The Botswana
GAZETTE
WEDNESDAY 09 SEPTEMBER 2026 | SINCE 1984

What's Next for Ruth's Diamond Dress?
20.



El Niño Threatens Botswana Harvest
6.

PAC EYES MOTI DEAL PROBE

The Public Accounts Committee is considering whether to summon the Finance Ministry's Permanent Secretary over the revival of a Moti proposal previously rejected on cost grounds.

2.

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PAC EYES MOTI DEAL PROBE

The Public Accounts Committee is considering whether to summon the Finance Ministry's Permanent Secretary over the revival of a Moti proposal previously rejected on cost grounds.

SESUPO RANTSIMAKO



The Public Accounts Committee (PAC) is considering summoning Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Finance Tshokologo Alex Kganetsano to explain how businessman Zunaid Moti's investment proposal with Government was revived after the ministry had initially rejected it on cost grounds.

PAC WEIGHS SUMMONS

PAC chairman Taolo Lucas told The Botswana Gazette that the committee will deliberate on the matter when it meets next month and could decide to convene an urgent sitting to summon Kganetsano.

"We have a committee meeting next month for a separate issue, but we will use the opportunity to deliberate on the Moti issue and decide whether we could convene and summon the PS to come and explain," Lucas said.

I DON'T HAVE ANSWERS

Responding to questions from this publication this week about the budget for the African Hero project, Kganetsano said he was unable to provide answers and referred the matter to the Ministry of Basic Education.

"I am unable to respond to any of your questions because I do not have answers. You may wish to engage the Ministry for Basic Education," Kganetsano said.

BCP DEMANDS PROBE

The Botswana Congress Party (BCP) this week called for the PAC to urgently demand answers over Government's dealings with Moti, particularly the decision to revive a proposal to construct schools and clinics that had previously been rejected by the Ministry of Finance.

The BCP wants to know what changed between the ministry's initial rejection and the project's subsequent return, and who authorised the reversal.

FINANCE REVERSAL

In a statement issued this week, the BCP said Kganetsano had stated in 2025 that the Moti deal was "too costly" and had been rejected.

"That rejection was not a rumor. It was official. Yet the deal is back bigger, hungrier, and dripping with political protection. Who crushed the Ministry's objection? Who authorized the override? We want this person to be named," the BCP said.

The party has called on Parliament to convene a special PAC meeting as a matter of urgency and says it is prepared to bear the full cost if Parliament cites lack of funds.

SCHOOL FUELS QUESTIONS

The controversy has intensified following the recent launch of a school in Gaborone associated with Moti's African Hero initiative, renewing questions about the relationship between the businessman and Government and the public-finance and procurement processes surrounding the project.

> "We have to deliberate as a committee and make a decision."

DECISION PENDING

Lucas stressed that any decision to summon the Permanent Secretary rests with the committee. "We have to deliberate as a committee and make a decision," he said.

Unions Demand Moti Deal Answers

BOPEU and the Manual Workers Union want Government to disclose the financial, legal and employment obligations behind the African Hero partnership.

GAZETTE REPORTER

Pressure is mounting on Government to disclose the terms of its African Hero partnership with South African businessman Zunaid Moti, with organised labour demanding answers over public finances, ownership, jobs and future obligations.

FULL DISCLOSURE

The Botswana Public Employees Union (BOPEU) and Manual Workers Union have called on Government to disclose the financial, legal and contractual terms underpinning the partnership, saying taxpayers should know what Botswana has committed to and what obligations could arise.

BOPEU's intervention comes days after President Duma Boko unveiled the Duma Boko School and Clinic in Block 7, the first major showcase of the African Hero model, which envisages 100 schools and 50 clinics across the country.

Government says it provided the land but did not finance construction, while it will assume responsibility for staffing and operating the facilities.

In a position paper, BOPEU demanded disclosure of the partnership's legal and financial structure, the value and source of financing, Government commitments, ownership arrangements, guarantees, concessions, tax exemptions and any future or contingent liabilities.

The union wants answers to four central questions: what Botswana is receiving, what it is giving in return, what it is committing itself to and who ultimately carries the risk.

LEASE QUESTIONS

The concerns are heightened by an earlier African Hero proposal that reportedly contemplated a 17-year lease-to-own arrangement under which Government would rent completed schools and clinics from the investor.

The Ministry of Finance previously raised concerns about the financial implications of that model and indicated a preference for open competitive bidding. The proposal has since resurfaced under different circumstances, with the Block 7 project completed and Government presenting African Hero as a vehicle for faster infrastructure delivery.

JOBS AND COSTS

BOPEU says development should not leave Botswana carrying expensive obligations that are not fully disclosed to the public.

It also wants to know whether construction will substantially benefit Batswana and local contractors, whether the completed facilities will create permanent



public-service positions and whether Government has budgeted for teachers, nurses, support staff, medicines and other recurrent costs.

The union says it is not opposed to private investment but wants infrastructure partnerships to be transparent, economically sustainable and capable of delivering decent employment opportunities for Batswana.

WORKERS JOIN

The Manual Workers Union has joined the call for transparency. Speaking at a press conference, union leader Johnson Motshwarakgole said workers wanted clarity on what Government expected to receive from Moti's investments and what the businessman expected in return.

"We want transparency, we do not want Moti and wish to know what he is expecting from us in return for his investments," Motshwarakgole said.



BOFEPUSU secretary general Robert Rabasimane

BOFEPUSU Blames Broken UDC Promises

BOFEPUSU says its worsening relationship with President Duma Boko stems from unfulfilled election promises and Government's alleged resistance to union scrutiny.

SESUPO RANTSIMAKO

The increasingly acrimonious relationship between President Duma Boko and organised labour is being blamed on what BOFEPUSU secretary general Robert Rabasimane describes as the Umbrella for Democratic Change (UDC) Government's failure to deliver on election promises and its alleged reluctance to be held accountable by trade unions.

BROKEN PROMISES

Rabasimane told The Botswana Gazette that while the UDC initially presented itself as committed to ordinary people and public servants, the Government had since shifted course and aligned itself with capitalists, leaving many promises unfulfilled.

He said the central concern was Government's alleged unwillingness to accept scrutiny from organised labour, accusing Boko of attacking unions when they raise questions about Government performance.

Rabasimane said increasingly political-sounding union responses should not be interpreted as partisan politics but as reactions to decisions and outcomes produced by political leadership.

"What we talk about is the end product of politics," he said, calling on Boko to account for Government decisions rather than attack those demanding answers.

SCHOOL CLASH

The latest escalation followed Boko's response over the weekend to Manual Workers Union leaders Johnson Motshwarakgole and Rabasimane after they criticised the recently opened Duma Boko School in Gaborone.

The union leaders questioned the durability of the school's construction materials and described the structures as boxes.

Officially opening the school, Boko said he had deliberately not informed the union leaders about the project because he wanted to shield it from what he described as their negativity.

He described the suggestion that the school was built from boxes as "insane" and "pathological stupidity", while defending the construction materials as part of a changing world.

TENSIONS DEEPEN

The exchange follows earlier tensions, including Labour Day commemorations in Letlhakane, where Boko appeared to take aim at the labour movement while discussing Botswana's economic challenges.

In his latest remarks, Boko said there was significant work to be done to "train, purge and purify" people of what he described as ingrained negativity and, at times, wickedness.

Rabasimane insists organised labour is not seeking a political confrontation with Government but is scrutinising the outcomes of political decisions and demanding accountability.

UDC PUSHBACK

UDC spokesperson Dr Patrick Molutsi blamed the rift on a few union individuals whom he accused of specifically targeting the UDC Government and President Boko.

He said the individuals had declared their fight against the UDC at the Botswana Congress Party conference earlier this year and accused the union leaders of being involved in politics.

Molutsi warned that their conduct could damage unionism by diluting it with politics. "If they don't want to play politics, they know the right platform to raise their concerns," he said.

He maintained that the UDC was labour-friendly. "We are a labour-friendly government and we treat unionism with high regard; therefore, there is no way we could be against it because most of the ministers and MPs have built unions and supported them before," Molutsi said.

Stanbic Bank

Leadership Announcements

It gives us great pleasure to announce the appointments of the following colleagues:

Morufhi Masikara
Head, Client Coverage, Core Markets,
Standard Bank Group (effective 1 October 2026)



Morufhi joined **Standard Bank Group** as a Graduate Trainee and has built a 16-year career across Risk Management, Transactional Products and Services, Investment Banking and Client Coverage, including a strategic secondment to Standard Bank Namibia. She was appointed Interim Head of Corporate and Investment Banking in October 2022, confirmed permanently in 2023, and has since strengthened CIB's market leadership and client franchise while helping shape and deliver Kgolo as a member of the Country Leadership Council.

In her new Group role, Morufhi will help lead the client coverage agenda across a portfolio of African markets, deepening major client relationships and delivering integrated cross-border solutions.

Outside of work, Morufhi is a committed advocate for children's rights, people development and women's empowerment, actively involved with elevateHER and The Children's Trust.

Lebea Sephuma
Head, Business and Commercial Banking
Stanbic Bank Botswana (effective 1 October 2026 - subject to regulatory approval)



Lebea Sephuma began his journey with Stanbic Bank in 2003 as an FX trader, quickly rising to become Head of Trading by 2008. His ambition took him to South Africa, where he spent five years leading a Front Office system rollout and managing Money Markets and Fixed Income for Southern and Central Africa. This global experience was further enriched by his role as Head of Global Markets in Eswatini, where he drove market growth and innovation.

In September 2020, Lebea returned to Botswana, bringing with him a wealth of international expertise. Now, as Head of Global Markets, he leverages his deep understanding of both local and international markets to lead his team with purpose and vision.

Sephuma will lead Stanbic Bank Botswana's Business & Commercial Banking portfolio, strengthening relationships with business clients, supporting entrepreneurs and established enterprises, and connecting them to the Bank's financial solutions, expertise and wider Standard Bank Group network across Africa.

Please join us in congratulating Morufhi & Lebea on their well-deserved appointment. This is a proud moment for Stanbic Bank Botswana and a clear signal of the strength of the talent we continue to build here at home.

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Marriage Case Widens In Court

A constitutional challenge by two women seeking civil marriage recognition now includes LGBTQ+ advocates, religious groups and a human-rights scholar.

BONGANI MALUNGA

What began as a constitutional battle between a same-sex couple and the Government of Botswana has widened into a broader courtroom contest involving LGBTQ+ rights activists, religious organisations and constitutional questions over marriage and equality.

APPLICANTS EXPAND

The Botswana High Court in Gaborone on Friday admitted several organisations that had applied in July to participate in the case.

LGBTQ+rights advocacy organisation LEGABIBO was admitted as an additional applicant, joining Bonolo Selelo and Tsholofelo Kumile in challenging Botswana's marriage laws.

"We are delighted to be part of this historic case and look forward to the journey ahead as we continue advancing human rights, equality and justice for all," LEGABIBO said in a statement last Friday.

RELIGIOUS GROUPS

The Botswana House of Prayer and Transformation, Dingwetsi Association and the Evangelical Fellowship of Botswana were admitted as respondents alongside the Government of Botswana.

Their participation adds a religious and civil-society dimension to a case that initially centred on the rights of one couple.

The court also admitted University of Botswana human rights scholar Dr Onthatile Olerile Moeti as a friend of the court, adding an academic and human-rights perspective to the proceedings.

OCTOBER HEARING

The case is scheduled for substantive hearing on 22 and 23 October, when the High Court will hear arguments in the constitutional challenge.

Selelo and Kumile are challenging the constitutionality of Botswana's Marriage Act, arguing that its failure to recognise civil same-sex marriages discriminates against them.



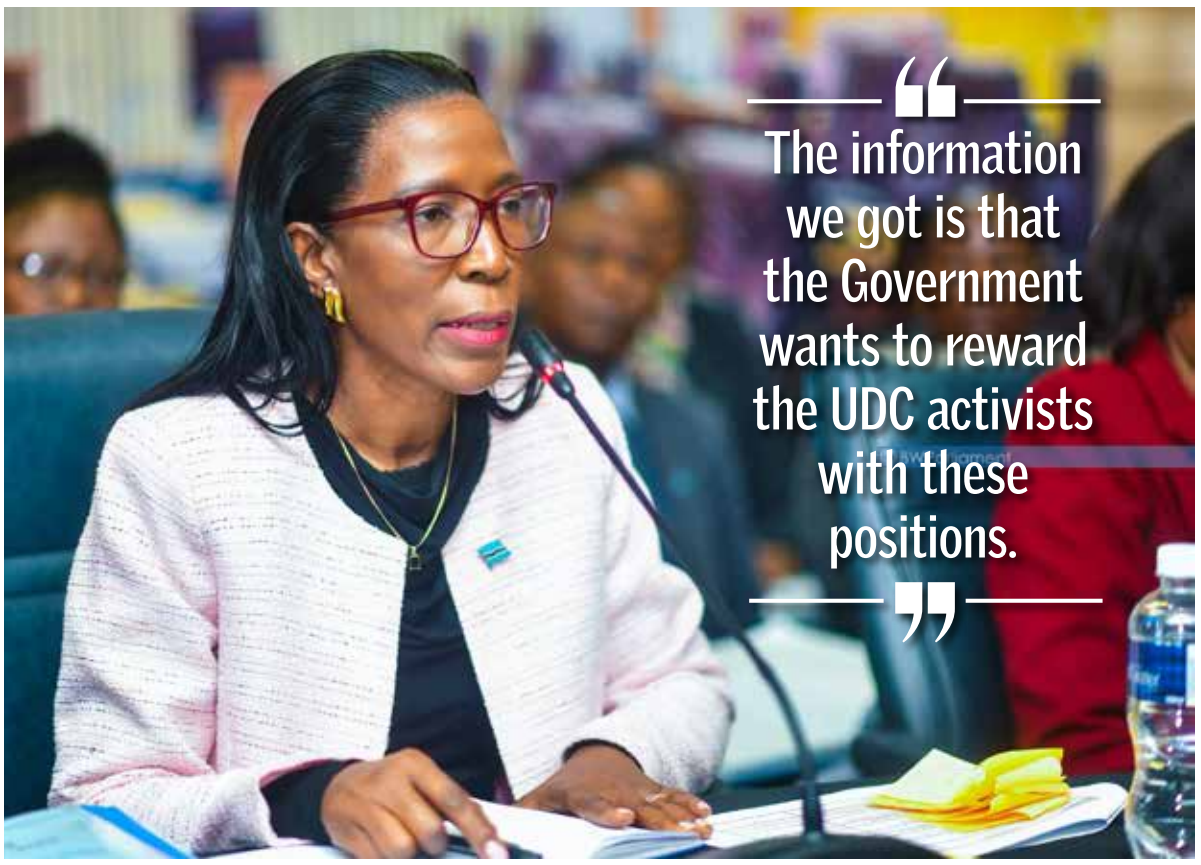
LGBTQ+rights advocacy organisation LEGABIBO was admitted as an additional applicant, joining Bonolo Selelo and Tsholofelo Kumile in challenging Botswana's marriage laws.

> "The case now brings LGBTQ+ advocates, religious organisations and constitutional arguments into the same courtroom."

The expanded case now brings together the couple and LGBTQ+ rights advocates seeking greater legal recognition, religious and community organisations opposing the challenge, and Government as the constitutional dispute moves towards a substantive hearing.

Union Alleges UDC Job Patronage

The Manual Workers Union alleges that centralising recruitment for 367 gardener and cleaner posts could be intended to reward UDC activists, a claim DPSM has not answered.



SESUPO RANTSIMAKO

The Manual Workers Union has accused the Directorate of Public Service Management (DPSM) of centralising recruitment for gardeners and cleaners in a move it alleges could be intended to reward activists who campaigned for the Umbrella for Democratic Change (UDC) in the 2024 general elections.

CENTRALISATION QUESTIONED

Addressing the media this week, the union's Deputy Chief Executive Officer Robert Rabasimane questioned why recruitment for A3 positions had been centralised at DPSM when, according to the union, Government's decentralisation policy had previously delegated such recruitment powers to districts.

Rabasimane said lower-level positions were deliberately decentralised because workers in these categories earn relatively low salaries and should therefore be recruited within their local communities.

He argued that local recruitment reduces the burden of rental and transport costs associated with taking up work far from home.

"Why has DPSM today centralised A3 positions?" Rabasimane asked.

PATRONAGE CLAIM

Rabasimane said the union had received information suggesting that the decision was linked to an alleged plan to reward UDC activists who campaigned for the party before the 2024 elections.

"The information we got is that the Government wants to reward the UDC activists with these positions," he said.

The union has called for recruitment powers to be returned to districts in line with what it says is the existing decentralisation policy.

"We warned the DPSM to delegate these positions back to districts as per the decentralisation policy for local empowerment of our communities," Rabasimane said.

367 POSTS

The dispute comes as DPSM has advertised 74 gardener positions and 293 cleaner positions, bringing the total to 367 posts.

Rabasimane said that if centralisation was the result of an administrative oversight rather than a deliberate policy decision, DPSM should correct it and return recruitment to the districts.

"If it's an omission or oversight, the DPSM should return this as it has been the norm," he said.

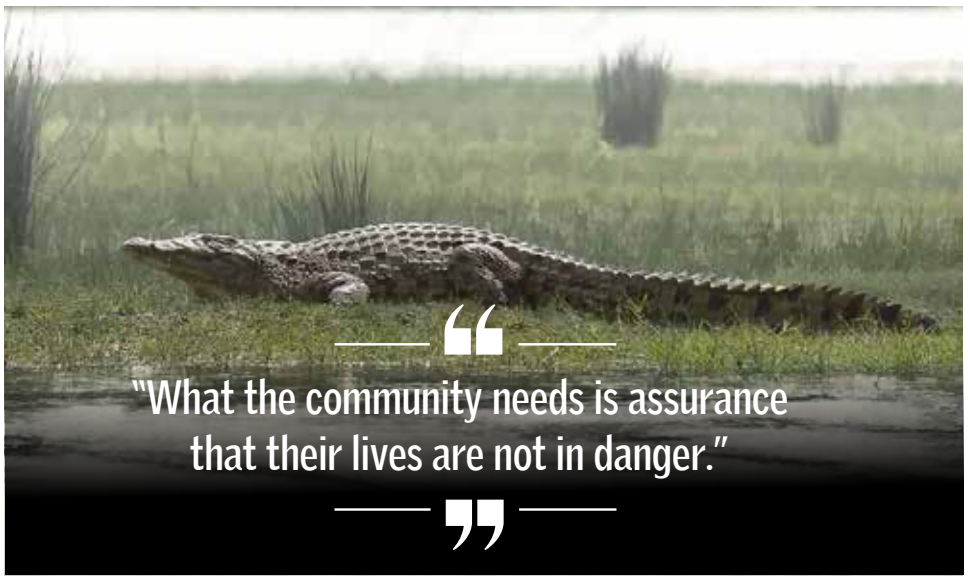
DPSM SILENT

At the time of going to press, efforts to obtain comment from DPSM director Gaone Macholo were unsuccessful because her phone was unreachable.

The union's allegation remains unproven, and DPSM has not publicly answered the claim in the material provided to The Botswana Gazette.



Hikuama Presses DWNP On Crocodiles



Maun West MP Caterpillar Hikuama wants a full investigation into reports of crocodiles escaping from Sitatunga Crocodile Farm and assurances that communities are safe.

SESUPO RANTSIMAKO

Maun West MP Caterpillar Hikuama has accused the Department of Wildlife and National Parks (DWNP) of failing to fully answer questions over reports that crocodiles escaped from Sitatunga Crocodile Farm into the Thamalakane-Dikgatlhong river network.

ESCAPE QUESTIONS

Speaking to The Botswana Gazette, Hikuama said the incident had caused anxiety among communities in Maun and along the river system, particularly amid reports of escaped large predators.

He accused DWNP of downplaying the matter by maintaining that only one crocodile escaped and was later recaptured, without adequately explaining the circumstances of the escape.

"We are disturbed by the unverified circulating audio from one of the witnesses of what happened," Hikuama said.

He called for an investigation to establish how the crocodile escaped, whether more than one animal was involved and whether the number of crocodiles at the farm still corresponds with the original stock before the reported escape.

"What the community needs is assurance that their lives are not in danger," he said.

WARNING RAISES QUESTIONS

DWNP said in a spot announcement this week that only one crocodile escaped from the farm and was subsequently recaptured and returned to captivity.

Despite that assurance, the department warned the public to remain vigilant for crocodiles moving along the Thamalakane River following recent flooding.

Members of the public who spot crocodiles along the river were advised to report them to the nearest police station or wildlife office.

The warning has raised questions about the possible presence of crocodiles in the river system, although DWNP maintains that the escaped animal was recaptured.

DWNP UNAVAILABLE

Efforts by The Botswana Gazette to obtain further clarification from DWNP were unsuccessful.

North West District acting regional wildlife coordinator Thebeyakgosi Horatius initially asked to be called after 10 minutes but could not be reached again despite subsequent calls.

Hikuama maintains that a transparent investigation is needed to establish what happened and reassure residents along the river network.

GAMBLING AUTHORITY

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI) FOR THE DEVELOPMENT AND OPERATION OF BINGO AND CASINO ESTABLISHMENTS IN BOTSWANA

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

1.1.1 The Gambling Authority ("the Authority") is established under the Gambling Act, 2012 to regulate and control gambling activities in Botswana.

1.1.2 As part of its strategic licensing roll-out, the Authority is considering the next phase of licensing for Bingo and Casino establishments.

1.1.3 The Authority therefore invites Expressions of Interest ("EOI") from suitably qualified investors interested in the development and operation of Bingo and Casino establishments within Botswana.

1.1.4 The purpose of this Expression of Interest is to assess market interest and obtain preliminary information that will assist the Authority in planning future licensing processes.

2. EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

2.1 This call for Expressions of Interest is intended to assess the level of investor interest and identify prospective investors with the capacity and experience to develop and operate Bingo and Casino establishments in Botswana.

2.2 Interested parties are invited to express interest in the following proposed licence categories and locations:

Licence Category	Proposed Location(s)
Bingo	Central District, Kweneng District, Kgatleng District, North-East District, South-East District, Southern District, Kgalagadi and Ghanzi Districts, North-West and Chobe Districts
Casino	Central District, Maun, Kasane/Pandamatenga

**Please note that the Districts have been subdivided in accordance with the approved Licensing and Location Plan.*

2.3 In order to participate in this Expression of Interest, interested parties should submit the following information:

2.3.1 A brief company profile, including the ownership structure, shareholder information (where applicable), areas of specialisation and relevant experience.

2.3.2 Details of the company's experience in the gambling, hospitality, tourism, leisure or property development sectors.

2.3.3 An overview of the proposed development concept, including the proposed licence category and preferred location(s).

2.3.4 An outline of the proposed investment, including the indicative capital investment, funding approach (where available), and anticipated implementation timeframe.

2.3.5 Information demonstrating the company's financial and technical capability to undertake the proposed development.

2.3.6 An indication of the anticipated economic benefits of the proposed development, including employment creation and local participation, where applicable.

2.3.7 An indication of the extent of citizen participation in the proposed business, including citizen shareholding, board and management representation, and employment opportunities for Botswana citizens.

2.3.8 Any other information considered relevant to the proposed development.

2.3.9 Interested parties are encouraged to keep submissions concise.

2.4 Interested parties are expressly advised not to submit protected intellectual property, proprietary information, trade secrets, commercially sensitive information or other confidential information as part of their EOI submission.

3. GENERAL INFORMATION

3.1 The Authority intends to use the information received through this Expression of Interest to:

3.1.1 Assess market interest in the proposed licence categories.

3.1.2 Inform future licensing and regulatory planning.

3.1.3 Assist in the development of licence specifications and application requirements.

3.1.4 Inform the development of future Requests for Applications, where applicable.

3.2 The Authority reserves the right to amend, suspend or withdraw this Expression of Interest at any time.

3.3 Submission of an Expression of Interest:

3.3.1 Does not constitute a licence application.

3.3.2 Does not constitute a Request for Applications.

3.3.3 Does not guarantee participation in any future licensing process.

3.3.4 Does not create any entitlement or expectation that a licence will be issued.

4. TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF SUBMISSION

4.1 Submissions and all supporting documentation shall be submitted electronically to licensing@gamblingauthority.co.bw

4.2 Expressions of Interest must be received at licensing@gamblingauthority.co.bw no later than **1500hrs on 16 October 2026.** The date and time of receipt of the email by the Authority's designated email address shall constitute the official time of submission. No late submissions will be accepted or considered.

4.3 Faxed, e-mail, Telex, and telefaxed submissions will not be accepted. Late and incomplete submissions will not be accepted.

4.4 All enquiries relating to the Expression of Interest shall be submitted via the email address at licensing@gamblingauthority.co.bw and must be received at least two (2) working days before the closing date. Enquiries received after this period may not be responded to.

4.5 Staff of the Gambling Authority are not permitted to discuss this Expression of Interest or provide verbal clarifications. Any clarification issued by the Authority shall be communicated via the licensing@gamblingauthority.co.bw email address.

MOTSHAMEKO O PHEPA

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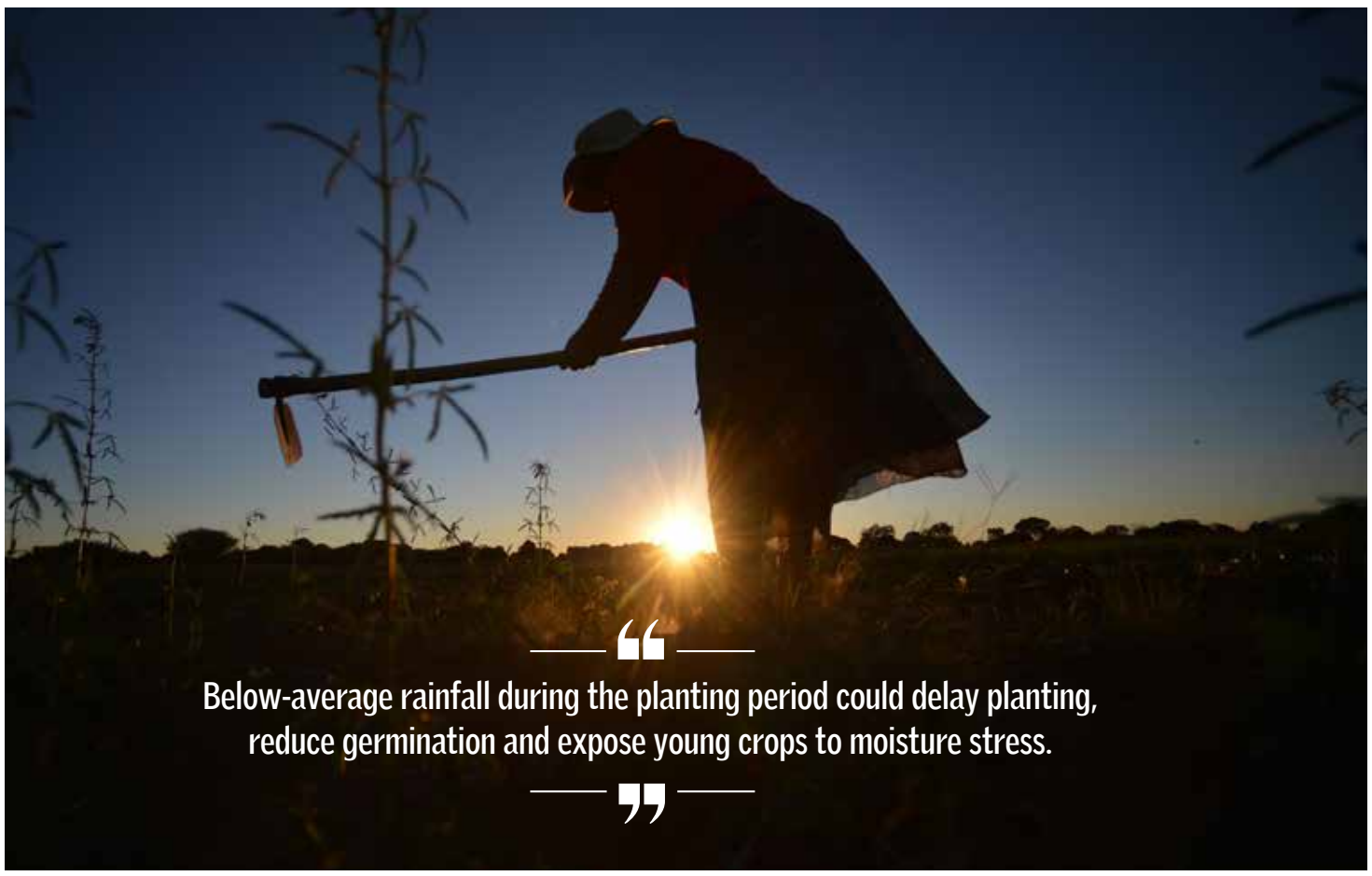
Contact Us:
(+267) 3957672



El Niño Threatens Botswana Harvest

Forecasts point to drier-than-average conditions during Botswana's crucial October-to-December planting period, raising the risk of poor germination and crop losses.

GAZETTE REPORTER

Botswana faces another difficult agricultural season as forecasts linked to El Niño point to drier-than-average conditions during the critical summer planting period.

DRY SPELL

A new assessment by the European Commission's Joint Research Centre highlights growing weather risks across Southern Africa and warns that Botswana could be among the countries hardest hit if anticipated dry spells materialise.

The forecast comes as farmers prepare for the 2026/27 summer cropping season, with rainfall projections showing a greater risk of below-normal precipitation between October and December, a crucial period for planting and early crop development.

While Southern Africa's aggregate cereal production for 2026 is projected at 43.4 million tonnes, about 10 percent above the five-year average, the regional outlook masks risks facing individual countries.

According to Copernicus rainfall forecasts, Botswana, Zimbabwe, Namibia, South Africa, Mozambique and Madagascar are among countries expected to experience drier-than-average conditions.

PLANTING RISK

For Botswana, where rain-fed agriculture depends heavily on the timing and consistency of seasonal rainfall, prolonged dry conditions could undermine planting and crop establishment.

Below-average rainfall between October and December could delay planting, reduce germination and expose young crops to moisture stress.

The Joint Research Centre warns that climatic uncertainty poses a significant risk to agricultural production, particularly in countries already vulnerable to drought and food insecurity.

If dry conditions persist into the growing season, farmers could face reduced yields or, in severely affected areas, complete crop failure.

FOOD SECURITY

The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), in a June assessment, had already warned of rising food-security risks in parts of Southern Africa.

Reduced harvests could increase dependence on food imports and Government assistance while putting further pressure on household incomes and food prices, particularly in communities heavily dependent on subsistence farming.

UNEVEN OUTLOOK

The forecast is not uniformly bleak. Northeastern Angola, northeastern Zambia and northern Mozambique are expected to receive near-average precipitation, offering some relief for agricultural production in those areas.

However, much of Southern Africa faces the possibility of below-normal rainfall, with uneven conditions likely to widen differences in food production across the region.

ADAPTATION NEEDED

The assessment underscores the need for preparations around drought-tolerant crops, water conservation, early-warning systems and other climate-adaptation measures as Botswana's farmers move into the planting season.

Fare-Hike Fallout Claims DRTS Boss

Bokhutlo Modukanele has taken early retirement after sources say an internal probe cleared him, while Government has declined to disclose the investigation's findings.

GAZETTE REPORTER

Director of the Department of Road Transport Services (DRTS) Bokhutlo Modukanele has opted for early retirement after sources familiar with an internal investigation said he was cleared of responsibility for the controversial public transport fare increases.

FARE-HIKE FALLOUT

Modukanele was suspended after Government Gazette Notice No. 307 of 2026 announced significant increases in public transport fares, triggering confusion and anger among commuters and operators.

President Duma Boko criticised the increases, saying they had not received Cabinet approval, before announcing Modukanele's suspension and ordering the fare



hike withdrawn. He also directed that an investigation establish how the notice came to be published.

PROBE FINDINGS

The investigation, chaired by Permanent Secretary to the President Matshidiso Bokole, is understood by sources familiar with the matter to have cleared Modukanele of responsibility for the unauthorised increases.

The same sources said the investigation instead pointed to instructions originating from a minister, whose name is known to this publication.

"Modukanele does not sit in Cabinet and could not simply have woken up one morning and announced such a fare hike," an insider said, arguing that the DRTS director had been unfairly blamed.

RETURN DECLINED

The Botswana Gazette has established that Modukanele was offered the opportunity to return to his post after the investigation but declined, opting for early retirement on 31 August 2026.

Sources said his decision followed concerns about the reputational and professional damage caused by his suspension and public criticism.

"I think a public apology or any formal redress for the harm he believed he had suffered would have made him stay. He left a wounded man," an insider said.

FINDINGS WITHHELD

Bokole declined to disclose the outcome of the investigation when contacted by The Botswana Gazette.

"I can't divulge the outcome of the verdict. Let me speak to Mr Modukanele first," she said.

Modukanele also declined to revisit the matter. "I will not discuss the matter," he said before ending the call.

Transport Minister Atamelang did not respond to questions from this publication. He instead requested a copy of the investigation report, saying he would respond after studying it.

Bakgatla Petition Boko Over Land



Bakgatla ba ga Kgafela will take complaints over land allocation, administration and alleged corruption in Kgatleng directly to President Duma Boko.

GAZETTE REPORTER

Bakgatla ba ga Kgafela are set to take their long-running concerns over land allocation, administration and alleged corruption in Kgatleng directly to President Duma Boko, with a petition scheduled for delivery to the Office of the President on Thursday.

PRESIDENCY PETITION

The planned petition has the backing of Kgatleng Central MP Mpho Morolong, who says land complaints have become a persistent feature of life in the district.

Deputy Paramount Chief of the Bakgatla ba ga Kgafela, Kgosi Bana Sekai Linchwe, confirmed that the tribal leadership would formally present its concerns to the Presidency.

The petition is expected to focus on land allocation and administration, as well as allegations of corruption within land boards.

CASES REFERRED

The move follows earlier efforts by the tribal leadership to investigate concerns surrounding land administration in the district.

It is understood that a team was assembled to examine some of the complaints, with certain matters subsequently referred to the Directorate on Corruption and Economic Crime (DCEC), Directorate of Intelligence and Security (DIS) and Criminal Investigation Department (CID).

The nature and outcome of those investigations remain unclear.

LAND BOARD RESPONSE

Kgatleng Land Board chairperson Mothusi Molefi confirmed that the concerns raised by Bakgatla and their leadership were known to the Land Board.

He said the institution was working to improve service delivery despite significant resource constraints, adding that some of the complaints were linked to limited capacity.

On allegations of corruption, Molefi confirmed that some matters were before law enforcement agencies. "Those cases should be allowed to take their course," he said.

MOROLONG BACKS

Morolong said he fully supported the petition and had already written to President Boko inviting him to visit Kgatleng and address Bakgatla on several pressing issues, including land administration.

"I am totally in support of the Bakgatla's petition," Morolong said. "Not a day passes without authorities receiving a land board-related complaint in Kgatleng."

While acknowledging that some problems could legitimately be attributed to inadequate resources, Morolong said shortages could not explain all the complaints.

> "Not a day passes without authorities receiving a land board-related complaint in Kgatleng."

"While some concerns legitimately relate to under-resourcing, which we are alive to, others are simply a result of laxity and a culture of laziness and impunity," he said.

BUAN
BOTSWANA UNIVERSITY OF AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES
Inspiring Sustainable Growth

ADDENDUM
TENDER BUAN 5/2026

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FOR REGISTRATION OF GENERAL SUPPLIES AND SERVICES FOR THE BOTSWANA UNIVERSITY OF AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES FOR A DURATION OF THREE (3) YEARS

BOTSWANA UNIVERSITY OF AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES (BUAN) (PTY) LTD

Recitals
Whereas Botswana University of Agriculture and Natural Resources (BUAN) being the Procuring Entity, has released an Expression of Interest for Registration of General Supplies and services for the Botswana University of Agriculture and Natural Resources for a duration of three (3) years

A. **Whereas** the **BIDDERS** desire to submit bid proposals for an Expression of Interest for Registration of General Supplies and services for the Botswana University of Agriculture and Natural Resources for a duration of three (3) years

Terms and Conditions:
Terms and Conditions stipulated in the Invitation to tender (ITT) document Shall Remain The Same Except for the following changes which are to apply under:

a. **Official tender closing date**.
b. **Technical Evaluation criterion table**

INFORMATION AS STATED IN THE RELEASED INVITATION TO TENDER DOCUMENT	CHANGES MADE
Tender closing date: Official tender closing date as stated in the issued invitation to tender document and the released advert is the: **3rd September 2026** In the link that bidders were to refer to, the closing date stipulated was the**:** **5th September, 2026**	The official tender closing date has been extended to the following: **Thursday 17th September, 2026 @ 11.00am**
Technical Evaluation table: The below is listed under Technical evaluation table: Bidders to avail bank statements for the Company to reflect how they have been performing	Financial statements shall not form part of the technical evaluation criterion and bidders are advised not to include them in their bid submissions

Bidders who had already submitted their bids and wish to make amendment are free to collect them and resubmit

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BDP Weighs Balopi's Fate

Mpho Balopi's corruption charges have forced the BDP to confront whether its zero-tolerance stance should require its own president to step aside.

BONGANI MALUNGA



The Botswana Democratic Party (BDP) is yet to decide whether its president, Mpho Balopi, should temporarily step aside following corruption charges against him, leaving his leadership of the party unsettled.

The issue places the BDP in a difficult position because the party has previously maintained a zero-tolerance stance on corruption, under which members facing corruption allegations were expected to temporarily vacate their positions while the allegations were dealt with.

DECISION PENDING

The BDP Central Committee is yet to make a determination, saying it needs more information before deciding Balopi's fate.

Speaking at a press conference on Tuesday, BDP secretary general Kentse Rammidi said the committee met on Monday specifically to deliberate on the matter but concluded that the process remained at a preliminary stage.

"We are still processing the matter. At the material time yesterday the Central Committee felt that it does not have enough material to reach a logical conclusion on the way forward. It's the first time in the party's history that we have to make a decision concerning the party president," Rammidi said.

He added that the party was still awaiting information it considered necessary to guide a decision.

COURT SUPPORT

While the party remains undecided on Balopi's position, it has drawn a line on how members may publicly support him during court proceedings.

Rammidi said BDP members would not be permitted to attend court in party regalia because Balopi is appearing in his personal capacity rather than as a representative of the organisation.

"Mr Balopi is not appearing in court as the president of the party, the party has not been charged. We don't want to entangle the party in this matter," he said.

Members who wish to support Balopi will therefore have to do so in their personal capacity.

DCEC CHARGES

The development follows confirmation by the Directorate on Corruption and Economic Crime (DCEC) last Friday that Balopi and seven other accused persons have been charged in connection with alleged corruption involving P5 million.

The eight accused are scheduled to appear before the Gaborone Regional Magistrates' Court on 16 September 2026.

According to the DCEC, the charges arise from investigations into allegations that the accused defrauded the Citizen Entrepreneurial Development Agency (CEDA) through a project-specific loan in February 2023.

Botswana Deaths Rise To 14,037

Statistics Botswana recorded 14,037 deaths in 2024, up 3.9 percent from 2023, with non-communicable diseases accounting for most deaths.



GAZETTE REPORTER

Botswana recorded 14,037 deaths in 2024, a 3.9 percent increase from the 13,508 deaths registered in 2023 and the highest figure captured in the latest mortality statistics.

The Botswana Causes of Mortality, 2024 Annual Report by Statistics Botswana shows that non-communicable diseases now account for most deaths, even as infectious diseases, accidents and violence continue to claim thousands of lives.

CHRONIC DISEASES

Non-communicable diseases accounted for 60.1 percent of all deaths in 2024, compared with 26.8 percent attributed to communicable, maternal, perinatal and nutritional conditions. Injuries accounted for 13.1 percent.

Diseases of the circulatory system were the leading cause of death at 12.3 percent, followed by neoplasms, including cancers, at 11.7 percent. Certain infectious and parasitic diseases accounted for 10.7 percent.

HIV/AIDS, cerebrovascular diseases and nephritis and nephrosis also remained among the leading causes of death.

HIV BURDEN

Despite years of prevention and treatment interventions, HIV/AIDS continues to account for a significant share of deaths, particularly among people aged 35 to 64.

Children under five accounted for 9.1 percent of all deaths. Birth asphyxia, low birth weight and diarrhoeal diseases were among the prominent causes in this age group.

AGE PATTERNS

People aged 85 years and above accounted for 16.6 percent of all deaths, the largest share among the age groups. Women aged 85 and above recorded roughly twice as many deaths as men.

Road traffic accidents were particularly prominent among younger people, while HIV/AIDS featured strongly among those aged 35 to 64. Men recorded higher mortality from road traffic accidents and homicides than women.

ACCIDENTS, VIOLENCE

Non-natural causes accounted for 13.9 percent of all deaths in 2024, with people aged 35 to 39 the most affected age group.

Road traffic accidents accounted for 27.6 percent of non-natural deaths, followed by other forms of violence at 10.9 percent and self-inflicted injuries at 8.1 percent.

MATERNAL MORTALITY

Botswana also remains above the Sustainable Development Goal target of 70 maternal deaths per 100,000 live births. Statistics Botswana reports that the maternal mortality ratio fell to 127 in 2015 before rising to 240 in 2021.

URBAN BURDEN

Gaborone accounted for 15.9 percent of all recorded deaths, followed by Francistown at 11.0 percent and Kweneng East at 10.6 percent.

NCD RISK

The rise in overall deaths comes despite a decline in the probability of dying from a non-communicable disease between ages 30 and 70. Statistics Botswana says the probability fell from 12.4 percent in 2022 to 10.7 percent in 2024.

Combis Fight Electric Bus Plan

BOCTA warns the proposed TANA electric bus pilot could displace workers and reduce Government revenue unless existing operators are built into the transition.

SESUPO RANTSIMAKO

The Botswana Combi and Taxi Association (BOCTA) says the planned introduction of electric buses in Gaborone could undermine the livelihoods of thousands of people who depend on the existing public transport industry.

LIVELIHOODS AT RISK

Speaking to The Botswana Gazette after a consultation meeting with the Ministry of Transport and Infrastructure, BOCTA representative Kuda Christmas said the association opposed the project in its current form because of its potential impact on economic activity in the sector.

Christmas said the introduction of buses could make several positions redundant, affecting minibus operators, permit holders, book marshals and car wash operators who depend on the industry.

REVENUE FEARS

He also warned that Government could lose revenue if the number of public transport permits declines as minibuses are removed from the roads.

"Currently we renew permits and PRDP permits, and we pay for blue books and roadworthiness," Christmas said.

BOCTA argues that reducing the number of minibuses would therefore have a direct effect on Government collections from the sector.

FIGHT PIRACY

Christmas said Government should first intensify efforts against illegal public transport operators before introducing a new system that could displace existing businesses.

"We have been decrying piracy over the years, but instead of the Government fighting this, they want to close our businesses by introducing buses," he said.

ELECTRIC ALTERNATIVE

BOCTA says modernisation should involve existing operators rather than replace them. It has proposed that Government facilitate a transition to electric 19-seater minibuses instead of introducing larger buses.

Christmas said Government could link local operators with electric vehicle manufacturers to support the purchase or financing of suitable minibuses and gradually phase out the current fleet.

SUSPEND PILOT

The association is calling for the TANA pilot to be suspended to allow further consultations with public transport operators and consideration of alternatives that would modernise the sector without threatening existing livelihoods.

GOVERNMENT CASE

Transport and Infrastructure Minister Atamelang said during the stakeholder meeting that TANA would create opportunities for transport operators in passenger services, property development, energy solutions, advertising and digital innovation.

He said young people would be placed at the centre of the initiative and that TANA was intended to address congestion, fragmented public transport services and rising commuting costs.



(Pic:Monirul Bhuiyan/PRESS PHOTO)

ACEB
Association of Consulting Engineers Botswana



ACEB ONLINE COURSES (FIDIC CONTRACTS) CALENDAR 2026

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

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

FEES

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

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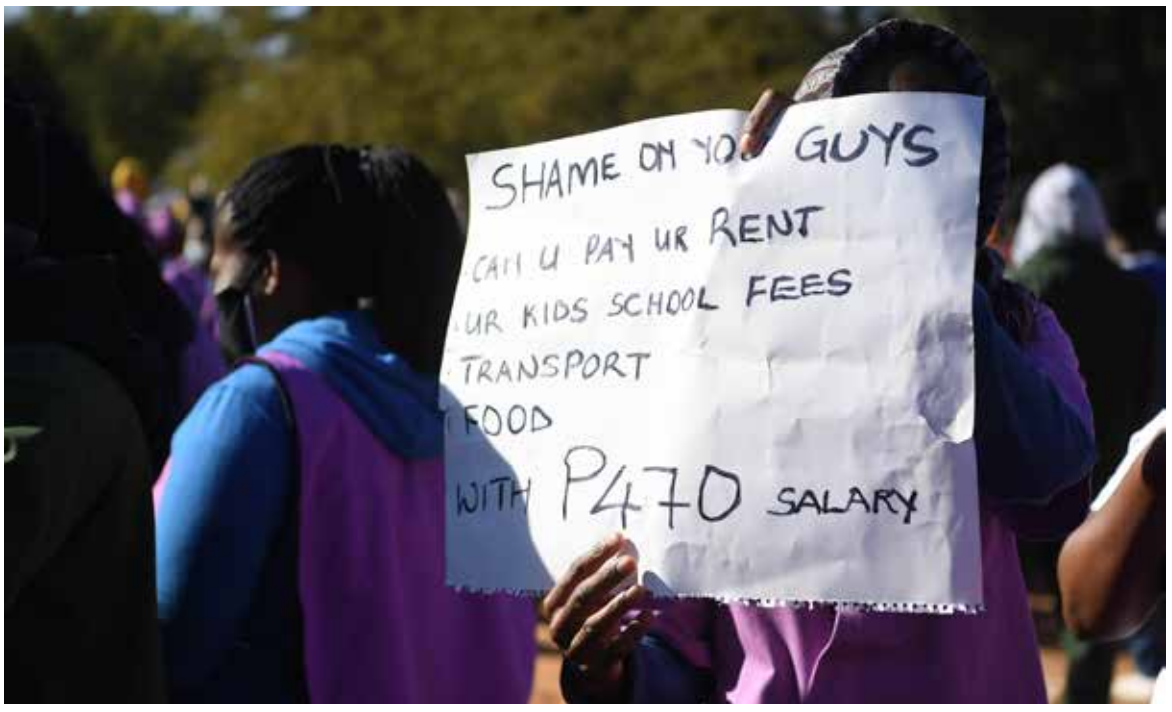

Botswana Trust Under Strain

An Afrobarometer report points to weak interpersonal trust, concerns over equality before the law and strong support for restricting foreign job seekers.

GAZETTE REPORTER

A new Afrobarometer report has painted a troubling picture of social cohesion in Botswana, pointing to weak interpersonal trust, social distance and concerns about equality before the law.

The report, Social Cohesion in Africa: Bonds, Belonging and the Common Good, identifies Botswana as a striking outlier in interpersonal trust, with confidence weakening sharply as relationships extend beyond people's immediate social circles.

FAMILY TRUST

According to Afrobarometer, only 38 percent of Batswana surveyed said they trust members of their own families.

That compares with 99 percent in Senegal, Mali and Madagascar, and 98 percent in Comoros.

Afrobarometer says trust generally weakens as social distance increases, but Botswana consistently ranks among the least trusting countries measured.

Only 23 percent of Batswana said they trust people from other ethnic groups, placing Botswana among the continent's weakest performers in what the report describes as "bridging trust".

LAW AND POWER

The findings also raise concerns about whether justice is administered equally and independently.

Twenty-nine percent of Batswana said judges and magistrates often or always give priority to the influence of political leaders, Government officials and other powerful individuals rather than following the law.

A further 38 percent said people are often or always treated unequally before the law.

FOREIGN NEIGHBOURS

Attitudes towards immigrants, foreign workers and refugees show a mix of tolerance and economic anxiety.

Only 28 percent of respondents said they would dislike having immigrants or foreign workers as neighbours, while 36 percent said they would dislike having refugees fleeing political violence or persecution as neighbours.

Afrobarometer cautions that tolerance of social differences should not automatically be interpreted as trust.

> "Sixty-eight percent of Batswana believe the country"

JOB SEEKERS

Economic concerns appear to drive much of the resistance to immigration. Only 37 percent of respondents said the arrival of foreigners who live and work in Botswana for several years is fairly good or very good for the economy.

By contrast, 55 percent regard their arrival as fairly bad or very bad for the economy.

The report found that 68 percent of Batswana believe the country should allow fewer or no job seekers from other countries to come and live and work in Botswana.should allow fewer or no foreign job seekers.

KESITILWE SUES GAMBLING AUTHORITY

Former Gambling Authority CEO Emolemo Peter Kesitilwe is seeking damages, retractions and public apologies over a letter he alleges damaged his reputation across Africa.

GAZETTE REPORTER

Former Gambling Authority chief executive officer Emolemo Peter Kesitilwe has filed a defamation suit against the regulator and its current CEO, Moruntshi Kemorwale, over allegations he says were circulated among gambling regulators across Africa.

According to a writ filed at the Gaborone High Court on 13 August 2026, Kesitilwe is demanding P400,000 in damages, a retraction and public apologies. Alternatively, if the other remedies are not granted, he seeks P500,000 in damages.

ALLEGATIONS UNTESTED

The allegations have not been tested in court. The papers contain Kesitilwe's case only and no defence from Kemorwale or the Gambling Authority.

DISPUTED LETTER

The case centres on a letter that Kesitilwe alleges Kemorwale sent to the Gaming Regulators Africa Forum on 9 November 2025 while serving as acting CEO.

According to the particulars of claim, the letter referred to investigations allegedly involving the Directorate on Corruption and Economic Crime, Kesitilwe's suspension and the collection of documents from the Authority.

It also allegedly asked the forum to disassociate itself from Kesitilwe and recognise the Gambling Authority as Botswana's sole legitimate regulator. The letter reportedly raised concerns about due diligence, money laundering and organisations offering to fund the forum's activities.

Kesitilwe denies the alleged implications and argues that the communication portrayed him as dishonest, unethical and implicated in corruption and money laundering, damaging his standing in the African gambling industry.



APOLOGIES DEMANDED

Kesitilwe says he complained to the Authority's board in May 2026. He alleges the board acknowledged that the statements could be understood as casting adverse inferences on his integrity and professional standing but did not retract them.

His attorneys issued a demand in July seeking damages, withdrawal of the communication and public apologies.

He now wants apologies published on the front pages of three local newspapers, the Gambling Authority's website and social media platforms, and in at least three African gaming publications.

CONTINENTAL ROLE

Kesitilwe was suspended from the Gambling Authority in August 2025 and subsequently resigned. He was appointed inaugural CEO of the African iGaming Alliance the following month.

> "The allegations have not been tested in court, and no finding has been made against either defendant."

Kemorwale succeeded him as acting CEO before being appointed substantively in July 2026. Kesitilwe argues that because Kemorwale allegedly authored the letter in the course of his employment, the Authority should be held jointly liable.

No finding has been made against either defendant.

The Botswana Gazette
BUSINESS NEWS

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Botswana Jobs Outlook Stays Tough

Unemployment remains high as job creation continues to trail labour-force growth, while weak domestic demand and diamond-sector uncertainty threaten to constrain hiring.

GAZETTE REPORTER

Botswana's labour-market outlook remains challenging, with structural rigidities, weak labour absorption capacity and low productivity growth continuing to weigh on job creation, the Bank of Botswana (BoB) says in its August 2026 Monetary Policy Report.

"Addressing these challenges will require sustained efforts to stimulate private sector-led growth, accelerate economic diversification, and enhance labour market efficiency," the report says, adding that these measures are needed to support "inclusive and durable employment creation."

UNEMPLOYMENT PERSISTS

Preliminary results from the 2024/25 Botswana Multi-Topic Household Survey, conducted by Statistics Botswana between November 2024 and November 2025, estimated unemployment at 21 percent.

That was 3.4 percentage points higher than the 17.6 percent recorded in 2015/16, when a similar survey was conducted.

The report says that although both the labour force and total employment expanded during the period, "employment growth lagged labour force growth," leaving unemployment persistently high.

Youth unemployment stood at 28.9 percent in 2024/25, compared with 25.1 percent in 2015/16. The BoB says the figures "underscore ongoing challenges in labour absorption and the need for employment-intensive growth."

Quarterly Multi-Topic Survey data separately showed unemployment rising from 25.9 percent in the third quarter of 2023 to 27.6 percent in the first quarter of 2024. Youth unemployment rose from 34.4 percent to 38.2 percent over the same period.

Formal-sector employment increased by 2.9 percent to 504,738, but the report says the gains were insufficient to offset wider labour-market pressure.

PUBLIC SECTOR WEIGHT

Public administration remained the largest source of formal employment, accounting for 30.3 percent of total formal-sector jobs. Education followed at 13.2 percent, while wholesale and retail trade and repair of motor vehicles accounted for 12.6 percent.

Personal emoluments represented approximately 50 percent of recurrent government spending and about 13 percent of GDP, highlighting fiscal rigidities that could constrain future employment expansion.

GROWTH AND JOBS

The report's longer-term assessment points to weak employment elasticity of growth. Between the third quarter of 2019 and the first quarter of 2024, the labour force increased by 10.7 percent to 1,041,204 people, while employment rose by only 1.2 percent. Average GDP growth during the period was 2.7 percent.

The overall unemployment rate reached 27.6 percent in the first quarter of 2024, up 6.9 percentage points from 20.7 percent in the third quarter of 2019.

HIRING OUTLOOK

With the economy contracting in 2024 and 2025, the report says labour-market conditions are "likely to have deteriorated further in 2025."

It says the slowdown in the diamond market has had "major spillover effects on mining-related industries and downstream services."

Looking ahead, weak domestic demand, subdued private-sector profitability and continued uncertainty in the diamond industry are expected to constrain hiring.

"The absorption of new entrants into the labour force is expected to remain limited," the report says.

G4S Losses Narrow 74%

The security services group cut losses by 74 percent in 2025 as contract repricing, cost reductions and restructuring lifted margins despite weak trading conditions.

GAZETTE REPORTER

G4S Botswana's revenue increased modestly in 2025 as the company navigated a contracting economy, declining diamond sales and growing financial pressure among businesses reliant on government contracts.

Group revenue rose 0.8 percent, or P1.9 million, during the year, supported mainly by an 8 percent, or P9 million, increase in the manned guarding service line.

The company said the growth was partly offset by declines in cash services and electronic security solutions, whose revenues fell 2 percent and 9 percent respectively, year on year.

"Trading conditions in 2025 continued on the same trajectory as at the back end of 2024 as the economy continued with a

To Page 12

BSE Courts Dangote Listing

Botswana is pitching its stock exchange as a gateway to Southern African institutional capital as it seeks a secondary listing of Dangote's $20 billion refinery.



GAZETTE REPORTER

The Botswana Stock Exchange (BSE) is stepping up efforts to position itself as a regional capital-raising hub, placing Botswana's macroeconomic stability, regulatory framework and institutional liquidity at the centre of its pitch to major African companies.

At the centre of the campaign is Nigerian industrialist Aliko Dangote and his $20 billion Dangote Petroleum Refinery.

President Duma Boko, Vice President and Finance Minister Ndaba Gaolathe, and BSE Chairperson Neo Mooki have been involved in discussions aimed at securing a secondary listing of the refinery on the BSE.

Gaolathe led a working visit to Lagos in April, where he toured Dangote's 650,000-barrels-per-day refinery and 3-million-metric-ton fertiliser plant. The visit was followed by a capital markets and institutional investors roundtable in Gaborone.

Mooki said the BSE was ready to accommodate such a listing. "The Botswana market is ready to accommodate the listing, with the necessary regulatory frameworks already in place," she said at the recent BSE Capital Markets and Institutional Investors Roundtable.

Capital Gateway

Mooki framed the proposed listing as part of a broader effort to deepen African ownership of African businesses.

"Africa is not poor. Africa is unmonetised," she said, arguing that capital-market infrastructure could convert economic value into ownership and wealth.

She said Botswana's own development demonstrated the importance of local participation in major economic assets.

"We did not become wealthy because we found diamonds. Others found diamonds and remain poor. We became wealthy because we insisted on owning a share of what happened on our own soil."

Addressing Dangote directly, Mooki said Botswana was not seeking to replace Nigeria as the company's principal market. "We are not asking to compete with Nigeria. Nigeria's success is Africa's success, and the Nigerian Exchange should be, and will be, the home of that listing."

But she added: "We do not want to be included afterwards. We want to be there on day one."

SADC Link

BSE Chief Executive Officer Aupa Monyatsi said internationalisation was one of the exchange's strategic pillars.

Through the Committee of SADC Stock Exchanges, he said, a Botswana listing could draw on the capacity of the wider region. He said the exchange was connected to liquidity pools beyond Botswana while remaining anchored in Africa.

Monyatsi said structures were also being developed to allow individuals to participate without opening brokerage accounts in Nigeria or managing individual foreign-exchange hedges.

Regional Pool

Collen Tapfumaneyi, chairperson of the Committee of SADC Stock Exchanges, said Southern Africa was moving towards a more integrated investment market.

He said the region could connect an estimated $1.86 trillion in institutional capital to investment opportunities across Southern Africa.

Under a proposed interconnectivity model, Botswana would host a platform allowing investors across participating markets to access securities through a single entry point.

"We're talking of consolidation. We're talking of integration. We're talking of aggregation to ensure that Botswana becomes a window into the vast marketplace that Southern Africa provides."

Potential Payoff

A Dangote listing could give Botswana's pension funds and institutional investors access to a major African industrial company while strengthening the BSE's role as a regional financial intermediary.

President Boko has described Dangote's industrial expansion as a model for African-led development.

"African investors, African thinkers, African intellectuals, and African entrepreneurs are responsible... for the development... of the African continent," he said.

From Page 11

contraction albeit at a lower rate than in 2024," outgoing Group Managing Director Mothusi Molokomme said in the company's 2025 annual report.

G4S said weaker business development activity, contract terminations and cash-flow constraints, particularly among small and medium enterprises, contributed to debt impairment and weighed on profitability.

Margin Repair

Despite subdued revenue growth, G4S reported a 22 percent year-on-year improvement in gross margin, which it attributed to efficiency measures introduced by management.

In February 2025, management reviewed the profitability of all manned guarding contracts and increased prices on negative and low-profitability contracts. Some customers terminated contracts following the review, but the company said the initiative ultimately improved margins.

An inflationary price increase was also implemented across all service lines in July.

Costs Cut

The electronic security solutions division restructured its direct labour in July, including the exit of 50 percent of technical staff. The company said it adopted a hybrid model in which some technical work is outsourced to pre-approved contractors.

G4S also reduced employee costs in sales, general and administrative functions by 39 percent, contributing to an 11 percent reduction in total administrative costs.

However, the company remained in a loss-before-tax position, partly because of a P4.5 million impairment loss on non-financial assets. The impairment followed a decline in the company's share price in March 2025, which reduced market capitalisation to approximately P72.8 million, below net asset value and triggering an impairment assessment under IAS 36.

> "Management's turn-around plan is bearing fruit as the Group was able to bring down its losses by 74% year on year."

Despite the pressure, G4S said its losses narrowed by 74 percent year on year.

"The Board and Management's objective to return to profitability remains a top priority," Molokomme said.

Subsidiary Exit

Facilities Management Botswana increased profit before tax by 4 percent despite a 5 percent decline in revenue.

Access and Beyond Botswana, meanwhile, ceased trading at the end of September after the board approved its closure following two years of recurring losses. The wind-down was expected to be completed by the end of July 2026.

Turnaround Continues

G4S said its two-year turnaround strategy, developed in early 2025, remains focused on restoring profitability.

Molokomme, who resigned as Group Managing Director at the end of April 2026 and was serving notice until the end of July, said he was confident in the foundation established for the turnaround.



Stanbic Flags P83m Profit Rise

Stanbic expects first-half profit before tax to rise by 10 to 20 percent, equivalent to P41 million to P83 million, with full reviewed results due by September 30.



GAZETTE REPORTER

Stanbic Bank Botswana Limited expects group profit before tax for the six months ended June 30, 2026, to increase by between 10 percent and 20 percent, according to a cautionary announcement issued to holders of its debt securities.

The bank said profit before tax is expected to rise by between P41 million and P83 million compared with the same period last year.

Stanbic Botswana reported group profit before tax of P413 million for the six months ended June 30, 2025. Based on the latest guidance, first-half profit before tax for 2026 is expected to range from approximately P454 million to P496 million.

CAUTIONARY NOTICE

The announcement was issued in accordance with section 10.12 of the Botswana Stock Exchange Debt and Specialist Listing Requirements.

The provision requires an issuer to publish a cautionary announcement when it is in possession of potentially price-sensitive information.

Stanbic said "full details of the performance" would be contained in its abridged reviewed consolidated financial statements for the half year ended June 30, 2026.

Those financial statements are expected to be published by September 30, 2026.

DRIVERS UNDISCLOSED

The bank did not disclose the factors behind the anticipated increase in profitability in the cautionary announcement.

The full results are expected to provide more detail on first-half performance, including whether the increase was associated with net interest income, non-interest revenue, credit performance, cost management or a combination of factors.

RESULTS PENDING

For investors and holders of Stanbic's debt securities, the guidance provides an early indication of the bank's financial performance ahead of the publication of its reviewed results.

Stanbic has advised holders of its debt securities to "exercise caution" when dealing in the securities until a full announcement is made.

Serval Secures Kalahari Copper Ground

Serval Resources has renewed four Botswana exploration licences, preserving priority Kalahari Copper Belt ground while reducing its overall land package to about 990 square kilometres.



GAZETTE REPORTER

Copper and future metals developer Serval Resources has renewed all exploration licences within its Botswana portfolio, maintaining its priority areas in the Kalahari Copper Belt.

The renewals cover PL061/2021, PL 062/2021, PL 2473/2023 and PL 2474/2023. The latter forms part of the Sweet Thorn Pan prospect within the Kalahari Copper Belt.

Serval also relinquished PL 2472/2023, which it classified as a lower-priority licence.

Following the renewals and relinquishment, the company's land package in the Kalahari Copper Belt now covers about 990 square kilometres, down from 1,283 square kilometres.

PRIORITY GROUND

Serval Chief Executive Officer Robin Birchall said licence compliance and renewals remained an important part of the company's exploration activities.

"Licence compliance and renewal is a key part of operating as an exploration company," Birchall said.

He highlighted PL 2474, which forms part of the Sweet Thorn Pan prospect alongside PL 0235.

"Of particular note is that we have renewed priority licence PL 2474, which forms part of the Sweet Thorn Pan prospect, alongside PL 0235," he said.

SWEET THORN

According to Birchall, historical work has identified a mineralised contact within the licence area that is being mined by the nearby MMG Khoemacau operations.

"This licence has been shown from historical work to have the known mineralised contact that is being mined by the nearby MMG Khoemacau operations," he said.

He added that renewing the licence would allow Serval to retain the prospective areas it had originally identified.

"This renewal has ensured that we maintain all of the originally identified prospective areas," Birchall said.

SMALLER FOOTPRINT

The licence changes leave Serval with a smaller overall exploration footprint in the Kalahari Copper Belt while preserving the priority ground identified by the company.

The relinquishment of PL 2472/2023 reduces the portfolio from 1,283 square kilometres to about 990 square kilometres.

The renewals secure continued exploration rights across Serval's remaining Botswana portfolio, including the Sweet Thorn Pan prospect.

Government Jobs Stop Being The Plan

After more than a decade chasing formal work, one graduate has moved from security work to roadside food sales as Botswana struggles to turn qualifications into sustainable jobs.

GAZETTE REPORTER

For more than a decade, one graduate kept trying to secure government employment. She now says she has stopped expecting that opportunity to come.

"I have given up on finding a job with the government. I have tried and tried, but nothing has come," said the graduate, who asked not to be named.

Her attempts to survive have taken her through work as a security guard and, more recently, into selling food by the roadside.

"I became a security guard because I had to survive. Now I sell food by the roadside. I have a family that depends on me, and I am the breadwinner. It is painful to have qualifications and experience, but still struggle to find a job."

PLAN RUNS OUT

Her experience sits against an economic model historically anchored by a large public sector. The World Bank says that model is reaching its limits and that Botswana needs stronger private-sector-led growth and job creation.

Its latest assessment puts unemployment at 27.6 percent using its national estimate and identifies limited private-sector opportunities as a structural problem.

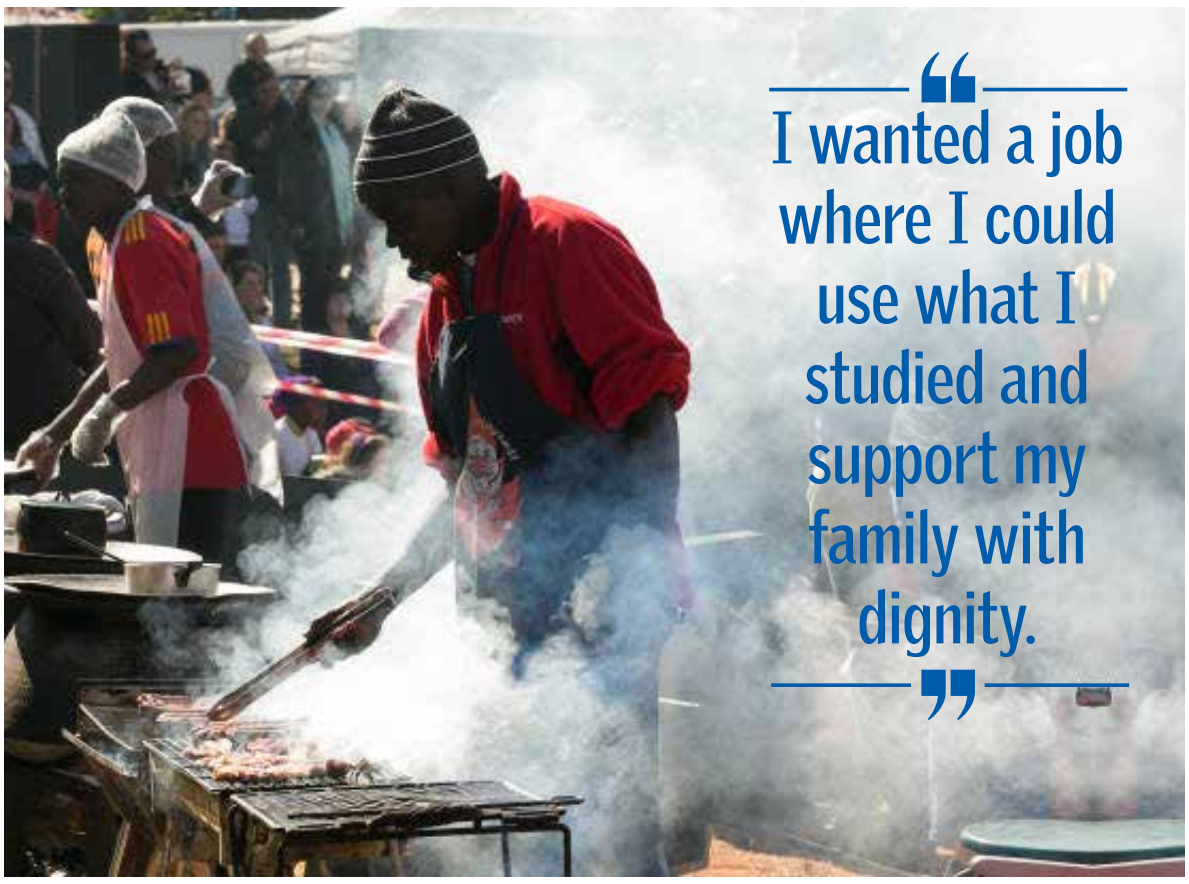
For graduates who have spent years searching for formal employment, the pressure is not simply about finding a job. It is about finding a sustainable way to survive.

JOBS LAGGING

Preliminary results from the 2024/25 Multi-Topic Household Survey, conducted by Statistics Botswana from November 2024 to November 2025, estimated unemployment at 21 percent, up 3.4 percentage points from the 17.6 percent recorded in 2015/16.

While both the labour force and total employment expanded during the period, employment growth lagged labour-force growth, resulting in persistently high unemployment.

Youth unemployment remained elevated at 28.9 percent in 2024/25, compared with 25.1 percent in 2015/16.



The figures underscore the difficulty of absorbing new entrants into the labour market and the need for employment-intensive growth.

Skills Into Jobs

In its Botswana Economic Update, "Seizing the Moment: How Botswana Can Turn Crisis into Opportunity," the World Bank recommends four skills-related reforms.

These include employer-led sector skills partnerships; expanded apprenticeships, internships and workplace learning through the Human Resource Development Fund (HRDF); greater responsiveness and autonomy for technical and vocational education and training (TVET) institutions; and skills financing that is more equitable, outcomes-driven and pro-poor.

The broader objective is to strengthen private-sector-led growth, diversify the economy, reduce dependence on diamonds and place productive jobs at the centre of Botswana's development agenda.

NEED IS NOW

For graduates like the roadside food seller, however, the need is immediate.

"I did not dream of spending my life looking for work or selling food on the roadside. I wanted a job where I could use what I studied and support my family with dignity."

Access Bank Sponsors BIUST Graduation

The bank's Diamond sponsorship comes as BIUST prepares to graduate its 2026 class under a theme focused on innovation, transformation and sustainability.

In Palapye, Access Bank Botswana has partnered with the Botswana International University of Science and Technology (BIUST) as Diamond Sponsor of the university's 2026 graduation ceremony, scheduled for September 11.

The ceremony will be held under the theme "Innovate, Diversity, Transform and Sustain" and will be led by President and BIUST Chancellor Advocate Duma Gideon Boko.

A LAUNCH POINT

Access Bank Botswana Managing Director Sheperd Aisam said graduates should regard their qualifications as a foundation for continued learning and professional development.

"Graduation is not a finish line. It is a launch point," Aisam said. "The degrees this young talent is preparing to receive serve only as a foundation; what they build on it will be shaped by their willingness to remain curious, continue learning and do the work."

FIVE YEARS IN BOTSWANA

Aisam said the sponsorship also coincides with Access Bank Botswana's fifth year in the local market, drawing a parallel between the bank's growth and the experiences of graduating students.

"In many ways, we have been students too; learning this market, growing alongside it, discovering new challenges and innovating as we go," he said.

He said the partnership reflects the bank's focus on education and investment in talent, including support for emerging leaders and innovators.

The 2026 graduating class is expected to enter workplaces, entrepreneurial ventures and other sectors following years of study at BIUST.



Access Bank Botswana Managing Director Sheperd Aisam

Africa's Economic Activity Gains Pace



Rising deposits and cross-border payments are pointing to deeper financial participation and increased commercial activity across African markets.

Rising savings and increased domestic and cross-border payment activity are pointing to stronger economic participation across African markets, according to data from Standard Bank.

The bank reported a 12% increase in deposits to R2.5 trillion, while the value of domestic electronic payments rose 11% and cross-border payments increased 7%. Standard Bank serves 19.5 million active clients across 21 African countries.

TRADE FLOWS INCREASE

Standard Bank Chief Executive for Africa Regions Lungisa Fuzile said the trends reflected increased participation in formal financial systems and growing commercial activity.

> "Every payment reflects a transaction. Every transaction reflects business activity.

"What we are seeing across many markets is clear evidence of economic momentum," Fuzile said. "As more people participate in the formal financial system, as businesses trade across borders and as savings pools deepen, the foundations for sustainable growth become stronger."

The bank said it holds a 19% share of cross-border payments across its African markets, providing data on transactions involving goods, services and capital.

AFCTFA IMPACT EMERGES

Fuzile said the growing payment flows could indicate that regional economic integration under the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) was increasingly translating into commercial activity.

"Every payment reflects a transaction. Every transaction reflects business activity. And every new trade corridor creates opportunities for growth, investment and job creation," he said.

DEPOSITS OUTPACE LOANS

Deposits increased to R2.5 trillion, compared with 7% growth in loans, according to the bank. Fuzile said the increase in savings was contributing to larger pools of domestic capital.

Since 2022, Standard Bank has mobilised R328 billion in sustainable finance, including R50.6 billion in the first six months of 2026, for projects involving renewable energy, water, agriculture, transport and economic inclusion.

"Africa's next growth phase will be driven by improved infrastructure networks coupled with increasing economic participation by larger numbers of Africans," Fuzile said.



Charity Ride Raises P1.8m for Hospital

The annual MCM charity ride has raised an estimated P3.14 million for community projects over the past four years.

The Morupule Coal Mine (MCM) CEO's Annual Charity Cycle Challenge raised an estimated P1.8 million this year towards the refurbishment of Palapye Primary Hospital, as the event marked its 14th year with Stanbic Bank Botswana as a sponsor.

Held in Palapye on Sunday, 6 September, the 2026 challenge was conducted under the theme "Wheels of Hope, Together We Go Further". The initiative brings together businesses, cyclists and communities to raise funds for community projects.

MILLIONS FOR COMMUNITY PROJECTS

Over the past four years, the challenge has directed an estimated P3.14 million towards community initiatives. In 2023, P480,000 funded outdoor gym facilities, while P300,000 supported the Cheshire Foundation with a solar system in 2024.

In 2025, P560,000 was allocated to Bonno House for the less privileged. This year's estimated P1.8 million allocation brings the four-year total to about P3.14 million.

BANK CITES LONG-TERM SUPPORT

Stanbic Bank Botswana Head of Personal & Private Banking Mosetsana Kapeko said the bank's involvement was linked to its broader community investment activities.

"Our role as a sponsor of the MCM Charity Cycle Challenge is part of that broader view of growth, and for 14 years we have supported a platform that gives people and organisations an opportunity to contribute," Kapeko said.

> "The strength of this challenge is that no single contribution stands alone.

CYCLING PARTICIPATION GROWS

The challenge has also supported cycling participation in Palapye and surrounding communities, including junior development and opportunities for young cyclists. It also promotes physical activity among employees and community members.

"The strength of this challenge is that no single contribution stands alone," Kapeko said. "MCM, sponsors, cyclists, communities and other partners each play a role, and together those contributions can achieve much more than any one organisation could achieve on its own."



BIUST Set for 11th Graduation

The university will confer degrees on 410 undergraduate and postgraduate students at its Palapye campus this week.



The Botswana International University of Science and Technology (BIUST) will hold its 11th graduation ceremony on Friday, 11 September 2026, at its Palapye campus, with 410 students set to receive degrees.

> The graduating class comprises 343 undergraduate and 67 postgraduate students from various academic programmes.

The ceremony, scheduled to begin at 08:00, will be held under the theme, "Innovate, Diversify, Transform, and Sustain." The graduating class comprises 343 undergraduate and 67 postgraduate students from various academic programmes.

BOKO TO DELIVER ADDRESS

BIUST Chancellor and President of Botswana, Advocate Duma Gideon Boko, is expected to deliver the keynote address at the ceremony.

The graduation will also highlight the university's focus on science, technology, engineering and innovation and the role of its graduates in Botswana's socio-economic development.

CEREMONY RESTRICTED TO INVITEES

Attendance at the event will be limited to invited guests because of seating capacity at the university's Multi-Purpose Hall. Invited guests have been asked to be seated by 07:30 to allow time for registration and preparations before proceedings begin.

The ceremony will, however, be livestreamed through BIUST's official Facebook page and YouTube channel, allowing families, alumni and members of the public to follow the proceedings remotely.

GRADUATION THEME

The university said the theme reflects its focus on innovation, diversification and sustainability as part of its academic mandate.

The 2026 graduation ceremony will be the institution's 11th since its establishment, with Access Bank listed as the Diamond Sponsor for the event.



Wilderness Expands Environmental Education Partnership

A renewed partnership will expand hands-on environmental education at Tshwaragano Primary School, backed by increased BIHL Trust funding.

A renewed partnership between Wilderness' Children in the Wilderness (CITW) programme, the Ministry of Child Welfare and Basic Education, BIHL Trust and Mokolodi Nature Reserve will expand environmental education at Tshwaragano Primary School in Gaborone.

The partners signed a new Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), extending a collaboration that has supported environmental learning at the school since 2018.

The agreement provides for Eco-Clubs, teacher training, annual camps, educational excursions and school-based conservation projects.

FUNDING INCREASE

BIHL Trust has committed P245,776 over the duration of the new MoU, up from an initial annual programme allocation of about P73,300. The increased funding will cover additional programme costs and activities.

Wilderness Botswana Caretaker Managing Director Joe Matome said the partnership was intended to help learners develop practical knowledge about the environment.

"By joining hands across education, conservation and the private sector, we are helping young people understand the environment they will inherit and empowering them to play an active role in protecting it," Matome said.

LEARNING BEYOND CLASSROOMS

CITW supplements the national curriculum through experiential learning covering climate change, river systems, the Okavango Delta, sustainable agriculture and biodiversity. Teachers are trained as Eco-Mentors to continue environmental learning in classrooms and communities.

> The future of conservation depends not only on the policies we put in place or the resources we protect, but on the values we instil in our young people.

Tshwaragano is currently CITW's only partner school in southern Botswana. The programme has reached more than 2,700 children through Eco-Clubs nationally over the past decade, while 320 learners are currently enrolled across nine schools.

TRUST BACKS EXPANSION

BIHL Trust Board Chair Esther Kanaimba-Senai said the additional P172,476 approved by the trust would bring its total investment to P245,776.

"The future of conservation depends not only on the policies we put in place or the resources we protect, but on the values we instil in our young people," Kanaimba-Senai said.



The Wrong Messenger

A brand can tell the truth and still lose credibility when the messenger lacks the trust, relevance or relationship to make the claim believable.

MANUEL VEIRUAPI RUHAPO
THE BRAND PARADOX

After rain collapses a wealthy man's wall, his son and an elderly neighbour both warn him to repair it before thieves arrive. That night, the family is robbed. The father calls his son wise and suspects the neighbour.

Both men were right. Only one was trusted.

The story appears in Han Feizi, in a chapter usually translated as "The Difficulty of Persuasion." It is a useful warning for brands because customers do not judge a message only by what it says. They also judge who says it, why they are saying it, and whether the relationship gives them the right to say it.

THE MESSENGER PARADOX

That is the Messenger Paradox: the more strongly a brand declares a truth about itself, the more carefully customers inspect the source of that claim. A message can be accurate and still feel self-serving. A less polished message from a credible source can carry more weight.

Every brand wants to be called trustworthy, affordable, innovative, local, sustainable or committed to community. The problem is that the brand has an interest in being believed.

That does not make its claim false. It makes the customer more careful.

Source credibility research identifies expertise, trustworthiness, ability, motivation, repetition and relevance as factors shaping persuasion. Customers ask: "Do they know what they are talking about? Do they have a reason to mislead me? Does this match what I have experienced?"

Production value does not answer those questions. A glossy campaign can still feel like a sales pitch. A celebrity can generate reach without creating trust. An influencer can borrow attention, but cannot donate credibility they do not possess.

For a bank, a claim about financial confidence becomes more credible when a qualified adviser explains the terms clearly and the customer can see the process. For a health or wellness brand, safety needs transparent labelling and relevant regulatory information, not just a popular face. For a retailer, a value promise is confirmed at the shelf, in the basket and at the till.

The customer experience is often the most credible spokesperson in the room.

THE BOTSWANA TEST

This matters sharply in Botswana. The United States International Trade Administration identifies relationship-building, trust, local presence, reliable after-sales support and word-of-mouth referrals as central to doing business in the country. It also notes the continuing predominance of Setswana in social and business interaction.

A message must therefore feel like it belongs in the customer's world.

Consider a value message from Choppies or Sefalana. Customers judge it through promotion clarity, stock availability, pricing, staff interaction and whether promised value is present when the month-end budget is tight. The store proves or disproves the advertisement.

brand has to force the message.

BORROWED TRUST

The second paradox is the Borrowed Trust Paradox. Brands often believe trust can be bought by hiring a famous person. In reality, trust is only borrowed when the messenger has credible relevance to the claim.

An athlete may be right for performance. An entrepreneur may be right for a business support programme. A pharmacist, regulator or clinician may be appropriate for a health safety issue. A customer may best explain the practical value of a service.

But no messenger should replace evidence.

If a telecoms company says its network connects people, the claim must survive the customer's experience. If a tourism brand says it supports communities and conservation, it must show the relationship and practice. If a bank says it backs entrepreneurs, it must explain access, eligibility, cost and limits.

Do not manufacture social proof. Do not invent testimonials, edit away inconvenient facts or use customers as decoration. Let customer voices be specific, consented to and proportionate. Let experts be independent where independence matters.

Trust grows when message, messenger and evidence agree.

BRANDS MUST SPEAK

A brand cannot hide behind third parties in a service failure, safety issue, data problem or major customer complaint. It must speak directly, own responsibility, state what it knows and explain what happens next.

The lesson is not "never let the brand speak." It is "do not ask the brand to carry every kind of truth alone." Use the right source for the right claim, and keep the proof stronger than the personality.

WHAT IT MEANS

For business owners and executives: audit your major claims. For each one, ask who customers are most likely to believe and what proof that person will need. If the answer is only "our advertising," the claim is not strong enough.

For marketing professionals: design the messenger before producing the campaign. Match the source to the issue, disclose relationships and ensure that the local voice has relevance beyond popularity.

For brand managers: build the experience that makes a credible message possible. Price clarity, service recovery, product quality, regulatory compliance and respectful local participation are all forms of communication.

The neighbour's warning was true. It failed without trust. Brands risk saying the right thing through the wrong messenger.



Consider a financial inclusion message from FNB Botswana, Absa Botswana, Botswana Savings Bank or a mobile money service. The strongest storyteller may be the customer who explains how the service helped complete a real task, provided the experience is genuine, disclosed and not presented as universal.

Consider a cultural campaign. Brand Botswana states that the Pride Mark carries obligations around peace, progress, trust and inclusivity. A campaign using Setswana, music, craft or national identity gains credibility when the people who make and live that culture are involved and fairly credited.

Culture cannot be background decoration.

These are brand applications, not claims about current campaigns by the named organisations. Their lesson is simple: the closer the messenger is to the customer's lived reality, the less the



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



HUB OR HUBRIS

Southern Africa may be rich in corridors and integration plans, but its 2024 trade figures show a region still overwhelmingly organised around South Africa rather than a genuinely shared economy.

DR DOUGLAS RASBASH

For decades, Southern African leaders have spoken of regional integration as though repetition would eventually make it real. Communiqués celebrate corridors, free-trade agreements, one-stop border posts and ambitious infrastructure plans. Botswana even talks of becoming a regional transport hub. Maps show a continent covered in railways, highways, ports and power lines. But trade does not occur on maps. It occurs when one country produces something another country wants to buy.

SADC's 2024 trade figures raise an uncomfortable question: outside South Africa's economic orbit, how integrated is the region really? The answer is remarkably little. The sixteen SADC members exported goods worth approximately US$254 billion in 2024. Only US$38.5 billion, about 15.1 percent, went to other SADC countries. Of approximately US$241 billion imported, only US$39.2 billion, or 16.3 percent, came from within the region.

SOUTH AFRICA DOMINATES

Even these modest shares overstate the depth of integration because most intra-SADC trade is not a web of exchanges among sixteen increasingly connected economies. It is principally trade with South Africa.

South Africa supplied approximately US$22.9 billion of the goods SADC countries imported from within the region and imported approximately US$8.3 billion from regional partners. Combining both directions, roughly US$31.2 billion, or 80.9 percent, of recorded bilateral trade within SADC involved South Africa. Only about US$7.4 billion, representing 19.1 percent, occurred among the other fifteen members without South Africa being wwone side of the transaction.

> "True integration adds connections. It does not cut the strongest existing one."

This is predominantly a hub-and-spoke system in which South Africa is the hub and the remaining economies are connected more strongly to it than to one another.

Some apparently strong performers reinforce the argument. Eswatini sent 92.6 percent of its exports to SADC, Lesotho 41.6 percent and Namibia 45.5 percent. Yet these figures largely reflect the gravitational force of South Africa and the Southern African Customs Union. SACU is comparatively integrated. SADC is not.



Elsewhere, the weakness is unmistakable. Only 3.1 percent of Angola's exports went to SADC, 1.7 percent for the Democratic Republic of Congo and 9.6 percent for Zimbabwe. Botswana, Malawi and Tanzania each directed approximately 15 to 16 percent regionally. SADC's members share geography and institutions. They do not yet share much of an economy.

BOTSWANA'S DEPENDENCE

Botswana illustrates the difference between regional integration and dependence upon a dominant neighbour. Approximately 78.5 percent of Botswana's imports came from SADC, but three-quarters of those regional imports came from South Africa. Botswana imported approximately US$4.27 billion from South Africa out of US$5.67 billion sourced within SADC.

Botswana exported approximately US$737 million to SADC, but about US$607 million went to South Africa. More than four-fifths of Botswana's regional exports were absorbed by a single market. Botswana is highly integrated with South Africa but only weakly inte-

To Page 19

From Page 18

grated with SADC as a whole.

This matters. Dependence upon one efficient regional supplier can lower costs and provide reliable access to goods, but it also creates exposure to South African ports, railways, border systems and domestic disruptions. The objective should not be to weaken trade with South Africa. That would be economically self-defeating. It should be to build additional productive relationships with neighbouring SADC states. True integration adds connections. It does not cut the strongest existing one.

CORRIDORS OR TRADE?

At an assumed average trade value of US$2,000 per tonne, recorded intra-SADC bilateral trade represents approximately 19.3 million tonnes. By contrast, trade between SADC's seven landlocked members and the rest of the world that requires regional corridor access represents approximately 38.9 million tonnes, more than twice the intra-SADC volume.

> "Transit is not integration. Nor is infrastructure automatically trade creation."





Southern Africa's corridors therefore currently serve world-market access more than regional integration. Their principal function is often to move minerals and imports between landlocked countries and seaports rather than support dense regional production networks.

Lobito and Beira are important largely because they provide the DRC, Zambia and Zimbabwe with access to overseas markets. The North-South Corridor carries substantial regional trade, but much of this reflects South Africa's dominant commercial position. A railway to a port may diversify a country's export route without integrating its economy with the countries through which the train passes.

Transit is not integration. Nor is infrastructure automatically trade creation. A new railway does not manufacture goods. A modern border post does not create an export industry. A corridor can become an efficient pipe carrying raw materials out and finished products in while generating limited production, employment or value addition along its route.

WHY IT STALLED

Physical barriers are only part of the explanation. SADC economies frequently produce similar primary commodities for sale to the same overseas markets. They manufacture too little, process too little and often lack the complementary industries required to trade intensively with one another.

The remaining barriers are institutional and commercial: slow borders, incompatible standards, import permits, unreliable logistics, fragmented payment systems, limited trade finance and policies that protect national markets while publicly endorsing regional integration. Governments sign regional agreements and then defend domestic monopolies. They speak of free movement while transporters face permits, delays and inconsistent charges. The rhetoric is regional. The implementation remains national.

MEASURE IT HONESTLY

Among SADC's fifteen economies other than South Africa, merchandise exports to one another amounted to only US$7.4 billion in 2024, equivalent to approximately 1.7 percent of their combined GDP of US$445.6 billion. Without South Africa, the regional market is not merely thin. It is scarcely functioning as an integrated economy.

That should change how integration is measured. Treaties signed, meetings held, kilometres of corridor identified and infrastructure projects announced are not enough. A more meaningful test is whether smaller economies trade more with one another, create regional value, develop cross-border production chains and reduce border time, logistics costs and unreliability. Rail interoperability, open access and realistic freight demand also matter.

The revealing question is simple: how much intra-SADC trade would remain if South Africa were removed from the matrix? In 2024, the answer was only about one-fifth of the recorded regional total. That is the integration deficit.

Southern Africa does not lack corridors. It lacks sufficient production to fill them with regionally traded goods. It does not lack declarations. It lacks implementation. It lacks a genuinely regional economy beyond one dominant centre.

The next phase of integration must therefore begin in farms, factories, warehouses, payment systems and border procedures, not at another summit. Until the smaller SADC economies trade substantially more with one another, talk of the transport hub and regional integration will remain hubris.



What's Next for Ruth's Diamond Dress?

Miss World Botswana Ruth Thomas didn't bring home the Miss World crown. She did bring home something arguably more interesting: a diamond-encrusted piece of Botswana's history that deserves a second act.

GOSEGO MOTSUMI

The crown belongs to the Dominican Republic's Joheirry Mola Dominguez. But on the Miss World Grand Finale stage in Vietnam, Ruth Thomas had a moment that belonged entirely to Botswana wrapped in 60 natural diamonds, each representing a year of independence.

And now Batswana have a question: what happens to the dress?

A DIAMOND STORY, STITCHED IN

Designed by Botswana's Delayna Scott, the bespoke gown brought together Lucara Botswana's diamonds, KGK Diamond Botswana's craftsmanship and local fashion in one glittering national statement.

Every detail carried a message. The sky blue and royal blue echoed Botswana's national colours, while silver detailing captured the brilliance, beauty and enduring value of the country's diamonds.

The flowing silhouette was equally deliberate, symbolising Botswana's growth, strength and progress across six remarkable decades a nation still rising, evolving and shining on the world stage.

At its centre, an embroidered neckline carries 20 bespoke diamond jewels, with another 14 completing the principal diamond design. The result is more than pageant glamour: it is Botswana's journey from mineral-rich earth to international fashion, stitched into one spectacular gown.

Former queens Lesego Chombo and Anicia Gaothusi have previously used diamond jewellery to put Botswana's gems in the global spotlight. Ruth simply turned the volume up.

Scott called the gown "a tribute to Botswana's brilliance, beauty and legacy" as the country celebrates 60 years of independence.

And Batswana seem to agree.

THE SECOND ACT

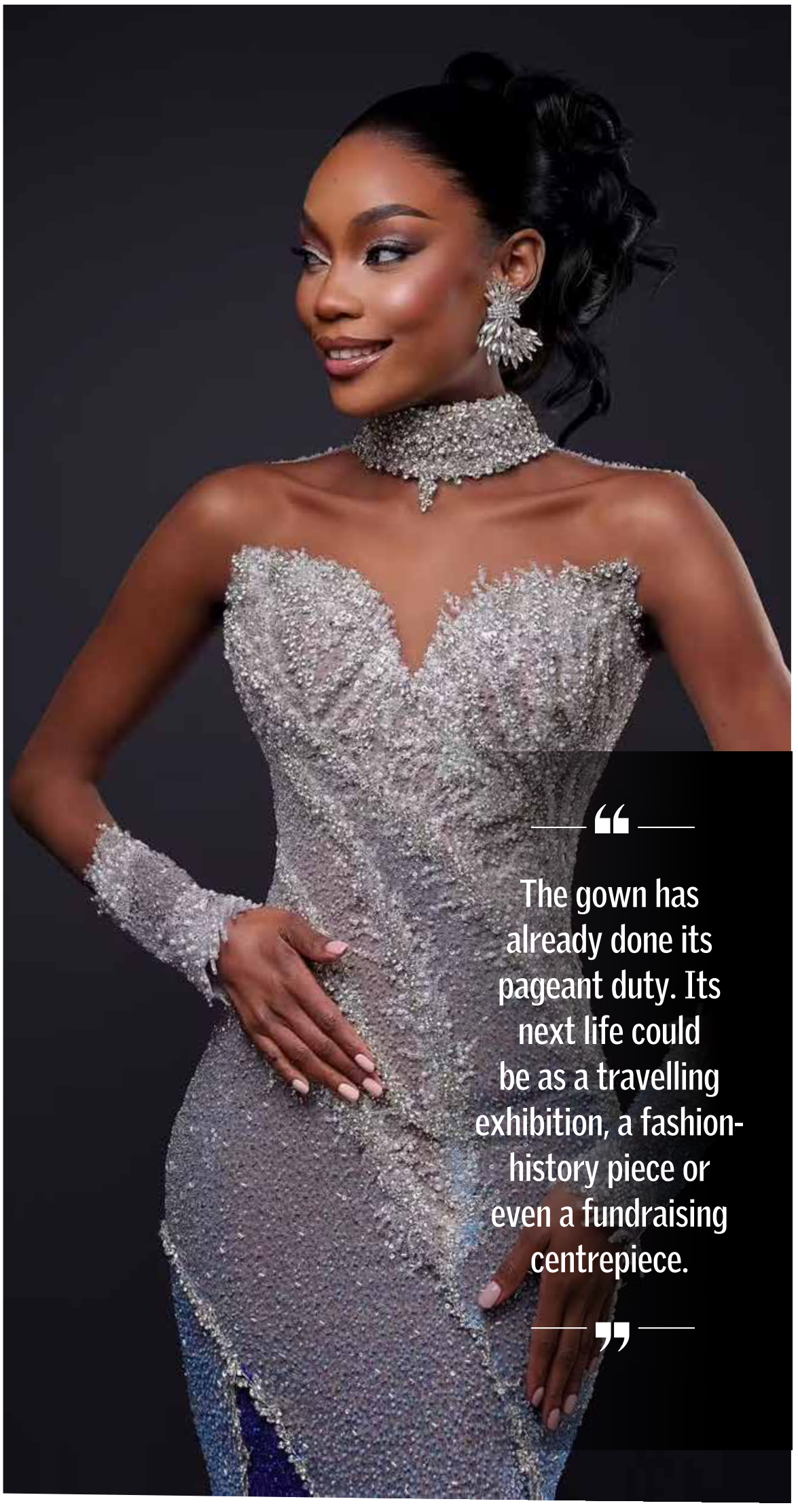
The public reaction has already written the next chapter.

Some want Ruth to wear the dress again at Independence celebrations. Others want it paraded around Botswana and beyond. The most intriguing suggestion? Auction it to the highest bidder.

"On independence please wear the diamond dress, we want to see it up close," one call went.

Why not? The gown has already done its pageant duty. Its next life could be as a travelling exhibition, a fashion-history piece or even a fundraising centrepiece allowing more people to see the diamonds, craftsmanship and story up close.

Lucara described the journey from Karowe Diamond Mine to finished gown as "a chain of shared contribution", connecting the people who recover Botswana's diamonds with the artisans, designers and platform that bring the story to the world.



BACK HOME

After weeks of activities, challenges and events in Vietnam showcasing Botswana's culture, heritage and people, Ruth returned home on Monday from the demanding Miss World journey.

Unlike the customary public welcoming ceremony, she was received privately by the Miss World Botswana Organisation, family and close friends, giving her time to rest and recover.

But the quiet homecoming won't last forever. The organisation is expected to host a press conference during the week, where Ruth will speak directly to Batswana and the media about her 73rd Miss World experience, her Vietnam journey and the moments that defined her international campaign.

When AI Meets the Royalties

Botswana's copyright cash is climbing, digital platforms are paying and mechanical royalties are exploding. But with AI songs entering the mix, COSBOTS is drawing a line in the studio: technology can polish the music, but humans still have to make it.



GOSEGO MOTSUMI

The playlist is getting richer and stranger. Botswana's music economy is pulling in bigger royalty numbers while TikTok, YouTube and Facebook join the payout party. But as artificial intelligence starts generating songs with a few clever prompts, Time Out asked the Copyright Society of Botswana (COSBOTS) a very 2026 question: who gets paid when the machine makes the music?

COSBOTS CEO Letlhogonolo Makwinja says collections have climbed 30 percent, from P20 million to P26 million. Over the past five years, the society has collected about P100 million and distributed roughly 67 percent to rights holders, with last year's distribution hitting 72 percent.

FOLLOW THE PULA

The money trail gets particularly interesting on the airwaves. COSBOTS pays according to the seconds a song is played, with its top earner receiving about P285,000 and the artist ranked tenth earning around P150,000. Together, the top 10 took close to P1.1 million.

"We pay per second that a song has played in a broadcaster," Makwinja said in an interview.

Digital platforms are also putting money on the table. The highest earner from TikTok, Facebook and YouTube received about P78,000, while mechanical rights have rocketed from P400,000 three years ago to nearly P10 million.

But there is a distinctly local problem: more than half of the music played in Botswana is international, meaning much of that royalty money heads overseas.

"Play more local music so more money is paid to locals," Makwinja says, arguing that support for local music should extend beyond Independence celebrations.

THEN AI ENTERED THE STUDIO

The bigger curveball is AI. Makwinja says technology has always enhanced music from early machines to FL Studio, but generative AI crosses a different line when it creates an entire song from prompts.

"Copyright only recognizes where there is a lot of human creativity," he says.

> "Copyright only recognizes where there is a lot of human creativity."

His advice to artists? Write the song, compose it and build the beats. Let AI refine the work, but keep its contribution to a maximum of 15 percent and declare it.

The royalty revolution, it seems, has arrived with a warning label: the machine can help make the beat, but the human still needs to bring the soul.

Your Results Aren't Your Future

At 21, Marang Lemeni is already challenging one of Botswana's most stubborn ideas: that a bad exam result means a bad future. Her youth movement, Teens On Track, is betting on second chances and refusing to leave young people behind.

GOSEGO MOTSUMI

What if failing an exam wasn't the end of the story but the plot twist?

That question sits at the heart of Teens On Track, a youth movement founded by Marang Lemeni when she was just 19 and a first-year student at the University of Botswana. After watching friends remain at home following disappointing Form 3 and Form 5 results, Lemeni saw something beyond the grades: unrealised potential.

"I wanted to create something that could remind young people that one examination result does not have to determine the rest of their lives," she told Time Out.

Now 21, the law student is turning that belief into action, offering free tuition to teenagers who need another academic shot, while opening a different door for those whose talents don't necessarily fit inside an examination paper.

NO DEGREE? NO PROBLEM

Teens On Track doesn't stop at textbooks. The movement offers free practical training in skills including nails, wig installation and lashes because sometimes the quickest route forward isn't another classroom.

Its reach stretches from Gaborone to Francistown and Maun, with young people from schools and villages including Marobela and Sekakangwe benefiting from its programmes.

The philosophy is simple: potential doesn't always arrive with straight As.

THE MOVEMENT, NOT THE MACHINE

Lemeni has largely financed the initiative herself, supported by volunteers, tutors and collaborators. Teens On Track operates as a youth movement working with organisations and individuals where possible.

> "One examination result does not have to determine the rest of their lives."

Its magazines tackle the questions that arrive after the report card: Should I rewrite? What happens next? What can I study? Can I start a business? Where do I find my purpose?



She said: "We do not lack potential; sometimes we simply lack guidance, exposure and opportunities."

And perhaps that is the real lesson. In a culture obsessed with results, Lemeni is making a case for something harder to measure: what happens after them.

Luxury Showstoppers Roll Into Gabs



Rain, horsepower and one seriously outrageous Bugatti turned the Grand Palm into Botswana's automotive playground while the industry made a case for a smarter, greener motoring future.

GOSEGO MOTSUMI

The weather was doing its worst, but nobody at the 2026 FutureExotics Lifestyle Gaborone Motor Show seemed particularly interested in going home. At the Grand Palm, chrome gleamed, engines roared and Botswana's motoring crowd gathered around machines that looked less like transport and more like four-wheeled fantasies.

And then there was the Bugatti.

THE DREAM MACHINE

The one-of-one Mansory Bugatti Veyron Vivere Diamond Edition owned by FutureExotics founder Zunaid Moti was the undisputed showstopper. Officially registered in Botswana, the rare hypercar made its Gaborone debut as the kind of automotive spectacle that turns casual spectators into instant car obsessives.

For Moti, however, the Veyron is about more than flexing horsepower. It is the physical manifestation of a childhood fantasy.

"I used to lay on my mother's mat and envisioned the future I wanted," he said, recalling how he once dreamed of owning a red Porsche. "At 19 I developed a finance product."

His philosophy is equally simple: cars can represent possibility.

"To children it is important to dream, let them see the Bugatti it gives them the hope of success," Moti said.

THE FUTURE ARRIVES

The Veyron may have owned the spotlight, but the show was looking forward. Changan made its debut with the Deepal S07, an all-electric luxury SUV pitching refined design, comfort and intelligent technology as part of the next chapter of mobility.

Across the exhibition halls, performance cars, electric mobility solutions and automotive innovations shared space with industry partners, transport associations and road-safety advocates.

Opening the show, Transport and Infrastructure Minister Keoagile Atamelang positioned the spectacle within a bigger economic picture, saying the automotive sector contributes to employment, trade, transport, energy, motorsport and technology.

"A beautiful and powerful vehicle deserves a safe road," Atamelang said.

> "To children it is important to dream, let them see the Bugatti it gives them the hope of success."

That may be the real takeaway from the weekend: Botswana isn't just looking at better cars. It is imagining the roads, skills and infrastructure needed to drive them into the future.



Put Your Feet Behind Conservation

Forget the stiff conservation conference. Walk for Giants wants families to lace up, bring the kids and turn a Saturday morning stroll into a giant statement for wildlife.

GAZETTE REPORTER

Conservation usually arrives wrapped in serious language: poaching, habitat loss, endangered species. Walk for Giants is taking a different route — sneakers, jumping castles, music, craft stalls and a family holiday raffle.

On September 12, Westwood International School in Gaborone becomes the starting point for a national conservation campaign designed to put Botswana's youngest citizens firmly in the picture.



WALKING THE TALK

Organised by Incepta Communications in partnership with Westwood International School, Walk for Giants follows June's Race for Rhinos event in Mosu, but swaps the spectacle of an aviation race for something deliberately more democratic: everyone can walk.

The mission is ambitious, raise funds for rhino protection, eco-education and anti-poaching infrastructure while making conservation feel like a shared civic responsibility rather than somebody else's job.

> "Small, collective steps taken by everyday citizens create giant, lasting impacts for our nation's biodiversity."

"Protecting our rhinos is not only about safeguarding wildlife, but about preserving our national heritage and protecting the ecosystems that sustain our country," says Walk for Giants Lead Coordinator Colleen Selogelo.

The message is simple: start young, walk together and make protecting wildlife part of everyday culture.

BRING THE WHOLE CREW

Registration starts at 7am, with the walk kicking off at 8am. Adults pay P100, while children get in for P50 — making this less luxury fundraiser, more family day out with consequences.

There will be jumping castles, live entertainment, craft stalls and interactive conservation education. Every ticket also enters its buyer into a raffle for a family holiday to Elephant Sands.

For those wanting to make an even louder statement, limited-edition Walk for Giants T-shirt and bucket-hat combos are available for P275.

GIANT IMPACT

The real target, though, isn't the finish line. It's the next generation.

"Small, collective steps taken by everyday citizens create giant, lasting impacts for our nation's biodiversity," Selogelo says.

KGOLOLO MAKES BOTSWANA PREMIERE

After debuting in China, Lone Motsomi's intimate solo work returned home to confront grief, memory, identity and healing.

Botswana multidisciplinary artist Lone Motsomi brought her performance *Kgololo: The Way Out Is Inward* home for its Botswana premiere at Maitisong Theatre in Gaborone on Sunday, 30 August, following its world premiere in China in 2025.

The multidisciplinary work explores grief, memory, family, identity and liberation through movement, theatre, storytelling and personal memory. Its central question is whether confronting pain, rather than escaping it, can provide a path towards freedom.

A STORY CARRIED IN THE BODY

Drawing on childhood experiences, absence, resentment, spiritual questioning and self-acceptance, Motsomi uses movement and theatrical storytelling to examine how personal experiences are carried in the body.

The title *Kgololo*, which refers to liberation in Setswana, also carries a personal connection: it was the name of Motsomi's late father.

AFRICAN CREATIVE COLLABORATION

The production features a creative team from Botswana and South Africa. South African actor and filmmaker Thabo Rametsi and Motswana actor, writer and filmmaker Donald Molosi serve as executive producers, with Noxolo Dlamini and MotherK Masire as producers. Botswana theatre practitioner Tefo Paya directs.

Rametsi said he joined the production because of its subject matter and Motsomi's artistic approach.

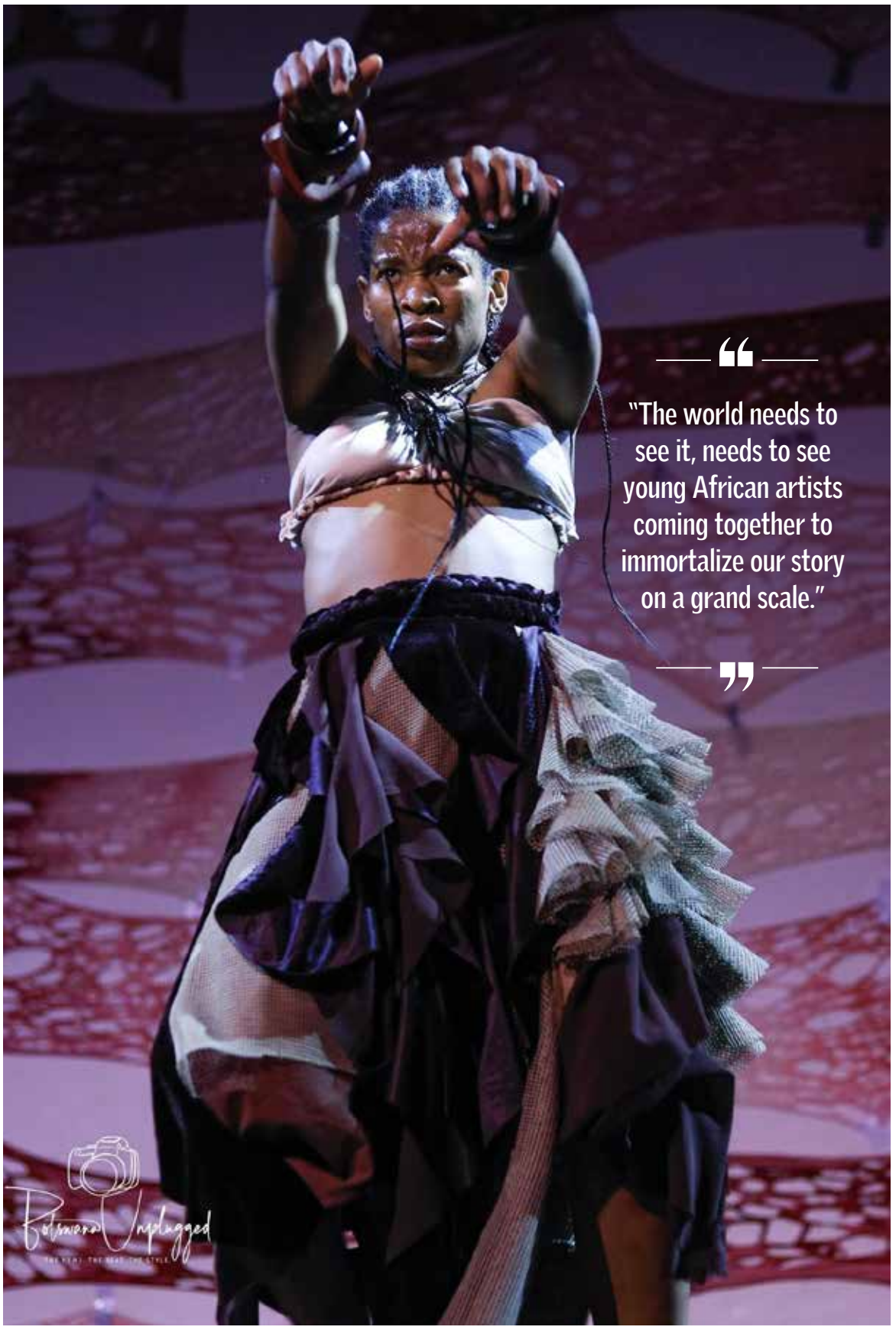
"The world needs to see it, needs to see young African artists coming together to immortalize our story on a grand scale," he said.

Molosi described the production as a significant development for Botswana's solo theatre scene, saying, "Lone's new work, Kgololo, is an important milestone in Botswana's solo theatre history."

FROM BROADWAY TO BOTSWANA

Motsomi spent 13 years with Mophato Dance Theatre before appearing in *Pula! The Musical* on Broadway. Her screen credits include *The Woman King*, *Shaka iLembe*, *G20* and *Blood & Water*.

The Botswana premiere places her international experience alongside a work rooted in personal memory and questions of identity, inheritance and freedom.



The EVs Are Here



The petrol pump has a new rival. In Gaborone, a fleet of tiny electric cars, bikes and tricycles is quietly testing whether Botswana is ready to plug into the future.

GOSEGO MOTSUMI

Forget the roar of the engine. The next sound of Botswana's streets could be… nothing.

That is the bet behind EV (Electric Vehicles) Motors, a Gaborone venture bringing a fleet of small electric cars, motorbikes and cargo tricycles into a market still dominated by petrol and diesel. Prices currently range from about P20,000 to P60,000, putting the vehicles firmly in the experimental rather than luxury-toy category.

At the centre of it all is creative entrepreneur Leatile "Latty" Motlhalamme, who sees an opportunity in making electric mobility less mysterious and considerably more accessible.

The idea clicked after Motlhalamme saw electric bikes being used by Zebra Security and Zebra Deliveries.

"How about we actually bring this to the people?" he recalls thinking.

SMALL, CHEAP AND CHARGED

These aren't trying to be Botswana's answer to the Range Rover. They are built for shorter journeys: deliveries, school runs, small businesses, golf courses and getting around town without making another pilgrimage to the filling station.

The bikes can be charged at home or work, with a full charge taking roughly six hours. And unlike conventional vehicles, there is no engine oil, spark plugs or long list of mechanical parts waiting to empty your wallet.

The delivery bikes have already been tested in real-world conditions, with Zebra Deliveries using them for about two years.

That experience has given Motlhalamme confidence but he is not pretending the electric revolution has arrived overnight.

"These cars, bikes and tricycles are not meant to replace your everyday cars," he told Time Out. "These are still concept cars. We're trying out the concept, which Batswana are responding to in large numbers."

THE BIGGER EXPERIMENT

For EV Motors, the immediate challenge isn't simply selling vehicles. It is getting Batswana comfortable with the idea of electric mobility.

Motlhalamme believes exposure is the first step.

"People don't like what they don't know or what they don't understand."

The long game is even more ambitious: cheaper vehicles, wider adoption and, eventually, a market where electric mobility isn't an exotic curiosity but an ordinary option.

For now, Botswana is being invited to take the wheel and decide whether the future sounds better without an engine.



ATI's Legacy Lives On

TIMEOUT BRIEFS

BY GOSEGO MOTSUMI

A year after his death, ATI's birthday becomes a moment to bring memory and community back together in Lerala.

On September 28, Lerala will become a gathering place for fans, friends and family of Atlasaone "ATI" Molemogi as they mark what would have been the late artist's birthday with a tombstone unveiling ceremony.

Organised by the Molemogi family and Born and Raised (BNR), the event is less about mourning the passage of time than confronting what remains: the music, memories and cultural imprint of an artist whose work connected deeply with Batswana.

ATI's death last year left a conspicuous silence in Botswana's music scene. But his songs continue to occupy playlists, conversations and memories, giving his legacy a life beyond the stage.

Now, his birthday offers another kind of reunion, one where music lovers can gather not simply to remember the man they lost, but to celebrate the artist who remains.

KURU ART IN JAPAN



From Kgalagadi to Japan, Kuru Art Project's latest exhibition turns distance into a conversation between cultures.

What happens when Kalahari stories land thousands of kilometres from home? They start a new conversation.

The Kuru Art Project is back in Japan with "Connect Through Art", an exhibition that places Botswana's visual storytelling in dialogue with a Japanese audience.

Currently showing at Gallery Sou, housed within Matsubarako Tourist Information, the exhibition brings together art, culture and stories under one deceptively simple idea: connection.

For Kuru artists, whose work is deeply rooted in the landscapes, experiences and cultural traditions of the Kalahari, the Japanese exhibition is more than an overseas showcase. It is another chapter in an ongoing exchange between people who may live worlds apart but can meet through an image.

Visitors can experience the exhibition until September 21, from 10am to 5pm. The gallery is closed Tuesdays and Wednesdays.

Veetros Extends Footprint

Twenty years of performing in Palapye has come full circle for Vee Mampeezy, this time he is arriving not with a microphone, but a restaurant.



Vee Mampeezy has spent two decades making Palapye dance. Now he wants Batswana to sit down and eat.

The musician and entrepreneur has opened the fourth Veetro's restaurant at Engen Mall in Palapye, adding another brick to an increasingly visible business empire.

For Vee, the location carries some history. He says he has been travelling to Palapye to perform for 20 years, making the new restaurant feel like an unexpected full-circle moment.

"I never thought in my life one day I would come to open my restaurant, supported by Batswana," he said.

That transition from performer to entrepreneur is becoming an increasingly familiar route for artists looking to turn cultural currency into businesses that exist beyond the stage.

The Palapye opening takes Veetro's to four outlets, suggesting Vee's ambitions stretch well beyond hit records and packed dance floors.

The bigger story may be the model: build a fan base, build trust, then build something people can walk into.

In Palapye, Vee is serving a different kind of encore.



Bouga Luv Introduces Street Psalms

After more than a decade away from solo music, Kabelo Mabalane returns with a sound built where faith, street culture and lived experience collide.



Kabelo Mabalane has spent years trading stages for pulpits, but the microphone never really left him.

The South African music veteran — TKZee founding member, pastor, entrepreneur and fitness advocate — returns to solo music with "Everybody Needs Somebody", released September 3 as the first taste of his forthcoming album.

His new musical territory has a name: "Street Psalms".

It is an intriguing collision of worlds. Mabalane is drawing on the streets that shaped his musical identity while bringing faith to a space where it is not always expressed in conventional language.

The result is intended to sound less like a comeback and more like a reckoning with everything he has become since his last solo chapter.

There is the artist once known as Bouga Luv. There is the pastor behind the pulpit. There is the businessman, husband, father and advocate.

"Street Psalms" promises to put all those identities in the same room with a beat underneath them.

After more than a decade, Bouga is back. But he is not coming back the same.

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

CASE No. CVHFT 000 294/14

In the matter between
FIRST NATIONAL BANK OF BOTSWANA LIMITED **PLAINTIFF**
And
MATHAMA JOO INVESTMENTS (PTY) LTD **1ST DEFENDANT**
JONATHAN MAPHANE **2ND DEFENDANT**

NOTICE OF SALE IN EXECUTION

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

DATE OF SALE : 7th November 2026
TIME : 10:30 a.m.
VENUE : Tribal Lot 16414, Thitoyamokole Ward, Maun
PROPERTY TO BE SOLD : Tribal Lot 16414, Thitoyamokole Ward, Maun

SITUATE : at Maun in the Batawana Tribal Territory
MEASURING : 1210m2 (One Thousand Two Hundred and Ten Square Metres) which property is held under Memorandum of Agreement of Lease No. FT TL 512/2010 dated 16th day of August 2010 entered into between TAWANA LAND BOARD and JONATHAN MAPHANE
The Property comprises of a house with three bedrooms, sitting room, kitchen, toilet and bathroom water system, screen wall and other improvements thereon.

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

CONDITION OF SALE : Cash or Bank guarantee cheques

DATED AT FRANCISTOWN ON THIS 7TH DAY OF SEPTEMBER,2026

MMOHE ATTORNEYS
ATTORNEYS. NOTARIES & CONVEYANCERS

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

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

CASE No. CVHFT 000 294/24

In the matter between
FIRST NATIONAL BANK OF BOTSWANA LIMITED **PLAINTIFF**
And
SERETO MOITATODI **DEFENDANT**

NOTICE OF SALE IN EXECUTION

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

DATE OF SALE : 6th November 2026
TIME : 10:30 a.m.
VENUE : Lot 24133,, Maun
PROPERTY TO BE SOLD : Lot 24133, Maun

SITUATE : at Maun Village (Cadastre 274) in Batawana Tribal Territory
MEASURING : 1255m2 (One Thousand Two Hundred and Fifty Five Square Metres) which property is held under Memorandum of Agreement of Lease No. FT TL 562/2020 dated the 24th day of July 2020 made in favour of SERETO MOITATODI

The property comprises of an entrance verandah, open plan lounge and dining room, kitchen fitted with a single bowl sink, a built in stove over wooden base and wall units, scullery fitted with a single bowl sink over a metal base unit, three bedrooms all fitted with an air conditioning unit and en-suite bathroom consisting of a water closet, wash hand basin and shower, bedroom fitted with an air conditioning unit and en-suite bathroom comprising of a water closet, wash hand basin, bathtub and shower.

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

CONDITION OF SALE : Cash or Bank guarantee cheques

DATED AT FRANCISTOWN ON THIS 7TH DAY OF SEPTEMBER, 2026

MMOHE ATTORNEYS
ATTORNEYS. NOTARIES & CONVEYANCERS

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

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

CVHGB-002387-23

In the matter between:
FIRST CAPITAL BANK LIMITED **Plaintiff**
and
CATALOK (PTY) LTD **First Defendant**
LINCOLN LONE BOME **Second 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 NTSHWARELANG OOKAME** to the highest bidder as follows: -

DATE OF SALE : 24TH SEPTEMBER 2026
TIME : 10:00 AM
VENUE : LOT 59751, GABORONE
PROPERTY TO BE SOLD : Certain piece of land being **LOT 59751**, **BLOCK 7 GABORONE**, in **GABORONE WEST EXTENSION** 48 measuring **447m²** held under Deed of Transfer No. **691/2012** dated **29TH** day of **MARCH 2012** made in favour of **LONE LINCOLN BOME** together with some developments, thereon being a Two Bedroomed house with fitted wardrobes, attached shed, separate toilet, lounge, fitted kitchen with base and wall units granite tops, screen wall and electrified fence.

TERMS OF SALE : Subject to Conditions of Sale.
Only cash or bank guaranteed cheques will be accepted.

DATED AT GABORONE ON THIS THE 11TH DAY OF AUGUST 2026.

SWABI & COMPANY

SWABI & COMPANY
Plaintiff's Attorneys
First Floor, Unit 17 Kgale Mews, Gaborone International Finance Park
P O Box 403506, **GABORONE**
(Ref: DS.spm.S00101)
Deputy Sheriff Ntshwarelang Ookame Cell no.72879169,77435503

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

CASE NO: CVHFT 000 451/23

In the matter between:
ABSA BANK BOTSWANA LIMITED
formerly **BARCLAYS BANK OF BOTSWANA LIMITED** **Plaintiff**
And
BONTLE PRUDENCE MAELE **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 : 9th October 2026
VENUE : Tribal Lot 13204, Mahalapye
TIME : 1100 Hours

PROPERTY TO BE SOLD : The Defendant's right, title and interest to and in certain piece of Land being Tribal Lot 13204, Mahalapye, measuring 600m² (Six Hundred Square Metres), held under Notarial Deed of Cession No FT MA16/2019 dated the 12th day of February 2019 and made in favour of **BONTLE PRUDENCE MAELE,** together with developments thereon, consisting of Two bedroomed house, Kitchen, Living room, Toilet and Bathroom.

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

NOTICE TO CREDITORS AND DEBTORS

Estate of the Late REXON PETER MABELEBELE

Estate No.: **REF ESHGB-001770/25**

Identity Number of Deceased: 504623414
Date of Death: 23 June 2026
Place of Residence: Mathathane Village

NOTICE is hereby given, in terms of the Administration of Estates Act (Cap. 31:01), that the abovementioned REXON PETER MABELEBELE, formerly of Mathathane Village, Bobirwa District, Botswana, died on 23 June 2026.

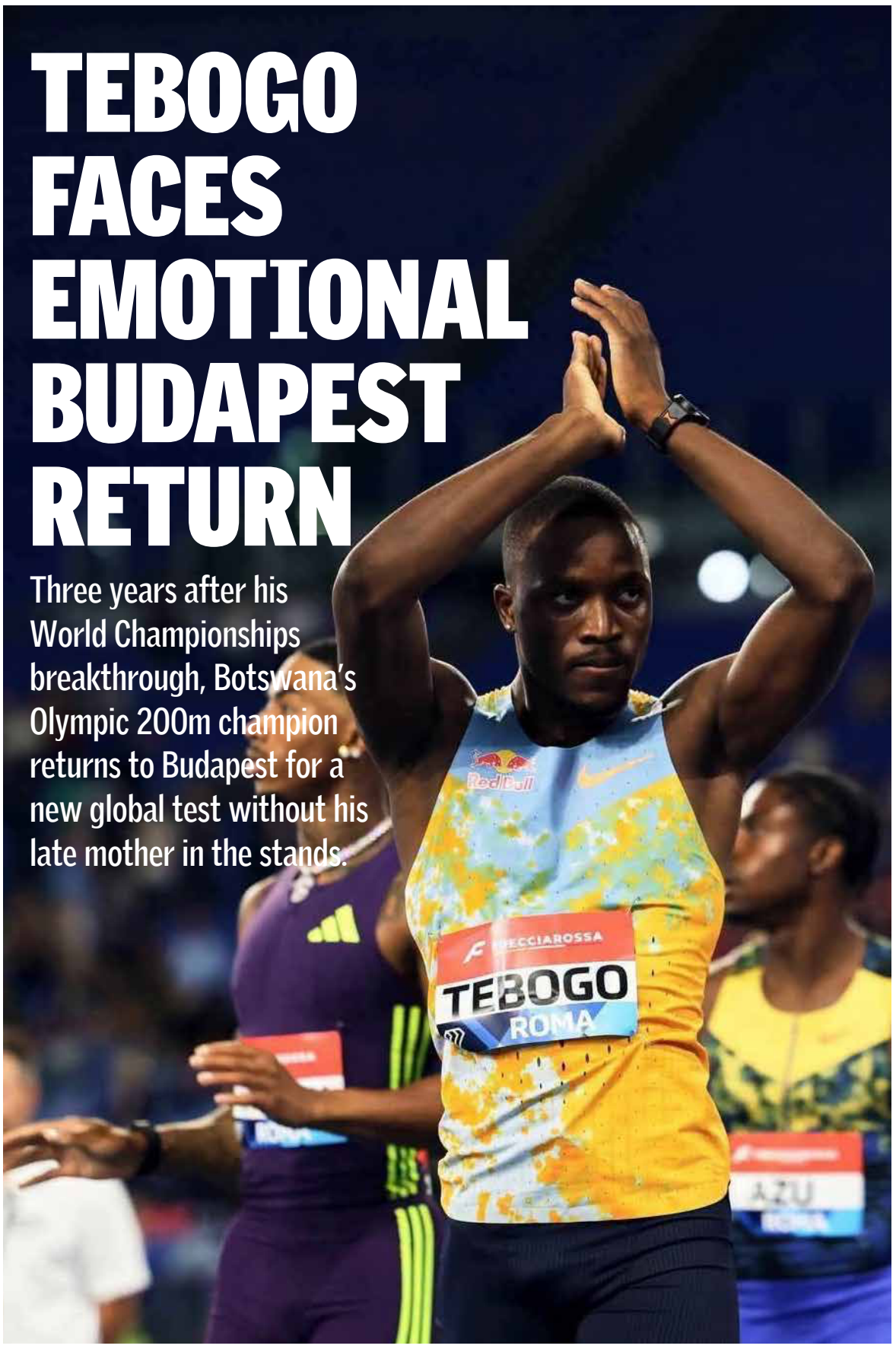
All persons having claims against the said estate are required to lodge such claims, in writing, with the undersigned Executor within thirty (30) days from the date of the last publication of this notice, failing which they may be barred from claiming against the estate.

All persons indebted to the estate are likewise required to settle such debts within the same period.

Kelebogile Ruhapo
Temporary Executor, Estate of the Late Rexon Peter Mabelebele
P O Box 81794, Gaborone
kelebogileru@gmail.com



TEBOGO FACES EMOTIONAL BUDAPEST RETURN



Three years after his World Championships breakthrough, Botswana's Olympic 200m champion returns to Budapest for a new global test without his late mother in the stands.

GAZETTE REPORTER

Three years after his breakthrough at the World Athletics Championships in Budapest, Letsile Tebogo returns to the Hungarian capital this week for the inaugural World Athletics Ultimate Championship.

Budapest was where Tebogo claimed two world medals in 2023 and announced himself on the global stage, with his mother, Seratiwa Tebogo, watching from the stands.

EMOTIONAL RETURN

This time, she will not be there. Seratiwa died in May 2024 after a short illness.

"I haven't really looked into the fact that I'm going now to Budapest without my mom," Tebogo told BBC Africa in an interview.

"It's just been a bumpy ride having to think about it and having to continue with the grind."

RECENT FORM

Tebogo arrives in Budapest after finishing fourth in the 200m at the Diamond League final last week.

Kennedy Bednarek won the race in a world-leading 19.62 seconds, with South Africa's Sinesipho Dambile and Zimbabwe's Makanakaishe completing the podium.

Tebogo is set to compete in both the 100m and 200m in Budapest. The men's 100m field is led by Jamaica's reigning world champion Oblique Seville, while Bednarek is also scheduled to contest both sprints.

BOTSWANA SIX

Botswana will be represented by six athletes at the World Athletics Ultimate Championship, which runs from September 11 to 13 and brings together leading athletes for three nights of elite competition.

The first-of-its-kind biennial championship features 13 individual events for men and 13 for women, comprising eight track and five field events, alongside two relay events.

Qualification is led by Olympic champions from Paris 2024, world champions from Tokyo and Diamond League winners, with athletes also able to qualify through world rankings or exceptional invitations.

> "It's just been a bumpy ride having to think about it and having to continue with the grind."

Tebogo, Botswana's Olympic 200m champion, headlines the team. He will be joined by Collen Kebinatshipi, the reigning world 400m champion, Lee Eppie, Bayapo Ndori, Oratile Nowe and Kemorena Tisang.

Police XI Take Early Lead

Police XI top the early FNB Premiership standings as CAF commitments and a rain-hit fixture leave clubs with uneven games played.

GAZETTE REPORTER

Police XI have taken the early lead in the 2026/27 FNB Premiership after winning both of their opening matches without conceding a goal.

Early Pace

Police XI sit on six points from two matches, with three goals scored and none conceded.

Extension Gunners are second, also on six points after two victories, but trail Police XI on goal difference after scoring two goals without conceding.

Sua Flamingoes are third with four points from two matches after one win and one draw.

Nico United are fourth on three points, while Gaborone United and Tonota FC have also collected three points from their opening matches. BDF XI SC are seventh with three points but have a negative goal difference.

Enesia FC, Orapa United and Morupule Wanderers have one point each. Jwaneng Galaxy and Township Rollers have yet to play.

At the bottom, Mochudi Centre Chiefs, TAFIC FC, Prisons XI and Matebele FC are still searching for points, with Prisons XI and Matebele FC both losing their first two matches.

WEEKEND FIXTURES

The FNB Premiership returns this weekend with six matches scheduled across Botswana, while two fixtures have been postponed because of clubs' CAF assignments.



> Police XI have won both opening matches, scoring three goals and conceding none.

Mochudi Centre Chiefs and Nico United are scheduled to meet on Friday, September 11, at Gaborone United Stadium at 7 p.m. Chiefs' previous fixture against Tonota FC was suspended following heavy rain.

Saturday's programme starts at 4 p.m. with Morupule Wanderers hosting Township Rollers at Palapye Stadium, Sua Flamingoes facing Prisons XI at Sowa Town Council Stadium, and Enesia FC meeting Matebele FC at Obed Itani Chilume Stadium.

At 7 p.m., Tonota FC are scheduled to face BDF XI at Obed Itani Chilume Stadium, while Orapa United host TAFIC at Itekeng Stadium.

CAF DISRUPTION

Extension Gunners against Jwaneng Galaxy and Gaborone United against Police XI have been postponed because of CAF assignments.

The early table therefore remains distorted by uneven numbers of matches played, with continental commitments and the suspended Chiefs-Tonota fixture already reshaping the domestic schedule.

KEBINATSHIPI READY FOR BUDAPEST TEST

The reigning world 400m champion heads into the World Athletics Ultimate Championship after an unbeaten Diamond League campaign and a record-breaking win in Brussels.



GAZETTE REPORTER

Collen Kebinatshipi heads into the World Athletics Ultimate Championship in Budapest with the confidence of an unbeaten Diamond League season and a record-breaking victory in Brussels.

His personal coach, Chilume Ntshwarang, says the reigning world 400m champion is ready for the September 11 to 13 competition.

"We are preparing well and I believe we are ready for it," Ntshwarang told this publication in a brief telephone interview from Budapest.

RECORD RUN

Kebinatshipi secured his first Diamond Trophy on Friday, September 4, after a dominant performance at the Wanda Diamond League Final in Brussels.

The 22-year-old completed an undefeated circuit season with six consecutive victories.

In Brussels, Kebinatshipi clocked 43.40 seconds in the men's 400m, setting a Diamond League record, a meet record and a Botswana national record.

The performance moved him to joint fifth on the world all-time list for the men's 400m and made him the first man in athletics history to break 44 seconds five times in a single season.

Alongside the Diamond Trophy, the victory earned Kebinatshipi more than P400,000 ($30,000).

"Wonderful feeling after securing the trophy as it sums up a great season we had," Ntshwarang said.

ULTIMATE STAGE

According to the World Athletics website, the World Athletics Ultimate Championship is the first event of its kind, bringing leading athletes together in Budapest for three nights of competition.

The biennial event features 13 individual events for men and 13 for women, comprising eight track and five field events, alongside two relay events.

Olympic champions from Paris 2024, world champions crowned in Tokyo last year and this year's Diamond League winners automatically qualify. Athletes can also qualify through world rankings, while some may receive exceptional invitations.

RICHEST PRIZE

The championships carry a $10 million prize pot, described by World Athletics as the richest in the history of the sport.

Each individual event winner will receive $150,000, with $75,000 for second place and $40,000 for third. In the relays, the winning team will share $80,000.

The event follows World Athletics' move to put athletes first, including becoming the first international federation to award prize money at an Olympic Games. At Paris 2024, $50,000 was paid to each gold medallist from a total prize purse of $2.4 million.



Beyond 40 Walk Champions Wellness

The inaugural Gaborone walk linked healthy ageing and active living with personal responsibility and support for survivors of gender-based violence.

GAZETTE REPORTER

Minister for State President, Defence and Security Moeti Caesar Mohwasa led the Beyond 40 Walk in Gaborone over the weekend, urging people over 40 to take a more deliberate approach to their health and wellbeing.

Held under the theme "Every Step Towards Health and Wellness," the initiative promoted active living, healthy ageing and community solidarity.

HEALTH FIRST

Addressing participants, Mohwasa said turning 40 should be seen not only as a milestone, but also as an opportunity to protect the years ahead.

He said people beyond 40 often carry major responsibilities, from raising families and building careers and businesses to contributing to their communities, but those responsibilities should not come at the expense of their own health.

"A healthy person is better positioned to care for a family, remain productive at work and participate meaningfully in community life," Mohwasa said.

ACROSS GENERATIONS

Mohwasa welcomed the inclusive nature of the walk, saying that while the initiative places particular emphasis on people over 40, its message of healthy living applies across generations.

He encouraged younger people to develop healthy habits early and urged older people to show that ageing does not mean withdrawing from an active lifestyle.

The minister also challenged participants to carry the spirit of the initiative beyond the event by committing to regular physical activity and healthier dietary choices in their homes, workplaces and communities.

SOCIAL PURPOSE

The event also included a social responsibility component, with scholarships provided to survivors of gender-based violence.

Mpho Mphafe-Fish, speaking at the walk, said it was a privilege for Mmila Fund Administrators to participate in the inaugural Beyond 40: Stride by Stride Walk.

"It is indeed a pleasure and privilege for Mmila Fund Administrators to be part of this inaugural Beyond 40: Stride by Stride Walk, held under the fitting theme, 'Every Step Towards Health and Wellness,'" she said.

Mphafe-Fish said the initiative highlighted the importance of giving deliberate attention to health and wellbeing, particularly as people grow older.

For many people, she said, reaching 40 and beyond is a period of reflection on the future, families, responsibilities and the lives they hope to lead.

"And perhaps one of the most important lessons we must embrace is that preparing for the future is not only about planning for tomorrow; it is about making the right choices today."

> "Preparing for the future is not only about planning for tomorrow; it is about making the right choices today."

She also recognised Government's continued efforts to improve the wellbeing of Batswana, saying initiatives such as the walk remind communities that healthier societies begin with individuals taking responsibility for their own wellbeing.

RAGUIN MAKES US OPEN HISTORY

The 17-year-old became the first Motswana to reach the US Open Junior main draw, adding another milestone to Botswana tennis despite a first-round exit.

GAZETTE REPORTER



Ntungamili Raguin's US Open campaign ended in the first round, but the 17-year-old left Flushing Meadows having made Botswana tennis history.

Historic First

Raguin became the first Motswana to reach the US Open Junior main draw, adding another milestone to his growing international career.

He lost his opening-round singles match 1-6, 6-1, 2-6, while his doubles campaign also ended in the first round.

GRAND SLAM LESSONS

Botswana Tennis Association (BTA) president Oaitse Thipe said competing at Flushing Meadows had given Raguin valuable Grand Slam experience as he continues his development on the international circuit.

"Competing at Flushing Meadows, home of the US Open, has also provided the 17-year-old with valuable Grand Slam experience as he continues his development on the international circuit," Thipe said in a telephone interview.

Thipe linked Raguin's progress to the international tournaments Botswana has hosted, where the player has competed, won matches and earned important ranking points.

"We hope his performance will translate to other players," Thipe said.

YOUNG INSPIRATION

Thipe said Raguin's progress was also giving younger Botswana players reason to believe they could follow the same path.

He said the BTA currently has eight under-14 players competing in Morocco and hoped Raguin's example would motivate them.

"Currently we have eight players of U14 playing in Morocco and we hope he is motivating them, and if they do well they will follow suit in his steps," he said.

"The amazing work that Raguin has been displaying is motivating a lot of young players and they feel they can do well to emulate his success," Thipe added.

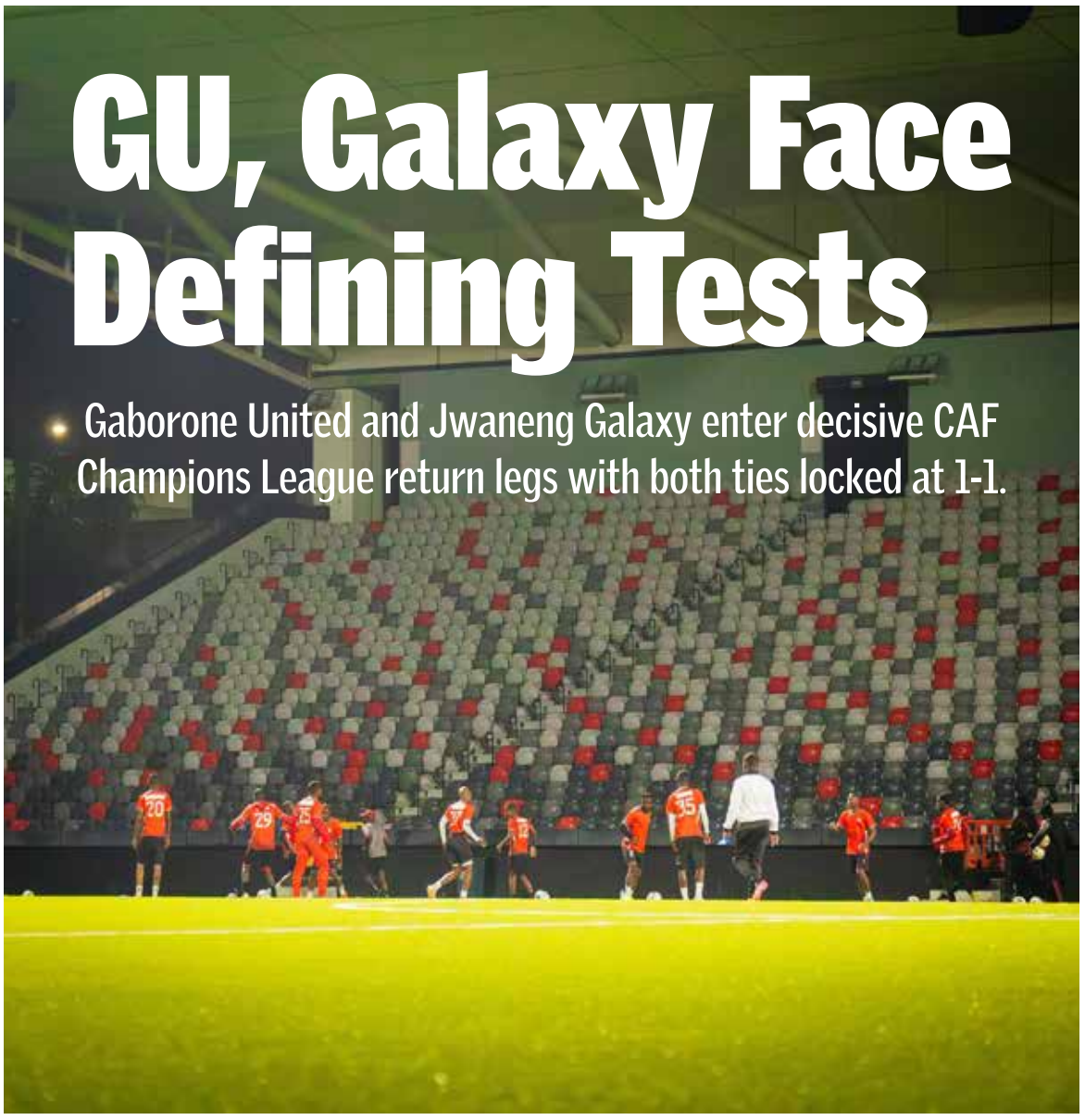
Country Visibility

Beyond the court, Thipe said Raguin's appearances at major international competitions were also giving Botswana greater visibility.

He said the teenager's presence on the international circuit was "also marketing the country," as more people became familiar with Botswana.

GU, Galaxy Face Defining Tests

Gaborone United and Jwaneng Galaxy enter decisive CAF Champions League return legs with both ties locked at 1-1.



GAZETTE REPORTER

Botswana's CAF Champions League hopes remain finely balanced after Gaborone United (GU) and Jwaneng Galaxy both drew 1-1 in their opening legs.

GU Denied Late

GU took the lead against Young Africans under the National Stadium floodlights on Saturday through a stunning Aubrey Amseb free kick, only to concede an equaliser in the final minute.

The result leaves the tie open ahead of the return leg in Tanzania on Saturday, September 12, with kick-off scheduled for 6 p.m.

Football analyst Kagiso Mozambican Kgaogano said GU had largely executed their plan well, particularly by limiting the influence of Young Africans forward Peter Shalulile.

"GU, I think they did their assignment very well, they managed them very well and managed to cut supply to danger man in Peter Shalulile."

Kgaogano also singled out Benson Mangolo and Lebogang Ditsele for their performances, but said GU's deep defensive approach eventually cost them.

"Players like Mangolo and Ditsele played very well, the problem is that they were defending too deep which costed them as Yanga scored in the two minutes of added time," he said.

He described the first-leg result as fair and said GU will need determination and confidence in Tanzania, where they are expected to face an intimidating home crowd.

"They should try their best not to concede in the first minutes of the game," Kgaogano said, adding that the players' mindset would need to be "spot on."

GALAXY ADVANTAGE

Jwaneng Galaxy also secured a 1-1 draw away to Association Sportive Port Louis 2000 of Mauritius.

Olebogeng Ramotse put Galaxy ahead in the fourth minute before the Mauritian side found an equaliser.

Galaxy said they dominated much of the match, creating chances and controlling the tempo, but had to settle for a draw.

The second leg will be played at the National Stadium in Gaborone on Saturday, leaving Galaxy with home advantage but still needing a result to progress.

Kgaogano said the away draw was positive and urged Galaxy to take control early.

"It's just been a bumpy ride having to think about it and having to continue with the grind."

"For them to have scored and bring a result home is a good thing," he said.

"Now that they are home they need to score early and make sure that they bury the game early," he added.

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BACKPAGE
WEDNESDAY 09 SEPTEMBER 2026
SINCE 1984

The Botswana Gazette
SPORT



26.

TEBOGO FACES EMOTIONAL BUDAPEST RETURN

Three years after his World Championships breakthrough, Botswana's Olympic 200m champion returns to Budapest for a new global test without his late mother in the stands.

RAGUIN MAKES US OPEN HISTORY

The 17-year-old became the first Motswana to reach the US Open Junior main draw, adding another milestone to Botswana tennis despite a first-round exit.



28.

