The Botswana
GAZETTE
WEDNESDAY 14 OCTOBER 2026 | SINCE 1984

Oratile Kofa Finds Her Own Frequency

21.



Katlholo's Quiet Moment of Vindication

Peter Magosi is gone. Tymon Katlholo, the former anti-corruption chief who lost his job after investigating him, has every reason to feel vindicated. Yet, in a remarkable show of restraint, he insists on justice, not revenge.

2.

BPF Blasts UDC Over Meds Crisis

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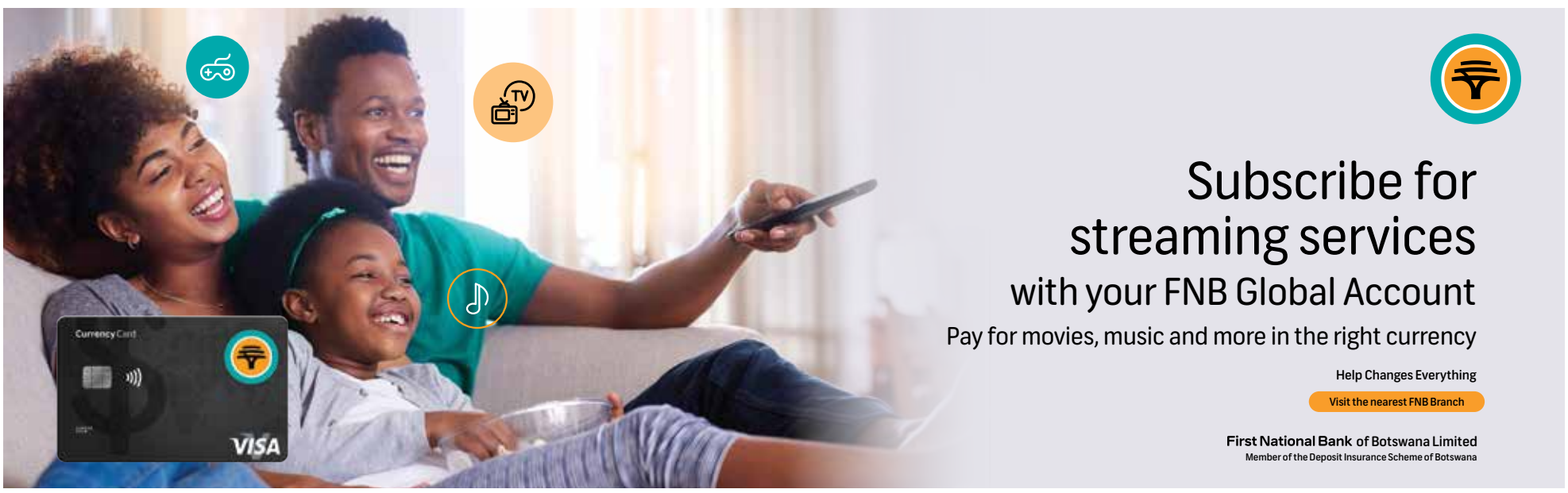

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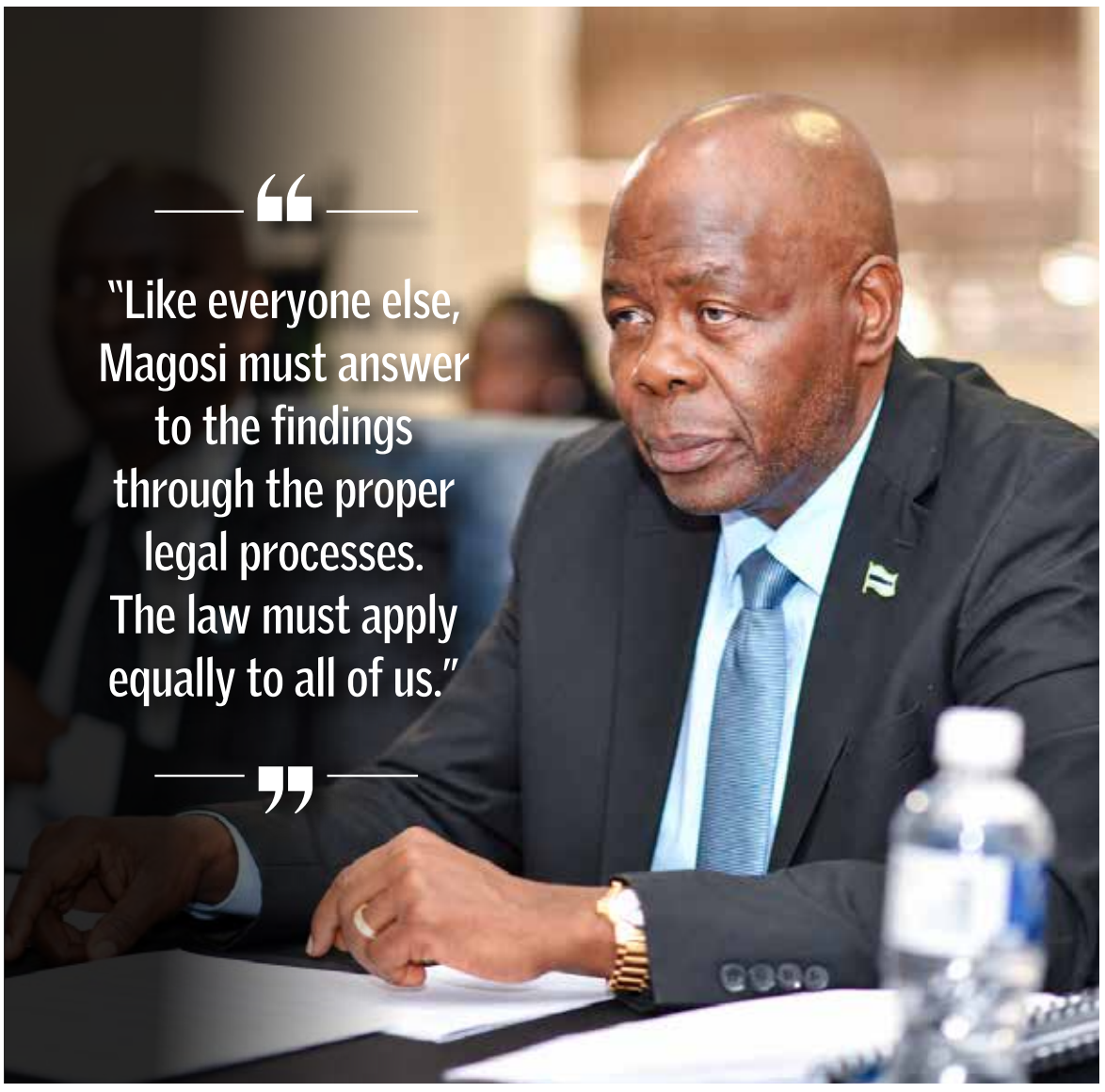
Magosi's Reckoning, Katlholo's Quiet Resolve

He lost his position after a confrontation with Botswana's intelligence establishment. Now, with Peter Magosi's retirement confirmed, Tymon Katlholo refuses to celebrate, standing instead by an investigation he never disowned.



GAZETTE REPORTER

After months of speculation, the Office of the President confirmed on Tuesday, 13 October, that Peter Fana Magosi had retired from public service, ending his tenure as Director-General of the Directorate of Intelligence and Security Services (DISS), a position he had held since 2018. President Duma Boko appointed Aobakwe Monamo as Acting Director-General with effect from the same day. But Tymon Katlholo, whose career was derailed amid a confrontation with Magosi, is showing little appetite for a victory lap.

Katlholo, the former head of the Directorate on Corruption and Economic Crime (DCEC), stands by the investigation that brought him into conflict with the country's intelligence establishment. But he is not celebrating Magosi's departure.

"I still stand by the investigation we conducted and the findings we reached. My position on that has not changed," Katlholo told The Botswana Gazette.

THE BDP GOVERNMENT

Under former President Mokgweetsi Masisi's Botswana Democratic Party (BDP) government, Acting President Slumber Tsogwane suspended Katlholo in June 2022. Masisi terminated his contract in May 2023. Those decisions followed his confrontation with the Directorate of Intelligence and Security (DIS), and ended his tenure months before his contract was due to expire.

The confrontation followed DCEC investigations involving Magosi and other senior intelligence officials. Among them was an alleged abuse-of-office case arising from the blacklisting of China Jiangsu International, a contractor on the Mmamashia Water Treatment Plant expansion.

THE DIS RAID

A leaked DCEC docket alleged Magosi had declared the contractor a national-security threat without referring the decision to the Central Intelligence Community as required. The contract dispute ultimately resulted in a P112 million settlement. The allegations have not been tested in a criminal trial, and Magosi has denied wrongdoing.

In May 2022, DIS officers sealed Katlholo's office while he was abroad on official duty, seeking access to sensitive investigative files. Katlholo challenged the action in court, arguing that the intelligence agency had no authority to interfere with DCEC investigations.

> Under Masisi's BDP government, Acting President Slumber Tsogwane suspended Katlholo in June 2022. Masisi terminated his contract in May 2023.

In June 2024, the Court of Appeal upheld the ruling against DIS, finding that it had acted unlawfully in taking control of the offices. The judgment vindicated Katlholo's legal challenge, although it did not determine whether Magosi had committed corruption.

CASES STILL OPEN

At Parliament's Public Accounts Committee in August, DCEC director general Botlhale Makgekgenene confirmed investigations involving Magosi, saying two had been completed and were ready for the next legal stage.

> "I would rather not comment on his departure. It is not really a matter of interest to me,"

She did not publicly identify them, leaving unanswered whether Katlholo's original docket is among the cases now moving forward. Magosi told the committee he wanted the investigations expedited and maintained that he had done nothing wrong.

NO PERSONAL TRIUMPH

Asked about Magosi's departure, Katlholo offered no personal verdict.

"I would rather not comment on his departure. It is not really a matter of interest to me," he said.

Instead, he returned to the principle at the heart of the dispute: "Like everyone else, Magosi must answer to the findings through the proper legal processes. The law must apply equally to all of us."

"What I wish and pray for is reform in our law-enforcement system, so that institutions can carry out their duties independently and without interference."



Honour Mogae, Preserve BIUST - Founding VC

The founding Vice-Chancellor of BUIST Professor Kweku Bentil proposes retaining BIUST's existing name alongside Festus Mogae's, saying alumni concerns over identity and reputation are legitimate



Former Botswana International University of Science and Technology (BIUST) Vice-Chancellor Professor Kweku Bentil has proposed a combined name for the institution as a possible compromise in the dispute over government's proposal to rename it after former President Festus Mogae.

TEFO PHEAGE

Former Botswana International University of Science and Technology (BIUST) Vice-Chancellor Professor Kweku Bentil has proposed a combined name for the institution as a possible compromise in the dispute over government's proposal to rename it after former President Festus Mogae.

Responding to questions from the Botswana Gazette, Bentil said Mogae deserved recognition for his contribution to the university, but cautioned against overlooking concerns raised by the BIUST Alumni Association.

"President Mogae played a major role in the entire concept of BIUST and deserves to be recognized," he said, but warned that: "the concerns of the BIUST Alumni Association especially about international recognition and reputation, institutional memory as well as alumni identity are very important and genuine." He continued "those concerns must not be overlooked."

ALUMNI CONCERNS

The BIUST Alumni Association association's executive has publicly opposed the proposed renaming, expressing concern over the institution's identity, alumni future, and what they described as lack of proper consultations.

Bentil's intervention comes as government considers naming the institution after Mogae. Higher Education Minister Prince Maele has said the former president's family agreed to the use of his name, with consultations also held in Serowe.

COMBINED NAME

Bentil suggested that the institution could become the "Festus Mogae Botswana International University of Science and Technology", incorporating the former president's name while retaining its existing institutional name.

"In my opinion, one way to overcome concerns is to consider a combination name," he said.

"Such a name should address concerns, maintain the BIUST name and recognize late President Mogae as well."

He continued: "There are numerous examples globally about what I am proposing A good example on the continent is the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology in Kumasi, Ghana. Its original name was University of Science and Technology. It was later renamed after the first President of Ghana - Kwame Nkrumah".

OTHER WAYS TO HONOUR MOGAE

Bentil also suggested that recognition could take a form that preserves the university's current name entirely.

"A second option to overcome concerns might be to name one of the major buildings on the BIUST campus or a major BIUST Foundation after President Mogae."

BPF Blasts UDC Over Meds Crisis

Serowe South MP Leepetswe Lesedi has turned up the heat on the Ministry of Health, where fellow BPF legislator Lawrence Ookeditse serves as Assistant Minister, over the government's handling of persistent medicine shortages

SESUPO RANTSIMAKO

A rift has emerged between Botswana Patriotic Front (BPF) MPs Leepetswe Lesedi and Lawrence Ookeditse over the party's relationship with the Umbrella for Democratic Change (UDC) government, with Lesedi attacking government spending priorities while Ookeditse dismisses what he describes as petty politics.

HEALTH SPENDING

The differences surfaced during the launch of BPF candidate Loeto Porati for the Sefhophe council ward bye-election, where Lesedi questioned government spending on artists while public health facilities reportedly grapple with medicine shortages.

Lesedi made it clear that the BPF's representation in Cabinet would not prevent the party from holding the UDC government accountable for its shortcomings.

CABINET DIVISIONS

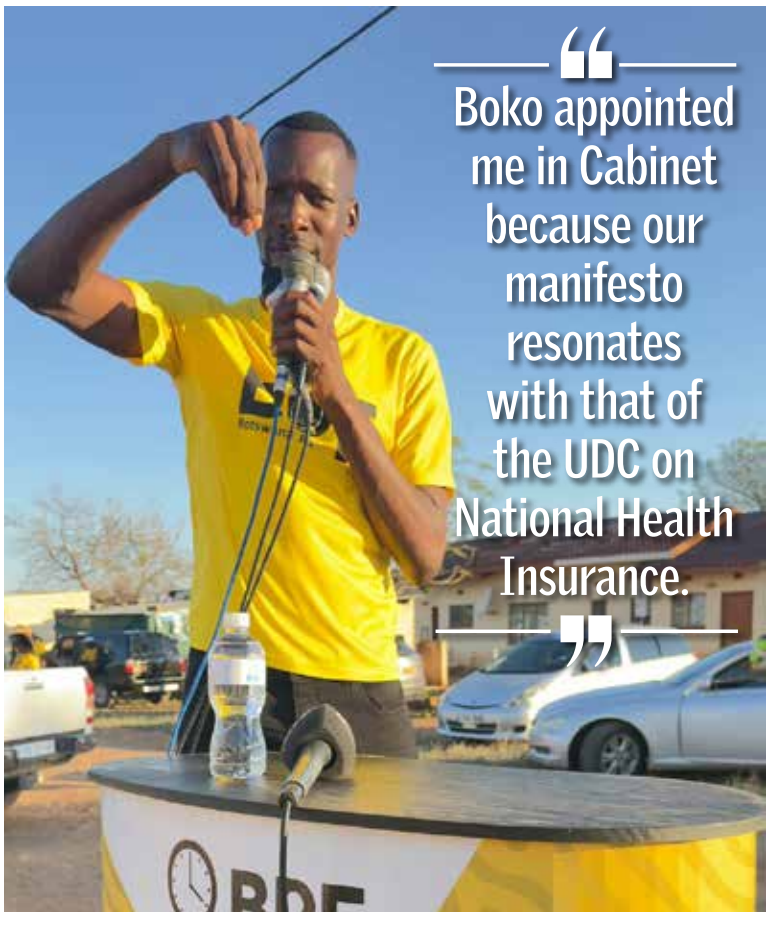
The Serowe South MP took aim at the Ministry of Health, where Ookeditse, the Nata/Gweta MP, serves as Assistant Minister, questioning the government's handling of reported medicine shortages.

He argued that funds spent hiring artists could have been channeled towards procuring essential medicines for struggling health facilities.

OPPOSITION IDENTITY

Lesedi warned that the BPF's representation in Cabinet would neither buy its silence nor compel it to defend government decisions it considered wrong.

He maintained that the party would not shoulder responsibility for UDC failures merely to protect BPF representatives serving in Cabinet, adding that hopes of maintaining cordial relations with the governing coalition were increasingly being undermined.



Ookeditse struck a different tone, dismissing what he described as petty politics and character assassination, which he said were outdated political tactics.

He argued that BPF members criticizing their MPs for serving in the UDC-led Cabinet were overlooking the broader objective of participating in government to address national challenges.

"Boko appointed me in Cabinet because our manifesto resonates with that of the UDC on National Health Insurance," Ookeditse said.

Reached for comment, BPF interim deputy secretary general Modiri Jojo Lucas downplayed suggestions of a personal confrontation, insisting that Lesedi's criticism targeted UDC government failures rather than Ookeditse.

Lucas said the BPF was neither consulted nor involved in any arrangement preceding the appointment of Ookeditse and Baratiwa Mathoothe to Cabinet.

He argued that the appointments could not silence the BPF or prevent it from scrutinizing government decisions, particularly when the party had not formally agreed to join the governing coalition.

Lucas, however, accused Ookeditse of being caught between his Cabinet responsibilities and political allegiance to the BPF.

"The position of the party is that we are an opposition party, so we ought to hold the UDC government accountable and criticize them where there is fault," Lucas said.

His remarks underscore tensions surrounding the BPF's relationship with the UDC as the party seeks to preserve its opposition identity while some of its MPs serve in government.

STOP TALKING, PROSECUTE – UNION TO DPP

Union demands Ngakaagae abandon his media frenzy over alleged P450 million pension theft, warning public pronouncements unfairly tarnish leaders' reputations

BONGANI MALUNGA

The National Amalgamated Local Central and Parastatal Workers Union (NALCGPWU) has launched a stinging attack on Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP) Kgosietsile Ngakaagae, accusing him of tarnishing trade union leaders through sweeping allegations that at least P450 million was stolen from teachers' pension funds.

In a statement issued on Tuesday and signed by Robert R. Rabasimane, the union demanded that Ngakaagae abandon what it described as a "media frenzy" and focus on securing convictions rather than trying cases in public.

"The effectiveness of his office should be measured by successful prosecutions and convictions based on evidence, not by frequent public statements regarding alleged wrongdoing," the union charged.

EXPLOSIVE REMARKS

Its intervention follows explosive remarks made by Ngakaagae at the 2026 Botswana Sectors of Educators Trade Union (BOSETU) National Conference in Palapye, where he revealed that prosecutors were handling a case involving the alleged theft of at least P450 million belonging to teachers.



"I'm sitting in my office with a file where P450 million of your money was stolen," Ngakaagae told delegates, alleging that union leaders entrusted with protecting workers' savings had instead enjoyed first-class flights, luxury hotels and expensive entertainment.

He said prosecutions were underway and that investigators had restrained some money and assets, although significant amounts remained untraced, raising questions about how much of the allegedly stolen funds could eventually be recovered.

FUNNELLED ABROAD

Ngakaagae also alleged that money had been funnelled abroad, underscoring the difficulties facing prosecutors as they pursue criminal cases and attempt to retrieve the workers' savings. He did not declare full recovery impossible.

The NALCGPWU said it supported investigations and prosecutions wherever evidence justified them, but objected to accusations that appeared to implicate union leadership broadly without identifying suspects.

"We are troubled by what appears to be an increasing tendency by the DPP Director Kgosi Ngakaagae to make public pronouncements on matters that fall within the jurisdiction of his office," it stated. The union warned that such comments risked turning the prosecuting authority into "a participant in the court of public opinion" before cases were decided.

TARNISHING UNION LEADERS' REPUTATION

"This unfairly tarnishes the reputation of all union leaders, including those who have conducted themselves honourably and with integrity," it argued, adding that the claims could alarm workers and undermine confidence in pension institutions. The union called on Ngakaagae to "desist from the media frenzy and concentrate in doing the work that he was appointed to do, which is, prosecuting."

> "Desist from the media frenzy and concentrate in doing the work that he was appointed to do, which is, prosecuting"

"His conduct of making general utterances about cases that are still being investigated in his office and during the process, soiling the reputation of trade union leaders, should be condemned with the strongest terms possible and should cease forthwith."





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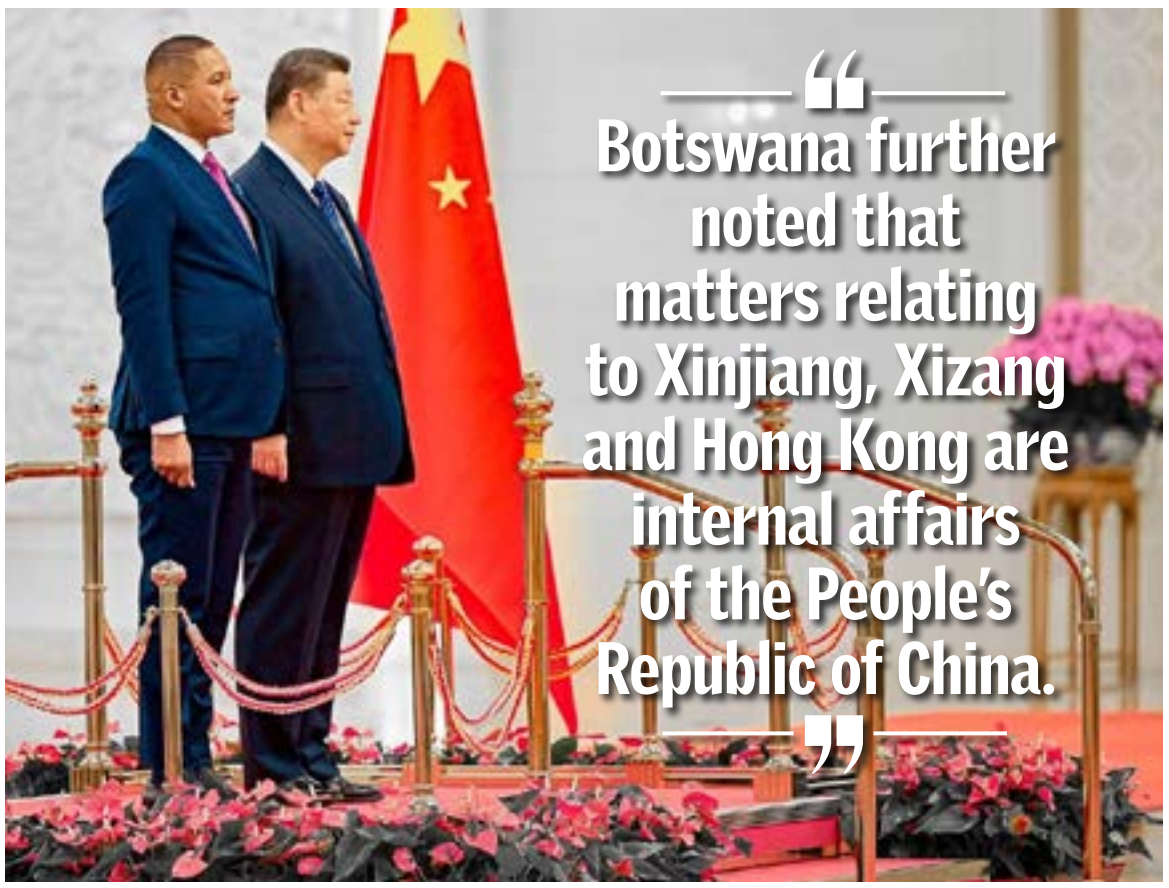
Botswana Rejects Taiwan Independence

Botswana has explicitly opposed Taiwan independence in a joint declaration with China, placing its diplomatic stance under scrutiny as the countries deepen cooperation.



BONGANI MALUNGA

Botswana has firmly rejected Taiwan's independence ambitions and thrown its diplomatic weight behind China's push for reunification, openly backing Beijing's territorial claims over the self-governing island as the two countries strengthened bilateral relations on Tuesday.

The declaration, contained in a joint statement issued following President Duma Boko's high-level talks with Chinese President Xi Jinping in Beijing on October 13, places Botswana firmly alongside China on one of the world's most contentious geopolitical disputes.

The two leaders also agreed to elevate relations to a Comprehensive Strategic Cooperative Partnership, marking a new chapter in diplomatic relations established more than five decades ago.

ONE-CHINA POSITION

However, it was Botswana's stance on Taiwan that stood out in the joint declaration. "Botswana reaffirmed its longstanding commitment to the one-China principle, recognizing that there is but one China in the world, Taiwan is an inalienable part of China's territory, and the government of the People's Republic of China is the sole legal government representing the whole of China. Botswana resolutely opposes any form of 'Taiwan independence,' supports all efforts by China to achieve national reunification, and steadfastly upholds the authority of United Nations General Assembly Resolution 2758," the statement declared.

Although Botswana's recognition of the one-China principle is longstanding, dating back to the establishment of diplomatic relations in January 1975, the latest declaration goes further in explicitly pledging support for China's reunification efforts.

Taiwan operates under its own democratically elected government and maintains independent political and military institutions. China, however, considers the island part of its territory and insists that reunification must ultimately take place.

TAIWAN'S RESPONSE

Taiwan's government rejects China's sovereignty claims and maintains that its future should be determined by its own people. The declaration consequently raises questions about how Botswana's position could affect any present or future economic, cultural and unofficial engagement with Taiwan.

It also leaves unanswered whether Botswana's support for "all efforts" towards reunification is confined to peaceful diplomatic initiatives or extends to more coercive measures. Beyond Taiwan, Botswana aligned itself with Beijing's position on other internationally contested matters.

"Botswana further noted that matters relating to Xinjiang, Xizang and Hong Kong are internal affairs of the People's Republic of China," the statement said.

DIPLOMATIC IMPLICATIONS

The declaration also endorsed the authority of UN General Assembly Resolution 2758, adopted in 1971, which recognised the People's Republic of China as China's legitimate representative at the United Nations. The resolution itself does not explicitly settle Taiwan's territorial sovereignty, an issue on which Beijing and Taipei sharply disagree.

Meanwhile, the renewed partnership between Botswana and China seeks to deepen cooperation in trade, investment, mining, agriculture, infrastructure and technology. The diplomatic development comes as Botswana seeks to diversify its economy and strengthen investment partnerships with major international economies.

However, while the China engagements could unlock fresh economic opportunities, Botswana's emphatic rejection of Taiwan independence has also placed its foreign policy position squarely within a geopolitical dispute whose consequences extend far beyond Asia.

The Minister of International Relations, Phenyo Butale had not responded to this publication's inquiries by press time. Butale is part of the government delegation in China.

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- A Cover Letter
- An Updated Curriculum Vitae
- Certified copies of academic and professional certificates;
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Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted.

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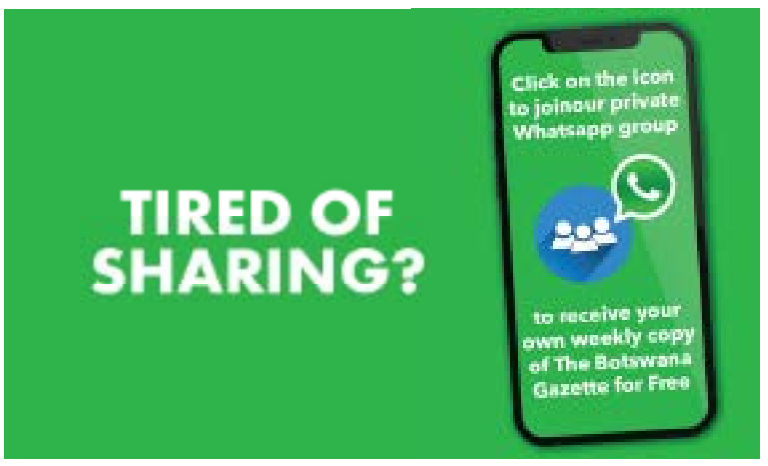



BOTSWANA TAKES MAJOR STEP TOWARDS GREATER SECURITY OF PETROLEUM SUPPLY

Historic shipment from Oman marks a new chapter in international petroleum sourcing and national energy security.

Botswana has taken an important step towards strengthening its national security of petroleum supply following the successful discharge of approximately 20 million litres of diesel from Oman at the Port of Matola in Mozambique on 9 October 2026.

Direct supply

The shipment, undertaken by Botswana Oil Limited (BOL), demonstrates the country's growing capability to procure petroleum products through direct commercial relationships with international energy producers and refinery-linked suppliers, supported by access to coastal storage and alternative logistics corridors. This marks a shift towards greater control over the petroleum supply chain, complementing existing supply arrangements while reducing reliance on traditional intermediaries.

For Botswana, a landlocked country entirely dependent on imported petroleum products, the development carries considerable national significance. Reliable access to fuel is essential to economic activity, industrial production, transport, and the delivery of critical services, making the resilience of the petroleum supply chain a key national priority.

Bilateral cooperation

The achievement builds on Government-to-Government engagements between Botswana and the Sultanate of Oman, reflecting the Government of Botswana's commitment to national energy security. The growing bilateral cooperation has created opportunities for collaboration in petroleum supply, strategic infrastructure development and regional energy trading.

The inaugural shipment also lays the foundation for sustained international sourcing arrangements, supported by BOL's ongoing efforts to secure coastal storage capacity, develop alternative supply corridors and expand domestic strategic petroleum reserves. These capabilities are expected to support Botswana's long-term supply requirements while creating opportunities for greater participation in regional petroleum markets.

Regional partnerships

The successful execution of the shipment reflects the contribution of international and regional partners, including stakeholders in Oman and Mozambique, whose cooperation has been instrumental in establishing the new supply arrangement.

As Botswana marks 60 years of independence, the achievement signals the beginning of a broader transformation in how the country secures its petroleum requirements, laying the foundation for a more resilient supply system and greater national control over a commodity essential to economic stability and transformation.

> **"This marks a shift towards greater control over the petroleum supply chain, complementing existing supply arrangements while reducing reliance on traditional intermediaries."**

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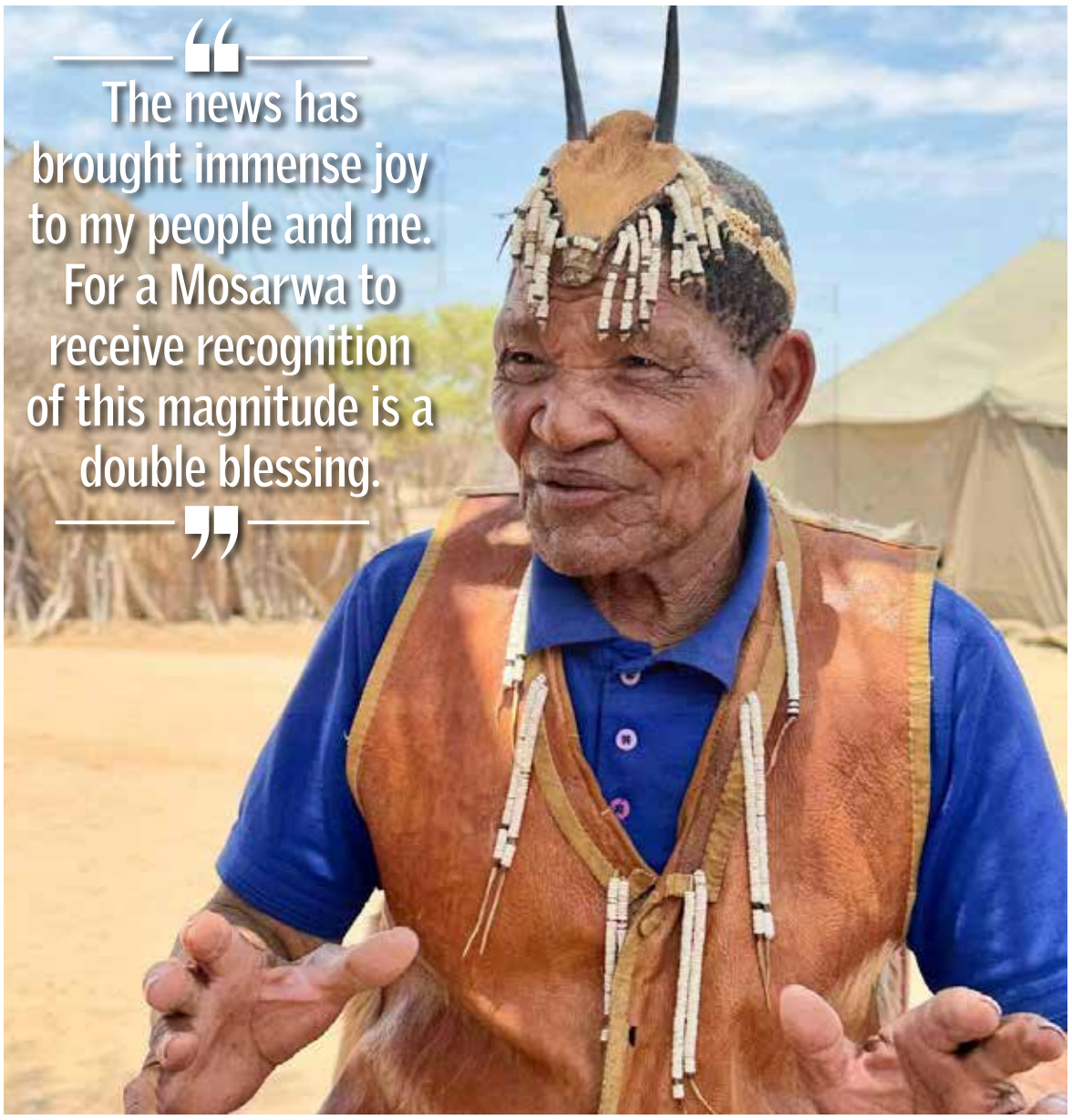

San rights activist Roy Sesana says his forthcoming honorary doctorate from the University of Botswana (UB) marks a milestone in his decades-long campaign for indigenous rights, but does not signal the end of his people’s struggle.
Photo Credit: DailyNews

RAINBOW SCHOOLS

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- Candidates must demonstrate strong communication, organisational and interpersonal skills relevant to the position.
- Candidates must hold a valid BOTEPCO teaching licence.

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- A Cover Letter
- An Updated Curriculum Vitae
- Certified copies of academic and professional certificates;
- A Valid BOTEPCO license

Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted.

Application deadline: 23 October 2026 at 4pm

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Sesana: ‘Homeland Remains a Distant Dream’

Roy Sesana welcomes the honorary doctorate recognising his decades of advocacy by UB, but says the struggle for ancestral land, self-determination and livelihoods remains far from over

TEFO PHEAGE

San rights activist Roy Sesana says his forthcoming honorary doctorate from the University of Botswana (UB) marks a milestone in his decades-long campaign for indigenous rights, but does not signal the end of his people’s struggle.

UB will confer an honorary Doctor of Letters on Sesana during its graduation ceremonies scheduled for October 21–23, recognising his lifelong defence of San rights, cultural identity and dignity.

Responding to the announcement in an interview with The Botswana Gazette, Sesana said the recognition had brought joy to him and his community.

“The news has brought immense joy to my people and me. For a Mosarwa to receive recognition of this magnitude is a double blessing. It is not only a testament to how far we have travelled, but also a reminder of how much closer we have come to realising our long-cherished dream,” he said.

However, he stressed that “the struggle for ancestral land, self-determination and livelihoods remains far from over”.

Sesana also expressed gratitude to the university and those who supported his nomination.

“I thank the University of Botswana for this honour and for recognising my contribution. Whoever nominated me, and everyone who supported the nomination, may God bless them. I will soon travel to Gaborone to receive the award,” said Sesana, who stressed that fighting for San rights is not a matter of choice for him, but a lifelong struggle.

VICTORIES AND BATTLES

The forthcoming honour follows a campaign in which courtroom victories have not settled all the disputes over residence, services and livelihoods in the Central Kalahari Game Reserve (CKGR).

The High Court In 2006 ruled that the government had unlawfully deprived the Basarwa of possession of their land in the reserve. The judgment, however, did not compel the government to restore the essential services it had withdrawn, and access to water became the subject of further litigation.

In 2011, the Court of Appeal ruled in favour of residents seeking access to the Mothomelo borehole and the right to sink boreholes for domestic water. It found that denying the applicants access to water amounted to degrading treatment.

The cases highlighted the distinction between securing the right to occupy ancestral land and securing the means to live there.

More recently, the dispute over the burial of Pitseng Gaoberekwe brought ancestral belonging back into national focus. His body remained unburied for nearly three years before government authorised his burial at Metsiamanong in the CKGR in December 2024.

LAND AND LIVELIHOODS

Sesana’s advocacy has also extended to economic opportunities for communities living within the reserve. During government consultations in Molapo in April 2025, he proposed land zoning to accommodate residential, agricultural and tourism activities.

BOPA reported that Sesana sought land rights that would enable residents to develop campsites and cultural villages while protecting the environment.

Electronic Voting Tests UDC Consistency

The UDC has yet to settle its position on electronic voting machines it previously opposed, while the Manual Workers Union demands their removal from electoral reform proposals

SESUPO RANTSIMAKO

The Umbrella for Democratic Change (UDC) is yet to take a position on the proposed introduction of Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs), despite having fiercely opposed the technology while in opposition, raising questions about whether the ruling coalition is reconsidering its long-standing stance on the controversial electoral system.

COALITION UNDECIDED

The uncertainty follows proposals reportedly submitted by the Botswana Democratic Party (BDP) during recent All-Party Conference discussions on electoral reforms, including the possible introduction of electronic voting.

Speaking in an interview with The Botswana Gazette, UDC Policy Director Dr Patrick Molutsi said the ruling coalition had not yet adopted an official position on the BDP proposal.

Union Opposition

Molutsi said the UDC leadership was expected to meet this week to deliberate on the matter before communicating its position.

His remarks contrast with the coalition's previously unequivocal opposition to EVMs, which it vigorously resisted while in opposition.

REFORM DEMANDS

The development raises questions about whether the UDC will maintain its long-standing position on electronic voting now that it controls the government.

The proposed introduction of EVMs is likely to reignite debate over electoral transparency, public confidence and the credibility of Botswana's electoral system.

Meanwhile, the National Amalgamated Local and Central Government and Parastatal Workers Union, commonly known as the Manual Workers Union, has firmly rejected any proposal to introduce electronic voting in Botswana.

In a statement, the union rejected the proposal "without qualification", demanding its withdrawal from the electoral reform package under consideration through the All-Party Conference process. It said it had noted reports that the UDC government intended to bring the EVM proposal back to Parliament, warning that such a move would amount to an imposition rather than genuine electoral reform.

The union cited Independent Electoral Commission (IEC) Secretary Jefferson Siamisang, saying he had already informed Parliament's Public Accounts Committee that voters did not want EVMs.

"That is the end of the argument," the union declared. "A reform that the electoral authority itself says the people do not want is not a reform, it is an imposition."

The union wants the EVM proposal removed from the All-Party Conference reform package and excluded from Parliament, Cabinet and the statute book.

It also wants the IEC to restrict technology to voter registration and management of the voters' roll, while retaining paper-based voting and counting at polling stations.

For the UDC, the EVM debate presents a political test of consistency between the positions it championed while in opposition and the decisions it is prepared to support as the governing coalition.

The position adopted following the party's anticipated deliberations could determine whether the coalition continues resisting electronic voting or opens the door to a system it previously opposed.



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To plan, coordinate and deliver effective, progressive and compliant human resources services that ensure skills availability, productive workplace relationships, employee development, legal compliance and organisational effectiveness.

KEY DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES
- Maintain complete, accurate and confidential employee records, contracts, job descriptions, leave, attendance and personnel documentation.
- Coordinate recruitment, reference and document checks, onboarding, induction, probation and exit processes.
- Provide practical HR guidance to managers and employees while maintaining confidentiality, consistency and appropriate escalation.
- Support workforce planning, succession planning and manpower requirements in line with operational needs.
- Prepare and verify authorised payroll inputs and employee changes for submission to Finance/Accountant for payroll processing and reconciliation.
- Develop and coordinate training and development plans, including in-house and outsourced training, in line with business priorities.
- Coordinate probation reviews, performance appraisals, performance improvement processes and related documentation.
- Support the development, review, implementation and maintenance of HR policies, procedures and employee guidelines.
- Support fair, consistent and properly documented disciplinary, grievance and employee-relations processes in accordance with approved policy and applicable law.
- Monitor compliance with Botswana employment legislation and internal HR policies and escalate material risks to the General Manager.
- Prepare periodic HR reports and workforce information, including headcount, vacancies, turnover, leave, absenteeism, training and employee-relations matters.
- Coordinate employee welfare, engagement and workplace-relations initiatives that promote a productive and professional working environment.
- Support managers in maintaining appropriate staffing levels, employee discipline, performance and workplace standards.
- Promote a professional, service-oriented employee culture aligned with the Lodge's guest-service standards.
- Maintain confidentiality and appropriate control over all employee and Human Resources information.

QUALIFICATIONS AND EXPERIENCE
- Bachelor's degree in Human Resources Management, Business Administration with a Human Resources focus, or a related discipline.
- At least three (3) years' relevant Human Resources experience in an Officer or comparable role.
- Working knowledge of Botswana labour legislation and sound Human Resources practices.
- Experience using a Human Resources Information System (HRIS) and standard office applications.
- Experience in recruitment, employee relations, performance management and HR administration.
- Hospitality-sector experience will be an added advantage.
- Demonstrated commitment to continuous professional development and keeping abreast of developments in Human Resources.

SKILLS AND COMPETENCIES
- Excellent communication, interpersonal and relationship-building skills.
- Strong employee-relations, conflict-resolution and coaching capability.
- High integrity, professionalism, confidentiality and sound judgement.
- Strong planning, organising and time-management skills.
- Good report-writing, documentation and attention-to-detail skills.
- Ability to interpret and apply HR policies and employment legislation.
- Ability to work independently and manage competing priorities.
- Ability to provide practical HR support and guidance to managers and employees.
- Sound leadership and people-management capability.
- Ability to analyse workforce information and identify HR risks and trends.

APPLICATION PROCESS

Interested applicants should submit a cover letter and updated Curriculum Vitae (CV), quoting "Human Resources Officer" in the email subject line to:
generalmanager@kwalapesafarilodge.co.bw

CLOSING DAE: 27 OCTOBER 2026
Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted.



Lindiwe Modise of The Green Loop Foundation and Botswana Tourism Organisation representatives pose for a picture after briefing the media in Gaborone on the upcoming Botswana Sustainability Week 2026 scheduled for 21-23 October in Maun. Theme of this 4th edition conference is "The Business of Sustainability: Activating Private Sector Leadership to Drive Botswana's Next Growth Economy." Pic: Monirul Bhuiyan/Press Photo

P50 Kgotla Payment Sparks Backlash

New customary court charges have triggered opposition criticism and questions about whether financially struggling Batswana can afford to pursue civil disputes

BONGANI MALUNGA

The Botswana government's decision to introduce a P50 fee for registering civil cases at customary courts has sparked online backlash and drawn sharp opposition criticism, raising concerns over the affordability of justice for ordinary Batswana.

The controversial charges, which extend to civil disputes registered at the kgotla, have attracted criticism at a time when many households are grappling with economic hardship.

> "At a time when Batswana are facing severe economic hardship and struggling to keep food on the table, it is deeply disappointing to see the UDC government turning basic public services into a revenue stream."

Adding his voice to the criticism, Nkange Member of Parliament Motlhaleemang Moalosi has accused the Umbrella for Democratic Change (UDC) government of turning basic public services into revenue-generating mechanisms at the expense of financially distressed citizens.

"At a time when Batswana are facing severe economic hardship and struggling to keep food on the table, it is deeply disappointing to see the UDC government turning basic public services into a revenue stream," Moalosi told The Botswana Gazette.

ACCESS TO JUSTICE

At the centre of the controversy is the departure from a longstanding arrangement under which citizens could formally register civil disputes before dikgosi

To Page 11

Integrated Cyber Solutions

the future now

CAREER OPPORTUNITY

SPECIALISED SYSTEMS ENGINEER
(ATM | XEROX | G+D)

Integrated Cyber Solutions (ICS), a leading IT and document solutions provider in Botswana, invites applications from suitably qualified and motivated candidates for the position of **Specialised Systems Engineer**.

Key Responsibilities

- Provide on-site technical support and workshop repairs for ATM, Xerox and G+D equipment and modules.
- Diagnose and resolve hardware, software and electro-mechanical faults within agreed Service Level Agreements (SLAs).
- Maintain accurate service records and deliver professional, customer-focused technical support.
- Travel to client sites as required.

Minimum Requirements

- BGCSE, IGCSE, Matric or equivalent.
- G + D training (BPS C5) and PSG Xerox
- Relevant ATM technical certifications (NCR, GRG or any other ATM brand) are required.
- A diploma in Electrical or Mechanical Engineering will be an added advantage.

Skills and Competencies

- Strong hardware, software and network troubleshooting skills.
- Good analytical, communication and problem-solving abilities.
- Computer literacy and the ability to work with multiple operating systems.
- A valid, clean driver's licence.
- A proactive, team-oriented and results-driven approach, with a strong commitment to customer service and meeting SLA targets.

How to Apply
Interested candidates should submit their applications to:
The HR Manager
Integrated Cyber Solutions (ICS)

Email: hr@ics.co.bw

Closing Date: 25 October 2026
Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted. All applications will be treated confidentially.

Nearly Half of Children in Botswana Live in Poverty

UNICEF has highlighted widespread deprivation among Botswana's children, with serious gaps in sanitation, early learning and the delivery of social assistance



GAZETTE REPORTER

Nearly half of children in Botswana live in poverty with widespread deprivation in sanitation, limited access to early childhood education and shortcomings in social assistance programmes. The situation is reportedly threatening their health, development and future opportunities, according to UNICEF.

Learning Gaps

The findings are highlighted in The State of the World's Children 2025: Ending Child Poverty-Our Shared Imperative which examines the multiple deprivations affecting children and calls for governments to make child poverty reduction a national priority.

According to UNICEF, in Botswana, only 43 percent of children have access to reception classes, leaving many without crucial early learning foundations. The organisation says children who miss out on early education face disadvantages, including poor school readiness, lower literacy and numeracy skills, and a higher likelihood of repeating grades or dropping out of school. It says the consequences can extend into adulthood, resulting in reduced employment prospects, lower lifetime earnings and increased vulnerability to poverty. Sanitation is the most widespread deprivation among children in Botswana, with seven in 10 lacking access to improved facilities. Inadequate sanitation increases children's exposure to diseases and threatens their health and overall well-being. The report also shows that "social assistance programmes also face challenges in reaching their intended beneficiaries." It says " In 2019, only 14 percent of the Vulnerable Group Feeding Programme (VGFP) ration reached its intended recipients, highlighting concerns about the delivery of support to vulnerable populations."

SANITATION CRISIS

"Countries like Botswana have made great investments in children and there is strong political will to address children's issues. However, there are children who still face devastating consequences for their health, education and development," said UNICEF Representative to Botswana, Kimanzi Muthengi. The report warns that these deprivations often compound one another, leaving children disadvantaged even when their households are not classified as poor according to monetary measures. It underscores the need for integrated policies and programmes that address the full range of children's needs.

Globally, 417 million children in low- and middle-income countries are severely deprived in at least two vital areas critical to their health, development and well-being. The report also shows that 118 million children experience three or more deprivations, while 17 million face four or more. Sanitation remains a major global challenge, with 65 percent of children in low-income countries lacking access to a toilet, compared with 26 percent in lower-middle-income countries and 11 percent in upper-middle-income countries. The report identifies conflict, climate and environmental crises, demographic shifts, mounting national debt and widening technological divides as factors compounding child poverty. It also warns that cuts to official development assistance risk worsening deprivation in low- and middle-income countries. According to The Lancet, cuts in development aid could result in the deaths of 4.5 million children under the age of five by 2030. UNICEF estimates that the reductions could also leave six million additional children out of school by next year.

GLOBAL PICTURE

The report calls on governments to prioritise ending child poverty, integrate children's needs into economic policies and budgets, strengthen social protection through measures such as cash support to families, and expand access to education, healthcare, clean water, sanitation, nutrition and housing.

It also emphasises the importance of promoting decent work for parents and caregivers, whose economic security is closely linked to children's progress. UNICEF maintains that ending child poverty is achievable if governments place children's rights, as outlined in the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, at the centre of poverty-reduction strategies and public policies.

From Page 10

without paying a registration fee. The government's own online public service guide previously described the handling of civil and criminal cases at tribal courts as a free service.

However, under the newly announced charges, citizens seeking to register civil disputes at their local kgotla will now be required to pay P50. The Ministry of Local Government and Traditional Affairs announced the charges on Monday, citing Statutory Instrument No. 119 of 2026, published in the Government Gazette on 21 August 2026.

The development raises questions about access to justice, particularly for low-income households and rural communities that have traditionally relied on customary courts to resolve disputes affordably. Moalosi argued that the new charges reflected a worrying shift in government priorities.

"Introducing new and inflated user fees, especially for customary court services that have historically been accessible to the ordinary citizen, shows a worrying pattern of putting state revenue collection ahead of the immediate well-being of the people," he stated.

ADDITIONAL CHARGES

Beyond the P50 civil case registration fee, government has introduced a P500 charge for urgent civil appeals, P100 for service of civil court documents by a court messenger, P20 for auction sale registration and P1 per page for photocopying court records.

A complainant registering a civil case and requiring summons to be served by a court messenger could therefore incur P150 in charges.

Government's Defence

Despite the criticism, the ministry maintains that the new fees are intended to improve the administration of customary courts.

"The introduction of the fees is intended to support the efficient administration of Customary Courts while ensuring that members of the public continue to receive quality and accountable services," the ministry stated.

However, its announcement did not clarify whether unemployed or financially disadvantaged citizens would qualify for exemptions or fee waivers. The ministry has encouraged dikgosi and other traditional leaders to communicate the changes during kgotla meetings, while advising citizens to demand official receipts for all payments.

The P50 fee applies specifically to formal civil case registration and not ordinary attendance at kgotla meetings. Meanwhile, Moalosi has called on the government to reconsider the financial pressure placed on households.

"It is high time this administration stops shifting its fiscal burdens onto struggling households and starts putting Batswana first," he said.



SA Offers Botswana Beef Lifeline

South Africa is considering beef imports from Botswana's FMD-free areas, but trade can resume only after the two countries agree on disease-control safeguards

BONGANI MALUNGA



Botswana's struggling beef industry could be handed a crucial export lifeline after South Africa signalled its willingness to reconsider restrictions on red meat imports, provided the two countries agree on stringent animal disease-control measures.

South African Minister of Agriculture Willie Aucamp has revealed that Pretoria has already submitted proposed biosecurity protocols to Botswana, potentially paving the way for the resumption of beef trade disrupted by foot-and-mouth disease (FMD) restrictions.

However, the reopening of the South African market remains conditional on Botswana's response to the proposals and the establishment of mutually acceptable disease-control arrangements.

MARKET OPENING

Speaking at a public gathering in Bothaville, Free State, on 8 October 2026, Aucamp disclosed that his government was exploring the possibility of allowing imports from designated FMD-free areas in Botswana.

His remarks were reported by South African agricultural publication Farmer's Weekly last Friday. "We have already submitted protocols to that effect to Botswana and are awaiting an official reaction. The compartmentation of FMD-free zones in Botswana is one option that could be considered for the recommencement of imports from that country," Aucamp said.

The proposal presents a potential breakthrough for Botswana's cattle industry, where disease outbreaks and livestock movement restrictions have compounded challenges facing farmers, processors and exporters.

Under the proposed approach, trade could potentially resume from approved disease-free areas without requiring restrictions affecting other parts of the country to be lifted simultaneously.

VETERINARY CONDITIONS

However, such an arrangement would depend on veterinary assessments, credible disease surveillance and agreement between the two governments.

Botswana has already embarked on efforts to restore its FMD-free status, with veterinary authorities conducting surveillance and maintaining livestock movement restrictions in affected areas. Limited relaxations announced earlier this month have provided some relief, although strict disease-control measures remain in force.

The latest developments also build on an existing bilateral commitment to tackle livestock diseases. During the Botswana-South Africa Bi-National Commission held in Gaborone on 21 May 2026, the two governments endorsed a 2026–2028 action plan focusing on cross-border disease surveillance, vaccination, veterinary cooperation and improved livestock traceability.

Aucamp emphasised the importance of regional cooperation in containing FMD, revealing that his department remained in regular contact with authorities in Botswana and Namibia.

Although Aucamp has signalled South Africa's willingness to negotiate, no reopening date has been announced and Botswana's official response to the latest proposal remains outstanding.

Mmolotsi Rejects Elephant Elimination Claims

Minister Wynter Mmolotsi has defended Botswana's wildlife management policy amid criticism of an Independence Day elephant hunt, insisting conservation must account for community safety and livelihoods.

BONGANI MALUNGA


(Pic:Monirul Bhuiyan/PRESS PHOTO)

The Minister of Environment and Tourism, Wynter Mmolotsi, has fired back at conservation critics, dismissing suggestions that Botswana's wildlife management policies are designed to eliminate elephants, following an international backlash over the government's decision to authorise the slaughter of 23 elephants for Independence Day celebrations.

In a strongly worded clarification published by his ministry on Monday, Mmolotsi defended Botswana's conservation record, insisting that the country's wildlife management programmes have been misrepresented amid growing scrutiny of its elephant hunting policies.

"These programs must not be misrepresented as elephant-elimination programs, Botswana does not seek to eradicate wildlife," Mmolotsi declared.

INTERNATIONAL BACKLASH

His remarks follow widespread condemnation of Botswana's decision to authorise the hunting of 23 elephants across eight districts to provide meat for communities during the country's 60th Independence Day celebrations on September 30.

The controversial decision attracted international attention, with the BBC, Associated Press and Africanews among the outlets reporting on the development, once again thrusting Botswana's elephant conservation practices into the global spotlight.

At the forefront of the criticism was the Elephant Protection Society, whose chairman, Oaitse Nawa, warned that government-sanctioned elephant killings for celebratory feasts could undermine conservation efforts and encourage poaching by normalising the killing of elephants.

CONSERVATION CONCERNS

The organisation also raised concerns about the disruption of elephant social structures and the possibility of surviving herd members becoming more aggressive towards humans.

However, Mmolotsi has sought to challenge the narrative, arguing that Botswana's conservation approach must be understood within the context of balancing wildlife protection with the needs of communities living alongside dangerous animals.

"Where legally authorized, national programs may donate wildlife meat and products to communities that support wildlife management and benefit-sharing," he stated. "Instead, our goal is to maintain healthy wildlife populations while protecting human lives, livelihoods, and ecosystems."

The controversy adds to years of international scrutiny surrounding Botswana's elephant management policies, particularly since the country lifted its elephant hunting ban in 2019. Former President Mokgweetsi Masisi's administration previously clashed with European conservation critics over trophy hunting, even floating proposals to send thousands of elephants to countries critical of Botswana's policies.

HUNTING DEBATE

Botswana is home to over 130 000 elephants, the world's largest national elephant population, although the African savanna elephant remains internationally classified as endangered.

The latest controversy has also exposed divisions within Botswana, with former President Ian Khama opposing the Independence Day hunting initiative and warning that it could establish a precedent for killing elephants during future national celebrations.

While hunting licences covering 23 elephants were authorised, the number actually killed has not been publicly confirmed in the international reports reviewed. Mmolotsi maintains that conservation cannot be divorced from the realities facing rural communities that bear the consequences of living alongside large wildlife populations.

"This reflects our approach to sustainable wildlife management, which balances conservation with community needs and safety," he stated.



DE BEERS CELEBRATES ENTREPRENHER GRADUATION

De Beers Group and its partners are helping women entrepreneurs turn small enterprises into sustainable businesses, with training, mentorship and greater market access offering a path to growth and job creation.

By Leatile Zachariah

Women entrepreneurs graduated from the EntreprenHer programme last Friday at the Stanbic Accelerate Incubator in Gaborone, marking another milestone in efforts by De Beers Group and its partners to strengthen women-owned businesses and promote sustainable livelihoods.

BUILDING SUSTAINABLE BUSINESSES

Established in 2018, the programme equips women entrepreneurs with business management skills, financial literacy and mentorship to help them build sustainable enterprises. It forms part of De Beers' Building Forever sustainability framework, which prioritises livelihoods, climate and nature.

De Beers Botswana Vice President of Social Impact and Sustainability, Otsile Mabeo, said the initiative recognises the important role women play in supporting families, communities and economic development.

“Many of the micro-owned businesses are actually owned by women and run by women, and therefore this is a huge opportunity for us when it comes to livelihoods to really support women to develop their businesses to the next level,” she said.

MENTORSHIP BEYOND CLASSROOMS

Mabeo said the programme extended beyond classroom training through mentorship and additional support to help participants strengthen their operations, access markets and build resilient businesses.

She added that supporting enterprises outside the mining sector was important in advancing Botswana's economic diversification agenda through employment creation and alternative revenue streams.

According to Mabeo, some participants have progressed from running micro-enterprises as sole proprietors to establishing small businesses capable of employing one or two people. She said the programme sought to create a foundation for businesses to become more resilient and sustainable, enabling them to contribute meaningfully to the country's private sector.

PARTNERSHIP DRIVING ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT

The EntreprenHER programme reflects a collaborative approach to supporting women entrepreneurs, bringing together De Beers Group, UN Women and the Ministry of Youth and Gender Affairs with each partner contributing to the programme’s broader objectives.

“The contribution of women entrepreneurs is critical to building resilient and inclusive economies. This partnership between De Beers Group and UN Women directly invests in the capacity of women entrepreneurs and, thanks to partners such as the Ministry of Youth and Gender Affairs and Stanbic Bank, they are gaining practical business skills to scale and formalise, which improves their competitiveness and ability to create jobs,” said Agness Utunga Phiri, UN Women EntreprenHER Programme Manager

Meanwhile, Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Youth and Gender Affairs, Natasha Rampha, emphasised the importance of collaboration and creating market opportunities for women-owned businesses, including through local procurement.

Mabeo encouraged graduates to remain committed to their businesses, saying women already possessed the resilience and courage needed to succeed, but required the right tools and support to realise their potential.







Truckers Allege Abuse Across Borders



Botswana truck drivers allege bribery and harassment by officials in Mozambique and the DRC, prompting calls for government intervention to protect cross-border transport.

SESUPO RANTSIMAKO

Botswana truck drivers have raised concerns over alleged harassment, intimidation and corruption by authorities in Mozambique and the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), warning that the situation is compromising their safety and discouraging them from travelling to the two countries.

BRIBE ALLEGATIONS

Botswana Truck Drivers Association representative Thomas Molaakgosi told The Botswana Gazette in an interview that drivers were allegedly being targeted by police officers, customs officials and soldiers demanding bribes even when they had complied with the required regulations.

SAFETY CONCERNS

Molaakgosi alleged that authorities resorted to inventing charges or finding fault with drivers' documentation and compliance after establishing that they had met the necessary requirements, using the accusations as a pretext to demand money.

"This conduct has created fear among Botswana truck drivers, some of whom are increasingly reluctant to travel to Mozambique and the DRC because of persistent harassment by authorities," Molaakgosi said.

He said the situation was particularly worrying because drivers encountered multiple authorities along their routes, leaving them vulnerable to alleged intimidation and demands for bribes.

DIPLOMATIC APPEAL

Molaakgosi warned that drivers' safety was being compromised and called for urgent intervention to protect those transporting goods across borders.

He further alleged that corruption among officials in the two countries was becoming increasingly widespread, with the situation worsening rather than improving.

The association has called on the Botswana government to intervene diplomatically and engage its counterparts in Mozambique and the DRC to address the alleged mistreatment of Botswana truck drivers.

"We request the Botswana government to intervene to address this situation with their counterparts to avoid strained relations going forward. In fact, we are planning to write to the Office of the President to seek help," Molaakgosi said.

He warned that failure to act could have implications beyond the transport sector, potentially straining bilateral relations between Botswana and the two countries.

Molaakgosi stressed that truck drivers played an important role in facilitating regional trade and the movement of goods, making their safety and fair treatment essential to cross-border commerce.

The association wants the government to take concrete action to ensure that Botswana drivers are not subjected to unlawful demands, intimidation or unfair treatment while conducting legitimate business across borders.

> "This conduct has created fear among Botswana truck drivers, some of whom are increasingly reluctant to travel to Mozambique and the DRC because of persistent harassment by authorities,"

Molaakgosi said the drivers wanted action rather than continued exposure to alleged abuse, urging the government to address the matter before it escalated further.

At the time of going to press, the Minister of International Relations, Dr Phenyo Butale, had not responded to The Botswana Gazette's enquiries.

BOSETU Demands Action on Court Defiance

BOSETU wants public officers held accountable for delays in implementing court judgments, warning that non-compliance erodes workers' confidence in public institutions.

SESUPO RANTSIMAKO

Botswana Sectors of Educators Trade Union (BOSETU) president Winston Radikolo has called on the government to crack the whip on public officers allegedly failing to implement court judgments, warning that such conduct threatens the rule of law and undermines public confidence in state institutions.

OUTSTANDING JUDGMENTS

Speaking in an interview with The Botswana Gazette following the recent BOSETU conference, Radikolo cited cases involving scarce-skills allowances for Business Studies, Accounting and Agriculture teachers, as well as school management personnel and brigade lecturers.

In 2017, BOSETU secured a victory in the Lobatse High Court when Justice Godfrey Nthomiwa recorded an agreement recognizing eligible union members teaching Accounting and Business Studies as entitled to scarce-skills allowances.

WORKERS' RIGHTS

In 2021, the High Court also ruled in BOSETU's favor in a case challenging the exclusion of Agriculture teachers from scarce-skills allowances. The union argued that educators teaching the subject should qualify for the payments.

Radikolo said several judgments remained unimplemented, with delays frustrating workers who had pursued justice through the courts. He attributed the delays to public servants responsible for implementing the rulings.

"The rule of law cannot be selective. Court orders cannot be treated as recommendations. If the government expects citizens and workers to obey the law, government institutions must lead by example," he said.

Accountability Demand

Radikolo warned that failure to implement court rulings undermined workers who had pursued justice through lawful means.

"Failure to implement court rulings undermines confidence in public institutions. It frustrates workers who have pursued justice through lawful means. It creates unnecessary conflict and exposes government to additional costs," he said.

The BOSETU president said government departments should be held to the same standards of legal compliance expected of ordinary citizens, stressing that court orders were binding decisions rather than recommendations.

He called for prompt implementation of lawful judgments and accountability for public officers responsible for delaying or frustrating compliance.

"We respectfully call upon your office to crack the whip where necessary. Ensure that lawful judgments are implemented timeously. Ensure that public officers who delay or frustrate compliance are held accountable," he said.

Radikolo said the government must demonstrate respect for the Constitution, the judiciary and the rule of law.

"Ensure that the government of Botswana remains a government that respects the Constitution, the courts and the rule of law," he said.

LEGAE ENGLISH MEDIUM SCHOOL

Legae English Medium School is inviting applications for the following positions:

1. **MUSIC TEACHER**
   REQUIREMENTS:

- Music Teacher: Experience in teaching the Trinity Music / international music exams
- Curriculum and Examinations Syllabus/ Cambridge Curriculum experience.
- Experience in an English Medium or International school environment
- Fluent in English First/First Additional Language, written and spoken
- Minimum experience 3 (three) years, prefer 5 (five)
- Be able to play different instruments and genres including orchestra, marimba, modern

2. **TRANSPORT OFFICER**
   REQUIREMENTS:

- Primarily an administrative role
- Organize and manage student transport
- Oversee maintenance of all company vehicles
- MUST have PrDP license to drive school buses
- Must have experience in administration and keeping of records/reports
- Minimum 3 years' experience – more is advantageous

3. **GRAPHIC DESIGNER**
   REQUIREMENTS:

- Must have graphic design training and expertise
- Must have artistic skills and creative in design of advertising materials
- Be knowledgeable about basic IT/computing trouble shooting
- Have degree/qualification in graphic design/computing with graphics
- Prefer experienced but quality new graduates welcome to apply

4. **PARAMEDIC and/or TA (Teacher Aide/Assistant)**
   REQUIREMENTS:

- **Paramedic:** must be qualified and registered
- **For TA:** Have a degree in any subject and keen to learn education
- Quality new graduates welcome to apply
- Must have patience and caring demeanour & be willing to learn.
- Will also accept CV's of quality scholars for potential training/ sponsorship

Be willing to follow the organizations policies and ethics.
Please forward Letter of Application, CV, certified copies of certificates and names of 2 (two) referees to:
The Managing Director, Legae English Medium School, PO Box 641 Gaborone – Botswana.
Email: legae@legaeinvestors.com

Note: Only short-listed candidates will be contacted
CLOSING DATE FOR APPLICATIONS: 1st November 2026

The Botswana Gazette
BUSINESSNEWS

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Sesupo Wagamang, Chairman of the International Oil Companies and Managing Director of Vivo Energy Botswana. *Photo Credit: Social Media*

Oil Companies Decry Fuel Shortages

IOCs cite persistent shortages and rising costs, while Botswana Oil points to regional supply constraints and outlines measures to maintain fuel availability.

BONGANI MALUNGA

Botswana's international oil companies (IOCs) say fuel supply shortfalls are increasing costs and jeopardising their relationships with customers, while Botswana Oil Limited (BOL) says the industry is facing broader regional and global petrol supply constraints.

According to industry figures, BOL supplied approximately 70 percent of the petroleum volumes nominated by IOCs in September 2026. Petrol imports also declined by 27 percent compared with the average monthly volume recorded from January to August.

SUPPLY SHORTFALLS

"The biggest challenge for us as international oil companies is that we are still accountable to our customers for fuel availability but we do not have full control over the supply chain," said Sesupo Wagamang, Chairman of the International Oil Companies and Managing Director of Vivo Energy Botswana.

BOL assumed responsibility for importing 90 percent of Botswana's petroleum requirements in April 2024, with the remaining 10 percent reserved for citizen-owned oil companies. Industry figures estimate that BOL recorded a cumulative 20 percent shortfall against IOC demand during its first year under the arrangement.

RISING COSTS

Oil companies say shortages in southern Botswana have forced them to transport fuel from northern supply points, pushing costs to as much as four times the normal transportation cost per load, according to industry estimates.

"When there are disruptions in supply, it affects our ability to operate efficiently, it affects our profitability and, most importantly, it affects the relationship we have built with our customers," Wagamang said.

"The objective of fuel security is something that we all support. But fuel security must ultimately translate into reliable availability of product across the country. We need a system that allows all stakeholders to fulfil their responsibilities and ensures that customers can access fuel when they need it," he added.

BOL RESPONDS

BOL acknowledged operational and logistical difficulties but said the September shortages had to be considered in the context of limited regional petrol supplies.

BOL also cited high market volatility in Unleaded Petrol 95, which it linked to geopolitical conflicts in the Middle East and wider energy sector strains, saying these pressures had limited supply options across the region.

"While recognising the operational and logistical challenges experienced by industry participants during September 2026, it is important to appreciate that the prevailing supply constraints are occurring against a backdrop of broader global and regional petroleum supply challenges, particularly concerning the availability of Unleaded Petrol (ULP). South Africa, Namibia and Mozambique had limited ULP for export, notwithstanding the prevailing supply challenges, BOL has put in place mitigations to ensure product availability," BOL told The Botswana Gazette.

"When there are disruptions in supply, it affects our ability to operate efficiently, it affects our profitability and, most importantly, it affects the relationship we have built with our customers,"

The company also provided figures that differed from the industry's estimate of the September shortfall.

"From January to August 2026, BOL availed petroleum products in line with industry nominations. In September, uplifts reached 88% for ULP95 and 95% for Diesel 50ppm. BOL remains committed to working collaboratively with the regulator and industry players to effectively manage the country's petroleum requirements. The Company's immediate priority is to monitor product availability, coordinate supply and distribution arrangements, and pursue alternative sourcing opportunities to improve security of supply."

The industry's 70 percent estimate concerns volumes nominated by IOCs, while BOL's figures concern product uplifts. The statements do not establish whether the figures were calculated on directly comparable bases.

ENERGY SECURITY

BOL defended the policy giving it responsibility for most petroleum imports.

"The establishment of the 90% import quota for BOL by the Government of Botswana was based on the strategic importance of energy security to Botswana's economic development and national interests. The framework is intended to strengthen the country's capacity to manage, coordinate petroleum imports, diversify supply sources, develop strategic reserves and reduce exposure to external supply disruptions," BOL added.

Tholo Poultry Expo Opens Thursday

The free three-day event in Gabane will connect aspiring farmers with practical training, suppliers and agricultural business opportunities.



GAZETTE REPORTER

Tholo Holdings will host its 2026 Agricultural Poultry Expo from 15 to 17 October at its premises in Gabane, bringing together farmers, suppliers, financial institutions, schools and the public for training, exhibitions and networking.

Speaking at a press conference on 13 October, Operations Manager Kabelo Kaparang said the event aimed to encourage people to view farming as a business and explore opportunities in poultry and other agricultural activities.

Kaparang said prospective farmers could start with approximately 50 chickens and expand as their experience, resources and access to markets grew. He highlighted feed costs, disease prevention and reliable buyers as crucial to sustaining poultry businesses, including for those seeking self-employment.

PRACTICAL TRAINING

Sessions will cover poultry management, feeding, vaccination and disease prevention for broilers, layers and indigenous chickens. Organisers also plan discussions on crop production, fertilisers, pesticides, herbicides, backyard gardening and seasonal planting.

Beyond poultry, the programme will address piggery and ruminant production. Kaparang also highlighted opportunities in local maize markets and rebuilding the ruminant sector once foot-and-mouth disease is under control.

MARKET CONNECTIONS

The expo will connect farmers with animal-health specialists, feed suppliers, agricultural equipment dealers and financial institutions. Tholo Holdings is expected to showcase its poultry-feed manufacturing capacity and efforts to improve chick availability.

> "Farmers do not have to begin with large operations."

A poultry auction is planned, although its schedule and the categories of birds involved remain to be confirmed by organisers.

Kaparang said opportunities also exist in feed supply, chick distribution, transport, processing and marketing, with agriculture contributing to entrepreneurship, jobs and food security.

FAMILIES WELCOME

Primary and secondary schools have been invited to quizzes, tests and training sessions to introduce learners to agriculture. A jumping castle is planned for younger visitors.

Entry is free throughout the three-day expo. The official opening is expected on Friday, 16 October, with government representatives anticipated to attend, according to organisers.

OKAVANGO DIAMOND COMPANY

RE-ADVERTISEMENT
SPECIALIST - INVESTIGATIONS AND INTELLIGENCE

Okavango Diamond Company, or ODC, is a rough diamond marketing company that is wholly owned by the Botswana Government. We offer our global customer base open access to scale supply of the full range of rough diamonds sourced from Botswana. With access to 30% of Debswana's run-of-mine production, ODC is an important supplier to the market with sales in the region of $900 million per annum. The organisation has exciting opportunity for individuals driven by a quest for excellence to take on the position of Specialist - Investigation and Intelligence:

Job Purpose:
Reporting to Senior Manager: Security, the position will be responsible for conducting pre and current employment vetting of employees and contractors, ensuring compliance with relevant acts and investigating security breaches and incidents related to diamond security, as well as, other crimes within the organisation.

The Job:
The incumbent will be responsible for, among others, the following:
- Liaising with Botswana Government Law Enforcement Agencies on matters relating to diamond security and related criminal activities.
- Collecting intelligence to ensure optimum security protection for employees, customers and company assets.
- Identifying emerging issues and communicating anomalies to management to raise security awareness.
- Ensuring compliance with Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs).
- Conducting regular security audits and assessments.
- Monitoring and managing security breaches by identifying, investigating, resolving and preparing incident reports on internal investigations.
- Adhering to regulatory standards, protecting the company's reputation and managing compliance to prevent operational risks.

The Person:
The ideal candidate will possess the following:
- Bachelor's Degree in Security Management or any relevant qualification.
- A minimum of 6 years security experience in a high value security environment and 3 years of which should be in a management role.

Skills and Competencies:
- Analytical Skills
- Systems Evaluation
- Verbal Communication
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To apply in confidence, please visit **www.peopleconnections.co.bw.** Applicants should submit a Cover Letter, Detailed Curriculum Vitae, and Academic Certificates and at least three (3) referees. . **Application documents should be in PDF format and merged.**

Closing Date: 20 October 2026

For enquiries: Contact 3975917 / 3915503

PEOPLE CONNECTIONS
connecting people and business

Cereal Imports Cost Botswana P1.4bn

Botswana's P1.41 billion cereal import bill highlights a production shortfall that continues to leave the country dependent on foreign grain.

BONGANI MALUNGA

Botswana spent approximately P1.41 billion importing cereals in the first seven months of 2026, exposing its dependence on foreign grain amid a persistent domestic production shortfall.

The figure appears in Statistics Botswana's Food and Beverages Imports July 2026 report, published on 9 October. In a March parliamentary budget presentation, Lands and Agriculture Minister Edwin Dikoloti estimated cereal production at 134 000 tonnes in the 2024/25 season, meeting 44.7 percent of national requirements.

PRODUCTION SHORTFALL

With annual demand estimated at 300 000 tonnes, the gap was

To Page 17

Shoprite Eyes Square Mart Assets

The proposed takeover of assets in Gaborone and Palapye comes as Botswana shoppers contend with rising prices and shrinking shopping baskets.



BONGANI MALUNGA

Shoprite is seeking to expand in Botswana's grocery market through a proposed acquisition of selected assets from the Square Mart Food Lovers Market operation in Gaborone and A1 Supermarket in Palapye.

A Competition and Consumer Authority (CCA) merger notice issued on 8 October names the buyer as Retail Holdings Botswana, trading as Shoprite, and the sellers as The Square Mart (Pty) Ltd and A1 Supermarket (Pty) Ltd. The deal covers stock, movable assets and trade licences, not an outright purchase of the companies.

"After completion of the merger, the Acquiring Enterprise shall control and operate the Target Businesses," the CCA stated.

PRICE PRESSURES

The move comes as supermarket operators compete for increasingly price-conscious customers. Bank of Botswana figures put annual inflation at 9.3 percent in August 2026, adding pressure to household budgets.

Sefalana's audited results for the year ended April 2026 highlighted a change in shopping habits. "Consumers are visiting our stores more frequently than previously but basket sizes have fallen," the retailer reported, noting stronger demand for necessities, value packs and private-label products.

Shoprite could use its distribution networks, bulk-purchasing capacity and supplier relationships to improve product availability and reduce operating costs, potentially increasing pricing pressure on competitors.

REGIONAL MOMENTUM

For the 52 weeks ended June 2026, JSE-listed Shoprite Holdings reported merchandise sales of R270.8 billion, up 7.2 percent from the previous year.

Its supermarket operations outside South Africa grew sales by 11 percent. An expanded Botswana network could also provide more opportunities for local farmers and food manufacturers to supply fresh produce and locally made goods.

Export Boom Faces Standards Test

Surging citrus shipments and restrictions on beef exports expose the certification, disease-control and logistics hurdles facing Botswana producers.

BONGANI MALUNGA

Botswana's plans to expand agricultural exports risk stalling unless producers meet rigorous international standards, the Ministry of Lands and Agriculture has warned.

At BIUST's Made in BW–Sold to the World Expo in Palapye on 9 October, ministry representative Dr Christopher Nyanga said finding buyers was not enough. "A product does not become export ready simply because there is a buyer willing to purchase it," he said.

CITRUS GROWTH

Figures presented by Permanent Secretary Dr Mokganedi Mokopasetso to Parliament's Public Accounts Committee on 3 August 2026 show citrus exports rose from 2 790.7 tonnes in 2024 to 13 721.2 tonnes in 2025, a 392 percent increase.

World Bank trade data shows Botswana citrus reached the Netherlands, Germany, Spain, Italy, Portugal and the United Arab Emirates in 2024.

CERTIFICATION GAPS

A European Commission audit recorded 15 interception notifications concerning Botswana citrus in 2024, 14 involving defective phytosanitary certificate declarations and one involving a pest. No false codling moth interception had been reported by the June 2025 audit.

> "A product does not become export ready simply because there is a buyer willing to purchase it."

The audit also identified deficiencies in certification procedures and verification of controls. At the time, Botswana lacked domestic cold storage for EU-bound citrus, leaving pre-cooling and certification dependent on Durban, South Africa.

BEEF RESTRICTIONS

World Bank records put frozen beef exports at 7 084 tonnes worth US$35.48 million in 2024. An April 2026 European Union regulation suspended fresh beef imports from all previously authorised Botswana zones following foot-and-mouth disease outbreaks.

In August, two feedlot operators told the High Court that movement restrictions stranded 6 600 cattle and added more than P27 million in feeding costs. The Botswana Meat Commission earned P2.36 billion from beef exports between 2020 and 2025, according to the ministry's PAC briefing.

STANDARDS FIRST

Nyanga said government was strengthening animal and plant health systems, traceability, certification and market access. He described safeguards as "essential for protecting the reputation of Botswana's agricultural products and ensuring that our producers can meet the requirements of sophisticated international markets."

"Export competitiveness requires consistent quality, sufficient volumes, reliable supply, food safety, traceability, certification, appropriate packaging, competitive pricing and efficient logistics," he stressed.

From Page 16



approximately 166 000 tonnes, or 55.3 percent of requirements. This was an improvement on the previous drought-affected season, when local production met just six percent of demand.

Botswana imported cereals worth P171.2 million in July alone, accounting for 15.4 percent of its P1.11 billion food and beverage import bill. Maize cost P81.2 million, rice P56.4 million and wheat P18.7 million.

SUPPLY EXPOSURE

Although July's cereal import bill fell 7.4 percent from June, the cumulative expenditure leaves Botswana exposed to international grain prices, exchange-rate fluctuations and regional supply disruptions.

The Food and Agriculture Organization has identified South Africa as Botswana's principal cereal import market. Government has acknowledged constraints including poor soils, climate variability, pest outbreaks and low productivity.

GOVERNMENT RESPONSE

The Ministry is reviewing agricultural input subsidies and pursuing improvements in grain storage, commercial farming and market access. Increasing local production could strengthen food security, reduce external exposure and retain more agricultural spending domestically.

Janson Wins P60,000 in TSW Draw

Boitumelo Janson has won P60,000 in TSW and Gabz FM's 60 for 60 competition, which awarded P84,000 in cash to five winners as Botswana marked 60 years of independence.



Boitumelo Janson has won P60,000 in TSW and Gabz FM's 60 for 60 competition, which concluded after four weeks with a total of P84,000 awarded to five winners.

Janson, a recent graduate, said the win came after downloading the TSW mobile application and registering her details.

"I remember downloading the TSW app, registering my details and then, bam, I won! It feels so good to be a winner. Thank God!!!" she said.

FOUR WEEKLY WINNERS

The competition also awarded P6,000 each to weekly winners Modiri Kaisara, Bonolo Haengora, Moemedi Mojapelo and Joromeya Lambert.

The winners were announced during Iconic with Dollar Mac, a programme broadcast on Gabz FM. The competition encouraged participation through the TSW app, with entries submitted via its What's Hot & What's Not section.

MARKING 60 YEARS

The initiative was launched to mark Botswana's 60th Independence anniversary, combining a cash prize draw with a focus on local destinations, events and experiences.

TSW's weekly feature on Iconic with Dollar Mac will continue every Friday at 1.30pm on Gabz FM 96.2, covering places, food, events and other activities around the country.

The programme also introduces listeners to features available on the TSW mobile application.



Standard Bank to Invest in OPay

The proposed investment could pave the way for wider digital banking, payments and lending services across African markets.

Standard Bank Group has signed an agreement to invest in OPay, a digital financial services platform operating primarily in Nigeria, as the two companies explore opportunities to expand financial services access across Africa.

The investment is expected to close alongside or shortly after OPay's proposed initial public offering (IPO), subject to completion of the offering and regulatory approvals. OPay has filed a registration statement with the United States Securities and Exchange Commission and applied to list its American Depositary Shares on the New York Stock Exchange.

EXPANDING DIGITAL SERVICES

The companies intend to explore opportunities to distribute selected Standard Bank products and services through OPay's consumer and merchant platform. Potential areas of collaboration include digital banking, payments, merchant acquiring, lending, remittances and developing new financial products.

Any initiatives will depend on definitive agreements and the necessary regulatory approvals.

TARGETING CROSS-BORDER TRADE

Standard Bank Group Chief Executive Sim Tshabalala said the partnership could combine the bank's African presence with OPay's digital capabilities.

"Africa's growth is increasingly shaped by connectivity, digital adoption, and evolving models of economic participation," Tshabalala said.

He added that the companies saw potential to expand access to financial services and support cross-border commerce.

"Together, we see potential to expand access to financial services, support cross-border commerce and deliver value to clients across Africa," he said.

SUPPORTING GROWTH AMBITIONS

Standard Bank Group operates across 21 African markets. The group said the proposed partnership aligns with its digital strategy and plans to expand services through established and emerging channels.

The agreement follows the bank's recent Capital Markets Day, where it outlined its growth strategy, including efforts to support intra-African trade and broaden financial inclusion.

Expo Draws 6,000 Learners in Letlhakane

More than 6,000 learners attended a two-day expo in Letlhakane, where exhibitors and industry mentors showcased technical skills, emerging technologies and potential career pathways.

More than 6,000 learners attended the inaugural theFUTURE STEAM & Skills Expo at Lucara Sports Complex in Letlhakane, organised by the Atamelang ko Boteti Foundation and Mosepele Green Foundation.

Held under the theme "SEE IT. TOUCH IT. ASK IT. BECOME IT.", the two-day event brought together 80 corporate exhibitors and 200 industry mentors to expose learners to science, technology, engineering, arts and mathematics (STEAM), alongside technical and vocational skills.

EXPOSURE TO EMERGING TECHNOLOGIES

Keoagile Atamelang, founder and patron of the Atamelang ko Boteti Foundation, said the idea originated from a question posed by a constituent about opportunities for young people.

"Right then, I said I am giving them the future," said Atamelang, who is also the Minister of Transport and Infrastructure and Member of Parliament for Boteti East.

He said the expo aimed to familiarise young people with emerging technologies, including drones and robotics, and give them opportunities to interact with industry professionals.



"The students could see the professionals, ask the professionals, and touch the professionals. Now what is left is for them to become those professionals," he said.

BUSINESSES AND SKILLS PATHWAYS

The event featured interactive technical displays, heavy machinery demonstrations and stalls for local vendors. Participating organisations included Lucara Botswana, Botswana Telecommunications Corporation, Botswana Housing Corporation, Coca-Cola Botswana, Drones for Africa, Botho University, Boitekanelo College and New Era College.

SEDI.FLYS AvBusiness Partners supported the event with public relations, event presentation and executive interviews, according to the organisers.

Its group chief executive officer, Lesedi K. Modise, said the expo aligned with the company's youth empowerment and entrepreneurship initiatives.

"Seeing over 6,000 learners engage with industry leaders while local small businesses networked alongside major corporations proves that when you give young people exposure and opportunity, you transform an entire region," Modise said.



Have Pseudos Poisoned Political Debate?

Anonymous online personalities are drawing Botswana's institutions into disputes, raising questions about manufactured political influence and the corruption of truth.

DR DOUGLAS RASBASH

An anonymous Facebook account publishes an allegation against a politician. Within hours, the accusation is shared, condemned, defended and repeated. Nobody knows who wrote it, who supplied the information or whether anyone was paid to circulate it. Yet the allegation becomes part of the national political conversation. By the time the truth emerges, the political damage may already have been done.

The controversies surrounding France Museveni, Happy Omang and, most recently, Gosee Kone have drawn political parties, trade unions, police, courts and Parliament into disputes originating with anonymous online personalities. Governments have changed, but the practice has persisted. The question is whether Botswana is experiencing something more consequential: the corruption of truth as an instrument of political influence.



BOTSWANA'S ANONYMOUS WARS

During the BDP administration, France Museveni became notorious for publishing allegations against senior politicians and public officials. Former minister Unity Dow accused Botho Seboko, then a senior official in the Office of the President, of operating the account. Seboko instituted legal proceedings against Dow. Police acknowledged complaints, while the BDP denied association with the account. The accusations concerning its operators and possible state security links remained disputed.

Following the UDC's October 2024 victory, France Museveni apparently fell silent. Happy Omang subsequently drew complaints from political figures and organised labour. In May 2026, BOFEPUSU questioned the government's apparent failure to act against the account and offered to assist investigations. The federation's suspicions of political tolerance or involvement were allegations, not verified findings.



In October 2026, the Botswana Congress Party protested the reported arrest and interrogation of two activists over their reactions to a Facebook post associated with Gosee Kone. The BCP questioned the government's commitment to freedom of expression. The legal circumstances require clarification. Across these controversies, the identities, funding and coordination of the accounts remain unestablished.



WHEN FALSEHOODS BITE

Nigeria offers a warning about consequences. In 2003, false rumours that polio vaccines would sterilise children gained political and religious endorsement. Authorities in Kano suspended vaccination campaigns for approximately a year. The interruption contributed to the resurgence and international spread of poliovirus. Misinformation had helped produce an institutional decision with measurable human consequences.

Claims that Bill Gates intended to sterilise Africans through vaccination have also repeatedly resurfaced, despite a lack of credible evidence. Fact-checkers identified manipulated or unrelated footage circulated in 2020 and 2026. Their continued circulation does not, by itself, prove changes in vaccination behaviour; that requires additional evidence.

THE PAID MACHINERY

In South Africa, Bell Pottinger undertook a communications campaign in 2016 for Oakbay, linked to the Gupta family, reportedly worth £100,000 a month. Narratives around "white monopoly capital" circulated amid state capture allegations. Reporting documented a coordinated media and social media network, including at least 220,000 tweets over a year. The United Kingdom's Public Relations and Communications Association expelled the firm in 2017, and it subsequently collapsed. Political narrative manipulation could clearly be a commercial service.

In Kenya, Mozilla Foundation researchers documented campaigns attacking judges, journalists and civil society during the Building Bridges Initiative controversy. They identified more than 23,000 tweets across at least 11 campaigns and approximately 3,700 accounts. Some participants described receiving US$10–15 daily through M-Pesa to promote political messages. That evidence showed coordination and reported payment, not simply citizens expressing similar opinions.

Meta also documented a Russian-linked influence network targeting African countries through apparently local accounts and Pages. It identified 67 Facebook accounts, 70 Pages, two Groups and around US$107,300 in advertising expenditure. Local freelancers appeared to work for individuals in Russia. These examples show how sponsorship can be obscured; they do not establish that Botswana's anonymous accounts operate the same way.



THE PRICE OF INFLUENCE



The amounts range from small payments to online participants to major professional contracts. They cannot simply be added together. There is no verified public estimate of expenditure linked to France Museveni, Happy Omang or Gosee Kone. Whether their activity is independent, sympathiser-funded or organised remains a question for investigation.

OUTRAGE AND REACH

Social media adds another dimension. Research published in Science in 2024 found that misinformation sources were more likely than reliable sources to provoke outrage, and that outrage increased people's willingness to share content, sometimes without reading it. Supporters circulate an accusation approvingly; opponents repeat it to condemn it. Even a correction may reach fewer people. The process does not require everyone to believe the allegation. It may be enough to create suspicion.

> "The question is whether Botswana is experiencing something more consequential: the corruption of truth as an instrument of political influence."

ACCOUNTABILITY AND TRUTH

Political parties must explain their relationships with online supporters and paid communications networks. Public institutions must apply the law consistently without suppressing legitimate criticism. Journalists must distinguish reporting on a controversy from validating an unverified allegation. There is also an essential distinction between anonymity and deception: whistleblowers and dissidents may have legitimate reasons to conceal their identities.

The evidence does not establish that Botswana's political discourse has deteriorated beyond repair, or that substantive policy debate has declined. Those propositions must be tested against actual posts, circulation, reactions and corrections. Restoring confidence requires independent journalism, transparent political communication, credible institutions, media literacy and protection of free expression. Winning attention and establishing the truth are not the same achievement.



Botswana's Social Crisis: Are Statistics Truthful?

Six decades of development have raised living standards, but gaps in social indicators may obscure growing distress and demand a national wellbeing audit.

DR DOUGLAS RASBASH

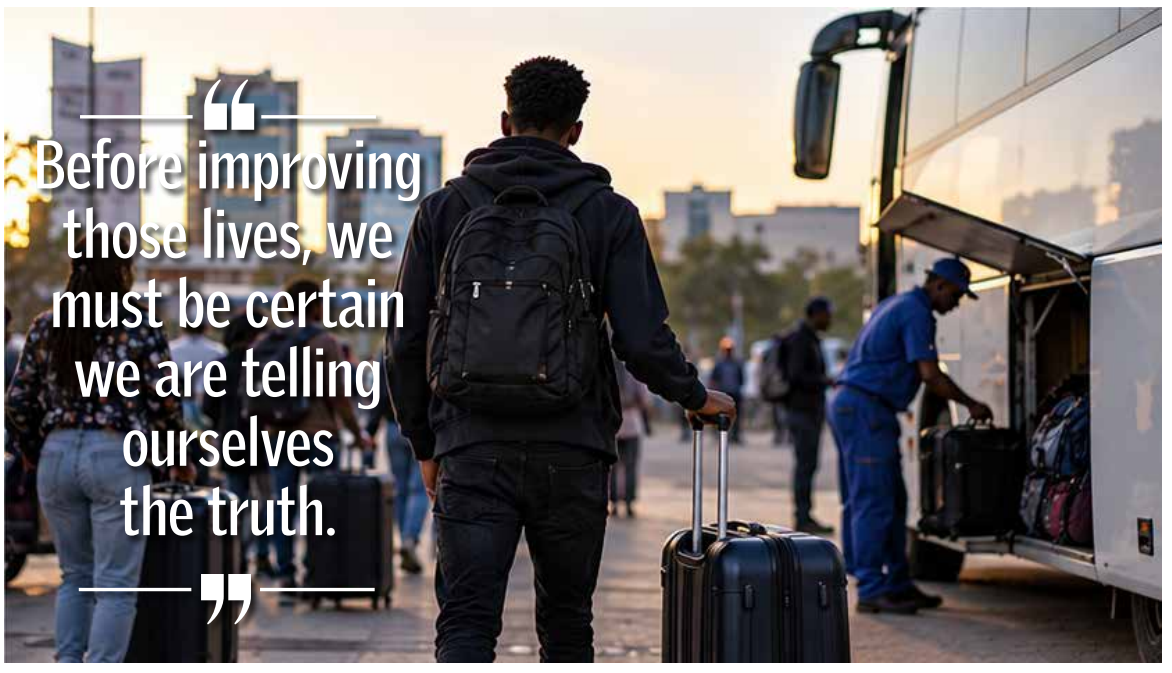
Six decades of economic development have transformed Botswana. But beneath the achievements, disturbing signs of social distress raise a difficult question: are we becoming materially wealthier but socially poorer? Botswana has measured progress through growth, infrastructure, education, healthcare and rising living standards. Yet are the lives of Batswana actually getting better?

Unemployment, household financial insecurity, sexual violence, suicide, drug abuse, changing family structures and outward migration raise the possibility of a social recession, in which quality of life deteriorates even when conventional economic indicators suggest progress. Equally important, can we trust the statistics used to judge our social condition?

LIFE AND VIOLENCE

Life expectancy provides a starting point. World Bank figures put Botswana at 68.7 years in 2022, 69.2 in 2023 and 69.3 in 2024. The latest increase was barely one month. This does not establish a permanent plateau, but Botswana remains approximately seven years behind the upper-middle-income average.

International compilations have placed Botswana among countries with the highest reported rape rates, including a widely cited figure of 92.93 cases per 100,000 people. Police recorded 2,296 rapes in 2023 and 2,018 in 2024, still more than five reported rapes daily. Historical research found that 67% of women had experienced some form of gender-based violence. Statistics Botswana recorded 9,973 GBV cases in 2024/25. But reported incidents cannot capture violence that never enters the system. Does a decline mean less violence or fewer reports?



> "Before improving those lives, we must be certain we are telling ourselves the truth."

Total recorded offences fell from 159,680 in 2023 to 146,526 in 2024, while some serious categories, including murder and drug-related offences, increased. A falling overall crime rate can conceal deterioration in particular forms of violence.

Suicide offers another measure. In 2023, the recorded mortality rate among men aged 15–24 was 8.9 per 100,000, compared with 0.9 among young women. Unemployment, loneliness, financial insecurity and substance misuse warrant investigation, but arrests and treatment records alone cannot prove that drug use prevalence is increasing.

CHANGING FAMILIES

Statistics Botswana recorded 7,631 marriages in 2021 but 4,517 in 2024, a 41% decline. Census figures for divorce, approximately 1.0% in 2011 and 1.1% in 2022, do not establish a surge. Of 41,784 births registered in 2024, about 84% were to unmarried mothers. This does not establish that 84% of children live in single-parent households; unmarried parents may live together or share responsibility.

Average household size fell from 3.7 in 2011 to 3.3 in 2022. Changing family structures need not signal failure: independence and choice may represent progress. What matters is whether families provide care, stability and opportunity.

THE EMPLOYMENT GAP

Statistics Botswana's 2024/25 household survey counted 213,437 unemployed people, an official rate of 21%. Another 88,671 discouraged jobseekers were excluded from that calculation. Include them and the total becomes 302,108, yielding an extended rate of approximately 27.4%. Almost three in ten of the expanded labour force are unemployed or discouraged.

Labour force participation increased from 61.5% in 2015/16 to 65% in 2024/25, yet the employment-to-population ratio barely improved. The problem is insufficient productive employment, not simply withdrawal from economic activity. Youth unemployment reached approximately 38.2% in early 2024, while 41.3% of young people were neither employed nor in education or training. What does progress mean to someone with qualifications but no livelihood?

International demographic estimates suggest net migration losses of about 6,487 in 2023, 5,778 in 2024, 5,665 in 2025 and a projected 6,355 in 2026. These provisional figures cannot tell us how many skilled Batswana are leaving, but raise questions about domestic opportunity.

> "are we becoming materially wealthier but socially poorer?"

QUESTIONING THE NUMBERS

Police recorded 346 road fatalities in 2024, down from 413 in 2021. Are deaths occurring days after collisions consistently reconciled with police records? International practice recognises fatalities within 30 days. Completeness deserves verification.

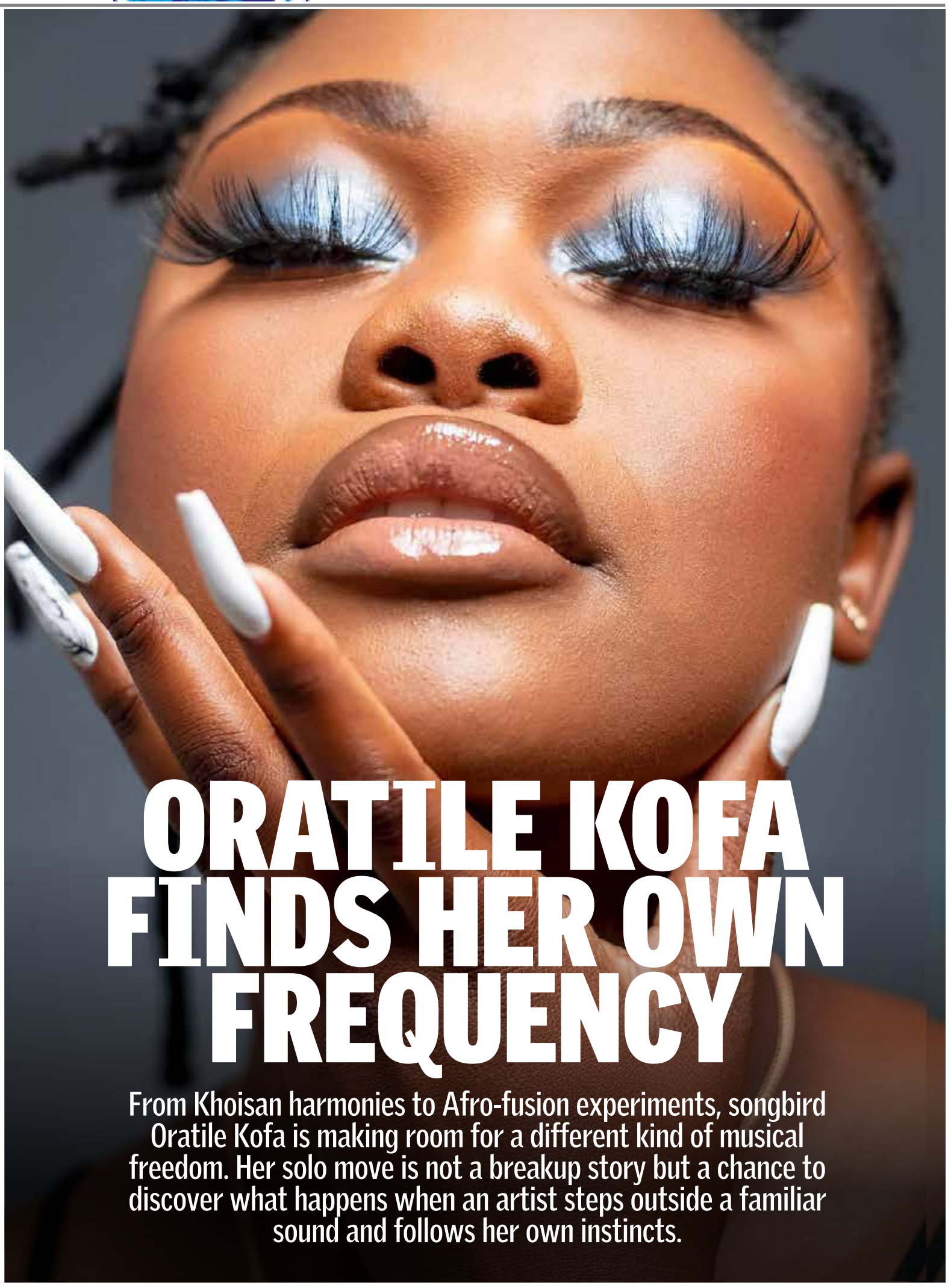
This brings us to the corruption of truth. Information becomes corrupted when incomplete statistics are presented as comprehensive, incompatible surveys are compared, or convenient indicators conceal uncomfortable realities. Official unemployment excludes discouraged workers; reported rape cannot measure the full prevalence of sexual violence; GDP growth may coexist with household insecurity. Even technically correct statistics can mislead without context.

A WELLBEING AUDIT

If improving quality of life is government's central purpose, why is it so little discussed? The State of the Nation Address, budget speeches, national development plans and the Botswana Economic Transformation Programme foreground investment and economic measures. But what is that investment for? Botswana needs a national wellbeing audit linking police, health, household, education and migration records, supported by a comprehensive Quality of Life Index.

The evidence does not establish that every social indicator has worsened over five years. It reveals serious problems that cannot be ignored. Botswana measures economic production, public expenditure and infrastructure delivery far more confidently than whether citizens lead safer, happier and more secure lives. Before improving those lives, we must be certain we are telling ourselves the truth

The Botswana Gazette
TIME OUT
THE BOTSWANA GAZETTE
WEDNESDAY 14 OCTOBER 2026



ORATILE KOFA FINDS HER OWN FREQUENCY

From Khoisan harmonies to Afro-fusion experiments, songbird Oratile Kofa is making room for a different kind of musical freedom. Her solo move is not a breakup story but a chance to discover what happens when an artist steps outside a familiar sound and follows her own instincts.

GOSEGO MOTSUMI

Oratile Kofa knows what it means to share a musical identity. As one half of Khoisan, alongside Thabang Rasefako, she has helped shape a sound familiar to audiences across Botswana. Now, she is turning up the volume on another voice: her own.

Going solo could easily invite breakup rumours, but Kofa's story is less about leaving a partnership than testing her creative limits. The mission? To find out just how far Oratile can go when she calls the shots.

> "For Kofa, going solo is not about replacing a shared identity. It is about expanding it."

"The urge to always want to try something different inspired this solo career, to try and grow and explore myself individually is what really pushed me," she told Time Out.

NO MORE PLAYING IT SAFE

Her solo journey is an invitation to hear Kofa beyond the Khoisan identity, with Afro-fusion providing the playground. The approach blends vocals, instrumentation and different genres, giving her room to experiment without abandoning the musical instincts that brought her here.

"Everything that Oratile brings is authentic," she says, explaining that her individual project allows her to explore sounds beyond the group's established style. "I think individually Oratile is bringing a different fusion and twist to what we are already used to."

Her solo catalogue is taking shape with *Ntshebetse*, *Tsala Yame* and her latest single, *Morwalo*. An EP is also in the pipeline, promising another glimpse into an artist still discovering the full range of her sound.

For now, the response has been encouraging. Kofa says the support has grown organically, with listeners sharing her music and audiences wanting more when she performs live.

TWO LANES, ONE MUSICAL JOURNEY

The biggest plot twist? Khoisan is not history. Despite perceptions that the duo has split, Kofa insists the group remains together, pointing to a recent performance in Zambia as evidence that both musical journeys can coexist.

Thabang, she says, made the first move into solo music, and the pair have supported each other's individual ambitions.

"His support has been immaculate," she says.

For Kofa, going solo is not about replacing a shared identity. It is about expanding it. Khoisan remains part of the story, but the spotlight now has room for another perspective one shaped by her own experiments, instincts and ambitions.

FIVE COUNTRIES, ONE RUNWAY

From tiny trendsetters to Africa's next fashion heavyweights, Fashion Without Borders Botswana is betting on more than beautiful clothes. With 22 designers, five countries and a Tshepo Jeans masterclass, the real question is whether African fashion can turn cultural swagger into sustainable business.



GOSEGO MOTSUMI

Forget the runway fluff. Fashion Without Borders Botswana 2026 wants to talk business — and make sure the clothes have something to say.

Taking place at The Grand Palm Hotel from 15–17 October, the three-day event will bring together 22 designers from Botswana, Senegal, Nigeria, Zimbabwe and South Africa under the theme "Sustainable Fashion Blueprint". The ambition is to connect African creativity with commercial opportunity without losing the cultural identity stitched into every collection.

DENIM, DREAMS AND THE BUSINESS

The headline attraction is Tshepo Mohlala, founder of South African label TSHEPO Jeans. His journey from making his first pair of jeans to building a fashion brand offers emerging designers a case study in turning creative vision into a viable business.

According to Fashion Without Borders Africa co-founder Tebo Bakwena-Kabisoso, the brand's philosophy aligns with this year's theme.

"TSHEPO places emphasis on creating clothing that is designed to last, with denim serving as a medium through which stories of identity, heritage and personal expression are communicated," she said.

Mohlala will headline the 15 October Fashion Unpacked Masterclass, which will explore branding, craftsmanship, sustainability and the realities of building a fashion business capable of competing beyond its home market.

For Bakwena-Kabisoso, the stakes extend well beyond the clothes. "Fashion Without Borders Africa believes that fashion is an important part of the wider creative economy and has the potential to create sustainable opportunities for young people and entrepreneurs."

Manufacturing, modelling, photography, beauty, media, marketing and retail all form part of that equation. The runway may grab the attention, but the wider fashion ecosystem is where opportunities for employment and enterprise can grow.



LITTLE MODELS, BIG AMBITIONS

The next generation will also have its moment. A children's fashion masterclass on 16 October will introduce young participants to the industry before the Kiddies Fashion Showcase, featuring 11 designers, takes centre stage that evening.

> "The headline attraction is Tshepo Mohlala, founder of South African label TSHEPO Jeans."

The main fashion showcase follows on 17 October, with another 11 designers presenting their collections. Both events aim to connect creatives with audiences, industry stakeholders and potential partners.

As Bakwena-Kabisoso explains, the goal is to do more than put clothes on display: "Fashion Without Borders Africa remains committed to developing platforms that do more than showcase clothing we create opportunities, build networks and provide African creatives with a space to tell their stories and grow their businesses."

EVENT DETAILS: Fashion Without Borders Botswana 2026 runs from 15–17 October at The Grand Palm Hotel, Gaborone. Kiddies showcase tickets cost P500; main showcase tickets cost P500 standard and P1,000 VIP via TICKITO. Masterclass enquiries: efigyproductions@gmail.com.

A Taste of Angola in Gabs

Forget the diplomatic talk. Angola is bringing funje, chicken muamba, music and dance to Phakalane in a flavour-packed bid to bring Botswana and Angola closer, one plate at a time.

GAZETTE REPORTER

Diplomacy is getting a delicious makeover. On 17 October, Angola is trading the usual diplomatic playbook for a table loaded with traditional dishes, live cultural expression and a simple proposition: sometimes, the quickest way to understand another country is to taste it.

CULTURE ON THE MENU

The Embassy of Angola in Botswana will host the first edition of its Angolan Gastronomic Festival at The Place Endaweni in Phakalane from 13:00, putting food at the centre of a cultural exchange between the two countries.

Forget another stiff diplomatic gathering. This one is about getting people curious about what lies beyond their own borders, with Angolan cuisine, music and dance serving as the introduction.

The menu promises a proper culinary adventure, featuring funje, dried-meat and fish calulu, bean kizaca, muamba kizaca, chicken muamba, cabidela and meadungo. For the uninitiated, it is an opportunity to discover a cuisine shaped by regional traditions, local ingredients and knowledge passed down through generations.

MORE THAN A MEAL

The festival's ambition stretches beyond filling plates. The embassy sees gastronomy as a way to encourage dialogue, celebrate cultural diversity and strengthen ties between Angola and Botswana, while welcoming the different communities living in Botswana into the experience.

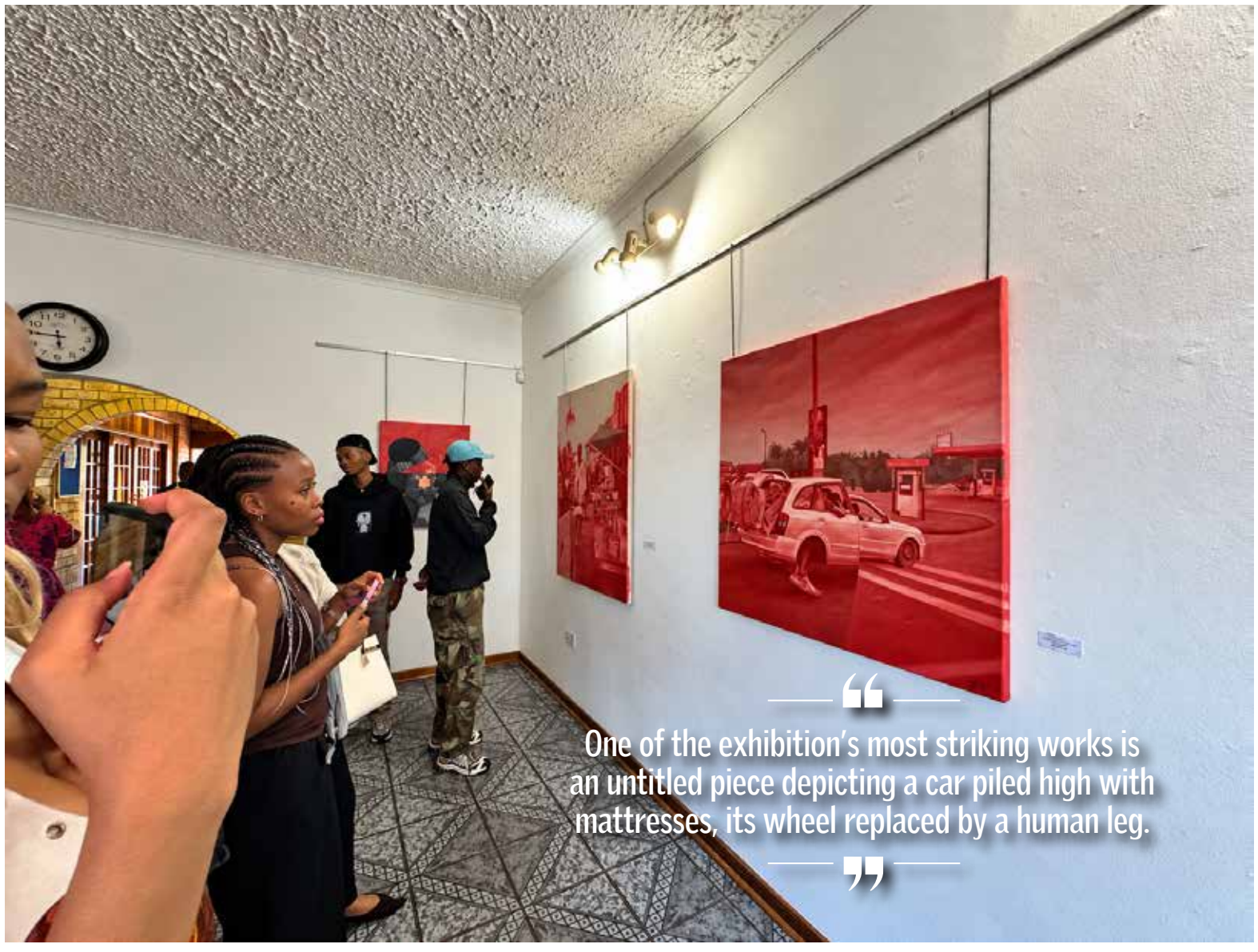
Food, after all, can open doors that formal introductions sometimes leave shut. A curious diner becomes a conversation starter; an unfamiliar dish becomes a reason to ask questions, share stories and discover common ground.



Whether visitors arrive for the food, the music or the cultural experience, the bigger idea is that diplomacy need not always happen behind conference-room doors.

Sometimes, it starts with a serving spoon.

THE ART OF BEING A VISITOR



> One of the exhibition's most striking works is an untitled piece depicting a car piled high with mattresses, its wheel replaced by a human leg.

A car loaded with mattresses and rolling on a human leg is not your average moving-day scene. But in Ke Moeti (I Am a Visitor) exhibition, local artist Oteng Keabetswe turns the baggage of migration into a sharp, unsettling question: can you belong somewhere and still feel like a stranger?

GOSEGO MOTSUMI

You can change cities, cross borders and start over. But belonging? That baggage travels differently.

In *Ke Moeti (I am a visitor)*, Botswana-born, Johannesburg-based artist Oteng Keabetswe turns the experience of moving between places into an interrogation of identity, memory and the uncomfortable business of fitting in. The exhibition, which opened at Alliance Française de Gaborone, attracted art enthusiasts from as far as Johannesburg.

BETWEEN TWO WORLDS

Keabetswe's story begins between Francistown, where he attended school, and Tutume, where he spent his holidays. Moving between village and city exposed him to different ways of living, laying the groundwork for an artistic practice rooted in observation and lived experience.

"Ke Moeti is basically my life," he says.

Relocating to Johannesburg added another layer. He felt he belonged, yet differences in his surroundings could make him feel like an outsider. That contradiction sits at the heart of the exhibition: how do you claim a place when it does not always feel like it claims you back?

THE BAGGAGE WE BRING

One of the exhibition's most striking works is an untitled piece depicting a car piled high with mattresses, its wheel replaced by a human leg. It is an odd, almost surreal image that turns an everyday relocation into something far more existential.

The mattresses suggest the practical business of moving, while the makeshift wheel hints at the instability of the journey. Together, they ask what we take with us, what we leave behind and how our new environments reshape us.

"So the artwork speaks to the questions of what do we carry with us and what if the environment is the one influencing all those confusions and displacements," Keabetswe says.

THE VERDICT

Working across acrylic painting, charcoal and constructed forms, Keabetswe transforms personal encounters into a wider conversation about movement and identity. The mattress-loaded car is a standout precisely because it refuses a neat interpretation, leaving viewers to wrestle with its symbolism.

Ke Moeti is not simply about travelling from one place to another. It is about the emotional toll of navigating the space between being at home and feeling at home. Sometimes, the heaviest baggage is not what we pack, but what we carry inside.

KOKI KAMALA'S INCLUSIVE TOUCH

In a fashion world obsessed with the visual, Koki Kamala is putting inclusion at its fingertips. Its new Braille handbag collection challenges the industry to rethink who gets considered in luxury and what happens when beautiful design learns to listen.

GOSEGO MOTSUMI

Luxury has spent decades telling us to look closer. Koki Kamala wants us to reach out and touch.

With *A Message You Can Feel*, the African luxury fashion brand is stitching raised, readable Braille into premium leather handbags, challenging the idea that fashion must be seen to be experienced. The collection is more than a tactile design experiment; it is a push for blind and visually impaired people to be considered in an industry where accessibility can be an afterthought.

INCLUSION, NOT DECORATION

The idea began with a question from designer Koki Chiepe's friend, Thami Dish: "Have you ever thought of designing a Braille bag?"

Almost two years of learning, prototyping and conversations with Braille readers followed. Chiepe revisited spacing and positioning, sought feedback and made changes to ensure the Braille could actually be read.

"For almost two years, I have been learning. I have made mistakes," she says, describing a process that demanded more than creative instinct: it required listening to the people the collection was designed to include.

The bags feature messages including LOVE, LOVE COMES IN ALL SHADES, BEAUTIFULLY EVOLVING and EVER ONWARD — words to be discovered beneath the fingertips, not simply admired from across a room.

MORE THAN A FASHION STATEMENT

Conversations at Kibarani School for the Blind in Kilifi, Kenya, brought the collection's human impact into focus. Cyprian, a visually impaired teacher, welcomed the recognition of blind people in the design process, while student president Dennis Tumaini highlighted the potential for the bags to introduce Braille to people unfamiliar with it.

Chiepe's philosophy is straightforward: "Braille is a language. It deserves the same respect we would give any language we put onto a product."

BRINGING THE MESSAGE HOME



The designer hopes to build partnerships that support Braille education, equipment and resources for blind and visually impaired communities. Batswana can purchase the collection at www.kokikamala.com, with a portion of proceeds going towards institutions serving these communities.

Chiepe is also inviting local businesses and cultural organisations to help bring the experience to Botswana through collaborations and public installations.

Because genuine inclusion is not just about making room in fashion. It is about rethinking who fashion is for and ensuring beauty has something meaningful to say to everyone.

WHY BOTSWANA MUST WEAR ITS OWN

Forget the flag-waving and Independence Day captions. Brand Botswana and the Maikarabelo Movement want patriotism to do more than look good on social media. Think local businesses, homegrown fashion, community projects and a jersey designed to turn national pride into economic opportunity.

GOSEGO MOTSUMI

Botswana has no shortage of reasons to feel proud. But can that pride sell a locally made jersey, put money into small businesses and help rebuild communities? That is the challenge behind *Ke Motlotlo Ka Botswana*, where content creators are being called to turn feel-good patriotism into something with receipts.

LESS POSTING, MORE DOING





At the influencers' engagement session hosted by Brand Botswana and the Maikarabelo Movement, the conversation went beyond hashtags and carefully curated shots. The message: telling Botswana's story matters, but what people do after hearing it matters even more.

"Pride grows from knowing," said Kutlo Moagi, Brand Management executive director, urging creators to spotlight homegrown talent, overlooked destinations and businesses building brands from Kasane to Tsabong.

The idea is to make national identity feel less like a campaign slogan and more like everyday life. Authentic storytelling, Moagi argued, can bring Brand Botswana closer to citizens in ways advertising alone cannot.

But Callistus Phologolo, founder of the Maikarabelo Movement, wants the pride conversation to go further still.

A JERSEY WITH A JOB

Phologolo traced his inspiration to a news story about magistrates in Mahalapye who donated their time to refurbish a fire-damaged court. Their contribution prompted a question that became the foundation of Tsaya Maikarabelo: what can each of us do for our country?

Now, that philosophy is being stitched into the Maikarabelo Pride, Patriotism and Legacy Jersey. The initiative brings together 100 small and medium enterprises selected by the Local Enterprise Authority, with ambitions to strengthen Botswana's textile industry and expand opportunities beyond the domestic market.

There is a community dividend, too. P50 from every jersey sold will be ring-fenced for community development across 31 districts, in partnership with ABSA, the Presidential Youth Empowerment Campaign and the Maikarabelo Independent Board.

At 100,000 jerseys, that would amount to P5 million for community projects. Phologolo also wants the creative industry to share in the initiative's economic value, recognising that influence and storytelling are work, not just goodwill.

WEAR THE TALK

The movement's ambitions extend beyond clothing, with plans to involve another 100 enterprises in shoe production. For influencers, journalists and artists, the invitation is to spotlight local enterprise and inspire action without losing their authentic voices.

As Phologolo put it: "For too long, Botswana has worn the world. Now, it is time for Botswana to wear Botswana."

The real flex? Making sure that pride is visible not only in what Batswana wear, but in what they build together.

Japan Takes Over the Big Screen

What happens when an unpopular prime minister forgets he is corrupt? At Japan Film Festival 2026, political chaos, anime and everyday Japanese life took centre stage as Botswana and Japan celebrate 60 years of diplomatic ties — with a $25 billion animation industry offering a glimpse of the creative goldmine beyond the screen.

GOSEGO MOTSUMI

What if a politician woke up one morning with no memory of his scandals, shady dealings or spectacular unpopularity? Would he become a better leader or simply find new ways to mess things up?

That is the deliciously chaotic premise of *Hit Me Anyone One More Time*, the Japanese political comedy that opened the 16th Japan Film Festival at New Capitol Cinemas in Gaborone recently. Directed by Koki Mitani, the 127-minute film follows an unpopular prime minister who loses his memory after a citizen hits him on the head with a stone.

With his three aides desperately trying to keep the amnesia under wraps, the politician gets an unexpected shot at starting over. Suddenly stripped of his old habits, he begins transforming politics from within. It is a comic reminder that sometimes the biggest obstacle to becoming a better person is remembering all the reasons you never were one.

SIX FILMS, ONE CULTURAL BRIDGE

The festival, organised globally by the Japan Foundation, returned with six films — three comedies and three anime productions — offering Botswana audiences a window into Japan beyond sushi, samurai and pop-culture obsessions.

Speaking at the opening, Japan's Ambassador to Botswana, Shindo Yusuke, said Japanese cinema often finds its strength in "the quiet nuances of everyday life" rather than the spectacular battles and larger-than-life heroes associated with Hollywood blockbusters.



Since its Botswana debut in 2009, the festival has become a recurring cultural meeting point, giving audiences access to Japanese stories and perspectives that might otherwise remain distant.

ANIME IS BIG BUSINESS

The bigger plot twist, however, could be unfolding beyond the cinema. Yusuke put the global Japanese anime market at approximately US$25 billion, describing Africa as a dynamic frontier for the expanding creative industry.

For Botswana's young creatives, that is more than an impressive number. It is a reminder that animation, storytelling and visual culture can travel far beyond their country of origin.

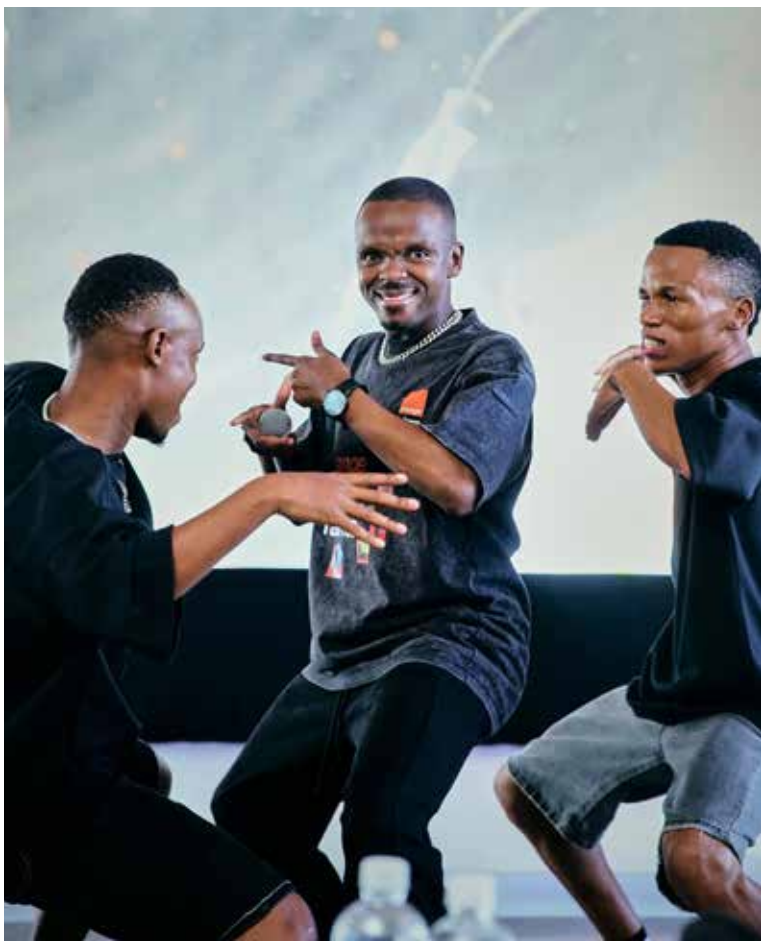
The embassy is also opening doors beyond the screen, with Japanese-language courses in Gaborone, MEXT scholarships for postgraduate study in Japan and a pop-culture event scheduled for November 28.

As Botswana and Japan mark 60 years of diplomatic relations, the festival offers more than a night at the movies. It is an invitation to explore another culture and perhaps imagine what Botswana's own creative industries could become.



Orange Wants New Music Stars

Forget waiting to be discovered. Orange Music Talents 2026 is taking the search for Botswana's next music stars beyond Gaborone, with free auditions, a P100,000 top prize and a village-to-village hunt for voices ready to break through. But the bigger prize could be what happens after the spotlight fades.



GOSEGO MOTSUMI

Botswana's next music sensation could be singing in Maun, Francistown or a village that rarely makes the industry's radar. Orange Music Talents 2026 wants to find out — and it is putting P100,000 on the line.

The competition promises more than a winner clutching a cheque. Orange Botswana says it wants to turn raw talent into careers, taking emerging artists through call-outs, auditions, quarter-finals, semi-finals and a final, with registration and fan voting facilitated through the Max it app.

THE ROADSHOW GOES NATIONAL

"We will be doing a village to village road show," Tebogo Nadisah, Orange Botswana's communication and public relations manager told Time Out, describing a talent hunt designed to look beyond the usual industry hotspots.

Auditions in Gaborone, Maun and Francistown will give hopefuls a shot at the competition without paying an entry fee. The programme will feature resident and guest judges, with local artists brought into the process to give each destination a stake in discovering its own talent.

> "Botswana's talent does not need saving. It needs room to grow."

Han C has been enlisted to produce the competition's theme song and will serve as a constant judge throughout the programme.

The prizes are serious business: P100,000 for the winner, P75,000 for the runner-up and P50,000 for third place. A latest device is also promised for the winner, with Orange indicating that prizes could increase as partnership discussions continue.

AFTER THE APPLAUSE

The real test, however, is whether the competition can deliver something the local music industry needs: a bridge between being talented and building a sustainable career.

"Botswana's talent does not need saving. It needs room to grow," says Gobe Mbayi, Orange Botswana's acting chief executive officer.

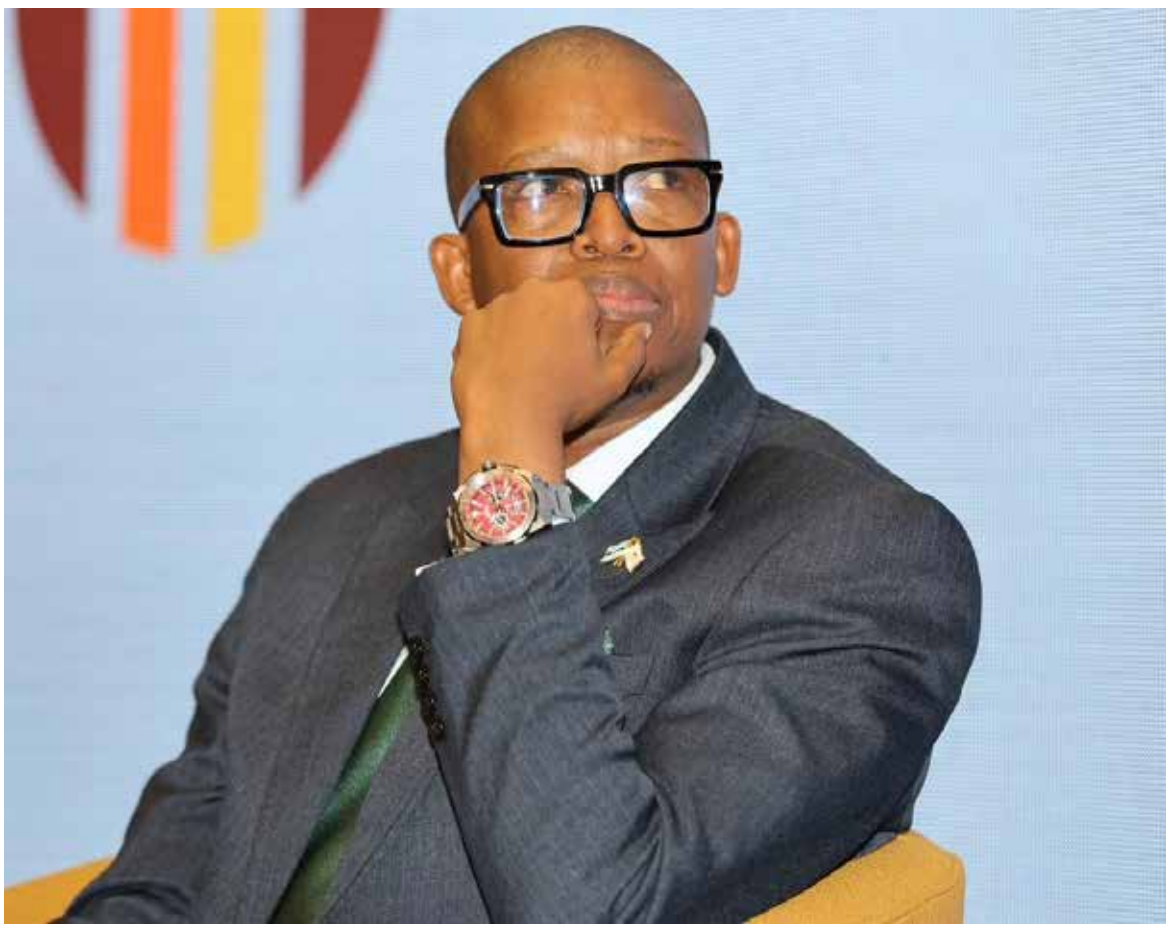
That means development, industry knowledge, performance skills, exposure and connections not simply a televised-style showdown and a cash prize.

For emerging artists, the opportunity is to gain visibility and learn how to navigate the business behind the music. For Orange, it is a chance to connect technology with a creative economy increasingly driven by digital audiences and content.

The winner will get the biggest cheque. But if the platform delivers on its promise, Botswana's next wave of artists could leave with something more valuable: a clearer route from the village stage to the national and even global spotlight.



Ministers Push Local Production For Exports



Ministers say Botswana must strengthen domestic markets, processing and quality standards before its products can compete abroad.

GAZETTE REPORTER

Botswana must strengthen local production and add value to agricultural commodities if its businesses are to compete in export markets, ministers said at the inaugural Made in BW – Sold to the World Expo in Palapye on 8 October. The event was held at the Botswana International University of Science and Technology (BIUST).

DOMESTIC MARKET FIRST

Minister of Trade and Entrepreneurship Tiroeaone Ntsima said businesses should use the domestic market to test and improve their products before expanding abroad. "Before a product is sold to the world, it should have the opportunity to be sold, tested, and improved in Botswana," he said.

Ntsima urged public institutions to buy locally made goods where they meet quality, value and procurement requirements. He said public spending could support domestic companies without compromising standards.

> "Before a product is sold to the world, it should have the opportunity to be sold, tested, and improved in Botswana."

PALAPYE INDUSTRIAL POTENTIAL

Palapye MP and Minister of Water and Human Settlements Onneetse Ramogapi said the town's position along the A1 highway, energy infrastructure and proximity to regional markets could support manufacturing and trade. He cited the proposed Greater Palapye Special Economic Zone as a potential base for industrial processing and technology-related businesses.

Ramogapi said the Palapye Water Treatment Plant expansion and the Bonno National Housing Programme could also create opportunities for local contractors and suppliers.

AGRICULTURAL VALUE ADDITION

Minister of Lands and Agriculture Dr Edwin G. Dikoloti called for a shift from primary agricultural production towards processing, packaging, logistics, branding and export access. He identified livestock, horticulture, dairy, poultry, grains and aquaculture as sectors with greater commercial potential.

Beyond cattle production, Dikoloti cited opportunities in animal feed, veterinary services, meat processing and leather products. He said farmers and producers needed better access to finance, technology, irrigation and reliable markets, alongside food safety, traceability and certification.

RESEARCH SUPPORTS EXPORTS

The ministers also highlighted BIUST's potential to link research with commercial opportunities in agriculture, renewable energy, water technology, manufacturing and digital services. Ntsima called for better coordination among support agencies, financiers and standards bodies to help businesses reach buyers.

Ramogapi urged local firms to explore markets under the Southern African Development Community and the African Continental Free Trade Area. The expo was organised by AlignSure Solution in partnership with BIUST.

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

CASE NO. CVHFT 000353-25

In the matter between:
BBS BANK LIMITED **PLAINTIFF**
and
CHABENI NGANDE **DEFENDANT**

NOTICE OF SALE IN EXECUTION

BE PLEASED TO TAKE NOTICE that pursuant to a writ of execution issued out of the above Honourable Court in the above matter, the following property of the Defendant will be sold by public auction to the highest bidder by **Deputy Sheriff URGENT CHILISA** or an Auctioneer duly appointed by the Deputy Sheriff.

DATE OF SALE : 23rd October 2026
VENUE : Lot 17593, Francistown;
TIME OF SALE : 1030 hrs;

PROPERTY TO BE SOLD : A certain piece of land being Lot 17593, Francistown, situated in Francistown Extension 33, measuring 451m² (Four Hundred and Fifty One Square Metres) which property is held under Deed of Transfer No. FT 830/2011 dated11th November 2011 made in favour of **CHABENI NGANDE** with some developments thereon being a three (3) bedroomed house with sitting room, kitchen, bathroom, toilet, screen wall with electric fence.

TERMS OF SALE : strictly Cash or Electronic Fund Transfer, otherwise detailed conditions of sale may be inspected at the Plaintiff's Attorneys' offices or the Deputy Sheriff's office.

DATED AT FRANCISTOWN ON THIS 28TH AUGUST 2026.

COLLINS CHILISA CONSULTANTS
Attorneys • Notaries • Conveyancers

COLLINS CHILISA CONSULTANTS
Plaintiff's Attorneys, Plot 400
Cnr of Baines Avenue & Moffat Street
Central Residential Area
P.O. Box 484
Tel. 2412761/72357763
FRANCISTOWN.

GABANAGAE J.
IN THE HIGH COURT OF THE REPUBLIC OF BOTSWANA
HELD AT GABORONE

NO: MLHGB-000514-26

In the matter between;
OTTILIA NNANABO MATHANGWANE
(nee GULUBANE) **PLAINTIFF**
And
GOSAITSE MATHANGWANE **DEFENDANT**

SUBTITUTED SERVICE

TO: GOSAITSE MATHANGWANE an adult male of full legal capacity whose current residential address is unknown to the Plaintiff.
TAKE NOTICE THAT by Writ of Summons issued out of this Honourable Court under case number **MLHGB-000514-26** wherein **OTTILIA NNANABO MATHANGWANE (nee GULUBANE)** is the Plaintiff and you are the Defendant.
You are required to enter appearance to defend within twenty one (21) days after publication hereof, failing which judgement may be granted against you.

The Plaintiff's claims is for:

a) **Decree Nisi for divorce**
b) **Division of the joint estate**
c) **Further and/or alternative relief.**

DATED AT GABORONE THIS 13TH DAY OF OCTOBER 2026.

GAPE APRIL ATTORNEYS, PLAINTIFF'S ATTORNEYS, GABORONE INTERNATONAL COMMERCE PARK, PLOT 104 UNIT 6B, P O BOX 504130 GABORONE

IN THE MAGISTRATE COURT OF THE DISTRICT OF GABORONE
HELD AT BROADHURST

CASE NO: CCMBR-000454/26

In the matter between:
TEAM ENGINEERS (PTY) LTD **PLAINTIFF**
And
PULA ROOFS (PTY) LTD **1ST DEFENDANT**
BAELETSI MBAYI **2ND DEFENDANT**

NOTICE OF SALE IN EXECUTION

BE PLEASED TO TAKE NOTICE that pursuant to the judgment granted by the above Honorable court the following property will be sold by public auction by Deputy sheriff OMPHEMETSE KAISARA to the highest bidder as follows:
DATE OF SALE : 26.10.26
VENUE : Broadhurst Police Station.
TIME : 10: 30 am
PROPERTY TO BE SOLD : IBR Moulding machine and Rollar Industrial cutting machine, industrial banding machine, 2 office tables, Reception counter, 6 chairs, coffee table, Book shelve, woodern filing cabinet, Dell computer set, Hp computer set, 12 meters container.

DATED AT GABORONE ON THE 12TH DAY OF OCTOBER 2026

OMPHEMETSE KAISARA
DEPUTY SHERIFF
PLOT 163, UNIT 13, COMMERCE PARK
GABORONE
CELL NO: 72195113/71222244/73008800

MOTLHABI JUDGE
IN THE HIGH COURT OF THE REPUBLIC OF BOTSWANA
HELD AT MAHALAPYE

CASE NO. CVHMY-000095/26

In the matter between:
TUELO ANDY MAFOHLA **Plaintiff**
and
KATLEGO SEASTER KENOSI **Defendant**

NOTICE OF SALE IN EXECUTION

BE PLEASED TO TAKE NOTICE THAT pursuant to the Judgment granted by the Honourable Court, the following property will be sold by Public Auction by **Deputy Sheriff ONKEMETSE MEDUPE** to the highest bidder as follows:

DATE OF SALE : 30th October 2026
TIME OF : 10:30 am
VENUE : Broadhurst Police Station
PROPERTY TO BE SOLD : 1 x 1 Motor Vehicle-Blue in Colour-Subaru WRX Registration B712 BYH.
TERMS OF SALE : Cash or Bank guaranteed cheques.

DATED AT GABORONE ON THIS 13TH DAY OF OCTOBER 2028

Malete Attorneys
ATTORNEYS, CONVEYANCERS & NOTARIES

MALETE ATTORNEYS
Plaintiff's Attorneys
Plot 18573, Phase 2
(Opposite CBD)
PO Box 46663
GABORONE
TEL:3972550/76650906

PHUTHEGO J.
IN THE HIGH COURT OF THE REPUBLIC OF BOTSWANA
HELD AT LOBATSE

Case No. CVHGB 003155/24

In the matter between:
RADICAL INVESTMENT (PTY) LTD **PLAINTIFF**
T/A FLO-TEX PIPES & IRRIGATION
And
CHERRY SPLASH (PTY) **DEFENDANT**

NOTICE OF SALE IN EXECUTION -MOVABLE PROPERTY

BE PLEASED TO TAKE NOTICE that pursuant to the judgment of the above Honorable Court the following property of the abovenamed Defendant will be sold by public auction by Deputy Sheriff **D.J MOYO** to the highest bidder as follows:
DATE OF SALE : 21 October 2026
TIME : 10:00 am
VENUE : Next to old TH Holdings,Tlokweng
PROPERTY TO BE SOLD :

1.	1 x 1 Mercedes truck	B 660 ALN
2.	1 x 1 Law bed trailer	B 361 AUA
3.	1 x 1 Caterpillar front loader	
4.	1 x 1 Bell tipper truck	B 364 ASR
5.	1 x 1 Bell brouzer truck	B 616 BSH
6.	1 x 1 Bell tipper truck	B35D
7.	1 x 1 Hitachi scaveter	ZAX15210LCH
8.	1 x 1 Hitachi scaveter	ZAX15330LC
9.	1 x 1 Haitian machinery (water tanks)	
10.	1 x 1 Trailer	B 789 APY
11.	1 x 1 Komatsu Grander	155AX-5
12.	1 x 1 Mercedes truck	B 894 AMW
13.	1 x 1 Trailer	B 440 BYK
14.	1 x 1 Crane Track XCMG	B 934 BSG
15.	1 x 1 Bell tipper truck	B 360 ASR
16.	1 x 1 Iveco truck	B 166 BFN

CONDITIONS OF SALE: Cash or Bank transfers

DATED AT GABORONE THIS 13th DAY OF OCTOBER 2026

DEPUTY SHERIFF D.J MOYO
72192666/ 3914511/72772565
C/O REZA ATTORNEY
P.O Box 20572
Gaborone

APPLICATION FOR A CERTIFIED COPY

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT the undersigned intends to apply for a certified copy of a title Deed No **TL 84/2003** dated **26th** day of **February 2003** in favour of **Susan Thobega** in respect of:

CERTAIN : Piece of land being **Tribal Lot 8077 Mogoditshane**
SITUATE : at Mogoditshane in the Bakwena Territory
MEASURING : 1818 m² (One thousand Eight hundred and Eighteen meter Square)

All persons having objection to the issue of such copy are hereby required to lodge the same in writing with Registrar of Deeds, PRIVATE BAG 0020 GABORONE within three (3) weeks of the last publication of this notice hereof.

DATED AT Gaborone ON THIS 7th DAY OF October 2026

S Thobega
APPLICANT

KEBONANG J.
IN THE HIGH COURT OF THE REPUBLIC OF BOTSWANA
HELD AT GABORONE

CASE NO: CVHGB-000603-20

In the matter between:
GOITSEONE JAKOBA **PLAINTIFF**
And
TIROYAONE JAKOBA **DEFENDANT**

NOTICE OF SALE IN EXECUTION

BE PLEASED TO TAKE NOTICE that pursuant to the judgement of the above Honourable Court, the immovable property of the above- named Defendant shall be publicly sold in execution by the Deputy Sheriff as follows:
DATE OF SALE : 7th day of NOVEMBER 2026
VENUE : Lot in.Mmamokhasi ward, Kanye
TIME OF SALE : 10:30 Hours
PROPERTY : A piece of land being Tribal Lot in Kanye, Mmamokhasi Ward, together with development being 3-bedroom house including main bedroom with en-suite corner bath tub, common bathroom, veranda, lounge, Kitchen and toilet. Plot measuring 1600m² or 40 x 40,made in favour of **Tiroyaone Jakoba**

CONDITIONS OF SALE : Details and Conditions of sale may be inspected at the Plaintiff's Attorneys' offices.

TERMS OF SALE : Cash or Electronic Fund Transfer

DATED AT THIS 21TH DAY OF SEPTEMBER 2026

DEPUTY SHERIFF ONKGOPOTSE MOTLHAGODI
Cell: 71868324/71411705
MPHETOLANG LEGAL
PLAINTIFF'S ATTORNEYS
PLOT 54513, UNIT 5A,GABORONE
P O BOX 45064
GABORONE
TEL 3163400

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

CVHGB-003083-13

In the matter between:
HELATHCARE MANAGEMENT SERVICES (PTY) LIMITED
T/A GABORONE PRIVATEHOSPITAL **Plaintiff**
and
IBO MOSEKI **Defendant**
DR HEZEKIAH OSORE **Third party**

NOTICE OF SALE IN EXECUTION

BE PLEASED TO TAKE NOTICE that pursuant to a Judgment granted by the above Honourable Court, the following Third party's movable property will be sold by public auction by **DEPUTY SHERIFF MOLEBI GALEITSIWE** to the highest bidder as follows:-
DATE OF SALE : **20TH NOVEMBER 2026**
TIME : **10:30HRS**
VENUE : **GABORONE, OPPOSITE BROADHURST POLICE STATION**
PROPERTY TO BE SOLD : HP Computer serial no; CNK8291CC9T X 1, Patient couch x1; LG Bar fridge x1; Executive Chair x1; Office chairs x8;32ich Hisense TV X1;HP Computer Serial Number 3CO8260HC; HP Monitor; 40inch Sansui TV.
TERMS OF SALE : Subject to Conditions of Sale.
Only cash or bank guaranteed cheques will be accepted.

DATED AT GABORONE ON THIS THE 27TH DAY OF SEPTEMBER 2026.

SWABI & COMPANY
Attorneys, Notaries & Conveyancers

SWABI & COMPANY
Plaintiff's Attorneys
First Floor, Unit 17 Kgale Mews,
Gaborone International Finance Park
P O Box 403506
GABORONE
(Ref: DS.gno.012556)
Deputy Sheriff Molebi Galeitsiwe)
Cell no. 72879169/77435503

APPLICATION FOR CERTIFIED COPY OF LOST TITLE DEED

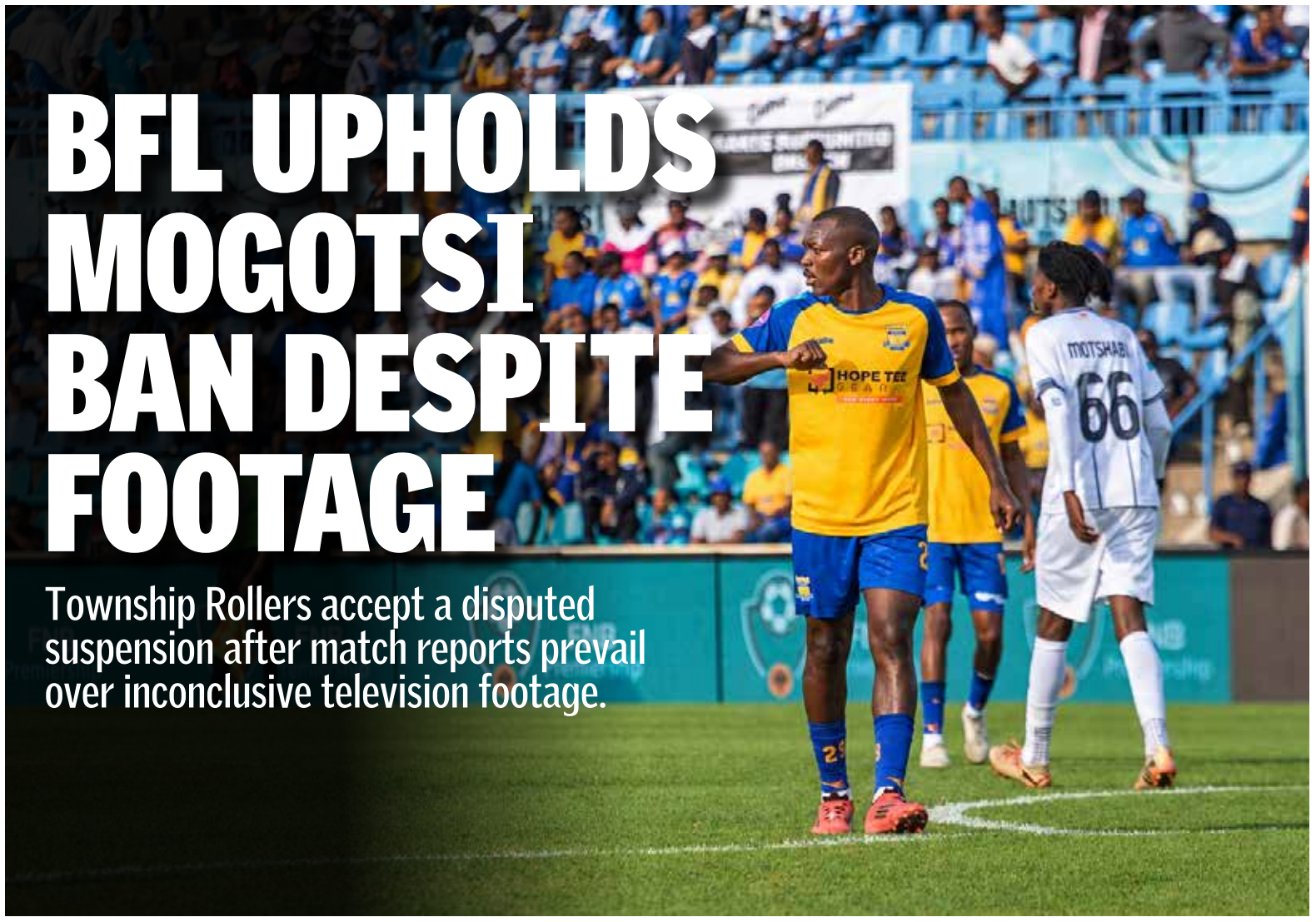
NOTICE is hereby given that the undersigned intends applying for a certified copy of **Deed of Transfer No. 1984/2012** dated **10th September 2012** made in favour of **LEGALA (PROPRIETARY) LIMITED** in respect of the below mentioned property, namely;

CERTAIN : Piece of land being Portion 111, Portion 106 (Farm Sentlhane No: 18-KO) Remainder of Portion 1
SITUATE : In the South East Administrative District
MEASURING : 4, 0665ha (Four Comma Zero Six Six Five Hectares)

All persons objecting to the issue of such copy are hereby requested to lodge such objection in writing with the Registrar of Deeds, Private Bag 0020, Gaborone within 3 (Three) weeks of the last publication of this notice.
DATED AT GABORONE THIS 13th DAY OF OCTOBER 2026

TEBAPE LAW GROUP

Plot 117, Unit 6A, Kwena House
Gaborone International Finance Park
P.O Box 1943 AAD, Poso House
GABORONE



BFL UPHOLDS MOGOTSI BAN DESPITE FOOTAGE

Township Rollers accept a disputed suspension after match reports prevail over inconclusive television footage.

BONGANI MALUNGA

The Botswana Football League (BFL) has upheld Township Rollers player Tebogo Mogotsi's suspension despite acknowledging that television footage was inconclusive on whether he received a yellow card against Extension Gunners.

Responding on 9 October to Rollers' urgent review request, the BFL said it examined the referee's report, match commissioner's report and Botswana Television (BTV) footage from the 20 September match.

The footage did not conclusively show the caution, but both official match reports recorded Mogotsi as booked.

INCONCLUSIVE FOOTAGE

"While the footage captures the foul committed by the player, it does not clearly show the referee issuing the yellow card," the BFL stated. It maintained that unclear footage alone could not overturn records supported by both officials.

"In light of these findings, the League's review has not established sufficient grounds to amend the player's disciplinary record on the basis of the available video footage alone," the BFL explained.

Mogotsi's suspension for the FNB Premiership match against Mochudi Centre Chiefs therefore stood, following cautions recorded against Morupule Wanderers and Extension Gunners.

DISPUTING THE CARD

In an 8 October letter, Rollers secretary-general Ofentse Mosekiemang challenged the second caution and sought an emergency review. "The Club wishes to dispute the recording of the second yellow as Tebogo Mogotsi never received a second yellow card on our game against Extension Gunners," the club wrote.

Rollers said the disputed record risked unfairly excluding Mogotsi from the Chiefs match.

The BFL insisted the referee and commissioner had consistently recorded the caution and said the suspension would remain unless a competent authority ruled otherwise.

RELUCTANTLY AGREEING

Rollers declined a further protest, concerned about possible disciplinary consequences. Coach Oupa Kowa said the club had reluctantly accepted the ruling.

"We received unfortunate information suggesting that Mogotsi had a yellow card which we were not aware of because we don't remember seeing it in the game. We have tried to investigate it internally but we ended up accepting it. I don't recall seeing the yellow card being given but the consequences of us just jumping into this and it eventually turns out that indeed he was given a yellow card were going to be bigger for us," Kowa said during the pre-match press conference.

Kowa said Mogotsi had been part of the plans for the Chiefs encounter and had travelled with Rollers to Maun during the international break.

Botswana Squash Seeks Olympic Backing

With LA 2028 approaching, Botswana's Olympic squash hopes hinge on sustained funding and international preparation.

BONGANI MALUNGA

Botswana squash has set its sights on making history at the Los Angeles 2028 Olympic Games but the country's pursuit of an unprecedented appearance on the world's biggest sporting stage has triggered an urgent appeal for government and corporate backing.

With squash preparing to make its Olympic debut in Los Angeles, the Botswana Squash Rackets Association (BSRA) is mobilising support to ensure that Team Botswana does not miss out on the historic opportunity.

Speaking during the World Squash Day commemoration at the National Squash Centre in Gaborone last Saturday, association official Charmaine Koveya appealed to government, the private sector and the wider community to rally behind the national team's Olympic ambitions.

> "Through such challenges and efforts that we are making in our little corner as Botswana Squash, we hope that we can also be supported by the rest of the community in Botswana."

OLYMPIC DEBUT

"As a sport, squash will be played at the Olympics for the first time. Our main objective is to target the LA 2028 Games. To get there, it's a journey whereby we must first get through the hurdle of the Africa Games which are scheduled to take place in August 2027 in Egypt," she said.



Botswana's Olympic aspirations face a demanding qualification landscape, with only 16 players in each of the men's and women's singles competitions at LA 2028. The association has already outlined its immediate preparations, with Team Botswana scheduled to face regional rivals Zimbabwe and Zambia in friendly matches over the next two months.

ASSESSING COMPETITIVE READINESS

These encounters will provide a crucial opportunity for the national team to assess its competitive readiness, sharpen its combinations and gain valuable international exposure ahead of more demanding continental assignments.

Attention will subsequently shift to Egypt, where the African Games are scheduled to take place from 27 August to 10 September 2027.

Koveya believes that Botswana's journey towards Olympic participation must be supported by a collective national effort, particularly as the association seeks resources to sustain its international ambitions.

"Through such challenges and efforts that we are making in our little corner as Botswana Squash, we hope that we can also be supported by the rest of the community in Botswana," she said. LA 2028 represents more than an opportunity to compete for Botswana as it offers the sport a chance to elevate its domestic profile and establish itself on the international stage.

However, turning that ambition into reality will require sustained investment, international exposure and competitive preparation. The Olympic dream is taking shape but securing the resources to pursue it remains a crucial first hurdle.



BAGGY BLUES FIGHT BACK AGAINST MCC

Two consecutive wins restore parity for Botswana's select side against the touring Marylebone Cricket Club.

BONGANI MALUNGA

Baggy Blues Select turned the tables on the touring London-based Marylebone Cricket Club (MCC), recovering from two opening defeats to claim consecutive victories during the visitors' nine-match Botswana tour.

After MCC swept the first two Twenty20 encounters at the Botswana Cricket Association (BCA) Oval in Gaborone, the local select side responded emphatically, winning the third fixture by 29 runs before defending 150/8 under floodlights to take the fourth by 12 runs.

The turnaround has levelled the four-match head-to-head at two wins apiece, giving local players a confidence boost against one of cricket's most recognisable institutions.

SUBDUED START

Baggy Blues made a subdued start, in the opening match, they managed just 99/7 from their allotted 20 overs, allowing MCC to chase down the target with 102/5 in 18.1 overs. Harry Phillips claimed Player of the Match honours.

In the second contest, the visitors tightened their grip. Baggy Blues were dismissed for 102 in 19.5 overs before MCC raced to 105/3 in just 14.2 overs. Will Street took the individual honours as the tourists cruised to a seven-wicket victory.

But the script changed in the third game. Baggy Blues posted a more imposing 132/5, then bowled MCC out for 103 in 18 overs, with Katlo Piet named Player of the Match. Rather than treating that win as a one-off, the hosts backed it up immediately.

Under the lights at BCA Oval 1, they pushed their total to 150/8 and restricted MCC to 138/7, sealing a tense 12-run triumph. Botlhe Keganne earned Player of the Match recognition, completing a striking reversal from the opening two encounters.

IMPROVEMENT

The home side's improved totals and tighter bowling suggested that they were learning quickly from MCC's early dominance.

The results underline the competitive value of MCC's visit, which runs from 6 to 17 October and features nine matches, including two floodlit fixtures in Gaborone. Beyond the scoreboard, the BCA says the programme aims to develop cricket through coaching sessions, school visits and community engagement.

> "The turnaround has levelled the four-match head-to-head at two wins apiece, giving local players a confidence boost against one of cricket's most recognisable institutions."

"Beyond the matches, MCC will also be conducting coaching sessions, school visits and community engagements, sharing knowledge and helping inspire the next generation of men's and women's cricketers across Botswana. A warm Botswana welcome to the MCC squad and everyone involved in the tour," the association said.

BOTSWANA OFFICIALS SHINE AT BADMINTON WORLDS

Two Botswana officials join a historic African contingent at the World Junior Championships in Cairo.

BONGANI MALUNGA



Botswana badminton officials Emmanuel Kgaboetsile and Sheba Seponono have earned a place on the global stage after joining a historic contingent of African technical officials at the 2026 VICTOR BWF World Junior Championships in Cairo, Egypt.

The duo are among 12 officials drawn from eight African countries participating in the prestigious championships, marking another significant milestone for Botswana's growing influence in international badminton officiating.

Their involvement carries particular significance as Egypt hosts Africa's first Badminton World Federation (BWF) major championship since 2002, ending a 24-year absence of such an event from the continent.

INTERNATIONALLY RECOGNISED

Kgaboetsile, an internationally recognised BWF umpire and Seponono, a BWF line judge and BCA-accredited umpire, are flying Botswana's flag alongside officials from Algeria, Benin, Egypt, Ghana, Mauritius, Tunisia and Zambia. The assignment adds another chapter to an impressive international officiating career for Kgaboetsile.

The experienced Motswana recently served as tournament referee at the 2026 Lagos International in Nigeria, held from 26 to 29 August, before undertaking another refereeing assignment at the Cameroon International in September.

His involvement in the World Junior Championships further underlines his standing among Africa's established badminton technical officials. Seponono's participation is equally significant, reflecting the progress of Botswana's female officials through the continental and international officiating structures.

In 2023, Seponono was among two female officials identified for assessments towards BCA accreditation, with Kgaboetsile expected to serve among the assessors. Three years later, both are representing Botswana within the same historic African officiating contingent.

CELEBRATING THE ACHIEVEMENT

The Badminton Confederation of Africa (BCA) has celebrated the participation of its 12 officials, describing it as a historic achievement for African badminton. The championships, which began with the team competition from 5 to 10 October, have now progressed to the individual events scheduled from 11 to 17 October.

Beyond the prestige of their participation, the Botswana pair's involvement highlights the country's ability to develop technical expertise capable of contributing to competitions at the highest international junior level.

Tonota Extend Unbeaten Premiership Start

A narrow victory over Sua Flamengoes lifts newly promoted Tonota three points clear atop the FNB Premiership.

BONGANI MALUNGA



Newly promoted Tonota FC continue to make a mockery of their underdog status in the FNB Premiership, opening a three-point lead at the summit following a hard-fought 1-0 victory over fellow unbeaten side Sua Flamengoes.

Thabo Mosweunyane emerged as the hero of Friday night's top-of-the-table clash at the Obed Itani Chilume Stadium in Francistown, scoring the decisive goal that preserved Tonota's unbeaten start to the 2026/27 campaign.

The encounter pitted two of the league's early pacesetters against each other, with both sides entering the contest level on points and yet to taste defeat.

WINNING BRAGGING RIGHTS

However, it was Tonota who emerged with the bragging rights and outright control of the Premiership summit, extending their impressive run to five matches without defeat.

After a closely contested goalless opening half, Mosweunyane broke the deadlock on the hour mark, rising highest to connect with a well-delivered Mothusi Cooper corner kick. His powerful header proved decisive as Tonota held firm to secure maximum points.

The strike was particularly significant against a Sua Flamengoes defence that had conceded only once in its previous four league outings. Mosweunyane became only the second player to breach their backline this season, underlining the magnitude of Tonota's achievement.

Under the stewardship of Thaloba Nthaga, Tonota have quickly transformed themselves from Premiership newcomers into early-season pacesetters, accumulating 11 points from a possible 15.

REMARKABLE RETURN

Their impressive start has yielded three victories and two draws, a remarkable return for a side still finding its feet in the country's top division. Tonota opened their campaign with a 1-0 victory over TAFIC before recording successive 1-1 draws against BDF XI and Mochudi Centre Chiefs.

> "Tonota have quickly transformed themselves from Premiership newcomers into early-season pacesetters, accumulating 11 points from a possible 15."

They subsequently returned to winning ways with an emphatic 3-1 triumph over Matebele FC before Mosweunyane's latest heroics handed them arguably their biggest scalp of the season. Tonota's early dominance has also been built on a solid defensive foundation, with the team conceding just three goals while finding the net seven times in five matches.

Although the Premiership title race is still in its infancy, Tonota's remarkable rise has sent an early warning to the league's established heavyweights.

Rasengwatshe Selected for Historic Youth Olympics

The Botswana umpire will officiate at Dakar 2026, the first Olympic event staged in Africa.

BONGANI MALUNGA



Botswana's Kefilwe Rasengwatshe is set to become part of African sporting history after earning a coveted officiating role at the Dakar 2026 Youth Olympic Games, the first Olympic sporting event to be staged on African soil.

The Motswana table tennis umpire is among five African officials selected to officiate at the historic Games, which will take place in Senegal from 31 October to 13 November 2026. Her appointment puts Botswana at the heart of a landmark moment for African sport, as the continent prepares to host an Olympic event for the first time in history.

CONFIRMED PARTICIPATION

Rasengwatshe's selection was confirmed by the International Table Tennis Federation's continental body, ITTF-Africa, in an announcement published on its official website on 8 October.

Rasengwatshe described the opportunity as a remarkable milestone and a chance to fly Botswana's flag on the international stage.

"Being selected to officiate at Dakar 2026 is more than just a personal achievement for me; it is an opportunity to be part of history. To umpire at the first Olympic Games on African soil, while representing Botswana and contributing to the growth of table tennis on our continent, is a privilege I am truly grateful for. I am proud of how far this journey has brought me, and I look forward to embracing this once-in-a-lifetime experience and making Botswana proud," she told ITTF-Africa.

RIGOROUS ASSESSMENT

Her selection follows a rigorous international assessment programme that began in August 2025 with 60 aspiring umpires.

The International Table Tennis Federation (ITTF) subsequently narrowed the field to 22 candidates, who underwent further training, practical assessments and international competition exposure before the final 14 were selected.

The successful group will account for 14 of the 20 International Technical Officials appointed for table tennis at the Games. Rasengwatshe joins fellow African officials from Egypt, Ethiopia, Ghana and South Africa in the historic assignment.

Her achievement also marks another significant step in her officiating career. In 2024, she and Emmah Lelatisitswe were the only two successful candidates among 15 local officials who sat the International Umpires examination, marking a breakthrough for Botswana table tennis.

The Dakar Games will be the fourth edition of the Summer Youth Olympics, following previous editions in Singapore, Nanjing and Buenos Aires. Table tennis competitions will run from 31 October to 5 November, providing Rasengwatshe with an opportunity to showcase Botswana's growing officiating credentials on the global stage.

TIRED OF SHARING?



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