

**News**  
Dr Seleke soars to new heights  
Page 4

**Dikgang**  
Ookeditse o gwetlha banni go ipabalela  
Tsebe 10

**Sport**  
CEO promotes responsible betting  
Page 15

**STOP GBV**  


# Govt commits to property ownership



President Advocate Duma Boko officiating at the ground breaking ceremony of Bonno Target 3 000 Housing Development Project in Gaborone yesterday. President Boko reaffirmed government’s commitment to property ownership for all citizens, declaring that by the end of the nationwide Bonno Housing Project, at least 100 000 Batswana would hold titles to property. Photo: Thompson Keobaletswwe

STORY PAGE 3



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Maun Centre for Children with Severe and Multiple Disabilities coordinator, Ms Duduetsang Moroka (left) with deputy permanent secretary in the Ministry of Child Welfare and Basic Education Professor Agreement Jotia (right) and other dignitaries during a tour to appreciate the facility recently. Photo: Esther Mmolai

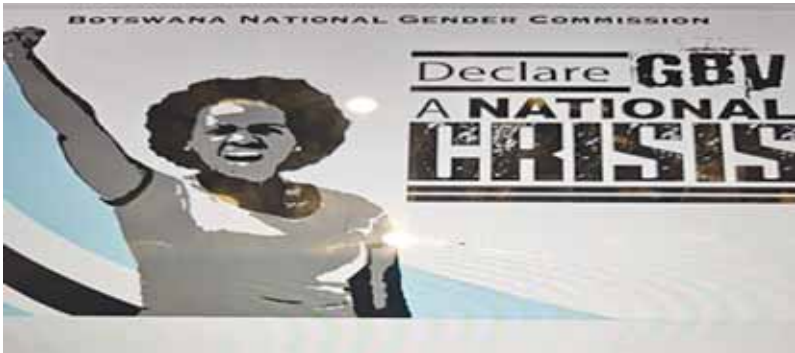
# Ministry pledges to keep centre operational

By Esther Mmolai

MAUN - The Ministry of Child Welfare and Basic Education will look into issues that hinder the opening of the newly constructed Maun Centre for Children with Severe and Multiple Disabilities. The Deputy Permanent Secretary in the ministry, Professor Agreement Jotia said during tour of the P183 million state-of-the art facility recently that it was meant to improve access to education for children

with profound intellectual and multiple disabilities as part of government’s commitment to educate all children regardless of their status. However, the facility which was handed to the ministry last year, had not been enrolling learners as some vacancies had to be filled while the contractor was to also address teething problems as they arise. The centre is expected to admit a total of 100 learners from across the country aged four to 18 years

with severe motor disabilities and low levels of alertness of which 80 would be boarders while 20 would be day scholars. Prof. Jotia promised that government would look into the challenges especially pertaining to vacancies to ensure the centre absorbed learners. “Our priority is to appreciate facilities in our institutions so that we acknowledge the challenges and where possible try to bring some remedies,” he added. Prof. Jotia said the state of some facilities was pathetic, adding that some institutions had vacuum spaces that they called classrooms. He gave credit to teachers for demonstrating commitment despite the challenges they encountered. Prof. Jotia also commended employees at the centre saying in the midst of the difficult circumstances, they still found hope to come to work and be able to render their services so that the wheels of the government could move and the services reached the masses. He also acknowledged that government was considering the pillar of inclusive education for all. The facility, he said, stood as an example of inclusive education. Prof. Jotia promised that the ministry would do all it could to get the facility running. He said the facility had to open doors to children, indicating that there were a lot of cases from parents about issues of marginalisation of their children with disabilities. Earlier on, the centre coordinator who is also head of the Diagnostic and Rehabilitation unit, Ms Duduetsang Moroka, described the centre as one of its kind in the country, which would provide a holistic quality education and rehabilitation to children. The centre, she said would ensure that no child was left behind in education. She said currently the centre had employed 30 permanent and pensionable employees and eight temporary staff, stating that they still had vacancies for particular officers like rehabilitation personnel. She said they could not run at full capacity until such vacancies were filled because the rehabilitation personnel, which comprised of diverse professional, worked collaboratively to support children with disabilities. The intention, she said, was to have a phased approach to admit learners once the centre was fully operational. Ms Moroka also noted that the centre had a guest house and hostels but there was no basic furniture procured. The guest house would accommodate parents during their visit to check on their children. She also highlighted that some buildings could not be occupied because of electricity issues but appreciated that they had shared a list with the contractor to attend to. **BOPA**



## NATIONAL GENDER COMMISSION RESPONSE TO CYBER BULLYING

The National Gender Commission is alarmed by the pervasiveness of sexist cyber bullying on social media.

Young women and girls, as well as vulnerable and marginalised groups, and marginalised genders; face constant harassment and discrimination online. Women and young girls are being subjected to derogatory comments, threats, insults, harassment, unsolicited sexting (sending sexually explicit mobile messages and images), derogatory morphing (using digital tools to alter images), virtual rape (non-consensual sexual violence online), revenge porn, flaming (sending angry and or insulting messages online), public shaming and objectification simply for being normal. This outrageous reinforcement of harmful stereotypes and discriminatory societal norms is a form of gender-based violence that must be addressed urgently.

The cyber bullies derive perverse pleasure from the impact of this appalling psychological violence which they perpetrate with relentless impunity to trigger isolation, continuous scrutiny, and negative judgement. Women and young girls in Botswana have suffered relentless degrading exposure, which undermines their self esteem and sense of safety. This diabolical trend unashamedly rides on the misguided coattails of misogyny and systemic discrimination born of our unfortunate traditional culture, where women’s voices are marginalised; and ‘modern’ trends where women’s bodies are objectified.

By targeting women and girls and undermining their self esteem, and sense of safety; cyber bullying is perpetuating a cycle of oppression that is deterring women from participating in the public discourse, professional spaces and online communities. The chilling effect is that of silencing the voices of women politically, socially, economically and spiritually.

- These criminal cyber bullies engage in body shaming of girls’ bodies, so that they end up not going to school and failing.
- They denigrate women for what they wear like they did when Hon Lesego Chombo wore gym tights for a GBV awareness walk.
- They insult and question women’s intelligence; by suggesting that they can’t lead and should stay at home

### The National Gender commission calls for:

1. A more comprehensive enforcement of the laws addressing cyber bullying; with the application of appropriate penalties to offenders.
2. Urgent public and school educational programmes as well as teacher training on GBV including cyber bullying.
3. All social media platforms to prioritise safer environments, with moderation policies, dismantling toxic behaviours, introducing more robust reporting systems.
4. The long overdue GBV law must address more extensively, this abhorrent sexist cyber bullying.

Most of all we call for responsible behaviour online and a safe environment for women and girls. It is their constitutional, and human right.

Joy Phumaphi

Chair – Botswana National Gender Commission



# Boko kick-starts Kgale View housing project

By **Baleseng Batlotleng**

GABORONE - The ground breaking ceremony of the Bonno Target 3 000 Housing Development project is the commencement of government's journey towards the delivery of 100 000 housing units to Batswana, says President Advocate Duma Boko.

Speaking during the event in Kgale View yesterday, he said it was with a deep sense of pride to launch the project, which was a segment of a large and unfolding narrative of the 100 000 units promised.

"Botswana is going to look spectacularly different within the next three years. I have a team of people I work with and we dare not fail. We should have a culture of selflessness, humility and appreciating that the people expect us to give our all for them," he said.

President Boko said a low wage economy in the past did not attract acceptable foreign direct investment (FDI) and that left many citizens impoverished including those with formal employment.

He said government had made an indication of the construction of 100 000 housing units by developing comprehensive schemes for affordable housing.

"The workers are complaining, there is generalised discontent about these past systematic injustices and we need to wrestle with this on the trot. We are as government charged with the responsibility of resolving these injustices and we are going to do that in the shortest possible time," he said.

President Boko said government was not only offering Batswana shelter, but opportunity to own real property in terms of housing units.

"We begin with this 3 000, it is the beginning of an ambitious project of wealth transfer and at the end of this, 100 000 shall have titles to real property, a house which is vital in life, democratisation of wealth because we want people to have decent livelihood," added President Boko.

He said government had set an ambitious target of delivering the project within two years and called on all stakeholders to come on board and realise this vision.

He said the indirect jobs to be created by the project must at least reward labour at the lowest P4 000.

"There is no legislation compelling this, but moral and economic argument does compel us to do so. Confidence and renewed faith must be given to our people," said President Boko.

Giving an overview of the project, Minister of Water and

Human Settlement, Mr Onneetse Ramogapi said Bonno Target 3 000 was the first step towards delivering the promised 100 000 housing units.

He made an assurance that all people working on the project would be given the envisaged minimum wage of P4 000.

The minister said the project would be unfolded in two phases,

which would turn out to be a marathon race expected to be delivered within 24 months.

He said government resolved to use direct appointment for the project as the tender process was lengthy.

Mr Ramogapi appealed to all Batswana to show interest and be part of the journey.

ONGOS Group chair, Mr

Reagon Graig said his company, established 10 years ago was not only building houses, but also providing solutions that elevated human dignity and decency.

He said the Kgale Housing development project was large and intergenerational.

Mr Graig said ONGOS had formed a formidable partnership with government and Botswana

Housing Corporation to deliver decent housing.

He said ONGOS was a multi-disciplinary infrastructure development company with passion for creating sustainable housing solutions across the African continent building affordable homes and bulk infrastructure projects like roads and wastewater projects. **BOPA**



*Ministry of Health permanent secretary, Prof. Oatlhokwa Nkomazana (left), Minister of Health, Dr Stephen Modise (centre), deputy manager employee relations, Mr Thapelo Koketso and secretary for public health, Dr Mareko Ramotsababa at a press briefing on doctor's emergency call issue in Gaborone yesterday. Dr Modise said the ministry had rearranged teams in all hospitals across the country to ensure that no patient was left unattended on account of the absence of doctors. Photo: Felicity Male*

## Shortage of on-call doctors strain hospitals

By **Bakang Wren**

GABORONE - Despite the ongoing emergency call crisis, most hospitals across the country continue to function, with the exception of Palapye and Kasane where a shortage of doctors responding to emergency duties has caused concern.

Addressing a press briefing yesterday, Minister of Health, Dr Stephen Modise said government remained committed to ensuring every Motswana received quality healthcare, regardless of location.

While many doctors have continued performing their duties as rostered, he said a number have opted out of extra emergency calls, particularly in key referral hospitals and a few

districts.

"In Palapye, five medical officers have informed the Chief Medical Officer that they will not be doing extra calls. In Kasane, six out of nine had taken the same stance. This has placed strain on the remaining few," Dr Modise said.

He said the matter emerged from a long-standing dispute between government and the Botswana Doctors Union over emergency call conditions and allowances.

While doctors insisted they were not on strike, some were limiting their emergency calls to once a month, a decision the minister described as harmful to patients and contrary to their conditions of service and a court order.

Minister Modise assured the public that contingency plans were in place, with hospital teams being reshuffled to cover critical services.

He thanked the majority of doctors who have continued to respond to emergency duties and acknowledged private sector doctors who have volunteered their services.

"We will engage doctors through the proper platforms and work towards resolving this impasse," the minister said.

The ministry's deputy manager employee relations, Mr Thapelo Koketso added further clarity, noting that although an agreement was reached in April 2023 to pay emergency call allowances effective from 2022, the full implementation was

scheduled for May 2024.

Also, he said this implementation hinged on the submission of finalised emergency call policies, contracts and schedules expected by July 2023.

However, he said delays and disagreements over the adequacy of a proposed 15 per cent allowance led to a stalemate.

"The government's position has always been to take this matter to the negotiating table," he said, adding that negotiations on allowances were held again in December 2024 and March-April 2025.

He emphasised that negotiations were formally held only once per year, which limited the pace of resolution on salary-related issues. **BOPA**

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# Dr Seleke soars to new heights

By Ndingililo Gaoswediwe

GABORONE - Dr Thabo Seleke’s journey from the dusty streets of Mochudi to the halls of global health policy is one marked by perseverance, academic brilliance and an unrelenting desire to make a difference.

Born in Mochudi, his early schooling took him to Selebi-Phikwe where he laid the foundation for a career in the public service.

Driven by a curiosity for how systems work and how they can better serve people, he later enrolled at the University of Botswana to study Public Administration.

Upon graduating, he was honoured with the prestigious Roderick Ross Award, bestowed upon the most outstanding student in the Department of Political and Administrative Studies in the Faculty of Social Sciences.

That early recognition marked the beginning of a career defined by purpose. In 2001, he joined the Ministry of Health where he served diligently for two years before transitioning to the Botswana Telecommunications Corporation.

## BORAVAST gears for community outreach

By Naomi Leepile

TSABONG - Residents of Boravast and surrounding areas will attend a significant community outreach event scheduled for April 29.

Organised by the Tsabong District Council (TSDC) under the theme, ‘Taking services closer to people’, the Boravast community outreach promises to be a comprehensive initiative bringing together various essential services.

According to TSDC Secretary, Mr Mosimanegape Mogorosi, the event was set to take place at the Bokspits community hall starting at 9am and would feature representatives from council departments, central government departments, and parastatals.

He said this collaborative effort aimed to streamline access to crucial services for the local population.

He further explained that the attendees could anticipate engaging with different departments and organisations, potentially gaining valuable information and assistance on a range of issues. This initiative underscores a commitment to bringing the necessary resources directly to the community, fostering greater accessibility and convenience for residents, said Mr Mogorosi. **BOPA**

Despite a thriving professional path, Dr Seleke never lost sight of his academic ambitions.

A scholarship opportunity from Belgium, reserved for SADC scholars, allowed him to pursue a Master’s Degree in Public Administration.

That pursuit would eventually catapult him onto the global stage.

Fast forward to June 2024, Dr Seleke successfully completed his PhD in Health Policy and Systems Research at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine within the Faculty of Public Health and Policy.

By October, he had defended his thesis and in February 2025, he walked across the graduation stage in celebration of a significant academic milestone.

A month later, the university formally endorsed his thesis following rigorous peer review.

In an interview with **BOPA**, Dr Seleke describes his study as ground breaking.

While many studies on Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs) have been conducted in Africa, his is the first to employ qualitative research methods to examine the subject.

His findings offer critical insights into Botswana’s national response to NCDs, which by 2021 accounted for 38 per cent of local mortality.

He notes that South Africa’s rate is even higher at 58 per cent while the global average stands at 34 per cent.

“To date, there are gaps in scholarly work and understanding regarding NCDs responses in Africa,” he observes.

He stresses the urgent need for Botswana to adopt a multi-sectoral approach to preventing and controlling NCDs, one that mirrors the country’s coordinated response to HIV/AIDS. Dr Seleke



**Dr Thabo Seleke says there is need for Botswana to adopt a multi-sectoral approach to preventing and controlling the rising non-communicable diseases, one that mirrors the country’s coordinated response to HIV/AIDS.** Photo: Felicity Male

now plans to engage policymakers and stakeholders and will soon host a public lecture to share his findings more widely.

His passion for health policy and systems reform is further evident in his academic pursuits.

He is a Fulbright Scholar, having earned an MSc in International Health Policy and Management from Brandeis University in Boston, Massachusetts.

He also completed a fellowship at the Duke University’s Sanford School of Global Health and has worked with the World Health Organisation in Geneva on pandemic and epidemic policy.

Further training at the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health and Boston University School of Medicine where he studied ethical issues in international health research as well as advanced qualitative research

at King’s College London, have fortified his credentials.

His participation in the Global Leadership Training Programme for Sustainable Development in Africa and epidemiology training in The Gambia round up his formidable academic resume.

Dr Seleke also holds a Postgraduate Diploma in Strategic Management from the University of Derby in the UK.

Beyond academia, Dr Seleke has made practical contributions to health policy and systems across the continent.

His consultancy work has included projects for the World Bank in Lesotho (IKAP study) and the European Commission’s initiative on strengthening community health systems for HIV treatment and care.

He has collaborated with universities across Europe

including in France and Finland and has been involved in regional studies in countries such as Zimbabwe, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia and Tanzania.

Currently, Dr Seleke serves as co-investigator on a research project focused on cervical cancer, continuing his unwavering commitment to addressing the most pressing health challenges facing Botswana and the region. **BOPA**

## Calm holidays prevail in Francistown

By Mooketsi Mojalemotho

FRANCISTOWN - Police in Francistown have recorded low to zero incidents of crime during the Easter holidays.

Kutlwano police station commander, Superintendent Alice Oabile said in an interview with **BOPA** that save for seven minor accidents, her policing area did not have serious incidents of crime throughout the holidays.

“We only recorded minor assaults, stealing of laptops, cell phones and car batteries,” she relayed, attributing the low crime levels to police visibility and the fact that the majority of the city dwellers had travelled outside the city.

Acting Central Police Station Commander, Assistant Superintendent Douglas Khumalo echoed Supt Oabile’s words, saying his policing area also had a quiet holiday, something he ascribed to decongestion in the city.

Supt Kedibonye Kula of Gerald police, who police Shashemooke, Tati-Siding, shared fellow officers’ sentiments, adding that police visibility and joint patrols with other law enforcement agencies contributed handsomely to low crime levels. **BOPA**



**A scholarship opportunity from Belgium, reserved for SADC scholars, allowed Dr Seleke to pursue a Master’s Degree in Public Administration that would eventually catapult him into the global stage.** Photo: Courtesy of Dr Thabo Seleke



# Thieves rob Taj Boutique clothing worth P87 000

By Lindi Morwaeng

MOLEPOLOLE - Police have launched an investigation after the Taj Boutique in Molepolole was broken into, and thieves made off with an estimated P87, 000 worth of clothing.

The Molepolole Station Commander, Superintendent Jacob Molapong, told *BOPA* that the robbery occurred during the holiday weekend.

He said it is suspected that the suspects entered the store through the roof and they managed to escape with the stolen merchandise undetected. “We are still actively looking for the individuals responsible for this crime,” Mr Molapong stated.

“We encourage anyone with information about the incident or the whereabouts of the stolen merchandise to contact the police immediately.”

In addition to the Taj Boutique robbery, Mr Molapong said Molepolole police have registered two fatal accidents that occurred over the long weekend.

He said on Friday around 1am, a Toyota Runx hit a parked truck after the driver lost control.

Both the driver and a female passenger lost their lives on impact.

He said the second accident occurred on Saturday around 1am when a 27-year-old man lost control of his Toyota Corolla crashing into a tree.

Mr Molapong explained that there were five passengers in the Corolla, two men and three women, who were allegedly returning from a night club at the time of the crash. “Two

female passengers sustained minor injuries and were treated and discharged from the Scottish Livingston Hospital,” he said.

The remaining three passengers, two men and one

woman, suffered serious injuries and have been admitted at the Scottish Livingston Hospital.

The police have not ruled out the possibility that alcohol was a factor in the accidents. *BOPA*

## Court arraigns two for separate murder charges

By Lindi Morwaeng

MOLEPOLOLE - The Molepolole Magistrate Court today Tuesday arraigned two men on separate murder charges that occurred over the Easter holiday weekend.

Appearing before Molepolole Magistrate, Mr Johnny Baakile, the accused, a 62-year-old Modise Gasentsima and a 29-year-old Mr Kelebogile Dinake, were formally read their charge sheets and the particulars of the offences.

Mr Gasentsima was accused of murdering Mr Ofentse Tshepo Diphakedi on April 19 at Borakalalo ward in Molepolole while Mr Dinake was also

arraigned for the murder of Mr Thinkwell Mnkandala at Dikgonnye lands on April 17.

Magistrate Baakile heeded the requests of the state prosecutors, Sergeant Thatayaone Marope and Sergeant Pako Kgosimolao, and remanded both accused person in custody at Molepolole Prison until May 12th.

The prosecution had argued that, given the nature of the crimes and the ongoing investigations, custodial remand was necessary for both men.

While the holidays were largely peaceful in Lekgwapheng, apart from the two murder incidents, the police noted an increase in house break-ins. *BOPA*

## Etsha man loses money to scammers

By Kedirebofe Pelontle

GUMARE - Police in Gumare are investigating a case in which a 62-year-old man of Etsha 1 was scammed P15 000 on Monday by people claiming he had won a voucher from one local supermarket.

In an interview with *BOPA*, the Commander of Gumare Police Station, Superintendent Chenamo Orateng said the victim gave his banking details to the scammers who called him claiming that he won a P10 000 voucher and lost his money in the process.

Supt Orateng cautioned the

public to guard against falling prey to such scams by not entertaining such callers, and never to divulge their banking details.

He said such cases were worrisome because they were happening across the country. *BOPA*



Gumare Police Station Commander, Superintendent Chenamo Orateng has cautioned the public to guard against scammers and that they should refuse to share their banking details.



A good Samaritan helping fix a vehicle with tyre burst, which were caused by deep potholes near Sebele Mall traffic lights along A1 Road 10 in Gaborone. The potholes worsened by recent flooding, have become a hazard for many motorists. The driver, who declined to be named, voiced frustration over the damage, an issue she said was affecting many motorists in the area. Despite growing concern, authorities are yet to take action. Photo: Gothusang Lesego

## Soldier lands in trouble over threat to kill

By Lindi Morwaeng

MOLEPOLOLE - Molepolole Magistrates’ Court on Tuesday arraigned a 30-year-old soldier stationed at Sir Seretse Khama Barracks (SSKB) for three offences including a threat to kill.

The accused, Chiyapo Mwanza from Mathangwane, is charged with three counts which were formally read to him in Court.

The first count, that relates to an alleged threat to kill, states that on or about April 20, at or near Legonono ward in Molepolole, Mwanza allegedly caused Ms Onkarabile Moadi to receive a threat, uttering the words, “*Wa lebala gore ne ke berekela ko ditlhobolong ke tlaa go hula be ke iphula kana ke go bolaya,*” roughly translated as “You forgot that I work with guns; I will kill you and kill myself.”

On second count, he is charged with common assault, as he

allegedly hit Ms Moadi with a Corona bottle on the nose, causing her minor injuries.

The third count alleges that the accused damaged a Samsung A23 cell phone, valued at P1 500, owned by Ms Moadi, an offence of malicious damage to property.

Pleading his innocence, the accused requested bail from Magistrate Baakile, stating that he had reconciled with the complainant, who reportedly told him that she filed the charges because she was hurt.

However, State Prosecutor Sergeant Thatayaone Marope countered the accused’s assertions, citing incomplete investigations and the fact that the complainant was still pursuing the matter. The court ruled in favour of the prosecution’s request and remanded Mr Mwanza in custody until May 6 when a formal hearing of the matter will commence. *BOPA*



# Inadequate budget limits school

By Esther Mmolai

MAUN - The Deputy School Head of Maun Senior Secondary School, Mr Kehilwe Oageng, has decried

inadequate budget for its tourism and hospitality wing which is said to be producing positive results.

The school has been identified as a centre of excellence for tourism

and hospitality, a strategy to offer early career specific education.

Apprising the Deputy Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Child Welfare and Basic Education, Prof.

Agreement Jotia, recently about the newly introduced subject, Mr Oageng said the subject was demanding as the syllabus was packed and the little budget they had limited them to conduct excursions in an effort to give learners exposure.

The school is a church facility and funding was said to be a serious challenge as Mr Oageng revealed that the subvention from the government was not adequate to operate the school and requested an increase in the school's budget to cater for the subject.

He highlighted that maintenance was also a challenge due to financial constraints.

Currently, he said, the tourism and hospitality facility had an enrolment of 120 learners and staffing capacity of six teachers citing that they needed P50 000 for a session.

Mr Oageng stated that the wing was doing exceptionally well as it produced 90 per cent pass rate this term. He disclosed that learners

were enjoying the subject which was more practical than theory.

Mr Oageng called for capacitation of teachers saying when they invite experts, they wanted to be sponsored. Despite the challenges, he acknowledged stakeholder involvement citing that they worked closely with tourism companies, such as African Bush Camp which operates camps in the Okavango Delta saying it empowers learners to get exposure in the wilderness.

Other organisations that worked in collaboration with the school, include Botho University, Women in Tourism Botswana and Botswana Chefs Association.

Prof. Jotia appreciated the challenges and gave credit to teachers for educating learners with the little resources they had.

He informed school management that efforts were ongoing to engage with Botswana Examination Council to address the issue of payment of teachers.

In terms of schools' performance in the North West and Okavango regions, he said there was a serious problem that needed to be addressed, saying it was disturbing to learn that pupils excel at primary but fail at junior and secondary schools.

"I have been informed that pupils at Gunutsoga Primary School scored 73 per cent overall pass rate and when they reached Ngambao Junior School, their performance dropped to ten percent.

"This is disturbing and we need to come back to the region and get to the bottom of the problem," he said. **BOPA**



Deputy Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Child Welfare and Basic Education, Prof. Agreement Jotia (second left) appreciating Hospitality and Tourism wing at Maun Senior Secondary School recently. Photo: Esther Mmolai

## Africa shifts to new economic paradigm

YAOUNDE/BEIJING - US President Donald Trump recently announced sweeping tariffs on numerous countries, including many in Africa, disrupting the international trade order.

While Washington has since granted a 90-day reprieve for most of the affected countries, analysts believe the pause is likely temporary rather than a full reversal.

In this context, the African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA) -- a trade pact launched in 2000 and set to expire in September -- faces a bleak renewal outlook.

Economists and policy experts argue that Global South countries must bolster self-reliance and enhance South-South cooperation to counter rising US protectionism and unilateralism.

In early April, the US government announced a new wave of tariffs targeting a wide array of countries, with several African economies among the hardest hit.

The measures include duties of up to 50 percent on goods from Lesotho, 47 per cent from Madagascar, 40 per cent from Mauritius, and 37 per cent from Botswana.

Robert Kahn, managing director for global macro at political risk consultancy Eurasia Group, acknowledged that the policy has led to "a large number of absurd figures that are meaningless."

Lesotho, a small mountainous country of about two million people, has reportedly imposed reciprocal tariffs of 99 per cent on US products, according to the Trump administration.

Consultancy Oxford Economics noted that Lesotho's textile sector, which employs approximately 40 000 people, is especially

vulnerable.

"The 50 per cent reciprocal tariff introduced by the US government is going to kill the textile and apparel sector in Lesotho," said Thabo Qhesi, an independent analyst based in Maseru, Lesotho's capital.

"Then you are having retailers who are selling food. And then you have residential property owners who are renting houses for the workers.

So this means if the closure of factories were to happen, the industry is going to die and there will be multiplier effects."

In the long run, the indirect effects of trade disruptions, global trade wars, and the closure of Western markets could pose significant challenges for African economies, which depend heavily on exports as a primary source of income and foreign exchange, said Celestin Monga, a Cameroonian economist and former vice president of the African Development Bank.

"A global economic slowdown means reduced demand for oil and other raw materials, which in turn causes a drop in the prices of crude oil and other unprocessed African products," Monga emphasised.

AGOA, which provides preferential duty-free access to the US market for over 30 African countries, has played a key role in supporting export-led growth across the continent.

However, with the imposition of high US tariffs, analysts warn that the renewal of AGOA appears increasingly uncertain, and it may not survive to its 25th anniversary.

Cameroonian economist Michelle Josee Ekila noted that uncertainty surrounding AGOA's future could significantly constrain trade and drive up costs for African exporters.

While African countries are pushing for a 10-year extension, many economists doubt whether the current US administration is committed to continued cooperation.

"The US tariffs effectively nullify AGOA," said Daniel Silke, director of South Africa's Political Futures Consultancy.

The director even warned that the programme could be terminated before its scheduled expiry unless African countries demonstrate strong strategic value to justify its continuation.

In response to these mounting challenges, African leaders and economists were calling for a shift in strategy.

Monga suggested that African countries establish national development banks and mobilise both public, private and institutional financing to develop industrial parks centered on local production and processing.

These would serve emerging markets eager for "Made in Africa" goods that meet international standards.

Ekila emphasised the need to diversify export markets. "Exploring trade agreements with other regions, such as the European Union or Asia, could offset losses from the new tariffs." Nkolo Foe, a former professor at the University of Yaounde I, echoed the urgency for South-South cooperation. "The measures taken by Donald Trump directly impact the Global South and are destabilising the international order and peaceful coexistence.

The countries of the Global South, and particularly Africa, are waking up."

Humphrey Moshi, director of the Center for Chinese Studies at the University of Dar es Salaam in

Tanzania, called for a proactive and strategic approach to the evolving global situation.

He said rather than trying to catch up, countries should invest in resilience, regional integration, and smart partnerships.

"The United States may try to create disruptions, but it is cooperation not confrontation that supports development," he noted. **Xinhua**



Kitso Sono, 18, showcasing his craftsmanship at Leathermark Botswana's workshop in Gaborone, where the company makes high-quality leather upholstery, bespoke creations, and expert repairs. Photo: Gothusang Lesego



# 'Trade policies pose economic uncertainty'

CAIRO - The unilateral protectionist policies adopted by the United States, particularly those related to tariffs, are harming the global economy, impacting international supply chains and unsettling financial markets, Egypt economist has said.

The tariffs imposed by Donald Trump's administration whether on its allies or so-called adversaries are likely to drive up operating and production costs for businesses worldwide, as well as disrupt the established global supply chains, Karim Adel, head of the Cairo-based Al Adl Center for Economic and Strategic Studies, told *Xinhua* in a recent interview.

Egypt, economy relies on industries that required the import of raw, semi-finished, or manufactured materials, ass such it was

likely to be affected due to rising costs, he said.

However, he pointed out that Egypt still had the opportunity to mitigate the severity of the US measures by strengthening partnerships with countries like China.

He noted that Egypt and China had strong and fruitful bilateral ties and enjoyed a positive momentum of cooperation across numerous sectors, adding that the current global economic situation could be an opportunity to boost bilateral cooperation even further.

His expectation was for China to be seeking such enhanced cooperation in the coming period, considering its significant investments and business operations within the Suez Canal Economic Zone and various other Egyptian cities.

"Through frameworks like the Belt and Road Initiative and BRICS, China's substantial economic capabilities can help bolster the resilience of numerous other countries in defusing trade and financial crises stemming from the unilateral

measures of the United States," Adel said.

He suggested that economies around the world, particularly those in the Global South, proactively strengthened their cooperation efforts to mitigate the potential adverse impact of Trump's actions. *Xinhua*



NEW YORK - A trader at the New York Stock Exchange in the United States. Egypt economist Karim Adel, said the US trade policies related to tariffs were harming the global economy, impacting international supply chains and unsettling financial markets. Photo: Xinhua

## China adds 29 new majors to higher education catalogue

BEIJING - China's Ministry of Education has introduced 29 new majors to advanced education institutions in response to the evolving needs of national strategies and the pursuit of high-quality development.

The ministry yesterday announced updates to the catalogue of undergraduate majors in general colleges and universities, adding majors such as carbon neutrality science and engineering and international cruise management. Among the new additions serving strategic areas of national interest are majors such as marine science and technology and health and medical security.

In recognition of technological trends, majors including smart molecular engineering, medical device and equipment engineering, and spatiotemporal information engineering have been

included. To cater to emerging market trends, the catalogue now includes majors such as international cruise management and aviation sports.

Reflecting the growing role of artificial intelligence (AI) in modern society, the ministry has introduced majors such as AI education, smart audio-visual engineering, and digital drama.

To facilitate a more agile response to national strategies, the ministry has implemented a new mechanism allowing swift adjustments to the curriculum in response to newly prioritised strategic areas.

Addressing the rapid development needs of the low-altitude economy, six universities, including Beihang University, have been guided to add a major in low-altitude technology and engineering. *Xinhua*

## Abandoned mines turn to ecological oases

TAIYUAN - From jagged craters to golden wheat fields, China's scarred mining landscapes are undergoing an ecological revolution.

In Xinanyu Village, north China's Shanxi Province, a once-barren refractory clay quarry is now fertile farmland a testament to the nation's multipronged strategy to heal nearly 300 000 hectares of abandoned mines since 2016.

"Five years ago, this site resembled a bombed battlefield, bedrock exposed, soil erosion rampant," recalled Ma Baosheng from Yangquan City's natural resources bureau, standing amid restored cropland.

His city, part of Shanxi's coal belt, has transformed multiple derelict mines through targeted engineering and ecological zoning.

Shanxi has invested a total of about US\$288 million to rehabilitate 2 400 sites totaling 6 900 hectares, stabilising slopes, rebuilding topsoil, and curbing geological hazards on those lands.

The rehabilitation process exemplifies China's science-driven restoration model. Tailored approaches such as engineering interventions for severe degradation

zones and nature-based recovery for less damaged areas were adopted. China's ecological overhaul extends beyond physical restoration.

A policy revolution began in 2019 when the Ministry of Natural Resources introduced mechanisms to explore market-based approaches to promote mine ecological restoration, which was amplified by 2021's private capital incentives by the State Council.

A total of 49 pilot projects under this model now demonstrate how former environmental liabilities could become carbon sinks or solar farms.

Geological engineer Hu Haifeng from Taiyuan University of Technology explained the technical nuances said, "For high-risk sites, we deploy slope terracing and vegetative reinforcement. In areas like some abandoned mines, adaptive reuse such as agritourism hubs can generate new economic value.

These sites were ecological debts," said Ma, gesturing towards newly planted saplings. "Now they are appreciating assets, feeding communities and sequestering carbon." *Xinhua*

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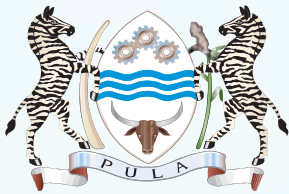


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Republic of Botswana

MINISTRY FOR STATE PRESIDENT

DISASTER MANAGEMENT RELIEF

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

Update as at 8<sup>th</sup> April 2025

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



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

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





# Ba tlaa dika ba orile wa mariga

Ka Calviniah Kgautlhe

LOTLHAKANE - Mookamela balemisi ba kgaolo ya Kanye, Mme Kelebonye Bareeleng, a re

monongwaga kgaolo e lemile go utlwala mme tsholofelo ke gore thobo e tlaa nna e e nametsang.

Mme Bareeleng o tthaloseditse *BOPA* fa ngogola temo e ne e le

kwa tlase ka seelo sa 50 per cent kwa kgaolong mme dipalo di ile kwa godimo.

A re ngogola balemi ba ne ba lemile boleme jwa diekere di le 3

600 ka lebaka la pula e e boutsana mme monongwaga belemi ba le 1 471 ba lemile diekere di feta 5 000, go akarediwa ba ba botlana le ba ba lemelang thekiso.

Mme Bareeleng a re go solofetswe gore balemi ba ba botlana fa ba sa roba sepe, ba robe selekanyo sa tone e le nngwe, kana dikgetsi di le masome a mabedi tsa 50kg tsa mmidi, selo se bontsi jwa balemi ba kgaolo ba tlotlileng go se lema.

Mo baleming ba thekiso, tsholofelo ke gore molemi a ntshe selekanyo sa ditone di le nne, fa a re ga a a roba.

O tthalositse fa thobo e ka amiwa ke gore e ne ya re bosheng, balemi ba kgaolo ba tthaselwa ke seboko sa segopa, mme seo, se amile boleme jwa selekanyo sa diekere di le 28.1 mme dijwalo dingwe di ne tsa kgona go gola fa bangwe ba ne ba lemolola ba lema gape mme bangwe ba bone ba itlhoboga ka mabaka a ditshenyegelo tse di kwa godimo tsa temo.

Mme Bareeleng a re balemi ba kgaolo ya Kanye ba lemile mmidi ba le bantsi mo selekanyong sa diekere di le 4 179 fa mabele o ne ba lemile selekanyo sa tse 15.

O rotloeditse balemi ba kgaolo go inakanya le go lema mabele le lebelebele ka di kgona go itshwarelela mo dipakeng tsa leuba le mo seemong sa phetogo ya loapi se se amileng mafatshe otlhe.

Kgosi Naledi Ramotswaiso wa Lotlhakane le ene o supile fa temo e le teng mme ebile thobo e tlaa nametsa.

A re ba ba lemileng go le pele ba tlaa bona sengwe mme ba temo ya morago ba ka nna ba tswa ba iphotlhere ka gore seboko sa segopa se ne sa tthagoga morago ga dipula tse di mashetla tse di neng tsa na mme se babaletse balemi ka se jele dijwalo di sa le dibotlana.

Kgosi Ramotswaiso a re seboko se, se ne se le borai ka se ne se tsena se bo se baka tshenyoe ntsi mo nakong e khutshwane.

O tthalositse fa balemi ba temo ya pele ba setse ba simolotse go roba.

Balemi ba masimo a Maisane gaufi le Lotlhakane, ba re ba setse ba simolotse go akola letlhafula morago ga dipula tse di namagadi.

Rre Mosimanegape Kebairejang a re ba tlaa dika ba orile molelo wa mariga ka thobo e a nametsa monongwaga.

A re ba lemile mmidi, ntshe, dinawa le magapu mme thobo e botoka.

Mongwe wa barekisi ba popota ba thobo ya masimo a Lotlhakane, Rre Kebonyemotse Walesedi a re ba rekisa ngwaga le ngwaga mme ngogola, thobo e dikile e le boutsana ka pula e ne e se kalo.

O lebogetse gore monongwaga dijwalo tse ba di rekang kwa masimong go di rekisa di nonofile. *BOPA*



Rre Mosimanegape Kebairejang a isetsa ba lelwapa la gagwe kwa Lotlhakane ntshe go tswa masimong. O tthalositse fa ba solofetse thobo e e nametsang morago ga dipula tse di namagadi bosheng. Balemi ba masimo a Maisane gaufi le Lotlhakane mo kgaolong ya Kanye ba supa fa ba setse ba simolotse go akola letlhafula. Senepe: Calviniah Kgautlhe

## Ookeditse o gwetlha banni go ipabalela

Ka Esther Mmolai

MAUN - Puso e abetse kgaolo ya Bokone Bophirima matloa a a thibelang monang a le 15 000, e le tsela ya go lwantsha seru se se wetseng kagolo eo sa bolwetsi jwa malaria.

Mothusa Tona wa Botsogo, Rre Lawrence Ookeditse, o boletse jalo mo phuthegomg ya kgotla bosheng kwa Maun, a supa fa maikaelelo e le go oketsa matloa ao ka a le 6 000 mo bogaufing, mme a gwetlha banni go ipabalela mo serung seo.

A re ntswa kgaolo ya Ngamiland e tshabelelwa ke malaria, gompieno seemo se tsere phekelo e sele morago ga gore kgaolo e amiwe ke merwalela ya dipula tsa bosheng.

O supile fa ba botsogo ba setse ba kwadisitse dikgetse tsa malaria di le 172 le dintsho di ferabobedi, a tlatsa ka gore palo eo ya dintsho e a tshwenya bogolo jang ka bolwetsi joo bo ka thibelwa.

O tswetsetse a re go na le kgonagalo ya gore dikgetse dingwe di bo di sa kwadisiwa, a tlatsa fa go supagetse fa batho ba dingwaga tse di fa gare ga 20 go tsena kwa go 49 e le bone ba ba mo diphatseng tsa go tsenwa ke bolwetsi joo, ba bo ba latelwa ke ba dingwaga tse 0-19.

Rre Ookeditse a re mo dipalong tse di kwadisitsweng, go supagetse fa borre ba amiwa thata ke bolwetse go na le bomme mme a kgothatsa banni ka kakaretso go diragatsa dikgakololo tsa ba botsogo jaaka go ya kwa dikokelong fa ba na le dikai tsa malaria, go nna mo tikologong e phepha, go tthagola bojang le gone go netefatsa gore ga gona metsi ape a a ka ngokang monang.

Rre Ookeditse o kopile banni gape go dirisanya le ba botsogo fa ba bolotsa letsholo go gasa molemo wa malaria mo matlong a bone le gone go dirisa matloa a a thibelang monang.

A re go na le dipego tse di

tshwenyang tsa gore bangwe ba gana go bula matlo ka nako ya letsholo fa bangwe ba re monkgo wa molemo ga o ba tsaye sentle.

Fa ba mo kgwa dikgaba, banni bangwe ba ne ba dumalana ka bongwefela jwa pelo gore kgaolo ya bone e tshabelelwa ke malaria, mme ba supa fa ba na le dingwaga di ka nna tharo ba botsogo ba sa ba thuse ka lenaneo la go gasa molemo mo matlong.

Ba ne ba ganetsa dipego tsa gore ba gana go bula matlo ba supa fa ba botsogo nako dingwe ba sa ba itsise nako e sa le teng gore ba ba fitlhele mo malwapeng.

Rre Otshotswe Thabare a re ke tlwaelo gore morago ga dipula monang o nna mo ntsi mme o bake malaria, ka jalo a kopa ba botsogo go monela marula pele ka go ba neela matloa go sa le nako. Mo go tse dingwe, Rre Thabare o ne a kopa khansele go tsibogela seemo sa matlwana a boiteketo kwa dikoleng tse di potlana a re di baya matshelo a baithuti mo

diphatseng.

Fa a tsibogela dingwe tsa dilelo tsa banni, mokwaledi wa khansele ya Bokone Bophirima, Rre Thatayotlhe Balapi, o ne a supa fa ba itse ka seemo seo, mme e bile maiteko a dirwa go se tokafatsa.

A re seemo se gakatswa ke letlhoko la metsi le le amileng dikole ka bontsi mo Maun, mme a supa fa ba sa nna fela.

O supile gape fa khansele le yone e neng e thusa mo letsholong la go thibela malaria mme ba fokotsa lebelo kwa Maun ka jaana ba ne ba fitlhetse seelo mme ba lebagana le metse e e kwa ntle.

Le fa go ntse jalo, Rre Balapi o ne a itsise banni fa khansele e tsere boikarabelo jwa dikokelwana, mme a ba solofetsa fa ba tlaa dira gotlhe mo ba ka go kgonang go netefatsa gore ba bona ditlamelo tsa botsogo tsa tlhwalhwa.

O ne a kgothatsa baoki go dira tiro ya bone ka manontlhotlho le gone go thusa banni ka botho le tlotlo. *BOPA*



# Medical teams hail remote consultation

MAPUTO - West China Hospital of Sichuan University and Maputo Central Hospital held a successful international remote medical consultation as part of ongoing medical cooperation under the 25<sup>th</sup> Chinese medical team in Mozambique.

The Monday session brought together specialists in surgery, orthopedics, neurosurgery, and emergency medicine from both hospitals.

Participants included Chinese experts from West China Hospital, members of the Chinese medical team based in Mozambique, and department heads from surgery, orthopedics, and neurosurgery on the Mozambican side.

Four medical cases were reviewed during the consultation, with discussions centred on diagnosis, treatment strategies, surgical challenges, and constraints in medical resources.

“This is a very important opportunity for us,” said Barnabe Antonio Deuasse, director of the orthopaedics department of Maputo Central Hospital, adding that the consultations not only provided access to modern medical insights but also practical solutions for managing complex cases amid resource constraints.

“It is encouraging to know we can count on a second opinion and expert support when faced with difficult situations. We are always ready to collaborate and present cases for further discussion... We hope there will be more in the future,” said Deuasse.

The session concluded with remarks by Atilio Morais, chief of surgery at Maputo Central Hospital, who underscored the value of such exchanges in enhancing clinical expertise and strengthening international medical cooperation. *Xinhua*



MAPUTO - Members of the Chinese medical team based in Mozambique and Mozambique’s department heads from surgery, orthopedics and neurosurgery attending an international remote medical consultation between West China Hospital of Sichuan University and Maputo Central Hospital on Monday. The medical consultation was part of the two entities’ ongoing medical cooperation under the 25<sup>th</sup> Chinese medical team in the country. Photo: Xinhua

## UN agency opens migration response centre

MOGADISHU - The International Organisation for Migration (IOM), the UN migration agency, has officially inaugurated the Migration Response Center (MRC) in Burao, Somaliland, a self-declared region of Somalia.

The IOM said the inauguration marked a significant milestone in expanding the provision of essential protection services and support to migrants on the move in the region.

Prestage Murima, IOM Somalia deputy chief of mission, said the establishment of the

Burao MRC was a testament to the ongoing commitment of the IOM and its partners to addressing the needs of vulnerable migrants.

“By strengthening protection mechanisms and providing lifesaving services, we aim to ensure that no migrant is left behind,” Murima said in a statement issued in Burao.

The newly established MRC, which joins a growing network of centres in strategic migration corridors, will serve as a critical hub for protection services and voluntary return support for migrants in transit, as well as those stranded along migration routes.

IOM said the centre will provide emergency shelter, medical assistance to vulnerable migrants, assisted voluntary return, mental health and psychosocial support, awareness raising, information sharing and distribution of non-food items.

IOM Somalia’s Migrant Protection and Assistance Program, oversees the MRC network across Somaliland and the broader region, continues to work with government partners and donors to expand access to protection and assistance services for migrants. *Xinhua*

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# ClassifiedAds

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**FARM WORKER NEEDED** in Maitengwe by Ntlohele M Mukhatazi. P O Box 264 Maitengwe. 73480172

### NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS

Master's Reference: **ESHGB 000783/23**

**IN THE STATE** of **KEENE MEMMO** who died at Sir Ketumile Masire Teaching Hospital, Gaborone, Gaborone District, Republic of Botswana on **19<sup>th</sup> August 2021**.

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 \_\_\_\_\_ 2025**

Larona Mmemo, Executive Dative, P O Box 45058, GABORONE, CELL 71640330

### NOTICE OF NEXT OF KIN MEETINGS Administration of Estates Act (Cap .31:01)

**NOTICE IS HEREBY** given that by virtue of section 31 of the Administration of Estates Act (Cap :33:01), heirs and next of kin of the deceased and all persons having claims against the above state, 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
GOITSEMANG KENEWANG	ESHFT-000278-25	30-07-25	0900HRS	DRM

**DATED AT FRANCISTOWN THIS 14th DAY OF APRIL 2025**

MASTER OF THE HIGH COURT

### 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 6<sup>th</sup> 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 17<sup>TH</sup> DAY OF MARCH 2025**

**Moleboge Zolo  
(APPLICANT)**

### IN THE HIGH COURT OF THE REPUBLIC OF BOTSWANA HELD AT FRANCISTOWN (ESHFT-000292-23)

#### NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS

**IN THE ESTATE** of the late **MICHAEL LUCAS** who died at Selibe Phikwe government hospital on the 11<sup>th</sup> June 2016.

NOTICE IS HEREBY, that Debtors and Creditors in the above Estate are hereby required to pay their claims of whatever nature with the undersigned within 30 days after the publication thereof.

**DATED AT FRANCISTOWN THIS 15<sup>TH</sup> DAY OF APRIL 2025.**

**EXECUTOR DATIVE: TINY KEFORILWE, P O BOX 2292, SELIBE PHIKWE**  
**And To:** Master Of The High Court, Private Bag F13, Francistown

### FIRST AND FINAL LIQUITATION AND DISTRIBUTION ACCOUNT

Master's Reference: **ESHGB 000454/23**

**IN THE ESTATE** OF THE LATE **BAEME DOBO** died at Sekgoma Memorial Hospital, Serowe, Central-Serowe, District Botswana on the 15th day of May 2020.

**FIRST AND FINAL LIQUITATION AND DISTRIBUTION ACCOUNT** in the Estate will lie open for inspection at the office of the Master of the High Court at Gaborone for a period of twenty -one (21) days from the date of publication hereof.

Any objection to the Estate Account may be lodged with the Master.

The Executor  
Poloko Dobo  
P O BOX 513PALAPYE  
Cell: 77110178/72847168

**FOUR FARM WORKERS** wanted at Kgaswe Lands. Contact Maungo Selei Box 500963 Gaborone.

**FARM WORKER WANTED.** Contact Kebonye @ 71 720 505

**FARM LABOURER WANTED** at farm 78-NQ Portion 18 LOT 6418, Francistown. Apply to Cottesloe Consultants (PTY) LTD. P.O Box 47375, Phakalane, Gaborone

### CHANGE OF LAND USE

Owner of Plot No. 51 Kutlwano Rd, located at Selebi Phikwe township, would like to change land use from single family residential to a commercial (guest house). Anybody who would like to view the plan can do so at lot No. 5251 Lesedi Mall, Malekantwa Shop no 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 to Physical Planner Selebi Phikwe town Council Private bag 001, Selebi Phikwe, in writing, withing fourteen (14) days of publication of this notice. Or contact them on +267 2610570



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**Fax:** +267 591 5 016

**Email:** kweneng.international@gmail.com

**f** Kweneng International Secondary School(K.I.S.S)

### 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:** 595m<sup>2</sup> ( 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 2nd 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 2025**

Executive Dative  
Tshepo Amon  
P O Box 155  
Gabane  
Cell: 71340761/73607360

Executrix Dative  
Bonani Tsimakoko  
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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

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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
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\*All programmes are ERB recognised.

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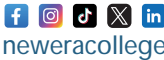


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# Exhibition highlights US-China bond

SAN FRANCISCO - Descendants of the Flying Tigers, along with US and Chinese officials and World War II history activists, gathered in San Francisco on Monday to open a new photo exhibition that honours the historic bond between the American and Chinese people during their joint fight against fascism in World War II (WWII).

The exhibition, titled: Sino-American Friendship - Flying Tigers in Guangxi, is organised by the Department of Culture and Tourism of the Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region.

It runs through May 4 at the WWII Pacific War Memorial Hall in San Francisco Chinatown.

Featuring 29 panels of historical photographs, the exhibition highlights the heroic contributions of the Flying Tigers an American volunteer group that aided China during its War of Resistance Against Japanese Aggression.

The images also reflect the deep friendship forged between the two nations as they stood shoulder to shoulder during one of the most turbulent periods in modern history.

Guangxi was a key strategic location for the Flying Tigers, who operated from bases in cities like Guilin and Liuzhou. From there, they launched daring bombing raids on Japanese targets in Guangzhou, Wuhan, Hainan, and beyond crippling supply lines and bolstering China's resistance efforts while contributing to the global fight against fascism.

Charlene Fontaine, a

descendant of a Flying Tigers veteran, shared personal stories passed down from her father.

She emphasised the often-overlooked bravery of the Chinese people.

"When we said how much our dads did to help save China, my father always said it was the courage and resilience of the Chinese people that saved them," she recalled.

Wei Jiang, deputy director of Guangxi's Department of Culture and Tourism, highlighted stories of American pilots rescued by Chinese villagers who risked their lives to shelter them from enemy forces.

Wei announced that a larger and more comprehensive exhibition on the Flying Tigers will open this September in Liuzhou City, and he invited Flying Tigers descendants in the United States to contribute historical materials and visit the upcoming event.

Local elected officials also attended Monday's opening ceremony.

"We are here to honour the men, the women, and the history of an incredible event," said Danville Vice Mayor Newell Arnerich.

"History is something that we need to learn from and it guides us to our future," San Francisco Supervisor Chyanne Chen praised the exhibit as "a valuable live classroom."

She said the US-China relationship was important, and remembering the sacrifices of those who fought for peace was something that should continue to be honoured. *Xinhua*



SAN FRANCISCO - The photo exhibition titled: Sino-American Friendship - Flying Tigers in Guangxi opened in the United States on Monday to honour the historic bond between the American and Chinese people during their joint fight against fascism in World War II. Photo: Xinhua

## Rwanda celebrates United Nations Chinese Language Day

KIGALI - The Confucius Institute at the University of Rwanda held celebrations on Sunday afternoon to mark this year's United Nations Chinese Language Day.

The event, under the theme: Chinese Language: A Gift Across Time and Space, offered attendees an immersive experience of Chinese culture and language.

Speaking at the event, Lin Hang, charge d'affaires a.i. of the Chinese Embassy in Rwanda, said that as an official language of the United Nations, the Chinese language is an important bond of friendship between the Chinese people and the people around the world.

"Language is a crucial tool of communication for human beings. As you may be aware, Chinese is the only 'living language' among the world's ancient civilizations that is still in use today.

At present, more than 190

countries and regions around the world are teaching Chinese, and 85 countries have incorporated Chinese into their national education systems," she said.

"China puts the spirit of real multilateralism into good practice, embraces an open and inclusive mindset, enhances mutual appreciation and learning, deepens understanding and friendship between the peoples across borders and among civilizations," she added.

Zeng Guangyu, director of the Confucius Institute at the University of Rwanda, told Xinhua during the event that when the institute was established in 2009, only a handful of students enrolled, as many thought it was too difficult to learn.

However, nearly 20 000 Rwandans can now speak Chinese after years of sustained efforts.

He noted that Chinese language skills have opened doors for Rwandan learners, enabling them

to secure jobs, win scholarships, study in China, and even start businesses.

"I have seen Chinese learners achieve their dreams through the language, by creating enterprises or finding good jobs. They are truly changing their lives through learning Chinese.

English is used worldwide, but Chinese is a rising language in East Africa and across the globe. It represents the future," Zeng said.

He also highlighted that this year's celebrations also featured the launch of a Kiswahili-Chinese-English textbook, aimed at bridging Chinese with two of East Africa's most commonly spoken languages.

"We held a lecture on Chinese characters, organized workshops on Chinese writing and calligraphy, and conducted many activities across different teaching posts to mark the occasion," Zeng added. *Xinhua*

## Heritage survey highlights modern-era sites, architecture

BEIJING - China's ongoing fourth national cultural heritage survey will prioritise the identification of historic sites and architectural works from the modern era, according to a directive that the National Cultural Heritage Administration made public on Monday.

The circular urges local authorities to step up their

investigations of modern-era buildings with regional features, distinctive styles, special functions, or historic value especially those tied to local industrial or community development, or designed by prominent architects.

It stipulates that qualifying sites should be documented and added to the national heritage protection

system, regardless of previous designation status.

It also calls for strengthened efforts to identify cultural relics linked to major phases of contemporary Chinese history, including the legacy of the Communist Party of China, the founding of the People's Republic of China, the country's reform and opening-up period, and the

evolution of socialism.

A separate circular from the survey's leading group office issued on the same day emphasises intensified discovery work in historically significant areas such as old city centres, famous towns and villages, heritage districts, and traditional rural settlements.

All structurally intact buildings

built before 1911 should be surveyed and protected if they meet relevant criteria.

Launched in 2023 and running through 2026, the ongoing survey is China's first national cultural heritage survey in over a decade, marking a major nationwide effort to reassess and expand the country's cultural relics inventory. *Xinhua*



# Patron commits to sport development

By Chendzimu Manyepedza

**SELEBI PHIKWE** - The newly appointed Selebi Phikwe Softball Extravaganza and Comets softball Club patron, Minister for State President Moeti Mohwasa, has promised to work effortlessly to elevate the softball sport code and continue to enhance its relevance within the Selebi Phikwe region.

With the softball extravaganza scheduled for July 19 to 21, Mohwasa emphasised the importance of cooperation among relevant stakeholders, highlighting that the extravaganza is a legacy to the Selebi Phikwe region that offers a wealth of opportunities and could benefit local business entities and foster community spirit.

“I am honoured to take the role, and I am passionate about seeing our local talent flourish. With the support and community involvement, we can transform the culture of softball in Selebi Phikwe into something.

I am also grateful for what the previous patron has done, their efforts have done a remarkable difference,” he said. He also appreciated that the softball

extravaganza has emerged as a beacon of resilience despite the countless challenges when the BCL Mines which played a significant part towards the event closed, leaving them with financial challenges to facilitate the success of the event.

He said the extravaganza has transformed into more than just a sporting event; but it has become the cornerstone of hope and unity for the Selebi Phikwe region

“Despite it all the spirit to triumph by organisers and former patrons has kept the event alive and continued to boost business opportunities that looked up to it, this has also kept the vibrancy of the town despite the gloomy that the closure of BCL mines painted on many,” he said.

In addition to developing talent, Mohwasa pleaded for more stakeholders and sponsors to come on board to enhance in different aspects that will attract emerging players and accord them necessary resources.

Selebi Phikwe Town Clerk, Lawrence Mokotedi said that the event will bring together the community and possibly inspire those who wish to pursue their dreams in sport. **BOPA**



Jacaranda High School Easter chess tournament gold medalists from left to right: Paul Bayani, who won the under 8 category, Cleo Rankwani (under 13), Shathiso Mashocha (under 16) and Kabaso Bwalya overall champion in the open section.

## Tournament gives chess prodigies exposure

By Kelebogile Taolo

**FRANCISTOWN** - Jacaranda School, in collaboration with the Francistown School of Chess, recently hosted chess tournament during the Easter holidays, attracting participants from four countries, namely, Lesotho, Zimbabwe, Zambia, and the hosts, Botswana. The event featured various categories,

including under 8, under 10, under 13, under 16, and an open section, providing a competitive platform for young chess enthusiasts.

The tournament was not only a showcase of skill but also an excellent opportunity for young players to gain exposure and experience in a competitive environment. Among the standout performers was nine-year-old Jason Selemene, who competed

in the under 13 category.

Jason, who secured a silver medal, expressed desire to challenge himself against more experienced players, opting to compete in the under 13 category instead of under 10.

He played six games, winning five and losing just one, which earned him a commendable second place. In the under 10 category, Siyabonga Buhlungu from Zimbabwe captured the bronze medal.

He expressed his gratitude for the opportunity to participate in the Jacaranda Chess Shutdown Tournament, describing it as a fantastic and engaging competition. Siyabonga noted that he learned valuable lessons during the tournament that he would apply to enhance his skills in future competitions.

Other notable medalists included Kabaso Bwalya from Zambia, who won a gold medal in the open section; Bradley Moyo from Zimbabwe, who took home the silver medal, and Gaolatlhe Motunge from Botswana, who secured the bronze medal in the open section.

The other winners are Shathiso Masocha, who won gold in the under 16 category, Cleopatra Rankwani, who earned gold in the under 13 category, Pelontle Paul, who claimed the gold medal in the under 10 category, and Adelline Moshoboro, who won gold in the under 8 category.

The organiser of the Jacaranda Shutdown Chess Tournament, Grivas Molefe, praised the event’s success, highlighting the cooperation among parents, participants, and school leaders. He noted that the tournament commenced smoothly and concluded without any challenges, contributing to its overall success.

The tournament, sponsored by Jacaranda school not only showcased the talents of young chess players but also fostered companionship and sportsmanship among competitors from the different countries. **BOPA**

## CEO promotes responsible betting

By Esther Mmolai

**MAUN** - Regulations and a commitment to responsible game can help Botswana build a strong ethical horse racing ecosystem that will attract local and international investors as well as create employment, says the Chief Executive Officer of Botswana Gambling Authority, Emolemo Kesitilwe.

The ecosystem, he said during the just-ended Masa Horse Racing

event at Samedupi, could also tell a story of national pride. He noted that the National Horse Racing strategy was at an advanced stage and discussions with relevant authorities were ongoing because the authority wanted to make the sport inclusive, sustainable and with integrity.

He said horse racing was not just a sport as it also promoted unity and competition among others. The sport, he said was a growing globally and Botswana

has a rightful place in it. Kesitilwe highlighted that racing directly contributed billions to economies and created thousands of jobs globally.

He cited that in the neighbouring South Africa, expenses of organising a horse race could go over P2 million, supporting over 60 000 jobs for jockeys, veterinarians and betting and gaming operators like Sunbet and many more.

“These direct economic activities also prompt additional economic activity outside the horse industry and this is an indication that the industry is vibrant and alive,” he added.

He appreciated sponsors of the Masa Horse Race, Sunbet Botswana and Mascom for their valued support and their services, citing Sunbet with betting goods onsite, which he said was a sign of growing confidence in the industry.

Kesitilwe said horse racing betting should be entertaining, but at the same time should be done responsibly, adding that was why the authority continued to promote safe and sustainable gambling practices.

Member of Parliament for Maun East, Goretetse Kekgonegile concurred that horse racing had the potential to diversify and contribute significantly to the economy and create employment opportunities.

Traditionally, agriculture

including horse racing, he said, was a source of income for the rural community in the North West region.

“Horse racing is part of our tradition. It brings us immense joy to contribute to a platform that drives social economic impact and our office has the intention to engage with Masa Horse Race organiser to see if we can enter into a joint venture through Community Constituency Programme (CCP) because our aim is to see the race being one of the country’s top race,” he added

Kekgonegile said through a partnership, they could consider putting developments at the horse racing farm to match the international standard.

The event manager, Tico Otukile appreciated that the event was successful as it had attracted a huge crowd of horse racing enthusiasts from all corners of the country. He also thanked the sponsors and all who contributed to the success of the event, saying the activity did not only bring fun but it also promoted sport tourism in the region.

The event comprised 10 races with a prize money of P350 000 which was shared among the winners. The winner of Tswana breed category was rewarded with P8 000, Cross breed winner walked away with P10 000 while thorough breed winner got P15 000. The grand race winner pocketed P30 000. **BOPA**



Horse racing fanatics queueing to bet on horses of their choice during Masa Horse Racing event in Maun recently. Photo Esther Mmolai



## Bakwadi to clean up house

By Baleseng Batlotleng

GABORONE - Belligerent members of Botswana Karate Association (BOKA) who undermine the authority of the Karate governing body and violate the constitution and code of conduct will face the music.

In an exclusive interview with *BOPA* following the expulsion of two members of BOKA, Shukokai Shito-Ryu and Kofukan Federation of Botswana, the association's president Shihan Mpho Bakwadi admitted that karate had been rocked by squabbles due to dissident elements within their structures.

The association has been experiencing a turbulent period with bitter internal strives seen as being the centre of the rot. Factional divisions, leadership squabbles and embezzlement of funds were fingered as some of the challenges that bedevilled the sport.

"Going forward those who compromise the integrity of karate, those who bring it into disrepute will be dealt with. We have to bring karate back to its roots. We are in that drive to apologise to the public about this rot, make our stakeholders comfortable and make an assurance that karate is back and in good hands," said Bakwadi.

Bakwadi said the decision to expel the two members was taken after a majority vote of a special general meeting convened last weekend in Gaborone.

The two expelled members had voted out the Bakwadi led committee through a motion of no confidence passed by Botswana Kofukan and seconded by Shukokai.

BOKA had earlier warned that those who would attend any unauthorised meeting would face suspension or even expulsion.

Nonetheless a special meeting was convened attended by five federations namely Kofukan, Goju-Kai, Karate Nomichi, Shukokai and Ryushin-Kan.

The five members had, in January submitted a petition to BOKA raising a number of alleged anomalies at the association among them violation of the constitution, lack of financial transparency and unlawful appointment and non-compliance with constitutional procedure.

High Court ruled that the meeting was illegal and any decision taken there was not recognised. Bakwadi explained that amongst

other serious breaches the two members collaborated with individuals and organisations outside BOKA to unlawfully overthrow the legitimate executive of BOKA.

He said the expelled members approached the registrar of societies under false pretences claiming to be the legitimate executive of BOKA and also convened and attended unauthorized and unlawful meetings.

Bakwadi said these actions were seen as constituting gross misconduct and undermining authority hence the expulsion was finalised and binding.

He said in 2023 his committee was voted into office after serving on an interim basis for some time replacing the Sensei Tshepo Bathai led committee which was ousted by a motion of no confidence.

Bakwadi said following the leadership coups that had become a common feature at BOKA his first assignment was to clean up the mess and deal with the debt which was in excess of P1million.

"We spent the whole of 2023 clearing debt through our subvention funding because we owed hotels and travel agencies amongst others. But after that we were able to take part in regional and continental championships such as zone VI in Zimbabwe where we did well. We took part in Africa Games in Accra and our ladies' kata team qualified for the world championships in Pamplona," he added.

BOKA was then embroiled in court battles as the Bathai-led committee comprising of Bathai as president, Sam Dire as Vice president administration, Karabo Samuel (secretary general) and David Hubona (VP technical) took BOKA to court contesting their ousting from the karate office. They later withdrew the case. Kofukan and Shukokai joined forces with the concerned group some expelled from BOKA and the High Court dismissed the case.

High Court ruled that the sensei Koorapetse Mogopodi led interim committee was unlawful and illegal.

BOKA then

convened a meeting to expel the two on grounds of collaborating with members outside BOKA.

"We made it clear that you can't remove a constitutionally elected executive illegally. We are known for being an ancient discipline with integrity. We have engaged Botswana National Sport Commission, Botswana National Olympic Committee and the ministry of sport and we are now part of the Africa Union Sport Council Region 5," he said.

Bakwadi reiterated that restoring the dignity of BOKA was top of his agenda and pledged working extensively with relevant stakeholders to further advance development of karate.

He applauded BOKA's partners for all their efforts in bringing sanity to its leadership and said it was a privilege to work with willing partners for the growth of the sport.

Bakwadi who is now the current president of the karate association was recently appointed as the second vice president of the

Commonwealth Karate Africa Association (CKAF) a position he said would allow him a chance to set ambition goals to elevate the local sport to greater and new heights.

The CKAF appointment mandates Bakwadi to coordinate activities of the association in the Southern African region, support the association's president in furthering the sport's development.

He expressed immense gratitude to the appointment and said global partners were acknowledging his good leadership qualities.

Bakwadi took over Bathai and were expected to ensure full participation of affiliates following the mess that destabilized the association over the years.

He brings with him a full set of an executive committee charged with ensuring that he passes the litmus test. Bakwadi is assertive that eternal peace would soon prevail despite the dark veil that befell the sport over the past decade.

Bathai who was initially removed from office in 2014 through another motion of no confidence returned to the karate top seat in 2017 after taking over from prominent sport administrator sensei David Mathe.

Sensei Mathe was in office for a two-year term and survived a motion of no confidence.

He withdrew from the race for presidency in 2017 when Bathai took over.

Sensei Abel Mbaakanyi became president of BOKA from its infancy until Sensei Jeff Tembo, considered the longest serving BOKA president took over succeeding Mbaakanyi. Ookeditse Malesu, Gift Nkwe and Million Masumbika also took up office as BOKA presidents.

*BOPA*

*BOKA president Shihan Mpho Bakwadi admitted that karate had been rocked by squabbles due to dissident elements within their structures.*

