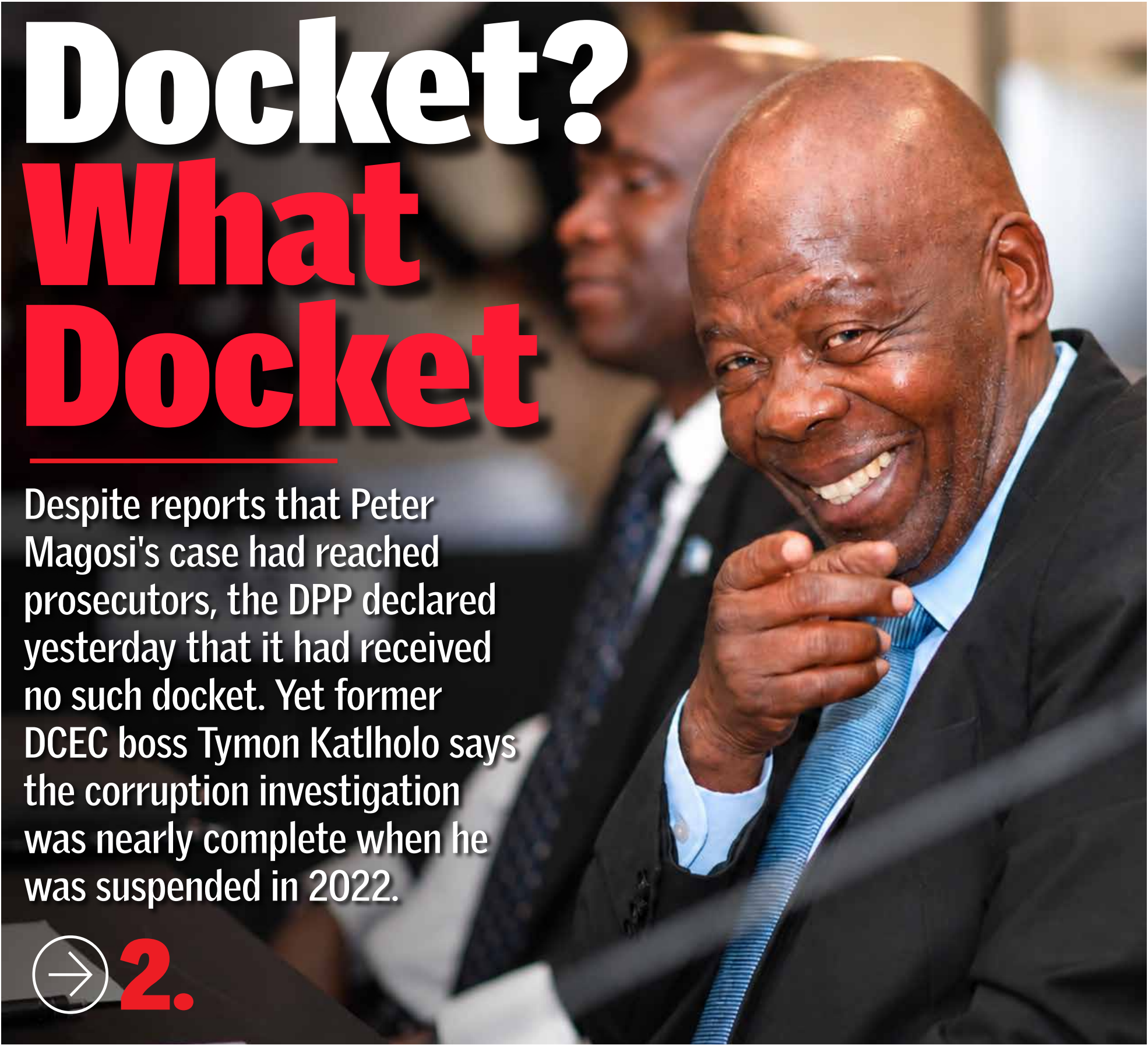




# Docket? What Docket

Despite reports that Peter Magosi's case had reached prosecutors, the DPP declared yesterday that it had received no such docket. Yet former DCEC boss Tymon Katlholo says the corruption investigation was nearly complete when he was suspended in 2022.

➔ **2.**



## BCP Accuses Police of Double Standards .2

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# Magosi Docket: Four Years in Limbo

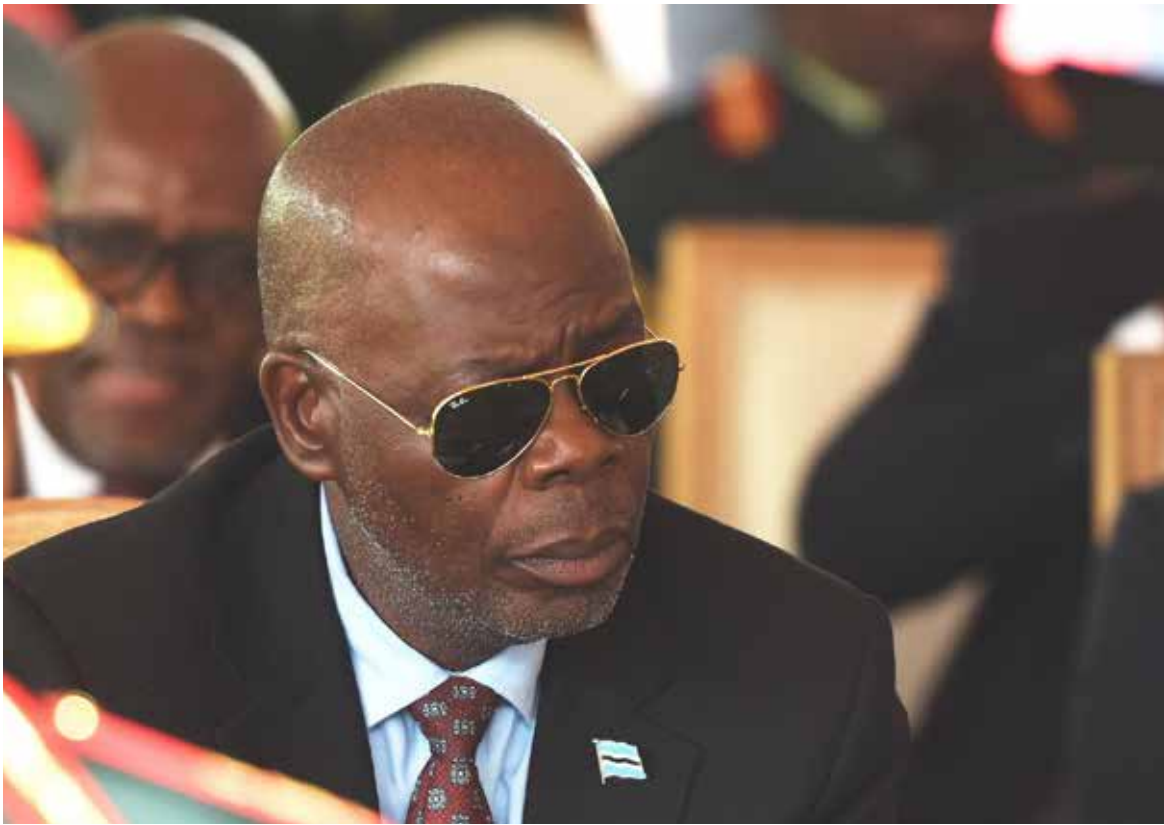
Tymon Katlholo says the corruption probe into Peter Magosi was nearly complete when he was suspended in 2022, yet four years later, the DCEC still describes it as “almost complete”, while the DPP says it doesn’t have the docket

TEFO PHEAGE

Former Directorate on Corruption and Economic Crime (DCEC) director Tymon Katlholo says investigations into allegations involving former intelligence chief Peter Magosi and Chinese contractor China Jiangsu International were almost complete when he was suspended in 2022, raising fresh questions about the fate of the investigation four years later.

Speaking to this publication, Katlholo said “the investigation was complete, with only Magosi’s interview outstanding, when Acting President Slumber Tsogwane suspended me in June 2022, shortly after I disclosed my intention to question the then Director General of the Directorate of Intelligence and Security (DIS)”.

The disclosure comes as the Directorate of Public Prosecutions (DPP) insists it has not received any docket relating to Magosi, contradicting reports that prosecutors are preparing criminal charges



against the former intelligence chief.

## NO DOCKET BEFORE US -DPP

In a press release dated 20 October 2026, the DPP said they don’t have Magosi’s docket.

“As of the 20th of October 2026, the DPP has not re-

ceived any docket relating to Former Director General of the Directorate of Intelligence and Security (DIS), Mr. Peter Magosi,” the statement reads.

## THE FOUR-YEAR QUESTION

Katlholo declined to comment on what appears to be the DCEC’s reluctance to sub-

mit the file for prosecution, despite his assertion that the investigation was almost complete when he left office. “One cannot make assumptions,” he responded.

## THE PAC REVELATION

Questions over the investigation resurfaced in August 2026 when immediate past

DCEC Director General Botlhalo Makgekgenene told legislators that two investigations were nearing completion and ready to advance to the next stage of the legal process.

The revelation followed questions about why Magosi had not been prosecuted.

## A TROUBLED INVESTIGATION

Katlholo’s suspension followed a confrontation between the DCEC and the DIS in 2022, when intelligence officers sealed his office while he was abroad on official duty, seeking access to sensitive investigative files. Katlholo subsequently challenged the DIS’s actions in court.

“As of the 20th of October 2026, the DPP has not received any docket relating to Former Director General of the Directorate of Intelligence and Security (DIS), Mr. Peter Magosi,”

In June 2024, the Court of Appeal upheld a ruling that the intelligence agency had acted unlawfully in taking control of the DCEC offices.

# BCP Accuses Police of Double Standards

Dumelang Saleshando demands an explanation for two activists’ arrests, accusing police of targeting government critics while overlooking online attacks on opposition leaders.

SESUPO RANTSIMAKO

Botswana Congress Party (BCP) president Dumelang Saleshando has demanded answers from Botswana Police Service (BPS) Commissioner Diana Marathe over the arrest and interrogation of two party activists, accusing police of selectively targeting government critics.

## ARRESTS QUESTIONED

Addressing a press briefing this week, Saleshando questioned the arrest of BCP activists Tshapho Sethibe and Rachel Tlhareagae by the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) over their re-

actions to a Facebook post published by a pseudo account operating under the name Gosee Kone.

He said the arrests raised questions about the Umbrella for Democratic Change (UDC) government’s professed commitment to human rights and freedom of expression.

## SELECTIVE ENFORCEMENT

Saleshando challenged Marathe to explain the circumstances surrounding the arrests, questioning why police had acted against the BCP activists while, in his view, failing to take similar action against anonymous social media



accounts accused of targeting opposition politicians.

He singled out the pseudo account Happy Omang, which he accused of repeatedly attacking opposition leaders without at-

tracting comparable police action.

## SHIELDING ALLEGATIONS

Saleshando alleged that Happy Omang was being shielded be-

cause its content appeared to favour the ruling UDC.

“UDC endorses cyber bullying. If indeed they were the human rights government as they claim, they could have also exposed and arrested Happy Omang, who has been bullying opposition leaders,” he said.

## POLICE RESPONSE

Saleshando maintained that Marathe owed the BCP and the nation an explanation, arguing that law enforcement agencies must demonstrate impartiality and avoid creating perceptions that police powers are being used to intimidate political opponents.

However, BPS spokesperson Near Bagali said the arrests followed investigations but declined to provide further details.

“The duo was arrested through investigations and for now I cannot divulge information concerning the arrest,” Bagali said.

# DIS Tribunal: 23 Complaints, One Defeat

Despite a history of courtroom defeats and controversy over its conduct, the DIS has lost just one case before the Intelligence and Security Tribunal out of 23 complaints lodged since 2021

TEFO PHEAGE

The Directorate of Intelligence and Security (DIS) has emerged largely unscathed from complaints lodged with the Intelligence and Security Tribunal, recording just one adverse finding among 23 complaints received since 2021.

The figures, disclosed in a response to this publication, from the Tribunal present a striking contrast with the intelligence agency’s controversial record of litigation before the High Court, where its conduct and exercise of statutory powers have repeatedly attracted loses.

While the figures translate into an adverse finding in approximately 4.3 percent of complaints received, they do not necessarily constitute a 95.7 percent success rate for the DIS, as several complaints were withdrawn, dismissed on procedural grounds or struck out for lack of jurisdiction.

### ONE ADVERSE FINDING

The Tribunal disclosed that it had received 23 cases between 2021 and October 2026, the overwhelming majority involving complaints by former intelligence officers over alleged unfair dismissals.

“The majority of the cases involve allegations of unfair dismissal by Directorate employees,” the Tribunal stated in its written response.

The Tribunal disclosed that five complaints were dismissed after being found to lack merit, two were dismissed for want of prosecution, four were struck out for want of jurisdiction and five were withdrawn at the instance of complainants.

However, only one finding was made against the DIS.

“Of the Complaints received, there has been one (1) finding against the Directorate,” the Tribunal confirmed.

### OVER 100 EMPLOYEES

The solitary adverse finding involved a complaint affecting more than 100 employees of the intelligence agency, with the Tribunal ordering the Directorate to pay the complainants.

“The Directorate was ordered to pay sums of money due to the Complainants (over 100 of them),” the Tribunal disclosed.

More significantly, the matter did not end with the ruling.

According to the Tribunal, subsequent allegations emerged that the DIS had failed to comply with the payment order, forcing the complainants to return to the adjudicatory body.

“There were follow up allegations of failure to comply with the Order by the Directorate, which were referred to the Tribunal,” the response stated.

The Tribunal subsequently adjudicated the alleged failure to pay and issued further orders.

It did not disclose the amounts in-

To Page 8



Botswana President Advocate Duma Boko briefing the media on the recent State visit to China in Gaborone on 19 October 2026. Pic:Monirul Bhuiyan/PRESS PHOTO



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## Quarterly Actual Deposit And Lending Interest Rates

### BWP - Botswana Pula

|                                     | July 2026 Interest Rate (%) | August 2026 Interest Rate (%) | September 2026 Interest Rate (%) | Minimum Opening Balance (BWP) |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|----------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Deposits                            |                             |                               |                                  |                               |
| Current                             | 0-3                         | 0-3                           | 0-3                              |                               |
| Call                                | 0.10 - 4.5                  | 0.10 - 4.5                    | 0.10 - 4.5                       | 10,000.00                     |
| Savings (Tema)                      | 0.50 - 2.75                 | 0.50 - 2.75                   | 0.50 - 2.75                      | 500.00                        |
| 91-Days Fixed Deposit               | 1.3- 8                      | 1.3- 8                        | 1.3- 8                           | 1,000.00                      |
| 1-2 months                          | 0.30 - 8                    | 0.30 - 8                      | 0.30 - 8                         | 1,000.00                      |
| 4-6 months                          | 1.50 - 8                    | 1.50 - 8                      | 1.50 - 8                         | 1,000.00                      |
| 7-12 months                         | 2.25 - 8                    | 2.25 - 8                      | 2.25 - 8                         | 1,000.00                      |
| 13-18 months                        | NA                          | NA                            | NA                               |                               |
| 19-24 months                        | 2.85 - 3.20                 | 2.85 - 3.20                   | 2.85 - 3.20                      | 1,000.00                      |
| Over 24 months                      | NA                          | NA                            | NA                               |                               |
| Other Rates: Ordinary Savings       | 0.00 - 0.50                 | 0.00 - 0.50                   | 0.00 - 0.50                      | 100.00                        |
| Other Rates: Upfront Fixed Deposits | 2.20 - 2.40                 | 2.20 - 2.40                   | 2.20 - 2.40                      | 100,000.00                    |

### GBP - British Pound

|                       | July 2026 Interest Rate (%) | August 2026 Interest Rate (%) | September 2026 Interest Rate (%) | Minimum Opening Balance (BWP) |
|-----------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|----------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Deposits              |                             |                               |                                  |                               |
| Call                  | 0.00 - 0.25                 | 0.00 - 0.25                   | 0.00 - 0.25                      | 2,000.00                      |
| 91-Days Fixed Deposit | 0.00                        | 0.00                          | 0.00                             | 2,000.00                      |
| 1-2 months            | 0.00                        | 0.00                          | 0.00                             | 2,000.00                      |
| 4-6 months            | 0.00 - 0.20                 | 0.00 - 0.20                   | 0.00 - 0.20                      | 2,000.00                      |
| 7-12 months           | 0.00 - 0.25                 | 0.00 - 0.25                   | 0.00 - 0.25                      | 2,000.00                      |

### ZAR - South African Rand

|                       | July 2026 Interest Rate (%) | August 2026 Interest Rate (%) | September 2026 Interest Rate (%) | Minimum Opening Balance (BWP) |
|-----------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|----------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Deposits              |                             |                               |                                  |                               |
| Call                  | 0.00 - 0.3                  | 0.00 - 0.3                    | 0.00 - 0.3                       | 15,000.00                     |
| 91-Days Fixed Deposit | 0.00 - 0.80                 | 0.00 - 0.80                   | 0.00 - 0.80                      | 200,000.00                    |
| 1-2 months            | 0.00 - 0.3                  | 0.00 - 0.3                    | 0.00 - 0.3                       | 200,000.00                    |
| 4-6 months            | 0.00 - 1.25                 | 0.00 - 1.25                   | 0.00 - 1.25                      | 200,000.00                    |
| 7-12 months           | 0.00 - 1.8                  | 0.00 - 1.8                    | 0.00 - 1.8                       | 200,000.00                    |

### EUR - Euro

|                       | July 2026 Interest Rate (%) | August 2026 Interest Rate (%) | September 2026 Interest Rate (%) | Minimum Opening Balance (BWP) |
|-----------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|----------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Deposits              |                             |                               |                                  |                               |
| Call                  | 0.00 - 0.17                 | 0.00 - 0.17                   | 0.00 - 0.17                      | 2,000.00                      |
| 91-Days Fixed Deposit | 0.00                        | 0.00                          | 0.00                             | 2,000.00                      |
| 1-2 months            | 0.00                        | 0.00                          | 0.00                             | 2,000.00                      |
| 4-6 months            | 0.00                        | 0.00                          | 0.00                             | 2,000.00                      |
| 7-12 months           | 0.00                        | 0.00                          | 0.00                             | 2,000.00                      |

### USD - American Dollar

|                       | July 2026 Interest Rate (%) | August 2026 Interest Rate (%) | September 2026 Interest Rate (%) | Minimum Opening Balance (BWP) |
|-----------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|----------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Deposits              |                             |                               |                                  |                               |
| Call                  | 0.00 - 0.7                  | 0.00 - 0.7                    | 0.00 - 0.7                       | 3,000.00                      |
| 91-Days Fixed Deposit | 0.00 - 0.15                 | 0.00 - 0.15                   | 0.00 - 0.15                      | 3,000.00                      |
| 1-2 months            | 0.00 - 2.68                 | 0.00 - 2.68                   | 0.00 - 2.68                      | 3,000.00                      |
| 4-6 months            | 0.00 - 0.28                 | 0.00 - 0.28                   | 0.00 - 0.28                      | 3,000.00                      |
| 7-12 months           | 0.00 - 0.25                 | 0.00 - 0.25                   | 0.00 - 0.25                      | 3,000.00                      |

### Lending Interest Rates

| Lending                                                           | July 2026 Interest Rate (%) | August 2026 Interest Rate (%) | September 2026 Interest Rate (%) |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Monetary Policy Rate                                              | 5.5                         | 5.5                           | 5.5                              |
| Prime Rate                                                        | 7.76                        | 7.76                          | 7.76                             |
| Mortgage Rate                                                     | Prime +0.5 to Prime+17      | Prime +0.5 to Prime+17        | Prime + 0.5 to Prime+17          |
| Overdraft Rate (revolving credit lines)                           | Prime +2                    | Prime +2                      | Prime +2                         |
| Credit Card Rate                                                  | 0 to 34.80                  | 0 to 34.80                    | 0 to 34.80                       |
| Lease Financing                                                   | NA                          | NA                            | NA                               |
| Personal loans (excluding overdrafts, mortgage, and credit cards) | Prime to Prime + 18         | Prime to Prime + 18           | Prime to Prime + 18              |
| Other long term loan rates                                        | 6.51 - 14.51                | 6.51 - 14.51                  | 6.51 - 14.51                     |

Debit Interest Rate on Unauthorized Overdraft: Prime Lending Rate + 12%. The Prime Lending Rate of 7.76% as published, has been independently determined by SCBB.

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# Govt Cuts Anti-Trafficking Funding

Funding for trafficking victims and prevention has fallen sharply, a US report says, amid concerns over fraudulent recruitment targeting young Batswana women for work in Russia.

GAZETTE REPORTER

The government has sharply reduced funding for human trafficking victim services and prevention programmes despite growing concerns over fraudulent

overseas recruitment schemes targeting Batswana for work in Russia. This is according to the latest Trafficking in Persons Report by the United States Department of State.

### FUNDING CUTS



Photo Credit: AI Generated

The report shows that government funding for victim services fell to P1.37 million, equivalent to US\$110,000, from P3.6 million (US\$263,872) in the previous reporting period. Funding for prevention efforts also plunged to P696,610 (US\$56,000), down from P2.57 million (US\$188,375).

The cuts come as traffickers increasingly exploit social media platforms to lure victims with false promises of employment abroad, exposing jobseekers to recruitment networks that may conceal exploitation behind seemingly legitimate opportunities.

### RECRUITMENT CONCERNS

The US report raises concerns about media and non-governmental organisation accounts of Russian officials and illicit recruiters allegedly fraudulently recruiting women aged between 18 and 22 from African countries, including Botswana, under the guise of vocational training programmes.

The women are subsequently placed in military drone production facilities, where workers reportedly face hazardous working conditions, surveillance, violations of working hours and wages, changes to employment contracts and recruitment fees paid by workers.

### FEWER PROSECUTIONS

The report also states that the government did not meet the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking in several key areas. During the reporting period, authorities investigated four trafficking cases, prosecuted one suspect and secured one conviction, the first in four years. This represented a decline from five investigations and two prosecutions in the previous reporting period.

The convicted trafficker was sentenced to 15 years' imprisonment. Authorities continued three investigations and seven prosecutions carried over from earlier reporting periods.

### VICTIM PROTECTION

The government identified nine victims and referred all nine for care, compared with three victims identified and referred in the preceding period. Of those identified, one was subjected to labour trafficking, while the forms of exploitation affecting the other eight were unspecified.

Although the number of victims identified increased, the report noted that the government prosecuted fewer suspects and reduced funding for victim assistance and prevention. It also found that Botswana did not cooperate with other governments on trafficking-related law enforcement activities. Investigators continued to face capacity constraints, including insufficient staffing, a shortage of specialised personnel and inadequate funding for nationwide operations.

The report further noted that the government did not report hiring additional labour inspectors and did not report investigations, prosecutions or convictions involving government employees allegedly complicit in trafficking crimes.

Botswana provides shelter, healthcare,

To Page 7



## NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

All BIBF members are cordially invited to attend the 35th Annual General Meeting.

### AGENDA

- 1. Registration
- 2. Prayer
- 3. Opening of meeting and apologies
- 4. Minutes from the 34th Annual General Meeting
- 5. Matters arising from the minutes
- 6. Annual Chairman's report
- 7. Adoption of audited financial statements
- 8. Announcements
- 9. Closure

 12 November 2026

 1800hrs

 University Of Botswana Conference Centre Auditorium

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Photo Credit: Social Media

# De Beers Warns of Further Cuts

Botswana’s third-quarter diamond output fell 20 percent, with planned Jwaneng maintenance expected to drive production lower in the final quarter.

BONGANI MALUNGA

De Beers has warned of a further slowdown in Botswana’s diamond production before the end of 2026 after third-quarter output fell 20 percent year-on-year.

In its third-quarter production

report released on Tuesday (October 20), De Beers revealed that Botswana’s rough diamond production fell to 4.83 million carats between July and September, compared to 6.03 million carats during the corresponding period in 2025.

The decline also represents a 12

percent drop from the 5.49 million carats produced during the second quarter of 2026, raising fresh concerns about the country’s diamond production outlook.

## ORAPA SLUMP

The biggest setback came from the Orapa mining operations, where production plunged

36 percent year-on-year, from 2.88 million carats to 1.85 million carats. De Beers attributed the contraction to planned plant maintenance, which significantly reduced output at one of Botswana’s major diamond-producing operations.

Jwaneng, meanwhile, recorded a comparatively modest five percent decline, producing 2.98 million carats against 3.15 million carats during the same period last year.

However, the mining giant has warned that Jwaneng’s performance could deteriorate substantially during the final quarter as scheduled maintenance takes effect. “Planned plant maintenance at Jwaneng in Q4 2026 is expected to substantially decrease production levels from Q3 2026 rates,” De Beers stated.

“Planned plant maintenance at Jwaneng in Q4 2026 is expected to substantially decrease production levels from Q3 2026 rates,” De Beers stated.

## FURTHER SLOWDOWN

The warning signals another potentially difficult quarter for Botswana’s diamond sector, which remains central to the country’s export earnings and government finances.

Despite the latest quarterly contraction, Botswana’s cumulative diamond production for the first nine months of 2026 reached 15.13 million carats, representing a 14 percent improvement from 13.25 million carats recorded during the corresponding period last year.

## From Page 4

counselling, legal services and repatriation assistance through government agencies and civil society partnerships. Victims do not have to be formally identified as trafficking victims to access immediate protective services.

However, the report highlights gaps in compensation and protection for foreign victims. The government did not award restitution to victims as part of criminal sentences and lacked formal policies guaranteeing foreign victims legal alternatives to removal to countries where they could face retaliation or hardship.

## RECRUITMENT ACCOUNTABILITY

The government has taken some legislative steps to address labour exploitation. The Employment and Labour Relations Act of 2025 increased penalties for labour violations, prohibited worker-paid recruitment fees and expanded worker protections.

However, authorities did not report efforts to hold labour recruiters civilly or criminally liable for fraudulent recruitment. The government also did not provide anti-trafficking training to its diplomatic personnel.





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# Dikgosi Demand Earlier Say in Lawmaking

Kgosi Malope II wants traditional leaders involved before policy and legislative decisions are made, warning against reducing Ntlo ya Dikgosi to a ceremonial institution.

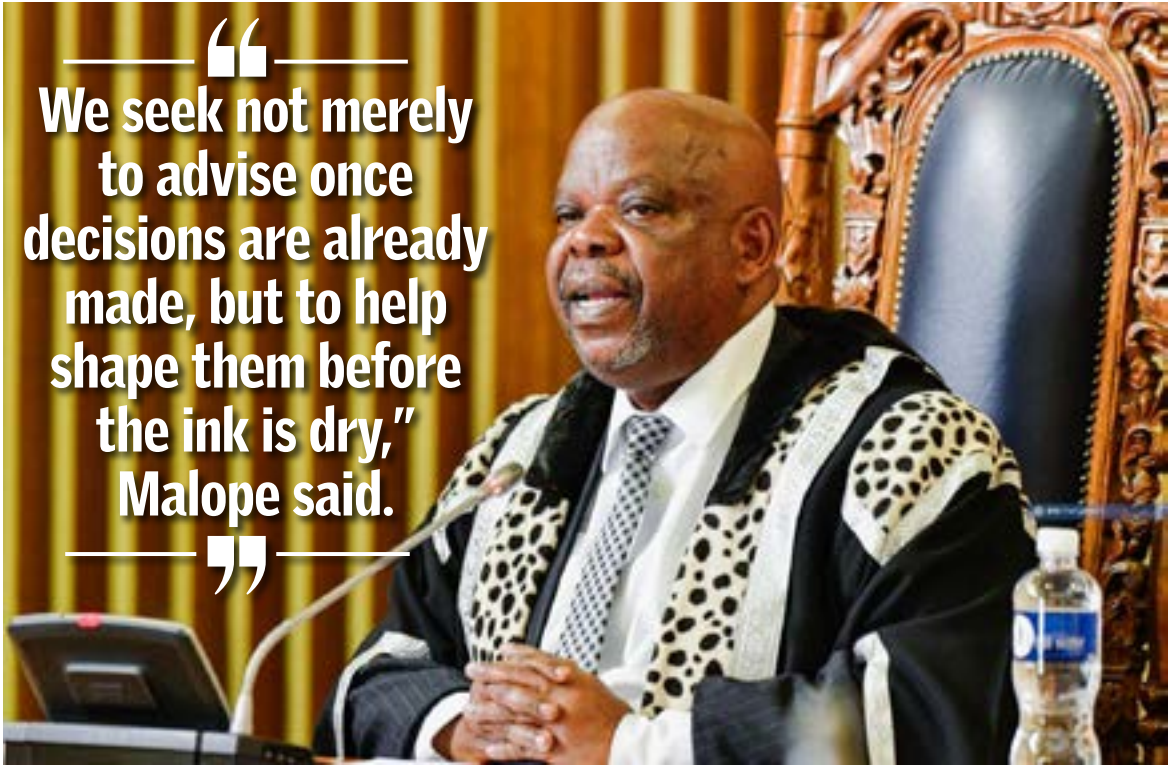


Photo Credit: BWParliament

SESUPO RANTSIMAKO

Ntlo ya Dikgosi chairperson Kgosi Malope II has challenged Government and Parliament to give

traditional leaders a meaningful role in shaping laws and national policies, warning against reducing the House to a ceremonial institution consulted only after key decisions have been

made. **EARLY CONSULTATION** Malope made the call this week when officially opening a meeting of Ntlo ya Dikgosi, where he urged the country's

governance institutions to recognise the House as an active contributor to national development and decision-making.

“Ntlo ya Dikgosi can no longer be content to be remembered only as the dignified voice of custom; in this new decade of our independence, it must become the active conscience of our governance and consulted early, listened to carefully, and trusted completely,” he said.

### SHAPING LAWS

“We seek not merely to advise once decisions are already made, but to help shape them before the ink is dry,” he added.

Malope said involving traditional leaders at the beginning of policy and legislative processes would help ensure that laws and government programmes reflect the realities of communities and benefit from the knowledge and experience of dikgosi.

### GOVERNANCE PARTNERS

He stressed that a stronger role for Ntlo ya Dikgosi should complement, rather than compete with, Parliament and the Executive.

Malope also called for culture to be recognised as a driver of economic growth, arguing that Botswana's traditions and heritage could support tourism, create jobs, strengthen social cohesion and foster national pride.

### CULTURE AND GROWTH

“Culture and development are not rivals; they are partners,” he said.

“Development without identity is merely construction; development rooted in culture is nation building.”

### DEFENDING BOGOSI

Malope urged Batswana to support Ntlo ya Dikgosi and preserve the institution of bogosi, saying traditional leadership and the kgotla remain valuable parts of Botswana's governance system.

He called for greater recognition of the role traditional leaders can play in shaping national priorities and ensuring that community concerns inform decisions made at the highest levels of government.

## From Page 3

involved, whether the payments were eventually made or whether any sanctions followed the alleged noncompliance.

### NO PARLIAMENTARY REPORTS

The Tribunal admitted that it has never submitted annual reports since its establishment, further confirming that no report concerning its work has ever been tabled before the National Assembly. Instead, reports on individual cases have been submitted to the Minister for State President.

### DIS COOPERATION

Despite the complaints brought against the intelligence service,

the Tribunal reported that the Directorate has consistently cooperated with its proceedings, adding that there had been no instances in which the Directorate refused to provide information on national security grounds.

The Tribunal also defended its institutional independence, “the Tribunal remains independent as it is chaired by a Judge of the High Court”.

It further disclosed that only two of its decisions have been taken on appeal to the Court of Appeal since its establishment.

### Resource Constraints

Nevertheless, the Tribunal acknowledged operational limita-

tions, including its dependence on the Administration of Justice for staffing and other resources.

It also confirmed that it has never undertaken public education to inform citizens about its existence and complaints procedures.

The Tribunal indicated that dedicated resources, including its own budget, personnel and offices, would improve its operations.

“Dedicated resources separate (budget, staff and Offices) from the Administration of Justice would improve the working operations of the Tribunal and afford opportunity to execute mandate more efficiently,” it stated

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## TENDER NOTICE

### INVITATION FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST – LOBATSE CLAY WORKS ACQUISITION

- Background**

Botswana Development Corporation (“BDC” or “the Corporation”) is seeking expressions of interest from suitably qualified and interested parties for the acquisition of a portion of or the entire shareholding in Lobatse Clay Works (Pty) Ltd (“LCW” or “the Company”).
- Submission of Proposals**
  - All questions and queries should be addressed to [lcw@bdc.bw](mailto:lcw@bdc.bw) no later than 13 November 2026.
  - EOI's should be sent via email and submitted to [lcw@bdc.bw](mailto:lcw@bdc.bw) with a subject “**Expression of Interest - Lobatse Clay Works Acquisition**” not later than 20 November 2026, 10am.
  - Late submissions will not be considered. Bidders bear the responsibility of ensuring their submission is delivered on time; BDC accepts no liability for delayed delivery of the submission however created. **Closing Date and Time: 20 November 2026 @1000hrs**
- For more details kindly visit: <https://www.bdc.bw/tenders>

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# Expression of interest (EOI)

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- Ghanzi

### 2. Scope of Services

The selected Lead Generators will be expected to provide services including, but not limited to:

- Promote Absa Bank Botswana products and services.
- Identify and introduce prospective customers.
- Assist customers with product applications and on boarding processes.
- Support customer acquisition and retention initiatives.
- Develop and maintain customer relationships within local communities.
- Drive business growth and market penetration within assigned regions.

### 3. Eligibility Requirements

Interested individuals must demonstrate capability by submitting the following:

- Detailed Curriculum Vitae (CV).
- Certified copy of National Identity Document (Oman/ID).
- Certified copies of academic and professional qualifications.
- Degree, Diploma, or other relevant business-related qualification.
- Certificate of Proficiency (COP) qualification for Long-Term and Short-Term Insurance.
- Evidence of sales, business development, or customer acquisition experience.
- Demonstrated technology literacy and ability to operate effectively within a paperless environment.
- Ability to work independently and achieve agreed business objectives with minimal supervision.

### 4. Evaluation Criteria

Submissions will be assessed based on, but not limited to:

- Academic and professional qualifications.
- Relevant sales and customer acquisition experience.
- Knowledge and understanding of the local market.
- Customer relationship management capability.
- Communication and interpersonal skills.
- Technology proficiency and adaptability.
- Capacity to deliver agreed business objectives.

### 5. Commercial Arrangement

Successful applicants will be engaged as Lead Generators or Independent Service Agents under a commercial contractor arrangement.

Compensation will comprise:

- Commission-based remuneration structure only

### 6. Submission Guidelines

Interested applicants are invited to electronically submit a One Envelope Submission containing all required documentation listed below:

- Curriculum Vitae (CV).
- Certified copy of National Identity Document (Oman/ID).
- Certified copies of academic and professional qualifications.
- COP Qualification (Long-Term and Short-Term Insurance).
- Evidence of relevant sales, business development, or customer acquisition experience.
- Any additional supporting documents relevant to the application.

Applications must be submitted electronically to:

Sourcing.BW@absa.africa

Email Subject:

"EXPRESSION OF INTEREST – LEAD GENERATORS"

### 7. Closing Date

All submissions must be received no later than **26 October 2026**. Late submissions will not be considered.

### 8. Important Notice

- This EOI is not a request for proposal and does not constitute a commitment by the Bank to award any contract or enter into any contractual arrangement.
- Lead Generators are independent service providers and are not employees of Absa Bank Botswana Limited.
- Only shortlisted applicants will be invited to participate in the next stage of the selection process.
- The Bank reserves the right to accept or reject any submission without assigning reasons.
- Agents have no authority to bind the Bank, approve products, or conclude contracts on behalf of the Bank.

# Supplier Threatens GCC With Legal Action

Kenmart Investments has given Gaborone City Council 48 hours to pay P442,203.72 for mayoral office refurbishment and furniture, warning of recovery proceedings.

GAZETTE REPORTER

Gaborone City Council (GCC) faces legal action over P442,203.72 that supplier Kenmart Investments says remains unpaid for refurbishment works and furniture supplied to Mayor Oarabile Motlaleng's office.

In a final demand letter addressed to the Acting Town Clerk, Kenmart's lawyers, Mbewe Legal Practice, have given the council 48 hours to settle the debt. The lawyers warn that failure to pay would trigger recovery proceedings under the Local Authority (Proceedings) Act.

DISPUTED PROCUREMENT

The dispute centres on refurbishment works and furniture supplied and installed in the office of Gaborone Mayor Oarabile Motlaleng. The supplier alleges that the council accepted its quotations, took delivery of the completed work and furniture but has failed to settle three invoices despite repeated follow-ups and as-

surances of payment.

According to the demand letter, the then Town Clerk, Daniel Katjinothiwa, initiated the project by convening a meeting at the mayor's office before visiting Kenmart's premises. The company subsequently submitted separate quotations for refurbishment works and furniture.

On May 18, 2026, the council allegedly issued two formal letters accepting quotations worth P258,666 and P171,567.72, bringing the combined value to P430,233.72.

Kenmart claims it proceeded with the work following the written acceptances and verbal approval. Some council officials allegedly participated in overseeing the project. The completed office was handed over to the mayor, council executives and other representatives on May 28, 2026. One of the council officials reportedly signed the furniture delivery note on behalf of the council on the same day.

A further delivery note dated August 21, 2026, allegedly re-

cords the return of the council's old furniture.

The supplier maintains that the council has continued using the refurbished office and furniture despite leaving a substantial portion of the bill unpaid.

"The Council has not disputed the agreed prices, the quality of the work or the completeness of delivery," the lawyers state in the demand letter.

UNPAID INVOICES

The outstanding amount comprises P258,666 under invoice 1125-1GCC, P171,567.72 under invoice 1125-2GCC and P11,970 under invoice INV-1127-1GCC, relating to the reupholstery of seven office chairs using Egyptian leather.

The lawyers say the council has already paid two other invoices associated with the project, worth P186,960 and P69,229.35, which have been excluded from the demand.

PAYMENT ASSURANCES

Kenmart alleges that its efforts to secure payment have yielded little progress. The letter states



Pic Credit: AI Generated

that on May 27, the Town Clerk was contacted by telephone and reportedly indicated that payment would be processed within 48 hours. Written follow-ups were subsequently made on June 1 and June 4.

The company also reportedly met the Council Secretary and Acting Town Clerk, who undertook to follow up on the matter.

The demand letter says the council had requested supporting documentation on June 8. Kenmart maintains that the two signed letters of acceptance provide written evidence of the agreement.

"If the Council alleges that any procurement or approval requirement affects payment, it must identify the requirement, its factual and legal basis, and the steps

being taken to resolve it," the lawyers state.

ADDITIONAL CLAIM

Beyond the principal debt, Kenmart is demanding 10 percent compensation for delayed payment, arguing that almost five months have elapsed since the work was completed.

The lawyers have warned that any recovery proceedings could seek the outstanding principal, together with legally recoverable interest, compensation and legal costs.

The Acting Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Local Government and Traditional Affairs and Motlaleng were copied in the letter of demand. Gaborone City Council declined to comment on the matter.



## Global Recognition. Botswana Excellence.

BSB Honoured by WSBI-ESBG for Excellence in Digital Transformation and Technological Innovation

Botswana Savings Bank proudly celebrates winning the 2026 Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) Award, conferred by the World Savings and Retail Banking Institute (WSBI) and European Savings and Retail Banking Group (ESBG)

The prestigious international award recognises BSB's outstanding contribution to advancing the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals through digital transformation and technological innovation.

Innovating for Botswana. Recognised Globally



Member Of The Deposit Insurance Scheme Of Botswana



# BCP Challenges PEEPA Land Board Recruitment

The BCP demands the suspension or legal justification of PEEPA's recruitment exercise, warning that unlawful Land Board appointments could expose land allocations to court challenges.



## GAZETTE REPORTER

The Botswana Congress Party (BCP) has challenged the legality of PEEPA's involvement in recruiting Land Board members, warning that appointments made outside the prescribed procedure could expose land allocation decisions to litigation.

In a letter demanding that the

exercise be suspended pending clarification of its legal basis, the BCP said Land Boards were created by an Act of Parliament governing the recruitment and selection of members for ministerial appointment.

In the letter dated October 13, 2026, Tswapong South MP and BCP shadow minister of lands and agriculture Kesitigile Gobotswang warned that appointments made outside the procedure prescribed by law could be challenged.

Gobotswang has written to Lands and Agriculture Minister Edwin Dikoloti demanding answers over the Public Enterprises Evaluation and Privatisation Agency's (PEEPA) advertisement inviting citizens to apply for

positions in "Land Governance structures" at national and local levels. The application deadline was October 19, while the terms of current Land Board members expire in November.

### LEGAL AUTHORITY

The BCP is questioning whether PEEPA has the authority to recruit members of institutions governed by the Tribal Land Act, 2018. The Act provides for the appointment of Land Board members by the Minister under a prescribed procedure.

"It is a matter of law that neither the Act nor the regulations confers any function on PEEPA in the recruitment, selection or appointment of Land Board members," Gobotswang says.

He argues that Land Boards are statutory land authorities, not public enterprises or parastatals for which PEEPA advises Government on board appointments.

"A power that Parliament has vested in the Minister, to be exercised in accordance with a prescribed procedure, cannot be handed to another body, or exercised through a different procedure, without authority conferred by law," he states.

### ELIGIBILITY QUESTIONS

The BCP is also questioning the qualifications and responsibilities outlined in PEEPA's advertisement, which requires professional qualifications in specified fields and assigns functions involving investment, revenue mobilisation, grants and strategic partnerships.

Gobotswang argues that the professional qualification threshold is not provided for under the Tribal Land Act and could exclude citizens who are legally eligible for appointment. He also questions why the advertisement does not expressly address statu-

tory disqualifications, including restrictions on holders of political party office.

### UNCLEAR STRUCTURES

The letter further challenges the reference to national and local "Land Governance structures", asking whether the recruitment concerns existing Land Boards or proposed institutions such as a reported Land Commission.

"To our knowledge, no written law establishes 'Land Governance structures' at 'national and local levels', a national 'Council', or a 'Land Commission' with the functions the Advertisement describes," Gobotswang wrote.

### Quorum Risk

He warns that if current members' terms expire without lawful successors, Land Boards could be left without the numbers required to form a quorum, disrupting their statutory functions.

"Any appointment made outside the prescribed procedure would be open to challenge, and decisions of Land Boards so constituted, including allocations of land held in trust for citizens, would be exposed to being set aside," he states.

### ANSWERS DEMANDED

Gobotswang has requested a written explanation of the legal authority for PEEPA's involvement, whether the Attorney General was consulted and what arrangements are in place to ensure the lawful appointment of successors.

He has also asked Dikoloti to direct PEEPA to suspend the process or publish its legal basis, insisting that no appointments should be made until their lawfulness is established.

The letter has been copied to the Attorney General for advice on the legality of the recruitment exercise.

# WUC, Gaborone Mayor Clash Over Sanitation Crisis

WUC accuses Gaborone Mayor Oarabile Motlaleng of unfair public attacks as a row over sewage smells and sanitation failures escalates

## BONGANI MALUNGA

**W**ater Utilities Corporation (WUC) has launched a blistering attack on Gaborone City Mayor Oarabile Motlaleng, accusing him of making unfounded allegations against the parastatal as tensions between the two institutions escalate over the capital city's deteriorating sanitation conditions.

In a public statement issued on Tuesday (October 20), WUC took exception to Motlaleng's recent remarks, accusing him of repeatedly making "unsubstantiated public utterances" that undermine the corporation's leadership and reputation.

The fallout follows a press conference held by the Mayor last week, during which, according to WUC, he portrayed the utility as poorly managed and responsible for Gaborone's persistent sanitation problems, including offen-

sive sewage odours and general uncleanliness.

### INAPPROPRIATE APPROACH

WUC argued that the Mayor's approach was inappropriate, particularly given the institutional relationship between the corporation and Gaborone City Council (GCC).

"As a government parastatal, WUC believes it is neither ideal nor appropriate for His Worship the Mayor, to raise concerns that he may have in the manner he has chosen, particularly when they are couched in a language that appears demeaning or condescending toward the leadership of the Corporation. There exist well established and proper channels for raising institutional concerns," WUC stated.

The utility suggested that Motlaleng's public pronouncements had crossed the boundaries of acceptable institutional engage-

ment. Rather than publicly attacking the parastatal, WUC maintained that the Mayor should use "well established and proper channels" to address service delivery concerns.

### OLIVE BRANCH

Despite the sharp rebuke, the corporation extended an olive branch, indicating that its Chief Executive Officer's office remained available to engage directly with Motlaleng and his team over any concerns relating to water and wastewater services.

However, the confrontation comes against the backdrop of longstanding sanitation and infrastructure challenges in Gaborone.

During a September full council meeting, Motlaleng acknowledged the city's ageing water and wastewater infrastructure, with recurring pipe bursts, sewer blockages and sewage overflows presenting significant challenges.

Interestingly, Motlaleng also



(Pic: Monirul Bhuiyan/PRESS PHOTO)

commended WUC at the time for its interventions aimed at improving water supply, revenue collection and operational efficiency. "I further encourage the Corporation to remain focused on proactive water management, infrastructure maintenance and innovative solutions," Motlaleng said during that council address.

The latest confrontation therefore represents a significant deterioration in relations between the two institutions, barely a month after the Mayor publicly ac-

knowledge WUC's efforts.

While WUC has strongly challenged the Mayor's criticism, its latest statement did not provide a detailed technical response to the sanitation complaints or specify measures being undertaken to address the unpleasant odours and sewage-related problems.

The corporation nevertheless maintained that cooperation with GCC remains essential to delivering reliable water and wastewater services.

# Govt Raises Cattle Export Levy 900%

Farmers seeking relief from FMD restrictions face a tenfold live cattle export levy increase as government reopens exports under a six-month dispensation.

SESUPO RANTSIMAKO

The government has increased the live cattle export levy from P30 to P300 per head, a tenfold rise equivalent to a 900 percent increase, as farmers struggle with the economic fallout of Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD).

## EXPORT REOPENING

The increase, announced by Minister of Lands and Agriculture Dr Edwin Dikoloti this week, comes as government reopens live cattle exports under a six-month dispensation intended



Photo Credit:Ministry of Lands and Agriculture/Facebook

to help distressed farmers recover income.

## HIGHER COSTS

A farmer exporting 100 cattle will now pay P30,000 in levies, up from P3,000, an additional P27,000. For 500 cattle, the bill rises from P15,000 to P150,000, adding P135,000 in costs.

Botswana National Beef Producers Union (BNBPU) spokesperson Alfred Pilane said the union had sought the dispensation to provide financial relief but had

not anticipated the levy increase.

“Our position is that we could have maintained the P30 export levy and reviewed it at a later stage. So this increment from P30 to P300 is going to negatively affect farmers, more so that we are from a devastating FMD situation which is yet to normalize. The dispensation we asked for has come with cost,” Pilane said in an interview.

## EXPORT CONDITIONS

Dikoloti said the arrangement

would allow live cattle exports for six months, limited to slaughter-ready steers, while meat and meat products would qualify for export for 12 months.

“This is an important development that provides eligible farmers and businesses with additional opportunities to recover income while supporting responsible livestock management,” he said.

The minister did not explain the rationale for the levy increase or indicate how the additional revenue

would be used.

The domestic slaughter levy will remain at P30 per head until the local market stabilises sufficiently to warrant a review.

## FMD PRESSURE

The decision follows months of livestock movement restrictions imposed to contain FMD, limiting market access and putting pressure on farmers’ incomes.

Dikoloti said farmers needed access to markets to generate revenue, pay workers and maintain farm infrastructure. The dispensation is also intended to reduce accumulated livestock, potentially supporting disease-control efforts and lowering testing costs.

## PERMIT LIMITS

Dikoloti acknowledged that the previous export dispensation, introduced in 2019, disproportionately benefited a small number of participants. Renewed four times before expiring on 30 April 2025, it facilitated exports of more than 551,570 cattle, mainly to South Africa and Namibia.

Under the new arrangement, each farmer or livestock buyer will be restricted to one export permit, while meat exports will be reserved for citizens and citizen-owned companies.

Individual livestock slaughter will also be permitted across all veterinary zones, subject to prevailing disease conditions.

Dikoloti said FMD had disrupted trade, threatened livelihoods and forced government to commit substantial public resources to disease control.

“The FMD outbreak has tested our farmers, institutions, and agricultural economy,” he said.

# BPF: We Owe UDC Nothing

The BPF hits back at UDC members blaming it for Sefhophe defeat, declaring that the loyalty of its two Cabinet ministers to the UDC neither concerns nor binds the party



Photo Credit:Social Media

GAZETTE REPORTER

The opposition Botswana Patriotic Front (BPF) has hit back at members of the ruling Umbrella for Democratic Change (UDC) who blame it for

the coalition’s humiliating defeat in the Sefhophe ward by-election, declaring that it owes the ruling coalition neither political allegiance nor electoral loyalty.

The party has drawn a sharp distinction between its opposition

status and the participation of two of its Members of Parliament in President Duma Boko’s administration, insisting that the UDC has an arrangement with individual BPF legislators rather than a formal alliance with the party.

Speaking in an interview with The Botswana Gazette, BPF Deputy Secretary General Modiri Lucas said “the ruling coalition must accept that the BPF remains an independent opposition party entitled to contest elections against it”.

## NO ALLIANCE

“BPF is not part of the UDC. During electoral contests, we expect all our members, including the two Ministers-Lawrence Ookeditse and Baratiwa Mathoothe, to advance the interests of the party and not those of our competitors,” Lucas said.

He dismissed suggestions that the presence of BPF legislators in Cabinet should oblige the party to support UDC candidates or refrain from challenging the governing coalition.

“Look at the South African GNU, where independent parties continue to advance their parties’ interests despite being in an alliance with the ANC,” he said.

Lucas continued:“We don’t owe UDC anything. We are preparing for the 2029 elections. We are open to working with any party,” he declared.

## SEFHOPHE DEFEAT

His remarks follow the Sefhophe ward by-election, in which the Botswana Congress Party (BCP) wrestled the council seat from the UDC by a margin of 95.

The BPF’s 225 votes exceeded the BCP’s 95-vote winning margin, a numerical comparison that has placed the party’s decision to field its own candidate at the centre of the political fallout.

“The UDC’s electoral fortunes are not the BPF’s responsibility,” Lucas said.

## CABINET DILEMMA

“We have noticed that our ministers are struggling during political campaigns for fear of compromising the master, and we hope such matters will be dealt with once and for all at the upcoming congress,” he said.

## DIVIDED LOYALTIES

The tensions have become increasingly visible in the contrasting political positions taken by Ookeditse and fellow BPF legislator Leepetswe Lesedi.

In a recent social media post, Ookeditse mocked critics who had apparently expected the BPF to turn against the UDC, indicating that such expectations had come to nothing.

His parliamentary colleague, however, struck a markedly different tone. Lesedi launched a scathing attack on the UDC government’s handling of persistent medicine shortages, questioning its spending priorities while public health facilities struggled to secure essential medicines.



# GIS TAKES VILLAGE MESSAGE TO RADIO

From emotional well-being to academic success, Gaborone International School is taking the conversation beyond the classroom, using radio to strengthen the partnership between parents, teachers and the wider community.

LEATILE ZACHARIAH

Gaborone International School (GIS) has taken its commitment to holistic education beyond the classroom through a new weekly radio series on Gabz FM, aimed at raising awareness about children's emotional well-being, behaviour and academic development.

## BUILDING STRONGER PARTNERSHIPS

The series, which premiered on Monday, October 12, is designed to strengthen collaboration between parents and schools while encouraging conversations about the challenges facing young people and the shared responsibility of raising well-rounded

children.

Built around the theme 'It Takes a Village to Raise a Child', the programme features contributions from the school's educational psychologist and deputy head of discipline, who share professional insights with parents and the wider community.

## HOLISTIC STUDENT DEVELOPMENT

GIS Executive Head Hannelie Raubenheimer said the initiative reflected the school's commitment to

treating academic performance and student well-being as equally important.

"At GIS, holistic development of our students and children are incredibly important to us."

Raubenheimer explained that the school had invested in dedicated personnel, including an on-site educational psychologist and a disciplinary head, to ensure learners receive support beyond the classroom.

She said children needed to feel

safe and experience a sense of belonging before they could reach their full academic potential.

## RECOGNISING LEARNER CHALLENGES

GIS Educational Psychologist Keitumetse Kgabo said psychological support is essential in schools, where learners face both academic and emotional challenges.

She identified depression, grief, parental divorce, peer pressure, substance abuse and difficulties adjusting to new school environments among the issues affecting young people.



"At GIS, holistic development of our students and children are incredibly important to us."



Kgabo said psychologists also provided academic support and assessments for learners struggling with reading, comprehension and spelling.

## SPOTTING WARNING SIGNS

She urged parents to recognise behavioural changes that could signal emotional distress, including unusual irritability, outbursts of anger, persistent sadness, withdrawal and loss of motivation.

"Take time to understand your child," she advised, emphasising the importance of recognising changes in a child's usual behaviour and seeking support where necessary.



## WORKING TOGETHER EFFECTIVELY

Both speakers stressed that children's development required cooperation between parents, teachers and schools.

Raubenheimer said GIS did not work in isolation and valued maintaining strong communication with parents. Kgabo added that parents had a responsibility to provide guidance and meet their children's emotional, psychological and physical needs, while teachers also played an important supportive role.

Raubenheimer said the three-month radio series would provide an opportunity for the community to pause, reflect and learn from conversations about children's well-being, ensuring that young people are not overlooked amid the demands of modern life.



# Taiwan Rebukes Botswana Over China Stance

Taiwan has condemned Botswana's backing of Beijing's position on its sovereignty, while President Duma Boko reaffirms his opposition to Taiwanese independence.

BONGANI MALUNGA

President Duma Boko has sharpened Botswana's diplomatic stance on Taiwan, reaffirming his rejection of Taiwanese independence even as Taipei accuses Botswana of endorsing Beijing's political manipulation.

The President's renewed declaration, made during an interview with China Media Group (CMG) last Thursday, followed a joint statement with Chinese President Xi Jinping that drew a rebuke from Taiwan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

"The one-China principle is inconsistent with anything that seeks to dismember, to parcel out certain portions of Chinese territory and diminish its sovereignty and integrity. And so, the question of Taiwan, to the extent that it seeks the outcome of a dismemberment is inconsistent with our stance on the one-China policy, the one-China principle. And it is something that we can neither countenance nor support," Boko said in the CMG interview.

## JOINT DECLARATION

By publicly repeating the message, Boko personally reinforced Botswana's long-standing recognition of Beijing as China's sole legitimate government, putting himself at the centre of a growing war of words over Taiwan's sovereignty.

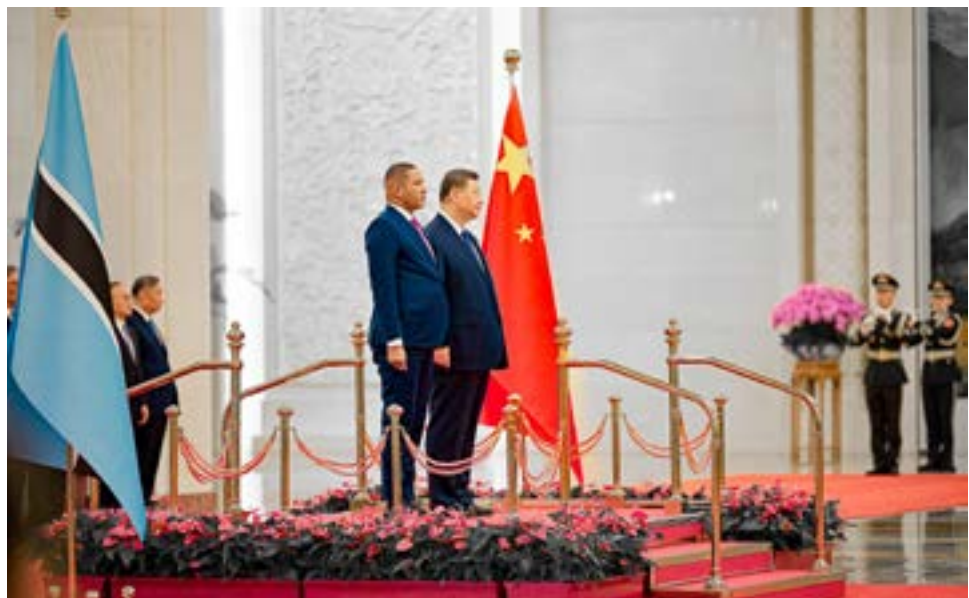
On Tuesday, October 13, Botswana and China issued a joint declaration elevating relations to a comprehensive strategic cooperative partnership. The document describes Taiwan as part of China, rejects any form of Taiwanese independence and pledges support for China's efforts towards national reunification.

However, Taiwan wasted little time hitting back. In a sharply worded statement issued on Wednesday, October 14, Taiwan's Foreign Ministry accused China of using bilateral talks to spread "false statements that denigrate Taiwan's sovereignty."

"China has long imposed its so-called 'One China Principle' on bilateral documents with other countries in an attempt to undermine the international order; however, no unilateral statement or document can change the fact that the two sides of the Taiwan Strait are not subordinate to each other. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs warns the Botswana government to maintain objectivity and neutrality, not to blindly follow China's deliberate political manipulation, and not to underestimate the potential threat that China's actions pose to regional peace," Taiwan responded.

## TAIWAN'S OBJECTION

The row comes as Boko seeks greater Chinese investment and cooperation in mining, agriculture, digital technology and industrial development. China regards Taiwan as an inseparable part of its territory. Taiwan, however, operates under its own democratically elected government and rejects Beijing's claims of authority over it.



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# Boko Rejects Pressure Over China Ties

President Duma Boko defends closer ties with China while signalling major American investment, insisting Botswana's national interests will determine its partnerships.



BONGANI MALUNGA

President Duma Boko has rejected concerns that Botswana's closer ties with China could damage relations with the United States, saying national interests will determine the country's strategic partnerships.

Addressing journalists in Gaborone on Monday, October 19, following his state visit to China, Boko insisted that Botswana's foreign policy is shaped by national interests rather than pressure to choose sides in geopolitical disputes.

The President argued that even powerful nations divided by international conflicts still cooperate when their interests demand it, questioning why Botswana should deny itself similar diplomatic flexibility.

## CHINA PARTNERSHIP

His remarks come after Botswana and China elevated their relationship to a comprehensive strategic cooperative partnership, opening a new chapter in bilateral engagement on trade, investment and development.

Boko made it clear that closer ties with China should not be mistaken for turning Botswana's back on the US. Instead, his administration is willing to work with any government pre-

pared to take Botswana's economic challenges seriously.

"It is our strategic interest that informs us how we deal and who we deal with, we will consider our alignment based on strategic interests. We offer this to all, including the United States, we are ready to work with them in the same way that they are working with China and Russia in the face of the Russia-Ukraine war. Why? Because there is a compelling strategic interest of the United States. There is always an element of self referentiality in international relations, you look at what is best for you and you deal with everybody," Boko explained.

## US INVESTMENT

Boko highlighted that Botswana cannot afford to lose potential investment opportunities to avoid offending competing global powers.

In a further indication that Washington remains in Botswana's plans, Boko hinted at major investment from the United States, with details expected to be announced during his upcoming State of the Nation Address. He did not disclose the expected investment value, sectors or timelines, leaving the scale of the anticipated American involvement unclear.

# Debswana Workers Fight To Keep Allowances

The Botswana Mine Workers Union wants Debswana to preserve shift and ContOps allowances during planned maintenance, warning that workers face reduced take-home pay.

BONGANI MALUNGA

Debswana workers are seeking protection for their allowances ahead of a planned November to December maintenance shutdown at Orapa and Letlhakane, amid fears of reduced take-home pay.

The Botswana Mine Workers

Union (BMWU) is pressing the diamond mining giant to grant workers special dispensation allowing them to continue receiving conditional allowances ordinarily earned through shift work and Continuous Operations (ContOps).

Without such an arrangement, affected employees risk losing access to these additional earnings during the maintenance period, potentially disrupting household budgets and existing financial commitments.

## ALLOWANCE TALKS

BMWU President Joseph Tsimako told The Botswana Gazette in an interview that negotiations were continuing at operational level, with the union determined to protect workers from the fi-

nancial consequences of the shutdown.

"People have committed to the allowances, it's important for talks to continue because workers will be at a disadvantage if the allowances are discounted during the maintenance period. We are requesting for a special dispensation to keep the allowances during this period," Tsimako told this publication.

At the heart of the dispute is the distinction between basic salaries and conditional earnings. While basic salaries are not necessarily threatened by the maintenance exercise, employees who ordinarily qualify for shift and ContOps allowances could experience a reduction in their monthly earnings when normal production sched-

ules are interrupted.

## PREVIOUS SHUTDOWNS

The union argues that workers should not be financially disadvantaged by a planned operational interruption beyond their control. The latest concerns come against a backdrop of recurring maintenance shutdowns at Debswana's operations.

In May 2025, Debswana temporarily shut down its Orapa No. 2 processing plant for scheduled annual maintenance, clarifying that the stoppage was routine rather than a permanent closure.

Further maintenance followed at Orapa in October 2025, while Jwaneng remained offline throughout the fourth quarter. According to De Beers, these shutdowns contributed to a 56 percent

year-on-year decline in Botswana's fourth-quarter diamond production.



"People have committed to the allowances"



Debswana and BMWU also have a history of negotiating special arrangements during operational interruptions. In 2020, the two parties concluded a shutdown agreement regulating employees' conditions of service during COVID-19-related production reductions.



Our role is to advice, plan, fund and coordinate the development of Botswana's Human Resource to achieve a knowledge based economy.

## TENDER NOTICE

The Human Resource Development Council (HRDC) invite bids for the following tender:

Re-Tender No. HRDC 11/2025-2026

**Tender Title:** A Supplies Contract for the Supply and Delivery of Robotics Components for Botswana Robotics & Automation Skills Transfer (BRASST) for Primary, Junior & Secondary Schools to Human Resource Development Council, Plot 60113, Block 7 Gaborone

The closing date and time for receipt of sealed tender offers is 1000 hrs on Friday, 30<sup>th</sup> October 2026.

For more information about this tender, kindly log onto our website [www.hrdc.org.bw](http://www.hrdc.org.bw)

**Physical Address:** Plot 60113, Block 7, Sekoma Road, Ext 48, Gaborone, Botswana

**Postal Address:** Private Bag BR 108, Gaborone, Botswana

**Email:** [marketingcomms@hrdc.org.bw](mailto:marketingcomms@hrdc.org.bw)

**Tel:** +267 393 0741

**Fax:** +267 393 0740 / 393 0814



# E-Hailing Drivers Challenge Fares and Commissions



Botswana President Advocate Duma Boko briefing the media on the recent State visit to China in Gaborone on 19 October 2026. Pic:Monirul Bhuiyan/PRESS PHOTO

A new drivers' association demands minimum fares, capped commissions and consultation on pricing, accusing e-hailing platforms of squeezing drivers' earnings.

GAZETTE REPORTER

Botswana's e-hailing drivers are demanding government intervention over fares and commissions, accusing digital transport platforms, particularly Yango, of imposing prices that fail to cover their operating costs.

REGULATORY GAPS

The disgruntled drivers have formed the Ride Hailing E-Platforms Organization of Botswana (RHEPOB) to challenge what they say is unchecked exploitation in an industry operating without adequate government regulation.

Speaking to The Botswana Gazette, RHEPOB chairman Tumisani Tsotsi accused e-hailing companies of exploiting regulatory gaps to impose unfair fares and commissions without considering drivers' financial burdens.

GOVERNMENT INTERVENTION

"This digital platform transport business has caught our country napping and not ready, therefore the owners are doing as they please for their own benefit. They do not care about the drivers' interests. Therefore, we are demanding the intervention of the government," Tsotsi said.

He singled out Yango, accusing the company of determining transport fares without considering rising fuel prices, vehicle maintenance and other operating expenses.

DRIVERS' COSTS

Tsotsi argued that while platform operators and passengers benefit from low fares, drivers struggle to make ends meet despite spending long hours on the road.

He said the current arrangement gives platform operators excessive control over drivers' earnings, leaving those providing transport services with little influence over pricing decisions.

MINIMUM FARES

At the centre of RHEPOB's demands is the introduction of a regulated minimum fare per kilometre to prevent platforms from imposing what drivers consider unsustainable transport charges.

Tsotsi said fares should re-

flect prevailing fuel prices, maintenance costs and other operational expenses to ensure drivers receive reasonable returns.

“Therefore, we are demanding the intervention of the government,” Tsotsi said.

COMMISSION CAP

The association is also demanding a cap on commissions deducted by e-hailing platforms, arguing that excessive charges further erode drivers' already limited earnings.

Another key demand is an end to unilateral fare-setting, with RHEPOB insisting that recognised drivers' associations must be consulted before platforms introduce pricing changes.

Driver Representation

Tsotsi maintained that drivers are central stakeholders in the industry and should have a meaningful voice in decisions affecting their livelihoods.

OVERSEAS OPERATORS

Tsotsi said engaging e-hailing application owners was difficult because they were based outside Botswana.

He believes government intervention could help bring platform operators to the negotiating table and ensure they understand and comply with Botswana's regulations.

REGULATORY DEMANDS

RHEPOB wants government to introduce regulations promoting transparency, fair pricing and accountability while balancing the interests of drivers, passengers and platform operators.



BOTSWANA BUREAU OF STANDARDS

## EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Applications are invited from suitably qualified candidates for the following positions:

1. ENGINEER COMPULSORY STANDARDS - ELECTRICAL: Vacancy No. 8/2026/2027

Job Summary

The successful candidate will be expected to enforce compliance with compulsory standards and promote quality assurance policies and practices to enhance the delivery of goods and services to protect the public in the interest of health and safety, and public awareness of their rights to, quality goods and services and provide inspection services within a specialized area.

Minimum Job Requirements

The successful candidate will have a Degree in Electrical Engineering or Electronics. Light duty driving license is a requirement and applicants must be registered with Engineers Registration Board (ERB). Experience is not necessary but would be an added advantage.

2. PUBLIC RELATIONS OFFICER: Vacancy No. 9/2026/2027

Job Summary

The successful candidate will be expected to pro-actively promote awareness and positive image, the aims, objectives and activities of the Bureau to enhance the effectiveness of the Bureau.

Minimum Job Requirements

The successful candidate will have at least a Degree or Diploma in Public Relations or equivalent. A minimum of three years in Public Relations area for a Degree holder and at least five years for a diploma holder. Light duty driving license is a requirement.

REMUNERATION

BOBS offers competitive and attractive remuneration packages to the most suitable candidate.

These positions are offered on a permanent and pensionable basis.

A detailed CV, names of three referees, and certified copies of certificates should accompany applications and be emailed to: [recruitment@bobstandards.bw](mailto:recruitment@bobstandards.bw) not later than 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2026. BOBS will enter into correspondence with candidates that comply with specified requirements and are shortlisted.

For any enquiries do not hesitate to contact Human Resources at Telephone Number: 3903200/3645560/3645561.



# BOPEU Demands Budget Relief for Workers

BOPEU wants the 2027/28 budget to protect wages, ease household costs and create jobs, warning against pursuing fiscal discipline at workers' expense.

## GAZETTE REPORTER

The Botswana Public Employees Union (BOPEU) has urged government to protect wages and household incomes in the 2027/28 National Budget, warning against using fiscal constraints to justify cuts at workers' expense.

The union wants the budget to prioritise wages, jobs and household welfare, with tangible relief from the rising costs of food, housing, transport, electricity,

education and healthcare.

In its submission to the Ministry of Finance's call for contributions to the 2027/28 National Budget Strategy Paper, BOPEU argues that the budget's success should be measured by its impact on citizens, particularly workers, young people and vulnerable households, as well as expenditure control and fiscal discipline.

## PROTECTING WAGES

"Fiscal responsibility must go hand in hand with social responsibility," the union states, insisting

that remuneration policies must account for inflation, the cost of living and workers' contribution to national development.

"Workers cannot continue to carry the burden of rising living costs while their incomes struggle to meet the cost of food, housing, transport, electricity, education and healthcare," BOPEU says.

The union wants government to introduce measures that protect real wages, improve disposable incomes and prevent workers from bearing a disproportionate

share of the country's economic difficulties.

## TAX BURDEN

It also takes aim at the cumulative burden of taxation, utility charges, service fees and multiple levies, calling for a comprehensive assessment of how these charges affect low- and middle-income earners.

Rather than imposing additional financial pressure on citizens, the union argues that government should first strengthen the collection, administration and accountability of existing revenue instruments.

"Tax policy must raise the resources needed for national development without unnecessarily eroding workers' disposable income," it says.

## PRODUCTIVE INVESTMENT

BOPEU also wants the budget to deliver a more decisive shift towards productive sectors capable of creating sustainable employment and increasing citizen participation in the economy.

It identifies manufacturing, agro-processing, textiles, tourism, food production and mineral beneficiation as areas requiring greater investment.

It says public investment, procurement and appropriate incentives should support domestic enterprises, local production and skills transfer while ensuring accountability and value for money.

The union warns that economic diversification will mean little to ordinary Batswana unless it translates into decent jobs, fair wages, safe working conditions and respect for workers' rights.

## YOUTH EMPLOYMENT

BOPEU also demands practical employment pathways for young people and graduates instead of continued promises.

It calls for expanded paid apprenticeships, graduate placements and workplace training, alongside support for viable

youth-owned businesses.

The union identifies the Local Enterprise Authority (LEA), National Development Bank (NDB) and Citizen Entrepreneurial Development Agency (CEDA) as institutions that should strengthen access to business development support, markets, mentorship and appropriate financing.

It warns that internships must equip young people with practical skills and improve their employment prospects rather than become a source of cheap labour.

**"Fiscal responsibility must go hand in hand with social responsibility," BOPEU states.**

## SPENDING OVERSIGHT

"Fiscal discipline must not become a justification for containing public-sector costs at the expense of workers and essential services," the union says.

It wants stronger oversight of public projects, procurement and revenue collection, alongside spending that improves service delivery, expands productive capacity and creates lasting economic benefits.

# UB to Honour Three Leaders

Roy Sesana, Matshidiso Moeti and Justice Oagile Dingake will receive honorary doctorates for their contributions to human rights, public health and justice.

The University of Botswana (UB) will confer honorary doctorates on Roy Sesana, Dr Matshidiso Moeti and Justice Professor Oagile Bethuel Key Dingake during its 44th graduation ceremony, scheduled for 21–23 October.

The university said the honours recognise their contributions to human rights, public health and the advancement of justice.

## RECOGNISING HUMAN RIGHTS ADVOCACY

Sesana will receive a Doctor of Letters (DLitt) honoris causa for his advocacy for the rights, cultural identity and dignity of Basarwa communities, particularly those in the Central Kalahari Game Reserve. His work has

drawn attention to indigenous peoples' land rights, cultural preservation and access to essential services.

## PUBLIC HEALTH LEADERSHIP

Moeti will receive a Doctor of Science (DSc) honoris causa for her contribution to public health across Africa. She served as World Health Organisation (WHO) Regional Director for Africa from 2015 to 2025, becoming the first woman to hold the position.

During her tenure, she worked on regional responses to public health challenges, health emergency preparedness and universal health coverage.

## JUSTICE AND LEGAL

## SCHOLARSHIP

Dingake will receive a Doctor of Laws (LLD) honoris causa in recognition of his contributions to the judiciary, legal scholarship and human rights.

He currently serves as a judge of the Supreme and National Courts of Papua New Guinea, having previously served on the Residual Special Court. His work includes constitutionalism, labour law, judicial education and access to justice.

The university's 44th graduation ceremony will be held under the theme, "Building High-Performance Economies: From Local Excellence to Global Impact."

The honorary degrees recognise contributions beyond academia, with the three recipients representing work in community rights advocacy, public health and the administration of justice.





Six women-led businesses have received awards worth approximately P680,000 at Standard Chartered Botswana’s 2026 Women in Tech graduation, taking funding channelled through the programme to more than P2 million since its 2024 launch.

AWARD WINNERS

The graduation and awards ceremony brought together entrepreneurs, business leaders and programme partners to celebrate the latest cohort. Participants completed an accelerator that provided business skills, mentorship, professional networks and access to funding aimed at helping enterprises grow.

The six winners were Foodforage (Most Sustainable), KraalSense (Innovation), Eone DSC (Tech-Enabled), Clouded Yellow (Best Pitch), Organic Naturals Skincare (Most Impactful) and Duiker Travel & Tours (Pay-It-Forward Initiative).

FUNDING IMPACT

Foodforage received the largest award of about P205,000, while KraalSense and Eone DSC each secured approximately P136,000. Clouded Yellow, Organic Naturals Skincare and Duiker Travel & Tours each received about P68,000.

According to the bank, the awards recognised progress in innovation, technology adoption, commercial potential and sustainable social and economic impact. The grants are intended to support product development, technology, market expansion, talent and operations.

GROWING REACH

The latest cohort drew businesses from eight areas across Botswana and more than five industries. Across three cohorts since 2024, the bank says its Women in Tech programme has channelled more than P2 million to women-led enterprises.

# Six Winners Shine at Standard Chartered's Women in Tech Awards

Standard Chartered Botswana has rewarded six women-led enterprises as its Women in Tech programme surpasses P2 million in funding since its launch in 2024.

Bame Tshweneyagae, Head of Corporate Affairs, Brand and Marketing at Standard Chartered Bank Botswana, said the programme was designed to expand opportunities for women entrepreneurs by improving access to resources.

PARTNERSHIP MODEL

“The innovation, ambition and resilience demonstrated by this year’s cohort show what is possible when talented founders are given access to the right skills, networks and funding,” Tshweneyagae said.

The Botswana accelerator is delivered in partnership with the Dream Factory Foundation and funded by the Standard Chartered Foundation. It forms part of a wider programme to support entrepreneurship and economic inclusion.

## Meet the cohort 3 winners

### Women in Tech: Botswana

Vanessa Granger,  
Founder, **The Yellow Giraffe**  
Best Pitch Award Winner,  
**US\$5,000**

Didintle Leatile Moreki,  
Founder, **Organic Naturals**  
**Skin Care**, Most Impact  
Award Winner, **US\$5,000**

Louise Jansen,  
Founder, **Duiker Travel & Tours**,  
Best Pay-It Forward Initiative  
Award Winner, **US\$5,000**

Palesa Thobeka Dintwe,  
Founder, **KraalSense**  
Most Innovative Award  
Winner, **US\$10,000**

Sandra Dick,  
Founder, **Tidder Solutions**  
Most Tech-Enabled Award  
Winner, **US\$10,000**

Thamiso Kylie Magowe,  
Founder, **Foodforage**  
Most Sustainability &  
Growth Award Winner,  
**US\$15,000**

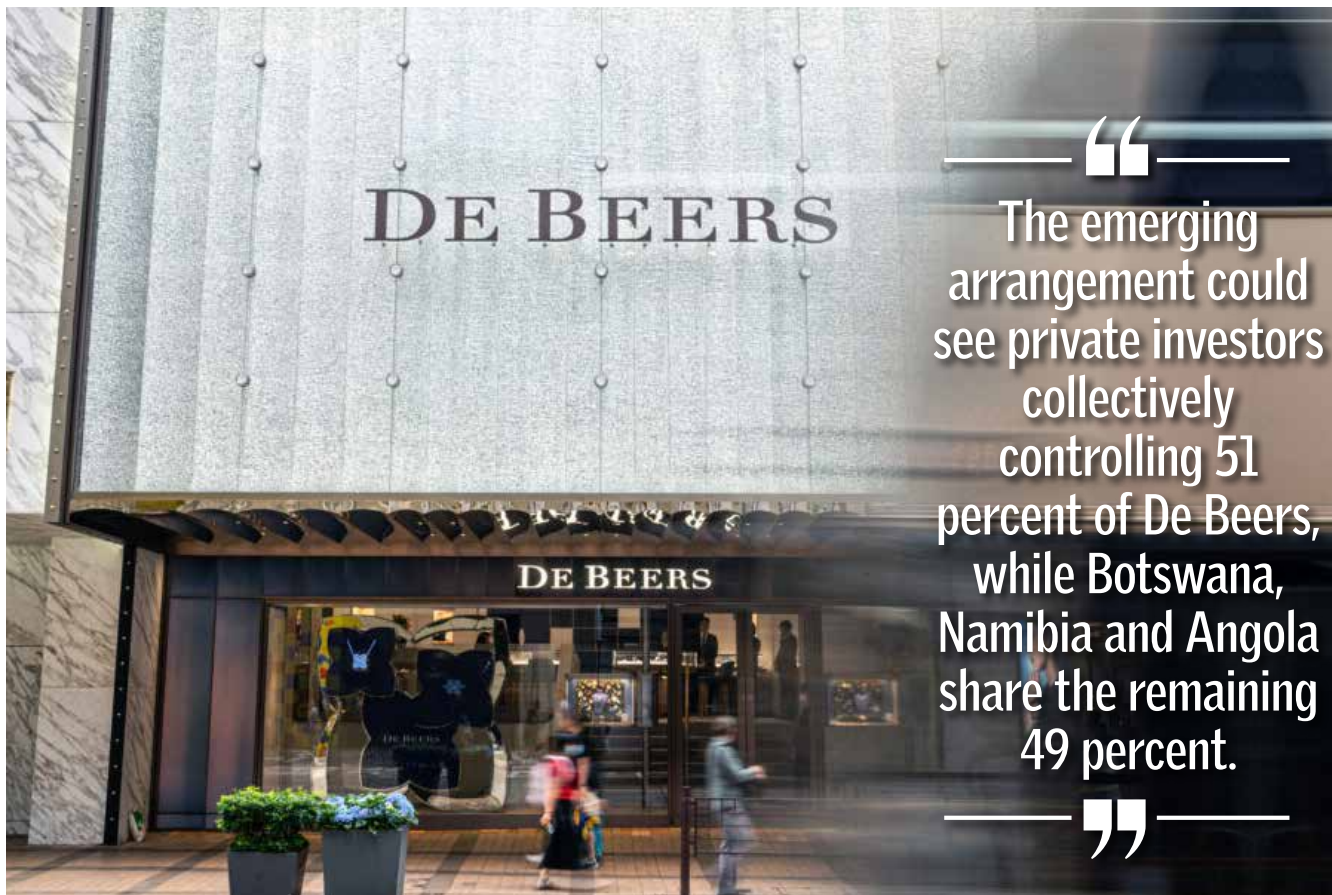
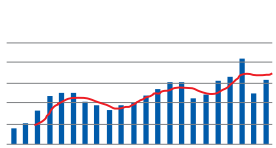


Photo Credit: Bloomberg

# Botswana Eyes 25% as Luxury Giants Jostle for De Beers Ownership

Botswana's proposed 25 percent De Beers stake is taking shape as luxury investors pursue majority control of the struggling miner

BONGANI MALUNGA

A new ownership structure is taking shape for De Beers, with Botswana positioning itself for a 25 percent stake while an influx of global luxury giants and diamond industry players prepares to take control of the remaining shares in the struggling diamond producer.

The emerging arrangement could see private investors collectively controlling 51 percent of De Beers, while Botswana, Namibia and Angola share the remaining 49 percent, effectively replacing Anglo American's longstanding majority ownership with a multi-party consortium.

According to The Times, the proposed structure is being assembled around the Global Diamond Consortium (GDC), led by former De Beers Chief Executive Officer Gareth Penny, which has emerged as the preferred bidder for Anglo American's 85 percent shareholding.

## NEARING AN AGREEMENT

Bloomberg recently reported that Botswana and GDC were nearing an agreement that could increase government's existing 15 percent stake to approximately 25 percent.

Under the proposed arrangement, Botswana would become the largest individual government shareholder, with Namibia and Angola potentially sharing the remaining 24 percent allocated to the three diamond-producing

nations.

However, the individual stakes for Namibia and Angola remain undisclosed, while the allocation of shares among private investors has yet to be finalised. The arrangement would also mark a departure from President Duma Boko's earlier ambition to secure majority control of De Beers, leaving Botswana with an enlarged but still minority stake.

## LUXURY GIANTS ENTER THE PICTURE

The proposed ownership structure is attracting considerable international interest, with some of the world's biggest jewellery retailers seeking a foothold in the diamond giant. According to Reuters and Bloomberg, Swiss luxury conglomerate Richemont, owner of Cartier and Van Cleef & Arpels, is in advanced discussions to join the Penny-led consortium.

American jewellery giant Signet, which owns Kay Jewelers, Zales and Jared, is also reportedly considering participation. Meanwhile, Antwerp-based diamond manufacturer Pluczenik has confirmed its interest in acquiring a stake, although its participation in GDC has not been established.

The involvement of these industry players could create an ownership model linking African diamond-producing governments directly with international luxury brands, manufacturers and retailers.

The significance extends beyond in-

creasing its shareholding for Botswana, such an arrangement could provide access to influential jewellery markets at a time when declining natural diamond demand continues to weigh heavily on the country's diamond industry.

Botswana also retains a right of first refusal over Anglo American's holding, making its position crucial to concluding the transaction.

## RISKS BEHIND THE OWNERSHIP RUSH

However, industry analysts have cautioned that the growing number of interested parties also reflects the substantial financial risks associated with taking over De Beers.

Dan Mano, Chief Executive Officer of diamond market advisory firm Rapaport, told Reuters that the involvement of numerous investors suggested individual groups were reluctant to shoulder the financial burden alone.

Analysts at RBC Capital Markets similarly warned that an investment in the struggling producer could become "a money pit," despite Richemont's commercial relationship with De Beers. The company recorded an underlying operating loss of US\$787 million in 2025 against revenue of approximately US\$3.5 billion.

However, Tobias Kormind, Managing Director and Co-founder of jewellery brand 77 Diamonds, told Reuters that acquiring De Beers at the bottom of the market could present a "completely historic" opportunity.

# BSE Opens Dangote Investment Gateway

Botswana's proposed regional trading role could ease access to the refinery's share offering, although regulatory hurdles remain.

BONGANI MALUNGA

Botswana is emerging as Southern Africa's gateway to the US\$1.6 billion Dangote Petroleum Refinery initial public offering (IPO). The Botswana Stock Exchange (BSE) has been selected as the regional trading hub under an arrangement coordinated by the Committee of SADC Stock Exchanges (CoSSE).

## REGIONAL ACCESS

At an investor roadshow in Gaborone last Wednesday, CoSSE chairman Collen Tapfumaneyi said regional exchanges had agreed to concentrate trading through Botswana. The arrangement could allow investors to use domestic brokers rather than navigate Nigeria's stock market independently.

Under the proposed structure, Access Bank Botswana will issue Botswana Depository Receipts, each representing one ordinary Dangote Refinery share held in Nigeria by Access Bank Plc. The bank intends to facilitate an offering of up to US\$500 million, with trading on the BSE expected to begin on 14 December 2026.

## REGULATORY HURDLES

A Reuters investigation published on 9 October found that the Nigerian IPO was not initially registered as a public offering outside Nigeria. Foreign investors consequently faced differing securities regulations and restricted distribution channels.

Kenyan investors encountered weeks of regulatory delays before a separate depository receipt arrangement was approved, while prospective Rwandan investors had to register with their regulator. Reuters also found that the original prospectus identified only two brokerage channels for investors elsewhere in Africa, compared with 53 for Nigerian investors.

## SHARED TRADING

Directing orders through Botswana could help participating markets retain local brokerage activity while drawing on a shared investor pool. Concentrating trading could also improve liquidity, although participating markets must still meet their regulatory requirements.

"This IPO listing has actually shown that we don't just have to list in Nigeria, we can list in Botswana and Nigerians can also participate. Across the border listings are very important, that's the only way we can create wealth around the continent," Dangote told the gathering, indicating that investor interest had exceeded the planned fundraising amount several times over.

## OFFER EXTENDED

The Nigerian IPO subscription deadline has been extended from 13 October to 27 October to accommodate broader African participation. Botswana's designation does not transfer the primary listing from Nigeria, and the arrangement remains dependent on regulatory approvals, functioning trading arrangements and sufficient participation.

# Modise's BIBF Tenure Reports Progress

The institute reports three consecutive clean audits and 20% revenue growth as its council chairperson prepares to leave the role.



The Botswana Institute of Banking and Finance (BIBF) recorded approximately 20% revenue growth over two years and three consecutive clean audit opinions during Chose Modise's tenure as council chairperson, according to information

presented at its 2026 Compliance and Governance Conference.

The conference, sponsored by Stanbic Bank Botswana, was held from 15 to 16 October under the theme "Building Trust, Enhancing Security and Advancing Accountability in Bo-

tswana's Financial and Digital Economy".

## EXPANDING PROFESSIONAL TRAINING

BIBF has expanded its training programmes in banking, international finance, chartered accountancy, forensic accounting and

management development under its 2023–2028 strategic plan.

The institute has also appointed a director of academics, a head of business development and an HR business partner to strengthen its institutional capacity.

“Banking is, before anything else, a business of trust. Compliance and governance are how we keep that promise.”

Reflecting on the progress, Modise, who is also Stanbic Bank Botswana's chief executive, credited the institute's council, management, staff and member institutions.

“None of this is the work of one person. It belongs to the full collective of Council members, to the BIBF Chief Executive and a dedicated team, and to every

member institution that sends its people to learn and to lead,” he said.

## FOCUS ON GOVERNANCE AND SECURITY

BIBF has established partnerships with organisations including the Botswana Communications Regulatory Authority, Botswana Institute of Chartered Accountants, Chartered Management Institute and Chartered Banker Institute to support specialised training and professional development.

The institute has also hosted data protection conferences and masterclasses on artificial intelligence and cybersecurity.

Addressing the conference, Modise said financial institutions needed to treat governance and compliance as central to maintaining public confidence.

“Banking is, before anything else, a business of trust. Compliance and governance are how we keep that promise,” he said.

Modise, whose term as BIBF council chairperson ends this year, said the industry needed to strengthen local expertise in forensic accounting, cybersecurity, data protection and artificial intelligence.

“I see an industry that competes hard on service, but stands together on integrity, on skills and on the financial wellbeing of every Motswana,” he added.

# Famous Brands Cuts Botswana Ownership Exposure

The restaurant group plans to reduce its Retail Group stake after a R40.9 million impairment and persistent losses in Botswana.

BONGANI MALUNGA

Famous Brands plans to reduce its controlling stake in Botswana's Retail Group Proprietary Limited from 51 percent to 30 percent after persistent underperformance. The South African restaurant group recorded a R40.9 million goodwill impairment as weak consumer spending and difficult trading conditions weighed on its Botswana investment.

## EARNINGS PRESSURE

In a trading statement released

last Thursday, the Johannesburg Stock Exchange listed group said the impairment largely accounted for an anticipated earnings per share decline of 13 to 33 percent. Earnings for the six months ended 31 August 2026 are projected at 157 to 205 South African cents, compared with 236 cents a year earlier.

The impairment is an accounting reduction in the assessed value of the investment, rather than a direct cash loss of R40.9 million. The proposed disposal of a 21 percentage point interest

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# Bomaid CEO Champions Stronger Governance

Bomaid CEO Moraki Mokgosana has warned that sidelining compliance professionals can expose organisations to crippling fines, lost operating licences and even imprisonment, calling on business leaders to put governance at the heart of executive decision-making.



LEATILE ZACHARIAH

**B**omaid Chief Executive Officer Moraki Mokgosana has called for stronger executive support for compliance and governance functions, warning that treating them as secondary business responsibilities could expose organisations to significant risks.

## EXECUTIVE ACCOUNTABILITY MATTERS

Mokgosana was speaking following his moderation of the CEO's Compliance Roundtable, a CEO-only panel discussion at the Botswana Institute of Banking and Finance (BIBF) Compliance and Governance Conference held on October 15 and 16.

Held under the theme "Building Trust,

Enhancing Security & Advancing Accountability in Botswana's Financial and Digital Economy," the conference brought together industry leaders to examine governance and regulatory challenges facing organisations.

## COMPLIANCE NEEDS BACKING

Mokgosana said discussions at the roundtable highlighted a common concern that compliance professionals often lacked sufficient support from executive management.

"We, as organisations, as leaders of organisations, find that our colleagues who work in the governance and compliance space do not get a lot of executive support. They feel that they are a nuisance to a lot of our colleagues," he said.

He said chief executives agreed that compliance should be recognised as a critical business function and given the authority and resources necessary to fulfil its mandate.

## GOVERNANCE RISKS ESCALATE

Mokgosana warned that poor governance could result in organisations losing operating licences, incurring substantial fines or exposing responsible individuals to imprisonment.

“They feel that they are a nuisance to a lot of our colleagues -Moraki Mokgosana

Drawing on Bomaid's more than 55 years of operation, he said medical aid administration depended on customers trusting institutions to manage their contributions responsibly.

"Somebody gives you their money, they don't know you, and they ask you to hold on to their money and hope that when they want to cash the cheque, you'll be able to — you'll have the money in the bank. And that's really trust," he said.

## PROTECTING PATIENT INFORMATION

Faith Ketshogile, Chief Executive Officer of Health Risk Management of Botswana, said trust was equally fundamental to the healthcare ecosystem, which comprises providers, members, stakeholders and administrators.

She noted that administrators handled sensitive patient information, including medical histories and details of illnesses, making data protection a critical responsibility.

"If trust between these four players is compromised or weakened, it essentially destroys the whole ecosystem," she said.

## SHARED SECTOR RESPONSIBILITY



Ketshogile added that governance was a shared responsibility, extending to medical aid members who must understand their benefits and help identify fraud, waste and abuse that could undermine the sustainability of medical aid funds.

BIBF Council Chairperson and Stanbic Bank Botswana Chief Executive Officer Chose Modise said governance and compliance were fundamental to maintaining confidence in financial institutions.

"Banking is, before anything else, a business of trust. Compliance and governance are how we keep that promise," he said.

## ADDRESSING EMERGING RISKS

The conference also examined emerging challenges associated with cybersecurity, financial crime and digital transformation, reinforcing the need for stronger oversight

Banking is, before anything else, a business of trust. Compliance and governance are how we keep that promise.- Chose Modise

as the financial sector evolves.

## STRENGTHENING HEALTHCARE PARTNERSHIPS

Mokgosana is also scheduled to moderate a discussion at the Business Botswana National Business Conference today (Wednesday, 21 October), under the theme "Effective Value Chains Towards a Healthy and Prosperous Nation."

In his capacity as Chairperson of Business Botswana's Health Services Sector and Bomaid Chief Executive Officer, he will facilitate discussions on strengthening collaboration across the healthcare value chain, improving access to quality and affordable healthcare, and supporting a sustainable healthcare system.

The engagement will also explore the relationship between a healthy population, business productivity and Botswana's broader economic development.



“The BERA has clarified that restoring the levies does not automatically translate into higher pump prices.”

Photo Credit: Botswana Energy Regulatory Authority (BERA)/ Facebook

# BERA Targets P1.5bn Fuel Fund Rebuild

Restored levies could replenish the National Petroleum Fund as BERA balances consumer protection with pressure on fuel retailers.

BONGANI MALUNGA

More than P250 million in monthly fuel levies will be channelled into the National Petroleum Fund (NPF) over the next six months, according to Botswana Energy Regulatory Authority (BERA) chief executive Dr Never Tshabang. The arrangement could inject more than P1.5 billion, provided collections remain at anticipated levels.

### FUND PRESSURE

Speaking on national television last Tuesday, Tshabang outlined efforts to rebuild the fund after six months of suspended levies. Collections were suspended from April to early October while the fund continued absorbing pressure from international petroleum costs.

According to Tshabang, fuel prices would have required upward adjustments at various points over the past five months. The NPF absorbed much of that pressure, shielding households and businesses from additional costs by bridging the gap between import costs and regulated selling prices, known as an under recovery.

### LEVIES RESTORED

The Fuel Levy, Road Fund Levy and Security of Supply Margin were reinstated on 8 October to rebuild the fund's financial capacity. BERA has clarified that restoring the levies

does not automatically translate into higher pump prices.

The challenge extends beyond motorists to fuel retailers facing pressure on their businesses. The Botswana Petroleum Retailers Association (BOPRA) has raised concerns about tight dealer margins and competition from larger operators offering discounted fuel, particularly the impact on smaller independent filling stations.

### RETAILER CONCERNS

In concerns reported in June, association representative Billy Sekgororoane called for a transparent dealer margin methodology that reflects costs. He warned that prevailing market conditions threatened smaller retailers' viability over the longer term.

BERA maintains that discounting below the regulated maximum pump price is permissible and increased the dealer margin to P1.09 per litre in February. These competing pressures leave the regulator balancing affordability with the financial sustainability of importers, retailers and the NPF.

### SUPPLY COVER

Meanwhile, Tshabang offered reassurance about fuel availability. He said storage facilities held sufficient diesel stocks for 15 days' cover and petrol supplies for 14 days' cover.



“The impairment is an accounting reduction in the assessed value of the investment, rather than a direct cash loss of R40.9 million.”

Photo Credit: Wimpy Botswana/ Facebook

## From Page 20

forms part of a strategy to minimise capital exposure outside South Africa.

### RETAINING A PRESENCE

Famous Brands said the restructuring would “reduce the Group's direct exposure to operating losses”. It would retain a 30 percent shareholding and continue collecting master licence fees from its Botswana operations, whose brands include Steers, Debonairs Pizza, Wimpy and Mugg & Bean.

The move follows prolonged diamond market difficulties that have pressured Botswana's economy and household spending. Famous Brands' results for the year ended February 2026 had already identified deteriorating conditions in Botswana and Zambia as a drag on consumer spending across its Southern African Development Community operations.

### REGIONAL DECLINE

Regional revenue fell six

percent to R423 million, while operating profit dropped from R51 million to R29 million. Rising living costs have added pressure: Botswana's annual inflation eased to 7.8 percent in September from 9.3 percent in August, continuing to strain household purchasing power.

The squeeze on disposable incomes challenges restaurant operators as consumers weigh discretionary spending. Earlier reporting on Famous Brands' 2026 annual report in-

dicated approximately 51 restaurants in Botswana, and the company maintains that “the Group continues to see long-term potential in that market”.

### APPROVALS PENDING

The transaction is expected

to be completed during the group's 2027 financial year, subject to regulatory approvals and other conditions. Famous Brands is scheduled to publish its full interim financial results on 21 October 2026.



TIRED OF SHARING?

# Stanbic Hosts Regional Growth Summit

Stanbic Bank Botswana hosted regional banking leaders in Gaborone to discuss how financing, market access and cross-border partnerships could help African businesses expand.



Stanbic Bank Botswana hosted the South and Central Africa chapter of Standard Bank Group's Amplifying Growth programme in Gaborone on 14 October, bringing together more than 150 Business and Commercial Banking leaders and colleagues to discuss business expansion and investment opportunities across the continent.

Themed "Building Africa's Next Generation of Businesses", the gathering followed previous sessions in Johannesburg in June and Accra in September. Participants from Namibia, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Mozambique and other regional markets also joined online.

modise said Botswana's selection as host reflected its position as an investment destination and its ambition to build a diversified, knowledge-driven economy.

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## FINANCING BUSINESS GROWTH

Stanbic Bank Botswana Chief Executive Chose Modise said the gathering came shortly after Botswana's Diamond Jubilee and highlighted the role of African businesses in economic development.

"Africa's progress begins with Africans, with the people who build enterprises, strengthen institutions and turn ideas into livelihoods," Modise said.

He added that the bank aimed to connect businesses with capital, networks and opportunities, drawing on the Setswana concept of botho, which he described as dignity, mutual respect and care for others.

## BOTSWANA'S INVESTMENT PIPELINE

Modise said Botswana's selection as host reflected its position as an investment destination and its ambition to build a diversified, knowledge-driven economy.

The Botswana Economic Transformation Programme identifies 186 investment-ready projects with potential private investment exceeding US\$37 billion across energy, agriculture, manufacturing, tourism and digital services.

Stanbic Bank Botswana, which has operated in the country since 1992, offers financing and trade solutions for small and medium-sized enterprises, as well as structured finance for larger investments. Its parent group operates in 21 African countries.

## CONNECTING REGIONAL MARKETS

Discussions covered client-focused innovation, sustainable business growth and strategies for helping enterprises access regional value chains and opportunities under the African Continental Free Trade Area.

"Our ambition is for Stanbic Bank Botswana to be a proof point for Amplifying Growth," Modise said, referring to efforts to help citizen-owned businesses expand and connect with markets across South and Central Africa.

The Amplifying Growth programme is scheduled to continue across Standard Bank Group's African regions and offshore markets through 2027.

# FNB Pushes Private Sector Growth

At the National Business Conference in Francistown, FNB Botswana is calling for stronger collaboration to turn economic policy into investment, jobs and business growth.

FNB Botswana has called for greater private-sector participation in economic transformation as business and government leaders meet for the 18th National Business Conference in Francistown from 18 to 21 October.

Hosted by Business Botswana in partnership with the Ministry of Trade and Entrepreneurship and FNB Botswana, the conference is running under the theme "From Dialogue to Delivery: Business Driving Economic Transformation".

## TURNING TALKS INTO ACTION

FNB Botswana Deputy Chief Executive Officer Dr Mbako Mbo said economic growth would depend on translating policy discussions into practical interventions that enable businesses to expand and attract investment.

"Economic transformation requires more than dialogue. It requires deliberate collaboration, practical interventions and a shared commitment to creating opportunities for businesses to grow and succeed."

quires deliberate collaboration, practical interventions and a shared commitment to creating opportunities for businesses to grow and succeed," Mbo said.

He said access to markets, capital and digital solutions, alongside an enabling business environment, could help enterprises create jobs and contribute to economic diversification.

## FINANCING ENTREPRENEURS

Mbo is scheduled to participate in a panel discussion titled "Building an Impactful Financial Ecosystem for Entrepreneurs", focusing on how financial institutions, policymakers and other stakeholders can support business development through digital finance and inclusive growth.

"Access to finance remains important, but entrepreneurs also need the right support structures, networks, knowledge and growth opportunities," he said.



FNB Botswana Deputy Chief Executive Officer Dr Mbako Mbo  
Photo Credit: FNBBotswana/Facebook

The conference's return to Francistown is also expected to draw attention to the city's role as a commercial and industrial centre, including its potential to support regional trade, investment and entrepreneurship.

FNB Botswana, which is marking 35 years of operations under its "35 Years of Help" campaign, said its participation reflects its focus on supporting entrepreneurship, investment and enterprise development through financial solutions and partnerships.

Economic transformation requires more than dialogue. It requires deliberate collaboration, practical interventions and a shared commitment to creating opportunities for businesses to grow and succeed.

FNB Botswana, which is marking 35 years of operations under its "35 Years of Help" campaign, said its participation reflects its focus on supporting entrepreneurship, investment and enterprise development through financial solutions and partnerships.



# Tshire Visits Orange Digital Facilities

A ministerial visit to Orange Botswana’s data centre and digital training hub focuses on infrastructure, skills development and innovation.

The Minister of Communications and Innovation David Tshire has visited Orange Botswana’s Data Centre and Orange Digital Centre (ODC) to discuss collaboration on the country’s digital transformation agenda.

The visit brought together ministry officials and Orange Botswana executives to examine the company’s digital infrastructure and programmes supporting skills development and entrepreneurship.

structure and programmes supporting skills development and entrepreneurship.

## INFRASTRUCTURE AND DIGITAL ACCESS

At the data centre, Acting Chief Executive Officer Gobe Mbayi welcomed the delegation, while Data Centre Manager Tshepo Mongalo outlined the facility’s role in supporting connectivity, business continuity and digital services for individuals, businesses and public institutions.

At the ODC, Director of People and Social Impact Modiri Nlanda presented the Orange Foundation’s digital inclusion programmes, which reached more than 9,400 people through 70 programmes this year, with

“Partnership is how we reach further. We see room to do more with the ecosystem, from schools to startups, and we welcome the Ministry’s guidance on where to begin.”

women accounting for 57 per cent of participants.

## TRAINING AND INNOVATION

ODC Manager Obakeng Kokwe outlined the centre’s programmes, including the Coding School, FabLab for prototyping and fabrication, and Orange

Fab, which supports early-stage startups. The centre offers free training and support to young people, entrepreneurs and underserved communities.

Tshire also heard about the Orange Summer Challenge and Orange Social Venture Prize, and met beneficiaries to discuss their experiences. A digital embroidery project completed by trainees in partnership with Tlokweng Brigade was also presented.

## POTENTIAL FOR COLLABORATION

Tshire said the ministry could support the centre’s work through partnerships, referring to the National Research and Innovation Council and the country’s technology clusters as areas for potential cooperation.

“Partnership is how we reach further. We see room to do more with the ecosystem, from schools to startups, and we welcome the Ministry’s guidance on where to begin,” Mbayi said.

Nlanda said the centre aimed to link digital infrastructure with practical skills and economic opportunities.

“Through the Orange Foundation we will keep investing in digital inclusion, and we welcome the chance to work with government to extend this reach across the country in support of the national digital transformation agenda.”

# Mobi Rides Wins Orange Prize

The car-rental platform takes the P50,000 top prize, ahead of ventures focused on recycling and agricultural technology.



Mobi Rides has won the 2026 Orange Social Venture Prize (OSVP), receiving P50,000 for its technology-based platform connecting vehicle owners with people seeking to rent cars.

Represented by Maphanyane Modisa, the venture finished ahead of WasteWorx, represented by Pheny Tsheko, which received P30,000, and KraalSense, represented by Kago Dintwe, which took third place and P20,000.

ceived P30,000, and KraalSense, represented by Kago Dintwe, which took third place and P20,000.

## TECHNOLOGY FOR LOCAL CHALLENGES

Mobi Rides facilitates peer-to-peer car rentals through verified bookings and secure payments. WasteWorx uses incentives to encourage household recycling

while helping businesses monitor their environmental impact. KraalSense applies artificial intelligence to help farmers manage livestock, crops and farm operations using real-time data.

Orange Botswana Acting Chief Executive Officer Gobe Mbayi said the initiative recognised innovators using technology to address community challenges.

“Innovation is not only about developing new ideas; it is about turning those ideas into solutions that improve lives, create opportunities and contribute to Botswana’s development,” said Mbayi.

## YOUTH INNOVATION AND ENTERPRISE

The Minister of Youth and Gender Affairs Lesego Chombo, who attended the awards ceremony, commended Orange Botswana for supporting youth development. She congratulated the participants, saying their projects had the potential to make a difference in Botswana.

The 2026 finalists represented sectors including agriculture, artificial intelligence, clean energy, waste management and financial services. They included Uhuru AI, an African-focused artificial intelligence platform; Bolema Agritech, which provides soil-testing technology; Kitsiso, an AI-powered livestock health platform; and PAYGO Gas Botswana, which uses digital refill kiosks and mobile payments to improve access to cooking gas.

Other finalists included Confidence Lab BW, which connects young entrepreneurs with mentors; Pulastock, which uses blockchain technology to help farmers access capital through verified cattle assets; and AirtimeSure LifeCover, which com-

bines microinsurance and savings through airtime purchases.

The OSVP recognises ventures using digital technology to address social and environmental challenges, providing innovators with visibility and opportunities to advance their businesses.

“Innovation is not only about developing new ideas; it is about turning those ideas into solutions that improve lives, create opportunities and contribute to Botswana’s development.”



# November SONA Faces Promise Test

As President Duma Boko prepares for his November State of the Nation Address, a review of 117 earlier commitments reveals progress, unfinished promises and questions about delivery.

“A delivered report is the beginning of accountability, rather than its conclusion.”

DR DOUGLAS RASBASH

A State of the Nation Address is a statement of intent. Its real value emerges later, when the nation can compare what was promised with what has changed. With the next November SONA approaching, the review of President Duma Boko’s November 2025 commitments reveals a mixed picture: some meaningful improvements, many initiatives still taking shape, and several deadlines for which delivery remains unconfirmed.

The President’s theme was “The Steady Path: Delivering on Our Promise, One Step at a Time”. Ahead of the next November address, the question is whether those steps are pro-



ducing the outcomes citizens were led to expect.

## MEASURING PROMISES

To examine this, we organ-

ised the address into a database of 117 commitments across 14 policy groups. These range from pensions, infant grants and school meals to electricity

generation, housing, constitutional reform and economic diversification. The review uses information available up to 14 October 2026, approximately eleven months after the address.

Each assessable commitment received a score from zero to five. One indicates initial work, two substantial preparation, three measurable partial delivery, four substantial delivery and five achievement.

Where the evidence could not support a defensible judgement, the item was marked “not verified”, or NV. Missing information was not converted into a zero. Equally, a launch, allocation or memorandum of understanding was

not automatically treated as a completed promise.

This is an evidence review, not an audit. Some sources report government’s own account of progress. Thirty-one scores rely on work described in the original address without a clear subsequent update. The database therefore measures what can presently be demonstrated, rather than claiming complete knowledge of implementation.

**P1,400 PENSION**

February 2026 reporting records P1,400 against the P1,800 commitment (about 59% of the promised uplift).

The distribution is revealing. Of 117 commitments, 19 could not be scored. Among the remaining 98, seventeen received one, forty-four received two, twenty-three received three, ten received four and only four received five. The largest concentration is therefore in preparation. More commitments have reached the drafting, planning or institutional-development stage than demonstrable full delivery.

“Missing information was not converted into a zero.”

No item received zero. That should not be interpreted as proof that every promise has advanced. Some poorly documented commitments remain NV, while others already had preparatory activity underway when SONA was delivered.

## DELIVERED RESULTS

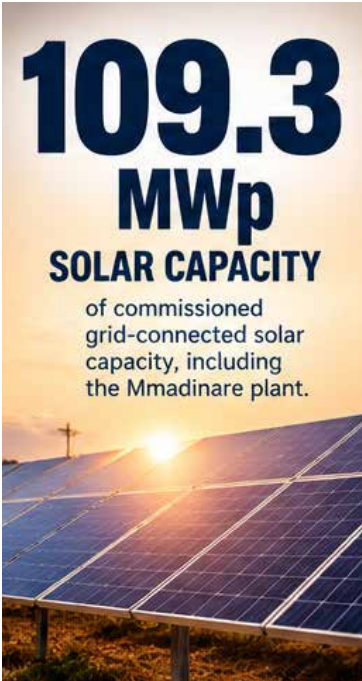
The 30% water-tariff reduction was reported as implemented. Infant support

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## From Page 25

has also moved beyond announcement: by August 2026, payments of the P300 monthly Child Support Grant had begun, including arrears from its April commencement date. Full coverage of every eligible baby remains unverified, but actual payments distinguish this intervention from programmes that exist mainly on paper.

Electricity generation offers another measurable achievement. Botswana Power Corporation reports 109.3 MWp of commissioned grid-connected solar capacity, including the Mmadinare plant, which entered full commercial operation in the final quarter of 2025. On BPC’s stated capacity basis, this supports achievement of the promise to connect more than 100 MW



Other programmes show credible partial delivery. The first consignment of Girolando dairy cattle arrived in July. Special Constables have been absorbed into the regular police service. These are identifiable benefits, even where the full promised scale remains



of solar by December. The forensic audit provides a further example of a completed output. Its report reached the President on 30 April 2026, approximately one month after the promised March deadline. Completion merits recognition, but acting on its findings requires separate evidence. A delivered report is the beginning of accountability, rather than its conclusion.

outstanding. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS** The pension promise remains only partly fulfilled on the evidence reviewed. February reporting still records P1,400 against the P1,800 commitment. From the original P830, the P570 increase delivers about 59% of the promised P970 uplift. That is substantial assistance, but it is not full fulfilment. Similarly, the increase in TVET allowances to P1,900

does not establish delivery of P2,500 across tertiary students. Electricity affordability requires particular care. The 30% reduction applied to domestic consumers using below 200 kilowatt-hours monthly, while other customer categories faced increases. Describing this simply as a universal household tariff reduction obscures the difference between targeted relief and the broader promise.

Several ambitious deadlines also remain unsupported by completion evidence. Government promised a platform delivering all public services digitally within six months. March reporting records expansion from 33 to 52 electronic services, which is progress, but falls short of demonstrating that all services were available. The STEAM curriculum was promised across educational levels from January 2026; August reporting still describes some curricula as ready for rollout and primary syllabuses under review.

**Jobs require an employment register.**

The Sovereign Wealth Fund illustrates the difference between creating an institution and delivering its economic purpose. In August, the responsible minister reported that no funds had yet been invested domestically or internationally. Preparation is

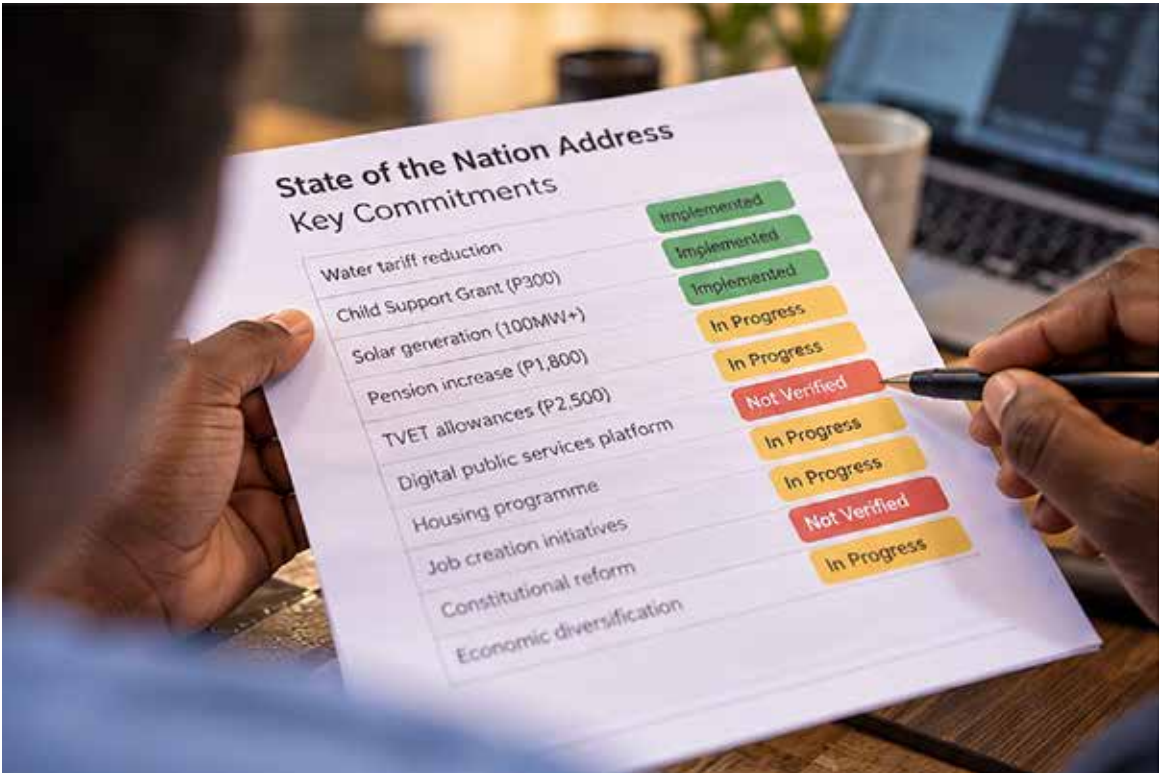


not evidence of diversification benefits.

The largest economic promises remain especially difficult to assess. September’s BETP update reports useful achievements, including titles issued for 82 Special Economic Zone land parcels. It repeats the ambition to create 512,000 jobs, but provides no cumulative actual employment count against that target. Investor interest, land titles and project approvals are necessary inputs. Jobs require an employment register.

**POLICY SCORECARD** Group averages offer a broad comparison, with NV excluded. Water and sanitation scores highest at 4.00, followed by electricity and petroleum security at 3.57. Environment, climate and wildlife averages 1.50. Some high scores recognise infrastructure already near completion when SONA was delivered. They are neither percentages achieved nor a ranking of ministerial com-

petence. The central finding is that Botswana has delivered some tangible benefits while much of its reform programme remains in preparation or partial implementation. The financial strain facing government helps explain the difficulty. It also increases the importance of realistic deadlines and transparent reporting. The forthcoming November SONA should make comparison easier. Each major commitment needs a baseline, target, deadline, responsible institution and current result. Houses should be counted when completed, jobs when people are employed, and health improvements when patients can reliably obtain treatment. This analysis calls on the administration to report against such a scorecard in the forthcoming address. The President promised to measure progress by outcomes. A year on, that remains the right test.



# Restore Botswana's Diamond Inheritance

A proposed P60 billion restoration programme asks whether Botswana should repair the public assets built with diamond wealth before commissioning more.



(All Photos: MONIRUL BHUIYAN/PRESS PHOTO)

DR DOUGLAS RASBASH

Botswana's diamond wealth was never meant to remain underground or in a government bank account. Its enduring value was supposed to emerge above ground: in schools, hospitals, roads, railways, water systems and electricity networks. These assets would turn a finite mineral inheritance into lasting national prosperity. The investment has been enormous. Statistics Botswana's annual gross fixed capital formation figures total approximately P744 billion between 2006 and 2024, at prevailing prices. This includes private investment, not government expenditure alone. But constructing an asset is only the beginning. Its contribution depends on whether it continues working.

Every asset depreciates. Maintenance slows avoidable deterioration, preserves useful life and keeps services operating. When maintenance is deferred, an inexpensive intervention can become a major rehabilitation project. Eventually, an asset that should still be serving the public requires premature replacement. The economic failure is allowing useful infrastructure to deteriorate faster than necessary, while households and businesses bear the consequences. A failing railway transfers freight to roads, adding transport costs and road damage. An unusable classroom undermines education. This is how diamond-era wealth is squandered: through the gradual destruction of its capacity to improve people's lives. Botswana needs a national programme with a clear purpose and an equally clear name: Restoration Botswana.



## P40BN TO P90BN PROVISIONAL RANGE

Lower and upper scenarios

Provisional lower and upper funding scenarios within the five-year central planning model for restoring essential public infrastructure.

### THE RESTORATION BILL

A first sector-by-sector planning exercise developed for this article suggests a working allowance of approximately P60 billion over five years, equivalent to P12 billion annually. Lower- and higher-cost scenarios span approximately P40 billion to P90 billion.

These figures are provisional budget scenarios, not an audited national backlog. Most sector allowances still require validation against asset inventories, con-

dition surveys and engineering costs. They establish a proposition to investigate, rather than a liability already measured.

The strongest published sector anchor is the approximately P7 billion requirement to bring public schools to minimum acceptable standards. Even that figure needs separating into restoration, modernisation and additional capacity before it becomes a precise outstanding maintenance liability.

### SPENDING PRIORITIES

Government has recognised

the problem. The 2026/27 Budget proposed P1.85 billion for maintaining and rehabilitating existing public assets, together with protection against transferring maintenance funds to other purposes. The same budget proposed development expenditure of approximately P23.38 billion. Compare the budget 2026/27 with what is really needed and it is over P10 billion short. Clearly Government is consciously risking to squander our diamond era wealth.

National Development Plans are no longer fit for purpose. They are not achieving the outcomes expected. NDPs are not stimulating economic growth, ( this is done by minerals independently of any NDP), nor are they boosting employment ( NDPs have successively failed to generate jobs and unemployment has increased ) nor do they improve wellbeing ( the household as a planning unit is

not even mentioned in NDPs). Meanwhile the development to asset management spending ratio of 7:1 is basically sacrificing all that we have built. The NDP planning strategy is fundamentally wrong. Restoration Botswana should make asset management the first claim on 50% of the development spending envelope. At that budget level, this represents approximately P11.69 billion annually—close to the central restoration scenario. This is a proposed allocation rule, not independent proof that the P60 billion estimate is correct. Major rehabilitation and replacement may properly remain capital expenditure. The essential change is to move resources from discretionary new construction towards preserving and recovering the services of existing assets. That requires

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## 4 SECTORS

Sector spending split

Priority spending areas: roads, water, schools and health.



# P60 BILLION RESTORATION ENVELOPE

Five-year central planning scenario

Planned restoration funding for essential public infrastructure across Southern Africa, covering transport, water, schools, health and electricity.

## From Page 27

velopment benefit than another construction ceremony. Mega projects offer announcements, foundation stones and ribbon-cutting ceremonies. Asset management offers a roof that does not leak, a pump that keeps running and a bridge that remains safe. Its greatest successes are

challenging a deeply embedded hierarchy: development spending is treated as inherently progressive, while recurrent spending is something to restrain. Economically they are not different. A new clinic without maintenance funding becomes a future liability. Paying technicians to keep an existing clinic functioning can deliver a greater de-

often failures that never happen. Yet those quiet achievements are precisely what citizens need.

**JOBS AND SKILLS**

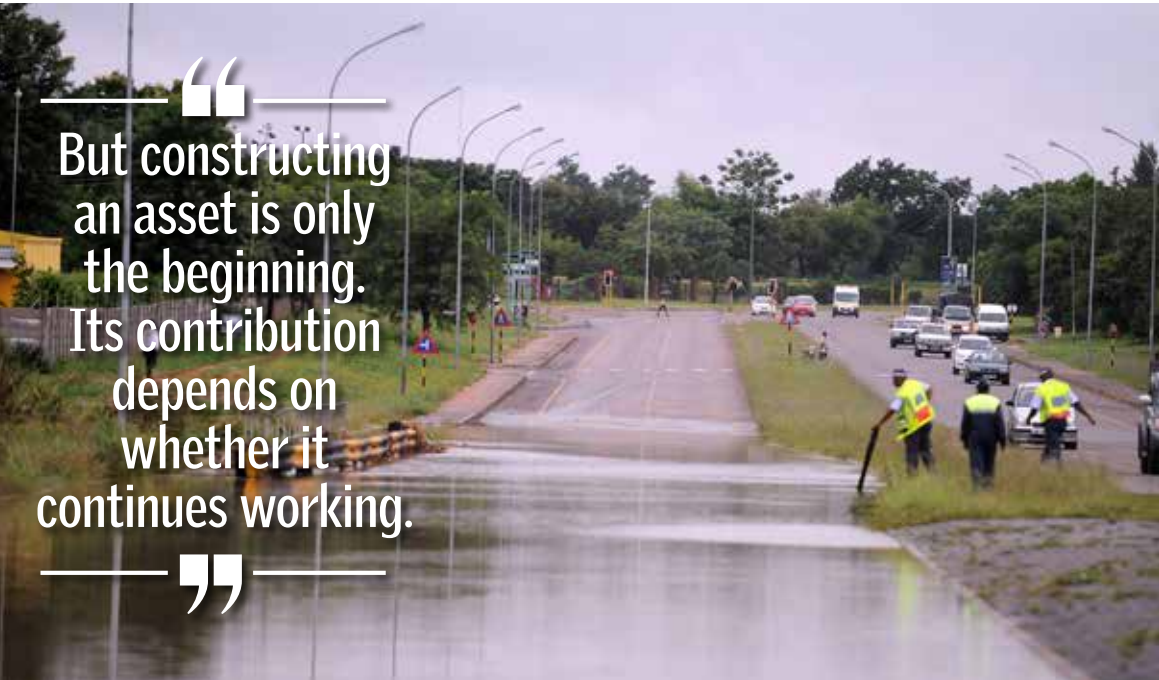
Restoration also offers an employment strategy rooted in work that Botswana will always require. Buildings and networks need plumbers, electricians, welders and maintenance engineers. Roads need drainage crews and competent contractors. A five-year recovery programme can establish businesses and train workers. Continuing maintenance contracts can sustain them afterwards. Procurement should therefore connect paid apprenticeships, supervised practical work, recognised qualifications and progression into skilled employment. The objective

should be lifelong competence: a young person entering as an assistant and emerging with a trade, experience and the ability to earn independently.

The potential employment scale is substantial, although a precise forecast requires a labour and procurement model. Illustratively, if 40% of a P12 billion annual programme paid for direct labour, P4.8 billion would support approximately 80,000 full-year jobs at an assumed average annual employer cost of P60,000. These are gross supported jobs under stated assumptions—not additional jobs guaranteed. Employment displaced from deferred construction must also be counted.

**PRESERVING THE INHERITANCE**

NDP12 should be revised around this obligation. Necessary new infrastructure will still have a place, but proposals should demonstrate why they deserve priority over restoring existing services—and how their own lifetime upkeep will be financed. Pouring money into new development while existing assets deteriorate is like trying to fill a leaking JoJo tank. More water does not solve the leak. Botswana converted diamonds into infrastructure. Its next task is to preserve that inheritance, recover its usefulness and build the skills to maintain it for generations. Restoration Botswana would make stewardship a national development priority—and productive employment one of its lasting returns.



# RESTORATION BOTSWANA

Proposed annual allocation across 18 public asset sectors



|                                          |         |       |
|------------------------------------------|---------|-------|
| Roads, bridges and drainage              | P3,000m | 25.0% |
| Railways and rolling stock               | P800m   | 6.7%  |
| Airports and aviation                    | P100m   | 0.8%  |
| Water supply                             | P1,000m | 8.3%  |
| Sewerage and wastewater                  | P600m   | 5.0%  |
| Electricity                              | P1,000m | 8.3%  |
| Primary and secondary schools            | P1,400m | 11.7% |
| Higher education and training            | P400m   | 3.3%  |
| Health facilities and equipment          | P600m   | 5.0%  |
| Offices, courts and civic buildings      | P600m   | 5.0%  |
| Public housing                           | P600m   | 5.0%  |
| Security and emergency facilities        | P400m   | 3.3%  |
| Waste and community infrastructure       | P300m   | 2.5%  |
| Agricultural and veterinary assets       | P200m   | 1.7%  |
| Digital and broadcasting assets          | P200m   | 1.7%  |
| Sport, culture, conservation and tourism | P200m   | 1.7%  |
| Other commercial public facilities       | P200m   | 1.7%  |
| Shared fleet, plant and equipment        | P400m   | 3.3%  |

## Five-year central scenario: P60 billion

Provisional planning allowances — not a measured maintenance backlog.  
Annual amounts are one-fifth of the sector allowances; uniform phasing is illustrative. Percentages may not sum to 100 due to rounding.



Botswana's Peter Mabeo and Beullah Serema take the country's traditional craftsmanship onto the international art stage, transforming diamonds, basketry and woodcarving into extraordinary works of art at London's Frieze Masters 2026.

GAZETTE REPORTER

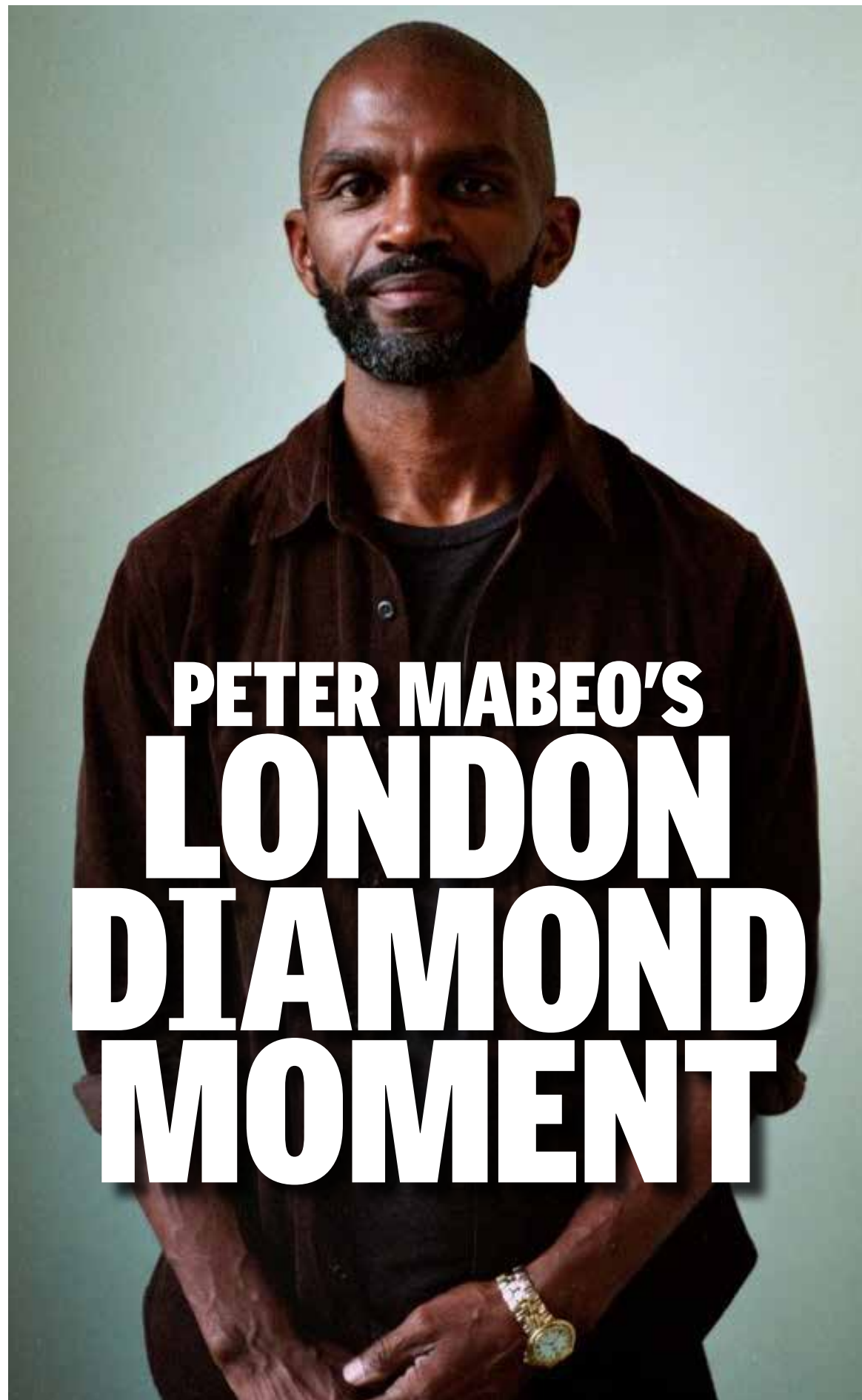
Botswana's celebrated designer Peter Mabeo and fellow Mabeo Studio creative Beullah Serema are making their mark on London's prestigious Frieze Masters 2026, where their handcrafted creations feature in an immersive De Beers exhibition exploring the origins of natural diamonds. Their participation places Botswana's artistic traditions alongside international contemporary art and design, bringing the skills of local craftspeople to a global audience.

Attributed to Peter Mabeo and Beullah Serema, Mabeo Studio. Source: De Beers media release, 14 October 2026.

#### BOTSWANA CRAFT TAKES CENTRE

The exhibition, titled Voyage Through the Diamond Realm, Chapter II: On the Birth of a Diamond, features a specially commissioned collection of handcrafted amulets created by Mabeo Studio in collaboration with basket weavers, potters and woodcarvers from across Botswana.

Each piece brings together traditional materials, genera-



tions of knowledge and natural diamonds supplied by De Beers. The resulting creations celebrate the relationship between people, their environment and the materials they transform through craftsmanship.

"For this work, basket weavers, potters and wood carvers from across Botswana bring different crafts and materials together," Mabeo and Serema explained in a joint statement. "Each amulet carries the particular skill of the person who made it."

#### THE HANDS BEHIND

#### BEAUTY

For Mabeo Studio, whose creative philosophy crosses the boundaries of art, design and architecture, the collaboration reflects a longstanding appreciation for natural materials and traditional skills.

Rather than concealing the processes behind each object, the designers celebrate the individuality of the makers and their relationship with the materials.

"The making remains visible," the pair explained, emphasising the importance of the hand, technique and sen-

sory understanding that each craftsperson brings to the finished work.

Their creations share the exhibition with a monumental five-metre tapestry by Shifron Mercury Studio, woven using natural fibres from Botswana's Okavango Delta. Incorporating ceramic fragments and ostrich eggshell beads, the installation evokes the geological layers of the Earth and the cosmic origins of diamonds.

#### A JOURNEY THROUGH TIME

Presented across three rooms, the De Beers instal-

lation takes visitors from the formation of carbon in ancient stars to the creation of diamonds deep within the Earth's mantle.

An immersive cinematic experience explores this extraordinary transformation, while another space displays rough natural diamonds illuminated by ultraviolet light, revealing the blue fluorescence present in some stones.

"Each amulet carries the particular skill of the person who made it."

Lynn Serfaty, De Beers' General Manager for Natural Diamonds, said the exhibition brings together artists and craftspeople from Botswana, the United Kingdom and France to explore the relationship between creation and creativity.

#### BOTSWANA BEYOND BORDERS

For Mabeo and Serema, the significance lies in the convergence of different artistic traditions, materials and people.

Their contribution places Botswana's traditional makers within an international creative conversation, demonstrating how familiar materials and inherited skills can find new expression in contemporary design.

Following its London presentation, the exhibition is expected to tour internationally, taking these Botswana-made creations to audiences beyond Frieze Masters.

# Botswana's Next Fashion Frontier

Three designers are heading to Durban for a Mr Price internship, but Fashion Without Borders Botswana is making a bigger statement: local creativity deserves investment, industry access and a future beyond the runway.



GOSEGO MOTSUMI

The local fashion scene is dressing for more than the cameras. At Fashion Without Borders Botswana 2026, the real prize was not just runway glory, but a possible ticket into the industry's inner workings.

Three designers — Botswana's Tru'D and Isago Ntle Designs, alongside South Africa's Prima Clothing — secured three-month

internships with Mr Price Group in Durban, turning catwalk ambition into a practical career opportunity.

**THE RUNWAY IS JUST THE START**

Tru'D brought leather and linen together in a collection rooted in Botswana's heritage, while Isago Ntle Designs added its voice to a showcase built around African creativity. Prima Clothing earned its internship through the exclu-

sive Kiddies Fashion Showcase.

For Fashion Without Borders Africa co-founder Tebo Bakwena-Kabisoso, the mission goes beyond putting local labels in the spotlight.

"This means we are proudly supporting local, it's always about the passion for us," she said, urging audiences to take designers' work seriously rather than dismissing fashion as entertainment.

The ambition is to grow the platform and create more opportunities for designers to develop their craft, connect with industry and build sustainable businesses.

### STYLE WITH A BUSINESS PLAN

Under the theme "Sustainable Fashion Blueprint", the Gaborone showcase brought together 22 designers from Botswana, Senegal, Nigeria, Zimbabwe and South Africa.

Minister of Sport and Arts Jacob Kelebeg called for stronger partnerships between the creative community, educational institutions and the private sector, highlighting fashion's potential to generate jobs across design, manufacturing, modelling, media and retail.

South African denim label TSHEPO Jeans founder Tshepo Mohlala also headlined the Fashion Unpacked Masterclass, sharing a focus on entrepreneurship, branding, sustainability



**“**

The ambition is to grow the platform and create more opportunities for designers to develop their craft, connect with industry and build sustainable businesses.

**”**

and building globally relevant African businesses. A separate kiddies masterclass encouraged young participants to explore their creative and entrepreneurial potential.

### MORE THAN A PRETTY PICTURE

The programme also widened fashion's cultural reach. A breast cancer awareness runway walk featuring personalities including Kagiso De Klerk placed solidarity and early detection in the spotlight, while a new hair showcase with the Makeover Place celebrated braiding and hairstyling.

But the internships may prove the most consequential statement of all. In an industry where applause does not automatically translate into income, access to practical experience can help turn creative talent into a viable livelihood.

Botswana's designers have had their runway moment. Now comes the bigger challenge: making sure the opportunities keep coming.

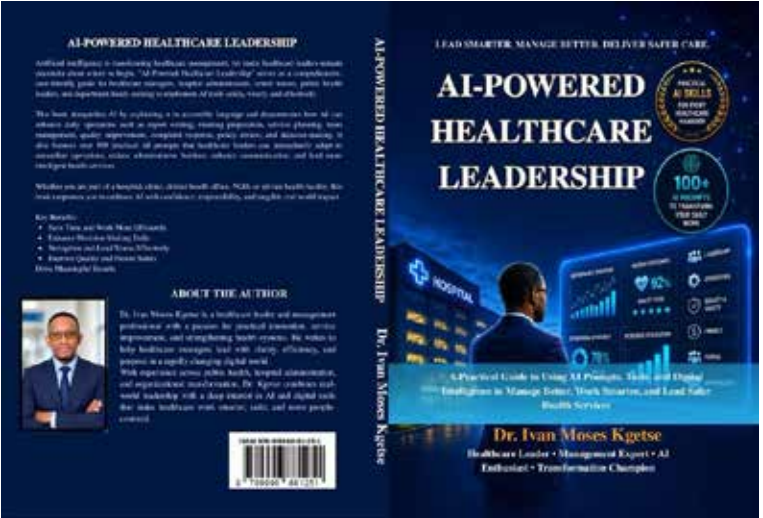
# Two Books, One Healthcare Mission

Hospital shortages, overwhelmed wards and the AI revolution demand more than good intentions. Botswana healthcare leader Dr Ivan Moses Kgetse has two new books aimed at helping those running the system make better decisions under pressure.

GOSEGO MOTSUMI

Hospitals do not run on good intentions alone. They need systems that work, decisions that stick and people who can keep their heads when everything is under pressure. Enter Dr Ivan Moses Kgetse, a Botswana healthcare leader betting that two practical books can help bring more order to the chaos.

Self-published under his Dare To Lead Better brand, *Running Hospitals That Work* and *AI Pow-*



*ered Healthcare Leadership* tackle two challenges facing modern healthcare: making hospital operations more reliable and navigating technology without losing the human touch.

**LESS CHAOS, SAFER CARE**

At 184 pages, *Running Hospitals That Work* draws on Kge-

tse's experience as a hospital superintendent to offer practical guidance on patient safety, governance, staffing, resource management and accountability.

"I was inspired to write *Running Hospitals That Work* by the daily reality of hospital leaders who must protect patients and guide teams even when staff,

time, space and supplies are limited," Kgetse told *Time Out*.

The book offers checklists, dashboards, meeting structures and decision-making tools designed to help leaders identify risks, clarify responsibilities and follow through. In Botswana, where medicine shortages, overcrowded wards and staffing pressures remain concerns, its focus on everyday hospital management is particularly relevant.

**AI WITHOUT LOSING THE HUMAN TOUCH**

Kgetse's second book, *AI Powered Healthcare Leadership*, turns to technology. The 141-page guide targets healthcare managers, administrators and frontline leaders looking to use artificial intelligence in planning, communication, reporting and service delivery.

"I was inspired by the rapid arrival of AI in healthcare and the uncertainty many leaders feel

about where to begin," he said.

Featuring more than 100 ready-to-use prompts, alongside case studies and templates, the book explores how AI can support healthcare teams while keeping privacy, safety and accountability in view.

"This book was written to make AI practical, responsible and accessible, so healthcare leaders can use it to save time and improve decisions without compromising human judgement, patient privacy or accountability," Kgetse said.

Both books are scheduled for official launches in November 2026. *Running Hospitals That Work* costs P220 in print, while *AI Powered Healthcare Leadership* costs P170. Both are available through the author on +267 73 133 153, with Kindle editions on Amazon.

The bigger question is whether practical guidance can translate into meaningful change. Books cannot supply missing medicines or recruit nurses, but they can offer leaders tools to make the resources they have work better.

# ACEL: From Insights to Action

Africa's creative economy is worth an estimated US\$60 billion, yet the continent captures only a fraction of global creative royalties. At ACEL 2026 in Gaborone, the conversation moved beyond celebrating talent to confronting the infrastructure, money and ownership gaps holding creatives back.

GOSEGO MOTSUMI

Africa has the music, the films, the fashion and the stories. What it needs is a better business plan.

That was the underlying message at Africa Creative Economy Lens (ACEL) 2026, where creatives, policymakers and industry players gathered at the Botswana Digital and Innovation Hub to tackle an uncomfortable question: why is a continent overflowing with creative talent still struggling to capture its full economic

value?

Rita Ngenzi of the Africa Creatives Alliance put the numbers into perspective. Africa's creative economy is valued at approximately US\$60 billion, with projections of US\$200 billion by 2030. Yet the continent holds less than three percent of the global creative economy and earns just 0.6 percent of global creative royalties.

"The talent is here. The value is ours to capture," she said.

**WHO OWNS THE MONEY?**

Botswana's challenge is not simply producing more artists. It is building an ecosystem in which creators can turn ideas into sustainable businesses without surrendering the value of their work.

Kabo Phetlu, chief executive officer of the Botswana Digital and Innovation Hub, argued that intellectual property ownership, financing and market access must become central to the conversation.

"We create value here, but too often, the ownership, financing and monetisation of that value

happen elsewhere," he said.

The discussion stretched into the digital economy, where platforms can connect African creators to global audiences while leaving them dependent on systems they do not own. Digital rights, creator payments and export opportunities emerged as critical battlegrounds.

Fashion entrepreneur Mboko Basiami, founder of Pan-African brand Glotto, shared insights into navigating digital exports to reach Brazilian markets, illustrating both the possibilities and the complexities of selling African creativity abroad.

**LESS TALK, MORE INFRASTRUCTURE**

The Film and Audiovisual breakout group, facilitated by Women in Film Guild co-founder Nikita Neo Mokgware, explored

practical interventions, including a dedicated Film Commission, accessible short-term insurance to support international market entry, and stronger legal and financial support for intellectual property commercialisation.

The Ministry of Sport and Arts representative Tebogo Matebesi challenged stakeholders to stop waiting for Botswana's talent to fulfil its potential on its own.

"The world has not yet seen what Botswana's creative talent can deliver," he said.

— “ —  
**"The talent is here. The value is ours to capture."**  
 — ” —

Across two days, ACEL's workshops examined how skills, production, investment, rights protection and distribution must work together to build viable creative industries.

The conference closed with a renewed commitment to turn discussions into action. The real test, however, begins after the delegates leave: whether institutions can deliver the funding, policies and partnerships creatives need to earn from their work.

Africa does not need another reminder that it is talented. It needs systems that make talent pay.

## Inside NACB's Plan for the Creative Economy

Botswana wants 40,000 creative-sector jobs by 2051. The National Arts Council says the real work starts when artists get more than applause: financing, intellectual property protection and access to markets.

GOSEGO MOTSUMI

Botswana has no shortage of creative talent. What it needs is a business plan that works as hard as the artists do. At the Africa Creative Economy Lens (ACEL) 2026, National Arts Council of Botswana (NACB) chief executive officer Gao Lemmenyane laid out an ambition that could change the game: 40,000 jobs and a creative sector contributing 2.5% of GDP by 2051.

The catch? Talent alone will not get Botswana there.

**BEYOND THE APPLAUSE**

"We must move beyond cel-

ebrating talent," Lemmenyane said, challenging a creative economy that too often recognises the finished song, painting, film or basket without accounting for the businesses, intellectual property and livelihoods behind it.

The Council's proposed fix is an interconnected ecosystem, linking creators to investment, skills, infrastructure, intellectual property protection and paying customers. In other words, fewer disconnected initiatives and more routes from creative ideas to commercial success.

**CAN ARTISTS BANK ON THEIR ART?**

Finance remains a major hur-



dle. Many creative enterprises rely on unpredictable grants and sponsorships, leaving viable projects stranded when funding runs dry.

The NACB is working towards a sustainable financing mechanism that could combine public and private contributions, with options spanning grants, working capital, project financing and investment.

There is another potential game-changer: intellectual property. Music catalogues, royalties, film rights and artwork collections can hold economic value, yet creators may struggle to secure conventional loans. Lemmenyane wants systems that could allow these assets to be assessed for suitable financing arrangements.

**CULTURE WITH COM-**

**MERCIAL VALUE**

Botswana's traditional designs and craftsmanship could also open new doors. The Council is exploring partnerships to document traditional patterns, identify rights holders and investigate licensing opportunities that allow designers and businesses to use cultural knowledge while benefiting the communities connected to it.

Meanwhile, recognising prior learning could help self-taught musicians, dancers and other practitioners turn years of experience into formally acknowledged skills.

The bigger question is whether these ambitions will translate into functioning systems, accessible finance and real customers.

Lemmenyane's message at ACEL 2026 was clear: Botswana's creative future cannot run on talent and good intentions alone. The infrastructure must catch up.

# BOMME Takes Aim at Heartbreak

Forget the roses and sweet nothings. BOMME's new Afro-jazz single, *Jwa Pelo*, tackles romantic limbo, broken promises and men who keep women waiting for commitment.

GOSEGO MOTSUMI

Love can be sweet, but when promises pile up and commitment never comes, romance can turn sour. Celebrated Afro-jazz duo BOMME, comprising vocalists Punah Gabasiane and Nono Siile, confronts this uncomfortable reality in *Jwa Pelo*, a new

single about heartbreak and the emotional cost of unfulfilled promises.

Released on 16 October, the track brings together the duo's decades of musical experience and the production talents of DJ Enton and DJ Chrispin of local record label Chambers Music.

### LOVE ON HOLD

The song's full expression, *bo-setlhogo jwa pelo*, translates to the brutality of the heart. It explores the emotional toll of relationships in which men leave women waiting indefinitely for marriage proposals and a commitment that may never materialise.

"This new one talks about how men break women's hearts in romantic relationships," Siile told *Time Out*.

For the vocalist, prolonged uncertainty can be as hurtful as outright rejection. The song speaks to women who remain invested in relationships while waiting for partners to make their intentions clear.



"It's relatable to most women," she said, adding that she believes the kind of love people experienced in the past has become harder to find.

### OLD-SCHOOL SOUL, FRESH COLLABORATION

*Jwa Pelo* builds on BOMME's previous collaboration, *Re Tsetswe Jalo*, while pairing the duo's established Afro-jazz sound with the production expertise of Chambers Music. Gabasiane and Siile have more than 25 years of experience in the music industry, while DJ Enton brings a decade of experience and DJ Chrispin two decades.

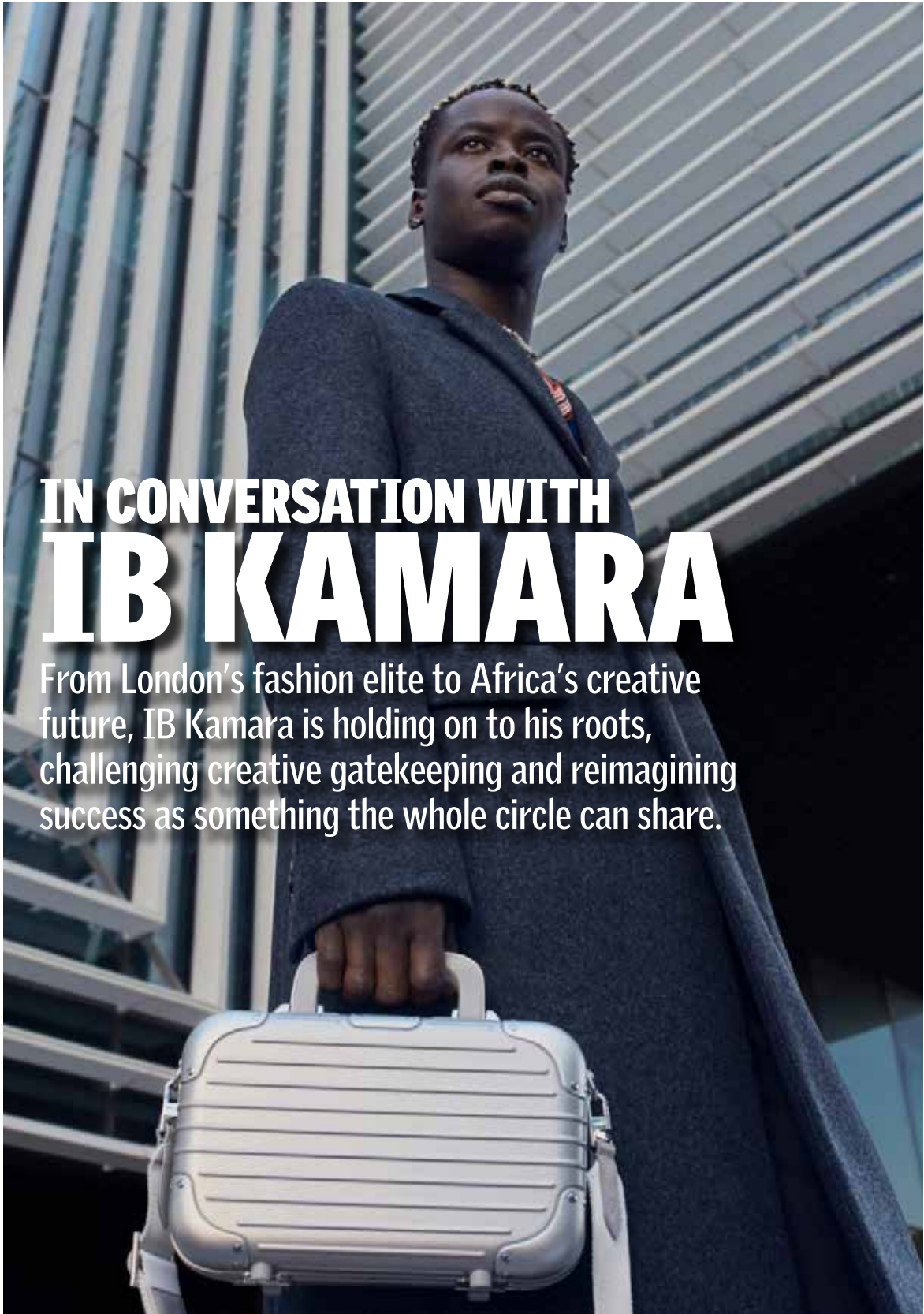
The collaboration reflects a meeting of musical generations, with the producers helping shape the duo's exploration of heartbreak through a contemporary Afro-jazz sound.

BOMME's year has also included the Chairman's Award at the Botswana Music Awards, recognising the duo's contribution to the local music industry.



With *Jwa Pelo*, however, the focus shifts from accolades to the realities of love: the weight of broken promises, the frustration of waiting and the need for honesty in relationships. Its message is simple: commitment matters, and leaving someone in emotional limbo has consequences.

The single is available on streaming platforms.



## IN CONVERSATION WITH IB KAMARA

From London's fashion elite to Africa's creative future, IB Kamara is holding on to his roots, challenging creative gatekeeping and reimagining success as something the whole circle can share.

GOSEGO MOTSUMI

IB Kamara has dressed global culture in some of its most striking visual

statements. But behind the fashion covers, luxury labels and international recognition is a creative who refuses to leave

his African identity at the door. In Gaborone, the acclaimed image-maker made one thing clear: getting into the room is

one thing; making space for others is another.

### FINDING HIS OWN VOICE

Born in Sierra Leone, raised in The Gambia and based in London, Kamara has worked across fashion, photography and film, served as editor-in-chief of *Dazed* from 2021 to 2025 and taken the creative reins at Off-White.

His journey, however, began with uncertainty. His parents had other plans for him, but his fascination with visual expression proved impossible to ignore.

"I found my voice when i moved to London and i knew that i could only be a creative," he said during a conversation with Banana Club founder Tanlume Enyatseng at the Economic Inclusion Forum 2026.

His African identity remains central to his work, even as he navigates Western creative institutions.

"Being an African makes me a stronger creative in the west because i always bring a different perspective," he said.

### THERE IS NO ROOM FOR GATEKEEPING

For Kamara, representation should not end with one Black creative making it into an exclusive space. The real win is when more voices get through.

"It is extremely boring to be the only black person in a space," he said, arguing that creatives should move beyond scarcity thinking and recognise the value of building together.

His message resonates in Botswana, where international recognition can sometimes overshadow the work of artists creating at home. For Kamara, African creativity deserves to

be celebrated on its own terms, not validated exclusively by foreign approval.

### SUCCESS IS A GROUP PROJECT

Forget the glossy industry version of success. Kamara's measure is much more personal.

"Success to me is when me and my circle or friends are all able to afford to go on holiday because we all have jobs," he said.

It is a grounded vision with economic consequences. The forum also examined access to capital, ownership, opportunity and digital platforms, asking how African creatives can benefit financially from the culture they create.

"Being an African makes me a stronger creative in the west because i always bring a different perspective."

For Kamara, the future is not simply about being seen by the world. It is about building an industry where more people can make a living, own their work and rise together.

NOTICE OF THE NEXT OF KIN MEETING FOR THE LATE MOTLHATLOSI SONO KGALEMANG - ESHGB 000198/26

IN PURSUANCE of Section 31 of the Administration of Estates Act (Cap 31:01), the heirs and next of kin of the deceased persons specified above are hereby invited to attend a next of kin meeting on **Wednesday 10th February 2027 at 0830 hours** at the **Office of the Master – Keneilwe Thebeetsile** located at the Gaborone High Court Division.

At the respective meeting, the next of kin are to recommend person(s) to be appointed as Executor(s)/Executrices Dative, identify beneficiaries and to discuss any other business relating to the estate of their deceased relatives.

For any enquiries concerning the deceased person’s estate, please contact the Masters Office on 3718348, or 3718000/3718040 (Switchboard)

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

In the matter between  
FIRST NATIONAL BANK OF BOTSWANA LIMITED  
And  
JASON SIZWE KEANU PHOMETSI

CASE NO. CVHFT 000 445/21  
PLAINTIFF  
DEFENDANT

NOTICE OF SALE IN EXECUTION

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

DATE OF SALE : 4<sup>th</sup> December 2026  
TIME : 10:00 a.m.  
VENUE : Tribal Lot 43081, Tsanekona Ward, Maun  
PROPERTY TO BE SOLD : Tribal Lot 43081, Tsanekona Ward, Maun  
SITUATE : at Maun Village in the Batawana Tribal Territory  
MEASURING : 509m2 (Five Hundred and Nine Square Metres) which property is held under Notarial Deed of Cession No FT MA 340/2016 dated the 5<sup>th</sup> day of December 2016 in favour of JASON SIZWE KEANU PHOMETSI  
The property comprises of an erected three bedroomed house with ensuite bedroom, two other bedrooms, kitchen, sitting room, toilet and shower and some improvements thereon.

CONDITIONS OF SALE : Detailed conditions of sale may be inspected with Deputy Sheriff Zachariah Mashamaite on cell No. 77638433/74271019  
CONDITION OF SALE : Cash or Bank guarantee cheques

DATED AT FRANCISTOWN ON THIS 19<sup>TH</sup> DAY OF OCTOBER, 2026



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

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

CASE NO: CVHGB-000189-23

In the matter between:  
ISHMAEL MLAMBO  
And  
DINEO SEGONA

PLAINTIFF  
DEFENDANT

NOTICE OF SALE IN EXECUTION

BE PLEASED TO TAKE NOTICE THAT pursuant to judgment granted by the above Honourable Court the following property will be sold by public auction by **DEPUTY SHERIFF CAINE MOGOROSI** to the highest bidder as follows;

DATE OF SALE : 30<sup>th</sup> October 2026  
PLACE OF SALE : Gaborone West Police Services  
TIME OF SALE : 09:30 am  
PROPERTY TO BE SOLD : 1 bed and Mattress ; 1 Sinotec TV; 1 Defy Fridge ; 1 Sleigh bed and Mattress ;1 dressing table ; Base and Mattress ; 1 TV Stand

TERMS OF SALE : Cash or Bank Guaranteed Cheque immediately after the sale.

DATED AT GABORONE ON THIS THE \_\_\_\_ DAY OF OCTOBER 2026



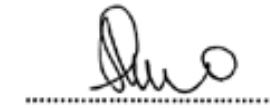
FINAL LIQUIDATION AND DISTRIBUTION ACCOUNT MASTER’S REFERENCE: ESHGB-000421/25

IN THE ESTATE of the late **PUNIE GONGORO** who died at Francistown Academic Hospital, Francistown, Francistown District, Botswana on 27<sup>th</sup> March 2026.

THE FINAL LIQUIDATION AND DISTRIBUTION ACCOUNT in the Estate will be open for inspection at the offices of the Master of the High Court at Gaborone for a period of (Twenty one) 21 Days from the date of publication hereof.

Any objection to the Estate may be lodged with the Master within the 21 days stated above.

DATED AT MAUN THIS 16<sup>th</sup> day October 2026



THE Executrix  
Sampa Boitumelo Kaisara  
P. O. Box 503105  
Gaborone  
CELL: 71635161

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 m<sup>2</sup> (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 7<sup>th</sup> DAY OF October 2026

S Thobega  
APPLICANT

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 **10<sup>th</sup> 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



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



# ATHLETES' DOPING CASE MOVES TO MARCH

Four athletes challenging positive test results face another wait after their High Court hearing was scheduled for 9 March 2027.

BONGANI MALUNGA

Four Botswana athletes challenging positive doping test results face another lengthy wait after their High Court case was moved to 9 March 2027. The hearing will take place more than a year after the matter was initially brought before the courts on an urgent basis.

**PROCEDURAL DISPUTES**

Refilwe Murangi, Karabo Mothibi, Lydia Jele and Zibani Ngozi are pursuing the case against the Botswana National Olympic Committee (BNOC) and the National Anti Doping Office (NADO). Procedural disputes have prolonged their challenge, leaving them facing nearly five more months of uncertainty.

The athletes approached the Gaborone High Court in February 2026 over concerns about the

authenticity of their positive test results and the procedures followed. The case first came before Justice Itumeleng Segopolo on 19 February, with several institutions initially cited as respondents before proceedings were narrowed to BNOC and NADO.

**URGENCY REMOVED**

The matter's urgent status was removed on 2 March following an application by the athletes' lawyer, Dr Tshepang Makwati, to allow more time to address outstanding issues. The dispute partly concerned access to the Anti Doping Administration and Management System (ADAMS), which contains information relating to doping tests.

The case returned for a status hearing on 20 April, but technical difficulties in creating the athletes' ADAMS login credentials prevented progress. The court directed the parties to es-

tablish a timetable for resolving the outstanding issues.

**FURTHER DELAYS**

The matter failed to proceed on 1 June after administrative issues resulted in its omission from the court roll. The scheduling confusion prompted an emergency court session, during which Justice Segopolo confirmed 10 August as the next hearing date and directed both legal teams to clarify disputes over the production of documents.

“The hearing will take place more than a year after the matter was initially brought before the courts on an urgent basis.”

The case has remained unresolved despite those earlier proceedings. The next hearing is now scheduled for March next year, extending the athletes' wait for their challenge to be heard.

# Botswana Grand Prix Regains Gold Status

The meeting returns to the World Athletics Continental Tour's Gold category for 2027 after administrative failures cost it the classification.

BONGANI MALUNGA

The Botswana Golden Grand Prix has regained Gold status on the World Athletics Continental Tour for 2027. The Botswana Athletics Association (BAA) confirmed the classification last week, with the meeting scheduled for 24 April 2027 at Gaborone's National Stadium.

**STATUS RESTORED**

The competition was relegated to Silver for the 2026 season after organisers failed to meet World Athletics administrative deadlines following the 2025 edition. Its return restores a classification that helps support its international profile and appeal to elite competitors.

Since its establishment in 2023, the meeting has attracted

prominent international athletes, including Americans Sha'Carri Richardson and Kenny Bednarek, Canada's Andre De Grasse and Kenya's African 100m record holder Ferdinand Omanyala. All four competed at the inaugural edition, helping establish the event's reputation for elite sprinting.

**MEMORABLE PERFORMANCES**

The 2025 edition saw Botswana's Olympic 200m champion Letsile Tebogo win over his signature distance in front of home supporters. South Africa's Akani Simbine won the men's 100m in 9.90 seconds, while American Olympic champion Dalilah Muhammad took the women's 400m hurdles title.

The meeting retained international appeal in 2026 despite its



“The competition was relegated to Silver for the 2026 season after organisers failed to meet World Athletics administrative deadlines following the 2025 edition.”

Silver classification. American Olympic champion Gabby Thomas won the women's 100m, with De Grasse and Omanyala also among the athletes attending.

**INTERNATIONAL OPPORTUNITY**

Regaining Gold status could improve the Grand Prix's ability to attract elite competitors, commercial partners and international ex-

posure. It also gives local athletes an opportunity to compete against leading opposition at home while pursuing performances and international ranking points.

The BAA also announced that Botswana will host the second stop and first Gold level meeting of the newly established African Athletics Tour. The announcement adds another dimension to Gaborone's place on the continental athletics calendar.

**ORGANISATIONAL TEST**

Attention now turns to the field organisers can assemble for the confirmed 2027 edition. Maintaining the restored classification will also require avoiding the administrative shortcomings that cost the competition its Gold status.

# Tlape And Chakanyuka Sweep Tennis Titles

The Botswana juniors secured successive singles and doubles titles at the World Tennis/ African Tennis 14&Under tournaments in Gaborone.

BONGANI MALUNGA

Botswana’s Lebone Tlape and Angel Chakanyuka completed successive singles and doubles title triumphs at the World Tennis/African Tennis 14&Under tournaments in Gaborone. Their victories extended a successful run on home soil and highlighted the country’s emerging junior tennis talent.

### TLAPE’S DOUBLE

Tlape defeated Kenya’s Maina Olembo 6-4, 7-6(2) in the boys’ singles final to claim his second continental 14&Under singles title. He held his nerve in the second set tie break to close out the match without a deciding set.

Tlape then partnered Francesco Brink in the boys’ doubles final against Olembo and Zimbabwe’s Tinevimbo Chinamo. The pair won 6-1, 6-3, securing another title and leaving Olembo beaten in



both finals.

### CHAKANYUKA TRIUMPHS

Chakanyuka matched Tlape’s singles success by defeating Zimbabwe’s Chloe Hayes

in the girls’ final. She won the opening set 6-0 before taking the second 6-4 to claim her second continental 14&Under singles crown.

Her straight sets victory

highlighted her attacking quality and ability to maintain control against international opposition. It also completed another successful singles campaign for the Botswana

“  
Their successive singles and doubles victories also demonstrated consistency across consecutive competitions.  
”

youngster.  
**DOUBLES SUCCESS**  
Chakanyuka subsequently teamed up with Reene Sebego to win the girls’ doubles title. They defeated Camila Seetso and Anotidaishe Chinyanga in a final that also featured other emerging players.

While Tlape and Chakanyuka led the title haul, the presence of several Botswana players in the doubles finals offered another indication of the country’s developing junior ranks. Their successive singles and doubles victories also demonstrated consistency across consecutive competitions.



“  
Botswana’s three wins demonstrated an ability to compete against experienced visiting opposition.  
”

# MCC Edge Botswana In Tour Finale

An eight run victory in Gaborone gave the tourists six wins from nine matches, despite a determined response from the hosts.

BONGANI MALUNGA

Marylebone Cricket Club (MCC) defeated the Botswana Men’s Select Team by eight runs in Friday’s final Twenty20 match at the Botswana Cricket Association (BCA) Oval in Gaborone. The result completed the

visitors’ nine match tour with six victories and three defeats.

### CLOSE FINISH

MCC posted 182/5 from their 20 overs, setting Botswana a target of 183. The Baggy Blues pushed the contest into the closing stages but finished on 174/7, while visiting captain Will Butler was named Player of the Match.

The London club won five of the tour’s eight T20 matches and the solitary 50 over fixture. Its strong finish followed a series in which Botswana recovered from two early defeats to bring the T20 contest level.

### EARLY MCC ADVANTAGE

In the opening match, MCC

restricted Botswana to 99/7 and reached 102/5 in 18.1 overs. The visitors then dismissed the hosts for 102 before scoring 105/3 in 14.2 overs to secure a seven wicket victory in the second encounter.

Botswana responded by winning the next two games. The hosts posted 132/5 and bowled MCC out for 103 to win by 29 runs, then defended 150/8 under floodlights by restricting the visitors to 138/7 for a 12 run victory.

### TOUR DECIDED

The teams traded wins in the next two T20 matches, leaving the series level at three victories apiece. MCC won the final two games to take the T20 contest 5-3 and also claimed the separate 50 over match through the Duckworth-Lewis-Stern method.

Botswana’s three wins demonstrated an ability to compete against experienced visiting opposition. The tour provided exposure to pressure situations against players with experience in England’s professional and recreational game.

### DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

The visit also formed part of MCC’s international cricket development programme. Beyond the fixtures, it included coaching sessions, school visits and community engagement initiatives.

The organisation hopes Gaborone can become Africa’s first certified Global Active City during the 2027 TAFISA World Congress.

BONGANI MALUNGA

Gaborone could become Africa’s first certified Global Active City in 2027, with the Association For International Sport for All (TAFISA) hoping to announce the milestone during its World Congress in Botswana. The ambition centres on making physical activity part of everyday life and leaving a legacy beyond the congress.

CITY STRATEGY

TAFISA secretary general and Active City Trainer Jean-Francois Laurent outlined the target during workshops and stakeholder engagements in Botswana from 11 to 15 October. An 11 member delegation of TAFISA board mem-

# TAFISA Eyes Gaborone Active City Milestone



bers explored ways of developing a sustainable Active City strategy for Gaborone.

“Active City will be a legacy project of TAFISA World Congress 2027 and together we are working on putting the building stones together for an Active City strategy of the city of Gaborone. An Active City strategy that will inspire more citizens to be active during the ev-

eryday life. At school, at the workplace, in public spaces, but also through transport. It is a vision for the city, for the residents of Gaborone and together we have one ambition, one challenge to make Gaborone the first global ActiveCity that is certified in Africa. And this is something we hope to be able to announce next year during the TAFISA World Congress,”

Laurent said.

PILOT CITY

Gaborone was identified as one of the Global Active City programme’s original pilot cities in 2017. The latest effort could therefore fulfil an ambition that predates the forthcoming congress.

Certification is not automatic: the Active Well-being Initiative requires cities to develop coordi-

nated physical activity strategies, demonstrate implementation and undergo independent audits. Its published network still lists Gaborone as a pilot city, with no African city currently appearing on the certified list.

“Gaborone was identified as one of the Global Active City programme’s original pilot cities in 2017.”

AFRICAN RETURN

The Botswana National Sport Commission will host the 2027 TAFISA World Congress. The event will bring the global Sport for All movement back to Africa for the first time since Cape Town hosted it in 2001.

Pic Credit: AI Generated



## Rollers Turn to Serbian Pavlovic to Rescue Faltering Season

Township Rollers appoint Serbian Sreten Pavlovic to revive their faltering campaign, with Popa languishing in eleventh after five league matches

BONGANI MALUNGA

Township Rollers have turned to Serbian tactician Sreten Pavlovic to revive their stuttering FNB Premiership campaign, handing him a season-long contract as the Gaborone giants battle to climb

out of the bottom half of the league standings.

The appointment, officially announced by the club on Sunday, 18 October 2026, sees Pavlovic replace interim head coach Oupa Kowa, who had been overseeing the team during a difficult opening stretch of the 2026/27 season.

Pavlovic arrives at a time when Popa are struggling to match their reputation as one of Botswana’s most successful clubs, having collected just five points from their opening five league matches.

STRUGGLING

Rollers are languishing in

11th position, with one victory, two draws and two defeats, leaving them nine points behind early pace-setters Tonota FC, although they have played one game fewer. Their struggles were further exposed by Sunday’s 4-2 defeat to Matebele FC, a result that underlined the scale of the rebuilding job awaiting the new Serbian mentor.

The club has tasked Pavlovic with restoring its winning identity, challenging for the league championship and delivering success in domestic cup competitions. Club chairman Thapelo Fish Pabalinga expressed confidence that the experienced tactician possesses the qualities required to turn the team’s fortunes around.

“We are delighted to welcome Coach Sreten Pavlovic to Township Rollers. In our search for a new leader, we looked for a coach who shares our winning mentality, tactical acumen, and ambition for the club. We are confident that his experience and dedication will bring out the best in our squad as we chase our goals this season.”

WELL TRAVELLED COACH

Pavlovic brings a coaching background spanning South Africa and Eswatini, with his most recent assignment coming at Eswatini Premier League outfit Malanti Chiefs.

The CAF A-licensed coach was appointed by Malanti in September 2025 following the club’s promotion to the top flight. He was handed an ambitious mandate to challenge for a top-four finish and establish the team as a competitive force in domestic cup competitions.

However, his tenure proved challenging, with Malanti becoming embroiled in a relegation battle towards the end of the 2025/26 campaign. In February, he had also

guided the club into the next round of the Ingwenyama Cup.

Before moving to Eswatini, Pavlovic coached South African outfit Germiston City FC, where he worked with the senior team in the Eastern Local Football Association Super League.

YOUTH AND SENIOR COACHING EXPERIENCE

His background also includes youth development, having helped establish a football academy at Germiston City in 2019 to strengthen young players’ technical foundations. His public professional profile describes a playing career spanning approximately two decades in Serbia and South Africa.

That combination of senior-team management and player development could prove important at Rollers, whose early-season performances have raised questions about consistency and defensive organisation.

Popa’s only victory this season came in a convincing 3-0 triumph over Extension Gunners. They have also drawn 1-1 with Morupule Wanderers and Orapa United, while suffering defeats against Mochudi Centre Chiefs and Matebele FC.

Despite scoring eight goals, Rollers have conceded just as many, exposing defensive weaknesses that Pavlovic will need to address urgently. There will be little time for the new coach to settle in, with Rollers scheduled to face unbeaten league leaders Tonota FC on 24 October.

The fixture promises an immediate examination of Pavlovic’s credentials, with the Serbian inheriting a side desperate to rediscover its winning touch and prevent the early title race from slipping further beyond reach.

TIRED OF  
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WEDNESDAY 21 OCTOBER 2026  
SINCE 1984

The Botswana Gazette  
**SPORT**

# ROLLERS TURN TO PAVLOVIC TO SAVE SEASON

Township Rollers appoint Serbian Sreten Pavlovic to revive their faltering campaign, with Popa languishing in eleventh after five league matches.



**36.**

# BOTSWANA GRAND PRIX REGAINS GOLD STATUS



➔ **34.**