The Botswana
GAZETTE
WEDNESDAY 23 SEPTEMBER 2026 | SINCE 1984

Diamond Price Slump Hits Botswana

4.



FMD: 'ROME IS BURNING'

- Prof Masupu

Veteran epidemiologist Prof Kereng Masupu warns of monumental consequences from Botswana's prolonged FMD response as President Duma Boko tells New York of poverty, reform and a government that works for ordinary people.



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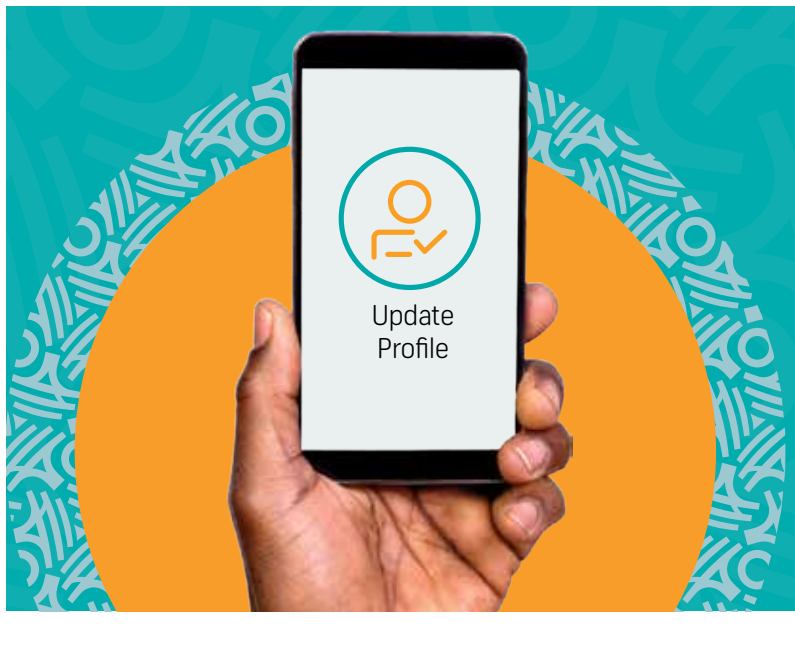

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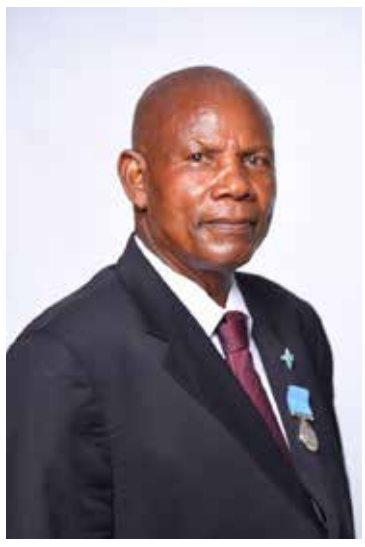
ROME IS BURNING

Veteran epidemiologist Prof Kereng Masupu has lent his weight to mounting criticism of Botswana's prolonged FMD response, warning of monumental consequences at home even as President Duma Boko uses his New York platform to speak about poverty, reform and a government that works for ordinary people.



GAZETTE REPORTER

In New York this week, President Duma Boko was presenting the Botswana he wants the world, and Batswana abroad, to see: a country trying to move faster, attract investment, reform slow institutions and lift people out of poverty.

Addressing Batswana living in the United States, Boko returned to one of his most forceful formulations: that poverty is a violation of human rights. He also spoke about cumbersome government systems and the need to make them more efficient and responsive, using delays in the delivery of medicines as an example of how bureaucratic failure eventually reaches ordinary people.

Back home, however, one of Botswana's most experienced disease fighters is sounding a very different alarm.

Prof Kereng Masupu, the veterinarian and epidemiologist who led Botswana's response to the devastating 1995 cattle lung disease outbreak and later served as National Coordinator of the COVID-19 Presidential Task Force, says the country's handling of Foot-and-Mouth Disease has drifted dangerously, with no sufficiently visible command structure, no clear sense of when the crisis will end and, in his assessment, too little evidence of the political urgency required.

"Rome is burning, but I see business as usual," Masupu told The Botswana Gazette.

His warning cuts into the very question Boko is raising abroad. If poverty is a human-rights violation, Masupu's argument is that the consequences of a prolonged livestock crisis cannot be treated merely as an agricultural inconvenience. They threaten incomes, farms, household assets and the economic security of communities whose livelihoods are tied to cattle.

"The socio-economic aftermath of this disaster will be monumental. It may not be evident now, but this is a disaster in motion," Masupu said.

"We are not in control."

VETERAN ALARM

Masupu's intervention carries unusual weight because his career has repeatedly placed him at the centre of national disease emergencies.

In 1995, he helped lead the response to contagious bovine pleuropneumonia, commonly known as cattle lung disease, an outbreak that culminated in the culling of more than 300,000 cattle. Decades later, he became one of the most visible officials in Botswana's national response to COVID-19.

It is that background that informs his concern now.

Botswana's current FMD outbreak began in the North East early this year before spreading into other areas. By April, government officials themselves were describing the situation as a national crisis. The outbreak disrupted livestock movement and slaughter and damaged the country's beef export position, with government acknowledging the loss of access to the European Union market from affected areas.

Nearly nine months into the fight, Masupu says the duration alone should be setting off alarms.

Going for roughly nine months without a clear indication of when the outbreak will be brought under control, he said, is "too long and scary."

Masupu said he initially watched developments from a distance, hoping veterinary authorities would arrest the situation. What increasingly worries him, he said, is what he regards as an absence of clear direction.

"I follow the ministry's website for updates, and from those updates one gets the impression that nobody really knows what is happening where, and to what extent," he said.

For an epidemiologist, that is not simply a communications problem. It goes to the heart of disease control.

Masupu argues that tracing and surveillance should allow authorities to understand how the virus is travelling before new infections emerge, rather than continually explaining outbreaks after they have happened.

"Surveillance and tracing should be ahead of the disease," he said.

> "Who is in charge? Where are they? What are they doing, and when? Rome is burning, but I see business as usual,"

WHO IS IN CHARGE?

His sharpest criticism concerns leadership.

"Who is in charge? Where are they? What are they doing, and when? Rome is burning, but I see business as usual," Masupu said.

Government has not been inactive. It approved a P97 million emergency response, imposed livestock movement restrictions, conducted vaccination campaigns, strengthened surveillance and deployed measures including drones along vulnerable veterinary fences. Officials have at different stages reported progress in some affected zones.

Masupu's contention is that individual interventions do not necessarily amount to a sufficiently visible, coherent and nationally understood strategy.

He wants an identifiable command structure backed by a multisectoral advisory system, adequately resourced technical teams and measurable objectives against which progress can be judged.

"You cannot fight a war empty-handed, with resource-starved and unmotivated warriors," he said.

"People must feel the political will, and when they do, they will rally behind the fight."

That question of political will gives his criticism added force as Boko travels abroad speaking about poverty, investment, institutional reform and a state that delivers for its citizens.

Botswana's cattle economy reaches far beyond commercial ranchers. For many households, cattle are savings, inheritance, food, school fees and a source of income. Months without normal access to livestock markets can therefore create losses that linger long after the disease itself is contained.

Masupu warns that every additional month increases that economic and social toll.

POVERTY TEST

Boko's message in New York is that government must work differently.

Botswana is using the United Nations General Assembly to pursue investment and development partnerships, with the administration presenting institutional reform and economic transformation as central to its programme.

During his engagement with Batswana in the United States, Boko reportedly pointed to slow government processes and medicine shortages as examples of systems that must change.

Masupu's warning poses essentially the same test in another arena: what happens when government systems do not move faster than a crisis?

Farmers have spent months carrying feeding and production costs while livestock trading has been constrained. MP Unity Dow has separately warned, following consultations with farmers and agricultural stakeholders, that prolonged restrictions are exposing producers to debt distress, overstocking, layoffs and possible bankruptcy.

Masupu believes some restrictions should be reconsidered where veterinary science allows economic activity to continue safely, including controlled and supervised slaughter.

But his larger argument is not about one regulation.

It is about whether Botswana is confronting FMD with urgency proportionate to what is at stake.

For a President telling Batswana abroad that poverty violates human rights, the consequences at home are increasingly tangible: farmers unable to trade normally, livelihoods being squeezed and a livestock sector facing losses whose effects may remain long after the outbreak disappears.

Masupu's warning is that the ultimate price of failing to get ahead of the disease will not be measured only in infected cattle.

It will be measured in livelihoods.

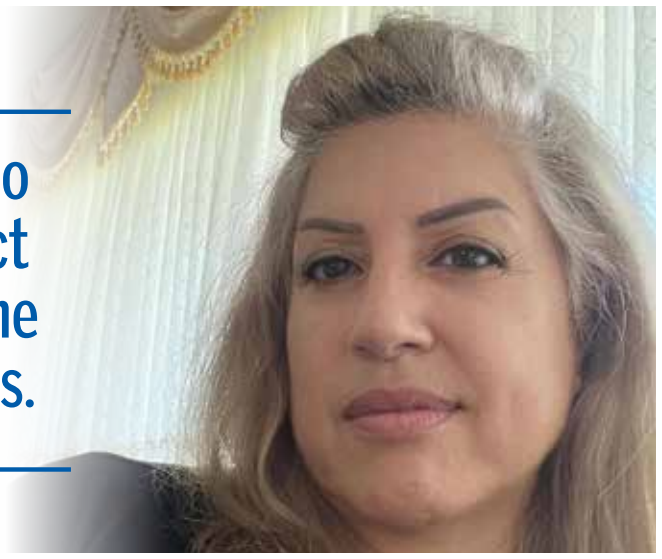
And perhaps in generations.

"Rome is burning," he said.

"But I see business as usual."



DIS Still Holds Khama's Gadgets



Thea Khama says the DIS has kept devices seized during her 2022 arrest for nearly four years, while intelligence chief Peter Magosi says they are ready for collection.

GAZETTE REPORTER

Nearly four years after her arrest and the confiscation of her electronic devices, Thea Khama says the Directorate of Intelligence and Security (DIS) has yet to return belongings it had promised to release within a week.

Khama confirmed in an interview with ***The Botswana Gazette*** that the intelligence agency still has electronic devices she surrendered during her arrest in March 2022.

The devices include her mobile phones, a laptop and a MacBook. Khama said she also surrendered passwords to the devices at the time.

SHOW OF POWER

Speaking to ***The Gazette*** this week, Khama said she no longer expects to recover the devices, arguing that the DIS's continued possession of them amounts to little more than a show of power.

Khama said that each time she asked about her gadgets, she was told that investigations were still ongoing.

Khama was arrested alongside her husband, former cabinet minister and Serowe West MP Tshekedi Khama, and his twin brother Anthony Khama during a period of investigations involving members of the Khama family.

Although her electronic devices were seized during the operation, Khama says they have remained in DIS custody for years.

She said the prolonged retention of the gadgets had left her with little expectation that she would see them again.

TRIBUNAL CHALLENGE

The matter adds a new dimension to the controversy surrounding her 2022 arrest, which Khama subsequently challenged before the Tribunal on Intelligence and Security.

The Tribunal ultimately dismissed her complaint in 2024, including her challenge relating to the seizure of her property saying the seizure was for purposes of investigations.

DIS RESPONSE

Reached for comment on why Khama's electronic devices had still not been returned and whether she is still under investigation, DIS Director General Peter Magosi responded: "She can go and collect them at the DIS offices. I had already directed that the belongings be released to her."

Magosi said he would follow up to establish whether his directive had been implemented.

But Khama said nobody has ever called her at the DIS to come and collect the gadgets.



Diamond Price Slump Hits Botswana

Natural diamond prices have reportedly fallen to their lowest levels this century, deepening pressure on Botswana's exports, mineral revenue and economic recovery.



BONGANI MALUNGA

Botswana's economic recovery faces another major test after global natural diamond prices reportedly plunged to their lowest levels this century, raising fresh concerns over the country's exposure to a market increasingly squeezed by weak demand and cheaper laboratory-grown alternatives.

According to a report published by CryptoBriefing and carried by TradingView on Monday, wholesale natural diamond prices are now roughly 30 to 40 percent below their 2021 peaks, as oversupply, weakening consumer demand and competition from lab-grown diamonds continue to reshape the industry.

For Botswana, however, the collapse is more than a jewellery market correction. Diamonds have historically accounted for around 80 percent of exports, a third of fiscal revenues and roughly a quarter of GDP, making sustained weakness in prices particularly damaging to government finances and foreign exchange earnings.

WRONG TIMING

The latest price pressures come as Botswana is attempting to pull itself out of a diamond-induced economic slowdown. Competition from lab-grown stones is becoming particularly troublesome as the TradingView report says Chinese exports of lab-grown diamonds surged 65.3 percent year-on-year during the first half of 2026, while synthetic stones can retail at substantially lower prices than comparable natural diamonds.

Signs of the pressure are already visible at De Beers. During the first quarter of 2026, its average realised rough diamond price fell 19 percent to $101 per carat, while its rough diamond price index declined 17 percent. De Beers acknowledged that trading conditions remained challenged by industry, geopolitical and tariff headwinds.

> Higher volumes alone may not restore the revenues Botswana once enjoyed if prices remain depressed.

PRICE PRESSURE

The report states that the worrying development for Botswana is that production has started recovering even as prices remain under pressure. Debswana production rose to 5.5 million carats during the second quarter of 2026, more than double the comparable period in 2025, while first-half Botswana production reached 10.3 million carats.

However, higher volumes alone may not restore the revenues Botswana once enjoyed if prices remain depressed. The consequences are already filtering into the national budget since mineral revenue for the 2025/26 financial year was revised down from P15.75 billion to P12.06 billion, while the overall budget deficit was estimated at more than P25 billion.

RECOVERY TEST

The World Bank expects Botswana's economy to recover by around 3.1 percent in 2026, partly on the back of recovering diamond production, but warns that output will remain below historical averages and that declining mineral revenues have intensified fiscal pressures.

The diamond price crash therefore strikes at the heart of Botswana's economic dilemma as market dynamics demonstrate that the mines can produce more stones but the global market may no longer be willing to pay what it once did for them.

BVI
BOTSWANA VACCINE INSTITUTE

TENDER
NOTICE

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1.	BVI/ ICT/28/2026-27	INVITATION TO TENDER FOR THE SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF LAPTOPS AND ACCESSORIES	CODE: 203- ELECTRICAL, ELECTRONIC, MECHANICAL AND ICT SUPPLIES SUB CODE(S): 01 – ELECTRICAL & ELECTRONIC EQUIPMENT, SPARES AND ACCESSORIES (INCLUDES ICT, PHOTOGRAPHIC EQUIPMENT AND OTHERS	OPEN DOMESTIC BIDDING- (RESERVED FOR CITIZENS OR CITIZEN OWNED CONTRACTORS AS STATED UNDER SECTION 76(2) OF THE PUBLIC PROCUREMENT ACT)	NO SITE VISIT REQUIREMENT	06 OCTOBER 2026 at 1000 HRS (CAT)

Tender documents will be available with effect from **21 September 2026** and will be sent to the bidders via email upon submission of proof of payment of a non-refundable fee of **BWP250.00 (two hundred and fifty Pula Only) each.** Youth owned companies will pay **BWP125.00 (one hundred and twenty-five pula only)** each non-refundable payable to the BVI Account details provided below. Proof of payment must be emailed to procurement@bvi.co.bw. To access the full tender notice please visit https://bvi.co.bw/tenders/

The BVI banking details are as follows:

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Account type: Current
Swift code: FMBZBWGA
Branch code: 552067
Branch name: Corporate



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Pan Cooking Oil 2 litre or
Savemor Cooking Oil 2 litre +
Sunblest Macaroni 3 kg or
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BUY ALL FOR **349.99** per combo

WITH Rewards CARD

SAVE EXTRA

COMBO DEAL

SPAR Super Maize Meal 12.5 kg or
A1 Super Maize Meal 12.5 kg +
SPAR Mabele Fine Sorghum 10 kg +
Crosse & Blackwell Mayonnaise Assorted 750 g +
All Gold Tomato Sauce 700 ml +
Pan Cooking Oil 2 litre or
Savemor Cooking Oil 2 litre +
Sunblest Macaroni 3 kg or
Pasta King Macaroni 3 kg

BUY ALL FOR **330.99** per combo

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COMBO DEAL

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SPAR Tomato Sauce 700 ml,
SPAR Mayonnaise Assorted 750 g,
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REPUBLIC OF BOTSWANA

EXTERNAL ADVERTISEMENT
VACANCY CIRCULAR NO. 7 OF 2026

Ref: MCI 4/2/9 I (12) 11 September 2026

DIRECTOR GENERAL – DIGITAL SERVICES AUTHORITY - F0 SALARY SCALE

Applications are invited from talented, innovative, decisive and self-driven qualified citizens of Botswana to fill the above vacancy tenable at the Ministry of Communications and Innovation – Headquarters on contract basis.

MAIN PURPOSE OF THE JOB:
To provide strategic and operational leadership to the Digital Services Authority, ensuring effective regulation, coordination and promotion of digital services in Botswana in line with the Digital Services Act and national digital transformation priorities and strategies.

KEY PERFORMANCE AREAS:
- Leads the development, promotion and management of digital service policies and programmes.
- Provide strategic leadership in coordination, development and enforcement of strategies, standards and guidelines that enhance provision and usage of digital services and services continuity.
- Provides advice, information or policy proposals to the Minister on matters relating to digital services.
- Provides strategic leadership in oversight of the development of supportive and enabling shared digital public infrastructure guidelines to ensure equitable access to effective and appropriate provision of digital services.
- Provides strategic leadership in oversight of the design of appropriate applications for the support of e-government and information management systems.
- Provides strategic leadership in oversight of the development and implementation of a National Digital Services Strategic Plan.
- Provide strategic leadership in oversight of the establishment of a structured digital services stability management plan.
- Provides strategic leadership in provision of conducive environment for content creation by forming partnerships or collaborations with both local and international organizations that provide content services.
- Provides strategic leadership in coordination of research to promote the adoption and adaption of new emerging technologies to promote digital services.
- Provide strategic leadership in coordination of the development and administration of information gateways.
- Provides strategic leadership in oversight of the development and maintenance of a Digital Services Integrity Register for availed digital services provided by public and private bodies.
- Provides strategic leadership in oversight of protection of government-created digital assets such as platforms, process models, algorithms and trademarks under relevant laws.
- Provides strategic leadership in coordination of development and maintenance of online repository of tools, best practices, and schema standards to facilitate the adoption of open data practices.
- Provides strategic leadership in oversight of the establishment of a standardized framework for secure exchange of information over the internet.
- Provides strategic leadership in coordination of the conduct of audits of public or private bodies to evaluate compliance with the provisions of the Digital Services Act.
- Prepares and submit a comprehensive annual report of the Authority operations.
- Coordinates compliance and adherence to government regulations and instruments.
- Provides professional guidance, coaching and mentoring to staff.
- Monitors an ensures that all the functions and activities of the Authority comply with national legislation and quality management standards
- Undertakes any other duties as required to meet the exigencies of the service.

QUALIFICATIONS: Bachelor's degree in Information Communication Technology or Computer Engineering or any a related field. Masters in the related field will be an added advantage.

EXPERIENCE: Minimum of twenty (20) years' experience in Information Communication Technology or digital services management, of which two (2) years should have been served at Deputy Permanent Secretary level or equivalent executive management role. Applicants must have a proven track record of leading large scale digital transformation, e-government initiatives or complex technology programs.

SALARY SCALE: F0 (**P789 396)** per annum
LEAVE: 30 Working days per annum

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- Gratuity at 30% of cumulative salary

KEY COMPETENCIES:

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- Deciding and Initiating Action
- Leading and Supervising
- Working with People
- Adhering to Principles and Values
- Persuading and Influencing
- Analyzing
- Formulating strategies and Concepts
- Adapting & Responding to Change

Technical
- E-Government Service Design
- Public Sector Digital Transformation
- Policy, Legal & Regulatory Interpretation
- Emerging Digital Tools & Platforms
- Financial Management & Resource Mobilization

APPLICATION: Applicants should quote the reference number of this advert and give the following information: -
a) Full names, postal address, date and place of birth.
b) Full summary of career with duties (Curriculum Vitae-CV) with **full dates**.
c) Certified copies of relevant certificates and National Identity Card.
d) At least two (2) copies of recent work-related references (with full contact details) confirming the relevant experience.
e) Present post, salary grade and date of appointment thereto.
f) Date of first appointment.
g) Applicants with Engineering qualifications must provide valid proof of registration with Engineering Registration Board (ERB) or equivalent institution.

IMPORTANT:
All applications for Public Service employees **must** be routed through Permanent Secretaries. Applications not so routed will not be considered. Applicants who do not meet the minimum requirements will not be responded to.

Applications should be addressed to;

The Permanent Secretary
Ministry of Communications and Innovation
P/Bag 00414
Gaborone

Or hand delivered to
Ministry of Communications and Innovation,
Westgate Mall, Records Management Unit, Ground Floor.

For any enquiries contact Human Resources Division at 3625618/3625525/ 3625524/3625513/3625515

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By submitting your application or CV, you acknowledge that the processing of your personal data is solely for recruitment purposes. Your information may be shared with authorized personnel and approved recruitment Partners in line with the Botswana Data Protection Act, 2024.

New Law Puts Workers First

A new liquidation framework places employees ahead of other creditors, a reform government says was shaped by the long-running plight of former BCL and Tati Nickel workers.

SESUPO RANTSIMAKO

The government is moving to prevent a repeat of the plight suffered by former BCL and Tati Nickel employees following the closure and liquidation of the two mining companies, with a new liquidation law placing employees at the front of the queue during the liquidation process.

WORKERS FIRST

Speaking to T***he Botswana Gazette*** on the sidelines of a meeting with former BCL and Tati Nickel employees over their long-awaited compensation, Labour and Home Affairs Minister Pius Mokgware said a new law on liquidation commenced at the beginning of September 2026.

Mokgware said the new framework reverses the previous arrangement under which employees were paid after other creditors, with workers now required to be paid first during liquidation. He said the change was specifically informed by the experiences of former BCL and Tati Nickel employees.

OLD SYSTEM

Under the previous legal framework, the minister said, employee claims were subject to the prescribed order of priority during insolvency and liquidation. The published Insolvency Act contains Section 85, titled "Servants' wages", which gives a limited preferential claim for certain arrears of wages from the free residue, subject to conditions and a statutory monetary limit.

Mokgware, however, said the new liquidation framework goes further, providing that employees must be paid first during the liquidation process. The minister said the intention is to prevent workers from being left vulnerable when companies collapse and their assets are liquidated.

BCL LESSONS

Mokgware said the experiences of former BCL and Tati Nickel workers exposed the shortcomings of the previous system and prompted government to rethink the treatment of employees when companies enter liquidation.

He said the amendment was specifically informed by the two cases to ensure that workers are not left at the back of the queue in future company closures.

YEARS WAITING

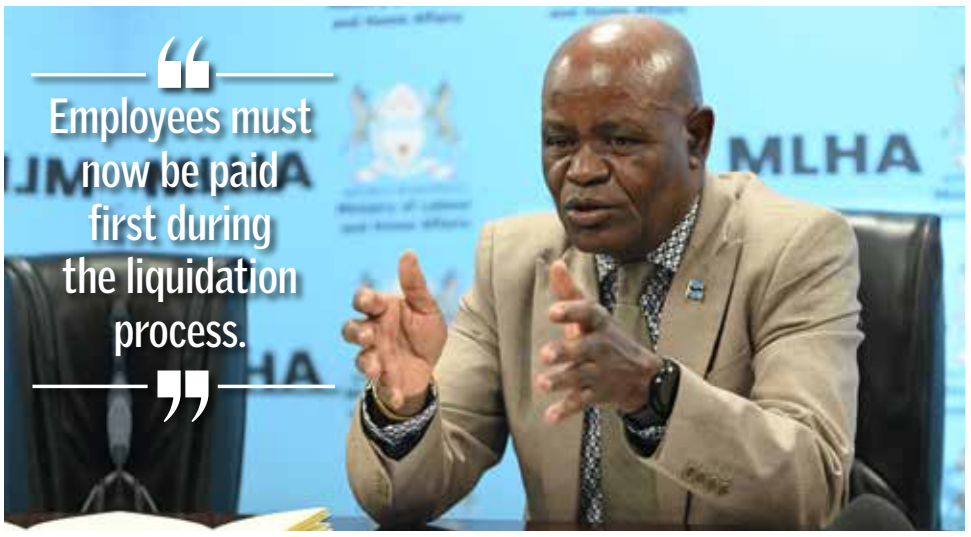
The issue remains particularly sensitive for former BCL and Tati Nickel employees, who have spent years waiting for compensation following the closure and liquidation of the mines.

At a meeting in Francistown, former Tati Nickel workers expressed frustration over the continued delay, saying the prolonged liquidation process had caused serious financial difficulties, including mounting bank debts.

STILL WAITING

The BCL and Tati Nickel cases have become a stark example of the difficulties employees can face when major companies collapse and enter liquidation.

Hundreds of former employees were left without jobs following the mining companies' financial difficulties and have since been caught up in a lengthy process over the disposal of assets and payment of compensation.



Labour and Home Affairs Minister Pius Mokgware

NEW APPROACH

Mokgware said the new approach is intended to ensure that future company closures do not leave employees without meaningful protection while other creditors are settled.

The minister urged the former workers to remain patient while the current legal process runs its course, saying government remained committed to their welfare.

21 Day Notice

Introduction of FNB Green Loan

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The green loan provides clients with access to financing to purchase and install approved green technologies such as solar energy systems, and related sustainable solutions

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2. Clients will be able to apply for the loan offer at any FNB branch accompanied by a quotation from FNB vetted and approved panel of suppliers & installers. This is done to ensure transaction compliance and ensure the proceeds from the loan are used for green activities only

   Currently the vetted and approved suppliers are:
   - Solar City Botswana
   - Emit Solutions
   - Starton
3. Loan amounts available from minimum BWP 15,000 up to a maximum of BWP 350,000, depending on the type of green asset financed and credit assessment
4. Repayment periods are structured to suit the asset financed, subject to the Bank's lending terms and conditions
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Clients can settle the loan earlier than the agreed tenure with no early repayment penalty, subject to the Bank's applicable terms.

Balance Inquiry

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Statements

Clients can access loan statements via FNB Digital Channels such as the FNB App and Online banking or request them in person at any FNB Branch free of charge.

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Fee Type	Charge
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- Maximum	P 4,445.00
Early Repayment	Free

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First National Bank of Botswana Limited Registration Number BW00000790476.
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40,000 ID Cards Stuck

Ageing machinery and procurement delays have left about 40,000 identity cards in the queue as government turns to repaired equipment to restore production.



SESUPO RANTSIMAKO

At least 40,000 identity cards are stuck in government's production backlog as ageing equipment, limited capacity and delays in procuring new machinery hamper efforts to meet demand for one of the country's most essential identification documents.

OLD MACHINES

Speaking to The Botswana Gazette amid growing public concerns over delays in the processing and production of identity cards, Labour and Home Affairs Minister Major General (rtd) Pius Mokgware attributed the problem largely to ageing equipment and limited production capacity.

Mokgware said government had planned to procure new equipment in June, but the procurement process was delayed, further frustrating efforts to increase production capacity.

40,000 BACKLOG

The minister said the current backlog stands at approximately 40,000 identity cards, underscoring the scale of the pressure facing the national identity production system.

Following the procurement delays, government opted to repair the existing equipment in an effort to restore production capacity. The repaired machinery is expected to resume operations this week.

REPAIRS

"We are expecting the repaired equipment and production materials this week, which are expected to significantly increase production and help chip away at the backlog," Mokgware said.

The minister said the repaired equipment is expected to enable government to produce approximately 1,000 identity cards a day once it is fully operational.

1,000 DAILY

At a production rate of 1,000 cards a day, government could make substantial progress in reducing the existing backlog. However, the pace of recovery will depend on the equipment performing consistently and production materials remaining available.

The immediate challenge for government is to clear the accumulated applications while continuing to process new ones, potentially putting further pressure on the system if production does not keep pace with demand.

CITIZENS WAIT

The delays have raised concerns over the impact on applicants who have completed the required procedures but remain without their identity cards.

Identity cards are essential for accessing a range of public and private services, meaning prolonged delays can create practical difficulties for citizens who require proof of identity.

PROCUREMENT DELAYS

Government's failure to procure the new equipment as initially planned has added to the pressure on an already constrained production system.

Mokgware's disclosure that procurement delays contributed to the situation highlights the potential impact of delays in acquiring equipment needed to deliver basic government services.

CLEARING BACKLOG

The minister said the government is now banking on repaired equipment and the arrival of production materials to restore production and begin eating into the 40,000-card backlog.

"The projected output of 1,000 cards a day could significantly improve production capacity, but sustained output will be crucial if government is to clear the existing backlog while preventing new applications from creating another queue," emphasised Mokgware.



Stray Livestock Face Permanent Seizure

Proposed legislation would allow the Department of Veterinary Services to permanently confiscate livestock that stray into areas restricted under Foot and Mouth Disease control measures.

SESUPO RANTSIMAKO

Livestock owners could permanently lose their animals under proposed legislation giving the Department of Veterinary Services (DVS) sweeping new powers to confiscate livestock found straying into areas restricted under Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) control measures.

The proposed law is part of government's efforts to tighten enforcement of livestock movement restrictions as it battles to contain the spread of FMD.

NO RETURN

Addressing residents from Bokaa, Pilane and Morwa villages in Kgatleng this week, DVS Director Dr Kobedi Segale said the proposed legislation would allow authorities to confiscate cattle found roaming in restricted areas or along prohibited routes.

He said the confiscated animals would not be returned to their owners, warning farmers that they would face serious consequences for failing to keep their livestock within designated areas.

> "The proposed law is also intended to force farmers to take greater responsibility for their livestock."

FMD RISK

Segale said uncontrolled movement of livestock between disease-control zones posed a serious threat to efforts to contain FMD.

Animals crossing containment boundaries can potentially carry the virus from one zone to another, undermining disease-control measures and increasing the risk of further outbreaks.

He said tighter restrictions on livestock movement were therefore necessary to prevent breaches of established FMD control measures.

FARMERS WARNED

"The proposed law is also intended to force farmers to take greater responsibility for their livestock and prevent cattle from straying into restricted areas," he said.

He has previously warned farmers to ensure that their cattle do not cross containment fences, stressing that government cannot win the fight against FMD without cooperation from livestock owners.

TOUGHER POWERS

The DVS director said the proposed confiscation powers would add a more punitive enforcement mechanism to existing livestock movement controls.

"Government has relied on measures including movement restrictions, vaccination and intensified surveillance to control FMD outbreaks," he said.

The DVS has repeatedly warned that stray and unshepherded livestock can move into high-risk areas, increasing the possibility of disease transmission.

PERMANENT LOSS

The proposed legislation could therefore significantly raise the stakes for farmers who allow their animals to breach FMD restrictions.

If enacted, permanent confiscation would represent one of the toughest penalties yet proposed for livestock movement violations, placing greater responsibility on farmers to keep their animals within authorised areas as government seeks to contain FMD.

"Government has relied on measures including movement restrictions, vaccination and intensified surveillance to control FMD outbreaks,"



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UDC Direct Members Threaten Walkout

UDC Direct Members say the Sefhophe by-election dispute could force them to reconsider their place in the coalition and explore other political formations ahead of 2029.

GAZETTE REPORTER

The Umbrella for Democratic Change (UDC) is facing an internal dispute over the Sefhophe Ward by-election, with its Direct Members warning that they could reconsider their place in the coalition and explore other political formations ahead of the 2029 general elections.

The warning is contained in a letter addressed to UDC President Advocate Duma Gideon Boko and signed by Sebolelo Nkaki, Secretary of the UDC Direct Members Committee.

At the centre of the dispute is the selection of a candidate for the Sefhophe Ward by-election, scheduled for 17 October following the death of UDC councillor Christopher Motsholapheko.

CANDIDATE DISPUTE

According to Nkaki, the Sefhophe Ward Committee convened, deliberated on the by-election, nominated a candidate and submitted its resolution to the UDC office.

However, Direct Members say they were never formally informed whether the resolution had been accepted, rejected or required further consideration.

Instead, they claim they subsequently learnt through correspondence from the Botswana National Front (BNF) Secretary General that there was allegedly no UDC candidate in Sefhophe.

"We find this extremely concerning," Nkaki wrote.

The dispute intensified following a meeting held in Sefhophe on 17 September, which the Direct Members say was convened through the BNF Secretary General rather than the UDC Executive Secretary.

They are questioning whether the gathering was an official UDC meeting or a BNF meeting dealing with a UDC ward.

The group further alleges that participants were predominantly drawn from the BNF and that Direct Members were not represented.

"We also observed that the meeting arrangements and materials, including the table coverings, carried BNF identity," the letter states.

Nkaki said their objection was not to the involvement of coalition partners but to what they regard as inadequate consultation and representation.

"The UDC is a coalition, and Sefhophe is a UDC ward," he wrote.

2029 WARNING

The dispute has now escalated beyond the by-election into questions about the position of Direct Members within the governing coalition.

Nkaki said Direct Members have participated extensively in UDC mobilisation, rallies, campaigns and house-to-house activities but have repeatedly raised concerns about their recognition and participation in coalition structures.

The group has now issued its strongest warning yet, saying continued exclusion could force members to reconsider their political future.

"If what we regard as the continued unfair treatment and exclusion of UDC Direct Members persists, we will have to consider our political options going forward, including exploring other political formations with which we may seek to work or form a coalition in preparation for the 2029 general elections," Nkaki states.

CAMPAIGN THREAT

The Direct Members are also threatening to reconsider their involvement in the Sefhophe campaign itself.

"We may have no option but to reconsider our participation in UDC coalition activities, including our participation in the Sefhophe Ward by-election," the letter states.

Nkaki said the warning was not made lightly, maintaining that the group had repeatedly attempted to resolve its grievances internally.

The Direct Members are now seeking Boko's urgent intervention and answers to 11 questions, including the status of their candidate resolution, why the ward committee was not formally answered and why the 17 September meeting was convened through the BNF Secretary General.

They also want clarity on whether the gathering was officially sanctioned by the UDC and, if so, why Direct Members were allegedly excluded.



Oman Deal Not A Sale

Vice President Ndaba Gaolathe says Botswana needs foreign capital and strategic partnerships to finance growth while protecting national control and long-term economic sovereignty.

BONGANI MALUNGA

Vice President and Finance Minister Ndaba Gaolathe has rejected suggestions that Botswana is mortgaging its economic sovereignty through partnerships with foreign partners, insisting that external capital will be necessary to finance the country's next phase of development.

Speaking at Chatham House in London last Thursday, Gaolathe said Botswana cannot afford to retreat from international partnerships when its diamond-dependent economy is being exposed to global geopolitical shocks. Gaolathe centred his address on economic resilience, diversification and investment as Botswana confronts a weaker diamond market.

His remarks come amid scrutiny of Botswana's deepening relationship with Oman. During Sultan Haitham bin Tarik's state visit, the two countries signed nine agreements and memoranda covering areas including investment promotion and protection, energy, health, pharmaceuticals, commerce and industry.

CHOOSING PARTNERS

Gaolathe argued that the answer is not to shut out foreign capital but to choose partners carefully while protecting Botswana's long-term strategic interests. "Recent geopolitics have demonstrated that no country should be over-dependent on a single market, you don't know who's going to hit you with a tariff out of the blue," he said.

"One thing for sure, we cannot do it on our own. We need partnerships." He pointed to Botswana's decades-long relationship with De Beers as proof that structured partnerships can drive national development, describing it as an outstanding government-private sector partnership.

Gaolathe's wider economic message also revealed why the government is looking beyond the traditional public-budget model. He argued that Botswana cannot be built by treating roads, power stations and other development projects primarily as government expenditure.

FINANCING GROWTH

Instead, he called for a broader financing architecture drawing on capital markets, institutional savings, private equity, project finance and long-term partnerships between public purpose and private capital.

Botswana already has significant domestic financial firepower. Gaolathe said financial-sector assets were equivalent to about 143 percent of GDP in 2025, while pension funds and life insurers held assets worth roughly 70 percent of GDP. He argued that domestic savings alone are not enough to finance transformation at the required scale.

The challenge, he said, is to connect Botswana's own capital with productive investment while using international capital, expertise and partnerships to accelerate growth, without surrendering control over the country's economic destiny.



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Medupi Wage Fight Heads Court

The Botswana Mine Workers Union is preparing court action against Medupi Mining after talks and labour mediation failed to secure three months of outstanding salaries.



BONGANI MALUNGA

The three-month wage crisis at Medupi Mining is heading to court after repeated negotiations and labour mediation failed to unlock salaries owed to workers since July.

Botswana Mine Workers Union (BMWU) president Joseph Tsimako says the union is finalising its case against the company, escalating a dispute that has left employees without pay for three consecutive months and facing the prospect of going through the end of September without salaries.

GOVERNMENT APPEAL

The development comes a week after affected workers appealed for government intervention, saying the prolonged non-payment had placed them under severe financial strain.

In an interview with The Botswana Gazette, Tsimako said Medupi Mining had acknowledged owing the workers but maintained during engagements with the union that financial difficulties had left it unable to settle the arrears.

"Medupi Mining employees have not been paid for three months. We have held talks with them and they have notified us that they are financially challenged. They are sub contracted by Debswana and engaged for drilling services but we are not privy to their arrangement. In the last two weeks they informed us that they are trying to sell off some of their equipment to fund the payments," Tsimako told this publication.

NO BREAKTHROUGH

With negotiations failing to produce a breakthrough, BMWU subsequently referred the dispute to the Department of Labour. After exhausting the mediation process, Tsimako said the union was now turning to the courts as a last resort.

"We are on the cusp of registering the matter in court. We have already passed the mediation stage and we are finalising our statements as we chart a legal route," Tsimako noted. The looming court battle intensifies a dispute that could become an important test of Botswana's labour enforcement regime, particularly against employers who fail to pay workers their wages.

LABOUR TEST

The case also comes against the backdrop of government's stated tougher position on labour violations and the implementation of the Employment and Labour Relations Act, 2025, which has sharpened scrutiny over whether strengthened labour protections will translate into timely relief for workers.

Tsimako asserted that for the Medupi employees, the dispute is no longer only about labour policy. Three months without salaries means mounting household bills, debts and other financial obligations while uncertainty continues over when or whether outstanding wages will be paid.

> "We are on the cusp of registering the matter in court."

Contacted for comment, Minister of Labour and Home Affairs Pius Mokgware said the dispute had not yet reached ministerial level. He indicated that he would comment further once he had been furnished with the full details of the matter.

Balopi Tells Supporters: Stay Out

BDP president Mpho Balopi has welcomed political support from party members but urged them not to involve themselves directly in his CEDA-linked criminal case.

SESUPO RANTSIMAKO

Botswana Democratic Party (BDP) president Mpho Balopi has urged party members supporting him in his criminal case to stay out of the matter, saying they should not "fight a war they do not understand".

Balopi made the remarks over the weekend while addressing BDP members during the party's congress and retreat in Maun.

He told supporters that while they were free to rally behind him, they should not involve themselves directly in the case or attempt to fight the legal battle on his behalf.

SUPPORTERS RALLY

Balopi's comments come after BDP members rallied around him following his appearance before the Broadhurst Regional Magistrates Court last week.

The BDP president and seven co-accused face seven charges arising from transactions involving the Citizen Entrepreneurial Development Agency (CEDA). The charges include two counts of fraud, one count of attempting to obtain money by false pretense and four counts of money laundering.

CEDA CASE

According to court documents, the fraud allegations relate to a project-specific CEDA loan obtained in February 2023, which prosecutors allege was intended for a project that was not implemented.

The State further alleges that in December 2023, some of the accused attempted to obtain P1,399,810.56 from CEDA using fraudulent documents as proof of payment for services allegedly rendered.

BALOPI'S LINE

The money-laundering charges relate to transactions that investigators allege involved proceeds of the alleged fraud.

Balopi has now sought to draw a line between political support and direct involvement in the proceedings, telling BDP members to support him without taking up a legal battle they may not fully understand.



PARTY REGALIA

His comments come against the backdrop of an earlier position by BDP leadership that members should not attend court proceedings in party regalia, as Balopi is appearing in his personal capacity rather than as a representative of the party.

However, scores of BDP members last week turned up at the Broadhurst Magistrates Court wearing T-shirts and other clothing bearing messages such as "We Stand With Balopi".

POLITICAL CLAIMS

Some supporters during Balopi's court appearance described the case as a political witch-hunt aimed at discrediting the BDP president ahead of the 2029 general elections.

Balopi's latest appeal, however, indicates that he wants the party's support to remain political and symbolic, rather than members becoming directly involved in the legal proceedings.

BOPEU Slams Trader Demolitions

BOPEU says demolishing informal trading spaces without realistic alternatives risks worsening poverty and unemployment among households that depend on small businesses.

BONGANI MALUNGA

The Botswana Public Employees Union (BOPEU) has thrown its weight behind informal traders affected by the demolition of stalls and makeshift business structures in Thamaga and Mogoditshane, warning that enforcement without alternative trading spaces could push vulnerable households deeper into poverty.

BOPEU says that while it does not support lawlessness or disregard for regulations, authorities should not dismantle businesses that sustain families without first providing traders with realistic alternatives.

In a statement released last Friday responding to the removals, the union said Botswana's informal economy had become a critical survival mechanism for thousands of citizens struggling to secure formal employment.

SURVIVAL

"The informal economy is not a choice but a means of survival in the absence of sufficient formal employment opportunities," BOPEU said. The union argues that demolishing stalls does not simply remove illegal structures but can immediately wipe out household incomes used to pay rent, school expenses and buy food.

The intervention follows similar disputes between local authorities and informal traders elsewhere in the country, including previous enforcement operations by Gaborone City Council against vendors operating outside designated trading areas.

During an earlier dispute involving traders around the Gaborone Bus Rank, BOPEU 2nd Deputy President for Gender and Human Rights Sethunya Angela Ruda accused authorities of failing to adequately protect informal workers during redevelopment and relocation processes.

PUNISHMENT

"Instead of protecting informal workers during this transition, the Council is punishing them," Ruda said at the time. BOPEU is now calling for authorities to engage traders before enforcement operations are undertaken and to establish designated, affordable trading spaces for those who are displaced.

The union also wants licensing and compliance requirements simplified to allow small operators to progressively formalise their businesses rather than being pushed out of economic activity altogether.

RELOCATION

Where removals are unavoidable, BOPEU says transitional and relocation arrangements should be put in place before traders lose their operating spaces. The union has further invoked International Labour Organisation Recommendation No. 204 of 2015, which encourages member states to facilitate the gradual transition of workers and businesses from the informal to the formal economy while protecting existing livelihoods.

BOPEU said government, organised labour and representatives of informal traders should establish structured dialogue on how the sector is regulated.

"The answer to informality cannot simply be removal and demolition," the union said. Its position places renewed pressure on authorities to explain how Botswana intends to enforce planning and trading regulations without worsening unemployment and poverty among citizens who depend on informal businesses for survival.



Photo Credit: DumaFM

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Carlton House, Fairgrounds
Gaborone, Botswana
Private Bag 00512, Gaborone, Botswana
Tel: +267 361 4288 Fax: +267 393 6239

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Full Name	Member Status	Date of Death	Place of Residence
Aobakwe S.F Kwelagobe	Deferred	19.06.2026	Molepolole
Moatshe Rabasele	Pensioner	04.07.2026	Moreomabele
Nicholas Mosome	Pensioner	28.07.2026	Palapye
Lwazi Nkala	Active	13.08.2026	Gaborone
Lebogang Gwapela	Active	14.08.2026	Gaborone
Keeletsang Rammapudu	Active	10.06.2026	Palapye

Contacts:

Mmila Member Relations Office:
Gaborone: +267 373 5257 | Jwaneng: +267 588 4849 | Orapa: +267 290 2323

Mmila Member Relations and Investigations Coordinator:
+267 7610 7774 or Fax to +267 395 6982

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Human Resource Development Council of Botswana



"The courts play a vital role in protecting the rights guaranteed under Zambia's constitution."

Botswana Urged To Press Zambia

Ditshwanelo wants Botswana and SADC to press Zambia to protect access to courts, due process and civic rights following the country's August election.

GAZETTE REPORTER

Botswana has been urged to use its regional influence to press Zambia to safeguard democratic institutions and fundamental rights amid concerns over its post-election environment.

The Botswana Centre for Human Rights expressed grave concern over developments following Zambia's 13 August 2026 general elections, citing reported arrests and detentions of opposition figures and government critics, restrictions on access to courts, the fatal shooting of former Cabinet minister Mutotwe Kafwaya and the cancellation of passports belonging to several Zambian citizens.

Ditshwanelo said the developments raise concerns about access to justice, legal representation, due process and freedom of movement.

COURTS CLOSED

The intervention comes amid international scrutiny of Zambia's post-election environment.

Human Rights Watch reported that Zambian authorities closed and cordoned off the courts on 24 August, the final day for filing presidential election challenges. The closure included the Constitutional Court and High Court.

The timing attracted particular concern because Zambia's Constitution provides a seven-day period from the declaration of presidential results for election challenges to be filed.

Ditshwanelo said restricting access to the courts threatened citizens' constitutional right to seek judicial remedies.

"The courts play a vital role in protecting the rights guaranteed under Zambia's constitution," Human Rights Watch said, warning that denying access during the prescribed filing period undermined access to justice.

The Electoral Commission of Zambia declared President Hakainde Hichilema the winner on 18 August, while opposition candidate Brian Mundubile indicated that he intended to challenge the results.

BOTSWANA URGED

Ditshwanelo also highlighted reports that passports belonging to former ambassador Emmanuel Mwamba, academic Sishuwa Sishuwa, former MPs Binwell Mpundu and Emmanuel Jay Banda, former State House special assistant Kaizer Zulu and blogger Lillian Mutambo had been cancelled.

The organisation said arrests and detentions must comply with domestic law and regional and international human rights obligations, including access to lawyers and fair hearings.

It has now urged Botswana to monitor Zambia's post-election civic space, particularly the treatment of journalists, lawyers, civil society organisations and human rights defenders.

Ditshwanelo wants Gaborone to encourage Lusaka to ensure political and civic participation is not met with intimidation or retaliation and that citizens retain access to judicial processes.

SADC DIALOGUE

The European Union's election observation mission described the election as competitive but identified restrictions on campaigning, incumbency advantages and serious incidents and procedural irregularities during counting and tabulation.

> The organisation wants regional actors to support the peaceful resolution of political disputes while safeguarding constitutional rights and democratic institutions.

Ditshwanelo has also called on SADC to facilitate inclusive political dialogue involving government, political parties, civil society, faith-based organisations and other stakeholders.

The organisation wants regional actors to support the peaceful resolution of political disputes while safeguarding constitutional rights and democratic institutions.

Food Price Storm Looms

New research warns that an anticipated El Niño cycle could slash cereal output, drive up food imports and expose Botswana to livestock losses exceeding P1 billion.

GAZETTE REPORTER

Batswana have been warned to brace for sharp food price increases and livestock losses exceeding P1 billion if an anticipated El Niño cycle brings severe heat and rainfall shortages.

A new research paper by Parliament of Botswana researcher Oratile Joyce Lesiapeto warns that the anticipated October 2026 to March 2027 El Niño cycle could develop into a major food-security and economic shock.

Titled Projected Impacts of El-Niño on Botswana 2026, the study models a scenario involving a 5% increase in average temperatures and a 25% decline in rainfall.

CEREALS HIT

Under these conditions, Botswana could suffer an estimated 43.5% yield loss across major cereals, with sorghum production falling to approximately 16,008 tonnes and maize output collapsing to just 5,650 tonnes.

The resulting domestic supply squeeze would force Botswana to import significantly more food at a time when neighbouring countries could be facing similar climatic pressures.

Maize imports are projected to rise to 214,350 tonnes, while wheat imports could reach 126,843 tonnes.

Import dependency would exceed 97% for maize and wheat, while sorghum import dependency could jump from 7.3% to 47.63%.



PRICE PRESSURE

Lesiapeto warns that attempting to secure additional grain during a regional drought could expose Botswana to higher international prices, increased transport costs and possible export restrictions by neighbouring countries.

For households, this could translate into higher prices for staples such as maize and sorghum meal.

"Lower production matched with an increased national import burden translates into food price increases at retail level," the paper states.

It warns that farming households could be hit twice , losing agricultural income while simultaneously paying more for food.

P1BN LIVESTOCK

The livestock sector faces an equally severe threat.

Under a moderate El Niño scenario, the research projects 148,622 cattle deaths, equivalent to a mortality rate of 15.9%.

A severe scenario could push cattle deaths to 195,359, representing 20.9% mortality.

The resulting financial losses are estimated at between P891.73 million and P1.17 billion, potentially eroding rural household wealth and weakening Botswana's meat-production capacity.

Lesiapeto's previous research found that rising temperatures have a detrimental short-term effect on crop yields, while rainfall has a positive effect.

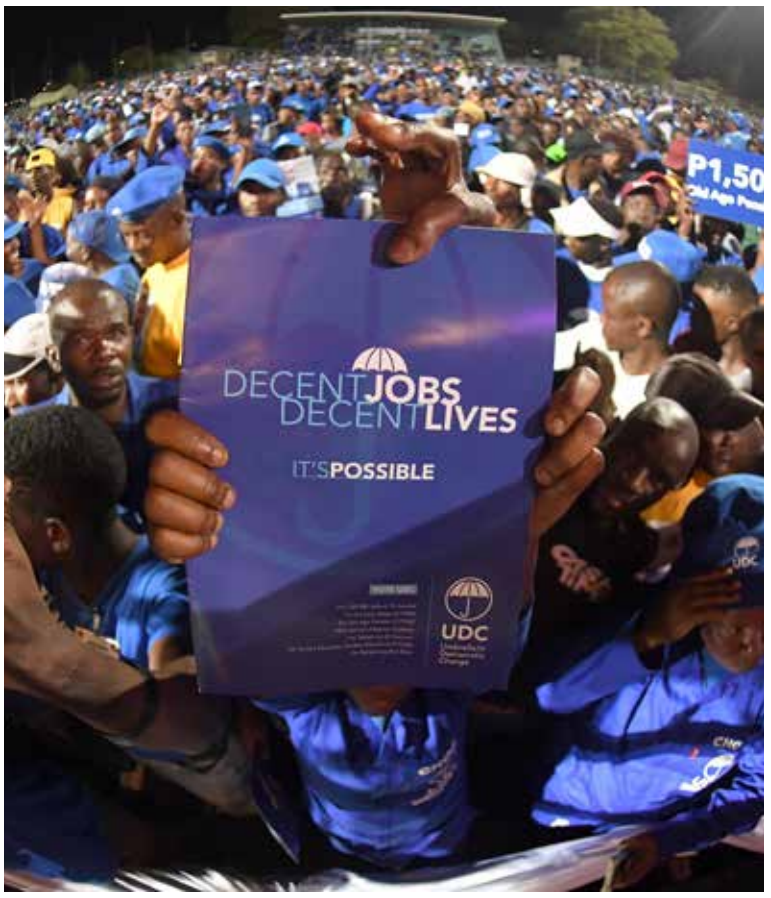
EARLY ACTION

Lesiapeto argues that Botswana cannot afford to wait until drought conditions fully materialise before responding.

The paper recommends early procurement contracts for white maize and sorghum, supplementary livestock feed, borehole rehabilitation, early destocking incentives and targeted support for households dependent on rain-fed agriculture.

It also advocates greater investment in drought-resistant seed varieties, micro-irrigation, climate-smart agriculture and agricultural insurance to strengthen the country's resilience against future climate shocks.

Job Creation Uncertainty Deepens



An HRDC report warns that weak job creation, rising graduate unemployment and rapid technological change are widening the gap between qualifications and available work.

GAZETTE REPORTER

Botswana's job creation outlook is clouding over amid weak employment growth, soaring graduate unemployment and uncertainty over which occupations will generate jobs in the years ahead.

The warning is contained in the Human Resource Development Council's (HRDC) Annual Priority Skills Report 2026, which says demand for many occupations is projected to remain relatively low, reflecting limited job creation and heightened labour-market uncertainty.

SKILLS SHIFT

The report depicts a labour market being reshaped by technological change, green technologies, climate change and environmental priorities, while warning that Botswana's education and training system risks continuing to produce qualifications without sufficient employment opportunities.

Priority skills are increasingly concentrated around Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) and specialised skills, signalling a shift from traditional qualification pathways.

However, HRDC warns that enrolment remains substantial in fields already associated with high levels of graduate unemployment.

Industry stakeholders cited in the report argue that the education and training system places too much emphasis on qualifications rather than demonstrable skills.

They want a shift from an education model focused mainly on preparing people for employment towards one that also promotes job creation, research and innovation.

JOBS DECLINE

The warning comes against deteriorating employment indicators.

According to the report, employment levels generally declined between 2019 and 2022. Employment growth subsequently fell from 9.9 percent in the third quarter of 2023 to negative 4.4 percent in the first quarter of 2024, representing a net decline of approximately 34,469 employed people.

HRDC attributes the broader deterioration between 2019 and 2024 to the combined effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, weak performance in key sectors such as mining and tourism, and insufficient economic growth to absorb new entrants into the labour market.

GRADUATES HIT

The consequences are particularly severe for young people. Botswana's overall unemployment rate stands at 27.6 percent, while youth unemployment is reported at 38.2 percent , levels HRDC describes as high for a middle-income country with a small population.

The number of unemployed graduates increased by 46.7 percent over five years, rising from 48,076 in 2019 to 70,512 in 2024.

An analysis of unemployed graduates in 2023 and 2024 found that business and finance, building and related trades, and health and associated professions were among occupational categories recording high numbers of unemployed graduates.

AUTOMATION THREAT

HRDC also warns that the nature of work is changing rapidly.

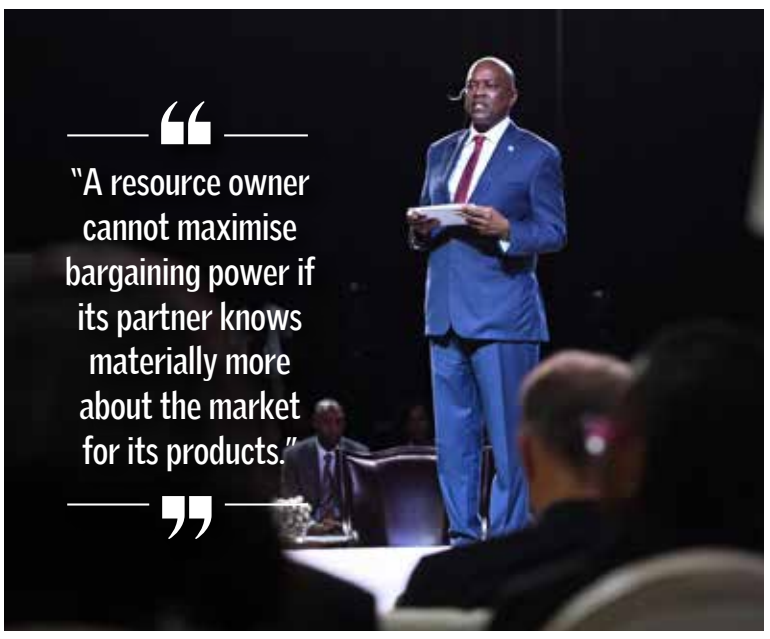
Clerical and administrative jobs are becoming increasingly vulnerable to redundancy because of automation, process optimisation and digital transformation.

The report consequently places greater emphasis on skills capable of responding to technological and environmental change, while calling for stronger links between education providers, employers and the wider economy.

Masisi Warns Nigeria On Diamonds

Former president Mokgweetsi Masisi has urged Nigeria and other resource-rich African states to avoid mining terms that can leave foreign partners controlling critical market knowledge.

BONGANI MALUNGA



Former Botswana President Mokgweetsi Masisi has warned Nigeria and other African resource-rich nations to never sign a "non-compete clause" with a foreign mining partner, arguing that it can cost nations decades of value even after building a national success story.

Speaking at the 13th Anniversary Olusegun Agagu Memorial Lecture, held in Lagos, Nigeria, last Monday, Masisi described the clause as one of "the most horrific" terms his country ever agreed to, and said it "completely defeated" Botswana's later efforts to build independent market expertise.

"You Nigerians must never allow" such a clause into any resource agreement, he said, arguing that ownership of a resource means little if the foreign partner controls all the market knowledge around it. "Ownership is not market knowledge," he warned.

SUCCESS ASTERISK

Masisi's remarks trace Botswana's transformation from one of the poorest countries on earth at independence in 1966 into an upper-middle-income nation, powered by the discovery of a massive diamond deposit at Orapa just a year later. The story is often held up as a model for African resource management.

Masisi said the full picture is more sobering as Botswana's original joint venture with De Beers left the government owning just 15% of what came out of the ground, with De Beers taking 85%, later renegotiated to 50-50 on paper. He stated that since Botswana lacked the technical expertise to mine, clean, sort and value its own diamonds, it leaned entirely on De Beers to do it and the non-compete clause locked the country out of ever building that capability independently.

"The minute we dug into the ground... we relied on our technical partner to do the digging, to do the cleaning, to do the sorting, valuation," Masisi said. "The non-compete then said to us we were excluded from then going forward."

LOPSIDED RETURNS

Botswana spent years clawing back ground, creating the state-owned Okavango Diamond Company in 2011 to independently market a share of production and buying a 15% equity stake in De Beers itself. Masisi cast this as real but limited progress: "Trade and transform, meaningful progress but it remains incomplete."

According to Masisi, the arithmetic never balanced. Despite being the country that "contributed the most for the longest to the wealth of De Beers," Masisi said Botswana was only ever able to capture a maximum of 15% of the potential value of its own diamonds, leaving De Beers with roughly 85%.

"De Beers owns no country. It has no citizens but shareholders."

AFRICAN LESSONS

Masisi advised countries against rushing into demanding full control before building the skills to use it. "Do not demand tomorrow's participation before building today's capabilities," he said. "But do not let yesterday's bargain determine participation forever."

"A resource owner cannot maximise bargaining power if its partner knows materially more about the market for its products," Masisi said.

Deals Abroad, Shortages At Home

As Botswana courts global health partners in New York, medicine shortages, a missing CT scanner and depleted condom stocks expose the continuing gap between the government's health reform ambitions and conditions confronting patients at home.

GAZETTE REPORTER

In New York this week, Botswana is selling a story of transformation.

As world leaders gather for the 81st United Nations General Assembly, the government says its programme is not confined to diplomacy. It is pursuing what International Relations Minister Dr Phenyo Butale calls "economic diplomacy," with President Duma Boko and his delegation seeking investors and development partners in sectors that include healthcare.

> Almost a year later, The Gazette has established that several facilities are still struggling to maintain even 50 percent availability, while Princess Marina Hospital is operating at about 40 percent.

It is an ambitious pitch from an administration approaching two years in office, and one that fits comfortably with Health Minister Dr Stephen Modise's increasingly international approach to fixing Botswana's health system: foreign procurement, strategic partnerships, digital health, genomics, pharmaceutical investment, National Health Insurance and agreements intended to secure medicines from beyond Botswana's borders.

But more than 12 months after the government was forced to declare a State of Public Health Emergency over collapsing medicine supplies, three separate investigations by The Botswana Gazette paint a considerably less futuristic picture at home.

At Princess Marina Hospital, medicine availability is understood to be hovering around 40 percent. The country's largest referral hospital still has no functioning CT scanner and sends patients elsewhere for scans. Across public facilities, condoms have become scarce enough for the Ministry of Health to return to emergency procurement while thousands of sexually transmitted infections continue to be recorded.



The contrast does not mean the government has done nothing. It has done plenty.

The question increasingly confronting Modise and the UDC administration is whether almost two years of policies, emergency interventions, international procurement and newly signed partnerships are translating quickly enough into the most basic measure of a health system: what happens when a patient walks through the door.

BELOW HALF

The clearest measure is medicine availability.

When Botswana's medical supply crisis reached breaking point in August 2025, availability of essential medicines and medical commodities had fallen to just 17 percent. President Boko declared a State of Public Health Emergency on 25 August, putting the crisis at the centre of the new administration's health agenda.

By early October 2025, Modise reported that availability had recovered to 36 percent.

He then set a far more ambitious benchmark: 97 percent medicine availability and at least three months of stock at Central Medical Stores by December 2025.

Almost a year later, The Gazette has established that several facilities are still struggling to maintain even 50 percent availability, while Princess Marina Hospital is operating at about 40 percent.

The figures do not suggest that every category of medicine is equally depleted.

Government reported in June that availability in some priority categories was substantially stronger, with antiretroviral medicines at 93 percent, cancer medicines at 87 percent and tuberculosis medicines at 76 percent. But the broader picture gathered from facilities remains uneven, with the 97 percent national benchmark set by Modise still distant in parts of the system.

At Marina, the shortages have created their own internal survival system.

An insider told The Gazette that when scarce medicines arrive, wards frequently secure supplies for admitted patients first because those patients have less ability to leave the hospital and search private pharmacies.

The rapidly changing stock position also makes medicine registers difficult to keep current. A drug can appear available when the register is updated, only to be exhausted soon afterwards as wards draw down the new consignment.

For outpatients, that can mean arriving at the pharmacy expecting treatment only to discover that the medicine is gone and must be purchased privately.

EMERGENCY GOVERNMENT

This comes despite an extraordinary range of interventions.

Since the crisis erupted, government has used emergency international procurement, micro-procurement, redistribution between facilities and increased oversight of procurement and distribution. A national logistics operation brought together the Ministry of Health, the Botswana Defence Force and presidential structures to accelerate the movement of medicines around the country.

In October last year, Modise said emergency powers had allowed Botswana to bypass expensive local intermediaries and procure directly from international manufacturers. He said a procurement that could have cost close to P250 million locally could, in one example, be obtained for about P30 million directly from a manufacturer.

By June this year, government was again announcing emergency international orders covering several months of supply.

Yet the persistence of shortages suggests that emergency

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purchasing alone has not solved the deeper problem of turning procurement into reliable availability at facility level.

That distinction is increasingly important.

A health system is not stabilised merely when an order is placed, an aircraft lands or a warehouse receives a consignment. For the patient, stability exists when the prescribed medicine is reliably on the shelf.

SCANNER GAP

The same divide between intervention and delivery is visible in diagnostic equipment.

President Boko visited Princess Marina Hospital in January and was confronted with overcrowding, medicine shortages, ageing infrastructure and inadequate diagnostic capacity.

Priority equipment subsequently identified for procurement included an MRI scanner, an additional CT scanner and a new X-ray machine.

Eight months later, Marina remains without its own functioning CT scanner.

Patients requiring computed tomography continue to be referred to Sir Ketumile Masire Teaching Hospital, meaning that a patient who has already reached Botswana's major referral hospital must be referred again simply to obtain a scan.

A replacement CT scanner is estimated to cost about P12 million.

The absence is particularly striking when set against Marina's workload. The hospital has 567 beds and has reportedly accommodated more than 600 patients at times. SKMTH, which has CT capability and now absorbs Marina referrals, has about 450 beds.

CT imaging is central to the diagnosis of strokes, tumours, internal injuries, infections and other potentially life-threatening conditions.

The issue is therefore not merely whether Botswana has a CT scanner somewhere in the public system. It is whether a national referral hospital carrying hundreds of complex patients can perform one of modern medicine's most basic diagnostic procedures where those patients are being treated.

CONDOM ALARM

At the other end of the health system, the pressure is also showing in one of Botswana's most established public-health interventions.

Condom shortages have persisted long enough for the Ministry of Health to turn again to emergency procurement.

> The ministry says 350,000 condoms received during the first week of August had already been distributed.

The ministry says 350,000 condoms received during the first week of August had already been distributed. In its response to The Gazette on 18 September, it said another consignment expected during the week ending 25 September should provide approximately seven months of stock, while procurement for a further 12 months was also being planned.

The shortage comes against troubling infection figures.

Gaborone recorded 11,464 STI cases in just three months between April and June 2026. Kanye recorded another 617 cases between April and July.

In Lobatse, 132 people tested HIV-positive among 8,145 people tested between April 2025 and March this year.

Those figures cannot be used to claim that the condom shortage caused the infections.

Indeed, district information available to The Gazette does not establish such a causal relationship. In Kanye, officials linked infections to inconsistent condom use or non-use, but did not establish how many cases, if any, resulted from condoms being unavailable at government facilities.

What the figures do establish is the environment in which the shortage is occurring.

Modise himself said on World AIDS Day last year that an estimated 4,120 people acquired HIV in Botswana during 2024, including 1,118 adolescent girls and young women aged 15 to 24. He also warned about declining condom use among young people.

Botswana simultaneously remains one of Africa's strongest HIV treatment performers, with UNAIDS reporting figures above 98 percent across the treatment cascade in 2025. The risk therefore lies in allowing weaknesses in prevention and commodity supply to sit alongside achievements built over decades.

DEALS MULTIPLY

None of this has stopped the government from pursuing a considerably more ambitious future health system.

Last month, Botswana signed a 10-year strategic partnership with Abu Dhabi-based M42 covering digital health, a national genomics programme, precision medicine, capacity development and pharmaceutical and medical-equipment supply.

At the signing, Modise said the deal was intended to strengthen health security and build resilience into supply chains so that patients would not be left without medicines because of avoidable delays.

Only days ago, Botswana and Oman signed another set of agreements covering bilateral health services, medicines security, regulatory cooperation, pharmaceutical supply and investment.

Parliament has meanwhile approved the National Health Insurance policy, which government presents as a fundamental redesign of health financing and delivery rather than simply another insurance product.

On paper, the direction is expansive: AI, genomics, precision medicine, NHI, foreign pharmaceutical partnerships, digital systems and international supply corridors.

On the ground, Marina still needs a CT scan.

A patient can still leave a government pharmacy without prescribed medicine.

And Botswana is still buying condoms through emergency channels.

Time Matters

The administration inherited structural weaknesses in the health system, including procurement problems, ageing infrastructure, staff shortages and financial pressure. Modise has repeatedly made that argument, and the scale of the crisis that erupted in 2025 supports the assessment that the underlying weaknesses did not begin with the UDC.

But the UDC assumed power in November 2024.

By now, the record also includes its own targets, its own interventions and its own timelines.

The 97 percent medicine target was Modise's.

The State of Public Health Emergency was the administration's intervention.

The task forces, emergency procurement arrangements, international supply agreements, NHI policy, M42 partnership and Oman agreements are now part of its record.

That makes the condition of hospitals and clinics an increasingly direct test not simply of what the government inherited but of whether its chosen remedies are working.

DELIVERY TEST

New York offers Botswana access to capital, technology, international institutions and companies capable of helping rebuild a health system that government itself accepts requires fundamental reform.

Such partnerships may prove important.

But the success of the government's health diplomacy will ultimately be measured much further from the conference rooms of Manhattan.

It will be measured at the Marina pharmacy counter.

In whether a doctor can order a CT scan without transferring a patient across Gaborone.

In whether a clinic has condoms when a young person asks for them.

And in whether Modise's 97 percent medicine-availability target eventually becomes something patients experience rather than a number government continues to pursue.

For nearly two years, the UDC government has been assembling the machinery of health reform.

The three snapshots from Botswana's public health system suggest that the next phase will be judged less by how many agreements are announced than by what finally arrives, works and remains available at the bedside.

"A health system is not stabilised when an order is placed. For the patient, stability exists when the medicine is on the shelf."



The Botswana Gazette
BUSINESS NEWS

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Fees Cushion Absa Margin Pressure

A 63 percent surge in non-interest income helped Absa Bank Botswana offset pressure from higher funding costs and rising expected credit losses.

GAZETTE REPORTER

Absa Bank Botswana's non-interest income rose 63 percent to P561 million in the six months ended June 30, 2026, accounting for about 44 percent of the bank's total income.

The figures are contained in the bank's condensed consolidated interim financial statements.

Non-interest income is revenue earned from banking activities other than lending and interest, including fees and commissions, foreign exchange transactions, card and payment services and other financial activities.

The increase came as net interest income, the difference between interest earned and interest paid, declined 4 percent to P727 million despite growth in interest-earning assets.

Funding Squeeze

Effective interest income increased 11 percent to P1.28 billion, while effective interest expense rose 40 percent to P555 million.

Absa said the increase in interest expense reflected elevated funding costs during the first quarter following market liquidity pressures in 2025. Liquidity conditions improved significantly in the second quarter, reducing funding costs and helping margins recover towards the end of the reporting period.

"The strong growth in non-interest income improved revenue diversification and helped offset pressure on net interest margins experienced during the first quarter, contributing significantly to overall profitability," board chairperson Cosmas Moapare and managing director Keabetswe Pheko-Moshagane said in the results.

> "The strong growth in non-interest income improved revenue diversification."

Credit Risk

Expected credit losses more than doubled, rising 104 percent to P136 million from P67 million. The bank attributed the increase to changes in portfolio risk profiles, increased lending utilisation and updated forward-looking macroeconomic assumptions.

Operating expenses increased 4 percent to P671 million. Staff and infrastructure costs rose 9 percent and remained the largest cost component, while administration and general expenses declined 3 percent to P282 million.

Loans Contract

Total assets fell 6 percent to P25.4 billion from P26.9 billion at December 2025, mainly because of lower interbank placements and customer lending balances. This was partly offset by increased investment in government securities and trading assets.

Net loans and advances to customers declined 3 percent to P18.1 billion from P18.5 billion.

Personal and Private Banking loans increased marginally to P11.9 billion, while Business Banking loans grew 7 percent to P1.6 billion. Corporate and Investment Banking loans declined 7 percent to P4.5 billion.

Outlook Risks

Absa said Botswana's economic outlook remains cautiously optimistic and expects growth of 3.1 percent in 2026, supported by a recovery in diamond production and trading and improved performance in selected non-mining sectors.

The bank expects inflation to remain elevated, with the central bank projecting average inflation of 8.7 percent in 2026.

It identified geopolitical tensions, uncertainty in global diamond markets, recurring foot-and-mouth disease outbreaks and El Niño-related drought conditions among the risks to the outlook.

Absa said its priorities include responsible lending, deeper focus on transactional activity, liquidity deployment, technology stability, cybersecurity, fraud prevention and stronger controls.

Electricity Tariffs Lift Household Costs

Botswana's CPI rose 0.4 percent in August as revised electricity tariffs pushed housing-related costs higher, while rural inflation climbed to 10.2 percent.

GAZETTE REPORTER

Botswana's Consumer Price Index (CPI) rose 0.4 percent in August 202 6, increasing from 148.8 in July to 149.5, as revised electricity tariffs pushed housing-related costs higher.

Inflation continued to move differently across regions. Rural Villages recorded the highest annual rate at 10.2 percent, up from 10.1 percent in July.

Urban Villages inflation declined by 0.2 of a percentage point to 9.2 percent, while Cities & Towns remained unchanged at 9.0 percent.

REGIONAL SHIFT

The Urban Villages index increased 0.5 percent to 149.7 from 149.0 in July. The Cities & Towns index rose 0.4 percent to 148.3, while the Rural Villages index also increased 0.4 percent to 151.1.

Most group indices moved by less than 1.0 percent during the month, with the exception of Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas & Other Fuels.

Power Costs

The housing-related group increased 1.4 percent, from an index of 124.6 in July to 126.3 in August.

The increase was driven by a 6.8 percent rise in the Electricity, Gas & Other Fuels section.

The report attributed the increase to "the revised domestic Electricity tariffs, which were effected on 1st August 2026."

FOOD RISES

Food and Non-Alcoholic Beverages increased 0.5 percent, with the index rising from 162.4 to 163.2.

The increase reflected higher prices in several categories, including Milk, Cheese & Milk Products, which rose 4.7 percent; Fruits, 3.6 percent; Food Not Elsewhere Classified, 2.0 percent; and Coffee, Tea & Cocoa, 1.0 percent.

Furnishing, Household Equipment & Routine Maintenance also increased 0.5 percent, with rises in Household Textiles, Goods & Services for Household Maintenance, and Furniture & Furnishing.

TRADEABLES SHIFT

The All-Tradeables index increased 0.4 percent to 160.9, while the Non-Tradeables index rose 0.6 percent to 133.9.

Imported Tradeables increased 0.5 percent to 162.2, while Domestic Tradeables rose 0.1 percent to 157.2.

On an annual basis, All-Tradeables inflation declined by 0.5 of a percentage point to 11.4 percent, while Domestic Tradeables inflation fell by 0.9 of a percentage point to 7.2 percent.

Non-Tradeables inflation increased by 0.6 of a percentage point to 6.2 percent, while Imported Tradeables inflation declined by 0.3 of a percentage point to 13.0 percent.



Audited summarised consolidated financial statements and dividend announcement

For the year ended 30 June 2026

BASIS OF PRESENTATION AND ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The Bank's underlying audited consolidated financial statements from which the summarised consolidated financial statements are extracted, have been prepared in accordance with IFRS ® Accounting Standards as issued by the International Accounting Standards Board ("IFRS") including interpretations issued by the IFRS Interpretations Committee ("IFRIC"), and in compliance with the Banking Act, 2023.

The principal accounting policies and the methods of computation are consistent in all material aspects with those adopted in the previous year. The new or amended IFRS that became effective for the period under review had no impact on the Bank's reported earnings, financial position, reserves, or accounting policies.

In the preparation of the consolidated financial statements, the Bank has applied sound business principles with key assumptions concerning any inherent uncertainties in recording various assets and liabilities. These assumptions were applied consistently to the audited summarised consolidated financial statements for the financial year ended 30 June 2026 and have been thoroughly assessed by management to ensure the appropriateness thereof. The critical accounting estimates and areas of judgements are:

- Impairment of financial assets.
- Computation of Expected Credit Loss (ECL)
- Application and interpretation of tax regulations.
- Provisions, contingent liabilities and contingent assets

The Directors confirm that this information has been correctly extracted from the audited consolidated financial statements.

The Directors have reviewed and approved three-year forward-looking budgets. The Directors have further reviewed the Bank's funding position and available sources of funding and conclude that these are adequate to support the Bank's funding requirements. The Directors are confident that the Bank's operations will continue to remain uninterrupted. Based on this review and considering the current financial position and profitable trading history, the Directors are satisfied that the Bank has adequate resources to continue in business for the foreseeable future. The going concern basis, therefore, continues to apply and has been adopted in the preparation of the annual financial statements.

FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

Profit before tax	12%	Cost to Income Ratio	-210bps	Credit Loss Ratio	55bps	Return on Equity	-30bps	Final Dividend per share	100%
P2.1bn		45.4%		0.89%		33.2%		30 thebe	
June 25: P1.9bn		June 25: 47.5%		June 25: 0.34%		June 25: 33.5%		June 25: 15 thebe	

Gross Advances to Customers	-4%	Deposits from Customers	7%	Return on Assets	70bps	NPL Ratio	10bps
P20.6bn		P28.3bn		4.7%		3.0%	
June 25: 21.5bn		June 25: 26.5bn		June 25: 4.0%		June 25: 2.9%	

ECONOMIC UPDATE

Global Economy

Uneven growth and energy-driven headwinds

The US/Israel-Iran war that began at the end of February 2026 influenced much of the economic headwinds experienced in the first half of the year, with damaged energy infrastructure and constrained oil shipments leading to supply disruptions and tight energy markets, with lingering risks of stagflation in the global economy. Although escalated conflict remained contained in the Middle East, the outlook on the global economy has taken a knock and the collapse of the MoU and intermitted retaliatory strikes between the US and Iran do not help, trade flows will likely take time to normalise.

Advanced economies delivered mixed performance during the first half of 2026, with AI-related investment helping to offset some of the drag from the Middle East conflict. According to the IMF, growth in advanced economies is expected to register 1.7% in 2026 and 1.8% in 2027. Growth momentum in this group will, however, vary, with net energy exporters benefiting from favourable terms-of-trade, whereas net energy importers will experience a drag from higher energy prices. Emerging markets and developing economies are projected to be more resilient, growing by 3.8% in 2026 and increasing further to 4.5% in 2027. However, any renewed energy disruptions could trigger another round of price spikes, supply chain dislocation, and a deeper global slowdown.

Interest rates remained under pressure, with the ECB, the Bank of Japan, and several other Central Banks, including those in emerging markets, having already rising policy rates.

Regional Economy

Sub-Saharan Africa remains resilient

Africa's macroeconomic outlook has improved materially since the severe shocks of recent years, supported by lower inflation in many markets, stronger policy frameworks, better external financing conditions and a gradual recovery in investor confidence. Targeted structural reforms, stronger commodity exports, recovering tourism and resilient domestic demand are driving positive economic outcomes despite lingering inflationary pressures in some economies. This progress, however, remains vulnerable to external shocks, particularly geopolitical tensions and the fragile US-Iran truce. Weather-related risks, including a potentially severe El Niño event, and weaker global demand also remain key downside risks to economic performance.

Economic growth across Africa is expected to strengthen modestly in 2026, although performance varies considerably by country. Resource-rich economies such as Angola, Ghana and Nigeria are benefiting from higher commodity prices and investment in energy projects, while Egypt continues to post robust growth, supported by infrastructure investment, tourism and manufacturing. Kenya's growth remains resilient despite external headwinds, while Botswana and Mozambique are recovering more gradually from their domestic challenges. Over the medium term, investment in energy, mining, transport infrastructure, digitalization and LNG developments should underpin stronger growth.

The IMF estimates sub-Saharan Africa's growth at around 4.5% for 2025 and projects a slowdown to about 4.3% in 2026 and an uptick to 4.5% in 2027. Nigeria is forecast to grow 4% and 4.1%in 2026 and 2027 respectively, whilst growth in South Africa is expected to remain muted at 1.1% in 2026.

The recent rise in global energy prices and broader geopolitical tensions have increased inflation risks in the region, reversing the substantial disinflation experienced by many African economies through 2024 and 2025. Central Banks are consequently becoming more cautious in keeping inflation within target policy bands.

Botswana Economy

A moderate growth rebound in 2026

GDP growth for the first quarter of 2026 was robust, registering at 3.5% following a 5.4% contraction in the previous quarter. We now expect the Botswana economy to register a 1.9% growth in 2026, which, although low is a very much welcome rebound following two consecutive years of recession. Diamond sales volumes have, so far this year, outperformed expectations, supporting increased production as Botswana has sold down part of its inventories. Diamond inventory drawdowns were also evident in the midstream, according to Indian trade data, a trend that will hopefully remain for the balance of 2026. The improvement in sales has been supported by discounted diamond prices and the sale of selected assortments as part of efforts to promote natural diamonds. Market liquidity too has benefited from improved diamond activity, supporting government consumption as tax revenue was aided by higher mineral revenues. In addition, the tourism sector has maintained a positive trajectory since 2022 as well – a trend we expect to persist in part aided by our baseline view of a weaker currency.

Electricity, transport and the logistics sector and more broadly, all key infrastructure investments will support private sector growth, which remains critical for a sustained economic recovery. To sustain growth beyond 2026 the government will have to fast-track structural reforms to mobilize private capital, to raise productivity across both tradable and service sectors, and to promote sector diversification.

Higher fuel costs stemming from the tensions in the Middle East present risks to GDP, with consumer spending already taking a pronounced knock, exacerbated by higher personal income tax rates (for high income bands) and the absence of any significant salary increases.

The El Niño conditions expected to headline the forthcoming rain season (late 2026 into early 2027) are a significant concern given the importance of agriculture in the country's recovery path. The severity of these conditions could have a significant negative impact on Botswana's agricultural sector, especially as the country continues to grapple with the foot-and-mouth disease outbreak. However, the country enters this period following last year's good rainfall, with dam levels elevated and soil moisture still strong. This is expected to mitigate some of the impact of drier weather.

An upward pressure on utility rates, imported fuel as well as consumer goods prices (largely owing to the weaker exchange rate and the recent surge in oil prices) are anticipated. Already, escalating cost of power generation and distribution has led to 9% upward adjustments of electricity tariffs, effective 1 August 2026, and an upward adjustment of water tariffs may become unavoidable should there be no significant improvement on the public fiscus in the short term.

We forecast inflation to reach 8.9% in 2026, before easing to below 6% in 2027 as oil prices normalize lower. Easing oil prices from the third quarter of 2026 onwards will support a reduction in local fuel prices, thus easing off pressure on households.

The Central Bank maintained the MoPR at 5.5% at the June MPC meeting, citing that adjustments made since October 2025 had helped ease liquidity constraints and supported the foreign exchange market. However, persistently high inflation could lead to an upward adjustment of the policy rate.

FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

The Bank's balance sheet grew by 2% year-on-year, primarily driven by an 11% increase in investment securities, as customer advances declined by 5%, reflecting muted lending activity in the market.

Customer deposits increased by 7% year-on-year, reflecting growth across business segments which was supported by the Bank's targeted deposit mobilisation initiatives. Whilst Corporate grew significantly by 24%, Commercial and Retail deposits remained relatively flat at a growth of 2% and 0.4% respectively. The deposit mix shifted modestly towards term deposits, reflecting customer preference for higher-yielding products during a period characterized by liquidity pressures.

Deposits comprising of liabilities from financial institutions and selected key corporate clients, increased marginally by P259 million over the year. This reflects stable funding from institutional and corporate counterparties, reinforcing the Bank's liquidity position and diversification of funding sources.

Overall advances declined by 5% year-on-year, reflecting the combined impact of higher cost of funding and subdued credit demand across the market. In response, management prioritised margin preservation through selective portfolio repricing and prudent credit origination. Despite the tight credit conditions, Corporate advances grew by 1%, supported by increased activity within the Mining, Building & Property Development, and Financial Services sectors, while the Retail and Commercial portfolios declined by 5%. Despite these headwinds, the Bank remained committed to supporting key sectors of the economy, including strategic State-Owned Enterprises (SOEs) in the Energy and Agriculture sectors, as well as institutions within the Non-Banking Financial Services industry.

Despite a challenging operating environment, asset quality remained well managed, with non-performing loans increasing marginally to P619 million from P618 million in the prior year. The NPL ratio increased slightly to 3.0% (FY2025: 2.9%), reflecting the combination of a stable NPL balance and a lower advances book. The Bank continues to maintain disciplined credit risk management and active oversight of portfolio performance.

INCOME STATEMENT

Profit Before Tax (PBT) increased by 12% year-on-year to P2.117 billion. This result was achieved despite a challenging operating environment characterised by a sovereign credit downgrade, constrained market liquidity, rising funding costs, and heightened fiscal pressures. Management maintained a consistent balance between margin protection and the need to support clients funding and wider banking needs while maintaining a healthy asset quality.

Total income after impairments increased by 10%, while total operating expenses including employee benefits expenses grew by 8%, with the cost-to-income ratio improving to 45.4% from 47.5% in the prior year. Net interest income declined by 2% year-on-year. While interest income increased by 16%, supported by the 100-basis point increase in the Prime Lending Rate and improved yields from the reallocation of investment balances into higher-yielding local and USD Treasury Bills, these benefits were offset by elevated funding costs and changes in the funding mix.

Interest expense increased year-on-year, primarily driven by prevailing market liquidity constraints, which intensified competition for deposits and resulted in a 76-basis point increase in the Bank's blended cost of funds. Despite these challenging conditions, the Bank's diversified product mix and disciplined funding strategy helped mitigate the full impact of higher funding costs, resulting in a more favourable outcome than would otherwise have been experienced. Credit impairment charge for the year amounted to P191 million, reflecting some pressure on projected macros into the next year. This number is inclusive of management overlays on specific counterparties and portfolios of lending schemes and a segment agnostic overlay.

Non-Interest Revenue (NIR) grew by 30% to P2.313 billion, demonstrating the strength and diversification of the Bank's revenue base. Growth was driven by strong foreign exchange trading performance, while continued expansion in digital banking activity and customer franchise growth supported resilience across transactional revenue streams.



Audited summarised consolidated financial statements and dividend announcement

For the year ended 30 June 2026

Active customers increased to 768,000, contributing to a 7% increase in monthly account fee income. Digital engagement continued to strengthen, with eWallet volumes up 8% and App and Cellphone Banking usage increasing by 5%. Competitive pricing pressure persisted in the merchant acquiring market, moderating growth in this segment, although the business remains strategically positioned to benefit from ongoing payments digitisation trends.

Operating expenses increased by 8% year-on-year, reflecting the Bank's continued investment in people and technology. Employee-related costs increased by 5%, underscoring the Bank's commitment to attracting, developing, and retaining top talent, supporting employee wellbeing, and building the future skills required to succeed in an increasingly digital and dynamic banking environment. Other operating expenses increased by 11%, and this includes foreign currency denominated costs that were impacted by unfavourable currency movements, particularly the BWP/ZAR pair. Management maintained a disciplined approach to cost management, ensuring that expenditure remains focused on initiatives that enhance customer experience, strengthen operational resilience, and deliver sustainable value for stakeholders.

LOOKING AHEAD

While the operating environment remains challenging, we are encouraged by the resilience of Botswana's economy and the early signs of recovery emerging across key sectors. Improved diamond market activity, ongoing infrastructure investment, growing opportunities in tourism, and continued development in the energy and logistics sectors provide a foundation for renewed economic growth and increased business confidence.

The Bank remains committed to being a catalyst for a sustained recovery of the economy. We will continue to invest in the sectors, businesses, and individuals that drive economic progress, while partnering with Government, clients, and communities to support national development and drive shared prosperity. Our strong franchise, market-leading capabilities, and client-centric approach position us well to support growth opportunities as they arise.

We are equally committed to investing in the future through continued investment in technology, digital innovation, data capabilities, cybersecurity, and automation and make banking simpler, faster, more secure, and more accessible for our clients. At the same time, we continue to invest in our people through talent development, leadership programmes, employee wellbeing initiatives, and future skills development, ensuring that we remain equipped to meet the changing needs of our clients and the future of banking.

Importantly, we remain disciplined in how we deploy capital and manage costs, ensuring that every investment delivers value for clients, shareholders, employees, and the broader economy. This balanced approach allows us to invest for growth while maintaining the operational efficiency and financial strength expected of a leading financial institution.
Supported by robust capital and liquidity positions, a diversified business model, and a clear strategic focus, we are confident in our ability to continue creating sustainable value for all our stakeholders. While challenges remain, we look to the future with confidence and optimism.

EVENTS AFTER REPORTING DATE

The Directors have considered various aspects of the business when assessing events after the reporting date as per the requirements of IAS 10 – Events after the reporting date. Key estimates and judgements used in the preparation of the financial statements have been assessed and are still considered appropriate.
The Directors proposed a final dividend noted in the Declaration of dividend below.

There has been a change in tax legislation from 1 July 2026, the corporate income tax rate has been increased from 22% to 24.5%.
The Directors are not aware of any other matter or circumstances arising since the end of the reporting date that requires disclosure or adjustment to the financial statements

CORPORATE GOVERNANCE

The Board and management are responsible for ensuring that FNBB's operations are conducted in accordance with all applicable laws and regulations, including the responsibility for ensuring the following:

1. Alignment with best practice for corporate governance
2. Effective management of all risks, including maintenance of appropriate internal controls.
3. Effective management of compliance and conduct risks
4. The Bank's continued ability to operate as a going concern; and
5. The Bank's consideration of the environmental and social impact of conducting business.

The Board comprises a majority of independent, non-executive Directors and meets regularly, reviews executive management's performance, and retains effective control over the Bank. The Board is assisted by the following sub-committees, which are responsible for various aspects of governance.

- Risk and Capital Management Committee
- Credit Risk Committee
- Directors Affairs and Governance Committee
- Human Capital and Remuneration Committee
- Compliance and Conduct Committee
- Audit Committee

SHARED PROSPERITY

Across the globe, there is a growing expectation for businesses to not only create value for their shareholders but also make a long-lasting impact for its clients and communities they serve. As a result, the Bank's strategy is anchored on its purpose of Shared Prosperity i.e. intentionally using core business activities to deliver not only financial value for shareholders but also deliver positive impact for clients, employees and communities. In its 2030 strategy the Bank has therefore defined its shared prosperity focus areas as follows:

- Sustainable finance
- Small and Medium Enterprises (SME) development
- Sustainable procurement
- Financial inclusion (including literacy efforts)
- Human and Social Development

SUSTAINABILITY AT FNB BOTSWANA

Sustainability remains central to FNB Botswana's purpose of creating shared value for clients, communities, employees, shareholders and the broader economy. Through our Shared Prosperity strategy, we continue to drive inclusive growth, support economic participation, strengthen communities, manage environmental impacts and build resilience across our business. Despite a challenging economic environment characterized by subdued lending activity, the Bank made meaningful progress across its sustainability priorities during FY2026.

SUSTAINABLE FINANCE

Whilst sustainable origination was below target at P168 million against a target of P480 million, significant progress was made in ESG integration and embedment into core operational processes, the result of which will be the development of sustainability-linked products and impact-driven financial products.

The Bank continued to support market development through sustainable finance advisory, green bond transactions advisory and strategic partnerships in renewable energy and energy transition projects.

Through strategic deal facilitation and client matching, the Bank connected businesses across key sectors such as renewable energy, mining, manufacturing and logistics, unlocking growth opportunities, strengthening local value chains and supporting Botswana's economic diversification agenda.

The Bank also strengthened engagement with development finance institutions, with the aim to diversify funding sources and grow future sustainable finance opportunities.

SME DEVELOPMENT AND ECONOMIC INCLUSION

FNB continued to support entrepreneurship and economic diversification through targeted SME initiatives. The Citizen Entrepreneurial Empowerment Programme (CEEP) portfolio outperformed target, advancing P354 million against a target of P250 million, supporting approximately 3,413 jobs, while FirstPreneur continued to achieve its objectives of enabling SMEs to scale and transition into sustainable enterprises. The Bank expanded access to digital payment solutions through Speedee merchant devices, helping small businesses participate more effectively in the formal economy.

FINANCIAL INCLUSION AND FINANCIAL WELLNESS

The Bank continued to expand access to financial services and improve financial capability across the country. The Bank continued to advance financial literacy across Botswana through community engagements, radio programmes, and digital campaigns, extending financial education to a broad audience and helping individuals make more informed financial decisions. The Bank embarked on targeted messaging to address emerging cyber security and fraud risks, equipping individuals with the knowledge and tools to protect themselves.

New inclusion initiatives included the launch of the Motshelo account which encourages community-based savings, mutual support and financial discipline. The Real Help programme continued to support financially distressed clients, helping save homes and restore client financial dignity in the face of a challenging economic environment.

Our flagship services eWallet and Cashplus continue to perform well, serving as significant inclusion channels.

- Cashplus transactional value increased from P7.8 billion to P9.3 billion in 2026, while the number of agents across the country increased from 1794 to 2071.
- eWallet transaction volumes increased from 14.6 million in 2025 to 15.2 million in 2026, highlighting the product's sustained payment facilitation capability.
- eWallet Pro continues to serve as a secure and efficient payment solution for businesses requiring instant disbursement capabilities to both banked and unbanked beneficiaries.

SUSTAINABLE PROCUREMENT

The Bank exceeded its local procurement target, achieving a 90.5% local procurement spend against a target of 90%, P760 million was spent on local suppliers. This performance reflects FNB Botswana's commitment to supporting citizen-owned businesses, strengthening local value chains and driving economic development through responsible procurement practices.

HUMAN AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

Through the FNB Foundation, sponsorships, and community investment initiatives, the Bank continued to make a meaningful contribution to social and economic development across the country. During the year, P19 million was invested in programmes that positively impacted more than 16,000 lives and supported 441 businesses. Overarching impact of the investments has improved the wellbeing, dignity and inclusion for vulnerable groups and low-income households, and strengthen community development and economic participation. An overview of our flagship programmes is provided below.

REMOTE AREA DWELLERS (RADS)TOP ACHIEVERS SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMME

The scholarship is designed to academically empower five high performing learners from remote communities who are at risk of discontinuing their studies due to disadvantaged socio economic backgrounds. The learners are enrolled at Delta Waters school in Maun, an initiative to support learners by providing access to quality education, holistic development, and opportunities beyond the classroom. The scholarship enables learners to explore and nurture their talents through sports and extra curricular activities, broadening their career pathways and personal development. Early outcomes of the scholarship are:

- improved academic achievement, with learners attaining an average grade of 85%.
- enhanced learner confidence, discipline and motivation through structured developmental programmes.
- expanded exposure to STEM, leadership and problem-solving activities through Mathematics, Science and Chess clubs' participation.
- broadened career aspirations and life skills through participation in academic, sporting and creative activities.

BOTSWANA ARTS ONLINE

Botswana Arts Online is a digital marketplace sponsored by FNBB Foundation to help Batswana artists create sustainable income opportunities, through access to a global platform to market and sell their products. To date P1.5 million has been invested, through Thapong Visual Arts Centre, to fund the development and maintenance of the website, mobilisation of artworks, facilitation of sales, and distribution of proceeds directly to participating artists. Key achievements include:

- 360 artworks mobilised and showcased on the platform with 155 artworks sold.
- Sales from Okavango basketry through the Back Craft Shop.
- Enhanced visibility and market access for Batswana artists through a global online platform.
- Increased participation in the professional arts sector, driven by the commercial opportunities.

MUSIC FOR CHANGE PROGRAMME

FNBB Foundation in partnership with Kingdom Arts Academy supports 20 young people from low-income communities in Gaborone through music training, mentorship, and industry exposure to help them develop professional careers in music.

The Foundation's P556,800 investment covers tuition, training materials, examinations, merchandise, and musical instruments. 15 trainee artists have so far played in corporate events with the support and guidance of the Academy. The initiative supports youth economic empowerment, helping to mitigate social challenges often associated with unemployment and inactivity.

SPORTS DEVELOPMENT

The Bank also strengthened social cohesion and economic participation in sports through the flagship sponsorships of the FNB Premiership and FNB Botswana Golden Grand Prix. During the year, P2.6 million was invested to support FNB Premiership club prizes and player recognition awards and P6 million invested into the Grand Prix. Local SMEs were supported through event delivery and activation services. In addition, casual jobs were created to support the events.

OWN OPERATIONS AND ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP

The Bank continued to improve the environmental performance of its operations through renewable energy, energy efficiency and resource conservation initiatives. The Bank continued to realise the benefits from the Solar energy installations at our Francistown building, which hosts the Branch and regional operations. The Bank achieved significant results, with solar power contributing 44% of site energy consumption, generating total financial savings of P616,000 and avoiding 917 tonnes of CO_2 emissions per annum. Additional initiatives included the commencement of the solar infrastructure development for the First Place (head office building), lithium-ion battery deployment and refrigerant replacement at branches, water conservation measures, waste recycling programmes, and progress towards EDGE green building certification.

CLIMATE RISK MANAGEMENT

Climate risk remained well managed during FY2026. No environmental incidents, complaints or compliance breaches were reported. The Bank continued to strengthen climate risk integration, sustainable finance capabilities and climate-related business opportunities to support a resilient low-carbon transition.

CAPITAL MANAGEMENT

FNBB maintains sound capital ratios to maintain confidence in the solvency and the quality of its capital during both calm and turbulent periods in the economy and in financial markets. The Bank aims to maintain capital ratios in line with its risk appetite, thereby appropriately safeguarding its operations and stakeholder interests.

Furthermore, FNBB's capital management strategy is to ensure an optimal level and composition of capital, effective allocation of financial resources including capital and risk capacity, with a view to achieving a sound return on equity and a sustainable dividend distribution to shareholders. The capital planning process is conducted on a forward-looking basis and considers, inter alia, the organic growth requirements and a safety margin for unexpected fluctuations in business plans and earnings volatility.



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Through this approach, compliance with both internal and regulatory capital adequacy requirements can be achieved, shareholders' returns can be safeguarded, and the Bank can ensure that it remains a sound going concern even under severe stress conditions.

The capital focus has been directed to the composition of the capital structure and efficiency of the risk-weighted assets. The Directors review and approve macroeconomic scenarios quarterly in a year due to the rapidly changing world economic environment for regulatory and business purposes. Additionally, the Directors review the Capital Management Framework annually, and this together with the approval of the economic scenarios forms the basis of the Internal Capital Adequacy Assessment Process (ICAAP) which provides a sound basis for managing our capital in a constantly dynamic world. For the period ended 30 June 2026, FNBB continued to operate above both the internal and regulatory minimum capital adequacy ratios.

DECLARATION OF DIVIDEND

Notice is hereby given that a final dividend of 30 thebe per share has been declared for the year ended 30 June 2026. The dividend will be paid on or about 16 October 2026 to shareholders registered at the close of business on 06 October 2026. The ex-dividend date is 02 October 2026.

In terms of the Income Tax Act (Cap 52.01) as amended, withholding tax at the rate of 10% will be deducted by the Bank from gross dividends. If a change of address or dividend instructions is to apply to this dividend, notification should reach the Transfer Secretaries by 06 October 2026.

For and on behalf of the Board

B M Bonyongo
Chairperson

S L Bogatsu
Chief Executive Officer

TRANSFER SECRETARIES
Central Securities Depository
Company of Botswana,
Plot 70667, 4th Floor, Fairscape Precinct, Fairgrounds
Private Bag 00417, Gaborone

AUDITED CONSOLIDATED INCOME STATEMENT (P'000)	Year ended 30 June 2026	Year ended 30 June 2025	% Change
Interest income calculated using effective interest rate and similar income	2,893,037	2,484,466	16
Interest expenses and similar charges	(980,978)	(533,299)	84
Net interest income before impairment of advances	**1,912,059**	**1,951,167**	(2)
Net impairment loss of advances	(190,991)	(73,647)	>100
Net interest income after impairment of advances	**1,721,068**	**1,877,520**	(8)
Non-interest income and expense	2,313,686	1,780,453	30
Income from operations before operating expenditure	**4,034,754**	**3,657,973**	10
Operating expenses	(906,903)	(813,776)	11
Employee benefits expenses	(982,153)	(934,262)	5
Income before taxation	**2,145,698**	**1,909,935**	12
Indirect taxation	(29,183)	(25,864)	13
Profit before direct taxation	**2,116,515**	**1,884,071**	12
Direct taxation	(469,442)	(440,673)	7
Profit for the year	**1,647,073**	**1,443,398**	14
Total comprehensive income for the year attributable to owners of the company	**1,647,073**	**1,443,398**	14
Average number of shares in issue during the period (thousands)	2,543,700	2,543,700	-
Earnings per share (thebe) (based on weighted average number of shares outstanding)	**64.75**	**56.74**	14

RATIOS AND MARKET INFORMATION	Year ended 30 June 2026	Year ended 30 June 2025	% Change
Total Dividend per share (thebe)	45.0	33.0	36
Dividend cover (times)	1.0	1.7	(41)
Cost to income ratio (percent)*	45.4	47.5	(4)
Return on equity (percent)	33.2	33.5	(1)
Return on average assets (percent)	4.7	4.0	18
Capital adequacy ratio (percent)**	21.7	19.2	13
Closing share price (thebe)	570	530	8
Price earnings ratio	4.4	4.7	(6)
Earnings per share (thebe)	64.75	56.74	14
Number of ordinary shares issued (thousands)	2,543,700	2,543,700	-

**Cost to income ratio is based on total non-interest expenditure including indirect taxation (value added tax) and excludes impairments of advances*
*** Capital adequacy ratio is Post Dividend*

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION (P'000)	Year ended 30 June 2026	Year ended 30 June 2025	% Change
Assets			
Cash and short-term funds	2,219,905	2,095,051	6
Derivative financial instruments	50,651	19,000	>100
Investment securities	12,455,555	10,876,931	15
Advances to customers	19,684,707	20,618,041	(5)
Current taxation	-	392	(100)
Due from related parties	63,386	19,288	>100
Other assets	550,805	521,393	6
Property and equipment	578,997	600,236	(4)
Goodwill	26,589	26,963	(1)
Deferred taxation	23,921	28,211	(15)
Total assets	**35,654,516**	**34,805,506**	**2**
Equity and Liabilities			
Liabilities			
Deposits- other	-	1,738,081	(100)
Derivative financial instruments	45,313	10,578	>100
Accrued interest payable	49,255	31,898	54
Due to related parties	62,873	35,067	79
Current taxation	35,035	6,637	>100
Other liabilities	606,162	806,767	(24)
Deposits from banks	819,910	352,411	>100
Deposits from customers	28,321,836	26,492,471	7
Employee benefits liabilities	150,612	139,258	8
Borrowings	183,190	695,971	(74)
Total liabilities	**30,274,186**	**30,309,139**	**0**
Capital and reserves attributable to ordinary equity holders			
Stated capital	51,088	51,088	0
Reserves	4,566,132	4,063,724	12
Dividend reserve	763,110	381,555	100
Total equity	**5,380,330**	**4,496,367**	**20**
Total Equity and Liabilities	**35,654,516**	**34,805,506**	**2**
Undrawn commitments to customers	2,532,864	2,254,552	12
Guarantees and letters of credit	1,111,227	1,229,104	(10)

AUDITED CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY (P'000)	Stated capital	Dividend reserve	Retained earnings	Total
Balance at 30 June 2024	**51,088**	**686,799**	**3,459,747**	**4,197,634**
Profit for the year	-	-	1,443,398	1,443,398
2024 Final Dividends paid	-	(686,799)	-	(686,799)
2025 Interim Dividends paid	-	-	(457,866)	(457,866)
2025 Final Dividends proposed	-	381,555	(381,555)	-
Total contributions by and distributions to owners of company recognised directly in equity	**-**	**(305,244)**	**(839,421)**	**(1,144,665)**
Balance at 30 June 2025	**51,088**	**381,555**	**4,063,724**	**4,496,367**
Profit for the period	-		1,647,073	1,647,073
2025 Final Dividends paid	-	(381,555)	-	(381,555)
2026 Interim Dividends paid	-	-	(381,555)	(381,555)
2026 Final Dividends proposed	-	763,110	(763,110)	-
Total contributions by and distributions to owners of company recognised directly in equity	**-**	**381,555**	**(1,144,665)**	**(763,110)**
Balance at 30 June 2026	**51,088**	**763,110**	**4,566,132**	**5,380,330**

AUDITED CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF CASHFLOWS (P'000)	Year ended 30 June 2026	Year ended 30 June 2025	% Change
Cash flows from operating activities			
Cash from/(used in) operations before taxation and working capital changes	499,236	102,269	>100
Interest and similar income received	2,922,418	2,461,119	19
Interest and similar expense paid	(926,444)	(454,372)	>(100)
Taxation paid	(436,362)	(450,165)	(3)
Cash from operating activities	**2,058,848**	**1,658,851**	24
Movement in operating assets and liabilities			
Movement in amounts due to other banks	442,831	(149,038)	>(100)
Movement in deposits from customers	1,829,365	(3,528,573)	>(100)
Movement in deposits - other	(1,738,081)	1,738,081	>(100)
Movement in amount due to related parties	27,806	(3,820)	>(100)
Movement in accrued interest payable	(308)	451	>(100)
Movement in other liabilities	(190,945)	142,251	>(100)
Movement in employee benefits liabilities	11,354	8,053	41
Movement in investments- fair value through profit or loss	(34,234)	59,835	>(100)
Movement in investments- amortised cost	(445,949)	(3,232,538)	(86)
Movement in advances to customers	712,962	(2,174,339)	>(100)
Movement in other assets	(29,412)	(73,568)	(60)
Movement in amounts due from related companies	(44,098)	(9,350)	>100
Cash flows (used in)/generated from operating activities	**2,600,139**	**(5,563,704)**	(53)
Cash flows used investing activities			
Acquisition of property and equipment	(67,065)	(60,107)	11
Proceeds on disposal of property and equipment	786	2,446	(68)
Cash utilized in investing activities	**(66,279)**	**(57,661)**	15
Cash flows used in financing activities			
Repayment of borrowings	(258,500)	(373,152)	(31)
Interest paid on borrowings	(285,225)	(25,979)	>100
Lease liability interest	(8,741)	(4,059)	>(100)
Lease liability payments	(32,601)	(33,390)	(2)
Dividends paid	(763,110)	(1,144,665)	(33)
Net cash used in financing activities	**(1,348,177)**	**(1,581,245)**	(15)
Cash movement for the period	**1,185,683**	**(7,202,610)**	>(100)
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the period	2,495,030	9,689,902	(74)
Effect of exchange rate movement on cash balances	12,944	7,738	67
Total cash and cash equivalents at end of the period	**3,693,657**	**2,495,030**	**48**

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



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For the year ended 30 June 2026

SEGMENTAL REPORTING

Operating segments are reported in accordance with the internal reporting provided to the Chief Executive Officer (the Chief Operating Decision-Maker), who is responsible for allocating resources to the reportable segments and assesses their performance. All operating segments used by the Bank meet the definition of a reportable segment.

The Bank has four primary business segments:

01 **FNB Retail segment** comprising advances and deposits and the revenue flowing from individual customers;

02 **FNB Commercial segment** comprising advances and deposits and the revenue flowing from commercial and SME customers;

03 **RMB Corporate segment** comprising advances and deposits and the revenue flowing from corporate customers;

04 **Treasury & Other** manages the Group's liquidity and funding and other transactions or balances that are not attributable to any operating segment.

To determine the performance, profitability and efficiency of the segments, the Bank presents interest income after the cost of funding and interest expenditure after the benefit of funding.

AUDITED SEGMENTAL REPORTING	Retail	Commercial	Corporate	Treasury & Other	Total
30 JUNE 2026 (P'000)- (Audited)					
Interest and similar income	343,177	114,447	116,227	2,319,186	2,893,037
Non- interest income	828,174	638,551	854,931	(7,970)	2,313,686
Total segment revenue	**1,171,351**	**752,998**	**971,158**	**2,311,216**	**5,206,723**
Interest and similar expenses	414,902	419,327	261,528	(2,076,735)	(980,978)
Segment operating income before impairments	**1,586,253**	**1,172,325**	**1,232,686**	**234,481**	**4,225,745**
Impairment of advances*	(31,520)	(36,957)	(18,546)	(103,968)	(190,991)
Net interest income after impairment of advances	**1,554,733**	**1,135,368**	**1,214,140**	**130,513**	**4,034,754**
Depreciation	(101,231)	(2,814)	(121)	(85)	(104,251)
Operating expenses	(23,914)	(572,672)	(220,396)	14,330	(802,652)
Staff expenditure	(732,594)	(150,006)	(87,179)	(12,370)	(982,153)
Profit before indirect taxation	**696,994**	**409,876**	**906,444**	**132,388**	**2,145,698**
Indirect taxation	(25,404)	(1,425)	(1,612)	(742)	(29,183)
Profit before direct taxation	**671,590**	**408,451**	**904,832**	**131,646**	**2,116,515**
Direct taxation					(469,442)
Profit for the period					**1,647,073**
Statement of financial position:					
Gross Advances to customers	11,725,242	3,816,379	5,038,281	-	20,579,902
Loss allowance	(451,511)	(259,826)	(79,890)	(103,968)	(895,195)
Net advances	**11,273,731**	**3,556,553**	**4,958,391**	**(103,968)**	**19,684,707**
Deposits from customers	**7,239,665**	**10,395,796**	**7,373,633**	**3,312,742**	**28,321,836**

AUDITED SEGMENTAL REPORTING	Retail	Commercial	Corporate	Treasury	Total
30 JUNE 2025 (P'000)- (Audited)					
Interest and similar income	604,754	155,620	121,229	1,602,863	2,484,466
Non- interest income	753,178	630,309	411,279	(14,313)	1,780,453
Total segment revenue	**1,357,932**	**785,929**	**532,508**	**1,588,550**	**4,264,919**
Interest expense and similar expenses	253,802	286,309	176,739	(1,250,090)	(533,299)
Segment operating income before impairments	**1,611,734**	**1,072,179**	**709,247**	**338,460**	**3,731,620**
Impairment of advances	(83,988)	9,857	484	-	(73,647)
Net interest income after impairment of advances	**1,527,746**	**1,082,036**	**709,731**	**338,460**	**3,657,973**
Depreciation	(96,527)	(532)	(55)	(53)	(97,167)
Operating expenses	(257,678)	(276,000)	(190,459)	8,128	(716,609)
Staff expenditure*	(474,790)	(365,137)	(83,562)	(10,773)	(934,262)
Total expenditure					
Profit before indirect taxation	**698,751**	**439,767**	**435,655**	**335,762**	**1,909,935**
Indirect taxation	(20,945)	(2,179)	(1,914)	(826)	(25,864)
Profit before direct taxation	**677,806**	**437,588**	**433,741**	**334,936**	**1,884,071**
Direct taxation					(440,673)
Profit for the period					**1,443,398**
Statement of financial position:					
Gross Advances to customers	12,353,510	4,114,615	4,988,579	-	21,456,704
Loss allowance	(481,181)	(282,897)	(74,585)	-	(838,663)
Net advances	**11,872,329**	**3,831,718**	**4,913,994**	**-**	**20,618,041**
Deposits from customers	**7,209,323**	**10,233,020**	**5,996,744**	**3,053,384**	**26,492,471**

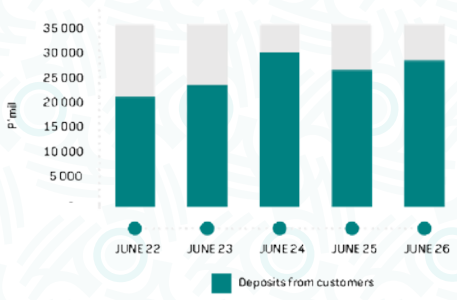
Major customers - In terms of IFRS 8, a customer is regarded as a major customer if the revenue from transactions with this customer exceeds 10% or more of the entity`s revenue. The Bank has no major customers as defined and is, therefore, not reliant on the revenue from one or more major customers.

*Management has recognised a segment-agnostic ECL model overlay to reflect forward-looking risks and elevated uncertainty within the operating environment. Given that the potential transmission mechanisms and timing of any future credit impact remain uncertain and may affect multiple portfolios, the ovverlay has not been allocated to specific business segments. While presented within Treasury for financial reporting purposes, the overlay is not linked to Treasury assets or Treasury-specific credit exposures but is instead held centrally to maintain a segment-agnostic treatment. This approach preserves transparency and avoids attributing emerging risks to any single portfolio. The overlay will continue to be reviewed as additional performance, economic and market dynamics evolve.

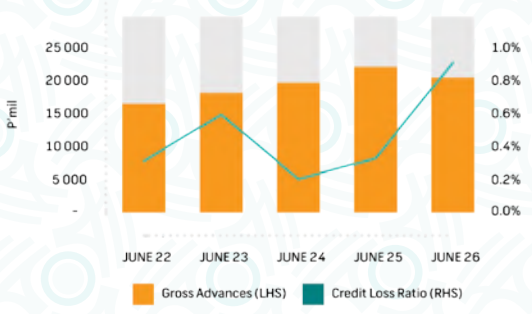
*Staff expenditure has been disclosed separately to allow the chief operating decision maker to have more transparency on the income statement comparatives.

FINANCIAL GRAPHS

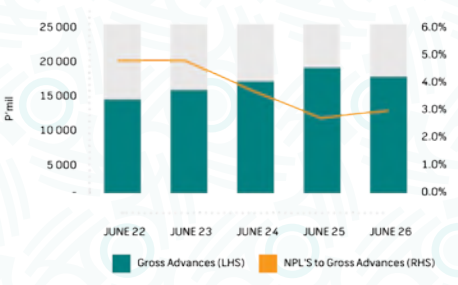
DEPOSITS



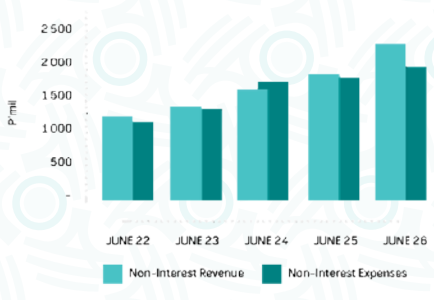
GROSS ADVANCES VS CREDIT LOSS RATIO



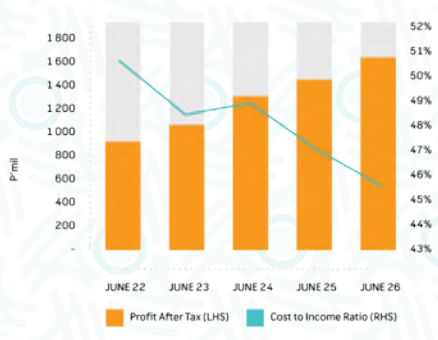
GROSS ADVANCES VS NPLs



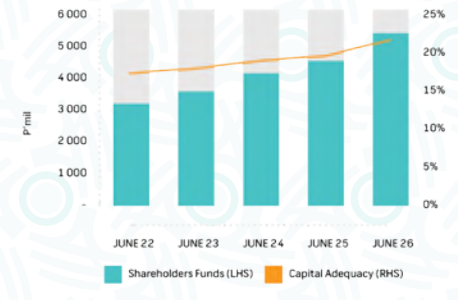
NON-INTEREST REVENUE VS NON-INTEREST EXPENSES



PROFIT AFTER TAX VS COST TO INCOME RATIO



SHAREHOLDERS' FUNDS VS CAPITAL ADEQUACY



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BAMB Debt Squeezes Grain Farmers

Grain farmers say about P100 million in unpaid BAMB bills is pushing them deeper into debt and threatening preparations for the 2026/2027 planting season.

GAZETTE REPORTER

Botswana's grain farmers are warning of another financial crisis, with the Botswana Agricultural Marketing Board (BAMB) owing producers approximately P100 million as they prepare for the 2026/2027 production season.

The Botswana Grain Producers Association (BGPA) and the Pandamatenga Commercial Farmers Association (PCFA) said farmers are approaching the September 30 deadline to settle seasonal production loans without certainty over when outstanding payments will be made.

The associations acknowledged efforts by BAMB's new leadership to stabilise the organisation, but said the institution needs decisive government support and recapitalisation to address long-standing structural problems.

"BAMB's new leadership can only succeed with the full and decisive support of Government," the associations said.

PAYMENTS DELAYED

Farmers delivered grain to BAMB from April 2026 and some have now waited as long as four months beyond the contractual 30-day payment period, according to the associations.

They said the delays are forcing producers to continue carrying debt and accumulating interest on loans used to finance production.

"Farmers who delivered grain to BAMB should NOT continue to accumulate interest and penalties on their production loans because BAMB has not paid them," the associations said.

NDB has extended the loan repayment deadline to the end of October 2026, but farmers have been advised that the interest rate will increase by 1 percent for the additional month.

The associations said this shifts the financial cost of BAMB's delayed payments onto farmers. They cited one Pandamatenga farmer who had paid approximately P3.8 million in interest attributed to the delays.

PRICE UNCERTAINTY

The groups also raised concerns about uncertainty over the sorghum producer price during the 2025/2026 season.

BAMB initially announced a producer price of P3,850 per metric ton in November 2025. Farmers later sought to renegotiate the price, citing production costs and a market-related price of approximately P4,250 per ton.

A revised price of P4,300 per ton was only confirmed by BAMB on July 6, 2026, after farmers had already started delivering harvested sorghum.

The associations said farmers had therefore committed capital, planted and harvested crops while the producer price remained unresolved.

PLANTING THREAT

The financial pressure is also raising questions about the financing of the coming production season.

Farmers are concerned that NDB may again be unable to release 2026/2027 seasonal input loans until BAMB pays farmers and those farmers repay their outstanding loans.

The associations said that could leave producers without the cash needed to buy inputs and prepare for planting.

They are calling for a national crop plan and stronger coordination between farmers, BAMB and millers so that production, financing, procurement and market demand are planned as one value chain.

They also want clarity on the Agricultural Credit Guarantee Scheme following flooding in Pandamatenga during the 2025/2026 season.

The associations said farmers remain committed to working with BAMB and Government, but stressed that the outstanding issues must be resolved before the new production cycle begins.

Debswana Output Jumps 107 Percent

Debswana more than doubled second-quarter production to 5.5 million carats even as rough diamond prices fell and lab-grown stones kept pressure on the global market.

GAZETTE REPORTER

Diamond production at Debswana Diamond Company increased 107 percent in the second quarter of 2026 to 5.5 million carats, up from 2.7 million carats in the same period last year.

The figures are contained in the Bank of Botswana's Monetary Policy Report for August 2026, published on September 3. The report reviews recent macroeconomic developments and factors likely to influence inflation over the medium term.

Debswana, a joint venture between the Botswana Government and De Beers Group, operates the Jwaneng, Orapa, Letlhakane and Damtshaa mines.

OUTPUT LIFT

The Bank of Botswana said the stronger performance was driven by improved mining operations after extended maintenance at Orapa and the processing of higher-grade ore at Jwaneng.

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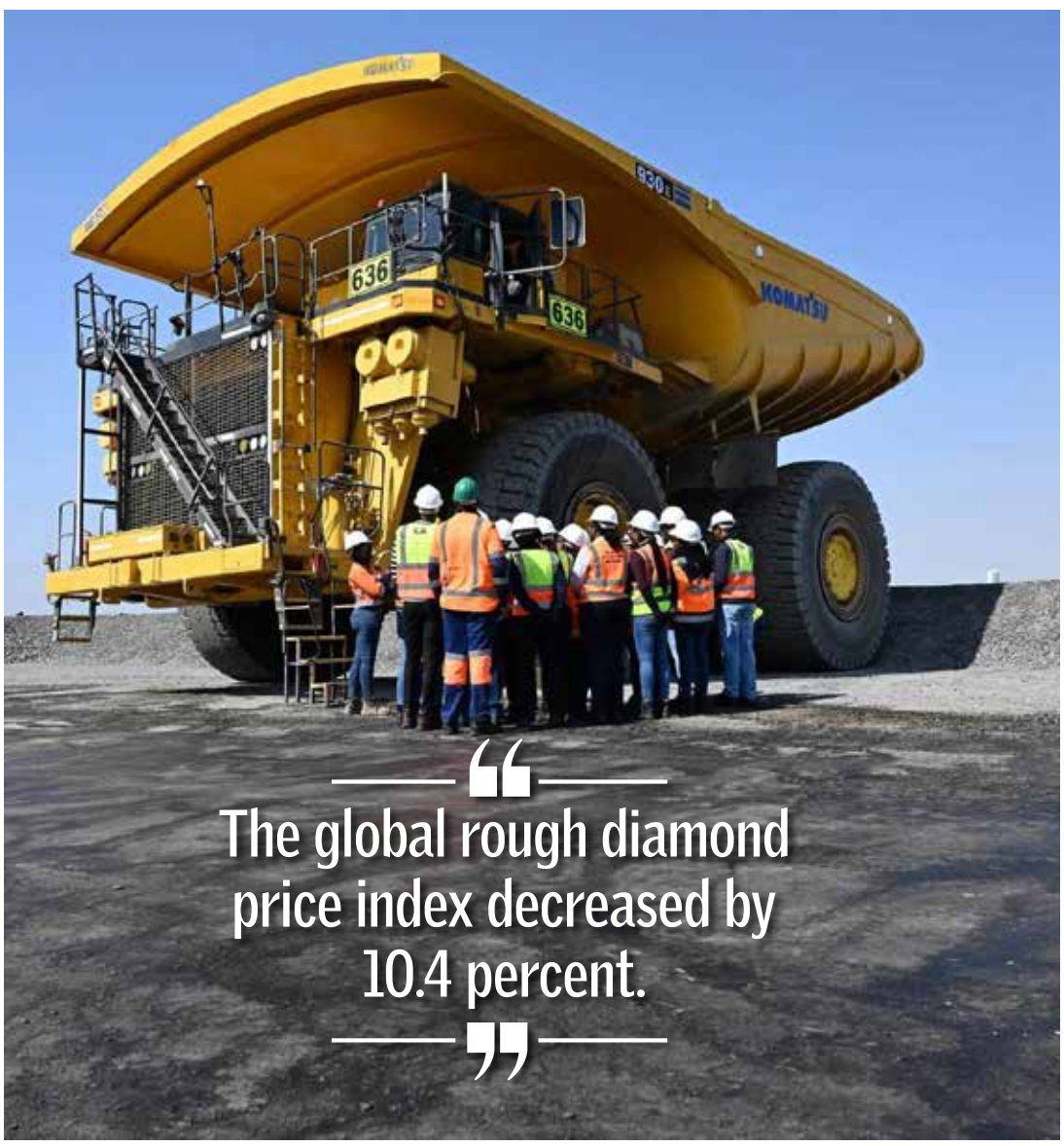

Spending Squeeze Hits Liquorama Sales

Weaker consumer demand dragged Liquorama sales down 11.7 percent even as Choppies expanded the liquor business with 10 new stores.



GAZETTE REPORTER

Consumers tightened spending amid a weaker economy, weighing on Choppies Botswana's Liquorama segment even as the retailer expanded its liquor footprint with 10 new stores.

The performance is contained in Choppies' Summarised Audited Group Financial Results for the year ended June 30, 2026.

SALES SLIDE

Liquorama sales fell 11.7 percent during the year, while like-for-like sales, which exclude the effect of newly opened stores, declined 12 percent.

Despite weaker sales, the segment improved its gross profit rate to 13.1 percent from 12.4 percent, which the company attributed to better control over promotional activity.

Earnings before interest, tax, depreciation and amortisation (EBITDA) increased to P17 million from P14 million a year earlier.

Earnings before interest and tax (EBIT), however, deteriorated to a loss of P24 million from P18 million previously, mainly because of additional depreciation associated with the 10 new stores.

BOTSWANA PRESSURE

Across Choppies Botswana, sales decreased 0.7 percent to P5.618 billion from P5.658 billion, while like-for-like sales declined 1.2 percent.

The company said the performance reflected the "weaker economy in Botswana", although it described the business as resilient in an increasingly challenging economic environment.

Sales were affected by a 5.5 percent decline in volume and price inflation of 5.1 percent, partly offset by the opening of seven new stores.

"New stores and inflation drove costs," the company said, adding that stores opened over the past 12 months would need time to reach their full potential.

EBITDA and adjusted EBITDA declined 15.6 percent and 16.1 percent, respectively, as gross profit increased more slowly than costs. The gross profit rate also declined by 0.3 percent.

REGIONAL SPLIT

Choppies Namibia recorded sales growth of 23.2 percent, or 14.9 percent on a like-for-like basis. Government subsidies on maize, pilchards, soya, rice and oil between July and November 2025, however, squeezed sales value and margins.

Namibia's EBITDA fell 25 percent, while its EBIT loss widened to P20 million from P9 million.

In Zambia, sales grew 42.6 percent in Pula terms, equivalent to 15.1 percent growth in Kwacha terms. Five stores were opened during the year.

Adjusted EBITDA declined 11.9 percent and adjusted EBIT fell 78.9 percent in Pula terms. Choppies attributed an estimated ZMW29 million, or P18 million, loss to the appreciation of the Kwacha, which caused wholesale and retail deflation.

Group retail sales increased 7.9 percent to P9.822 billion, driven by 27 new stores and inflation. The group recorded no volume growth, while price growth was 9.9 percent and like-for-like sales declined 1.2 percent.

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Debswana's 2026 rough diamond production guidance has also been revised upwards from 15 million carats to 18 million carats, with the Bank citing improved global demand for premium natural diamonds.

De Beers' 2026 production guidance remains unchanged at between 21 million and 26 million carats. The company continues to monitor rough diamond trading conditions and align output with prevailing demand.

KAROWE EDGES UP

Production at Lucara Diamond Corporation's Karowe Mine increased 0.7 percent in the second quarter to 83.1 thousand carats from 82.6 thousand carats a year earlier.

"The increase was supported by higher ore processing volumes, including ore from continued open-pit mining and run-of-mine stockpiles," the Bank of Botswana said.

Karowe's production guidance remains unchanged at between 340 thousand and 360 thousand carats for 2026.

PRICES SLIDE

The production gains come against a subdued global rough diamond market, where weaker consumer demand has coincided with rising sales of lab-grown diamonds.

Government and Debswana have expressed confidence that the market will rebound. Debswana Managing Director Andrew Motsomi has nevertheless said the company remains cautious and is pursuing diversification beyond its core mining business.

Speaking at the Future of Mining Summit, Motsomi said Debswana's Ya Masa 2025-2029 strategy is aimed at restoring financial resilience, modernising operations and commercialising the company's mining expertise through services beyond its core business.

The Bank's report said rough diamond prices declined in the second quarter. The global rough diamond price index fell 10.4 percent, from 117.5 points in the first quarter to 105.3 points in the second quarter, mainly because of weak global demand, excess inventories and persistent trade uncertainty.



It said the market also faces structural pressure from competing luxury goods, particularly lab-grown diamonds, which are increasingly substituting for natural diamonds in lower-value segments.

According to the report, lab-grown diamonds currently hold 20 to 25 percent of market share and are projected to account for about 30 to 40 percent of the total diamond market by 2030, up from nearly zero in 2015.

FNB Launches Grant for 35 Communities



Atang Mbikiwa, Head of FNB Botswana Foundation

FNB Botswana has launched a grant programme offering up to P50,000 per project to recognised community organisations working on locally identified initiatives.

FNB Botswana, through the FNB Foundation, has launched the Grant for 35 Communities programme, offering eligible community organisations funding of up to P50,000 per approved project.

ELIGIBILITY

The programme is open to recognised community structures, including Village Development Committees, registered societies, community committees, community trusts and other recognised community-based organisations.

Atang Mbikiwa, Head of FNB Botswana Foundation, said the initiative was intended to support projects identified and owned by communities.

"As we celebrate this milestone, we want to invest in ideas that communities themselves believe can make a difference," Mbikiwa said.

PROJECT CRITERIA

> "The real measure of Help is not only what we give today, but what that Help makes possible tomorrow."

Projects will be assessed on community benefit, sustainability, inclusivity, community ownership and measurable impact. Proposed initiatives may include community gardens, poultry and food production, community-owned equipment for hire and community trust projects.

Mbikiwa said the programme was intended to support initiatives that could continue generating benefits after the initial funding.

"The real measure of Help is not only what we give today, but what that Help makes possible tomorrow."

APPLICATIONS OPEN

Successful applicants may also receive mentorship, financial guidance and implementation support where appropriate.

Applicants are required to submit a project proposal outlining the intended community benefit, implementation plan and estimated budget, together with proof of registration or formal recognition, at least five standing members and evidence of previous community involvement.

Applications can be submitted via CSI@FNBbotswana.co.bw or at an FNB branch. The deadline is October 1, 2026.

Article edited for length

Continental Re Targets African Growth

Continental Reinsurance's public offer has been extended to October 9, with the reinsurer seeking US$156.1 million through its Botswana Stock Exchange listing.

Continental Reinsurance Holdings Limited's public offer has been extended to October 9 following approval of a revised timetable by the Botswana Stock Exchange.

The offer, which opened on August 5, comprises US$126.1 million from the sale of existing shares and US$30 million in new primary capital, bringing the total transaction value to approximately US$156.1 million.

CAPITAL FOR EXPANSION

Group Managing Director Lawrence Mutsunge Nazare said the new capital would be used to increase underwriting capacity, support solvency and expand the company's Alternative Solutions business.

"The US$30 million in fresh primary capital will strengthen our underwriting capacity, support solvency and rating resilience, and help scale our Alternative Solutions business," Nazare said.

PAN-AFRICAN OPERATIONS

> "The US$30 million in fresh primary capital will strengthen our underwriting capacity, support solvency and rating resilience, and help scale our Alternative Solutions business."

Continental Re provides reinsurance services in more than 50 African countries through regional hubs in Gaborone, Lagos, Nairobi, Douala, Abidjan and Tunis. Its portfolio includes property and engineering, casualty and liability, marine and aviation, energy and political risks, agriculture and life insurance.

The company reported BWP2.32 billion in insurance revenue and BWP2.27 billion in gross written premiums for the 2025 financial year. Profit before tax rose by more than 50 percent year-on-year to BWP105.3 million, while its combined ratio improved to 92 percent from about 94 percent.

AFRICAN MARKET

The company said Africa's reinsurance market generated about US$6.3 billion in gross premiums in 2024, while the continent accounted for 1.6 percent of global reinsurance premiums.

Shares are being offered at BWP1 each, with a minimum application of 200 shares. Applications can be made through the prospectus, appointed brokers, the Botswana Stock Exchange and Continental Reinsurance offices.

Article edited for length



Group Managing Director Lawrence Mutsunge Nazare

MSMEs Invited to Africa Business Awards

Botswana businesses have until October 17 to enter the Standard Bank Africa Business Awards, which seek to spotlight enterprises across the continent.

Stanbic Bank Botswana has invited local micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs) to enter the Standard Bank Africa Business Awards 2026, with entries opening on September 18 and closing on October 17.

CONTINENTAL PLATFORM

The awards are aimed at recognising businesses for innovation, employment creation and community impact, with the initiative culminating in a Pan-African awards event in Johannesburg later this year.

Basimane Tshepe, Acting Head of Business and Commercial Banking at Stanbic Bank Botswana, said the awards would provide local enterprises with an opportunity to gain exposure beyond Botswana.

"Through the Africa Business Awards, we want to celebrate their achievements, amplify their stories and give Botswana's entrepreneurs an opportunity to stand alongside some of Africa's most impactful businesses," Tshepe said.

ELIGIBLE BUSINESSES

Eligible enterprises include Stanbic Bank clients and businesses that do not bank with the institution. The categories span agriculture, construction, FMCG and retail, manufacturing, creative industries, technology and innovation, and the green economy and sustainability.

Women-owned and youth-led businesses are also encouraged to participate. The initiative is intended to facilitate connections among businesses, investors, partners and markets across African countries.

ENTRY WINDOW

Tshepe said Botswana has businesses that could compete at continental level.

"Botswana has entrepreneurs with ideas, expertise and businesses worthy of continental recognition," added Tshepe.

Entries are being submitted through the Standard Bank Africa Business Awards online portal, with applications closing on October 17.

Article edited for length



Basimane Tshepe, Acting Head of Business and Commercial Banking at Stanbic Bank Botswana.

BoFiNet Boosts Capacity to 1Tbps

The increase from 300Gbps to 1Tbps is expected to improve capacity and network redundancy through two Botswana-South Africa border routes.

Botswana Fibre Networks (BoFiNet) has signed a long-term international capacity lease with a South African partner, increasing its available international capacity through the Ramatlabama and Pioneer Gate borders from 300Gbps to 1Tbps.

NETWORK REDUNDANCY

The company said the upgrade is intended to maintain quality of service and increase network redundancy, with the aim of reducing the risk of interruptions to international connectivity.

BoFiNet Chief Executive Officer Dr Geoffrey Seleka said the agreement would support growing demand for connectivity.

"This capacity agreement is a testament to our commitment to ensuring that our customers, and by extension the nation, have access to reliable, scalable, and cost-effective connectivity."

> "Our responsibility extends beyond business. We are entrusted with connecting a nation.

PLANNING FOR DEMAND

Seleka said the company was also preparing for future increases in demand for connectivity as digital services expand.

"The world is moving toward a digital-first future, and Botswana must not only keep pace but lead," he said.



BoFiNet Chief Executive Officer Dr Geoffrey Seleka

BoFiNet said the capacity increase forms part of its infrastructure investments and partnerships aimed at maintaining international connectivity through Botswana's cross-border routes.

CONNECTING THE COUNTRY

Seleka said the company's role extended beyond its commercial operations.

"Our responsibility extends beyond business. We are entrusted with connecting a nation."

He added that BoFiNet's investments were intended to address current demand while preparing for future connectivity requirements.

MANUEL VEIRUAPI RUHAPO



Make Success Contagious

The Scorpion Kings' FNB Stadium moment shows how a pioneering brand can create the conditions for successors to thrive without diminishing the original achievement.

The easiest reading of the Scorpion Kings' FNB Stadium concert is a contest. Did DJ Maphorisa and Kabza De Small outgrow Cassper Nyovest? Did amapiano replace hip-hop as South Africa's stadium sound?

That is scoreboard language. It is not the language of brand building.

The useful question is this: what happens when one brand makes an ambition believable for everyone who follows?

Before the 19 September Scorpion Kings Live show, BONA reported that more than 50,000 tickets had been taken within hours of sales opening. It said the figure matched the full capacity of the duo's prior Loftus Versfeld event and represented about 60% of the expected FNB Stadium capacity. Those figures confirm powerful demand. They do not, by themselves, prove final attendance, profit, sponsor return or brand uplift.



Cassper's 2017 #FillUpFNBStadium concert was reported at about 68,000 people. More important than the number, DJ Maphorisa has publicly credited Cassper with making stadium-scale ambition credible for a generation of South African artists. Cassper showed that a local artist could put a major stadium at the centre of the story.

That is the first lesson for brands.

THE SUCCESSOR PARADOX

A category pioneer can appear to create future competition. In reality, the pioneer can create the market conditions that allow the category to grow.

Cassper's #FillUp was not only a concert title. It became a simple public signal of local ambition. It helped convert a question, 'Can a South African artist lead a stadium?', into an expectation. Once that expectation existed, a new act could use the same physical scale while changing the



cultural proposition.

The Scorpion Kings did not copy #FillUp. They brought a different music community, a partnership between two major artists, and amapiano's collective energy. Their achievement does not cancel Cassper's legacy. It demonstrates that the legacy made room for another form of local music to make the venue mean something new.

This is the Successor Paradox: the strongest brands do not only win a moment. They make the next bold move easier for somebody else, which makes their own original move more significant.

A Botswana business that makes a difficult purchase, habit or experience feel normal does the same work. A fashion label that helps customers see Botswana design as premium, a payments business that makes digital payment effortless, or an event property that persuades families to buy tickets early is lowering a mental barrier for the category. Competitors may benefit, but so does the pioneer associated with the original proof.

THE CROWD PARADOX

The second lesson is less comfortable. A large crowd is visible, but visibility is not value.

A ticket queue, full venue and trending video can confirm attention. They do not automatically confirm margin, retention, customer data, sponsor effectiveness or cultural longevity. The product is the system around the crowd: buying a ticket, getting safely to the venue, being served well, sharing the experience and having a reason to return.

The Crowd Paradox is that the bigger the spectacle, the easier it is to mistake the crowd for the product. This distinction matters for sponsors. A logo near a stage may be seen. A brand that materially improves the audience experience can earn a more meaningful role.

A telecommunications partner could make connectivity and charging reliable. A bank could make cashless payment genuinely simple. A retailer could turn merchandise into a locally designed collector item. These are narrative applications, not claims about current Botswana campaigns.



The test is practical: if the brand disappeared, would the audience lose something useful or memorable? If the answer is no, the brand bought exposure. It did not build participation.

BUILD PROPERTIES

Botswana does not need to imitate FNB Stadium. It needs live properties with a clear reason to exist and the patience to become familiar.

Botswana Tourism Organisation describes Gaborone International Music and Culture Week as an annual, weeklong arts and culture programme including music, jazz, workshops, theatre, poetry and comedy. A durable property can serve more than one audience and create more than one reason to return.

Orange Botswana's public record offers another distinction. Through Orange Foundation, it reported support for the 2023 Maun International Arts Festival and its partnership with Alliance Française's Fête de la Musique. The public record confirms support, not commercial return. Yet it shows a brand investing in platforms where artists, young audiences and communities meet, rather than treating culture as a one-night media buy.

For Botswana promoters and brands, the opportunity is an owned cultural promise: a music property, women-led enterprise forum, township design market, sport-and-wellness series or regional food experience. It needs a specific audience, visible local value and a way to measure return visits.



WHAT IT MEANS

Business owners and executives: Treat a major event as a business system, not a publicity expense. Approve investment only when the ticket model, partner value, safety plan, customer data permissions and post-event retention plan are clear. Celebrate reach, but separate it from verified commercial return.

Marketing professionals: Build the story before, during and after the event. Create anticipation people can join, a live experience people can use, and a post-event reason to stay connected. Measure whether the activation improved the audience experience, not only how many people saw it.

Brand managers: Do not fear the successor brand. If a competitor grows the category, protect the meaning of the original move, then evolve the experience instead of demanding permanent ownership of the stage.

Scorpion Kings Live and #FillUp FNB Stadium should not be reduced to a rivalry between names or crowd estimates. Cassper Nyovest's breakthrough made a local stadium headliner easier to imagine. The Scorpion Kings showed that the belief can travel into another genre, format and generation.

That is what enduring brands do. They do not stop the future. They make it easier for the future to believe in itself.



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



GENDER GAP IN SERVICE USE

Gazette analysis of healthcare, tertiary education and social protection suggests females receive about P1.40 in selected public-service benefits for every P1.00 consumed by males, raising questions about male engagement with the state.

DR DOUGLAS RASBASH

New analysis carried out for The Botswana Gazette suggests females may be benefiting from selected public services about 40 percent more than males. That is an extraordinary number. But before anybody reaches for the politics of gender discrimination, it needs to be understood properly.

Government is not spending more on females. There is little evidence that the major services examined here have been deliberately designed to favour women and girls over men and boys. A hospital does not turn a man away because he is male. A university place is not inherently female. Most social protection programmes establish eligibility according to circumstances rather than sex.

The apparent gender bias occurs principally at the point of consumption. That distinction matters. Government provides a service; citizens decide, qualify or have occasion to consume it. When we examine some of the largest public services that can be directly attributed to individuals, females appear to be consuming considerably more of them.

WHAT COUNTS

Most government expenditure cannot sensibly be divided between men and women. Who benefits more from a repaired road, a functioning court, national defence, a police station, Parliament or the Ministry of Finance? Trying to allocate such expenditure according to gender would rapidly become arbitrary. These are collective goods. Their benefits accrue to society.

> "For every P1.00 of these public services consumed by males, females consume approximately P1.40."

The interesting question is narrower: what happens when government expenditure produces a service that can actually be consumed by individuals?

Three very large areas immediately emerge: healthcare, tertiary education and social protection. Botswana's 2026/27 recurrent health budget is around P8.1 billion. Higher education receives more than P7 billion in recurrent funding. Social protection represents another substantial block of individually consumed public provision.

THE GAP

The gender differences are striking. Statistics Botswana reports that in 2024 there were 60,270 tertiary students, of whom 36,039 were female and 24,231 male. Females therefore constituted 59.8 percent of tertiary enrolment, giving a female-to-male ratio of 1.49.

Social protection shows a similar overall pattern. World Bank analysis of Botswana's Multi-Topic Household Survey found females accounted for 56 percent of social-assistance beneficiaries against 44 percent males. Statistics Botswana subsequently reported almost the same split among beneficiary household heads: 55.9 percent female and 44.0 percent male.

Healthcare completes the picture, although the Botswana evidence here is less comprehensive and our estimate must therefore be treated more cautiously. Measured by visits to medical centres, 58 percent of visits are by females and 42 percent by males. This excludes maternal care.

Weight those three service areas by the recurrent public resources behind them and an intriguing result emerges. Our provisional model produces approximately 58 percent of directly attributable public-service consumption by females and 42 percent by males.

P1.40 TO P1

Put differently, for every P1.00 of these public services consumed by males, females consume approximately P1.40. On a per capita basis, adult females receive P3,200 per annum more in public-service benefit than males. This is not a budget allocation ratio, but a benefit ratio.

Schooling is compulsory, government provides it universally, and participation is broadly gender balanced. But when individual discretion over consuming the service is substantially removed, much of the gender difference becomes apparent. At tertiary level there are roughly three female students for every two males.



Perhaps the question we should be asking is therefore not why Botswana's government favours females. It apparently does not. The more interesting question is why males consume fewer state services than females.

NOT ONE-DIMENSIONAL

Our findings turn conventional discussion of gender inequality on its head without contradicting the very real disadvantages women continue to experience elsewhere. Women can consume more public healthcare while simultaneously earning less or owning fewer productive assets. Female students can dominate universities while women remain underrepresented in senior corporate positions. Men can consume fewer social services while dominating other economic resources.

Gender inequality is not one-dimensional.

THE MALE QUESTION

Public policy usually concentrates on the supply side: build the clinic, fund the university, establish the social programme and allocate the budget. But equal availability does not guarantee equal consumption.

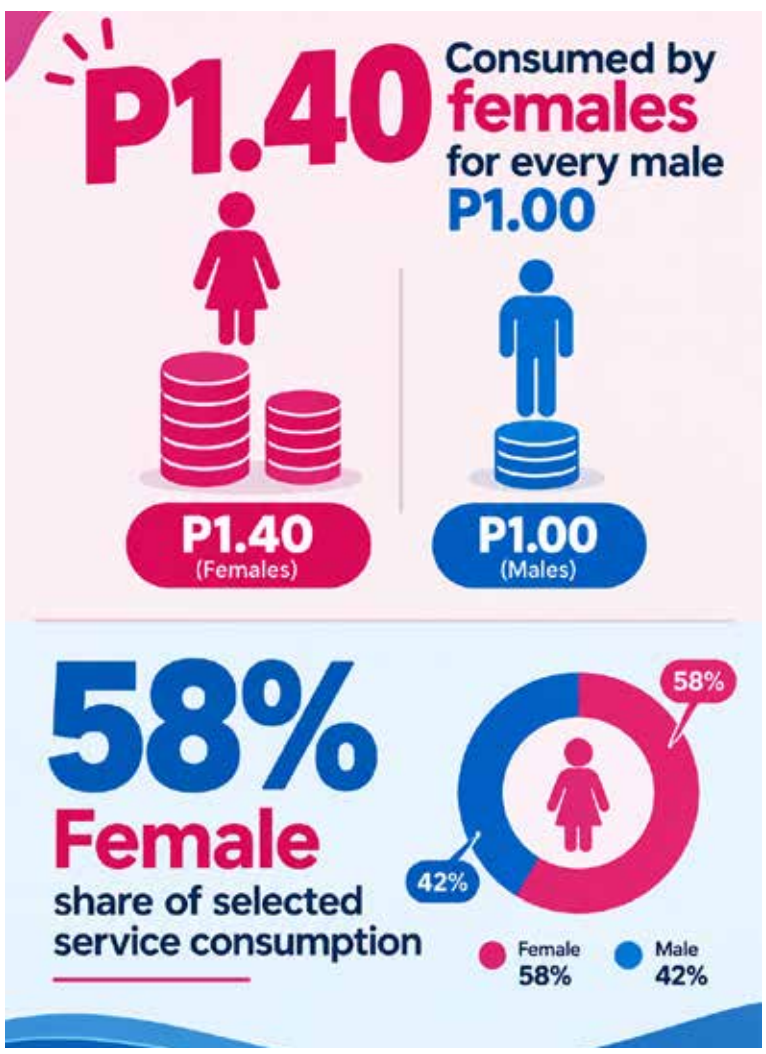
If males are substantially less likely to progress into tertiary education, less likely to engage with healthcare and less represented among users of social-support systems, then Botswana may have an overlooked male public-service engagement problem.

That matters far beyond accounting. A young man who leaves the education system earlier receives less publicly financed human-capital investment. A man who delays seeking healthcare may eventually present with a more serious and expensive condition. Someone who does not engage with social support when vulnerable may instead carry that vulnerability into unemployment, substance abuse, family breakdown, homelessness or the criminal justice system.

The fiscal system may therefore be telling us something about society that the budget itself cannot. Government may be offering services substantially without gender discrimination. But men and women are not consuming them equally.

Our findings tell us rather more about the condition of Botswana's men than they do about the condition of its women. One conclusion is inescapable: the gender bias narrative is far more nuanced than many would like us to believe.

Directly attributable service	Recurrent expenditure used	Female incidence	Male incidence	Female-attributed consumption	Male-attributed consumption	F:M
Higher education	P7.37bn	60%	40%	P4.42bn	P2.95bn	1.5
Health	P8.10bn	58%	42%	P4.70bn	P3.40bn	1.38
Social protection	P4.20bn	56%	44%	P2.35bn	P1.85bn	1.27
TOTAL / weighted result	**P19.67bn**	**58%**	**42%**	**P11.47bn**	**P8.20bn**	**1.4**



Botswana's Mega-Project Delusion

As diamond revenues weaken, Douglas Rasbash argues that Botswana must judge infrastructure by the jobs, productive output and domestic value it creates, not by the size of the project.



DOUGLAS RASBASH

SPENDING ISN'T DEVELOPMENT

Botswana has a weakness for mega-projects. The bigger the railway, water-transfer scheme, power station or highway, the more readily it is presented as evidence of economic transformation. Billions of pula are announced, construction jobs are counted, kilometres and megawatts celebrated, and another great national development project is born.

There is a problem with this thinking. Mega-projects become an economic delusion when expenditure and construction are confused with development. A P20 billion project does not create P20 billion of development. It creates P20 billion of expenditure.

Development must appear somewhere else: in sustainable jobs, increased industrial output, additional GDP, diversification and greater economic efficiency. As diamond revenues weaken and capital becomes scarcer, Botswana can no longer afford infrastructure whose principal achievement is its own construction.

TRANSIT TRAP

Consider the Trans-Kalahari Railway. Its enormous physical scale makes it appear transformational. Yet if much of its traffic consists of commodities originating elsewhere and passing through Botswana to Walvis Bay, its domestic economic impact may be limited.

A train carrying another country's minerals can enter Botswana at one border and leave at another. Botswana has provided a transport service, but the commodity has not been manufactured or transformed here. Modern heavy-haul railways are also designed to move enormous volumes with relatively few people. That makes them efficient transport systems, but poor long-term employment creators.

Thousands may work during construction, but most of those jobs disappear when construction ends. Nor does transit traffic, by itself, diversify Botswana's productive economy. Moving somebody else's trade more efficiently is not industrialisation.

POWER FOR WHAT?

The same logic applies to power. Megawatts are not industrialisation.

Botswana clearly needs reliable and competitively priced electricity. But generating capacity is an input, not a development outcome. Five hundred additional megawatts mean little for diversification unless Botswana does something productive with them.

If cheaper, reliable electricity enables mineral processing, food manufacturing, engineering, chemicals, data centres or other competitive industries, then power becomes transformational. Energy security and reduced electricity imports are worthwhile goals, but they are not the same thing as industrialisation.

Before celebrating another 500 MW, government should be able to explain what additional industrial output those megawatts will support, how many permanent jobs will result, and how much additional manufacturing GDP and exports will be generated. Exporting raw energy is no better than exporting raw diamonds if the productive value is created somewhere else.

> "Botswana should do that arithmetic before assuming bigger means better."

BEYOND THE PIPE

Water follows the same logic. Moving millions of cubic metres across Botswana is an engineering output. Connect that water to commercially competitive agriculture, however, and farms can produce more crops, employment can expand, food-processing industries can develop, imports can be displaced, and exports and rural incomes can grow.

The development lies not in the pipe, but in the production the water enables.

Botswana too often builds the means and assumes the economic outcome will somehow follow. The deeper problem is that the country has become stuck in a development economy in which ministries compete to spend more, projects become ever more ambitious, and size risks mattering more than outcomes.



ASSETS AT RISK

Meanwhile, what Botswana already owns is deteriorating.

The obsession with building something new is especially troubling because the country already has an enormous stock of infrastructure. Sixty years of diamond revenues paid for roads, schools, hospitals, clinics, dams, water networks, electricity systems, railway infrastructure and thousands of public buildings. This accumulated capital is one of Botswana's greatest national assets.

Yet too much of it is deteriorating. The IMF and World Bank have repeatedly identified weaknesses in Botswana's public investment and asset management, including inadequate maintenance and premature deterioration of infrastructure. This is not simply an administrative failure. It is the destruction of national wealth.

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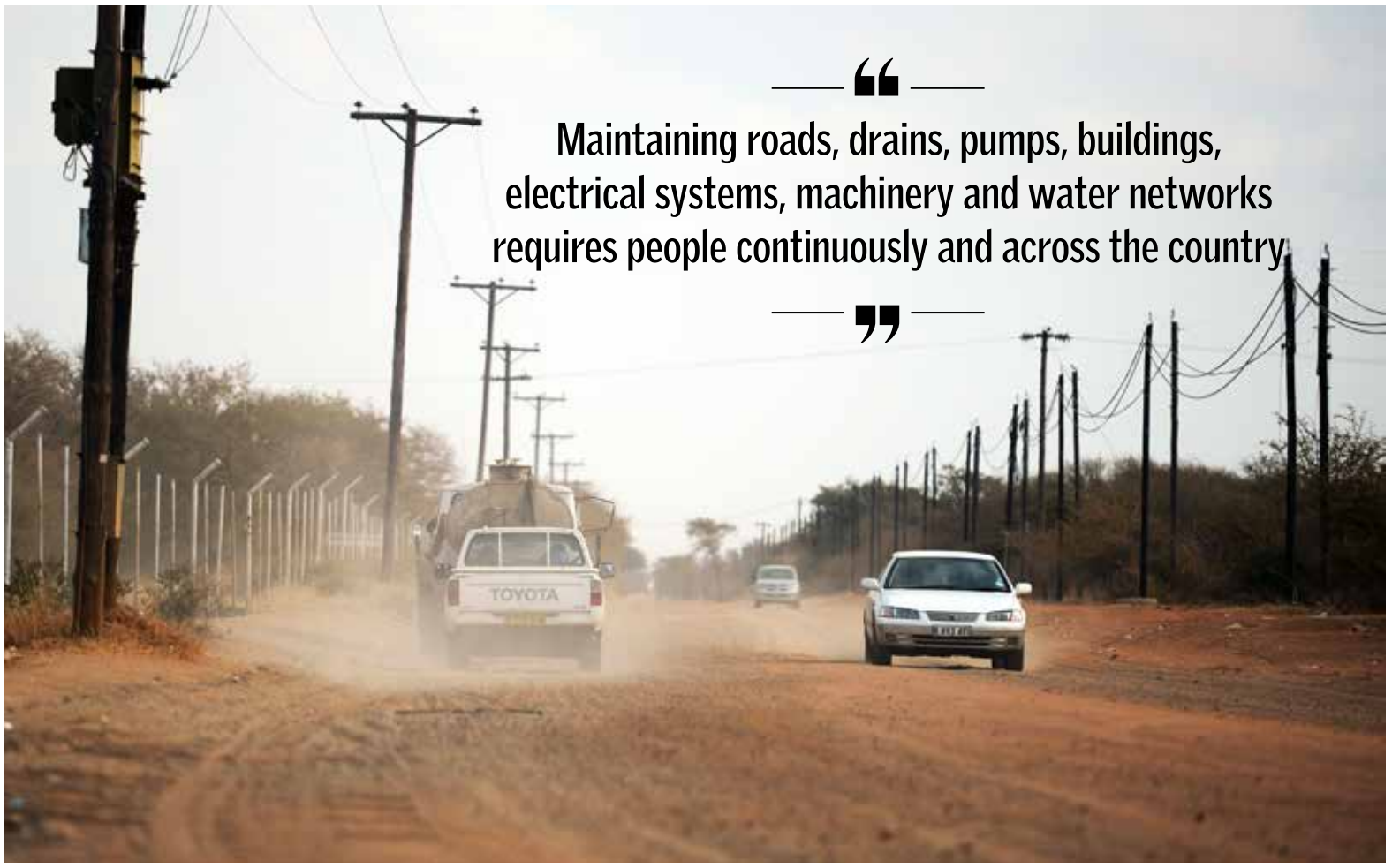


FROM PAGE 30

Indicative estimates suggest that poor asset management can destroy substantial proportions of asset value. If losses approached even 10 percent of an asset base of around P270 billion, the value at risk would be approximately P27 billion. The precise Botswana figure requires proper measurement, but the economic principle is unavoidable: billions can be poured into creating new assets while assets already paid for are allowed to deteriorate.

It is the development equivalent of filling a leaking bucket while refusing to repair the hole.

MAINTENANCE MATTERS

Part of the problem is how government thinks about expenditure. Build something new and it is called development. Maintain something old and it becomes recurrent expenditure. Economically, that distinction can be misleading because maintenance



preserves capital.

Resealing a road today can avoid reconstruction tomorrow. Servicing a pump can prevent failure of a water system. Maintaining electricity infrastructure reduces outages. Maintaining hospital equipment protects both the asset and the service it provides.

Botswana's first decades necessarily concentrated on construction because there was so little infrastructure. Sixty years later, the challenge has changed. The diamond era built Botswana. The post-diamond era must learn to maintain it.

Without proactive asset management, even sustained annual erosion in asset value would destroy a large share of the national wealth built during the diamond era within a decade.

JOBS EVERYWHERE

Maintenance also has an economic characteristic that mega-projects often lack: it is labour intensive.

Maintaining roads, drains, pumps, buildings, electrical systems, machinery and water networks requires people continuously and across the country. Instead of one temporary concentration of employment around a giant construction site, maintenance can support jobs in towns and villages. The same applies to land reclamation and rehabilitation, which are also employment intensive.

The better measure is therefore not how many people a mega-project employs at its construction peak, but how many sustainable job-years Botswana gets from every million pula invested.

SKILLS FROM WORK

The importance of maintenance extends beyond jobs because it develops many of the skills Botswana needs for diversification.

Electricians, mechanics, plumbers, welders, refrigeration technicians, machine operators, solar technicians, fabricators and engineering contractors form the foundations of an industrial economy. A technician maintaining pumps develops skills relevant to irrigation, mining and manufacturing. A workshop repairing government machinery can repair industrial equipment. An electrical contractor servicing schools can eventually service factories.

Employment creates skills. Skills create businesses. Businesses accumulate equipment and expertise. Some eventually progress into fabrication and manufacturing.

That is diversification from the bottom up. Botswana's economic growth strategies are often fixated on the reverse: build an industrial park, designate an economic zone and wait for industry to arrive. But industrial economies grow from deep networks of technical capability. Maintenance can help create those capabilities while simultaneously protecting national assets.

Keep Value Here

There is another advantage that matters particularly in a post-diamond economy: mega-projects can leak money out of the domestic economy.

Heavy machinery, rolling stock, turbines, electrical equipment, technology, specialist engineering and often major contractors come from abroad. Botswana receives the infrastructure, but much of the income generated by constructing it may accrue elsewhere.

Smaller maintenance and rehabilitation programmes can retain more value domestically. Pay a Motswana electrician and the money becomes household income. A local engineering company employs workers, purchases services, trains apprentices and accumulates capital. Those workers and businesses spend again.

The development value of a pula depends not only on what government buys, but on where that pula goes next. As diamond foreign-exchange earnings decline, Botswana must increasingly consider not merely how much it spends, but how much of that expenditure remains and circulates inside the domestic economy.

DO THE ARITHMETIC

Botswana will still require major infrastructure. But size must cease to be confused with economic importance.

Every mega-project should face four basic tests: how many sustainable jobs will it create; how much additional domestic GDP will it generate; how will it diversify production; and what measurable efficiency improvement will result? Botswana should then ask how much of that value remains in the country.

Most importantly, exactly the same tests should be applied to the alternatives. Perhaps P10 billion concentrated in one spectacular project provides the greatest return. But perhaps the same money spent rehabilitating roads, maintaining water and electricity systems, repairing public facilities and supporting thousands of Botswana contractors creates more employment, more skills, more domestic value and greater economic efficiency while preserving assets worth many billions more.

Botswana should do that arithmetic before assuming bigger means better.

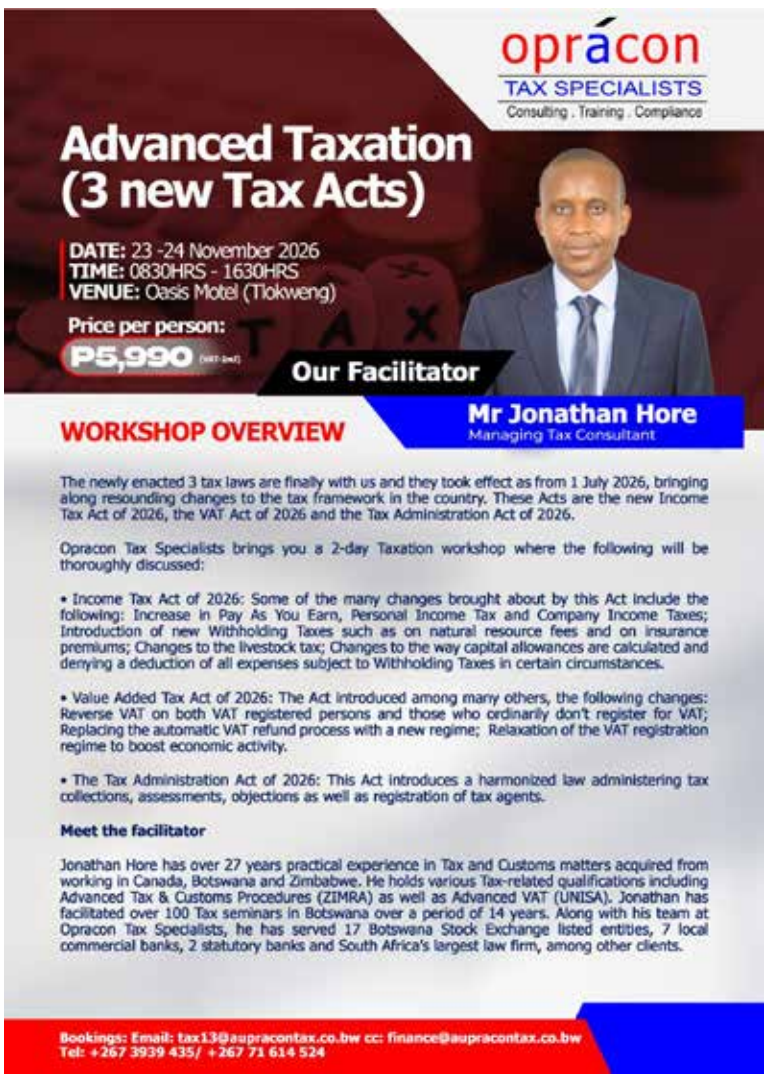
A New Model

The diamond era gave Botswana the resources to build a country. The challenge now is to protect that inheritance, make it work harder and use its maintenance to develop the skills and businesses of the economy that comes next.

There may be no ribbon to cut when a pump is repaired or a road resealed. But a functioning asset, a skilled technician and a growing Botswana engineering business may deliver considerably more development value than some projects costing billions.

The argument is not that Botswana should stop building major infrastructure. It is that the development model should be judged by outcomes. If it does not stimulate investment, generate new employment, diversify the economy or improve efficiency, then faster implementation alone will not solve the problem.

The issue is not only how quickly Botswana builds. It is what Botswana builds, what that investment produces, and how much value remains after the construction crews leave.



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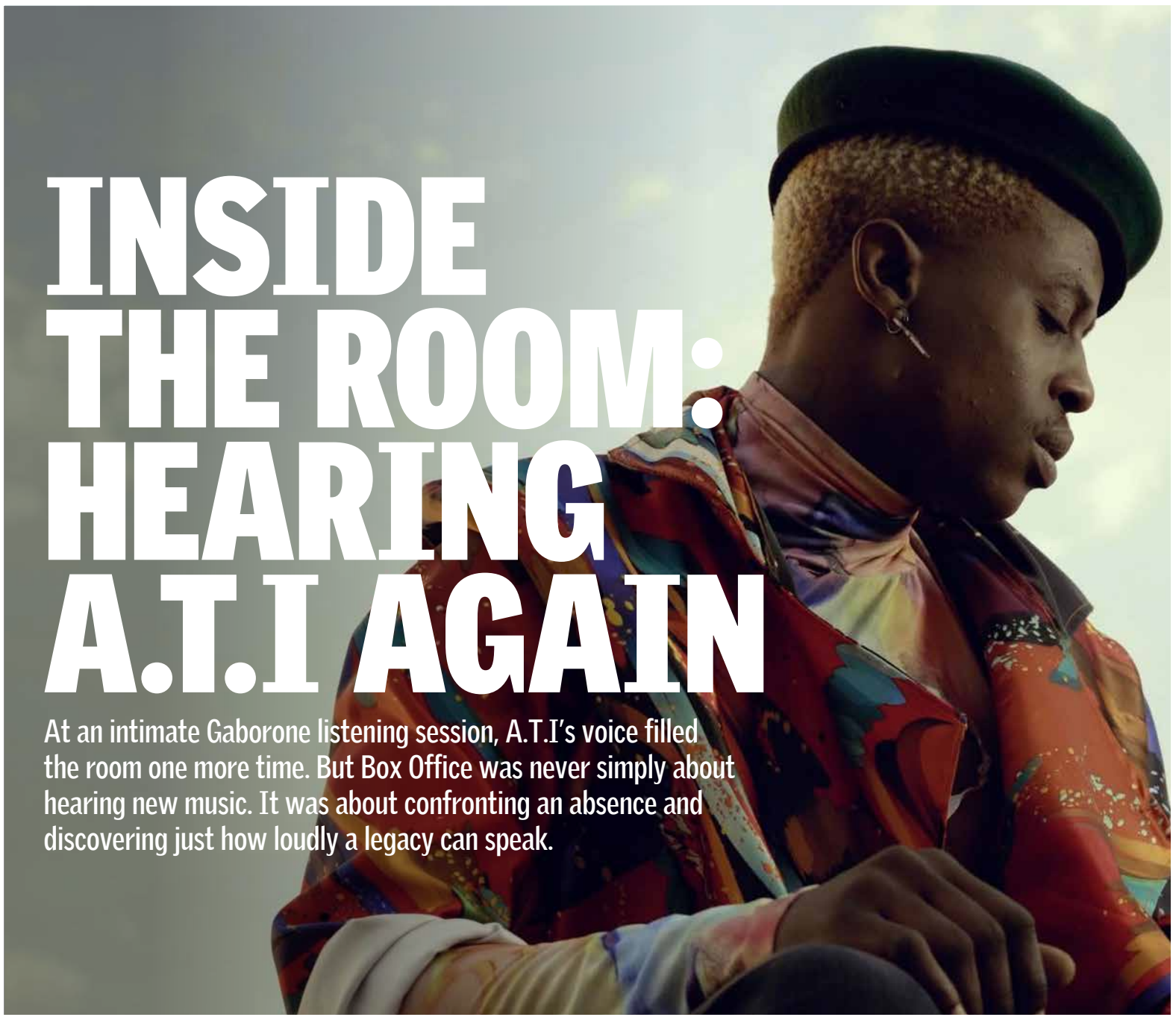
TIME OUT
THE BOTSWANA GAZETTE
WEDNESDAY 23 SEPTEMBER 2026



INSIDE THE ROOM: HEARING A.T.I AGAIN

At an intimate Gaborone listening session, A.T.I's voice filled the room one more time. But Box Office was never simply about hearing new music. It was about confronting an absence and discovering just how loudly a legacy can speak.

GOSEGO MOTSUMI

There was a strange moment when the music stopped.

For a few seconds, the jokes, conversations and anticipation gave way to silence. Then someone began remembering A.T.I. Another person finished one of his lyrics. Soon, the room was doing what rooms full of A.T.I fans have always done: quoting the man back to himself.

Except this time, he wasn't there.

That was the emotional undercurrent of an exclusive Gaborone listening session for *Box Office*, A.T.I's 18-track posthumous album, which officially drops on September 28 — his birthday and the day his tombstone will be unveiled in Lerala.

THE VOICE RETURNS

When the opening track, "Makakauwe", rolled in, the experience felt less like discovering an old recording and more like hearing a transmission from someone who had somehow found a way to speak again.

"Goo Mo"-an already released single from the album appeared to be a crowd favourite, but the bigger reaction came from the familiarity of A.T.I's lyrical world.



His fans still knew the words.

They finished his bars, remembered his phrases and laughed at references that had become part of his mythology. In those moments, the distance between artist and audience seemed to collapse.

Then there were the superfans, some arriving dressed in A.T.I-inspired fashion, complete with the signature black teardrop. On the surface, it looked like cosplay. But in that room, it felt more like a visual language of remembrance.

THE MAN BEHIND THE MYTH

That humanity came into sharper focus through a story shared by his mother, Julia Molemogi, who recalled how her son came to use "Kwashiorkor" as a reference.

She remembered a young A.T.I sitting quietly through one of her Home Economics lessons, where she was teaching Food and Nutrition. Later, he asked what Kwashiorkor meant. She explained that it was a deficiency disease and went on to teach him about other deficiency diseases.

But A.T.I held onto that one word.

"He often referenced the name every chance he got," she recalled, "but the funny part was he never used it for what it was."

It is the kind of story that strips away the legend and gives us the person: curious, playful and capable of turning an ordinary classroom lesson into a lifelong inside joke.

THE MAN WHO STAYED

Box Office moves through spirituality, triumph, struggle and the journey. But hearing it in a room filled with people who understood the weight of A.T.I's absence made something else increasingly difficult to ignore.

> "A.T.I immortalised himself. Perhaps that is as close as art gets to defeating death."

A.T.I immortalised himself.

Perhaps that is as close as art gets to defeating death. The tombstone in Lerala will mark where the man rests. But on September 28, the music will offer another kind of marker a reminder that while the artist is gone, something of him remains.

VEEZO VIEW GETS ZIKOMO NOD

A Zikomo Africa Awards nomination puts Veezo View in a continental conversation and Botswana's Hip Hop scene gets another moment in the spotlight.



Botswana Hip Hop is getting a continental look-in, with Veezo View nominated for Best Hip Hop Act at the Zikomo Africa Awards.

For an artist whose work has largely moved through Botswana's Hip Hop ecosystem, the nomination opens a bigger conversation about how local sound travels beyond home turf. Veezo View says he is "grateful for a nomination" and will be representing Botswana alongside artists from across Africa.

The Zikomo Africa Awards, set for December 9 in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, celebrate talent and impact across music, fashion, film, media, entrepreneurship and humanitarian work.

Voting opens October 5 and closes November 30, giving fans a window to put their favourite Botswana act into the continental mix.

The nomination is more than a red-carpet moment. It places a local Hip Hop name inside a wider African creative economy where visibility, audience support and cross-border recognition increasingly matter.

For Veezo View, the next stop is Tanzania. The bigger question is how far Botswana's Hip Hop can travel with him.

WHO GETS ON SCREEN?

Two made-for-TV movies could put distinctly Batswana stories on screen but filmmakers have to bring more than a good idea. They need characters, structure and a world audiences can believe in.

What if the next Botswana television hit begins with a five-page proposal?

MultiChoice, a Canal+ company, in partnership with the Ministry of Sport and Arts, is calling on independent Batswana filmmakers to pitch two original made-for-TV movies rooted in local life but built around universal emotions.

Love, ambition, betrayal, family loyalty and self-discovery are all on the table. So are drama, romantic comedy, thriller and family drama provided the stories carry a distinctly Batswana pulse.

That means local idioms, humour, social dynamics and landscapes should not simply decorate the story. They should help drive it.

Filmmakers must submit a one-page outline, three-act structure, detailed world and character biographies, with the full proposal capped at five pages. The pitch must also communicate its visual look and tone and meet PG-13 broadcast requirements.

Submissions are due by 23:59 on October 2, 2026.

The opportunity is significant because it asks local filmmakers to do more than tell Botswana stories. It asks them to package those stories for television with the structure, pace and production ambition to travel.



TIMEOUT BRIEFS

BY GOSEGO MOTSUMI



LOCAL ARTISTS CASH IN

With hundreds of entries and young artists joining the race, the Nando's Art Initiative is putting money, mentorship and visibility behind Botswana's visual-arts pipeline.

Botswana's visual-arts scene is proving that the canvas can be more than a creative outlet, it can be a launchpad.

Kaene Abel Palalani emerged as the 2026 winner of the Nando's Art Initiative from 405 submissions, taking home P30,000, a two-week mentorship and residency with Thapong Visual Arts Centre and Spier Arts Trust, plus an opportunity for his work to be displayed in selected Nando's restaurants.

Totang Motoloki placed second with P20,000, while Lesedi Segobye took third and P10,000.

But the real story may be what happens next. The initiative is putting financial reward alongside professional development and public visibility three things that can determine whether emerging artists move from making work to building sustainable careers.

The youth pipeline is already showing promise. The Creative Futures Art Competition attracted 178 submissions from artists aged 13 to 17. Innocent Macheng won P5,000, with Thaloso Odirile and Tseo Molefe placing second and third.

From established entrants to teenagers picking up brushes, the message is clear: Botswana's creative economy needs both talent and pathways.

Gabs' Lifestyle Scene Explored

South African creators hit the road for a Botswana reset, trading Johannesburg traffic for Audi power, Gaborone hospitality and a wild detour into Mokolodi.

GOSEGO MOTSUMI

Gaborone recently got a taste of the influencer road trip: German engineering, fine dining, polished hospitality and a little wild Botswana folded into one itinerary.

A cohort of South African digital creators, including Peace Ndlovu, Mika Ngobeni and Tebogo Moropa, drove from Johannesburg into Gaborone behind the wheel of Audi South Africa's range, joining local influencers



Kennedy Thal, TK and others for a city experience designed to reveal another side of the capital.

FROM THE ROAD TO THE TABLE

The experience, hosted in collaboration with Avani Gaborone, made the journey part of the destination. Audi supplied the wheels; Avani brought the hospitality; Gaborone supplied the food, scenery and urban energy.

Taolo Zilwa, PR and Marketing Officer at Avani Gaborone, said the collaboration centred on "luxury mobility, hospitality, dining and local experiences", giving visitors an opportunity to experience the city beyond the usual itinerary.

For Avani, the weekend was also about placing Gaborone more firmly in the regional luxury travel conversation.

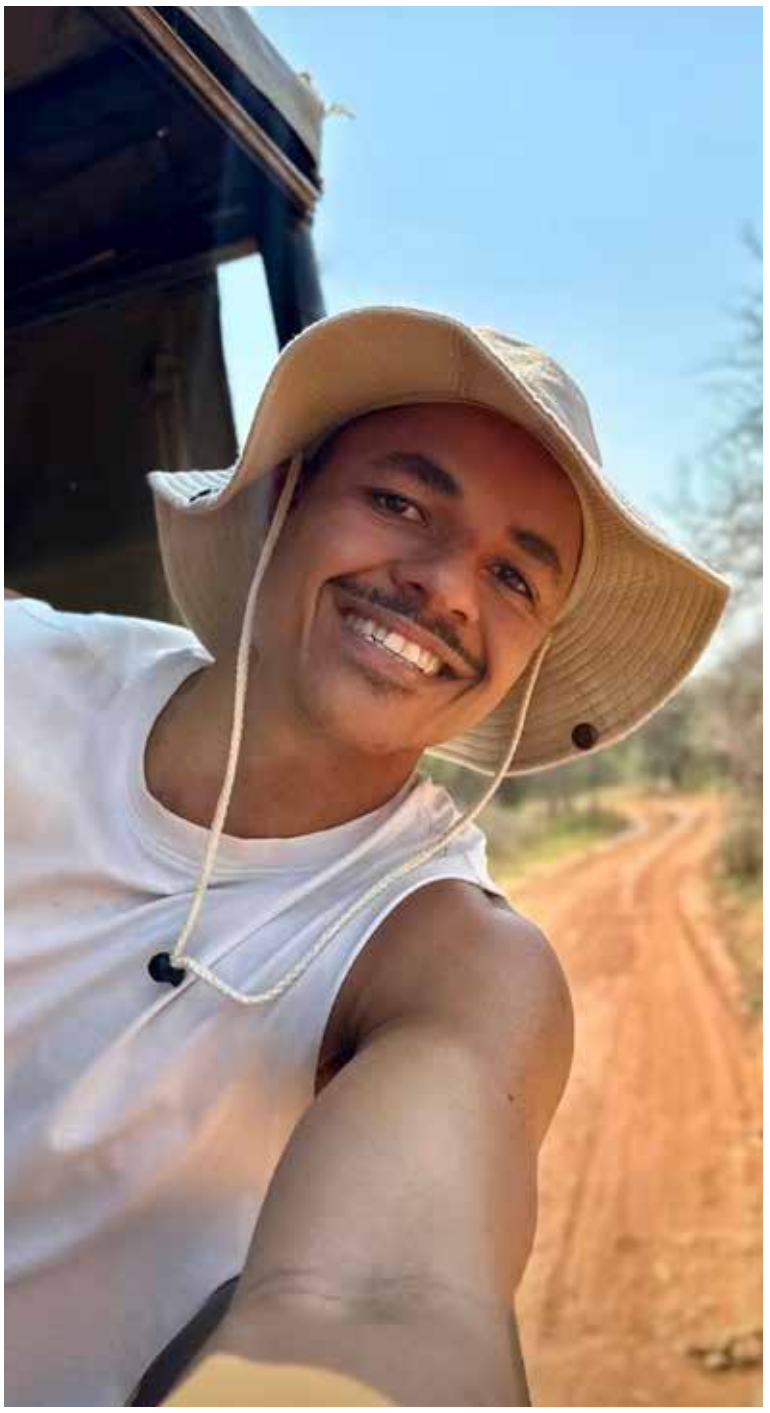
THEN, INTO THE WILD

The city experience eventually gave way to bushveld as the group headed to Mokolodi Nature Reserve, adding wildlife to an itinerary already built around comfort and style.

That contrast may be one of Gaborone's biggest lifestyle advantages: a capital where a polished hotel stay, a restaurant dinner and a wildlife encounter can all fit into the same weekend.

> "It gives us an opportunity to position Botswana as a destination where luxury, nature, culture and exceptional hospitality come together."

Moropa, who drove the Audi Q3 from Johannesburg, highlighted the vehicle's smooth drive, fuel efficiency, navigation technology and performance across different terrain.



For Zilwa, however, the bigger story is the combination of experiences.

"It gives us an opportunity to position Botswana as a destination where luxury, nature, culture and exceptional hospitality come together," she said.

And perhaps that is Gaborone's real flex: the city does not have to choose between the good life and the wild. It can serve both.

60 Years, Two Sisters, One Story

As Botswana turns 60, Bakang Tshegofatso Akoonyatse is looking beyond the celebrations. Her new bilingual children's book asks a quieter question: what stories, values and culture will today's generation leave in the hands of tomorrow's?

GAZETTE REPORTER

Botswana is turning 60, but one Motswana author is less interested in looking backwards than asking what comes next. The Tao Family Tree, by Bakang Tshegofatso Akoonyatse, arrives as a children's story about twins, grandparents, farming and village life



— but underneath the colourful premise sits a bigger question about inheritance.

What exactly do we leave behind?

MORE THAN A CHILDREN'S STORY

Set in the fictional village of Thebe, the bilingual Setswana-English book follows twin sisters Peo and Kala, who are raised by their grandparents. Their encounters with farming become lessons in patience, cooperation, responsibility and care.

The metaphor is deliberately simple: families, farms and communities do not flourish by accident. They need tending.

"Independence is not only an opportunity to celebrate where we have come from as a nation," Akoonyatse says. "It is also an opportunity to reflect on the values we want to carry forward and pass on to the next generation."

That makes the book an interesting addition to Botswana's 60th-anniversary cultural conversation. Instead of placing independence solely in the language of national milestones, it brings the idea down to the family table, the village and the child turning a page.

LANGUAGE IS PART OF THE LEGACY

The Tao Family Tree is available in both Setswana and English, with digital editions and audiobooks in both languages. The audiobooks are produced by Maleho Mokgethi of Pumi Soundz studio.

For Akoonyatse, language is not merely a translation exercise. It is part of how children encounter stories, identity and belonging.

The project is supported by the National Arts Council of Botswana's Literary Arts Fund, bringing together writing, translation, audio and cultural preservation.

WHAT CHILDREN INHERIT

Akoonyatse's professional experience in counselling and working with children and families also informs the storytelling. Empathy, forgiveness, resilience and communication are explored through everyday relationships rather than presented as heavy psychological lessons.

The result is a book designed to open conversations between children, parents, grandparents, teachers and caregivers.

"Children inherit more than the physical things we leave behind," Akoonyatse says. "They inherit our stories, our languages, our values and our understanding of what it means to belong to a community."

That may be the book's most timely idea as Botswana enters its sixth decade: independence is not only something to commemorate. It is something each generation gets to add to.

The Tao Family Tree officially releases on 25 September 2026, with physical copies available for pre-order at P90. Setswana and English digital and audiobook editions will also form part of the project.

BOTSWANA ART IS NOT JUST SHOWING UP

Shepherd Ndudzo and Ayesha Quraishi are not just flying the Botswana flag. Their inclusion in a new Southern African art platform raises a bigger question: what happens when the region gets to shape the conversation itself?

GOSEGO MOTSUMI





The contemporary art world has spent decades deciding where the centre is. The Mosi oa Tunya Perennial is asking Southern Africa to redraw the map.

And Botswana is in the room.

Oodi-based sculptor Shepherd Ndudzo and Manyana-born, Sweden-based interdisciplinary artist Ayesha Quraishi are joining the inaugural Mosi oa Tunya Perennial 2026–2027, unfolding between Livingstone, Zambia and Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe from September to March.

But the headline is bigger than two Botswana names on an international programme.

Organised by the Livingstone Office for Contemporary Art (LoCA), the Perennial has been built over roughly two years around exhibitions, performance, film, artistic research and dialogue. Its theme, "Smuggling as Resistance," looks at how people, materials, memory and knowledge move across borders — sometimes faster than institutions can keep up.

NOT JUST REPRESENTATION

That makes Ndudzo an especially fitting participant. His sculptural practice already carries a cross-border history, shaped by his late father Barnabas Ndudzo and a lineage reaching through Zimbabwe and South Africa. Working in hardwood, marble and granite, his elongated figures explore migration, memory, family and interdependence.

Quraishi takes another route. Her work crosses performance, sound, fashion, architecture, moving image and installation, examining belonging, visibility, identity and the systems that assign value to bodies and culture.

Different practices. Same regional pulse: movement.

BUILDING FROM HERE

The Perennial's bigger proposition is that Southern Africa does not have to wait for cultural models created elsewhere before its artists can enter the global conversation.

For Ora Loapi, which is supporting Botswana's participation, the significance lies in that shift.

"Southern Africa has the capacity not simply to participate in global cultural systems, but to propose new ones."

That is why this matters. The Perennial is not merely putting Botswana on an international art programme. It is creating space for Southern African histories, networks and ideas to become part of the machinery shaping contemporary art itself.

IB Kamara is Coming to Gabs

One of fashion's most recognisable creative forces is coming to Gaborone, but IB Kamara's appearance is less about the glamour of the guest list and more about the economics behind African creativity.

GAZETTE REPORTER

IB Kamara has spent years turning images into cultural currency. Now, the internationally recognised creative director, stylist, editor and image-maker is bringing that conversation to Gaborone.

Kamara will open the Banana Club Economic Inclusion Forum 2026 on October 16, joining founder and director Tanlume Enyatseng for Culture as Economic Power — a conversation exploring what creativity can become when it moves beyond aesthetics and into economic and institutional power.

FROM COVERS TO CULTURE

Born in Sierra Leone, raised in The Gambia and based in London, Kamara has built a career that refuses to stay in one lane. His portfolio stretches across fashion, photography, film, publishing and creative direction.

He served as editor-in-chief of *Dazed* from 2021 to 2025 and joined Off-White in 2022 to oversee its creative direction following founder Virgil Abloh's death. His work has appeared in *British Vogue* and *Vogue US*, while his creative portfolio includes work for Chanel, Louis Vuitton, Gucci, Dior, Nike and Ferragamo.

During his *Dazed* tenure, he created cover shoots featuring Rihanna, Harry Styles, Rosalía, Dua Lipa, Doja Cat and A$AP Rocky.

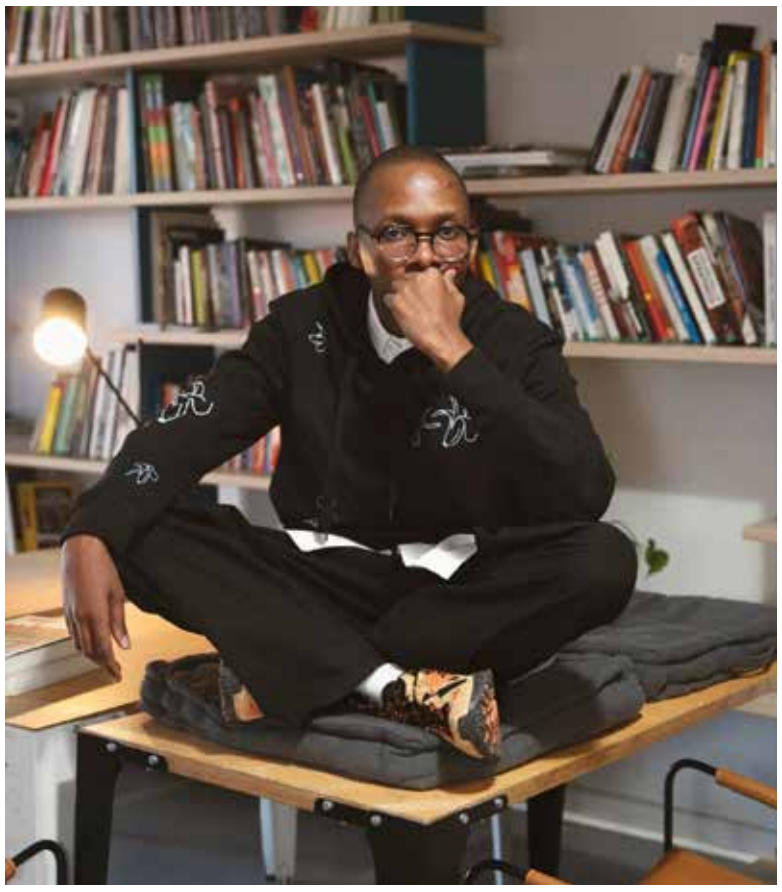
But the Gaborone conversation goes deeper than celebrity and fashion.

AFTER THE INVITATION

The forum's theme, Access: Beyond Inclusion, asks what happens after representation when creatives finally get inside the room.

> "Kamara will open the Banana Club Economic Inclusion Forum 2026 on October 16, joining founder and director Tanlume Enyatseng for Culture as Economic Power."

Enyatseng says access must involve more than visibility: "It is about having the agency, resources and ownership required to participate in shaping them."



He adds: "This year, we want to move beyond representation and ask more difficult questions about who gets opportunity, who receives capital, who owns the value being created and, ultimately, who gets to build."

That question will run through the forum, including a Digital Futures Lab exploring music, technology and digital culture.

The programme culminates on October 17 with the Banana Club Block Party, bringing the forum's conversations into a public cultural space centred on music, community and nightlife.

Additional speakers, collaborators and programme details will be announced in the coming weeks.

The 2026 forum builds on Banana Club's inaugural Economic Inclusion Forum, which brought together regional delegates, workshop participants and cross-sector conversations around economic inclusion.


Pic Credit (BWgovernment) facebookpage

Botswana's Greatest Throwback

Sixty photographs. Six decades. But a handful of frames at the National Museum demand a second look — from a young Phandu Skelemani to Margaret Nasha before the headlines, and moments that changed Botswana forever.

GOSEGO MOTSUMI

Walk into the National Museum in Gaborone and the first thing that hits is not just the scale of Botswana's 60-year journey, but its faces. Sixty black-and-white photographs line the gallery, quietly daring visitors to stop, stare and remember.

"Botswana @ 60: A Journey Through the Lens", by the Department of Information Services, is essentially a national photo album but the kind where certain pictures make you turn back for another look.

THE YOUNG FACES

One of the biggest surprises is Phandu Skelemani, caught in his younger days as a lawyer alongside other figures from Botswana's legal fraternity. Before the parliamentary gravitas and political milestones, there is simply a young man in a photograph, offering a glimpse of a life chapter that rarely occupies the frame.

Then comes Margaret Nasha, captured as a young reporter at Radio Botswana. It is the kind of image that feels almost like discovering an old photograph in a family drawer — familiar, but wonderfully out of time.

THE FRAMES THAT CHANGED EVERYTHING

Some photographs carry the weight of national turning points. The 1966 Marlborough Conference in London stands out as a visual marker of the road towards independence.

Another striking frame records Dr Gaositwe Chiepe during the 1976 changeover from the rand to the pula. The 1986 handover of the 20th Independence roving torch at Dibete brings another chapter into focus, while photographs of the 1995 Segametsi Mogomotsi riots confront a more difficult moment in the country's story.

There is also Pope John Paul II's gesture of reverence for Botswana in 1988, and Sir Seretse Khama with Dr Kenneth Kaunda at Seleka Farm in 1979, two images loaded with symbolism.

Photographer Felicity Male, who guides visitors through the exhibition, explains how such images can reconnect generations.

> "Some moments we remember because we were there. Others because someone took a photograph."

Assistant Minister for State President, Defence and Security, Maipelo Mophuting-Dikoloti put it neatly: "Some moments we remember because we were there. Others because someone took a photograph."

And these are photographs worth remembering.

Botswana @ 60: A Journey Through the Lens runs until September 30 at the National Museum.

Glimpse Into the Cellar Experience

Wine is getting a little more serious and a lot more social. Grand Palm's Cellar Experience turns the Boma into a crash course in wine, pairing tasting notes with live jazz and festive season hosting know-how.

GOSEGO MOTSUMI

Forget simply uncorking a bottle and hoping for the best. Grand Palm wants Botswana's wine lovers to know what is actually swirling in their glasses.

The hotel is bringing back its Cellar Experience on 17 October, transforming the Boma Garden into a 12-hour playground for wine, food, music and conversation. But before the corks really start flying, an intimate tasting offered a preview of the experience and revealed that this is as much about learning as it is about leisure.

SIP WITH A STORY

Grand Palm marketing manager Malebogo Motlaleng says the idea is to make wine less intimidating and more conversational.

"We thought let's have an event where people could explore and have conversations on how they can best consume wines, what process went into making the wine," she said.

That means guests can get acquainted with the stories behind the bottle, from the vineyard and production process to the character of different wines.

It is particularly timely with festive-season hosting approaching.




Pic Credit (The Grand Palm Hotel Casino Convention Resortt) facebookpage

"We are learning a new way of enjoying wine," Motlaleng said.

POUR ON THE JAZZ

The tasting menu of sorts will feature selections from Simonsvlei Wine Farm and the DGB portfolio, including Vineyard Selection, Simonay, Boschendal, Franschhoek among others.

Tickets cost P250 and include tasting coupons and a light snack, while a fully stocked bar will handle anyone ready to move beyond the samples.

And because wine rarely wants to party alone, live music will soundtrack the afternoon-to-evening session, with More Jazz Band adding the groove.

Last year's Cellar Experience took place around the President's Holiday. This second instalment arrives with a slightly different proposition: learn your wine, understand your palate, then enjoy the social ritual that comes with it.

Wine Tasting Without Breaking the Bank

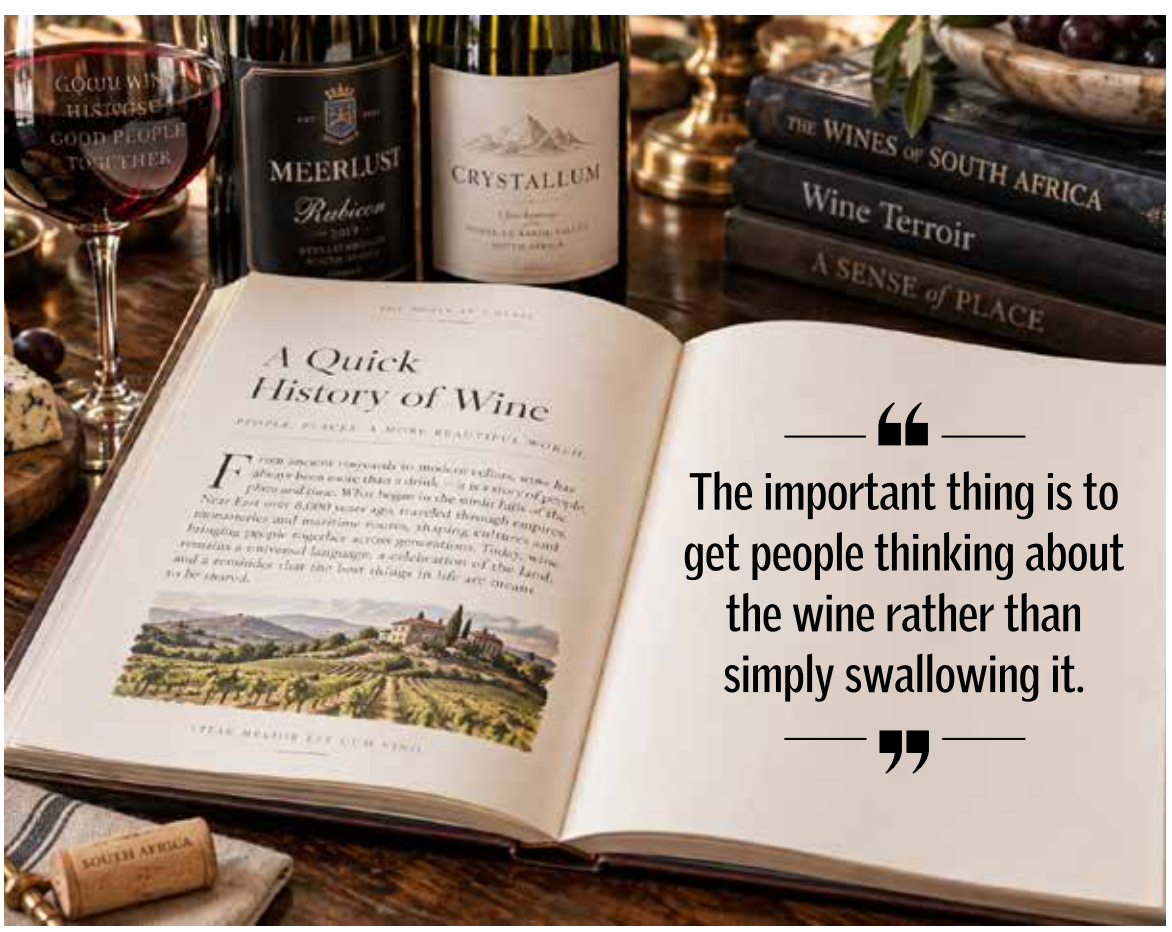


A memorable home wine tasting needs curiosity, structure and a few good bottles, not expensive equipment or a professional consultant.

PHENYO MOTHAGODI

There is something wonderfully sophisticated about a wine tasting. A few bottles on a table, some glasses, a group of friends and suddenly everyone is discussing acidity, tannins and whether that aroma is blackcurrant, blackberry or simply the bottle of hand wash sitting too close to the kitchen.

But not every tasting needs the full professional treatment. Perhaps you are having friends over, planning a family celebration, hosting clients or simply want to do something more interesting than putting a bottle of wine on the table and hoping the conversation takes care of itself. You can absolutely put together your own wine tasting, and with a little planning, it can be a very good one.



> "The important thing is to get people thinking about the wine rather than simply swallowing it."

DISCOVER MORE

It is probably the mistake I see most often. Someone announces that they are hosting a wine tasting and then produces the same Chardonnay, Cabernet Sauvignon and Sauvignon Blanc everyone has been drinking for the last three years.

Congratulations. You have organised a familiar drinking session and put glasses on the table. The whole point of a tasting is discovery. If everyone already knows the wines, the grape varieties and the brands, there is very little to discover beyond whether the bottle is still as good as they remember.

And here is the slightly uncomfortable part: the host should also be willing to explore. If you are going to invite people to discover something new, you cannot spend the entire afternoon Googling grapes you have never tasted and then pretending to be the resident expert at 7pm.



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.

PICK A THEME

A tasting becomes much easier to organise when there is a reason behind the wines. You could compare Cabernet Sauvignon from different regions, explore South African Chenin Blanc, taste wines made from lesser-known grape varieties, look at Old World versus New World styles, or simply choose six wines around a theme such as "wines worth discovering."

You do not need eight or ten wines. Five or six is more than enough for a home tasting.

> "The whole point of a tasting is discovery."

KEEP IT SIMPLE

Ideally, use clean glasses of a reasonably similar shape so that people are not tasting from a champagne flute, a tumbler and a water glass and wondering why the wines are behaving differently. But do not let the absence of specialist stem-

Continues to page 38

FROM PAGE 37

ware stop you. A decent wine glass is better than no tasting at all.

You also do not need expensive printed tasting sheets. Give everyone a piece of paper and ask them to score each wine out of 10 or 100, then jot down what they smell, taste and like or dislike. The important thing is to get people thinking about the wine rather than simply swallowing it.

TASTE BEFORE REVEAL

Pour the wines without revealing exactly what they are. You do not have to run a forensic blind tasting worthy of a sommelier competition, but hiding the labels can remove some of the assumptions people bring to the table. A famous producer, expensive bottle or prestigious region can influence expectations before the wine even reaches the mouth.

Ask everyone to look at the wine, smell it and taste it before revealing the identity. Then let the arguments begin. One person might love the wine everyone else has rejected. Someone might confidently declare that they are drinking Pinot Noir and discover that it is actually something completely different. That is not failure. That is wine.

KEEP IT FUN

Your guests are not sitting for a wine diploma. The point is to make them curious. Ask simple questions. Which wine do you prefer? Which one would you buy? Which one would you serve with dinner? Which one surprised you?



"It smells like my grandmother's spice cupboard,"

If someone says, "It smells like my grandmother's spice cupboard," don't immediately correct them because the official tasting note says clove and nutmeg. Ask them what they mean. Their reference point may be completely different from yours, and that is exactly what makes tasting interesting.

FEED PEOPLE

Wine and food belong together, and a tasting is much more enjoyable when there is something to eat. This does not mean you need to create a twelve-course menu. Cheese, cured meats, crackers, fruit, nuts and a few savoury bites can provide enough to keep everyone comfortable.

For a more local experience, think beyond the usual cheese board. Seswaa, grilled meats, spicy chicken, roasted vegetables and other familiar flavours can produce fascinating pairings. You might discover that a wine you disliked on its own suddenly makes perfect sense with food.

CREATE AN EXPERIENCE

The difference between a collection of bottles and a wine tasting is storytelling. Tell people why you chose the wines. Give them a little background on the grape, the region or the producer. Explain one or two things worth noticing, then let the wine do the rest. Put the bottles in an order that makes sense, generally moving from lighter styles to fuller ones, and keep the pace relaxed.

The best tastings are rarely the ones where everyone agrees. They are the ones where everyone leaves having discovered something.

STAY CURIOUS

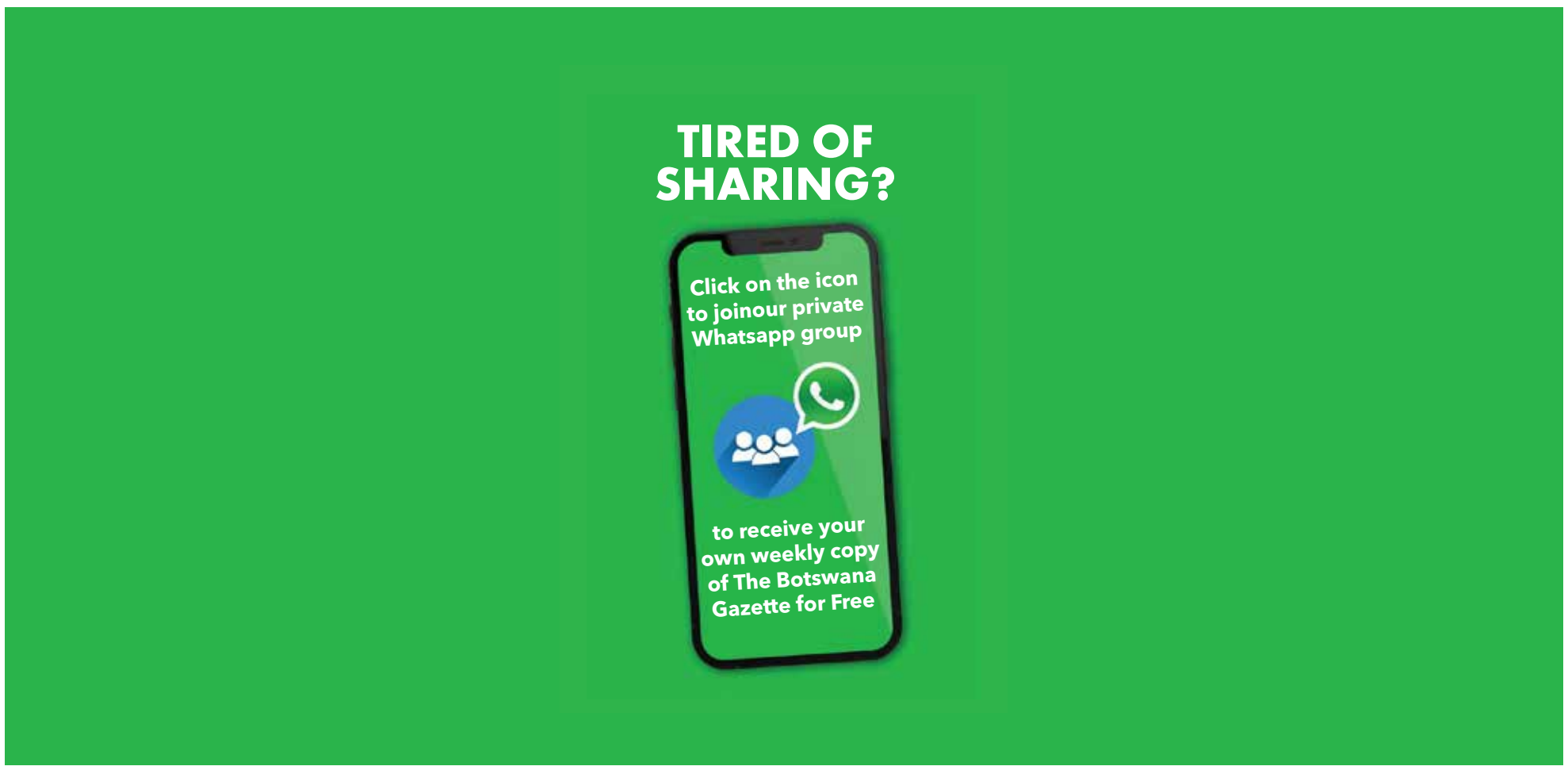
A professional wine consultant will bring knowledge, structure, sourcing, equipment and experience that can elevate an event considerably. That is what you are paying for, and when the occasion calls for it, it is money well spent. But you don't need a consultant to start exploring wine.

You need five or six bottles you are genuinely curious about, a few friends, decent glasses, something to eat and a willingness to learn alongside your guests.

So the next time you are planning an evening around wine, resist the urge to buy the six bottles everyone already knows. Be a little adventurous. Choose a grape nobody can pronounce, a producer nobody has heard of or a region that sends everyone to Google.

"The best tastings are rarely the ones where everyone agrees. They are the ones where everyone leaves having discovered something."

You might choose badly. You might choose brilliantly. Either way, you will have done something much more valuable than simply opening another bottle. You will have discovered something. And that, ultimately, is what a good wine tasting is supposed to be about.



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

CASE NO: CVHGB-004158-21

In the matter between:
FARHANA SULEMAN **Plaintiff**
And
PAUL KEMORENG **Defendant**

NOTICE OF SALE IN EXECUTION

BE PLEASED TO TAKE NOTICE that pursuant to judgment of the above honorable Court dated 29th August 2025 the following Immovable property hereunder of the Defendant will be sold by the public Auction by **DEPUTY SHERIFF RAMOLEFE RAETSHO NONOFO** to the highest bidder as follows;

DATE OF SALE : **23rd OCTOBER 2026**
TIME : **10:00 HOURS**
PLACE OF SALE : **LOT 10080 MOGODITSHANE**
PROPERTY TO BE SOLD : Defendant's right on a piece of land being Lot No. 10080, Mogoditshane, measuring 10006m2 **(One Thousand and Six Square Metres)** situated at Mogoditshane in the Kweneng Tribal Territory held under Memorandum of Agreement of Lease **No. TL 423/2004**,Dated **09th September 2004** made in favour of **Paul Kemoreng** with developments thereon a shopping complex, outside toilets and shaded structures.

TERMS AND CONDITION OF SALE : Cash detailed conditions of sale may be inspected at the Plaintiff's Attorney's office.

DATED AT GABORONE THIS 17TH DAY OF SEPTEMBER, 2026.

DEPUTY SHERIFF RAMOLEFE RAETSHO NONOFO
P O BOX 2562 FRANCISTOWN
CONTACT: MR KARABO MONTLE /72828705/73310756

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

CASE NO: CVHFT 000 324/24

In the matter between:
ABSA BANK BOTSWANA LIMITED
formerly **BARCLAYS BANK OF BOTSWANA LIMITED** **Plaintiff**
And
SEGAMETSI LEJAGE **Defendant**

NOTICE OF SALE IN EXECUTION

BE PLEASED TO TAKE NOTICE THAT pursuant to a Writ of Execution issued out of the above Honourable Court in the above matter, the right, title and interest to and in the following immovable property of the Defendant will be sold by Public Auction by **Deputy Sheriff Ookeditse Masolotate** to the highest bidder as follows:

DATE OF SALE : 30th October 2026
VENUE : Tribal Lot 333, Tatisiding
TIME : 0900 Hours
PROPERTY TO BE SOLD : The Defendant's right, title and interest to and in certain piece of Land being Tribal Lot 333, Tatisiding, measuring 1000m² (One Thousand Square Metres), held under Memorandum of Agreement of Lease No. FT TL 1059/2019 dated the 4th day of October 2019 and made in favour of **SEGAMETSI LEJAGE** together with developments thereon, being a walled yard consisting of a Three bedroomed house with Master ensuite, bathroom/toilet, living room, dining room, kitchen, laundry room and a double door garage.

TERMS OF SALE : Cash or bank transfer only.

CONDITIONS OF SALE may be inspected at the offices of the hereunder mentioned Deputy's Sheriff's offices at Lotsane Ward, Palapye, Gampone's Complex, Next to Standard Chartered Bank, Palapye. He can be contacted at 74724543.

DATED AT FRANCISTOWN ON THIS THE 28TH DAY OF AUGUST 2026

VAN NIEKERK ATTORNEYS
Plot 4660, Area G, Ditau Street, P.O Box 37, Francistown
Telephone No. 241 3421

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

CASE NO: CVHFT 000774/2019

In the matter between:
ABSA BANK BOTSWANA LIMITED
formerly **BARCLAYS BANK OF BOTSWANA LIMITED** **PLAINTIFF**
And
MBAKO NFILA **DEFENDANT**

NOTICE OF SALE IN EXECUTION

BE PLEASED TO TAKE NOTICE THAT pursuant to a Writ of Execution issued out of the above Honourable Court in the above matter, the following immovable property of the Defendant will be sold by Public Auction by **Deputy Sheriff Stanley Sikalesele Mbolai** to the highest bidder as follows:

DATE OF SALE : 29th October 2026
VENUE : Lot 5786, Donga, Francistown
TIME : 1000 Hours
PROPERTY TO BE SOLD : Piece of Land being Lot 5786, Donga, Francistown, measuring 432m² (Four Hundred and Thirty Two Square Metres), held under Deed of Transfer No. FT 812/2005 dated the 8th day of November 2005, registered in favour of **MBAKO NFILA**, together with developments thereon, being a walled yard consisting of a fitted three bedroomed house with master bedroom ensuite, common bathroom and toilet, kitchen, dining room and sitting room.

TERMS OF SALE : Cash or Bank transfer only.

CONDITIONS OF SALE may be inspected at the offices of the hereunder mentioned Deputy Sheriff's offices at Plot 1377, Extension 3, Palapye, Palapye. His contact numbers are 4925987/71635200.

DATED AT FRANCISTOWN ON THIS 3RD DAY OF SEPTEMBER 2026

VAN NIEKERK ATTORNEYS
Plot 4660, Area G, Ditau Street,
P. O. Box 37, Francistown
Telephone No. 241 3421

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

CASE N0. CVHFT 000 700-16

In the matter between:
STANBIC BANK BOTSWANA LIMITED **Plaintiff**
And
RACHEL MAUPONG **Defendant**

NOTICE OF SALE IN EXECUTION

BE PLEASED TO TAKE NOTICE that pursuant to a judgment granted by the above Honourable Court, the following immovable property will be sold by public auction by Deputy Sheriff Ikageng Seloi to the Highest Bidder as follows:

DATE OF SALE : **6th November 2026**
TIME : 1100 hrs
VENUE : Lot No. 9666, Selebi Phikwe
PROPERTY TO BE SOLD : a certain piece of land being Lot No. 9666, situated at Selibe Phikwe Township, Extension 17, measuring 405m² (Four Hundred and Five Square Metres) held under Deed of Transfer No. FT 282/2003 dated the 11th June 2003, made in favour of Rachel Maupong together with developments thereon being a 3 bedroomed house with ensuite, dinning room combined with sitting room, kitchen fitted and ceramic tile on the floor.

CONDITIONS OF SALE : Cash or Bank Transfer

Detailed terms and conditions of sale together with details of property may be inspected at the Deputy Sheriff **Ikageng Seloi Cellphone No. 71 472 478** and Plaintiff's Attorneys, Lowa Attorneys, **2412300, 73966100 and 78541541** Unit 16, Haskins Building, Plot No. 469/70, Blue Jacket Street, Francistown

DATED AT FRANCISTOWN ON THIS 16TH DAY OF SEPTEMBER 2026

LOWA ATTORNEYS
ATTORNEYS, NOTARIES & CONVEYANCERS

LOWA ATTORNEYS
Plaintiff's Attorneys
Unit 16, Haskins Building
Plot No. 469/70, Blue Jacket Street
P .O. Box 3537
FRANCISTOWN
Tel: 2412300/73966100

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KELEBENG RALLIES SUPPORT FOR ATHLETES

GAZETTE REPORTER

Sport and Arts Minister Jacob Kelebeng has urged Batswana to keep backing the country's athletes through both victories and difficult performances, saying their sacrifices deserve recognition rather than harsh criticism.

The call follows strong performances at the World Athletics Ultimate Championships in Budapest, Hungary, where Kebinatshipi won the men's 400m in 43.39 seconds and Letsile Tebogo finished second in the men's 200m final in 19.76 seconds.

Sport and Arts Minister Jacob Kelebeng says Batswana should recognise the sacrifices behind elite performance and stand by athletes even when results disappoint.

SACRIFICE

Kelebeng said the performances should be viewed in the context of what athletes give up while representing Botswana.

"They all did well," Kelebeng said. "What makes us even more happy is that these athletes are making loads of sacrifices for this country, and they represent us with pure passion."

He said athletes endure significant challenges in pursuit of success and urged the public to recognise those sacrifices.

"They go through a lot to make sure they make this country proud," Kelebeng said. "It's really not easy."

Kelebeng also thanked Batswana for their support and acknowledged the Botswana Athletics Association, Botswana National Sports Council, parents and coaches for their contribution to athletes' campaigns.

He called for support to continue even when results fall short of expectations.

"Let's keep on supporting these athletes and when they are not doing well let's not bash them thinking that they are not doing well intentionally," he said.

RACE PLANS

Kebinatshipi, meanwhile, said he was able to perform consistently by changing his approach from race to race.

"It was not hard," he told this publication in an interview. "That's why you saw me using different race plans in different races. Sometimes I would go hard and sometimes I would go easy, so I was well prepared."

"I just wanted to enjoy the 400m race this season," he said.

His varied race plans helped him manage the demands of the season while adapting to different competitions.

FEWER RACES

Despite his successful campaign, Kebinatshipi said he does not expect to compete as often next season.

"I am happy with what I achieved," he said. "Next season I'm not going to be racing that much, maybe four races."

> "They go through a lot to make sure they make this country proud."

Sixteen Teams Set for Grand Slam

Eight men's and eight women's teams will contest the Makgadikgadi Grand Slam Series Championship in Sowa Town from 29 September to 3 October after five qualifying series.

GAZETTE REPORTER

The field for the Makgadikgadi Grand Slam Series Championship has been confirmed after the completion of all five softball qualifying series.

The championship will run from 29 September to 3 October 2026 at Sowa Town Council Stadium, with eight teams qualifying in both the men's and women's categories.

FINAL SLOTS

Scramblers finished Series 5 in first position among the men to claim the eighth and final place at the Grand Slam championship.

Bears also finished Series 5 in first position among the women to secure the final slot in their category.

POOLS CONFIRMED

The men's Pool A comprises BDF IX, Police IX, Carrats and Scramblers, while Pool B features Gata la motho, Wells International, Rail Giants and Comets.

In the women's competition, Pool X consists of Police IX, Ghetto Yankees, Wells International and Panthers. Pool Y comprises Titans, BDF IX, Carrats and Bears.



Titans Ready

Titans secretary Atlang Gabantese said preparations were progressing well as teams and organisers look ahead to the tournament.

"Preparations are going well and we are looking forward to the Grand Slam," Gabantese said.

She encouraged supporters to attend the matches and said the tournament was intended to provide an enjoyable experience.

"We are promising the people a fun tournament, so we encourage them to come in numbers and support the teams," Gabantese said.

She also appealed to the corporate sector to support the championship.

"We also call on corporates to come on board and support the tournament," she said.

Pull Quote Suggestion

"We are promising the people a fun tournament."

OREBONYE EMBRACES HASSANIA CHALLENGE

Tumisang Orebonye has joined Hassania Agadir on a one-year deal, giving the Botswana international a fresh chance to contribute in Morocco's top flight.

GAZETTE REPORTER

At 30, Tumisang Orebonye is beginning another chapter in a career shaped by movement, adaptation and football across North Africa.

The Botswana international has joined Moroccan Botola Pro club Hassania Union Sport d'Agadir, commonly known as Hassania Agadir or HUSA, as a free agent after leaving Wydad Casablanca by mutual consent earlier this month.

Orebonye has signed a one-year contract with an option to extend, giving him another opportunity to establish himself in a league he has known for several years.

"I am ready for this new challenge," Orebonye said. "I will do all I can to help the club achieve its objectives for the season. I want to work hard, contribute to the team and make sure that whenever I get the opportunity to play, I give my best for the club."

LONG JOURNEY

Orebonye left Township Rollers for Morocco about six years ago, joining Olympique Khouribga at a time when few Batswana had made such a move.

He later moved to Algeria, where he became the first Botswana player to lift the CAF Confederation Cup with USM Alger. A spell with AS FAR Rabat followed before Libya's Al Ittihad came calling.

Each move brought a different football environment and added to the striker's experience of adapting away from home.

He joined Wydad Casablanca during the 2025/26 season on a three-year deal from Al Ittihad. His time at Wydad included temporary moves, with the striker loaned to Olympic Safi for the remainder of the 2025/26 season. He also spent part of his temporary spell with Libyan club Al Shamooa.

Wydad no longer holds Orebonye's rights after the two parties ended their relationship by mutual consent this month.

CLUB PROFILE

Founded in 1946, Hassania Agadir is based in the coastal city of Agadir and competes in Morocco's top division.

The club won consecutive Botola Pro league titles in the 2001/02 and 2002/03 seasons.

HUSA finished 12th among 16 teams in the 2025/26 Botola Pro standings, collecting 33 points from 30 matches. Its record was eight wins, nine draws and 13 losses, leaving the club clear of the relegation zone.

ATTACKING FOCUS

HUSA scored three goals in its final five league matches last season, reflecting difficulties in converting opportunities consistently toward the end of the campaign.

Defensively, Hassania conceded an average of 0.8 goals per game during that stretch.

For Orebonye, the immediate task is to settle into another new environment, compete for a place and contribute to the club's objectives.

"I know what it means to move to a new club and adapt to a different environment," he said. "For me, the important thing is to work, stay focused and help the team wherever I can."



Raguin Makes Botswana Tennis History

Ntungamili Raguin became the first Motswana to win a J200 singles title and also claimed the doubles crown, completing nine straight victories in Miki, Japan.

GAZETTE REPORTER

Ntungamili Raguin completed a historic week in Japan on Sunday by winning the singles title at the ITF J200 Miki, adding it to the doubles crown he had already secured.

The 17-year-old defeated tournament No. 1 seed Mustafa Ege Sik of Australia 1-6, 6-3, 6-3 in the final, becoming the first Motswana to win a singles tournament at J200 level.

SINGLES BREAKTHROUGH

Raguin completed a five-match singles campaign in which he recovered from losing the opening set on three occasions.

He began with a 5-7, 6-3, 6-1 victory over Japan's Kensuke Kobayashi before defeating another Japanese player, Koyu Yanagi, 6-4, 1-6, 6-3.

In the quarter-finals, Raguin recovered from a 6-0 opening set against Australia's No. 5 seed Ymerali Ibraimi to win 0-6, 6-2, 6-2.

He followed that with a 7-6(4), 6-4 victory over Australia's No. 7 seed Ethan Domingo in a physical two-and-a-half-hour semi-final.

His victory over Sik completed five consecutive singles wins, including three against seeded players.

DOUBLES SWEEP

Raguin had already won the doubles title alongside Pakistan's Mikaeel Ali Baig.

The unseeded pair, playing together for the first time, defeated the No. 2, No. 3 and No. 1 seeds on their way to the title.

They completed their run with a 7-5, 6-2 victory over top seeds Sik and Takizawa of Australia in the final.

The title was Raguin's second J200 doubles championship of the year, following his African Junior Championship doubles title in Cairo.

His week in Miki ended with nine consecutive victories, five in singles and four in doubles.

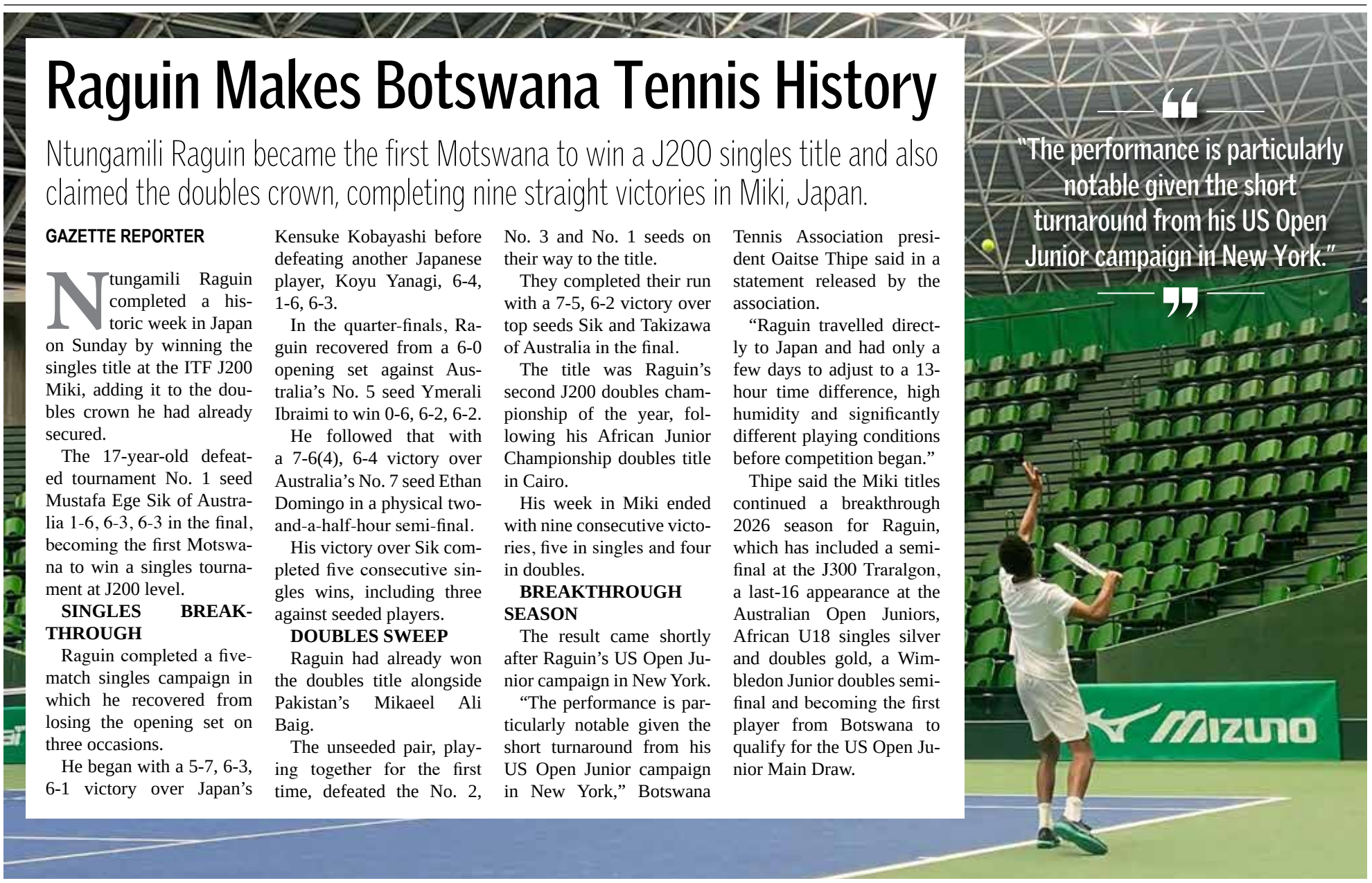
BREAKTHROUGH SEASON

The result came shortly after Raguin's US Open Junior campaign in New York.

"The performance is particularly notable given the short turnaround from his US Open Junior campaign in New York," Botswana Tennis Association president Oaitse Thipe said in a statement released by the association.

"Raguin travelled directly to Japan and had only a few days to adjust to a 13-hour time difference, high humidity and significantly different playing conditions before competition began."

Thipe said the Miki titles continued a breakthrough 2026 season for Raguin, which has included a semi-final at the J300 Traralgon, a last-16 appearance at the Australian Open Juniors, African U18 singles silver and doubles gold, a Wimbledon Junior doubles semi-final and becoming the first player from Botswana to qualify for the US Open Junior Main Draw.





ZEBRAS OPEN AFCON QUEST IN LIBYA

Botswana open their six-match 2027 Africa Cup of Nations Group H campaign away to Libya on 24 September with a squad combining domestic and overseas-based players.

GAZETTE REPORTER

Botswana's senior national football team, the Zebras, will begin their 2027 Africa Cup of Nations qualification campaign against Libya on 24 September, opening a six-match Group H programme that also features Tunisia and Uganda.

The match against Libya, known as the Mediterranean Knights, is scheduled for 18:00.

GROUP H ROUTE

The Zebras will return home four days later to face Tunisia, known as the Eagles of Carthage, before meeting Uganda twice during the November international window.

Botswana will travel to Uganda before hosting the Cranes, with the campaign concluding in March 2027.

The Zebras will host Libya before travelling to Tunisia for their final group match.

SQUAD NAMED

Head coach Thaloba Machine Nthaga has selected three goalkeepers: Victor James of Caps United FC, Thabo Motswagole of Gaborone United FC and Goitseone Phoko of Siwelele FC.

The defensive group includes Botsile Sakana and Tebogo Kopelang of Jwaneng Galaxy FC, Nonofo Thato Mosweunyane of Tonota FC, Alford Velaphi and Benson Kitso Mangolo of Gaborone United, Mosha Gaolaolwe of Mochudi Centre Chiefs, Chicco Molefe of Jwaneng Galaxy FC and Chivese Kesekile of Extension Gunners FC.

Midfield options include Mothusi Cooper and Bernard Kebotseng of Tonota FC, Gape Mohutsiwa of Ittihad Tanger, Lebogang Ditsele of Gaborone United, Godiraone Modingwane of BDF XI, Olebogeng Ramotse of Jwaneng Galaxy, Losika Ratshukudu of NK Slaven Belupo in Croatia and Ronaldo Picasso Fortune of Mochudi Centre Chiefs.

> "Botswana begin their six-match Group H campaign away to Libya on 24 September."

ATTACK OPTIONS

The attacking group features Eric Ookame of Orapa FC, Thero Setsile of Tonota FC, Gaone Japane of Morupule Wanderers, Thatayaone Kgamanyane of Gaborone United, Tumisang Orebonye of Hassania Union Sport Agadir FC and Boikobo Rannyena of Jwaneng Galaxy FC.

The qualifying campaign comes during a period of transition for the Zebras following the departure of Morena Ramoreboli, who has joined South Africa's Bafana Bafana setup as an assistant coach.

Papama Finds His Finishing Touch

Township Rollers captain Marcel Papama says the 3-0 win over 10-man Extension Gunners was harder than the scoreline suggested, as his two goals underlined progress in front of goal.

GAZETTE REPORTER

Township Rollers captain Marcel Papama says his side had to work for Sunday's 3-0 victory over Extension Gunners, despite playing most of the match with a numerical advantage.

Gunners goalkeeper Kabelo Dambe was sent off in the 17th minute for handling the ball outside the penalty area, but Rollers still struggled to break down a defence that dropped into a low block.

"It wasn't an easy game," Papama said in a post-match interview. "We found it difficult to break them because with being one man down they will be in a low block."

EARLY RED

Dambe's dismissal left Gunners to play the remaining 73 minutes with 10 men.

Rollers, however, went into halftime without scoring, with head coach Oupa Kowa unhappy with his team's response to the numerical advantage.

"Horrible first half. I was not happy in the first half. They got a red card, and our performance after that was disappointing," Kowa said.

The coach said a halftime discussion helped change the team's performance after the break.

"We went to the dressing room. A few words were said, and that changed a lot of things," he said.

SECOND-HALF SHIFT

Seven minutes after halftime, Papama broke the deadlock to give Rollers the lead.

He struck again in the 86th minute before Onkarabile Ratanang completed the scoring in the 90th minute, curling a free-kick into the net.



For Papama, the match also provided evidence of progress in front of goal.

"The goals I scored, I always try and I think I'm getting there in terms of perfecting which technique to use and at least today I managed to put it to perfection," he said.

GUNNERS RESIST

Gunners coach Paradazayi Madivenga said Dambe's dismissal changed the match, describing the goalkeeper as "our pillar of strength at the back".

His side suffered another setback when one of its experienced defenders was injured and had to be substituted.

"We conceded the first goal at a critical time," Madivenga said. "We thought if we could hold them to the 75th minute then we are fine."

Gunners will now turn their attention to their next fixture.

"Now it's to go to the drawing board and prepare for the next game," Madivenga said.

TIRED OF SHARING?



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The Botswana Gazette
SPORT

KELEBENG RALLIES SUPPORT FOR ATHLETES

Sport and Arts Minister Jacob Kelebeng says Batswana should recognise the sacrifices behind elite performance and stand by athletes even when results disappoint.

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