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GAZETTE
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Yoghurt Promises, Robotics Kits, Empty Shelves

The president promises pupils eggs and yoghurt, and his government has committed P654 million to robots and coding. Yet teachers say children lack textbooks, toilets and regular meals, and the ministry itself says it ran short of money last year for books, teachers' salaries and school maintenance.

SPECIAL REPORT

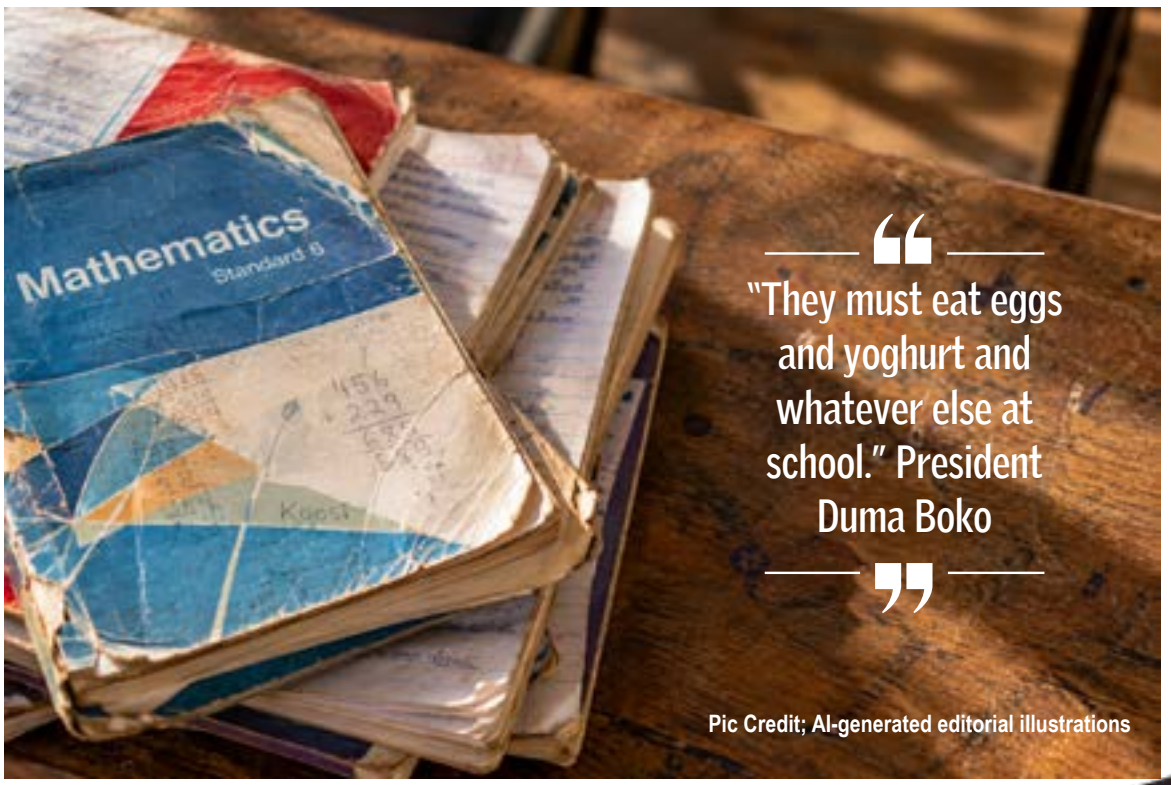
2 & 11

AI-generated editorial illustration



Yoghurt Promises, Robotics Kits, Empty Shelves

The president promises pupils eggs and yoghurt, and his government has committed P654 million to robots and coding. Yet teachers say children lack textbooks, toilets and regular meals, and the ministry itself says it ran short of money last year for books, teachers' salaries and school maintenance.



Pic Credit; AI-generated editorial illustrations

STORY BY BONGANI MALUNGA

For more than a decade, a senior teacher in Kanye says, the textbooks have not come. So the teachers built their own supply line. They opened WhatsApp groups with their pupils' parents and began sending out notes, study material and tests, most of it photocopied.

"There are no textbooks, it's been over 10 years," she said. The workaround carries its own danger. "If one of the study material items has mistakes," she said, "then the whole district will be affected." The gaps, she said, go deeper than buildings and books, to things as basic as toilets in schools and a feeding programme that runs irregularly. Yet government, she said, has spent heavily on the Emeritus STEAM programme.

On Tuesday, President Duma Boko spoke about school meals. "Teachers will tell you that kids get into class and fall asleep because they are hungry," he told a workshop on children's legislation in Tlokweng. "They must eat eggs and yoghurt and whatever else at school, it is their right. It is an obligation on the state."

It was not the first time. Boko has made the call before, and in his State of the Nation Address last November he promised a home-grown school feeding programme.

A day earlier, the conditions the Kanye teacher describes reached Ntlo ya Dikgosi. Kgosi Matshidiso Babeile of Kisa raised the state of schools in Kgalagadi South, and the Assistant Minister of Child Welfare and Basic Education, Justin Hunyepa, conceded the point. "Under current conditions it would be difficult for students to perform to the optimum level," he said.

The House's chairperson, Kgosi Malope II, went further and questioned government's priorities. He proposed that for one financial year, the millions earmarked for building new schools be diverted to repairing the ones that already exist. "Otherwise," he said, "the same problems will persist."

Two days, two admissions from the top of government that schools are failing the children in them. The president's prescription was another day of pie in the sky. The money that might have met those needs has already been committed to something that is not an emergency: one of the government's most consequential education reforms, set in motion with little public attention.



At Marulamantsi Primary School, the minister says the curriculum has been overhaule. Minutes later, her contractor says the review is only about to begin

Days before the country's 60th Independence celebrations, the Minister of Child Welfare and Basic Education, Nono Kgafela-Mokoka, inaugurated the five-year National STEAM Project before a subdued audience at Marulamantsi Primary School. Led by Emeritus Training Academy under a P654.4 million direct appointment, it promises coding and robotics kits, an e-learning platform and teacher training across all ten education regions. "We have overhauled the curriculum completely," the minister said.

The contract was awarded without competition, on a scope the procurement regulator once found too thin to control costs, and its terms have never been made public. And it arrives in a primary school system whose own ministry says it is short of money for textbooks and teachers, and whose last curriculum reform, officials have said, failed for exactly those reasons.

"Textbook provision accounted for about a quarter of the improvement in pupils' test scores." World Bank evaluation, Ghana

For the Umbrella for Democratic Change, nearly two years into government, the question is whether, in reaching for the new, it is sowing the seeds of the old system's collapse.

NOBODY TOLD THE TEACHERS

At a primary school whose location the Gazette is withholding, a teacher said nobody had explained the programme to him or his colleagues. "There is no official communication on STEAM and digital learning," he said. "There is no formal information on how the new curriculum will be implemented or delivered. None of the teachers here has embarked on any training of the above changes."

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UDC Faces First UN Human Rights Test

President Duma Boko's government will face its first major United Nations human rights test since its historic election victory in October 2024, when Botswana's human rights record comes under scrutiny during the country's next appearance

TEFO PHEAGE

President Duma Boko's Umbrella for Democratic Change (UDC) government is expected to face its first United Nations human rights review since taking power in October 2024 when Botswana appears before the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) mechanism in May 2028.

The fifth review of Botswana's record, scheduled for the 57th session of the UPR Working Group in Geneva, Switzerland, will assess the country's human rights obligations and progress on recommendations from its previous examination, according to UPR Info.

INHERITED COMMITMENTS

Botswana last underwent a UPR assessment on 3 May 2023, when former President Mokgweetsi Masisi's Botswana Democratic Party (BDP) administration was in office.

The country received 296 recommendations from 105 delegations. The government supported 206, partially supported five and noted 85 without committing to implement them.

The recommendations addressed freedom of expression, media independence, capital punishment, gender-based violence, discrimination, children's rights and the protection of vulnerable groups. Responsibility for carrying those commitments forward now rests with the UDC.

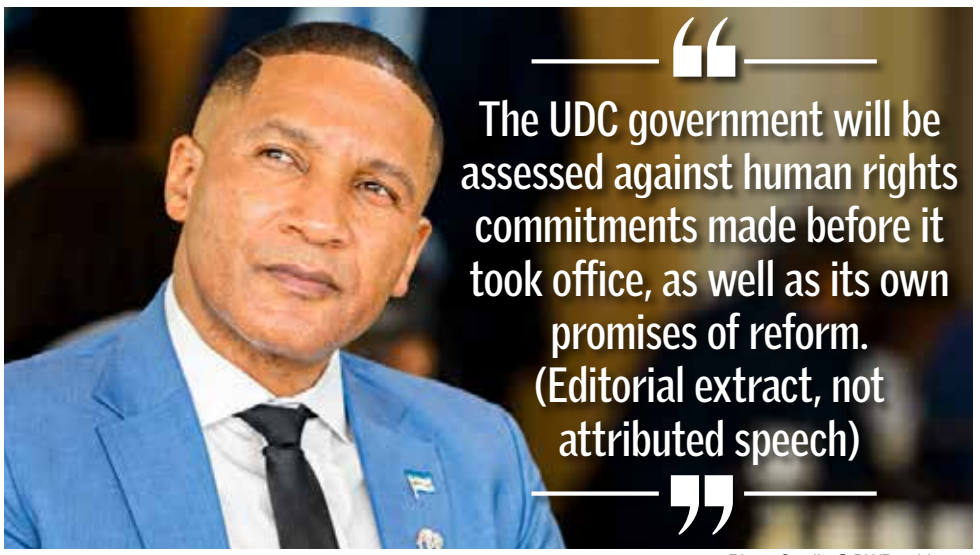


Photo Credit: @BWPresidency

REFORM PROMISES

The review will provide a measure of progress on the UDC's pledges to produce a new people-centred Constitution, strengthen democratic institutions and checks on power, improve accountability and address longstanding inequalities.

Amnesty International's 2025 assessment raised concerns about restrictions on freedom of expression and peaceful

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Deposit and Lending Interest Rates

Quarterly Report

July - September 2026

Type of Deposit	Jul 2026 Interest Rates (%)	Aug 2026 Interest Rates (%)	Sept 2026 Interest Rates (%)	Q3 Range Interest Rates (%)
Current	0.00 - 0.00	0.00 - 0.00	0.00 - 0.04	0.00 - 0.04
Global Account	0.00 - 2.00	0.00 - 2.00	0.00 - 2.00	0.00 - 2.00
Call	0.00 - 4.00	0.00 - 4.00	0.00 - 4.00	0.00 - 4.00
Savings	0.00 - 3.35	0.00 - 3.40	0.00 - 3.40	0.00 - 3.40
1 Month	0.15 - 2.55	0.15 - 3.00	0.15 - 0.25	0.15 - 3.00
3 Months	0.00 - 6.00	0.00 - 5.50	0.00 - 4.00	0.00 - 6.00
6 Months	0.00 - 7.25	0.00 - 6.00	0.00 - 6.00	0.00 - 7.25
12 Months	0.00 - 10.00	0.00 - 10.00	0.00 - 8.50	0.00 - 10.00
24 Months	-	-	5.00	5.00
Over 24 Months	6.25	-	3.50 - 3.75	3.50 - 6.25

	Jul 2026	Aug 2026	Sept 2026	Average Pricing
Monetary Policy Rate	5.50%	5.50%	5.50%	-
Prime Lending Rate	7.01%	7.01%	7.01%	-
Mortgage Facility	3.50% - 18.81%	3.50% -7.51%	3.50% - 12.80%	3.53%
Overdraft Facility *(Revolving Credit Lines)*	7.01% - 25.01%	7.01% - 25.01%	7.01% - 25.01%	14.49%
Credit Card	22.00% - 25.00%	22.00% - 25.00%	22.00% - 28.00%	20.24%
Lease Loans *(VAF)*	5.51% - 25.76%	5.51% - 24.01%	5.51% - 25.76%	10.37%
Unsecured Personal Loans *(excluding overdrafts, mortgage and credit cards)*	5.00% - 29.01%	5.00% - 29.01%	5.00% - 29.01%	15.78%
Other Term Loans	-	-	-	-

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Photo Credit: Social Media

Kgosi's 260 Cattle Return As 800

An original herd of about 260 seized cattle has grown to around 800, but losses and unresolved interest on seized money leave questions over the State's seven-year custody.

GAZETTE REPORTER

Cattle seized from the late former Directorate of Intelligence and Security Services (DISS) Director General Isaac Seabelo Kgosi have been returned to his estate, with an original herd of about 260 having grown to around 800 during seven years under a court-appointed receiver.

The return marks a major step in implementing a Gaborone High Court order that ended the State's prolonged restraint of Kgosi's assets. However, approximately 25 cattle are reported to have died or gone missing, while questions remain over interest on money seized by the State.

Herd Multiplies

The livestock increased substantially while under restraint, and the court ordered the return of cattle received from Richard Miles together with all offspring born since July 2019.

The estate has now recovered the livestock and other properties held under State control. The reported deaths and losses have left outstanding questions about the receiver's accounting for the herd.

Interest Unresolved

Although the other seized properties have been returned, financial matters remain unresolved, particularly interest on money held by the State.

The State has committed to finalising outstanding inventory issues as the restitution process continues.

Court Rebuke

In a judgment delivered on 24 August 2026, Justice Pusoentsi set aside a July 2019 restraining order and directed the State to restore Kgosi's property within 30 days.

The order covered a Toyota Land Cruiser registered B 975 BHI, portions 82 and 83 of Farm Sentlhane No. 18-KO, and the cattle and their offspring. The properties had been placed under a court-appointed receiver during investigations into alleged corrupt practices.

Justice Pusoentsi criticised the State for retaining the assets for seven years without completing its investigations or instituting forfeiture proceedings. The court noted that the investigations had reportedly begun in 2011, about 15 years before the ruling.

Estate Continues Fight

The judge described the prolonged restraint as harassment and persecution, finding that the order had effectively been used as punishment before Kgosi was charged with wrongdoing.

Following his death in August 2024, Kgosi's widow, Matlho Jennifer Kgosi, was appointed curator bonis of his estate and continued the litigation.

From Page 3

assembly, persistent gender-based violence and Botswana's continued retention of the death penalty.

The organisation also warned that the Digital Services Act and Cybersecurity Act, enacted in 2025, could weaken privacy and freedom of expression without adequate independent safeguards.

DEATH PENALTY

Capital punishment is likely to remain contentious. No executions have been carried out under the UDC administration, but the death penalty remains on Botswana's statute books despite repeated international calls for abolition.

Several studies of public attitudes suggest that a significant proportion of Batswana support retaining capital punishment.

PRESS FREEDOM

Media freedom is another potential flashpoint. On 22 October 2026, the government announced plans to seek international technical cooperation for media reforms, with a proposed Media Bill expected before Parliament during its November sitting.

Sections of the media fraternity have criticised what they describe as sustained attacks on the press by the President, heightening scrutiny of the administration's reform agenda.

SUBMISSION TIMETABLE

The UPR process allows civil society organisations and independent human rights institutions to submit their own assessments alongside the government's account.

The provisional timetable identifies November 2027 for stakeholder submissions and February 2028 for Botswana's national report, ahead of the review in May.



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Kaizer Challenges Security Camp Restrictions

Selebi-Phikwe West MP Reuben Kaizer says restrictions at security camps deny him access to constituents, reviving a dispute over representation and protected installations.



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SESUPO RANTSIMAKO

Selebi-Phikwe West MP Reuben Kaizer has accused the Umbrella for Democratic Change (UDC) government of repeating restrictive practices of its Botswana Democratic Party (BDP) predecessor after being denied access to constituents at security camps in his constituency.

The Botswana Defence Force (BDF) and police say their installations cannot host political activities, while the Botswana Prisons Service says entry can be granted with prior approval.

MP PROTESTS

Kaizer argues that the restrictions undermine his mandate as an elected representative and are inconsistent with the democratic change promised by the UDC.

"I have been blocked from accessing BDF, police and prison camp as an MP," he wrote on Facebook.

The dispute raises questions about how MPs can engage constituents who live inside protected security installations.

BDF POSITION

Minister for State President, Defence and Security Moeti Mohwasa referred The Botswana Gazette's enquiries to the security agencies.

BDF spokesperson Lieutenant Colonel Fana Maswabi said military camps are protected areas where political activities are prohibited. He argued that security requirements make constituency meetings inside military installations difficult.

POLICE RESTRICTIONS

Botswana Police Service spokesperson Near Bagali said police camps are apolitical institutions and do not permit political meetings. Officers who wish to attend political gatherings may do so in their personal capacities while off duty.

Prisons spokesperson Oagile Kojane outlined a different arrangement, saying MPs may address constituents in prison facilities if they first obtain approval from the Commissioner of Prisons.

"As long as the MP sought entry to the commissioner detailing the agenda of the address and the dates, they will be allowed entry," Kojane told The Botswana Gazette.

OLD DISPUTE

The dispute echoes a 2018 clash when former Selebi-Phikwe West MP Dithapelo Keorapetse challenged restrictions on addressing soldiers stationed in his constituency.

Then Defence Minister Shaw Kgathi said legislators could meet soldiers outside military installations but not hold meetings inside camps, citing the BDF Act and other security laws.

The latest standoff again pits the security requirements of protected facilities against MPs' responsibility to represent their constituents.

Deposit and Lending Interest Rates Quarterly Report as at September 2026

Deposit rates

BWP - Botswana Pula

	Jul	Aug	Sep	Quarter
Type of deposit account	**Actual interest rate**	**Actual interest rate**	**Actual interest rate**	**Average effective rate**
Current	0.00% - 1.00%	0.00% - 1.00%	0.00% - 1.00%	0.25%
Call	0.10% - 0.35%	-	-	0.14%
Savings	0.00% - 2.72%	0.00% - 2.72%	0.00% - 2.72%	1.42%
91 days fixed deposit	1.30% - 4.50%	1.30% - 5.00%	1.30% - 4.00%	1.57%
6 months fixed deposit	1.46% - 9.50%	1.45% - 8.50%	1.46% - 9.25%	1.99%
12 months fixed deposit	0.00% - 9.00%	1.80% - 8.00%	1.80% - 12.00%	3.49%
24 months fixed deposit	1.46% - 3.62%	3.02% - 5.00%	3.12% - 4.00%	3.19%
36 months fixed deposit	1.46% - 4.50%	3.27% - 3.86%	3.32% - 3.87%	3.47%

ZAR - South African Rand

	Jul	Aug	Sep	Quarter
Type of deposit account	**Actual interest rate**	**Actual interest rate**	**Actual interest rate**	**Average effective rate**
	Jul	Aug	Sep	Quarter
Type of deposit account	Actual interest rate	Actual interest rate	Actual interest rate	Average effective rate
91 days fixed deposit	3.00%	3.00%	3.00%	3.00%
12 months fixed deposit	-	6.50%	-	6.50%

GBP - British Pounds

	Jul	Aug	Sep	Quarter
Type of deposit account	**Actual interest rate**	**Actual interest rate**	**Actual interest rate**	**Average effective rate**
12 months fixed deposit	2.00%	-	2.25%	2.13%

USD - U.S Dollar

	Jul	Aug	Sep	Quarter
Type of deposit account	**Actual interest rate**	**Actual interest rate**	**Actual interest rate**	**Average effective rate**
91 days fixed deposit	0.80%	0.20% - 0.80%	0.80% - 3.80%	1.65%
6 months fixed deposit	1.50% - 2.25%	1.25% - 1.85%	1.50% - 2.75%	1.87%
12 months fixed deposit	2.50%	2.50%	1.75%	2.25%

Lending rates

	July	August	September	Quarter
Lending Rates	**Actual interest rate**	**Actual interest rate**	**Actual interest rate**	**Average effective rate**
Monetary policy rate (MoPR)	5.50%			
Mortgage Facility	Absa PLR +0.5% - Absa PLR +13%	Absa PLR +0.5% - Absa PLR +10.75%	Absa PLR +0.5% - Absa PLR +10.75%	13.11%
Overdraft facility (revolving credit lines)	Absa PLR + 10% - Absa PLR +20%	Absa PLR + 10% - Absa PLR + 20%	Absa PLR +10% - Absa PLR +20%	24.07%
Credit card	24% - 36%	24% - 36%	24% - 36%	34.49%
Lease loans (VAF)	Absa PLR +5.50% - Absa PLR +13.50%	Absa PLR + 2.50% - Absa PLR + 13.50%	Absa PLR +0.5% - Absa PLR +11.75%	14.66%
Unsecured Personal Loans (Excluding Overdrafts, Mortgage and Credit Cards)	Absa PLR +1.5% - Absa PLR +25%	Absa PLR +1.5% - Absa PLR +25%	Absa PLR +0.5% - Absa PLR +25%	21.35%
Other long-term loans			Negotiable	
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Russia War Recruits Face Prosecution

Botswana warns citizens who knowingly join Russia's military that they risk prosecution at home, as 15 people linked to recruitment remain unaccounted for.



BONGANI MALUNGA

Batswana who knowingly enlist in the Russian military could face prosecution when they return home, the government has warned, as it attempts to locate 15 citizens linked to recruitment for the Russia-Ukraine war.

Minister of International Relations Phenyo Butale told Ntlo ya Dikgosi on Monday that some citizens had been lured by promises of lucrative jobs, while others were believed to have travelled knowing they would enter military service.

LEGAL WARNING

"Others travelled into Russia knowingly and they are said to have entered into some contracts with the Russian Federation," Butale said in response to Kgosi Ian Khama of GaMangwato.

He warned that voluntary involvement in a foreign armed conflict could breach Botswana's Foreign Enlistment Act, which restricts participation in foreign military conflicts without lawful authority. The risk of prosecution, he said, applies to those found to have deliberately enlisted.

FIFTEEN MISSING

Government figures show that 27 Batswana have been linked to Russian military recruitment since 25 June. Eight were intercepted before reaching Russia, four have been repatriated and 15 remain unaccounted for.

Butale said Batswana had previously been intercepted at OR Tambo International Airport in South Africa and Bole International Airport in Ethiopia as they attempted to travel to Russia.

ROUTES SHIFT

Authorities now fear some prospective recruits are avoiding monitored flights. Butale said some were believed to be travelling by bus into Zambia and arranging onward connections to Russia, making interception harder.

> Fifteen Batswana linked to Russian military recruitment remain unaccounted for, while others who enlisted knowingly face potential prosecution.

He also disclosed that fiscal pressures were limiting repatriation efforts because his ministry had no dedicated budget to bring affected citizens home.

DIPLOMATIC APPROACH

Despite the government's opposition to Batswana fighting in foreign wars, Butale said there were no immediate plans to lodge a formal diplomatic protest against Moscow.

"We believe in dialogue than protests," he said. He indicated that, if existing engagements failed, the issue could be raised directly between President Duma Boko and Russian President Vladimir Putin.

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UDC Won't Investigate 2019 Rigging Claims

The UDC government says it will not investigate its own allegations of 2019 election rigging, despite maintaining that the polls were manipulated

SESUPO RANTSIMAKO

The Umbrella for Democratic Change (UDC) government has ruled out investigating allegations that the Botswana Democratic Party (BDP) rigged the 2019 general elections, despite Minister for State President Moeti Mohwasa maintaining that the polls were manipulated.

Mohwasa told Ntlo ya Dikgosi that an investigation was no longer a government priority, saying the administration was concentrating on economic transformation and job creation.

PROBE RULED OUT

Responding to Kgosi Khama IV, Mohwasa said it would be imprudent to pursue the allegations now that the UDC had assumed power. He confirmed that the claims had been excluded from the forensic audit commissioned by the new administration.

The decision leaves unresolved allegations the UDC repeatedly raised while in opposition.

KHAMA DEMANDS ANSWERS

Khama questioned why suspected corruption under the previous administration warranted a forensic audit while alleged electoral manipulation did not. He argued that investigating the 2019 polls could deter future interference and hold any perpetrators accountable.

"You did well in commissioning the forensic audit. Now we want the government to investigate the election rigging and hold the perpetrators accountable," Khama IV said.

"If the UDC government believed that there are suspicions of corruption and launched a forensic audit, why can't they do the same with 2019 election rigging?" he asked.

BDP CHALLENGES CLAIMS

BDP Secretary General Kentse Rammidi challenged the UDC to substantiate its allegations or stop repeating claims it could not prove. He argued that the governing coalition now had the state resources needed to investigate and pursue anyone responsible.

"If there was rigging, the UDC could have long put the evidence on the table because they have all the resources and took the perpetrators to task," Rammidi told The Botswana Gazette.

Rammidi insisted that the UDC identify where and how the alleged rigging occurred, saying unsubstantiated accusations against the former ruling party should end.

ACCOUNTABILITY GAP

The government's position places its continued insistence that the 2019 election was rigged alongside a refusal to investigate the claim. Mohwasa says the economy and jobs must take precedence, while critics argue that electoral accountability cannot be left unanswered.

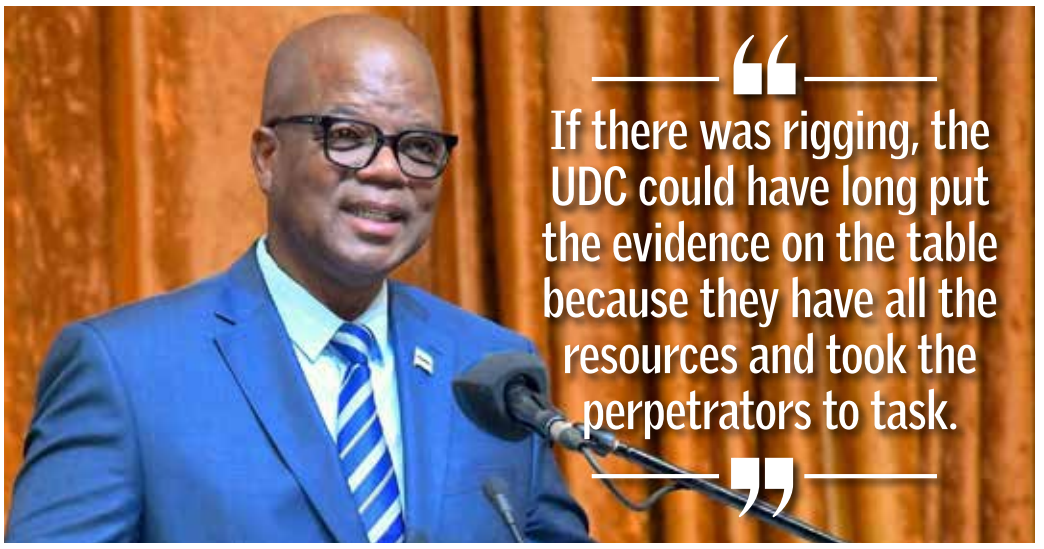


Photo Credit: @TheDailyReport

DE BEERS GROUP

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI)–ACCREDITED TRAINING SERVICES PROVIDERS

BACKGROUND AND OBJECTIVES

De Beers Group (De Beers) is a leading diamond company with expertise spanning the exploration, mining, sorting, valuing, sales and marketing of diamonds. Guided by our purpose, Make Life Brilliant, we are committed to creating lasting socio-economic value in the countries and communities where we operate.

The De Beers Global Sightholder Sales Academy relocated from London to Gaborone in 2013, with a primary focus on providing technical diamond training and education to employees and external stakeholders. Since then, the Academy has evolved in response to changing customer needs, market trends and advances in technology.

The Academy is registered with the Botswana Qualifications Authority (BQA) as a Conventional Education and Training Provider (ETP) and is ISO 9001:2015 certified by Alpha Certification Services

EOI REQUIREMENTS

Submissions are requested for companies with the Human Resource Development Council accredited courses to provide training and related services to the De Beers Academy.
Our objective is to identify high-quality training providers capable of delivering practical interventions that support skills development and professional growth.
We are interested in programmes that are tailored to meet organizational and workforce development needs.
All interested parties should submit an EOI indicating their capability, resources and experience in delivering services of this nature.

SCOPE OF SERVICES

Successful candidates will be able to effectively deliver the following responsibilities:
- Provide training services, conference and teambuilding services
- Provide all related supporting documents to enable De Beers to facilitate claims from the HRDF
- Track participant progress, assess the effectiveness of learning activities, and provide actionable feedback to the De Beers team, as requested.
- Monitor participant engagement and identify areas where additional support is needed
- Provide post training reports and improvements to De Beers where necessary

CRITERIA:

A fully registered company in the Republic of Botswana
Proof of valid accredited courses with the relevant authorities in Botswana (Human Resource Development Council & Botswana Qualifications Authority)
Provide a list of facilitators and/or assessors with relevant qualifications & experience

SUBMISSIONS

All submissions should be sent via email and titled Provision of Accredited Training Services Providers and must be emailed to &DBGSSProcurement@debeersgroup.com no later than 15:00hrs on the 20 November 2026.

Late submissions, physical submissions, facsimile, telephone or telefaxed submissions will not be accepted.

LIMITATIONS

This is an Expression of Interest only; it is not a procurement document nor is it a request for tender. The information contained in this EOI is intended for information purposes only to assist interested parties in assessing whether to respond to such a request. No representation or warranty express or implied, is made by DBGSS or any of its agents, as to the accuracy or completeness of such information. Neither DBGSS nor its agents will be responsible for, and hereby expressly disclaim, any and all liability for any errors, omissions or inaccuracies in connection therewith. In its response to this EOI, the respondent must disclose to DBGSS any potential conflict of interest that might compromise this process. If such a conflict of interest does exist, DBGSS may, at its discretion, refuse to consider the response in question.

REPUBLIC OF BOTSWANA
MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT AND INFRASTRUCTURE

REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA
MINISTRY OF INFRASTRUCTURE, HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

KAZUNGULA BRIDGE AUTHORITY
P O Box 416, Kasane, Botswana. Tel: 00267 625 3029, E-mail: info@kba.africa
EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST (EOI)

EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST FOR CONSULTING SERVICES TO DESIGN AND DELIVER AN EMPLOYEE TRANSITION SUPPORT PROGRAMME FOR EMPLOYEES OF THE KAZUNGULA BRIDGE PROJECT OFFICE (KBPO) DURING THE TRANSITION TO THE KAZUNGULA BRIDGE AUTHORITY (KBA)

1.0. Background

The Kazungula Bridge is a landmark regional infrastructure project jointly developed by the Governments of the Republic of Botswana and the Republic of Zambia to strengthen regional integration, facilitate trade, promote tourism and stimulate economic growth across Southern Africa.

Following the successful completion of the Project, the two Governments established the Kazungula Bridge Authority (KBA) as the permanent institution responsible for the management, operation and maintenance of the Kazungula Bridge and its associated infrastructure. Accordingly, the Kazungula Bridge Project Office (KBPO), which oversaw the Project's implementation and initial operational phases, is transitioning into the permanent Authority.

This transition represents a significant organisational transformation involving the establishment of a new institutional structure, workforce realignment and recruitment into the approved KBA establishment. Some employees may be appointed to positions within KBA, while others may experience changes in their roles, responsibilities or employment status.

Organisational transitions of this nature can create uncertainty and may have psychosocial, emotional, professional and financial consequences for employees. If not managed effectively, these challenges may adversely affect employee wellbeing, morale, productivity and organisational performance.

In recognition of its duty of care, KBA intends to implement a structured Employee Transition Support Programme (ETSP) to help employees navigate organisational change, build resilience, promote psychological wellbeing, strengthen career readiness and improve financial preparedness.

KBA therefore invites suitably qualified consultancy firms to design and deliver an integrated Employee Transition Support Programme that supports employees throughout this important institutional transition.

2.0. Scope

The Consultant shall undertake, but shall not be limited to, the following activities:

2.1. **Inception and Programme Planning**
- Hold an inception meeting with KBA Management.
- Review relevant background information.
- Conduct a rapid organisational and employee needs assessment.
- Develop a detailed implementation plan.
- Prepare an inception report.

2.2. **Organisational Change Management**
Design and facilitate interactive sessions covering:
- Understanding organisational change.
- Managing uncertainty.
- Organisational resilience.
- Managing emotions during change.
- Building confidence in times of uncertainty.
- Maintaining productivity during organisational transitions.

2.3. **Employee Psychosocial Support**
Provide structured psychosocial support through:
- Group wellness sessions.
- Stress management.
- Emotional resilience.
- Anxiety management.
- Coping strategies.
- Work-life balance.

The Consultant shall also provide confidential one-on-one counselling sessions for employees who require individual support.

2.4. **Career Transition Support**
Provide practical career-transition support covering:
- Career planning.
- Career coaching.
- Skills assessment.
- CV review and enhancement.
- Cover letter development.
- Interview preparation.
- Personal branding.
- Job search strategies.
- Networking skills.

2.5. **Financial Wellness**
Deliver practical financial-wellness sessions covering:
- Budgeting.
- Personal financial planning.
- Debt management.
- Managing severance or terminal benefits.
- Income diversification.
- Financial resilience.

2.6. **Leadership Support**
Conduct a dedicated session for managers covering:
- Leading organisational change.
- Managing difficult conversations.
- Employee engagement.
- Supporting employee wellbeing.
- Maintaining productivity.
- Building resilient teams.

2.7. **Programme Close-Out**
The Consultant shall:
- Conduct programme evaluations.
- Facilitate a management debrief.
- Present preliminary findings.
- Submit the Draft and Final Consultancy Reports.

3.0. Main Deliverables
The Consultant shall submit the following deliverables:
1. Inception Report.
2. Detailed Work Plan.
3. Diagnostic Assessment Summary.
4. Training and Facilitation Materials.
5. Attendance Registers.
6. Individual Counselling Schedule (confidential).
7. Workshop Evaluation Report.
8. Management Debrief Presentation.
9. Draft Final Consultancy Report.
10. Final Consultancy Report.
11. Post-Transition Employee Support Recommendations.

4.0. Qualification Criteria

4.1. The Consulting Firm shall demonstrate the following:
- A minimum of five (5) years' experience in organisational development, human resource consulting, employee wellness, change management or related fields.
- Proven experience in delivering similar assignments for governments, public institutions, regional organisations or development partners.
- Demonstrated experience in organisational restructuring, psychosocial support or employee assistance programmes.
- Experience within Botswana, Zambia or the Southern African region will be an added advantage.

4.2. KEY PERSONNEL
The Consultant shall provide, at a minimum, the following key experts:
- Team Leader / Organisational Change Management Specialist.
- Clinical or Counselling Psychologist (professionally registered).
- Career Transition Specialist.
- Financial Wellness Specialist.

All proposed experts shall possess relevant academic qualifications and a minimum of five (5) years of relevant professional experience in their respective fields.

5.0. Expressions of Interest must be submitted in sealed envelopes addressed to the Procurement Manager, Kazungula Bridge Authority. Submissions must be delivered by courier to the Procurement Manager's Office at the DRTS Plot, along the A33 Road, Kazungula, Botswana, no later than 10:00 hours Botswana time on **Friday, 16th November 2026**. Submissions will be opened at that time in the presence of bidders who choose to attend.

Each sealed envelope must be clearly marked:
"Expressions of Interest (EOI) for Consulting Services to Design and Deliver an Employee Transition Support Programme for Employees of the Kazungula Bridge Project Office (KBPO) during the Transition to the Kazungula Bridge Authority (KBA)."

Telegraphic and electronic Expressions of Interest will not be accepted.

Requests for clarification should be sent to info@kba.africa and procurement@kba.afrika.

Procurement Manager
Kazungula Bridge Authority

FROM PAGE 2

What his school does have is a shortage. "Currently we are running short of textbooks across all subjects," he said. "Learners are sharing textbooks in the ratio of 1 book: 10 learners." The books they have are "outdated textbooks that do not match curriculum."

EMPTY PLATES

The president's eggs and yoghurt would land in a feeding programme that councils are struggling to sustain. In Kanye, the chairperson of the district council told councillors in June that supplier delays were a continuing problem, with some schools receiving beans and samp only in part.

In the North West District, the council warned last year that inadequate funding had prompted a proposal to cut some of the food supplied to primary schools. It needed P70 million to feed learners at 39 primary schools, was spending more than P2 million a month and had only P6.5 million left, according to a Daily News report. Its chairperson acknowledged an "inconsistent supply of food items." Among the proposed cuts, eggs would be served once a week instead of three times.

> "Areas that need immediate government funding at the moment include school infrastructure, provision of teaching and learning resources and teacher training and professional development,"

A SCOPE THAT GREW

School audits started on 9 September, according to Peter Nkaiseng, managing director of Emeritus in Botswana. Kits were to reach schools from 6 October, and teacher training was to begin on 19 October.

It was at Marulamantsi that the programme's reach appeared to widen. Of the five deliverables Nkaiseng listed, the last was curriculum review. "We are in the process of reviewing the curriculum for standards one to seven," he said. A team "under the banner of Logika" would do the work, he said, and "that process is now about to commence."

The minister had declared the curriculum overhauled. Her contractor said the central work on the primary curriculum was only now about to commence.



The Kanye teacher knows what a curriculum without materials looks like in a classroom. "There comes a time when the syllabus refers teachers to pages in certain textbooks," she said, "but there is no reference point because the textbooks are not available."

The Gazette sent written questions to the ministry, its Department of Curriculum Development and Evaluation, Emeritus and the teacher unions, asking when curriculum review became part of the contract, who authorised it and who will approve it. None answered.

THE DEAL

In August 2025 the Public Procurement Regulatory Authority completed an investigation into the original P662.6 million procurement. The ministry had not justified bypassing competitive bidding, the regulator found, and "the convenience of the encounter of the benchmarking team with Emeritus" was no justification. The procurement was "unplanned, not budgeted for, and poorly conceptualized," with a scope so thin it would "effectively allow the bidder to dictate the risk and cost profile of the project." Emeritus had not proved its experience or substantiated its capacity. PPRA ordered the procurement cancelled.

A rival company, Tecboe, had already gone to court, and the High Court made parts of the regulator's directive an order of court. In December the Court of Appeal overturned that order on procedural grounds, a technicality that left the regulator's findings untouched.

Government went ahead. By July it had awarded Emeritus a revised five-year contract, again directly, worth P654,444,869.46. Kgafela-Mokoka told the Gazette at the time that "all legal disputes surrounding the procurement had been resolved" and that Emeritus was chosen "because of its expertise."

The regulator sees it differently. In a letter to the Gazette on 5 October, PPRA said the matters "remain under consideration and have not been finally disposed of," including Emeritus's experience and capacity. Asked whether the programme's scope had changed, it said it could not yet "express a concluded view."

BEEN HERE BEFORE

Botswana has tried this before. Outcome-based education, introduced after a curriculum review around 2019, began in a handful of senior secondary schools in 2021. In January 2025, Professor Agreement Jotia, then a deputy permanent secretary in the ministry, called it "a curriculum revamp that was never resourced." In Parliament in March this year, Kgafela-Mokoka said it had lacked resources and teacher training. Not one primary school teacher had been trained in it, she said, and only 1,185 of 3,232 senior secondary teachers had been.

Those conditions have not gone away. Presenting her budget the same month, the minister said her ministry had faced funding shortages in 2025/26 for textbooks and stationery, temporary teachers' salaries, utilities and school maintenance. It now has "funds for five months to pay temporary teachers."

In Kanye, the senior teacher sees the result every day. Many teachers left to further their studies, she said, and most were never replaced. "This resulted in a situation where most classes had 40 plus students under one teacher," she said. "In most cases three students share a table suitable for only one student. Some even share chairs in the worst cases."

At Marulamantsi, the minister named the danger herself. "Equipment alone does not transform education," she said. "A robotics kit in a cupboard is not innovation."

ON ITS KNEES

Publishers, whose business depends on government orders, have watched the shortage deepen. One, who asked not to be named, said book procurement had declined for a decade under the Botswana Democratic Party, and that they had hoped the new government would turn it around. Last year, the publisher said, government bought a small fraction of what schools need. This year, the publisher said, the deadlines for ordering primary school books have passed, and no new primary textbooks have been ordered.

The publisher described the system as "on its knees" and asked what would become of the children who start school next year. They questioned the wisdom of committing so much money to something new while the backlog grows.

The cost of such gaps is well documented. A World Bank evaluation in Ghana found that textbook provision accounted for about a quarter of the improvement in pupils' test scores. Technology does little on its own: a review of 126 rigorous studies by J-PAL, a research centre at MIT, found that "supplying computers and internet alone generally do not improve students' academic outcomes." In Botswana, roughly one in four of the 52,766 pupils who sat the Primary School Leaving Examination in 2025 failed to reach a grade C, according to the Botswana Examinations Council.

A DROP IN THE OCEAN

Government has made overtures. The state-owned Education Infrastructure and Management Company has P1 billion this year for school repairs, and a P265 million programme is refurbishing 22 schools by March. An FNB Botswana Foundation partnership is putting P950,000 into doors and windows at 20 schools.

Against the need, it is a drop in the ocean. EIMC itself puts the cost of refurbishing the country's 1,020 public schools at about P7 billion, and its first 22 schools are all secondary. None of these programmes buys a textbook. The P654.4 million committed to Emeritus is more than twice what EIMC is spending on those 22 schools.

The primary school teacher was blunt about where money is needed first. "Areas that need immediate government funding at the moment include school infrastructure, provision of teaching and learning resources and teacher training and professional development," he said.

A FAMILIAR WARNING

Botswana has learned the cost of direct appointments before, and usually late. In 2021, the procurement board approved the direct engagement of Steve Harvey Global for television and radio production, a deal then reported at about P470 million. Only this August, long after the deal was struck, did Parliament's Public Accounts Committee hear that it was worth more than P1 billion, with about P355 million paid in its first year. The Gazette alleges no wrongdoing by the company; the questions concern how government bought.

PPRA warned of the same danger with Emeritus: a bid whose gaps posed risks of "uncontrolled expenditure that has the potential to exceed the current bid price during implementation."

THE SAME PROBLEMS

In January, a new cohort of children will begin Standard One. One publisher says no new books have been ordered for them. The president says they should eat eggs and yoghurt. In Kanye, the WhatsApp groups will be waiting.

In Ntlo ya Dikgosi on Monday, Kgosi Malope II warned what would happen if the basics were left unfixed. "The same problems," he said, "will persist."

BOTSWANA BUREAU OF STANDARDS
EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

ADDENDUM: CORRECTION OF TENABLE LOCATION

23rd October 2026

POSITION: ENGINEER COMPULSORY STANDARDS – ELECTRICAL: VACANCY NO.: 08/2026/27

Applicants are hereby informed that the tenable location for the position of **Engineer, Compulsory Standards – Electrical, Vacancy No. 08/2026/27**, was inadvertently omitted from the vacancy advertisement published on the *BOBS Facebook page* on Wednesday 21 October 2026, in *The Botswana Gazette* of Wednesday, 21 October 2026, and in *The Voice* newspaper of Friday, 23 October 2026.

The omission is hereby corrected as follows:

POSITION: ENGINEER COMPULSORY STANDARDS – ELECTRICAL (FRANCISTOWN BRANCH): **VACANCY NO.:** 08/2026/27

The Botswana Bureau of Standards (BOBS) apologises for any inconvenience caused by this omission. Please note that all other requirements and conditions of the vacancy remain unchanged.

Thank you,
Mokaladi Moitoi
BOBS

World Bank Questions Botswana Recovery

Botswana's return to growth may conceal falling diamond sales, weak household demand and mounting fiscal strain, the World Bank warns in its October 2026 outlook.



Photo Credit:africanleadershipmagazine

GAZETTE REPORTER

Botswana's return to economic growth may be masking structural weaknesses, with rising diamond production failing to translate into stronger exports, the World Bank has warned.

In its October 2026 Macro Poverty Outlook, the Bank cautions that the recovery follows two consecutive years of contraction and may not be as strong or sustainable as headline growth figures suggest.

REBOUND QUESTIONED

After contracting by 2.8 percent in 2024 and 0.7 percent in 2025, the economy grew by 3.5 percent year-on-year in the first quarter of 2026, supported by mining, electricity generation, diamond trading and selected services.

However, the Bank says "the recovery could be partially misleading". Diamond production rose by 4.8 percent year-on-year in the first quarter, but stronger output was not matched by stronger export sales. De Beers' sales fell by 23 percent in the first half of 2026, while diamond exports dropped by 33.6 percent, increasing inventories.

WEAK DOMESTIC DEMAND

Growth was driven largely by inventory accumulation and public consumption rather than household spending and private investment.

"Household consumption contracted by 3.2 percent and gross fixed capital formation fell by 10.4 percent," the report states. Utilities, trade and mining grew while agriculture and construction contracted, pointing to what the Bank calls a "fragile and narrowly based recovery".

LIVING COSTS RISE

Inflation increased from 4.2 percent in March to 10.7 percent in June 2026, driven by higher fuel and food costs linked to conflict in the Middle East. The report says this is "eroding household purchasing power and disproportionately affecting poorer households."

FISCAL SQUEEZE

Foreign reserves increased from US$3.5 billion in December 2025 to US$4.4 billion in April 2026, equivalent to about seven months of import cover. The improvement was supported by external borrowing, Southern African Customs Union receipts and changes in banking-sector portfolios.

Between June 2025 and June 2026, the pula weakened by 5.7 percent against the US dollar and 12.5 percent against the South African rand. The fiscal deficit is estimated at 5.9 percent of GDP, while public debt reached about 32.1 percent of GDP in the first quarter of 2026.

The World Bank calls for tighter spending controls, restraint of the wage bill, rationalisation of transfers to state-owned enterprises and improved public investment appraisal and procurement. It cautions that government arrears are not fully captured in headline debt figures.

FRAGILE OUTLOOK

The Bank forecasts real GDP growth of 3.4 percent in 2026 and about 3 percent in both 2027 and 2028, with only a marginal reduction in poverty over the following two years.

It says "economic diversification and stronger job creation" are needed for inclusive growth. Risks include weaker diamond demand, higher fuel prices, foot-and-mouth disease outbreaks, El Niño-related weather, tighter financing, falling SACU receipts and delays in fiscal and structural reforms.

Botswana Slips In Global Governance Index

Botswana drops from 62nd in 2025 to 70th in 2026 in the 2026 Chandler Good Government Index as weaker financial stewardship and citizen outcomes overshadow stronger laws and policies.

GAZETTE REPORTER

Botswana has fallen eight places in the Chandler Good Government Index (CGGI), with deteriorating financial management and citizen outcomes pushing its overall ranking from 62nd in 2025 to 70th in 2026.

The country's Financial Stewardship ranking dropped from 63rd to 82nd, while its Helping People Rise position fell from 97th to 105th, raising questions about whether government institutions are translating policy commitments into improvements in daily life.

RANKINGS DECLINE

Botswana recorded an overall index score of 0.488. The report notes that its performance in laws and policies remains comparatively stronger than its financial stewardship and outcomes for citizens.

"Botswana entered the measurement period with rule-of-law scores stronger than several of the improving countries, yet recorded one of the largest Helping People Rise declines," the report states.

DIAMOND PRESSURE

The CGGI links Botswana's difficulties to economic pressure following a collapse in diamond revenues. It reports that diamonds account for more than 80 percent of exports and that mineral revenues dropped from a budgeted P25.2 billion to P8.7 billion as unemployment reached 27.6 percent.

> "Botswana entered the measurement period with rule-of-law scores stronger than several of the improving countries, yet recorded one of the largest Helping People Rise declines."

Botswana's Robust Laws and Policies score improved from 0.562 to 0.611 over the measurement period, but its Financial Stewardship score declined from 0.534 to 0.465. Leadership and Foresight also fell, from 0.588 to 0.551.

UNEVEN PERFORMANCE

The index measures seven pillars: Leadership and Foresight, Robust Laws and Policies, Strong Institutions, Financial Stewardship, Attractive Marketplace, Global Influence and Reputation, and Helping People Rise.

Six pillars examine government capabilities, while Helping People Rise assesses whether those capacities improve citizens' lives. Its measures include education, health, public services, safety, the environment, income distribution, employment, gender equality, price stability and non-discrimination.

Botswana ranked 25th for Leadership and Foresight, 36th for Robust Laws and Policies, 56th for Strong Institutions, 82nd for Financial Stewardship and 105th for Helping People Rise.

GOVERNANCE CHALLENGE

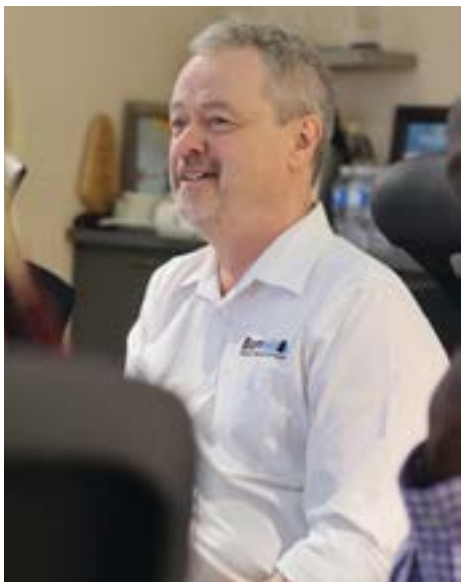
The country's overall ranking has moved from 51st in 2021 to 55th in 2022, 63rd in 2023, 58th in 2024, 62nd in 2025 and 70th in 2026.

The report warns that stronger institutions alone do not guarantee better outcomes. Governments must convert capacity into effective reforms so that citizens are "healthier, safer, better educated, and more fairly treated for years to come, provided governments act on them."

Namibian Fund Studies Bomaid Model

As Namibia reviews medical aid administration, RMA is examining Bomaid's two decades of self-administration for lessons in oversight, technology and customer care.







LEATILE ZACHARIAH

Legislative reforms in Namibia have brought a delegation from Renaissance Health Medical Aid Fund (RMA) to Botswana to examine how Bomaid has administered its own operations for more than 20 years.

GOVERNANCE REVIEW

The delegation visited Bomaid's headquarters in Gaborone on Monday, 26 October, for a benchmarking engagement focused on medical aid administration, regional cooperation and the exchange of operational experience. The reforms require Namibian funds to review their administrative arrangements, particularly the balance between outsourced services and in-house operations.

The visiting Namibian delegation comprised the following representatives:

- Gabriel Tjombe, board chairperson, Renaissance Health Medical Aid Fund (RMA).
- Benny Amuenje, vice-chairperson, RMA.
- Kevin Adams, board member, RMA.
- Claudia //Hoebes, board member, RMA.
- Harold Kaune, board member, RMA.
- Tiaan Serfontein, managing director, Prosperity Health Namibia (RMA's administrator).
- Margot Gebhardt, executive for legal and compliance, Prosperity Health Namibia.
- Laurika George, principal officer, RMA.

Bomaid chief executive Moraki Mokgosana outlined the fund's efforts to invest in technology, develop internal capabilities and improve operating processes. He said effective medical aid administration depends on people, processes, technology and controls working together to improve efficiency and customer outcomes.

TWO DECADES

Chief clinical services officer Dr Malebogo Kebabonye said Bomaid's experience as a self-administered fund for more than two decades had given it practical insight into the capabilities and challenges that come with running these functions internally.



Kebabonye also pointed to regulatory developments across the Southern African Development Community (SADC), including discussions about National Health Insurance and tighter oversight to protect medical aid customers. She said exchanges between funds could help improve administration and access to healthcare.

SYSTEMS AND CLAIMS

Chief information technology officer Mandla Mapeo explained how Bomaid's Thobo Fund Administration Platform supports claims adjudication, pre-authorisation, billing, benefits administration and managed care.

He also outlined the Thrive with Bomaid wellness platform, specialised system integrations and business-continuity infrastructure, including the fund's primary data centre, disaster recovery site and network connectivity.

Claims manager Dr Lady Modise described the controls used in claims administration, including the Bomaid Book of Rules, the Medcap hospital management system and specialised risk-management partnerships. Kebabonye explained how clinical decision-making, provider practices and population health analytics inform claims patterns, risk assessment and healthcare planning.

CUSTOMER PRESSURES

Chief customer experience officer Segolame Macheng said medical aid funds must balance membership growth and financial sustainability with service quality. She highlighted accessible service channels, provider networks, technology and customer engagement as factors in maintaining affordable, reliable access to care.

Outsourcing Lessons

RMA principal officer Laurika George said Bomaid's model offered lessons in understanding customers' healthcare journeys through internal administration. RMA was particularly interested in how Bomaid manages outsourced services through service-level agreements while maintaining accountability and organisational values.

George said the knowledge gained from the visit would help inform RMA's ongoing transition.





KAZUNGULA
BRIDGE AUTHORITY

INVITATION FOR BIDS

IFB No. KBA/ORD/006/2026.
TENDER FOR PROVISION OF MAINTENANCE AND SECURITY SERVICES AT THE KAZUNGULA ONE STOP BORDER POINTS (OSBPS) - LONG TERM CONTRACTS

1) The Kazungula Bridge Authority (the Client) has received funding and intends to use part of these funds for eligible payments under the contract covered by this invitation to bid.
2) KBA invites eligible bidders to submit bids for the provision of maintenance and security services at the Kazungula One Stop Border Point (OSBP) under long-term contracts, comprising the following lots:

Line Item N*	Description of Goods	Final (Project Site) Destination
Lot 1	**Security Service** (a) Physical Security Services – One Stop Border Point (OSBP) Botswana – **Lumpsum Contracts**	OSB Botswana
Lot 2:	**Maintenance Services** (b) Maintenance works OSBP Botswana (painting, carpentry, roof ceiling, leakages etc.) – **Lumpsum Contracts**	OSB Botswana
Lot 3:	**Office Cleaning Services** (c) Cleaning Services- OSBP Botswana – **Lumpsum Contracts**	OSB Botswana
Lot 4:	**Grounds Cleaning** (d) Grounds and waste management - OSBP Botswana – **Lumpsum Contracts**	OSB Botswana
Lot 5:	**Litter and Sanitary collection** KBA Office and 5Km on A33 road towards Lesoma Junction – **Lumpsum Contracts**	Botswana
Lot 6:	**Flovac Vacuum Sewage System Maintenance** (e) Sewerage system maintenance- OSBP Botswana – **Lumpsum Contracts**	OSB Botswana
Lot 7:	**Hotel and Conference facilities** (f) Conference and Banqueting Botswana – **Framework Contracts**	OSB Botswana
Lot 8:	**Airflight agents for KBA staff** (g) Air travel KBA Staff – **Framework Contracts**	Botswana
Lot 9:	**Fabrication and Road Signage** (h) Physical advertising – Botswana – **Framework Contracts**	Botswana
Lot 10:	**Advertising** (i) Media Houses – Botswana – **Framework Contracts**	Botswana
Lot 11:	**Stationery and Toners** KBA Offices – Botswana – **Framework Contracts**	Botswana
Lot 12	**Fuel services** Fuel supply – Botswana – **Framework Contracts**	Botswana

3) This solicitation is open to all eligible bidders in Botswana.
4) Bidding will be conducted through the Open National Competitive (ONC) procurement method in accordance with the Public Procurement Act No. 24 of 2021, the Public Procurement Regulations, 2023 (Statutory Instrument No. 23 of 2023), and guidelines issued by the Public Procurement Regulatory Authority (PPRA).
5) Bids must be delivered by hand or courier to the Office of the Procurement Manager, KBA, Kasane, Botswana, no later than **30 November 2026 at 10:00 hrs**. Each bid must be clearly marked-LOT (-) **"Tender for the Provision of Maintenance and Security Services at the Kazungula One Stop Border Points (OSBPs) – Long-Term Contracts" and "Do Not Open Before 30 November 2026 at 10:00"** and must be accompanied by a Bid-Securing Declaration. Bids will be opened at that time in the presence of bidders or their representatives who choose to attend.
6) - A non-refundable deposit of **P500.00** payable by cash or bank deposit to the account below and produce proof of deposit upon collection of the tender documents in favor of Kazungula Bridge Authority is required for collection of the document.
- Youth owned companies shall pay only **P250.00** as per Presidential Directive CAB 14(B) 2015. In addition, youth companies shall provide certified copies of Omang for shareholders.
7) The physical address for collection of tender documents is Procurement Office
Kazungula Bridge Authority, DRTS Plot, Along A33 Road, Kazungula Botswana
Or
Sent to the bidder electronically upon receipt of proof of payment.

8) A **compulsory** site visit with representatives of the Procuring Entity will take place at Kazungula, One Stop Border Post-Botswana on 10 November 2026 and 11 November 2026
-Grounds Cleaning & Waste Management- 10:00am-11:30am
-Office Cleaning Services- 12:00-13:00pm
-Physical Security Services-14:00-15:00
-Maintenance Services: Maintenance works OSBP Botswana (painting, carpentry, roof ceiling, leakages etc.)- 10:00am-11:00am (11/11/2026)
- Litter and Sanitary collection :KBA Office and 5Km on A33 road towards Lesoma Junction- 11:30am- 12:30 am (11/11/2026)
9) Bids shall remain valid for 120 days after the bid-closing date. For purposes of clarifications, contact us at **info@kba.africa** or **procurement@kba.africa** no later than 7Days before bid closing date.

Procurement Manager
Kazungula Bridge Authority

Botswana's Mozambique Military Intervention Fragile

A new study credits Botswana's troops with containing militants in Mozambique but warns that weaknesses in the regional mission left its security gains vulnerable to reversal.



GAZETTE REPORTER

Botswana's military intervention in Mozambique helped suppress insurgent operations but failed to establish lasting stability, according to a new study that questions the long-term impact of regional military diplomacy.

The study, titled 'Assessing Botswana's Military Diplomacy and Its Contribution to Security in Mozambique: A Study of the SADC Mission in Mozambique (SAMIM)', found that Botswana's participation in the Southern African Development Community mission from 2021 to 2024 produced 'moderately positive but ultimately limited impacts' in insurgency-hit Cabo Delgado.

FRAGILE GAINS

The research was authored by Botswana Defence Force (BDF) Brigadier Rashia Phofuetsile, Director of Organisational Support, Peterlinus Odote, a lecturer at the National Defence University-Kenya in Nairobi, and Kizito Sabala, a lecturer at the University of Nairobi.

The authors found that the intervention suppressed militant activity, improved intelligence-sharing and opened humanitarian access. But those gains were undermined by operational weaknesses and the withdrawal of foreign forces.

"These achievements were fragile and were easily reversed," the researchers argue. They credit SAMIM with building "regional collective pressure", reducing insurgents' operational capacity and restoring state presence in some districts. The mission also demonstrated SADC's willingness to confront a cross-border security threat.

INTELLIGENCE WEAKNESSES

Intelligence-sharing was identified as SAMIM's most significant operational advantage. Information on militant movements, supply routes and planned attacks helped forces anticipate threats, position patrols and reduce attacks during peak periods.

Formal SADC channels and bilateral cooperation, particularly with Mozambique and Rwanda, strengthened situational awareness. However, "Frequent information security incidents" damaged trust among participating forces, while irregular attendance at joint intelligence meetings exposed different national priorities and working practices.

The study found that forces struggled to gather strategic intelligence on the financial networks, recruitment systems and cross-border activities sustaining the insurgency. Short deployment cycles, uneven military capabilities and parallel bilateral operations also weakened continuity and unified command.

WITHDRAWAL FALLOUT

According to reporting cited in the study, Botswana led a phased withdrawal in April 2024. As foreign troops left, insurgents adapted, regained ground in some districts and continued exploiting porous borders and governance weaknesses.

"Tactical containment is valuable in its own right but is not necessarily strategic stabilisation," the authors warn.

BEYOND MILITARY FORCE

The researchers call for stronger joint intelligence structures, secure communications, dedicated analytical teams, longer and better-coordinated deployments, and clearer coordination with bilateral missions, including Rwanda's.

They also recommend predictable funding for SADC, a stronger Standby Force and parallel reforms in governance, development, policing and Mozambique's armed forces.

"[Military diplomacy] cannot secure lasting stability without parallel institutional, political and developmental actions that tackle the structural causes of violence," the study concludes.

WHO Flags Gaps In Ebola Defences

A WHO assessment calls for stronger traveller tracking, staffing and isolation capacity at northern entry points as regional Ebola risks heighten pressure on Botswana's health defences.

BONGANI MALUNGA

Botswana needs stronger traveller tracking, more frontline staff and better isolation facilities at northern border crossings, according to a World Health Organization (WHO) assessment that identifies weaknesses in Ebola preparedness.

The findings, published in WHO Botswana's July to September 2026 newsletter released last Wednesday, follow a preparedness mission to Chobe District.

BORDER INSPECTIONS

Led by the Ministry of Local Government and Traditional Affairs, the mission included WHO representative Dr Fabian Ndenzako and national and district officials. It inspected Ngoma Border Post, Kazungula One Stop Border Post, Kazungula Road Border and Kasane International Airport.

The report called for "strengthening traveller tracking systems, increasing staffing levels, improving isolation facilities, and conducting regular training and simulation exercises." It also commended cooperation among border stakeholders, neighbouring countries and frontline personnel.

> "strengthening traveller tracking systems, increasing staffing levels, improving isolation facilities, and conducting regular training and simulation exercises."

REGIONAL RISK

A WHO update of 23 October recorded 9,704 confirmed Ebola cases and 4,687 deaths in the Democratic Republic of Congo, using data up to 20 October. It also reports imported infections in Kenya and Nigeria.

According to an Associated Press report carried by CNN and cited in the draft, a patient in Kenya travelled from the DRC through Uganda before arriving in Nairobi, while Nigeria's first confirmed patient had arrived from Uganda. The journeys illustrate why officials need to assess a traveller's full route rather than only the immediate country of departure.

MONITORING PRIORITIES

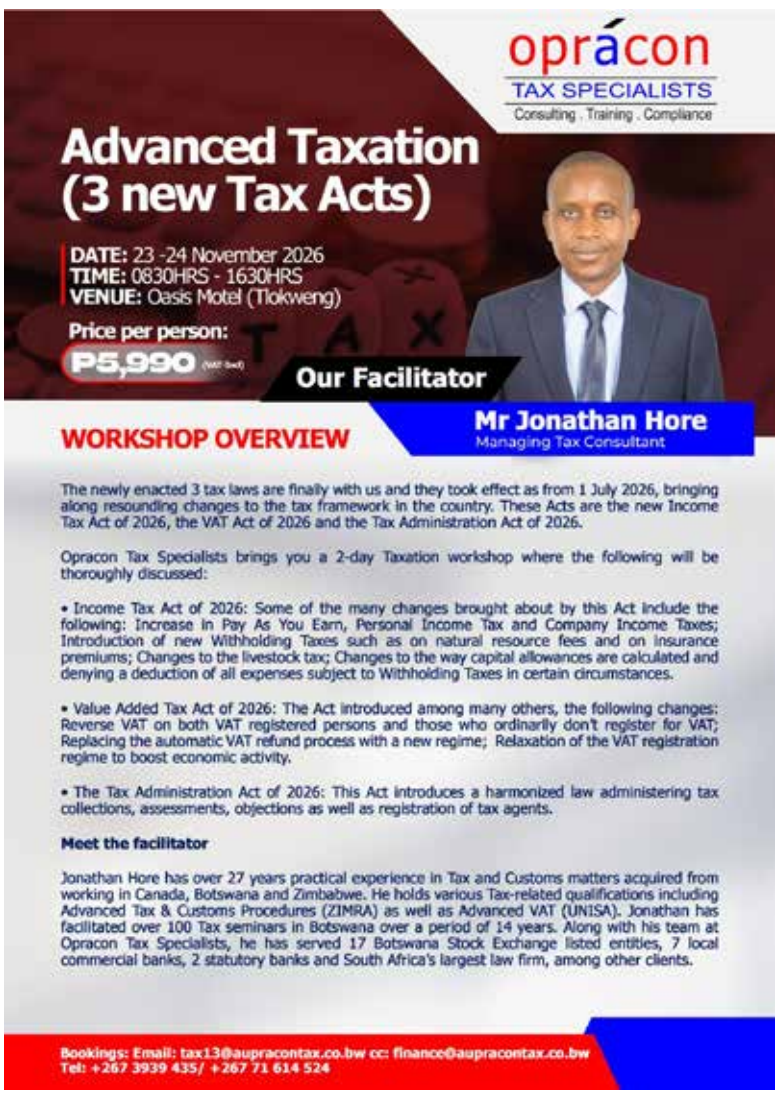
WHO has urged regional authorities to maintain monitoring at entry points, update response plans, ensure safe laboratory testing and keep clinical and rapid response teams ready.

For Botswana, those measures would include checks on recent travel and possible exposure among people arriving from affected areas, including those who transit through other countries.

Twenty-One Days

Ebola has an incubation period of two to 21 days, meaning a person can cross a border before developing symptoms. WHO recommends that travellers from areas with community transmission receive clear advice on what to do if symptoms appear within 21 days of arrival.

The organisation also calls for designated laboratories and facilities able to isolate, assess and safely care for suspected patients.



Three Batswana Face Zimbabwe Court Battle

Three Batswana accused of taking a car from Molepolole into Zimbabwe face theft and immigration charges, with their first court appearance made without lawyers.



Prosecutors allege that the three stole a black Honda Fit belonging to 35-year-old Molepolole resident Dabona Sekebola on 19 October and drove it into Zimbabwe the following day through an unauthorised entry point. The vehicle, valued at US$6,000, was subsequently recovered. (*PHOTO NOT REAL IMAGE*) *Photo Credit: Social Media*

BONGANI MALUNGA

Three Batswana accused of stealing a vehicle in Molepolole and driving it into Zimbabwe face a cross-border legal battle involving alleged vehicle theft, immigration offences and a lack of legal representation at their first court appearance.

According to a report published on Tuesday by Zimbabwe's Herald/Chronicle, David Mofele, 56, Michael Mogome, 48, and Thabang Situlo, 41, appeared before Bulawayo magistrate Patience Ururu on Saturday on charges of theft of a motor vehicle and contravening Zimbabwe's Immigration Act.

STOLEN VEHICLE

Prosecutors allege that the three stole a black Honda Fit belonging to 35-year-old Molepolole resident Dabona Sekebola on 19 October and drove it into Zimbabwe the following day through an unauthorised entry point. The vehicle, valued at US$6,000, was subsequently recovered.

The trio were arrested on 23 October at Rockhaven Lodge in Burnside, Bulawayo, where police allegedly found them attempting to sell the vehicle. Prosecutor Hazel Ncube told the court that checks showed the accused were foreigners without documents authorising them to remain in Zimbabwe.

NO LAWYERS

The Herald reported that none of the three had legal representation when they appeared in court. They were remanded in custody until 9 November and advised that they could appoint lawyers at their own expense and seek bail before the Bulawayo High Court.

Zimbabwe's Constitution provides for the right to legal representation at an accused person's own expense, with state-funded assistance where "substantial injustice" would otherwise result. It also guarantees adequate time and facilities to prepare a defence.

JURISDICTION QUESTION

Section 113 of Zimbabwe's Criminal Law (Codification and Reform) Act provides for penalties for theft of up to a level 14 fine or twice the value of the stolen property, imprisonment of up to 25 years, or both. These are statutory maximums, not sentences imposed on the three accused.

Under Section 121, theft is treated as a continuing offence. This may allow a Zimbabwean court to try an accused person found in possession of stolen property there, even where the property was allegedly stolen outside the country.

IMMIGRATION CHARGES

Zimbabwe's Immigration Act regulates entry through designated ports, requires valid travel documents and governs foreigners' permission to remain in the country. The alleged immigration breaches are separate from the vehicle theft charge.

Securing legal representation may prove important if the accused seek bail, contest the immigration allegations or challenge the prosecution's case. All three remain presumed innocent unless proven guilty.



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- ***Tax (Accredited):*** Tax Basics(8hrs), Corporate Taxes(8hrs), Advanced Taxation(16hrs) & Tax for Financial Services providers(16hrs)
- ***Information Related Laws (Accredited) :*** Data Protection Act, (8hrs)

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We help organisations to source for skills inside and outside Botswana as well as conducting the actual recruitment processes.

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Khama Challenges Ipelegeng Name Change

Kgosi Khama IV questions whether traditional leaders were consulted before Ipelegeng became Ikageng, while government says the old name carried stigma.

SESUPO RANTSIMAKO

Kgosi Khama IV has challenged the Umbrella for Democratic Change (UDC) government's decision to rename the Ipelegeng public works programme Ikageng, questioning both the consultation process and the treatment of a name associated with Botswana's founding principle of self-reliance.

Speaking in Ntlo ya Dikgosi, Khama said many traditional leaders appeared unaware of the proposed change, despite their role as custodians of cultural heritage.

CONSULTATION DISPUTED

Khama questioned how the government could claim adequate stakeholder engagement when dikgosi had seemingly been excluded. He argued that political change should not automatically mean discarding names and symbols inherited from previous administrations.

His objection centres on whether the renaming had compelling reasons and sufficient public consultation.

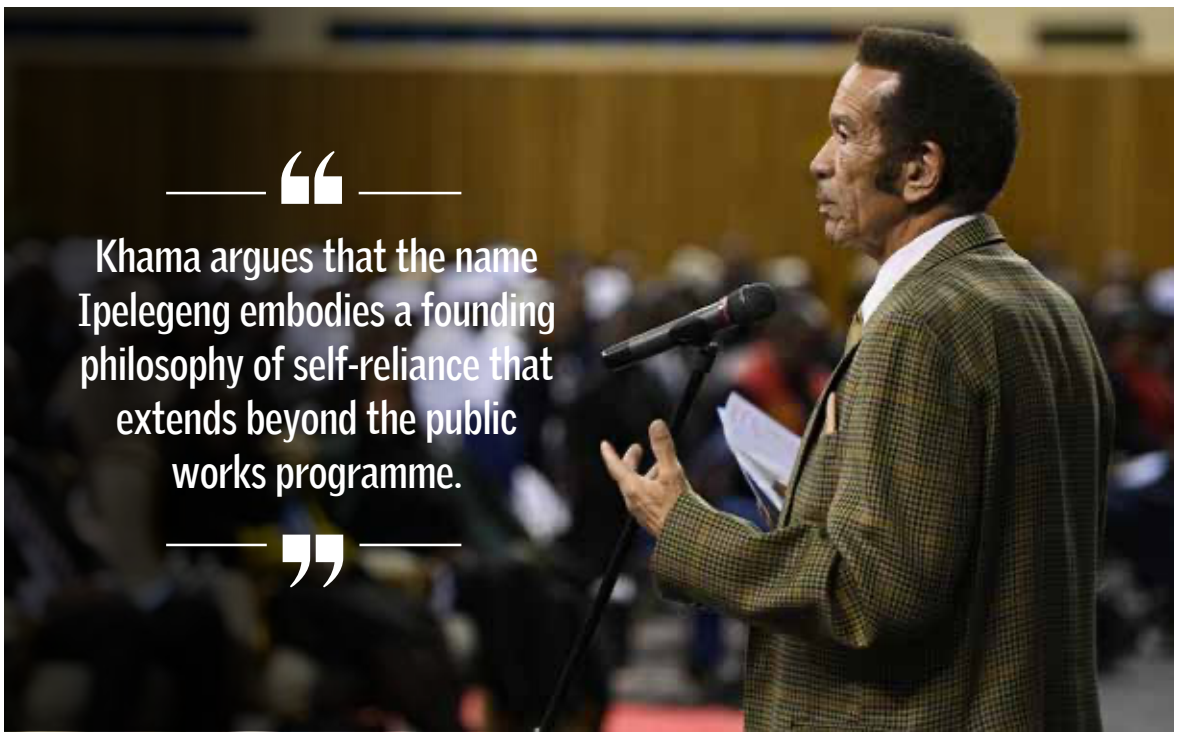
SELF-RELIANCE LEGACY

Khama said Ipelegeng carries significance beyond its use as the name of a government employment programme. He linked it to the national philosophy of self-reliance and the expectation that citizens take responsibility for improving their circumstances.

He warned against removing historically significant names merely because a new government had assumed office.

COINS QUESTION

Khama also asked whether the government intended to replace the word Ipelegeng on Botswana's coins with Ikageng, illustrating his concern about the implications of changing a term associated with national identity.



Stigma Cited

Assistant Minister of Local Government and Traditional Affairs Ignatius Moswaane defended the move, saying some Batswana had complained that the Ipelegeng name had acquired a stigma.

According to Moswaane, citizens who associated the name with negative perceptions proposed a more positive identity for the programme. The government considered suggested alternatives before settling on Ikageng.

Khama's challenge leaves the adequacy of consultation with traditional leaders at the centre of the dispute.

Khama Questions UDC's Silence On Abuses

Kgosi Khama IV says Botswana should speak out against alleged repression in fellow African states, but government invokes sovereignty and non-interference.

SESUPO RANTSIMAKO



Kgosi Khama IV has challenged the Umbrella for Democratic Change (UDC) government's response to alleged human rights abuses in other African countries, questioning its reluctance to publicly condemn the reported suppression of opposition voices.

In Ntlo ya Dikgosi, Khama asked how the administration could present itself as a defender of rights while appearing unwilling to confront fellow governments accused of violating democratic standards.

REGIONAL OBLIGATIONS

Khama argued that Botswana should speak against violations of regional and continental commitments to democracy, human rights and the rule of law. He questioned what he saw as a contradiction between the UDC's domestic rights agenda and its position on abuses elsewhere in Africa.

He warned that silence on alleged abuses could weaken Botswana's credibility as a human rights advocate.

FOUR COUNTRIES

Khama singled out Tanzania, Uganda, Rwanda and Zambia, alleging that violence and lethal force had been used against political opponents and dissenting voices in those countries.

He urged Botswana to demonstrate that its commitment to democratic freedoms extends beyond its own borders. He pressed the government to condemn such alleged conduct publicly.

SOVEREIGNTY RESPONSE

Minister of International Relations Dr Phenyo Butale said Botswana engages other African governments through established regional and continental platforms. Such engagements, he explained, are guided by respect for national sovereignty and international principles.

Butale stressed that Botswana observes the principle of non-interference in the internal affairs of sovereign states.

Ukraine Demands Guarantees Over Captured Motswana

Ukraine wants assurances that a captured Motswana will not rejoin Russian forces, complicating Botswana's negotiations to secure the citizen's release.

BONGANI MALUNGA

Ukraine is seeking assurances before releasing a Motswana captured while fighting for Russia, creating a diplomatic obstacle for Botswana as it attempts to secure the citizen's return.

Minister of International Relations Phenyo Butale told Ntlo ya Dikgosi on Monday that negotiations with Ukrainian authorities were progressing, but Kyiv remained concerned the captured person might return to the Russian military.

ACTIVE NEGOTIATIONS

Butale was responding to a question from Kgosi Ian Khama of GaMangwato. He said Botswana had grounds for optimism despite the complications.

"We are in active talks with Ukraine, we believe that the talks are progressing well. Ukraine is concerned that once they release the captured individual, they may one day find ways to return to join the Russian army," Butale explained.

GUARANTEE DILEMMA

At issue is Ukraine's fear that foreign nationals released after capture could rejoin Russia's war effort. Botswana faces difficulty providing a firm guarantee about the future conduct of a citizen once released.

Butale indicated that continued recruitment of Batswana into the Russian military further complicates efforts to reassure Ukraine.

AFRICAN APPEALS

The minister said Botswana was among several African governments seeking the release of nationals captured while fighting on Russia's side.



The government has not disclosed the captured Motswana's identity, when the person was recruited, where the capture occurred or how long the person has been held. Butale said diplomatic talks were continuing.

The Botswana Gazette
BUSINESS NEWS

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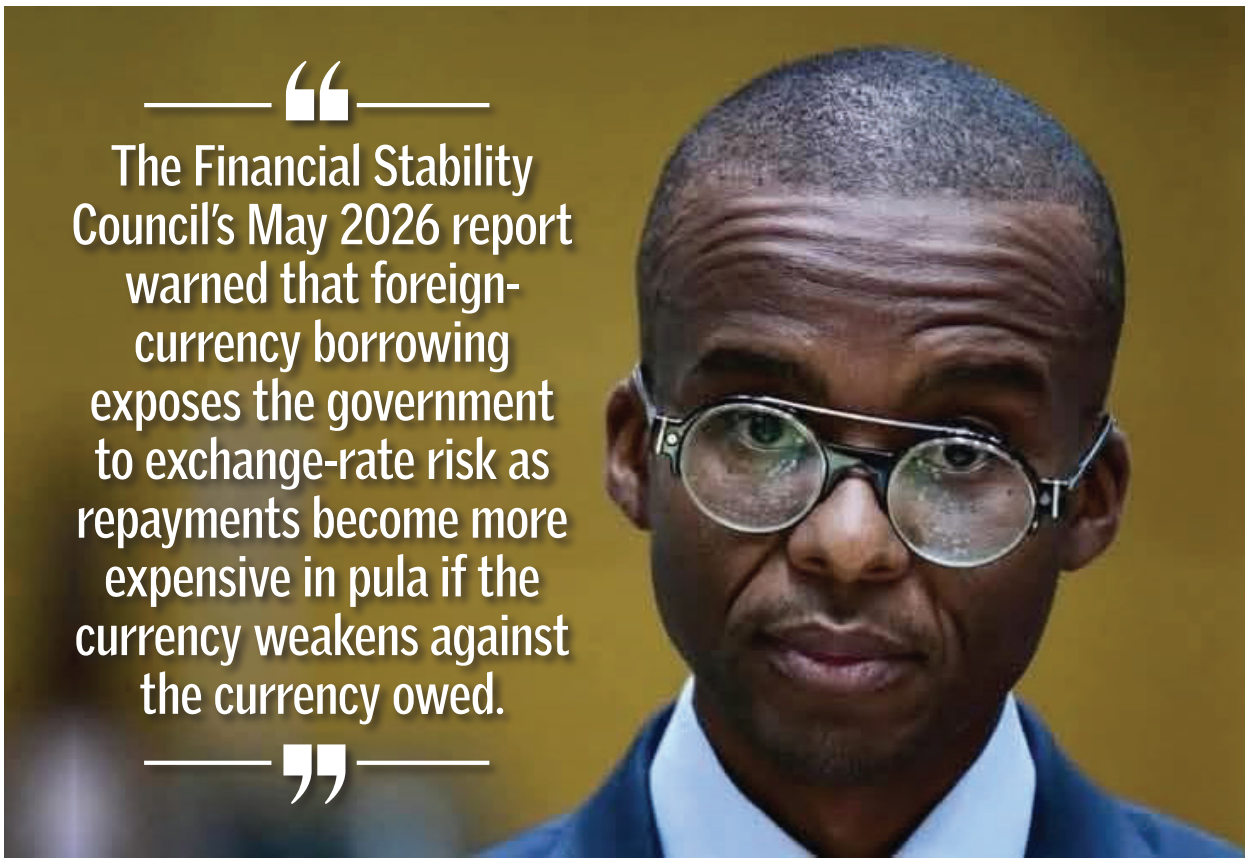


Photo Credit: @Ministry of Finance

Botswana Borrows Again as Deficits Bite

Fresh AfDB financing offers budget relief, but overlapping loans sharpen questions over Botswana's revenues, repayment obligations and growing debt exposure

BONGANI MALUNGA

Botswana has secured approval for another major African Development Bank loan, obtaining financial breathing room while facing a longer-term challenge of rebuilding revenues fast enough to service successive borrowing commitments.

The US$503.75 million facility, announced last Friday (October 23) is worth P6.62 billion. That is equivalent in size to roughly a quarter of the P26.35 billion deficit projected in February's budget for the 2026/27 financial year.

The latest backing places renewed attention on the revenue recovery needed to support future repayments.

LONGER REPAYMENT LIFE

The new financing follows the US$304 million Governance and Economic Resilience Support Programme loan approved on May 14, 2025, for the 2025/26 fiscal year. AfDB records show that the agreement was signed on August 12, 2025, and that the facility had been fully disbursed by its June 2026 supervision report.

Presenting the earlier facility to Parliament on July 24, 2025, Finance Minister Ndaba Gaolathe outlined a five-year grace period followed by 15 years of repayments. Under those terms, scheduled principal repayments would not ordinarily have started by October 2026.

The grace period does not make the borrowing interest-free as Gaolathe quoted a variable interest rate of 5.51 percent at the time, alongside other fees. The successive loans are set to coexist with each carrying its own repayment calendar.

BORROWING ROOM FACES A REVENUE TEST

The Ministry of Finance's June 2026 debt update recorded approximately P95 billion in public debt, including government guarantees, equivalent to 32.12 percent of GDP. Direct government debt, excluding guarantees, stood at P86.33 billion.

The February budget had projected debt, including guarantees, reaching 44.66 percent of GDP by March 2027. That remains a budget forecast, distinct from June's recorded position. Parliament has since approved legislation to raise the debt ceiling from 40 percent to 60 percent of GDP.

A higher ceiling expands legal borrowing room but repayment capacity still depends on government income, financing costs and economic performance.

The Financial Stability Council's May 2026 report warned that foreign-currency borrowing exposes the government to exchange-rate risk as repayments become more expensive in pula if the currency weakens against the currency owed. It also cautioned that heavy domestic borrowing can absorb liquidity and constrain credit available to businesses.

The latest AfDB $503.75 million loan will back the Botswana's new Economic Competitiveness and Transformation Support Program which begins a two-year series covering 2026/27 and 2027/28. Its targets include raising non-mining tax revenue to 11.8 percent of GDP by 2027/28.

"Our role is to help finance the adjustment, while protecting those least able to bear its costs," said AfDB Deputy Director General for Southern Africa and Country Manager Moono Mupotola in a statement announcing the new loan package to Botswana.

The OPEC Fund separately records US$170 million in additional policy-based financing for Botswana, approved in March 2026, illustrating the broader financing effort. AfDB's October announcement confirms approval, but does not establish disbursement or disclose the new loan's interest rate, maturity and grace period.

Stronger recurring revenues, export earnings and spending discipline will determine whether the additional financing creates a durable recovery. Without those improvements, today's fiscal relief risks becoming a larger claim on tomorrow's budgets.

Botswana ranked SADC'S Worst Performing Economy

Botswana ranked last in SADC growth for a second consecutive year, exposing diamond dependence despite signs of recovery in 2026

BONGANI MALUNGA

Botswana has finished at the bottom of Southern Africa's economic growth standings for a second consecutive year, extending a dramatic reversal of fortunes for a country once celebrated as one of the region's strongest economic performers.

The latest World Bank World Development Indicators (explanatory version) released last Thursday reveal that Botswana's economy contracted by 0.7 percent in 2025, placing it 16th out of 16 Southern African Development Community (SADC) countries.

Even Mozambique, the region's second-worst performer, recorded a smaller contraction of 0.5 percent, while neighbouring Zimbabwe topped the standings with an impressive 8.1 percent growth rate with the regional median standing at 3.1 percent.

TROUBLING DECLINE

The figures expose a troubling decline in Botswana's economic competitiveness, particularly when measured against its performance over the preceding three years.

In 2022, Botswana's economy expanded by 5.5 percent, placing it fifth in SADC according to the regional bloc's comparative statistics. Growth subsequently slowed to 3.2 percent in 2023, pushing the country down to 11th position.

By 2024, the economy had slipped into recession, contracting by 2.8 percent according to the World Bank's revised figures, leaving Botswana at the bottom of the regional standings.

REGION'S WORST PERFORMER

Although the contraction moderated to 0.7 percent in 2025, Botswana remained the region's worst performer, marking two successive years of economic decline.

The downturn has exposed the vulnerabilities of Botswana's diamond-dependent economic model, with declining demand for natural diamonds, subdued mineral revenues and limited diversification continuing to undermine growth.

In its Botswana Economic Update, the World Bank warned that the country's difficulties reflected both the weakening diamond sector and mounting fiscal pressures, reinforcing the urgent need for private-sector-led economic transformation.

EMERGING FROM PROLONGED DOWNTURN

However, Botswana's latest domestic figures suggest that the economy may be emerging from its prolonged downturn. Statistics Botswana reported real GDP growth of 8.7 percent in the second quarter of 2026, driven largely by an 81.7 percent surge in mining and quarrying activity.

Yet the recovery remains uneven as non-mining GDP contracted by 0.2 percent during the quarter, while household consumption declined by 7.3 percent, suggesting that the rebound has not translated into broader economic momentum. The International Monetary Fund's October 2026 outlook projects Botswana's economy to expand by 4.4 percent this year, potentially reversing the recent contraction.

Importantly, the 2025 performance does not represent Botswana's worst economic contraction on record. World Bank historical figures show that the economy shrank by 14.1 percent in 2009 during the global financial crisis and by 8.7 percent in 2020 during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Dangote Valuation Tops IPO by 33%

Renaissance Capital's N700.41 share estimate exceeds the N525 offer price as Botswana investors access the Nigerian refinery through local depositary receipts.

BONGANI MALUNGA

shares have been valued at 33.4 percent above their IPO offer price by Renaissance Capital Africa, as investors in Botswana gain access to the Nigerian company through locally issued receipts.

In its 16 October 2026 research update, Stronger Refining Margins Drive Earnings Outperformance, the investment firm put the refinery's value at N700.41 per share against the N525 offer price, a difference of N175.41. It raised its discounted cashflow valuation by 13.1 percent from its previous estimate of N619.47.

BOTSWANA ACCESS

Access Bank Botswana is issuing Botswana Depository Receipts (BDRs), enabling local and participating SADC investors to gain exposure to Dangote Refinery shares. Each receipt represents one ordinary share.

The offer was scheduled to close at noon on Tuesday, 27 October. Receipts were priced indicatively at P5.85 each, with a minimum application of 100 BDRs, equivalent to P585.

Access Bank Botswana is facilitating up to US$500 million in shares through the arrangement. Trading in the BDRs on the Botswana Stock Exchange is expected to begin on 14 December, subject to the relevant conditions.

Access Bank Plc in Nigeria will hold the underlying shares as custodian, while its Botswana subsidiary serves as the receipts' legal issuer. Investors can use local brokers without opening investment accounts in Nigeria.

REGULATORY ROUTE

The Non-Bank Financial Institutions Regulatory Authority granted the receipts local asset status on 15 October, a day before the Botswana offer opened. The Botswana Stock Exchange, Access Bank and regional market stakeholders helped establish the arrangement.

The wider Dangote IPO deadline was extended from 13 to 27 October, partly to accommodate African market access and depositary receipt programmes. Dangote said the offer had attracted "very strong interest" from investors across Africa and elsewhere.

EARNINGS RECOVERY

For the nine months to September 2026, Dangote Refinery's revenue rose 144.5 percent to US$22.48 billion. Net profit reached US$4.73 billion, reversing a US$117.2 million loss in the comparable 2025 period.

Earnings before interest, tax, depreciation and amortisation climbed to US$5.52 billion from US$627.6 million. The company also moved from US$1.73 billion in net debt to about US$651 million in net cash.

Renaissance Capital cautioned that its valuation remains sensitive to refining margins, foreign exchange movements, taxation and the timing of a planned capacity expansion. The 33.4 percent gap is an analyst's estimate, not a guaranteed investor return.

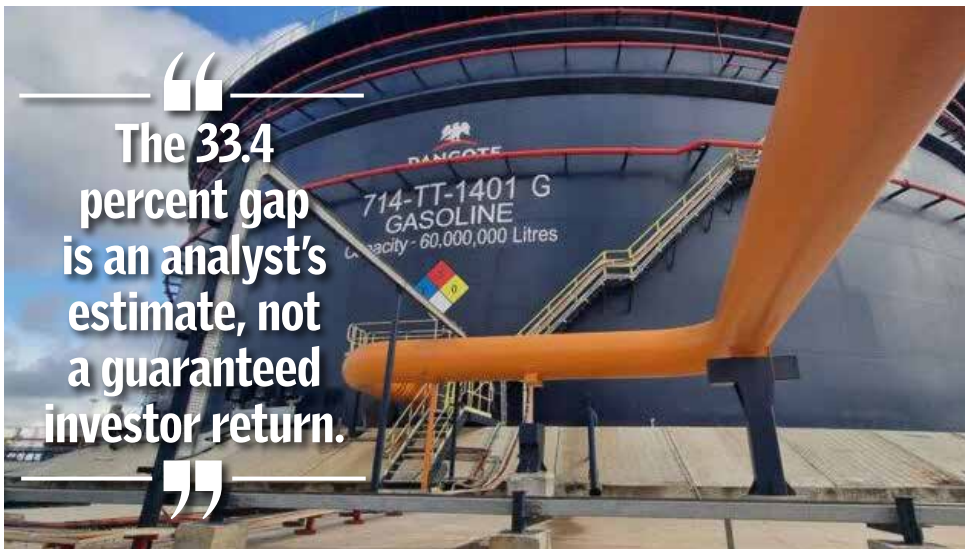


Photo Credit: @Businessday.ng

21 Day Notice

Introduction of
FNB Mobile Money Services

First National Bank of Botswana Limited hereby notifies the public of the introduction of FNB Mobile Money Services, enabling mobile money transactions between FNB Botswana accounts and Mobile Money wallets.

This service allows clients to make payments between their FNB bank accounts and Mobile Money wallets held with Mascom (MyZaka), Orange (Orange Money), and BTC (Smega).

Key Features

Clients will be able to:

- Make payments from their FNB account to a Mobile Money wallet (Bank to Wallet)
- Make payments from a Mobile Money wallet to an FNB account (Wallet to Bank)
- Access the service via the FNB App and Cellphone Banking.

Important Information for the client

- The service is optional and client initiated
- Wallet-to-Bank fees are determined by the respective mobile network operators
- Transactions are subject to existing channel limits and mobile wallet limits
- Availability of this service is subject to successful verification and processing

Fees and Charges

- Bank-to-Wallet: P11.00 per transaction

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Visit the FNB Botswana website to view the terms and conditions and the tariff guide.

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SA Feedlots Resist Botswana's Beef Export Revival

South African feedlots oppose Botswana cattle and beef imports, threatening farmers' recovery hopes as government renews its livestock export programme

BONGANI MALUNGA

Botswana's cattle and beef exporters face fresh resistance to their recovery efforts after the South African Feedlot Association (SAFA) opposed imports from Botswana and Namibia over foot-and-mouth disease (FMD) fears.

According to The Namibian's report of 21 October, the association's executive committee unanimously adopted the position in a statement issued last Tuesday, citing risks to South Africa's livestock industry and international beef markets.

The opposition comes just as Botswana has renewed export arrangements intended to help farmers recover from months of disrupted sales and livestock movement restrictions.

INDUSTRY RESISTANCE

"We cannot afford to put the recovery of our industry at risk," SAFA said, warning that additional imports could undermine confidence among its export partners. The association acknowledged that imports from Botswana could ease South Africa's calf shortage but argued that the "long-term interests and sustainability" of its red meat industry should take priority.

"Our decision is a precautionary measure," it added, stressing that its stance was not an attack on either neighbour. SAFA said it would review its position.

BOTSWANA'S RECOVERY AT STAKE

The Minister of Lands and Agriculture, Dr Edwin Dikoloti announced on 19 October that Botswana would permit live cattle exports for six months, while beef and beef products would fall under a 12-month arrangement.



Photo Credit: Social Media

Live cattle exports are restricted to slaughter-ready steers, with veterinary requirements still applying. The importance of regional buyers is crucial as Dikoloti said the previous dispensation, introduced in 2019 and concluded on 30 April 2025, facilitated exports of more than 551 570 cattle, mainly to South Africa and Namibia.

He acknowledged that disease restrictions had strained farmers' ability to meet financial obligations, pay workers and sustain operations. Government had also redirected approximately P97 million towards disease control, including vaccination, surveillance and fencing.

Earlier this month, South African Agriculture Minister Willie Aucamp outlined a possible route towards restoring trade. Aucamp said South Africa had submitted proposed biosecurity protocols to Botswana, with imports from disease-free areas among the options being considered.

Fuel Hike: Motorists Shoulder Half the Cost Shock

Motorists face higher prices as government shares rising import costs, while the petroleum fund continues absorbing part of the shock



Pic:Monirul Bhuiyan/PRESS PHOTO

BONGANI MALUNGA

Botswana motorists are paying more at the pumps as the government passes on roughly half the petrol and diesel cost shortfalls it had been absorbing, while retaining support to prevent steeper increases.

Effective Friday, October 23, 2026, unleaded petrol 95 increased by P1.54 per litre to P19.75, while diesel 50ppm climbed by P2.83 to P23.76. Illuminating paraffin remained unchanged at P18.33 per litre, according to the Botswana Energy Regulatory Authority's (BERA) price announcement.

The Ministry of Minerals and Energy says the increases reflect mounting international fuel costs, with the National Petroleum Fund (NPF) continuing to cover part of the gap between regulated pump prices and the cost of supplying fuel.

IMPORT COSTS OUTRUN PUMP PRICES

In its October 23 statement, the ministry said September calculations showed under-recoveries of P3.07 per litre for petrol, P5.65 for diesel and P5.94 for paraffin. An under-recovery means the regulated selling price falls short of the costs recognised in the fuel-pricing system.

Government initially absorbed those shortfalls instead of raising prices in September. "Instead, the under recovery unit rates realised were absorbed by the National Petroleum Fund, hence cushioning customers against a would-have-been price increase," the ministry said.

The latest adjustment transfers approximately half the petrol and diesel shortfalls to consumers. The NPF will absorb the remaining costs, while paraffin users remain protected from an increase.

The ministry attributed the pressure to geopolitical tensions that pushed up crude oil and refined petroleum product prices. It also cited disrupted maritime routes, higher freight costs and longer delivery times, warning that damage to oil infrastructure and refineries could further constrain supply.

WHY THE LEVIES MATTER

The increase follows the expiry of a separate relief measure, the suspension of the Fuel Levy, Road Fund Levy and Security of Supply Margin between April 8 and October 7. According to the ministry, that suspension provided relief equivalent to 244.5 thebe per litre of petrol and 239.5 thebe per litre of diesel.

However, restoring those charges did not automatically trigger a pump-price increase. In its October 8 clarification, BERA said "the reinstatement of these levies does not, in itself, result in an immediate increase in retail pump prices." Future adjustments would still depend on international prices, exchange-rate movements and accumulated under- or over-recoveries.

The government is directing collections from the restored charges into the NPF for what the ministry describes as a six-month period from October 2026 to April 2027. "The objective is to further protect the consumers against a possible steep upward fuel price adjustment during the period of the diversion," the ministry said.

The rationale is therefore two-fold: consumers now cover part of the fuel-cost shortfall, while restored levy collections support the fund's capacity to absorb the balance and cushion future shocks.

BUSINESSES FACE HIGHER BILLS

The immediate impact is tangible. Buying 50 litres now costs an additional P77 for petrol or P141.50 for diesel. A business purchasing 1,000 litres of diesel faces an extra P2,830 in fuel costs. Depending on how businesses respond, that pressure could squeeze profit margins or feed into transport charges and goods prices.

The government maintains that consumers remain cushioned even after the increase. However, the ministry's statement does not disclose the NPF's current balance or the total cost of maintaining the remaining support.

Borrowed Fame Cannot Buy Loyalty

A creator can bring a crowd to a Botswana business overnight, but the test of the brand begins when that crowd arrives.



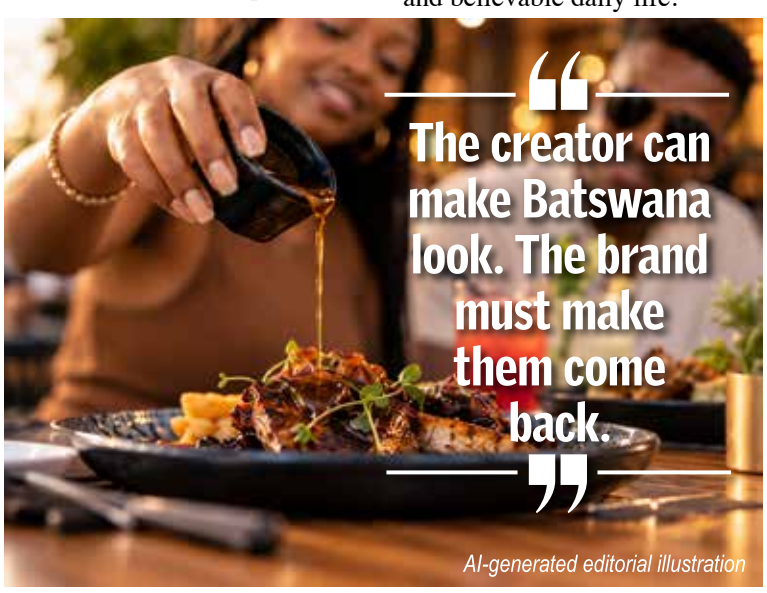
AI-generated editorial illustration

MANUEL VEIRUAPI RUHAPO | THE BRAND PARADOX

A Motswana creator posts from a new Gaborone restaurant. By Friday it fills the timeline. By Saturday people queue for the meal, drink, outfit or special offer.

That is the promise of influence. It can make a small business visible faster than traditional advertising once could.

It can expose that business just as fast. If the advertised item is unavailable, the price is unclear, staff do not understand the offer or the service does not match the post, the same audience that created the queue can create the complaint.



AI-generated editorial illustration

Botswana is ready for this reality. Statistics Botswana reports that 91% of households had mobile phones in 2024. It also reports that 57.5% of individuals used the internet, with 60.5% of internet users using it for internet surfing or social networks. A promotion led by a creator can travel quickly. So can a disappointing customer experience.

BORROWED AUDIENCE PARADOX

The Borrowed Audience Paradox is that a creator can lend a brand attention, but cannot lend it loyalty.

Brand Botswana recently brought content creators and digital storytellers together to discuss how authentic storytelling can support local brands and present Botswana's identity. That is the right starting point. A creator is not only a media channel. The right creator can translate a brand into a familiar voice, local humour, real places and believable daily life.

But the creator's audience belongs first to the creator. A restaurant cannot assume that people who came for a food reviewer will return without good food. A boutique cannot assume that viewers who liked a fashion personality will buy again without quality, fit and service. A bank cannot assume that a popular musician makes a product useful.

Research on influencer marketing supports this distinction. The fit between influencer, product and consumer affects response. Follower count alone is a weak strategy. A smaller creator whose audience genuinely needs the offer may be more valuable than a famous face with no credible connection to it.

This is why the first question should not be, "Who can make us trend?" It should be, "Who makes our real customer benefit easier to understand and trust?"

THE PLATFORM PARADOX

The Platform Paradox is that the strongest influence strategy often gives the audience a role, rather than merely showing them a famous person.

Orange Botswana's new Orange Music Talents programme is presented as a platform for discovering, nurturing and giving exposure to emerging musicians across five genres. Its commercial results have not been publicly established. Yet the structure contains a useful brand lesson. A recurring platform can build a relationship with artists, audiences and a category over time. A single celebrity post usually ends when the content disappears.

For Botswana businesses, the principle can apply far beyond music. A retailer can give customers a useful reason to return through local product discovery, regular value, reliable availability and simple digital ordering. Sefalana states that it aims to create customer experiences in store, on laptops and on mobile phones. The promotion is only the invitation. The full customer journey decides whether the invitation becomes a habit.

A local creator should therefore be part of a system: a clear offer, a known location or delivery route, enough stock, staff who understand the promotion, customer service contact and a benefit that still exists after the creator has moved on.

THE PROOF PARADOX

The Proof Paradox is that the more public the endorsement, the more carefully the brand must prove the promise behind it.

Crumbl Cookies in the United States is a useful warning, not a Botswana template. The company used social media, a recognisable pink box and rotating dessert releases to build a large audience. It remains in operation. But Restaurant Business reported at least 57 closures in 2026, alongside falling traffic, weaker sales and franchise pressure. The reporting does not say social media caused those problems. It shows that attention did not protect the business from product, price, operating and unit economics pressure.

That lesson travels well. A Botswana brand should not spend more effort arranging a creator's post than preparing for the customers it may bring. The strongest campaign can fail at the till, the counter, the call centre, the delivery point or the redemption link.

The Competition and Consumer Authority says consumers are entitled to accurate, clear and complete information in plain language, timely quality service and an audience when they complain. That is not merely compliance. It is brand protection.

USING INFLUENCE WELL

Before a creator or partnership goes live, test five things. Can the customer understand the offer in one reading? Are the price and conditions clear? Is the product, reward or stock available where the post sends people? Do staff and service teams know how to help? And what will make a first time customer return next week?

Then measure what matters. Track completed purchases, reward redemptions, repeat visits, returns, complaints, referrals and margin, not only views, likes and comments. Attention opens the door. A good customer experience decides whether it stays open.

WHAT IT MEANS

Business owners and executives: Use creators to accelerate a sound customer promise. Do not use them to hide weak stock, service, pricing or fulfilment.

Marketing professionals: Choose local partners for audience fit and cultural credibility, then build the offer, terms, customer route and measurement plan before content is published.

Brand managers: Turn temporary reach into a proprietary asset. Capture customer data with permission, improve service routines and give people a reason to choose the brand after the influencer leaves the frame.

Botswana does not need to fear influence. It needs to use it with discipline. The creator can make Batswana look. The brand must make them come back.



The Brand Paradox is a weekly column by Manuel Veiruapi Ruhapo that explores the counterintuitive truths behind building great brands in Botswana and beyond. Manuel Ruhapo is the founder of Blacmarc Group, a brand strategy consultancy Agencies that helps businesses solve their most complex brand challenges. Contact me on : manuel.ruhapo@blacmarc.co.bw/ruhapo@gmail.comContact me on: manuel.ruhapo@blacmarc.co.bw/ruhapo@gmail.com

Hotwire Wins PMR.africa Diamond Arrow

The consultancy has received PMR.africa's highest accolade in its category, based on ratings from Botswana's business and government leaders.



Hotwire has won the 2026 PMR.africa Diamond Arrow Award for public relations, ranking first overall among public relations companies in Botswana's country survey.

RECOGNITION

Presented under the Leaders and Achievers category, the award recognises organisations considered to have contributed to economic growth and development over the preceding 12 months. The Diamond Arrow is PMR.africa's highest accolade, given to the top-ranked organisation in a category with an "Outstanding" rating. Hotwire has received the recognition for more than a decade.

In August 2026, the consultancy also received awards at the MEA Markets African Excellence Awards and Corporate Vision Magazine's Corporate Excellence Awards, recognising its work in strategic communications, reputation advisory and communications services.

LOCAL RECOGNITION

Taazima Kala, Hotwire's general manager and chief consultant, said the latest award was significant because it reflected the views of Botswana's business community.

"International awards tell us we are competing well beyond our borders, and we are proud of that. But this one is different," she said.

"The Diamond Arrow comes from the people who know Botswana's business community best, the leaders who work with us, alongside us and sometimes across the table from us. To be rated first overall by them is deeply humbling."

TWO DECADES IN BUSINESS

Established in 2005, Hotwire provides strategic communications, reputation advisory, stakeholder engagement and creative communications services across sectors including financial services, tourism, energy, mining, consumer markets and social development.

Kala said the award also recognised the contributions of the consultancy's employees, clients and partners.

"Our team, who show up with brave, intelligent work every day, and our clients and partners, who trust us with their reputations and relationships," she said.

IDM Marks 20th Graduation Ceremony

IDM's 20th joint graduation will bring together graduands from three Southern African countries, with a UK university chancellor set to confer degrees.



The ceremony will bring together graduands from Botswana, Lesotho and Eswatini under a theme focused on lifelong learning.

The Institute of Development Management (IDM) Botswana will hold its 20th Joint Graduation Ceremony on Friday, 30 October 2026, at the Royal Aria Convention Centre in Tlokweng, bringing together graduands, families, government representatives and industry stakeholders from Botswana, Lesotho and Eswatini.

FOCUS ON LIFELONG LEARNING

The ceremony will be held under the theme "Thriving as a Continuous Learner in an Ever-Changing Environment," highlighting the role of lifelong learning, adaptability and skills development in a changing global environment.

The Minister for State President, Defence and Security Moeti Ceasar Mohwasa is scheduled to deliver the keynote address.

UK UNIVERSITY REPRESENTATION

George, Earl of St Andrews, Chancellor of the University of Greater Manchester in the United Kingdom, will attend the ceremony and confer undergraduate and postgraduate degrees awarded by the university.

The event will recognise the academic and professional achievements of the Class of 2026, as well as the contributions of families, academic staff and institutional partners to graduands' progress.

REGIONAL EDUCATION LEGACY

IDM said the joint graduation reflects the institution's shared history across Botswana, Lesotho and Eswatini, despite changes to its institutional arrangements in the three countries.

The institute also highlighted the need to strengthen professional competencies and invest in skills development to address emerging national, regional and global development priorities.



TIRED OF SHARING?



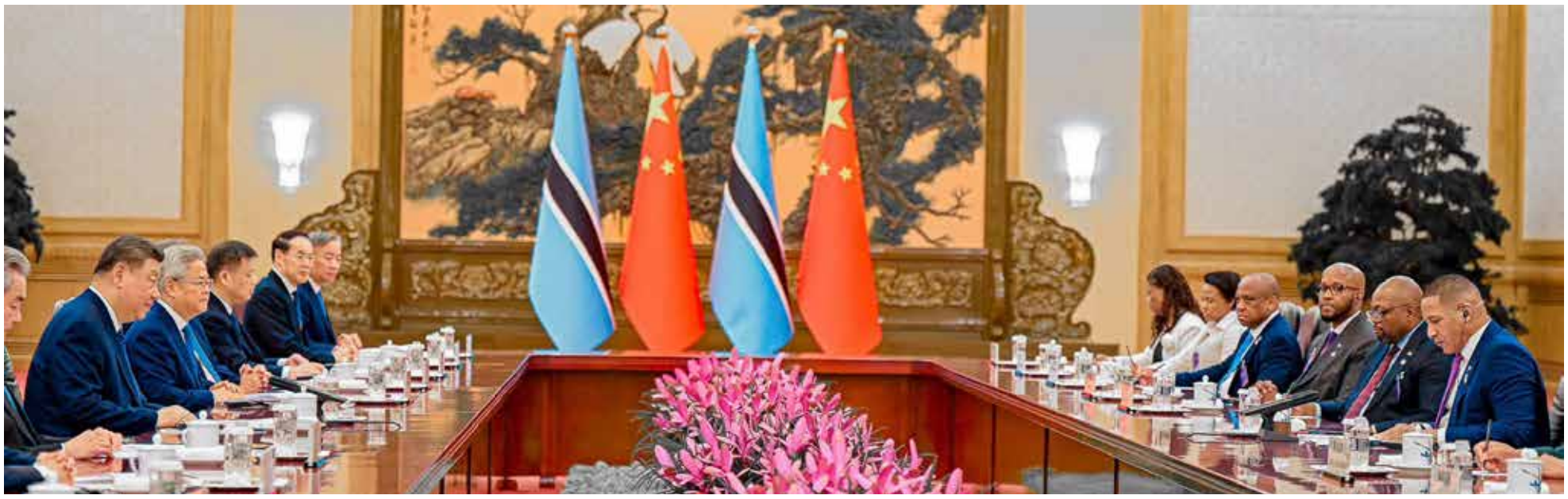


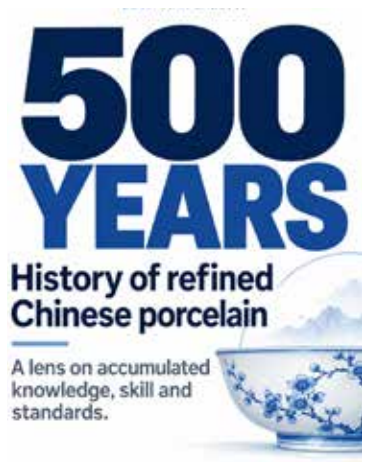
Photo Credit: @BWPresidency

What Did Botswana Learn in China?

Beyond agreements and investment opportunities, the real test of Botswana's visit to China is whether it learned how to build lasting skills, standards and institutions at home.

DR DOUGLAS RASBASH

Botswana's delegation has returned from China. Beyond the agreements and investment opportunities lies a question worth asking: what did they really learn? Did they see development success, or begin to understand the civilisation behind it? Did they admire what China possesses, or examine how Chinese society acquired the capacity to produce it? Why have several



Asian societies built formidable industrial economies while so many African countries continue to depend on foreign capital, expertise and contractors? But perhaps we spend too little time discussing philosophy: what societies value, what they expect of themselves, and how they cultivate mastery.

THE PORCELAIN TEST

Five hundred years ago, Chinese artisans were producing porcelain of extraordinary refinement. Surviving Ming pieces reveal delicate forms, carefully controlled glazes and intricate decoration. Imperial production at Jingdezhen brought specialised materials and manufacturing knowledge into the service of demanding artistic standards. What kind of society could produce such an object, repeatedly, centuries before modern industrial machinery? Its manufacture required knowledge of materials and heat, skilled hands, organised production and exacting judgement. Someone also had to recognise a defect. Someone had to care enough to reject it. Knowledge had to survive the individual craftsman and pass to another generation. The accumulated capability behind it was substantial.



Photo Credit: @BWPresidency

Human equality does not mean identical historical accomplishment. Africa has distinguished artistic and technical traditions of its own. The useful question is how inherited knowledge becomes a foundation for further achievement, and why that process flourishes in some circumstances and falters in others. A porcelain bowl does not explain an electric vehicle factory. Nevertheless, it offers an entry into something a factory tour may miss: the cultivation of knowledge, judgement and standards over time.

PHILOSOPHICAL ROOTS

Chinese philosophical traditions also invite deeper attention. Confucian thought places considerable weight on learning, self-cultivation, relationships and the responsibilities accompanying authority. Daoist traditions offer different reflections on balance, restraint and responsiveness to circumstances. Neither can be reduced to a slogan about hard work. These traditions ask questions that development plans often leave unanswered. What constitutes a worthy person? What makes authority legitimate? What obligations extend beyond personal advancement? What does

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it mean to perform an ordinary task well? Botswana should recognise these as development questions.

We discuss skills shortages as though the difficulty were simply an insufficient supply of certificates. Yet competence also requires practice, correction and judgement. A qualification cannot substitute for the ability to diagnose a fault. What status do we give the technician who maintains equipment, the

> The decisive question is what remains locally after the transaction: greater capability, or another obligation to call someone overseas?

teacher who patiently develops understanding, or the craftsperson who refuses to release defective work? Do we honour mastery sufficiently, or reserve our greatest admiration for position and consumption? That question reaches beyond government policy. It concerns our social values.

BEYOND STEREOTYPES



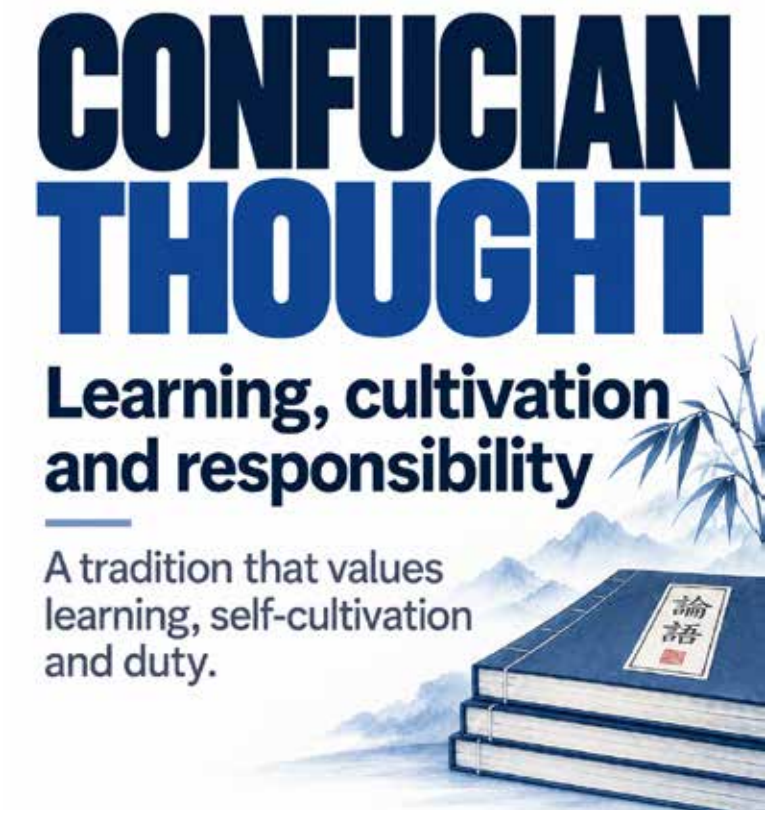
Photo Credit: @BWPresidency

We must also avoid romanticising China. Its ancient civilisation did not prevent poverty, upheaval or disastrous political decisions. Modern China contains poor workmanship alongside excellence, environmental damage alongside technological achievement, and serious restrictions on political freedom. Research on East Asia's economic transformation identifies education, investment, economic stability and manufactured exports as important contributors. Those are practical choices and capabilities, rather than qualities belonging exclusively to one people. This matters because the debate about Asia and Africa becomes sterile when it descends into destiny: Asians are supposedly disciplined; Africans supposedly are not. Such claims explain little and excuse too much. The more challenging question is how societies encourage particular behaviours. Does competent work bring recognition and opportunity? Does persistent failure carry consequences? Can a young person build a respected livelihood through technical excellence? Do institutions remember what they have learned?

BUILDING CAPACITY

Here Botswana has grounds for self-examination. We can commission a building without developing sufficient capacity to maintain it. We can purchase sophisticated equipment while remaining dependent on outside specialists for its operation. We can announce an industrial ambition without patiently assembling the knowledge, suppliers and standards needed to sustain production. The cumulative dependence should trouble us. China did not develop in isolation. No serious economy does. Foreign knowledge, technology, investment and markets can all contribute to domestic development. The decisive question is what remains locally after the transaction: greater capability, or another obligation to call someone overseas?

For Botswana, cooperation with China should be judged partly by whether it expands our capacity to solve our own problems. Will Batswana learn to design, adapt and improve, as well as operate? Will local enterprises acquire capabilities that survive the initial contract? These questions reveal the difference between acquiring development's products and cultivating the ability to produce them. Our own philosophical resources deserve equal seriousness. Botho should have implications for how an employer treats workers and how an official handles public responsibility. Communal obligation should extend to the care of public assets. Respect for future generations should influence what we borrow and what we preserve. Invoking tradition ceremonially is easy. Allowing it to govern conduct is more demanding.





THE LESSONS

A large delegation can visit impressive places while learning surprisingly little. An itinerary may offer abundant exposure and limited reflection. We should therefore expect returning delegates to explain what challenged their assumptions, what they discovered about building capability, and what they will now do differently. The most consequential discovery may be uncomfortable: development asks something of the society receiving it. Money and equipment cannot perform that work on our behalf.

Five hundred years ago, someone looked at a porcelain vessel and decided that its proportions, finish and decoration mattered enough to perfect. What would it take for that determination to become an everyday expectation in our classrooms, workshops, businesses and public offices? Perhaps the most revealing question for our returning delegation is this: Did they go to China to find someone who could develop Botswana, or to understand what Botswana must cultivate within itself? Our leaders have told us that China offers an example worth studying. They have announced agreements, grants and opportunities for cooperation. What they have yet to explain publicly is what the encounter taught them about Botswana itself. An undertaking to learn is welcome. The public should now hear the lessons.

Independence for Some, Not Others?

Botswana's support for Beijing's position on Taiwan raises a difficult question about the right to self-government that Batswana claimed in 1966.



Photo Credit: @AP



DR DOUGLAS RASBASH

Sixty years ago, the world accepted that Batswana should govern themselves. We were poor, landlocked and dependent on others. Yet our independence was not made conditional on becoming rich, powerful or useful to somebody else. We were entitled to a country of our own. As we celebrate that achievement, we should ask what we mean when we deny others the same consideration. Botswana has reaffirmed its opposition to Taiwanese independence and its support for China's reunification. Taiwan's response was scathing, condemning Beijing for drawing other governments into declarations that denigrate Taiwan's sovereignty.

ONE AFRICA TEST

Let us imagine this scenario: suppose a powerful government announced that Botswana was an inalienable part of a larger territory. Suppose friendly countries endorsed its claim without asking Batswana what we wanted. Would we call that diplomacy? Or betrayal? Perhaps we need a One Africa Principle to appreciate the discomfort. Africa's borders largely reflect European conquest and bargaining. The Berlin Conference helped establish the framework for partition; subsequent colonial agreements drew boundaries across communities that had no meaningful say in the matter.

Now imagine somebody arguing that these artificial divisions must disappear, that Botswana belongs to Africa and that continental reunification overrides our wishes. Our flag could fly until further notice. We would reject the argument. Belonging to a continent does not mean belonging to its most powerful government. Shared ancestry does not cancel political consent. Whatever the origins of our boundaries, Botswana is our home, and its future belongs to its people. Why does that conviction weaken when we look towards Taiwan?

SEPARATE GOVERNANCE

Taiwan and mainland China have been separately governed since 1949, seventeen years before Botswana became independent. The People's Republic of China has never governed Taiwan. Across seventy-seven years, generations have grown up, raised families and built their lives outside Beijing's administration.

Separate administration did not always mean democracy. Taiwan endured authoritarian rule before developing the democracy it has today. Its first direct presidential election took place in 1996. Today its citizens choose their leaders in competitive elections. They can remove a government without asking permission from Beijing. Their votes should carry moral weight even when their government lacks widespread diplomatic recognition. A survey in September 2026 showed 83% of Taiwanese supported autonomy.

Taiwan has the practical foundations of statehood: a permanent population, territory under its administration, functioning institutions and the capacity to conduct international relations. Its approximately twenty-three million people sustain a sophisticated economy whose semiconductor industry helps power the modern world.



RIGHT TO GOVERN

Taiwan plainly has the capacity to govern itself. The obstruction is political recognition, shaped by the power of the neighbour that claims it. Economic success should never be an entrance examination for sovereignty. Had it been, Botswana might have failed in 1966. Taiwan's prosperity matters here because it removes any plausible suggestion that this society lacks the means to manage its own affairs. The harder question is whether we believe its people have that right.

> "Recognising the government of China and endorsing every claim it advances are separate decisions."

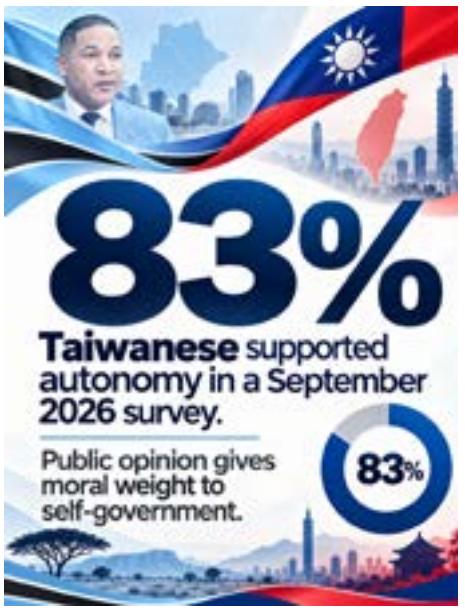
CONTESTED SOVEREIGNTY

China's historical claim deserves examination, and Taiwan's legal status is contested. The Chinese civil war left rival governments claiming to represent China. Territorial integrity matters, especially to African countries anxious to avoid destructive border disputes. But complexity cannot make

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Photo Credit: @BWPresidency



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twenty-three million people disappear from the argument. A historical claim does not answer whether people living today consent to the government proposed for them. Nor does acknowledging that question require demanding a declaration of independence tomorrow. Continued self-government may itself be their choice. United Nations General Assembly Resolution 2758, adopted in 1971, recognised Beijing's representatives as China's legitimate representatives at the UN. Its text did not expressly settle Taiwan's territorial sovereignty or specify how its people must choose their future. Beijing disputes that reading. We should recognise the disagreement rather than present one interpretation as an uncontested verdict. Recognising the government of China and endorsing every claim it advances are separate decisions. Botswana should be capable of distinguishing them.



PRINCIPLE AND POWER

China is an important partner. We have sound reasons to maintain good relations, welcome investment and cooperate on development. But what is friendship worth if its price is silence about principles we would invoke desperately for ourselves? Consider the voter who expects the next government to be chosen at a polling station. Their desire to live without coercion is no less deserving of respect.



African unity can be a worthy ambition. So can a peaceful relationship between Taiwan and mainland China, including any arrangement freely accepted by their peoples. Consent gives such arrangements legitimacy. Pressure and threats cannot supply it. The One Africa analogy does not make the histories identical. It asks us to apply a familiar moral test: would we accept for ourselves the rule we endorse for somebody else?

BOTSWANA'S CHOICE

Botswana could uphold its relationship with Beijing while insisting that Taiwan's future be pursued peacefully, with the freely expressed consent of its people. We once needed the world to look beyond imperial maps and see human beings with a claim to dignity. Eswatini, in recognising Taiwan, seems to retain the principles that Botswana and others have conveniently forsaken. We cannot honour that principle by treating another society's future as something to be settled between powerful capitals. Our independence gave us a voice in the world. Surely we can use it to defend the importance of listening to those whose lives are at stake.

TAIWAN'S RESPONSE

Taiwan accused Beijing of using bilateral statements as "cognitive warfare" to change the status quo and undermine the international order. Its message to Botswana was pointed: remain objective and neutral, do "not blindly submit to China's deliberate political manipulation", and do not disregard the threat China's actions pose to regional peace. Batswana deserve to hear them, and our government should answer them. Instead of kowtowing to the small print of Chinese trade agreements, we should ask what our own history obliges us to remember. When we raise the blue, black and white, we celebrate more than permission granted by powerful outsiders. We celebrate our right to belong to ourselves. If that right means anything, our conscience should travel further than our borders and vested interests.



KFC Botswana Add Hope Golf Day raises over P260,000 for SOS Children's Village Serowe







Key facts at a glance

- Fundraising impact: KFC Botswana's fourth annual Add Hope Golf Day raised over P260,000 for SOS Children's Village Serowe.
- Community participation: 76 players from 19 organisations outside KFC participated in the fundraising event.
- Beneficiary: Funds will support the facility needs of SOS Children's Village Serowe, helping the organisation care for and support children in Botswana.
- Long-standing partnerships: Moleps Poultry and Senn Food Logistics have supported the event as main sponsors since its inception in 2023.
- Additional contributions: Pie Time pledged P50,000, while an outdoor advertising package donated by Legola Media raised P40,000 through an auction.

GABORONE, BOTSWANA – Businesses and community members came together for KFC Botswana's fourth annual Add Hope Golf Day, raising over P260,000 to support children at SOS Children's Village Serowe.

How does KFC Botswana's Add Hope Golf Day support children?

The event welcomed 76 players representing 19 organisations outside KFC, bringing together people from across Botswana's business community for a day of golf, connection and giving back.

The tournament offered an opportunity for businesses and individuals to contribute towards supporting children in Botswana.

Funds raised will support the facility needs of SOS Children's Village Serowe, helping the organisation continue its important work caring for and supporting children.

Which businesses supported the 2026 Add Hope Golf Day?

The day was made possible through the generosity of sponsors and partners who continue to support KFC Botswana's Add Hope initiative.

Moleps Poultry and Senn Food Logistics have been main sponsors since the golf day began in 2023, demonstrating their ongoing commitment.

Pie Time contributed a P50,000 pledge alongside its hole sponsorship, while Legola Media sponsored a hole and donated a six-month outdoor advertising package. The package was auctioned during the event, raising a further P40,000.

Why are community partnerships important to KFC Botswana's Add Hope initiative?
Through initiatives such as the annual Add Hope Golf Day, KFC Botswana continues to work with businesses, partners and community members to support children in need.

The event shows how contributions from businesses and individuals can provide practical support to organisations such as SOS Children's Village Serowe.

KFC Botswana extends its sincere thanks to every sponsor, partner, golfer, volunteer and team member who contributed to the day. Whether through financial contributions, time or resources, every contribution helped make the event possible.

The funds raised reflect the continued generosity and support of Botswana's business community, helping SOS Children's Village Serowe continue its work with children.

2026 KFC Botswana Add Hope Golf Day sponsors and partners

Senn Food Logistics, Moleps Poultry, Pie Time, BOC, De Vre Transport, Checkmate, Yarona FM, Richmark, Notwane, SAA, Benju Wines, Clover, Roro Oils, Coca-Cola, Gabs Electronics, PostNet, Ross Breeders, The Specialists, Paratus, Poly New Consultancy, Precari, Grant Thornton, Clean All Services, Stanbic Bank, Bolux, Avani, Show Group, PSK Travels, Legola Media and Certainty.

The Botswana Gazette
TIME OUT
THE BOTSWANA GAZETTE
WEDNESDAY 28 OCTOBER 2026

GOSEGO MOTSUMI

DR TUMI JOINS THE ENCOUNTER



Botswana's Hosanna Gospel Singers have brought Dr Tumi into their musical fold, but The Encounter is about more than heavenly harmonies. It is a bold pitch for cross-border collaboration and a bigger stage for Botswana's gospel music.

Gospel might be a universal language, but the music industry still has borders. At GICC this past weekend, Botswana's Hosanna Gospel Singers teamed up with South African worship heavyweight Dr Tumi for *The Encounter (GIA 26)*, a live album recording that made a compelling case for taking Botswana's gospel beyond its own backyard.

> "I dont just become a part of every record anywhere but I look at the heart that people carry and what drives them."

MORE THAN A WORSHIP SESSION

Featuring 23 choir members, a six-piece band and previously unreleased songs, the recording was as much about musical ambition as spiritual connection. For Dr Tumi, the invitation was an opportunity to help build a two-way street between Botswana and South Africa's gospel scenes.



> Dr Tumi delivered "Nothing Without You", while Minister Leo got the audience on its feet with "Ke Tshepile"

"I dont just become a part of every record anywhere but I look at the heart that people carry and what drives them," he told *Time Out*.

His interest goes beyond lending his voice to another album. He wants to see Botswana's artists gain listeners across the border, challenging the one-way traffic that often sees South African music dominate regional playlists.

"It's not just Botswana consuming South African music its also South Africans consuming Botswana music so there is better collaboration and supporting each other," he said.

A JOURNEY TO THE ENCOUNTER

For Hosanna, the collaboration marks another chapter in a journey that began in 2009. Convener Nico Matlapeng said the group spent years performing before releasing its debut album, *The Beginning*, in 2022. *The Journey* followed in 2024, setting the stage for a bigger swing.

"We then wanted to keep the momentum and take it a notch higher by bringing Dr Tumi to be a part of The Encounter," Matlapeng said.

The evening brought moments of intimate worship and full-throttle celebration. Dr Tumi delivered "Nothing Without You", while Minister Leo got the audience on its feet with "Ke Tshepile", following the success of her chart-topping hymn "Gaufi le Morena".

> "It's not just Botswana consuming South African music its also South Africans consuming Botswana music so there is better collaboration and supporting each other,"

With collaborations involving gospel names such as Benjamin Dube and Yanga Sobetwa already under its belt, Hosanna is no newcomer to the regional stage. The four-time Botswana Gospel Awards winner has also amassed more than four million YouTube views.

INSIDE EDNAH ROSEN'S MUD HOUSE

Soil, cow dung, sorghum and stories. In Mahalapye, chef Ednah Rosen is building a different kind of luxury, one that invites Botswana inside, not just onto the menu.

GOSEGO MOTSUMI

Forget marble countertops and imported finishes. In Mahalapye, Ednah Rosen is making a different kind of statement with soil, cow dung, grass and poles. Step inside The Mud House, where Botswana's culinary heritage is not decorative wallpaper but the whole point.







The award-winning chef and *Taste of Botswana* author has created an intimate culinary and cultural escape that connects the food on your plate to the land beneath your feet. And yes, even the walls have a story to tell.

SIX MONTHS, ONE MUD HOUSE

Rosen spent six months working alongside women from her community, gathering natural materials and making bricks by hand. The result is a traditional home that doubles as a living expression of Botswana's food, architecture and cultural memory.

"I began by asking myself a simple question: what if we allowed Botswana to speak for itself?" she told Time Out.

Inside, the philosophy is refreshingly unfussy. Indigenous ingredients, seasonal produce and open-fire cooking take centre stage, with contemporary presentation giving traditional food room to evolve without losing its identity.

This is not heritage packaged behind glass. It is heritage you can walk into, sit down in and taste.

SORGHUM TAKES CENTRE STAGE

One of the house's most intriguing stories is told through sorghum, a grain that connects Rosen's cooking to memories of her grandmother.

At The Mud House, it moves beyond familiar preparations into gluten-free sorghum mud cake, bread, crackers, salads and a risotto-inspired dish. The point is not to make local food imitate something foreign. It is to show how much possibility has been sitting in plain sight.

Rosen believes indigenous ingredients can inspire a new generation of chefs, farmers and food entrepreneurs. The past, it turns out, has business potential.

LUXURY WITHOUT THE LABEL

For Rosen, luxury is less about what a space costs than what it makes you feel.

> This is not heritage packaged behind glass. It is heritage you can walk into, sit down in and taste.

"For me, luxury is not about looking good. It is about feeling good," she says.

That idea runs through the house, from its earth-built walls to the knowledge preserved by women and elders. The experience asks visitors to look beyond Botswana's familiar wildlife postcard and discover the culture expressed through its homes, ingredients and communal traditions.

The Mud House is more than a culinary getaway. It is a reminder that innovation does not always mean starting from scratch. Sometimes, it means returning to the ground, quite literally.



What Lies Beyond the Frame?

In a world hooked on the quick scroll and the instant impression, Giovanni Jangano wants viewers to hit pause. His latest exhibition uses colour, symbolism and documentary-style photography to explore the stories hiding in plain sight.

GOSEGO MOTSUMI

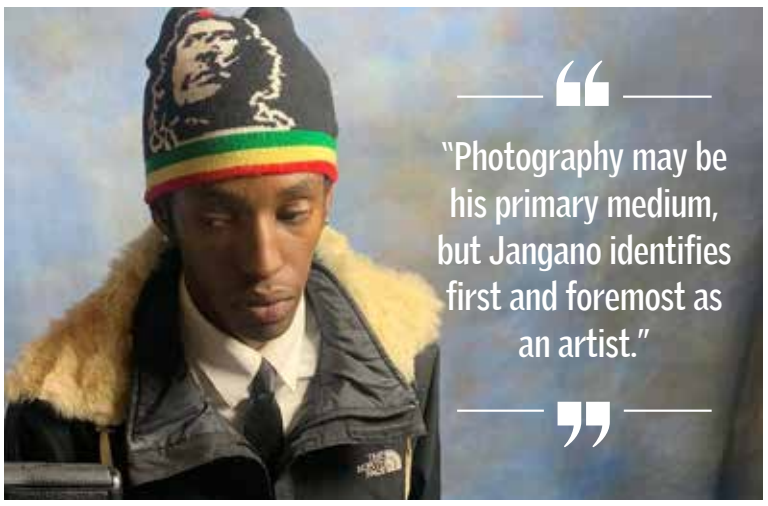
A photograph takes a second to capture. Understanding it can take much longer. Giovanni Jangano is betting on that gap, between what we see and what we actually understand, with *Giovanni: Beyond the Surface*, an exhibition challenging audiences to look beyond the obvious.

Opening at Alliance Française de Gaborone on 12 November, the exhibition brings together the Zimbabwean visual artist and photographer's interest in emotion, symbolism and the lives unfolding around him. Based in Botswana, Jangano uses the camera to do more than freeze a moment: he wants to make viewers question what they think they know about it.

COLOUR ISN'T JUST DECORATION

Forget colour as a pretty finishing touch. In Jangano's visual world, it has a job to do.

Working with composition and symbolism, he uses colour to guide the eye, shape emotion and suggest meanings that may not be immediately obvious. The photographs draw on personal experiences, the lives of people around him and a family history closely connected to art.



Photography may be his primary medium, but Jangano identifies first and foremost as an artist. That distinction matters: the camera is not simply a recording device but a tool for exploring ideas and feelings that resist straightforward explanations.

NO EASY ANSWERS

Beyond the Surface brings these elements together in what is described as one of Jangano's most significant bodies of work to date. Rather than dictate a single interpretation, he wants each image to open a conversation between the artwork and its audience.

That makes the viewer part of the experience. Personal histories and first impressions inevitably shape what people see and looking again might reveal something the initial glance missed.

In an age when images are consumed at speed, Jangano's invitation is refreshingly simple: slow down and pay attention.

The exhibition opens at 5:30 PM on Thursday, 12 November, with a question-and-answer session with the artist at 6 PM. Entry is free, and the exhibition runs until 3 December at Alliance Française de Gaborone.

BOTSWANA, TOLD IN DANCE



Having watched Mophato Dance Theatre's productions unfold on stage, Thalefang Charles' Mophato: Botswana's Story, Told in Dance feels like a return to moments that refuse to fade. Through striking photography and intimate storytelling, the book gives Botswana's cultural memory a permanent home.

GOSEGO MOTSUMI

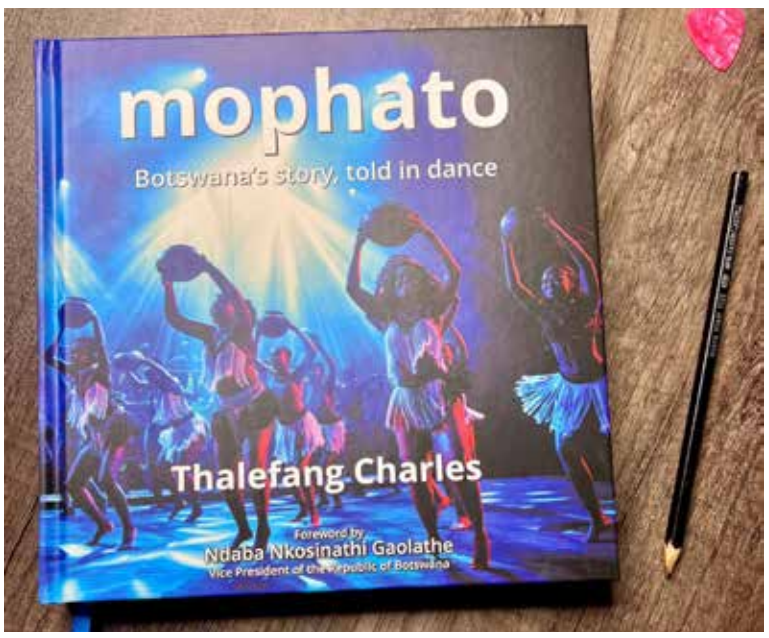
Some performances stay with you long after the applause dies. Others become part of your personal history. For me, reading Thalefang Charles' *Mophato: Botswana's Story, Told in Dance* was less about discovering a dance company than revisiting moments I had carried in my memory — and experiencing them all over again.

SIX PRODUCTIONS, ONE NATION

Having watched Mophato Dance Theatre's productions on stage, I knew the emotional territory Charles was navigating. But the book brought a fresh intimacy to those memories, particularly *PULA*, where a moment involving Mmapula, played by Palesa Molefe, remains unforgettable.

As Molefe entered a spine-chilling spiritual trance, the production continued singing around her. The moment felt startlingly real, the kind of theatrical experience that leaves an audience suspended between performance and something seemingly beyond it.

Charles' photography captures that intensity beautifully, allowing the emotion to travel beyond the stage. Even more gripping was reading Molefe's own account of the experience later in the book. A moment I thought I knew suddenly had another dimension. That is where *Mophato* becomes more than documentation: it lets the audience revisit a memory while discovering the human story behind it.



Across six landmark productions, including *PULA, BORWA, TEEMANE, THARI, INYAYA and A RE YENG BOTSWANA*, the book explores drought, migrant labour, diamonds, women's experiences and national identity. Founding director Andrew Letso Kola's vision emerges through dance that carries ancestral knowledge into contemporary storytelling.

WHEN PHOTOGRAPHS KEEP MOVING

The book's physical presentation deserves recognition, too. The printing brings out the photography beautifully, preserving its visual impact without pixelation. For a work built around movement, expression and carefully captured moments, that clarity matters.

Drawing on the voices of more than 40 artists, Charles also takes readers behind the scenes, revealing the labour, vulnerability and creative process behind the performances.

> "That is where Mophato becomes more than documentation: it lets the audience revisit a memory while discovering the human story behind it."

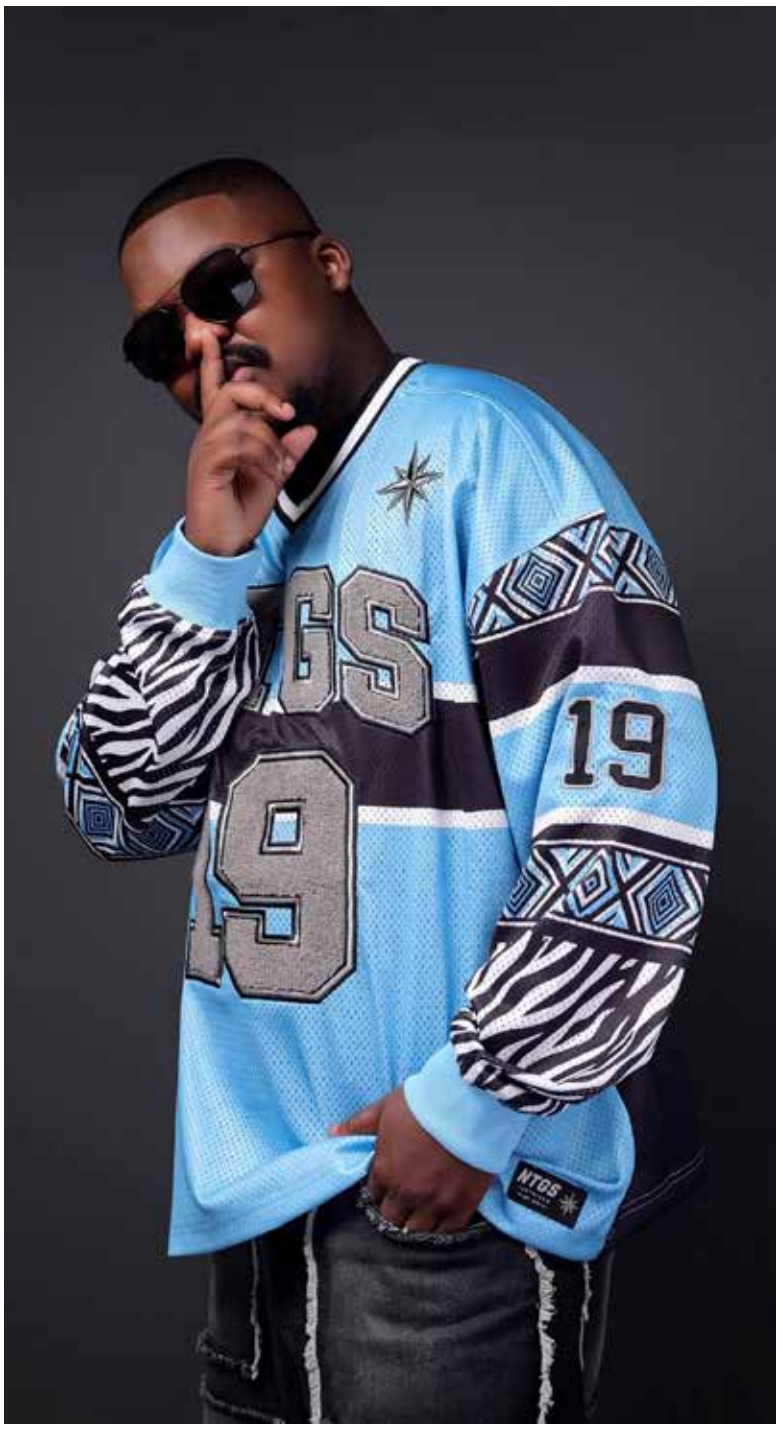
Ultimately, *Mophato* is both a cultural archive and an emotional return. It preserves stories that might otherwise fade when the lights go down, reminding us that Botswana's identity is not only written in history books; it is also danced, felt and remembered.

TAKE THE STORY HOME

Readers can find *Mophato: Botswana's Story, Told in Dance* at Botswana Book Centre (Main Mall), Botswana Craft (Block 3), Exclusive Books (Airport Junction) and PushaBW Store (SSKIA).

WHY EZRA AND FROSTBITE ARE GOING SOUTH

This is more than a festival booking. Ezra Neethings and DJ Frostbite are heading to South Africa's Mahika Mahikeng as a strategic partnership looks to turn Botswana's creative talent into a regional export.



GOSEGO MOTSUMI

A festival slot can mean a few hours in the spotlight. The bigger question is what happens when the music stops. For Botswana artists Ezra Neethings and DJ Frostbite, this year's Mahika Mahikeng Cultural Music Festival 2026 slated for 3-6 December offers a chance to reach audiences across the border and potentially open doors to a wider regional market.

> "The real measure of success will be whether that room opens more doors."

Their inclusion comes through a strategic partnership between The Creative Blueprint Agency and South African events company Big Daddy Events 247.

NOT JUST ABOUT THE LINE-UP

The move is part of a broader effort to connect Botswana's creative industry with regional audiences, events and commercial opportunities. Rather than presenting the selections as a ranking of local musicians, the agency says its choices reflect market opportunities and audience relevance.

"At The Creative Blueprint Agency, we provide strategic advisory support to position Botswana's creative industry beyond its borders," says Tshepo Ngakaagae in an interview.

She says the objective is to create opportunities for artists, creatives and businesses to access regional and international markets.

For Ezra and Frostbite, that means a platform beyond Botswana's borders. Whether the exposure leads to new listeners, industry connections or future bookings remains to be seen, but the opportunity extends their reach into South Africa's live music circuit.

THE BUSINESS BEHIND THE BEATS

The partnership also reaches beyond the stage. A Botswana-based beef braai eatery has been invited to set up a stall at Mahika Mahikeng at no cost, giving the business a chance to introduce its products to a wider audience.

And the festival is not intended to be a one-off. Botswana artists are also participating in the All White Youth Experience on 16 December 2026 and the Tlokwe Jazz Music Festival on 1 January 2027, both in Potchefstroom.

Creative Blueprint says it is also in discussions with industry players in Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Nigeria, the United States, Zimbabwe and Lesotho.

The strategy is clear: use live events to build connections that could outlast a single performance. A limited number of complimentary Mahika Mahikeng tickets will be available to Botswana through the agency.

For Ezra Neethings and DJ Frostbite, the booking puts Botswana's sound in a new room. The real measure of success will be whether that room opens more doors.

THEBE PHETOGO'S UNCANNY EARTH

What if mountains had muscles, rivers were veins and the Earth had a body of its own? In The Uncanny Valley, local artist Thebe Phetogo makes the familiar landscape feel deliciously strange.



GOSEGO MOTSUMI

A river flows through a mountain valley, but something feels off. The colours are electric, the geological layers look almost anatomical, and the landscape seems less like a postcard than a body cracked open. Welcome to Thebe Phetogo's *The Uncanny Valley*, where nature gets under your skin, literally.

EARTH, MEET BODY

The Gaborone-based painter is interested in the uneasy territory where the human form and the natural world begin to blur. Mountains become bodily structures, rivers evoke vascular systems, and geological formations take on the appearance of skin, tissue and organs.

"I think of these works as 'figurative landscapes'," Phetogo explains.

The title borrows from robotics and computer-generated imagery, where something that looks almost human can trigger an unsettling response. Phetogo takes that psychological glitch and gives it geographical coordinates, transforming the uncanny valley into an actual landscape.



His paintings use bold colour, simplified forms and layered compositions to make the familiar feel unfamiliar. The result is a visual trip in which the Earth appears startlingly alive and the human body no longer feels separate from it.

NOT JUST A PRETTY VIEW

Born in Serowe in 1993, Phetogo approaches landscape as something people belong to, depend on and help shape. His work draws on Botswana's real and imagined environments, asking viewers to reconsider the ground beneath their feet and the histories embedded in it.

There is a deeper proposition here: the land is not merely a backdrop to human life. It is part of us, and we are part of it. That connection becomes harder to ignore when a mountain starts looking like flesh or a river like a network of veins.

Phetogo holds a Master of Fine Art from the University of Cape Town's Michaelis School of Fine Art. His exhibition history includes Zeitz MOCAA in Cape Town, Kunsthal KAdE in the Netherlands and Musée Rath in Geneva. He is also a founding member of TBP Artist Collective, which creates exhibition and commercial opportunities for Botswana-based artists.

For those ready to see the landscape differently, *The Uncanny Valley* can be viewed at Phetogo's studio in Phase 2, Gaborone.

TSW Joins the Night Market



Good food, local finds and Kgale Hill views? Now there's a digital twist. TSW is teaming up with the Kgale View Night Market to give Gaborone's favourite monthly hangout an extra dose of discovery.

Gaborone's market scene is getting a new player in its corner. TSW has partnered with Kgale View Night Market, bringing digital discovery to the monthly gathering that attracts up to 80 vendors serving food, music, creativity and community against the backdrop of Kgale Hill.

The partnership's first big move arrives at the 1 November edition, where eligible new TSW users will get access to a dedicated red-carpet Fast Lane. An on-site team will help visitors download and register on the app, while TSW's What's Hot & What's Not feature will spotlight the market and participating vendors beyond the event.

> "Our ambition is not simply to tell people what's happening, but to help them discover it, access it and be part of it"

"Our ambition is not simply to tell people what's happening, but to help them discover it, access it and be part of it," said Oliver Russell, speaking on behalf of TSW.

For the market, the collaboration could mean more eyes on local entrepreneurs and more reasons for visitors to return. Hamza Tajbhai, representing the market, said the partnership could help introduce more people to the experience while supporting the businesses and creatives behind its growth.

BY LU TAKES ITS GLAMOUR SOUTH

Botswana-born ambition is getting a new address. BY LU has opened its doors in South Africa, with founder Kagiso De Klerk bringing her fashion vision to a wider market and launching a collection built for women who like their style to make an entrance.

A new country, a bigger stage and a wardrobe with main-character energy. BY LU, the boutique founded by Kagiso De Klerk, has officially expanded into South Africa, marking a fresh chapter for the fashion business after what its founder describes as a journey of hard work and faith.

"With hearts full of gratitude, excitement and joy, we are thrilled to announce that BY LU has officially found a home in South Africa!" De Klerk said.

The expansion arrives alongside the launch of the ALLURE COLLECTION, a range built around feminine silhouettes, timeless elegance and statement-making pieces. BY LU's offering spans tailored looks, elegant dresses, accessories and contemporary luxury wear, aimed at women seeking polished style for professional settings, social occasions and everyday dressing.

The brand positions itself at the intersection of premium fashion and accessible glamour, appealing to women who want their clothes to work as hard as they do from the boardroom to after-hours plans.

"This is more than just a store opening….it's the beginning of a beautiful new chapter and we cannot wait to share it with you!" De Klerk said.

TIMEOUT BRIEFS

BY GOSEGO MOTSUMI



Botswana's Diamonds Take Centre Stage

A diamond's journey begins long before it reaches a jewellery counter. Signet Jewelers' top executives have been in Botswana to explore that journey, spotlight the country's diamond industry and mark six decades of independence.





From the depths of Jwaneng Mine to the global jewellery market, Botswana's diamond story was in focus as Signet Jewelers CEO J.K. Symancyk and Chief Corporate Affairs and Sustainability Officer Colleen Rooney visited the country.

The delegation met with Debswana and toured Jwaneng Mine, often called the "King of Mines", gaining a closer look at the operations behind Botswana's natural diamonds and the industry's economic and social contributions.

For Signet, one of the world's leading diamond jewellery retailers, the visit offered an opportunity to connect the stones sold to consumers, particularly in the United States, with the country and communities behind their journey from mine to market.

The programme wrapped with a cocktail reception celebrating Botswana's 60 years of independence, bringing together invited leaders and stakeholders to reflect on the country's achievements and its relationship with the international diamond jewellery sector.

Brandy Steals the Spotlight

Wine, chocolate and brandy with serious age credentials. South African heavyweight KWV brought its finest pours to Gaborone, proving that Botswana's growing wine culture has plenty more to explore.



Wine had the first pour. Brandy stole the second act. And chocolate? Well, chocolate made everything considerably more interesting.

The Gaborone Wine Club celebrated its first six months in style when South African wine and spirits giant KWV arrived for an afternoon of tasting, storytelling and some seriously grown-up drinking.

Held at the Gaborone Club, the experience brought together curious palates and a producer with more than a century of history.

OLD SPIRITS, NEW TRICKS

Leading the tasting was Saskia Lesch, who manages KWV's portfolio across Africa.

First came the familiar favourites, including Roodeberg and Cathedral Cellar. Then the real plot twist: KWV's 10, 12, 15 and 20-year-old brandies, each paired with chocolate.



The idea? Explore how ageing shapes flavour and how a little chocolate can change the conversation.

Founded in 1918, KWV knows a thing or two about patience. Its brandies have earned international recognition, including an eighth Brandy Producer of the Year title at the International Spirits Challenge in 2026.

Not bad for a spirit that sometimes plays second fiddle to wine.

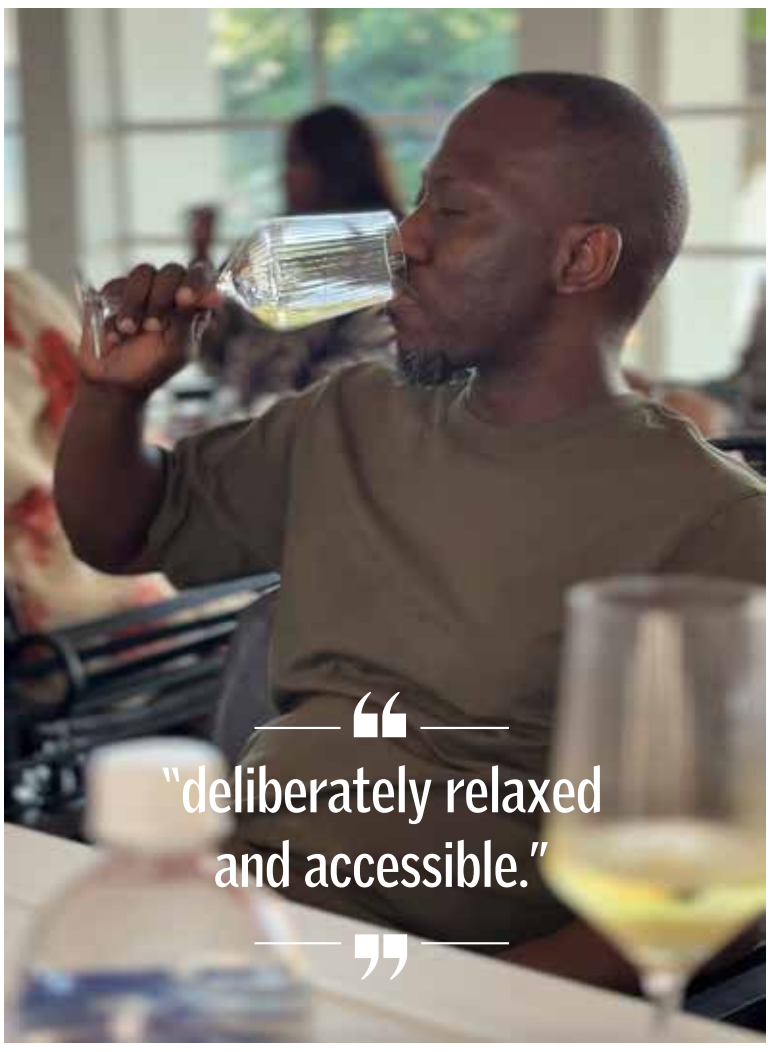
SMALL CLUB, BIG TASTE

Launched in April, the Gaborone Wine Club has grown into a community of 21 members, from enthusiastic beginners to seasoned wine lovers.

Its philosophy is refreshingly simple: discover, taste, debate and repeat.

The atmosphere is, as the original account describes it, "deliberately relaxed and accessible."

Monthly gatherings explore different wine farms, from boutique discoveries to established producers whose familiar labels often conceal surprisingly diverse portfolios.



No intimidating wine snobbery required.

MORE THAN A GLASS

Membership comes with benefits beyond the tasting table.

There is a complimentary monthly wine drop, selected discounts through participating TOPS at SPAR stores and preferential purchasing arrangements. Absa Bank Botswana has also introduced membership discounts for Platinum and Signature cardholders.

> "Exposure to the stories, choices and people behind the products gives consumers more context than a label or price alone can provide."

Meanwhile, the club is developing The Village Pantry, a restaurant, specialist grocer, wine store and deli concept bringing food and wine discovery under one roof.

For Gaborone's increasingly curious wine crowd, the adventure is moving well beyond the bottle.

"Exposure to the stories, choices and people behind the products gives consumers more context than a label or price alone can provide."



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

Market research cures business stagnation



Lekwale

As a research firm which focuses on market research, polls, surveys, among others, we hope to bring insights to you through today's article on the critical importance of market research when a business stagnates. If ever there is something that irks a businessperson, it is sluggish business or a fall in demand of goods or services. Every business requires constant inflows of cash and therefore every entrepreneur will be glad when significant cash will be coming in through sales.

What is business stagnation?

Business stagnation basically refers to a scenario where a business stops growing, sales remain stagnant or reduce and at times clients leave and that obviously is a territory which no businessperson would like to find themselves in. Unfortunately, the advent of COVID-19 and depressed diamond revenues for the country brought that reality to many entrepreneurs through reduction in sales, disruption in distribution chains as well as loss of clients. This situation, as if it was not bad by itself, was worsened by the Russia-Ukraine war as well as the USA versus Iran war,which resulted in fuel prices sharply going up. That technically means that entrepreneurs will constantly have to increase their prices but that will not be feasible if a business has already started seeing stagnation.

THE QUANDARY

Whilst it may be clear why business stagnation may exist, most entrepreneurs may not be able to tell the reason for a slump in business, especially considering the ripple effects of COVID-19, depressed diamond revenues and the above-mentioned two wars. Therefore, market research i.e. a process of getting into a business' market and asking clients relevant questions regarding the demand for goods and services as well as how to improve them will cure or provide clues as to what is required to solve business stagnation. At times it may be necessary to cut on costs, improve on service delivery or increase the quality of goods and services. Therefore, in a nutshell, if your business has stagnated, the cure is for you to find out why and that can only be done through market research.

MARKET RESEARCH IS CRITICAL

Another important aspect of market research is that it helps businesses understand changing customer preferences. Customers may gradually develop new expectations regarding product quality, pricing, convenience and customer service. A business that fails to recognize these changes may continue offering products or services that no longer meet market demands. Therefore surveys, interviews and customer feedback, are key to establishing what the business needs to do to remain relevant in the market.

CHANGES TO THE ECONOMY

In addition, changes to the economy also have a direct impact on the volumes of goods and services sold. The recent decline in government revenues meant that the economy slowed down and there was little flow of money from the government to the private sector, which translated into less disposable incomes to the ordinary man in the streets. The reduced incomes automatically means prioritisation of expenses which can result in reduced demand for goods and services. Therefore, if a business is to survive in such conditions, it needs to establish the reasons resulting in the reduction in business through market research.

CONCLUSION

We hope that this article has helped shed a bit of light as to the importance of data collection and analysis when a business has stagnated, as data is key for informed or data driven decision-making.

For market research, polls, surveys, or to join our free Research WhatsApp Group, please contact us at +267 3939 435 or +267 76 685 116 or research@aupracon-tax.co.bw.

oprácon
DATA COLLECTION & ANALYSIS

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

CASE NO. CVHGB – 003658 - 25

In the matter between:
BANK GABORONE LIMITED — **PLAINTIFF**
and
IRAM ENTERPRISES (PTY) LTD — **1ST DEFENDANT**
IKRAM ISHMAIL PATEL — **2ND DEFENDANT**

SUBSTITUTED SERVICE

TO: IRAM ENTERPRISES (PTY) LTD, a company incorporated in accordance with the company laws of Botswana, whose further and better particulars are unknown to the Plaintiff, otherwise its chosen address of service is at **PLOT 2053, LOTSANE WARD, PALAPYE** and postal address being **P. O. BOX 3511, MAHALAPYE.**

TO: IKRAM ISMAIL PATEL, an adult male of full legal capacity, whose further and better particulars are unknown to the Plaintiff, whose further and better particulars are unknown to the Plaintiff, otherwise having his chosen address of service at **PLOT 15007, XHOSA 2 WARD, MAHALAPYE.**

TAKE NOTICE THAT by Summons issued out of the High Court, you have been called upon to give notice within twenty one (21) days after publication hereof to the Registrar of the High Court at Gaborone and to the Plaintiff's attorneys, of your intention to defend, (if any) in an action wherein the Plaintiff seeks the following reliefs:

A. Payment of the sum of **P91 616.29 (Ninety One Thousand Six Hundred and Sixteen Pula Twenty Nine Thebe Only)**;
B. Interest thereon at Bank Gaborone Prime Lending rate (at the time **6.51%**) plus **10.00%** per annum calculated on the outstanding balance, compounded and debited to the account on an annual basis from the **31st July 2025** to date of final payment;
C. Collection Commission at the rate of 10% on the instalment payments made;
D. Costs of suit on attorney-client scale;
E. Further and/or alternative relief.

TAKE NOTICE FURTHER THAT in the event you fail to give such notice within the aforementioned time frame, Judgment, as set out above, may be granted against you without any further reference to you.

DATED AT GABORONE THIS 23RD DAY OF OCTOBER 2026.

COLLINS CHILISA CONSULTANTS
Attorneys • Notaries • Conveyancers

COLLINS CHILISA CONSULTANTS
Plaintiff's Attorneys
Plot 4858, Lecha Close
Off Marakanelo Way
Extension 11
P O Box 45136
GABORONE

H/W RESHENG.
IN THE MAGISTRATE COURT OF THE REPUBLIC OF BOTSWANA
HELD AT VILLAGE IN GABORONE

Case No. CCMVL-000860-26

In the matter between:
RELEVANT SECTION PROPRIETARY LIMITED — **PLAINTIFF**
And
WILLIAM GUZANI — **DEFENDANT**

SUBSTITUTED SERVICE

1. The Plaintiff is **RELEVANT SECTION PROPRIETARY LIMITED**, an adult male of full legal capacity, whose address for the purposes of this suit is **c/o LEKANG MOTLOTLEGI LEGAL CONSULTANCY**, Fairgrounds Mall, Office F7, P. O. Box 501427 Railpark, Gaborone.
2. **WILLIAM GUZANI**, (Defendant herein), an adult male, whose last known residence is Gaborone whose further and better particulars and details are unknown to me.

YOU ARE INFORMED that you should:

I. Within **seven (7) Days** of the publication of this summons you enter an Appearance to Defend. An appearance is entered by properly completing and delivering a Memorandum of Appearance to the Registrar and to the Plaintiff. Delivering to the Plaintiff may be effected by sending by registered post to the Plaintiff, if the Plaintiff sues in person, but otherwise to the Plaintiff's attorneys' address for service, a copy of the memorandum of appearance on the day it is delivered to the Registrar.
II. The memorandum of appearance shall state an address within the jurisdiction at or to which documents for you may be delivered or sent;
III. The Memorandum of appearance shall specify concisely the nature and the grounds of the defence and relief or remedy required;
IV. Thereafter, and

FURTHER if you fail to enter appearance as aforesaid, judgment as claimed may be given against you without further notice to you.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff prays for judgment against the Defendant for:

a. **Payment of the sum of BWP 29 300.00 (twenty-nine thousand and three hundred pula)**;
b. 10% interest a tempore morae;
c. Costs of suit

DATED AT GABORONE THIS 15TH DAY OF OCTOBER 2026

LEKANG MOTLOTLEGI LEGAL CONSULTANY
Plaintiff's Attorneys
Fairgrounds Mall Unit F7
P.O. Box 501427 Railpark Mall
GABORONE

TO: THE CLERK OF COURT
Gaborone Magistrate Court

BEFORE DUBE J
IN THE HIGH COURT OF THE REPUBLIC OF BOTSWANA
HELD AT LOBATSE

CASE NO. CVHGB-001733-26

In the matter between:
MOITSHEPIEMANG MAJASE — **PLAINTIFF**
And
THUTO BAHOLE — **DEFENDANT**

NOTICE FOR SUBSTITUTED SERVICE

TO: THUTO BAHOLE, an adult male of full legal capacity resident in Gaborone, otherwise his further and better particulars are unknown to the Plaintiff (hereinafter called "Defendant")

TAKE NOTICE THAT by the Writ of Summons issued out of Court, you have been called upon to give notice within (14) days after publication hereof, to the Registrar of Court and to the Plaintiff's Attorneys (at their below mentioned addresses) of your intention to defend (if any) in an action wherein the Plaintiff claims against you the following;

1.1. Defendant's vehicle herein being Toyota Hilux 2.8 GD6, Grey in colour, Registered B 172 BTF be declared specially executable;
1.2. Costs of suit on an attorney and own client scale;
1.3. Any further and alternative relief that this Honourable Court may find just.

BE PLEASED TO TAKE NOTICE FURTHER THAT if you fail to give such notice, judgement may be granted against you. Without further reference to you.

DATED AT GABORONE THIS 21ST DAY OF OCTOBER 2026

MOKOPAKGOSI ATTORNEYS
Plaintiff's Attorneys
Plot 546, Extension 4, Gaborone
P. O. Box 45287, Riverwalk
GABORONE
3960700/72723359

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

Case No: CVHGB 002571/25

In the matter between:
RATNAM ENTERPRISES (PTY) LTD — **PLANTIFF**
And
SETH INTERIORS (PTY) LTD — **DEFENDANT**

NOTICE OF SALE IN EXECUTION -MOVABLE PROPERTY

BE PLEASED TO TAKE NOTICE that pursuant to the judgment of the above Honorable Court the following property of the abovenamed Defendant will be sold by public auction by Deputy Sheriff **D.J MOYO** to the highest bidder as follows:

DATE OF SALE : **04TH November 2026**
TIME : 09:00 am
VENUE : **Plot No: 20745, Unit 4, Block 3**
PROPERTY TO BE SOLD : 1 x 1 Wall Picture, 1 x 1 Table, 10 Anticutes, 9 chairs, 10 pots, 2 pots , 1 x 1 execution desk, 1x 1 watch, 1 x 1 round table with 2 chairs, 1 x 1 consul 15 vases, 1 x 1 round glass table, 7 stools, 1 x 1 table 2 coffee table sets' , 1 x 1 coffee table, 6 watches, 1 x 1 troyceii cabets Dell computer, 1 x 1 reception desk,1 x1 side table 1 x 1vase 2 chairs, 2 mirriors, 1 x 1 mezzanine floor built in

CONDITIONS OF SALE : Cash or Bank transfers

DATED AT GABORONE THIS 26th DAY OF OCTOBER 2026

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

TIRED OF SHARING?



PHOKO'S SIWELELE FUTURE IN DOUBT



Reports of a possible Siwelele departure after three league appearances revive the troubled history of several Botswana footballers' short South African spells.

BONGANI MALUNGA

Goitseone Phoko could become the latest Botswana international whose South African career ends after fewer than six league appearances.

Reports in South Africa suggest Phoko and Siwelele FC are negotiating a mutual separation barely four months after the 31-year-old goalkeeper joined the Betway Premiership club on a two-year contract.

Phoko started Siwelele's first three league matches against TS Galaxy, Milford FC and AmaZulu in August, conceding five goals. He has not played another league minute since.

KEEPER COMPETITION

Phoko joined under coach Lehlohonolo Seema, who subsequently left the first-team role.

Competition intensified when Siwelele signed Wandile Mthombeni and added Jody February on loan from Mamelodi Sundowns. Reports suggest Phoko consequently slipped down the goalkeeping pecking order.

THREE GAMES

Kekaetswe "Mara" Moloi joined Polokwane City from Mochudi Centre Chiefs in 2013 after making his name as a Botswana goalscorer. His PSL career lasted three league appearances and produced one goal before his release in January 2014.

Moloi's stay coincided with managerial upheaval. Duncan Lechesa, who had taken Polokwane into the Premiership, left in September 2013. Boebie Solomons took charge in October.

Ntesang "Mirror" Simanyana joined Polokwane in 2013 after impressing at trials but made only one league appearance. He signed for Gaborone United during the 2013/14 campaign, also having experienced the change from Lechesa to Solomons.

CHIPPA TURBULENCE

Five years later, Thatayaone Kgamanyane and Kabelo Seakanyeng joined Chippa United from Gaborone United on three-year contracts. Kgamanyane made two league appearances and scored once; Seakanyeng played three times. Their arrival coincided with another coaching shake-up: Dan Malesela was dismissed three matches into 2018/19 and replaced by Eric Tinkler.

Coaching changes were not the only factor. Chippa released 13 players in January 2019. Their former agent, Olebile Sikwane, told Gazette Sport at the time that the Botswana pair's exit was largely driven by financial pressure on a club in business rescue, rather than their ability.

NO APPEARANCES

Goalkeeper Mwampule Masule joined Chippa from Township Rollers in January 2019 but was released within six months without making an official appearance. Reports cited fitness concerns, while Mbongeni Mzimela had become first-choice goalkeeper.

Recurring Pattern

Defender Benson Kitso Mangolo joined Richards Bay ahead of 2025/26 but made only two appearances before leaving during a January 2026 restructuring. He returned to Mochudi Centre Chiefs.

Phoko's situation echoes those abbreviated spells, although his proposed separation has not been confirmed. The circumstances have ranged from coaching changes to financial and fitness concerns.

Young Chess Stars Test African Ambitions

A regional tournament in Gaborone gave Botswana's junior players a valuable test before December's African Chess Championships in Namibia.

BONGANI MALUNGA

Botswana's emerging chess players tested themselves against regional opposition at the 2026 Botswana International Youth Chess and Cadets Championship in Gaborone last weekend, strengthening their preparations for December's African Chess Championships in Namibia.

Candidate Master Thuto Mpene led Botswana's campaign by winning the boys' Under-18 title with 5.5 points. He won all but one of his matches, conceding only half a point in a draw. Makgabana Kaela secured the girls' Under-18 crown.

FURTHER SUCCESS

Botswana's younger prospects also impressed. Ezra Bartlett won the boys' Under-14 category, while Melissa Otimile secured the girls' Under-12 title.

The fifth edition of the tournament attracted 210 players from Botswana, Lesotho, Namibia, South Africa and Zimbabwe, offering the country's youngsters an important opportunity to measure themselves against some of the region's promising talents.

The tournament also provided competitive preparation ahead of the African Chess Championships in Namibia this December, where Botswana's players can expect a stronger continental field.

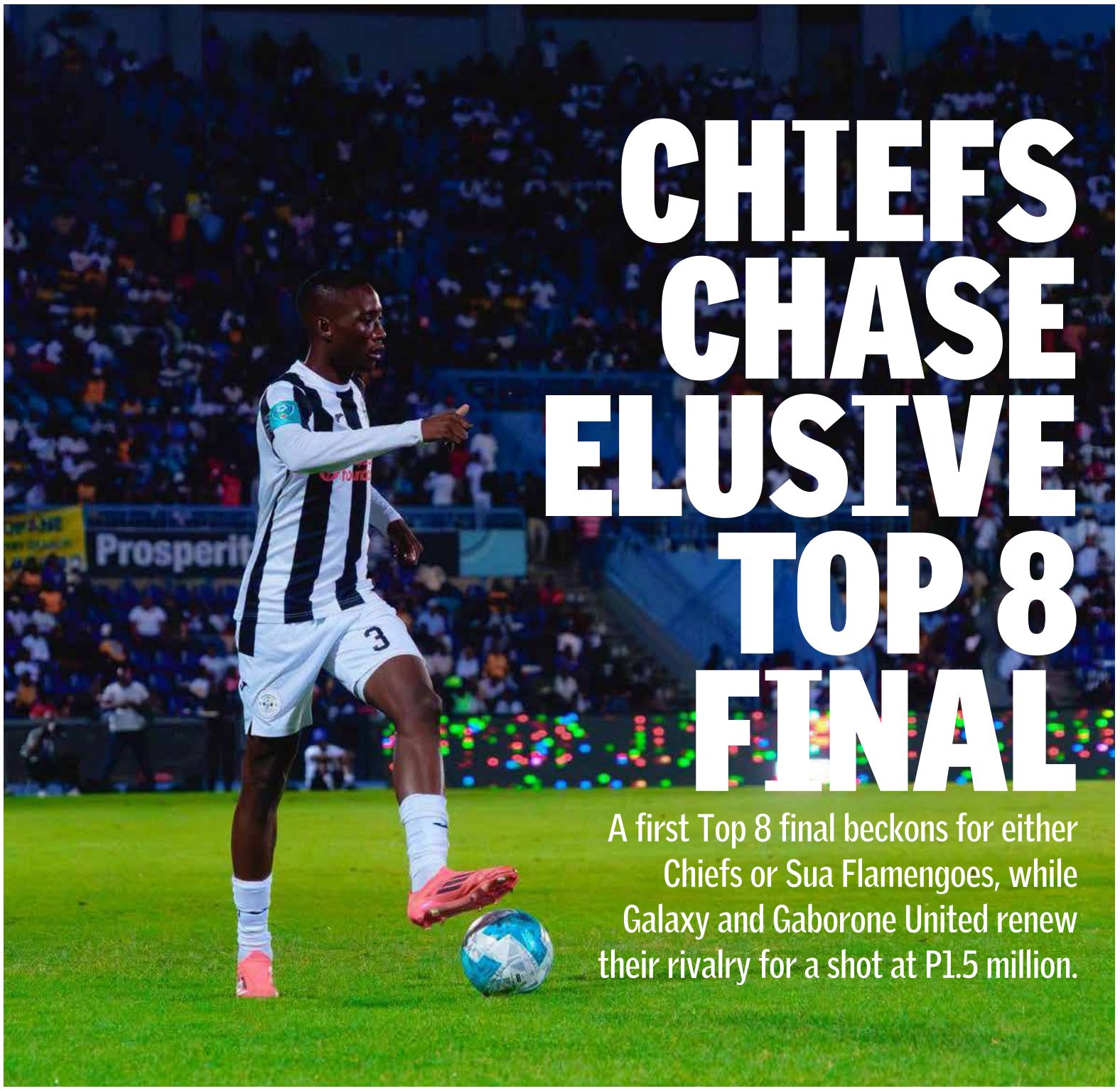
Regional Experience

Tournament organiser Vincent Masole said the event was designed to expose young players to competition beyond the domestic circuit. He stressed the importance of facing unfamiliar opponents, adapting to different playing styles and learning to cope with the pressure of international tournaments.

Botswana National Olympic Committee president Tshepo Sitale and Women and Sport Botswana chairperson Keenese Katisenge-Tizhani also praised the tournament for creating a safe competitive environment while encouraging youngsters to pursue excellence.



Pic Credit ; David Llada - Chess & Photography



CHIEFS CHASE ELUSIVE TOP 8 FINAL

A first Top 8 final beckons for either Chiefs or Sua Flamengoes, while Galaxy and Gaborone United renew their rivalry for a shot at P1.5 million.

BONGANI MALUNGA

Four clubs will contest the African Hero Top 8 semifinals at the National Stadium in Gaborone on 7 November, with the competition's P1.5 million first prize in sight.

Mochudi Centre Chiefs face Sua Flamengoes in the opening semifinal before Jwaneng Galaxy meet Gaborone United in the second match.

CHIEFS' WAIT

Despite being one of Botswana football's most decorated clubs, Mochudi Centre Chiefs have never reached a Top 8 final. Magosi have competed in the format eight times, including during its Mascom-sponsored era, without progressing to the championship match.

That record contrasts with Chiefs' successes in the late 2000s and early 2010s, when the Kgatleng club regularly competed for league and FA Cup honours. The African Hero Top 8 offers another opportunity to end that wait.

Chiefs advanced with a 3-1 quarterfinal victory over Morupule Wanderers. Standing in their way are Top 8 newcomers Sua Flamengoes, who have made an immediate impact.

SUA'S UPSET

Sua stunned four-time finalists Orapa United 2-1 in the quarterfinals. They are now one victory away from reaching the final on their debut. The winner of the Chiefs-Sua semifinal will therefore achieve a first: a maiden final for Magosi or an appearance at the first attempt for Sua.

The other semifinal pits two former champions against each other. Galaxy and Gaborone United have each won the Top 8 trophy twice, adding further significance to their meeting.

FAMILIAR RIVALS

Galaxy beat Township Rollers 1-0 in the quarterfinals. Having reached two Top 8 finals, they would draw level with GU's three final appearances by winning the semifinal.

Moyagoleele defeated Nico United 2-0 and are pursuing a fourth Top 8 final. That would match Orapa United's four appearances, with only Township Rollers, who have featured in six finals, ahead of them.

Youth Championships Return to Botswana

Botswana beat rival bids from the DRC and Angola to host Africa's 2027 youth table tennis championships, three years after staging the tournament in Gaborone.

BONGANI MALUNGA

Botswana has beaten the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and Angola to secure hosting rights for the 2027 ITTF-Africa Youth Championships, bringing emerging continental talent to the country.

Scheduled for July 2027, the tournament returns to Botswana three years after Gaborone first hosted it in 2024.

The decision was made at the ITTF-Africa Annual General Meeting in Tangier, Morocco, on 21 October, when the continental body awarded events for 2027 and 2028. Botswana Table Tennis Association (BTTA) president Kudzanani Motswagole attended both as association leader and an ITTF-Africa Council member.

HOSTING HISTORY

Botswana is among at least three Southern African Development Community (SADC) countries to have hosted the continental youth tournament, alongside South Africa and Mauritius. This includes editions staged under its earlier name, the African Junior and Cadet Championships.

South Africa's record stretches back to Johannesburg in 2002, an edition noted in the Swaythling Club's profile of player Luke Abrahams. Cape Town hosted the African Junior and Cadet Championships in 2011.

Mauritius hosted the event in 2015 at the Beau Bassin Sports Complex. Botswana followed in July 2024, staging under-15 and under-19 singles, doubles and team events in Gaborone.



Although Mauritius belongs to SADC, ITTF-Africa places it in its Eastern region. Botswana and South Africa are verified previous hosts within the federation's Southern grouping; the wider SADC count also includes Mauritius.

DEVELOPMENT TEST

The tournament's return offers BTTA a chance to turn hosting rights into stronger youth player development, giving young Batswana the opportunity to face continental opposition at home.

Addressing the Morocco meeting, ITTF-Africa president Wahid Oshodi urged successful host associations to begin preparing early to ensure their events are delivered successfully.

SIX CARRY BOTSWANA'S DAKAR HOPES



Botswana's six young Olympians head to Senegal seeking the country's first Youth Olympic medal since Baboloki Thebe and Karabo Sibanda won silver in 2014.

BONGANI MALUNGA

Botswana has named six athletes for the Dakar 2026 Youth Olympic Games, hoping to win its first medal since sprinters Baboloki Thebe and Karabo Sibanda took silver at Nanjing 2014.

The Games run from 31 October to 13 November in Senegal, marking the first Olympic sporting event staged on African soil.

The Botswana National Olympic Committee (BNOC) selected four female and two male athletes across athletics, boxing, judo and swimming. Veteran sprinter Isaac Makwala will guide the athletics pair.

SIX CONTENDERS

Geza Reinious will run the 400m, with BNOC listing his personal best at 50.06 seconds. The Jwaneng Athletics Club runner also represents Lobatse Senior Secondary School and has five years of competitive experience.

Joining him is 800m runner Mpho Maano, whose personal best stands at 2:36.63. She competes for Bobirwa Athletics Club and represents Kopong Junior Secondary School, according to her BNOC profile.

Boxer Precious Masaba will contest the 51kg division with an African Youth Games bronze medal to her name. She won gold at the 2026 Botswana Boxing Association Under-19 National Championship, collecting Best Boxer and Best Bout honours.

JUDO AND SWIMMING

Theresa Tagarira will contest the 44kg judo category. She won cadet gold at January's Presidential Judo Championship and reached a bronze-medal contest at the AUSC Region 5 Games in Namibia. Melodi Saleshando and Tema Modirelabangwe represent Botswana in swimming.

Saleshando, Botswana's 2026 Junior Female Sportsperson of the Year, will swim the 50m freestyle. BNOC credits her with eight national age-group records in the 15–16 category, as well as one silver and two bronze medals won in Luanda, Angola.

Modirelabangwe will swim the 50m butterfly, in which he won bronze at the Africa Aquatics Zone IV Championships in Gaborone. He has also competed in relay events at the African Youth Games and African Aquatics Championships.

The remaining coaches are Kemoitsholetse David in boxing, Thato Lebang in judo and Solomon Mpusetsang in swimming.

SILVER BENCHMARK

Botswana's strongest Youth Olympic performance remains Nanjing 2014, when Thebe won boys' 200m silver and Sibanda took silver in the boys' 400m.

> "Thebe and Sibanda's two silver medals from Nanjing 2014 remain Botswana's only Youth Olympic medals."

Those remain Botswana's only Youth Olympic medals. The country finished without a medal at Singapore 2010 or Buenos Aires 2018, leaving its record at two athletics silvers.

Dakar's squad doubles the three athletes sent to Buenos Aires, where Botswana competed only in athletics and swimming. The 2026 Games will be the first Summer Youth Olympics since 2018, following the postponement of the planned 2022 edition amid the COVID-19 pandemic.





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YOUTH CHAMPIONSHIPS RETURN TO BOTSWANA

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TIRED OF SHARING?



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PHOKO'S SIWELELE FUTURE IN DOUBT

Reports of a possible Siwelele departure after three league appearances revive the troubled history of several Botswana footballers' short South African spells.

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