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Kgagodi reclaims land

By Keith Ketl

KGAGODI - Residents of Kgagodi are filled with excitement following the restoration of a significant portion

of land belonging to the community. Addressing a kgotla meeting in Kgagodi yesterday, President Advocate Duma Boko reaffirmed that the 10x10km (10 000 hectares)

land was the rightful property of Kgagodi residents under Customary Land tenure. In his address, President Boko announced his decision to overturn the prior administration's

compulsory acquisition of the land, which was executed through a Presidential Directive in 2023 without adequate consultation.
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Residents of Kgagodi are filled with excitement following the restoration of a 10 by 10km area (10 000 hectares) land belonging to the community. Addressing a kgotla meeting in Kgagodi yesterday, President Advocate Duma Boko reaffirmed that the land was rightful property of Kgagodi residents under Customary Land tenure. He said the compulsory acquisition of the land, which was executed through a Presidential Directive in 2023 was done without adequate consultation. Photo: Felicity Male

Molapo residents propose land zoning in CKGR

By Malebogo Lekula

MOLAPO - In response to ongoing challenges such as land degradation, low water availability, and habitat loss, residents of Molapo in the Central Kalahari Game Reserve (CKGR) have proposed for land zoning aimed at sustainable development within their community.

Mr Roy Sesana, spokesperson for the Basarwa community, presented the proposal during a recent Presidential Inter-Ministerial Committee consultation meeting held in the Molapo settlement.

He emphasised that implementing land zoning within the game reserve would enable them to gain access to land similar to other developed communities across the country.

This access, he said could allow for residential, agricultural, tourism, and industrial purposes.

However, Mr Sesana lamented that the dream of acquiring land for such activities remained distant, as government maintained that CKGR was strictly a ‘game reserve’, prohibiting any other land-related developments.

He there was need for a review of ‘these prohibitions,’ calling for the granting of land rights to improve the socio-economic status of the settlement’s residents.

In an effort to generate income, the community plans to establish consortiums specialising in tourism-related activities, such as constructing campsites, leveraging the region’s abundant natural resources. He emphasised their commitment to environmental preservation to prevent resource depletion.

While Basarwa are traditionally known as hunter-gatherers, Mr Sesana reassured attendees of their ecological awareness, citing strict territorial hunting borders that serve to protect local animal species from illegal hunting.

He further noted that granting land rights would empower them to revive their culture through the establishment of cultural villages, potentially attracting tourists to experience authentic Basarwa culture.

Additionally, he called for regular maintenance of access roads in the game reserve, highlighting that their current condition complicates prompt service delivery from Ghanzi and hindered movement between settlements.

Another resident Mr Katshamikisiwa Moruakgomo, expressed gratitude for the establishment of the Inter-Ministerial Committee, noting that President Advocate Duma Boko has historically championed

Basarwa land issues, including past legal challenges regarding their relocation.

Mr Moruakgomo also advocated for the land board to extend its allocation services to the CKGR, as land remained a pressing concern for all communities within the game reserve.

Mr Kgothiso Gaorapelwe echoed the sentiments regarding limited land access, stating it had impeded their participation in government programmes like Ipelegeng and Thuo Letlotlo.

Through zoning, he believes they could apply for poverty eradication initiatives and other socio-empowerment programmes.

Ms Bogento Setshabamolelo raised concerns about communication networks, noting that many lives were lost due to lack of emergency services, with the nearest clinic over 100km away.

She urged the reinstatement of communication radios that previously facilitated contact with service providers.

Mr Ketshamikiso Kemiso called

for youth empowerment initiatives in the area, proposing livestock production and farming programs to create job opportunities in a region where employment is currently scarce.

In his welcoming remarks, Kgosi Lobatse Beslag highlighted the impact of relocations on local populations, stressing that restoring residents to CKGR from New Xade would enable better service distribution based on improved population metrics.

He mentioned that their settlement’s location in Qweee Pan offers potential for tourism development, provided land rights are granted.

Kgosi Beslag urged unity among local settlements to advocate for equality and shared progress in addressing common challenges.

Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Wildlife and Tourism, Mr Boatametse Modukanele, assured the residents that his team was dedicated to consulting with Basarwa communities in Ghanzi, which have been significantly impacted by mass relocations.

He encouraged community input to find sustainable solutions to their socio-economic issues, emphasising the importance of all citizens being able to be buried at their respective sites.

Addressing other issues, Mr Modukanele noted that the previous provision for special hunting licenses had been discontinued, which had served as a control measure for hunting activities.

He urged the community to propose alternative methods for managing hunting in the area.

For his part, New Xade East Ward Councillor Mr Galemphete Gakelekgoele, called for abolishment of special licenses.

He argued that the cultural ties of the Basarwa to conservation and sustainable practices, should guide any future policies.

The meeting concluded with a collective call for developments to be brought closer to communities rather than displacing them, advocating for a more inclusive approach to resource management and local empowerment. **BOPA**

Moswaane clarifies govt initiatives

By Thamani Shabani

FRANCISTOWN - Francistown West MP, Mr Ignatius Moswaane, has clarified the government’s phased approach to increasing old age pension.

Addressing a kgotla meeting in Monarch on Monday, Mr Moswaane said while the Umbrella for Democratic Change (UDC) had promised a P1 800 allowance, the initial P1 400 payment reflects the current financial constraints facing the country.

He emphasised that this was a starting point, reiterating the government’s commitment to reaching the full P1 800 amount in due course.

The phased rollout, he argued, was a pragmatic response to the nation’s economic challenges.

Mr Moswaane also announced several other key initiatives; the lowering of the pensionable age from 65 to 60 effective next year, a 30-day assessment period for destitution allowances, focusing on the needs of entire families rather than solely the head of household, mandatory training for destitution allowance recipients before enrollment and a 30 per cent reduction in water bills.

The reduction of the water bill, he explained, was necessary to alleviate financial strain following increased rates during the COVID-19 pandemic.

He highlighted the government’s commitment to participatory democracy and called for greater youth involvement in national development, criticising excessive negativity and unproductive internet use.

Mr Moswaane shared his

personal journey, from humble beginnings to his current position as Assistant Minister, inspiring attendees to pursue personal and professional growth.

He encouraged the youth to utilise unused facilities like Leseding Hall as resource centres and to explore entrepreneurial ventures, suggesting tuition centres as a viable option.

He also urged participants in government programmes like Tirelo Sechaba and Ipelegeng to manage their allowances responsibly.

Mr Moswaane proposed a constituency community project (CCP) initiative to acquire a farm and tractor, facilitating agricultural activities in areas in his constituency.

He further informed residents about the Bonno Housing Scheme. He also encouraged participation and timely payment of associated loans and levies.

He revealed a plan to personally accompany the City of Francistown Council in a house-to-house collection of outstanding service loans.

Finally, he confirmed the Chama Chema fund’s conversion from a loan to a grant, with plans to refund those who had already repaid loans.

The grant, he stressed, should be used responsibly for business purposes.

Councillor Dorcus Moemedi of Monarch Central raised concerns about businesses affected by recent flood and delays in old age pension payments, noting the risks faced by pensioners who arrive at payment points at very early hours of the day. **BOPA**



Basarwa Community spokesperson, Mr Roy Sesana (third left) presenting a proposal for land zoning in the Central Kalahari Game Reserve (CKGR) during the inter-ministerial consultation meeting at Molapo settlement recently. He said the proposal would promote sustainable development for communities living within the CKGR, by enabling access to land for residential, agricultural and other purposes aimed at improving their livelihoods. Photo: Malebogo Lekula

Ipelegeng skill development bears fruit

By Keamogetse Setilo

SEROWE - Fifty-one people had graduated from Ipelegeng Skill Development Component recently at a ceremony organised by the Serowe District Council.

Speaking during a graduation ceremony recently Deputy Council Secretary, Ms Basipo Madandume, shared that the initiative allowed participants to complete their training in various trades, including bricklaying and plastering, plumbing, electrical work, tiling, carpentry, and painting.

The graduates comprised two village development committees (VDCs); Thataganyane and Makala that were blessed to receive certificates of skills development initiative overseen by the Serowe District Council, Botswana National Productivity Centre, and Construction

Industries Trust Fund. Moreover, the trained participants had effectively completed two LA2 houses for the VDC.

She praised the graduates and encouraged them to claim their positions boldly in the reality of unemployment.

To this end, she emphasised the importance of the skills, pointing out that they were skilled and that sustainable livelihoods would be achieved through their crafts.

For his part, one of the graduates, Mr Gabriel Baokame from the carpentry trade, praised the programme, stating that it was a blessing for the unemployed that lacked skills to earn a living.

He mentioned that as a beneficiary, he was well-equipped with both practical and theoretical skills to deliver products to customers’ satisfaction.

“The training I received,

coupled with the tools and equipment I have would set me apart in the industry.

As a 22-year-old, I now look forward to the future because I know that I will never go to bed hungry with the skills I possess; I am definitely going to be a success story,” he said.

He called upon graduates to work in teams, as this will benefit them more, citing that with teamwork, they may even establish construction businesses and build turnkey projects like those they have successfully completed during training.

He further thanked the programme coordinators for the starter package consisting of the tools of the trade needed by graduates to carry out projects, saying that with equipment, they could now actively start projects without the challenge of lacking capital to procure tools. **BOPA**

Govt tightens procurement processes

By Bonang Masolotatse

GABORONE - The government is determined to shed inefficiency, eliminate leakages, and redeem the lost billions that have over the years slipped through the cracks of weak procurement systems.

The Vice President and Minister of Finance, Mr Ndaba Gaolathe said at the launch of the Public Procurement and Regulatory Authority (PPRA) brand and the 2024-2028 Strategic Plan in Gaborone on Tuesday, describing the launch as a testament to new beginnings.

“At the heart of every economy lies its procurement system. It serves as the bloodstream through which the lifeblood of a nation, its financial resources flow. When procurement functions well, nations thrive and when it falters, economies bleed,” said Mr Gaolathe.

He said in recent decades, the country lost significant resources due to procurement inefficiencies, poor oversight and institutional inertia hence the announcement of the Government Efficiency in Process Initiative in this year’s budget speech, designed to identify and seal the leakages in the public service delivery pipeline, drive revenue maximisation across ministries, departments and agencies.

Central to the initiative Mr Gaolathe said was the revitalised PPRA as it previously was unable to fully perform its essential role.

He said going forward, PPRA was a strategic cornerstone of the country’s economic future.

Regarding the 2024-2028 Strategic Plan, Mr Gaolathe said its core goal was to establish a

sustainable and inclusive public procurement system, anchored in transparency, equity, fairness, service excellence, innovation and high impact.

He commended PPRA for an ambitious target to achieve 100 per cent compliance with the public procurement law by all procuring entities, procurement practitioners, and contractors by the year 2028.

PPRA chief executive officer, Ms Tumelo Motsumi said the transformation of the authority which started April last year was still ongoing.

She said the journey was not easy due to challenges, compounded by financial challenges facing the country.

Transformation also brings new responsibilities to PPRA, which further expose shortage of skilled human resource, Ms Motsumi said adding that PPRA was losing employees to other state owned enterprises and government departments which remunerated better.

Despite the challenges, she said they were determined to do more with less and explore cost recovery measures.

Senior Manager for Strategy Research and Policy, Ms Julia Dithlong said there was no economic development without public procurement, adding that wastefulness in public procurement derails the economy.

She said the common industry occurrence involving public procurement included wanting of project management, relegating procurement to non-skilled professionals, cost escalations, poor quality and abandoned projects among others. **BOPA**



Vice President also Minister of Finance, Mr Ndaba Gaolathe (second left), Public Procurement Regulatory Authority (PPRA) CEO, Ms Tumelo Motsumi (left) and the authority outgoing board chairperson, Mr Gerald Thipe at the launch of the PPRA brand and the 2024-2028 strategic plan in Gaborone yesterday. Mr Gaolathe said the launch was the institutional embodiment of a new Botswana, determined to shed inefficiency, eliminate leakages and redeem the lost billions that had, over the years slipped through the cracks of weak procurement systems. Photo: Godfrey Mpushe

‘Let us put aside political differences’

By Chendzimu Manyepedza

SELEBI PHIKWE - Political differences must not cloud the contributions of leaders in the formation of the National Development Plan 12 (NDP 12), says Minister for State President, Mr Moeti Mohwasa.

The implementation of NDP 12, initially set to commence at the beginning of the month, has been delayed to incorporate new perspectives that will better serve the nation and its citizens.

During consultations on NDP 12 with political and administrative leaders from Selebi Phikwe and Bobirwa on Monday, Mr Mohwasa emphasised the importance of these discussions as a platform for strategising the plan’s upcoming implementation, to begin in November, pending completion of necessary stakeholder consultations. “The consultations must translate into tangible benefits for all, recognising that sustainable progress relies not

solely on economic strategies but also on collective engagement from the populace in shaping their future,” Mr Mohwasa said.

He stressed that collaborative efforts derived from the consultations meetings were crucial for attracting investment opportunities that would benefit the country and its citizens.

“Current socio-economic challenges facing the nation require collaborative measures. It is imperative that we set aside our political differences and serve the nation with focus and commitment above all else,” said Mr Mohwasa.

In doing so, Mr Mohwasa articulated the need for government to establish comprehensive measures aligning development goals with grassroots realities while addressing the future of various sectors, including infrastructure, information technology, and health.

He further noted that Bobirwa District had potential in tourism

and cross border business opportunities that were needed to diversify and revitalise the economy of the region.

Chairperson of Selebi Phikwe Business Botswana, Mr Palalani Moitlhobogi, called for an integrated approach to development to meet the needs of the business community.

He expressed concern that aspiring small and medium enterprises (SMEs) often face obstacles when seeking assistance to develop their ideas, hindering potentially transformative initiatives in the region.

Additionally, he identified the allocation of business plots as a barrier to economic growth.

Moitlhobogi also proposed transforming the Selebi Phikwe airport into a cargo facility to reduce logistical challenges faced by local businesses engaged in exporting and importing goods.

Ikageleng Phase 1 ward councilor, Mr Silent Leburu, advocated for government-friendly policies supportive of startups.

Kgosi Mphoeng Mphoeng of Mmadinare applauded the government’s decision to embrace Information Communication Technology (ICT), emphasising the need for intensified efforts at the grassroots level.

Still at the meeting, Bobonong Central ward councillor, Mr Jewit Tshethlane, urged that elders be given opportunities to document their indigenous knowledge for future generations. The acting commissioner general of the National Planning Commission (NPC), Ms Keganele Malikongwa, indicated that a key policy paper from the NPC would outline priorities based on ideas raised during the consultations.

She assured that there would be feedback mechanisms in place to evaluate the connectivity of the raised ideas.

Selebi Phikwe Mayor, Mr Oageng Makgosa, expressed appreciation for the initiative and optimism that the government would develop sustainable solutions for the town and the broader SPEDU (Selebi Phikwe Economic Development Unit) region. **BOPA**

Residents welcome restoration of land ownership

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He emphasised that the land, primarily utilised for arable and pastoral farming, had been taken from the residents, stripping them of their ploughing fields

and cattle posts.

The land was designated for a new township and airport project. Residents, through their legal representative Abel Lawyers, had challenged government in court, believing the decision to be procedurally and legally flawed. Unfortunately, they lost the court case.

The contested land is located between Kgagodi, Moremi, Lesenepole and Tamasane.

Advocate Boko expressed that the residents, as rightful owners, now faced a crucial decision: whether to voluntarily give their land to the government.

“Should they choose to do so, they should demand shares in the anticipated development project, along with fair compensation reflective of the land’s value, said President

Boko.

The projected investment value of the upcoming project is estimated at around P200 million, meaning that residents could negotiate a percentage of shareholding not less than 10 per cent if they agree to surrender their land.

Advocate Boko urged the residents to engage in negotiations willingly, stating that any coercion would infringe upon their human rights.

Kgosi Moriti Kgagodi welcomed the restoration, expressing gratitude for the resolution of an issue that had long troubled the community.

With the land back in their hands, he believes it will bring about healing for the residents.

In an interview, Mr Tapiwa Abel of Abel Lawyers, representing the residents,

recounted how the community first learned of the government’s compulsory acquisition during a kgotla meeting held by the land board in 2024.

He noted that the land board had not been forthcoming about the events leading up to the acquisition, prompting the establishment of a committee by the residents to investigate further.

Mr Abel explained that they began writing letters to relevant authorities, uncovering that the government’s decision to expropriate the land had been made in 2023, with a directive issued in haste.

This revelation ultimately led the residents to challenge the validity of the decision, maintaining that it was both unprocedural and unlawful. **BOPA**

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Eretsha benefits from Wilderness Safaris gesture

By Kedirebofe Pelontle

ERETSHA - Okavango Wilderness Safaris has handed over two classroom blocks at Eretsha Primary School that were constructed at the value of P2 million.

Accepting the classrooms, the Minister of Child Welfare and Basic Education, Ms Nono Kgafela-Mokoka, appreciated the gesture from Wilderness Safaris, which she said would benefit learners in Eretsha and the entire community.

Ms Kgafela-Mokoka observed that the government valued collaboration that forged development with the private sector especially at a time when the government is grappling with a financial deficit.

She said the donation by OWS is a proof of public-private-partnership and the commitment the company has to its area of operation, evidenced by previous donations to the five villages that fall under the Okavango Community Trust (OCT), which is its investment partner.

Ms Kgafela-Mokoka hailed the classroom project for local empowerment since the contractor engaged was from Seronga, who worked with employees from the local communities. She said the project, which included the

construction of a durable fence and solar lights to mitigate human-wildlife conflict, especially intrusion from elephants, would help promote safe spaces for the learners.

Okavango East Member of Parliament, Mr Gabatsholwe Disho, thanked Wilderness Safaris for the donation to the Eretsha community, which he said symbolised true partnership between the company and the OCT communities.

Mr Disho appealed to other private companies operating in the constituency to partner with government and assist schools to ensure all children go to school.

Mr Disho expressed concern about the challenges faced by the Okavango District due to poor economic status of the community.

He said Okavango East had four satellite schools out of 15 primary schools while some settlements deserving of primary schools have none. Mr Disho raised concern about the poor academic performance of the two junior secondary schools in the constituency, being Ngambao and Gowa Junior Secondary Schools, which he said recorded 10 per cent and 16 per cent pass rate last year and have dilapidated school structure.

The Managing Director of



Minister of Child Welfare and Basic Education Ms Nono Kgafela-Mokoka having a moment with Eretsha Primary School learners during the handing over of two classroom blocks to the school recently. The classroom blocks constructed at P2 million were donated by Okavango Wilderness Safaris. Photo: Kedirebofe Pelontle

Okavango Wilderness Safaris, Mr Joe Matome, said the classroom project commenced last August and was completed by January, ready for the first term.

Mr Matome said the project was meant to help learners access education in a safe environment as it is aligned to the Okavango Wilderness Safaris pillars to educate, empower and protect.

He said the two classroom blocks have increased Eretsha Primary School classrooms to six, which is a one third increase in a school that accommodates 290 learners. **BOPA**

Omawenenno churches unite in prayer against social ills

By Naomi Leepile

OMAWENENO – Churches in Omawenenno came together on Sunday to pray for issues of national concern such as road accidents, drug abuse, and gender-based violence (GBV).

The gathering aimed to raise awareness and seek divine intervention regarding these pressing issues, particularly as the Easter Holiday approaches.

Pastor Thatayaone Simane of the host, Congregation Church of Christ stressed the vital role of the church in saving lives, a responsibility extended beyond the capabilities of the government alone.

He pointed out that the joint prayer service underscored the commitment of the Omawenenno churches to work collaboratively with the government and the community, to mitigate the risks associated with road accidents and GBV, especially during peak travel seasons like the Easter

holidays.

Omawnenno Councillor, Athlolang Gabankalafe urged church members to assist the government in the ongoing fight against both road accidents and GBV.

He called upon the youth to take the teachings shared seriously and to translate them into meaningful action.

Inspector Irene Motaung of Tsabong Police implored drivers to ensure their vehicles were roadworthy before embarking on long journeys and to verify that they possessed valid permits from the transport office.

She stressed the importance of ensuring that drivers were fit to drive and had adequate rest.

Inspector Motaung advised against overloading vehicles, and urged residents to arrange with neighbours to keep an eye on their homes during extended periods. He cautioned against traveling with an excessive number of children.. **BOPA**



Kgosile Kemolatoletswe Moalafi (left), Jwaneng/Mabutsane MP, Mr Omphemetse Kwapa (right) and Mabutsane District Council chairperson, Mr Tuelo Zulu after a kgotla meeting in Kokong on Monday. Photo: Kehumile Moekejo

Govt defers Kokong road

By Kehumile Moekejo

KOKONG - Construction of the 20km Kokong access road from the A2 junction has been deferred indefinitely owing to budgetary constraints, Department of Roads chief technical officer, Mr Keoagile Modisa told a kgotla meeting addressed by Jwaneng/Mabutsane Member of Parliament (MP) Mr Omphemetse Kwapa on Monday.

He noted that even though he acknowledged the residents' concerns about the poor state of the road, the project could not continue as planned due to financial challenges.

"Even though the project was already at tender stage, it had to be deferred due to financial

constraints. We do not know if it will be considered in the National Development Plan 12 (NDP 12),"he said.

He explained that shortage of funds also affected bush clearing along the road, making it unsafe for motorists. In the interim, he said the department would consider doing spot improvements on the road. Mr Modisa said even though Kokong residents had offered material towards the improvement of the road, they had to ensure that they were properly licensed to source such material.

The residents complained about the poor state of the road and the overgrown vegetation, which they said posed a risk to motorists.

They also noted that they were

willing to meet the government halfway in the construction of the road by providing gravel material which was available in their village.

The area MP, Mr Kwapa, underscored the importance of the road, which he said would contribute towards development in the area and attract investors. He noted that the road would also motivate public transport operators to transport people to other areas. "The government is committed to ensuring that services arrive where people are located, wherever they are in Botswana. Construction of this road would not only ease movement but would also go a long way in attracting businesses to this area," he noted. **BOPA**



Churches in Omawenenno came together on Sunday to pray for issues of national concern such as road accidents, drug abuse and gender-based violence. Photo: Naomi Leepile



Assistant Minister of Child Welfare and Basic Education, Mr Justin Hunyepa (second left) and Kgosi Thabo Monaga (right) with Masunga Senior Secondary School learners during a candle lighting event held to raise awareness about gender-based violence on Monday. Mr Hunyepa said human rights did not give people any privilege to engage in unlawful activities. Photo: Goweditswe Kome

‘Human rights do not give privilege’

By Goweditswe Kome

MASUNGA - Students of Masunga Senior Secondary School were on Monday informed that human rights were enshrined in the Constitution of Botswana to be enjoyed by everyone.

Assistant Minister of Child Welfare and Basic Education, Mr Justin Hunyepa, however, warned that these rights did not give them the privileges to do unlawful things.

Mr Hunyepa said all rights needed to be respected by both teachers and the students as well bearing in mind the responsibilities that came with the rights.

“We want you to come out of this school as stars and diamonds of this country,” he said adding that one of the responsibilities was adherence to school rules and regulations.

This includes dress code, behavioural standard and ethics in which Mr Hunyepa said was self-regulatory before teachers, guidance and counselling could come in.

He encouraged the Student Representative Council (SRC) and the prefects to monitor the other learners’ conduct and assist each other to grow up.

He emphasised that respect for others was another responsibility they carried on their shoulders. He said the students should show respect to teachers, peers and school property to create a safe learning environment.

“In a number of schools, properties have been vandalised, there no doors in some classrooms and windows have been broken especially in the boys’ hostels,” he said.

He said the other responsibility was academic commitment as they were responsible for their learning which includes completing their assignments and active participation in class without being forced to study while at home.

He advised students that as schools were going on recess this week, they should not take it as a

holiday but use that opportunity to read and research using available technologies.

He encouraged students to uphold integrity was one of the responsibilities to take note of was honesty in academic work and interactions within the school community.

He urged students to report any instances of bullying,

discrimination or any other form of misconduct to appropriate authorities that include the teachers, SRC, class monitors and prefects as they are there to keep order.

In his welcome remarks, Kgosi Thabo Monaga proposed that in addition to academic certificates, there should be a second certificate for conduct. **BOPA**

Gowa school state concern - minister

By Kedirebofe Pelontle

KAUXWI - The Minister of Child Welfare and Basic Education, Ms Nono Kgafela-Mokoka has noted with dismay, the state of Gowa Junior Secondary School at Kauxwi in the Okavango District.

Ms Kgafela-Mokoka made the observation on Monday,

following a tour of the school during which she saw dilapidated classrooms and hostels, as well as a shortage of furniture.

She said the school operated at a teacher-student ratio of 40 pupils per teacher, while teachers were also living under poor conditions.

Ms Kgafela-Mokoka though alive to challenges the school

Kokong residents call for fresh consultation on SO2

By Kehumile Moekejo

KOKONG - Kokong residents have called for fresh consultations on the SO2 Wildlife Management Area, following the collapse of engagement between the government and the communities.

Speaking at a kgotla meeting addressed by the Member of Parliament for Jwaneng/Mabutsane, Mr Omphemetse Kwapa on Monday, Kgosi Kemolatoletswe Moalafi, said there is need for extensive consultations that would ultimately put the matter to rest.

He said this is a long-standing issue that dates back many years ago, and it was high time it was concluded. “We have been talking about this issue for a long time now and the government has failed us. We would like to have a meeting with the President because we understand that the area has been demarcated for ranches, something which we are totally against.

“There is no way can agree with the decision to allocate ranches there when we do not have grazing land,” he said.

Kgosi Moalafi noted that the

government should move swiftly to address the issue without disadvantaging the communities that border SO2. The chairperson of Mekgatshi Conservation Trust, Mr Samuel Rapulane, said they were opposed the suggestion to allocate ranches in the area, considering the broader benefit.

He noted that SO2 had a diversity of natural resources that were beneficial to 11 villages in its surrounding. “We are strongly against the government allocating ranches in that area because it has a lot of potential benefits to the various communities in the surrounding.

“The assessment is biased towards individual interests as compared to the broader benefits to the residents in these villages,” he noted.

The Mabutsane sub landboard chairperson, Mr Kegomoditswe Mosupi, said the matter had since been referred to Cabinet for further action, following consultations with the affected communities.

He noted that the landboard did not have the powers to decide on the issue but could only act on the decision made by Cabinet. **BOPA**



Minister of Child Welfare and Basic Education, Ms Nono Kgafela-Mokoka (third left) and other dignitaries during a tour of Gowa Junior Secondary School in Kauxwi, Okavango District on Monday. The minister expressed dismay at the poor state of the school. Photo: Kedirebofe Pelontle

Makomoto native cashes from firewood

By Lefika Maruping

MAKOMOTO - The mophane tree, a mainstay in northern Botswana, serves a dual purpose for the local population, providing the delectable mophane worm and valuable firewood.

For Ms Tumelo Makhwela, a mother of two from Makomoto settlement along the A1, mophane tree presents a more sustainable livelihood.

Unlike the seasonal mophane worm harvest, which yields only once or twice a year, mophane firewood offers year-round income.

This consistency, coupled with her innovative approach to packaging, has proven remarkably successful.

Ms Makhwela's entrepreneurial spirit lies in her packaging of the firewood.

Neatly bundled, her firewood is far more appealing to motorists, particularly those driving luxurious vehicles. "Packaging makes them attractive. It also commands a premium price," she explains. This simple act of presentation has significantly boosted her sales.

The business acumen has also allowed Ms Makhwela to purchase goats and also ensure that her two school-going children have everything they need.

She has not yet been able to build herself a house pending

acquisition of a residential plot. Nevertheless, she says building her own house is on the bucket list.

Her success, however, is built on a foundation of legality. She diligently obtains and renews her permit annually, emphasising her commitment to responsible business practices. "I do not want any trouble with the law. It is better to get a permit and make money legally," she said.

While summer sales might yield approximately P3 000 a month, in winter she cashes roughly P3 000 on a good day. Selling at P20 per package, she often sells over 125 bundles an hour.

"I only choose mophane trees that won't produce excessive smoke," she clarifies, referring to trees that appear to be less dense or resinous.

Despite the physically demanding nature of the work, Ms Makhwela draws on years of experience learned from her parents, demonstrating resilience and a commitment to sustainable practices.

She meticulously rotates her collection areas, showcasing her thoughtful approach to resource management.

Her story is a demonstration to the power of ingenuity, perseverance, and responsible entrepreneurship in overcoming economic hardship. **BOPA**



Ms Tumelo Makhwela says consistency, coupled with innovative approach to packaging, has boosted her sales.

Photo: Ogopoleng Kgomoethata



Lobatse Clay Works (LCW) employees on-site during a visit by AfDB executive directors on Monday. The LCW is a highly industrialised plant dealing in the production of clay bricks for both local and regional markets. The plant is amongst those funded by AfDB in partnership with Botswana Development Corporation at roughly P198 million. Photo: Marvin Motlhabane

AfDB executives tour funded projects

By Marvin Motlhabane

LOBATSE - The Executive Directors of the African Development Bank (AfDB) on Monday toured Lobatse Clay Works and Delta Automotive Technologies, facilitated through their partnership with the Botswana Development Corporation (BDC).

The two industrial enterprises received funding support from AfDB in collaboration with BDC, with the aim of helping Botswana realise its goal of developing an export-led economy.

In an interview following the tour, Ms Moono Mupotola, AfDB's deputy director general for Southern Africa, said both projects contributed significantly to industrialisation and diversification of Botswana's economy. She lauded Lobatse Clay Works for its industrial capacity and its role in adding value to the country's natural resources, thus creating local employment opportunities.

Ms Mupotola expressed optimism regarding management team at Lobatse Clay Works, noting their determination to revitalise operations after prior closures due to outdated machinery and operational challenges. She said the plant had now been retooled and was successfully catering to both domestic and international markets.

Turning to Delta Automotive

Technologies, she described the facility as a world-class operation based in Lobatse, emphasising its positive impact on youth employment and the skills training programs it offered to the local workforce.

She said approximately 95 per cent of the company's employees were locals and its production primarily served the export markets for notable companies such as Volkswagen and Nissan. She highlighted the ambition within Delta to become a significant global supplier, pointing out that the potential exists to service the world from Lobatse, given the skill development initiatives in place for local workers.

As AfDB contemplates further support for Botswana, Ms Mupotola indicated a focus on enhancing skill transfer by collaborating with global vocational training institutions.

This strategic alignment would aim to provide practical training, rather than relying solely on theoretical education.

She expressed her enthusiasm for Botswana's prospects, envisioning it as a central hub for car cable harnessing both regionally and internationally.

Ms Abodire Mapoka, BDC's branding and marketing manager, elaborated on Delta Automotive Technologies' role in producing vehicle harnesses for major international manufacturers, with current production focused

on Volkswagen and Nissan. She said Delta was nominated for additional projects, projecting employee growth from over 300 to 989 by 2027.

This initiative aligned with national efforts to enhance Botswana's export capabilities, given that the company produced entirely for South African market. Ms Mapoka said approximately P200 million was invested in Delta, with efforts aimed at expediting delivery to meet supplier demands.

Regarding Lobatse Clay Works, Ms Mapoka noted the plant's recent refurbishment following its closure in 2017, a move intended to increase operational efficiency and production capacity.

Currently, the plant employs more than 100 employees and aims to grow its workforce to around 240. Ms Mapoka said approximately P198 million was invested since the project's inception, with aspirations to promote Botswana's export potential by catering to both local and regional markets.

Furthermore, she said Lobatse Clay Works had been selected for several key government projects and was actively seeking to market its products to individual consumers. She underscored the socio-economic benefits resulting from these initiatives, which not only created jobs, but also stimulated the local economy by supporting logistics and fuel-related businesses. **BOPA**



Republic of Botswana

MINISTRY FOR STATE PRESIDENT

EXTERNAL ADVERTISEMENT

REF NO: OP 7/72/10 XV (14)
8th April 2025

Applications are invited from suitably qualified candidates for the following position in the Ministry for State President:

1.Vacancy Circular No 9 of 2025
Position title: Director of Disaster Management

Salary Scale: E1 (P512 148-P532 860) per annum

Leave: 30 working days per annum

Benefits:

Optional contributory medical aid scheme with the Botswana Public Officers' Medical Aid Scheme (BPOMAS) (Government pays 50% and employee pays 50%)

- * Government will also contribute 50% of the medical aid cover for individuals who are already members of a different Medical Aid Scheme other than the BPOMAS
- * A contract of 24 to 36 months, with a gratuity of 30% payable upon expiry of contract.

Qualifications:

- * Bachelor Degree in Social Sciences or Environment Science.

Experience:

- * Minimum of Sixteen (16) years' relevant work experience, of which two (2) years should have been at E2 level.

Main purpose of the job:

To coordinate all activities pertaining to Disaster Management in Botswana.

Key Performance Areas:

- * Coordinate relief/emergency operation during disaster situation.
- * Mobilises resources, both domestic and local under the guidance of the National Committee on Disaster Preparedness for disaster management activities.

- * Assist Local Authorities to establish District/Local Disaster Committees and funds.
- * Develops disaster management strategies.
- * Draws up a national disaster management plan under the guidance of the National Committee on Disaster preparedness.
- * Oversees and assists the preparation of District Disaster Management plans by Local Authorities.
- * Initiates and oversees the preparation of comprehensive disaster management legislation
- * Establishes and maintains (on the direction of the National Committee on Disaster Preparedness) optimum systems for dealing with disasters in Botswana.
- * Plans and integrates the disaster systems into normal ongoing development activities at levels within national resource capacity and ensures that the disaster management policy is consistent with other Government policies.
- * Provides secretarial and research support to the National Committee on Disaster preparedness and any technical committee that may be established in future.
- * Conducts publicity campaigns and trains disaster relief volunteers nation-wide on a continuous basis.
- * Plans, supervises and directs the work of supervisees.
- * Manages the National Disaster Relief Funds established under Statutory Instruments No. 20 of 20 of 1996.
- * Coordinates acquisition of financial and material resources for effective responses to national emergencies.
- * Undertakes any other related duties as may be required to meet exigencies of the service.

Essential Competencies:

- * Deciding and initiating action

- * Leading and supervising
- * Adhering to principles and values
- * Analysing
- * Formulating Strategies and Concepts
- * Planning and Organising
- * Delivering Results and meeting Customer Expectation
- * Adapting and Responding to Change

APPLICATIONS:

Applicants should quote the number of this vacancy circular and provide the following details;

- * Full names, address, date and place of birth
- * Brief summary of career with duties (Curriculum Vitae)
- * Certified true copies of certificates and National Identity Card
- * Two (2) copies of recent work-related references (not more than six (6) months old)
- * In case of serving officers;
 - i) Date of appointment
 - ii) Present post, scale and date of appointment thereto.
- * In case of candidates from parastatals and private sector organizations, please provide statement of salary or pay.

IMPORTANT:

All applications from serving Public Officers must be routed through their respective Heads of Departments and Permanent Secretaries. Applications not so routed will not be considered.

Applications should be addressed to;

Permanent Secretary
Ministry for State President,
Private Bag 001,
Gaborone
Or hand deliver at Ministry for State President, Finance House,
1st Floor Records Management Unit, Office No 108

Only shortlisted candidates will be responded to.

CLOSING DATE: 25th April 2025

For any enquiries please contact 3950800

STUDY ENGINEERING, COMMERCE, EDUCATION OR APPLIED SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

DEGREE & DIPLOMA PROGRAMMES

FACULTY OF ENGINEERING	NCQF LEVEL	DURATION
Bachelor of Engineering (Honours) in Telecommunications	8	5 Years
Bachelor of Engineering in Electrical and Electronics	8	5 Years
Bachelor of Engineering in Construction	8	5 Years
Diploma in Electrical and Electronics Engineering	6	3 Years
Diploma in Telecommunication Engineering	6	3 Years
Diploma in Mechanical Engineering	6	3 Years
Diploma in Civil Engineering	6	3 Years
Diploma in Construction Engineering	6	3 Years
Diploma in Computer Engineering	6	3 Years

FACULTY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY	NCQF LEVEL	DURATION
Bachelor of Commerce in Financial Management	7	4 Years
Bachelor of Commerce in Marketing Management	7	4 Years
Bachelor of Commerce in Supply Chain Management	7	4 Years
Bachelor of Commerce in Business Information and Technology Management	7	4 Years
Bachelor of Commerce in Accounting	7	4 Years
Bachelor of Commerce in Digital Marketing	7	4 Years
Bachelor of Commerce in Entrepreneurship	7	4 Years
Bachelor of Science (Hospital Administration)	7	4 Years
Bachelor of Science in Forensic Financial Accounting	7	4 Years
Bachelor of Business Administration in Logistics and Transport Management	7	4 Years
Diploma in Hospitality Management	6	3 Years
Certificate in Computerised Accounting	5	1 Year

FACULTY OF APPLIED SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY	NCQF LEVEL	DURATION
Bachelor of Science in Geology	7	4 Years

FACULTY OF SOCIETAL & VOCATIONAL EDUCATION	NCQF LEVEL	DURATION
Bachelor of Education In Inclusive Education	7	4 Years

NON CREDIT BEARING SHORT COURSES

BUILDING CONSTRUCTION AND FINISHES	DURATION (Hours)
Bricklaying	80
Plastering	80
Painting	80
Tiling	80
Ceiling Installations & Design	80

COMMUNICATION SYSTEMS ENGINEERING	DURATION (Hours)
Optical Fibre Installation & Maintenance Skills	160
PBX Systems Installation, Configuration & Maintenance	80
CCTV Systems Installation, Configuration & Maintenance Skills	80
Professional Mobile Radio (PMR) Systems & Microwave (MW) links Installation, Configuration & Maintenance Skills	48
Electronic Equipment Repair & Maintenance Skills	40

*Non Credit Bearing Short Courses are HRDC Approved.

*All Programmes are accredited by the Botswana Qualifications Authority and are available Full-time and Part-time.

*All programme durations are inclusive of mandatory 6 months industrial based learning.

*All programmes are ERB recognised.

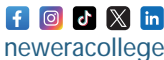


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Council to engage private sector on dev. agenda

By Esther Mmolai

LEGOTLHWANE - Private sector participation is critical to creating a thriving environment needed for sustainable developmental projects and delivery of basic services to all citizens in the district, North West District Council chairperson, Mr Itumeleng Kelebetseng has said.

Addressing a kgotla meeting in Legotlhwane near Sehithwa on Monday, he said he overall budget for the council for this financial year was slashed by 14 per cent and as such they would not be able to undertake all planned projects hence the intention to lure the business community to come on board and assist in that regard.

Residents were informed that inadequate budget would limit the council to run its business and the delivery of

quality services as expected. Mr Kelebetseng said the bulk of the budget would go to personnel emoluments; the employees’ salaries and other allowances, noting however, that council would prioritise completion of pending projects.

“This is a serious challenge and we have already written to the business community to share with them our budget deficit and plead with them to play a role towards project implementation.

There will be no new projects this financial year and this requires collaboration with the private sector for the betterment of the lives of the community,” he added. He is of the view that involvement of the private sector in the public service infrastructure provision would also enhances their role in the economy of the country.

Mr Kelebetseng appreciated that some companies in the

district had been reaching out to assist as part of their corporate social responsibilities in community activities as well as providing some lasting solutions to some issues, but stated that it was time to focus on sustainable developmental projects.

In other areas, he said collaboration with the private sector had worked wonders in achieving sustainable developments. However, he told residents that there was no project earmarked for their village except the construction of a kgotla office that was at a tender stage.

Another pending project he mentioned was the long awaited Sehithwa Service Centre, which he said, was established through Community Constituency Programme (CCP). About P5 100 000, he said was proposed for the completion of a facility the community saw as a key

project to benefit residents of Sehithwa and its catchment areas, while the remaining P4 900 000 would be used on projects in other wards.

Village Development Committee (VDC) chairperson, Mr Phetso Selabe decried lack of developments in the village citing that since its recognition in 2017, they had not seen any project undertaken even upgrading of the village chief as headman of arbitration.

The only development in the village, he said was the primary school and a two roomed house donated by a some company to VDC while other old houses were constructed through the drought programme long time ago.

The government took a decision that Legotlhwane be a recognised settlement in 2017 and be declared a Tertiary IV settlement following countless

pleas by residents to request for gazettement of their settlement which was established around 1900. Mr Selabe also requested upgrading of the internal road to the kgotla, and construction of a clinic saying residents were forced to access health services as far as Sehithwa and Toteng.

He also decried acute shortage of water citing that the community stayed weeks without water.

Area councillor, Mr Moedi Modiegi concurred that the villagers were hopeful that they would benefit from all basic services and other services rendered by government departments following the recognition of their village but that was not the case.

He pleaded with the council to consider the 2km gravel road in the village citing that in the past, 2km gravel roads were done in-house. **BOPA**



Republic of Botswana

EXTERNAL ADVERTISEMENT MINISTRY OF YOUTH AND GENDER AFFAIRS VACANCY CIRCULAR NO. 5 of 2025

DIRECTOR-PROCUREMENT AND PROJECT MANAGEMENT (E1)

Applications are invited from suitably qualified citizens of Botswana for the below mentioned positions in the **Ministry of Youth and Gender Affairs** tenable at **Corporate Services – Gaborone**. Talented, proactive, self-driven and visionary candidates are therefore sought to fill the below mentioned positions.

DIRECTOR-PROCUREMENT AND PROJECT MANAGEMENT (E1)

The above vacancy exists in the Ministry of Youth and Gender Affairs under Corporate Services. A talented, proactive, self-driven and visionary candidate is therefore sought to fill the above mentioned position.

Salary Scale: E1 (P512, 148– P532, 860) per annum.

Leave: 30 working days per annum.

Benefits:

a) Optional Contributory Medical Aid Scheme. (Government pays 50%, Employee pays 50%).

b) A contract of 24 to 36 months, with gratuity at the rate of 30% payable upon expiry of contract.

Qualifications: Degree in Supply Chain Management/ Logistics/Project Management or in a relevant field.

The candidate must be a chartered member of one of the listed institutions or a recognized equivalent institution: CIPS, MCIPS, CILT, ISM, NCMA, ERB, ARC or QRSB.

Experience: A minimum of sixteen (16) years relevant post qualification experience two (2) of which should have been served at the level of E2 in the Public Service or equivalent level in a Parastatal or Private Sector Organization.

Required Competencies:

- Deciding and Initiating action
- Leading and Supervising
- Working with People
- Adhering to Principles and Values
- Persuading and Influencing
- Analysing

- Formulating Strategies and Concepts
- Adapting and Responding to Change

Main purpose of the Job:

To provide strategic leadership and guidance on the execution of projects, procurement services, facilities management and contract management as well as asset disposal in a timely and most cost effective manner.

Key performance areas:

- Liaise with relevant procurement structures, other ministries/ departments and oversight bodies as may be necessary for successful delivery of procurement.
- Provide professional leadership in negotiations with bidders/contractors to facilitate effective delivery of procurement services.
- Oversee the development of contracts with contractors.
- Align/ endorse contractor selection to procurement policy and strategy of Government of Botswana and review the list of contractors based on their performance.
- Facilitate contacts between contractors and Ministry/ Departments.
- Develop the Procurement & Project Management Strategy in line with the relevant laws, policies and regulations and facilitate its implementation.
- Lead the dissemination of best practices in procurement to facilitate greater work efficiencies in the Procurement Unit.
- Oversee the examination and development of estimates of material, equipment and service requirement.
- Manage all procurement and disposal by tender activities of the Ministry.
- Oversee the preparation of tender documents.
- Coordinate the development and implementation of procurement & project management plans and programmes.
- Formulate procurement plans by coordinating planning activities with the technical and other

user departments to timely forecast and consolidate procurement requirements for the entire Ministry.

- Oversee the development and maintenance of a database of approved suppliers, and evaluate supply capabilities and contractor performance.
- Provide advisory support to all departments/ divisions/ units in the ministry on all procurement.
- Provide professional advice and guidance to the ministry on matters relating to procurement and project management practices for effective procurement of goods, works and services and for effective project management.
- Promote awareness of the procurement process and its contribution to service delivery amongst all technical and user departments in a Ministry.
- Monitor and evaluate the performance level of the Procurement Unit as well as benchmark with other PUs or the private sector where necessary.
- Supervise and review development and implementation of operational plans and standard operating procedures relating to contract compliance, facilities management and performance management in the Procurement unit.
- Maintain systems for timely dissemination of procurement and contract award information.
- Supervise the maintenance of adequate stock control and replenishment systems in the PU's central and subsidiary warehouses and related disposal activities of assets and obsolete non – serviceable inventory items.
- Coordinate the preparation of the Procurement Unit budget.
- Oversee and coordinate the utilisation of the ministry funds.
- Identify staff skills gap and determine relevant development programme(s).
- Undertake any other related duties as may be assigned by Management.

APPLICATIONS:

Applicants should quote the number of the vacancy circular and give the following details:

- Full name and contact details.
- Brief summary of career with duties (Curriculum Vitae and, current basic salary).
- Certified copies of certificates and National Identity card.
- At least two (2) recent work related references (less than 6 months old).

Serving Public Officers should indicate:

- Date of first appointment
- Present position and appointment thereto

IMPORTANT

All applications from serving Public Officers should be routed through their Permanent Secretaries and Heads of Departments. **Applications not so routed will not be considered.**

Only shortlisted candidates will be responded to.

Applications should be addressed to:

Permanent Secretary
Ministry of Youth and Gender Affairs
Private Bag 00514 Gaborone

OR Hand deliver at MYGA, Central Business District (CBD), Plot No. 54372, Behind High Court of Botswana, Records Management Unit, Fifth (5) floor.

Closing date: 8th MAY 2025

For further information, please contact: Human Resource Office on 3682600/2666/2654/2677/2635.

Doctors grant children gift of smiles

DAR ES SALAAM - The 34th Chinese medical team in Tanzania's Zanzibar has recently completed five cleft lip surgeries and 19 cleft palate surgeries on children within just five days - each procedure carried out without complications, restoring health and granting them the gift of smiles.

The surgeries were part of a five-day Cleft Lip and Palate Surgery Week, themed: Smile Journey, organised by the Chinese medical team to improve health outcomes, share medical expertise, and strengthen cooperation with Tanzanian counterparts.

Among the young patients was Ibrahim Abdunnassir Ramadhan, a one-year-old baby boy from Zanzibar.

Born with a cleft lip, Ramadhan faced difficulties feeding and frequently cried due to discomfort.

His parents had been desperately seeking help but feared they could never afford the treatment.

"When I first held him, I cried. Not because of his condition, but because I feared the world would not be kind to him," said Raya Rashid Omar, the mother.

"People stared. Some even told

me to hide him. I didn't want pity. I just wanted help." Their hopes turned into reality when they learned about the Chinese-led "Smile Journey."

After an initial screening, the baby was selected for surgery at Lumumba Hospital.

"I was nervous. He's so small," said Abdunnassir Ramadhan Suleiman, the father, as he watched the medical team carry his son into the operating room.

"But the doctors looked at him the way we do. They saw a child who deserves a future." Led by Fang Jin, an oral and maxillofacial surgeon from the Chinese medical team, the surgery proceeded smoothly. Fang worked alongside three Tanzanian doctors hailing from the capital, Dodoma.

Together, they formed a well-coordinated professional team. Throughout the intense five-day period, the team worked seamlessly, performing each surgery with precision and care. Post-operation, they conducted daily check-ups to monitor recovery and ensure the best possible outcomes.

When Ramadhan awoke from surgery, his parents could not contain their emotions.

"For the first time, I saw his

smile without pain," the mother said, holding back tears. "He looked like he had always been waiting to become this version of himself."

The transformation moved not only the medical staff but also the volunteers at Lumumba Hospital. Many children, once shy or silent, began playing and laughing freely with their newly healed faces.

Fang recalled the moment when the mother grasped his hand tightly after the procedure. "She

didn't say much. Just 'Chinese doctor, thank you.' But her eyes said everything," he said.

Local medical professionals also reflected on the experience.

"This collaboration with the Chinese team has been eye-opening. We not only learned advanced techniques but saw what compassion looks like in practice," said Seseja, one of the three Tanzanian doctors. "Chinese doctors brought not only expertise but also trust and hope," said Sumaiya from

Lumumba Hospital's dental department.

"This cross-border goodwill is truly touching." By the end of the surgery week, 24 children had received transformative procedures. For families like Ramadhan's, the impact extended beyond medical treatment.

"You didn't just fix a lip," said Suleiman, looking at his son asleep in his arms. "You gave him a chance to face the world with confidence. That's a gift we'll never forget." *Xinhua*

Ramaphosa appoints special envoy to US

JOHANNESBURG - South Africa President Cyril Ramaphosa on Monday announced the appointment of former deputy finance minister Mcebisi Jonas as his special envoy to the United States.

The appointment came as the relations between the two countries continued souring since US President Donald Trump came into office in 2025.

The soured relationship resulted in the recent expulsion of South Africa's ambassador to the United States and the signing of an executive order granting refugee status to Afrikaners.

In a statement issued by the presidency on Monday, Ramaphosa stated that as a special envoy, Jonas is entrusted with the responsibility to advance South Africa's diplomatic, trade and bilateral priorities.

"He will lead negotiations, foster strategic partnerships and engage with US government officials and private-sector leaders to promote our nation's interests," said Ramaphosa.

The president reaffirmed his commitment to "rebuilding" the relationship between South Africa and the United States based on mutual respect, recognition of each other's sovereignty and benefits for the peoples of both nations.

Jonas currently serves as independent non-executive chairman of the telecom operator

MTN Group, a role he will retain alongside his responsibilities as envoy, according to the statement.

Jonas said he would do his best to promote "healthy relations" between the two countries, adding that there were no quick fixes in the current complex situation.

In February, Trump signed an executive order to cut financial assistance to South Africa, citing disapproval of its land policy and accusing the country of "seizing ethnic minority Afrikaners' agricultural property."

South Africa rejected the claims in the executive order, describing it as being riddled with misinformation.

"The executive order lacks factual accuracy and is rooted in misinformation and falsehood aimed at misrepresenting the actual purpose of the law and sowing racial divisions in our nation," a cabinet statement said.

"This law is not unique to South Africa, as many countries around the world have always had expropriation laws that balance the need for public usage of land and the protection of rights of property owners," the statement said.

Trump, in a post last Friday on his Truth Social platform, threatened not to attend the G20 Leaders' Summit scheduled for November in South Africa. *Xinhua*



VACANCY ADVERTISEMENT

SKWATA AGENCY (PTY) LTD, a subsidiary company of the Botswana Defence Force Retired Members Association (BDFRMA) is offering challenging opportunities for suitably qualified individuals for the following positions tenable at BDFRMA Head Office, Gaborone.

PRINCIPAL OFFICER

Main Purpose of the Job

To efficiently run and coordinate operations/activities of Skwata Agency (Pty) Ltd, a microlending company, and oversee the strategic, operational and financial performance of the entity.

The position reports to the National Executive Committee of the BDFRMA.

Key Performance Areas:

- a) Compliance with Microlending Regulations of NBFIRA
- b) Licensing and Registration
- c) Off-site and On-site Monitoring.
- d) Assess manage principal risks
- e) Communicate with business partners, stakeholders and customers.
- f) To be central point for communicating with the regulatory and or investigation agencies regarding related to the NBFIRA's AML/CTF program.

Position Requirements:

Education: A Bachelor's Degree with majors in Accounting/Business/ Banking or equivalent qualification

Professional Qualifications will be an added advantage

Experience: at least four years post qualifications accounting experience in a computerized accounting environment, of which three years must be at managerial level, preferably in a financial institution.

Competencies

- 1. Commercial Awareness 2. Communication 3. Empowering Individuals 4. Performance Management 5. Decision Making

COMPLIANCE OFFICER

Main Purpose of the Job

Responsible for oversight of operations/accounts of the Microlending business, implement and enforce corporate wide AML/CFT policies, ensuring effectiveness of internal control systems and detect non-compliance.

The position reports to the Principal Officer

Key Performance Areas

- a) Policy development and Implementation
- b) Monitoring and Auditing
- c) AML/CFT Risk Assessment
- d) Customer Due Diligence
- e) Suspicious Activity Reporting
- f) Risk identification and mitigation

Position Requirements

Education: Bachelor's Degree in Accounting, Business, Banking or related area.

Professional Qualifications will be an added advantage

Experience: at least five years post qualification experience in lending or financial accounting environment, of which at least one year must be at middle managerial level in a computerized accounting environment.

Competencies

- 1. Commercial Awareness 2. Communication 3. Empowering Individuals 4. Performance Management 5. Decision Making 6. Service Orientation 7 Planning and Organizing

LOANS ADMIN OFFICER/TELLER

Main Purpose of the Job

To ensure smooth and efficient processing, documentation, and management of loans, from initial application to final repayment, while maintaining accuracy and compliance with relevant regulations and policies.

The position reports to the Operations/Accounts Officer

Key Performance Areas

- a) Preparation and submission of monthly reports on collection, registration of new clients, return clients, bad debt (loan count)
- b) Preparation and submission of daily reports
- c) Disbursement of customer loans in line with Skwata Agency (Pty) Ltd procedures and processes.
- d) Collection of monthly issues out loans and ensuring good turnover of payments.
- e) Making follow-up on a bad debt and ensuring payments before submitting to the debt collectors.
- f) Issuing out of loans to both existing clients and new clients.
- g) Capturing of new clients onto the loan management system.
- h) Advising clients on loan options
- i) Preparing loan applications with clients by ensuring that they have all the requirements as far as the loan underwriting policy is concerned.
- j) Checking if KYC and the documents submitted by the clients are valid.

Position Requirements:

Education: Bachelor's Degree in Accounting or related area preferably at an advanced level or equivalent.

Experience: at least three years post qualification experience in lending or financial accounting environment.

Competencies: 1. Communication 2. Empowering individuals 3. Analysis Information 4. Commercial Awareness 5. Planning and Organising 6. Performance Management 8. Service Orientation

All applications must include a comprehensive CV, with certified copies of certificates and summary details of current duties. Applications must be sent to info@bdfma.org

Closing Date: 30th April 2025

Lekalana la IFAD le nonotsha temo-thuo

Ka Grace Sebape

DIGAWANA - Mopalamente wa kgaolo ya Mmathethe/Good Hope ebile e le motshwarelela tona wa lephata la Lefatshe le Temo-Thuo, Dr Edwin Dikoloti, a re puso e inakantse le lekalana la International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), go ruta Batswana methale ya go dira madi ka temo-thuo.

Dr Dikoloti o buile se ka Labotlhano, kwa phuthengong ya kgotla kwa Digawana a supa fa IFAD e tlaa nna karabo ya letlhoko la ditiro mono gae.

A re bodiredi jwa IFAD ke bo mankge mo go tsa temo-thuo go tswa mono le kwa mafatsheng a mangwe.

O boletse fa se, se tlaa tsamaelana le molawana wa temo-thuo (Agricultural Policy) a re Batswana ba tshwanetse ba leme ka go tlhaloganya fa go na le dikgwetlho jaaka seemo sa phetogo ya loapi.

Mo go tse dingwe, Dr Dikoloti o boletse fa maikaelelo e le gore mo dingwageng tse tharo tse di tlang, Botswana Meat Commission (BMC) e bo e le mo Botswana Stock Exchange le London Stock Exchange.

A re go dirwa dithulaganyo tsa gore nama ya BMC e e rekisiwang kwa mafatsheng a sele, e e ntseng e romelwa ka sekepe mme seo se

bake tiego, jaanong e romelwe ka sefofane gore e goroge ka bofefo.

Dr Dikoloti gape a re kgwebo ya bo mmantshe e bogadi bogaufi, mo e tlaa reng mo ngwageng o o tlang go bo go na le kwa di otlwang teng gore nama ya teng e rekisiwe kwa mafatsheng a sele.

O tlhalositse fa Botswana a tsaya maemo a ntlha mo go laoleng matlhoko a leruo.

A re letlhoko la metsi a a nosang leruo le a tshwenya mme go tshwanetse ga katololwa matamo mo kgaolong gore a tshire metse a pula, tiro e a reng e ka dirwa ka madi a dikgaolo a ditlhabololo.

Mogolwane go tswa IFAD mono gae, Mme Edith Kirumba o boletse fa IFAD e itebagantse le go thusa temo-thuo ka madi, go e tlhabolola.

A re maikaelelo ke go bona Batswana ba inakantse le thuo e e tlhabolotsweng, segolo jang banana ba ba tlhokang kitso le madi go tokafatsa matshelo.

Dr Minah Mosele go tswa kwa National Agricultural Research and Development Institute (NARDI) ene o supile fa balemi ba kgona go lema ba bo ba roba dijo tse dintsi mme ba sa itse gore ba ka dira eng ka tsone mme a gakolola gore go kabakanya dijo go ka bula diphatlha tsa mebereko.

O supile gape gore ba tlhame makgotla le dikoporase, ba nne moonono mongwe. **BOPA**



Mopalamente wa Palapye, Rre Onneetse Ramogapi (mojeng) a buisa phuthengo ya kgotla kwa motseng oo bosheng. A re puso e tswelletse ka go dira maitlamo a yone a e neng ya a solofetsa Batswana e bile tema e setse e bonala. Yo a nang le ene ke mothusa molaodi wa Palapye, Rre Tshepo Mogojwa.

Senepe: Portia Rapitsenyane

Ba tswelletse ka go tseelwa madi ka bofererefere

Ka Portia Rapitsenyane

PALAPYE - Dikgang tsa batho ba ba tseelwang madi ka bofererefere di tswelletse ka go ntsifala e bile di a tshwenya.

Mookamedi wa mapodisi a Palapye, Superintendent Koziba Phuluweni a re ntswa mapodisi a tsibosa setshaba ka dikgang tse, batho ba tswelletse ka go tsiediwa.

O ne a bua jalo kwa phuthengong ya kgotla kwa Palapye ka Labotlhano, jaaka mopalamente wa Palapye, Rre Onneetse Ramogapi a ne a buisa diphuthengo go lekola kgaolo ya gagwe.

O tlhalositse fa mo dikgannyeng dingwe, bangwe ba tseetswe madi a a ka tshwarang bo P400 000 e le dikatso tsa go tlogela tiro.

A re bontsi jwa dikgang tse, di simolola yo o tseelwang madi a bolelelwa fa a gapile madi

mangwe mme a felele a dumela gore o fentse kgaisanyo golo gongwe ntswa a ise a e tseenelele.

Ka jalo o ne a ikuela mo setshabeng go tsibogela dikgang tse.

O ne a ba gakolola go ela tlhoko gore ga ba abalane le ope sepe se se ka ba bayang mo diphatseng tsa go tseelwa madi.

Supt Phuluweni o ne gape a supa matshwenyego ka dikgang tsa dipolaano tsa baratani, a supa fa di ile magoletsa mme mo dinakong tse dingwe di simolola kwa lapeng, batsadi ba leka go letlanya bana mme ba sa tsibose mapodisi go bo go felela go bolaanwa.

E ne e rile go le pele Rre Ramogapi a lekodisa banni ba Palapye fa puso e tswelletse ka go dira maitlamo a yone a e neng ya a solofetsa Batswana e bile tema e setse e bonala fela thata.

O ne a nankola dingwe tse puso e setseng e di fitlheletse. A re bagodi ba setse ba simolotse go amogela P1 400 kgwedi eno e simologa ka madi a bone a ne a okediwa go tswa mo go P830.

O ne a kopa ba ba dirang mo lenaneong la Ipelegeng go dira sentle le bagodi le gore ba seka ba ba koba mo lenaneong leo.

A re bangwe go setse go utlwala fa ba batla go koba bagolo mo Ipelegeng e bile ba ba bolelela dipuo mme a supa fa le bone ba na le tshwanelo ya go dira kwa Ipelegeng ka go ise go fetolwe sepe.

Rre Ramogapi o ne a supa gape fa puso e ntshitse lenaneo la gore Motswana mongwe le mongwe a nne le sebaka sa go nna le bonno le le bidiwang Bonno Turn Key Housing Scheme le mo go lone go tlaa agwang matlo a le 100 000 mo dingwageng tse tlhano.

O ne a itsese banni fa lenaneo le, le akaretsa mongwe le mongwe mme batho ba ba nang le letseno le le kwa tlase ba tlaa sekasekwa gore ba kgone go ikagela.

O ne a supa fa puso e fokoditse dituelo tsa metsi ka 30 per cent e bile dikoloto tsotlhe tsa metsi di kgaotswe ka bogare gore Batswana ba kgone go di duela ba bo ba simolole dituelo tsa metsi sesha.

Ka jalo Rre Ramogapi o ne a supa fa puso e amogela dikgakololo tse di agang mme a ba kopa go nna pelotelele ka tsotlhe tse puso e di ba solofeditseng.

O ne a itsese banni fa kokelo ya Palapye e tlaa agwa le fa go santse go na le tiego ya ditsamaiso dingwe, a tlatla ka go re dikago di tlaa simololwa mo sebakeng se se sa fediseng pelo. **BOPA**

Ka Kehumile Moekejo

KOKONG - Balemi-barui ba kgaolo ya Kokong ba ikuetse ka diphologolo tsa naga tse ba reng di ba senyetsa mo masimong.

Ba ntshitse ngongorego mo phuthengong ya kgotla e e neng e buisiwa ke Mopalamente wa kgaolo ya Jwaneng/Mabutsane, Rre Omphemetse Kwapa kwa Kokong ka Mosupologo, ba tlatsa ka gore ba lephata la diphologolo ba maoto a tshupa go tsibogela dipego tsa tshenyo.

Mothusa modulasetilo wa komiti ya ditlhabololo tsa motse,

Rre Kenyatsegile Mabanebane a re balemi-barui ba jesediwa mo kgobedung ke diphologolo tsa naga, mme go tsaya lebaka gore go tsibogelwe dipego tsa tshenyo eo.

A re gape ba kopa puso gore e sekaseke dikatso tsa phimolo dikeledi ya tshenyo ya diphologolo ka jaana e le kwa tlase thata.

E rile a mo tlatsa, Rre Otshwailwenyana Tlhogonyane a tlhalosa fa seemo seo se tsere phekelo e sele ebile se koafatsa maiteko a bone a go ijesa.

“Re senyediwa ke diphologolo mo masimong mme le fa re ikuela go sena yo o tsibogang. Le fa o

re o a iteka ka go lema, maiteko a gago a kgaupediwa ke tsone diphologolo mo masimong,” a tlhalosa.

Fa a ba kgwa dikgaba, mogolwane kwa lephateng la diphologolo le makgabisa naga, Rre Paul Makarapa, o ne a amogela fa maiteko a bone a go laola tshenyo ya diphologolo le go tsibogela dipego a sa lekana, ka jaana ba tlhaelwa ke bodiredi le didirisiwa.

A re ba a tle ba dire maiteko ka go fokotsa diphologolo gore di seka tsa kgobokana mo lefelong le le lengwe, mme seemo seo se ntse

se a ba hekeetsa.

Le fa go ntse jalo, o ne a ba kopa gore ba seka ba fela pelo mme ba tswellele ka go bega tshenyo gore ba kgone go thusiwa.

O ne a ba rotloetsa go baya bosupi sentle fa ba santse ba letetse go thusiwa, gore dikgang tsa bone di tle di tlhotlhomisiwe sentle. Mo godimo ga moo, Rre Makarapa o ne a ba tsibosa gore ga se diphologolo tsotlhe tse di phimolelwang dikeledi.

O ne gape a ba gakolola gore molao o ba letla go iphemela ka go bolaya diphologolo fa di ba senyetsa. **BOPA**

Heavy downpours claim over 70 lives

KINSHASA - Heavy rains and flooding have struck several provinces in Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), Kinshasa among the hardest hit. According to the latest data, 11 health zones in Kinshasa have been impacted, with more than 5 000 people displaced, the Ministry of Health announced on Monday. At least 72 people have died, and 170 others have been injured due to torrential

rains and resulting floods. Tanganyika and South Kivu provinces, in the eastern part of the country, have also reported significant damage, with local authorities working to assess the full extent of the humanitarian needs. Emergency shelters and care centres have been established in Kinshasa stadiums. However, with the Stade des Martyrs, the

country's biggest sports stadium, already hosting over 4 500 people, authorities have initiated a decongestion plan to transfer displaced residents to other venues. The health ministry reaffirmed its commitment to strengthening multi-sectoral coordination and ensuring swift, targeted, and coordinated responses to

both health and humanitarian emergencies. Continued heavy rainfall has been forecast for the coming days, raising fears of further destruction in the city of 17 million, already vulnerable due to rapid and unregulated urban expansion. DRC rainy season typically runs from November through May. *Xinhua*



KINSHASA - Heavy rainfall and widespread flooding have affected multiple provinces in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, with Kinshasa facing some of the severe impacts. Photo: Xinhua

Algeria expels 12 French diplomats due to tension

ALGIERS - Algeria ordered 12 France diplomats to leave the country within 48 hours, declaring them “personae non gratae” in a move that marks a sharp escalation in diplomatic tensions with France. The expulsion which occurred on Monday followed the arrest of an Algerian consular official by French authorities an action Algeria described as a blatant violation of diplomatic immunity. France confirmed receiving the expulsion notice of the 12 embassy officials, including personnel from the French Interior Ministry. France Foreign Minister Jean-Noel Barrot urged Algeria to abandon the expulsions and said France was ready to respond immediately if they went ahead, according to French media reports. Algeria had summoned France Ambassador Stephane Romatet on Saturday to protest the arrest of its consular official. The detained diplomat was

reportedly questioned over alleged links to the 2024 abduction of Amir Boukhras, an Algerian activist based in Paris known on social media as “AmirDZ.” Algeria dismissed the case against its consular official as baseless, noting that the only evidence cited by French authorities was his phone being detected near Boukhors’ residence. It demanded the diplomat’s immediate release, calling the arrest a “fabricated pretext” that undermines recent efforts to restore Franco-Algerian ties. Algiers warned that any further infringement on its sovereignty would trigger a firm response based on reciprocity. The confrontation marks the most serious diplomatic rupture between the two countries in years, straining a relationship still shaped by colonial-era grievances and modern disputes, including immigration and France’s backing of Morocco in disputes over Western Sahara. *Xinhua*

SADC dismisses claims of joint military operations with DRC

GABORONE - The Southern African Development Community (SADC) on Monday dismissed claims that its regional force deployed in eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) is conducting joint military operations with Congolese troops. In a statement issued by its headquarters in Botswana, the 16-member bloc rejected allegations made by the March 23 movement (M23) in a communique dated April 12. “SADC firmly refutes these allegations. These assertions are both inaccurate and misleading,” the bloc said, adding that the SADC Mission in the DRC (SAMIDRC) has not participated in any joint operations as claimed. SADC noted that SAMIDRC is currently implementing a structured and coordinated withdrawal from the DRC in line with directives from the SADC Summit of Heads of State and Government. The bloc had announced the end of the deployment in March. SADC also

reaffirmed its commitment to the outcomes of a consultative meeting held on March 28 in DRC, between SADC representatives and M23 leadership. The statement said that SADC remained dedicated to supporting peaceful and diplomatic efforts aimed at achieving lasting stability in eastern DRC. SADC secretariat has urged all parties to act responsibly, refrain from the spread of misinformation, and work collectively to de-escalate tensions and restore peace in the region. Eastern DRC has endured decades of conflict, with armed groups including M23 vying for control of the mineral-rich region. The violence has displaced millions and deepened an ongoing humanitarian crisis. SAMIDRC, which includes troops from Malawi, South Africa, and Tanzania, was deployed in December 2023 as part of regional efforts to support peace processes and bolster security in collaboration with Congolese authorities. *Xinhua*



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admin@selebiphikwecitrus.com
www.sphikwecitrus.com
Selebi Phikwe, Botswana

Media release

Sale of shares in Selebi Phikwe Citrus (Pty) Ltd to CITRICO GLOBAL S.L.

Selebi Phikwe Citrus (Pty) Ltd. (SPC) is closing a transaction where it intends selling 33% of its shares to CITRICO GLOBAL S.L.

CITRICO GLOBAL S.L. is headquartered in Spain. They farm c 30 000 hectares of fruit globally, distribute 1 million tonnes of produce into 70 countries , employ around 12000 staff members and have an annual turnover of circa one Billion Euro annually.

The rationale to conclude a transaction with CITRICO GLOBAL S.L. is the global sales and marketing footprint that they have. Market access and route to market is crucial in our industry and they will bring invaluable established customer bases, knowledge and expertise to the business.

SPC has over the last 18 months looked at many share sale options that would on the one hand provide further capital resources, but at the same time bring in partners that will actively strengthen the business. The best option by far that we have found is with CITRICO GLOBAL S.L.

Section 34 (1) of the Tribal Land Act of 2018 compels this transaction to be advertised in the manner that we have done. The Advertisement placed this last weekend has elicited much speculation as to the purpose of the sale of shares.

The Company wishes to confirm that the Board is totally committed to the development and expansion of Agriculture in Botswana. Also, both current shareholders remain deeply invested in SPC. We are not going anywhere, the opposite is true, we are investing further . Many hundreds more jobs will be created, Botswana exports will rise, eventually, agri-processing and supporting industries will develop.

The bulk of the proceeds of this share sale will remain in SPC as capital.

This capital injection will enable the development of a second large citrus farm, similar to SPC. Our intention is not just to establish farms, Botswana needs a citrus Industry, and we are committed to facilitate and participate in this. SPC is in discussion with Government on the planned expansions.

Placed by Selebi Phikwe Citrus (Pty) Ltd

14 April 2025.


Chairman

Selebi Phikwe Citrus Proprietary Limited / UIN: BW00000224954
Directors: PPR Scholtz (CEO), R Ottapathu, DHF Van Der Westhuizen (Chairman)

TO PLACE ADS
365 3587 • 365 3591

ClassifiedAds

FARM WORKERS

FARM WORKER QUALIFIED farm worker/horticulture wanted, Taupye, Mahalapye, 3 years experience preferably, Apply to Mmaisau Holdings (Pty) Ltd, P O Box 4433,Gaborone, 72 195 113 / 71222244

TWO FARM WORKERS wanted. Apply to Box 404942 Gaborone

GODFREY NTONI looking for Herdboy. Box 33, Ramokgwebana.

HERDMAN WANTED AT Maokane 30 to 45 years 71 455 386.

URGENTLY IN NEED of farm worker with experience of five to ten years in the field. Apply to Phillip Kaboda P O Box 214 Main mall Gaborone. 76773821, 73 619 497

REQUIRED HERDBOY at Kweneng Farm. Apply to Box 20097 Mochudi. Call 71 446 375 / 75 103 993.

2 FARM WORKERS wanted, Tshethlwane. Apply Motlhaodi Pelayame Box 520 Molepolole, Contact 71 363 408.

3 FARM WORKERS wanted, Gakgatla lands, Box 390 Molepolole. Apply Dinah Busang.

FOUR FARM WORKERS wanted at Pelotshetlha (Kgatleng) Call : 72 148109

2 FARM WORKERS wanted at Gakuto (Kweneng). Contact Ntsetselele Kago at 75 028 034.

HERDBOY WANTED at Jackalas NO: 2. Issac Mangole at Jackalas NO: 2 Issac Mangole Box 359 Francistown. 74 509 818

FARM WORKER WANTED at Moroka . Michael Diphalo Box 8 Moroka 71 863 786

FARM WORKER WANTED: Mmasegoe lands, Thabala P O Box 11124 Palapye. Contacts: 71 569 659

FARM WORKER NEEDED to start work preferably Female. Contact Molatlhegi Madome on 71 640 707. Apply to P.O. Box 7 Semolale.

KE BATLA MODISA ko Mahalapye East 71 845 980 / 76 919 757

LITERATE FARM LADY wanted at Kgobadibete cattlepost 71 708 776

FEMALE FARM WORKER REQUIRED at Palapye/Makoro village. Small scale poultry project Setswana chickens only. Females of sober habits aged between 45 and 65 need to apply. Advert valid until 27 April 2025. Contact Richard Tamocha P O Box 217 Mahalapye. Cell: 71 520 520 / 74 602 712

NEIGHBOUR CONSULTATION

CHANGE OF LAND use consultation.Rainpark Developers (Pty)Ltd wants to change the land use from agriculture to mixed use and agrotourism at Tlokweng.Any objections should be forwarded to Tlokweng District Council,Physical Planning Office within 14 days or contact (+267) 75682299

TATLHEGO MOKGOSI of a ploughing field in Ramotswa/ Disana wishes to change land use from Agriculture to mixed use agriculture (agriculture and industrial). For any objections, contact Ramotswa District Council, Physical Planning Office on 538 1200 or 74 200 948 within 14 days from date of this publication

BOUNDARY WALL- OWNERS of plot 38411 Block 4 Mogoditshane, would like to inform neighbours of an intention to build a screen wall. For any objections please contact Mogoditshane District Council Physical Planning Office on telephone No.s 316 6646 or call 72202302, within fourteen (14) days of this publication.

OWNERS OF PLOT 50243 Block 6 would like to inform the public of their intention to change land-use from civic & community to mixed landuse for any objections to contact GCC Physical Planning Department.

ISHMAEL MASEELANE OF 8993 Ext 7 Palapye wish to erect boundary wall. Any objection contact Palapye Physical planning office.

OWNER OF PLOT NO.7041 is proposing a residential double storey development. For any objection contact North East District Council, Physical planning office on 248 9242 within fourteen (14) days of publication of this notice.

VACANCIES

FARM WORKER WITH Horticulture experience wanted in Masunga. Contact 71 277 732

LOOKING FOR A Heavy Duty Auto Electrician-Experience 10 years. Requirements-Expert in faulty diagnostic,ECU programming,CAN-bus system,rewiring starters, alternators and advanced electrical repairs.Must hold a Journey Man Auto Electrician Certificate. Apply now- Send CV to:extremeautobw@gmail.com Deadline 28-04-2025

CAMPS MANAGER, IT Manager, IT lecture wanted at London College of International Business Studies. Closes on 30/04/2025.Apply brian.mutimbanyoka@lcibs.ac.bw

BAKERY AND CONFECTIONERY ingredients manufacturer urgently looking for a confectionery and bakery technical advisor consultant for testing bakery plant. 10 years of baking experience. Diploma in baking and confectionery. Apply Box 404942 Gaborone.

AL-HAQ ENGLISH MEDIUM SCHOOL Plot No 1739 Molepolole. Telephone 591 5773. Applications are invited for qualified Primary school Teachers with more than five years teaching experience. Closing date 10/05/2025.

WANTED PROFESSIONAL FESHION designer and granding making at NATIZ COLLECTION Pty Ltd. Contact 77 121 314 Selebi Phikwe

LOOKING FOR A HEAVY DUTY Electrician-Experience 10 years. Requirements-Expert in faulty diagnostic,ECU programming,CAN-bus system,rewiring starters, alternators and advanced electrical repairs. Must hold a Journey Man Auto Electrician Certificate. Apply now-Send CV to:extremeautobw@gmail.com Deadline 28-04-2025

TACHU SCIENTIFIC SEEKS a highly experienced Laboratory design specialist experienced in spacial planning & BoQ preparation. Minimum 10 years experience , CAD proficient, understanding of medical environments & equipment, safety standards know how & class B drivers license, SADC experience a plus. Sales@tachubw.com telephone 3119636 05/05/25 closing date.

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 Administrative 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 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
KEITUMETSE GABOITSEWE	ESHFT-000041-25	17-06-2025	0900HRS	SARM

DATED AT FRANCISTOWN THIS 10TH DAY OF APRIL 2025
MASTER OF THE HIGH COURT

CHANGE OF LAND USE

Owner of Plot No. 5143 , located at Ikageleng, would like to change land use from single family residential to Multi Family Residential. Anybody who would like to view the plan can do so at lot No. 5251 Lesedi Mall, Shop 02 Malekantwa Rd, Selebi Phikwe during working days between 0800 hours and 1700 hours. Or contact us on +26775671988
Whoever has any objection to the proposal should forward it to Physical Planning office- Selebi Phikwe town Council Private bag 001, Selebi Phikwe, in writing, within fourteen (14) days of publication of this notice. Or contact them on +267 2610570

Notice Of Next Of Kin Meetings Administration Of Estate (cap. 31:01)

NOTICE IS HEREBY give that by virtue of section 31 of the administration of estate 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 court at francistown high court on the date and time specified opposite the names of their deceased relatives for purpose of recommending for appointment, a person or persons as executor /exceutrix duties as well as identifying beneficiations and to discuss any other business relating to their deceased relative.

Name of the deceased	Estate number	Date of meeting	times	Master
Days Montshiwa	ESHFT-000308	09-07-25	0900	DRM

DATE AT FRANCISTOWN - - - - - DAY OF MARCH 2025

MASTER OF THE HIGH COURT

NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS

Master's Reference: **ESHGB-000249-24**

IN THE ESTATE of the **LATE MOLATLHEGI MANGOLE** who died at Princess Marina Hospital, Gaborone, Republic of Botswana, Gaborone District on the 30th day of January 2024.
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.**

Executor Testamentary
Moshe M Mangole
P O Box 1862 ABG
Sebele, Gaborone

NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS

Master's Reference:**ESHGB-000264-24**

IN THE ESTATE of the **LATE KELEFANG KELEFANG** who died at Princes Marina Hospital, Gaborone, Republic of Botswana ,Gaborone District on the **19th day of March 2020**
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**

Executor Testamentary
Sebako Eric Othata Kelefang
PO Box 21 Metsimothabe

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Notice Of Next Of Kin Meetings Administration Of Estate (cap. 31:01)

NOTICE IS HEREBY give that by virtue of section 31 of the administration of estate 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 court at francistown high court on the date and time specified opposite the names of their deceased relatives for purpose of recommending for appointment, a person or persons as executor /exceutrix duties as well as identifying beneficiations and to discuss any other business relating to their deceased relative.

Name of the deceased	Estate number	Date of meeting	times	Master
Days Montshiwa	ESHFT-000308	09-07-25	0900	DRM
DATE AT FRANCISTOWN - - - - - DAY OF MARCH 2025				
MASTER OF THE HIGH COURT				

NOTICE FOR A CERTIFIED COPY OF LOST

NOTICED IS HERE BY GIVEN that the undersigned intends to apply for a certified copy of deed No.168/79 dated the 17th day of May, 1979 made in favour of Morgan Nganunu, in respect of:

Certain: piece of land being Lot 4591
Situate: in Gaborone Extension 14
Measuring: 595m² (Five hundred and Ninety Five Square)
Held Under: Deed No. 168/79 dated 17th May 1979 Made in favour of BOTSWANA HOUSING CORPORATION

All person having objections to the issuance of such a copy are hereby required to lodge the same, in writing, with registrar of Deeds at Gaborone within three (3) weeks from publication of this notice

DATED: N/A
MORGAN NGANUNU, Cellphone No. 77989943, Applicant

NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS

Masters reference:ESHGB-0007/24

IN THE ESTATE of the late **TSOTSI ARMON MASUKULA** who died at Gaborone, Gaborone District, Republic of Botswana on the 22nd May 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 GABORONE on this 8th Day of APRIL 2024

Executive Dative Tshepo Amon P O Box 155 Gabane	Executrix Dative Bonani Tsimakoko P O Box 195 Masunga
Cell: 71 340 761 / 73 607 360	Cell: 71 233 304 / 73 593 637

NOTICE OF A CERTIFIED COPY OF LOST DEED

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT the undersigned intends to apply for a certified copy of Deed No 1271/91 dated 6th September 1991 made in favour of Shingani Zolo in respect of;

CERTAIN: Piece of land being Tribal Lot 19033,Gaborone
SITUATE: IN THE GABORONE WEST EXTENSION 12 MEASURING 450M2 – Four hundred and fifty meter squared
Held Under: 1271/1991

All persons having objection to the issue of such copy are hereby required to lodge the same in writing with the Registrar of Deeds,Private Bag 0020 Gaborone within three (3) weeks from the last day of the notice hereof.

DATED AT GABORONE ON THIS 17TH DAY OF MARCH 2025 **Moleboge Zolo (APPLICANT)**

H/W THEBEETSILE

IN THE SURBODINATE COURT FOR THE CENTRAL MAGESTERIAL DISTRICT HELD AT PALAPYE CASE NO: CCMPY-000228-24

In the matter between: ELIZABETH GABANAMOTSE And KABO STEPHEN IN RE: ELIZABETH GABANAMOTSE And KABO STEPHEN	Applicant Respondent Plaintiff Defendant
--	---

SUBSTITUTED SERVICE ORDER
(In terms of Rule 8 of the Rules of the Magistrate’s Court)

TO: KABO STEPHEN, an adult male of full legal capacity, whose last known address is **P O BOX 405095 RAILPARK, GABORONE** whose full and better particulars are unknown to the Applicant.

TAKE NOTICE THAT by Application filed before this Honourable Court, you have been called upon to give notice within 14 days after publication hereto to the Clerk of Court and to the Plaintiff’s attorneys, **LEGAL AID BOTSWANA, Plot 28614, Private Bag PTA1 PALAPYE, BOTSWANA** of your opposition (if any) against the action where the Plaintiff seeks the following order:

- Confirmation of cancellation of the agreement;
- Payment in the sum of P38, 000. 00(Thirty-eight thousand)
- Interest at the rate of 10% temporae morae on the amount at (b) above;
- Further and/ or alternative relief.
- No order as to costs.

AND that an order has already been made for the publication of such application proceedings which shall be deemed to be good and sufficient service of the Summons Commencing Action on you. You are hereby required to enter opposition to the Summons within **14 days** from the date of the publication thereof.

TAKE NOTICE THAT if you fail to give such notice, Judgment will be granted against you without further reference to you.

DATED AT PALAPYE ON THIS 18th DAY OF NOVEMBER 2024.

Klaus Engineering Group (Pty) Ltd
Form: Job Advert - Botswana
Doc ref: KEG-HR-F-9
[Business Use]



Job Advert - Job Title: ISO Door and Panel Erector

Location: Botswana

Employment Type: Contract Basis

About Us:

We are looking for a detail-oriented Door and Panel Erector to install both insulated panels and industrial doors (e.g., cold room doors, sectional doors) for various projects.

Key Responsibilities:

- Install and align doors and insulated panels
- Seal joints and ensure thermal and structural integrity
- Perform finishing work and site clean-up as required
- Coordinate with team members to meet deadlines

Requirements:

- Experience with panel and door installation
- Familiarity with hand and power tools
- Ability to interpret basic construction plans
- Strong attention to detail and workmanship

What We Offer:

- Market related salary based on experience.
- Opportunities for professional growth and development.
- A supportive and collaborative working environment.

How to Apply:

Interested candidates should send their CV and a brief cover letter to cv@maverick-holdings.co.za with the subject line “ISO Door and Panel Erector Application.”

Join us and be part of a company that values innovation, quality, and exceptional service!

Online Advert - Job Title: ISO Panel Team Leader

Location: Botswana

Employment Type: Contract Basis

About Us:

We are seeking an experienced and motivated ISO Panel Team Leader to oversee and coordinate site activities related to ISO panel installation. This is a key role for a hands-on individual who can lead by example, ensure quality workmanship, and maintain safety and efficiency on-site.

Key Responsibilities:

- Supervise and coordinate a team of panel installers
- Interpret and execute construction drawings and plans
- Ensure proper installation of ISO panels to company standards
- Maintain health and safety compliance on-site
- Report daily progress and challenges to the project manager and site manager

Requirements:

- Proven experience in ISO panel installation
- Strong leadership and communication skills
- Ability to read technical drawings
- At least 3 years in a similar role
- Valid driver's license is an advantage

What We Offer:

- Market related salary based on experience.
- Opportunities for professional growth and development.
- A supportive and collaborative working environment.

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Employment Type: Contract Basis

About Us:

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Key Responsibilities:

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- Basic understanding of construction tools and measurements
- Good physical condition and teamwork skills

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International jazz festival awaits

By Ketshepile More

GABORONE - The Botswana Society for Jazz Education (BOSJE) will on April 30 celebrate International Jazz Day at the Botswana Craft.

"This year's International Jazz Day will feature 100 per cent Botswana musicians, as we believe in building our own community and artistes to be headliners in a festival," founder and chairperson of BOSJE, Akhutleleng Kekwaletswe said during a media brief on the International Jazz Day activities.

Scheduled to perform at the International Jazz Day are WDP, Grow to Black Collective, Socca Moruakgomo, DJ Jembe Soul, BOSJE Big Bans, The Fleek Band, Kingdom Arts Academy Ensemble, Kingdom Arts Academy Marimba, JD 2025 Choir and Joseph Sax.

Kekwaletswe also said BOSJE would bid to host the 2028 International Jazz Day.

To realise the dream, she said they needed support from government, private sector, National Arts Council of Botswana (NACB) and all media, as the country would be bringing the world to Botswana.

She emphasised the role of media in the success of winning the bid, saying from 2026, they would work on achieving it.

"Every year, when we host the International Jazz Day here, we try and really do something that is needed on the bid and see if we are able to deliver so that we prepare, as the bid is clear of what they want and what the host country needs to achieve and put together if they want to host," Kekwaletswe said, adding the work towards the bid was done two years prior. As such, she said BOSJE would work on the bid in 2026.

Additionally, she said they wished to benchmark from an African country that had already hosted the event, 'as it will be more relevant to our situation'.

Meanwhile, in the run up to the International Jazz Day, she said BOSJE would host instrumental clinics, workshops and master classes to engage learners from schools around the country that offered music in their curriculum.

"These workshops are, however, not only meant for students, but for the community and they are free," she said.

Kekwaletswe said the activities would be held at the Kingdom Arts Academy.

She said the workshops would introduce the learners to musicians and educators as they celebrated the joy of jazz.

She said they were committed to building a vibrant jazz culture that was inclusive, educational and internationally connected.

BOSJE, established in 2015, was formed to create a platform for jazz musicians and aspiring jazz musicians to grow, to share ideas and even have their work documented.

The society exists to run workshops and hosts festivals and exchange programmes, after realising the need for jazz education with the aim to document, preserve and archive Botswana jazz heritage as well as building the jazz community by advancing education and research.

For his part, Leroy Nyoni of WDP said jazz was a soft power of cultural diplomacy and that it was important to collaborate even after the jazz day.

He said the day capacitates the youth with its culmination of workshops and master classes who end up becoming stars in their own right from the skills and education from BOSJE.

Sebaga Rabantheng, a member of BOSJE and also a saxophonist, said the society provided a

platform for them to educate themselves on music.

She also said it had boosted

her self-esteem and had created a platform for her to interpret music in a special way.

Tickets for the International Jazz Day are sold at P250 single and P400 double. **BOPA**



Botswana Society for Jazz Education founder and chairperson, Akhutleleng Kekwaletswe (left) and Grow to Black Collective Band founder, Laone Thekiso during the International Jazz Day media briefing in Gaborone on Monday. Kekwaletswe said they were committed to building a vibrant jazz culture that was inclusive, educational and internationally connected. Photo: Dimpho Buisanyang

Nomina sets sights on Botswana music scene

By Benita Magopane

GABORONE - Pamela Nothando Bhulu, popularly known by her stage name Nomina, has carved a path where success follows naturally.

With a career marked by consistent achievements and milestones, the Motswana-Germany-based singer and songwriter, who also has roots in Zimbabwe, boasts international collaborations with renowned artistes such as Sean Kingston, Mendel and Slam, and most recently, Nokwazi Dlamini.

Her discography includes successful solo tracks like *Luthando* and the widely celebrated, *Don't Cry Africa*.

However, every success story has a humble beginning and hers is no different.

"My mother influenced my love for music. We would watch choirs sing every Sunday," she fondly recalled.

"And my uncles, they would sing every Christmas. I found it so beautiful. So, yeah, I grew up surrounded by music," she disclosed.

Nomina's first professional release came in 2016 with a remix cover of *Mamaland*, originally performed by the legendary Yvonne Chaka Chaka.

The track became a hit on Facebook, significantly boosting her global visibility.

"It went wild on Facebook, and that's when I realised I had to deliver more music," she said. From there, her career continued

to soar.

A major highlight was her performance at the World Peace Berlin in September 2021, a cause for which she was also appointed ambassador.

One of her standout creations, *Don't Cry Africa*, a collaboration with German-Indonesian producer, Orchidan Waworka, resonated globally, even catching the attention

of Voice of America. "Basically, everyone was talking about it," beamed the Afro-Pop artiste, reflecting on the song's widespread impact and how it encouraged many Africans through its powerful message. However, the journey has not been without its challenges. As an independent artiste, Nomina faced a particularly tough year when she was unable to release new

music while awaiting the launch of a track with international superstar, Sean Paul.

"I didn't release any music for the whole year, waiting for the release of the song. Month after month, there were issues that needed resolving. I eventually discovered that the agency I was working with wasn't right for me," she revealed.

"When push came to shove, I had to find other strategies instead of remaining stagnant," she said.

Nomina emphasised the importance of having a loyal and supportive team.

"You meet people along the way, and sometimes it just doesn't work out. Then you have to start afresh, and that's okay. It's not easy to build a brand, but you just have to work hard and rebuild," she said.

Looking ahead with optimism, the songstress expressed excitement about her upcoming Extended Pla titled, *Angel*, set to be released on May 3 in Botswana.

She describes it as a soulful yet dance-worthy project.

She also shared her aspirations to collaborate with some of Botswana's biggest names, including A.T.I, Han-C, and rising star, Lioness Ratang, whom she described her style as bold and original.

"I want to connect with Botswana. My father is from Maitengwe. This is my home, I grew up here, and I love it here, you know," said Nomina. As part of her latest releases, she's dropped two songs from the EP titled *Destiny*, featuring Nokwazi Dlamini and Ebusuku featuring DJ SK. **BOPA**



German-based Motswana singer and songwriter, Pamela Nothando Bhulu popularly known as Nomina of the *Luthando* and *Don't Cry Africa* fame, boasts international collaborations with renowned artistes such as Sean Kingston, Mendel and Slam, as well as Nokwazi Dlamini. Photo: Dimpho Buisanyang

Passion drives Dikwena Volleyball Club

By Moshe Galeragwe

MOGODITSHANE - With three games left before conclusion of Botswana Volleyball League, Molepolole-based Dikwena VI Volleyball Academy are struggling to stamp their authority.

Since the start of the league, the women's team registered one victory, whilst the men's side is yet to win.

Despite not getting the desired results, the team soldiers on.

Though hampered by among others financial constraints and

Kanaku horse race attracts 90 entries

By Kehumile Moekejo

KANAKU - Horse race enthusiasts will be treated to a thrilling experience slated for Mopako Ranch situated about 4km from Mabutsane on Saturday. The first ever horse race has over 90 entries competing in various categories.

In addition, the event has been coined to accommodate the cultural diversity of the communities, particularly the Basarwa residing in Kanaku.

As part of the activities, the locals would be accorded the opportunity to showcase their culture in language, traditional dance, Polka and Namastap music and their traditional buildings known as Mogwaafatshe.

"This initiative was conceived after realising that people around this area use horses as their main mode of transport on a daily basis. We started off with a small friendly race to entertain the locals during the Christmas holidays and realised that we can actually do a bigger event," the organiser of the event, Kagiso Mopako, explained in an interview with **BOPA**.

Apart from providing entertainment for the usually quiet neighbourhood of Kanaku and peripheries, the event is also intended to provide exposure for the horses and ultimately prepare them for future competitions in bigger stages.

Mopako said he was optimistic that with proper training, the local jockeys could showcase their skills and talents in international stages.

"We realised that sometimes it is the lack of support that hinders them from participating in bigger races across the country, hence the event would be the beginning for these horses to be trained for other competitions even outside Botswana. If we become successful in this first event, our target is to train them further to compete in Namibia and South Africa, among other places," he said.

Furthermore, the event would provide an opportunity for farmers to exhibit their various breeds of cattle and small stock, with the objective of interacting and benchmarking from each other. Mopako said this would also build and enhance long-lasting relationships within the farming community.

Meanwhile, the champion of the elite 2000m race will get P4 000, while the following three positions will win P2 200, P1 300 and P800 respectively. **BOPA**

lack of proper training, individual players go extra mile and where possible honour some of the league matches.

Keitumetse Makudinyane, Dikwena VI Volleyball Academy assistant coach said in an interview after losing 0-3 to the Prisons Volleyball Club at Sir Seretse Khama Barracks volleyball courts on Sunday that it was difficult to train with the team on fulltime basis as he was currently based in Maun.

Also, he said some players stayed in Gaborone and other localities, making it difficult to train together and establish a winning formula.

Individually, he said players had what it took to play the game.

Since the beginning of the league, the club has been struggling to win matches and at times failing to even honour fixtures.

As such, Makudinyane said they needed all forms of support including financially.

He said the team relied on individual players' finances and other resources to make it possible to play the game.

He therefore called on teams with extra players who may end league without tasting game time to loan such players to them.

"They should offload such players to us to help us build a competitive side and give their players a game time. Makudinyane however said Dikwena was seeking to redeem their current situation.

Prisons Volleyball Club head coach Kealeboga Pebe said a win against Dikwena was not impressive.

He however, said he could not fault players for not picking the momentum of the game, as their opponent play was slow.

"They did not play at their pace and style and their attack was also limited, but all in all they registered a win," he said. Pebe said though they started the league on a low, the team gained momentum as league



Dikwena VI Volleyball Academy's Tlhotlhomisang Mogapelwa (left) battling it out with Prisons Volleyball Club's William Mokhiwa during Botswana Volleyball Leagues games in Mogoditshane on Sunday. Prisons won 3-0. Photo: Gaseitsiwe Moruakgomo

progressed. He said the players were determined to play following a long break of no league activity.

Giving a post-mortem review of their women's volleyball league match against BDF VI where they lost 0-3, Mpho Mothobi, Yaros Volleyball Club coach said the team was not compact largely because players could not train together because some were students, and at times finding it difficult to juggle varsity work with practice.

He said BDF VI was one of the powerhouses in volleyball; therefore playing such a formidable side would never be easy for a team that was not compact. Without a

sponsor, Mothobi said there were times when players staying outside Gaborone could not honour league fixtures, making it difficult for the team to field a formidable side as they only picked from available players and not based on fitness.

Currently, in the bottom four of the log, Yaros ladies managed four wins and lost 14. BDF VI women's team head coach, Daniel Baoki said his team was a mixture of experienced and young players dedicated to the game.

He said teamwork was the drive behind the consistence performance. He said the technical team was equally working hard,

ensuring that all aspects of the game were covered to enable players perform to their best. After winning all the 16 league games, BDF VI is placed second behind Police VI. Mothobi said his team was not excelling because it was playing against weaker opponents, adding that their intention was to play volleyball fully and be among the best teams locally and even on the regional arena.

He said their game against Yaros, which they won with a comfortable margin, was used to gauge players in preparing for coming matches crucial to winning the league. **BOPA**

Minister appreciates workers for resilience

By Anastacia Sibanda

GABORONE - Minister of Sport and Arts has appreciated BWX Links Construction company employees for working tirelessly to ensure that the National Stadium track was completed on time for the FBN Botswana Golden Grand Prix on Saturday.

Jacob Kelebeng hosted employees for lunch on Monday, said he found it fit to appreciate the workers for demonstrating the spirit of true

patriotism.

"I want to tell you today that you are true patriots, and you deserve to be celebrated, that when things were tough, you stood and defended your country," he said.

Furthermore, Kelebeng said the nation celebrated their resilience on Saturday as the starting gun went off to signal the start of the meet.

"It was tough, at some point there was an option of taking the meet to Francistown, and I hurriedly came to the site assuring you that I

trust all of you to deliver the track, and you did not disappoint the nation," he said. He further said it was important to always recognise Batswana who sacrificed for their country.

On other issues, Kelebeng said he was confident that the country would one day have world-class sport facilities. He said the country would also have many projects aimed at building new stadiums, as well as maintaining others.

"We are currently in talks with

all the relevant stakeholders, who can lend a helping hand in ensuring that we build new world class sports facilities," he said.

BWX Links construction company representative, Kentse Khumotaka, said he was happy that the minister and Batswana had appreciated their resilience.

"We are Batswana as well and had anything failed, we knew the responsibility would be on us, hence we had to remain calm and complete the track," he said. **BOPA**



Minister of Sport and Arts, Jacob Kelebeng (sixth right) with the team that worked tirelessly through sleepless nights to ensure that the National Stadium track project was delivered on time. The minister said he found it fitting to acknowledge the workers for demonstrating true patriotism. Photo: Phenyio Ramatu



The Easter Holidays Horse Race billed for Masa racing farm situated at Samedupi settlement has attracted over 100 horses from Botswana, Namibia, Lesotho and South Africa to compete in different races ranging from 100m to 2 400m categories.

Organisers gear up for race

By Esther Mmolai

MAUN - Over 100 horses are expected to compete at the upcoming Easter Holidays horse race billed for Maun on Saturday.

The annual horse race organised by Masa farm owner, Othata Masedi in collaboration with Sunbet Botswana and Mascom has attracted horses from Botswana, Namibia, Lesotho and South Africa to compete in different races ranging from 100m to 2 400m categories.

He said preparations were

progressing well adding that some horses had started arriving and establishing stables at the racing farm.

He called on some horse owners who still had interest in the race to register as registration closes on the day of the event.

In addition, he promised a high-class racing event, saying they had secured two sponsors and that there were some developments at the farm in terms of clearing the track and putting up some stands.

“Last year, we failed to secure the main sponsor and this year we

are happy that some companies came on board to partner with us. We are very much happy that Mascom is back and we promise to present the best event,” he added.

Going forward, he wished for the event to become one of the largest races in Southern Africa saying it had the potential to contribute meaningfully to the tourism sector and the local economy.

Masedi said the event would be fun-filled with musical entertainment and appealed to members of the community

to come in large numbers to support the event. Minister of Sport and Arts, Jacob Kelebeng is expected to officiate at the event and Botswana Horsing Association members as well as Maun leadership are expected to grace the occasion.

One of the horse owners, Mekgwe Moalosi from Shashe ward in Maun, said he was ready to compete indicating that he had brought two horses, a crossbreed and thoroughbred, namely, Jealous Down, which would participate in 1 000m and 1 600m while Felix of Danganda

would race in 800m and 1 000m respectively. Although, he anticipates a fiercely contested race, he promised to present a spirited fight amongst his competitors as he had long prepared for the event.

Moalosi is one of the champions of professional horse racing as he has participated in the race since 2006.

Last year, he said, his horses did not impress as expected as one scooped position three but assured his supporters to dominate the race this time around. **BOPA**



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