The Botswana
GAZETTE
WEDNESDAY 02 SEPTEMBER 2026 | SINCE 1984

Pangolin Trade Snares More Batswana 4.





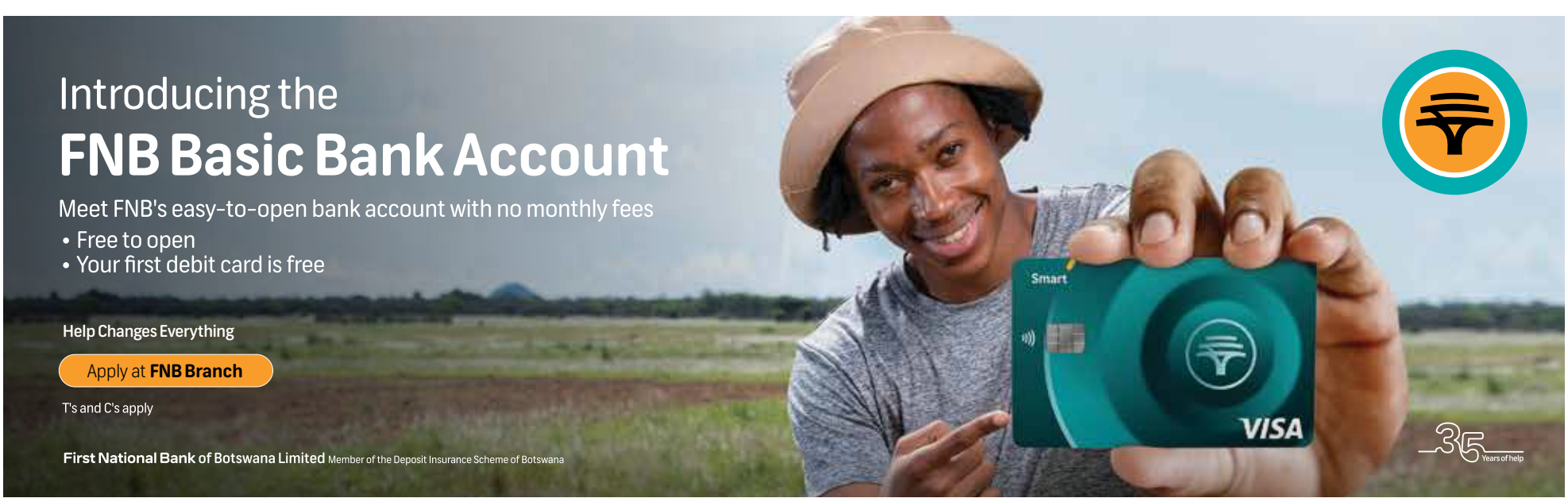
16-17

A Setswana turn of phrase has quietly become the vocabulary of a household crisis. In villages across Botswana, parents say betting influencers are pulling children and out-of-school young people into wagering funded from family mobile wallets. Yet as the state moves to lower the legal betting age, the intermediaries driving the boom are unregistered, uncounted and largely unwatched and nobody in the industry wants to be the first to call it a red flag.

2. Duma Boko School Under Scrutiny

7. Botswana's Economic Freedom Score Slides

Betwell
BET SMART, WIN WELL.



Duma Boko School Under Scrutiny

Prominent businessman Ramachandran Ottapathu says his role was only temporary and limited to helping with company registration while the company behind the facility says the detailed allocation of payments between the relevant project entities, contractors and suppliers are confidential



GAZETTE REPORTERS

Businessman Ramachandran Ottapathu has distanced himself from New Delights, the company reportedly associated with the controversial Duma Boko School and Clinic project, saying his involvement was limited to helping a friend register the company while its directors were awaiting work permits.

New Delights (Pty) Ltd trading as African Hero Botswana is a private enterprise linked to Moti Group which is proposing a large-scale project to build 100 smart schools and clinics across Botswana.

Quizzed for his involvement by this publication, Ottapathu, CEO of Choppies, said he subsequently relinquished his interest in New Delights once the permit process had been completed and new directors were able to take over.

"I am no longer a shareholder. I left. My only participation was assisting a friend to register a company while his people's permits were being processed. Once that was done, I vacated," Ottapathu said.

The Moti Group through Ivygrove Holdings Proprietary Ltd, the group holds a shareholding in Choppies Enterprises Limited.

According to Ram, the company subsequently brought in new directors, listed in the CIPA website as Salim Ahmed Bobat, Mikaeel Moti, Taariq Sayed and Akash Singh.

DUMA BOKO SCHOOL

Ram's clarification comes amid questions surrounding the ownership and corporate interests behind the newly constructed Duma Boko School and Clinic in Block 7, which carries the name of the President and displays the logos of African Hero, Jindal Power and the Aga Isago Development and Empowerment Foundation.

AFRICAN HERO RESPONSE

Responding to questions African Hero Botswana representative Shannon Henning responded thus: "The principal public-facing elements are:Jindal is funding the Duma Boko School and Clinic pilot; the Government of Botswana is not funding the construction of the infrastructure; no Government guarantee has been provided in respect of Jindal's contribution; Jindal receives appropriate donor and branding recognition throughout the facilities; and Jindal receives no preferential Government procurement consideration or other Government benefit in return for its contribution.

The project is intended to deliver education and healthcare infrastructure for the benefit of the people of Botswana without placing a construction-related financial burden on the Government fiscus".

MP QUESTIONS PRESIDENTIAL ROLE

Meanwhile, Tswapong South MP Dr Kesitegile Gobotswang has expressed concern over the use of President Duma Boko's name on the facility, arguing that the President and Cabinet ministers should be insulated from private business ventures.

Writing on Facebook, Gobotswang said there was "something wrong" with using the President's name to promote private business interests.

He argued that government leaders should not be directly involved in negotiating business investment deals, saying the controversy should prompt government to draw lessons from previous projects that attracted public concern.

Gobotswang cited the failed Zotus Gantsi Smart City project and the Kgale View Bonno 3000 Housing Development as examples.

His comments come as questions continue to emerge over the relationship between the President, African Hero, businessman Zunaid Moti and other entities associated with the Block 7 development.

QUESTIONS OVER POLITICAL CONNECTIONS

"As for the reported Duma Boko School, it is shocking, to say the least. The involvement of Zunaid Moti raises serious questions. The controversial political connection between Zunaid Moti/African Hero and President Duma Boko dates back to the 2019 General Elections. At the time, leaked documents alleged that a Seychelles company, Longway Solutions, had committed USD 9.4 million to fund Duma Boko's campaign. Moti reportedly expected commercial opportunities in return. As they say, there is no free lunch," he wrote.

Gobotswang continued "The construction of 50 schools and 100 clinics on a 6.8ha plot in Block 7 became the flagship project. Moti proposed a delivery timeline of 1–2 months per facility using prefabricated shipping containers. The pilot school and clinic project was described as 'state of the art.'"

TRANSPARENCY

According to Gobotswang, "Government must be transparent about the terms of the partnership between the UDC government, Zunaid Moti/African Hero, Jindal, and the lesser-known Aga Isago Development and Empowerment Foundation".

He asked why such a far-reaching project was never included in the State of the Nation Address, the Budget Speech, or the Committee of Supply speeches for the Ministry of Basic Education, the Ministry of Health, and the Ministry of Local Government and Traditional Affairs?

"The UDC government has misplaced priorities. The challenges affecting our education system are bats infested dilapidated schools. It is the maintenance of schools that must be prioritized instead of building new ones. As for the health care system we have serious shortages of live saving medicines and related medical commodities. Upgrading of health posts to state-of-the-art clinics with maternity must be prioritized," he stressed.

PRESIDENCY TIGHT-LIPPED

Despite mounting public questions over the controversial school and clinic project, the Presidency has remained tight-lipped on the matter, offering no substantive explanation or clarification. The silence has left the public to piece together the available information, fuelling speculation over the project's origins, the interests behind it and the extent of government involvement.



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

The following standard Savings, Lending and Investment rates will apply

Local Currency Deposit Interest Rates

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

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

Local Currency Lending Interest Rates

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

*Scheme related lending is as per the scheme contract.

Foreign Currency Deposit Rates

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

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

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

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

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

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

For more information:

Visit FNB Branch Visit fnbbotswana.co.bw

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

Pangolin Trade Snares More Batswana

A fresh cross-border arrest exposes Botswana's growing role as a source and transit point in the illegal pangolin trade feeding Asian markets.

BONGANI MALUNGA

A growing number of Batswana are being caught on the wrong side of the law in the illicit pangolin trade, as the country increasingly emerges as part of a regional trafficking network fuelled by strong international demand for the world's most trafficked mammal.

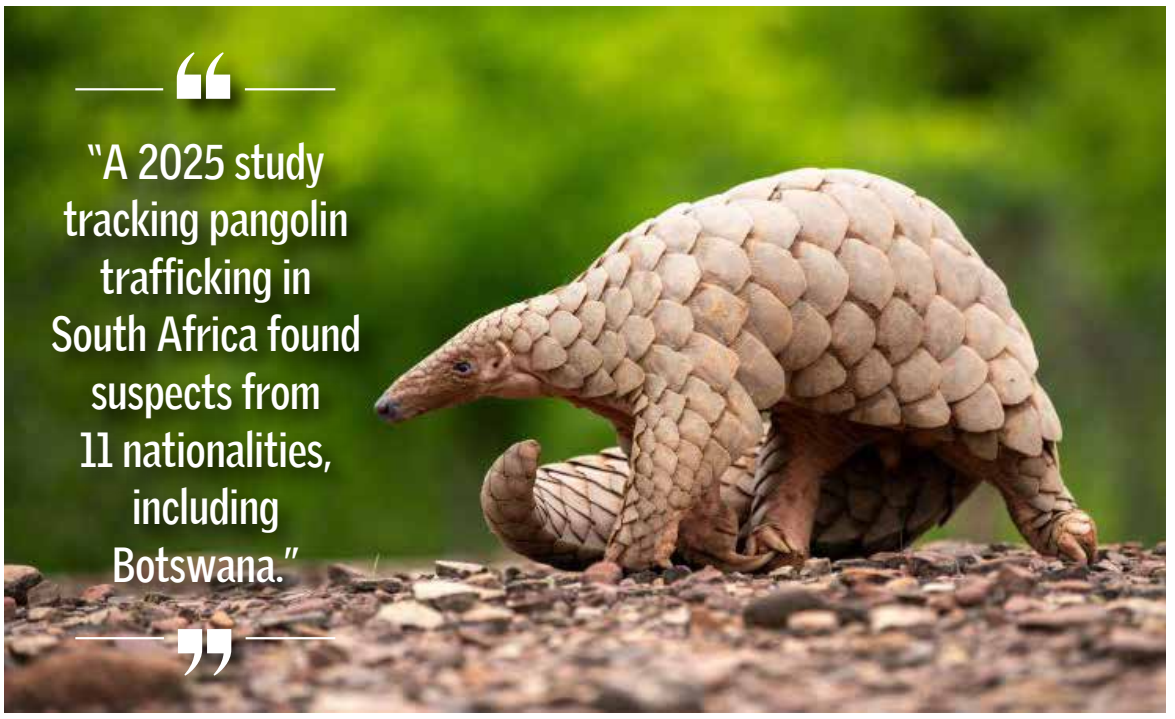
The latest case involves 27-year-old Botswana citizen Tholego Gaebolae, who was arrested on 26 August after allegedly crossing the Limpopo River from Botswana into South Africa with a live pangolin concealed in his bag.

According to a statement released by the South African Police Service, South African National Defence Force members conducting routine patrols near the Groblersbrug Border Post spotted Gaebolae crossing the river. "He could not produce a passport and a subsequent search uncovered the live animal, which he could not account for. He was handed over to Tom Burke Border Policing and appeared before the Phalala Magistrate's Court on 28 August," the SAPS revealed.

POSTPONED

Gaebolae was remanded in custody, with the matter postponed to 17 September for a bail application and further investigation. He faces charges relating to possession of a specially protected wild animal and contravention of South Africa's Immigration Act.

If convicted, he could face up to five years in prison, with South African courts having previously imposed five-year sentences for illegal possession of pangolins.



His arrest follows another case involving Batswana in September 2024, when Rhine Morgan Kemsley, 35, and Mothusi Malcom Lefa, 49, were arrested in Sandton, Johannesburg, after allegedly being found with a live pangolin hidden inside a speaker box.

A WIDER PROBLEM

The incidents point to a wider problem. Botswana's Department of Wildlife and National Parks reported 30 illegal pangolin-trade cases between 2015 and 2021, with 2017 recording the highest number at 12 cases.

According to international reports, the trade is not being driven by local demand. Research shows that Africa has become an increasingly important source for pangolins destined for Asian markets, particularly as demand for scales has continued despite the international commercial trade ban.

Pangolin scales have traditionally been used in remedies in parts of Asia, while their meat is regarded as a delicacy in some markets. All eight pangolin species have been prohibited from international commercial trade under CITES since 2017.

INTERNATIONAL DEMAND

The scale of the international market helps explain why live pangolins are being moved across southern African borders. A 2025 study tracking pangolin trafficking in South Africa found suspects from 11 nationalities, including Botswana, and identified Africa as an increasingly important source for Asian demand.

For Botswana, the repeated involvement of its citizens in cases outside the country raises questions about whether local poachers and couriers are being drawn into sophisticated cross-border networks whose ultimate markets lie thousands of kilometres away.

The emerging picture is therefore less about isolated possession of a protected animal and more about Botswana's potential role as a source and transit point in a lucrative international wildlife-trafficking chain.

BERA Threatens Fuel Retailers Over Safety

BERA gives fuel retailers three months to fix safety breaches or risk closures and licence losses.

BONGANI MALUNGA

The Botswana Energy Regulatory Authority (BERA) has intensified its crackdown on fuel retailers, warning that service stations failing to rectify serious safety and environmental violations could face closure, licence suspension or even licence revocation.

The warning follows a recent round of routine inspections of retail service stations across Botswana, which BERA says uncovered a "significant number" of facilities with serious outstanding non-compliances.



Among the violations are the absence of oil-spillage containment systems and oil-water separators, inadequate leak-monitoring wells, poor or non-existent operating procedures, untrained employees and failure to provide service-station attendants with personal protective clothing.

SIGNIFICANT RISKS

BERA says the breaches present significant risks to both workers and the public, while potentially contributing to environmental pollution and contamination of underground and surface water sources.

The regulator says the problem is particularly concerning because some stations had previously been inspected and committed to correcting the shortcomings. In some cases, however, as many as four years have passed without all inspection findings being addressed.

As a result, BERA has already taken enforcement action in recent weeks, including the closure of some retail service stations across the country. "Against this background, the Authority hereby notifies all retail service stations that they are required to address all outstanding non-compliance within the next three months, being September, October and November 2026," BERA said in a statement released on Tuesday.

THREE MONTH DEADLINE

The three-month deadline effectively puts fuel retailers on notice that continued non-compliance could have direct commercial consequences. BERA warned that failure to rectify the outstanding issues could trigger further enforcement, including closure of facilities, suspension of operating licences or revocation of licences, in line with regulatory requirements.

Retailers have been urged to revisit previous inspection reports, conduct internal self-assessments and, where necessary, request voluntary inspections from BERA to identify and correct outstanding deficiencies before the deadline expires.

MVA FUND
Living the promise.

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

Tender Ref: RFP-03-2026
Procurement Requirements : Supply of laptops for Motor Vehicle Accident Fund
Procurement method: Open Domestic Bidding
PPRA registration: Code 203, Electrical, Electronic, Mechanical and ICT supplies Sub code: 01 Electrical and Electronic Equipment, Spares and Accessories (includes ICT, photographic equipment and others) or 03 Mechanical Equipment, Machines, Spares and Accessories.
Prescribed Reservation Schemes: 100% locally registered Botswana citizen-owned companies
Tender Fees: A non-refundable standard fee of P250.00 and P125.00 **Vat inclusive** for youth owned companies in Botswana.
Tenders Closing: 15th September 2026 at 1500hrs.

Queries or clarifications relating to the issuance of these documents may be addressed in writing no later than 7 days before the tender closing date to **Mr. Tshupo Mosweu** or **Mr. Onkabetse Kedumetse** Tel No. +267 3600100 / 3600118 / 3600169 or email tmosweu@mvafund.bw / okedumetse@mvafund.bw or procurement@mvafund.bw

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Stanbic Bank

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

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



BWP Deposit Interest Rates

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

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

Lending Interest Rates

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

All interest rates quoted are on annual basis

Foreign Currency Deposit Interest Rates

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

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

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

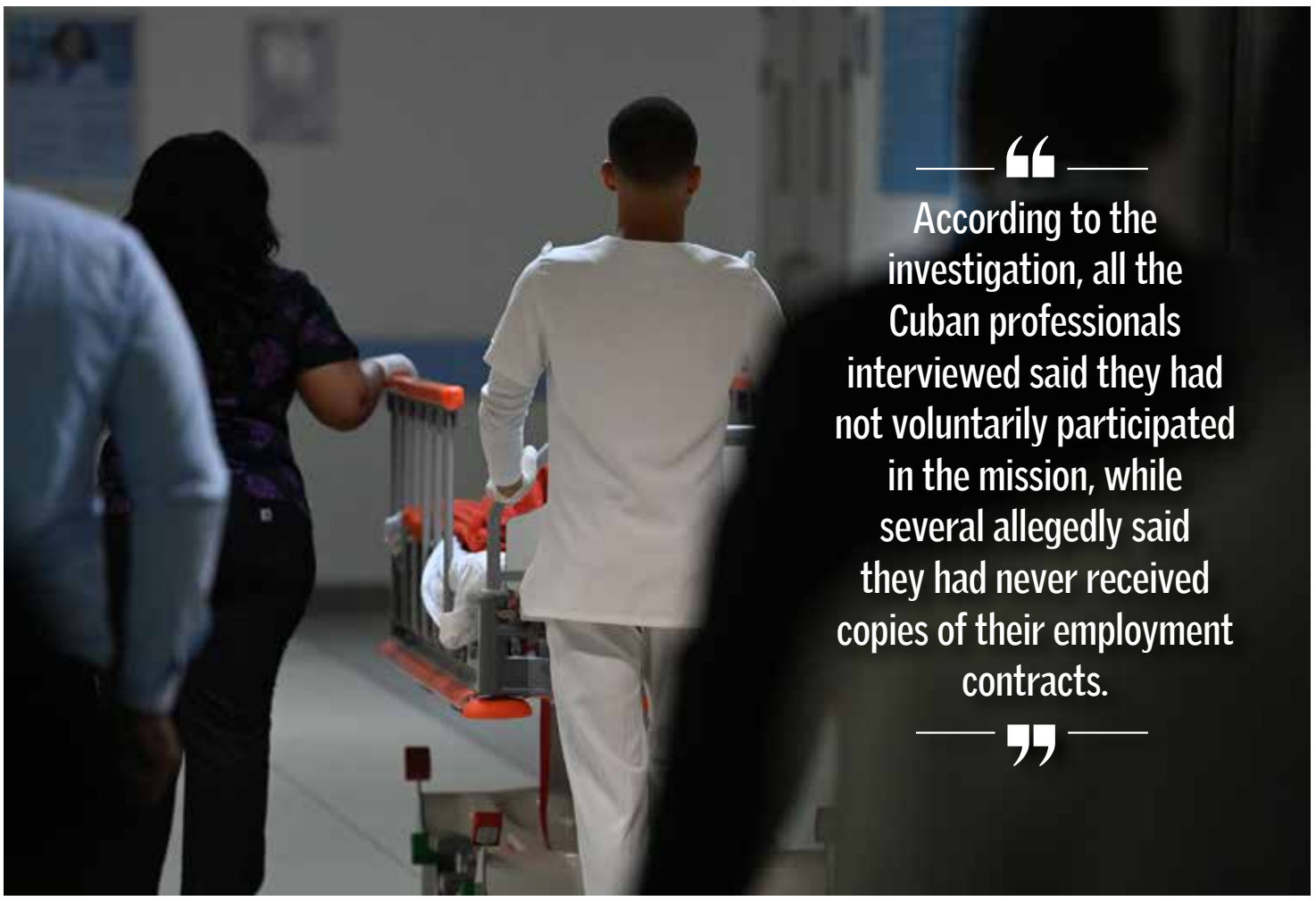
Type of Deposit Account	Nominal Interest Rates (%)	Actual Interest Rates (%)	Minimum Opening Balance
EURO, AUD & JPY	**EURO, AUD & JPY**	**EURO, AUD & JPY**	**EURO, AUD & JPY**
Current	0.0%	0.0%	50.00
Call	0.00%	0.00%	100.00
1 Month	0.00%	0.00%	100.00
2 Months	0.00%	0.00%	100.00
3 Months	0.00%	0.00%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

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

Member of Deposit Insurance Scheme of Botswana

Botswana's Cuban Doctor Deal Under Fire

A Prisoners Defenders investigation alleges Botswana pays about US$4,095 a month for each Cuban doctor while the specialist receives only US$1,000.



GAZETTE REPORTER

The Government is facing explosive allegations that it knowingly finances and sustains a system in which Cuban doctors working in Botswana receive only a fraction of the money paid by the state for their services.

An investigation by human rights organisation Prisoners Defenders alleges that Botswana pays about US$4,094.65 (approximately P55,000) per month for each Cuban specialist, while the doctor receives only US$1,000.

This means the medical professional reportedly receives just 24.42 percent of the contractual amount, with about 75.58 percent, or US$3,094.65, remaining within the Cuban state system.

Prisoners Defenders argues that Botswana cannot claim ignorance of the arrangement because the bilateral agreement reportedly distinguishes between the amount allocated to the individual professional and the money transferred to Cuba.

US$4.2M ANNUAL BILL

The organisation estimates that Botswana's current contingent of about 90 Cuban professionals represents an annual bill of more than US$4.2 million.

The allegations have raised questions not only about the financial structure of the arrangement but also about the working conditions under which the Cuban doctors operate in Botswana.

Prisoners Defenders argues that the restrictions allegedly imposed on the doctors could raise concerns under Botswana's constitutional and international obligations relating to forced labour.

Section 6 of the Constitution prohibits slavery, servitude and forced labour, while Botswana ratified International Labour Organisation Conventions 29 and 105 in 1997.

MOVEMENTS RESTRICTED

According to the investigation, a regulation issued on 3 July 2026 by the head of the Cuban Medical Brigade in Botswana, Dr Pablo Ricardo Betancourt Álvarez, places extensive restrictions on the doctors' personal lives.

The regulation reportedly governs their movements, visitors and overnight stays, limits participation in social activities and prohibits them from acquiring or driving motor vehicles without authorisation.

It also reportedly requires permission for late-night outings and provides for disciplinary measures against those who breach the rules.

Prisoners Defenders contends that such restrictions go beyond normal workplace rules and form part of a broader system of control over Cuban medical professionals serving abroad.

PASSPORTS, SURVEILLANCE ALLEGED

The organisation says interviews with Cuban professionals in Botswana revealed allegations of passport retention, restrictions on movement, surveillance and political meetings.

It further alleges that doctors who abandon their missions face the threat of being prevented from returning to Cuba for up to eight years.

According to the investigation, all the Cuban professionals interviewed said they had not voluntarily participated in the mission, while several allegedly said they had never received copies of their employment contracts.

The organisation maintains that these conditions raise serious questions about whether the doctors are genuinely participating in overseas employment arrangements freely and with full knowledge of their contractual rights.

PAY GAP PERSISTS

The investigation also highlights the disparity between what Botswana reportedly pays and what Cuban doctors receive.

Prisoners Defenders says Cuban specialists were receiving approximately US$800 per month in 2020, with the figure increasing to US$1,000 by August 2026.

However, during the same period, the amount Botswana reportedly pays for each specialist rose to more than US$4,000 per month.

> "The doctor reportedly receives just 24.42 percent of the contractual amount paid by Botswana."

The organisation argues that the increase in the doctors' stipend has not fundamentally altered the arrangement, because the overwhelming majority of the contractual payment continues to remain outside the professional's hands.

bac
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VACANCY NOTICE



WE ARE HIRING

Closing Date: Friday 4th September 2026

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Botswana School of Business Sciences
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Botswana's Economic Freedom Score Slides

Botswana's economic freedom score has fallen sharply, with the Heritage Foundation warning that weak business dynamism threatens diversification beyond diamonds.



GAZETTE REPORTER

Botswana's celebrated image as one of Africa's strongest economic performers is rapidly losing its shine, after the Heritage Foundation's 2026 Index of Economic Freedom (IEF) recorded a sharp deterioration in the country's economic freedom score.

Botswana scored 67.7 points, a decline of 2.2 points from the previous year, placing it 48th globally and third among 47 countries in Sub-Saharan Africa.

BUSINESS RED FLAGS

The Heritage Foundation describes Botswana's regulatory environment as relatively well institutionalised but inefficient, with the country's business freedom score falling below the world average.

That is a major red flag for an economy desperately seeking to attract investment, expand entrepreneurship and create jobs outside government and mining.

STABILITY AS ASSET

Botswana's political stability remains one of its strongest economic assets.

The Heritage Foundation says risks to political stability remain low despite the country's changing political landscape following the 2024 general election and the transfer of power from the long-ruling Botswana Democratic Party.

The stability is particularly important for investors who traditionally view Botswana as a relatively predictable destination in a region often affected by political upheaval.

INSTITUTIONS VS DYNAMISM

However, political stability alone is not enough to guarantee economic competitiveness.

The report says Botswana's rule of law remains relatively well respected. Property rights, judicial effectiveness and government integrity all score above world averages, reinforcing the country's reputation for institutional stability.

But the contradiction is increasingly difficult to ignore: strong institutions coexist with an inefficient business environment.

The Heritage findings suggest that what Botswana lacks is sufficient efficiency and dynamism to translate institutional strength into stronger economic performance.

TAXES, HEAVY BURDEN

Botswana's tax regime remains comparatively moderate.

The top individual income tax rate is 25 percent, while the corporate tax rate stands at 22 percent. The tax burden is equivalent to 13.4 percent of GDP.

Government spending averages 31.7 percent of GDP, while the three-year average budget balance stands at a deficit of 4 percent of GDP. Public debt is reported at 29.9 percent of GDP.

The figures underline a government that continues to carry substantial fiscal responsibilities while facing pressure to stimulate private-sector growth.

TRADE BARRIERS PERSIST

Trade and investment also remain areas of concern. Botswana's trade-weighted average tariff rate is 6.5 percent, while non-tariff measures remain in force. Foreign investment is restricted in some sectors, potentially limiting the flow of capital into areas where the country urgently needs diversification.

For an economy seeking to reduce its dependence on diamonds, barriers that constrain investment and entrepreneurship could undermine efforts to develop new sources of growth.

BEYOND GOOD GOVERNANCE

For an economy trying to break its dependence on diamonds, the 2.2-point decline in economic freedom should not be dismissed as merely a statistical setback.

The findings suggest that Botswana cannot rely indefinitely on its reputation for good governance and political stability.



The Botswana Public Officers Pension Fund (BPOPF) is a defined contribution pension fund established in 2001 to provide retirement benefits to public officers. Since its establishment, the Fund has experienced significant growth and currently serves approximately 165,000 members. As the Fund continues to grow and strengthen its governance, institutional capability and long-term sustainability, opportunities have arisen for suitably qualified and experienced professionals to contribute to enhanced accountability and good governance.

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You will lead the Internal Audit function and provide independent, objective assurance and consulting services by evaluating the adequacy and effectiveness of the Fund's internal controls, risk management and governance processes through the implementation of a risk-based audit strategy. The position reports functionally to the Board Audit Committee and administratively to the Chief Executive Officer.

Key Accountabilities:

Develop and implement the departmental strategy, operational plan, risk-based audit strategy, budget and annual plan; prioritise and execute audit assignments; advise on governance, risk and internal controls; coordinate with External Auditors; maintain a quality assurance and improvement programme; promote control awareness; contribute to corporate strategy; and lead and develop Internal Audit staff.

Qualifications and Experience

- Bachelor's degree in Auditing, Accounting, Finance or Business Administration.
- Full membership of Certified Internal Auditor (CIA). Membership of a professional accounting body such as ACCA, CIMA or CA will be an added advantage
- Ten (10) years' audit experience, including at least five (5) years' supervisory experience in the audit field.

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The Independent Trustee will work with the Board of Trustees to achieve the Fund's strategic objectives and actively participate in Board and Committee meetings, contributing innovative ideas that support sustainable long-term results for members.

All candidates should possess relevant expertise and experience, and meet the underlisted requirements;

Eligibility:

The candidate must not be an employee of the Fund, its subsidiaries or related entities, or a service provider to the Fund. The candidate must not serve as an Independent Trustee on more than three (3) Funds at a time or carry on business or work that may create a conflict of interest.

Qualifications and Requirements:

- A bachelor's degree, preferably a master's degree, in Investment Management, Actuarial Science, Risk Management, or an equivalent qualification such as Chartered Financial Analyst or Fellow Risk Management.
- At least ten (10) years' managerial experience in the financial services sector, preferably specific experience in the retirement funds sector.
- Sound knowledge of corporate governance, investment, risk management, pensions and/or insurance.
- Ability to understand strategic issues and accept the legal duties, liabilities and responsibilities of a Trustee.
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Closing Date: 17th September 2026

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WHEN YOU NEED PROFESSIONALS

DCEC Downplays Corruption Report Surge

The DCEC chief has cautioned against equating a rise in corruption reports with an increase in corruption itself.



DCEC Director Botlhale Makgekgenene

SESUPO RANTSIMAKO

The Directorate on Corruption and Economic Crime (DCEC) has moved to play down the sharp rise in reported corruption allegations, saying the growing number of reports does not automatically mean corruption itself is increasing in Botswana.

PUBLIC CONFIDENCE GROWING

DCEC Director Botlhale Makgekgenene said the increase in reports since 2023 should instead be viewed as an indication of growing public confidence in anti-corruption mechanisms, while highlighting the need for greater vigilance and stronger preventive measures.

Addressing the media last week during an engagement on the fight against corruption, Makgekgenene acknowledged that reports of corruption and economic crime have been rising steadily over the past three years.

REPORTS JUMP HUNDREDS

DCEC records show that 957 corruption-related reports were registered in 2025, up from 687 in 2024.

The figure represents an increase of 270 reports in a single year, while the 2025 total is 305 higher than the 652 reports registered in 2023.

NOT MORE CORRUPTION

Despite the sharp increase, Makgekgenene cautioned against interpreting the statistics as proof that corruption has necessarily become more widespread.

She said an increase in allegations should not automatically be equated with an increase in actual corruption.

Makgekgenene said the trend could equally reflect a public that is increasingly willing to report suspected wrongdoing to authorities.

“The growing number of reports reinforces the need for continued vigilance and stronger preventive measures across institutions,” she said.

MORE COMING FORWARD

She said the figures demonstrate growing public confidence, with more members of the public willing to come forward and report suspected corruption.

“Therefore the rising number of reports could be interpreted partly as a positive development in the country’s fight against corruption,” added Makgekgenene.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION RISES

Rather than viewing every additional report as evidence of worsening corruption, Makgekgenene suggested that the figures should also be examined through the lens of increased public participation in exposing suspected wrongdoing.

However, the surge places greater pressure on the DCEC to effectively investigate allegations and ensure that increased reporting translates into meaningful enforcement and prevention.

PRESSURE ON DCEC

The DCEC director added that the latest figures nevertheless raise questions about the scale of corruption and economic crime being detected across the country, particularly as Botswana continues to strengthen its anti-corruption institutions and mechanisms.

> “An increase in allegations should not automatically be equated with an increase in actual corruption.”

For the DCEC, Makgekgenene said, the challenge is to maintain public confidence while ensuring that reports are properly assessed, investigated where warranted and used to strengthen measures aimed at preventing corruption.



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CLASS OF 2026

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The President of The Republic of Botswana and BIUST Chancellor

THEME: Innovate, Diversify, Transform, and Sustain

DATE: 11th September 2026 | Time: 0700HRS | Venue: Multi-purpose Hall, BIUST

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Per Diem Talks Collapse Again

Government and public sector unions have reached another deadlock over local per diem, with DPSM rejecting the unions' preferred P800 arrangement.

SESUPO RANTSIMAKO

Government and public sector unions have hit another deadlock over local per diem, with the Directorate of Public Service Management (DPSM) rejecting the unions' preferred arrangement and pushing for tighter controls on accommodation payments.

UNIONS DIG IN

In a joint statement, the five unions, Botswana Doctors Union (BDU), Botswana Nurses Union (BONU), Botswana Teachers Union (BTU), Botswana Public Employees Union (BOPEU) and Botswana Sectors of Educators Trade Union (BOSETU), and DPSM confirmed the deadlock.

The unions insist that the existing Public Service Directive No. 1 of 2024 should be maintained. Under their proposal, government would pay accommodation costs directly to licensed hospitality establishments at P800 per day, while the P700 meal and incidental allowance would remain unaccounted for.

The unions argue that this is the arrangement that should be implemented rather than introducing a new system that could place additional administrative and financial burdens on public servants.

SETTLEMENT FAILS

The standoff follows a 17 August 2026 court settlement agreement, which paved the way for DPSM and public sector trade unions to meet on 28 and 31 August to work out how local per diem controls would be implemented. However, consultations between the unions and DPSM ended without a deal.

DPSM, however, has taken a harder line, citing the government's current fiscal austerity measures.

DPSM OFFERS P900

The employer wants accommodation costs increased to P900 per day, but with a major condition: public servants would have to produce receipts from licensed hospitality facilities to account for the expenditure.

The remaining P600 would be allocated for meals and incidental expenses without requiring receipts.

RECEIPTS SPARK DISPUTE

DPSM says the proposed arrangement is financially prudent in the current fiscal environment. It has also proposed that the adequacy of the P600 meal and incidental allowance be reviewed after 12 months, taking into account prevailing circumstances and applicable fiscal considerations.

However, the government's position has failed to win over the unions, which remain committed to the 2024 directive. After two rounds of consultations, the parties walked away without consensus.

NO DEAL YET

The failure to agree means the battle over local per diem remains unresolved despite the court settlement that triggered the latest consultations.

The dispute puts government's austerity measures under renewed scrutiny, with public sector unions resisting what they see as an attempt to alter the existing per diem arrangement, while government insists that the country's financial position demands tighter controls.

While DPSM wants greater accountability for accommodation expenditure, the unions are pushing for implementation of the 2024 directive, leaving the two sides facing another potential showdown over local per diem.



> The dispute puts government's austerity measures under renewed scrutiny, with unions resisting tighter controls on per diem.



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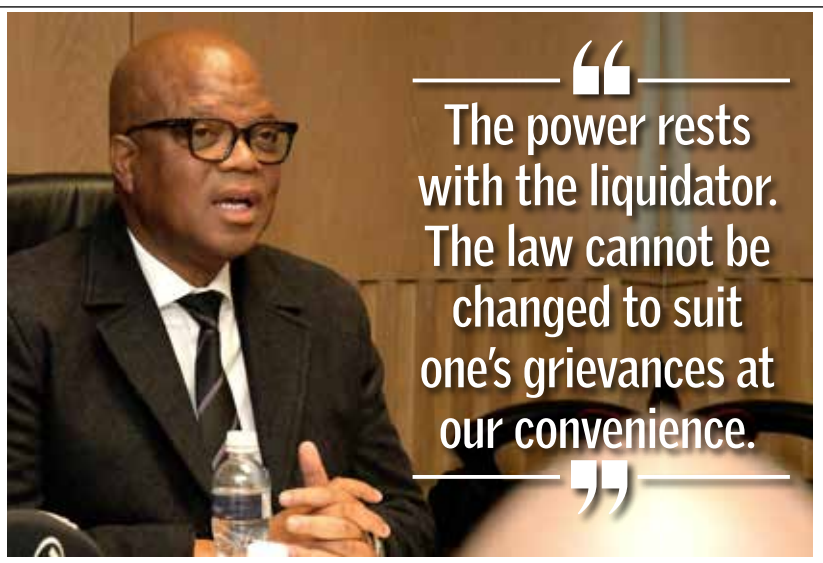
absa MASCOM PUMA ENERGY THE PROJECTS

Ex-BCL Miners Fear Fresh Delays

Former BCL workers fear further delays in receiving promised soft landing payments as government cites the ongoing liquidation process as an obstacle.



BONGANI MALUNGA

Former BCL Mine workers are growing increasingly frustrated over the government's failure to give them a clear timeline for receiving their long-awaited soft landing payments, with fears mounting that they could be forced to wait even longer.

The former miners, who have been waiting for the payouts since the closure of the mine in 2016, expressed concern after Minister for State President, Defence and Security Moeti Mohwasa told them during a meeting in Selibe Phikwe last Thursday that payment can only be made once the liquidation process is completed.

The workers said the government's lack of a definite timeframe for concluding the liquidation process has left them uncertain about when, or even how soon, they will finally receive their money.

HEIGHTENED FRUSTRATION

Their frustration is heightened by the fact that former BCL employees were initially promised that the payouts would be made 18 months after the mine's closure. Responding to the concerns, Mohwasa said the government was keen to resolve the matter but was currently constrained by the liquidation process, which places authority over the mine's assets and funds with the liquidator.

"The power rests with the liquidator," Mohwasa said, adding that government was monitoring the process closely and hoped for a speedy resolution.

LEGAL CONSTRAINTS

He revealed that a government-appointed task team had recommended the release and payment of funds to former BCL workers but said government could not simply bypass the legal requirements governing liquidation. "The law cannot be changed to suit one's grievances at our convenience," Mohwasa maintained, stressing that government's interest was to see the matter resolved as quickly as possible.

FAST-TRACKING EFFORTS

Reached for comment, Botswana Mine Workers Union (BMWU) president Joseph Tsimako said the union is working closely with the Ministry of Energy and Minerals to fast-track the payment of former BCL Mine workers.

The Minerals ministry is responsible for facilitating the sale of BCL assets, while the Ministry for State President, Defence and Security is handling the payments to the former workers. According to Tsimako, the key challenge remains identifying and securing the funds required to settle the workers.

He said the union has engaged the Minerals ministry, which has in turn consulted the Judicial Services to establish the source of the delay. Tsimako said the government has committed to using proceeds from the sale of BCL assets to fund the payments, but the process has been slowed by the resignation of the Master of the Court responsible for the matter.

RECRUITMENT UNDERWAY

He said the recruitment of a successor is now underway, a development he believes could unlock the next stage of the process through a second creditors meeting.

"Our position is that payments should be processed but the sticking point has been establishing where the money will be sourced from. We have held talks with the Ministry of Minerals and Energy, they also held talks with the Judicial Services to establish the hold up. The government has committed to generating income from the sale of assets from the BCL Mine in order to make the payments but the process was held up as the Master of the Court in the area has resigned. However, the recruitment process of a successor is underway. This will then enable a second creditors meeting to advance the issue," Tsimako told this publication.



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MAIN PURPOSE OF THE JOB:
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- Contribute to the University's performance in research and innovation
- through publications and other mechanisms
- Supervise students projects (both undergraduate and postgraduate
- levels
- Conduct individual research or work on collaborative projects.
- Source external research funding from national and international
- donors
- Community engagement

COMPETENCIES/SKILLS:
- Complete multiple assignments, maintain quality, work under pressure and adhere to deadlines
- Adhere to HR policies, practices and procedures, and conform to professional standards and ethics
- Apply interpersonal styles/methods to develop and motivate staff Conceptual and practical thinking
- Demonstrate the ability to work independently and largely unsupervised
- Maintain confidentiality and respectful of sensitive situations
- Methodical and organised, with a high level of attention to details

QUALIFICATIONS/REQUIREMENTS:

Academic Qualification:
PhD in the field of Electrical and Electronics or related fields such (Power, Energy, Control, Telecommunications, Computer etc) from a recognised institution.

Professional Certification:
Must be registered with ERB

Must be registered with BQA as assessor and moderator or eligible to register within 1 year of assumption of duty.

Experience:
- A minimum of two (2) years of post-doctoral experience in either teaching/lecturing/research or industry in the following fields;
- Proven research profile and consistent publication record with at least eight (8) peer reviewed reputable publications in either scopus or web of science index journals, consummerate with appointment to the rank of Senior Lecturer.

Remuneration
The University offers an attractive package, commensurate with qualification and experience. If you meet the requirements of the above stated position, please send your application letter, a detailed Curriculum Vitae including at least three (3) recent professional, educational certificates and referees to:

Director, Human Capital at the email address below.

recruitment.electrical.eng@biust.ac.bw

For any further enquiries, you may call Ms. Ramolatlhwa or Ms Ulaula 4931304/4931315

Closing date for the advertisement is **September 18, 2026**.

2. ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR- DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRICAL COMMUNICATIONS AND SYSTEMS ENGINEERING

MAIN PURPOSE OF THE JOB:
- Work with colleagues on curriculum development and the advancement of the relevant discipline
- Deliver teaching over a range of modules within an established programme
- Undertake student tutoring and support
- Conduct individual research or work on collaborative projects
- Supervise students projects (both undergraduate and postgraduate levels)
- Source external and internal research funding from national and international donors
- Community engagement

COMPETENCIES/SKILLS:
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills including presentation skills.
- Mentoring and coaching.
- Negotiation, networking and relationship building.
- Organizational (planning, budgeting, time management, work prioritization).
- Research, critical thinking, analytical and problem-solving.
- Organisational awareness with an understanding of how to engage the organisation to get things done.
- Professionalism and adherence to good work ethics.
- Results and performance driven.
- Team player with strong dedication to BIUST's purpose and mission.
- Prepare and submit proposals, supervise projects and graduate students, synthesise information to design learning experiences, and go seek out research grants/funding

Academic Qualification:
- PhD in the field of Electrical and Electronics Engineering or related fields such as (Telecommunications, Computer Engineering, Power, Energy, Control) from a recognized institution.
- The candidate must be registered with Engineers Registration Board (ERB) Botswana.
- The candidate must be registered with Botswana Qualifications Authority (BQA) as an Assessor and Moderator or eligible to register within one (1) year of assumption of duty.

Experience:
- Atleast six years post-doctoral experience in either teaching/lecturing/research or industry experience in the relevant field or discipline, at least four of which must be a Graduate supervision including successful doctoral Students.
- Experience in teaching at tertiary level for at least 3 years
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- Experience of obtaining external research funding

Remuneration
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If you meet the requirements of the above stated position, please send your application letter and a detailed Curriculum Vitae including at least three (3) recent professional referees, at least two of which should be from your direct managers, to;

Director, Human Resources at the email address below.

recruitment.electrical.eng@biust.ac.bw

For any further enquiries, you may call Ms Ulaula @ 4931315 or Ms Ramolatlhwa@493 1304.

Closing Date: **September 18, 2026**.

3. CAMPUS RECREATION OFFICER

Main purpose of the job
To undertake administrative and technical tasks and functions related to student sports and recreation and ensure the seamless and efficient delivery of sports and recreation.

Qualifications and Experience
Degree in Health & fitness, physical education, recreation management orany other related field.

Three (3) years post qualification work experience in a related field.

Key Responsibilities:
- Conduct physical checks and inspection of the sports and recreation facilities and
- Equipment and document their condition/ state.
- Facilitate maintenance of sporting facilities and gym and guide in the procurement of sports consumables
- Liaise with the Sports and Recreation Executive on matters regarding maintenance and repairs, cleaning and grounds services etc.
- Capture data on building services usage and Campus Recreation facilities' condition
- Planning and scheduling of a calendar of events and organisation of Sports and recreation events
- Carry out needs assessment surveys of students
- Conduct reception services, bookings and front-of-house functions to attend to
- Customers requesting use of information on the sports and recreation facilities
- Provide timely updates to the Supervisor regarding delays and unexpected events

The position requires the following competencies:
- Interpersonal skills and Customer focused
- Organizational skills (planning, time management)
- Able to complete multiple assignments, maintain quality, work under pressure and adhere to deadlines
- Networking & relationship building
- Good communication skills
- Research, critical thinking, analytical thinking and problem Solving
- Maintain confidentiality and respectful of sensitive situations
- Flexible and adaptable to change

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

If you meet the requirements of the above stated position, please send your application letter
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ONLY SHORTLISTED CANDIDATES WILL BE RESPONDED TO.

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CLOSING DATE: **September 18, 2026**

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UDC's Law-Making Promise Falls Flat

The opposition has accused the UDC of failing to deliver on its legislative promises, citing 389 unanswered questions and a backlog of unfinished business.

SESUPO RANTSIMAKO

Opposition parties in Parliament have accused the ruling Umbrella for Democratic Change (UDC) of failing to deliver on its promise to make law-making the central focus of the recently concluded legislative meeting.

Minority Leader Mabuse Pule and Opposition Whip Caterpillar Hikuama said the sitting produced little legislative progress, blaming UDC ministers for wasting parliamentary time and ruling-party MPs for rejecting opposition proposals.

PROMISE NOT DELIVERED

Speaking in an interview with The Botswana Gazette, Pule said the Executive had presented the meeting as an opportunity for Parliament to concentrate on law-making; instead, the time was consumed by lengthy question-and-answer sessions and political exchanges.

MINISTERS ACCUSED

Pule accused UDC ministers of taking too long to respond to questions, contributing to the slow pace of proceedings.

He said ministers often use Question Time for political point-scoring instead of providing direct answers and accounting to Parliament. He also accused UDC MPs of routinely rejecting proposals simply because they originate from opposition benches.

PROPOSALS REJECTED

According to Pule, it makes little sense for President Duma Boko to call on MPs to prioritise law-making while ruling-party MPs reject opposition initiatives.

He argued that proposals should be assessed on their merits rather than which side of the House they come from.

Pule also blamed the Executive for the slow legislative programme, saying some Bills were not sufficiently mature for presentation despite government knowing in advance that the sitting was intended to focus on law-making.

RUSHED BILLS WORRY

He said some Bills were introduced under urgency, suggesting they had not been adequately prepared before being brought before Parliament.

Pule warned that rushed legislation limits MPs' ability to conduct proper research, consultation and preparation before debate.

EXPECTATIONS RAISED

Hikuama shared Pule's concerns, saying the legislative meeting failed to bring the anticipated change in parliamentary operations or improve the pace of law-making.

He said the heavily publicised official opening raised expectations among MPs and the public, only for the meeting to proceed largely in the same manner as previous sittings.

QUESTIONS PILE UP

Statistics from the meeting have further fuelled opposition concerns.

A total of 389 questions were received, with 165 noticed, four asked without notice and 148 answered. Another 21 were affected by time constraints, while 241 remained outstanding.

Parliament also considered 30 private members' motions, of which 14 were debated. Six were adopted, five negated and three withdrawn.

> "It makes little sense for President Duma Boko to call on MPs to prioritise law-making while ruling-party MPs reject opposition initiatives."

OPPOSITION QUESTIONS EFFICIENCY

For the opposition, the figures demonstrate that Parliament is struggling to utilise its limited time effectively.

Hikuama also accused ministers of politicising questions when confronted with demands for accountability.

Government Whip Sam Digwa could not be drawn into discussing the issue, saying he was engaged.



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The closing date and time for receipt of sealed tender offers is 1000hrs and **Friday, 18th September 2026.**

For more information about this tender, kindly log onto our website www.hrdc.org.bw

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HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL of BOTSWANA
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Ukraine Marks 35 Years Through Art

Ukraine marked 35 years of restored independence in Gaborone with an art exhibition on resilience, days before Botswana marks its own 60th anniversary.



Guests included Assistant Minister for State President, Defence and Security Hon. Maipelo Mophuting-Dikoloti; newly appointed Minister of Transport and Infrastructure Hon. Keoagile Atamelang; Deputy Speaker Hon. Helen Pushie Manyeneng; and former First Lady Neo Jane Masisi.

GAZETTE REPORTER

Ukraine marked 35 years of restored independence in Botswana on Monday evening with an exhibition at Thapong Visual Arts Centre celebrating resilience, freedom and national identity, as Botswana prepares for its own 60th independence anniversary later this month.

The exhibition, Resilience: The Unbreakable Human Spirit, was presented by the Embassy of Ukraine in Botswana and curated by Thabo Kgatlwane in partnership with TSW. It brings together Botswana creative practitioners working across visual art, sculpture, photography and fashion, and was hosted by Ukraine's Ambassador to Botswana, H.E. Dr Oleksiy Syvak.

DIPLOMATIC GUESTS

Guests included Assistant Minister for State President, Defence and Security Hon. Maipelo Mophuting-Dikoloti; newly appointed Minister of Transport and Infrastructure Hon. Keoagile Atamelang; Deputy Speaker Hon. Helen Pushie Manyeneng; and former First Lady Neo Jane Masisi.

TWO ANNIVERSARIES

The exhibition deliberately connects Ukraine's 35th anniversary with Botswana's Diamond Jubilee celebrations on 30 September. Botswana approaches 60 years as a sovereign state after six decades of largely uninterrupted peace. Ukraine, by contrast, marks its anniversary while continuing to defend its sovereignty following Russia's full-scale invasion in February 2022, against a background of conflict dating to the seizure of Crimea and fighting in eastern Ukraine in 2014.

ART WITHOUT TRANSLATION

Ambassador Syvak said Ukraine should not be understood internationally only through the war; its identity also rests on language, culture, history and tradition. Art, he said, provides a language capable of being understood without translation.

The works displayed explore resilience through identity, perseverance, struggle, transformation, hope and human connection. Botswana artists were invited not to reproduce the Ukrainian experience, but to interpret resilience through their own perspectives.

A DIPLOMATIC MESSAGE

Speaking on behalf of the Botswana Government, Mophuting-Dikoloti reaffirmed Botswana's commitment to international law, sovereignty and territorial integrity, principles she said matter particularly for smaller states whose security depends on an international system in which borders are respected.

BOTSWANA'S DIAMOND JUBILEE

On 30 September, Botswana will commemorate 60 years since independence from Britain in 1966, a picture of peace and stability starkly different from Ukraine's, where independence is being actively defended. The contrast gave the exhibition particular significance: one country marking six decades of peace, another commemorating 35 years while fighting to preserve its sovereignty.

Through paintings, sculpture, photography and fashion, the exhibition carried a message beyond Ukraine itself, that independence is not simply a historical event on a calendar, but a condition inherited and safeguarded by successive generations.

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ii. A contract of 60 months, with gratuity at the rate of 30% payable at the expiry of contract.

QUALIFICATIONS
Candidates must be in possession of a Bachelor's Degree in Accountancy/ Finance/Business Administration. Knowledge on QuickBooks will be an added advantage. Must be BICA Registered

EXPERIENCE
Candidates should have at least 8 years of proven post qualification experience in the relevant field of which 2 years should have been at D4 level at Government or its equivalent in Parastatal or Private Sector.

COMPETENCIES
- Decision quality
- Problem solving
- Planning
- Time management
- Drive for Results
- Integrity and Trust
- Customer Focus

MAIN PURPOSE OF THE JOB:
Provision of finance and administrative services, to support the day to day operations of the NGO Council Secretariat.

DUTIES:
- Provides support to the Coordinator to develop and monitor annual budgets: to account for all incomes and expenditures ensuring that they remain within approved budgets; and to present regular income and expenditure reports to the Council.
- Reviews all payments requests to certify that appropriate supporting documents have been provided and the correct project codes have been used and responsible for NGO Council Procurement.
- Prepares all Purchase Requisition Forms and Purchase Orders ensuring that all appropriate supporting documents are attached using correct project codes before submission to the Coordinator for vetting.
- Maintains accounting system.
- Extracts monthly financial reports from the accounting /financial system; prepares project reports and updates for the Coordinator and Council.
- Prepares, reviews and reconciles monthly financial reports for the project activities and brief the Coordinator.
- Periodically (as scheduled) reviews commitments and follow up finalization on various expenditure lines.
- Periodically reviews the NGO Council approved financial and travel policies.
- Develops and maintains an asset register for the NGO Council Secretariat.
- Provides support to the Coordinator to ensure completion of financial audits as required by regulatory authorities and compliance with best practice standards.
- Ensures administrative staff supervision in line with human resources policies.
- Assists in recording NGO Council meeting minutes as required.
- Performs any other duties as may be assigned from time to time.

APPLICATIONS:
1. Applicants should quote the vacancy circular number on the advert, and give the following details:
   a. A Brief summary of career with duties performed (Curriculum Vitae) including the first date of appointment, present post and the date of appointment thereto.
   b. Certified copies of academic certificates, certified **Identity Document(OMANG)** and a minimum of two (2) recent work related references ***(NOT MORE THAT 6 MONTHS)***
2. Applicants from serving Public Officers should be routed through their Heads of Department and Permanent Secretaries. ***Applications not so routed will not be considered.***
3. Applications should be addressed to: The Coordinator, NGO Council, P.O Box 262 AEJ, Gaborone or hand delivered to the NGO Council, Public Relations Office, 11th Floor, Vasha Building, CBD.
4. ***E- mailed or faxed applications will not be accepted nor considered.***

IMPORTANT NOTICE: Only shortlisted applicants will be entered into correspondence with.

CLOSING DATE: 10 September 2026 at 1630hrs

For further details, please contact: Ms. Innocentia Puso at the NGO Council telephone, 73238338.

LEGABIBO Challenges Butale's Standing

Rights group seeks to join challenge over deleted same-sex provisions, arguing Butale lacks legal standing and is pursuing an academic and political dispute.



Lesbians, Gays and Bisexuals of Botswana (LEGABIBO), an organisation that advocates for the rights of LGBTQ people, has applied to join Biggie Ganda Butale's High Court challenge to the removal of Penal Code provisions that once criminalised consensual same-sex relations.

In an interlocutory application filed on 26 August, LEGABIBO launches a direct attack on Butale's standing to bring the case and argues that the proceedings amount to an abuse of court process. The submissions are allegations before Justice William Moncho and have not yet been determined by the court.

STANDING CHALLENGED

Butale is challenging Statutory Instrument No. 41 of 2026, issued on 27 March, through which the Law Revision Commissioner deleted paragraphs (a) and (c) of section 164 from the published Penal Code. The provisions had already been declared unconstitutional by the High Court in 2019, a decision upheld by the Court of Appeal in 2021.

Butale accepts that the provisions are unconstitutional but argues that formally deleting legislation is Parliament's function and that the Commissioner exceeded his powers.

LEGABIBO says he has failed to establish the legal interest required to challenge that decision. Addressing his reliance on his political career, future electoral ambitions and religious convictions, the organisation argues that these do not establish a current legal right affected by the Commissioner's action.

The affidavit states: "Past membership of Parliament does not confer a continuing legal interest in powers presently vested in the National Assembly."

On Butale's plans to contest the 2029 elections, it adds: "His intended candidacy in 2029 is remote and contingent."

POLITICAL CASE?

LEGABIBO goes further, describing the proceedings as "a sheer abuse of court process" and characterising Butale's founding affidavit as revealing an "academic and purely political character."

It argues that Butale has not shown that the Rectification Order imposed an obligation on him or deprived him of an enforceable legal right. According to the filing, the dispute instead concerns whether provisions already rendered inoperative should continue appearing in the Penal Code.

"The relief sought is academic," LEGABIBO submits, adding that it would have "no lawful practical purpose for restoring invalid wording into the statute book."

LEGABIBO also points to Butale's political history, previous parliamentary and ministerial positions, intended 2029 candidacy and presidential ambitions, arguing that their inclusion supports an inference that the litigation has a significant political dimension.

It concludes: "Therefore, these proceedings are nothing short of sheer abuse of court process and are liable to be struck out with costs."

The High Court must now determine LEGABIBO's application to join the proceedings, while Butale is also facing a separate preliminary challenge from the State over his locus standi and whether his case discloses a sustainable cause of action.

DEPOSIT AND LENDING INTEREST RATES

September 2026

Interest earned is Tax- Free



DEPOSIT RATES

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

LENDING RATES

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

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367 0100 or Visit a BSB Branch
near you for more information.

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Simple. Secure. Everyday

Giving Hope A Fighting Chance

A P250,000 Bomaid investment in breast cancer care is putting critical diagnostic tools where they are needed most, helping doctors detect disease earlier and giving more patients a better chance of fighting it.





LEATILE ZACHARIAH

CLICK WATCH

For a woman waiting to find out whether a lump is cancerous, time matters, and that urgency sits at the heart of Bomaid's P250,000 sponsorship of the Breast and Endocrine Unit at Princess Marina Hospital. The intervention is aimed at strengthening breast cancer diagnosis and patient care at a time when Botswana is facing a growing burden of non-communicable diseases, and it places essential medical supplies directly into the hands of clinicians who need them to move patients from uncertainty towards diagnosis and treatment.

THE RACE FOR TIME

Assistant Minister of Health Hon. Lawrence Ookeditse said Botswana was facing what he described as a "mini crisis" in non-communicable diseases, with cancer among the conditions placing increasing pressure on the health system. One of the most difficult challenges, he said, is that many patients only seek care after disease has already progressed, making prevention, screening and early detection critical parts of the country's response. "We don't prevent disease enough. Secondly, we don't quite have early detection or screening, which then leads to us discovering a lot of these illnesses when they are advanced," Ookeditse said, urging Batswana to prioritise routine health checks so that illness can be identified and managed sooner.

TOOLS THAT MATTER

The sponsorship includes True Cut biopsy needles and Portovac drains for the hospital's Breast and Endocrine Unit, supplies that form part of the practical chain between identifying a suspected cancer and caring for the patient who receives that diagnosis. Ookeditse said that while Botswana continues to build specialist expertise, the health system remains under financial and resource pressure, and clinicians still need the right consumables to do their work effectively. "If you diagnose but you can't treat, you can't manage the disease, then there's a problem," he said, underscoring why even relatively simple medical supplies can have a direct impact on the quality and speed of care.



PREVENTION FIRST

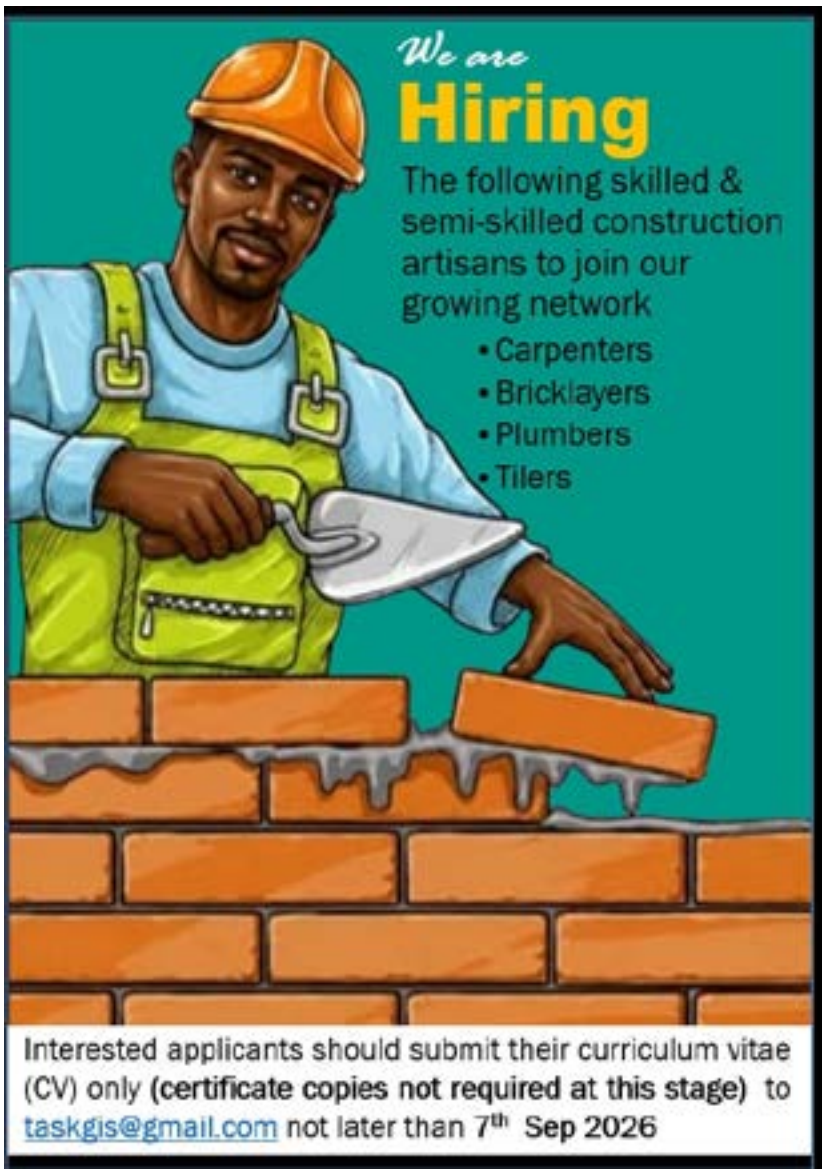
Bomaid Chief Executive Officer Moraki Mokgosana said the partnership with Princess Marina Hospital began almost a year ago after the Breast and Endocrine Unit identified a need for biopsy needles. Bomaid initially provided approximately three months' supply before committing a further P250,000 to the initiative, with the latest supplies expected to last about 12 months. Mokgosana said the support reflects Bomaid's broader emphasis on screening and prevention, particularly because delayed breast cancer diagnosis can dramatically narrow the options available to patients. "We are very strong and passionate about screening and prevention," he said.

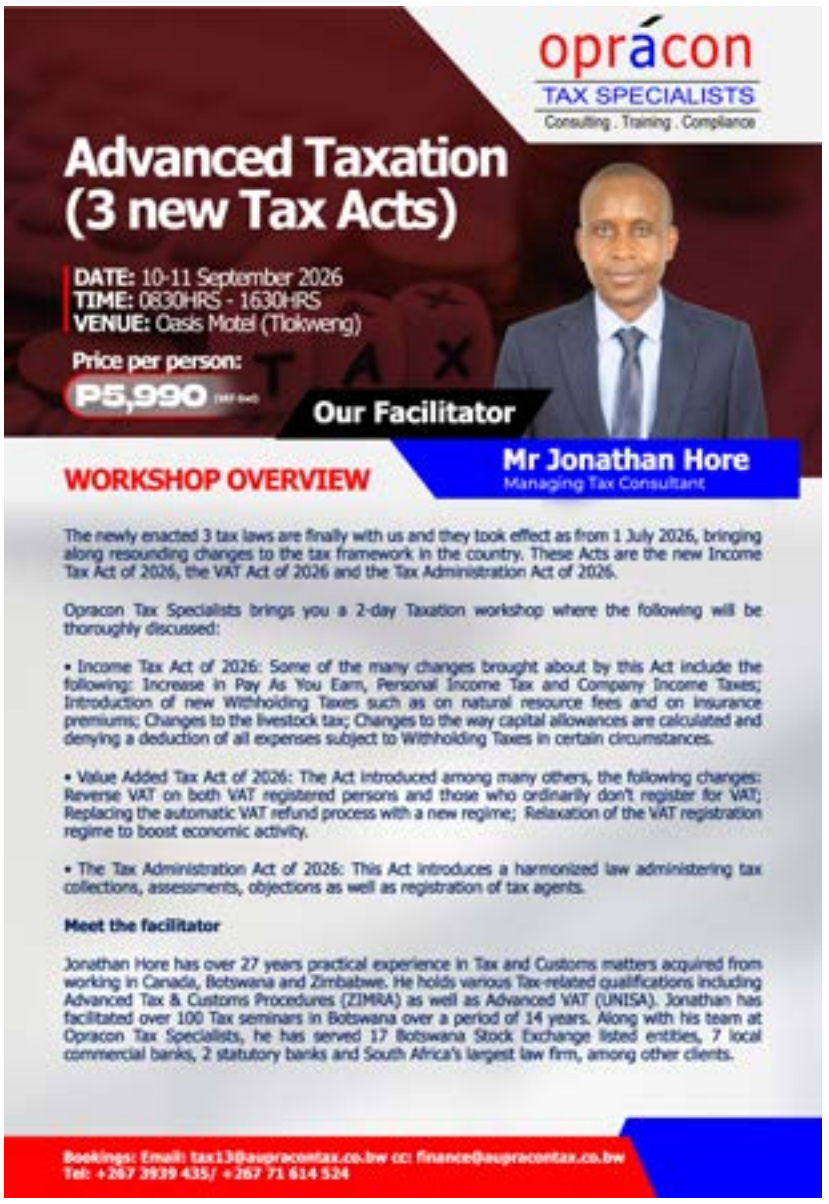
MEASURING IMPACT

For Bomaid, the significance of the sponsorship will ultimately be measured not by the value of the donation alone, but by what happens to the people who pass through the unit. Mokgosana said the real impact will be seen in the number of patients diagnosed early and in cases where cancer progression can be prevented or managed sooner. The wider Bomaid community has also supported the initiative, with the Bomaid Social Club donating clothing items to the unit and Journey of Hope providing breast health educational materials for patients, extending the intervention beyond equipment to the broader experience of care.

A SHARED FIGHT

Mokgosana also called on the private sector to play a larger role in supporting Botswana's healthcare system, arguing that businesses should look beyond what government can provide and consider where they can contribute meaningfully. "We all have to introspect and see what we can do to be able to contribute," he said. Bomaid intends to continue collaborating with Princess Marina Hospital, subject to available funding, as part of its wider commitment to preventative healthcare and community investment, with the ultimate goal of helping more patients reach diagnosis and treatment early enough to have a stronger chance of recovery.





Vacancy Advert

BDC

Botswana Development Corporation is looking for dynamic, zealous, and qualified individuals to submit applications for the following position and join the BDC team to drive its transformational agenda.

Senior Internal Audit Officer

Reporting to the Manager-Internal Audit, you will be responsible for coordinating and executing risk-based internal audit assignments, including audit planning, fieldwork, reporting, and follow-up reviews across the Corporation and its subsidiaries. This includes continuously enhancing the Corporation's internal control environment by providing independent and objective assurance on the adequacy and effectiveness of governance, risk management, and internal control processes.

Through this work, you will contribute to the achievement of the Corporation's strategic objectives and the promotion of sound corporate governance practices. You will participate in the development and implementation of the annual risk-based internal audit plan and will be responsible for planning, coordinating, and conducting financial, operational and compliance in accordance with the International Professional Practices Framework (IPPF) issued by the Institute of Internal Auditors (IIA). You will also evaluate the effectiveness of internal controls, risk management processes, and governance practices, while executing audit engagements from planning through reporting and closure within agreed timelines.

Furthermore, you will analyse data, test controls, assess compliance with applicable laws, regulations, and internal policies, and prepare quality audit reports and recommendations. Additionally, you will be monitoring the implementation of agreed audit actions, contributing to the enhancement of audit processes and methodologies, and participating in fraud investigations, special reviews, and other assignments as directed by management.

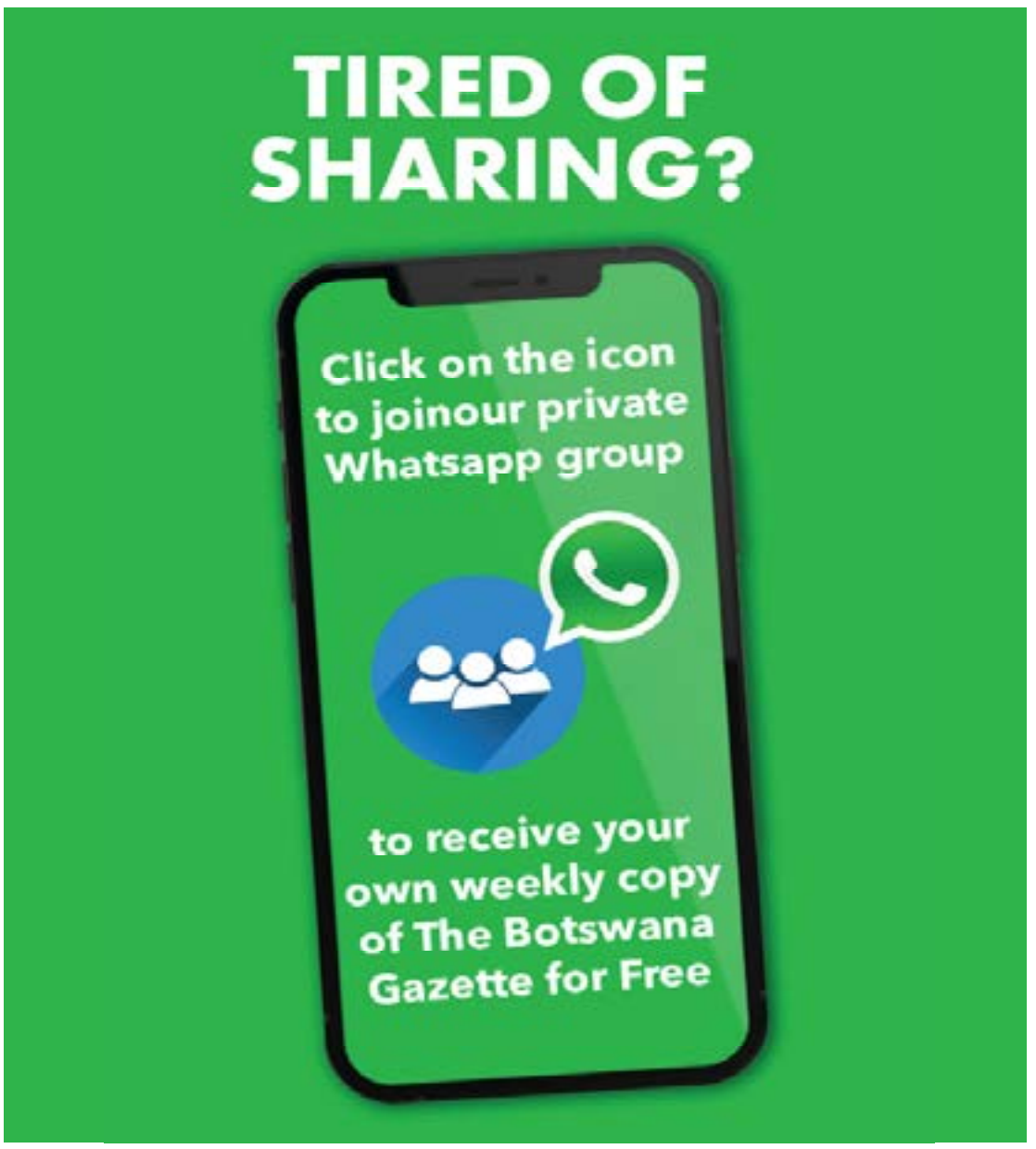
To succeed in this role you should possess a bachelor's degree in Business Administration, Accounting, Finance, Auditing, or a related field from a recognised institution, together with part qualification in a professional certification such as CIA, ACCA, CIMA, or equivalent. Membership in good standing with both BICA and the IIA is required, as well as a minimum of three (3) years' experience in internal or external auditing within a regulated financial institution and certification in investigations, forensic auditing, or fraud examination (e.g., CFE) will be an added advantage.

Candidates who meet the above criteria should submit their applications to recruitment@bdc.bw.
Deadline for applications is 04 September 2026.
BDC offers a commensurate package with attractive benefits.

OUR RECRUITMENT PROCESS ACKNOWLEDGES PEOPLE WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

Recruitment Data Privacy Notice

In compliance with the **Botswana Data Protection Act No. 18 of 2024 (the DPA)**, Botswana Development Corporation (BDC) will process your personal data lawfully and in accordance with the provisions of the DPA, particularly, Section 26 (f), the processing and the collection of personal data is necessary for the performance of legitimate interests pursued by BDC. The collection and processing of your personal data (i.e. identification details, contact information, date of birth and employment history etc) will be for recruitment and employment purposes, in accordance with the purpose limitation principles stipulated in the DPA. Your information will be handled confidentially and may be shared with authorised internal departments and third-party service providers involved in the recruitment process. You have the right to access, rectify, restrict, delete or object to the processing of your personal data. **For inquiries on the processing of your personal data, contact Data Protection Officer.**



WEAVING THE SLIP

A Setswana turn of phrase has quietly become the vocabulary of a household crisis. In villages across Botswana, parents say betting influencers are pulling children and out-of-school young people into wagering funded from family mobile wallets. Yet as the state moves to lower the legal betting age, the intermediaries driving the boom are unregistered, uncounted and largely unwatched — and nobody in the industry wants to be the first to call it a red flag.

BONGANI MALUNGA AND TLOTLO KEBINAKGABO

The meeting at the kgotla in Mathethe was supposed to be about passwords.

It was one of a series of community sessions run by the Village Digital Safety Initiative, a project set up to take practical cybersecurity education out of boardrooms and into villages — how to secure a WhatsApp account, how to spot a phishing message. Then a parent stood up and said something that was not on the agenda. Junior school children in the village, she said, were already betting online, and it was showing in their schoolwork.



In Digawana, another parent described unemployed and out-of-school young people who had become heavily involved in online betting. After one session, a mother was visibly emotional and wanted to know one thing: how do you control a child who is drifting further into it?

What the parents kept returning to was not the wager. It was the money — how fast it moves now, and how quietly. They described young people taking funds from digital wallets, mobile-money accounts and bank accounts to bet. In everyday conversation it has a name. *Go loga slip*. Weaving the slip.

"Behind that familiar phrase can be a much more serious problem when money intended for food and other household necessities is diverted," the initiative notes. A transaction clears in seconds; a parent not entirely comfortable with mobile banking may only understand what has happened days later.

None of this appears in Botswana's gambling statistics, because Botswana does not really have gambling statistics. Legal online betting arrived recently enough that there is almost no independent research into who is betting, at what age, and with whose money. The fear among those working in the villages is that the country will establish the scale of the problem only after it has arrived.

THE NEW MIDDLEMEN

Between the bookmaker and the punter, a new figure has appeared, and it is employed by neither.



Some of Botswana's highest-rated betting influencers can attract between 4,000 and 15,000 responses to a single betting slip, according to information gathered by *The Botswana Gazette*. Their reach runs well past sharing a prediction. Followers are directed to bookmakers through referral and booking codes circulated on Facebook and in WhatsApp groups built for exactly that purpose.

An influencer pulling 15,000 responses to one slip has access to a customer base larger than most local advertising campaigns can buy. Repeated daily, and around events such as the recently ended 2026 FIFA World Cup, the commercial value becomes considerable. And that value is not incidental. It is contractual.

The Gambling Authority has confirmed to this publication that licensed operators may enter commission-based arrangements with influencers, including arrangements in which an influencer earns a percentage of the revenue generated by bets placed through their code. The same Authority confirms that influencers and affiliates need not be registered or licensed, and that it keeps no database of who they are or how many are operating.

Then there is the line that defines the grey area.

"The sharing of a betting code does not, in itself, constitute advertising or promotion of gambling under Section 106, as it does not amount to a communication intended to advertise or promote a gambling activity. Accordingly, the sharing of such a code alone does not require the legally prescribed gambling addiction warning," the Chief Operating Officer of the Gambling Authority, Mopati Rammekwa, told this publication.

Regulation 102(1) requires advertisements for gambling activities to carry a warning about addictive and compulsive gambling. A billboard is unmistakably an advertisement. A post captioned "today's slip," from someone a follower has watched for months, is not — even when a commission is attached to the code inside it. The warning Parliament wrote into the law is therefore absent from the channel now doing the most persuading.

THE MAN WHO POSTS THE SLIPS

One betting influencer with more than 100,000 followers on Facebook, speaking on condition of anonymity, does not dispute how the machinery works.

"For someone to be recognised as a betting influencer, there has to be some level of following and credibility. People generally choose to enter slips from individuals they follow, trust or believe have a good chance of winning," he said. "In my own case, I have gone for a long time without winning, and as a result, people do not necessarily enter my slips. The reality is that people are more likely to follow and enter slips from someone who is winning or who gives them the impression that they have a good chance of winning."

That last clause is the economy in a sentence. What is rewarded is not accuracy. It is the *impression* of winning — and losses are not posted.

He is equally blunt about who is allowed in. "Anyone can become a betting influencer simply by creating a betting slip, sharing it and having people enter it. This means there are people presenting themselves as influencers without necessarily having a proven track record, knowledge or experience in sports betting."

> "An influencer pulling 15,000 responses to one slip has access to a customer base larger than most local advertising campaigns can buy."

His conclusion is the industry's standard defence, offered plainly. "I do not force anyone to enter my betting slips. I simply post my slips on my wall or channel, and people make their own decisions. I believe every individual has to take responsibility for their own betting decisions."

Individual responsibility is a reasonable principle among adults who understand the odds. In Mathethe and Digawana, the people being described are junior school children.

Continues to page 17

FROM PAGE 16

The Village Digital Safety Initiative found the same pattern when it examined the platforms after the village sessions. "For an experienced internet user, some of these claims may immediately raise questions. For a young or inexperienced user, however, repeated exposure to apparently successful betting slips can create a very different impression."

The problem, it argues, is not that everyone sharing betting content is dishonest. It is that most users have never been taught to interrogate what they are shown.

EVERYBODY KNOWS, NOBODY COUNTS

Approached for comment, betting companies acknowledged that influencer partnerships exist — and declined to say anything about their scale or terms.

Bet267's Marketing and Public Relations Manager, Tshepiso Goitsemang, said the company's arrangements with partners are governed by confidential written agreements. "For that reason we do not ordinarily disclose the identities, numbers, remuneration structures or contractual particulars of our commercial partners to the media."

> Botswana's framework also lacks the influencer-specific safeguards found elsewhere



Every partner, she said, operates under an agreement requiring compliance with Botswana's advertising laws, "including mandatory responsible gambling messaging and the strict prohibition on targeting persons under the age of 21." On intermediaries handling money she was unambiguous: no influencer, ambassador, affiliate or tipster is authorised to collect deposits or stakes, or place bets on customers' behalf, outside the licensed platform.

PST Bet said influencers and tipsters do not form part of its marketing strategy, and that its partnerships are "not designed to incentivise associates on the basis of individual customer losses."

The Gambling Authority says it has met some influencers and affiliates to explore how they might be regulated — an acknowledgement that the category exists and is not yet governed. It also says it has never investigated an influencer case specifically involving "sure odds" or fabricated win claims.

So the position is this. The regulator concedes influencers are unregistered and unmapped. The operators concede the relationships exist but will not describe them. The influencers concede the space is open to anyone and that credibility is manufactured by selective posting. Each admission is defensible alone. Assembled, they describe a customer-acquisition system aimed at a young, digitally fluent population, running without registration, without disclosure requirements and without the addiction warning the law prescribes for advertising.

THE TIMING

All of this is unfolding while Parliament debates lowering the legal gambling age from 21 to 18 under the Gambling (Amendment) Bill, 2026.

Opposition legislators have resisted the clause. During Committee Stage debate, Botswana Congress Party MP Kenny Kapinga urged Parliament to keep the minimum at 21, arguing that 18-year-olds remain vulnerable to early exposure. Their argument draws force from the regulator's own warnings that unlicensed platforms are already bypassing age restrictions and reaching teenagers. If enforcement cannot hold the line at 21, moving it to 18 does not extend protection. It concedes ground.

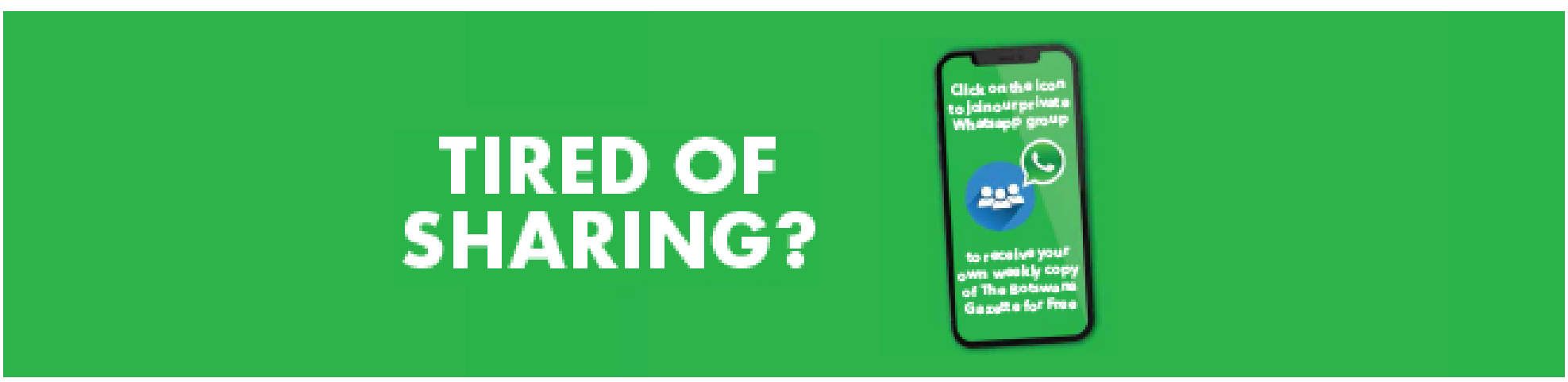
Botswana's framework also lacks the influencer-specific safeguards found elsewhere. Britain requires prominent disclosure of commercial relationships and bars presenting betting as a route out of financial difficulty; United States endorsement rules require conspicuous disclosure of material connections; South Africa expects promotional material to carry responsible-gambling messaging. In each case the *relationship* between influencer and brand is a regulatory fact. In Botswana it is a private commercial matter.

The Village Digital Safety Initiative went to the villages to teach people how to protect their accounts. It found parents trying to work out how to protect their households from their own children's phones.

> "Anyone can become a betting influencer simply by creating a betting slip, sharing it and having people enter it. This means there are people presenting themselves as influencers without necessarily having a proven track record, knowledge or experience in sports betting."

"You cannot fully understand Botswana's digital-safety challenges from behind a computer," it concluded. "Sometimes you have to sit under the village tree, enter the kgotla, listen to a parent and hear what is really happening."

The slips are being woven. The question is who is counting.



The Botswana Gazette
BUSINESS NEWS

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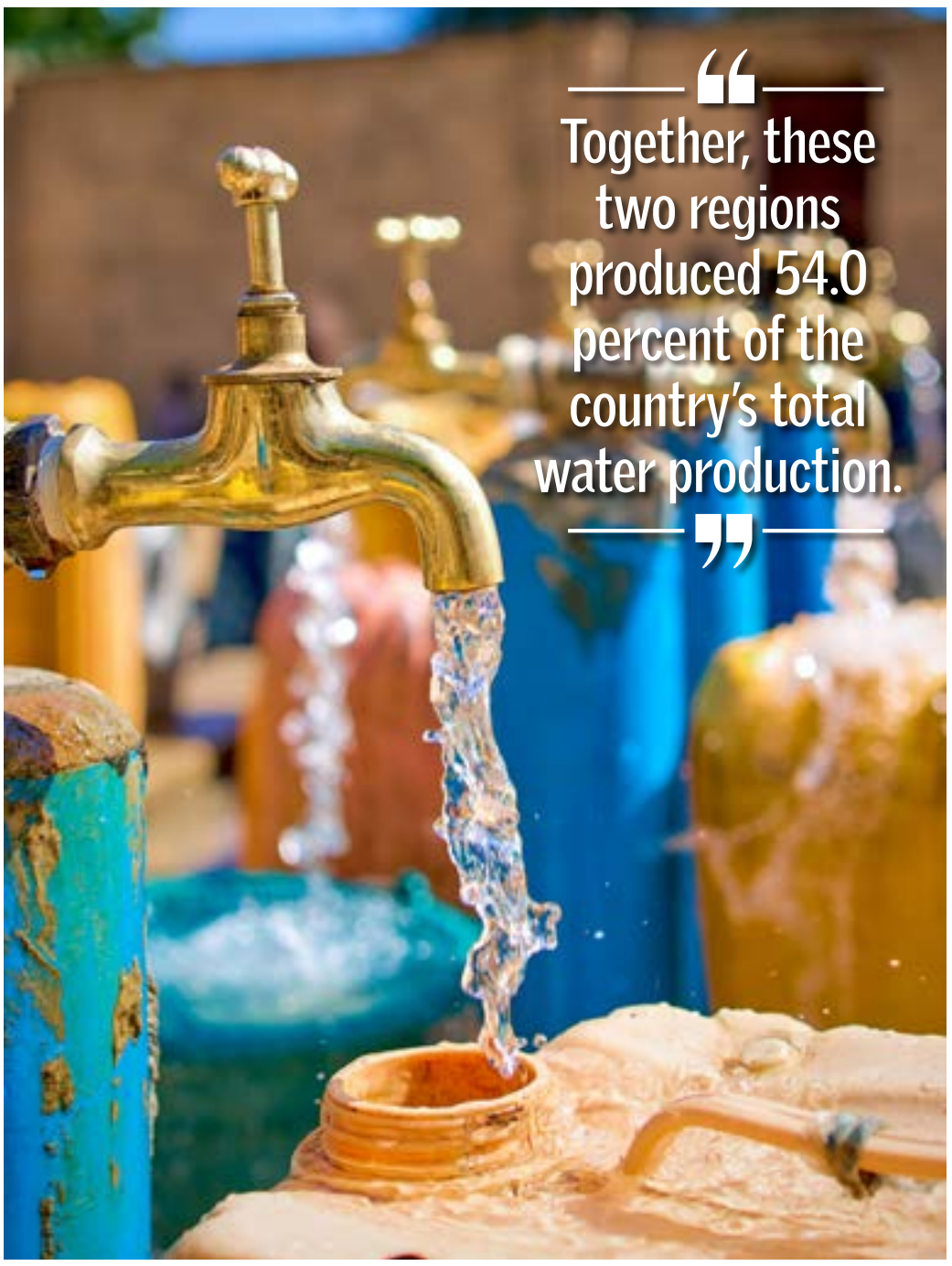
Water Output Slips 0.6 Percent

National water production dipped in the first quarter, while Gaborone 1 and the North region together supplied 54 percent of Botswana's output.



GAZETTE REPORTER

Botswana's physical volume of water production fell by 0.6 percent in the first quarter of 2026 to 31,333,459 kilolitres (KL), from 31,511,986 KL in the fourth quarter of 2025, according to Statistics Botswana's Index of Water Production Statistics: First Quarter 2026 Stats Brief.

The figures show that production remained heavily concentrated in Gaborone 1 and the North region, which together accounted for more than half of the country's total water output.

OUTPUT CONCENTRATED

Gaborone 1 recorded the highest water production during the quarter at 9,062,247 KL, equivalent to 28.9 percent of national production. The region comprises Gaborone, Mogoditshane, Ramotswa and Tlokweng.

The North region, comprising Francistown, Selebi-Phikwe, Masunga, Tutume and Kasane, produced 7,875,598 KL, or 25.1 percent of the national total. Together, the two regions accounted for 54.0 percent of production.

REGIONAL SPLIT

The South region, comprising Kanye, Lobatse, Ghanzi and Tsabong, ranked third with 4,742,739 KL, or 15.1 percent of total output.

Central region, covering Mahalapye, Palapye, Serowe and Letlhakane, produced 4,586,719 KL, accounting for 14.6 percent, while Gaborone 2, comprising Molepolole and Mochudi, produced 3,681,094 KL, or 11.7 percent.

The Western region, comprising Maun and Gumare business centres, recorded the lowest output at 1,385,061 KL, accounting for 4.4 percent of national production.

WUC MANDATE

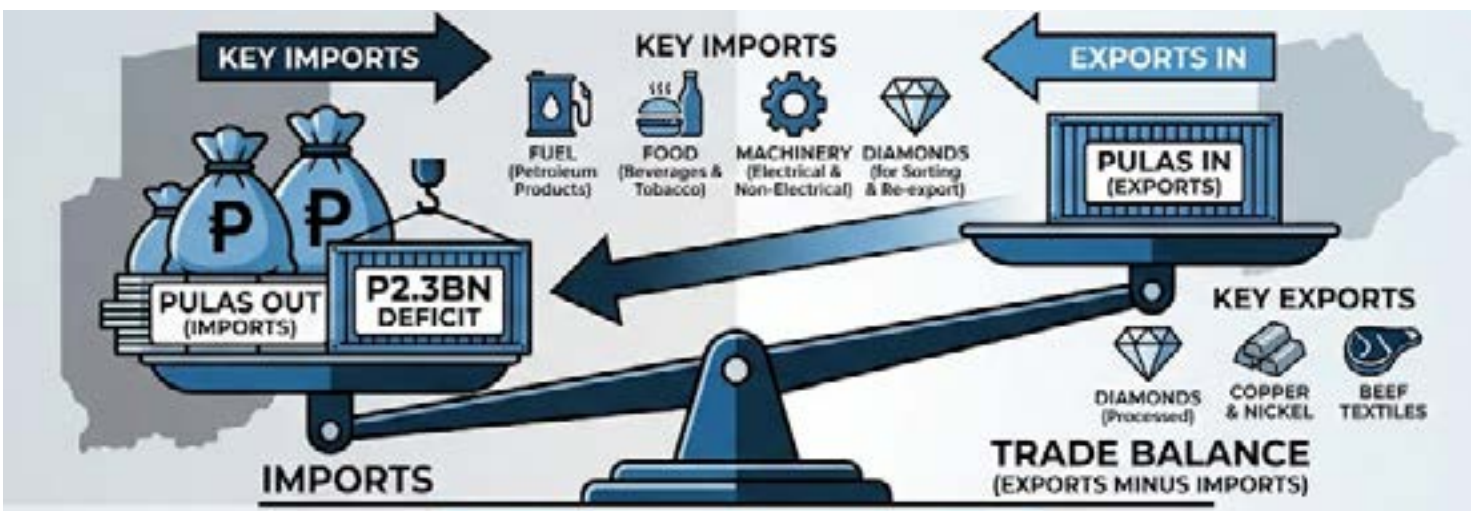
The report also outlines the role of Water Utilities Corporation (WUC), a government-owned parastatal established in 1970 under the Water Utilities Corporation Act, Laws of Botswana Cap 74:02.

WUC is responsible for planning, constructing, operating and maintaining water infrastructure, distributing potable water and managing wastewater services as mandated by government.

The report says "the delivery of uniform service levels, as well as the upgrading of water infrastructure, to meet requisite water and wastewater standards remains a long-term objective" pursued by the corporation. At the time of publication, WUC had more than 550,500 customer connections.

Trade Deficit Hits P2.3bn

Imports fell sharply in June but still exceeded largely unchanged exports, leaving Botswana with a P2.3 billion merchandise trade deficit.



GAZETTE REPORTER

Botswana recorded a merchandise trade deficit of P2.3 billion in June 2026, continuing a prolonged run of trade deficits, according to Statistics Botswana.

The gap persisted even as imports contracted significantly during the month, because exports remained largely unchanged.

EXPORTS FLAT

Exports were valued at P4.9518 billion in June, a marginal increase of P0.3 million from the revised P4.9515 billion recorded in May 2026.

Diamonds remained Botswana's dominant export commodity group at 56.1 percent of total exports. Copper accounted for 26.9 percent, while Machinery & Electrical Equipment ranked third at 6.2 percent.

ASIA LEADS

Asia was Botswana's largest export market, receiving 56.7 percent of total exports, followed by the Southern African Customs Union (SACU) and Europe (EU), according to the International Merchandise Trade Statistics Monthly Digest - June 2026.

Diamonds and Copper were the main commodities shipped to Asia, accounting for 73.0 percent and 26.2 percent respectively. The United Arab Emirates received 24.6 percent of Botswana's total exports, China 14.9 percent and India 11.6 percent.

IMPORTS CONTRACT

Total imports were valued at P7.2 billion, down 12.9 percent from the revised May 2026 value of P8.3 billion.

Statistics Botswana attributed the decline mainly to lower Diamond and Fuel imports. Diamond imports fell by 40 percent, equivalent to P671.8 million, while Fuel imports declined by 21.2 percent, or P418.6 million.

Fuel remained the largest imported commodity group at 21.4 percent of total imports, followed by Machinery & Electrical Equipment at 18.9 percent. Food, Beverages & Tobacco contributed 15.3 percent, Diamonds 13.8 percent and Chemicals & Rubber Products 10.2 percent.

SOUTH AFRICA DOMINATES

SACU remained Botswana's principal source of imports, supplying goods worth P5.1 billion, or 70.4 percent of total imports.

Within SACU, South Africa was the largest source, accounting for 58.3 percent of total imports. Namibia was second at 11.7 percent, equivalent to P853.4 million.

BSB Means Business Now

Botswana Savings Bank has moved beyond its traditional savings identity and is now offering businesses transactional banking, working capital and finance solutions designed to support growth from start-up to expansion.

LEATILE ZACHARIAH

Botswana Savings Bank has long been associated with savings and individual customers, but the bank is now making a deliberate move into business banking and wants Botswana's entrepreneurs, small and medium enterprises and established corporates to take notice. Its new Business Banking Suite, launched on 28 August at Masa Square Hotel as part of the wider Pinagare 2029 transformation strategy, is designed to reposition BSB as a bank that can handle the day-to-day transactions of a business while also financing its **growth.**

READY FOR BUSINESS

Acting Chief Executive Officer Dr Wabo Moswate said the launch represents more than the introduction of another set of banking products because BSB wants to build longer-term relationships with the businesses it serves. "Today we are launching a Business Banking solution suite. But what we are really launching is a promise of partnership," Moswate said. The bank's proposition is to support a business through different stages of its journey, from opening accounts and managing cash flow to investing in assets, expanding operations and financing **larger projects**.



BANK YOUR GROWTH

The new offering includes transactional accounts, deposits and investment products, as well as a broad range of financing solutions. Businesses can access working capital facilities, invoice discounting, purchase order financing, overdrafts, equipment and vehicle finance, commercial property loans and business term loans, giving BSB a far wider commercial proposition than the savings-led offering for which it has traditionally been known. For business owners, the value lies in being able to transact, save and borrow within the same banking relationship rather than treating each need as a separate **financial problem.**

FINANCE THAT FITS

Head of Business Banking Akofang Kebonye said BSB wants to serve businesses across the spectrum, from smaller enterprises to established corporations, and intends to use customers' transactional activity to better understand how those businesses operate. "We are looking to enable Botswana businesses of all sizes, from SMMEs to established corporates, to be able to firstly transact and then also be funded to grow and achieve their ambitions," Kebonye said. He added that the more a business banks with BSB, the more information the bank has to assess its operations and develop solutions that are tailored to **its actual needs.**

> "BSB is here for business. We mean business."

YOUR PRIMARY BANK

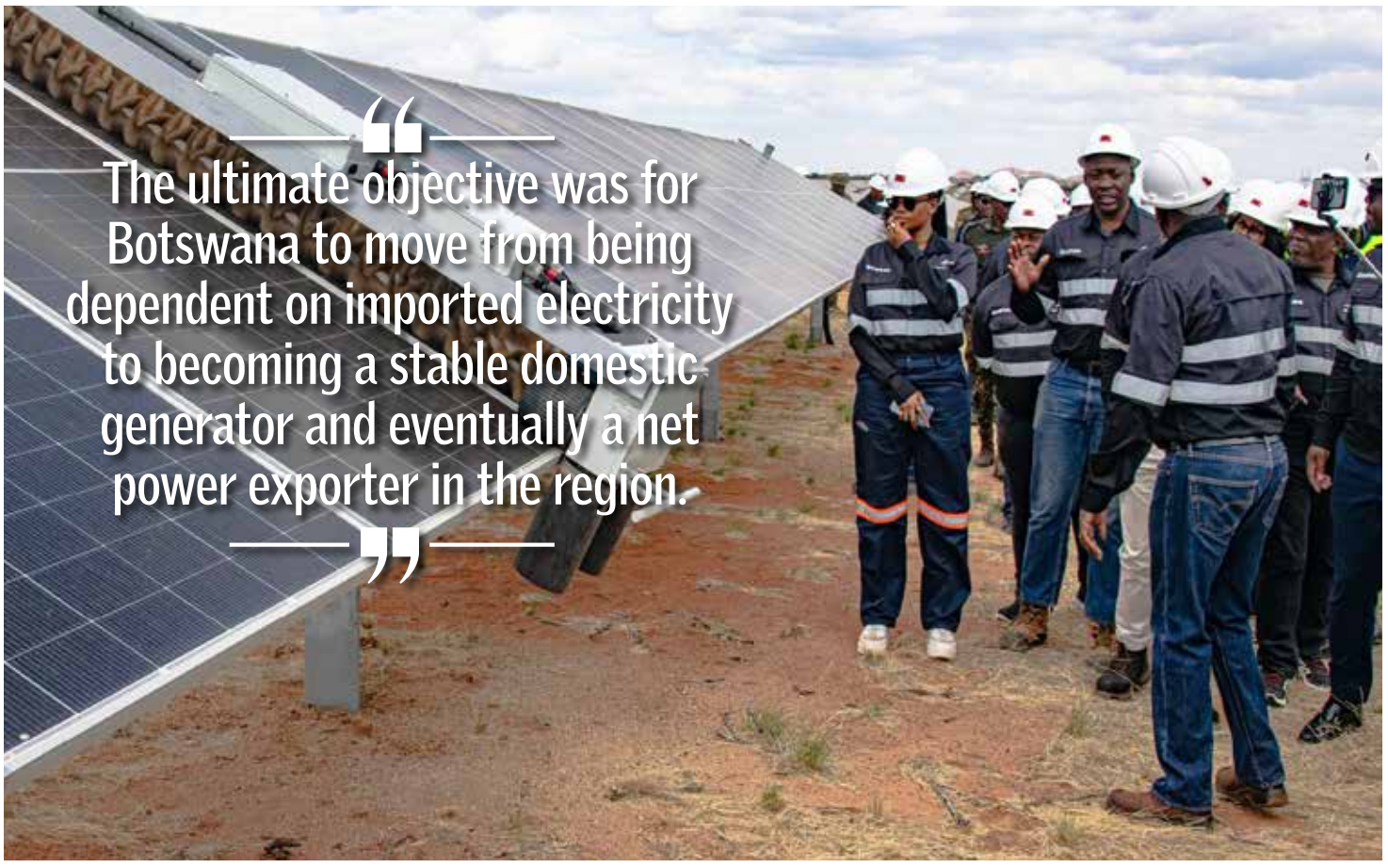
BSB's ambition is not merely to sell individual finance products but to become the primary bank for its business customers, supporting them from everyday transactions and savings through to working capital requirements and major expansion. Moswate said Botswana is at an economic crossroads and needs a more dynamic private sector that can help diversify the economy, create employment and expand opportunities for Batswana. In that environment, BSB is positioning itself as a financial partner that wants to grow alongside the businesses it banks rather than only stepping in when a cust**omer needs** a loan.

A NEW BSB

The launch marks a significant strategic shift for an institution historically associated with personal savings, and the bank is making the commercial message deliberately clear. "BSB is here for business. We mean business," Kebonye said. For entrepreneurs and companies looking for a bank that can handle both transactions and finance, BSB is effectively putting out a new invitation to the market: bring the business, bring the growth plan and bring the ambition, because Botswana Savings Bank now wants to be part of what comes next.

BPC Cuts Power Imports

All four Morupule B units are back online, reducing Botswana's reliance on imported electricity as government pushes new domestic generation.



GAZETTE REPORTER

Botswana Power Corporation (BPC) has significantly reduced its reliance on imported electricity after all four generating units at Morupule B Power Station returned to service, Minerals and Energy Minister Bogolo Kenewendo has said.

Speaking at the official launch of the 100MW Mmadinare Solar PV Project, Kenewendo said restoring Morupule B's generation capacity had enabled BPC to drastically cut electricity imports.

"All four units are operational," Kenewendo said.

GENERATION RETURNS

Kenewendo said the development marked progress after power supply challenges, including the collapse of Morupule B units. She credited the BPC team with restoring capacity and challenged the utility to maintain stability while improving domestic generation.

She said the Mmadinare, Jwaneng and Morupule A generation clusters were also operational.

MIXED ENERGY

The reduction in imports comes as Botswana expands domestic electricity generation through a combination of coal and renewable energy.

Kenewendo said the energy transition did not mean abandoning coal, arguing that a reliable electricity system would require a balanced mix of coal-fired and renewable generation.

The 100MW Mmadinare Solar PV Project, developed through a partnership between BPC and independent power producer Scatec, forms part of that diversification. According to Kenewendo, Botswana's Integrated Resource Plan targets renewable energy supplying at least 50 percent of the country's electricity by 2030.

GRID CHALLENGE

Kenewendo cautioned that expanding generation capacity would need to be matched by investment in transmission infrastructure.

With several new projects expected to come online, she identified strengthening the national grid as the next major challenge. Botswana's ultimate objective, she said, is to move from dependence on imported electricity to stable domestic generation and eventually become a net regional power exporter.

LOCAL BENEFITS

The Mmadinare project has created more than 600 employment opportunities for citizens and achieved at least 20 percent local participation during development and construction.

Government is working towards at least 40 percent Botswana ownership in the project company within five years. Kenewendo said new energy projects should also deliver local ownership, employment, industrialisation and wider economic activity.

Far Property Expands Forest Hill Footprint

The competition authority has cleared two Forest Hill property acquisitions by The Far Property Company, finding no material threat to competition or public interest.



GAZETTE REPORTER

The Competition and Consumer Authority (CCA) has unconditionally approved two separate acquisitions of immovable property by The Far Property Company Limited, a Botswana Stock Exchange-listed property investment company whose shareholders include Ramachandran Ottapathu and Farouk Ismail.

The two transactions concern properties at Farm Forest Hill No. 9-KO in Botswana's South-East Administrative District.

FIRST DEAL

In the first decision, the CCA approved The Far Property Company's proposed acquisition of Portion 175, a portion of Portion 148 of Farm Forest Hill No. 9-KO, from GICP III 175 Trust.

According to the CCA assessment, The Far Property is controlled by various shareholders, including Ottapathu, Ismail, Platinum Compass (Pty) Limited, Botswana Public Officers Pension Fund and Botswana Insurance Fund Management.

GICP III 175 Trust is registered under Botswana law and controlled by Viki International Limited, an entity domiciled in the Bahamas. The trust is involved in leasing, acquiring and selling immovable property and is the registered lessee of the property under a lease agreement with the Roman Catholic Church.

SECOND DEAL

In a separate decision, the CCA approved The Far Property Company's acquisition of Portion 1637, a portion of Portion 1619, itself a portion of Portion 3 of Farm Forest Hill No. 9-KO, from Merlin Integer (Pty) Ltd.

Merlin Integer is registered in Botswana and controlled by Viki International Limited. The authority described it as a property investment company involved in the "leasing, acquiring and sale of immovable property" and said it is the registered lessee of the target property under an agreement with the Roman Catholic Church.

COMPETITION TEST

The CCA said The Far Property holds a portfolio spanning retail, commercial, industrial and residential properties in Botswana, South Africa and Zambia.

Although the authority acknowledged an overlap in the parties' activities in Botswana, it distinguished the transactions from acquisitions of the target businesses themselves.

"The Acquiring Enterprise is not purchasing GICP Trust as a going concern but is acquiring a property owned by the Target Enterprise," the CCA said of the first transaction. It reached a similar conclusion regarding Merlin Integer.

The authority said the relevant property market remained competitive, with "many active participants," and determined that neither transaction would substantially prevent or lessen competition in Botswana.

The CCA concluded that the transactions raised no competition or public-interest concerns.

StanChart Profit Set to Rise

Standard Chartered Bank Botswana expects first-half profit before tax to rise by between P22 million and P36 million, triggering a BSE cautionary announcement.



GAZETTE REPORTER

Standard Chartered Bank Botswana expects profit before tax (PBT) for the six months ended 30 June 2026 to increase by between P22 million and P36 million compared with the same period last year.

In a cautionary statement published with the Botswana Stock Exchange (BSE), the bank said unaudited consolidated PBT for the first half of 2026 is expected to be approximately 16 percent to 26 percent higher than the P140 million reported for the six months ended 30 June 2025.

BSE THRESHOLD

The expected increase is above the 10 percent threshold under section 5.4c of the BSE listing requirements, which requires an issuer to publish a cautionary announcement when there is a reasonable degree of certainty that expected profit or loss before tax will differ by at least 10 percent from the previous corresponding period.

RESULTS PENDING

Standard Chartered said its half-year results will be published before 30 September 2026, when full details of its financial performance will be provided.

The bank cautioned that the figures in the announcement remain unaudited and may change.

“The actual results may differ from those disclosed herein,” Standard Chartered said, advising shareholders and investors to exercise caution when dealing in the company’s securities until the full results are published.

BOTSWANA ROOTS

Standard Chartered Bank Botswana traces its operations in the country to 1897, when it opened for business in Francistown. The Francistown office received full branch status in 1956, followed by Lobatse in 1958, Mahalapye in 1963 and Gaborone in 1964.

The bank was locally incorporated in 1975 with a full board, and 25 percent of its shares are listed on the BSE. It currently operates 11 branches and four Express Banking Centres, supported by a Loan Centre and a 24-hour Client Care Centre.

BTC Targets P1.7bn Revenue

BTC is targeting P1.7 billion in revenue and EBITDA above 35 percent as it leans on data, AI and network investment after a 1.6 percent revenue decline.

GAZETTE REPORTER

Botswana Telecommunications Corporation (BTC) is targeting P1.7 billion in revenue as it bets on network investment, artificial intelligence and digital services to strengthen its position in an increasingly data-driven market.

The growth push comes after BTC reported revenue of P1.47 billion for the period under review, a 1.6 percent decline, even as mobile subscriptions rose by 30 percent to 757,529 and the active Smega base increased by 49 percent to 122,260.

Growth Target

BTC Board Chairperson-Interim Thato Kewakae said the company had spent the past year making changes and investments intended to prepare it for future growth.

“AI will find a suitable home at BTC, where we aim to lead in its appropriate application,” Kewakae said in BTC’s Integrated Report 2026.



Kewakae said BTC expected stronger revenue from its investments, better use of technology, new products, sharper customer focus and improved internal efficiencies.

“Our sales touchpoints will expand across the country, supporting improved revenue and profitability across all product lines,” he said.

“We are confident that this will enable us to reach the P1.7 billion revenue mark, with EBITDA consistently above 35 percent in the coming periods.”

He said improved network quality should lift revenue from mobile and broadband customers as voice, data and financial services are increasingly consumed as integrated product suites.

“We are confident that this will enable us to reach the P1.7 billion revenue mark, with EBITDA consistently above 35 percent in the coming periods,” Kewakae said.

Data Shift

BTC Chief Executive Officer Jürgen Peschel said the substitution of voice by data, together with the shift from fixed-line to mobile services, continued at an accelerated pace.

“In response, BTC has recently undertaken a major capacity expansion across our entire mobile network,” Peschel said.

He said BTC had invested significantly in nationwide data availability and now provided what he described as the widest data coverage in Botswana.

Peschel said further capacity expansions had been implemented to accommodate continued growth in data usage. He also said the recent launch of unlimited packages strengthened BTC’s data proposition.

FNBB, SPEDU Join Forces

A new agreement between FNBB and SPEDU will explore financing structures for industrial, agribusiness, tourism and manufacturing projects across the Selebi-Phikwe region.

First National Bank Botswana (FNBB) and SPEDU have signed an agreement to explore financing and risk-sharing structures aimed at supporting private sector investment across the Selebi-Phikwe region.

FINANCING THE PIPELINE

The agreement establishes a framework for confidential information sharing as the two organisations assess co-financing, de-risking and enterprise-development opportunities in industrial, agribusiness, tourism and manufacturing projects.

SPEDU, a government-owned company under the Ministry of Trade and Entrepreneurship, coordinates economic diversification across 52 settlements in the region. It has told Parliament that its current industrial investment pipeline is valued at between P5.9 billion and P6.8 billion.

BLENDED FINANCE IN FOCUS

The partnership will explore combining commercial debt and asset-based financing to address funding requirements for projects identified by SPEDU. It will also examine working-capital and turnaround financing for previously closed manufacturing enterprises.

FNBB Commercial Executive Acting Valentine Harward said the agreement reflects a model in which government structures and commercial financing work together. "Government provides the mandate, the land, and the incentive architecture; we bring structured capital, credit expertise, and balance sheet."

> "Our constraint has never been project ideas; it has been catalytic, bankable finance to move projects from concept to construction."

SUPPORTING CITIZEN ENTERPRISES

The agreement also targets enterprises participating in the Citizen Economic Empowerment Programme and projects aligned with the Botswana Economic Transformation Programme (BETP), including manufacturing, energy, financial services and digitalisation.



FNBB Commercial Executive Acting Valentine Harward

SPEDU Caretaker Chief Executive Officer Ronnie Phuthego said access to bankable financing remained a challenge for projects in the region. "Our constraint has never been project ideas; it has been catalytic, bankable finance to move projects from concept to construction."

The two parties will now assess specific financing needs, project pipelines and potential co-investment structures.

Article edited for length



Wilderness Renews Schools Partnership

A renewed three-year agreement will bring environmental learning, teacher support and practical school projects to eight North West primary schools.

Okavango Wilderness Safaris (OWS), through Children in the Wilderness (CITW) Botswana, has renewed its partnership with the Ministry of Child Welfare and Basic Education's Regional Education Office North West to support environmental education in schools.

320 LEARNERS, EIGHT SCHOOLS

The three-year agreement will cover about 320 learners at eight primary schools: Shashe, Shorobe, Sankoyo, Seronga, Gunotsoga, Eretsha, Beetsha and Gudigwa. The programme includes Eco-Clubs, teacher training, environmental education, leadership and life-skills development, annual camps and practical learning linked to the national curriculum.

A CLUSTERED APPROACH

The renewed agreement introduces clusters to improve coordination and resource sharing among participating schools. The OCT Cluster includes Seronga, Gunotsoga, Eretsha, Beetsha and Gudigwa, while the Sankoyo Cluster comprises Shashe, Shorobe and Sankoyo. Eretsha Primary School is a new addition to the programme.

MORE PRACTICAL PROJECTS

The programme will place greater emphasis on monitoring, teacher support and school-based projects. Activities already underway include vegetable gardens, monthly litter-picking exercises and the provision of stationery and shared learning materials. Two teachers from each school are trained as Eco-Mentors.

> A renewed three-year agreement will bring environmental learning, teacher support and practical school projects to eight North West primary schools.

P1.5 MILLION ANNUAL INVESTMENT

OWS currently invests about P1.5 million annually in CITW activities across seven North West/Okavango Eco-Clubs it directly supports, covering curriculum implementation, learning resources, teacher training and annual camps.

OWS Caretaker Managing Director Joe Matome said the renewed partnership would focus on strengthening existing work. "The ambition is not simply to reach more children. It is to deepen the quality of what we are able to do with each school," he said.

Article edited for length

Metropolitan Announces CEO Transition

Boitumelo Mogopa has left Metropolitan Botswana after three years as CEO, with CFO Ruvimbo Chimedza set to take over on an interim basis pending regulatory approval.



Metropolitan Life of Botswana interim CEO, Ruvimbo Chimedza

Metropolitan Life of Botswana has announced the departure of Chief Executive Officer Boitumelo Mogopa after three years in the position, with Chief Financial Officer Ruvimbo Chimedza appointed interim CEO, subject to regulatory approval.

MOGOPA'S THREE-YEAR TENURE

The company said Mogopa's tenure included changes to its organisational culture and brand, alongside a focus on accountability, customer service, innovation and performance. Her leadership also coincided with growth in Value of New Business and the acquisition of new Union Schemes.

CHIMEDZA TAKES THE REINS

Chimedza, who has served as Metropolitan Botswana's CFO since 2023, will assume the interim role with immediate effect, subject to regulatory approval. She has led strategic projects within the business and has more than 19 years' experience in the financial services sector, including external audit and industry roles in Botswana.

She is a Chartered Accountant and holds an Honours Degree in Accounting Science from the University of South Africa and an MBA with distinction from Edinburgh Business School, Heriot-Watt University in the UK.

BUSINESS CONTINUITY

Metropolitan Botswana said the leadership change would not affect its operations, with the business continuing to focus on governance, operational stability and its existing strategic priorities.

Mogopa's tenure also placed emphasis on employee development, leadership and collaboration. The company said her departure follows a period in which it pursued what it described as its "New Metro" culture, later evolving into its "This Is How We Do It, We act, not just talk" approach.

Article edited for length



Poneso Ndonje

Ndonje Named Continental Reinsurance MD

Poneso Ndonje will take over as managing director of Continental Reinsurance Botswana, succeeding Francis Nzwili after seven years in the role.

Continental Reinsurance Holdings Limited has appointed Poneso Ndonje as managing director of its Botswana subsidiary, Continental Reinsurance Botswana, effective 1 September 2026, subject to regulatory approval. She succeeds Francis Nzwili.

INTERNAL SUCCESSION

Ndonje, a Botswana national with more than 20 years' experience in insurance, has worked in underwriting, claims, technical operations and business development. She has spent more than a decade with Continental Re and previously served as head of business development at its Botswana subsidiary.

The company said Ndonje had been identified as Nzwili's successor in advance and developed for the position through its succession planning process.

EXPERIENCE IN INSURANCE

Ndonje holds a BCom in Economics and Business Management from North-West University, an MSc in International Business from the University of Salford and a Postgraduate Certificate in Enterprise Risk Management from Botswana Accountancy College. She has also completed an Executive Development Programme at the University of Cape Town.

"It is a privilege to lead Continental Reinsurance Botswana," Ndonje said. "My focus is firmly on continuity and disciplined growth: deepening our partnerships and serving our clients."

NZwili LEAVES MD ROLE

Nzwili has led the Botswana subsidiary for seven years, following his earlier role as head of operations at the group's Nairobi subsidiary. He will remain a director of Continental Reinsurance Holdings Limited.

Continental Re Group Managing Director Lawrence Nazare said Ndonje had "earned this role through consistent performance", while thanking Nzwili for his service.

"Leading Continental Reinsurance Botswana has been a highlight of my career," Nzwili said. "This is a natural time to pass the baton."

The appointment remains subject to approval by the relevant regulatory authorities.





Photo Credit:The Projects Magazine

FNB Opens Tutume Branch

FNB Botswana has expanded its physical banking network with a new Tutume branch, citing financial inclusion and growing economic activity in the area.



FNB Botswana has opened a full-service branch in Tutume, bringing its total number of branches in the country to 26. The opening ceremony was officiated by Bank of Botswana Governor Lesego Caster Moseki and attended by government officials, traditional leaders, business representatives and community members.

EXPANDING ACCESS

The branch offers transactional banking, lending, savings, investments and insurance services. It complements the bank's digital platforms and CashPlus agent network, providing residents of Tutume and surrounding areas with access to both physical and digital banking services.

FNB Botswana Chief Executive Officer Steven Lefentse Bogatsu said the branch was intended to bring financial services closer to communities and businesses. "The opening of our Tutume Branch reflects our belief that opportunity should not be limited by geography," he said.

SUPPORTING ECONOMIC ACTIVITY

Bogatsu said access to financial services could support entrepreneurs, businesses and individuals as economic activity increases in the area. "Our role is to remove barriers to participation and create an environment where growth is accessible to all," he said.

He described financial inclusion as a broader development issue, saying it could help facilitate enterprise development and employment. "Financial inclusion is not simply about banking access. It is about unlocking opportunity, supporting enterprise development, creating jobs and enabling people to improve their quality of life," Bogatsu said.

ENVIRONMENTAL INITIATIVE

The opening also featured an FNBB Foundation tree-planting initiative, which the bank said formed part of its environmental sustainability efforts. The initiative was presented alongside the branch opening as part of the institution's wider approach to sustainable development.

Article edited for length



Photo Credit:The Projects Magazine

Five Million Cattle, But Why?

Botswana's herd-expansion ambition must be judged by productivity, sustainability and farmer income, not cattle numbers alone.



DR DOUGLAS RASBASH

President Duma Boko reiterated the goal of rebuilding the national cattle herd from around 1.6 million animals in 2024 to close to five million by the end of the decade. Lands and Agriculture Minister Dr Edwin Dikoloti has put the Government target at 4.6 million cattle by 2029/30.

But are they right to fixate on herd size rather than economic contribution? Four or five million cattle is a bold and politically attractive ambition. Cattle are deeply embedded in Botswana's history, culture and rural economy. A revitalised beef industry could increase rural incomes, strengthen exports, create employment and support diversification as diamond revenues weaken. But there is a fundamental policy question to ask before celebrating the number.

WHY FIVE MILLION?

The Botswana Gazette has been unable to identify any published feasibility, carrying-capacity or economic study from which the five-million figure was derived. Why five million rather than three million, four million or six million? What beef exports, earnings and farmer incomes should result? What land, water and veterinary capacity will be required?

HEALTHY HERD

"A larger cattle population means a larger biological system requiring surveillance and protection."



Five million is certainly a memorable number. But a memorable number is not yet a development policy. Therein lies a much larger issue for Botswana.

OUTPUTS, NOT OUTCOMES

Botswana has developed a tendency to measure development by what government delivers rather than by what those interventions achieve. A road is built, and kilometres constructed become the measure of success. Yet the outcome is improved accessibility, lower transport costs and greater economic activity. More power is generated, but what matters is how that changes industrial output.

> "Five million is certainly a memorable number. But a memorable number is not yet a development policy."

Training is counted, but the outcome is productive employment and higher earnings. The value of business loans is celebrated, but what matters is how many sustainable enterprises survive, expand, employ people and repay them.

The same distinction applies to cattle. A five-million national herd is an output. The outcomes are increased beef production, higher exports, greater value addition, improved agricultural productivity and, ultimately, higher and more secure incomes for Botswana's farmers.

That distinction is not semantic. It fundamentally changes how livestock policy, and indeed development policy, should be designed. Government should first establish what it wants the livestock sector to achieve economically and socially. Only then should it determine what herd size is necessary to achieve it.

To Page 26



From Page 25

PRODUCTIVITY FIRST

Botswana needs productive cattle, not simply more cattle. There is a strong case for rebuilding the depleted national herd. The country once had cattle numbers approaching 3.5 million. The present herd is dramatically smaller, while more than 80 percent of cattle are held within communal production systems. That makes livestock potentially one of Botswana's most inclusive mechanisms for increasing rural wealth.

But the industry also has substantial unused capacity. Current calving rates are estimated at 45 to 50 percent, compared with an achievable 65 to 70 percent under better conditions. Many breeding cows therefore produce no surviving calf in a particular year.

Improving nutrition, genetics, animal health, water availability and calf survival could increase beef production significantly before Botswana comes anywhere near five million cattle. Would Botswana be better served by five million relatively unproductive cattle or three million highly productive ones? The answer depends not on the cattle census but on how much beef they produce and how much income they generate.



LAND AND WATER

The land cannot be ignored. At a recent FAO stakeholder engagement, Dr Dikoloti acknowledged growing pressure from climate change, overgrazing, degradation and water scarcity. Government, he argued, must balance production with conservation through rangeland restoration, efficient water use and improved soil management. That warning goes directly to the five-million ambition.

Cattle-expansion feasibility work available to The Botswana Gazette estimates that approximately 46 percent of Botswana's land shows measurable degradation. In some areas, overgrazing, bush encroachment and prolonged drought have substantially reduced carrying capacity. The same analysis concludes that existing natural rangelands, without substantial external feed supplementation and rehabilitation, may sustainably support only around 2.2 to 2.5 million cattle in their present condition.

This does not establish that five million cattle are impossible. Land productivity can be improved through bush control, reseeding, rotational grazing, fodder production, and better water harvesting and distribution.

But those interventions must precede or accompany herd expansion. The scientifically derived sustainable herd might eventually be five million. It might be 3.2 million or 4.1 million. Good policy should not care which. The number should emerge from the analysis rather than become the assumption around which the analysis is subsequently constructed.

Increasing cattle numbers also increases water demand in one of southern Africa's driest countries. Much livestock water comes from groundwater, while some borehole systems are already under pressure. Reliance on natural pasture also exposes cattle and farmers to drought.

The question is not whether Botswana possesses enough land on a map to accommodate five million cattle. It is how much productive grazing and reliable water will be available through repeated drought cycles in 2030, 2040 and beyond. An outcomes-based livestock policy would measure kilograms of beef produced per hectare and pula of farmer income generated per unit of land and water, not simply the number of animals using those resources.

FMD SHADOW

Another constraint deserves greater attention: foot-and-mouth disease. A larger cattle population means a larger biological system requiring surveillance and protection. Animal density, movements, communal grazing, shared watering points, vaccination, veterinary controls and detection speed all shape disease risk. Increasing livestock interactions can create more transmission opportunities unless control capacity expands accordingly.

FMD's economic consequences extend beyond infected cattle. An outbreak can restrict movement, interrupt abattoir throughput and close premium export markets.

A Second Republic Policy Think Tank paper on beef branding noted that disease-related market interruptions create losses through closed markets, interrupted processing, additional inventory and logistics costs, and the diversion of beef towards lower-value destinations. Government estimated that disruptions and market restrictions during 2025 exposed BMC to revenue losses exceeding P500 million.

Five million cattle behind a disease-related export restriction may be worth considerably less to Botswana than three million productive, healthy and internationally marketable cattle.

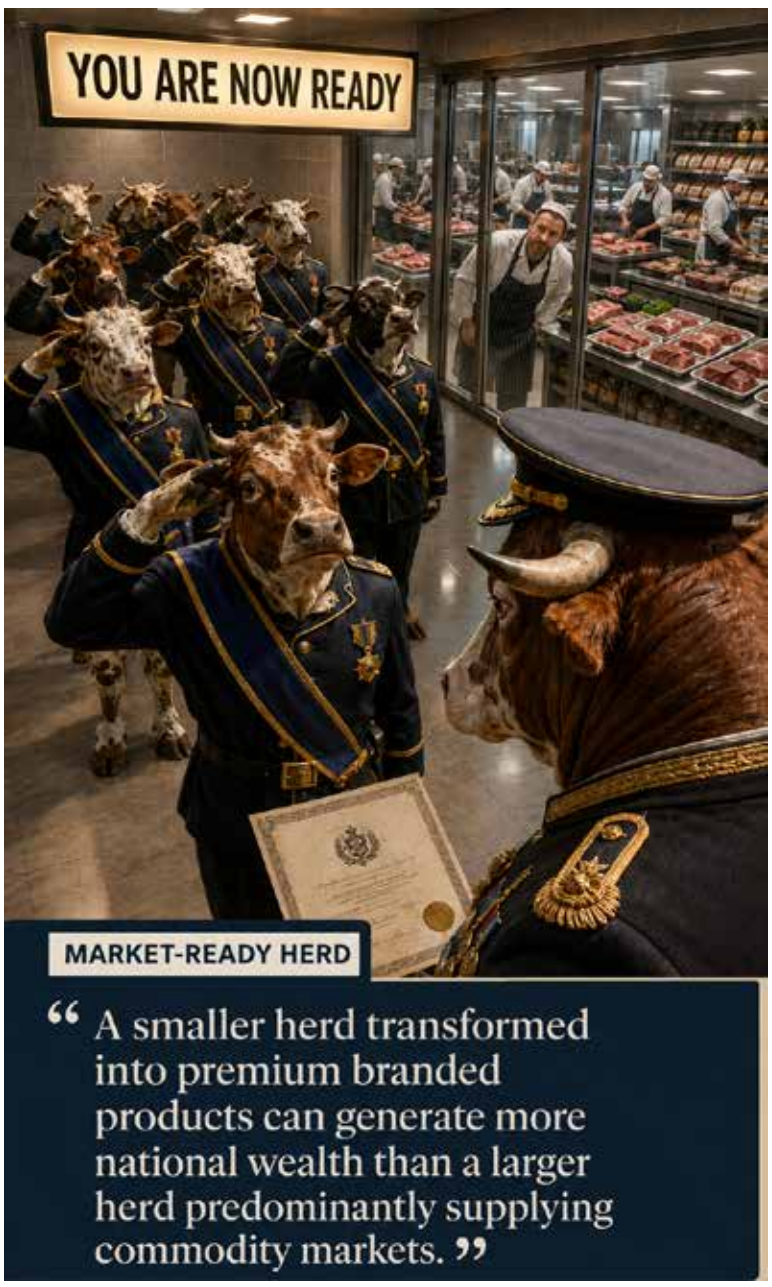
VALUE ADDED

Beef tonnage is not the end of the policy chain. Botswana captures only part of the value generated by its cattle. Much product leaves the primary industry as live cattle and carcasses. Yet the same animal can support premium cuts, aged beef, processed foods, biltong, sausages, ready meals, leather and other by-products. Branding, retailing and intellectual property can add still more value.

The BotswanaBeef analysis makes an important point: a smaller herd transformed into premium branded products can generate more national wealth than a larger herd predominantly supplying commodity markets. It proposes measuring success through tonnes of certified beef marketed, export earnings, value added per kilogram, producer income, employment and contribution to GDP.

Botswana beef is not presently branded, which is why a high-level group has reportedly been established to address the issue. The analysis estimates that branding alone could add 10 to 15 percent to the product's value. Those measures are much closer to development outcomes.

For too long, Botswana's development conversation has been dominated by what can easily be counted: kilometres constructed, facilities opened, money spent, people trained, loans distributed and now, perhaps, cattle accumulated. Botswana's next development model must make a more demanding transition, from counting outputs to delivering outcomes, and from five million cattle to higher farmer incomes.





WHO OWNS BOTSWANA'S SUNSHINE?

Botswana is localising electricity generation through solar power, but foreign ownership raises a deeper question about where the long-term wealth created by the energy transition will ultimately flow.

DOUGLAS RASBASH

Minister Bogolo Kenewendo's launch of the 100 MW Mmadinare Solar PV Cluster is an important milestone in Botswana's energy transition. It is the country's first utility-scale renewable independent power project, puts Botswana's abundant sunshine to productive use and reduces the physical quantity of electricity that must cross the border from South Africa.

But there is another way of looking at it.

For decades Botswana Power Corporation has paid South Africa's Eskom for electricity generated outside Botswana. Under the Mmadinare arrangement, BPC will instead pay for electricity generated inside Botswana,

> "The electricity is domestic. The ownership is not"

but the company receiving the long-term commercial return is ultimately Norwegian-owned Scatec. The electricity is domestic. The ownership is not.

Economically, therefore, the distinction between buying electricity from Eskom in South Africa and buying it from Scatec in Botswana is less clear than it first appears. In both cases BPC pays a foreign-owned supplier and a significant part of the resulting income ultimately accrues outside Botswana.

In balance-of-payments terms, that makes foreign-owned domestic generation resemble a de facto electricity import. We have localised the generation, but not necessarily the ownership or the wealth it creates.

FOREIGN OWNERSHIP

The Mmadinare development is held through two Botswana-registered companies, Selebi Phikwe Solar Proprietary Limited and Mmadinare Solar Proprietary Limited. But Botswana incorporation should not be confused with Botswana ownership.

CIPA records identify the shareholder as Scatec Solar Netherlands B.V., ultimately controlled by Norwegian renewable-energy company Scatec ASA. The four directors listed for both Botswana companies are foreign nationals. There is presently no identifiable Botswana citizen ownership and no Motswana serving on either board.

Scatec itself has stated that it owns 100 percent of the project portfolio. It is also the engineering, procurement and construction contractor, asset manager and operations and maintenance provider, with construction and operations managed through its organisation in South Africa.

The ownership chain is therefore strikingly comprehensive.

Botswana provides the sunshine, the land, the grid connection and, through BPC, the guaranteed market for the electricity. Foreign capital and expertise have built the plant, but foreign interests also own the productive asset and occupy most of the durable commercial positions around it.

This matters because a solar farm is not simply P1.5 billion worth of panels. It is a 25-year income-producing asset.

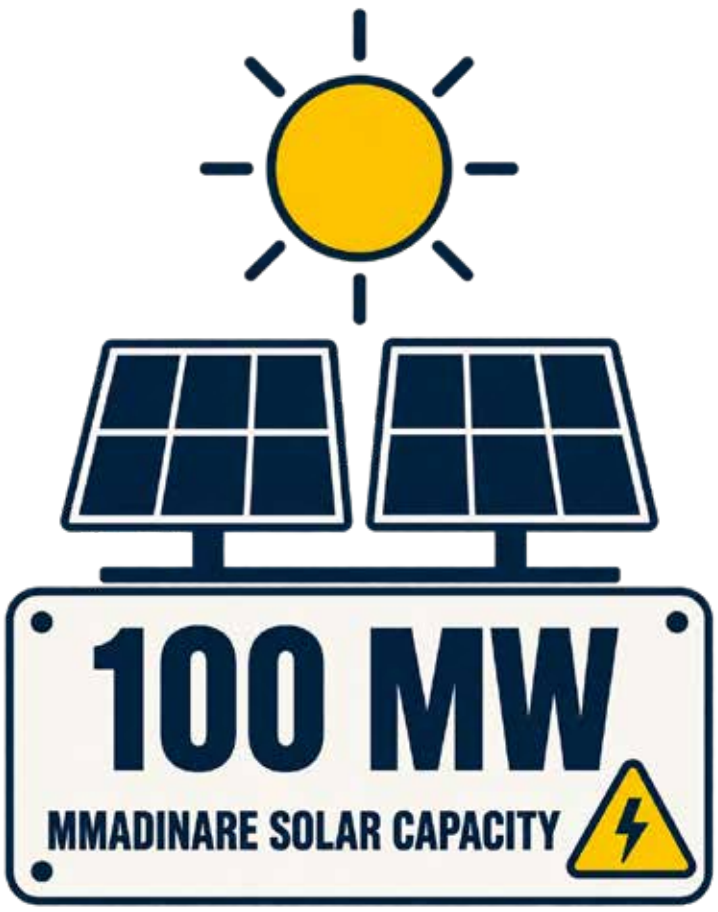
Scatec estimated total project investment at approximately P1.5 billion, including an engineering, procurement and construction contract of about P1.2 billion awarded to Scatec itself. Approximately P1 billion was expected to come from project debt, with the remainder provided as Scatec equity.

Debt financing from a Botswa-

To Page 28







From Page 27

na bank should not be mistaken for Botswana ownership. A lender earns interest and expects its money back. The equity owner receives the residual profit and owns the productive asset.

CHEAPER POWER

BPC signed a binding 25-year Power Purchase Agreement with Scatec in August 2022. For a quarter of a century, Botswana consumers will therefore help generate the revenue supporting

> Citizen ownership should therefore be designed into renewable-energy procurement from the beginning rather than hoped for afterwards

this privately owned asset.

There is nothing inherently wrong with this arrangement. Foreign direct investment is essential to Botswana. International renewable-energy companies bring capital, technology, experience and the ability to execute projects at scale.

Nor should the ownership issue obscure an important economic advantage: solar electricity can be substantially cheaper than imported Eskom power.

BPC's own accounts illustrate the point. In the year ending March 2024, electricity purchased from the small Shakawe and Bobonong solar IPPs averaged approximately 105 thebe/kWh, compared with 148 thebe/kWh for Eskom scheduled supply and 502 thebe/kWh for Eskom emergency supply.

Those are not perfectly comparable products because solar is intermittent whereas emergency imports are dispatchable, but the direction is unmistakable.

So the argument is emphatically not that Botswana should continue buying expensive South African electricity rather than develop solar power. It is that

> The power has been localised. The income stream has not necessarily been localised with it.

we should distinguish between where electricity is generated and who owns its generation.

When BPC buys electricity from a wholly foreign-owned IPP operating inside Botswana, the physical electricity does not cross the border, but dividends, management fees, returns on equity and potentially other payments associated with the investment can.

The power has been localised. The income stream has not necessarily been localised with it.

CITIZEN EQUITY

This becomes still more important because solar generation creates relatively few permanent jobs once construction is complete. Construction brings valuable temporary employment and local expenditure. But when the construction teams leave, the principal enduring economic benefit resides in ownership of the productive asset and the income it generates.

There is a possibility of future



Botswana participation. IFC disclosures state that the sale of 40 percent of Selebi Phikwe Solar to local investors is "envisioned" within five years of commercial operation on a "best-effort basis."

But envisioned is not required.

There appears to be no binding guarantee that 40 percent will be sold to Batswana, when it will happen, who will qualify, or at what price.

Citizen ownership should therefore be designed into renewable-energy procurement from the beginning rather than hoped for afterwards.

Botswana pension funds, citizen investment institutions and private investors could potentially participate alongside international developers. Procurement could establish minimum citizen-equity requirements, Botswana board representation, skills transfer, management localisation and measurable domestic procurement requirements.

Foreign investment would remain welcome. The difference is that it would supplement Botswana capital rather than substitute for it.

WHO BENEFITS?

Mmadinare should be recognised as an energy achievement. It produces clean electricity inside Botswana and can reduce the country's exposure to expensive imported power.

But energy security is more than having generating equipment physically located inside our borders.

The deeper questions are: Who owns the generating assets? Who receives their profits? Who controls the companies? Where does the technical expertise accumulate? And where does the wealth created by Botswana's energy transition ultimately reside?

Botswana should certainly replace expensive imported electricity with its extraordinary domestic solar resource. But replacing Eskom of South Africa with Scatec of Norway is only part of that transition.

The panels are in Botswana. The sunshine belongs to Botswana. The electricity enters Botswana's grid. But for the next 25 years, we should also ask: where does the wealth flow?



Stop Selling Everyone the Same Way



The most expensive mistake a brand can make is assuming every customer buys for the same reason, when different buyers respond to entirely different motivations.

MANUEL VEIRUAPI RUHAPO

The biggest mistake entrepreneurs make is assuming everyone buys for the same reasons they do. They don't.

Some people buy based on trust. Others buy based on speed. Some need certainty before they commit. Others need proof and expertise. Some buy because they want the best product available. Others buy because they want the best price.

The moment you stop selling everyone the same way, your conversations change. Your messaging gets stronger. And selling starts to feel a whole lot more natural.

This insight, articulated by sales strategist Cheri Tree, is the foundation of the B.A.N.K. methodology, a framework for understanding why different people buy and how to communicate with each of them in the language they actually respond to. The concept is straightforward. The implications for brand strategy in Botswana are significant.

FOUR BUYERS

B.A.N.K. stands for Blueprint, Action, Nurturing and Knowledge. These are not demographic categories. They are not income brackets or age groups. They are value systems, the underlying motivations that drive a person's buying decision.



The Blueprint buyer wants structure, reliability and proof that the system works. They read the terms and conditions. They want a track record. They are not impulsive. They buy when they are certain.

The Action buyer wants speed, results and status. They are not interested in the process. They want to know what they will get and how quickly. They buy when they feel the momentum.

The Nurturing buyer wants relationship, community and purpose. They want to know that the brand cares about the same things they care about. They buy when they feel understood.

The Knowledge buyer wants data, expertise and depth. They have done the research. They want to know that you have done it too. They buy when they are intellectually satisfied.

Every market contains all four. Every brand in Botswana is communicating with all four simultaneously. The question is whether the brand's message speaks to any of them specifically, or whether it speaks to none

To Page 30

From Page 29

of them well.

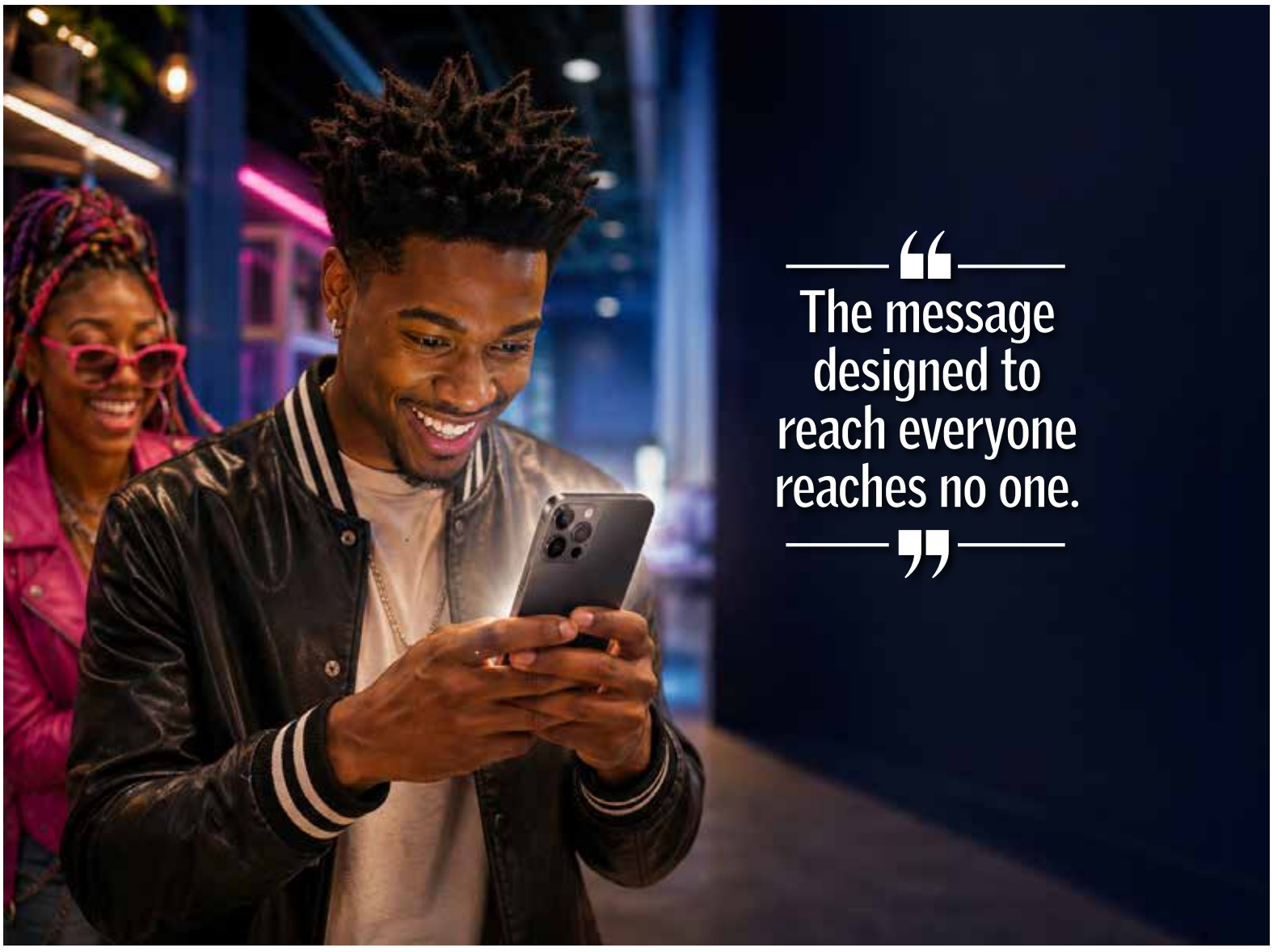
THE PARADOX

Most brands in Botswana communicate in a single register. The message is designed to be inoffensive to everyone, which means it is compelling to no one. It is the brand equivalent of a restaurant that serves every cuisine: technically capable of feeding anyone, memorable to no one.

This is the Uniformity Paradox: the message designed to reach everyone reaches no one. The message designed for a specific buyer type, delivered with precision and conviction, reaches that buyer and everyone like them.

McKinsey research found that personalisation consistently drives 10 to 15 percent revenue lift, with some companies achieving up to 25 percent. The mechanism is not complex. When a message speaks directly to what a buyer values, perceived relevance increases. The friction to purchase decreases. The conversion rate improves.

The brand that speaks to the Blueprint buyer's need for certainty converts Blueprint buyers. The brand that speaks to the Action buyer's need for speed converts Action buyers. The brand that tries to speak to both simultaneously, in the same message, often converts neither.



IN PRACTICE

Consider how two different buyers approach the same purchase. A Blueprint buyer considering a financial services product in Botswana wants to see regulatory compliance, the track record, the process and the guarantee.

An Action buyer considering the same product wants to know how quickly the account can be opened, what the return has been in the last twelve months and whether the brand is associated with success.



The same product. Two entirely different conversations.

FNB Botswana communicates across multiple buyer types with some sophistication. Its corporate messaging addresses Blueprint and Knowledge buyers with data, stability signals and institutional credibility. Its consumer campaigns address Action and Nurturing buyers with speed, accessibility and community relevance.

The brand does not use a single message for all audiences. It uses a consistent identity expressed through different value propositions for different buyer motivations.

BOTSWANA BRANDS

Most smaller brands in this market do not have the budget to run multiple campaigns simultaneously. But they do not need to.

The insight from the B.A.N.K. framework is not that you need four campaigns. It is that you need to know which buyer type your brand is best positioned to serve, and then speak to that buyer with complete conviction.

A premium brand like Collections by BK Proctor is speaking to Blueprint and Knowledge buyers: people who value quality, craft and the certainty that what they are buying is genuinely the best available.

Every element of that brand's communication should reinforce those values. The moment it starts discounting to attract Action buyers, it loses the Blueprint and Knowledge buyers it has spent years earning.

UNDERSTAND FIRST

The Reel that prompted this column ends with a line worth repeating: the goal is not to become better at convincing people. It is to become better at understanding them.

This is the shift that separates brands that sell from brands that connect. Convincing is a transaction. Understanding is a relationship.

The brand that understands why its buyer buys does not need to convince anyone of anything. It simply needs to show up, consistently, in the language that buyer already speaks.

WHAT IT MEANS

For business owners and executives: identify which buyer type your core customer is. Blueprint, Action, Nurturing or Knowledge. Then audit every piece of brand communication against that type. If the message does not speak directly to that buyer's values, it is working against you.

For marketing professionals: segmentation is not just demographic. The most powerful segmentation is motivational. Before you write the brief, ask: why does this specific person buy? The answer to that question is the brief.

For brand managers: brand consistency does not mean using the same message everywhere. It means expressing the same identity in the language each audience understands.

Know your buyer. Speak their language. The rest follows.



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

The Gown That Lit Up The Feed

Miss World Botswana Ruth Thomas is turning heads in Vietnam, but her royal blue leteisi gown has sparked a bigger conversation about who gets credit when African fashion reaches the world stage.

GAZETTE REPORTER

Beauty pageants love a statement outfit. Ruth Thomas delivered one in royal blue leteisi, then the internet delivered a plot twist.

As the Miss World finale approaches on September 5 in Nha Trang, Vietnam, Botswana's representative has been collecting milestones while navigating an unexpected fashion controversy over the origins of one of her most talked about looks.

The gown, initially credited to Botswana's MET Designs Fashions and described as featuring Makgabe made from Kgetsi, drew criticism from Basotho online, who pointed to its striking resemblance to work by Lesotho designer George Malelu.

Malelu's reaction was characteristically stunned. "Not me running to my archives at 3AM to check if the original design still exists!" he posted, adding that "The resemblance is not even trying to whisper!"

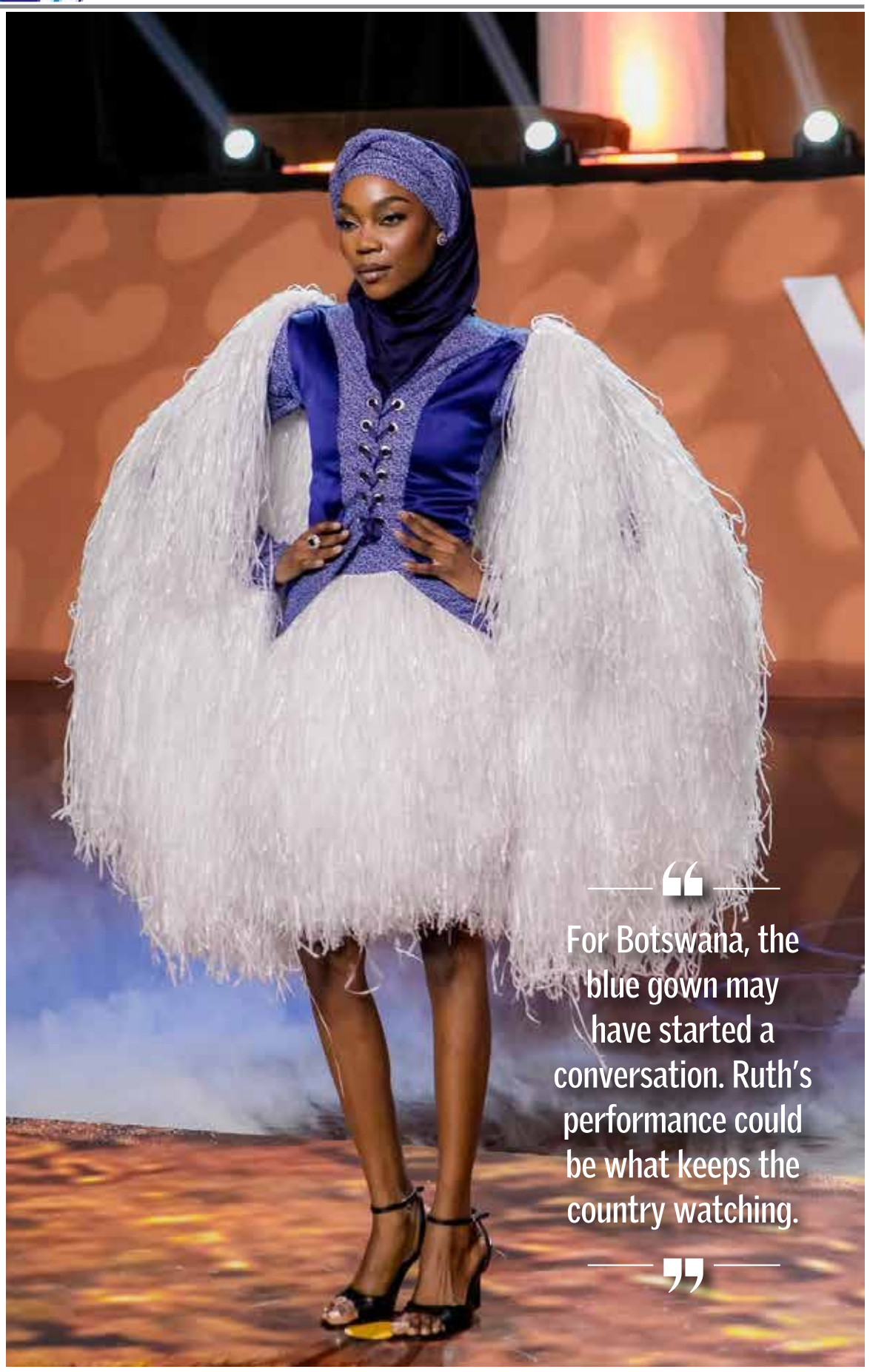
CREDIT WHERE IT'S DUE

The response prompted updated attribution from both Miss World Botswana and the Miss World Organisation. The revised credits describe the gown as inspired by Malelu's creation and made by MET Designs.

Miss World's description frames the look as a fusion of tradition and modernity: royal blue Leteisi, a symbol of unity and dignity, paired with Makgabe in white tones representing peace, purity and the strength of Batswana.

> Away from the fashion debate, Ruth has plenty to celebrate. She secured a place among the Top Six African Queens in the Miss World Top Model Finale.

The episode has put an old question in a very modern spotlight: when African heritage becomes fashion, who gets named, celebrated and remembered?



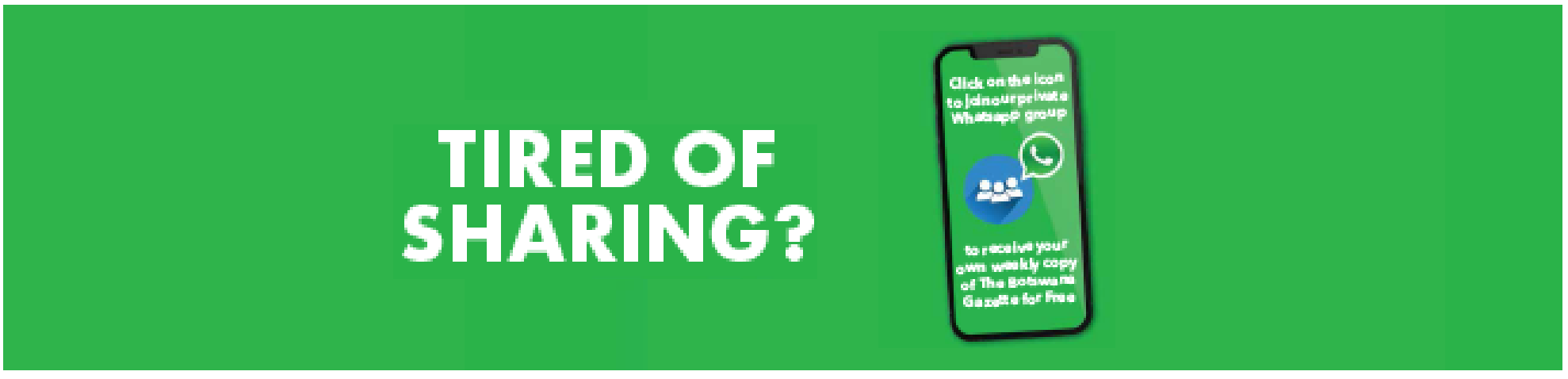
> For Botswana, the blue gown may have started a conversation. Ruth's performance could be what keeps the country watching.

AND THEN, THE BREAKTHROUGH

Away from the fashion debate, Ruth has plenty to celebrate. She secured a place among the Top Six African Queens in the Miss World Top Model Finale, marking a significant achievement on the international stage.

Now attention turns to the People's Choice Award. With the voting deadline approaching, the Miss Botswana Organisation is urging citizens, businesses, communities and the diaspora to rally behind Thomas in the race for a potential Top 40 position.

For Botswana, the blue gown may have started a conversation. Ruth's performance could be what keeps the country watching.





BOMU 2026: THE NIGHT MUSIC TALKED

Glitz, genre-hopping and a little winner controversy: Botswana's music industry came dressed to impress, then took the conversation home.

GOSEGO MOTSUMI

The red carpet was hot, the performances hotter, and by the end of the night, Botswana's music industry had given everyone something to talk about.

The XIV Botswana Musicians Union (BOMU) Music Awards turned the Gaborone International Convention Centre into a glittering celebration of local sound, with President Duma Boko, diplomats and industry heavyweights among the guests. Broadcast live on BTV, the ceremony mixed big performances, emotional tributes and enough trophies to keep the group chats busy.



> "But where there are trophies, there are opinions.

FROM TRADITIONAL TO AMAPIANO

The winners reflected a Botswana music scene refusing to sit still. Han C took Best Amapiano for *Bosa EP*, Dato Seiko claimed Best R&B for *The Vow*, while Vee walked away with Best House Kwasa for *Ijoo*. Jinger Stone earned Best Single for *Best Decision* and Best International Achievement, proving that Botswana's musical passport is getting busier.

Han C had a point to make about his amapiano win, explaining that *Bosa* was a deliberate creative stretch. "I've always seen myself as an artist first," he said, pointing to his desire for growth, versatility and new sounds.

Meanwhile, DM Guys owned the night's biggest crowd-facing categories, taking Most Viral Song for *Percentage tse di Wrong* and Song of the Year for *Tobetsa Pina eo*.

LEGENDS, LEGACY AND NOISE

The awards also looked backwards. Traditional music legend Ranamane received the Lifetime Award, while gospel icon Mpho Loeto, jazz veteran Shanti Lo, Da Vet Crew and Women of Jazz were among the recipients of the Chairman's Award.

> "I've always seen myself as an artist first,"

But where there are trophies, there are opinions. Some viewers questioned whether certain artists belonged in particular categories, while others disputed whether some winners deserved the nod.

Big T, crowned Best Male, appeared unfazed. "You talked, I worked. You doubted, I delivered. You watched, I won."



Botswana Awaits Its Creative Boom



Local creatives are feeling the squeeze. Now, Government says a P200 million fund is nearing release putting fresh money, big expectations and the country's creative economy on the same stage.

GOSEGO MOTSUMI

For Botswana's creatives, applause only goes so far. Behind the red carpets, awards and Independence celebrations is an industry wrestling with a very familiar problem: how do you build a career when the money is tight?

At the 14th Botswana Music Union (BOMU) Awards, the Minister of Sports and Arts Jacob Kelebeng offered a potentially game-changing answer: P200 million.

Kelebeng said the much-awaited creative sector Levy Fund is at an "advanced stage" of being made available, raising hopes that artists and young creatives could finally get greater access to opportunities, resources and business support.

But the announcement lands in an industry already feeling the economic squeeze.

BOMU president Gloria Dzwikiti acknowledged Botswana's wider financial pressures while urging Government not to lose sight of the creative sector.

"We therefore respectfully rally Government to continue investing in our creative industries, because supporting artists is investing in jobs, youth, culture, tourism, national identity and economic diversification," she said.

MORE THAN ENTERTAINMENT

Kelebeng wants the industry to think beyond gigs and applause. His vision is of artists as entrepreneurs—people building companies, creating jobs and turning intellectual property and cultural expression into exportable products.

"We want to see artists not only as entertainers but as creative entrepreneurs and contributors to our economy, creating businesses, jobs and opportunities," he said.

That shift could be crucial. Botswana's creatives are increasingly being asked to compete in a global digital marketplace, where talent alone does not guarantee sustainability.

The Minister also called for professionalism, stronger intellectual-property protection, technology adoption and partnerships capable of taking Botswana's creative products beyond its borders.

> "Kelebeng said the much-awaited creative sector Levy Fund is at an "advanced stage" of being made available."

THE WAITING GAME

For now, the P200 million remains a promise in advanced preparation, not money already flowing into artists' pockets.

The real test will come when the fund moves from announcement to access: who qualifies, how applications work, what gets funded and how transparently the money is distributed.

Bubbles & Bites Ushers in Spring

Spring arrived with a dress code: colour, mimosas and an appetite. At Avani Gaborone, Bubbles & Bites turned brunch into a stylish excuse to eat, sip, mingle and shake off winter.

GOSEGO MOTSUMI

Winter can keep its grey skies. At Avani Gaborone Resort & Casino, spring made its entrance with a mimosa in a glass, bites on the plate and a crowd dressed like the colour wheel had finally been switched back on.

The occasion was the latest edition of Bubbles & Bites, Avani's lifestyle series built around one delicious proposition: pair good drinks with carefully curated food, then give people a reason to linger.

"We wanted to usher in the spring season in style and have people come out and celebrate," says Avani's Samantha Bogopa.

SIP, SNACK, SOCIALISE

This time, Bernini Mimosa took centre stage, matched with a finger-food menu designed for grazing rather than sitting politely through a three-course affair.

> "The idea behind it is to introduce different drinks paired with a curated menu in a lifestyle way."

Think mini beef sliders, vegetable quiche bites, BBQ-dipped meatballs, chicken wraps and sesame satay skewers, followed by crispy crumbed prawns with sweet chilli dip. On the sweeter side, seasonal fruit skewers, mini chocolate éclairs and assorted cupcakes kept the sugar rush going.





The formula is deliberately social. Pick up a bite, raise a glass, find a friend — repeat.

According to Bogopa, the concept is about "introducing different drinks paired with a curated menu in a lifestyle way."

And it seems the crowd understood the assignment.

BEAUTY GETS A SEAT AT THE TABLE

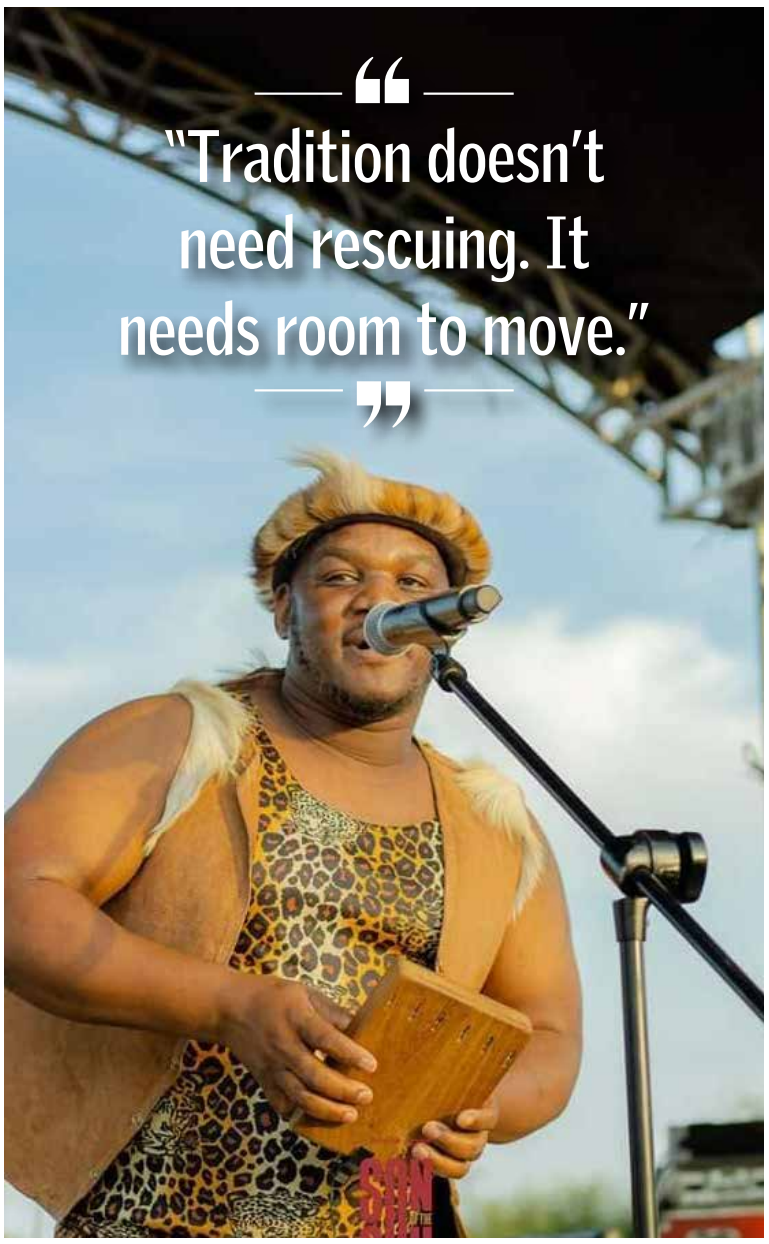
The afternoon also stretched beyond food and drinks, with Nora Cosmetics and Clicks bringing spring skincare routines and makeup trends into the conversation.

Up-and-coming Roline Beauty Studio added another layer, showcasing its work while connecting with potential new clients.

It made the brunch feel less like a meal and more like a seasonal mood board: food, beauty, fashion and conversation sharing the same table.

By the end, Bubbles & Bites had done what the best lifestyle gatherings do, turned an ordinary afternoon into an occasion. Spring, it seems, tastes better with a mimosa in hand.

Hydro Molefe, Skit Kabomo's Latest Drop



At the National Museum, Skit Kabomo and Hydro Molefe offered a preview of two very different singles, but one shared mission: making Setswana music feel alive, immediate and unapologetically now.

GAZETTE REPORTER

At the National Museum in Gaborone, the past got a fresh soundtrack. Skit Kabomo and Hydro Molefe gathered an intimate crowd for a first listen to music that digs into Botswana's cultural roots without getting trapped there.

The two artists are arriving with radically different stories. Yet both understand the same thing: tradition doesn't need rescuing. It needs room to move.

WHERE'S THE LOBOLA?

Skit Kabomo's debut single, "Magadi," turns a lobola presentation into a family drama with a wicked comic edge. A young man arrives expecting to witness the presentation of his bride's dowry cattle, only to discover his uncle has sold them — and spent the money on women.

Cue the public reckoning: "Magadi a go a kae?" (where is the dowry?)

It is uncomfortable, funny and devastatingly familiar, using traditional storytelling to hold a family and its contradictions up to the mirror.

Kabomo describes his sound as a meeting point between the cattle post and the smartphone era.

He said: "I am not modernising tradition. I am restoring it. The production is just the suit. The story is the man."

That philosophy runs through his music, where Setswana call-and-response, chant and percussion collide with cinematic contemporary production.

LOVE, BUT IN SETSWANA

Then comes Hydro Molefe's "Darlie," a softer kind of revolution.

Short for "Darling," the Afro-pop-influenced Setswana folk-pop track is a straightforward declaration of love — no irony, no clever escape route, just emotion in the language people actually use.

Born and raised in Old Naledi, Molefe draws from Botswana's traditional dance, percussion and folk music, folding those influences into an introspective Afro-contemporary sound.

"I am not modernising tradition. I am restoring it. The production is just the suit. The story is the man."

"Darlie" arrives on September 2 through X3mix Records and opens the door to his debut album, due in Q1 2027.

Cars, Chrome And Serious Horsepower

Rare supercars, electric royalty, modified beasts and Botswana's motoring crowd are rolling into one five-star playground. Here's why sitting this one out would be a very bad idea.

GOSEGO MOTSUMI

If your idea of a good weekend involves horsepower, polished metal, futuristic tech and the occasional jaw-dropping supercar, clear your calendar. The Gaborone Motor Show is back and this time, it has checked into five-star territory.

On September 4 and 5, The Grand Palm Hotel & Resort will become Botswana's automotive playground as the country's biggest motoring showcase enters a new era. After more than a decade of growth and a milestone 10th anniversary in 2025, the show is returning with its most ambitious edition yet.

THE SUPERCARS HAVE ARRIVED

The headline act alone is enough to tempt even the least committed petrolhead out of bed.

FuturExotics, the new headline sponsor, is bringing an extraordinary collection of rare, luxury and high-performance machinery, including the one-of-one Mansory Bugatti Veyron Vivere Diamond Edition and the all-electric Rolls-Royce Spectre.

And there's more. Additional vehicles are being teased ahead of the event, with FuturExotics



founder Zunaid Moti expected to attend.

For two days, automotive fantasy meets Botswana reality.

"At its heart, the Gaborone Motor Show is about the people who build, sell, service, drive and celebrate vehicles in Botswana," said Christian Ernest, Gaborone Motor Show organiser.

NOT JUST FOR PETROLHEADS

The real appeal is its breadth. Expect new models, modified builds, off-road machines, accessories, vehicle-care products, technology, specialist equipment and industrial applications essentially, the entire automotive ecosystem under one roof.

Families can explore. Buyers can comparison-shop. Collectors can hunt for inspiration. Young fans can stare at cars they have only seen on screens. Industry players can network. And enthusiasts can debate horsepower like it is a national sport.

Ernest says the goal is simple: "Our aim is to deliver a show that feels bigger, more relevant and more memorable than ever before."

Advance tickets are available nationwide through Webtickets counters at SPAR supermarkets and online through Webtickets. Tickets cost P100 for one person, P150 for two people and P200 for three people. Tickets for children under 12 cost P50, while children under seven enter free. This is less "car show" and more weekend experience.

Because sometimes you don't need to buy the dream car. You just need to get close enough to hear it roar.

WHY DOLLY WAS BOTSWANA'S HONORARY ICON



Before streaming playlists and algorithmic discovery, Botswana found its country music heroes through the radio. For generations of listeners, Dolly Parton was one of them — her voice arriving through Radio Botswana and settling into family stereos, Saturday mornings and musical memory.

GOSEGO MOTSUMI

Dolly Parton may have been born in Tennessee, but somewhere between Radio Botswana's country music hours and the crackle of family stereos, she became part of Botswana's soundtrack.

Following her death at 80 on August 25, 2026, the tributes have stretched far beyond Nashville. For Botswana, remembering Parton is also remembering a time when radio could introduce an entire generation to a foreign sound and somehow make it feel like home.

THE RADIO THAT BROUGHT DOLLY HOME

Radio Botswana's regular country programming helped establish the genre as a familiar part of the national listening landscape. Broadcaster Mogatosi Kwapa is credited with championing the country slot, giving artists such as Parton a place in the ears of Botswana's listeners.

And listeners remember.

"Possibly the only country and western artist with real cross over appeal?" recalls one fan.

Another memory is even more intimate: "Coat of Many Colours blasted our stereo every Saturday morning, courtesy of my mother."

That is the secret of Parton's Botswana legacy. She was not simply an imported American star. She became part of people's domestic rituals — the Saturday soundtrack, the family stereo, the songs parents passed to children.

SHE NEVER STAYED IN ONE GENRE

Parton's appeal was always bigger than country. With more than 3,000 songs, over 100 million records sold and hits including "Jolene," "9 to 5" and "I Will Always Love You," she built a catalogue that travelled effortlessly across borders and generations.

"I Will Always Love You" later became a global pop and R&B phenomenon through Whitney Houston, while Parton's influence continued into contemporary music, including Beyoncé's country project *Cowboy Carter*.

THE SONGS BECAME FAMILY

Perhaps that is why calling Dolly Parton a Botswana music icon does not feel like exaggeration.

Her music crossed an ocean without needing translation. It found listeners who recognised the heartbreak, humour, family stories and everyday struggles inside her songs.

For many Batswana, Dolly was introduced by radio, embraced by parents and remembered through the music of childhood.

Dolly Parton was Nashville royalty. But for generations of Botswana listeners, she was also something wonderfully familiar: the voice coming from the radio at home.

Inside Peponi's Arrival In Gabs

A Franco-Tanzanian production is crossing Southern Africa with movement, theatre and one provocative question: what would paradise look like if Africans stopped waiting for it and started imagining it?

GOSEGO MOTSUMI

Forget the postcard version of paradise. PEPONI is bringing something far more restless to Gaborone — a 60-minute dance-theatre experience that wants the audience to think, move and question what a better African future could actually look like.

On September 12, Maitisong Theatre becomes the latest stop on House of Wondar's Southern African tour, as the Franco-Tanzanian production makes its Botswana debut for one night only.

And this is theatre with a question attached.



PARADISE, BUT MAKE IT AFRICAN

The title comes from the Swahili word *peponi*, meaning paradise, and from Nobel Prize-winning author Abdulrazak Gurnah's novel *Paradise*. But rather than treating paradise as some faraway fantasy, PEPONI turns the idea inside out.

Its central provocation is deceptively simple: "Can we create our own paradise, here and now, on the African continent?"

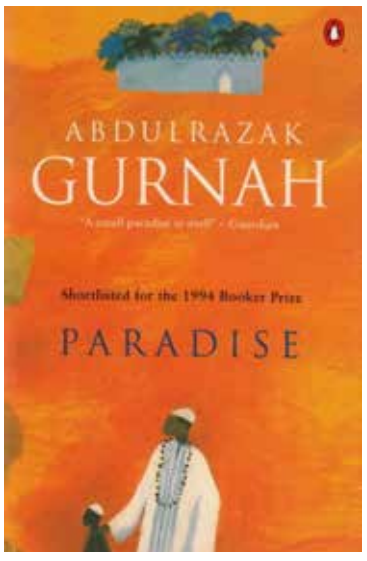
That question drives a performance built from movement, theatre and audience participation. Spectators are not merely expected to sit quietly in the dark; the production creates space for performers and audiences to enter a conversation about belonging, possibility and the futures they imagine.

FROM DAR ES SALAAM TO MAITISONG

Directed and choreographed by Matthieu Nieto, with dramaturgy by Koleka Putuma, PEPONI is the debut stage production from House of Wondar.

Its September tour spans five countries — South Africa, Eswatini, Botswana, Mozambique and Tanzania with eight performances across six cities. Gaborone gets one.

That makes this more than another international cultural stop. It is a brief collision of Francophone and East African creative energy with Botswana's own theatre-going crowd.



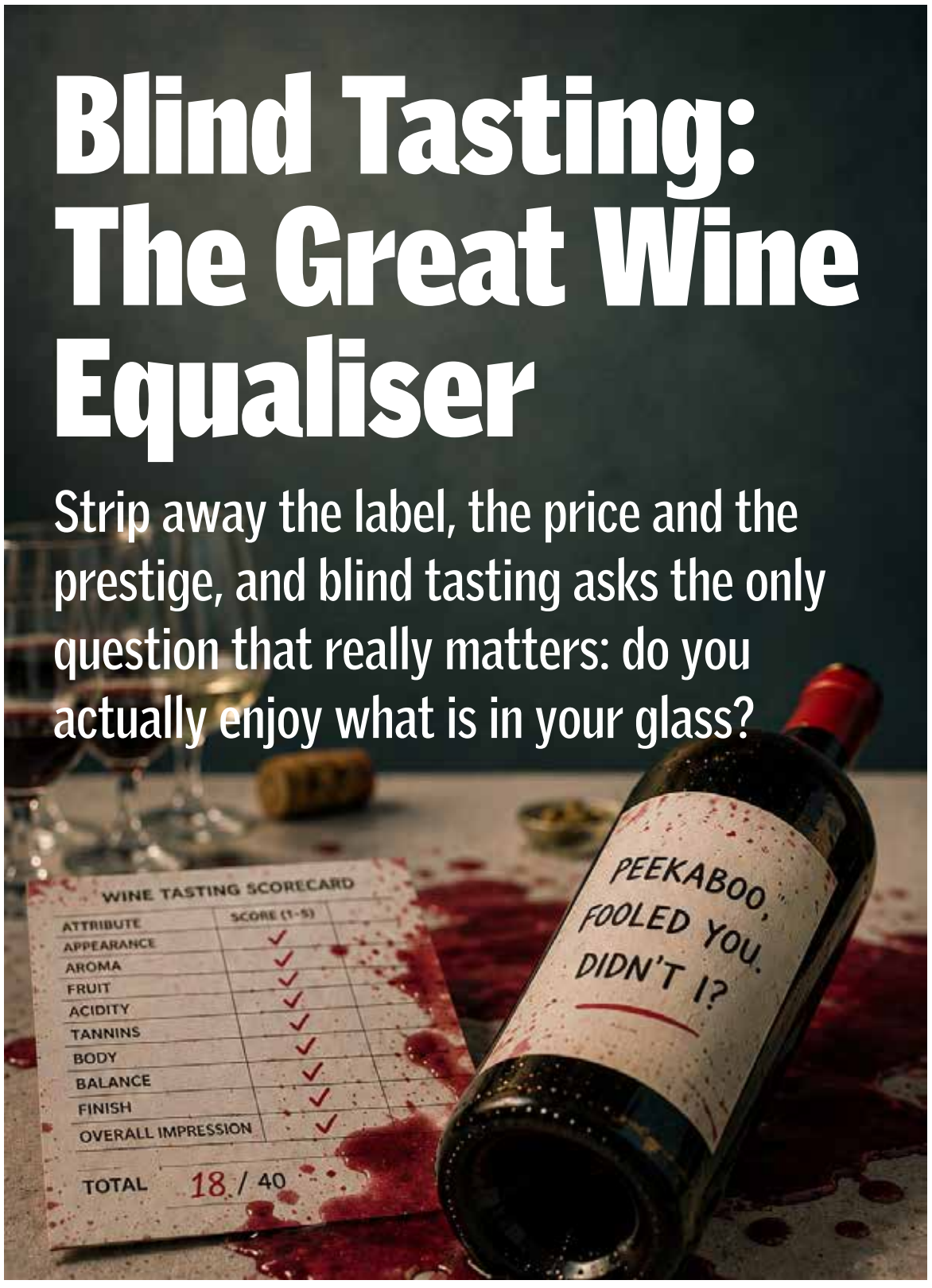
And accessibility is part of the production's pitch. Supported by the Institut français of South Africa and Alliance Française de Gaborone, early-bird tickets cost P80, rising to P100, with the show open to audiences aged 10 and above.

> "Its September tour spans five countries — South Africa, Eswatini, Botswana, Mozambique and Tanzania with eight performances across six cities."

For one Saturday night, paradise gets a stage. The question is what Gaborone will make of it.

Blind Tasting: The Great Wine Equaliser

Strip away the label, the price and the prestige, and blind tasting asks the only question that really matters: do you actually enjoy what is in your glass?





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

Wine has a fascinating ability to make us both confident and uncertain at the same time. Place a beautiful bottle on the table with an impressive label, a prestigious region, a recognisable producer and perhaps a story involving generations of winemakers, and our expectations begin forming before the first drop touches our lips. We are no longer simply tasting wine; we are tasting the story, the reputation and, sometimes, even the price.

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

POWER OF PERCEPTION

Human beings are influenced by context. We pay more attention to a meal when it is served in an elegant restaurant. We expect a luxury car to feel different from an ordinary vehicle. We assume an expensive product must be better because, surely, nobody would charge that much if it were not. Wine is no different.

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

THE HONEST QUESTION

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

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

EXPERTS GET HUMBLED

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

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

WHY SURPRISE MATTERS

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

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

A SIMPLE TEST

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

Without knowing the story behind the bottle, the conversation changes. People focus on the wine itself: the aromas, flavours, structure, balance and, ultimately, enjoyment. Someone who might normally dismiss a grape variety can suddenly find themselves enjoying it. Someone who always reaches for a familiar producer may discover a wine that deserves attention.

CURIOSITY WINS

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

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





THE PRICE TEST

One of the most entertaining parts of blind tasting is seeing how often price and preference fail to align.

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

> "The blind tasting table becomes a place where curiosity replaces assumption."

YOUR PALATE WINS

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

Blind tasting reminds us of exactly that. It separates appreciation from expectation and reminds us that enjoyment is deeply personal.

JOY OF NOT KNOWING

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

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

KEEP DISCOVERING

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

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

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

CASE NO. CVHGB - 000449 - 20

In the matter between
STANBIC BANK BOTSWANA LIMITED **Plaintiff**
and
MOHUBELE SUPPLIERS (PTY) LTD **1st Defendant**
ONTLAMETSE GOMOTSANYANG KEBOHULA **2nd Defendant**

NOTICE OF SALE IN EXECUTION

BE PLEASED TO TAKE NOTICE THAT pursuant to a Judgment granted by the above Honourable Court on the 07th July 2020 the following immovable property of the abovementioned 2nd Defendant will be sold by means of public auction to the highest bidder by **Deputy Sheriff N. Ookame** as follows:

DATE OF SALE : Wednesday 07 October 2026.
VENUE : Tribal Lot 562, Metsimotlhabe
TIME OF SALE : 1000 hours

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

PROPERTY TO BE SOLD : The 2nd Defendant's title rights and interest in a certain piece of land being Tribal Lot 562, Metsimotlhabe situate in the Bakwena Tribal Territory, measuring 900m2 (Nine Hundred Square Metres) which property is held under Memorandum of Agreement of Grant of Lease No. TL 94/2014 dated the 23rd January 2014 together with all the improvements thereon being a Screen wall, sliding gate, 2 bedroomed house, fitted kitchen, bathroom, kitchen, and another 4 bedroomed house, master en-suite, study room, bathroom, toilet, dinning room.

DATED AT GABORONE ON THIS 25TH DAY OF AUGUST 2026.

COLLINS CHILISA CONSULTANTS
Attorneys • Notaries • Conveyancers

COLLINS CHILISA CONSULTANTS
Plaintiff's Attorneys
Plot 4858, Lecha Close
Off Marakanelo Way
Extension 11
P O Box 45136
GABORONE
Deputy Sheriff N Ookame
[Cell No. 72879169/77435503]

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

CASE NO. CVHGB - 002397 - 25

In the matter between
STANBIC BANK BOTSWANA LIMITED **Plaintiff**
and
MALEBOGO GAEBOLAE **Defendant**

NOTICE OF SALE IN EXECUTION

BE PLEASED TO TAKE NOTICE THAT pursuant to a Judgment granted by the above Honourable Court on the 08th June 2026 the following immovable property of the abovementioned Defendant will be sold by means of public auction to the highest bidder by **Deputy Sheriff O. Mothibi** as follows:

DATE OF SALE : Tuesday 29th September 2026
VENUE : Lot 157 Mmankgodi
TIME OF SALE : 1000 hours

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

PROPERTY TO BE SOLD : The Defendant's title rights and interest in a certain piece of land being Lot 157, Mmankgodi situate at Mmankgodi in the Bakwena Tribal Territory measuring 900m², (Nine Hundred Square Metres) held under Notarial Deed of Cession No. MA 493/2021 dated 4th day of June 2021 made in favour of MALEBOGO TINY GAEBOLAE, together with developments therein, being a 3 bedroomed house, 2 bathrooms with bath tub and toilet, sitting room, fitted kitchen, veranda plus small poultry house fenced.

DATED AT GABORONE ON THIS 25TH DAY OF AUGUST 2026.

COLLINS CHILISA CONSULTANTS
Attorneys • Notaries • Conveyancers

COLLINS CHILISA CONSULTANTS
Plaintiff's Attorneys
Plot 4858, Lecha Close
Off Marakanelo Way
Extension 11
P O Box 45136
GABORONE
Deputy Sheriff O. Mothibi
[Cell No. 72234419/77636760]

APPLICATION FOR ISSUE OF CERTIFIED COPY OF MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT OF LEASE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the undersigned intends to apply for a certified copy of Memorandum of Agreement of Lease **No. 18/90** registered on the **26th** day of **January 1990** in favour of **SEBATI SEBATI** in respect of the following property:

CERTAIN : Piece of land being Lease Area No.33-OM;

SITUATE : At Hainaveld in the Batawana Tribal Territory;

MEASURING : 5194,2011 Ha (Five One Nine Four Comma Two Nought One One Hectares);

HELD UNDER : Memorandum of Agreement of Lease No.18/90 dated 26th January 1990 made in favour of **SEBATI SEBATI**;

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

MMOHE ATTORNEYS
ATTORNEYS. NOTARIES & CONVEYANCERS

Plot No. 3936, Peolwane Street
Minestone
P.O. Box 1860
FRANCISTOWN
Telephone No. 2441616

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

CASE NO. CVHGB - 003911 - 24

In the matter between
STANBIC BANK BOTSWANA LIMITED **Plaintiff**
and
JOYCE MOTHUPI **Defendant**

NOTICE OF SALE IN EXECUTION

BE PLEASED TO TAKE NOTICE THAT pursuant to a Judgment granted by the above Honourable Court on the 20th March 2025 the following immovable property of the abovementioned Defendant will be sold by means of public auction to the highest bidder by **Deputy Sheriff U. Chilisa** as follows:

DATE OF SALE : Tuesday 29th September 2026
VENUE : Lot 20721, Palapye
TIME OF SALE : 1000 hours

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

PROPERTY TO BE SOLD : The Defendant's title rights and interest in a certain piece of land being Lot 20721, Palapye, situate at Palapye in the Bamangwato Tribal Territory measuring 1 204m² (One Thousand Two Hundred and Four Square Metres) held under Memorandum of Agreement of Lease No. FT TL 221/2013 registered in favour of Joyce Mercy Mothupi dated 8th day of April 2013, together with developments therein, being 3 single storey residential blocks with 2*1 bedroom units, an outbuilding, outdoor toilet and 2 carports within a paved and walled yard.

DATED AT GABORONE ON THIS 25TH DAY OF AUGUST 2026.

COLLINS CHILISA CONSULTANTS
Attorneys • Notaries • Conveyancers

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

BEFORE H/W MAJUTA
IN THE MAGISTRATES' COURT OF THE FIRST CLASS FOR THE DISTRICT OF GABORONE
HELD AT EXTENSION TWO

CASE NO: CCMEX-001280-24

In the matter between:
KAGO SEGATLHE **PLAINTIFF**
And
STELLAH KETSHABILE **DEFENDANT**

NOTICE OF SALE IN EXECUTION

BE PLEASED TO TAKE NOTICE THAT pursuant to a writ of execution of the above Honourable Court, the following property will be sold by public auction by Deputy Sheriff ITUMELENG SHINE NGAKAETSILE to the highest bidder as follows:

DATE OF SALE : 11 September 2026
TIME : 10:00am
VENUE : Seinapi Lands, Moshupa

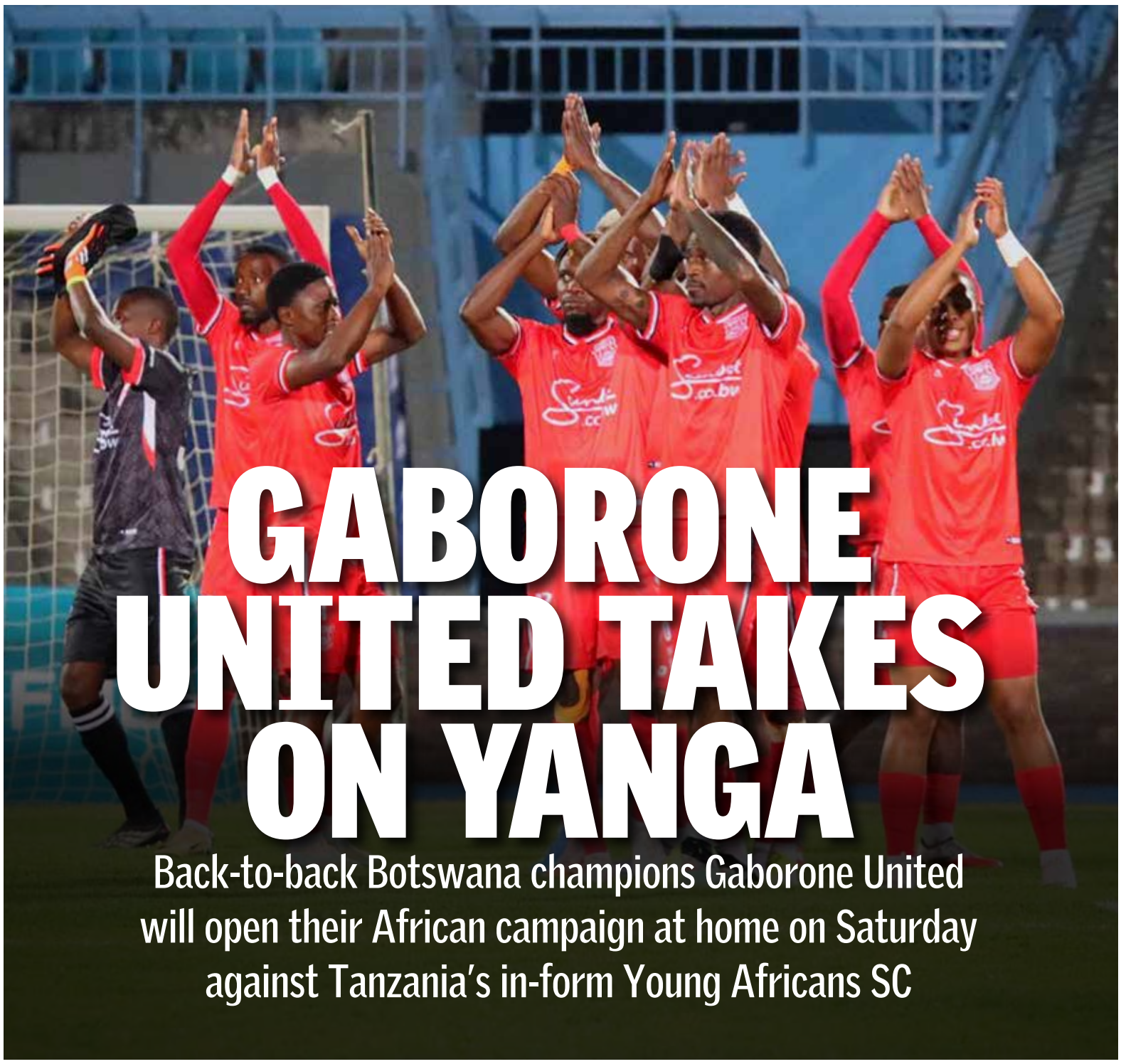
PROPERTY TO BE SOLD : Ploughing field situate at Pitseng Lands, Moshupa measuring 300x300x500x450m under Certificate of Customary Land Grant made in favour of Stellah Ketshabile.

TERMS OF SALE : **CASH OR BANK TRANSFER** Conditions of sale may be examined at Mokopakgosi Attorneys or alternatively at the office of the Deputy Sheriff.

DATED AT GABORONE THIS DAY 17th OF AUGUST 2026.

_____
DEPUTY SHERIFF ITUMELENG SHINE NGAKAETSILE
C/O MOKOPAKGOSI ATTORNEYS
PLOT 546, EXTENSION 4, GABORONE
P. O. BOX 45287, RIVERWALK
GABORONE
3960700/72723359

I Kaone Ntshenkang owner of plot 34850 wishes to erect boundary wall at mheelo/ kanye any objection contact Kanye District Council physical planning office at 5440217



GABORONE UNITED TAKES ON YANGA

Back-to-back Botswana champions Gaborone United will open their African campaign at home on Saturday against Tanzania's in-form Young Africans SC

GAZETTE REPORTER

Gaborone United will begin their 2026/27 CAF Champions League campaign with a demanding preliminary-round tie against Tanzania Mainland champions Young Africans SC (Yanga) at the National Stadium in Gaborone on Saturday at 19:00hrs.

GU enter the encounter as champions of Botswana's FNB Premiership for the 2024/25 season and are back-to-back champions, having established themselves as one of the country's leading clubs.

The Botswana champions will have home advantage when they welcome a Yanga side that has already gained momentum from its domestic campaign.

GU SEEK MOMENTUM

Football analyst Kagiso Mzambo Kgaogano believes GU's home advantage could be important, although the club's limited competitive action could present a challenge.

"Having seen Gaborone United play on Friday, I would say they looked a bit rusty and struggled here and there," Kgaogano said.

GU have played only one league match so far, recording a 2-1 victory over Prisons. Kgaogano described their performance as "not that convincing."

Yanga, in contrast, are already in their fifth week of league action and have won all their opening matches.

"They long started the league and they have gained momentum," Kgaogano said.

SQUAD REMAINS INTACT

GU will nevertheless enter the continental assignment with much of their squad retained.

Kgaogano noted that the Botswana champions "did not lose a lot of players," identifying Mpho Kgaswane as the only notable departure.

The club will, however, be without Mothusi Johnson, who is sidelined through injury. Benson Mangolo has replaced him.

For GU, the challenge will be to overcome Yanga's stronger competitive rhythm while making the most of playing at home.

YANGA THREAT

Yanga have scored 15 goals and conceded two in their opening five league matches, underlining the attacking threat GU will face.

Peter Shalulile is among the players Yanga will be hoping can influence the tie. The forward has previously won the CAF Champions League with Mamelodi Sundowns.

"They have Shalulile who has won this competition with Sundowns and his expertise will come handy to them," Kgaogano said.

GU will also have Thatayaone Kgamanyane as part of their challenge against the Tanzanian champions.

> "Maybe home-ground advantage might work for them."

With the Botswana champions having the advantage of home support but less competitive action, Saturday's encounter will test whether GU can turn familiarity with their surroundings into an advantage against a Yanga side already operating at a higher domestic tempo.

Botswana Darts Finish Second

Botswana secured medals across every category at the Region 5 Darts Tournament, but the association says it will seek to improve on its second-place finish



GAZETTE REPORTER

Botswana finished second overall at the Region 5 Darts Tournament, securing medals across all categories in a performance that gave the country a strong showing at the regional competition.

Kagiso Kitso, secretary general of the Botswana Darts Association, said the association was grateful for the performance, although its ambition had been to finish first.

"We are grateful, even though we wanted to do better, that finish first," Kitso said in a telephone interview.

UNDER 25

Botswana won a silver medal in the Under-25 closed team game, while Lame Poloka claimed silver in the closed singles and Rachel Moremi won bronze.

Thatayotlhe Robert also secured bronze.

In the open doubles, Poloka and Moremi finished in second position.

VETERANS

The Veterans team won bronze in the closed team game, while Florah Chikwai and Moitshupi Seomile secured silver in the closed doubles.

Seomile also won silver in the singles competition.

SENIOR WOMEN

In the Senior women's category, Keneilwe Kabanna and Boipelo Masimele won silver in the closed doubles, while the team claimed bronze in the team game.

Masimele finished second in the open singles.

SENIOR MEN

The Senior men's team won bronze in the team game, while Kekhumo Karona and Mothusi Moakofi secured bronze in the closed doubles.

Kekhumo Karonda and Tshupo Ramotlhala won joint bronze medals in the closed singles, while Letlhogela Mosepele claimed silver.

Kitso said Botswana competed against strong sides during the tournament and would look to improve in future competitions.

"We played, the game that we lost we lost good sides," he said. "The hope is to better next time."

The Botswana Darts Association, in a statement, described the successful conclusion of the Region 5 Darts Tournament as "an important milestone for darts in the region."

The association said the tournament brought together talented players, officials, supporters and stakeholders in a celebration of sporting excellence, friendship and regional unity.

It expressed gratitude to sponsors and partners whose support made the tournament possible, while also recognising volunteers and officials who worked on preparations, registration, match management and logistics.

The association also congratulated all participating players and teams, saying their talent, determination, sportsmanship and competitive spirit contributed to the success of the tournament.

It thanked spectators, supporters, families, associations and other stakeholders for supporting the players and contributing to the atmosphere throughout the tournament.

The association said the tournament was more than a competition, providing an opportunity to strengthen relationships, showcase talent, encourage participation and demonstrate the potential of darts as a growing sport in the region.

It said it would build on the tournament's success by continuing to develop darts, create more opportunities for players and strengthen the sport across the region.



BFL ENCOURAGED BY FNB PREMIERSHIP START

The league says the opening week provided a positive foundation despite pre-season uncertainty and an early fixture setback involving Township Rollers

GAZETTE REPORTER

The Botswana Football League has described the opening week of the 2026/27 FNB Premiership as encouraging, saying the response from clubs, players, supporters and other stakeholders has demonstrated strong appetite for top-flight football.

BFL spokesperson Mosimanegape Tshoswane made the assessment in an interview at Lekidi Football Centre, following the opening fixtures of the new campaign.

"We are impressed with the first week of the FNB Premiership. The season started at a time when there were many doubts, questions and uncertainty from different stakeholders, but what we witnessed during the opening week has been encouraging," Tshoswane said.

He said the opening week had provided a positive foundation for the competition, while pointing to the level of competition and commitment displayed by teams that took to the field.

The opening round saw Nico United emerge as the early leaders of the league standings, collecting three points from one match after scoring three goals and conceding one.

Police XI are second, also on three points, following a 2-0 victory, while Gaborone United sit third on three points. Extension Gunners complete the top four.

Sua Flamingoes and Tonota FC also registered victories in their opening fixtures, collecting three points each.

ROLLERS CHALLENGE

The BFL's positive assessment comes against the backdrop of an early fixture disruption involving Township Rollers and Jwaneng Galaxy.

The match could not be completed after Rollers arrived with only seven players available. Within the first five minutes, one of those players sustained an injury, leaving the club unable to continue and resulting in the fixture being called off.

Tshoswane linked the situation to the registration challenges facing Rollers, saying FIFA-related restrictions have prevented the club from registering additional players.

"The situation is linked to the current registration challenges facing Township Rollers, which have prevented the club from registering additional players due to the FIFA-related restrictions affecting the club," he said.

"We understand the concerns surrounding the matter, and we are on it. We are engaging with the relevant stakeholders and are working to address the situation appropriately."

BFL COMMITMENT

Tshoswane said the league's responsibility was to ensure that the competition operated within the applicable rules and regulations while supporting clubs in dealing with challenges that could arise.

He acknowledged the importance of having teams adequately prepared and able to fulfil their fixtures, but maintained that the first week represented a positive start.

The BFL, he said, remained committed to improving the league, strengthening its operations and delivering a professional and competitive competition.

"We remain confident in the direction of the competition and committed to improving the league, strengthening its operations and delivering a professional, competitive and exciting FNB Premiership that Botswana football can be proud of."

Katisenge-Tizhani Eyes Greater Women Sport Impact

Botswana sports leader Keenese Katisenge-Tizhani says her new continental role reflects years of work advancing women's leadership, inclusion and participation in sport

GAZETTE REPORTER

Keenese Katisenge-Tizhani says she is grateful for her appointment to the African Union Sports Council (AUSC) Women and Girls in Sport Working Group (WGWG), describing the role as an opportunity to contribute to sport development across the continent.

"I am grateful for this appointment to AUSC. This is not about me, it is about the work ahead," Katisenge-Tizhani said in a telephone interview . "I feel energised by the opportunity to serve sport across the continent, and to help advance a shared vision."

She added that the appointment also represented recognition of her longstanding work in advancing women in sport.

"This proves that all the work I have been doing for women in sport is recognized," she said.

Her appointment was made by AUSC Region 5, where she currently serves as Chairperson of the AUSC Region 5 Women in Sport Committee. It recognises her contribution to sport development, women's leadership, inclusion, governance and empowerment in Botswana, the region and across Africa.

WOMEN IN SPORT

The WGWG serves as a technical and advisory mechanism supporting the African Union's priorities on gender equality, women's empowerment, leadership, safeguarding, inclusion and participation in sport.

Its mandate is aligned with key AU frameworks, including Agenda 2063, the AU Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment Strategy, the AU Policy Framework for the Sustainable Development of Sport in Africa (2018–2028), the Maputo Protocol, the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child, and the African Union Convention on Ending Violence Against Women and Girls (2025).

The working group aims to create an enabling environment in which women and girls can access, participate in, lead and benefit from sport across Africa.

LEADERSHIP RECORD

Katisenge-Tizhani's journey in sport began in chess, progressing from player and club administrator to national sport administration at the age of 23.



Between 2008 and 2017, she held several leadership positions within the Botswana Chess Federation, including Clubs Secretary, Additional Member, Secretary General and Public Relations Director.

Her involvement extended internationally through roles including Councillor on the International Chess Federation Commission for Women in Chess and Secretary of the African Chess Confederation Women's Commission.

Beyond chess, she served as Head of Marketing for the Gaborone International Meet, now the Botswana Golden Grand Prix, and contributed to the Botswana Football Association Club Licensing Committee and Botswana Volleyball Federation Marketing Commission.

She chaired the Botswana Sport Volunteers Movement from 2019 to 2021 and founded Limitless Minds, an inclusive chess academy.

She currently chairs Women and Sport Botswana (WASBO).

BROADER CREDENTIALS

Katisenge-Tizhani was named Sports Administrator of the Year at the 2015 Botswana Sport Awards and represented Botswana and Africa at the United Nations Office on Sport for Development and Peace Youth Leadership Summit in the United States that year.

She is also a 2019 Mandela Washington Fellow and former YALI Influencer.

Outside sport, she is an International Trade and Business Development professional, holding an Executive MBA, Bachelor of Business Administration, Postgraduate Certificate in Enterprise Risk Management, and professional certificates in Corporate Governance, Digital Transformation and PRINCE2 Foundation.

Her new role places her within a continental mechanism focused on ensuring women and girls are not only participants in sport, but leaders, decision-makers and beneficiaries of Africa's sport development agenda.

BNSC Pushes Sport For All

From senior citizens preparing for a 10km marathon to efforts to strengthen governance in lawn bowls, the Commission is broadening its focus on participation and development



GAZETTE REPORTER

The Botswana National Sport Commission (BNSC) is promoting wider participation in sport, with recent initiatives placing senior citizens and the development of national sporting associations at the centre of its outreach efforts.

BNSC Chief Executive Officer Olebile Sikwane and 30th TAFISA World Congress Secretariat General Manager Thuto Molebatsi recently joined senior citizens for a Sport for All engagement that combined fitness sessions with recreational games.

Organised by the TR Josephs organisation in collaboration with the Sports Science Department, including lecturers and students from the University of Botswana, the event also marked the official launch of a group of senior citizens aged 60 and above who will participate in next week's UB Marathon.

The participants will compete in the 10km race, providing a practical demonstration of the initiative's emphasis on active living across age groups.

Speaking at the launch, Sikwane reaffirmed the BNSC's commitment to making sport accessible to everyone, in line with the TAFISA Sport for All movement, which promotes inclusive participation, healthy lifestyles and community-based physical activity.

He commended the club for promoting fitness and wellness among older adults.

"Sport is not only for young people but for all members of society," Sikwane said, according to the BNSC statement.

He encouraged the participants to continue preparing for the marathon and wished them success, saying their participation represented resilience, wellness and lifelong involvement in physical activity.

The initiative forms part of the community outreach activities linked to the 30th TAFISA World Congress, including community gym activations where senior citizens train regularly, maintain fitness and participate in recreational games intended to strengthen social connections and wellbeing.

Sikwane and Molebatsi were joined by Strategic Partnerships and Stakeholder Manager Mary-Anne Sebolao, Projects Coordinator Modise Mgadla and Marketing & Communications Coordinator Karabo Kwadibana.

BOWLS DEVELOPMENT

Separately, the Botswana Bowling Association underwent a BNSC induction session at the Jwaneng Bowling Club, aimed at strengthening members' understanding of the Commission's mandate and the administration and development of sport.

The session was led by BNSC Manager, Sport Development Administration, Kealeboga Keitseng, and Manager, Marketing & Communications, Anderson Nlisana.

Keitseng outlined the BNSC's role as the country's sport regulator and development agency, including advising the Minister on sport policy and strategy, regulating sport at all levels and providing leadership and guidance on sport development and promotion.

The association was also briefed on the Sport Development Department and its units, including Sport Development Technical, Sport Development Administration and Games.

The discussion covered programmes including the Re Ba Bona Ha Programme, Centres of Sport Excellence, Heroes Mentorship Programme, Hall of Fame, Elite Athlete Scholarship Programme and the Zebra Fund. Participants were also briefed on Botswana's participation in events such as the AUSC Region 5 Games and the African Games, as well as collaboration between BNSC and the Botswana National Olympic Committee in elite sport development.

Nlisana focused on strategic communication, urging the association to promote its activities and achievements to increase public understanding and engagement with bowls.

"Many sporting codes often do excellent work on the field of play but miss opportunities to share their successes with the public, potential sponsors and other stakeholders," he said.

He also emphasised brand awareness, consistent application of the BNSC brand and stronger use of media engagement, digital platforms and community outreach.

YOUTH CHAMPIONSHIPS

The induction comes as the Botswana Bowling Association prepares to host the Bowls Under-25 & Under-18 Youth Championships from Aug. 29 to 30 at Jwaneng Bowling Club, with competition starting at 8 a.m.

The public has been invited to watch young bowlers compete for top honours.

The two initiatives reflect the BNSC's parallel focus on increasing participation while strengthening the structures supporting sport.

BEYOND 40 WALK WEEKEND



The inaugural wellness walk enters its final days with a social-impact commitment and a push for last-minute registrations

GAZETTE REPORTER

The inaugural Beyond 40: Stride by Stride Walk enters its final days of preparations with organisers positioning the event as more than a fitness activity, combining wellness, active ageing and social impact.

The walk will take place on Saturday, September 5 at the Three Dikgosi Monument in Gaborone, with the Chief Walker confirmed as the Minister for State President, Defence and Security, Moeti Mohwasa.

According to TM Media Consultancy, which is organising the initiative, Assistant Minister of Health Lawrence Ookeditse and Minister of Lands and Agriculture Edwin Dikoloti are also expected to participate. The Dean of the Diplomatic Corps, Henry Mukonoweshuro, has confirmed his participation.

A NATIONAL AGENDA

In remarks delivered at the partnership launch and press conference on Tuesday at the Lekidi Centre Auditorium in Gaborone, TM Media representative Mqondisi Dube said the organisers hoped the event would develop into one of Botswana's leading wellness and active-ageing initiatives.

"We want to encourage people, particularly those aged 40 and above, to become more conscious of their health and wellbeing and to embrace physical activity as part of their everyday lives," Dube said.

The event, however, is open to participants of all ages. Dube said the initiative was based on the idea that life at 40 and beyond should remain "active, healthy and purposeful."

The walk is intended to encourage lifestyle changes and greater awareness of health, fitness and wellness, rather than simply completing a set distance.

BEYOND THE WALK

A significant element of the initiative is its social-impact component, with the organisers saying the event seeks to demonstrate how sport, fitness and wellness can be used to create opportunities and address issues affecting communities.

Imperial School of Business and Science is contributing to that objective by providing three scholarships to survivors of Gender-Based Violence.

Representing the institution, Tshepo Tlhankane said the scholarships would provide three beneficiaries with opportunities to undertake 12-month certificate programmes at Imperial.

Those who successfully complete their certificates will also have an opportunity to progress to diploma-level studies.

"Education can restore confidence. Education can create independence. Education can open doors. And education can give people hope," Tlhankane said.

He said the institution's support reflected its belief that education was about empowerment rather than qualifications alone.

FINAL PREPARATIONS

The organisers said preparations for Saturday's walk were progressing well and that the official route would be shared by Wednesday, September 2 allowing participants time to familiarise themselves with the course.

Registration for the premium package, which included a T-shirt, has closed. Standard registration, priced at P120, remains open until midnight on Wednesday.

The organisers are encouraging individuals, companies, organisations, families and friends to participate.

"This is the first edition of the Beyond 40: Stride by Stride Walk," Dube said, adding that the intention was to build it into a flagship annual wellness event with growing participation, partnerships and social impact.

The initiative has received support from Boitekanelo College, Botswana Tourism, UrbanBetter, the Botswana National Sports Commission, TAFISA, Imperial School of Business and Science, 03 Beverages, Diagnofirm and Road Safety Ambassadors.

> "We want the walk to leave a legacy beyond the day itself."

As the first edition approaches, the organisers are presenting the walk as the beginning of a longer-term initiative rather than a one-day event.

"The Beyond 40 Walk is a journey, and every journey begins with a single step," Dube said.

TIRED OF SHARING?



BACKPAGE
WEDNESDAY 02 SEPTEMBER 2026
SINCE 1984

The Botswana Gazette
SPORT



38.

GABORONE UNITED TAKES ON YANGA

Back-to-back Botswana champions Gaborone United will open their African campaign at home on Saturday against Tanzania's in-form Young Africans SC



40.

BEYOND 40 WALK WEEKEND

The inaugural wellness walk enters its final days with a social-impact commitment and a push for last-minute registrations