

Business

Mohwasa lauds Selebi
Phikwe Citrus Project

Page 6

Dikgang

Kgosi Moalosi o etelela pele
Bahurutshi ba Mogonye

Tsebe 10

Sport

Reneilwe receives ATTF
Youth Grant

Page 23

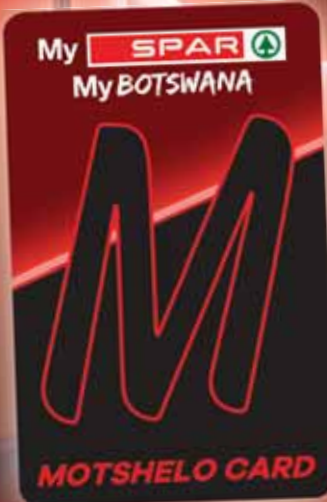
STOP
GBV



Gaolathe commends
youth for GBV fight



Vice President and Minister of Finance, Mr Ndaba Gaolathe (left), Miss Epic Botswana, Ketlhalefile Kgosietsile (right) and Ministry of Child Welfare and Basic Education Acting Deputy Permanent Secretary, Mr Boitshepo Makhuwa during the launch of Tshepo le Bontle: Youth Against Gender-Based Violence in Gaborone on Saturday. Mr Gaolathe said in Botswana, gender-based violence was not just a statistic, but a scar on the soul of the nation. He urged the youth to rise and lead in the fight against the vice. Photo: Pheny Moalosi



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Govt vows to end illegal mining

By **Thamani Shabani**

MATSILOJE - Government is committed to crack down illegal gold mining in Matsiloje.

Speaking during a kgotla meeting in the village recently, the Minister for State President Mr Moeti Mohwasa announced a multi-agency operation, codenamed KAMANI, involving 88 police officers and 20 Botswana Defence Force (BDF) soldiers deployed to crackdown on illegal mining activities.

The operation targets key areas including Rainbow old gold mines, Signal Hills,

Patayamatebele, nearby farms, and Kalakamati (old Shashe mines, Tachila, Albert and Maniki farms).

Mr Mohwasa acknowledged a concerning trend of Batswana involvement in the illegal mining, noting a rise in local participation from zero in 2022 to 12 in 2023, before falling to four in 2024.

While only five cases involving Zimbabweans have been reported this year, he warned that the lucrative nature of the crime could lead to increased participation.

He stressed ongoing collaboration between police and

community members to combat both illegal mining and related cross-border crimes.

To address the root causes and empower local communities, the government has established a team to explore ways villages near mineral deposits and tourist attractions can benefit from these resources.

The goal, he said, was to enable Village Development Committees (VDCs) to form Trusts, generating revenue and providing an incentive to protect these assets from illegal exploitation.

Mr Mohwasa highlighted

Matsiloje, rich in gold deposits, as a prime example where this approach could be highly effective.

Despite these initiatives, the minister admitted that resource constraints continue to hinder law enforcement’s effectiveness.

Minister Mohwasa pledged increased funding for these agencies and commended Police Commissioner Dinah Marathe for her dedication despite resource limitations.

He committed to return in May with an update, predicting a significant decrease in illegal mining activity by then.

Residents expressed their appreciation for government efforts, with Ms Sheila Mompoti suggesting the deployment of the City Policing unit, known for its effectiveness, to further strengthen security. **BOPA**

Official pushes for swift action to resolve grievances

By **Chendzimu Manyepedza**

SELEBI PHIKWE - Timely and effective response to employees’ grievances is vital in the workplace.

Permanent Secretary in the Ministry for State President, Ms Goitsewang Morekisi said this recently in Selebi Phikwe during a three-day annual retreat for the ministry’s senior officials.

Her call to swift action, underscored the importance of listening to employee grievances and addressing them promptly and equitably, saying this would help to foster a harmonious workplace environment grounded in transparency and open communication.

Ms Morekisi also said prompt and timely resolutions towards employee grievances would not only enhance workplace morale, but was also pivotal for driving the departmental and ministerial success.

She said there was need for visionary, decisive and impartial leadership when resolving grievances, and to consider some of the implications employees undergo during their grievances.

She said leadership should not be about resolving grievances as they arise; but creating trust, transparency, and an environment where employees feel safe even after voicing their grievances.

“A thriving workplace is built on foundation of understanding and addressing employee grievances, timely response can also enhance morale productivity and innovation.” she stated that negligence of employee grievances had detrimental effects that negatively affected departments and the ministry.

Ms Morekisi further encouraged the need for a proactive mind set in navigating the fiscal challenges in different work entities, urging leadership to adopt innovative strategies that would support departmental efficacy and enhance public service.

She also emphasised the need to embrace digitalisation, saying it had become crucial in today’s paced, technology-driven world. She added that it was also a means to enhance effective and efficiency in service delivery. **BOPA**



Member of Parliament for Tswapong South, Dr Kesitegile Gobotswang (left), acting Minister of Health, Mr Lawrence Ookeditse (centre) and Parliament Committee on Health and HIV/AIDS chairperson, also MP for Ngami, Mr Phillimon Aaron during the National Parliamentary TB caucus launch in Gaborone on Thursday. Mr Ookeditse said Botswana registered 3 251 TB cases in the year 2023, while World Health Organization estimates indicated that Botswana was still missing half of its TB cases owing to programmatic and operational gaps in case finding, diagnostics and supply chain management. Photo: Pheny Moalosi

MPs key to TB national response - Ookeditse

By **Lesedi Thatayamodimo**

GABORONE - The acting Minister of Health, Mr Lawrence Ookeditse has emphasised the crucial role of parliamentarians in transforming the national response to tuberculosis (TB), describing them as the wheel of change in shaping health policy and ensuring political commitment towards ending the disease.

Speaking during the launch of the Botswana TB Caucus in Gaborone recently, Mr Ookeditse said that MPs were uniquely positioned to drive the TB agenda forward.

“By leveraging on our positions, we can push for motions based on robust evidence, advocate for budget tracking, and ensure that health funding reaches the intended ministries,” he said.

Mr Ookeditse underscored the unique role of MPs as advocates for their communities, highlighting their capacity to influence policy and amplify the voices of those most affected by TB.

He said parliamentarians also played a critical role in promoting social protection and labor policies that supported individuals diagnosed with TB.

“It is our duty to ensure that the needs of our constituents are heard, not only at the national level, but also at regional and global fora,” he added.

Outlining the goals of the Botswana TB Caucus, Mr Ookeditse said it included enhancing political commitment by keeping TB high on the national health agenda in line with the UN High-Level Meeting (HLM) declarations.

He also called on parliamentarians to mobilise resources by advocating for increased domestic funding and exploring innovative financing mechanisms to meet the financial targets set in the 2023 declaration.

Mr Ookeditse further urged lawmakers to strengthen programmatic structures by supporting the implementation of comprehensive TB prevention, diagnosis, and treatment programmes and to facilitate

multi-sectoral collaboration by engaging civil society, the private sector as well as other stakeholders in a unified national TB response.

He warned that Botswana’s progress against TB was under threat from broader health challenges, particularly the HIV epidemic and therefore stressed the urgent need for investments and coordinated strategies to end TB by 2030.

“TB continues to pose a significant health challenge. In 2023 alone, Botswana recorded 3251 TB cases, yet WHO estimates show that Botswana is still missing half of its cases due to programmatic and operational gaps in case finding, diagnostics, and supply chain management,” he revealed.

Citing recent reviews by WHO and UNAIDS, which revealed declining political commitment and resource allocation towards TB in many countries, Mr Ookeditse said the formation of the Botswana TB Caucus was timely and essential.

“This launch rekindles political

will and unites all stakeholders dedicated to ending TB,” he stated.

Mr Ookeditse acknowledged the Global TB Caucus, which, through its Anglophone regional manager, has pledged support for Botswana’s national TB Caucus.

“We are truly grateful, as the caucus will provide a non-partisan and inclusive platform for MPs and policymakers to tackle the TB epidemic,” said Mr Ookeditse.

He added that engaging civil society and addressing stigma would significantly strengthen both national and regional TB responses.

Mr Ookeditse further called for the establishment of regional accountability mechanisms to support the implementation of TB commitments.

“Tuberculosis is an airborne disease that transcends borders, we must create regional platforms for heads of state to collaborate, share best practices, mobilise resources, and confront this epidemic collectively,” he said. **BOPA**

'Diamond trade opportunity for global growth'

By **Lindi Morwaeng**

MOGODITSHANE - A local diamond trading company, Diamond College has been advised on the importance of establishing a strategic direction for it to become a significant player in the global market.

Vice President Ndaba Gaolathe said this during a tour of the company premises in Mogoditshane on Friday.

Interacting with the owner, Mr Tsholofelo Molapisi, Mr Gaolathe's advised him to focus on the crucial role of strategy in setting his business on the path to global success.

"With a combination of business acumen and innovative practices, the diamond trade could flourish beyond Botswana's borders." To help Molapisi develop a comprehensive strategy for his business, the Vice President outlined the importance of five key pillars.

He emphasised the need for a

clear vision, operational strategy, organisational strategy, financing model, and an integrated approach.

He underscored the importance of having a clear vision for the future, such as where the business will be in 10 years and what it will be doing. He said Mr Molapisi should consider whether his business would focus on training, designing, and marketing diamonds, or even expand into other areas.

On Operational Strategy, Mr Gaolathe said Mr Molapisi should analyse the operational processes to determine where equipment and technology should be sourced, and if the market preferred handcrafted or digitally produced products.

He also advised him to consider financing model; whether partners or investors were needed for funding would help him develop the right-financing model, and finally an integrated strategy would help Mr Molapisi

envision how his business may expand into new markets over the next years.

The Vice President also praised Molapisi's determination and entrepreneurial spirit as a shining example for Botswana. He emphasised that the country's future depended on efforts of Botswana like Molapisi, and that government was ready to follow their lead.

Mr Molapisi explained his 19-year journey in the diamond industry, emphasising that his marketing and sales strategy centered on skills training for young people from disadvantaged communities.

His aim was to provide a face and a story behind each diamond, connecting the precious stone with its polisher, their background, and the region

where it was polished.

This initiative, named "Diamond for Poverty," he said aimed to alleviate poverty through skills development in the diamond industry. Therefore, he appealed to government to facilitate Botswana to gradually take part in the value chain of the diamond industry highlighting the importance of selling Botswana's diamond story to global markets.

"There is a consumer somewhere waiting for our story, and we must polish it." Mr Molapisi shared his recent collaboration with a renowned American jewelry designer, whose clientele included National Football League and National Basketball Association championship teams. Together, they created a diamond ring

for Brazilian football sensation Neymar.

Mr Molapisi sees the potential for similar collaborations with Botswana's leaders, as a way to showcase the country's diamond story on the global stage. One of the beneficiaries of Mr Molapisi's training programme, 22-year-old Boemo Medupe from Hunhukwe settlement in the Kgalagadi district, shared her aspirations.

"I have learned a lot about diamonds, and I now want to be more than just a diamond polisher. My goal is to own a diamond company one day and contribute to the industry's value chain," she said.

Mr Molapisi has successfully trained 60 diamond polishers since 2014, all of whom were in the employ of various companies in the industry. **BOPA**

VP praises youth for GBV fight efforts

By **Ketshepile More**

GABORONE - Gender-based violence (GBV) needs united fronts to be tackled, not just government action, says the Vice President Mr Ndaba Gaolathe.

Speaking at the launch of Tshepo le Bontle-Youth Against GBV programme, Mr Gaolathe said the wisdom of elders, teachings at schools, compassion of the church and the passion of the youth were all needed to end GBV.

"As young people you have voices that shake silence, minds that can build empires and hearts that can heal a nation," he said, encouraging them to innovate with boldness and use their tools of entrepreneurship, education, digital platforms to create change that was meaningful, sustainable, and inclusive.

Mr Gaolathe urged the young people to rise and lead in the fight against GBV. He said the new Ministry of Youth and Gender Affairs was established in part to ensure that gender portfolio received the attention it deserved, following the national outcry sparked by persistent gender inequalities that prevailed in society hindering inclusive socio-economic development and the full enjoyment of human rights.

"We know that GBV is not just a statistic but a scar on the soul of a nation. Healing demands that we move as one, no more silos, no more silence and no more standing still," Mr Gaolathe said.

He said government's intention was to intensify efforts for gender mainstreaming across all sectors and institutionalise gender responsive budgeting to ensure that priority areas such as GBV

were addressed through adequate resourcing.

Mr Gaolathe applauded Tshepo le Bontle Youth Against GBV programme founders for their bold and compassionate steps in addressing the GBV issue. The youth programme will undertake a six-month national tour, a journey that will reach 200 schools across the country.

"This is no ordinary outreach. It is a pilgrimage of hope, a march of purpose, reaching not just classrooms, but living rooms, through house-to-house visits and community-rooted workshops, especially in our rural heartlands. You remind us that true leadership does not always wear a title, sometimes it wears sneakers dusted with the soil of village roads and hearts lit with the fire of purpose," Mr Gaolathe said.

Founder of the programme, Ms Kethlalefile Kgosietsile who is also Miss Epic Botswana said when they started, their focus was on learners only but they extended the programme to all people dealing and affected with GBV.

She said the programme was driven by three pillars of Education, Encouragement and Empowerment. She said the project was a promise to the affected victims to give them hope and trust.

Meanwhile, acting deputy permanent secretary in the Ministry of Child Welfare and Basic Education Mr Boitshepo Makhua said the ministry had made a deliberate move to include GBV as part of the curriculum.

He therefore said the ministry would start with early child education. **BOPA**



Vice President Ndaba Gaolathe (centre) being taken on a tour of Botswana Diamond College in Mogoditshane on Friday. Managing director, Mr Tsholofelo Molapisi said they had enrolled and sponsored 25 students from disadvantaged backgrounds in the Hukuntsi District to train them in diamond polishing as a way of empowering communities in rural areas. Photo: Pheny Moalosi

Minister emphasises need for inclusivity

By **Chendzimu Manyepedza**

SELEBI PHIKWE - The Minister for State President, Mr Moeti Mohwasa has called for continuous promotion of inclusive growth to enhance the quality of lives of citizens.

He said this during a three-day annual retreat for senior officials of his ministry in Selebi Phikwe recently.

Mr Mohwasa said some of the priorities essential for inclusive growth included job creation, clean water supply and corruption free entities among others.

He said the Ministry for State President was entrusted with different portfolio responsibilities, and the ministerial performance should embody the dreams and aspirations of citizens. As such Mr Mohwasa called for renewed strategies and change of perceptions to eliminate bureaucracies that could hinder

the success of the ministry's vision.

"It is imperative that we reflect on our portfolio responsibilities and performance. We ought to embrace and take into consideration the promises and commitments made by the government. The commitments must form part of the Ministry's 2025/26 Performance Plan and consequently part of strategic Key Performance Indicators (KPI)," he said.

Mr Mohwasa said some of the KPI included service delivery reforms for improved productivity including digitalisation and reviewed service standards and anti-corruption strategies initiatives, improved agility of government communication that created effective regulatory frame works and develop government communication policy.

He said the Transitional National Development Plan (TNDP12) had

been extended to October to align it with government promises in order for the plan to reflect the commitment and aspirations of Botswana.

The minister reminded senior officials about teamwork, emphasising that it was key towards achieving transformation, accountability and in the process enable the ministry to timely respond to government policy reforms, deliver and support mandated services.

He further shared the government's commitment to reforming State-Owned Enterprise (SOE) and independent departments such as Independent Electoral Commission, and Directorate of Corruption and Economic Crime. He said such would reduce fiscal risk to the government, improve overall economic efficiency and grant autonomy to some of the departments. **BOPA**

Mmirwa deserves honour, recognition

By Manowe Motsaathebe

BOBONONG - As the undertaker lowered the casket to settle down into the dark grave, a poignant mark to the final sight of the man dubbed the quintessential traditional leader of Babirwa, heads were already devising plans to recognise, honour and celebrate the departed Kgosi Mmirwa Malema to etch him in their memories.

As he was laid to rest Saturday, to the right of his first wife, Queen Selebogo Malema, who departed August 16, 1988, mourners sent him resting to some excerpts of the famous Selelo Sa Malema song by his late sister Mphoreng Malema, who lamented the heart-wrenching and harrowing ploys by the British to force her people from the now Tuli, where they resided, to present day Bobonong.

It is noteworthy that the Malema sung about the grandfather to kgosi Mmirwa, the father to Kgosi Selamolela, who fathered kgosi Mmirwa.

At his funeral, speakers called for honour and recognition of the departed kgosi. They spoke in unison about how little, if not at all, Kgosi Mmirwa was recognised, honoured and celebrated among his people despite having been a gargantuan traditional figure.

Some speakers have already suggested that if and when built, the planned Bobonong District Hospital should be named after Kgosi Mmirwa, arguing that such a move would not only recognise their revered traditional leader, but put an enduring honour to his name.

First, when Kgosi Mmirwa, who led Babirwa for 44 years and the first to represent them at Ntlo Ya Dikgosi, retired, there was no celebration in his honour. It is also alleged that he was not accorded an honour to pass a baton, in a celebratory manner, to his successor, kgosi Joel Masilo, a precursor to the current calls.

Moruti Daniel Kwada, who is also a friend to the deceased, accused dikgosi in Bobirwa of

sowing seeds of discord at the time when there should have been some peaceful transfer of power from Kgosi Mmirwa to Kgosi Masilo.

“I advised them (dikgosi) that before a welcome ceremony of Kgosi Joel they must first organise a farewell ceremony for Kgosi Mmirwa. The farewell ceremony would have acted as a proper and peaceful handover of a baton, but they flatly refused,” said Moruti Kwada.

Although agreeing with Kgosi Masilo that organising a farewell and handover ceremony for Kgosi Mmirwa was not a purview of the former, Moruti Kwada observed that the move handed Kgosi Masilo a divided morafe.

Calling for recognition and honour of the man he said was instrumental in developing Bobirwa, the former Minister of Justice, Defence and Security, Mr Shaw Kgathi concurred that it would suffice for some of the major infrastructure developments

to be named after the man deemed colossal, yet humble.

While advocating for the recognition and honouring of Kgosi Mmirwa, Mr Kgathi reported to the Minister of Local Government and Traditional Affairs, Mr Ketlhalefile Motshegwa that his ministry had been resisting to approve the community’s suggested name for the state-of-the-art Molaladau Clinic.

The community long suggested that the clinic, built by the World Group of Companies, should be named after Kgosi Malema Makhura, whose name had become synonymous with the liberation of Babirwa from Bangwato.

“They’re still not forthcoming up to now,” said Mr Kgathi.

However, Minister Motshegwa stated that he had informed area Member of Parliament, Mr Taolo Lucas, upon receiving explanations, that he approved the name.

He said the decision was in line with running a democratic government that allowed people to have and keep their identities while taking pride in and celebrating their being.

Kgosi Mmirwa passed on April 1. He was first married to Selebogo in 1957 and were blessed with eight children, three of whom are still alive. Kgosi Mmirwa went into the second marriage with Rebecca in 1997, with whom he begot six children.

“Mmirwa will be remembered as the ‘son of the soil’ who was dedicated to the development of his country and the revival of the legacy of his grandfather, Malema Morwapula Makhura (1855-1960), who had a vision of resistance to colonialism, as demonstrated by his resistance or refusal to give the ancestral land of the Babirwa to the British in 1920,” read part of the requiem dedicated to celebrating Kgosi Mmirwa’s life. **BOPA**

Sluggish land allocation thwarts efforts to improve lives - Dikoloti

By Keonee Majoto

HEBRON / RAMATLABAMA - The sluggish pace at which land boards across the country allocate land of various uses to applicants can be a deterrent to efforts that seek to improve people’s lives.

Addressing a kgotla meeting in Hebron on Thursday, Acting Minister of Lands and Agriculture, Dr Edwin Dikoloti said the status quo prevented many Batswana from accessing socio-economic programmes for which access to land was a prerequisite.

This cannot be business as usual, it is time that we deliberated on this issue, Dr Dikoloti said, noting that the slow pace of allocations had for a long time proven to be a thorny issue that repeatedly impeded progress.

Thus, he said it was important that the entire land management system be looked into with the objective of addressing the bottlenecks that existed within it. In another subject, Dr Dikoloti called for a multi-pronged approach to stock theft, a problem that he said was prevalent in the Barolong area.

He lamented how stock theft continued to thwart residents’ efforts to break free from poverty.

In Ramatlabama where he addressed another kgotla meeting, he said livestock rustling was also threatening efforts aimed at reviving the area’s agricultural output.

Still in relation to agriculture, the acting minister, who is also Good Hope/Mmathethe constituency Member of Parliament, encouraged residents to consider pursuing agri-preneurship, saying it was one way through which they could ensure that their region recovered its lost glory of being one of Botswana’s bread baskets.

Dr Minah Mosele of National Agricultural Research and Development Institute (NARDI)

reiterated the call for residents to adopt and pursue agri-preneurship in order to draw the most out of agriculture.

She said value addition in agriculture had several benefits as it could enhance nutritional content, improve taste and prolong the shelf life of produce.

Dr Mosele urged residents to approach NARDI for guidance and support regarding how they could exploit the agri-preneurship space.

For their part, residents of the two villages raised several issues for which they sought government’s intervention.

In Hebron, one Mr Justice Motaung called on government to ensure that only seeds of certified quality be distributed to farmers, alleging that his entire maize crop had failed due to having been issued seeds of questionable quality.

In Ramatlabama, a resident, Mr Patrick Oremeng requested for an extension of operating hours for Ramatlabama border post.

Mr Oremeng said the move would result in an increase in the revenue that the border post earned for the country.

Village Development Committee (VDC) chairperson, Ms Karabo Tlhapi said the poor state of cleanliness at the border post was worrying.

She said the situation was worsened by the lack of ablution facilities for use by travelers especially truckers who often queued overnight waiting for the border post to open so that they could cross and proceed with their journey.

Ms Tlhapi appealed for ablution facilities to be built and then handed over to the VDC to operate them as a revenue generating platform for the village. She also complained about their local clinic, saying the facility was too small to handle the swelling numbers of patients. **BOPA**



Dream Choice managing director, Mr Ricky Reikeletseng (left) handing over a classroom block to Boteti deputy council chairperson, Mr Pelonomi Thekiso at Retlhatloleng Primary School in Letlhakane on Friday. Mr Reikeletseng said his company was committed to partaking in lives of future leaders by promoting structures, policies and enhancing programmes that helped children to succeed.

Photo: Thandy Tebogo

Dream Choice hands over P1.6 million classroom block

By Thandy Tebogo

LETLHAKANE - A donation of two-classroom block to Retlhatloleng Primary School will go a long way in promoting effective educational outcomes and improve academic performance the nation and stakeholders aspires, says Orapa Letlhakane and Damtshaa Mines general manager Mr Mogakolodi Maoketsa.

Speaking at the handover event in Letlhakane on Friday, Mr Maoketsa hailed Dream Choice for handing over a P1.6 million block of two classrooms.

Mr Maoketsa said it was pleasing to see their business partner investing in projects of such magnitude like construction of classrooms.

He said while classrooms shortage remained a challenge, intervention by Dream Choice was commendable.

He said the move was part of Debswana’s aim to improve academic performance in primary and secondary schools.

Mr Maoketsa said they aimed to support better pass rate and academic progression by enabling better numeracy, literacy and science knowledge.

Managing Director of Dream Choice Mr Ricky Reikeletseng said they were committed to partake in lives of ‘future leaders’ by actively promoting structures, policies and enhancing programmes that helped children to succeed.

He said a classroom block was chosen because education administered through the building

would benefit many generations to come.

He said Retlhatloleng Primary School was identified as beneficiary as more than 10 classes conducted learning in the open on corridors or under trees.

The project he said started in November 2023 and was a profound commitment to the future of the children, the development of the community and the nation at large.

School head, Mr Judah Nkarabang thanked Dream Choice for investing in education. He expressed hope that the classrooms will reduce double shift for upper classes noting that Standard Five was the foundation for Standard Seven.

He said the classrooms had now increased from 22 to 24. **BOPA**



Minister of Higher Education, Mr Prince Maele (left) awarding a graduate, Ms Mosetsanagape Sereri-Selato (second left) with a P2 500 voucher for being the best in Certificate in Applied Laboratory Science during Technical Vocational Education and Training (TVET) graduation ceremony in Gaborone on Friday. Mr Maele said government was committed to harnessing the power of TVET as a vehicle for economic inclusion and diversification. Photo: Dimpho Buisanyang

TVET offers solutions to current economic setbacks

By Moshe Galeragwe

GABORONE - It is high time Batswana appreciate Technical Vocational Education and Training (TVET) as a perfect solution for youth unemployment, economic diversification, entrepreneurship and a private sector led economy.

TVET is not for those who failed secondary school, Minister of Higher Education, Mr Prince Maele pointed out and discouraged associating it with academic failure.

Minister Maele was giving a keynote address at the Class of 2024 Technical Colleges graduation ceremony in Gaborone on Friday.

The combined ceremony celebrated 846 graduates of the four Diploma-offering technical colleges; Botswana College of Engineering and Technology, Francistown College of Technical and Vocational Education, Gaborone Technical College and Oodi College of Applied Arts and Technology.

Mr Maele said the cohort had not only mastered technical skills and demonstrated resilience in the face of challenges, but had also mastered the soft skills that would enable them to live and work in a rapidly changing world.

“The road ahead will be filled with excitement, opportunities, and challenges. But ultimately, your future will be shaped by your drive, choices and determination to succeed,” he said, explaining that technology continued to redefine industries and economies, hence TVET was the key to unlocking opportunities.

He said government viewed TVET as a crucial role player in socio-economic development by equipping learners with the skills and knowledge necessary

for productive employment and entrepreneurship.

Minister Maele said TVET bridged the gap between education and employment by providing practical training aligned with market demands and technological advancement and therefore, their role in national development agenda was of great importance.

“Like many other developing nations, Botswana must embrace the ongoing wave of technological advancement and innovation,” he said.

Mr Maele said while the job market held immense potential for TVET graduates, it was not without challenges but such should be viewed as valuable learning experiences.

“Draw on the skills and knowledge you have gained throughout your training, to navigate and rise above them. Your perseverance, resilience and ability to adapt will define your destiny. The skills you gained will open doors, but it is the character you build that will keep those doors open,” he said.

Mr Maele said the theme: TVET: A Sustainable Gateway to Youth Entrepreneurship and Economic Diversification, resonated well with the manifesto of the Umbrella for Democratic Change government under the capable leadership of President Advocate Duma Boko.

He said the ruling party was committed to prioritise vocational and technical training and provide a more diverse economic landscape where various economic opportunities could mushroom.

The ministry’s acting deputy permanent secretary, Ms Neo Sebolao appreciated the hard work, dedication by the graduates, and implored them to have

purpose, dream big and work hard no matter the challenges encountered along the way.

She said they were armed with varied qualifications which they must use to their advantage, make use of the available financial providers to start businesses that would add value to their lives and the economy.

“You are drivers of infrastructure development, innovation and ingenuity,” said Ms Sebolao. **BOPA**

KANYE - United Congregational Church of Southern Africa (UCCSA) is hard at work to uphold the UCCSA original melodies, their singing culture as well as retain the original tune of the UCCSA hymns.

Reverend Cosmos Ngoreng of Motswedi UCCSA in Kanye thus announced during the just-ended Botswana Synod Choirs Conference that Moeding Region was hosting under the theme: Empowered by Faith, United in Purpose, Transforming Communities and Systems for a Just and Hopeful Future. The four-day conference came to an end yesterday.

Reverend Ngoreng said often times, the UCCSA hymns were mistaken for bereavement melodies, explaining that the hymns were not only conformed to such, but served the spirit in a variety of ways including rejoicing and worshipping.

WHO official applauds efforts to address TB

By Lesedi Thatayamodimo

GABORONE - World Health Organization (WHO) representative in Botswana, Dr Julian Bataringaya has commended the country’s initiative to form a dedicated Parliamentary Tuberculosis (TB) Caucus.

Speaking during the launch of the Botswana Parliamentary TB Caucus in Gaborone on Thursday, Dr Bataringaya said the initiative demonstrated high-level political commitment to addressing TB in Botswana.

“Addressing TB requires a multi-sectoral approach, and the engagement of political leaders will certainly ensure greater mileage in TB advocacy and resource mobilization, especially critical in this era of global health funding cuts,” she noted.

She applauded the collaborative efforts of governments, national TB programmes, civil society, partners, and donors, describing them as the backbone of the TB response. Dr Bataringaya emphasised that it was through unity and sustained commitment that the global community could hope to end TB as a public health threat.

She said Botswana had made commendable strides in the fight against TB, but challenges remained, including TB/HIV co-infection, drug-resistant strains, and the need for expanded community outreach.

She, therefore, said the Parliamentary TB Caucus was expected to play a key

role in enhancing political oversight, mobilising resources, and ensuring accountability in the implementation of TB programmes.

Dr Bataringaya highlighted the ongoing global burden of TB saying it affected an estimated 10.8 million people in 2023.

She said the disease continued to have a widespread impact, especially in low and middle-income countries, which accounted for over 80 per cent of TB cases, adding that Africa remained a major hotspot with 2.5 million new cases reported in 2022.

“The intersection of TB and HIV is particularly problematic on the continent, where around 20 per cent of new TB cases occur among people living with HIV. HIV co-infection complicates TB treatment and increases the risk of death,” she said.

Furthermore, Dr Bataringaya noted that one-third of the world’s population carried latent TB, an infection that was dormant and non-infectious but could become active in individuals with weakened immune systems, such as those with HIV, cancer, diabetes, or malnutrition. She said TB was both preventable and curable, noting that an estimated 79 million lives had been saved since 2000 through coordinated action, improved treatment, and enhanced awareness.

It is very much a present challenge, but the good news is that with the right treatment, it is preventable, she said. **BOPA**

UCCSA aims to retain original hymn tunes

By Relief Lephutshi

He, therefore, told the congregants that the conference sought to address such perceptions by enhancing the accessibility of the hymns in the purest form through use of online media platforms.

“This way it will help the hymns to retain their original tune, which is always twisted each time you hear them sung across various sessions during community gatherings,” he said.

Moreover, Reverend Ngoreng highlighted that the choir activities was expected to bring the youth and the elderly together to help develop the UCCSA hymns as well as inspire the youths to embrace the singing culture in large numbers. He said the youth seemed to migrate to worship places where musical instruments were used, which he said was evidenced by UCCSA choir largely made up of the elderly, who faced aging and retirement.

“Therefore we want to lure the youth into singing, by

incorporating musical instruments and other developments,” he said, adding that the Synod choirs were expected to ignite the love and inspire both the young and the old to uphold the UCCSA hymns.

During the conference, Sejelo Police Station commander, Superintendent Mogomotsi Matlapeng urged the public and churches to work together to combat GBV, which he said was on the rise.

He called for the church to take lead in establishing strong families, describing this as the family foundation. He said that way it would become easy to curb GBV torments.

“As the police, we advocate for strong families and households that are accountable for children and other family members’ upkeep and welfare,” he said.

Furthermore, he encouraged the church to pray for reduction of GBV cases, as well as form committees that fight the vice. **BOPA**



Mr Omphile Johane at his farm, which is equipped with a borehole and other amenities. He envisions his farm as a hub for various activities, including a restaurant and a venue for social gatherings.

By Kelebogile Taolo

FOLEY - Perseverance, uniqueness, and resilience are key ingredients in the success story of Mr Omphile Johane, affectionately known as Modidima. His journey is a powerful testament to how hard work, creativity, and strategic thinking can lead to realisation of one’s dreams. Born and raised in Maun at Matlapana Ward, Mr Johane grew up with ambitious aspirations, determined to achieve more in life. Despite not advancing far in education, he defied the odds by pursuing various hustles to realise his

dreams. Initially, he ventured into comedy, which helped him build an audience. However, it was his foray into selling tswii, a local delicacy and staple food in the Ngamiland and Okavango regions that truly catapulted his fame across the country. The popularity of tswii allowed Mr Johane to gain recognition nationwide, as more people learned about and tasted the dish, thanks to his efforts. “The response I received from customers in Francistown was heart warming. On a good day, I would make around P3, 000,” Mr Johane shared with passion. Recognising the potential of his

business, he decided to expand his reach, selling tswii in various locations, including Selebi Phikwe, Palapye, Gaborone, and Jwaneng. In these larger markets, his sales soared, often doubling his previous earnings. Encouraged by his success, Mr Johane diversified his commodities by introducing fish, which he affectionately calls ‘maleshengu’ due to its size, further attracting more customers. Despite a higher price point, his products resonated well with consumers, leading to significant profits. “The combination of tswii and maleshengu has returned substantial profits, allowing me to invest in my projects, including preparations for my wedding,” he explained. Today, Mr Johane owns a farm equipped with a borehole and other properties. He envisions his farm as a hub for various activities, including a restaurant, a venue for social gatherings, and a host for sports events. Throughout his entrepreneurial journey, Mr Johane faced challenges but remained undeterred by negative energy and criticism. After experiencing a divorce, he chose to rise above the situation and continue building the future he desires. Regarding social media, Mr Johane views it as a powerful tool for marketing and promoting his business. “I primarily use social media to attract customers. I advertise most of my products through platforms like Facebook and TikTok, and the feedback has been amazing. “I owe much of my success to these platforms for building my brand and interacting with my customers,” he expressed gratefully. In a message to fellow

entrepreneurs, Mr Johane urged them to embody perseverance, focus, and consistency despite challenges. “As business owners, our goal is to make profits. entrepreneurs, Mr Johane urged them to embody perseverance, focus, and consistency despite challenges. “As business owners, our goal is to make profits.

Forget about those with negative energy, face challenges head-on, push forward every day, and results will surely come,” he concluded. **BOPA** the citrus initiative was timely, especially in a region looking out to diversify its economic activities beyond mining which had historically been the mainstay of Selebi Phikwe. By leveraging local talent and resources, the project promises to create a range of jobs from the role of harvesting fruits, processing and distribution, among others. Mr Mohwasa therefore encouraged the community to take part in the journey. He said this presented empowerment opportunities and overall benefit to the aspirations of economic revitalisation and diversification, so as to meet the government commitments to Batswana. For her part, the District Commissioner for Selebi Phikwe, Ms Boikhutso Matenge said the citrus project was one initiative that would promote skill transfer, and serve as an inspiration and motivation for individuals who inspired to venture in the field of citrus farming. “By providing training and hands on experience, the project help employees acquire necessary skills they can look up to in future endeavor,” she said. **BOPA**

Mohwasa lauds Selebi Phikwe Citrus Project

By Chendzimu Manyepedza

SELEBI PHIKWE - The Selebi Phikwe Citrus Project is a catalyst to enhance job creation and economic diversification amongst others. This was said by the Minister for State President, Mr Moeti Mohwasa on Friday during a tour of the project. He highlighted the potential of the project to transform economic landscape of Selebi Phikwe and the neighbouring areas. He said the project significantly contributed to economic diversification owing to the 70 per cent of the first 5000 tonnes harvest and the second anticipated harvest at 20 000 tones securing international markets. “This is a critical step forward in revitalising the economy of the area and this is not just about growing citrus fruits, rather it presents a new chapter for the community in terms of job creation, sustainability and economic diversification and a chance to value chains,” he said. Mr Mohwasa said while the agricultural sector was the backbone of several economic activities, the introduction of



Mr Johane urged fellow entrepreneurs to embody perseverance and consistency despite challenges. Photos: Ogopoleng Kgomoethata

AGOA expiration chance for intra-African trade

By Marvin Motlhabane

KANYE - The expiry of the African Growth Opportunity Act (AGOA) in September, coupled with the United States' recent announcement of a 37 per cent tariff hike present a complex landscape for African nations, particularly in the context of intra-African trade.

In an interview with *BOPA* recently, Botswana Manufacturers Export Association (BEMA) CEO, Ms Mmantlha Sankoloba said Botswana did not enjoy any significant benefits from AGOA, suggesting that local businesses might be less affected by the changes.

Ms Sankoloba underscored that the scenario offered an opportunity for African countries to enhance trade relationships within the continent.

By strengthening regional value chains, she said African nations could bolster economic development and move towards a more integrated market.

This situation emphasises the importance of fully implementing the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) which aims to support free trade across member states and create a single continental market for goods and services, she said.

Moreover, Ms Sankoloba pointed to the necessity for African countries to diversify trade relationships, looking

beyond traditional markets, particularly the US.

She identified BRICS nations- Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa as significant alternative markets for African exports, with the Republic of China being particularly promising in this regard.

"This shift from AGOA could thus serve as a catalyst for redefining and expanding trade partnerships on the continent and globally," she said.

Meanwhile, Botswana Investment and Trade Centre (BITC), Export Promotions and Development executive director, Mr Temo Ntapu highlighted the importance of diplomatic efforts at both bilateral and Southern African Customs Union (SACU) levels, to develop effective remedial measures.

He cautioned that while other nations might quickly eliminate tariffs on US products, a strategic approach was essential as such moves might not guarantee reciprocal actions from the US.

Mr Ntapu emphasised the need to incorporate service trade in negotiations with the US, which could present a favourable trade balance for Botswana and counterbalance US methodologies.

He advocated for the necessity of diversifying into new markets to mitigate current and future risks and suggested that Botswana and SACU should consider a reciprocal AGOA trade agreement that benefited

both African nations and the US.

Mr Ntapu also noted the importance of analysing and addressing non-tariff barriers raised by the US to ensure smoother trade relations.

In context, while the expiration of AGOA and the accompanying tariff hikes pose challenges, they also provide an opportunity for

African nations to reconfigure their trading landscape, fostering greater intra-African trade and exploring new global partnerships. *BOPA*



Vice President and Minister of Finance, Mr Ndaba Gaolathe (second left), ABSA Bank board chairperson, Mr Cosmos Moapare (left), managing director, Ms Keabetswe Pheko-Moshagane (second right) and ABSA Bank group managing executive public sector banking Africa, Mr Stephen Seaka during the bank's forum themed: *Fostering Sustainable Economic Growth by Leveraging on Alternative and Private Investment Markets in Gaborone on Thursday. Mr Gaolathe said it was time for Botswana to unlock domestic capital, using it as a lever for inclusive infrastructure development, and to shift from dependence to dominion, from passivity to purpose.* Photo: Pheny Moalosi



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THEME STRENGTHENING OFFENDER CORRECTION THROUGH COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT



Khoemacau study manager, Mr Warren Rigelsford (left) and Gaborone Mayor, Mr Oarabile Motlaleng filling a pothole at Sebele Mall in Gaborone on Thursday. Mr Motlaleng said the initiative was part of the new maintenance plan they intended to adopt for businesses to service their areas of business, which had potholes. Photo: Tshepo Gombo

Kgosi warns elders against thieves

By **Thamani Shabani**

FOLEY - Kgosi Olebile Khumo of Foley village in the Tonota District has welcomed the recently introduced P1 400 allowance for senior citizens, noting that despite his village’s small population, several residents are beneficiaries.

While acknowledging the allowance’s potential to alleviate poverty in a village with high unemployment, Kgosi Khumo, also a beneficiary of the allowance, expressed concern over the increased vulnerability of elderly recipients to theft, both from strangers and family members. However, he issued a stern warning against unscrupulous individuals targeting senior citizens following the recent increase of their allowance.

He highlighted the vulnerability of these elderly recipients, urging the government to take strong action against anyone caught stealing from them.

“The increased allowance, while welcomed as a vital source of support, has unfortunately made them targets for theft,” he explained.

Fortunately, he said none of the beneficiaries in his village

has ever reported such cases but that does not mean that they do not occur.

He added that his village, despite its small size, has several beneficiaries of the allowance and that the increased vulnerability to theft is a concern across the community.

He acknowledged the positive impact the allowance is having in alleviating poverty in a village already struggling with unemployment, but insisted the safety and security of the elderly must be prioritised.

Kgosi Khumo reiterated his call for relatives to protect their vulnerable family members.

He also advised the beneficiaries themselves to be vigilant, to save wisely, and to report any suspicious activity immediately to the authorities.

He emphasised that these senior citizens are the foundation of the nation and urged relatives to protect their safety and security, especially when collecting their allowance.

He called on the government and relevant institutions to enhance security measures at payment distribution points. Furthermore, he advised beneficiaries to use the money wisely, avoid misuse, and consider

saving or joining community groups like Motshelo to improve their livelihoods, ideally with the help of trustworthy relatives.

He cautioned that money is a valuable resource that should be managed carefully to avoid its rapid depletion.

Ms Mmankhibidu Monyamane, a beneficiary of the allowance, echoed the widespread appreciation for the initiative, suggesting it was long overdue and should have been implemented earlier.

She expressed her intention to use the money responsibly, acknowledging its timely arrival given her responsibility of caring for her grandchildren. **BOPA**

By **Relief Lephutshi**

KANYE - Kanye police have confirmed the death of a 42-year-old man of Mookodi ward in Kanye who was found dead and decomposed at the scene on Wednesday.

Kanye Central Police Station’s Acting Station Commander, Assistant Superintendent David Nlebgwa, said the police received a call on April 9, from one of the deceased’s relatives claiming to have noted an abnormal presence of flies in the neighborhood at Mookodi ward on Wednesday early afternoon.

He said the caller told the police

Gaborone mayor decries shoddy civil works

By **Gontle Merafhe**

GABORONE - Gaborone Mayor, Mr Oarabile Motlaleng, says he is not impressed by the companies that do a substandard job when executing civil jobs around the city.

Speaking during the ground-breaking ceremony for Segoditshane River desilting and pothole repairing service in Gaborone on Thursday, Mr Motlaleng said the repairing of potholes around the city had become an annual project for the city council and engineers were assigned to supervise and monitor works during road construction.

“I think with proper monitoring and proper consultation this time around, we are going to see a job well done,” he said. Mr Motlaleng said those responsible and remunerated to oversee such works alongside constructors seemingly failed the public and the commissioner of works as they delivered substandard works.

He also said it was time the roads in the city were asphalt overlaid to prevent potholes forming at every rain season.

He said they were also contemplating to adopt a street initiative for those who had the means to repair damaged potholes and roads as and when needed.

He said the council alone could not bear the road repair expenses of the city.

He added that they were impressed with their collaborative partnership with Business Botswana, particularly during periods of disaster. Private Sector Disaster Response Fund (PSDRF) Chairperson, Mr Butler Phirie said four constructors were engaged to repair potholes at the tune of P1.5million.

He said they believed that

with intervention they had, the road systems and network of Gaborone would improve and residents would move smoothly thereby, becoming productive at work.

Mr Phirie said the private sector had always been willing to assist the government whenever disasters occurred.

He said the PSDRF was harnessing what the private sector in Botswana could come up with to help in disaster mitigation strategies.

He said with the initiative, they were trying to ensure there was maximum impact.

He said they had ongoing assessment in Francistown, as well as roads in Gantsi, Kuke, D’Kar and Mochudi. Mr Phirie said within the first month of its operation the PSDRF had been active and would soon announce how much was already spent.

He said the desilting of the Segoditshane River was one of the activities that PSDRF had funded.

He also said the fund was supposed to respond and rapidly mitigate the impact of the disaster.

He said the over the years and almost every year Segoditshane River had been disruptive of life of the city and disruptive of both private sector and public sector services.

He o said the river stopped the movement of the people and that of goods and services, which led to the decision to intervene this year. He said the PSDRF covered a spectrum of disasters that could befall the nation.

“For intervention teams to assist communities affected by malaria, some P3 to P4million would be required and my board is assessing what intervention it can to try to help in that disaster,” he said. **BOPA**

Police retrieve decomposed body from house

that they had peeped through the window of the house and alleged to have seen a motionless body of a man across the bed.

“The police immediately rushed to the scene where they found the deceased’s relatives already there,” said Mr Nlebgwa, who disclosed that the police opened the door to the room to start their investigations.

Mr Nlebgwa said the deceased was confirmed dead by a medical doctor at the scene.

“There is no suspected foul play,” he said and explained that it is one of the reasons why the man’s relatives were permitted to bury the body right away.

He related that the deceased’s relatives shared that he had lived with a health challenge, and stayed alone in the homestead as his parents had long died. “Some relatives reported to have last spotted the deceased on April 6,” he said.

The local councillor, Mr Biki Kalake, imploted relatives of people with health challenges or living alone to try by all means to care for them. “Such persons require continual monitoring, which can be done by relatives,” he said. He urged the public to embrace the spirit of being each other’s keeper and seeing to the wellbeing of others. **BOPA**

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Road to support economic transformation efforts

By Keonee Majoto

HEBRON - Once completed, the 52-kilometre road linking Mokatako to Borobadilepe will support efforts to grow and transform the economies of the villages through which it passes.

At a kgotla meeting he addressed in Hebron on Thursday, Member of Parliament for Good Hope-Mmathethe and Acting Minister of Lands and Agriculture, Dr Edwin Dikoloti, said the road carried the aspirations of the people of the affected villages, as it would contribute to the empowerment of locals in different ways.

Labelling it a production road, Dr Dikoloti rallied residents to use it to emancipate their area from the economic stagnation that they

were currently faced with.

He said with a good road network being the soul of economic activity, residents should position themselves to exploit the road to improve their lives.

Dr Dikoloti said while the road would have enduring benefits for communities, residents would also benefit in the short term through job opportunities during the construction phase.

“So far 15 locals have been engaged but given the burden of unemployment that we are carrying as a country, we expect more people to be hired,” he said.

On an unrelated issue, he encouraged people of his constituency to engage in cultural tourism as a vehicle for economic diversification. He said with the cultural diversity that their area was endowed with, they stood to reap great benefits, which included culture promotion and preservation.

Dr Dikoloti said cultural tourism was another strategy through, which residents could wage war on the unrelenting unemployment.

Project coordinator of the Mokatako-Hebron-Borobadilepe road project, Mr Kebakamang Ntimang, from the Ministry of Transport and Infrastructure, said the construction of the P528.9 million project would take 36 months. Mr Ntimang said the project, which started last December, was being implemented using the design and build method through which both the design and construction phases were bundled up and awarded to the same contractor.

He explained that presently it was anticipated that the design of a 12-kilometre stretch from Borobadilepe to Hebron would be approved in the next two weeks. Assuring residents of Hebron that the project would be delivered within schedule, he added that the ministry would keep them abreast through quarterly kgotla meetings where progress updates would be made.

Project manager, Mr Meshack Chiwanga from the contractor, Landmark Projects, affirmed that

the actual construction would begin in two weeks’ time, as the design phase was almost complete.

Mr Chiwanga said the assessment of the state of properties within 100 metres of the project was also ongoing in different places including Borobadilepe, Ditlharapa, Pihetswane and Hebron.

While the residents hailed the announcement that project implementation would take off in

a matter of weeks, they expressed their desire for the contractor to leave a mark in their village by handing over to them the site office upon completion of the road.

A resident, Mr Molebeledi Makgolo, also appealed for the contractor to consider sourcing services from residents of the affected villages.

Mr Makgolo said the contractor should ensure that residents benefit

during the construction phase through rentals of properties, amongst other things.

On a different subject, a Ditlharapa resident urged government to sensitise the public on the subject of industrial hemp.

He alleged that since talk of hemp farming began, the use of dagga had become widespread as some people assumed that the possession and use of dagga had been de-criminalised. **BOPA**

Council welcomes primary healthcare relocation

By Goitsemodimo Williams-Madzonga

TUTUME - Tutume District Council has welcomed the relocation of primary health care services from Ministry of Health to the Minsitry of Local Government and Traditional Affairs.

At the welcoming ceremony in Tutume on Thursday, former District Health Management Team Coordinator, now deputy council secretary, primary health care services, Ms Keoratile Ntshabiwa said though they has varying challenges as the health sector, they were committed to serve the community to the best of their ability.

Ms Ntshabiwa said out of 33 clinics in the district, six of them had maternity wings.

She further noted that they had 20 health posts, a youth friendly clinic located at the Tutume hospital and two school clinics at Nata and Tutume McConnel Senior Schools.

She highlighted that out of all their facilities, only two operated as 24-hour services, being Sebina and Nata clinics, noting other facilities across the district operated on normal working hours but would have a nurse on call in cases there was an emergency.

Furthermore, Ms Ntshabiwa noted that they had 12 ambulances and only four were working while others were still awaiting maintenance.

In his welcome remarks, Tutume District Council chairperson, Mr Tabona Masole, said challenges could not be solved at the snap of a figure adding that government was committed to making strides in bringing change, which would benefit all Batswana.

He said as the leadership, they were aware of the challenges and were determined to ensure that they were attended to. **BOPA**



Bomaaid CEO, Mr Moraki Mokgosana (left) and The Voice Newspaper managing director, Gomolemo Kasale at Bomaaid media engagement in Gaborone recently. Mr Mokgosana said having been in existence for 55 years, the organisation bears a responsibility not only to engage in internal reflection, but also to actively contribute to the domestic, regional, and global healthcare agenda. Bomaaid unveiled their roadmap for 2025, a year dedicated to delivering Next Level Benefits through improved accessibility, simplified processes and member-first healthcare solutions. Mr Mokgosana also highlighted the continued rollout of their STEPS Campaign, a wellness-driven initiative that puts inclusivity first, designed to empower their members to take charge of their health. Photo: Teko Letsholo

Promote nation building - official

By Esther Mmolai

MAUN - Traditional leaders have been advised to stay away from politics to enable them to serve their communities with dignity and fairness.

They were also urged to desist from taking part in politics as such could undermine their honour and integrity.

Enlightening dikgosi on their roles and importance in the communities during a one-day workshop in Maun on Friday, the acting director of Department of Tribal Administration, Mr Reuben Mojeremane said dikgosi were apex community leaders, peacemakers and arbitration leaders and as such, they should remain neutral and promote nation building rather than aligning to political party colours.

Dikgosi, he said should also understand that they held strategic positions in the society, which accord them an opportunity to

advise government on community (traditional) affairs and influence policy making that may improve livelihoods of people in their communities and the country at large.

Furthermore, Mr Majeremane said dikgosi were key stakeholders in the process of district level development planning and implementation of National Development Plans.

“You should not be seen embroiled in partisan politics because as traditional leaders, you play a pivotal role in bridging the gap between the government and the community,” he added.

He also highlighted that dikgosi were a pillar of stability and custodians of culture and morality citing that they should ensure moral upright and that the kgotla remained a traditional democratic forum available for consultation of community development.

Deputy District Commissioner for North West, Mr Ramogaupi

Gaborekwe drilled participants on effective communication in leadership citing that as leaders, they served as a connection between government and the people as their role was to facilitate dialogue and understanding between the two pillars of the society.

As leaders, he said they had a role to guide others forward for a common goal noting that communication was a fundamental tool.

“You should use the right medium of communication, know what you communicate, when to communicate that information and who is relevant,” he added.

Outlining the objectives of the leadership workshop, MP for Maun West, Mr Caterpillar Hikuama said the forum aimed to strengthen unity to serve community through building of bridges that connect them.

As leadership, he said they were serving one client and as

such, they should not be seen working in silos and ‘through this forum, we are laying a foundation to work as a team.

‘We should know and understand each other’s role so that we serve our communities diligently,’ he added.

The workshop themed: Building Bridges, Not Walls; Collaborative Leadership for Community Progress was organised by the office of Member of Parliament for Maun West to encourage unity and a shared sense of purpose among leaders at all levels.

It attracted dikgosi, councillors, Village Development Committee leadership as well as other key stakeholders.

The forum also aimed to develop practical strategies to overcome barriers to effective communication and cooperation as well as to create a shared vision for community development and define actionable steps to bring that vision to life. **BOPA**

Puso e tlaa tswelela e tokafatsa matshelo

Ka Chendzimu Manyepedza

SELEBI PHIKWE - Puso e itlamile go tswelela e dira maano le maiteko a a tlaa tokafatsang matshelo a Batswana.

Tona wa merero ya Ofisi ya Tautona, Rre Moeti Mohwasa o buile jalo ka Labone kwa kwa bokopanong jo bo neng bo tsenwe ke bagolwane ga mmogo le bakwaledi ba maphata a a farologaneng a a ka fa tlase ga Ofisi ya ga Tautona mo Selebi Phikwe.

A re puso e tlaa tswelela e dira ka gotlhe go tla ka maano a go tswakanya itsholelo le gone go e godisa a tlatsa ka go re go dira jalo go ka dira pharologanyo tebang le maiteko a puso e tshephisitseng go a dira a go dira dingwe ditiro tse di ka thusang go tlhabolola matshelo a Batswana.

Tona Mohwasa a re dingwe tsa ditiro tse di ka thusang go tlhabolola matshelo di akaretsa go tlhama mebereko, go tokafatsa ditirelo tse di fiwang Batswana, go dira ditsela le tse dingwe ka go farologana.

Rre Mohwasa o ne a kgalema dikgang tsa tshenyetso setshaba mo maphateng ka go farologana,

a re e busetsa maiteko a puso morago. A re go bothokwa gore badiri ba diofisi ka go farologana ba iphaphe mo go sepe se se ka rotloetsang mokgwa oo.

Rre Mohwasa o bile a akgola bagolwane ba diofisi tse di welang ka fa tlase ga Ofisi ya ga Tautona, a ba gakolola gore ba dirise bokopano jo go itsaya motlhala, go atla tse ba di kgonneng le gone go batla tharabololo ya dikgwetlho tse di tsweletseng ka go tlhagoga.

Rre Mohwasa a re go bothokwa gore itshekatsheko e bagolwane bao ba e dirang e amane le maitlamo a puso e tsweletseng ka go a diragatsa, go itepatepanya le dikeletso tsa Batswana.

Go sale foo, Rre Mohwasa o kopile banni ba Selebi Phikwe le metse e e mabapi go ititaya ka thupana, a re jaaka puso e dira ka gotlhe le bone ba tshwanetse go ema ka dinao go bona gore ba tsaya karolo.

A re e re ntswa toropo eo e ne ya welwa ke seru sa go tswalwa ga moepo wa BCL, go na le dingwe tse ba ka itekang lesego mo go tsone di akaretsa temo. **BOPA**



Kgosi Katlego Moalosi wa Mogonye (mojeng) a laiwa ke malomaagwe, Rre Malefo Matshitsa (molemeng) le borangwaneagwe kwa moletlong wa peo ya kgosi ka Labotlhano. Kgosi Moalosi o rotloeditswe go nna pelotelele le go ema morafe wa gagwe nokeng. Senepe: Marvin Motlhabane

Kgosi Moalosi o etelela pele Bahurutshi ba Mogonye

Ka Marvin Motlhabane

MOGONYE - Banni ba Mogonye ba ne ba tshologile peo ya ga Kgosi Katlego Moalosi, e e neng e tshwaretse kwa kgotleng ya motse oo, ka Labotlhano

Kgosi Moalosi o tlhomilwe go etelela pele Bahurutshi ba Mogonye, ke malomaagwe, Rre Malefo Matshitsa le borangwaneagwe mo moletlong o o neng o ngokile magosi go tswa metseng e e mabapi le bodiredi jwa puso le morafe.

Mo mafoko a kamogelo, Kgosi Kebinatshwene Mosielele wa Manyana o tlhalositse ka ditso tsa Bahurutshi a gakolola gore, go bothokwa gore morafe o itse ka ditso tsa o ne gore dikokomane di tle di nne le

lesedi ka ditso tsa bone.

A re matlhogoputswa ba ba sa leng teng, ba tswelele ka go kwala le go ruta morafe ka ditso.

Kgosi David Toto II wa Tsabong o ne a laya Kgosi Moalosi ka go mo rotloetsa gore a etelele pele motse wa gagwe ka bonatla, a supa fa tiro ya kgosi e le go aga le go kitlanya setshaba.

A re a seka a inaakanya le sepolotiki, a seka a nna maikgantsho, a tlotle morafe ka gore fa a dira jalo, morafe o tlaa mo tlotla go feta.

Kgosi Toto a re kgosi ke mosireletsi wa ngwao mme a kgothatsa Kgosi Moalosi go tswelela ka go sireletsa ngwao le go rotloetsa morafe go dira jalo. O ne gape a gakolola Kgosi Moalosi gore a nne pelo telele ebile a eme morafe wa gagwe

nokeng ka nako tsotlhe, a re a e le tlhoko tse di ka mo tsenyang mo mathateng jaaka tshenyetso setshaba.

A re a nne kelotlhoko ka dinako tsotlhe mme fa go tlhokega, a kope thuso go tshereganya.

Fa a amogela thomo, Kgosi Moalosi o lebogile morafe ka tshepho e ba e beileng mo go ene, a bo a kopa thotloetso ga mmogo le tshwaragano ya morafe.

Kgosi Moalosi o tshepitsitse morafe fa a tlaa bereka le bone ka lorato, bonatla, botswapelo, botswerere, bopelotelele le ka tekatekanyo.

Kgosi Moalosi ke ngwana wa ga Rre Boenyana Moalosi le Mme Alphonsinah Moalosi kwa kgotleng ya Kgosing kwa Mogonye. **BOPA**

Borukutlhi jwa tsietso bo a gola kwa Kanye

Ka Relief Lephutshi

KANYE - Mapodisi a Kanye a sweleswetana le namane e tona ya borukutlhi jwa tsietso.

Bosheng jaana rre mongwe wa dingwaga tse di ka tshwarang masome matlhano wa kgaolwana ya Ntsweng mo Kanye o ne a thukuthwa madi a a ka tshwarang P300 000.

Se se tlhalositswe ke mookamedi wa mapodisi a Sejelo Rre Mogomotsi Matlapeng mo potsolotsong le **BOPA** bosheng.

A re rre yo o utswetsweng yo, o begetse ba sepodisi fa a ne a neela dilalome madi ka lebogo makgetho a le mmalwa.

A re o kopane le mongwe wa

dilalome tseo ntle le go lemoga sepe ngwagatlola ka Phukwi fa a ne a tswa mmerekong.

Ga twe selalome seo se ne sa mo tlhalosetsa fa se batla mongwe yo o thusang batho ka tsa semowa gone mo tikologong ya kwa mmerekong.

E rile fela jaaka a latola ga bo go tlhaga monna mongwe yo o neng a ikaya fa a itse ka yo o batlwang mme a ba kaela kwa a leng teng.

Yo o thukuthilweng go boelwa fa a ne a nna le kgatlhego ya gore le ene a thusiwe. Ka go rialo o ne a tsamaya le bone kwa go neng go kaiwa teng a ba a amogana dinomoro tsa mogala le bone, mme a felela a ba neela madi ka

lebogo go ya ka ditumalano tsa bone.

“Motswasetlhabelo o tlhalosa fa a ntshitse madi a a ka tshwarang dikete tse di makgolo mararo tsa dipula mo makgethong a a farologanyeng gammogo le mogala wa letheke,” Ga tlhalosa Rre Matlapeng.

Ditlhotlhomiso tsa ba sepodisi di santse di tsweletse go batla dilalome, mme kgakololo ke gore setshaba se itlwaolole mokgwa wa go dira ditumalano ntle le bosupi bope.

Rre Matlapeng a re fa batho ba batla thuso ya semowa ba inaakanye le dikereke tse di itsegeng ba kope merapelo le dikgakololo. **BOPA**

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2025

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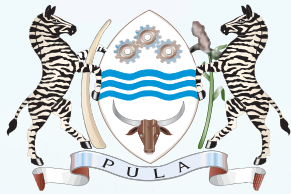
Team A – Southern & Kgalagadi
Team B – Central, North East & North West

LOCATION	VENUE	DATE	LOCATION	VENUE	DATE
MAUN EXPOSITION 2025					
Maun	Mall of Maun	7-9 April			
TEAM A			TEAM B		
Shakawe	Fours Supermarket	11-12 April	Kasane	Pla2 1	1-12 April
Ghanzi	Infront of Sefalana	14 April	Nata	Engen mall	14 April
Kang	Choppies Mall	16 April	Tutume	Mc Connell	15 April
Tsabong	Tsabong Unified	22 April	Masunga	Choppies Mall	16 April
Jwaneng	Old Mall	24 April	Francistown	Council stadium	22-24 April
Kanye	RAC	26-27 April	Letlhakane	Teemane mall	25-26 April
Lobatse	Junction Mall	28 April	Serowe	Bus Rank	28-29 April
Molepolole	Kgari Sechele	29-30 April	Bobonong	Choppies mall	01 May
Mahalapye	Bus rank	2-3 May	Selibe Phikwe	Barcelos	2-3 May
Palapye	Engen Mall	5-6 May			



STARTING TIME FOR ALL VENUES IS 0900HRS! APPLICANTS ARE URGED TO BRING CERTIFIED COPIES OF THEIR RESULTS SLIPS AND IDENTITY DOCUMENTS





Republic of Botswana

MINISTRY FOR STATE PRESIDENT

DISASTER MANAGEMENT RELIEF

Following the heavy Floods which affected communities countrywide, the Private Sector and different Organisations came forth to offer support both in cash and in kind to assist Government of Botswana to make a difference in the lives of all those affected.

Update as at 8th April 2025

NO	NAME OF THE COMPANY/ORGANISATION	DONATION/CONTRIBUTION
1	Botswana-China friendship Association (BOCFA) and 1 Pula Foundation	-Food hampers
2	T-connect	-Internet Connectivity gadgets
3	Huawei Botswana	-P100,000.00 worth of jet fuel,500 Blankets,12000 bottles of water and Food parcels
4	China Civil engineering construction corporation and Zhong Gan companies	-Food hampers, bottled water and blankets , Storm water drainage equipment services
5	FEI DA (PTY) LTD	-Food hampers, 200 blankets,2000 bottled water and 100 pairs of shoes
6	Liquid Intelligent Technologies	-Liquid Leo Satellite
7	Orange Botswana	-P100,000.00 in which P54 ,000 .00 will be used for Jet Fuel while P46 000.00 will be used for food and Accommodation, Airtime worth P20 ,000.00 , One thousand (1000) five (5) litres of water.
8	Letshego	-P100,000.00 for Jet Fuel
9	Tau grading	-P100,000.00 for Jet Fuel
10	Drones for Africa	-P500,000.00 worth of drone services, Arial footage, Photography and Videos
11	TEE-PEE Transport	-30 food hampers (combo – 10kg Maize meal, 10kg sorghum, 10kg rice, cooking oil, 700ml Tomato sauce, 2kg macaroni, 750ml mayonnaise)
12	Prime Communications powered by Hytera	-P60,000.00 worth of Radio Communication services
13	Tsetseng Retail Group (SPAR)	-32 bales of toilet paper, Sanitary Pads 32x24x8, Conned beef 432x6 buckets, 500g Spaghetti 900x20packs, 196x5kg Rice, 2080 Baked beans, 2L cooking oil 540 and bottled water 2040
14	SAMAB Investment	-Water Pumping services
15	Drone Technology Centre	-Drone services (arial photography, thermal imaging and live broadcast)
16	Diagnofirm	-250 blankets
17	Mohamed Ismael family	-P25 ,000.00 worth of food vouchers
18	World group of Companies (Trade world)	-250 food packages, Bath soap 250, 2L cooking oil 250, Soup 250, 5kg Rice 250, 5kg white sugar 250, 5kg flour 250, 5kg sorghum 250
19	Botswana Teachers Union	-504 bottled water, P50, 000. 00 for disaster Management Relief
20	Pedros	-100 meals
21	Hungry Lion	-100 meals
22	Chinese Enterprises Association	-100 mattresses,100 blankets,2000 liters of water,100 by 10kg Rice,100 by 12.5kg flour and 100 by 12.5kg maize meal
23	Developer Circle	-App developing services and digital platform developers
24	ZAC Construction and Gaborone United FC	-70 Mattresses; Combo (12.5kg Maize Meal, 10kg Rice, 2kg Macaroni, 2L Cooking oil, 700ml Tomato sauce and 750ml Mayonnaise) x 70
25	DE BEERS GROUP COMPANIES Kewen Group (Pty) Ltd Represented by Farai Bobo (Sales Director)Gravitas Investments T/A Sally's	-450 cases of bottled water; 100 bottles of Sally's Hypo Yoghurt
26	Arona Natural Foods	-230 Arona Cooking Oil 750ml, 20 Arona Cooking Oil 20L, Loaves of Arona Bread, 100 Brown and 100 White
27	Botswana Telecommunications Corporation (BTC)	-P100, 000.00 Relief Funds
28	Syntech Parts	-2000 Bottles of water 500ml
29	Kapula Drones	-Drone Services
30	FloTek and Motovac Represented by Vijay Naik and Anil Kumar	-P100 000.00 for Disaster Management Relief
31	Desert Sands Motel and Sister Companies Limpopo Feed and Fencing Megasave and Fencing All Based in Palapye Represented by Nazia Nadat	-100 Vouchers worth P20.000.00 -25 Vouchers worth P5, 000.00 -25 Vouchers worth P5, 000.00
32	Agentos De Restaraucion Y Rehabilitacion Represented by Etelelang T. Serumola (Director)	-1 tonne maize meal, 60 Blankets, 5kg Sugar x30,5l Cooking Oil x30, -5kg flour x30, 5kg sorghum x30 and 384 rolls of toilet paper
33	Senn Foods Represented by Trevor Watson	-2808 Canned beef and chicken 450 bottled water (500ml)
34	Woolworths Botswana Represented Gorata Abotseng Lekau	-Clothing for men, women and children together with Food hampers worth P800, 000.00, Kiddies wear and shoes 569 (10 boxes), Ladies wear and shoes 1048 units (23 boxes) -Men's wear and shoes 532 units (14 Boxes), Homeware 146 units (3 boxes)
35	Chinese Embassy Represented by Huang Yue	-100 Mattresses,100 Blankets and 400 pairs of rain gumboots
36	XL Skyways Travel Represented by Chebukani Mfanyane	-700 Mosquito nets
37	F. Ismail Group of Companies Represented by Faizel Ismail (Managing Director)	-Chicken Licken Supplies, Optimum Health Medical Laboratories Services and Natures Fresh Fruits and Vegetables Distribution, Grocery Vouchers worth P30 000.00
38	Hytera (Hycomms) Amafrans Investments (Pty) Ltd Represented by Mr. Sentebale Mokgethi	-600 blankets worth of P216, 000.00, Food Hampers worth of P21, 000.00 -Two Way Radio and 1 DMR Adhoc portable repeater worth P137, 010.10
39	Crown Manufacturing & Group represented by Director Mr. Iqbal Patel and	-100 Food hampers worth P40 000.00
40	Unik Construction Mr.Yun Sun	-P1 000 000.00 -13 000 Bottled water. (500ml)
41	Bank of Baroda Botswana Ltd represented by Mr. Sanjay Jashi	-P100 000.00 cash , Food Hampers-Combo 70 (Cooking oil 2l, Mayonnaise & Tomato Sauce, Rice 10kg, white star 12,5kg, Mabele 10kg, macaroni 2kg -Blankets x 70
42	AIP Botswana (Fuel & transport logistics company) represented by Ms. Kefilwe- Sefalana Moreki	-Water bowser (1400litres) -supply of drinking water to evacuation centres
43	The Bulb World represented by Bakang Makoko	-Toiletries x100 families , Toilet Papers 10packages x100 , Bath Soap 4packages x100 , Toothpaste 2packages x100 , ELight (Rechargeable Light) x100
44	Jindal Africa Represented by Neeray Saxena	-P100 000,00
45	TRANS represented by Group Head of Marketing & Communications	-Food hampers & non- foods worth over P100 000.00
46	ASANTE Tech Group represented by Justice William	-Food hampers- Combo x150units ,Blankets x 150units , Water 2700 litres, Shoes 200 units & Chairs 150
47	Gaborone University College of Law & Professional Studies (GUC)	-100 Food hampers ,50 Blankets , 1 Cow & 2 Goats , Fruits & vegetables , Total cost P50,000.00
48	Pro-Halt Represented by Kagiso Kwelagobe	-Pot holes repair Value: P100 000.00
49	Business Botswana in collaboration with Black Oak & Legae Academy	-55 packs of toilet paper , 23 packs of sanitary Pads &Food hampers
50	Cherry Splash	-P300,000.00 (P150, 000.00 for Jet fuel , P150,000.00 Transport Fuel)
51	Tranwin Holding T/A Galaxy Cash n' Carry & Bagaetsho Medical Centre	-Food hampers x60 worth P20, 400.00

52	Suits Africa Represented by Mr. & Mrs. Amos	-School stationery worth P15,000.00
53	Asphalt Botswana (PTY) LTD , Represented by Mr Pius Mphathwa	-P3000,000.00
54	Khato Civils , Represented by Ishmael Maposa and Mongezi Mwyani	-P1 100,000.00
55	Motor Centre Group Represented by Mrs Zaheera Essof	-P 500, 000.00
56	Royal Assembly Ministries International Mrs Kgalalelo Ramogapi	-P10, 000.00
57	COSPHARM Botswana Represented by Nametso Sebetlelela	-40 Mattresses, 40 Blankets , 48 * 20 Toilet Papers & 20 Latex Gloves
58	Standard Chartered Education Trust Dr Didi Biorn	-P600, 000.00 and Psychosocial Support Services to the affected
59	Builders Dept , Represented by Zain UR Rehman & Zeeshan U Mohammad	-Food Humpers *85 @ P30,500.00 , Water Pumps *5 @P9500.00 ,-P40, 000.00
60	China Jiangsu International ,Botswana (PTY) LTD	-Food Humpers @P24,995.00
61	Shiyu Li	-Children’s Clothes * 40 pieces
62	Overview Radio Represented by Joey Badubi	-P100 000.00 Airtime ,100 Sanitary Pads, 300 bottled water, Food hampers worth P10 000.00
63	Softlife TissueRepresented by Myson Mbengwa	-960 units of Toilet Paper
64	NADIR and Grand Stone Investment Represented by Altaf	-100 blankets , 240 sanitary pads (10 boxes)
65	Shaanxi Construction Engineering and Top International Engineering Botswana , Represented by Zhao Shuanghai	-P200 000.00
66	Botswana National Front Women’s League	-P5 000.00
67	KLI Water Bowsing Services , Represented by Thapelo Monyere	-20 000L of drinking water
68	Hill View Church Represented by Pastor Rankgate	-32 mattresses, Sanitary Pads, Cartons of water (35 bottles x 6 , 24 bottles x 2), Assorted clothing, Food hampers (rice, samp and spaghetti)
69	Botswana Hindu Society	-50 Blankets and food hampers worth P12,000.00
70	Faheb Holdings	-190 towels, bedsheets and pillows worth P17,900.00
71	Duke Holdings	-P20,000.00
72	Legae Primary English Medium School	-Books amounting to P207 000,00 in value
73	B4U Discount Centre	-8 Washing Powder, 8 Fabric Softeners, 12 Colgates, 12 bath soaps, 20 blankets
74	Alex Forbes	-Cash P50,000.00
75	Bokomo Botswana	-Cash P100,000.00 & Food hampers P50,000.00
76	Stanbic Botswana	-Cash P2,000,000.00
77	Liberty Life	-Cash P50,000.00
78	Pep Stores	-Clothing & Blankets P10,000.00
79	Protea Masa Hotel	-Cash P5,000.00
80	Inq Digital Botswana	-Cash 10,000.0
81	Bolux Botswana	-Food Hampers (Maize Meal). P156,000.00
82	Clover Botswana	-Food Hampers (Dairy) P54,000.00
83	Woolworths Botswana	-Food & Clothing Hampers P850,000.00
84	CA Sales & Distribution	-Food & Toiletries Hampers P300,000.00
85	PST Sales & Distribution	-Food & Toiletries Hampers 60,000.00
86	Kalahari Training Institute	-Food & Toiletries Hampers 10,000.00
87	ABSA Botswana	-Cash P1,000,000
88	Flotek/Motovac Group	-Cash P100,000.00
89	Unik Construction	-Cash P1,000,000.00 and drinking water P13,000.00
90	Afrivet	-10 Knapsacks
91	Dutch Reform Church Clothing	-Clothing vauled P5,000.00
92	Botswana Fujian Overseas Chinese Association	-Relief cash fund of P100,000.00 and domestic items worth P140,193.00.

93	Greater Hope Life Change Charity Society	-6 water pumps, 200 mosquito nets, 20 heavy-duty torches, & food & toiletries valued at P40,000.00.
94	HLB Botswana	-8 combo meal packages, assorted toiletries, 50 fleece jackets, & 250 bottles of 330ml water.
95	Cellphone Warehouse	-Donated a DJI Avata Drone.
96	Jackson Pools	-Contributed 3 life jackets, 3 life rings, 5 horseshoe life buoys, and 3 cushion ,buoyancy A10.
97	Puma Energy Botswana	-Donated P100,000.00 worth of jet fuel.
98	Moffat James Bango Trading Pty Ltd	-Donated P100,000.00.
99	University of Botswana Academic & Support Staff Union (UBASSU)	-Donated P10,000.00.
100	Botswana Chapter of International Women Judges Association	-Donated P10,000.00.
101	Khoemacau Copper Mining	-Pledged to repair potholes, design Segoditshane River & culverts at a value of P2,500,000.00.
102	Mobile and Electric Retailers Association of Botswana	-Cash P100,000.00
103	Kalcon PTY LTD	-Cash P100,000.00
104	Stargems Botswana Pty Ltd	-Cash P50,000.00
105	Glazing Botswana	-Cash P40, 000.00
106	Botswana Doctors Union	-CashP15,000.00
107	Business Botswana in collaboration with AGS Botswana	-18 packets of sanitary pads, 33 bottles of 5l water, 14 bags of 10kg maize meal, 14 bags of 2kg macaroni, 14 bottles of 2l cooking oil, 14 bottles of 750ml tomato sauce, 14 bottles of 750ml mayonnaise & 3 power banks.
108	Botswana Fibre Networks (BOFINET)	-Cash P100,000.00
109	Human Resources Professionals’ Society of Botswana:	-Food hampers worth P5,500.00
110	Botswana Gujarati Samaj	-150 food hampers
111	Legae Academy	25 mosquito nets, 25 mattresses, hygiene kits, and food hampers
112	Priceless Connection represented by Alamaan Q. Hamdani	50 Headlamps and 20 Torches
113	Korea Community Association	300 blankets, 70 first aid kits, 2 generators, 2 chainsaws, 10 solar searchlights, and 50 protective gloves
114	Holy Ghost International Church - Bethesda TV & Partners	20 blankets
115	Fairprice Group of Companies	Clothing for children and adults valued at P15,000.00.
116	Bible Life Ministries	A financial contribution of P70,000.00.
117	Mohammed VI Foundation	100 food hampers valued at P42,630.00.
118	Dulux Botswana	P75,000.00
119	ZIMBOTS Golf Society	P3,500.00



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Notice to Debtors and Creditors

Masters Reference: ESHFT 000465-23

IN THE ESTATE of the late **NASIM PATEL** who died at Cape Town, South Africa on the 28th August 2022.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT Debtors and Creditors in the above Estate are hereby required to pay their claims of whatever nature with the undersigned within (30) days after this publication hereof.

DATED at FRANCISTON on this 1st day of April , 2025.

MOGALE LEGAL PRACTICE, Estate/Executor’s Legal Practitioners, Krystal House, Plot 1504, Area G, Cnr Guy Street & Feitelberg Street, P O Box 931, **FRANCISTOWN**.

NOTICE OF NEXT OF KIN MEETING FOR THE LATE

BOGADI MOLEFI – ESHGB-000747/24

IN PURSUANCE of Section 31 of the Administration of the Estates Act {Cap 31:01} the heirs and Next of Kin of the deceased persons specified above hereby invited to attend a Next of Kin meeting on **22nd day of May 2025 at 1100 hours** at the **before – Felicity S. Sigweni**. At the Master’s Office, Gaborone High Court Building.

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

NOTICE OF NEXT OF KIN MEETINGS

Administration of Estates Act

[Cap. 31.01]

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that by virtue of section 31 of the Administration of Estates Act (Cap 31:01), heirs and next of kin of the deceased and all persons having claims against the above estate, are being called upon to attend before the master of the High Court at **Francistown High Court** on the date and time specified opposite the names of their deceased relatives for purposes of recommending for appointment, a person or persons as Executor/Executrix Dative as well as identifying beneficiaries and to discuss any other business relating to their deceased relative.

Name of Deceased Person	Estate Number	Date of Meeting	Time	Master
BALOTLHANYE GASEITSEWE	ESHFT – 000184-25	23-07-20250	900HOURS	DRM

DATED AT FRANCISTOWN THIS 10TH DAY OF APRIL 2025

MASTER OF THE HIGH COURT

NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS

Master’s Reference: **ESHGB-000074/23**

NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS

IN THE ESTATE of the late Seakgano Tlou who died at Phuting Ward, Mabalane, Kgatleng District, Botswana on the 17th day of March 2022.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Debtors and Creditors in the above Estate are hereby required to pay their debts and file claims of whatever nature with the undersigned within thirty (30) days after the publication hereof.

DATED at 11th on this Monday day of March 2024.

M Tlou
Executor
Mogotsi Tlou
P OBOX 15 SIKWANE
CELL: 74226327

RADIJENG J

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

Case No. CVHGB-002505-21

In the matter between:

KELEBILEONE SPINO MOGOBE

Plaintiff

And

GRACE BOIKHUTSO SEPHEKOLO
THATAYAONE BASADI SEPHEKOLO

1ST Defendant
2ND Defendant

NOTICE OF SALE IN EXECUTION

BE PLEASED TO TAKE NOTICE THAT pursuant to the Judgment granted by the above Honourable Court the following property will be sold by **DEPUTY SHERIFF OMPHEMETSE P. KAISARA** by public auction to the highest bidder as follows:

DATE OF SALE: 28th April 2025
VENUE: Broadhurst Police
TIME: 10:00 am
TERMS OF SALE: Cash or bank guaranteed cheques

PROPERTY TO BE SOLD: 1 x 3 seater couch, 1x Hisense TV, 1x TV Stand, 1x Floor mat, 1x Hisense Fridge, 1x Gas Cylinder, 1x Hisense Microwave, 4 Burner Gas Stove, 1x Electric frying pan, 1 x double bed.
DATED AT GABORONE ON THIS DAY OF MARCH 2025

DEPUTY SHERIFF OMPHEMETSE P. KAISARA

Cell: 71222244/72195113

c/o LETSHABO LEGAL GROUP

Plaintiff’s Attorneys

Plot 61750, Unit 04B

P O Box 4889 GABORONE Telephone No.3119108/77000524 Email: qlletshabo@llg.co.bw

FARM WORKERS

FULELE MISHINGO RAYMOND
requires herdboy at Sepako/
Masana. Apply to P O Box 1784
Mogoditshane. Call 75 876 090

FARM WORKERS WANTED for
horticulture farming. Apply in
writing to Ramaphatle Greens Box
58 Gaborone. Cell no 72 784 744.
Closing date 28-04-2025

FARM WORKERS WANTED at DAM
18 Thamaga 74 872 412

NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS

Master’s Reference: **ESHGB 000055/25**

IN THE ESTATE of the Late **KGOSI PRINCE MOGALE** who died at Plot 34289, Block 8, Gaborone, Gaborone District, Botswana on the 29th December 2023.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Debtors and Creditors in the above Estate are hereby required to pay their debts and file claims of whatever nature with the undersigned within thirty (30) days after the publication hereof.

DATED at _on this _Day of _2025.

The Executrix
Kelebetse Lillian Mogale
P O Box 20771 Gaborone
Tel: 71722216

NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS

Masters Reference: **ESHGB – 000545-23**

IN THE STATE of the late **BARTHOLONIE DESAI** who died at Princess Marina Hospital, Gaborone, Gaborone District Botswana on the 25th day of February 2018.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Debtors and Creditors in the above Estate are hereby required to pay their debts and file claims of whatever nature with the undersigned within thirty (30) days after the publication hereof.

DATED at _____ on this _____ Day of _____ 2025

The Executrix
Ogone Olesitse
P O Box 2
MOGOBANE
Cell: 75483961 / 71630364

NOTICE OF NEXT OF KIN MEETINGS

ADMINISTRATION OF Estates Act [Cap.31:01]

NOTICE IS HEREBY given that by virtue of section 31 of the Administration of Estates Act (Cap: 33:01), heirs and next of kin of the deceased and all persons having claims against the above estate, are being called upon to attend before the Master of The High Court at **Francistown High Court** on the date and time specified opposite the names of their deceased relatives for the purposes of recommending for appointment, a person or persons as Executor/Executrix Dative as well as identifying beneficiaries and to discuss any other business relating to their deceased relative.

Name of Deceased Person	Estate Number	Date of Meeting	Time	Master
KEETILE VUMA	ESHFT-000843-24	11-06-2025	0900HRS	DRM

DATED AT FRANCISTOWN THIS 10TH DAY OF APRIL 2025

MASTER OF THE HIGH COURT

NOTICE OF NEXT OF KIN MEETINGS

Administration of Estates Act

[Cap. 31.01]

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that by virtue of section 31 of the Administration of Estates Act (Cap 31:01), heirs and next of kin of the deceased and all persons having claims against the above estate, are being called upon to attend before the master of the High Court at **Francistown High Court** on the date and time specified opposite the names of their deceased relatives for purposes of recommending for appointment, a person or persons as Executor/Executrix Dative as well as identifying beneficiaries and to discuss any other business relating to their deceased relative.

Name of Deceased Person	Estate Number	Date of Meeting	Time	Master
BUTI GIBSON	ESHFT- 000886-24	12-08-25	0900HRS	ARM

DATED AT FRANCISTOWN THIS 10TH DAY OF APRIL 2025

MASTER OF THE HIGH COURT

ADOM & BOTHA ATTORNEYS

VACANCY: LEGAL SECRETARY

MAIN PURPOSE OF JOB

The successful applicant will be responsible for typing the firm’s documents and materials, including but not limited to; reports, minutes, correspondences, as well as scanning and printing files as necessary.

COMPETENCE

1. Proficient in the use of the English language
2. Accurate and fast typist & Computer literate
3. Able to work under pressure
4. Excellent knowledge of word processing tools
5. Must have an understanding of the Conveyancing process, Debt Collection Process and the Litigation process.
6. Must have previously worked as a legal secretary and/or conveyancing secretary for a law firm for a period of at least 2 years
7. Identifies poor grammar, punctuation and spelling errors under tight deadlines

QUALIFICATIONS AND EXPERIENCE

1. A minimum of 2 years work experience at a law firm conducting similar duties
2. Qualification in Secretarial/ Clerical studies, a Diploma in Law will be an added advantage.

REMUNERATION

Offers a competitive salary

Note: Applicants are informed that those that have been shortlisted will be invited for interviews through email or personal calls.

All CV’s shall be sent by email to:
Email: **peeletso@adombotha.co.bw**
Hand delivery will not be accepted
CLOSING DATE: 22.04.25

THREE FARM WORKERS urgently
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and cassava farming. Contact + 267
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GUEST CHARUMBIRA is looking
for a farm worker. Apply to P O Box
860 Gaborone. Closing date 20-04-
2025

FARM WORKER WANTED at
Ditladi. Stewart Junior Nekati Box
703, Francistown 72 358 116

2 FARMWORKERS NEEDED
BOBONONG CALL: 71 760 621

KE BATLA MODISA KO MABOLWE
77 799 950 / 72 400 467

FARM WORKERS WANTED, Sojwe
75093894

HERDBOY AND MAID wanted.
Contact 71304206.

FARM WORKER WANTED in Bokaa
(Tilwane), Call Tshakedi 72405931.
Apply to Box 405395 Broadhurst
Gaborone. Deadline 29 May 2025.

NEIGHBOUR CONSULTATION

CHANGE OF LAND use. Precious
Ewetse Mabua, owner of a
residential plot in Mookane,
Letšwere ward, would like to
change land use from single
family residential to multi-family
residential. For any objection to
the proposal, contact Mahalapye
District Council, Physical Planning
Department at: 577 3519.

PLOT 86 MATEBELE wishes to
change land use from single
family use to multi family. For any
objection please contact physical
planning office at Mochudi Council
phone 577 7411

OWNER OF PLOT 9330
Tlokweng, seeks consent from
owners of plots 9329, 9331 and 9337
for erection of a boundary wall.
Forward objections to Tlokweng
District Council Physical Planning
Department, or call 71379910 to
view the drawings within 14 days
of this publication. Kelebogile
Motsumi 71 379 910

KEREKE YA ABOTSHELO S.D.A
kwa Makakatlela, Mochudi ba itsise
baagisanyi ba bone fa e eletsa go
atolosa setsha sa yone sa nomoro
ya 21594. Contact 5729891 to
enquire

TIRELO BARUTI OF LOT 16079

Tlokweng wishes to construct a
boundary wall. Any objections
from neighbours contact 72428128.

OWNER OF LOT 243 at New-
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INCREASE OF INCOME TAX RATE BY 1.5% NOT YET IN EFFECT

The public is notified that the proposed 1.5 per cent rate increase for corporate and personal income tax which was announced in the 2025 Budget Speech has not yet been effected.

The public is further advised to await the Amendment Act which will pronounce the commencement date.

Botswana Unified Revenue Service (BURS) will then accordingly issue revised Tax Tables to facilitate withholding of correct taxes by employers reporting Pay-As-You-Earn (PAYE).

For further clarification, please contact our Call Centre at **17649**.



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Residents discontent with state of infrastructure

By Keamogetse Setilo

SEROWE - Residents of Makolo in Serowe expressed great discontent with the state of infrastructure in their ward noting that the bad state of roads and poor water drainage weigh heavily on them.

Speaking during a kgotla meeting addressed by Serowe South Member of Parliament, Mr Lesedi Leepetswe recently, residents said the absence of a fire engine in Serowe was a setback.

They said, in the event of emergency, everything would be reduced to ashes pending a fire engine from either Palapye or Mahalapye.

Residents also said water drainage system needed an overhaul.

They said some manholes that emitted wastewater remained neglected for an extended period while some remained open, posing a safety hazard.

Moreover, residents raised concerns about increasing livestock

theft at the cattle post.

This, they said greatly impacted farmers, the majority of whom being pensioners without any source of income, aside from old age pension and livestock sales.

Serowe Umbrella VDC chairperson, Mr Matthews Motelebane said Makolo Primary School needed a revamp and a new block to accommodate Pre-primary learners.

He said it had been years since VDC had been advocating for endorsement of this development in the NDP12, without success.

He emphasised that education at the grassroots level should be prioritised.

Area MP, Mr Leepetswe, assured residents that their grievances would be addressed in due course.

He made residents aware of changes such as transfer of clinics to local government ministry the move he said would improve efficiency and optimal utilisation of resources.

He therefore pleaded with Batswana for patience, promising

improvement with time.

He urged the community to work as a team, reasoning that for development and prosperity to

materialise, all hands needed to be on the deck. **BOPA**

Expert shares perspective on National Health Insurance

By Lesedi Thatayamodimo

GABORONE - Founder of EMPIRICA Actuaries Mr Edwin Afitile has voiced concerns over Botswana's readiness to implement a National Health Insurance (NHI) scheme, citing systemic weaknesses and inadequate infrastructure as major obstacles.

Speaking during a public lecture in Gaborone on Saturday, Mr Afitile said although the idea of a national insurance programme was commendable in principle, Botswana lacked the foundational systems and resources needed to ensure its success.

The public lecture themed: Emperical observations on minimum wage and National Health Insurance: Actual Perspective on Sustainability in Botswana was held as government aims to expand universal health coverage and reduce the burden of out-of-pocket expenses on citizens.

"Implementing NHI in Botswana right now would be premature," Mr Afitile said. "We do not yet have the capacity in terms of healthcare personnel, digital systems, and policy enforcement mechanisms to run such a complex system effectively," he added.

He emphasised that current disparities in access to quality healthcare, particularly between private and government health care providers, could worsen if the system was rushed without adequate groundwork.

"We need to address existing inefficiencies and inequities before we can build a sustainable and fair insurance model," he added. Mr Afitile also pointed to logistical and financial constraints, including limited funding, fragmented health data systems, and lack of stakeholder coordination.

"It is not just about policy, it's about practical implementation, and we are not there yet," he concluded.

Mr Afitile said while the Ministry of Health had announced consultations and feasibility studies on the proposed NHI scheme, there was need to address issues on the ground, further stating that more preparatory work was needed.

"Identify problems in the health care system first, and thereafter measuring risks, projecting costs and sustainability, that is when it can take ground," said Mr Afitile. **BOPA**

Court remands rape accused

By Kabo Keaketswe

LETLHAKANE - A 39-year-old teacher at Ditsweletse Junior Secondary School in Letlhakane, Mbaakanyi Gonde was on Friday remanded in custody on allegations of raping a 15-year-old girl of the same school.

Particulars of the matter are that on April 8 the accused summoned the victim to the school art lab where he locked themselves in the storeroom and had unconsented sex with the girl.

Superintendent Michael Maphephu of Letlhakane police, said the incident was reported to them on Wednesday and the victim was taken to the hospital for examination, while results came out indicating that indeed there was penetration.

Investigating officer in the matter, Constable Onalenna Leboko-Phadisa of Police Gender and Child Protection Unit, pleaded with court to remand the accused while she was still collecting statements from witnesses, being teachers and students. She further noted the matter was still fresh and that the accused might intimidate and influence witnesses before completion of investigations. Gonde will remain behind bars until April 24 for next mention. **BOPA**

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Mosiwa primary celebrates 100 years

By **Thuso Kgakatsi**

HUKUNTSI - Multitudes paid homage to Mosiwa Primary School’s centenary legacy and its remarkable journey from humble beginnings.

Giving a keynote address at the school’s 100 years anniversary celebration in Hukuntsi on Saturday, Ministry of Child Welfare and Basic Education deputy permanent secretary, Professor Agreement Jotia applauded the school for maintaining consistency in its primary school leaving examinations averaging 83 per cent.

“We are of the firm belief that Mosiwa Primary School will continue to produce brilliance, with the right support,” he said.

He said government was determined to revise and improve the education system to make it inclusive and relevant to the current socio-economic landscape.

“For the longest time, an impression was created that the further away you were from Gaborone, the further away you were in development, the root of which is Education. Mosiwa has defied these odds,” he said.

Prof Jotia further noted that government emphasised early childhood and recognised the importance of introducing the mother tongue at the foundational early years of schooling.

“We want to demystify the belief that English medium schools are the only ones which produce the best student, but showcase that given the right foundation and opportunity, all

schools, including government schools like Mosiwa do and can continue to produce Botswana’s best,” he said.

He said, he had no doubt that amongst the students present at the celebrations, were future leaders across all disciples, adding that, for that, Mosiwa would continue to produce Doctors, Educationist, Ministers, Diplomats and Scientists.

While acknowledging the challenges at the school, he noted that most schools were lacking good quality infrastructure.

“We lack basic equipment that in the modern age is required to take advantage of the advancement of technology,” he said.

In recognition of these challenges, he indicated that government had taken the first step by establishing the Ministry of Child welfare and Basic Education, which had been allocated the second highest recurrent budget allocation.

“This is recognition of the importance of investment in children’s growth and welfare from early stages, which is vital for their intellectual growth,” he said.

In the current economic state, he called upon the private sector and the community to put into practice the concept of philanthropy to help government in reaching the aspiration of an Educated and informed Nation, ensuring inclusive and lifelong learning opportunities for all.

“Within the confines of available financial and technical resources, the Ministry of Child Welfare and Basic Education, is determined to use these

partnerships to create channels for more community-based involvement in education, such as forming school management committees that include local stakeholders,” he said.

In her remarks, Namibia High Commissioner to Botswana, Ms Elizabeth Kakukuru shared that the 100 years of existence of the school was a testament of school success from humble beginning, standing against all odds in producing some of the highly qualified citizens without amenities.

She noted that, the intention to unlock excellence which in-turn led to success in such difficult and challenging environment for both teachers and learners was driven by will to win, the desire to succeed and the urge to reach full potential.

“Discipline is key. Being visionary and fixing aspiration and eyes on the goals,” she said.

Ms Kakukuru shared that nowadays with all the technology, conducive teaching environment and access to facilities such as buildings, power libraries both teaching and learning has been made easy.

Meanwhile, she mentioned that there were challenges facing students, which included, disrespect to teachers and parents, peer pressure, social media influences, substance and alcohol abuse. “In a very competitive world of today where unemployment amongst young people is very high, academic qualifications alone are not sufficient for job offers but our learners need to have good manners, we need to follow

footsteps of our parents and all our alumni who have put the school name high and kept its legacy alive,” she said.

For his part, while reciting school centenary journey, Steering Committee chairperson, also class of 1961 alumni, Mr Nelson Ramoncho shared that the school was established in 1952 by London Missionary Society

Pastor named Henry Ramoagabo Keaikitse.

He shared that at first, the school began with classes of Sub A, Sub B, Standard 1 up to Standard 6.

“Up to now the school has had 18 school heads, with the first being Mr Keaikitse and the current being Ms Olivia Ditshetelo,” he said. **BOPA**



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‘STEAM-focused curriculum to reshape education’

By **Thamani Shabani**

FRANCISTOWN - Government’s shift to a STEAM-focused curriculum is set to reshape education, effective next year.

The policy outlined in the ruling Umbrella for Democratic Change (UDC) manifesto, mandates a complete transition within 12 months according to Ministry of Child Welfare and Basic Education, North East Region director operations, Mr Labane Mokgosi.

He was speaking at Mater Spei College’s staff victory gala dinner in Francistown on Friday, urging educators to familiarise themselves with the new policy and conduct research on its implementation.

Mater Spei College, a Catholic missionary school in Francistown secured first place in the northern region and second place nationally in the 2024 BGCSE examinations, achieving a 33.65 per cent pass rate.

Mr Mokgosi stated that the new STEAM curriculum (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics) replaced the previous OSET model, aiming to equip learners with the 21st-century skills.

He also announced resumption

of school sports next month.

Mater Spei College school head, Mr Baboloki Bajiti attributed the success to strategic planning and learners’ dedication to school work, highlighting consistent top performance since 2022, including a remarkable achievement by one student who attained 9 A*s and a D in 2023.

Mr Bajiti said the devoted to continue in this path, targeting even better results in the future in order to secure government sponsorships for top students to attend international universities.

The school’s achievement provides a strong foundation as it prepares to adapt to the upcoming curriculum changes under the new STEAM initiative.

Satellite south councilor, Mr Peter Ngoma commended Mater Spei College’s admirable performance and waxed lyrical about the dedication of teachers and support personnel in reclaiming the school’s rightful position in academic performance under the stewardship of Mr Bajiti’.

Mater Spei College, he said, was clearly on the path to regaining its prestigious national standing in BGCSE results.

Councilor Ngoma urged the entire school community to maintain the momentum and push even harder to achieve this commendable goal.

While celebrating the improved academic performance, Mr Ngoma also emphasised the importance of discipline among the students.

The spotlight shinned brightly on outstanding performers during the event. In the category of outstanding performance, the Department of Religious Education’s Ms Keitumetse Sefaya produced 15 A* out of 33 produced by the school.

Ms Matshidiso Puso, a Social Studies teacher who produced an exceptional 14 A* out of a possible 26 nationally was also acknowledged for her astounding performance.

Another Social Studies teacher in Ms Segametsi Busumane, was celebrated for having 11A* learners in that discipline.

Ms Busumane recently joined Mater Spei on transfer from Ditsweletse Junior Secondary School in Letlhakane, a move that proved to be a significant motivator for her. The school prides itself for attaining the highest scores in the country, in Social Studies and Religious Educations. **BOPA**

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The week that was in pictures



This past week offered a glimpse into leadership in action, as the Inter-Ministerial Committee appointed by President Advocate Duma Boko embarked on consultative meetings to assess living realities of the Basarwa communities. In the minerals sector, minister of Minerals and Energy, Ms Bogolo Kenewendo reassured stakeholders in the diamond industry of government’s unwavering commitment to resolving the pressing issue of the 37 per cent reciprocal tariff imposed by the United States on Botswana. On the sporting front, Botswana once again took centre stage by hosting the prestigious FNB Botswana Golden Grand Prix, drawing international athletes and shining a spotlight on local sporting talent. In tennis, Malak Macheng made history as the first local tennis player to sign a sponsorship agreement, as she did with Choppies Botswana.



- 1. Minister Bogolo Kenewendo (left) with the industry players at the Diamond Sector Stakeholder Meeting with Ministry of Labour and Home Affairs in collaboration with Ministry of Minerals and Energy in Gaborone. The Minister assured them that government was engaged in coming up with measures to address the reciprocal tariff of 37 per cent imposed on Botswana by the US. **Photo: Felicity Male**
- 2. Kgosi David Rasetswana of Bere (left) with Ministry of Lands and Agriculture permanent secretary, Mr Kabelo Ebineng (centre) and Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Justice and Correctional Services, Ms Naledi Moroka after consultations with Basarwa in Bere during an inter-ministerial kgotla meeting. **Photo: Calviniah Kgautlhe**
- 3. Malak Macheng made headlines after signing a one-year sponsorship agreement with Choppies Botswana, making her the first local tennis player to achieve such a feat. **Photo: Pheny Moalosi**
- 4. Botswana’s Seabo Saleshando was a marvel to watch despite losing to Tshepang Maisela of South Africa in the International Tennis Federation U18 Gaborone J30 tournament. Maisela won 7-5, 7-5. **Photo: Gothusang Lesego**
- 5. Botswana Television reporter, Ms Keikantse Khumalo (right) showcasing an art piece depicting King Shaka Zulu, which she created during MultiChoice Sip and Paint Content Showcase event. Looking on is MultiChoice Botswana managing director, Ms Stephanie Pillay. **Photo: Felicity Male**
- 6. Letsile Tebogo (right) being appreciated by fans after he gave them a show at the FNB Botswana Golden Grand Prix. **Photo: Pheny Moalosi**
- 7. Minister of Higher Education, Mr Prince Maele (right) dancing to the tunes of Oodi band during TVET graduation ceremony. **Photo: Dimpho Buisanyang**





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Zimbabwe avocado gains traction among Chinese

HARARE - Chinese importers have positively reviewed the quality and output of avocados from Zimbabwe and are committed to helping local farmers tap into the Chinese market. There is optimism that the rising demand from China would drive Zimbabwe's avocado exports.

Lu Zhaofeng, executive president of the Asia-Europe and Africa Joint Trade and Investment Promotion Association, an international non-governmental organisation said in an interview with Xinhua on Friday in Harare, Zimbabwe.

Lu who led a group of Chinese importers to review the avocado industry in Zimbabwe said the avocado's excellent quality and high yield have bolstered Chinese buyers' confidence that it would make a strong showing and gain a foothold in the Chinese market.

"Zimbabwe boasts a variety of avocado types, and their flesh

is so smooth and delicate. It is a sure bet that Chinese consumers will like them," Lu said.

She told Xinhua that during this trip, Chinese importers learnt more about Zimbabwe's avocado industry and the country's willingness to boost the agricultural sector.

In September last year, a trade protocol on the export of Zimbabwean avocados was inked during Zimbabwe President Emmerson Mnangagwa's state visit to China, which brought joy to Zimbabwe farmers who have always been eager to expand their overseas markets.

Noting that Zimbabwe's avocado industry still faced multiple challenges such as climate change, inadequate irrigation and poor transportation, Lu said Chinese importers were willing to provide the much-needed technology and equipment to help local farmers boost their output. *Xinhua*



LIBREVILLE - Citizens queuing to vote at a polling station in Gabon on Saturday. Gabonese voters went to the polls to elect a president in its first presidential election since a coup two years ago, marking the final phase of the country's political transition and the anticipated return to constitutional order. The Ministry of the Interior said there were 3 037 polling stations, including 2 941 within the country and 96 abroad. A total of 920 200 voters registered, including over 28 000 overseas. Photo: Xinhua

UN calls for peaceful, transparent election in Gabon

LIBREVILLE - A special representative of the UN Secretary-General for Central Africa and head of the United Nations regional office for Central Africa, renewed his call for a credible, inclusive, transparent and sincere electoral

process on the eve of Gabon's on going presidential election that commenced on Saturday. In a statement issued by Abdou Abarry, on Friday, the official said that the results of the vote must reflect the will freely expressed by the Gabonese people, urging all stakeholders to give priority to dialogue, consultation, and consensus-building in case of any divergence or dispute arising from the electoral process.

The special representative reaffirmed his readiness to support the Gabonese people in their march toward a return to constitutional order and welcomed the efforts already made to meet the transition timeline. The 14-day electoral campaign concluded with eight presidential candidates in the running, including transitional President Brice Clotaire Oligui Nguema. Nguema, who led a coup on August 30, 2023, resigned from the military, as Gabon's Electoral Code allows military personnel to contest for the presidency if they first take a leave of absence from active duty.

Alain-Claude Bilie By Nze,

the former prime minister under former President Ali Bongo, ousted by the coup in 2023, has emerged as a prominent challenger. According to Gabon's Interior Ministry, 3,037 polling stations will be operational on Saturday nationwide and abroad, namely 2,941 within Gabon and 96 at overseas missions, serving a total of 920 200 registered voters. Polls were set to open at 7 am and expected to close at 6 pm with extensions possible in accordance with the Electoral Code.

A total of 48 national and international observer missions have been accredited. In a notable departure from previous elections, Gabon will not impose border closures or restrict internet access, and businesses will remain open, said the ministry. The Gabonese government said that the peaceful atmosphere reflects the country's commitment to democratic principles and civic freedoms. According to the Electoral Code, a runoff will be held if no candidate secured an outright majority in the first round. *Xinhua*

Algeria unveils maiden homegrown electronic chip

ALGIERS - Algeria has successfully designed its first homegrown electronic chip, marking a significant achievement in its technological development, Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research Kamel Baddari announced on Saturday.

During a visit to the Centre for Development of Advanced Technologies (CDTA) in Algiers,

Baddari revealed that Algeria researchers had developed a high-precision one-square-millimetre chip, specifically designed for integration into electronic cards.

The chip, developed entirely by local experts in microelectronics, is now ready for production. "Mastering this technology adds significant value to Algeria's economy and reflects our

growing expertise in this critical field," Baddari emphasised.

He further noted that the chip design lab, inaugurated in December 2024, will pave the way for local manufacturing within the next two years.

On the sidelines of the visit, the CDTA signed an agreement with the National Company of Electronic Industries to oversee mass production. *Xinhua*



BANJUL - A member of the 22nd batch of the Chinese medical team in The Gambia administering anesthesia on a patient at the Farafenni General Hospital in the North Bank Division on Thursday. The Chinese medical team conducted an outreach clinic and medical supplies donation event on Friday. The event, which began on April 7, covered multiple specialties including gynaecology, paediatric surgery, orthopedic trauma, and traditional Chinese medicine. A total of 21 surgeries, mainly general and paediatric, were performed, while over 300 patients received treatment and consultations. Photo: Xinhua

Algiers protest against Paris detention of consul

ALGIERS - Algeria Foreign Ministry summoned French Ambassador to Algiers, Stephane Romatet, to lodge a "strong protest" against the detention of an Algeria consul in France.

French authorities placed Algeria consul in provisional detention over alleged links to the 2024 abduction of Amir Boukhras, a fugitive Algerian activist based in Paris known on social media as "AmirDZ."

In its protest statement on Saturday Algiers depicts France's legal justification as "fabricated," saying that the diplomat was arrested in a public space without prior diplomatic notification, which is an "unprecedented and

unjustified" breach of diplomatic norms.

The only evidence cited by French authorities, the ministry said, was the detection of the official's mobile phone near Boukhras' residence.

Algeria demands the consul's "immediate release," warning that the "deliberate judicial escalation" undermines recent efforts to reset bilateral ties, including agreements reached during a phone call between the two nations' leaders.

The incident comes just days after French Foreign Minister Jean-Noel Barrot visited Algiers to ease tensions and revive cooperation. *Xinhua*

Namibia opens Africa first green iron plant

WINDHOEK - Namibia President Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah on Friday inaugurated Africa's first industrial-scale green iron plant, a facility that produces iron with zero carbon emissions.

The HyIron Oshivela Plant located in Erongo Region, uses solar power and hydrogen to produce iron without carbon emissions.

It is expected to begin production later this month with an initial capacity of 15 000 tonnes annually, with plans

to reach two million tonnes by 2030. Speaking at the opening ceremony, Nandi-Ndaitwah said the plant demonstrated Namibia's commitment to building a carbon-free economy and creating more job opportunities, especially for young people.

"This project shows that Namibia has not only the raw materials and renewable energy, but also the human capital and political will to support sustainable industrial growth," Nandi-Ndaitwah said.

The facility, which uses

renewable energy to produce iron, was constructed in less than 12 months, with an investment of about US\$ 31 million.

The modular plant is powered by a 12-MW electrolyser from China's Peric Hydrogen Systems, the largest such unit in southern

Africa, and operated off-grid, using a smart microgrid that aligns production with stored and generated solar energy.

Namibia has been promoting its green hydrogen and renewable energy potential to attract investment and diversify its

economy beyond mining and raw material exports.

The country aims to shift from exporting raw materials to producing value-added goods locally, which officials say can generate up to eight times more economic value. *Xinhua*

Nigeria to impose US\$15 daily fine on visa defaulters

ABUJA - Nigeria will implement a new policy that imposes a US\$15 daily fine on travellers who overstay their visas from August.

Defaulters risk a ban of five years or more from re-entering the country after the Nigeria Visa Policy 2025 takes full effect in August. Olubunmi Tunji-Ojo, the minister of interior, told the media in Lagos on Friday.

Tunji-Ojo said while the penalties will officially begin in May, there will be a three-month grace period until August, during which visa overstays will not

be penalised. The new penalty system is geared to curb the abuse of the Nigerian visa, and travellers who stay beyond three months will face a five-year ban while others who stayed for a year or more after the expiration of their visas would be banned for 10 years, he said.

It is part of a broader effort to guarantee compliance, promote responsible migration, and protect national security, the minister said, adding that the Nigeria Immigration Service has been empowered to enforce the penalties. *Xinhua*



OSAKA - A visitor touring the China Pavilion at the Osaka Expo in Japan yesterday. The expo was officially opened in front of the pavilion's main building, which is designed to resemble a traditional Chinese scroll. Inspired by traditional Chinese calligraphy scrolls, the pavilion's architectural design embodies the theme of: Building a Community of Life for Man and Nature Future Society of Green Development. The expo will end on October 13. Photo: Xinhua



YANGON - Bangladesh Embassy handing over another consignment of humanitarian relief material from the government of Bangladesh to support those affected by the recent earthquake in Myanmar. The donation was handed over on Saturday. Photo: Xinhua

Bangladesh delivers relief consignment to Myanmar

DHAKA - The Bangladeshi government has handed over the third consignment of humanitarian aid to earthquake-hit Myanmar's authorities.

Bangladesh Ambassador to Myanmar Md Monwar Hossain handed over the third consignment of humanitarian aid to the Myanmar side at a ceremony on Saturday, the

Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) of the Bangladesh Armed Forces said in a statement. Relief materials from Bangladesh included tents, food packets, dry rations, drinking water, blankets, clothing, hygiene products, and other essentials. In total, ISPR said 151 metric tonnes of relief materials have been provided to the people of Myanmar in

three consignments since the earthquake struck on March 28.

In addition to relief materials, a 55-member Search and Rescue (SAR) and medical team was deployed in Myanmar capital Nay pyi taw to support the rescue and recovery efforts. A donation of 800 boxes of hygiene products by the Bangladesh Red Crescent Society has also been handed

Sexual violence against children in DRC worries UNICEF

NEW YORK - The UN Children's Fund (UNICEF) has raised concern over sexual violence against children during intense January and February fighting in eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC).

UNICEF said according to reports children made up 35 to 45 per cent of the nearly 10 000 cases of rape and sexual violence tallied in January and February.

"During the most intense phase of this year's conflict in eastern DRC, a child was raped every half an hour," UNICEF spokesperson James Elder told reporters at a UN briefing in Geneva on Friday.

"We are not talking about isolated incidents, we are talking about a systemic crisis. We are

seeing survivors as young as toddlers. It is a weapon of war and a deliberate tactic of terror. And it destroys families and communities," Elder said.

And the figures may be just "the tip of the iceberg" because reports of crimes can be hidden beneath layers of fear, stigma, and insecurity, he added.

Elder called for the international community to take urgent and collective action against sexual violence.

"We need additional prevention efforts, survivor-centered services, and safe, accessible ways for survivors to report abuse without fear. Survivors must see the world stand with them, not turn away. And perpetrators must face justice," he said. *Xinhua*

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Sereetsi celebrates decade in style

By Ketshepile More

GABORONE - It has been 10 years since Sereetsi & The Natives, a contemporary musical band that blends traditional Setswana rhythms with Western melodies, made its mark in the music scene.

Led by former journalist, Tomeletso Sereetsi, the band celebrated their 10-year industry achievement with a symphony orchestra experience in concert style, Friday at Maitisong theatre.

The attainment comes with four albums and to celebrate the milestone, the band invited some musical talent from home and across the borders whom they have worked with, to join in the celebration.

The sold out concert started off with some popular folk tunes before the orchestra made it to the stage, starting with an arrangement of a mellow performance of Maitsetsepelo from the first album, Four String Confessions of 2015 and also Tshumu from the band's latest offering Mmabatho as well as Ke Boletsa Mongwe, one of the favourites from the 2015 album.

Petere from Mmabatho album of 2022, by saxophonist Sebaga brought in a change of pace to the concert.

Her first interaction with Sereetsi and the Natives was in 2016 and has often featured as a guest during the band's gigs and appearances.

The symphony experience, which was a historical attempt by the band, was a delightfully varied programme with works of varied four guitars, drums, piano, cello, trumpet, viola.

However, the common occurrences of the band's guitar quartet and drums did not give the orchestra ensemble a moment to shine. I

t went without saying that the musicianship in this symphony experience was showed off in the many facets of the guitarists' capabilities and exceptional drummers.

Nevertheless, the audience enjoyed the four-hour show and sang along to their favourite Sereetsi and the Natives signature tunes.

The orchestration of Robete, an all-time hit classic from the maiden Four Strings Confessions album was seamlessly done to the audience's satisfaction, who enjoyed the symphonic version of the traditionally blended masterpiece that introduced the band to the music space a decade ago. **BOPA**



Four-string guitar specialist, Tomeletso Sereetsi of Sereetsi & The Natives band performing with an orchestra at Maitisong Theatre in Gaborone on Friday. Sereetsi, who was celebrating 10-year anniversary in the music industry, also performed with fellow musicians who have been featured in his albums such as Kabelo Mogwe, Sebaga Rabantheng, Wynton Senwelo on drums and Gomotsegang Gee Rapoo. Photo: Phenyo Moalosi

MultiChoice Botswana showcases new content

By Ketshepile More

GABORONE - MultiChoice Botswana is determined to ensure that Botswana gets regional recognition in the entertainment space.

Mokwalo, Buying a Cow and Khumo ya Dinaledi; local films that premiered on DStv's Mzansi Magic channel last year November, put Botswana on

the map and emphasised the country's ability to create stellar content, Multi Choice Botswana managing director, Stephanie Pillay said during the DSTV Sip and Paint content showcase at the Pavilion restaurant in Gaborone on Thursday.

She said the films penetrated Mzansi Magic channel, a first for the channel to air non-South African content. "The films were

placed on Mzansi Magic and had incredible high television ratings for the 8pm slot, beating the content that was shared in that slot previously," said Pillay.

She spoke highly of the quality of the stories and noted that the support of the media made it possible for Multi Choice group to reassess their next step.

"The group could not look away, they have shown interest

to reinvest in Botswana," Pillay said and explained that such could not have happened without support from the media.

Meanwhile, Multi Choice Botswana announced a series of entertainment varying from movies, series and sport.

Soon after the FNB Botswana Golden Grand Prix sprints onto Super Sport screens, viewers will experience the Diamond League happening in China on April 26, where Botswana's finest athletes will be chasing glory, defying limits and flying the blue, black, and white flag higher.

Still in April on Discovery Channel, DStv will showcase a docuseries: Walking with Elephants, where acclaimed explorer, Levison Wood embarks on a daring 650-mile trek across Botswana, shadowing the world's largest elephant migration on foot.

DStv Botswana customers can look forward to an intimate journey into the heart of the wild, where every footprint tells a story.

A treat awaits customers again in April, as The Last of Us is back with Season 2 while a new series, Genesis Season 1 makes a powerful debut on Mzansi Magic (DStv Channel 161) on April 21.

The sizzling new telenovela pulls back the velvet curtain on the gospel music scene, where praise meets power and hallelujahs clash with heartbreak. **BOPA**



Media personalities creating artworks during DStv Sip and Paint Content Showcase event in Gaborone on Thursday. MultiChoice Botswana managing director, Stephanie Pillay informed the media that the company was determined to ensure that Botswana got regional recognition in the entertainment space through local films that premiered on DStv's Mzansi Magic channel. Photo: Felicity Male

‘Golden Grand Prix 2026 edition to be better’

By Anastacia Sibanda

GABORONE - The 2025 FNB Botswana Golden Grand Prix edition is done and dusted, but the next edition will be bigger and better.

Chief Executive Officer and founder of World Athletics Management, Robert Wagner, said toward the end of the meet, which was held at Gaborone’s National Stadium on Saturday.

According to Wagner, the quality of the athletes who competed ‘suffered a little bit’ because the budget was lower than the last edition, as government had to refurbish the track, which was expensive.

“I also understand that the new government has little resources, and I guess next year we will deliver a very competitive event,” he said. Furthermore, he said he expected more athletes to honour the Grand Prix, especially that Botswana would be hosting the 2026 World Relays, which event would be the first global event coming to Africa.

Wagner said in 2026, the country would host Grand Prix one week

before the World Relays, adding that the meet would also be some form of rehearsal.

“We are going to try to bring all equipment from World Relays to make sure that everything is working a week before the event,” he said.

Furthermore, appreciated that most of the athletes who would be competing in the World Relays, would also compete in the Grand Prix.

“The idea is for them to come here and stay for the entire week, that alone means bringing good

quality athletes to Botswana, and it saves a lot of costs, because will be using one air ticket for two events,” he said.

In other issues, Wagner said he was happy that despite all the challenges, the Grand Prix took place, describing the Friday night’s level of preparedness as ‘scary’.

He said a week ahead of the meet, things looked blurry as the contractor was still on site trying to finish the track. “On Friday evening the contractor was still on site marking the track, Saturday morning they were still working

on lanes. I have been in this game for 37 years, but I have never seen something like that, where something looked impossible and all stakeholders unite and make it possible,” he said.

Furthermore, he said the meet was televised in more than 150 countries, and it looked good, adding that the key thing was to pull through so that people had trust and faith in Botswana.

The country, he said, was recently given the rights to host World Relays next year, hence it was imperative to assure the world that Botswana was

ready and could manoeuvre when through challenges and deliver.

“This is TV event, it was televised in 159 channels, and if there had been a two-hour dead air on the channels, the World Relays would have ‘gone’ by Monday morning, because people and organisations need reliable partners,” he said.

World Athletics had been waiting for an African country to host World Relays, and the fact that Botswana managed to be chosen to host the meet, gave the athletics governing body hope that the country would be ready by next year. **BOPA**

Galaxy maintain winning streak

By Marvin Motlhabane

JWANENG - Jwaneng Galaxy thrashed Extension Gunners 3-1 on Saturday to maintain their pole position in the FNB Premiership log standing.

Gunners found the back of the next on the 6th minute with a well-executed penalty taking the game to recess with a solitary goal.

In the second half, Galaxy changed their approach of the game as they started playing long balls from their wingers, which gave them a lot more chances to find the back of the net.

In the 55th minute, Galaxy played an ariel ball into the box, which got converted into a goal through a thunderous strike by Wendell Rudath to equalise.

The champions kept pushing and creating chances, and on the 77th minute, they got their second goal, after Gunners failed to clear their lines from a cross.

As the second half progressed, Gunners continued to make costly mistakes, failing to close balls coming from the width of the pitch played into the box.

Galaxy made another tap in from a ball that was crossed from the width through capable legs of Thero Setsile finding their third goal leading to a 3 - 1 in favour of Galaxy.

Having played 25 games, Galaxy now has 51 points followed by TAFIC FC with 49 points, after defeating Uniao Flamengo Santos 2-1.

Meanwhile, in other league games played on Saturday, VTM and Orapa United played to a 3-all draw while Chadibe FC lost 1-3 to Sua Flamingo and BDF XI collected maximum points through a 2-1 victory over Security Systems. **BOPA**



President Advocate Duma Boko (fourth left), Minister of Sport and Arts, Jacob Kelebeg (fourth right), First National Bank Botswana CEO, Steven Bogatsu (left) and Golden Door Sports Agency director, Glody Dube (right) with the golden grand prix winners at the National Stadium on Saturday. Photo: Gothusang Lesego

Reneilwe receives ATTF Youth Grant

By Moshe Galeragwe

GABORONE - Young and promising local table tennis player, Reneilwe Lekorwe’s excellent performance has been recognised by the Africa Table Tennis Federation (ATTF) and have been selected to benefit from the ATTF Youth Grant.

Botswana Table Tennis Association (BTTA) president, Kudzanani Motswagole said he would receive a financial support of US\$1 250 (over P17 000), which would be used at the approved events such as the World Table Tennis Youth Series for official hospitality packages and/or international training camps.

He said Reneilwe represented the country well at the Hopes Challenge in Namibia in 2023, and at a similar event hosted by the country in 2024 as well as the Commonwealth Youth Championship.

“This grant will run for a year, but not limited to that period as he could benefit for more years to come looking at his progress. At BTTA, based on the budget, we must choose international tournaments that he must partake in,” he said.

Motswagole said the youth grant helped to grow table tennis in countries still lagging behind and in need of aid to develop young talent.

He said the programme focused on inclusivity and giving equal opportunities to promising young player from across the world.

He said ATTF was doing all to support promising players by giving them a platform to have a feel of international competitions through participation.

He said receiving a grant to participate in international table tennis event must come as a motivation to other young players and was a testament that there were opportunities for growth.

“We need more young athletes to come in large numbers so that they

can equally benefit.

There are many other opportunities, and even the local tournaments award players with monetary prizes, which was equally a motivation for one to excel as it augmented what the parents contributed to their development,” he said.

Meanwhile, the 12-year-old was recently celebrated and honoured by his clubs Smash Maniacs Table Tennis Club and received a token of

appreciation worth P4 000 toward supporting his development in the game.

Currently, ranked number one in the country in the U-13 category, Reneilwe is under the tutelage of his father, a table tennis coach and teacher by profession, Brown Sebokolodi. The left handed player whose style of play is dominated by attacking mode grew up in a table tennis family as his sibling and father play the game.

Locally, he dominated the U-12 category winning the BTTA Independence Grand Finale Tournament 2021, 2022, the India@75 (Indian Independence Celebrations) tournament in 2021 and 2022 and Smash Maniacs Clash of the Titans U-12 Champion among others.

Reneilwe was the U-12 champion at the South Africa Junior and Senior Championships held at University of Kwazulu Natal in 2022 as well as bronze at the same championship in 2023 in Cape Town.

He also won silver at the International Table Tennis Federation Southern Africa Hopes Week and Challenge in Windhoek, Namibia in 2023, as well as gold at the Limpopo Table Tennis Association (LTTA) Open Tournament in January 2024.

He is also a recipient of a bronze medals at the Gauteng North Open Tournament in March 2024 and the Commonwealth Championships in Gaborone in December 2024. **BOPA**



Reneilwe Lekorwe’s excellent performance has been recognised by the Africa Table Tennis Federation and he had been selected to benefit from the ATTF Youth Grant.



Track produces new times

By Anastacia Sibanda

GABORONE - The newly refurbished Nation Stadium track has produced World Championship qualifying times, National Record and Personal Best times.

The icing on the cake was when Botswana's finest 800 metre runner, Oratile Nowe qualified for the World Championship clocking a time of 1:58.96 on home soil.

Nowe also smashed her 800 metre National Record, obliterating the 1.59.22 she set on April 4 at the Cape Milers Club ASA Grand Prix meeting in Cape

Town.

She beat Sarah Moraa of Kenya and Charne Swart of South Africa who clocked 1:59.46 and 2:00.01 respectively.

Nowe shared with *BOPA* how happy she was to qualify on home soil, on a new track, adding that it was a 'package' she had been preparing for the nation.

She said she had been preparing well for the FNB Grand Prix and together with her team, their aim was to give the nation something to remember them by.

"My name will forever be engraved in the stadium history,

to say I had qualified on the refurbished track, on home soil," she said. Botswana athletes gave a stunning performance before President Advocate Duma Boko who graced the event, with 200 metre gold medalist, Letsile Tebogo winning his event with a Season Best time of 20.23 (-1.6), followed by South Africa's Luxolo Adams with 20.42, while Kobe Vlemminckx of Belgium settled for third with 20.45

In 400 metre men event, as expected Bayapo Ndori did not disappoint as he also clocked a Season Best time of 44.35,

outclassing his track nemesis, South Africa's Zakithi Nene and Lythe Pillay who finished second and third with 44.68 and 44.97 respectively. Botswana dominated the 800 metre men's event with Keithobogile Haingura clocking 1:44.18, followed by Tshepiso Masalela with 1:44.77s, while Laban Chepkwony of Kenya finished third with 1:45.38 Refilwe Murangi recorded a Personal Best time of 11.54 followed by Tshepang Manyika with 11.73 while Sethunya Majama settled for third with 11.82, a clean sweep by Botswana in the women's 100

metre race.

The men's 100 metres was a total showdown, which saw South Africa's Akani Simbine stopping the clock with a new World Lead of 9.90, Ferdinand Omanyala of Kenya clocked 10.00 to claim second position, while Retshidisitswe Mlenga of South Africa clocked 10.15 to finish third.

In the shot put final, Italian Weir Zane finished first with 20.83, while his countryman, Fabbri Leonard settled for second with 20.64, followed by South Africa's Blignaut Kayle with 20.32. *BOPA*



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