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Energy key to economy



Minister of Minerals and Energy, Ms Bogolo Kenewendo (second left), Botswana Power Corporation CEO, Mr David Kgoboko (left) and other officials being taken on a tour of Morupule Power Station by maintenance manager Mr Bopelo Mukani (second right) during the Minister's visit to Morupule B Power Station and Morupule Coal Mine in Palapye on Thursday. Ms Kenewendo commended Morupule B Power Station team for their efforts in ensuring a stable power supply in the country over the past few weeks, noting that it was important to stabilise production because energy shortage could bring the economy to a standstill. Photo: Baldwin Nyamande

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Ministry for State President permanent secretary, Ms Goitsewang Morekisi (left), Speaker of the National Assembly, Mr Dithapelo Keorapetse (centre) and Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung resident representative, Mr Thilo Schone at the foundation's centenary celebration in Gaborone on Thursday. Mr Keorapetse said the foundation's principles were aligned with those of Botswana government and that more work was needed to pass laws that improved people's lives. Photo: Tshepo Gombo

FES celebrates century of democracy

By Benita Magopane

GABORONE - Founded in 1925 in Germany as a tribute to the country's first democratically elected president, Mr Friedrich Ebert, the Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (FES) Botswana celebrated its centenary on Thursday at its Gaborone office.

The German political foundation, is renowned for its commitment to promoting social justice and democracy.

With operations in over 100 countries and a presence in

Botswana since 1973, FES has become a formidable force in democratic development and political empowerment.

Speaking during the event, the Speaker of the National Assembly, Mr Dithapelo Keorapetse praised FES for its enduring partnership in preserving democracy and fostering development, qualities he said Botswana exemplified, most notably in the peaceful transition of power during last year's general elections.

"But we still have a long way to go. As it stands, less than 10 per cent of Parliament is made up of women and issues of corruption in high offices have eroded public trust," said Mr Keorapetse and emphasised that Botswana's democratic principles had earned the nation its reputation for peace and stability.

Hemp conference August

By Gontle Merafhe

GABORONE - In order to build capacity for opportunities that come with the envisioned hemp industry in Botswana, the Institute of Energy and Technology Development (IETD) has organised a conference billed for August, to share knowledge with cooperatives and other stakeholders.

Addressing the media in Gaborone on Thursday, IETD director, Ms Charity Kennedy said theirs was to upskill

the community on the said development.

Ms Kennedy said innovation often failed to flourish where access to information and education was limited especially, in emerging markets.

She said with widespread awareness, citizens across rural and urban Botswana particularly woman and youth, could be empowered not just to participate but to innovate as well.

Ms Kennedy viewed hemp and cannabis industry as an opportunity to democratise

knowledge, create decent jobs and build value chains that served the future of all Batswana and therefore, wished to facilitate multi-sectoral dialogue between policy makers, researchers, investors, entrepreneurs, civil society organisations and the community.

She said the conference would showcase research, education and international best practices from Africa and beyond as well as stimulate investment, entrepreneurship and industrialisation around hemp based technologies, and drive national conversation around regulatory and economic transformation.

"The government should not be the only one pushing the issue of legislation and policy.

We need to be players," she said and explained that the conference was the beginning of job creation revolution since hemp presented an opportunity to create dignified sustainable employment, particularly in industries such as engineering, agriculture,

construction, manufacturing, mining rehabilitation, pharmaceuticals and climate smart innovations.

It is our duty to ensure that the opportunities are inclusive, equitable and accessible to all Batswana Ms Kennedy said.

One of the partner organisations, BW Jobs 4 Graduates representative, Mr Christopher Seagateng said 28.7 per cent of youth were unemployed or underemployed as of 2024.

Mr Seagateng said that they were training youth for the job market and matched them with potential employers, noting that there were many opportunities that could emerge from the hemp industry.

IETD is working in partnership with BW Jobs 4 Graduates, BOLESWA Youth Cooperatives, Botswana Cooperatives and Africa Lora Travel, to facilitate the August conference where a South African organisation, Cheeba Africa is expected to share technical insight. **BOPA**

Minister commits aviation sector support

By Thamani Shabani

MAUN - Minister of Higher Education, Mr Prince Maele on Friday toured the Wilderness Airs flight simulator school located at Maun International Airport.

The facility, equipped with a lecture room, an aircraft dashboard for practical training, and a sophisticated flight simulator, offers a comprehensive aviation education. He received a first-hand demonstration of the flight simulator, experiencing simulation of flight conditions. The simulator uses advanced software and hydraulics to recreate sensations of take-off and landing, responding to the pilot's controls with accurate depictions of wind, turbulence, and instrument readings.

It also provides a safe and effective environment for students to learn and practice essential piloting skills. Mr Maele praised the Wilderness Air Flight Simulator, underscoring government support for Aviation. He expressed strong approval of the Wilderness Air flight simulator, commending it as one of the best. He emphasised government's commitment to

supporting aviation sector, noting that the school's students fall under his ministry's purview of higher education. Minister Maele also highlighted the significant economic contribution of the aviation industry, particularly its role in providing opportunities for young people in the burgeoning sector. While acknowledging that its importance would not always immediately be recognised, he said the aviation authority was a key player in Botswana's economic growth.

Wilderness Air Managing Director, Mr Kago Paul highlighted the institution's potential for regional growth. He emphasised that Wilderness Airs, aimed to become one of the premier flight training schools in Southern Africa, eventually accepting students from the entire SADC region.

He attributed the facility's choice of location in Maun to its pivotal role as Botswana's tourism heartland. Mr Paul further underscored the school's advanced curriculum, stating that graduates were well prepared to pursue advanced piloting certifications for heavy aircraft. **BOPA**



BW JOBS 4 Graduates chairperson, Mr Christopher Seagateng (left) and Institute of Energy Technology Development director, Ms Charity Kennedy signing a Memorandum of Understanding during media activations towards Botswana Hemp Impact Conference in Gaborone on Thursday. Ms Kennedy said there was a need to stimulate investment, entrepreneurship and industrialisation around hemp-based technologies. Photo: Teko Letsholo

He stressed the importance of protecting these ideals to ensure that legislation continued to serve the people.

Reflecting on Friedrich Ebert's legacy, ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany to Botswana, Ms Gabriela Bennemann quoted his famous call for peace: "the future must belong to international reconciliation and the international community. The path to this goal is long and difficult, but we must not despair."

She affirmed the relevance of Ebert's vision in today's geopolitical climate. "We must all reach out in reconciliation between countries and people if we want to build a better future amidst the current global political situation," she said. "And FES is here to help us do just that."

The ambassador also applauded FES for its Youth Leadership Training Programme, which had produced dynamic young leaders who carried the organisation's core values into their communities, particularly democracy, social integration, and inclusive education.

FES resident representative, Mr Thilo Schöne expressed gratitude to attendees for honouring the occasion, with special thanks to the Government of Botswana for its decades-long partnership.

"Be assured that my team and I will continue to do everything we can to advance social democracy. We stand with you as representatives of the oldest and largest German foundation in Botswana," he affirmed.

Mr Schöne added that FES was not merely another international NGO seeking to assist in Africa but one rooted in the promotion of democracy, at home and abroad. **BOPA**

Boko pledges to enhance public libraries

By **Thamani Shabani**

MAUN - President Advocate Duma Boko has promised to enhance the skills of public school librarians to elevate the overall quality of education in Botswana.

President Boko, who considers himself an avid reader, and declared books as his best friend, informed Maun Senior Secondary School community during a meet and greet session on Friday that he started an initiative to donate books long back and would continue doing so.

He encouraged Maun secondary school learners to pursue their aspirations, assuring them that attending a public school was not a hindrance, as he followed the same path and reached the country's highest office. The President advised them to be in charge of their destiny and work with their teachers and the school community.

"Parents must be part and parcel of their children's learning journey if they wish to see change in the education system,"

said President Boko, adding that there were many challenges faced by the education sector, among them shortage of books in school libraries.

He motivated learners to foster a

passion for reading, highlighting the necessity of actively engaging with texts to grasp the underlying messages. President Boko said they should critique what they read because Botswana needed

analytic thinkers to advance.

Acting school head, Mr Kefilwe Oageng informed the President that Maun senior was one of the oldest schools in the country and was capable of producing world

class learners.

However, he said like other learning institutions in the country, the school faced many challenges such as shortage of classrooms. **BOPA**



President Advocate Duma Boko (centre) and Minister of Higher Education, Mr Prince Maele (left) taken on a tour of Maun Senior Secondary School library by deputy school head, Mr Kehilwe Oageng (right) during the President's visit to the school on Friday. President Boko said the entire education system needed a revolutionary new approach in bringing conditions favourable to delivering 21st century learning. He encouraged learners to develop a passion for reading not passively, but with the aim of grasping the message contained in the book. Photo: Ogopoleng Kgomoethata

President undertakes working visit to South Africa

GABORONE - Minister for State President, Mr Moeti Mohwasa is the Acting President following President Advocate Duma Boko's visit to South Africa, which commenced on Saturday.

A press statement from the Office of the President states that while in South Africa, President Boko will engage with his South African counterpart, President Cyril Ramaphosa at the latter's invitation.

President Boko is expected to return to Botswana tomorrow. **BOPA**

Energy key in economic growth

By **Portia Rapitsenyane**

PALAPYE - The Minister of Minerals and Energy, Ms Bogolo Kenewendo has commended Morupule B Power Station team for their dedication in maintaining the country's power supply over the past few weeks.

Minister Kenewendo commended the team during her visit to Morupule B Power Station and Morupule Coal Mine (MCM) on Thursday.

The minister noted that the country had been experiencing challenges in power supply and therefore there was a need to further interrogate the issues and come up with solutions.

"We have been inundated with the problems and we have to think about the future while we are solving the problems of today," she said, emphasising that it was important to stabilise production because energy shortage could bring the economy to a standstill.

Noting that electricity was one of the most important infrastructure in the country, the minister said the Morupule B Power Plant team was similarly one of the most important teams

in the country that the entire economy relied upon.

Ms Kenewendo said there was a lot of expectations upon those that were working on power to ensure that they stabilised production and distribution.

She pleaded with them to think creatively and innovatively to prevent frequent leaks and disruptions.

She said entities like MCM should align with the nation's economic trajectory, emphasising that operational efficiency and alignment with the nation's interests were paramount in harnessing the potential of coal.

Ms Kenewendo acknowledged that there had been several proposals that were presented to her such as adding more units on the side to try to bring a level of stability to power production in Botswana.

She assured the Morupule B Power Plant team that government would accord them support in the work that they were doing so that they could ensure that the rest of the country was well supported with the resource that was important to the economic development.

Botswana Power Corporation

Chief Executive Officer, Mr David Kgoboko said the corporation had just come out of a challenging phase which was low generation at the power plant occasioned by breakdowns as well as the plant maintenance they had to undertake.

He was however pleased that they were currently running three units, supplying approximately 345 megawatts of power into the grid, which has to be augmented by supply from other sources including power imports. He said the minister's visit demonstrated her resolve towards achieving stability in power generation and ultimately achieving security of supply, one of the key strategic objectives for the country.

Mr Kgoboko said there were projects that they had rolled out which he was optimistic that they would increase power generation capacity and also improve reliability of their power generation assets.

Mr Kgoboko said Morupule B Power Plant had a history of construction defects which they had been grappling with for many years and the team had done exceptionally well in trying to maintain or keep the

units on the grid despite the challenges.

"Just looking at the statistics from the just ended year both our plants were able to contribute over 70 per cent of the country's demand, which was commendable," he said.

However, Mr Kgoboko said, the issue of reliability still remained because of the construction defects that he alluded to adding that there were construction defects that they need to attend to.

He informed the minister that they embarked on remedial works programme that sought to address the construction defects and so far they had one of their units having gone through remedial works, that is unit 4.

The visit facilitated high-level discussions aimed at addressing key mining and energy issues as well as to ensure strategic alignment with national development objectives.

At Morupule Coal Mine, Chief Executive Officer Mr Edwin Elias provided a comprehensive overview of the mine's operations, including business performance, production insights, and upcoming strategic initiatives. **BOPA**

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TVET institutions to change name - Maele

By Thamani Shabani

MAUN - Government is considering renaming the Technical Vocational Education and Training (TVET) colleges to Vocational Training Centres.

Speaking at this year's HATAB annual conference in Maun on Friday, Minister of Higher Education, Mr Prince Maele said the change would be to dispel the negative perception of TVET institutions as dumping ground for students who underperformed in secondary school.

He argued that the stigma discouraged students and negatively impacted the value of TVET programmes.

Mr Maele stated that the government planned to overhaul the TVET policy, shifting focus from producing mere workers to fostering entrepreneurship.

He emphasised the need to address the current funding model of the Higher and Technical Education and Development Company (HRDC) and secure



Minister of Higher Education, Mr Prince Maele has told the HATAB annual conference that government was considering renaming the Technical Vocational Education and Training colleges to Vocational Training Centres. He said the change would be to dispel the negative perception of the institutions as dumping ground for learners who underperformed in secondary school.

active stakeholder involvement in the reform.

The minister highlighted a critical link between the country's tourism sector growth and the quality of its skilled

workforce pointing to a shortage of adaptable, innovative and skilled tourism professionals.

To address this, he proposed that vocational training schools be tailored to meet the practical

demand of the tourism sector, achieved through collaboration between the private sector and government, to develop industry-relevant curricula.

The Education Training Programmes (ETPs) were also identified for review, as graduates are perceived inadequate for the modern workforce hence Mr Maele stressed the need for a fundamental mindset shift within TVET and a significant investment by government in the programme.

The minister announced the upcoming TVET pitso in July, intended to address the challenges facing TVET in the 21st century.

The conference will serve as a forum for discussion and finding solutions to modernise the institutions.

He also announced Maun

Secondary School as a potential facility for tourism-related courses, reflecting a strategic focus on developing and supporting tourism activities in the area.

Minister of Trade and Entrepreneurship, Mr Tiroeane Ntsima also announced plans to review the 2019 Trade Act to simplify business operations.

A review of the Industrial Development Act of 2019 is also planned to streamline licensing procedures.

Mr Ntsima said government's intention to implement smart border systems, to enhance the ease of movement for individuals, particularly to support Botswana's tourism sector which the government recognised as a key driver of economic growth.

BOPA

Serinane bids farewell to Galeatle

By Mothusi Galekhutle

SERINANE - On a chilly Saturday, mourners gathered in Serinane to pay their final respects to the late Kgosi Malang Galeatle, who passed away at the age of 69 on April 15.

Kgosi Galeatle had served as the headman of records for Serinane since 2013, and his sudden death has left a significant void in the community.

Speakers at the funeral, speakers hailed him as an exceptional leader, celebrated for his selflessness, humour, and humility. Mourners noted his intelligence, strong work ethic, and punctuality as hallmarks of his character.

"His contributions to transforming the community and as well as his village will be remembered for generations to come," said Bakwena deputy chief of Bakwena, Mr Lawrence Mohaladi.

He said Galeatle passing was a loss to bogosi institution,

saying the deceased was active in all matters concerning bogosi and especially cultural and traditional events.

"Kgosi Galeatle was a knowledgeable person who transformed Serinane into what it is today and helped unite the community," Mr Mohaladi added.

Colonel Tonny Modise, a representative of the Botswana Defence Force (BDF), expressed that the lates' death was a loss to the Thebephatshwa Air Base community, where he was regarded as a parental figure always present at their events. "His humility, punctuality, and dedication to his work are qualities that will be hard to replace," he said.

Mr Onkabetse Nkeletsang, deputy chairperson of the Ministers' Fraternal, spoke on how Kgosi Galeatle inspired local churches to unify and collaborate in community-building efforts.

One of his children Ms

Pauline Lefatshe, offered at tribute, recalling her father as a great mentor and loving parent. She noted that while he was strict, he also had a friendly and humorous side.

"He raised us according to the Bible and was a man of fairness and discipline," she said, describing the family home as a 'court martial' where children learned discipline.

Ms Lefatshe reflected on her father's aspirations for them, saying, 'he wished for us to become successful in our lives and often said he wanted to see us carrying a 'stick of honour.' I am grateful that before he died, he witnessed me holding the stick of honour."

Although the family feels the pain of his sudden passing, Ms Lefatshe pledged that they would honour and celebrate his life by carrying on his legacy, knowing what he wanted for them.

Kgosi Galeatle is survived by his wife and five children. **BOPA**

Government funds BAMB silos renovation

By Aobakwe Molefhi

PITSANE - Botswana Agricultural Marketing Board's oldest silos, located in Pitsane will be renovated at the sum of P52 million.

This was revealed by the Member of Parliament for Good Hope/Mmathethe, also assistant minister of agriculture Dr Edwin Dikoloti during a kgotla meeting in Pitsane recently.

Dr Dikoloti said the five silos needed refurbishment so as to properly protect the produce they store which include cereals such as sorghum, maize and beans.

Dr Dikoloti said he was of the opinion that the company contracted to undertake the refurbishment would hire locals and pay them the minimum living wage of P4 000.

He said hiring locals was important, and that by so doing, the contractor would be transferring skills and sharing knowledge.

Mr Lambani Obuseng from Botswana Agricultural Marketing Board disclosed that the contractor had already started procuring materials for the renovation.

He said the contractor had been

urged the contractor to hire locals adding that residents would be briefed accordingly once the works were about to commence.

Dr Dikoloti said that since the district relied heavily on farming activities, the area leadership has since agreed to encourage the community to do agripreneurship.

Dr Dikoloti revealed that government intended to improve sources of water for production.

He said that included drilling boreholes and construction of dams so that farmers could irrigate and water their livestock.

Botswana Meat Commission's livestock procurement officer Mr Motlhokomedi Gaetshetswe said in an endeavour to get farmers to sell to BMC, the organisation had increased prices of 0-4 tooth cattle to P48 per kg.

Mr Gaetshetswe noted that they take all sizes and breeds of cattle not just young ones.

He said that they have also decided that they will offer logistics support to farmers by providing transport for 20 cows and more.

"Our turnaround time for payments is 14 days for individual farmers or 30 days for contract farmers who sell in excess of 50 at once," he said. **BOPA**



Mourners paying their last respects to the late Kgosi Malang Galeatle in Serinane on Saturday. Kgosi Galeatle who succumbed to asthma at the age of 69 on April 15, served as Serinane headman of records from 2013 until his untimely death. Photo: Mothusi Galekhutle

Poor budgeting delays projects delivery - Moswaane

By Keonee Majoto

KANYE - Poor budgeting processes and the shrinking national purse have been blamed for the slow progress of the twin projects of the construction of a new primary school in Kanye and its adjoining staff quarters.

Assistant Minister of Local Government and Traditional Affairs, Mr Ignatius Moswaane said during his tour of the projects on Thursday that had funds been set aside for the projects prior to their inception, the challenges of lack of funds that were being experienced would have been prevented.

“The fact that there was no progress for about five months on account of lack of funds shows that contracts were most likely awarded with no budget in place,” he said.

“This is a sign of flawed budgeting systems and can taint the image of both council and government,” he added.

The assistant minister said the issue of delayed payments as cited by both the contractors and the leadership of Kanye District Council needed to be resolved speedily as it affected the entire construction value chain.

He said with contractors usually hiring equipment from other businesses, delays in paying them would impact those from whom they had sourced equipment.

As for the dwindling national coffers, Mr Moswaane said it was apparent that the situation was beginning to negatively impact ongoing public infrastructure projects.

He however stated that government would intervene and ensure that the two projects were completed without further delays so that the public could benefit from the use of the facilities.

Mr Katlego Chere, site agent from Idea Tank, a contractor tasked with the construction of the school said the challenge with payments from council

dampened worker morale, thereby slowing down the pace of project implementation.

Mr Chere however said that with the bulk of the work done with the project now standing at 75 per cent completion, they would be able to carry out the remaining works and complete the project before its scheduled deadline of December as soon as the council secured the funds required.

Managing Director of Black Ruby Properties, Mr Keorapetse Manyapelo said their staff housing project was sitting at 90 per cent completion.

Mr Manyapelo said since the start of the payment problems in October last year, they had encountered several challenges such as reluctance by suppliers to issue them materials, as well as loss of personnel as many of their workers had since left.

He said since the project was at its tail-end, they would complete it within two months once funds were availed.

While he concurred that funding challenges had hampered progress at the two project sites, council secretary Mr Masiela Mandoze said council was doing the utmost to secure funds for the remainder of the projects.

Mr Mandoze said council had secured P6 million from which it would be paying the contractors P1 million each in the space of days. He said they were constantly engaging the ministry to release funds to cover the remaining works for the projects, a total of which he said stood at P18 million. “We need P18 million to complete the two projects. And if the current funding issues get resolved, both projects will have been completed by November,” he said.

Once complete, the projects, situated at Kanye’s Losabanyana area will lessen the distance that children residing in the area endure to access primary schools in the village. **BOPA**

Paje Primary School requires significant maintenance

By Keamogetse Setilo

SEROWE - Kgosi Moses Bakoko of Paje has raised concern about the scarcity of resources and bad state of infrastructure in his village.

He informed Member of Parliament for Serowe North, Mr Baratiwa Mathoothe during a kgotla meeting at the village on Thursday that several infrastructures were in disrepair and needed renovation.

“Paje Primary School is an unsightly place; the structures are in poor condition and the school does not have adequate toilets,” he stated.

He mentioned that the village leadership had been urging the council to renovate the school.

Moreover, he highlighted that Paje required additional housing for public officers, noting that sufficient facilities would boost both the workforce and services, resulting in the village’s economic development.

He also expressed concern over the state roads and lack of bus stops in the village, mentioning that the roads that access the cattle posts and fields required gravelling and grading.

Mr Mogorosi Kokoro, the Secretary of the Serowe District Council, acknowledged the condition of Paje Primary School, pointing out that the initiative to renovate the school had not started solely because of budgetary constraints.

He assured residents that the



Assistant Minister of Local Government and Traditional Affairs, Mr Ignatius Moswaane (centre) and other dignitaries touring a new primary school under construction in Kanye on Thursday. He said it was disappointing that payment delays by Kanye District Council continued to stall progress for both the school and staff housing projects. Photo: Keonee Majoto

Mosikare laid to rest

By Mooketsi Mojalemotho

FRANCISTOWN - Multitudes that thronged Area W in Francistown to pay their last respect to a demised enterprising journalist for Mmegi and The Monitor newspapers, Mr Lebogang ‘Tso’ Mosikare learnt that besides his impeccable and prolific writing that spans many years, ‘Tso’ was a true community builder whose works transcended journalism.

An ardent change agent, the late Mosikare, who succumbed to illness on April 16, 2025, was born in 1982. A man of many hats, ‘Tso’ was also a card-carrying member of the Botswana Congress Party and tried in vain to wrestle Itsekeng Ward from the then formidable Botswana Democratic Party.

His name will also remain etched in the annals of history as one of the trailblazers of football in Area W.

He founded Industrial Football

Outfit in 2008 and presided over it as its President until his transition.

Industrial Football Team representative, Mr Otsile Modisapodi described the late Mosikare as somebody who was courageous and inspiring.

“O ne a re rekela kit e nngwe jaana e e neng e tura worth P650 and this gesture of generosity meant a lot to us because we were a financially struggling outfit,” he said adding that the late Mosikare was also a prudent manager cum strategist for the team which has over the years amassed trophies during constituency tournaments.

Botswana Congress Party’s director of elections, Mr Vain Mamela, who attested to Mr Mosikare’s BCP membership dating back to 2008, said the late’s contribution to the party’s growth was beyond measure. He cited the 2009 general election campaign when Mosikare helped the party win Itsekeng ward.

“As a party, we have lost a dedicated comrade who aligned himself with opposition politics during a time when it was not fashionable to do so against the mighty BDP of the time,” he said, emphasising that the late Mosikare also had a penchant for debate and, as a fierce debater, was always ready to drive his point of contention home without fear.

Among the speakers was Ms Onneile Kekwadile, Mr Mosikare’s nephew. She said her uncle was full of life and had a playful character, which he said brought them closer together.

The Media Institute of Southern Africa Botswana Chapter chairperson, Mr Thomas Nkhoma, was disheartened by Mr Mosikare’s untimely death. He said Mr Mosikare’s passing dealt a hard blow to the media fraternity. According to Mr Nkhoma, the death of a journalist of Mr Mosikare’s calibre would lessen the voices of the voiceless in the public sphere

and possibly reverse the many gains attained over the years thanks to courageous journalism practised by the former and a few other scribes.

A colleague, Mr Ryder Gabathuse, shared Mr Nkhoma’s sentiment and waxed lyrical about Mr Mosikare’s indelible contribution to the nation through his development journalism.

He said Mr Mosikare’s consistent reporting on issues affecting the community, such as illegal gold mining by some Zimbabweans in Matsiloje and Patayamatebele villages, was the reason the government of the day had formed a task force comprising Botswana Police Services and Botswana Defence Force to deal with the matter once and for all.

He said his prowess and prolific writing were also acknowledged and appreciated by those in the judiciary. His was a stellar contribution to the development of this nation.

Itsekeng Ward Councilor Lesego Kwambala said ‘Tso’s life of purpose will remain etched in the hearts of many thanks to his passion for life. As ‘Tso’ political rival in 2009, Mr Kwambala said the departed ‘comrade’ never organised any smear campaign out of spite for losing elections to him.

“He showed a lot of maturity and professionalism in his reporting and would share with me some of his brilliant ideas on how we could foster development in Area W and greater Francistown,” he said adding that some of Mosikare’s contributions were fashioned into motions that have assisted better the lives of the people of Francistown and beyond especially the 2016 motion to ease licensing to SMME’S which Councilor Kwambala presented and was adopted by the Francistown City Council. Mosikare leaves three children, two boys and a girl, three siblings and several nephews. **BOPA**



Ms Ophile Segone-Butawu from Kopong (left) selling sweet reed and watermelons to customers at Old Naledi in Gaborone recently. Ms Segone-Butawu, who is focused on earning an income said she sourced her produce from Magoriapitse farms, near Mmathethe, helping to bring fresh farm-grown goods directly to customers. She said she had since built a loyal base of regulars who rely on her supplies. Photo: Gaseitsiwe Moruakgomo

Experts discuss tariff impacts

By Moshe Galeragwe

GABORONE - Business Botswana recently brought together industry players to discuss the impacts of the imposed 37 per cent tariff by the United States on Botswana export and what the country can do to escape the resulting challenges.

During a panel discussion held in Gaborone, panelists were of the view that as a consuming nation, the impact of tariffs imposed on countries trading with the US would directly affect the economy of Botswana.

Economy expert, Dr Pelotshweu Moepeng, said the situation should not be ignored as the US was among the country's top 10 export trade partners, noting that in 2023 Botswana's exports to the US led by diamonds amounted US\$ 110 million.

He said the hike in tariffs meant that Botswana would not export as it used to and such would have ripple effects on revenue. Dr Moepeng said the country was in dire need to develop its infrastructure mainly roads and health services as well as implement the new agriculture strategy to improve food production, investor attraction and regional trade.

Sharing her understanding of tariffs, Dr Kedibonye Thompson, Research Fellow at BIDPA said the tariffs would weaken the economies of countries dependent on the US market and trigger inflation.

Since Botswana's manufacturing sector was importing machinery, she said it was likely to experience a hike in prices. Dr Thompson said the US tariffs policy resulted in uncertainty across the globe and was likely to affect production, economic growth and increase current challenges.

She said the situation had negative impacts on Botswana's economy, adding that with challenges the anticipated growth of the GDP by 3.3 per cent was highly unlikely to be realised.

Dr Thompson said it was time for private sector to work even more closely with government to inform decision-making and policy direction.

Secretary of Botswana Diamond Manufacturers Association (BDMA), Mr Gihan

Llangakoon-Pluczenik, said the introduction of tariffs was a reminder of what happened three years ago when polished diamonds market slumped due to infiltration of lab-grown diamonds which gravely impacted Botswana's economy.

He said in March this year following the signing of the new sales agreement with DeBeers, the sector saw a glimmer of hope. He said whatever the amount of tariffs to be imposed would have consequences and observed that the impact of the tariffs could not be absorbed by an industry that was already bleeding. "It will create a further drop in the sales of polished diamonds and will encourage growth on lab grown diamonds," he said.

For his part, Botswana Chamber of Mines chief executive officer Mr Charles Siwawa, said the introduction of tariffs coupled with lab-grown diamonds in the market would mean reduced revenue generation for the country.

By nature, Mr Siwawa said tariffs were a burden to producers of goods. He said negotiations on the tariffs was a give and take, and wondered if there was much Botswana could offer in order to get zero tariffs.

Chairperson of Business Botswana Manufacturing Sector, Ms Tecla Evans, said the sector was exporting products to the US through AGOA and the introduction of tariffs came at a time when the sector was still advocating for a better share of the market. "AGOA was meant to help us grow and become more competitive and the tariffs will make us less competitive," she said.

As such, she said the setback would impede their focus of improving on competitiveness through improved skills and technological advancement to increase speed of production and quality of products.

Mr Gofaone Mapitse, chairperson of Mosisedi Farmers Association said the sector too was not spared as the country exported citrus products to the US. He said the US was a lucrative market and advised while negotiating for a better deal, it was equally important to establish alternative markets. "In the short term, the impact will be minimal, but we are still assessing what will happen in the long term," he said. **BOPA**

Association broadens scope to include financial empowerment

By Marvin Motlhabane

JWANENG - The Dikgosana Association, established in 2012, has launched Leebarope Micro Lender, to empower its members financially.

The launch coincided with the association's annual general meeting in Jwaneng on Thursday, presided over by the Minister of Local Government and Traditional Affairs, Mr Ketlhalefile Motshegwa.

In his address, Mr Motshegwa highlighted that while the association primarily comprised headmen responsible for arbitration, it also included various stakeholders involved in chieftaincy matters.

The membership has notably grown to 2 086, with the association focusing on facilitating collaboration between the government and members to enhance their working conditions.

"The aim is to empower Dikgosana with knowledge and skills development to effectively

manage disputes within their communities," he stated.

He also emphasised the importance of fostering solidarity and self-reliance among members as a strategic objective of the association.

Furthermore, Mr Motshegwa noted the association's dedication to establishing partnerships with local and international stakeholders concerning staff welfare, benefits, and the management of disciplinary issues.

He explained that to assist its members, the association had provided pay-slips to enhance recognition by banks for loan applications and savings.

Another key benefit introduced is a funeral scheme for members, along with the partnership with Bogosi Saving and Credit Cooperative Society Limited, providing additional savings and credit opportunities.

The minister commended the association for its commitment to improving the lives of its members, acknowledging the

poor working conditions many Dikgosana faced, which he said had been exacerbated by the Bogosi Act.

He assured that the ministry would work towards rectifying these conditions to restore dignity to Dikgosana.

Kgosi Basiamang Garebakwena, in a brief overview of the association, announced that by July 2025, members would have a full year of accessing services from lenders nationwide.

He revealed that Leebarope Micro Lenders would soon begin lending to its members, with all interest generated retained within the association and shared among members periodically.

Additionally, members will have the opportunity to buy shares in the micro lending enterprise, with the collective returns planned for future establishment of a commercial bank, solidifying financial independence for the association's members. **BOPA**

'Chambers of commerce need support'

By Lesedi Thatayamodimo

GABORONE - In a renewed call to stimulate Botswana's economic growth, the country's ambassador to India, Mr Gilbert Mangole, has emphasised the need to support and strengthen chambers of commerce and industry across the country.

Speaking at the India-Botswana-Lesotho Business Roundtable in Gaborone on Thursday, Mr Mangole described chambers of commerce as 'vital engines of economic coordination and development,' urging both government and private sector actors to invest more on those institutions.

"Chambers of commerce are not just meeting places for businesspeople, they are platforms for advocacy, education, trade facilitation, and community development, we must empower the institutions that support them."

Mr Mangole highlighted that, globally, chambers of commerce served as hubs for mentorship, innovation, and international trade connections.

"Elsewhere in the world, chambers of commerce and industry drive the economy, with governments playing a facilitating role," he noted

The business roundtable was aimed at providing a direct platform for entrepreneurs and investors from the tripartite countries to meet face to face to explore potential investment opportunities.

The event, which drew participation from a wide range



Botswana-India Business Conclave delegates after deliberations in Gaborone on Thursday. Botswana Ambassador to India, Mr Gilbert Mangole emphasised the need to support and strengthen chambers of commerce and industry across the country, describing them as vital engines of economic coordination and development. Photo: Thompson Keobaletswe

of sectors including agriculture, technology, manufacturing, mining, and services, aimed to deepen trade relations, promote joint ventures, and foster regional collaboration.

Indian High Commissioner to Botswana, Mr Bharath Kumar Kuthati praised the initiative and underscored the 'immense evident potential' for tripartite collaboration.

Mr Kuthati emphasised that India's private sector, known for cost-effective and scalable solutions, had a strong track record in emerging markets and was committed to mutual growth through partnership models.

"The interests represented by Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) delegation, ranging from telecom and education technology to renewables, agro-processing, and diamonds, speaks and reflect the diversity and depth of Indian enterprise," he said.

He added that those sectors, align closely with Botswana and Lesotho's priorities of digital transformation, agricultural resilience, infrastructure development, and skills training.

Mr Kuthati said while Botswana and Lesotho were distinct in their histories and economic pathways, both offered a stable

policy environment, youthful populations, and a commitment to economic transformation.

Telecommunications Consultants India Limited (TCIL) Executive Director and head of the Indian FICCI delegation, Mr Rakesh Kumar, described the event as more than just a networking platform. "It's about building bridges between our economies, identifying mutual strengths, and creating long-term partnerships that can drive inclusive growth," he said.

In return, Mr Kumar said, India offered a reliable, long-term partnership rooted in mutual respect, and shaped by the

values of equity, inclusion, and sustainability.

"We are not just looking to sell products, we are here to co-create ecosystems of innovation and value," he added.

The roundtable concluded with the signing of two significant Memoranda of Understanding, between FICCI and the Botswana Chamber of Commerce and Industry, and another between FICCI and the Lesotho Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

The agreements mark a shared commitment to sustained business cooperation, information exchange, and practical enterprise support. **BOPA**

STUDY ENGINEERING, COMMERCE, EDUCATION OR APPLIED SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

DEGREE & DIPLOMA PROGRAMMES

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

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

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

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

NON CREDIT BEARING SHORT COURSES

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

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

*Non Credit Bearing Short Courses are HRDC Approved.

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

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

*All programmes are ERB recognised.

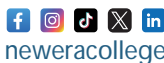


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Ndzinge calls for regulations review

By Thamani Shabani

MAUN - Managing director and owner of Ta Shebube lodges, Prof. Shabani Ndzinge has called for a review of Kalahari Transfrontier Park regulations.

Ta Shebube is a lodging Botswana company located on two rivers along the Nossop river near the Kalahari Trans Frontier Park in the Kgalagadi South District.

Debating the topic: How tourism can diversify the economy,? at the ongoing two-day HATAB conference in Maun recently, Prof. Ndzinge argued that the current framework, established 25 years ago, disproportionately benefited one country (South Africa) and failed to maximise the economic benefits for the other partners (Botswana and Namibia).

He contended that regulations, which differed from Botswana's own tourism laws, needed updating to create a more equitable sharing of benefits from the park for all three partner countries, Botswana, Namibia, and South Africa.

"The current regulations disproportionately favour one nation, hindering Botswana's potential gains from the KTP. This includes the use of a different legal framework than that of Botswana," he said.

The conference, themed: Botswana Tourism: What are the conditions for growth?, also saw

discussion on broader regulatory reform within Botswana tourism sector.

Prof. Ndzinge also highlighted the need to review outdated regulations and expanding tourism activities beyond the Ngamiland and Chobe regions, exploring opportunities in areas such as Tuli Block and Central Kalahari Game Reserve.

Such diversification, he said was vital for attracting Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) and bolstering economic growth, particularly given the challenges facing the diamond sector.

Chobe Holdings Chief Executive Officer, Mr John Gibson emphasised the significant contribution of tourism to Botswana's GDP and the importance of strategic, sustainable investments in the sector.

Along with other panellists, he stressed the need for collaborative efforts between government and private sector to develop effective solutions.

Wilderness Safaries CEO, Mr Keith Vincent highlighted the urgent need to leverage post-COVID-19 recovery in international travel, adding that Botswana could take advantage of the development and invest in tourism, which is now the new engine of economic growth.

He said the tourism industry was prone to corruption given its lucrative market and therefore, important to come up with laws



Panelists, Ta Shebube managing director, Prof. Shabani Ndzinge (left), Chobe Holdings CEO, Mr John Gibson (centre) and Great Plains co-owner, Mr Dereck Joubert during a panel discussion at the HATAB annual conference in Maun on Thursday. Prof. Ndzinge said Kalahari Transfrontier Park regulations needed to be reviewed to maximise benefits for all partners. Photo: Ogopoleng Kgomoethata

that prevented the would be corruptors.

Meanwhile, 40-year veteran of the tourism industry, Mr Dereck Joubert stressed the importance of Botswana's unique tourism model and the need for strong regulations to combat corruption within the sector.

Along with Chief Executive Officer for Great Plans Conservation they emphasised the need for a balance between wildlife conservation and human well-being, recognising the interdependence of both for sustainable tourism development.

The debate underscored a broad consensus on the need for regulatory modernisation and strategic planning to fully realise Botswana's tourism potential.

Earlier, Minister of Tourism and Environment, Mr Wynter Mmolotsi acknowledged the debate within Botswana's hospitality sector sparked by the recent introduction of adjusted per diem rates for civil servants, which resulted in a shift in accommodation choices, with a decrease in bookings at hotels and lodges and a corresponding increase in demand for guesthouses.

He observed that budgetary constraints resulting from the new rates may be influencing accommodation decisions.

He said his ministry planned to engage with relevant stakeholders to explore solutions that addressed the concerns raised by the hospitality industry.

BOPA

BENEFICIARY ASSESSMENT NOTICE



CALL FOR BENEFICIARIES - DEATH BENEFITS CLAIMS

In line with the provisions of the Retirement Funds Act (2022) (the Act) which require retirement funds administrators to trace beneficiaries of death claims, NMG Administrators Botswana is currently assessing beneficiaries for deceased members of the Botswana Public Officers Pension Fund listed below. Therefore, all possible beneficiaries/dependants should liaise with the Administrator. This is to ensure that all beneficiaries or dependants are known and considered by the Trustees in apportioning the Death Benefits in pursuit of their fiduciary responsibility.

Kindly contact NMG Administrators Botswana within 14 days from the date of this Publication.

MEMBER NAME	DATE OF DEATH	MEMBERSHIP STATUS
Inajame Direkileng	09/10/2024	Active
Joshua McIntyre	19/04/2023	Active
Peter Mofonga	30/09/2024	Active
Goga Daman	05/04/2024	Active
Goabetswe Candy Ngwai	27/03/2024	Active
Phillip Kagiso	12/08/2024	Active
Gaseyo G Tisane	12/07/2024	Active
Nkalosang Difiedile	07/03/2024	Active
Tuelo Titus	19/11/2024	Active
Keatametse Matlhaba	26/11/2024	Active
Oneile Uket	21/10/2024	Active
Busani Khongo	05/06/2024	Active

MEMBER NAME	DATE OF DEATH	MEMBERSHIP STATUS
Sammy Mpatane	09/10/2023	Active
Amogelang Ntapu	24/02/2024	Active
Keabetswe Molale	02/12/2024	Active
Benjamin Mhiko	06/07/2024	Active
Thusego Mathibidi	12/08/2024	Active
Victor Maswabi	12/05/2024	Active
Tiego Ogotse	14/11/2024	Active
Tumelo Tshiamiso	09/09/2024	Active
Pesalema Nkaletsa	03/08/2025	Active
Boemo Johane	13/08/2024	Active
Wilfred Radihephi	13/11/2024	Pensioner

Please contact NMG Administrators Botswana at: +267 318 6824/ 241 2562/ 588 1236/ 686 0597 or Toll Free: 0800 600 177

Asphalt Botswana donates to Kanye United

By Marvin Motlhabane

KANYE - In an effort to enhance sports development in the southern region, Asphalt Botswana has donated sports equipment to Kanye United Football Club through its Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiative.

The donation, valued at P41 600, includes 25 pairs of soccer boots, two complete soccer kits, two pairs of goalkeeper gloves, a soccer net, and corner flags.

During the handover ceremony held on Wednesday, Ministry of Sport and Arts coordinator for Kanye District, Mr Moeti Godisamang praised Asphalt Botswana for its contribution.

He noted that supporting sports could greatly benefit Botswana's economy, emphasising the alignment of the initiative with the pillars of Botswana Vision 2036, particularly in promoting sport tourism and alleviating unemployment.

Asphalt Botswana Site Manager, Mr Oscar

Maribeng stated that the donation aimed to inspire young people to discover and hone their sporting talents, steering them away from negative influences. He urged Kanye United FC to meticulously care for the equipment and utilise it effectively.

Kanye United FC manager, Mr Mathews Ramolala, expressed gratitude to Asphalt Botswana, stating that the assistance would significantly alleviate the team's financial struggles in acquiring sports gear. **BOPA**



World safety, health day in Letlhakane today

By Thandy Tebogo

LETLHAKANE - Letlhakane will today host the commemoration of World Day for Safety and Health at Work.


Held under the theme: Revolutionizing Health and Safety; the Role of AI and Digitisation at Work, the event will be held at Lucara Stadium. Minister of Labour and Home

Affairs Major General Pius Mokgware will be the guest speaker at the commemoration. Chairperson of the local organising committee, Ms Tebogo Gagoangwe stated in an interview that the objective of the event was to establish the role of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and digitisation at work.

She said the commemoration would consider the advantages


and disadvantages brought about by AI in the workplace, establishing how AI had enhanced work and how it had affected the lives of people at work. The event will start at 6am with a 10km walk from Letlhakane Rural Administration Centre to Lucara stadium and activities of the day include aerobics and first aid simulation by different organisations. **BOPA**


Botswana Karate Association (BOKA) vice president technical, Sensei Union Kgafela (right) with BOKA attorney, Mr Maatla Ratshee (centre) and Attorney Ofentse Khumomotse at the Court of Appeal in Gaborone on Friday. The BOKA case will be heard today at the Court of Appeal, where disgruntled members are seeking a stay of execution. The high court had earlier ruled in favour of the executive led by Sensei Mpho Bakwadi, declaring the interim committee headed by Mr Keorapetse Mogopodi unconstitutional. Aggrieved members, including interim publicity secretary Mr Moses Tubego, are challenging the ruling. The hearing was delayed after the interim committee's lawyer requested more time to review legal points raised by respondents. Photo: Phenyio Ramatu



PRISONS DAY Celebrations


3RD MAY 2025





Time: 8AM

Prison Staff College (Mahalapye)



BTV1

Botswana Prison Service

THEME STRENGTHENING OFFENDER CORRECTION THROUGH COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Mosadi thari ya setshaba

Ka Victoria Kesimolotse

SETSILE - Tona wa Lephata la Banana le Bong, Mme Lesego Chombo a re dikgwetlho tsa bomme di boima ebile di dintsi.

O buile jaana kwa bokopanong jwa bomme le basetsana kwa Setsile jo bo neng bo tsenwe ke batsaya karolo go tswa kwa Mahalapye le metsana e e mo tikologong jaaka Dovedale, Taupye, Kudumatse le Mokoswane.

Mme Chombo a re bomme ke thari ya setshaba, ka jalo go botlhokwa gore setshaba se sekaseke ka fa bomme le bana ba tshedisiwang ka teng mo malwapeng.

O gwetlhile borre go tsaya karolo mo go sireletseng bomme le bana kgatlhanong le kgokgontsho a tswela ka go supa fa dipalo tsa kgokgontsho ya bomme le bana di tsitsibanya mmele.

A re bomme le basetsana ba a thubediwa, ba a bolawa mme gape ba tshubelwa mo mantlong.

Tona a re Mahalapye o mo maamong a borobabongwe mo Botswana fa go tla mo go tsa kgokgontsho.

A tswela a re mo lekgolong, masome mane le bobedi ke palo ya bomme e e kgokgontshiwang lefatsheng lotlhe ka bophara mme ebile mo lekgolong, lesome le borobabongwe e le palo ya bomme ba ba kgokgontshang.

A re go botlhokwa go tshela ka kagiso le thokgamo ka kgokgontsho e ama mongwe le mongwe.

Tona Chombo o rotloeditse setshaba go tsibogela seemo se, ka se supa fa bomme ba tshela ka tshakgalo.

A re ngwao ga e sa tlhole e

salwa morago, mme go lebege le yone e ne e sa tlhalosiwe sentle ka bomme bontsi ba tle ba bue fa ba rutiwa go bipa dikgang tsa malwapa a bone.

O gakolotse gore go bipa ga go tewe go bipa gotlhe le dikgang tsa kgokgontsho, mme ebile o rotloeditse bogosi go tshwaraganela dithuto tsa ngwao le morafe gore dikgang tsa kgokgontsho di fokotsege.

A re lefatsheng la Botswana le itebagantse le kgokgontsho ya bomme le bana, ka go lemotshega ba arametse mogote wa kgokgontsho ya mo malwapeng.

Tona Chombo o supile gore dikgang tsa kgokgontsho di tsala ditlamorago tse di ngomolang pelo di tshwana le malwetsi a tlhaloganyo, bogole le tse dingwe.

O akgoletse maphata a a ikgobokantseng go lwantsha dkgokgontsho.

O rotloeditse batsadi go ruta bana ba bone ba basetsana go ithata le go itsaya tsia a re thuto ga ya tshwanela go felela kwa dikoleng mme le kwa malwapeng batsadi ba na le sebaka sa go ka ruta bana go itshireletsa.

Tona Chombo a re thuto e ka ntsha bana mo diphatseng tsa go felela ba dirisiwa botlhaswa le go ka tla go nna mo botsalanong jo ba kgokgontshiwang mo go jone fa ba itse boleng jwa bone.

Mme Chombo a re batsadi ba tshwanetse go rotloetsa bana go tsena dikole ba iperekela ka thuto e le mpho e ba ka sekeng ba e tseelwe ke ope.

A rotloetsa thata gore bana ba basetsana ba seka ba kgorelediwa go ithutuntshetsa ditiro tse go golwang go itsewe e le tsa borre fela jaaka tsa motlakase, kago le tse dingwe. **BOPA**



Tona wa Lephata la Banana le Bong, Mme Lesego Chombo a ipela le bomme kwa bokopanong jwa bomme le basetsana kwa Setsile bosheng. A re bomme ke thari ya setshaba, ka jalo go botlhokwa gore setshaba ka kakaretso se sekaseke ka fa bomme le bana ba tshedisiwang ka teng mo malwapeng.

Senepe: Lephata la Banana le Bong

Go anama ga bolwetse jwa mabele go tshwenya barui

Ka Keamogetse Setilo

SEROWE - Banni ba Tshimoyapula ba boletse fa ba tshwentswe ke kanamo ya bolwetse jwa mabele mo leruong.

Ba tlhalositse se, kwa phuthegong ya kgotla e e neng e buisiwa ke mothusa tona kwa lephateng la papadi le

tlhabololo kgwebo, Rre Baratiwa Mathoothe kwa Tshimoyapula ka Labone.

Seemo se ba bolela fa se bakwa ke gore diruiwa di ja leswe la batho, le le tlogelwang gongwe le gongwe ke ba ba itiketsang mo mafulong ba bo ba sa phepafatse.

Fa a tswa la gagwe, Modulasetilo wa khansela, ya

Serowe, Rre Atamelang Thaga o ne a rurifatsa seo, a tshwaela fa ba ne ba itemogela seemo se morago ga go ya go tlhola batho ba ba neng ba ile go bapala phane mo kgaolong eo.

O ne a kgala tiro ya go nna jaana a sa kgwe mathe, a bolela fa go leswafatsa tikologo go baya matshele a batho le diphologolo mo kotsing ka go baka malwetse.

O ne a tswela ka go lemotsha setshaba ka bodiphatsa jwa go sa phepafatseng tikologo e ba leng mo go yone ka nako tsotlhe.

Fa a tswa la gagwe, Rre Mathoothe o ne a gwetlha morafe go leka go tsenya letsogo mo go godiseng itsholelo ya lefatsheng.

Rre Mathoothe o ne a supa fa puso a apeile mananeo a a diretsweng go inola Motswana mo lehumeng.

O ne a kgothatsa balemi le barui go bereka ba le seopo se le sengwe gore batle ba bone thobo e e botoka.

O ne a tswela a fa sekai ka gore, fa balemi ba sika loo namune ba ka ikgobokanya, go ka nna motlhofo go bona moreki yo o ka rekang thobo ya bone yotlhe ka tlhwatlhwa e e fa godingwana go na le fa ba itemela ba bo ba rekisa ka bonosi.

O ne a garela ka go kopa morafe go nna ka popagano, go dira mmogo le go nna pelotelele, a bolela fa tse e le tsone di agang setshaba. **BOPA**

Bo maipaafela ba golela pele kwa Mmadinare

Ka Gaboselwe Olesitse

MMADINARE - Mothusa modulasetilo wa lekgotla le le botlana la kabo ditsha la Mmadinare Rre Alex Gaoskelwe o tlhalositse fa lekgotla le aperwe ke dikgang tsa bo maipaafela.

Rre Gaoskelwe o buile se kwa bokopanong jo boneng bo rulagantswe ke mopalamente wa kgaolo ya Mmadinare, Rre Ketlhalefile Motshegwa ka Labotlhano.

O tlhalositse fa kgang ya bo maipaafela segolo jang e e amang masimo e tswa kgakala ka bangwe ba bone ba tlhalositse fa ba sa le ba ntse kwa mafelong ao pele ga moepo wa BCL o bulwa.

O kaile fa seemo se ne sa bifela pele morago ga go tswalwa ga moepo wa BCL, Rre Gaoskelwe o tlhalositse fa bangwe ba sa le ba tseetswe masimo mme ba

solofediwa go neelwa madi a bone mme nako kgolo ke eno.

Mothusa modulasetilo o ne a tlhalosa fa ba ne ba sala morago dikgang tse, mme tsa felela di fetiseditswe kwa lekgotleng le letona la kabo ditsha la Ngwato, a re le mo nakong ya gompieno ga di ise di bone tharabololo.

Rre Gaoskelwe o ne a tswela a tlhalosa fa se se dirile kgotlhang magareng ga lekgotla la kabo ditsha la Mmadinare le batho ba kgaolo ya Mmadinare.

Mo go tse dingwe Rre Gaoskelwe o boletse fa melao ya kabo ya lefatsheng e setse e siilwe ke nako mme e tlhoka go tlhodumelwa sesha.

O ne a fa sekai ka sekgele sa go bewa ga didiba kwa merakeng, a tlhalosa fa go sa tlhole go na le lefatsheng le le lekaneng gore batho ba kgone go bewa.

Rre Gaoskelwe o ne a re go

botlhokwa gore selekanyo sa dikhilomethara tse thataro tsa go bewa ga didiba se fokodiwe gore ba bangwe ba kgone go nna le sebaka sa go bona didiba.

O tlhalositse fa puso e tswa ka mananeo a mantle a a ka sologelang Batswana mosola mme a paledisiwa ke melao ya kabo ya lefatsheng.

E rile a ba kgwa dikgaba, Rre Motshegwa yo e bileng e le tona wa lephata la dikgaolo le tsa ngwao, a tlhalosa fa a itse ka dikgang tsa bo maipaafela segolo jang ba kgaolo ya Nkgobotwana.

Rre Motshegwa o boletse fa a setse a kile a kopana le mothusa tona wa Lefatsheng le temo thuo Dr Edwin Dikoloti go thusana go tswa ka ditharabololo.

O kaile fa go le botlhokwa gore go duwe ka ditharabololo go neela setshaba dikarabo ka nako le ntswa gongwe di ka se ke di ba

tsele sentle.

Le fa go ntse jalo, o tlhalositse fa banni ba Mmadinare le Selebi Phikwe ba santse ba le dipelo di botlhoko ka ba tlhalosa fa ba ne ba tseelwa masimo mme ba sa boelwa ke sepe.

O tswelotse a bolelela banni fa go le botlhokwa gore morafe o nne le dipelo mo dikomponeng tse di dirang ditiro kwa mafelong a bone.

Le fa go ntse jalo, Rre Motshegwa o ne a solofetsa bodiredi jwa Mmadinare sub-Land Board fa a utlwile matshwenyego a bone mme a ba solofetsa fa a tlaa a kopanela le ba ba maleba go tswa ka ditharabololo.

Rre Motshegwa o ne a abela sekolo se segolwane sa Makome kwa Mmadinare ditilo di le masome a mane le botlhano. **BOPA**

'Embrace technology to access markets'

By Esther Mmolai

MAUN - Tourism players have been implored to adopt digital technologies to access new markets and align their operations with developing trends in the market.

Discussing the theme: leveraging digital technologies to build a customer focused tourism industry at the recent HATAB conference, Business Botswana chief executive officer, Mr Norman Moleele said the COVID-19 pandemic accelerated the need for digital transformation and as such their competitive edge depended on how digitally agile they were.

Today, he said, both large and small tourism enterprises had to leverage on technologies as modern tourists demanded seamless, digital first experiences from trip planning to post visit reviews.

Mr Moleele said digital technologies were good for global competitiveness. He added that to compete regionally and globally, Botswana must embrace smart tourism tools that aligned with international standards.

He said technology promoted operational efficiency as it reduced overheads and enhanced agility, enabling businesses to optimise booking, staffing, marketing and logistics.

"As Business Botswana, we are committed to helping HATAB members identify the right tools for their business model and training for effective



Participants at the HATAB conference in Maun. Business Botswana CEO, Mr Norman Moleele implored them to adopt digital technologies to access new markets and align their operations with developing trends. Photo: Ogopoleng Kgomoethata

use," he said.

Furthermore, Mr Moleele pointed out that there was a range of tools available from booking engines to customer engagement platforms.

Importantly, he noted, Botswana had a growing base of tech start-ups and entrepreneurs who could partner with

tourism players to localise and contextualise the tools.

Mr Moleele said technology affected every part of the tourism value chain, from planning, experience to post visit feedback, adding that digitally enabled businesses could improve service delivery, build stronger customer relationship

and enhance brand visibility.

He also appreciated that some local businesses were demonstrating resilience through innovation citing that some have developed packages such as mokoro rides, cultural lunches and craft tours which were now booked online via partnerships with agents and

other means.

However, we are seeing trend where some tourism facilities are not supporting local service providers with some centralizing their services outside the country, he said.

For local empowerment and sustainability, Mr Moleele said facilities must collaborate with local small and medium businesses and integrate them into the tourism value chain.

With unemployment being a major challenge, he emphasised that the sector must take a deliberate stance to develop and grow local enterprises so that they could also participate in improving the living standards of Batswana. Mr Moleele reaffirmed Business Botswana's commitment to supporting the digital transformation of tourism through advocacy, capacity building and collaboration.

"I also urge conference delegates to propose solutions on how to grow the sector and leverage digitisation" he added. **BOPA**

Kanye council welcomes staff from health ministry

By Relief Lephutshi

KANYE - The transition of primary health services from central government to local government in Kanye District involves the transfer of 371 employees, 17 health facilities, and 24 vehicles, including eight ambulances, as well as 27 staff houses that all require maintenance.

The transition also brought forth creation of another position for Deputy Council Secretary-Clinical Services alongside

those of Corporate Services, Operations and Development.

Kanye District Council chairperson, Mr Morapedi Kgosithebe said when addressing participants during the welcome ceremony of the health staff in Kanye recently.

"The initiative comes with a budget of about P7.6 million and Kanye District Council will need to implement austerity measures to achieve more with the limited resource," said Mr Kgosithebe.

He further added that, the financial situation was a call for

the council to intensify collection from its sources of revenue, inclusive of consultation and other fees at the clinics to ensure drug availability.

Mr Kgosithebe further said there was need for proper allocation of resources especially council vehicles advising that official trips should be planned to cut costs.

The transition of primary health care services from the Ministry of Health to the Ministry of Local Government and Traditional Affairs is aimed

at bringing services closer to the people by decentralising primary health care to local communities.

Southern DHMT Coordinator, Mr Conrad Ntsuape said he acknowledged concerns by the employees as they sought to understand the nature of their new environment.

He said the ceremony served to alleviate anxiety and confusion and noted that it was part of mental therapy, as change often necessitated effective change management. **BOPA**



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The week that



President Advocate Duma Boko (right), Minister of Transport and Infrastructure, Mr Noah Salakae (second right), Minister of Child Welfare and Basic Education, Ms Nono Kgafela-Mokoka (second left) and Mayor of Gaborone, Mr Oarabile Motlaleng (left) enjoying Edwin Serurubele Moroka's rendition at Bonno Target 3 000 Housing Development Project ground breaking ceremony. **Photo: Thompson Keobaletswe**



Lesotho High Commissioner to Botswana, Mr Lerata Pekane (left) and Federation on India Chambers of Commerce and Industry assistant secretary general and head of Africa, Mousumi Roy signing a Memorandum of Understanding during Botswana-Lesotho business roundtable in Gaborone. **Photo: Thompson Keobaletswe**



Oodi Weavers visual artists, Ms Ntshadi Sepotoke (left) and Ms Mpho Mhlanga (centre) sharing a light moment with De Beers vice president corporate affairs, Ms Otsile Mabeo at the opening of Thapong members exhibition. **Photo: Felicity Male**

The past week was marked by notable events which President Boko graced. The events included the launch of Botswana Development Project, awarding of Botswana Defence Force members in honour of their outstanding service and the annual K. G. Ebert-Stiftung also marked a century of advancing education in Botswana with a special celebration. Meanwhile at Thapong members exhibition showcased their creativity at the opening of members exhibition. The week on a good note was the Miss Universe Botswana 2025 in Gaborone and some sporting activities in Tlokweng.



Tloaneng farmer, Mr Rapula Ntsuwe surveying the damage caused by heavy rains at his field. The downpour destroyed much of his crops. **Photo: Tshepo Gombo**



Parliamentary Portfolio Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence, Security and International Trade, chairperson, Dr Unity Dow, bestowing medals on members of the Botswana Defence Force during the Award of Medals Parade ceremony in Mogoditshane. **Photo: Thompson Keobaletswe**

was in pictures

h President Advocate Duma
onno Target 3 000 Housing
ce Force deserving officers in
HATAB conference. Friedrich-
democracy and social justice
g Visual Arts Centre, artists
bers exhibition. Closing the
ana Blood Donation Drive in
g and Gaborone.



Botswana Defence Force deserving current and former members were awarded Duty Code Order, Pearl Jubilee and Foreign medals in recognition of their outstanding service and good conduct during the 48th Award of Medals Parade ceremony in Mogoditshane and Francistown.

Photo: Thompson Keobaletswe



Kalahari Women T20 Tournament hosted by Botswana Cricket Association commenced last week at Botswana Cricket Oval. The tournament, which ends on Wednesday, includes participation from Sierra Leone and Mozambique.

Photo: Thompson Keobaletswe



One of Miss Universe Botswana finalists, Lillian Andries enjoying a meal before donating blood during the blood donation drive in Gaborone. Donating blood requires one to have eaten beforehand to ensure stable blood sugar levels.

Photo: Felicity Male



Clerk of the National Assembly, Dr Gabriel Malebang (left), French Ambassador, Mr Oliver Brocheruin (second left), Speaker of National Assembly, Mr Dithapelo Keorapetse (centre), Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (FES) resident representative, Mr Thilo Schone (second right) and FES programmes manager, Ms Galaletsang Dintsi at FES foundation century celebration in Gaborone.

Photo: Tshepo Gombo



Tse Di Tona Tsa Kalawa Cultural Group entertaining guests at a HATAB conference cocktail dinner in Maun.

Photo: Ogopoleng Kgomoethata



Taung Young Strikers players celebrating their victory against Orapa United after penalty shootout during the Orange FA Cup encounter in Tlokweng on Saturday. Young Strikers won 5-4.

Photo: Phenyo Ramatu

Security and Justice
DF during the 48th
son Keobaletswe

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BUSINESS SERVICES

BAKERY FOR RENT in Mogoditshane. Call 77 096 964

FARM WORKERS

FARM WORKER WANTED at Diphepe farms.Contact: Ron Nkwadi @ 74 120 690

FARM WORKER WANTED at Morwa/Boriteng/Kgatlang Call 72993534

FARM WORKER WANTED Poultry at Boragane,Modipane.Contacts 71573377

FARM MANAGER WANTED with Agriculture experience at Morwa / Boriteng Kgatleng. Call 72993534

HERD BOY WANTED at Mabele Contact Kuda Machuwe 74 603 042
FARM WORKER WANTED at Mochudi, Selema lands. Apply to Mmusi Jacob Ramosaku Box 405380, Gaborone. Contact 75723938. Closing date 14 days after publication. No experience needed.

4 FARM WORKERS wanted at Thamaga at Leshona Lilian Shatera with following (1) Heavy duty drivers license (2) Auto Electrician (3) Age 47-60 yrs. Contact 73603320

FARM WORKER WANTED at Tsetsebye. Call Phillip 75 955 756

FARM WORKER WANTED at Masingwaneng. 3 years experience call Kagiso Mmolawa on 74746757 / 72 274 496. Closing date 13 May 2025 P O Box 30332 Francistown

HERD MEN WANTED at Pandamatenga Contact Moses Museke at 71 596 605 Box 306 Kasane

FARM WORKER WANTED. Contact Kebonye @ 71 720 505

NEIGHBOUR CONSULTATION

MRANDMRSMLAZIE of plot 23836 Gaborone, wishes to change land use from residential to commercial (guest house). Whoever objects to the proposal, contact Gaborone City Council Planning on 3657400 within 14 days or call 74 200 948

OWNER OF PLOT NO 2150 Metlhabeng ward, Tlokweng would like to notify neighbors of plot no.s 249 and 251 about the intent to construct a boundary wall. For any queries contact Tlokweng Planning Office on 369 5002/3 within fourteen (14) days of this publication.

NEIGHBOURHOOD CONSULTATION OWNER of plot No 16829, Palapye, Extension 11 Mr Kabelo Makwinja would like to change land use from single - family residential to multi-family residential. For any objections contact Palapye District Council, Physical Planning Office on Telephone No 493 0821, within fourteen (14) days of publication of this notice.

CHANGE OF LANDUSE Mogomotsi Rankokwane, owner of plot 496, Goo-Moloinyana ward, Molepolole, intends to change land use from Commercial Guest House to Commercial. For any objection,contact Molepolole Council Physical Planning Office. Telephone (+267) 592 0841 or cellphone No. 72 230 569

INNOCENT JORGENSEN of plot 1027 Selebi Phikwe would like to change use of the plot from single family to a lodge. Any objection contact 72 428 128

TSWANA BYTES FARM owned by Seipone Oreeditse, at Mmadikagala land in Mmadinare intends to regularize and change land use from intergrated farm to mixed use (agriculture and commercial-hotel and campsite).Any objections should contact Bobirwa District Council Physical Planning Unit on 261 9274 within 14 days of this publication.

OWNER OF PLOT 2150 Metlhabeng ward, Tlokweng would like to change land use of their residential plot into multi-residential. Any objections can be raised within fourteen (14) days to Tlokweng Council, physical planning office or contact 392 8200

OWNER OF PLOT 16224, Maratadiba in Tlokweng intends to change land use from residential to multi-family use. If any objections contact 74 245 444 or contact Tlokweng physical planning office, (+267) 369 5000

OREEDITSE KEABETSW, **OWNER** of plot opposite DR Pataula clinic in Mmadinare Seboo ward intend to regularize and change land use from residential to commercial. Any objections should contact Bobirwa District Council physical planning unit on 261 9274 within 14 days of this publication.

OWNER OF LOT 37673, Block 5, Mogoditshane wishes to change land use from single residential to multi-residential and erect boundary wall. Enquiries to Mogoditshane Sub-district council, planning @ 310 5615 or @ 72 113 191 to view plans

VACANCIES

WANTED: VALUATION MANAGER Candidate should possess Diploma or above in Real Estate. An experienced mature person with over 15 years in property valuation practice and administration at senior level.Candidate must be experienced in portfolio/large valuation projects. Apply: Box 5315,Gaborone Closing date:12/05/2025

BIBLE LIFE MINISTRIES,Palapye requires the services of Clergy or Pastor.At least diploma or above in Theology with 18 years experience or above in the same field.Apply: Box 10375 Palapye Closing date: 12/05/2025

VACANCY

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Enesia Football Club invites suitably, result oriented, self-driven and knowledgeable Individual with good analytical to join its Technical team.

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VACANCY:

Oxygen / Nitrogen Gas Plant Operator: Applicant should be able to operate Oxygen / Nitrogen gas manufacturing gas plant and maintain air compressor, airliner and air separation unit, and its repair pumps related to oxygen production.

Applicant should be able to work independently, without supervision. **5 years' experience** is required operating similar plant.

Apply to: The Director, Reliance Foundries (Pty) Ltd,
P O Box 2252, Gaborone, Botswana



SECONDARY SCHOOL TEACHER REQUIRED

Clifton College in Francistown requires a suitably qualified teacher to fill the following post:

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- Ability to manage the College's Sports Programme.
- Be able to coach cricket and hockey.
- Good interpersonal, planning, organisational and reporting skills.

Application letter, CV and at least two references should be forwarded to:

The Headmaster
Clifton College
Private Bag F48
Francistown
Tel: 241 8571

Email: collegehead@cliftonschoo.net

Closing date: 12 May, 2025

NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS

Master's Reference: **ESHGB ESHGB – 00404-24**

IN THE ESTATE of the late **LATE KGONGWANA NTSADING KOLOBE** who died at Tlokweng Nkaiela Ward, Tlokweng, Republic of Botswana, Tlokweng District on the 20th August 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 _____ on this _____ Day of _____ 2025

Executor Testamentary
Gagolepe T Kerekang
PO Box 404940
Gaborone
Mobile No. 75939380

PROVISIONAL LIQUIDATOR'S NOTICE

NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS

CLEANICO (PTY) LTD – UNDER PROVISIONAL LIQUIDATION

Master's Reference – **LQHGB – 000002 - 25**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that I, **Jethro Kamutsi** was appointed the **Provisional Liquidator of Cleanico (Pty) Ltd** on the **12th of February 2025**.

Debtors and Creditors of the company are hereby required to pay their debts and/or file their claims of whatever nature with the undersigned within thirty (30) **days** after the publication hereof.

By the **Provisional Liquidator**
Jethro Kamutsi

Prestige Business Consultants (Pty) Ltd
Setlhoa Office Park, Unit 6
Setlhoa Village, Gaborone
P O Box 602430
Gaborone

VACANCY: Industrial Electrician for Steel Plant

The ideal candidate will be responsible for installing, maintaining, repairing and troubleshooting electrical systems and equipment used in our steel production facilities, including rolling mills, furnaces, heavy industrial machinery.

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Work independently and closely with the maintenance and production teams to ensure smooth operations. Should have a minimum of 5 years in a similar field.

Please apply in confidence to:
The Director, Rhino Steel Rolling Mills (Pty) Ltd,
P O Box 3028, Gaborone, Botswana.

IN THE HIGH COURT OF THE REPUBLIC OF BOTSWANA HELD AT FRANCISTOWN ESHFT 000159/25

NOTICE TO DEBTOR AND CREDITORS

IN THE ESTATE of the late **STEPHEN GOBUAMANG HAMILTON SELETAMOTSE ESHFT:000159/25** who died at **NYANGABWE HOSPITAL, FRANCISTOWN DISTRICT** on the **30/01/2025**

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

DATED AT FRANCISTOWN THIS 24TH DAY OF APRIL 2025

THERO LEAGO OMPHILE
SELETAMOTSE
EXECUTOR DATIVE
P O BOX 10468 TATITOWN

AND TO: MASTER OF THE HIGH COURT
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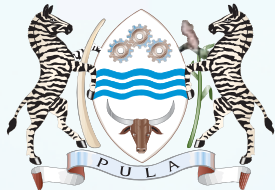


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Republic of Botswana

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 8th April 2025

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

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

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



Kenya issues stiffer penalties on traffickers

NAIROBI - Kenya has intensified fight against wildlife crimes, with courts issuing jail sentences and heavy fines to traffickers of aloe gum, elephant tusks, and rhino horns. On Friday the Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS) said three suspects were arraigned for the illegal trafficking of 15 tonnes of aloe gum valued at about US\$116 000 after the consignment was intercepted in Samburu County, northern Kenya. Each of the three suspects was granted bail of US\$3 861, with the next court appearance scheduled for this week, the KWS said, reaffirming the

country's commitment to using the judicial system to root out wildlife crimes. The arrests followed a multi-agency security operation along a major highway in northern Kenya, it added. Aloe gum, a drought-resistant plant prized for its medicinal properties, is a protected natural resource under Kenyan law. In a separate incident, two individuals were sentenced to

five years in prison after they were found in possession of elephant tusks worth US\$20 000 in Kajiado County, southeastern Kenya, a region home to several iconic wildlife species. The two were granted 14 days to appeal the sentence, even as authorities heightened surveillance along wildlife corridors in southern Kenya to prevent poaching, the agency said.

Meanwhile, another suspect arrested last week in Moyale, northern Kenya, with 2.6 kg of rhino horn valued at US\$20 077 was denied bail after prosecutors deemed him a flight risk. According to KWS forensic experts, the confiscated horn is linked to the killing of one black rhino, a critically endangered species with fewer than 1 000 remaining in Kenya. "These three cases reflect our

unwavering resolve to combat all forms of illegal wildlife trade-from endangered species trophies to commercially exploited natural products like aloe gum," it said. The agency pledged to leverage domestic and international legal instruments to protect iconic wildlife species at risk of poaching, including giant mammals, carnivores, and reptiles. *Xinhua*



NAIROBI - *The fight against wildlife crimes in Kenya has intensified, with courts issuing jail sentences and heavy fines to traffickers of aloe gum, elephant tusks, and rhino horns.* Photo: Xinhua

Trump, Zelensky meet on sidelines of Pope funeral

ROME - US President Donald Trump met with Ukrain President Volodymyr Zelensky on Saturday on the sidelines of Pope Francis' funeral in Vatican City. A spokesperson from Kiev was quoted by Italian broadcaster Rai News saying that Zelensky and Trump held a meeting ahead of the funeral, without providing further details. The White House also confirmed the meeting, describing their conversation as "productive." Several media outlets also reported that Trump and Zelensky agreed to meet again on Saturday following the funeral. The two leaders' meeting came just one day after Trump said Russia and Ukraine were "very close to a deal," following talks between his envoy, Steve Witkoff, and Russia President Vladimir Putin in Moscow on Friday. *Xinhua*



Pope Francis

Uganda declares end of Ebola outbreak

MBALE - Uganda has declared an end to the Sudan Ebola Virus Disease (SVD) outbreak after completing a 42-day mandatory countdown without any new confirmed cases reported, less than three months after the virus was detected in Kampala. Uganda Minister of Health Ruth Aceng made the announcement on Saturday at Busamagga Primary School playground in the eastern city of Mbale, one of the areas affected by Ebola. The World Health Organization (WHO) guidelines require that for a country to be declared Ebola-free, it must spend 42 days (two 21-day incubation cycles of the virus) without any new cases reported. "Having completed two full incubation cycles that is, 42 days since the last confirmed case was discharged and having recorded no new cases amid sustained surveillance efforts, I now officially declare the current Sudan Ebola Virus Disease outbreak in Uganda to be over. Uganda is now free of active Ebola transmission," Aceng said. Uganda declared the SVD outbreak on January 30 after a 32-year-old nurse died of the disease at the Mulago National

Referral Hospital in Kampala. During the outbreak, 14 cases, 12 confirmed through laboratory tests and two probable, were reported in the East African country. Four deaths, two confirmed and two probable, occurred, according to health authorities. A total of 10 people recovered from the infection, while 534 people were identified as contacts of the confirmed and probable cases and were closely monitored. In a WHO statement, Chikwe Ihekweazu, acting WHO regional director for Africa, said Uganda's experience in managing outbreaks enabled a fast, coordinated and effective response to the virus. "This outbreak challenged us in new ways. It touched both urban and rural communities across the country and unfolded against the backdrop of significant global funding constraints. The response demonstrated Uganda's long-standing leadership in tackling public health emergencies," Ihekweazu said. As the WHO, we are extremely proud to have supported these efforts every step of the way," he

added. According to the WHO, this outbreak was caused by the Sudan Ebola virus subtype, one of six species of the Ebola virus, a severe, often fatal illness affecting humans and other primates. There are no approved treatments or vaccines for the Sudan strain of Ebola, but early initiation of supportive care has been shown to significantly reduce mortality, according to the WHO. Despite the absence of licensed countermeasures against this species of Ebola, candidate vaccines were in various phases of clinical trials. Within four days of the government's declaration of the outbreak, the first-ever randomised clinical trial for vaccine safety and efficacy using the ring vaccination approach was launched. The WHO donated 2 160 doses of the Ebola trial vaccine to Uganda to evaluate the efficacy of the vaccine in combating SVD, the eighth outbreak of the deadly disease in the country. "Uganda's leadership and resilience were crucial in containing this outbreak," said Kasonde Mwinga, WHO representative in Uganda. "From

day one, the WHO worked hand-in-hand with the Ministry of Health, deploying expertise, providing essential supplies, and ensuring every suspected case was investigated. The people of Uganda have shown extraordinary resolve," she said. The WHO said that although the outbreak in Uganda was over, the Ministry of Health, with continued support from the global health body and partners, would continue investing in surveillance, survivor care and preparedness to ensure Uganda remained safe. *Xinhua*



Ruth Aceng

DRC, Rwanda to draft peace deal

KINSHASA - The Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) and Rwanda signed a Declaration of Principles in Washington, the United States on Friday, marking a significant step toward restoring peace in eastern Congo, a region long plagued by conflict.

The declaration was signed by DRC Foreign Minister Therese Kayikwamba Wagner and her Rwanda counterpart Olivier Nduhungirehe, in a ceremony attended by US Secretary of State Marco Rubio.

It commits both parties to mutual respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity, the peaceful resolution of disputes, and an end to support for armed groups destabilising the region.

The two sides agreed to produce a draft comprehensive peace agreement by May 2, underlining the urgency of translating these principles into concrete commitments.

Eastern DRC has been mired in decades of conflict, particularly offensives by the March 23 Movement (M23), a rebellion Kinshasa accusing Kigali of supporting.

Rwanda, for its part, denies any ties to the M23, instead accusing the Congolese army of collaborating with remnants of the Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Rwanda (FDLR), a group implicated in the 1994 genocide.

The declaration also prioritises the voluntary and secure return of displaced civilians and promotes a framework for regional economic integration.

Rwanda's foreign minister

highlighted plans to strengthen economic cooperation through new regional value chains, including initiatives involving US private sector investment.

The signing has sparked cautious optimism in diplomatic circles, though observers noted that previous ceasefire efforts had repeatedly collapsed. "You have every reason to expect more than promises," Wagner said addressing citizens, highlighting the significance of this new initiative.

A tangled web of mediators efforts to mediate peace in eastern Congo have become increasingly complex, with multiple initiatives led by different actors operating simultaneously.

In March, Qatar emerged as a new player when Emir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani hosted a landmark meeting in Doha between DRC President Felix Tshisekedi and Rwanda President Paul Kagame.

The two leaders issued a joint call for an "immediate and unconditional" ceasefire, reflecting ongoing African-led peace efforts. Qatar's mediation also included contacts with the M23 rebel group, whose resurgence has been central to the current conflict.

While Kinshasa hailed the Doha meeting as a "first step," Kigali emphasised the need to address security concerns related to the presence of the FDLR militia in eastern Congo a divergence that highlights the multiple tracks of dialogue underway.

Parallel to Qatar's engagement, the African Union (AU) and regional organisations have continued their long-haul efforts.



WASHINGTON D.C. - US Secretary of State Marco Rubio (centre), Rwanda Foreign Minister Olivier Nduhungirehe (right) and Democratic Republic of Congo Foreign Minister Therese Kayikwamba Wagner signing a Declaration of Principles between the two countries in the Treaty Room of the State Department in Washington, DC on Friday. Photo: Xinhua

The AU's mediation, initially led by Angola President Joao Lourenco in 2022, made progress last year but faltered after sanctions led to the withdrawal of the M23 from planned talks. Angola stepped down from its mediator role in March, with Togo President Faure Gnassingbe appointed the new AU mediator.

Meanwhile, the East African Community (EAC) has pursued the Nairobi Process since 2022, facilitating dialogue between Kinshasa and armed groups,

supported by a regional force deployed in eastern DRC.

The Southern African Development Community (SADC) has also deepened its involvement, expressing concern over regional stability. In late March, the EAC and the SADC agreed to coordinate efforts, expanding the mediation panel to five prominent African leaders, including former presidents from Kenya, Nigeria, Ethiopia, South Africa, and the Central African Republic.

While the expanded mediation

team aimed to improve inclusivity, it further complicated the diplomatic landscape, as the mandate of the new mediation panel remained unclear. Mounting humanitarian crisis amid ongoing diplomatic efforts, the humanitarian situation in eastern DRC continued to deteriorate sharply.

According to the United Nations (UN), more than one million people, including approximately 400 000 children, have been newly displaced since January 2025. Xinhua

Partnerships key to broad-based economic development

BEIJING - Countries can only achieve broad-based economic development by forging partnerships rooted in trust and dialogue a fact exemplified by China, UN Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator said.

Tom Fletcher who visited China told Xinhua on Friday that such cooperation was especially critical now, as the global humanitarian system faced immense strain amid ongoing conflicts in Gaza, Ukraine and Sudan.

"And partnerships require us all to listen, as well as to talk," he said, adding that China's approach to international engagement reflected that principle.

"It is not seeking to impose its view on others. It's seeking to build that dialogue and trust. And that's the spirit that I think we should all be cooperating in."

He added that the initiatives China proposed around peace and security, global development and cultural cooperation closely aligned with the UN's core mission of peacemaking, humanitarian efforts and global security. "There is a huge synergy there, and a huge potential as well for more partnership.

I think there are immense amounts of practical work we can do together, for example, the green humanitarian movement,

preparing for climate disasters, and practical support in countries, where I want to see much more day-to-day cooperation between our diplomats."

Fletcher said the concept of "a community with a shared future for mankind" was another key idea that highlighted global solidarity and "the world coming together, not pulling apart.

Fletcher said the Mombasa-Nairobi Standard Gauge Railway, a flagship project of China-Kenya Belt and Road cooperation.

He recalled driving between the two cities while living in Kenya back in the late 1990s. "It was a very bumpy road, and it took us a long time to get from Nairobi to Mombasa," he said.

"So to see those transport links shrinking the time and the distance between cities, I think, has a huge impact on the global economy and on global development.

The fact that the infrastructure is improving means I can move faster, but more importantly, it means we can move humanitarian supplies much faster.

We can get our convoys moving with food and medicine and shelter to reach those communities who need them so badly," he added.

He said as a proponent of multilateralism, he was worried about that potential impact of the United States retreat from international cooperation, aid cuts

and sweeping tariffs.

"I do not believe that countries can really build extensive economic development by retreating from the world," he said, adding that the tariffs risk an impact on the economies of the countries where humanitarian needs were already demanding.

He said there was also a risk that they might impact on the economies of many countries and donors whose support was essential for that humanitarian work.

Fletcher said because of those cuts, they were closing massive numbers of programmes, and saying goodbye to fantastic colleagues across the sector.

He said it was heartbreaking to lose those programmes, and to see the impact on the people they served.

Fletcher said they now needed to see other countries stepping forward.

He highlighted China's "real leadership role" in Myanmar's earthquake rescue operations.

"I was in Myanmar and saw the Chinese rescue teams going in 24 hours a day after the earthquake to pull survivors from the rubble.

In all those situations, you feel the despair, but you also feel hope, because it is in those moments when people are under such great pressure that they look out for each other, that they respond," he said. Xinhua



VATICAN - Pope Francis's funeral at St Peter's Square in the Vatican. The Argentinian pontiff, who died Easter Monday from a stroke and cardiac arrest, was buried on Saturday at the Basilica of St Mary Major in Rome following solemn, hours-long funeral rites. Pope Francis, the 266th pontiff of the Roman Catholic Church died at the age of 88. Photo: Xinhua

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BISSAU - Guinea Bissau's Minister of Social Communication Florentino Fernando Dias during an interview with Xinhua in Guinea-Bissau. He said they placed great importance on developing media cooperation with other countries. Photo: Xinhua

Guinea-Bissau values media cooperation

BISSAU - Guinea-Bissau places great importance on developing media cooperation with other countries, particularly with China, hoping to strengthen bilateral relations through deepening exchanges in the field of information dissemination, said Florentino Fernando Dias, Guinea-Bissau's Minister of Social Communication.

In an interview with Xinhua on Thursday, Dias said Guinea-Bissau faced challenges in international communication, such as limited media channels and a lack of diverse perspectives.

The country's longstanding dependence on Western media outlets has hindered its ability to shape its own narrative and project a more accurate external image.

Strengthening cooperation with China media, he explained, could diversify Guinea-Bissau's information sources and help the African country gain a more balanced and objective view of global affairs.

"We need different voices, particularly those from the Global South, to reflect the diversity of our reality," he emphasized.

In the minister's view, media was a crucial tool for enhancing mutual understanding between nations.

Through cooperation, countries can foster closer ties between

their peoples, build trust, and lay the groundwork for broader partnerships.

Guinea-Bissau encourages its media outlets to engage in practical collaboration with their Chinese counterparts, including co-producing programmes and organising journalist exchange visits, he added.

Dias also highlighted the enthusiasm Guinean journalists demonstrated in attending short-term training and media exchange programmes in China, where they have been introduced to innovative concepts such as digital media communication and have gained valuable practical skills.

"This isn't just about capacity-building; it's also about expanding our horizons," he said.

He confirmed that Guinea-Bissau will continue to create favourable conditions for deepening media cooperation with China and support the development of diverse exchange mechanisms, especially in the fields of culture, education and technology.

"We hope the world can hear Guinea-Bissau's voice, and we welcome Chinese media to share our stories," Dias said.

"I believe we can work together to create a more open, equitable and truthful global information environment." Xinhua

Boeing, NASA pause flight demonstrator project

SAN FRANCISCO - Boeing and NASA announced on Thursday the pause of work on the X-66A Sustainable Flight Demonstrator project.

Boeing will continue to study the thin-wing technology, but the aircraft project as a whole will be put on hold, Boeing and NASA said.

The project, launched in 2023, was part of a larger effort led by NASA to research fuel-efficient and sustainable designs, from wind tunnel tests to fluid dynamics models to structural design changes.

At the start of the project, NASA committed to spend US\$425 million on the aircraft's development, while Boeing and

industry partners committed to US\$725 million.

The prototype aircraft was set for test flights in 2028 and 2029. "We have learned a lot in the past few years partnering with NASA on the X-66 programme that will influence the future generations of airplane design.

Going forward, we will focus

efforts on the single most-promising design feature the thin-wing design," Boeing said in a statement.

Boeing will move engineers from the X-66A experimental project to its commercial production lines, specifically the 777X and 737 MAX factories. Xinhua

Bolivia, Chile scrap diplomatic visas

LA PAZ - Bolivia and Chile on Saturday signed an agreement to scrap visa and official residency requirements for holders of diplomatic and official passports from the other country.

The deal was signed at Viru

Viru Airport in Santa Cruz by Bolivian Foreign Minister Celinda Sosa and Chilean Deputy Foreign Minister Gloria de la Fuente during the launch of Boliviana de Aviacion (BoA)'s first flight to Santiago.

Sosa said the agreement reflected the growing trust and mutual respect between the two

countries, facilitating diplomatic and consular work and further strengthening bilateral ties.

The accord will make travel and residence for diplomats and their families easier between the two countries, a move both sides said will help deepen institutional ties and advance regional integration.

"We value Chile's willingness

to work together on this agreement," Sosa said, calling the move a step toward broader cooperation that benefits both nations.

She emphasised Bolivia's commitment to a foreign policy based on dialogue, regional integration and harmonious bilateral relations. Xinhua

China leads global agriculture drones deployment

SACRAMENTO - China has become a pioneer in embracing and scaling drone technology in farming, said a report by US clean tech news site CleanTechnica on Friday.

Beyond their low upfront costs, drones dramatically reduced operational expenses by lowering fuel use to near zero, sharply reducing chemicals used through precise application, and cutting labor requirements substantially, said the report.

Farmers transitioning from traditional spraying methods, whether tractor-mounted rigs or

manned crop-dusting aircraft, regularly report savings of around 30 per cent per square kilometer, factoring in reduced chemical volume, it said.

As regulations continue to adapt worldwide, the agricultural drone revolution that began in China appears positioned to transform farming practices globally in the coming decade.

If current growth patterns continue, by 2035, drone spraying could easily become standard practice on the majority of farms worldwide, said the report. Xinhua



LA PAZ - A general view of the Ismael Montes avenue in Bolivia. Bolivia and Chile on Saturday signed an agreement to scrap visa and official residency requirements for holders of diplomatic and official passports from the other country. Photo: Xinhua

Maiden Stanbic concert impresses

By Ketshepile More

GABORONE - The inaugural Stanbic Bank Botswana Music N Lifestyle concert captivated revellers given its diversity of creativity ranging from art, music, cuisine and fashion. The epic music and lifestyle event held at Royal Aria grounds on Saturday night showcased Botswana's dynamic creative landscape leaving revellers calling for more.

The festival was a convergence of various creative sectors brought to life by some of Botswana's rich talent in Han C, Banjo Mosele, KTM Choir, Lioness Ratang, TefoFoxx among others.

Some featured artistes such as TKZee and Mthunzi among others from South Africa.

The dynamic ensemble of Han C with Banjo Mosele, Charma Gal and KTM choir reached across traditional performance barriers with old and new talent through afro pop, jazz and choral spaces, ensuring that art forms of different genres and their contributions were recognised and kept alive while also highlighting their significance.

TefoFoxx captivated the crowd with his high octane afrotech performance, getting everyone on their spiritual dancing mood.

Taking the audience down memory lane was South Africa's TKZee with a full live performance, a money's worth for their fans.

The festival was not just about music but fashion as well, and the influence of street wear at music festival was profound.

Attendees frequently craft their outfits to reflect the fusion of high fashion streetwear and nostalgic influences, ensuring both comfort and style.

Music N Lifestyle festival also showcased a vibrant arts and craft and mouth-watering food, celebrating Africa the arty way.

Each area of the event was thoughtfully curated, giving the audience options and discovery moments.

The energy and production was made for an experience that will be carved into the memories of those who attended.

The sound was also spectacular with performances sounding flawless.

The lighting was great and the venue gave people freedom to move and dance to the tunes. **BOPA**



Afro pop musician, Han-C (right) thrilled fans collaborating with legendary Jazz mestros, Banjo Mosele (left) and KTM Choir ensemble during the Stanbic Bank Botswana Music n lifestyle festival at Royal Aria in Tlokweng on Saturday. He played alongside Charma Gal, Mpho Sebina, Lioness Ratang, local DJ's such Boogie Sid, Tefo Foxx, Mr O, Casper the DJ and South African artistes TKZee and Mthunzi. Photo: Phenyo Moalosi

'Festival solidifies cultural ties'

By Kedirebofe Pelontle

GUMARE - Bayeyi tribe have been encouraged to safeguard and pass their culture to future generations. Officiating at the Wayeyi Cultural Festival organised by Kamanakao Association in Gumare on Saturday, the Minister of Youth and Gender Affairs, Lesego Chombo said culture served as a distinctive marker of identity, setting individuals and communities apart and it also offered avenues for economic activities. She applauded the Bayeyi for advocating for recognition and also thanked dikgosi for playing an important role in preserving culture and harmony between the different tribes found in Ngamiland saying Botswana government wanted a united nation.

She further appreciated the cultural ties between the Bayeyi of Botswana and those in Namibia, an act that showed that they were one and not bound by diplomatic relations that existed between the two countries.

Ngami Member of Parliament, Philemon Aaron said certain important aspects of their culture were diminishing such as naming children with their tribe names and asked that such be restored.

He was worried that none of the primary schools in Gumare was earmarked for mother tongue introduction in primary schools for Seyeyi.

In his remarks that were read on his behalf by a representative, Bayeyi in Botswana Kgosi Jacob Seidisa said Wayeyi Cultural festival had been celebrated for the 30 years and celebrated their language, dance, food and cultural practices.

He said the Bayeyi were a people rooted in culture. **BOPA**

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A Wayeyi Group from Namibia performing Shubboli dance at Wayeyi Cultural Festival in Gumare on Saturday. Minister of Youth and Gender Affairs, Lesego Chombo appreciated the relationship between the Wayeyi of Namibia and Botswana, noting that the two countries were connected by more than just diplomatic ties. Photo: Kedirebofe Pelontle

Vultures suffer defeat in friendly

By **Thato Mosinyi**

GABORONE - In a jaw-dropping display of intense rugby display, Botswana national rugby team, The Vultures suffered 7-18 defeat to Sibanye-Stillwaters SAPGM Rugby Club in a friendly game played at Wharic park on Saturday.

With the clash been used as part of the national team's build up to the much anticipated match against Zimbabwe Sables on May 10 in Bulawayo, Coach Andrew Paxinos

BDF VI ladies eye volleyball league title

By **Keetile Bontsibokae**

MOGODITSHANE - The 2024/25 Botswana Volleyball Federation National League is close to an end and the race for the crown is becoming intense among the 11 contenders.

Despite, having sustained a winning culture the whole season, the BDF VI ladies' worst enemy has been Police VI ladies, who lost a solo game, managed to lead the race thanks to more games they played as compared to those of BDF VI ladies.

On Saturday BDF VI smoothly garnered maximum points from a duo of fixtures that were played at SSKB courts to ensure they remain second to none in the log, widening the gap between them and Police VI by six points.

BDF VI opened the week 12 fixtures by flogging the 4th placed Kutlwano VC 3-0. The BDF ladies closed the day by repeating the same score, now against the struggling Kalavango VC.

The BDF VI ladies head coach, Daniel Baoki said the team was eyeing the crown for the 24/25 BVF league come end of the season.

Baoki said their only remaining fixture was the toughest one of the season when they locked horns against Police VI.

The fixture which will be played on May 10, he said, would serve as a decider for the champions of the season.

"I think it is going to be a crowd puller as everyone will want to witness who will claim the title. It will be a tough clash for us to close the season with but I am confident that my ladies will get out of it victorious. The ladies have been so stunning throughout the season and can promise that we will be the champions," said Baoki.

However, Baoki was alive to the fact that Police VI was also aware of the magnitude that the fixture carried, hence were also whetting arsenals for the encounter.

Other fixtures honoured on Saturday on the ladies' side, Mafolofolo hammered Kalavango 3-0 whereas Kutlwano whipped Yaros 3-0.

Mafolofolo on their other fixture walloped Dynamites with a thrice of sets to nil. **BOPA**

squad selection was dominated by a lot of debutants with Brandon Van Zyl leading the line as the captain in the absence of Tafadzwa Ncube.

From the opening whistle, the Vultures were up to a nervy start with a lot of errors and poor decision making. Despite the erratic start, Vultures captain Van Zyl stood tall and calm and steered the team to a spirited fight against a formidable Sibanye Stillwaters team that plays in the South African Castle Super League.

With the local rugby league yet to start, the weekend friendly proved to be a tough test for the Vultures

readiness and resilience with their fitness levels exposed during every scrum hence coming second best to their opponents in every physical encounter.

The Rustenburg based Sibanye Stillwaters bossed the breakdown and sheltered their try lines with intense command, and perfection keeping the Vultures at bay.

As the intensity of the game increased in the second half it was Stillwaters who relished the physicality of the game most, scoring two valuable tries and penalty convention to put the game beyond Vultures reach.

It was nonetheless the brilliance of Nicolas de Beer and skilful handing of Letlhogile Tsheko that kept the Vultures in the game for a respectable 7-18 score line at the final whistle.

As the Vultures now lock their focus on their incoming encounter against Zimbabwe Sables, Coach Paxinos has a mammoth task to keep the team motivated and put the past weekend defeat behind.

"We have to quickly dust ourselves off, take the lessons learnt from our friendly with Stillwaters since it is not about perfection but it is all about passion, purpose and playing for dominance going forward," said Paxinos in a post-match interview.

While admitting that the length break in local rugby league has a negative impact on the national team selection, Paxinos is adamant that the Vultures have the potential to be a force to be reckoned with in the future.

"The future of the Vultures is promising, we fielded a very youthful team and they showed positive signs of determination, therefore it is safe to say the Vultures will sow high in the next games," he said. **BOPA**



Botswana Rugby National team The Vultures taking on South Africa Rugby side, Sibanye-Stillwaters SAPGM Rugby Club during a friendly match in Gaborone on Saturday. Stillwaters won 18-7. The Vultures are preparing for a test international match against Zimbabwe Sables scheduled for May 10 in Bulawayo. Photo: Gaseitsiwe Moruakgomo

Tarakinyu, Tumelo win BTC Marathon

By **Kelebogile Taolo**

FRANCISTOWN - Moses Tarakinyu has emerged a winner in the 42.2km after clocking 2:15:17 in the Senior Men category at the Francistown BTC Marathon at the Obed Itani Chilume Stadium in Francistown on Saturday.

The 30-year-old Zimbabwe national bagged P35 000. He expressed gratitude for the victory in the BTC Marathon saying it was as a result of good preparations.

He said he was supposed to participate in the Ancient Marathon at the Netherlands but could not make it due to visa requirements, and therefore shifted here for the BTC Marathon. In the same race,

Tawanda Burazwabaya got position two with a time of 2:21:58 and walked away with P25 000 while Owen Slowly finished on Position three after registering 2:24:21 and won P15000.

In the ladies category, Lesedi Tumelo achieved an impressive victory in the 42.2 km race Senior Women Category, earning a prize of P35 000 with a time of 3:33:21. Nancy Madzima came second clocking 3:34:22 whereas Oarabile Mhaladi came third clocking 3:36:45, both won P25 000 and P15 000 respectively.

The BTC Marathon attracted various dignitaries, including ministers, city mayors, district commissioners, and councilors, highlighting its significance in the community.

In his remarks, the minister of

Sports and Arts, Jacob Kelebens highlighted the importance of supporting marathons such as the Francistown BTC and many other sporting activities across the country which bring along economic benefits.

Minister Kelebens said sport has the potential to change the lives of people in terms of talent and finances, hence the Ministry would continue to support all sports and initiatives aimed at changing the sports landscape for the better.

Francistown City Council Mayor Gaone Majere commended BTC for successfully hosting the marathon in Francistown. He noted that this year's marathon saw significant growth in participation, contributing positively to the local economy.

Mayor Majere praised all stakeholders and the business community for their efforts in making the 2025 BTC Marathon a success. He also emphasised the importance of the marathon as a way of promoting fitness and health.

In her remarks, BTC acting Chief Executive Officer Boitumelo Paya highlighted this year's event growth in various aspects. She noted that hotels, lodges, and guest houses in Francistown were fully booked mainly due to the event that, she said, positively impacted the hospitality industry. Paya affirmed BTC's commitment to supporting the business community and assisting Batswana in various ways to foster a spirit of giving back. **BOPA**



Kalahari Women T20 International Tournament between Botswana and eSwatini started on a high note in Gaborone on Saturday. Botswana won by 152 runs.
Photo: Thompson Keobaletswe

Team starts strong

By Moshe Galeragwe

GABORONE - Botswana Senior Women's Cricket national team kicked off the Kalahari Women's T20 International Tournament on a high note, securing two decisive victories against eSwatini and Mozambique on Saturday at the Botswana Cricket Oval.

In the opening match, the host team dominated eSwatini, winning by an impressive 152 runs. Botswana scored a formidable total of 182 runs while only losing one wicket in their allotted 20 overs. In response, eSwatini struggled to reach 30 runs, facing a full bowling spell from Botswana.

Botswana continued their impressive form in the second match of the day, defeating

Mozambique by 129 runs. The team posted 183 runs for the loss of three wickets, while Mozambique could only muster 54 runs before being bowled out in just 16.4 overs.

Vusimuzi Zikhale, Development Manager of the Botswana Cricket Association preparations for the tournament started in 2024 with invitations sent to eleven African countries.

"We have been fortunate enough to receive acceptance letters from eSwatini, Sierra Leone, and Mozambique," Zikhale said.

He acknowledged that despite some initial hiccups, the tournament commenced smoothly with well-prepared teams.

The weather conditions were favourable, with overcast skies and no rain. Zikhale highlighted the

outstanding performance of former team captain Laura Mophakedi, who returned from eSwatini after completing an Umpires' Tutor course.

Mophakedi scored a half-century, and alongside her opening partner Oratile Kgeresi, they achieved a century partnership, the second of its kind in Botswana Women's cricket history.

Commenting on the victory over eSwatini, Zikhale said, 'winning by 152 runs with only one wicket lost was a positive start to the tournament, especially as the host nation.'

He said eSwatini was resilient, something he said tested Botswana's bowling attack throughout the full 20 overs.

In the other opening match,

Mozambique faced a challenging start when their key batter, Olga Carlos Mondlane, was dismissed off the very first ball.

This early setback put immense pressure on the team, resulting in a total of just 37 runs all out in 15.1 overs. Sierra Leone capitalised on this and secured a victory, finishing their innings at 39 runs for three wickets in just 10.4 overs.

Zikhale expressed optimism about the tournament, stating that the atmosphere was electric and the Kalahari Women's T20 promises to build momentum as it progressed.

He noted that the event, which is sanctioned by the International Cricket Council (ICC), played a role in determining team rankings. While Botswana hopes to win

the tournament to improve its standing, Zikhale explained that it would not qualify the team for any future competitions. Instead, he said, the tournament served as a preparation ground for World Cup qualifiers, which Botswana would host in July.

Since its inception in 2014, Botswana has been a strong contender in previous editions of the tournament, but the impacts of COVID-19 disrupted their achievements. Following the tournament's rebranding in 2024, Botswana finished second to Rwanda, and there is hope to clinch the championship this year.

The Kalahari Women's T20 International Tournament, sponsored by Orange, will conclude on Thursday. **BOPA**



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