswana Gazette this week, following Parliament's adoption of his motion calling on the Botswana Government to recognise sign language as an official language, Morolong said the next step was to push for similar recognition across the SADC region.

As a member of the SADC Parliamentary Forum, Morolong said he intends to table the same motion before the regional body, seeking support for a common SADC position that would promote the formal recognition and use of sign language across member states.

MADAGASCAR FORUM

Morolong said he plans to raise the matter at the upcoming SADC Parliamentary Forum scheduled to take place this month in Madagascar. He said regional adoption of the proposal would strengthen efforts to ensure that sign-language users are recognised and able to participate fully in social, economic and political life across SADC member states.

ACCESS TO SERVICES

According to Morolong, the proposed position could encourage SADC countries to strengthen policies and legislation supporting the use of sign language in public institutions and services.

He said his initiative places the rights and inclusion of deaf and hard-of-hearing people on the regional parliamentary agenda, particularly their ability to access Government services, education and public information.

"Recognition of sign language as an official language could have significant implications for how governments communicate with citizens who rely on sign language. It could strengthen calls for sign-language interpretation in Parliament, courts, healthcare facilities, schools and other public institutions, helping to ensure that deaf citizens are not excluded from essential services because of communication barriers," he said.

SADC-WIDE APPROACH

Morolong stressed that a regional position would also provide an opportunity for SADC member states to harmonise their approaches to sign-language recognition and accessibility.

The proposal could further encourage governments to invest in sign-language interpreters, training and educational resources as part of efforts to improve inclusion and equal access to public services. If adopted, it could place sign-language recognition higher on the SADC agenda and encourage member states to strengthen legal and institutional frameworks for deaf and hard-of-hearing people.

> "Recognition of sign language as an official language could have significant implications for how governments communicate with citizens who rely on sign language."

BUAN
BOTSWANA UNIVERSITY OF AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES
Inspiring Sustainable Growth

TENDER NOTICE

EOI: 2/2026 - EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI): REGISTRATION FOR PROVISION OF MEDICAL AID SERVICES TO BOTSWANA UNIVERSITY OF AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES FOR AN INDEFINITE PERIOD

1. Sealed Expressions of Interest are invited for the Registration of Provision of Medical Aid Underwriting Services to Botswana University of Agriculture and Natural Resources for an indefinite period
2. Procurement Method is: **Expression of Interest**
3. Tenderers who are domiciled in Botswana must, in order to be considered for registration, be registered with the Public Procurement Regulatory Authority in the following categories:
   Code: 127 – Insurance and Pension
   Sub code 02 – Medical Aid Scheme Services
4. The tender is reserved for Citizens or Citizen Contractors as stated under Section 76 (2) of the Public Procurement Act.
5. The Preference margins stated below will be applied to qualifying bidders in line with the prescribed Preference Scheme (where applicable)
   i. **Economic Diversification Drive initiative (EDD) -CAB 11 (A) of 2011)**
   ii. **Local Procurement Scheme (LPS) shall apply to this tender – Presidential Directive – CAB19 (B) 2013**
6. **Submission Method: Single Envelope**
7. Tender Documents will be available with effect from **19th August 2026 to 1st September 2026 at no cost**

   Requests for EOI documents must be emailed to purchasing@buan.ac.bw

   Documents shall be emailed during working hours between 0830 hours and 1600 hrs.
8. Queries or clarifications relating to the issuance of these documents may be addressed in writing not later than five (5) days before the tender closing date to Manager Procurement and Supply at Tel: 3650294/384/385 Fax: 3928753 or Email: purchasing@buan.ac.bw
9. The closing date and time for receipt of sealed tender offers is **1st September 2026 at 1100 hours** at the following physical address: Botswana University of Agriculture and Natural Resources Content Farm, Sebele, Office No: 1,Block 304 Gaborone.

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

Govt Appeals Basubiya Salary Ruling

Government has appealed a High Court ruling awarding the Basubiya Paramount Chief the E2 salary scale, arguing that succession under the Bogosi Act does not automatically confer the higher remuneration.

GAZETTE REPORTER

The Attorney General has taken the dispute over the remuneration of the Basubiya Paramount Chief to the Court of Appeal, challenging a High Court ruling that found his recognition under the Bogosi Act entitled him to the E2 salary scale.

APPEAL FILED

The appeal follows a 26 June 2026 judgment of the Maun High Court, which ruled in favour of the Basubiya Kgosi in his long-running salary dispute with Government.

The Attorney General, acting for the Ministry of Local Government and Traditional Affairs, is asking the Court of Appeal to overturn the judgment and dismiss the Kgosi's application.

ACT DISPUTED

At the centre of the appeal is Section 6(2) of the Bogosi Act, which provides for the designation of a successor when a Kgosi's position becomes vacant. Government argues that the High Court wrongly interpreted the provision as creating an entitlement to the E2 salary scale.

According to the Attorney General, Section 6(2) concerns succession and designation, not remuneration. Government argues that being designated as a successor does not automatically



place a Kgosi on the same salary scale as other chiefs who may have benefited from the provision. It further contends that the High Court confused recognition with designation.

DISPUTE SINCE 2020

The dispute stems from the respondent's succession to his late father, who was remunerated at the D2 salary scale. The respondent was initially appointed in 2020 as Kgosi of Kavimba before being recognised in 2023 as Kgosi of Basubiya under Section 6(2).

He subsequently challenged his salary scale, but Government rejected his request in a 17 December 2020 letter. The Attorney General argues that the respondent should have sought judicial review of that decision rather than pursuing declaratory relief. Government says the High Court consequently erred in treating the matter as a declaration of legal rights rather than what it considers a disguised review application.

NO AUTOMATIC E2

The appeal also challenges the finding that recognition under Section 6(2) created a legitimate expectation of E2 remuneration. Government argues that a Kgosi remunerated at D2 can equally be designated as a successor under the provision.

It says the fact that some previously designated successors were paid at E2 does not establish a general entitlement for every Kgosi designated under Section 6(2). The Attorney General maintains that earlier examples of E2 remuneration involved successors whose predecessors were already on that salary scale before the current Bogosi Act came into force.

> The Attorney General maintains that earlier examples of E2 remuneration involved successors whose predecessors were already on that salary scale before the current Bogosi Act came into force.

Government argues that the Basubiya case is different because the respondent succeeded a Kgosi who assumed office after the Act was promulgated. It is also challenging the High Court's interpretation of who qualifies as a Kgosi under the Act, arguing that Section 4(c), read with Section 21, recognises chiefs of tribal communities as Dikgosi.

Government says succession under Section 6(2) does not, by itself, change the status or remuneration attached to the office.

Saleshando Challenges Electoral Bill Narrative

Leader of Opposition Dumelang Saleshando has challenged the UDC's account of the Electoral Amendment Bill, saying the reform process began shortly after the 2024 general elections and was not rushed after the All-Party Conference.

GAZETTE REPORTER

Leader of Opposition Dumelang Saleshando has accused senior Umbrella for Democratic Change (UDC) leaders of distorting the history of the Electoral Amendment Bill, saying the legislation was not hastily conceived as suggested in Parliament.

NOT RUSHED

Saleshando has pushed back against claims by Minister of State President Moeti Mohwasa that the Bill was rushed following the recent All-Party Conference (APC), arguing that the electoral reform process dates back to shortly after the 2024 general elections.

Responding on his official Facebook page to Mohwasa's parliamentary remarks, Saleshando said the reform process began on 14 November 2024, immediately after the elections. He questioned how the Bill could reasonably be described as having been hurriedly prepared in response to the APC, given the time that had elapsed.

"Can a Bill to amend any law be cobbled up within 30 days and be ripe for Parliamentary debate?" Saleshando asked.

LEGISLATIVE TRAIL

Saleshando pointed to the legislative record as evidence of the Bill's progression. He said the proposed amendments were published in the Government Gazette on 5 June 2026 before being considered by the Parliamentary Committee on Governance and Oversight on 16 July and again on 6 August.

The Bill was subsequently tabled before the Parliamentary General Assembly on 13 August before being brought before Parliament. Saleshando said the sequence demonstrated that the reforms had been in development well before the recent APC.

Misrepresentation Claim

The opposition leader accused Mohwasa of presenting Parliament with what he described as a false account of the Bill's origins. According to Saleshando, Mohwasa had told Parliament that Government had noted that one of the parties participating in the APC had subsequently taken some of the proposed reforms to Parliament independently.

Saleshando rejected that version, saying records showed that he had initiated the electoral reforms in November 2024. He described Government's position as a "clear misrepresentation of facts and dishonesty".

DEPUTY SPEAKER

Saleshando also criticised Deputy Speaker Helen Manyeneng, expressing disappointment that she had, in his view, advanced the same narrative while presiding over Parliament.

He said her position was particularly concerning because Manyeneng had chaired the Parliamentary General Assembly where MPs from all political parties represented in Parliament unanimously committed themselves to supporting the Electoral Amendment Bill.

"Honesty requires a lot more than what some of the ruling party MPs have," he said, accusing the UDC leadership of "disingenuity".

Mohwasa Stands Firm

Mohwasa has refused to withdraw his comments. Asked to respond to Saleshando's accusations, the Minister said he stood by the statement he made in Parliament.

"We are focused on making changes to the Electoral Act," Mohwasa said.

DEBSWANA | ya masa

INVITATION TO TENDER

100% citizen owned, well-resourced and technically capable companies are hereby invited to express interest to participate for the following services to Debswana Diamond Company (Pty) Ltd:

Name	Deadline for Submission of Expression of Interest
Supply of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and Safety Devices to Debswana Operations Through On-Site Stock	15:30hrs on Monday 24th August 2026

The purpose of tender is to identify technically capable Business Partner(s) to supply Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and Safety Devices to Debswana operations for a period of thirty-six (36) months through on-site stores. Once bidders have indicated interest to participate as per the instructions below, they will be provided with a detailed scope of work and clear procedural requirements for accessing the tender and bid submissions.

Please click the link below to access the full advert: About the Debswana Supply Chain – Debswana

Indicating Interest to Participate in the RFP:
Register your interest by completing the form using the following link: https://forms.cloud.microsoft/r/BpyGXmAwDh

BICA International Conference 2026:

Beyond Disruption; Thriving in a Volatile Global Economy

Gaborone, Botswana | 13–14 August 2026

BICA INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE AND DINNER DANCE
Beyond Disruption: Thriving in a Volatile Global Economy.








A national conversation on building resilience in an unpredictable global economy.

For two days, Gaborone became a meeting point for ideas, expertise and perspectives on one of the defining questions facing economies, businesses and institutions today: How do we move beyond disruption and build the resilience required to thrive in an increasingly volatile global economy?

The question was at the heart of the BICA International Conference 2026, hosted by the Botswana Institute of Chartered Accountants (BICA) at the Royal Aria Conference Centre on the 13th and 14th of August 2026, under the theme, "**Beyond Disruption: Thriving in a Volatile Global Economy."**

More than a professional gathering, the conference provided a platform for dialogue on issues with direct implications for Botswana's economic future. Across the keynote address, presentations and panel discussions, delegates explored the forces reshaping economies and organisations, from technological advancement and artificial intelligence to regional integration, economic diversification, entrepreneurship, sustainability, public finance, digital trade and the changing role of the accounting profession. The breadth of the programme reflected a reality that Botswana, like economies across the world, cannot afford to view these issues in isolation.

The Keyonte address, delivered by Dr Kealeboga S. Masalilia, Deputy Governor at Bank of Botswana, called on Botswana to strengthen its economic resilience as the global economy continues to face volatility, geopolitical tensions, inflation, technological disruption and climate-related risks. Speaking under the theme "Beyond Disruption: Thriving in a Volatile Global Economy," the keynote speaker noted that disruption has become a defining feature of the global economic landscape. Botswana, as a small and open economy, remains exposed to global developments and must therefore focus on building strong institutions capable of adapting to changing conditions.

Mr Masalilia emphasised that confidence, monetary stability, good governance and sound financial systems remain essential for investment, entrepreneurship, employment and sustainable economic growth. The accounting profession was also recognised for its important role in promoting financial integrity, transparency and public confidence, particularly as artificial intelligence and automation continue to transform the profession.

The address further highlighted the importance of economic diversification, strengthening the private sector, encouraging entrepreneurship and embracing innovation. He further stressed that building resilience requires a collective effort from Government, regulators, businesses, professional bodies and other stakeholders. The keynote concluded with a call for delegates to look beyond simply responding to disruption and instead focus on anticipating change, strengthening institutions and creating opportunities despite uncertainty. The speaker commended BICA for providing a platform for meaningful dialogue and officially declared the conference open.

A central message emerging from the two-day conference was that resilience is surviving uncertainty and building the institutional strength, leadership, skills, governance and confidence to respond effectively when circumstances change. For Botswana, this is particularly relevant as the country continues to consider how to strengthen economic resilience, diversify beyond traditional sources of growth, stimulate entrepreneurship and create sustainable opportunities for future generations, the discussions therefore extended beyond the accounting profession.

They spoke to the role of businesses in adapting to change, the responsibility of institutions to strengthen governance and accountability, the importance of embracing technology responsibly, the need to develop future-ready skills and the value of regional collaboration in creating new economic opportunities.

The conference additionally highlighted the rapid evolution of the profession itself. Technology is transforming how financial information is produced and analysed, while artificial intelligence is changing the nature of work. Sustainability is increasingly influencing organisational and investment decisions; regional integration is opening new opportunities while demanding new capabilities. For the accountancy profession, these changes reinforce the need to remain relevant, adaptable and firmly anchored in the principles of integrity, accountability and professional excellence.

A Truly International Exchange

The conference strengthened Botswana's connection to the wider regional and international professional community. Speakers and participants brought perspectives from across the region and beyond, including contributions from Zambia and Mauritius. The participation of colleagues from the Zambia Institute of Chartered Accountants (ZICA) further strengthened the regional dimension of the conference and demonstrated the value of professional collaboration across borders. Such exchanges are increasingly important as economies become more interconnected and businesses operate within a rapidly changing regional and global environment.

BICA extends its sincere appreciation to the speakers, panellists, moderators and facilitators whose expertise and openness enriched the programme, including those who travelled from across the region and beyond to contribute to the conversation. BICA recognises the important contribution of its sponsors, partners and delegates.

As the 2026 edition draws to a close, the challenge is clear, the conversation must not end when the conference ends. The insights shared over these two days must translate into action, into stronger institutions, more resilient businesses, better governance, innovative approaches and greater collaboration. BICA looks forward to continuing this important conversation when the BICA International Conference returns in 2027, building on the momentum, connections and ideas generated by this year's gathering.

BICA International Conference 2026

Beyond Disruption: Thriving in a Volatile Global Economy







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Debswana Bets on Citizen Industry

The diamond producer is looking beyond mining by linking its procurement ecosystem with CEDA's financing and enterprise-development mandate

GAZETTE REPORTER

Debswana is looking to use the commercial ecosystem surrounding its diamond operations to help build stronger citizen-owned businesses, as Botswana seeks to diversify an economy long anchored by mining.

The approach is centred on connecting Debswana's procurement power, technical expertise, markets and supplier networks with the Citizen Entrepreneurial Development Agency (CEDA)'s financing and enterprise-development capabilities.

Speaking at a recent Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signing between the two , CEDA caretaker CEO Khalala Mokefane said the opportunity was to connect Debswana's commercial ecosystem with CEDA's mandate to develop citizen enterprises.

"What becomes possible when Debswana's commercial ecosystem is deliberately connected to CEDA's financing and enterprise development mandate?" Mokefane asked.

He said the answer should include more citizen-owned businesses built around real demand, stronger local supply chains and more competitive Botswana-based producers and service providers.

FROM FUNDING TO INDUSTRY

The emphasis represents a broader approach to citizen empowerment. CEDA says businesses should not be judged only by the number funded, but by whether they operate in productive sectors, supply major industries, manufacture locally what Botswana currently imports and create skilled employment.

The partnership will explore opportunities within and adjacent to the mining value chain, including manufacturing, engineering services, processing, logistics, infrastructure, innovation and business services.

Mokefane said the intention was to build citizen enterprises that are "not peripheral participants, but capable and competitive suppliers and industrial partners."

For Debswana, the strategy forms part of an effort to diversify its income streams and expand its contribution beyond diamond mining.

The Managing Director of Debswana in Andrew Maatla Motsomi said his organization recognized that Botswana's next chapter of growth required the country to use the legacy of diamonds to "build new industries, create new opportunities and develop new sources of economic value."

> "The real work begins now: translating commitments into a pipeline of projects, supporting entrepreneurs to execute, and delivering measurable outcomes for citizens."

TESTING THE MODEL

The partnership will also focus on identifying a pipeline of commercially viable projects, reflecting an emphasis on businesses with identifiable markets rather than enterprises created without clear demand.

Mokefane said successful entrepreneurship required more than capital, pointing to business planning, market access, mentorship and post-launch support.

Businesses seeking to supply major corporate buyers will also need to demonstrate governance, quality assurance, financial discipline, safety and operational reliability.

The measure of success will ultimately be practical: sustainable citizen enterprises, jobs, increased procurement from citizen suppliers, greater local value retention and the emergence of new productive industries.

Motsomi described the approach as an "ecosystem" model, involving the private sector, government institutions, entrepreneurs, investors and communities.

For Botswana, the proposition is straightforward but demanding: use the capabilities and purchasing power developed through decades of diamond mining to create businesses capable of standing on their own.

As Mokefane said, "The real work begins now: translating commitments into a pipeline of projects, supporting entrepreneurs to execute, and delivering measurable outcomes for citizens."

Turn Problems Into Opportunities

Women entrepreneurs are being challenged to look beyond technology hype and use innovation to solve the everyday problems constraining their businesses.





LEATILE ZACHARIAH

Women entrepreneurs have been urged to stop viewing technology as a trend and instead use it as a tool to solve real problems within their businesses.

The call was made by technology entrepreneur and founding partner of FFWD Innovation, Rapelang Rabana, during Standard Chartered's Women in Tech masterclass held at the National Museum last Friday.

Rabana, who is also a board member of Standard Chartered, told participants that innovation should begin with problems they encounter in their everyday lives.

"Building for the problems that mean something to you as an individual. And then you'll find that it means something for many others," she said.

She encouraged women to question inefficient ways of doing things and explore whether technology could provide better solutions.

BEYOND THE HYPE

Rabana warned entrepreneurs against rushing to adopt artificial intelligence (AI) simply because it is currently popular.

"One of the biggest problems I see when people want to use technology in their business is that they focus on trying to use the latest AI thing or the buzzwords or the hype without really understanding what problem they want to solve for in that business," she said.

She said entrepreneurs should first establish whether they want to increase revenue, reduce operating costs, improve efficiency or enhance customer experience before deciding which technology to use.

According to Rabana, the increasing accessibility of technology has also created opportunities for entrepreneurs who are not programmers or data scientists to build solutions for their businesses.

BUILDING LEADERS

Standard Chartered's Bame Tshweneyagae said Rabana was an obvious choice to lead the session because of her experience in technology, entrepreneurship and innovation.

"She's built businesses and we are training these women in tech entrepreneurs to build their businesses, utilize technology and be resilient as they do," Tshweneyagae said.

He said the programme aims to help participants become more confident and competent leaders while incorporating technology into their businesses.

Tshweneyagae said success would ultimately be measured by whether the businesses grow, become sustainable and continue operating beyond the current generation of entrepreneurs.

"I want the women to grow their businesses. I want them to start making money. And I want their businesses to live beyond them," he said.

GROWTH TOOL

For Tlotlo Phuduhudu, founder of Native Feeds, the masterclass provided practical insight into how technology could help her improve efficiency without necessarily increasing her payroll.

Phuduhudu said she had entered the session looking for ways to optimise technology in her agribusiness, which specialises in livestock feed production and farm management services.



She said Rabana's approach helped her understand that the question should not simply be whether to use AI, but what specific problem the technology would solve.

"The question is, what do you really need? What will be the solution to your challenge that you're currently facing?" Phuduhudu said.

She added that the practical tools introduced during the session gave her confidence that technology could help her business become more efficient despite limited financial resources.

Embracing Discomfort

Rabana also acknowledged the uncertainty that comes with entrepreneurship, saying self-doubt remains part of her own journey.

"I question myself every day. That never leaves. And it's about accepting that that discomfort means that you're growing," she said.

She encouraged women to build support networks through coaches, business partners, friends, family and other entrepreneurs, noting that business challenges do not have to be faced alone.

Her message to the women was to stop accepting frustrations as normal and instead challenge them by looking for new ways of doing things.

"Start challenging that and start being willing to explore solutions to change those frustrations," Rabana said.



Fuel Price Cuts Cool July Inflation

Lower fuel prices drive the sharpest monthly decline, offering some relief after inflation reached 10.7 percent in June



GAZETTE REPORTER

Botswana’s annual inflation rate fell to 9.4 percent in July 2026, down 1.3 percentage points from 10.7 percent in June, according to Statistics Botswana.

“The major contributors to the annual inflation rate in July 2026 were Transport group with a share of 5.2 percentage points,” Statistics Botswana said in its Consumer Price Index July 2026 report.

It said Miscellaneous Goods & Services contributed 1.2 percentage points, while Food & Non-Alcoholic Beverages contributed 1.0 percentage point.

REGIONAL DECLINES

Inflation declined across all three regions measured by the statistics agency.

In Rural Villages, inflation fell to 10.1 percent in July from 12.1 percent in June, a decrease of 2.0 percentage points.

Cities & Towns recorded a 1.2 percentage-point decline, from 10.2 percent to 9.0 percent, while inflation in Urban Villages fell by 1.0 percentage point, from 10.4 percent to 9.4 percent.

The national Consumer Price Index decreased by 1.8 percent, from 151.6 in June to 148.8 in July.

FUEL DRIVES DROP

The Transport group recorded the largest monthly movement, with its index falling 6.5 percent, from 194.1 in June to 181.5 in July.

Statistics Botswana attributed the decline to an 11.7 percent decrease in the Operation of Personal Transport section.

The agency said this was linked to lower retail pump prices for diesel (50ppm) and Petrol (95), which fell by P4.12 and P2.31 per litre, respectively, effective July 7.

Most other group indices moved by less than 1.0 percent between June and July.

The Alcoholic Beverages & Tobacco group increased by 0.5 percent, while the Health group rose by 0.4 percent.

TRADEABLES DIVERGE

The All-Tradeables index declined by 3.0 percent, from 165.2 to 160.4.

Imported Tradeables fell 4.1 percent, while Domestic Tradeables increased by 0.3 percent. The Non-Tradeables index rose by 0.1 percent.

The All-Tradeables inflation rate fell from 15.2 percent in June to 11.9 percent in July. Imported Tradeables inflation declined from 17.9 percent to 13.3 percent.

By contrast, Non-Tradeables inflation increased from 3.9 percent to 5.6 percent, while Domestic Tradeables inflation edged up from 7.9 percent to 8.1 percent.





Botswana Debt Burden Surges

Government says borrowing will continue, but a widening deficit, weaker diamond revenues and rising debt are forcing a sharper push for fiscal consolidation

GAZETTE REPORTER

Botswana's government debt has risen sharply as the country grapples with weaker diamond revenues, a large fiscal deficit and growing development financing needs, but Finance Minister and Vice President Ndaba Gaolathe says the country is not in debt distress.

Responding to a recent Parliamentary Question from Serowe West Member of Parliament Onalepelo Kedikilwe, Gaolathe said government did not intend to rely indefinitely on borrowing to finance national operations and development.

The response comes as Botswana's economy contracted by 0.7 percent in 2025, following a 2.8 percent contraction in 2024. Diamond mining output declined by 14.9 percent, while the overall mining sector contracted by 14.0 percent and diamond trading fell by 17.6 percent.

DEBT RISES

The deterioration has placed significant pressure on public finances.

For the 2026/27 financial year, the Budget projects a deficit of P26.35 billion, equivalent to approximately 8.9 percent of GDP. Government is financing the deficit through a combination of domestic and external borrowing, Treasury Bills and bond issuance.



The debt-to-GDP ratio increased from 19.7 percent in 2022/23 to 33.97 percent in 2025/26. Domestic debt more than doubled, rising from P27.2 billion to P56.06 billion, while external debt increased from P16.4 billion to P27.88 billion.

Together, the two components amounted to P83.94 billion.

The statutory debt ceiling was raised from 40 percent to 60 percent of GDP in March 2026. Gaolathe stressed that the higher ceiling should not be viewed as a borrowing target.

"Government does not intend to rely indefinitely on borrowing to finance national operations and development," he said.

FISCAL PRESSURE

Government says consolidation is already underway.

Centralisation of Government Purchase Orders reduced GPOs from 231,369, valued at P11 billion in 2024/25, to 136,292, valued at P8 billion by February 2026. The reduction in spending commitments was P3 billion, or 27 percent.

Overtime expenditure fell by P105.8 million to P675.4 million in 2025/26, while travel expenditure declined by P251 million to P466 million.

The government is also reviewing spending annually, strengthening revenue mobilisation and digitising revenue collection, with those measures targeted for completion during 2026/27.

GROWTH CHALLENGE

The government projects economic growth of 3.1 percent in 2026, supported mainly by higher diamond production.

However, Gaolathe cautioned that the outlook remains fragile because of structural challenges in the diamond sector, geopolitical uncertainties, government cash-flow constraints and the Foot and Mouth Disease outbreak.

The longer-term strategy centres on the Botswana Economic Transformation Programme, which government says is intended to accelerate diversification, mobilise private investment, create employment and reduce dependence on diamonds.

Gaolathe said government could not responsibly commit to a specific year when nominal debt would begin declining.

Instead, the strategy is to reduce the fiscal deficit, moderate annual borrowing and stabilise the debt-to-GDP ratio.

AfDB Urges Botswana Tax Reform

As diamond revenues weaken, the African Development Bank says Botswana must diversify domestic revenue through better tax administration, digital systems and broader tax bases

TLOTLO KEBINAKGABO

Botswana needs sound tax policy design backed by strong institutional enablers to mobilize domestic revenue effectively, according to the African Development Bank Group's Country Focus Report 2026: Botswana, Mobilizing Botswana's Development Financing at Scale in a Fragmented World.

The report says key foundations include sustained political commitment, strengthening the capacity of the Botswana Unified Revenue Service (BURS) to increase collections, and robust legal frameworks for enforcement and transparency measures that build taxpayer trust.

It says interoperable digital systems, including unique taxpayer identification, integrated databases and secure e-payment platforms, can reduce leakages and broaden the tax base. E-filing, e-payments and emerging e-invoicing are increasingly important to modernizing revenue collection.

"Sequencing the reforms will be critical to balance fiscal goals with impacts on growth, firms, and households."

"VAT revenue can also increase through real-time reporting, better and coordinated systems, and audit targeting without necessarily raising tax rates," the report says.

REVENUE FALLS

The report says Botswana has historically benefited from strong mineral revenues, prudent macroeconomic management and sovereign savings that supported fiscal stability and infrastructure development.

However, declining diamond revenues, rising expenditure pressures and constrained fiscal space have increased the need for more diversified and sustainable financing sources.

In nominal terms, total domestic fiscal revenue declined from US$6.2 billion in 2021 to US$5.0 billion, alongside a decline in economic growth and the global price for natural diamond. The revenue-to-GDP ratio also declined from 31.4% to 24.9%.

The report says strengthening domestic resource mobilization through improved tax administration, digitalization and broader tax bases will be critical. It also identifies improved public financial management, expenditure efficiency and strategic borrowing as measures that can improve the government's ability to finance development priorities while maintaining fiscal sustainability and resilience to external shocks.

TAX GAPS

Botswana's tax structure is mainly based on personal income tax (PIT) and value-added tax (VAT), with VAT contributing roughly 35% of collections, supported by excise and customs duties.

PIT contributes modestly, with the 25% PIT rate below the African average of 31.3%, the report says. A narrow formal employment base, high informality and tax exemptions limit revenue potential.

While revenue administration is described as relatively advanced, gaps remain in audit capacity, data integration and compliance enforcement.

The report recommends sequencing reforms. Early gains could come from integrating taxpayer systems, strengthening compliance, tightening exemption management and expanding digital tools for VAT and customs administration.

A second phase would broaden the tax base, rationalize incentives, strengthen property taxation and enhance enforcement in mining and high-income non-mining sectors.

Long-term sustainability, it says, will depend on stronger governance, improved public service delivery and a stronger fiscal social contract to boost voluntary compliance.

Japanese Cars Lead Registrations

Vehicles from Japan accounted for more than 70 percent of first-time registrations in Botswana during the first quarter, with almost all of them used



TLOTLO KEBINAKGABO

Vehicles imported from Japan continued to dominate Botswana’s first-time vehicle registrations in the first quarter of 2026, accounting for 70.3 percent of the total, according to Statistics Botswana.

The figures are contained in the government statistics agency’s Transport and Infrastructure Statistics: Quarter 1, 2026 report.

Vehicles from Japan, commonly referred to as “fong kongs” in local parlance, were followed by those from the Republic of South Africa at 18.8 percent, while vehicles from Botswana accounted for 3.9 percent.

USED VEHICLES

The report shows that 99.4 percent of vehicles imported from Japan were used units, representing 87.7 percent of all used vehicle registrations.

By comparison, 76.1 percent of South African vehicles were brand new, accounting for 70.5 percent of total new vehicle registrations.

A total of 8,119 motor vehicles were registered for the first time during the quarter, an 18.3 percent decline from the 9,942 recorded in the previous quarter.

“This downturn was observed across most body types except for trucks,” Statistics Botswana says.

The sharpest decline was recorded in the tankers/horses category, which fell by 48.3 percent. Motor cycles and trailers followed, declining by 43.9 percent and 40.8 percent, respectively.

Among used vehicles registered for the first time, passenger cars accounted for 85.1 percent of registrations. Trucks, trailers and vans followed at 4.6 percent, 3.9 percent and 2.8 percent, respectively.

Among brand-new first-time registrations, passenger cars accounted for 34.3 percent, followed by vans at 26.9 percent. In the rebuilt category, trailers represented 75.0 percent.

HONDA LEADS

Honda accounted for the largest share of first-time vehicle registrations at 22.2 percent, followed by Mazda at 19.1 percent and Toyota at 17.1 percent.

“Across all three brands, passenger cars were the predominant body type,” the report says.

Registrations peaked in March, which accounted for 37.3 percent of the quarterly total. February contributed 32.7 percent and January 30.0 percent.

Gaborone stations accounted for 57.4 percent of registrations, followed by Francistown at 8.1 percent and Molepolole at 7.4 percent.

RAIL FREIGHT

Meanwhile, rail freight volumes increased by 4.9 percent during the quarter to 171,715 net tonnes, from 163,681 net tonnes in the previous quarter.

The increase was primarily driven by transit traffic, which more than doubled, rising by 108.8 percent. Imports from the South also increased by 8.6 percent.

Local traffic declined by 8.5 percent, overall imports by 5.0 percent and exports by 4.5 percent.

Despite the growth, transit traffic accounted for the smallest share of freight at 18.8 percent. Exports remained the largest category at 31.0 percent, followed by local traffic at 25.5 percent and imports at 24.7 percent.

RAIL REVENUE

Rail freight generated P42.9 million during the quarter, up 7.5 percent from P39.9 million in the previous quarter.

Exports contributed 29.8 percent of revenue, followed by local traffic at 29.6 percent, transit traffic at 24.6 percent and imports at 16.0 percent.

“In comparison to Q4 2025, a significant increase occurred in transit traffic revenue, which grew by 107.3 percent,” the report says.

Revenue from imports declined by 19.9 percent, while local traffic and exports fell by 3.4 percent and 2.2 percent, respectively.



BURS, BERA Target Illicit Fuel

The agencies say revenue losses could reach billions of pula as they move to tighten controls across Botswana's petroleum supply chain



The Botswana Unified Revenue Service (BURS) and the Botswana Energy Regulatory Authority (BERA) have joined forces to tackle illicit fuel trading and revenue leakages estimated at billions of pula.

GAZETTE REPORTER

The Botswana Unified Revenue Service (BURS) and the Botswana Energy Regulatory Authority (BERA) have joined forces to tackle illicit fuel trading and revenue leakages estimated at billions of pula.

The two organisations this week signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to strengthen cooperation across the petroleum value chain through information sharing, joint risk management and coordinated enforcement.

BURS Acting Commissioner General Phodiso Valashia said the partnership was necessary to close gaps that allow revenue to be lost through non-compliance and illicit fuel trading.

He said Botswana could no longer afford to overlook what may appear to be small revenue leakages, particularly as the country seeks to reduce its reliance on mineral revenues.

BILLIONS LOST

BERA Chief Executive Officer Never Tshabang said illicit fuel trading was costing the country significant amounts of revenue, with losses sometimes estimated at P4 billion.

Tshabang said the problem included under-declaration of fuel, fuel dumping and the deliberate manipulation of petroleum products to evade government levies.

Some fuel imported into Botswana under declarations that it was destined for countries such as Zambia was later dumped and sold locally, he said, allowing traders to avoid applicable taxes and levies.

"We are dealing with sophisticated traders," Tshabang said.

He said BERA also lacked some of the technical capacity required to identify adulterated fuel at borders. The collaboration with BURS, he said, would help close those gaps, particularly at border posts where officials have struggled to detect illicit practices.

FUEL ADULTERATION

Tshabang also raised concerns about fuel adulteration, saying some traders mix petrol or diesel with paraffin to increase profits.

He said the practice can damage vehicles and pose risks to consumers. Authorities had previously intercepted about 3.3 million litres of contaminated fuel containing manganese and lead, substances he described as harmful to human health.

Valashia said the MoU would provide a formal framework for the two organisations to work together rather than relying on ad hoc interventions.

The agreement will focus on protecting public revenue, consumers and the country's energy security through intelligence sharing, technological integration and coordinated enforcement.

Valashia said the signing marked the beginning of implementation and warned there would be "no hiding place" for those involved in illicit petroleum trade.

At the same time, he said legitimate fuel traders would be supported through a fair and level trading environment.

The two agencies are expected to develop clearer mechanisms for monitoring fuel movements, identifying suspicious transactions and improving enforcement across the petroleum supply chain.

INDUSTRYWATCH

Standard Bank Rethinks AI

Standard Bank is moving from AI experimentation towards integrating the technology into its wider operations, with data, governance and human skills at the centre of its approach.



Standard Bank Group Chief Operating Officer Margaret Nienaber

Standard Bank Group is shifting its artificial intelligence strategy from adopting individual tools and testing use cases towards embedding AI as an organisational capability. The bank says competitive advantage will increasingly depend on how organisations combine AI with trusted data, governance, skilled employees and knowledge of their clients and markets.

More than 39,000 employees, representing 72% of the Group's workforce, are active users of generative AI through approved enterprise tools. About one-third of technology employees also use AI-enabled coding tools, with early applications reporting productivity improvements of about 20%.

BUILDING THE AI FOUNDATION

The Group's enterprise AI platform, built on Amazon Bedrock, uses a multi-model approach that allows it to evaluate and deploy different AI models while maintaining security and governance standards.

Standard Bank Group Chief Operating Officer Margaret Nienaber said the organisation was moving towards becoming "an AI-enabled organisation".

"The real differentiator will be how effectively you combine that technology with trusted data, strong governance, the right skills and deep knowledge of your clients and markets," she said.

FOUR PRIORITY AREAS

Standard Bank has identified relationship management, servicing, payments and lending as four priority areas for AI deployment.

AI is being used to help bankers access information, simplify customer interactions, improve payment operations and streamline aspects of lending. The bank also sees potential applications in fraud management and AI-enabled commerce.

"AI can give our people time back, but what we do with that time is what really matters," Nienaber said.

By the end of the first half of 2026, 78% of migratable computing had moved to the cloud, according to the Group.

EXTERNAL RECOGNITION

In June 2026, Standard Bank was ranked the leading bank in Africa in the inaugural Evident AI Index for Banks in the Middle East and Africa, and second overall in the region.

BoFiNet Reports On Digital Growth

At its latest AGM, the state-owned fibre provider outlined its financial performance, governance measures and plans for expanding Botswana's digital infrastructure.



BoFiNet CEO Dr Geoffrey Seleka

Botswana Fibre Networks (BoFiNet) held its Annual General Meeting (AGM) at Avani Hotel in Gaborone on 13 August 2026, bringing together the Government as shareholder, represented by Minister of Communications and Innovation David Tshere, the company's board and management.

The AGM provided an update on BoFiNet's performance, strategic direction and role in Botswana's digital infrastructure sector. The company also presented its first Integrated Report, covering its strategy, governance, people, infrastructure and sustainability activities.

BUILDING THE DIGITAL BACKBONE

BoFiNet CEO Dr Geoffrey Seleka said the company's focus was on strengthening its operations while supporting the country's digital development.

"BoFiNet is the backbone of our nation's digital economy, and we are committed to building a resilient, relevant, and sustainable entity," Seleka said.

Seleka identified the Digital Delta Data Centre as a key asset for data sovereignty and potential revenue diversification.

FOCUS ON GOVERNANCE

Board Chairperson Molemisi Nelson Sechaba said the board was focused on operational efficiency and financial sustainability.

"The Board is confident in the strategic direction of the company, and we are focused on optimising efficiencies and ensuring that BoFiNet remains a financially sustainable entity that fulfils its national mandate," Sechaba said.

According to figures presented at the AGM, BoFiNet recorded P376 million in revenue and maintained 99.7% service availability across its national fibre backbone. The company also reported that it has remained profitable without government subvention.

INTEGRATED REPORTING

The adoption of integrated reporting was presented as part of BoFiNet's governance approach, bringing financial and non-financial aspects of its operations into a single report.

The company said the report is intended to provide a broader view of how its infrastructure, people, strategy and sustainability initiatives contribute to its operations.

Article edited for length

AGA ISAGO Donates School Shoes



"These shoes will give our children greater confidence, comfort and dignity."

The AGA ISAGO Development & Empowerment Foundation has donated school shoes and socks to 67 learners at Gasita Primary School, addressing a basic school-wear need among children requiring support.

The donation is intended to help learners attend school with appropriate footwear and improve their comfort and confidence during the school day. The foundation said access to basic school necessities can influence learners' participation and engagement in education.

SCHOOL WELCOMES SUPPORT

The school's leadership welcomed the intervention, saying the shoes would address both practical and emotional challenges faced by some beneficiaries.

"We are deeply grateful to AGA ISAGO Development & Empowerment Foundation for recognising a need that may appear simple but has a significant impact on our learners," the Head of Gasita Primary School said. "These shoes will give our children greater confidence, comfort and dignity."

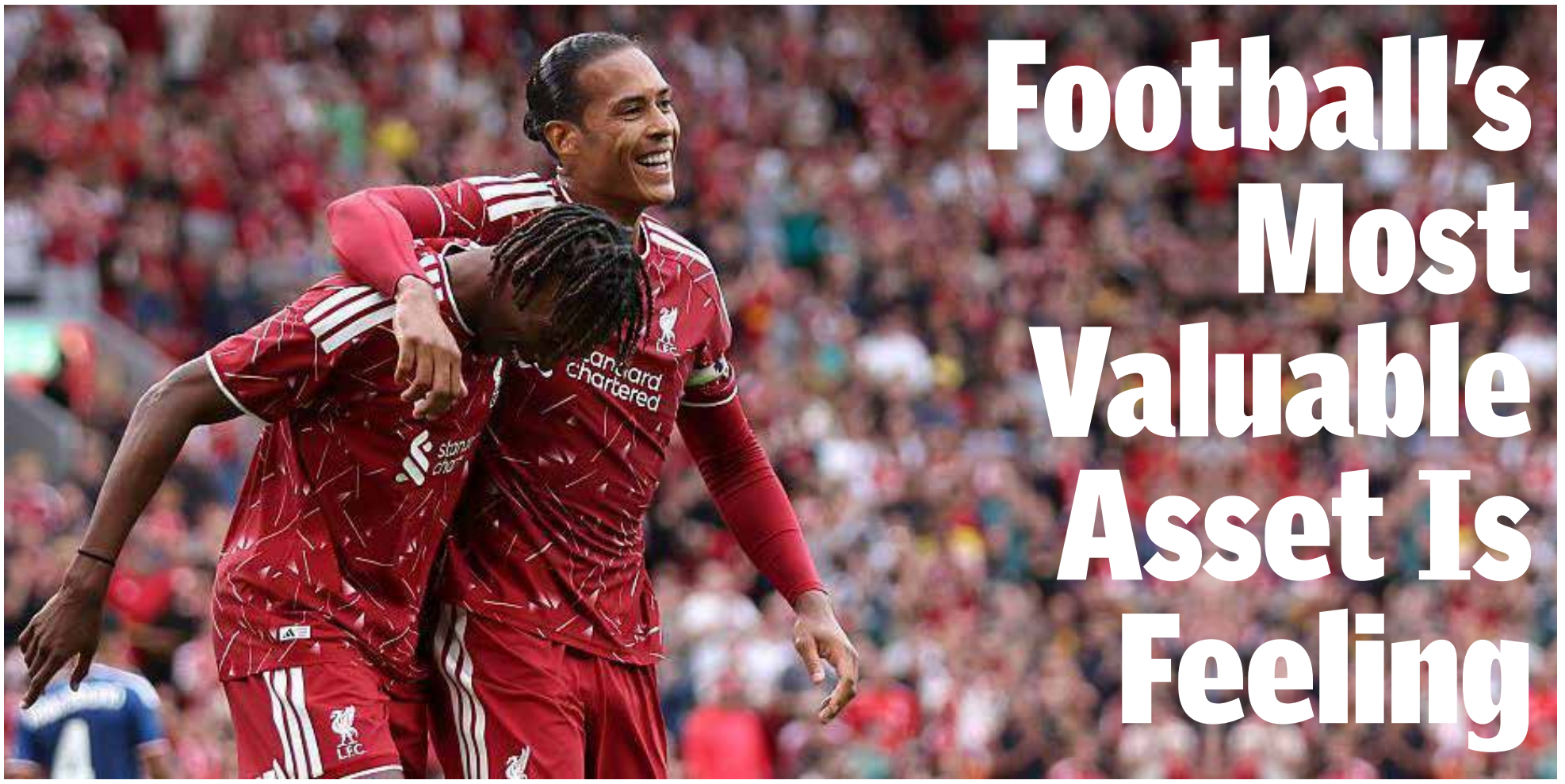
FOCUS ON BASIC NEEDS

The foundation said its education-related work extends beyond academic resources to include everyday needs that can affect learners' school experience. Its broader focus includes education, sports, rural infrastructure, agriculture, health, creatives, arts and culture, financial inclusion and social housing.

AGA ISAGO Development & Empowerment Foundation is a Botswana-based Public Trust established in 2025. It describes its mandate as supporting communities through practical development initiatives.

Article edited for length





Football's Most Valuable Asset Is Feeling

Liverpool's reported valuation reveals a powerful brand paradox: the instability that makes football commercially risky is also what creates the emotional loyalty investors cannot easily manufacture.

MANUEL VEIRUAPI RUHAPO | THE BRAND PARADOX

Why would Jeff Bezos want a stake in Liverpool Football Club?

At first glance, it makes little financial sense. Football is unstable. A player gets injured. A manager loses the dressing room. One bad season can remove European football, reduce broadcast income and unsettle commercial conversations. The Premier League's combined pre-tax losses reached £948 million in 2024/25, even as club revenues climbed. Football is not a business in which rationality is guaranteed. [1]



Yet, on 11 August, BBC Sport reported that a consortium including Bezos was in advanced talks to buy a 30% stake in Liverpool, implying a £4.5 billion valuation. Fenway Sports Group acquired Liverpool for £300 million in 2010. [2]

The question is not why a billionaire would want a football club. It is why a football club can become worth 15 times its purchase price while remaining exposed to so much uncertainty.

The answer is not football. It is brand.

PASSION ASSET PARADOX

Football's apparent weakness is its greatest commercial strength. Supporters are emotionally irrational. They remain loyal through poor results, expensive tickets, long journeys and seasons they would rather forget.

In most product categories, disappointment sends the customer to a competitor. In football, it can deepen the relationship. The fan does not merely consume the club. The fan identifies with it.

That is the Passion Asset Paradox: the more irrational the emotional bond, the more valuable the commercial platform becomes.

Liverpool is not simply selling ninety minutes of sport. It is selling belonging, identity, history, rivalry, family memory, merchandise, travel, media, hospitality and a daily flow of content to a global audience.

Deloitte ranked Liverpool fifth in the world by 2024/25 revenue, at €836 million, and first among English clubs. Across the twenty highest-revenue clubs, commercial income reached €5.3 billion, the largest revenue stream for a third consecutive year. [3]

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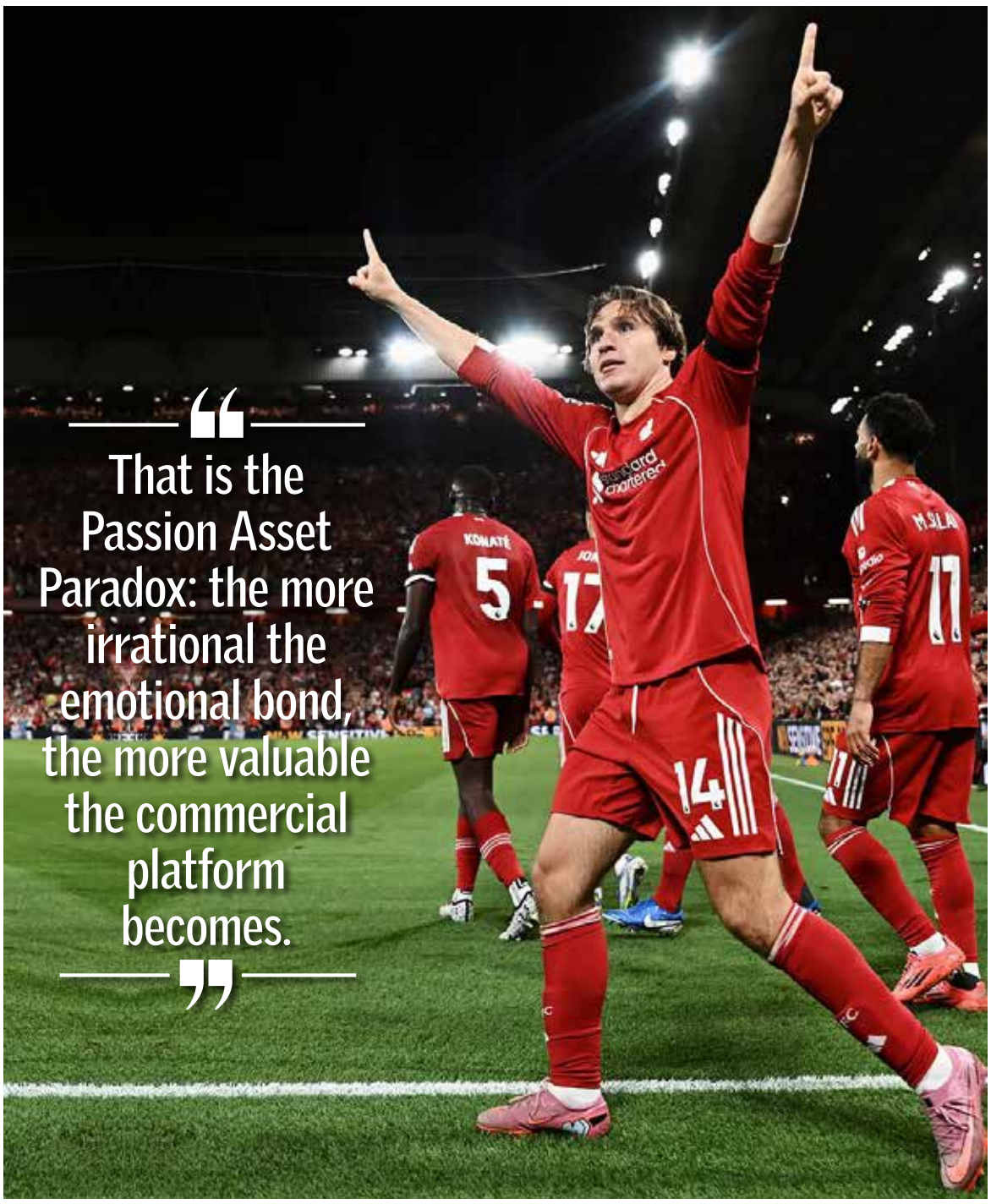

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That is what the investor sees. Not a squad sheet. A global attention system with a built-in emotional subscription.

The best football brands are valuable because their customers do not need to be convinced to return. They have already decided who they are. A club can improve the stadium, extend its media reach, build retail, create more valuable partnerships and turn its ground into a year-round destination.

Advertising alone cannot manufacture this attachment. It takes decades.

CONTROL PARADOX

But there is a serious caution. An investor cannot buy sporting certainty. Money does not guarantee trophies, and trophies do not always guarantee profit.



Deloitte reports that Premier League clubs generated £6.8 billion in revenue in 2024/25, but wage costs still reached a record £4.4 billion. Only eight clubs recorded an operating profit. [1]

> If the only evidence of the investment is a logo behind a post-match interview, the sponsor has bought exposure, not equity.

This is the Control Paradox: the asset's most visible output, winning, is the one thing an investor cannot fully control.

The things that can be controlled are less glamorous, but more durable. Fan experience. Commercial partnerships. Content. Hospitality. Data. Retail. Stadium use on non-match days. International market development. Brand coherence.

The sophisticated football investor is not buying a shortcut to silverware. They are buying the right to build around an existing emotional asset.

That is also why the prospective Liverpool transaction matters. The reported price is not only a verdict on recent performances. It is a verdict on the scale, portability and resilience of the Liverpool brand.

For brands outside football, this should be uncomfortable. Most companies invest heavily in awareness but have no equivalent emotional infrastructure. Their customers know the logo, but do not feel membership. They may choose the brand, but they do not defend it, wear it, travel for it or introduce it to their children.

Football does all of that at scale.

BOTSWANA BRANDS

Corporate Botswana should stop treating football solely as a place to place a logo. A logo on a shirt or pitch perimeter is visibility. An investment in the football ecosystem is a relationship with a community that creates content, conversation, local commerce, youth aspiration and repeated moments of attention.

The local evidence already exists. Orange Botswana renewed its FA Cup partnership for P16.8 million across three years, from 2026 to 2029. [4] FNB Botswana's partnership with the Botswana Football Association supports junior national teams, from under-17 through under-23, for both girls and boys. [5]



At press time, we had not sought comment from Orange or FNB on the returns they attribute to these investments. That is the opportunity.

The next step is better activation. A football investment should be designed with clear outcomes: audience growth, customer acquisition, brand consideration, community participation, content reach, hospitality value, youth development and measurable commercial conversion.



If the only evidence of the investment is a logo behind a post-match interview, the sponsor has bought exposure, not equity.

The same principle applies to a business of any size. Do not ask only, "How many people saw us?" Ask, "What do people now feel they belong to because of us?"

The first creates reach. The second creates an asset.

WHAT IT MEANS

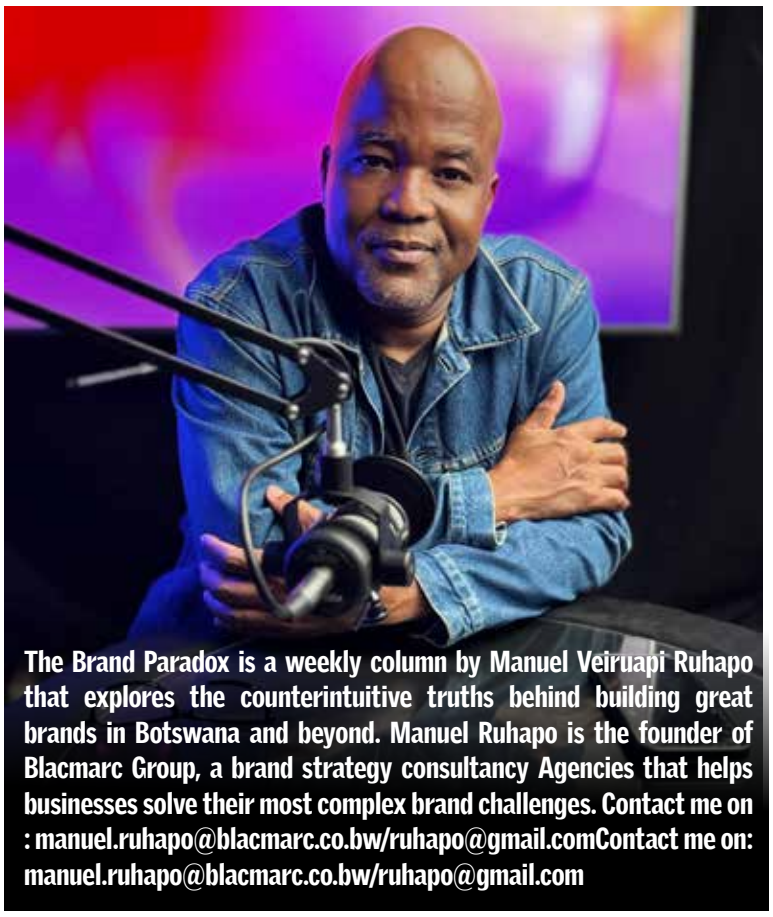
For business owners and executives: treat sport sponsorship as a business platform, not a donation with branding rights. Define what you want to build around the audience before you sign the agreement.

For marketing professionals: move beyond impressions. Build activation that gives supporters a reason to participate, share, register, return and remember. Football's power is not the match. It is what people do before, during and after it.

For brand managers: protect authenticity. Fans can sense when a company wants access to their attention without contributing anything to their community. The strongest sponsorships add value to the football experience first, then earn commercial value in return.

Football looks irrational only if you measure it as sport. Measure it as an emotional brand infrastructure, and the investment case becomes clear.

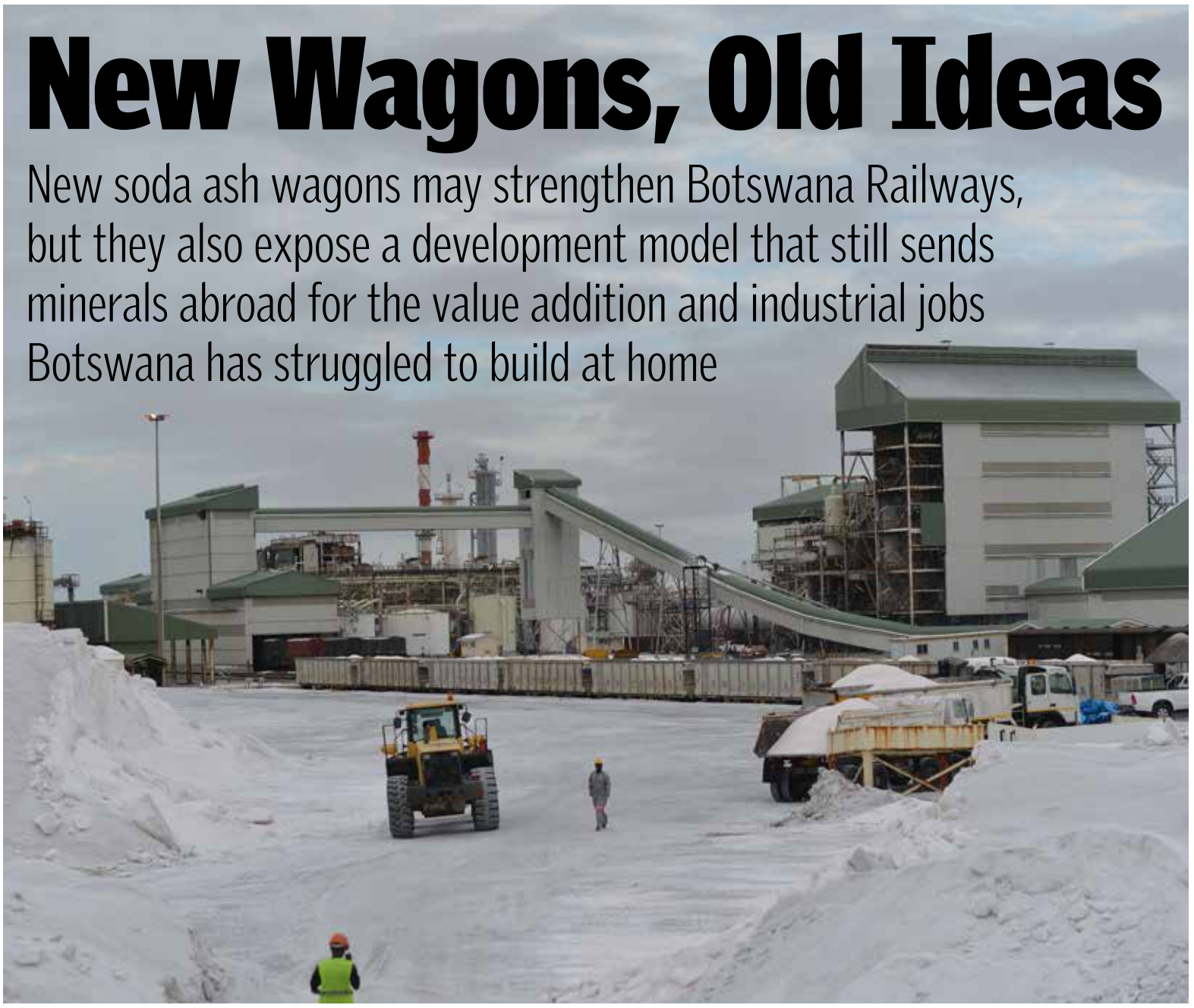




The Brand Paradox is a weekly column by Manuel Veiruapi Ruhapo that explores the counterintuitive truths behind building great brands in Botswana and beyond. Manuel Ruhapo is the founder of Blacmarc Group, a brand strategy consultancy Agencies that helps businesses solve their most complex brand challenges. Contact me on : manuel.ruhapo@blacmarc.co.bw/ruhapo@gmail.comContact me on: manuel.ruhapo@blacmarc.co.bw/ruhapo@gmail.com

New Wagons, Old Ideas

New soda ash wagons may strengthen Botswana Railways, but they also expose a development model that still sends minerals abroad for the value addition and industrial jobs Botswana has struggled to build at home



DR DOUGLAS RASBASH

NATIONAL OWNERSHIP

Last month, Botswana Railways proudly celebrated the arrival of a fleet of open wagons. The refurbished rolling stock was presented as another step in the revival of the national railway: greater carrying capacity, improved reliability and a renewed ability to serve one of Botswana's most important mineral producers. But the celebration also raised a question that went largely unasked: what, precisely, are these wagons intended to carry?

Their purpose is to transport Botswana's soda ash and salt, principally from Sua Pan towards industrial customers in South Africa. The wagons may be newly acquired or refurbished, but the economic model they support is no longer acceptable. Botswana is investing in the capacity to continue exporting industrial raw materials rather than building the industries that could transform them at home.

> The true measure is whether Botswana can transform those minerals into new industries at home.

This is not the familiar African story of a foreign mining company arriving, extracting a valuable resource and carrying the profits overseas. Botswana Ash, or Botash, has been 50% owned by the Government of Botswana since production began in April 1991. The other half is presently owned by South Africa's Chlor Alkali Holdings.

Yet, after three and a half decades, Botswana still exports almost all its soda ash and much of its salt. The minerals leave Botswana by rail, principally for South Africa, where they support glass factories, chemical plants and other manufacturing industries. Botswana owns half the mine. South Africa owns much of the industry that the mine supports.

This makes Sua Pan an uncomfortable but important case study. Foreign exploitation is real and has shaped much of Africa's economic history. But it cannot adequately explain Sua Pan. Here, the Botswana Government has been both shareholder and policymaker. If substantial national ownership has still not produced industrialisation, then ownership alone cannot be the answer.

EXPORT MODEL

The more difficult explanation is that African governments frequently prefer the immediate and relatively predictable income from exporting commodities to the cost, effort and risk of building industries. Botash has been a successful mineral operation. Its annual production capacity is approximately 300,000 tonnes of soda ash and between 650,000 and 700,000 tonnes of salt. It has developed Sowa, sustained employment and established Botswana as Southern Africa's leading producer of natural soda ash and related sodium products.

The failure lies not in producing or exporting these minerals. Botswana should continue serving established regional markets. The failure is that exporting them remains almost the entire development model.

> The wagons may be newly acquired or refurbished, but the economic model they support is no longer acceptable.

Soda ash is used in glassmaking, detergents, water treatment, metallurgy, silicates and chemical processes. Salt provides the foundation for several industrial chemicals. Other potential products from the Sua Pan resource include sodium bicarbonate, sodium sulphate and sulphate of potash.

These are not speculative uses awaiting invention. They are established industries operating elsewhere from the same basic mineral inputs Botswana has exported for decades. Botash's latest diversification strategy recognises some of these opportunities, but it also reveals how little downstream development has occurred since 1991.

INDUSTRIAL RISK

Industrialisation is admittedly

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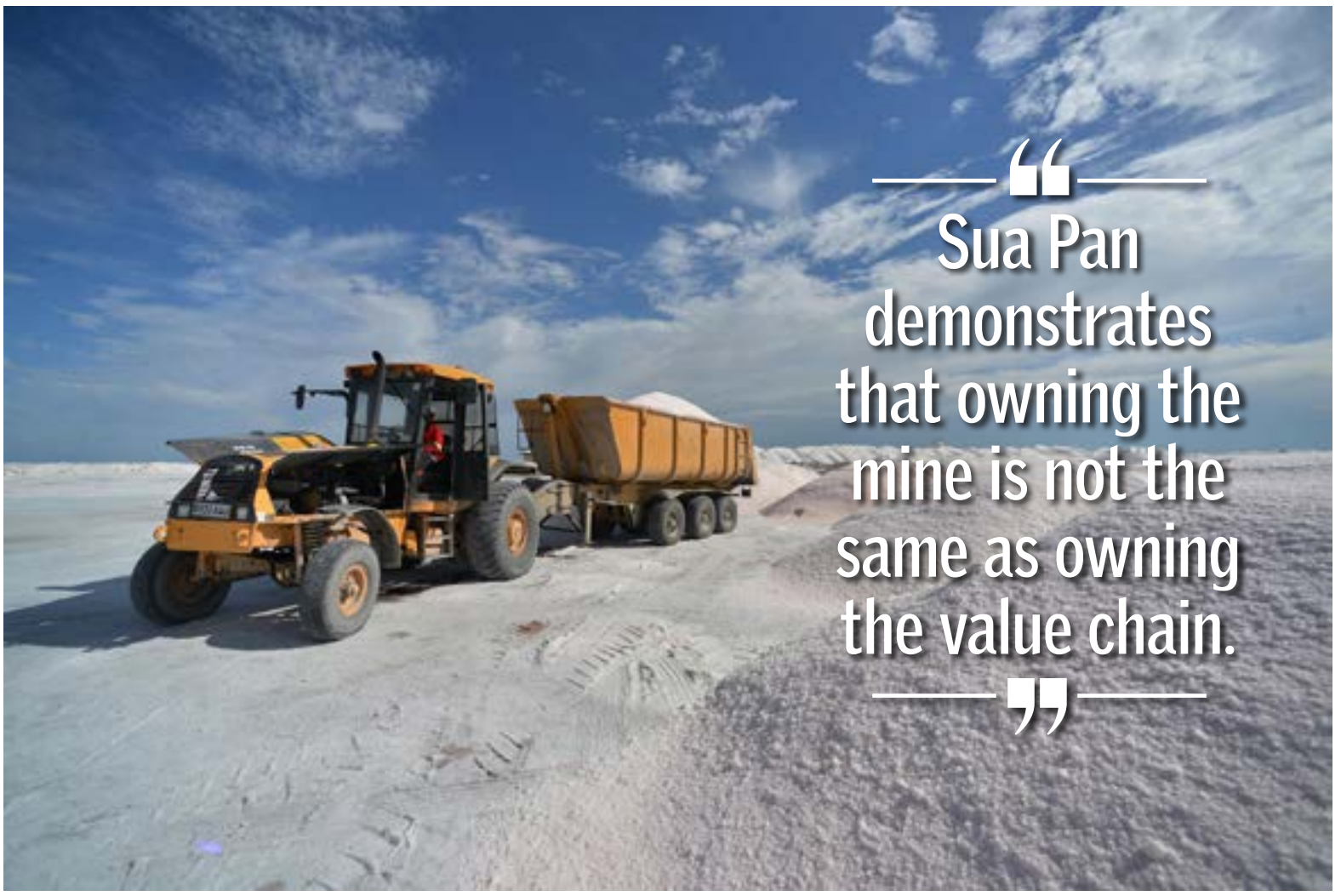
much harder than mineral extraction. A mine can sell a standardised bulk commodity to an established foreign customer. A manufacturer must identify markets, develop products, meet technical standards, secure reliable electricity and water, train workers, manage distribution and compete against experienced producers.

Factories can fail. Products may be rejected. Costs may exceed expectations. Export markets may prove difficult to penetrate. That is precisely why industrialisation cannot be achieved through speeches about beneficiation alone. It requires patient finance, technical capability, coordinated infrastructure, disciplined management and a state willing to share commercial risk without turning every proposed factory into a politically directed project.

RAILWAY LOGIC

Botswana Railways needs bulk traffic. Heavy commodities provide the large, regular volumes on which freight railways depend. But what is rational for the railway may conflict with national industrial policy. Unless government consciously reconciles these competing objectives, the railway's search for bulk freight will help preserve Botswana's role as a supplier of raw and semi-processed materials.



VALUE ELSEWHERE

The celebrated wagons are therefore more than transport equipment. They are a physical expression of Botswana's existing economic model: extraction at Sua Pan, transportation through Botswana and value addition elsewhere.

The question is not whether the wagons should have been acquired. Botash requires reliable transport, and Botswana Railways urgently needs revenue. The question is whether Botswana is simultaneously investing in factories that will gradually reduce the proportion of Sua Pan's output leaving the country in bulk form.

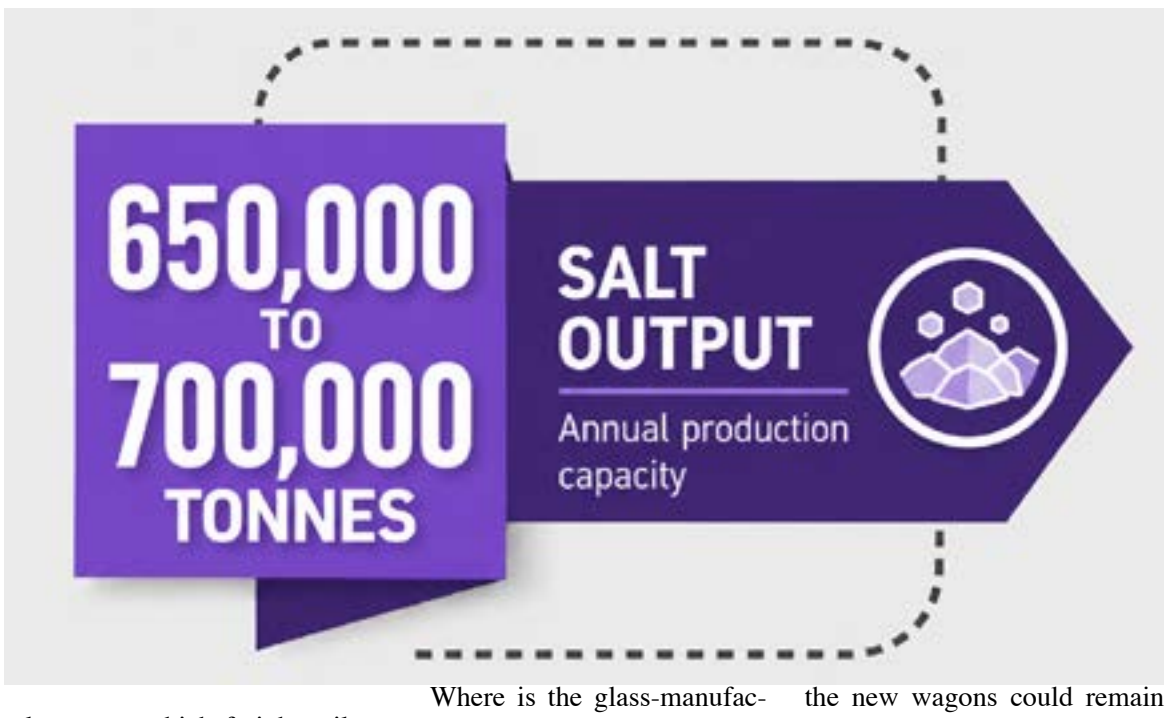
Where is the glass-manufacturing complex? Where are the detergent and water-treatment chemical plants? Where is the animal-feed bicarbonate industry? Where is the fertiliser production? Where is the deliberate programme connecting Botash to Botswana's construction, agriculture, mining, food-processing and public-health needs?

Without those investments, the new wagons could remain in service for decades carrying the same minerals to the same foreign industries. Botswana could arrive in the 2060s still celebrating improved efficiency in exporting the ingredients of products it continues to import.

OLD ORDER

Colonialism established much of Africa as a supplier of raw materials to foreign industry. But decades after independence, African governments have too often preserved that structure themselves because commodity exports offer easier and faster returns than the discipline, persistence and risk required for industrialisation.

Sua Pan demonstrates that owning the mine is not the same as owning the value chain. National ownership may capture dividends and confer influence, but it does not automatically create technology, manufacturing capability or industrial employment.





The arrival of the wagons was celebrated as progress. But we should be crying, not laughing, because for each loaded wagon of raw salt exported, so too is decent employment. Jobs travel out of Botswana on the same railway lines and roads as the raw materials they convey.

Real progress cannot be measured only by how efficiently Botswana removes minerals from the ground and carries them across its borders. The true measure is whether Botswana can transform those minerals into new industries at home. Otherwise, the wagons will carry not only soda ash and salt, but the old economic order far into the country's future.



The Botswana Gazette
TIME OUT
THE BOTSWANA GAZETTE
WEDNESDAY 19 AUGUST 2026

Small Table, Big Pour

Forget the stiff wine lecture. Between The Toast brings wine down to earth, pairing serious bottles with playful food, easy conversation and the kind of atmosphere that makes you want another pour.



GOSEGO MOTSUMI

The table was smaller. The pace was slower. And suddenly, the wine had everyone's attention.

That was the idea behind Between The Toast, the new pop-up concept from Between U & I, the team behind the roving Long Table Experience. Its first outing at the Wild Tree Place in Tlokweng was less formal wine tasting, more stylish afternoon hangout — with tapas, music, conversation and three bottles doing the heavy lifting.

Its debut partner was Rupert & Rothschild Vignerons, the Franschhoek estate forged from the Rupert and Rothschild dynasties. Hosted by global sales and marketing manager Carla Malherbe, the experience turned the wine glass into the centre of the conversation.



THE WINE MEETS ITS MATCH

The opening Baroness Nadine Chardonnay arrived as a spritzer with focaccia and premium extra virgin olive oil — an easy, breezy welcome. The wine then met miso-marinated butterfish sliders and goat-cheese-stuffed eggplant rolls, where creamy textures and bright accompaniments kept things lively.

Classique took the second round, paired with cheesy segwapa croquettes, confit garlic aioli, Caprese cups, whipped feta and hot honey. It was a playful spread, moving between salty, creamy and sweet-hot flavours without overwhelming the wine.

Then came Baron Edmond, the big finish. Steak au poivre, crispy potato stacks and peppercorn cream gave the red something substantial to wrestle with, while creamy mushroom vol-au-vents added another savoury layer. Dessert brought the same wine alongside brown-butter brownie tiramisu — decadent, rich and unapologetically indulgent.

NO EXPERT BADGES REQUIRED

Founder Uyapo Ketogetswe says the concept is intentionally different. "We are doing more of



a pop up restaurant at a beautiful location," he said.

For Malherbe, the afternoon also proved that Botswana is ready for more wine experiences. "Botswana absolutely has a wine culture," she told Time Out, encouraging drinkers to learn without intimidation.

> "Botswana absolutely has a wine culture."

Attendee Sparkle Bedi found the education part of the experience particularly valuable, saying the pairings helped her understand the wines while enjoying them.

The real lesson? Wine doesn't need a velvet rope. Sometimes all it needs is a good table, a curious crowd and something delicious on the plate.

TIRED OF SHARING?



Issa Sisdoh's Big SAMA Moment

Botswana's rising songbird just turned the SAMA stage into another stop on her fast-rising journey.



Issa Sisdoh is having a serious main-character moment. The Botswana songbird took her hit collaboration "Vumadlozi Lami" to the South African Music Awards (SAMA) at Sun City Superbowl, delivering a performance broadcast live on SABC 1 over the weekend.

"Representing Botswana on the SAMA stage means the world to me. Thank you all for listening, streaming, and riding with me!" she said.

The moment comes after "Vumadlozi Lami" earned a SAMA32 nomination for Record of the Year, giving Sisdoh another major milestone in an already busy award season.

With the SAMA stage now checked off, the fast-rising artist is proving she is not merely part of Botswana's new musical wave, she is helping push it beyond the border.

SHEVOLUTION'S GENTLE REVOLT

This is brunch with a backbone where lavender hues meet conversations about power, purpose and the future of women.



The SHEvolution Women's Empowerment Brunch 2026 arrives at Horizon View Rooftop, Game City, on August 22 under the deliciously defiant theme "A Gentle Woman's Revolt, Wrapped in Flowers."

The dress code, "Lavender Skies Soirée," sets the tone, but the real colour comes from conversations around leadership, motherhood, culture, workplace representation, entrepreneurship, sport and global impact.

The speaker lineup includes Matlhogonolo Mponang, Tebogo Lebotse-Sebego, Kgosi Mosadi Seboko, Tumi Gabanamong, Sethunya Ruda, Malebogo Mpugwa and Monica Cinderella Molome.

It is less about simply occupying a room and more about owning the space once you get there.

TIMEOUT BRIEFS

BY GOSEGO MOTSUMI



The Gender Conversation Gets Real

Rosah Basadi Kedisang's new book asks readers to stop normalising harm and start talking honestly about accountability.

Researcher and author Rosah Basadi Kedisang is putting uncomfortable gender conversations between two covers with Women Don't Hurt Men – Men Do Hurt Women: Not All Men, But Enough to Matter.

The 223-page book, published by Stan Montsho Publishers in South Africa, launches September 12 at Travelodge, Gaborone.

Kedisang says the book is not an attack on men, but a call for accountability, healthier masculinity and more honest conversations about gender relations.

"As a researcher and observer of society, I became increasingly concerned by the silence surrounding emotional abuse, neglect, gender-based violence, and the cultural beliefs that continue to protect harmful behaviours," she said.

Her ambition is straightforward: confront inherited assumptions and make room for reflection, responsibility and change.

> "Accountability is not hatred, reflection is not attack."

"In a nutshell, I want readers to understand that accountability is not hatred, reflection is not attack, and confronting harmful patterns is not division, it is responsibility," Kedisang said.

The book sells for P300.

MAROPE'S LONG GAME PAYS OFF

The FNB Art Prize may have arrived in 2026, but visual artist Kelebogile Marope has been quietly earning it for years. Inside the win is a story about memory, persistence, ordinary objects and a Botswana art scene finally pushing beyond its borders.

GAZETTE REPORTER

Awards love the moment. Artists live in the years before it.

For Kelebogile Tshegofatso Marope, the 2026 FNB Art Prize is less a sudden breakthrough than a loud exclamation point at the end of a long, deliberate sentence.

The 41-year-old Ramotswa-born artist has spent more than a decade building a practice around memory, domesticity, repetition and the emotional weight of ordinary things. Now that work has earned one of contemporary African art's significant recognitions and a spotlight at FNB Art Joburg in September.

THE STUFF OF EVERYDAY LIFE

Marope's trick is making the familiar feel strange again.

A household object can become an archive of labour, intimacy and loss. A repeated gesture can become ritual. A burnt surface can become memory.

Her artistic journey began in sculpture and found domestic objects before expanding into drawing, printmaking, painting and materially experimental work. Her question remains deceptively simple: what do the objects and spaces around us remember about us?

Then came the roads.

GRIEF, MARKED OUT

In Road Surface Markings: An Ode to My Father, Marope turns memories of family journeys into visual memorials. Her father drove her and her sisters to school, shops and appointments; after his death during the COVID-19 pandemic, those familiar roads acquired a new emotional charge.



Lines, edges and directions became symbols of movement, guidance, constancy and absence.

It is precisely this ability to turn personal memory into something widely relatable that Lerato Motshwarakgole, founder of Ora Loapi, believes distinguishes Marope.

"She has worked consistently and quietly," Motshwarakgole says. "Specificity is not a limitation."

WHY THIS WIN MATTERS

The prize also lands after years of groundwork. Marope holds undergraduate and postgraduate fine-art degrees from Rhodes University and was part of the team behind the monumental ivory elephant sculpture installed at Sir Seretse Khama International Airport in 2015.

Meanwhile, curatorial and cultural organisation Ora Loapi is preparing to showcase her at FNB Art Joburg as it enters its sixth year at the fair.

For Motshwarakgole, that consistency is the point. "Markets are built through consistency, trust and repeated engagement."

Marope's win therefore represents two victories: an artist being recognised for a practice built patiently over time, and Botswana's contemporary art being pushed into rooms where collectors, curators and institutions are paying attention.

> Meanwhile, Ora Loapi is preparing to showcase her at FNB Art Joburg as it enters its sixth year at the fair.

The next challenge is making sure she is not the exception.

"Kelebogile has won this prize, but Botswana must now win from this moment too, Motshwarakgole says. "Our responsibility is to ensure that she is not an exception. We have to build the systems that make many more stories like hers possible."

GBF Returns With Literary Heavyweights

After a three-year silence, the Gaborone Book Festival is back and it is bringing big names, fresh voices, poetry, Netflix-worthy storytelling and a brand new book market to the National Museum.







GOSEGO MOTSUMI

The books are back on the menu. After disappearing from Gaborone's cultural calendar for three years, the Gaborone Book Festival (GBF) returns from 20–22 August with a programme that feels less like a quiet literary gathering and more like a full-blown cultural reunion.

And one name is already generating serious buzz: Sue Nyathi, whose novel The Polygamist has been adapted into a Netflix series, bringing her sharp exploration of love, marriage and modern African life to a global audience.

THREE YEARS LATER, THE PAGES TURN

Co-founder Kenanao Phele told Time Out that the comeback is deliberately expansive, with the festival staged in partnership with the Office of the Vice Chancellor for Research at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Dr Kirk Sides, an associate professor of English at the university, joins as co-curator.

> "And one name is already generating serious buzz: Sue Nyathi, whose novel The Polygamist has been adapted into a Netflix series."

But this is not simply an international guest showcase. The festival puts Botswana's literary voices firmly in the spotlight, with Thalefang Charles, Phodiso Modirwa, Kenneth Middleton, Gothataone Moeng, Priscillar Ndadi, Pearl Stabile Ndovu and Onica Lekuntwane among the featured writers.

Game Zeus Bantsi and folklore artist Ntirelang Berman also join the programme, proving that the festival's idea of a "book" extends well beyond the printed page.

FROM POETRY TO PLAYGROUND

Opening night hands the microphone to poetry, with performances and readings from Modirwa and Berman. Meanwhile, 50 children from Gaborone public schools will enter their own literary universe through a writing workshop facilitated by festival authors.

The freshest addition may be Saturday's open book market, inviting readers to browse and buy directly from local authors.

After three years away, Gaborone is not merely reopening the book festival. It is making a case for reading, writing and storytelling as part of the city's cultural life.

And with Nyathi bringing a little Netflix electricity to the room, this comeback already has a plot twist.

The 48th Chapter Of Ngoni

Wilson Ngoni did not just mark his 48th birthday. He turned the occasion into a two day art affair, unveiling fresh work, revisiting old favourites and putting his evolving creative legacy on the wall.

GOSEGO MOTSUMI



Forget cake and candles. Wilson Ngoni marked his 48th birthday the Ngoni way: with paint, emotion and a room full of work that refuses to sit quietly.

At Thapong Visual Arts Centre, XLVIII became more than an exhibition. It was a birthday party disguised as an art show and a snapshot of an artist still restless enough to reinvent himself.

A LIVING, BREATHING LEGACY

The exhibition brought together never-before-seen works with familiar favourites from the Magotsetso series and Mma Dikopi, alongside Ngoni's abstract pieces. The result was less retrospective than revelation: a look at where the artist has been, where he is and where he might be going next.

Ambassador of Ukraine to Botswana Oleksiy Syvak captured the emotional charge of the show.

"What makes art true is that when you look at it you feel true emotions."

That emotional response, he suggested, was precisely what Ngoni's work demanded not neutrality, but feeling.

> "What makes art true is that when you look at it you feel true emotions."

ART YOU COULD TAKE HOME

There was another twist: the paintings were actually for sale, with special birthday prices designed to make collecting Ngoni a little less intimidating.

"We have deliberately reduced the prices to make it possible for more art lovers and collectors to take a piece of Wilson Ngoni's artistic journey home with them," curator Thabo Kgatlwane said.

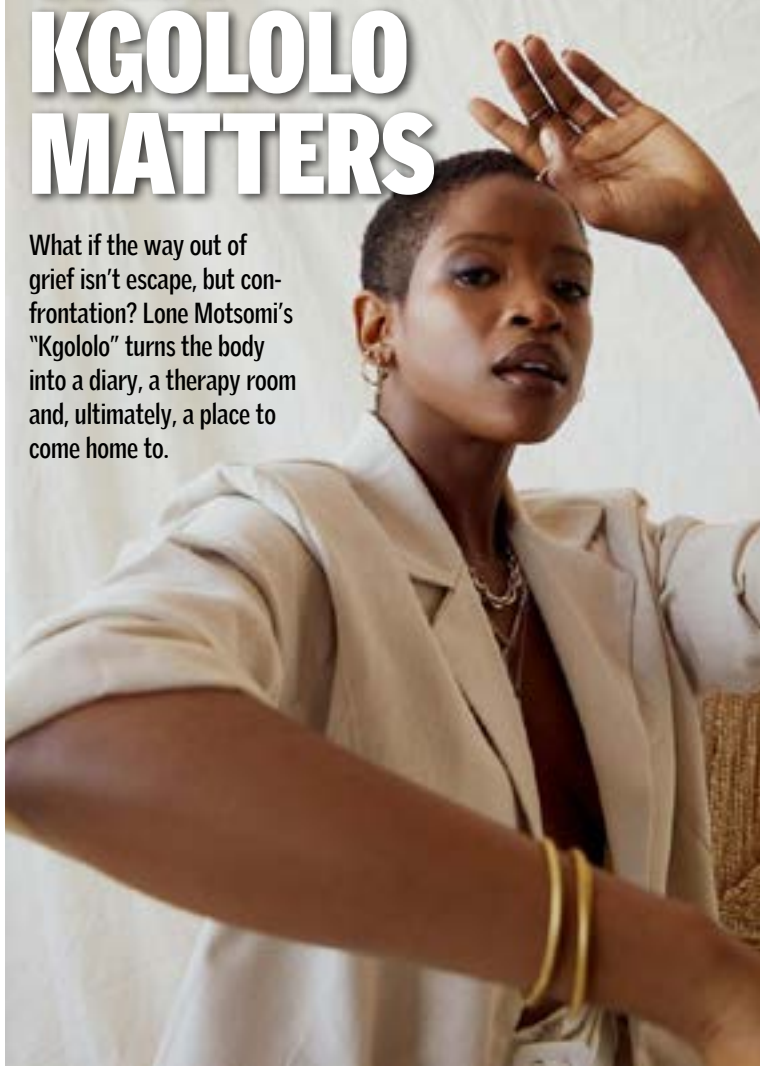
His message was blunt: "If you have ever wanted to own an original Wilson Ngoni, this was the moment."

For Ngoni, though, XLVIII feels less like a finish line than a launchpad. He is planning 200 large abstract paintings under the title My Journey, a project that suggests his biggest chapter may still be ahead.



WHY KGOLOLO MATTERS

What if the way out of grief isn't escape, but confrontation? Lone Motsomi's "Kgololo" turns the body into a diary, a therapy room and, ultimately, a place to come home to.



GOSEGO MOTSUMI

Some stories arrive with a script. Others arrive in the body.

On August 30, Lone Motsomi will bring *Kgololo — The Way Out Is Inward* to Maitisong Theatre, but calling it simply a dance performance misses the point. This is an emotional excavation set to movement — part theatre, part ritual, part reckoning.

And that is precisely why *Kgololo* matters.

WHEN DANCE BECOMES THERAPY

In Setswana, *kgololo* means liberation. For Motsomi, the word carries another layer: it is inspired by her late father's name, transforming something inherited in childhood into a symbol of adult healing.

The piece follows a difficult route through childhood pain, grief, absence, resentment and spiritual questioning before arriving at self-acceptance.

Motsomi's own research, *The Rhythm of Healing: The Healing Power of Dance*, explored how movement can support emotional restoration. *Kgololo* takes that research off the academic page and puts it under the stage lights.

There are no neat answers here. Instead, there is the uncomfortable business of sitting with confusion and confronting the things that refuse to disappear.

"One figures out how to mother themself," the production notes say.

"Dance becomes the language through which suppressed emotions can be expressed and released."

A STORY THAT COMES HOME

After earning a Master of Fine Arts in Dance Choreography and Theatre Production from Nanjing University of the Arts in China, Motsomi is returning to Botswana with a work that is deeply rooted in home.

Mpho Sebina, the production's media and marketing coordinator, calls it "a homecoming" — a return from the world stage to "her own ground, her own people, and a story of liberation."

That return gives *Kgololo* another significance. Motsomi is not simply presenting contemporary African dance; she is using it to ask what African stories can look like when memory, identity and healing occupy the centre of the stage.

THE BODY AS A MEMORY BANK

With more than 12 years in performance, Motsomi has worked across dance, theatre and film, including productions such as *The Woman King*, *Shaka iLembe*, *King Shaka*, *G20* and *Blood & Water*. She has also performed on Broadway in *PULA! The Musical*.

> "Dance becomes the language through which suppressed emotions can be expressed and released."

But *Kgololo* is perhaps her most personal stage yet.

Directed by Tefo Paya and produced by MotherK Masire, it brings traditional influences, contemporary movement and storytelling into an intimate solo performance.

Because sometimes liberation isn't about forgetting the past.

It is about finally being able to move with it.

SIDE BAR

August 30, 2026 | Maitisong Theatre

Tickets: P200 single | P300 double | P100 students

Bookings: Webtickets



TASTE THE WORLD COMES HOME

From Nigerian jollof and Mexican tacos to Asian favourites and a playful take on Botswana's seswaa, Taste The World is inviting Gaborone diners to travel through food without leaving the city.

STAFF WRITER

What if a Saturday afternoon could take your taste buds from Nigeria to Mexico, through China and Japan, before bringing them right back home to Botswana? That is the idea behind

> "We like to play around with flavors, certain things that you would never think would go well together,"

Taste The World, a food experience by On The Menu that will take over Joy City Park, formerly Tolofelo Park, on 29 August. Founder Jadidah Maphosa says the event is for people who are curious about international cuisine but may never have travelled to these countries or had an opportunity to experience their food.



WORLD PLATE

The journey begins in Nigeria with jollof rice, plantain and suya, before moving into Asian flavours with sushi and mushu chicken. Mexico brings tacos, tortillas and ceviche, while Botswana's contribution takes something familiar and gives it a twist. Rather than serving seswaa in the traditional way, On The Menu will pair it with dumplings and coleslaw. It is an approach that reflects the company's wider philosophy towards food. "We like to play around with flavors, certain things that you would never think would go well together," says Maphosa.



TASTE FIRST

The idea is not simply to put unfamiliar dishes in front of people, but to make experimenting with food easy and fun. Guests can sample the different cuisines before deciding whether to buy full meals, removing some of the hesitation that can come with ordering something completely unfamiliar. Maphosa says their experience at markets has shown that while Batswana naturally gravitate towards food they know, many become surprisingly adventurous once they

> "All you have to do is just taste it and just be open-minded."

are given an opportunity to taste something different. "All you have to do is just taste it and just be open-minded," she says.

SATURDAY ESCAPE

Beyond the food, On The Menu wants Taste The World to feel like a relaxed Saturday experience rather than simply another place to eat. The setting will be carefully curated with decor and a comfortable, family-friendly atmosphere where people can arrive with friends and family or even come alone and meet others.

Taste The World takes place at Joy City Park on 29 August from 2pm to 7pm. Adult tickets cost P180 and include two tastings, while children aged 10 and below pay P50, with a separate children's menu available.

When Views Don't Pay

Botswana's creators have the views, the followers and the hustle. What they don't have is a reliable way to turn local attention into cash and that is changing what gets posted.



GOSEGO MOTSUMI

For Botswana's content creators, going viral can be a strangely expensive hobby. The likes roll in, the comments pile up, the views climb and somewhere between buying camera gear, fuel, props and costumes, the question becomes brutally simple: where's the money?

For local comedian and content creator Maatla Basha, the answer is painfully clear. After more than a decade creating online, his social-media earnings sit at just R1,375.39, money he says he cannot withdraw because the platforms require tax information and banking details from countries such as South Africa or the United States.



"I have never withdrawn once," Basha says, pointing to the barriers facing creators operating from Botswana.

THE PRICE OF A VIEW

Botswana-based creators can build sizeable audiences, but local views do not always translate into platform revenue. On YouTube, for example, advertising-based monetisation has not been broadly available to creators targeting audiences in Botswana.

That creates an awkward economy: creators spend real money producing content for audiences whose attention generates little direct platform income.

"So you see why we no longer do videos and post," Basha says. "I guess I have answered the question of 'Maatla where are the videos these days?'"

And the disappearing videos are the point. When creativity costs money but the audience cannot pay the creator through the platform, consistency becomes difficult to sustain.

BRAND DEALS BECOME THE PAYDAY

Some creators have found another route: turn their feeds into advertising space without turning them into obvious adverts.

Comedians and creators including Van Gauteng, Thongbotho, Tinnere and Theo Mojumi have increasingly folded brand campaigns into their regular content.

"I'm not monetized at all, I'm really living off brand deals," Mojumi told Time Out.

It is an increasingly important distinction. Botswana's creators are not necessarily running out of ideas; they are running into an infrastructure problem.

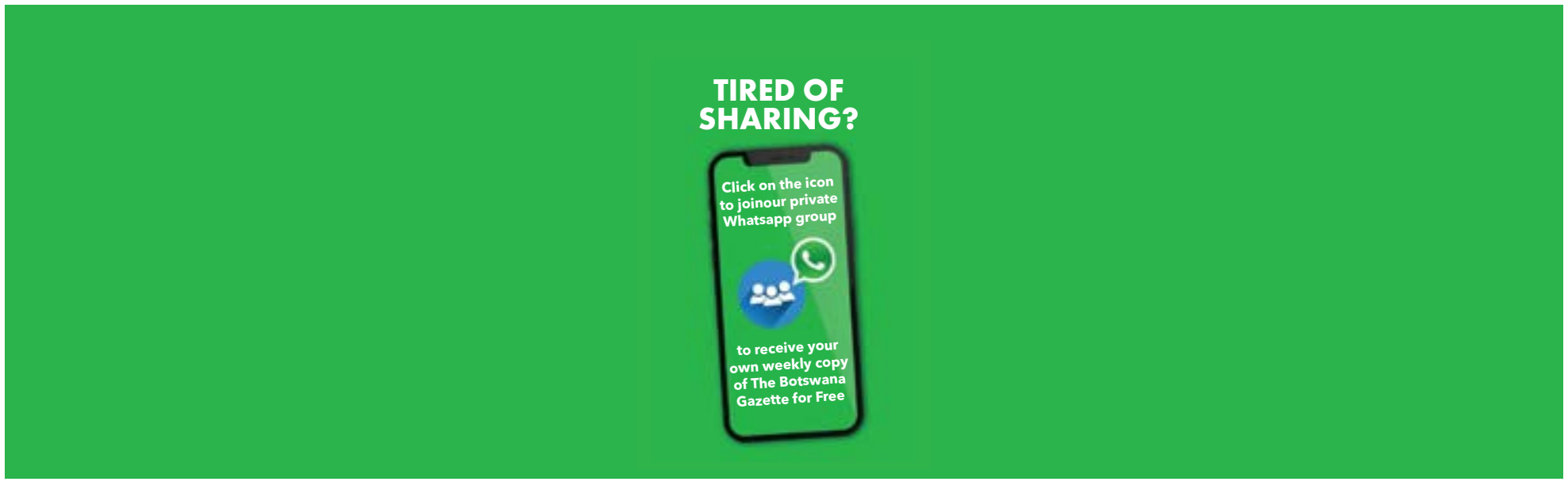
THE WAIT FOR A PAYDAY

The government says it is negotiating with TikTok, Meta and Google to unlock monetisation, including efforts to "whitelist" Botswana and enable YouTube creator earnings.

> "When creativity costs money but the audience cannot pay the creator through the platform, consistency becomes difficult to sustain."

If those talks deliver, the impact could go beyond influencers. It could help turn content creation from an expensive side hustle into a functioning creative industry, one where Botswana's biggest resource, its audience, finally has a measurable value.





Zorz Turns Up In Gaborone

Forget choosing between dinner and a night out. Zorz is bringing its South African chisanyama formula to Gaborone with a bigger ambition: turn African food, music and community into one polished social experience.

GOSEGO MOTSUMI

What happens when a chisanyama gets dressed up, orders the lights, turns up the music and decides dinner should probably last all night?

Zorz Luxury Chisanyama is betting Gaborone wants to find out.

The Midrand-born hospitality brand is opening in Gaborone at the end of August, bringing an upscale spin to a format traditionally built around fire, meat, music and people. But Zorz says it is not simply importing a South African venue. Its bigger play is to create a distinctly African social space that can speak Botswana's language.

"We want Zorz Botswana to become part of Botswana's hospitality and creative ecosystem," says Khomotso Teffo of Zorz in an interview.

NOT JUST MEAT ON A FIRE

Zorz's philosophy starts with an old idea: chisanyama has always been about more than food.

It is gathering. It is conversation. It is music, sharing and community. Zorz wants to keep that DNA while adding the polish of premium dining and entertainment.

The result is designed for the person who arrives hungry and leaves several hours later wondering where the evening went.

"We want them to come in for a great meal and find themselves staying for the music, atmosphere and entertainment," Teffo says.

BOTSWANA, BUT WITH ZORZ DNA

The interesting part is what happens when the Midrand formula crosses the border.



Zorz says it will not copy and paste its existing operation. The food, hospitality, music and entertainment remain central, but local tastes, talent and social habits will shape the Botswana version.

> Zorz says its one-to-three-year ambition is longevity: becoming a go-to destination for celebrations, dining and entertainment while building a sustainable business.

Guests should recognise Zorz immediately while still knowing they are in Gaborone.

That localisation could be the difference between another imported nightlife concept and something that actually becomes part of the city.



> "We want Zorz Botswana to become part of Botswana's hospitality and creative ecosystem."

ENTER THE MOGODU MONDAY

Then there is Mogodu Mondays, a weekly ritual built around comfort food, nostalgia and the taste of home.

The thinking is simple: take something culturally familiar, give it a social setting and make Monday feel considerably less Monday.

Beyond the plates, Zorz says it wants to create jobs, collaborate with local creatives and connect Botswana talent with wider regional audiences.

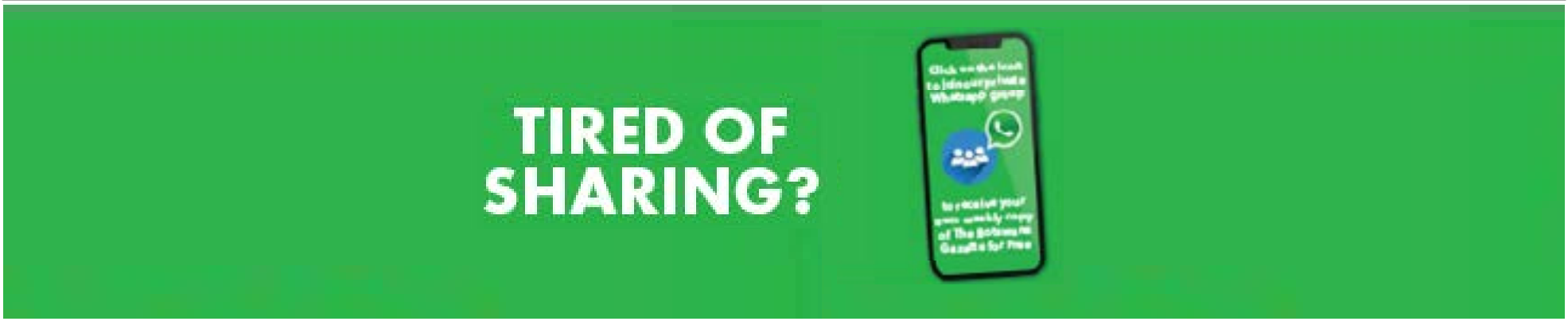
THE REAL FLEX: STAYING POWER

Opening night is easy. Becoming a habit is harder.

Zorz says its one-to-three-year ambition is longevity: becoming a go-to destination for celebrations, dining and entertainment while building a sustainable business.

And perhaps the boldest ambition is becoming more than a South African export.

The goal, Teffo says, is for Zorz to be seen "as a completely African brand."





CURIOSITY OPENS MORE THAN BOTTLES

The best way to grow your palate is not through expensive gadgets or rigid preferences, but by staying curious enough to keep exploring what is in the glass.

Wine people love gadgets. Decanters shaped like modern art, thermometers, aerators, Coravins and glasses designed with such precision that one begins to suspect there must be a specific glass somewhere for drinking wine on alternate Tuesdays in leap years.

And look, I enjoy a good wine accessory as much as the next person. I have spent an unreasonable amount of money on objects whose sole purpose is to improve my experience of fermented grape juice. The right glass does make a difference. A good decanter has its place. A reliable corkscrew is essential.

But after years of drinking wine, studying wine, writing about wine and helping build a community around wine, I have come to a rather inconvenient conclusion: the most important wine tool isn't a corkscrew. It is curiosity.

Because curiosity opens far more than bottles. It opens regions, grape varieties, stories, conversations and, occasionally, the uncomfortable realisation that the wine you confidently declared you disliked may actually be something you enjoy.

FREEDOM TO DISLIKE

Let's establish something immediately: there is no prize for liking every wine. You are allowed to dislike things. You can dislike a Chardonnay. You can dislike a Pinot Noir. You can dislike heavily oaked reds. You can dislike natural wine, orange wine or any wine that smells as though it has just completed a strenuous hike through a barnyard.

That is perfectly acceptable. The mistake is not disliking something. The mistake is deciding you dislike everything in that category forever.

"I don't like Chardonnay" is a remarkably confident statement considering Chardonnay can taste like crisp green apples, tropical fruit, citrus, buttered toast, vanilla, cream or almost nothing like what you expected, depending on where it was grown and how it was made.

It is a bit like saying you do not like music. Not one song. Not one artist. Not one genre. Ever. Wine, like music, is far too diverse to be reduced to one experience.

> "Because curiosity opens far more than bottles."

Confidence in your palate is important. Curiosity is what keeps that confidence from becoming stubbornness.



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.

WINE LOVERS DISAGREE

One of my favourite things about wine is that there is no final authority. There is no referee who blows a whistle and declares, "This is officially the best wine in the room, everyone else can go home."

At the Gaborone Wine Club, some of the most enjoyable moments come from disagreement. These are people who have explored wine, attended tastings, visited wine farms, read about producers and spent years developing their palates. Yet we still disagree. Often.

One person finds elegance where another finds

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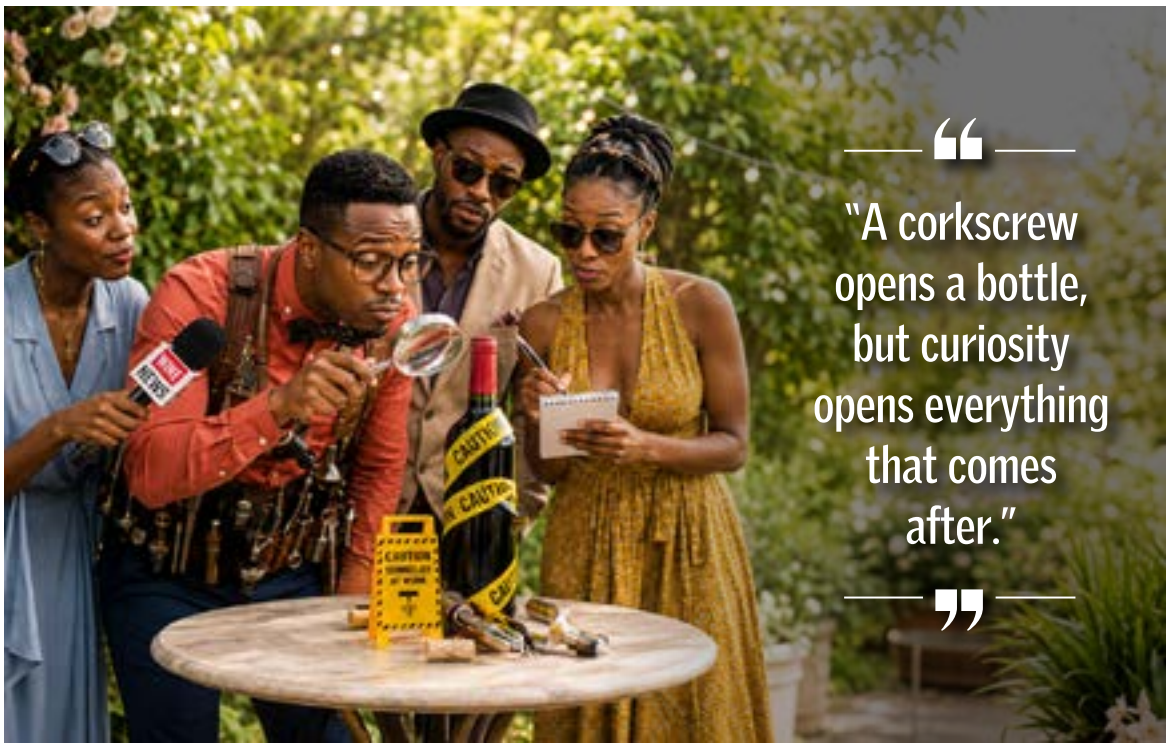

from page 33

disappointment. One person discovers beautiful floral notes while another insists the wine reminds them of something entirely different. Someone declares a wine extraordinary, while another politely wonders whether they accidentally poured from the wrong bottle.

TRUST YOUR PALATE

Too many people are afraid to admit they do not enjoy a wine. They take a sip, look around the table and, instead of being honest, offer a safe "interesting."

In wine language, "interesting" can mean anything from "this is a beautifully complex expression of terroir" to "I would rather drink something else." And that is okay.

You do not have to enjoy a wine simply because it is expensive. You do not have to enjoy it because a critic awarded it 98 points. You do not have to enjoy it because everyone else at the table is discussing it with the reverence usually reserved for national monuments.

Confidence without curiosity becomes arrogance. Curiosity without confidence becomes insecurity. Wine requires both.



PALATES GROW

Nobody begins their wine journey identifying obscure aromas, recognising regions blind or confidently discussing every grape variety under the sun. We build our understanding the same way we build knowledge in any other area: through experience.

Try a grape you have never heard of. Buy a bottle from a region you cannot pronounce. Ask a retailer what excites them. Visit a wine farm and, instead of announcing that you are "a Sauvignon Blanc person" or "a Cabernet person", ask the winemaker what they think you should try.

Nobody knows the wine better than the person who made it.

KEEP EXPLORING

A corkscrew opens a bottle, but curiosity opens everything that comes after. It creates better conversations, better food pairings, better stories and a deeper appreciation of what is in the glass.

> "Confidence without curiosity becomes arrogance. Curiosity without confidence becomes insecurity. Wine requires both."

The world's wine shelves are filled with thousands of grape varieties, countless regions and producers whose stories are waiting to be discovered. Some bottles will disappoint you. Some will amaze you. Both experiences have value.

So keep your corkscrew close. It remains an essential piece of equipment. But keep your curiosity closer. It is still the most important wine tool you will ever own.

VACANCIES EXIST:

A newly established Chinese Restaurant (KAZELE) based in Kazungula urgently requires service of two (2) qualified and experienced **Chefs.**

The incumbents should hold a Diploma in cooking & catering or anything equivalent and should have preferably 4 - 5 years of post-qualification relevant work experience as Chinese Chef specializing in all kinds of Chinese Cuisine.

The above said positions offer attractive salary packages and fringe benefits.

Interested applicants should urgently apply in confidence with full details to:-

THE MANAGING DIRECTOR
SAN XIANG TRADING (PTY) LTD.
PRIVATE BAG K62
KASANE

Closing Date: 4th September, 2026

APPLICATION FOR A CCERTIFIED COPY OF LOST TITLE DEED

NOTICE IS HEREBY given that the undermentioned intends applying for a certified copy of **DEED OF TRANSFER No. 826/2009** dated the **24th** day of **SEPTEMBER 2009** passed in favour of **RAVENS NEST (PROPRIETARY) LIMITED** in respect of the following property, that is:

CERTAIN : Piece of Land being Portion 7 of Farm No. 11-NQ;

SITUATE : In the North East Administrative District;

MEASURING: 6,7421 Ha (Six comma Seven Four Two One Hectares)

All persons having objection to the issue of such copy are hereby required to lodge the same in writing with the Registrar of Deeds at **FRANCISTOWN** within **twenty one (21) days** from the second publication of this notice.

DATED AT FRANCISTOWN ON THIS THE 10TH DAY OF AUGUST 2026

VAN NIEKERK ATTORNEYS,
Plot 4660, Ditau Street, Area G
P. O. Box 37, Francistown

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

CASE NO. CVHFT 000 126/26

In the matter between:
SUPREME BUSINESS VENTURES (PTY) LTD **PLAINTIFF**
And
LE SYNDICATE INVESTMENTS (PTY) LTD **1st DEFENDANT**
MWANSA CHANDA **2ND 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 F. Mashamaite to the Highest Bidder:

DATE OF SALE : 10th September 2026
TIME : 10.00a.m.
VENUE : Ntshe House Francistown
PROPERTY TO BE SOLD : 1 x KIA MODEL K2700, Engine No. J2492121 OF Reg No. B506ANS.

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

CONDITION OF SALE : Cash or Bank guaranteed cheques.

DATED AT FRANCISTOWN ON THIS 17TH DAY OF AUGUST 2026.

MMOHE ATTORNEYS

DEPUTY SHERIFF ZACHARIAH F. MASHAMAITE
C/O M MMOHE ATTORNEYS
Plot 3936, Peolwane Street
Minestone
P.O. Box 1860
FRANCISTOWN
DCOLL 37/2026 GKB/ll

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

CASE NO. CCMBR- 000066/26

In the matter between:
VIPRE SECURITY (PTY) LTD **PLAINTIFF**
And
DUNCAN IKITSENG **DEFENDANT**

NOTICE OF SALE IN EXECUTION

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

DATE OF SALE : 04TH September 2026
VENUE : In front of Broadhurst Magistrate Court, Gaborone
TIME : 10:00 AM
PROPERTY TO BE SOLD : FORD RANGER REG: B 392 BAU (DOUBLE CAB ORANGE)

TERMS OF SALE : Cash or Electronic Fund Transfer

DEPUTY SHERRIF TUMELO MOGOROSI
P O BOX 20041 BONTLENG
GABORONE
Contact Mr. Mogorosi @ +267 72445567//+267 77090903

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

CASE No. CVHFT 000 351/21

In the matter between:
FIRST NATIONAL BANK OF BOTSWANA **APPLICANT**
And
TENDAE A. KHOLI **RESPONDENT**
In Re:
FIRST NATIONAL BANK OF BOTSWANA **CASE NO: CVHFT 000 351/21**
PLAINTIFF
And
TENDAE A. KHOLI **DEFENDANT**

SUBSTITUTED SERVICE

TO: **TENDAE A. KHOLI**
(Respondent)
TONOTA

whose whereabouts are unknown:

BE PLEASED TO TAKE NOTICE that summons for imprisonment of debt has been issued against you in this Honourable Court by **FIRST NATIONAL BANK OF BOTSWANA**.

You are hereby **TENDAE A. KHOLI** summoned to appear before Justice Sechele at **FRANCISTOWN HIGH COURT** on the **5th** day of **October, 2026 at 09:00 a.m**. to show cause why a decree for civil imprisonment should not be made against you at the suit of **FIRST NATIONAL BANK OF BOTSWANA** in respect of the non-payment of the sum of P67 983.73, together with interest thereon at the rate of prime plus 18% per annum from 15th day of April 2021 to the date of payment, 10% collection commission in the event of paying the amount in instalment and costs of suit at attorney and own client recovered against you by the said **FIRST NATIONAL BANK OF BOTSWANA** by a judgment of this Court bearing the 1st day of April 2022.

DATED AT FRANCISTOWN THIS 17TH DAY OF AUGUST, 2026

MMOHE ATTORNEYS

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

DEPUTY REGISTRAR & MASTER

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 : 22nd October 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

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

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

CASE NO. CCMBR- 001222/25

In the matter between:
VIPRE SECURITY (PTY) LTD **PLAINTIFF**
And
PHILLIMON KETSHABILE **DEFENDANT**

NOTICE OF SALE IN EXECUTION

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

DATE OF SALE : 04th September 2026
VENUE : In front of Broadhurst Magistrate Court, Gaborone
TIME : 10:00 AM
PROPERTY TO BE SOLD : Union H0 9 Stove, Hisense Fridge, DEFY Microwave, L9 Television.

TERMS OF SALE : Cash or Electronic Fund Transfer

DEPUTY SHERRIF TUMELO MOGOROSI
P O BOX 20041 BONTLENG
GABORONE
Contact Mr. Mogorosi @ +267 72445567//+267 77090903

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

CASE NO. CCMBR- 000072/26

In the matter between:
VIPRE SECURITY (PTY) LTD **PLAINTIFF**
And
SPT INVESTMENTS (PTY) LTD **DEFENDANT**

NOTICE OF SALE IN EXECUTION

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

DATE OF SALE : 04th September 2026
VENUE : In front of Broadhurst Magistrate Court, Gaborone
TIME : 10:00 AM
PROPERTY TO BE SOLD : KIC DEEP Fridge, DOUBLE DOOR Industrial Fridge, DOUBLE DOOR Industrial Fridge DEEP Fridge, SNOOKER (Pool Table).

TERMS OF SALE : Cash or Electronic Fund Transfer

DEPUTY SHERRIF TUMELO MOGOROSI
P O BOX 20041 BONTLENG
GABORONE
Contact Mr. Mogorosi @ +267 72445567//+267 77090903



BABITSENG SEES CAF UPGRADE AS TURNING POINT

The BFA president says the National Stadium's provisional Category 3 status gives Botswana greater choice in hosting international football and strengthens its prospects of staging more continental events

GAZETTE REPORTER

Botswana's National Stadium has been provisionally upgraded to Category 3 by the Confederation of African Football (CAF), giving the country greater flexibility in hosting international football, according to Botswana Football Association (BFA) President and COSAFA President Tariq Babitseng.

The approval follows a recent CAF inspection and comes after investment by the BFA in the refurbishment and improvement of the National Stadium to meet the required standards for international competitions.

For Babitseng, the development is significant because it gives Botswana the ability to choose between cities when hosting national team matches, allowing the benefits associated with international football to reach different parts of the country.

"We are pushing for Category 3 so we can now have a choice between the two cities so they both benefit with all that comes with the hosting of the national team in their respective cities," Babitseng said.

The provisional Category 3 approval will enable the BFA to utilise the National Stadium for upcoming CAF qualifiers and the Intercontinental Club Championship, subject to the applicable competition requirements.

GOVERNMENT PARTNERSHIP

Babitseng also singled out Minister of Sports Jacob Kelebeng for the support he has provided to the project, saying the BFA has agreed to partner with the Government where its resources permit.

"We appreciate the support the Minister of Sports, Jacob Kelebeng, has been giving and we have agreed to partner with the Government where our resources permit," he said.

He also acknowledged the management and staff of the Botswana National Sports Council (BNSC) for being part of the project.

The BFA president said the collaboration between the association, Government and the BNSC could help Botswana expand its sporting infrastructure and improve its ability to host international competitions.

BIGGER OPPORTUNITIES

"Most importantly, also to BNSC management and staff for being part of the project," Babitseng said. "These collaborations will make Botswana have more facilities and stand a good chance in hosting more events for CAF and COSAFA."

The BFA said it takes pride in the milestone and acknowledged the leadership and commitment that made the investment in the refurbishment project possible.

> "These collaborations will make Botswana have more facilities and stand a good chance in hosting more events for CAF and COSAFA."

The association said the upgrading of the National Stadium represents an important step in strengthening Botswana's football infrastructure and creating better facilities for teams, players, officials and supporters.

The BFA remains committed to investing in football infrastructure and ensuring that Botswana continues to meet international football standards.

Botswana Darts Targets Region 5 Podium

With home advantage and a 26-player squad, Botswana is aiming to reclaim its place among the region's leading darts nations

TLOTLO KEBINAKGABO

Botswana's darts team is preparing to use home advantage to restore its position among the region's top teams when the AUSC Region 5 Championships take place in Gaborone from Aug. 24 to 28.

The Botswana Darts Association named its final 26-member squad on May 30, with the team now using its training camp to prepare for the demands of the regional competition.

Kagiso Kitso, secretary general of the Botswana Darts Association, said the camp is focused on match sharpness, endurance, team coordination, mental preparation and finishing.

MATCH PREPARATION

Players are running full match simulations to become accustomed to the round-robin format, which requires consistency across multiple games.

The team is also spending significant time working on pairs and team events, where accumulated team points will determine the overall champions.

"Training camp is focused on match sharpness & round-robin endurance," Kitso said.

The preparations also include clinics on checkout strategies, pressure shots and 180 scoring, with fitness and readiness forming part of the programme.

Hosting the championships has allowed the team to conduct more practice matches without the additional travelling expenses associated with training elsewhere.

TARGETING TOP THREE

Botswana's immediate objective is to recover the standing it lost at the previous championships in Eswatini two years ago.

"This year our plan is to bring back our Top 3 status we lost in Eswatini two years ago and challenge the overall championship," Kitso said.

The association is targeting gold contention in the senior men's and senior women's team events, while also seeking podium finishes in singles and pairs across the Senior, Veterans and U25 categories.

Overall, the target is a Top 3 finish on the AUSC Region 5 log.

BEYOND COMPETITION

For BODA, hosting the championships is also about expanding the sport's profile in Botswana.

With about eight SADC countries expected to compete, Kitso said the event will give darts greater exposure through national television, radio and social media.

He said hosting could help move darts from being viewed primarily as a "pub sport" to becoming a recognised national team sport.

Local players will also gain international exposure without travelling costs, while schools and clubs will have an opportunity to watch regional players compete.

The event is expected to benefit local leagues through improvements in venues and officiating standards, while visiting teams, officials and fans could support hotels, transport operators and other businesses in Gaborone.

SUPPORT STILL NEEDED

BODA is seeking government support for team kits, equipment, training camp costs and hosting logistics. Kitso identified the Ministry of Sport and Botswana National Sport Commission as important to accreditation, venues and athlete welfare.

The corporate sector is also being asked to support prize money, dartboards, branding and media coverage, including opportunities to sponsor specific categories such as the Senior Women's Team.

"Hosting gives brands direct exposure to about 8 countries," Kitso said.

BTTA REVISES 2026 CALENDAR



The changes are aimed at accommodating two international youth competitions Botswana will host in November while allowing athletes and clubs time to prepare

GAZETTE REPORTER

The Botswana Table Tennis Association (BTTA) has revised its 2026 events calendar to accommodate international competitions it will host later this year, according to a statement issued by its Publicity Secretary, Tshegofatso Malepa.

Malepa said the adjustments were intended to minimise clashes between local and international programmes, give clubs and athletes adequate preparation time, and ensure Botswana meets the requirements for hosting international competitions.

The association will host the Commonwealth Youth Championship on November 8 and 9, followed by the WTT Youth Contender from November 11 to 14. Both competitions will be held in Gaborone.

"The hosting of these events is an important milestone for us as an Association," Malepa said in the statement.

She said the competitions would give young Botswana players an opportunity to compete against international opposition on home soil while increasing Botswana's exposure within the global table tennis community.

The events will also provide officials, coaches and technical personnel with experience in hosting and managing international competitions, according to the statement.

DOMESTIC PROGRAMME

Under the revised calendar, the Kgatleng Open Tournament will take place on August 29 as initially planned. The Club Championships will follow on September 12, while the Independence Grand Finale is scheduled for September 30.

The Dithubaruba TTC Open is scheduled for November 7, followed by the Jwaneng Open on November 28.

BTTA said venues for tournaments and competitions on the updated calendar would be announced in due course. Further information on venues and other logistical arrangements will be communicated through the association's official channels.

Malepa urged clubs, players, coaches, officials and other stakeholders to take note of the revised dates and make the necessary preparations.

INTERNATIONAL COMMITMENTS

Botswana's senior national team is scheduled to participate in the Senior Africa Championships in Morocco from October 18 to 25.

The year will conclude with the AUSC Region 5 Youth U19 competition in Mozambique, scheduled for December 4 to 13.

BTTA said it remained committed to delivering a competitive domestic calendar while ensuring Botswana continues to host and participate in major international table tennis events.

In a separate announcement, Malepa said India-based Aurther Kgaswe is expected to return to Botswana on Tuesday through Sir Seretse Khama International Airport at 12:30 p.m. after successfully completing his studies in India.

According to the statement, Kgaswe's return marks the end of his academic journey and the beginning of a new chapter back home.

Kids Independence Run Set to Ignite Gaborone

The September race is targeting a major turnout as Botswana prepares to celebrate 60 years of independence

GAZETTE REPORTER



Preparations are underway for the 2026 Independence Kids Run, scheduled for Sept. 26 in Gaborone's central business district as Botswana celebrates its 60th Independence Anniversary.

The event follows the Absa Summer Kids Marathon in April, which attracted more than 1,800 young participants from across the country. Organisers say the turnout demonstrated growing interest in youth participation in sport, healthy living and community engagement.

The Independence Kids Run is intended to bring together children, families, schools, corporate partners and the wider community in a celebration of Botswana's diamond jubilee.

Beyond physical activity, the event is positioned as an opportunity to promote healthy lifestyles, patriotism, national pride and social inclusion through sport.

EARLY REGISTRATION

Registration is underway, with parents and guardians encouraged to secure places for their children early.

Organisers say preparations are progressing to provide participants with a safe and memorable experience as part of the country's 60th Independence celebrations.

> "The Independence Kids Run presents another opportunity to unite families, celebrate our nation's journey, and inspire the next generation through healthy recreation."

Speaking ahead of the event, co-founder Moagi Madisa expressed confidence that this year's edition would be the biggest yet.

"The incredible turnout during the Absa Summer Kids Marathon demonstrated the enthusiasm that Botswana's children have for sport and active living. As we commemorate 60 years of independence, the Independence Kids Run presents another opportunity to unite families, celebrate our nation's journey, and inspire the next generation through healthy recreation," said the organisers.

WIDER PARTICIPATION

The event forms part of the broader programme of activities marking Botswana's 60th Independence celebrations and is expected to attract thousands of participants and spectators to the capital.

Corporate organisations, development partners and community stakeholders have been invited to support the initiative through sponsorships and partnerships as the organisers seek to promote child development, wellness and national unity.

Further details on registration, race categories, entertainment and event logistics are expected to be announced in the coming weeks.



Boxing Belt Launch Opens New Pathways

Botswana's unveiling of the IBO All Africa Championship belt marks a push to expand professional boxing, develop local talent and create opportunities through sport

GAZETTE REPORTER

Botswana has unveiled the IBO All Africa Championship Title Belt, with the Government describing the initiative as an opportunity to strengthen professional boxing and create wider economic and career opportunities through sport.

Speaking at the official unveiling and launch yesterday (Tuesday) , Minister of Sport and Arts Jacob Kelebeng said the occasion was about more than introducing a championship belt.

"Today is not simply about unveiling a belt. It is about unveiling an opportunity—an opportunity for our athletes, our young people, our sporting industry and Botswana as a whole," Kelebeng said.

The IBO All Africa Junior Welterweight Championship will see Botswana's Kutlwano Ogaketse face South Africa's Aphiwe Mboyiya.

Kelebeng said the contest represented an important opportunity for Ogaketse and Botswana, urging the boxer to prepare diligently and remain disciplined.

"When Ogaketse enters that ring, he will not simply be fighting for himself. He will be carrying the hopes, aspirations and pride of a nation," he said.

BUILDING LOCAL TALENT

The programme will also feature the PBAB National Championship, with Tebogo Rennie taking on Brian Malabola.

Kelebeng said placing the international IBO championship alongside the national title demonstrated the link between developing local talent and creating pathways to international competition.

He also commended promoter Thuso "Scud" Khubamang for what he described as an upward progression in the level of championship boxing brought to Botswana, from an ABU championship to WBF championship boxing and now an IBO All Africa Championship.

The minister said the move towards IBO championship boxing was significant because the organisation is regarded as one of the recognised international sanctioning organisations in professional boxing.

SPORT AS BUSINESS

Kelebeng said professional boxing should be viewed beyond competition, noting that it can support employment for coaches, trainers, officials, promoters, event managers, medical personnel, broadcasters, journalists and photographers.

"Professional boxing can also create employment and career opportunities beyond the boxer," he said.

He also argued that international events could generate activity for Botswana's hospitality, tourism and local business sectors by bringing athletes, coaches, officials, media personnel and supporters into the country.

> "Today is not simply about unveiling a belt. It is about unveiling an opportunity."

Kelebeng called on corporate Botswana to increase its investment in sport, while acknowledging Grand Palm Hotel, Casino and Convention Resort, Coca-Cola Beverages Botswana and Thito Finance for supporting Scud Missile Promotions and professional boxing.

"Supporting an athlete or sporting event is not simply sponsorship. It is an investment in young people, national pride, economic activity and Botswana's international profile," he said.

The minister said the belt should become a symbol of a pathway from national competition to African championships and, ultimately, greater international opportunities.

Beach Volleyball Eyes Olympic Breakthrough

Ranked second in Africa, Team Botswana enters a 24-team continental field in Alexandria with its sights set on the World Championships and LA28

TLOTLO KEBINAKGABO

Botswana's beach volleyball team has arrived in the continental qualification race in Egypt, where Africa's road to the 2028 Los Angeles Olympics begins at the 2026 CAVB Beach Volleyball Continental Senior Championships.

The tournament is being held in Alexandria from August 17 to 23, with Botswana among 24 teams listed in the men's competition. The field includes hosts Egypt, Morocco, Mozambique, Togo, Benin, The Gambia, Ghana, Nigeria, Senegal, Tunisia, Algeria, Cabo Verde, Guinea-Bissau, Niger, Côte d'Ivoire, Cameroon, Burundi, Kenya, Angola, Mauritius and Comoros.

Botswana's team consists of George Chiswaniso and Jack Sekao, coached by Agisanang Kurwana.

According to Botswana Beach Volleyball vice president Pugiso Osupile, Botswana qualified for the competition through rankings after the team was placed second in Africa.

"To qualify for the competition, they were using rankings. Our team was ranked number two in Africa, hence they qualified for the championships," Osupile said in an interview as the team left for Egypt.

NAMIBIA PREPARATION

Botswana's preparations included participation in the Zone 6 CAVB Leg 4 Beach Tour in Namibia, which Osupile described as part of the build-up to the Egyptian tournament.



"Preparations are going well. We just arrived from Namibia from the Zone 6 CAVB Leg 4 Beach Tour, which was a way to prepare for the tournament," he said.

The team enters the competition with an ambition that extends beyond the continental championship.

"Our ambition and target is for our team to qualify for the Olympics," Osupile said.

He also pointed to Botswana's previous achievement at the Africa Games, where the team became the first Botswana side to win a medal, as a platform for its international ambitions.

"We want to continue from there and conquer the world," he said.

TOP FOUR TARGET

The immediate objective is to secure a place at the World Championships. Osupile said Botswana must either win the championships or finish among the top four to advance.

"We are eager to fight with the other teams. It won't be the first time we meet them," he said.

The team's preparations have also been affected by visa problems, with Osupile saying Botswana was expected to arrive at the tournament on the day competition starts.

Despite the logistical challenge, he said the team remained on track.

With Africa's road to LA28 beginning in Alexandria, Botswana now faces a continental field that includes some of the region's leading beach volleyball nations, with a World Championships place and a longer-term Olympic ambition at stake.

TIRED OF SHARING?



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BOXING BELT LAUNCH OPENS NEW PATHWAYS

Botswana's unveiling of the IBO All Africa Championship belt marks a push to expand professional boxing, develop local talent and create opportunities through sport



BABITSENG SEES CAF UPGRADE AS TURNING POINT

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