



The Patriot

on Sunday

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BDP vs BDP

Masisi's day of reckoning

- Masisi faces no confidence motion
- BDP MPs blame him, VP Tsogwane over factions
- BDP MPs rendezvous with Masisi, fault govt decisions

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A PUSH FOR A MOTION OF NO confidence against President Mokgweetsi Masisi is gaining traction among fellow democrats ahead of July session of Parliament, due to growing factions, The Patriot on Sunday has learnt.

Infuriated Botswana Democratic Party (BDP) backbenchers want Masisi to put the house in order at Tsholetsa House and Government enclave or else risk losing their support and loyalty. Hence, a retreat was hastily convened next week Saturday and Sunday between Masisi and the ruling party MPs to iron out issues and discuss the recent instability in government, which is likely to harm their fortunes towards 2023 BDP primary elections and the 2024 general elections.

BDP Chief Whip in Parliament, Liakat Kablay confirmed that Masisi will meet MPs for a retreat on the 8-9th May 2021. Kablay, however, said he is not at liberty to disclose



President Mokgweetsi Masisi

[PIC-PRESSPHOTO]

the contents of the agenda before meeting Masisi. "The retreat is all

about self-introspection as the party and MPs. We had long wanted to

meet with the President after 2019 elections but due to the opposition

petitions and the Covid-19 pandemic our wish was not granted. We will have discussions on some issues that will be known after," he said.

The BDP backbenchers want the retreat to be their affair with Masisi only and have demanded that members of cabinet including vice President Slumber Tsogwane -who is also the BDP Chairman to be excluded from the guest list. Kablay, who is also MP for Letlhakeng-Lephephe, however could not be drawn into discussing whether the Leader of the House - Tsogwane and cabinet ministers will be part of the discussions.

Masisi recently held a retreat with his cabinet which its mandate was for President and cabinet to review progress on the implementation of the President's Transformation Agenda in the light of severe health and economic hindrances caused by the novel Coronavirus pandemic.

Some MPs are concerned about emerging factions in the party, blaming Masisi and Tsogwane for their tendency to favor some BDP

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BDF Generals get diplomatic posts



Morake

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GOVERNMENT THROUGH the Office of the President is expected to make announcement about new appointments of Ambassadors and High Commissioners next week.

One of the new diplomat is the past immediate deputy commander of Botswana Defence Force (BDF) Major General Gotsileene Morake who resigned from the army in February this year. Highly placed sources at the Office of the President have confided that Morake will take over as Botswana's Ambassador to Japan.

General Morake's resignation from the army shocked many as he was viewed as the next Commander of the BDF and there were allegations that he had a fall out with President Mokgweetsi Masisi. Though he was second in command at BDF, age was not on Morake's side to take over from Lieutenant General Placid Segokgo as they are of same age and trained together. "Though the change in the BDF Act which raised the retirement age to 60 favored him, President Masisi wanted a successor who is still young," confided a source at OP.

- Generals Morake goes to Japan, Seikano for UK

Though he was not happy with the forced retirement, Morake was assured of the diplomatic post but took long to accept it. "He was supposed to have completed the induction workshop at Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Relations but asked for more time," revealed the source.

Morake who will start the workshop next week will be taking over from career diplomat Nkoloi Nkoloi who was returned home in February this year. Morake, who is a military academician of note, will be following in the footsteps of other senior army officers like former army commander General Matshenyego Fisher who was the country's High Commissioner in Nigeria.

Popularly known as "Goose", a nickname derived from his first name Gotsileene, General Morake is known for his military academic prowess as he established both the officer cadet camp in Paje in 1990 and the Command and Staff College.

Another appointment which is yet to be confirmed is the deployment of director general - support services, Major General Molefi Seikano from BDF to Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Relations as designated high commissioner to the United Kingdom.

General Seikano's deployment won't come as surprise to many within the military as being overlooked over his junior during the recent promotions in the army was viewed as a clear indication that he is on his way out. Many thought that with the resignation of General Morake as deputy commander, General Seikano will take over but his junior Major General Mpho Mophuting took over.

TO PAGE 5

Mozambique frustrates SADC leaders

- Ask for more time to consider the proposal
- SADC technical assessment mission proposes 3000 troops for intervention
- SADC might revoke SADC's Mutual Defence Pact and intervene

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MOZAMBIQUE IS SAID TO BE giving SADC leaders a hard time in regard to their proposal for an interstate military intervention to combat and neutralize Islamic State insurgents in the northern Carbo Delgado province.

The 11th hour cancellation of the SADC Organ on Politics, Defence and Security Cooperation meeting

which was supposed to have been attended by Presidents Mokgweetsi Masisi, Cyril Ramaphosa of South Africa, Emmerson Mnangagwa of Zimbabwe was allegedly cancelled at the request of Mozambique President Filipe Nyusi who requested more time to consult within government first. The cancellation came when the ministerial troika meeting had already commenced in Maputo and was about to discuss the Technical Mission report which was led by Brigadier Michael Mokukumani of

Botswana Defence Force (BDF). The ministerial troika which comprised of Botswana as chair, South Africa, Zimbabwe and Mozambique is said to have been in support of the recommendation to deploy a regional military intervention force immediately.

The recommendations were to be presented to the Heads of State who were to convene on Thursday and Friday but Mozambique pulled a plug on them. Botswana was supposed to have been represented

by Vice President Slumber Tsogwane but was informed about the cancellation few minutes before he could depart. The refusal by Mozambique to accept military intervention is said to have thrown the regional leaders into fits of anger as they feel that situation will frog jump into neighboring countries if appropriate action is not taken in time. Mozambique is said to be in support of the technical mission proposal that will only require SADC to provide training and logistics

support to Maputo.

The military mission had recommended immediate deployment of logistics and training support to FADM "to strengthen its capability to combat terrorism". The Brigadier Mokukumani led technical mission has made it clear that SADC must deploy combat troops to Carbo Delgado.

Nyusi who has made it clear in the past that Mozambique sovereignty will not impeded upon indicating

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SADC has "responsibility" to help Mozambique

THE SOUTHERN AFRICAN Development Community (SADC) has a responsibility to help a member state "whose sovereignty and territorial integrity is under serious threat" according to an extraordinary meeting of ministers in the regional bloc's politics, defence and security body.

A statement posted on the SADC website yesterday (Thursday, 29 April) attributes this comment to Botswana Minister of International Affairs and Co-operation Dr Lemogang Kwape. He is quoted as chair of SADC's Organ on Politics, Defence and Security Co-operation, referred to as the Ministerial Committee Organ (MCO).

The statement elaborates on the meeting "called to consider the report of the technical assessment team deployed to Mozambique following a decision by the Extraordinary SADC Double Troika Summit in Maputo on 8 April". A day previously another SADC statement had it an extraordinary summit of the SADC Organ on Politics, Defence and Security was postponed due to unavailability of the presidents of Botswana and South Africa. No new date was given for the extraordinary summit,



called primarily to seek solutions to Islamic insurgency in northern Mozambique.

It appears the delay in the extraordinary summit did not affect the "extraordinary ministerial committee meeting" of SADC's politics, defence and security body.

The statement gives no detail of any possible SADC military

commitment to Mozambique, again only quoting Kwape as saying "as we deliberate on the report and course of action, we should take into consideration the way forward, as the region, should be guided by the SADC Mutual Defence Pact.

The pact provides for collective self-defence and collective action. In particular, Article 6 states 'an armed

attack against a state party shall be considered a threat to regional peace and security and such an attack shall be met with immediate action".

He added SADC cannot afford "continued heinous atrocities characterised by horrific killing of innocent civilians, beheadings and maiming of women and children, including gender-based violence".

"The rise in these dreadful attacks raises concerns they are likely to spread to other provinces in Mozambique and the entire region. The sooner we respond collectively, the less likely these barbaric acts of terrorism will continue to destabilise the region."

The statement ends with a vote of thanks to Botswana President Mokgweetsi Masisi and notes the MCO meeting was "a culmination of efforts to secure the region by urgently addressing the security situation in Cabo Delgado province".

Earlier this week reports indicated three light infantry battalions of 620 soldiers each and two 70-strong Special Forces squadrons would be the vanguard of a SADC force to "combat and neutralise" insurgents in northern Mozambique. An unnamed number of attack and other helicopters as well as patrol ships, a submarine and a maritime aircraft to patrol the Cabo Delgado coast will also be part of the force. The maritime component of the deployment is reportedly to intercept supplies for the insurgents and combat criminal trafficking, believed to be a source of financing for the insurgency.

<https://www.defenceweb.co.za/>

New technologies to improve food security



PRESIDENT MOKGWEETSI MASISI of Botswana on Thursday said it has become imperative for the southern African country to adopt disruptive Fourth Industrial Revolution (4IR) technologies with a view to improve the country's food security.

In a statement he deliberated on the occasion of the high level virtual dialogue on feeding Africa: Leadership to scale up successful innovations, Masisi said adoption of 4IR will help Botswana to transition from conventional to smart farming and to move from subsistence to commercial agriculture.

Botswana is a semi-arid nation susceptible to drought which is characterized by low and variable rainfalls, very hot temperatures, as well as outbreaks of pests. "Recurring droughts continue to undermine our capacity to produce drought resistant

indigenous seeds for food production. It has become imperative for Botswana to adopt disruptive 4IR technologies that will help us transition," said Masisi. In the absence of 4IR, these challenges of recurring droughts contribute to food shortages and a high food import bill which is not sustainable in the long run, according to Masisi.

Botswana identified agriculture, in the long term National Vision 2036, as one of the key drivers for national transformation and thus aims to create a sustainable, technology driven and commercially viable agricultural sector.

After adopting a Climate Smart Agriculture Programme for 2015 to 2025, Botswana is reviewing its National Policy on Agricultural Development to address emerging challenges such as climate change and to ensure alignment with Climate Smart Agricultural requirements.

<https://www.bignewsnetwork.com/>

Monday is a Public Holiday

G. MOSALAKATANE*

MONDAY, 3RD MAY 2021 will be observed as a public holiday. This is in line with Section 99 (2) of the Employment Act CAP 47:01 read with Section 11(1)(d) and 11(2) of the Public Service Regulations, 2011 of Public Service Act (Act No. 30 of 2008) which provides that, "where a paid public holiday falls on a rest day, the day next following the rest day, which is not itself a rest day, shall be deemed to be a paid public holiday".

Consequently, since 01st May (Labour Day) is a paid public holiday and it falls on a rest day (Saturday), Monday the 3rd May 2021 shall be observed as a public holiday in the Public Service. *DIRECTOR, DPSP

Climate change poses risk to wild food plants in Southern Africa

HIGH LEVELS OF CLIMATE warming could shrink the geographic range of two-thirds of wild-harvested food plant species in southern Africa.

In the article, "Climate change risk to southern African wild food plants", recently published in Regional Environmental Change, the University of Cape Town's (UCT) Carina Wessels and her co-authors focus on the links between climate change, traditional knowledge, food security and wild-harvested food plants.

Wessels, who at the time was affiliated with the African Climate and Development Initiative (ACDI), collaborated on the study with Dr Christopher Trisos of the Climate Risk Laboratory at the ACDI and Dr Cory Merow, a quantitative ecologist from the University of Connecticut's Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology.

Understanding the impact of change Wild-harvested food plants are important ingredients in the diets of millions of people, especially during times of hardship when staple crops fail. Although they contribute to food

security in southern Africa, little is known about the risk that climate change poses to these edible plants, with most studies thus far describing the impact of climate change on food security in terms of the prospects for agriculture (mainly major crops) and fisheries.

Wessels and her co-authors considered the climate change risk to 1 190 wild food plant species (including the num-num, the sour fig, roiboos and the marula fruit) used by 19 native language groups in the region.

In the future, already water-stressed countries in the region like Botswana are likely to become even hotter and drier and, ultimately, more water-stressed. "Our aim was to determine where wild food plants occur and whether these plants are threatened by climate change," Wessels says. "We also wanted to know whether the areas where these plants grow overlap with regions of projected crop yield loss (under climate change)."

"People living in rural areas use wild-harvested food plants to supplement their diets, especially during times of hardship when staple crops fail," Trisos says. But, due to climate change, many

people living in the central parts of the region may soon be left without this nutritional safety net.

The researchers' approach allowed them to generate new knowledge that can inform timely responses in a climate-altered future.

The data underlying the projections The researchers used a recently published list of 1 740 southern African edible plant species to identify wild-harvested food plant species. This inventory, the most comprehensive of its kind yet, shows that edible plant use patterns differ between 19 indigenous cultural and language groups in the region.

Wessels and her co-authors included wild food plants that are used as snacks, cooked as vegetables or ground as flour (among other uses) in their analysis. They also considered those plants used as famine food (food eaten during famine conditions to avoid starvation).

They employed historical climate data (including averages for 30-year periods), future climate scenarios (including projected averages for 20-year periods), environmental data (including soil

information) and species distribution modelling to inform their work.

A warming climate creates winners and losers

The team considered two future greenhouse gas scenarios. In both, the future looks hotter for native wild food plants. In the low emissions scenario (RCP 2.6), by 2081-2100, global warming is likely to have stayed below 2°C higher than pre-industrial levels (before 1850). The high emissions scenario (RCP 8.5) represents a future in which we will have experienced more than 4°C of global warming by the end of this century.

"There is a mix of winners and losers in a world that is up to 2°C warmer (than pre-industrial levels)," Trisos says. "If we allow warming beyond this threshold, however, there will be more losers than winners."

Their results show the ranges of 40% of wild food plant species will likely shrink by 2060-2080 in the low emissions scenario. Roughly six out of every ten wild food species, however, are expected to expand their range.

This picture is reversed in the high

emissions scenario: 66% of wild food plant species are projected to experience range reductions, and only 34% range increases. Climatic conditions are expected to decrease species richness the most in southern Africa's northeastern parts in this scenario - causing the local extinction of more than 200 species. Local species losses of more than 50% are foreseen for most of Botswana. In contrast, increases are projected for both crop yield and wild food plant species richness in the southern and eastern parts of southern Africa (including parts of the Western Cape, Eastern Cape, KwaZulu-Natal and Mpumalanga).

Intersecting climate risks Climate change, Trisos stresses, poses a fundamental threat to the places, species and cultural processes that people rely on for their livelihoods.

"Our research identified large regions in which both crop yields and wild food plants are at risk," Trisos explains. Among these are South Africa's North West and Free State provinces and parts of northern Namibia.

In the high emissions scenario, maize, sorghum and wild food plants will be

most at risk along the northeastern border between South Africa and Botswana. Some ethnic and language groups using wild food plants are expected to be more negatively affected by climate warming than others. Geographic range decreases are projected for over 76% of species used by the Southern Sotho, 71% of species used by the Xhosa and 74% of species used by the !Xóó from the Kalahari region.

Rooting climate adaptation In the future, already water-stressed countries in the region like Botswana are likely to become even hotter and drier and, ultimately, more water-stressed. The situation increases the urgency of implementing effective plans for increasing local resilience.

"Our results point to the vast pool of traditional knowledge of food systems that we could potentially use in regional adaptation responses," Trisos says. "We need to look beyond conventional crops to the exceptional diversity of wild food plants. The use of traditional knowledge (for adaptation) is potentially a key strength of African communities." [https://www.news.uct.ac.za]



INTEREST RATES FOR MAY 2021

Type of Deposit Account	Nominal Interest Rates (Lowest to Highest)	Effective Interest Rates per Year	Minimum Opening Balance (Pula)
CURRENT	0.00%	0.00%	1 000.00
CALL	0.00% - 1.50%	0.15% - 1.51%	10 000.00
SAVINGS	0.00% - 1.50%	0.00% - 1.51%	500.00
3 MONTHS	1.50%	1.51%	1 000.00
6 MONTHS	2.00%	2.01%	1 000.00
12 MONTHS	3.00%	3.00%	1 000.00
24 MONTHS	3.50%	3.50%	1 000.00
OVER 24 MONTHS	4.00%	4.00%	1 000.00
PRIME RATE	5.25%		

Type of Deposit Account	Interest Rate per Year (USD)	Interest Rate per Year (ZAR)
CALL	0.10%	0.00%
3 MONTHS	0.10%	2.00%
6 MONTHS	0.50%	2.50%
12 MONTHS	1.00%	3.00%

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Botswana University of Agriculture and Natural Resources
Private Bag 0027
GABORONE

Email: recruitment@buan.ac.bw
OR
Hand delivered applications should be submitted to
Records office, Block 300, BUAN, GABORONE

NB: Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted.

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OP does not handle Covid-19 cash donations

PEARL RAMOKOKA*

THE MINISTRY FOR Presidential Affairs, Governance and Public Administration wishes to clarify that neither the Ministry nor the Minister handle any cash donations towards COVID-19 relief. Therefore, the public is urged to ignore any misleading and malicious reports that are contrary to this fact.

In March 2020, Government set up the COVID-19 Relief Fund whose bank accounts are found across all commercial banks operating in Botswana. The custodian of the said bank accounts, full details of which were publicly shared in a press release referenced OPC5/57/6 I (297) and dated 26th March, 2021, is the Ministry of Finance and Economic Development and no other. This deliberate decision was taken in order to ensure full accountability for the funds.

Furthermore, no government official or representative is allowed to receive cash or cheques towards the fund. Rather, all donations are made directly into the bank accounts in order to create an audit trail. Pertaining to alleged donations towards the Red Cross Society, the Ministry categorically states that the Minister has no role in the affairs of the NGO and, therefore, has never been a middleman in any donation made towards their cause. The public is reminded to disregard attempts to tarnish both Government and the Minister's name.

*PERMANENT SECRETARY, MINISTRY FOR PRESIDENTIAL AFFAIRS, GOVERNANCE AND PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION

BBS Brawl: Molefe has the last laugh!

- Brink saves AGM, celebrated by shareholders
- Shareholders kick out all Board members
- New Board to lift Molefe, Showa suspension
- BBS Corporate Governance in jeopardy - expert

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A CAPTAIN PRIVATE shareholder in the embattled Botswana Building Society (BBS), Derek Brink is fully behind Managing Director Pius Molefe and his confidante Siphon Showa who were suspended ahead of the Annual General Meeting (AGM) on Friday, *The Patriot on Sunday* has learnt.

This follows after Brink and other BBS shareholders resolved to vote out all the retiring Board including former Chairperson Pelani Siwawa-Ndai together with other four (4) Board Directors. The shareholder's substitution elections were in favor of Colm Patterson, Bernard Mzizi, Lebole Mokote, Victor Ramalepa and Duraiswamy Kalynaraman set to be replacing the retiring Board.

The former BBS Board suffered a humiliating blow on the hands of the shareholders comprised of Siwawa Ndai, Michael Tlhagwane, James Kanyuka, Richard Molosiwa and Kgalalelo Montlhe.

Corporate Governance Practitioner and Managing Director at Wise Leadership, Mpho Kgosietsile says that the current impasse between the former board MD shows that something was wrong. She noted it could be that



BBS Managing Director Pius Molefe (R) with Siphon Showa

one of the parties did not follow procedures and most importantly breached the constitution which is very critical in enhancing a good corporate governance too.

"The constitution is very key in corporate governance. The impasse was bad example of the corporate governance and it means that BBS has been poorly governed as it appeared in the public opinion. The new board could be entrusted to reverse decisions of former board

but it should also work on restoring public confidence on the brand. BBS image is in jeopardy," she said.

Kgosietsile said that governance is important in the sense that every director should take the decisions on the best interest of the business stakeholders being customers and shareholders. "Whenever there is instability in the organisation set up on principles of corporate governance, it come along with reputational risks as some of the

shareholders could lose confidence on the business and pull out. Share value also matters because it has been exposed to risk," she added. Businessman Brink whose family owns 17% in BBS which has been entangled in ugly boardroom brawl between Molefe and former Board on Friday wielded his power for the AGM to proceed.

His attorneys, Mboki Chilisa and Kabelo Nkwe, secured the rule nisi which ordered that as long as

the AGM meets its quorum, all matters, including the election of the directors, will go ahead.

Brink moved successfully to secure a court order that the AGM continues while Board proposed that AGM be adjourned citing irregularities in issuing notice hence disregarding BBS constitution.

But the shareholders disagreed calling for the AGM to proceed as Brink approached the High Court in the middle of the AGM and Justice Michael Leburu strained the Board to adjourn AGM. Sources close to the developments say that Molefe and Showa are highly favored by Brink's family. Both Molefe and Showa seemed to have no anxiety at the AGM which continued in the absence of the Board members who exited after the court ordered in favor of Brink for AGM to proceed.

"The new board is considering to reinstate Molefe and Showa following their suspensions. The shareholders have been fed up by the feud which brought anxiety to them as driven by the old board. Shareholders were not happy with how the business was brought into a disrepute," said source.

Molefe and Showa suffered blow on the eve of the AGM on Thursday night when the Industrial Court ruled in urgent litigation brought by Molefe and Showa confirming their suspensions from BBS.

Debswana 2024 in full swing

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D EBSWANA DIAMOND Company a joint venture between Botswana government and Anglo American's De Beers is going into full swing to ensure that their new business strategy adopted last year is yielding desired results.

The Debswana Executive Management recently took the media through their strategy and how they have started to implement it. The strategy is anchored in restructuring of mines and improving efficiencies throughout the group's operations.

First to take the cue was the General Manager for Jwaneng Diamond Mine Koolatotse Koolatotse who briefed the media about the transition of the Cut 9 expansion project from Majwe Mining Joint Venture (MMJV) to Debswana Diamond Company. Koolatotse revealed that the transition was successfully completed at the beginning of April and that the Cut 9 contract was a P12 billion waste stripping project that he said started in 2019 and was expected to end in 2027.

Asked why they terminated the contract, Koolatotse said that it was for company internal reasons. "The Contract allowed for termination "due to convenience", which means that either party could terminate without giving specific reasons to the other," he said.

He said that though the contract was terminated the Cut 9 operation will continue with its intent to extend the life of mine of diamond mining in Jwaneng to 2035. The Jwaneng Diamond Mine General Manager who oversees the Cut 9 project said that to date the transition has been smooth and no safety incidents have been recorded and this gives them confidence that critical controls have been implemented and are delivering the expected results.

"Production has been stable throughout the transition from Contract Mining to the interim 'Project' arrangement, which entails Jwaneng mine directly operating and managing the Cut 9 mining operation and only outsourcing some key services and resources. Re-tendering process for Cut 9 Labour Sourcing services is planned to be concluded in December 2021,"



Armstrong

he said.

On the recruitment drive as they transit to a hybrid mining model, Koolatotse said that to date 320 out of 413 vacancies have already been filled under Cut 9 recruitment on a Fixed Contract while a Labour Service Provider is being sought through public tender.

"Recruitment for the remaining 93 positions will be completed by the end of April 2021. In addition, recruitment is also on-going through business partners working for Cut 9 operation," he said, explaining that other required outsourced services include drilling, tyre management, maintenance and labor services among others.

Koolatotse said the tyre contract for tyre management has been awarded to a 100% citizen-owned company. In 2017 Debswana adopted a Citizen Empowerment Policy (CEEP) which was in line with the national Citizen Economic Framework and Koolatotse said that with the awarding of tenders to citizen owned it is a demonstration that they are committed to CEEP. "Other tenders are at various stages of the process as follows: a short-term drilling contractor is in place to ensure smooth transition whilst a longer-term contract is currently out on tender, this is for a 100% citizen owned company; the running of the contractor's camp clinic procurement process is being adjudicated; and the re-tendering for the labour sourcing services has been restarted. Smaller contracts such as the provision of food and bussing of employees have been awarded to 100% citizen-owned companies,"

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AP smells 2024 opposition victory

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V ICE PRESIDENT OF ALLIANCE for Progressives (AP) Wynter Mmolotsi

said the party is confident that opposition will emerge victorious in 2024 elections to dethrone ruling Botswana Democratic Party (BDP).

In an interview on Friday, Mmolotsi who is also the only AP MP for Francistown South said that the party regional congresses are going well as the party is geared for opposition cooperation talks. He noted that AP is committed to work with Umbrella for Democratic Change (UDC) and Botswana Patriotic Change (BPF) emphasizing that the united opposition stand a chance to defeat the BDP.

"Our regional tours are meant to solicit mandate from our members as we are in opposition talks with other parties. We want our members to give feedback on what AP can submit at unity talks. We are committed to find ways in which we can work with other parties," said confident Mmolotsi.

According to the outspoken AP legislator, the current BDP regime

- Regional congresses prepare for the unity talks
- AP wants united opposition for 2024 elections
- Current BDP regime is weakest ever- Mmolotsi



Mmolotsi

led by President Mokgweetsi Masisi is the weakest ever in history of the party and he is confident that opposition can oust it. He says that they should take advantage of the BDP poor performance in debates at parliament. "The BDP is on its knees

and that why it always want to recruit the members from opposition. There is quality in opposition at parliament when compared to the BDP aisle. I want to see all opposition parties united in 2024. We should no longer compete against each other at the

polls if we want to topple BDP," said Mmolotsi urging opposition members to desist from skirmishes.

AK47 as Mmolotsi is popularly known in the political circles said that the party lost three (3) of its 2019 parliamentary candidates to the BDP but said this is not going to cause panic to the AP.

AP fielded 40 candidates for the 2019 general elections but won only one seat through Mmolotsi while the party's top brass such as President Ndaba Gaolathe and Dr Phenyio Butale suffered the defeats.

He also pointed out that UDC lost two (2) of its seating MPs but said the concern was dealt with when two seating MPs from BDP being Mephato Reatile and Ignatius Moswaane crossed to opposition.

Reatile who is MP for Jwaneng-Mabutsane joined Botswana Patriotic Front (BPF) while the MP for Francistown West Moswaane joined the Botswana People Party (BPP), becoming its only MP.

Mmolotsi went on to buttress that there will be rising challenges facing the journey through opposition cooperation talks but said they must be dealt with high cognizance to avoid splits.

Three opposition parties being UDC, BPF and AP entered opposition unity talks ahead of 2024 elections.

The parties last year signed the Memorandum of Understanding to partner on essential aspects.

The spirit and the purpose according to the parties is to ensure electoral gains and victory in the bye-election, with each of contracting parties enjoined in selection of candidates among others.

"Continuing cooperation in the bye-elections will strengthen our commitment to party-to party relationships and working to increase the understanding of Batswana about all social, economic and political problems confronting the country," said the cooperating parties in the MOU deal.

Overhaul your system - DIS warned

- 'Government leaks that compromise confidential and strategic information affecting policy violate the National Security Act as well as the Intelligence and Security Service Act' -DIS
- 'They need to look at their server system and overhaul it as well as changing system administrators' -expert

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T HE DIRECTORATE OF Intelligence Services (DIS) has been advised to act fast and overhaul their ICT system as it is the source of government information leakages.

Highly placed sources have revealed that when the current administration changed the personnel they forgot one critical component in the spy world, which is the use of radio signals to tap data. Government has been left naked with confidential information leaked and ICT Experts are said to have advised the DIS to overhaul their ICT system as it is the source of the leakages as non-state actors have access to it.

Disgruntled DIS agents who worked closely with the previous administration are said to still have access to DIS systems and are able to collect data from government computers, some which are not even connected to the internet. "These guys have embedded software and hardware 'bugs' in the computers which they used to use to allow

them to collect information from the government systems whilst they were still at DIS which enable them to have access to computers even when they are not connected to the internet and they are now controlling it from the outside," revealed an IT expert who spoke on condition of anonymity.

He said they have long warned the DIS management to overhaul the whole government system as they are not in control of the software installed. The system, according to the IT expert, relies on a covert channel of radio waves that can be transmitted from tiny circuit boards and USB cards inserted surreptitiously into computers. "Even if the DIS can install any cyber security controls, the software allows the hackers to have an end run around on the compromised systems," he warned.

The massive overhaul of the security measures governing leaking of information

is alleged to be extremely expensive.

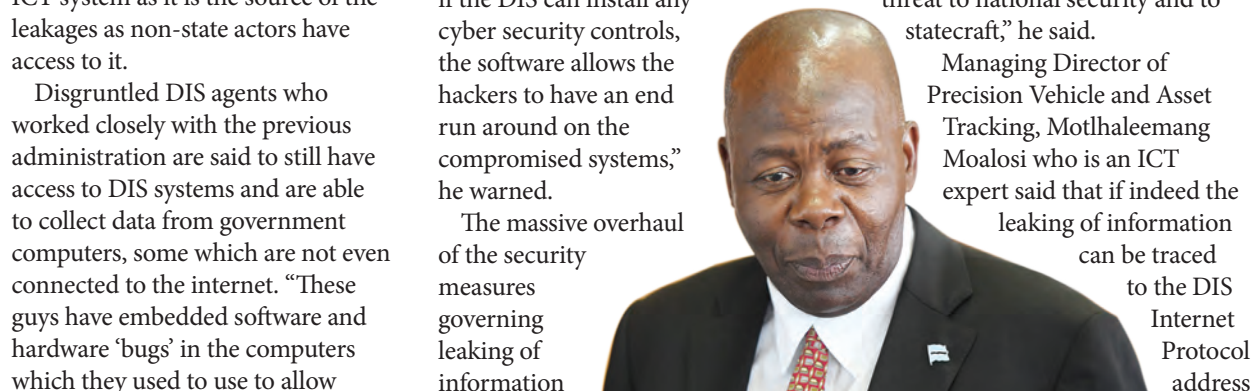
DIS Spokesperson Edward Robert said the Directorate has a statutory obligation to advise government, public bodies and statutory bodies on issues of national security, including the protection of classified documents. "To that end, we continue to engage across all government sectors with a view to find solution to the problem of leaking of strategic and confidential information. Government leaks that compromise confidential and strategic information affecting policy violate the National Security Act as well as the Intelligence and Security Service Act. To that extent, there is no question that this conduct poses threat to national security and to statecraft," he said.

Managing Director of Precision Vehicle and Asset Tracking, Motlhaleemang Moalosi who is an ICT expert said that if indeed the leaking of information can be traced to the DIS Internet Protocol address

they need to change it. "They also need to look at their server system and overhaul it as well as changing system administrators," he advised.

President Mokgweetsi Masisi has raised concern regarding the leaking of information and recently during cabinet retreat he expressed his worry about the leaking of classified information. He said the practice should be condemned as it had the potential to discredit the executive's level of integrity and trustworthiness. Masisi said that cabinet ministers have the obligation to guard against improper information dissemination by closing information leakages under their ministerial portfolios.

One of the leakages that even shook the security cluster was the leaking of presidential VIP protection SUVs whose pictures were leaked to the media. This led to the suspension of some senior officers at DIS including deputy Director General Operations. Former Commander of the Botswana Defence Force (BDF) Ground Forces Major General (R) Pius Mokgware raised concern about the leaking of classified information saying it is clear the leakages is at the rooftop.



Value Added Tax (VAT) Adjustment Notice

The Botswana Government has introduced a Statutory Instrument No. 36 of 2021 which increases the VAT rate to 14% effective 1 April 2021.

In line with this development, FNB Botswana will be adjusting pricing and fees on all products and services to reflect the 2% VAT increase effective 1 April 2021.

How will the increase impact you as a customer?
The VAT adjustment may:

- impact the timing of statements over the March and April period;
- increase our customer's instalments and fees for various payments, which may be adjusted.

Important Note:
The bank accounts statement cycle will run before and after the VAT increase implementation date, which will be shown on the bank statements.

For any pricing queries please contact our contact centre at

395 9881

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BDF Generals get diplomatic posts



Seikano

FROM PAGE 1

Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Relations Dr Lemogang Kwape could not be drawn into confirming the appointment of General Morake as Botswana's Ambassador to Japan saying it is the prerogative of the Head of State. "If there is such appointment it will be communicated to us and we have not yet received one," he said.

Efforts to get comment from General Morake and Seikano were futile as they both didn't answer their mobile phones.

A Public Administration scholar, former lecturer at Defence Command and Staff College of BDF and current MP for Phikwe West, Dithapelo Keorapetse said enior military officers at the rank of Generals in the context of Botswana are educated and experienced in international relations and/ or diplomacy. He explained that most of them have gone to Staff Colleges and War Colleges which are for all intends and purposes universities. There they got post graduate degrees and other qualifications in political science, international relations, security studies, strategic studies and other related programs.

"This applies to General Morake, who we

gather is headed for Japan as Ambassador and General Fisher who was our envoy in Nigeria and Zimbabwe. Others who have been envoys are General Pheto. Our founding Commander General Merafhe became arguably the best foreign affairs minister the country has ever had. BDF is one of the best trained and educated professional defense force in the region and the world. Through Defense Attaches deployed in different countries, our armed forces have been able to advance our national diplomatic interests. BDF has done military diplomatic activities such as peace keeping, joint military exercises, high level dialogues etc. international relations can't be divorced from the army, for war is the pursuit of politics through other means," said Keorapetse, adding that senior army officers should be understood to be career diplomats because it is what they do in addition to preparing for war during peace times.

"General Morake and Seikano are more qualified than most of the envoys we have at the moment. I'm comfortable if qualified military officers are appointed to diplomatic missions as it is done elsewhere," said Keorapetse.

BIUST recognizes Covid 19 workers

LESEGO MOSINYI
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FOLLOWING THE EMERGENCE OF Corona Virus pandemic in the country, the Botswana International University of Science and Technology (BIUST) became one of the institutions that worked tirelessly to help the government by producing products that helped with the fight against the pandemic which have ravaged not only Botswana, but also the entire world.

Speaking at the virtual awards ceremony which was held to appreciate BIUST staff and students who took part in the production of the products, in Palapye recently, BIUST Vice Chancellor Professor Otlogetswe Totolo applauded the awardees for working determinedly to produce COVID 19 response products in a concerted effort to assist the Botswana Government combat the spread of Covid-19 pandemic.

Professor Totolo indicated that, BIUST was proud to have played its role in producing world-class research and innovation in science, engineering and technology, contributed to industry growth and development, and advancement of a diversified knowledge. "The products which were donated across the country were produced by our very own staff and students in our laboratories which makes



Professor Totolo

me very confident and proud to tell the world on the quality of graduates the university produces," he said.

BIUST Vice Chancellor further recognized other stakeholders who include, Local Enterprise Authority (LEA) who worked with the University in the fight against the Covid 19 Pandemic by providing the mass soap production equipment which ensured sufficiency and efficiency in the production of the BIUST bathing and liquid

soap. "This notion of awarding patriots who have contributed enormously to the fight of Covid 19 is also the relevant time to recognize the goodwill displayed by our industry partners such as Morupule Coal Mine who contributed BWP100 000 and the De Beers Group who contributed 10, 000 litres of raw materials towards supporting the production of hand sanitizer," he said.

"Drone sprayers were modified by BIUST team in conjunction with the

Botswana Defence Force which disinfected the air at the densely populated spots around Palapye... another innovation is the development of a real-time dashboard for visualization of Covid 19 pandemic in Botswana, developed through collaboration with iThema LABS and the University of Witwatersrand in South Africa," he added.

For his part, BIUST Deputy Vice Chancellor Academic Affairs Professor Elisha Shemang said what the BIUST staff and students did is nothing short of heroism as they managed stand out when their country needed them. "It is time of crisis that heroes are born, today we concede BIUST personnel who did not only act heroically to produce Covid 19 response products during difficult time when Botswana needed experts to come forth to assist in combating the novel Covid 19 but confirmed existence of BIUST of changing the economy to a resource based one," he said.

Furthermore, Professor Shemang said, the University, through the awardees has risen to the challenge with much resilience and courage. "This noble gesture made our university gain much needed recognition around the globe and attracted positive strides that will lead us to be a research extensive university that was intended to... it is evident enough that the research you carry is becoming fruitful and purposeful," he said.

Debswana 2024 in full swing

FROM PGAE 3

he said. He said that in the past five years, Jwaneng has spent a total of P4.6 billion on citizen owned companies who trade in the specialties of Civil, Electrical and Mechanical Engineering, Fire Suppression, Construction, Water Solutions, Industrial Cleaning and Environmental Management.

Majwe Mining JV employees

On the absorption of the Majwe Mining JV employees into Debswana, the Acting Managing Director Lynette Armstrong said that they did not commit to absorb Majwe employees. "Indeed the Cut 9 operation still requires human resources to carry out the day to day tasks that is why Jwaneng Mine has employed Fixed Term Contract employees sourced through an open job

advertisement. The FTCs will continue to work at the cut 9 operation while a Labour Services Tender is being progressed," she said.

Orapa Letlhakane, Damtshaa Mine (OLDM)

Updating about the assets closure, OLDM General Manager Bakani Motlhabani said that as part of restructuring the mines, they have decommissioned their 47 year-old processing plant in Orapa and put Damtshaa Mine on maintenance and care. He said the closure of the plant and Damtshaa Mine has impacted on 545 jobs with 282 requesting voluntary exit. Recently there were talks that Debswana has decided to sell Damtshaa Mine to citizen owned companies in reaction to that, Motlhabani

said that the Debswana Board has not given them a mandate to sell the mine.

"No decision has yet been made in terms of what that strategy will be, as we are still evaluating different options. A lot of groundwork is still being done in order to determine the feasibility of all the options under review," said Motlhabani.

Jwaneng Mining to go underground

Debswana Head of Transformation and Innovation Thabo Balopi revealed that the diamond company is planning to make savings of at least P2 billion through the restructuring of part of the company.

One of the strategies is to convert Jwaneng mine from open pit cast mine

to underground entity which Balopi said that the shift to underground is expected to produce about 9 million carats annually and extend the Jwaneng mine's lifespan by a further 20 years. Asked when that will be implemented, Balopi said that early access is expected by 2023 with full production from 2034. "Jwaneng will be the world's largest underground mine with a more than 360 km of tunnel network," he said.

On how much it will cost to convert the mine to underground, Balopi said that the initial estimate is P65 billion. Chipping in, Debswana's Head of Diamond Technical Services Lenayang Dimbungu said that the board has not yet taken any final decision with regard to financing the project.

Mozambique frustrates SADC leaders

FROM PAGE 1

that they will show areas where they need help. "We know in which areas we need support and which areas are up to us, Mozambicans, to solve," Nyusi said in an address broadcast on state TV station TVM early this month.

He said that no war can be won if it is not clear from the beginning what can be done by the country itself and what can be done by its allies. Though Botswana government,

through a press release, indicated that the meeting was cancelled due to President Masisi being on quarantine and South African President Ramaphosa appearing before the Zondo Commission, highly placed sources have revealed that this was just a PR stunt by the two nations.

MMK report

The Brigadier Mokukumani led mission known as the MMK report which comprised experts in intelligence, air,

ground and maritime military operations from Botswana, Angola, Malawi, South Africa, Tanzania and Zimbabwe had recommended for the intervention force of 3000 soldiers. They recommended that the operation be funded by the SADC Contingency Fund and mobilise continental and international partners and stakeholders.

Already the United States of America through their special forces known as the Green Berets have committed to train the Mozambique army on fighting the insurgents.

Where to SADC?

In an interview Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Relations Dr Lemogang Kwape confirmed that indeed they had meeting of ministerial troika and have made recommended to the heads of state. Dr Kwape declined to reveal what was discussed or what they have recommended to the heads of state who will be meeting at a later date as it is confidential.

Commentator on international relations Thabo Mthowagae said if Mozambique refuses military assistance from the SADC regional forces, the regional block will have to revoke the international and regional laws. "One of those include collective self defence and United Nations Security Council approved military intervention which they can use if Mozambique is not forthcoming," he said.

Mthowagae reasoned that SADC's Mutual Defence Pact empowers SADC to intervene as it states that 'an armed attack against a State Party shall be considered a threat to regional peace and security and such an attack shall be met with immediate collective action.' "The issue of insurgents in the Carbo Delgado Province is a threat to regional peace as it might escalate to Tanzania which shares the border with Mozambique on that side," he said.

PUBLIC NOTICE

TENDER NO: BOCRA/PT/001/2021.2022

DEVELOPMENT OF AN ONLINE PORTAL FOR DATA COLLECTION

1. The Botswana Communications Regulatory Authority (BOCRA or the Authority) hereby invites experienced **Botswana Innovation Hub (BIH) affiliated companies and Botswana Qualification Authority (BQA) tertiary institutions accredited to provide degree courses in Computer Science or equivalent** to tender for the Development of an Online Portal for Data Collection.

2. The main objective of this project is to develop a web based online portal that shall ensure timely submission of data from BOCRA stakeholders, give up to date reports and utilise analytics on the data to analyse and predict market trends.

3. The Invitation to Tender (ITT) document should be purchased at the BOCRA Head Office by interested companies at a non-refundable fee of **P280.00 (Two Hundred and Eighty Pula)** VAT Inclusive. Payment must be made in the form of bank transfer or deposits to the following bank details:

Bank Name: First National Bank Botswana Ltd
Branch Name: Mall
Branch Code: 28-28-67
Account Name: Botswana Communications Regulatory Authority
Bank Account No: 62011115088
Swift Code: FIRNBWGX
Reference: BTA0001

4. Tender documents shall be issued upon provision of **Proof of Payment (POP)**. All funds transfer bank charges shall be borne by the bidder.

5. Bids and all supporting documents should be submitted not later than **10:00hrs on 21 May 2021** or such other later date as the Authority may advise in writing, to the Tender Box located at the following physical address:

Botswana Communications Regulatory Authority
Plot 50671 Independence Avenue
Gaborone

6. Bids will be opened at **10:05 HRS** on the **21 May 2021** at the BOCRA offices. In observing COVID-19 Protocols, bidders and the general public will not be allowed to attend the opening. Tender opening details will be published on BOCRA Website.

7. The BOCRA Procurement Regulations and Procedures shall apply to this tender.

8. Notwithstanding anything in the foregoing, the Authority is not bound to accept the lowest or any tender offer.

9. For any further information regarding the tender, please contact:
 Procurement Office at: procurement@bcra.org.bw

BOTSWANA COMMUNICATIONS REGULATORY AUTHORITY
 PLOT 50671 INDEPENDENCE AVENUE GABORONE
 PRIVATE BAG 00495 GABORONE, BOTSWANA
 Tel: +267 395 7755 Fax : +267 395 7976
 E : info@bcra.org.bw | www.bcra.org.bw

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Bank SBI Botswana Ltd

INTEREST RATES FOR MAY 2021

Type of deposit account	Nominal interest rates p.a.	Actual interest rates (effective p.a.)	Minimum balance (BWP)
Deposits			
Current	0.00%	0.00%	1,000
Call Deposit	0%-1%	0%-1.01%	1,000
Savings	0%-0.25%	0%-0.25%	500
91 days Fixed Deposit	1.50%	1.51%	1,000
6 months	1.55%	1.56%	1,000
12 months	1.65%-1.7%	1.66%-1.71%	1,000
24 months	1.75%	1.76%	1,000
Over 24 months	1.75%-1.8%	1.76%-1.81%	1,000

THE ABOVE INTREST RATES ARE APPLICABLE W.E.F 09 OCT 2020

Prime Rate	5.25%
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Deposit interest rates shown above are indicative only.

For any query/ information please contact us:

Bank SBI Botswana Ltd
2nd Floor, Exponential, Plot No.54351, CBD
P. O .Box 505243, Gaborone Station Post Office, Gaborone

Tel: 3919778 Fax: 3919858

Councillors get 6% salary increase

BAKANG TIRO
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- Ministry of Local Govt PS Keaja assures Cllrs money
- Govt cites budget constraints for increment delays
- Cllrs demand the money, petition Minister Molale
- PS promises change on service delivery at Local Govt

PERMANENT SECRETARY (PS) in the Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development Molefi Keaja says Councillors will get the outstanding 6% salary increase as government understands their grievances after petitioning the minister of Local Government Eric Molale demanding the pay. Councillors felt that government was unfair to them after they were omitted from the 6% and 10% salary increment that was extended to civil servants and Members of Parliament (MPs) in 2020.

In an interview, Keaja said that government is working around the clock to pay the councillors. He indicated that lack of resources due to the strained budget as result of Covid-19 pandemic resulted on the delay of paying the councillors noting that if situation improve they will be paid. "We had the consultations with Botswana Association of Local Authorities (BALA) last year on November regarding the matter. There are over 600 councillors that needs to be



Permanent Secretary (PS) in the Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development Molefi Keaja

paid the due. Considerations will be made by the government if financial situation normalizes," said PS Keaja. In an interview, Botswana

Association of Local Authorities (BALA) president Jeffrey Sibisibi said that councillors independently petitioned minister Molale but also

informed BALA about appeal. "We are hoping that the ministry will call us for consultations on the matter and see what can be done.

The councillors gave ministry 14 days to respond to the petition and we are ready for engagement with the ministry. BALA is committed for discussion on this matter," said Sibisibi. In the petition, councillor says that Molale's office must take cognizance that it had been one year and one month without receiving the increment indicating that the delay of this money had amounted to significant distress and damages of their lives therefore want money paid.

Turnaround Strategy

Meanwhile, Keaja said that the ministry is on a transformational journey aimed at improving service delivery at local government departments harnessed through new 2021-2025 strategy. He noted that a new strategy which is premised of six pillars is the bible in terms all of delivery efforts.

"The pillars include reorganize the ministry to improve the organizational performance. Successful implementation, local government digitalization, growing local economies and resilience, and the provision of effective local services and infrastructure are the areas of focus for delivery," he said.

Oozing with confidence, Keaja says that the budget priorities will be aligned to service delivery at the local authorities buttressing that ministry also want to drive the transformational agenda.

He underscored the importance of digitalizing the local government through overhauling the old manual system as the ministry's delivery of services is anchored on councils and Bogosi hence it is important to enhance service delivery by playing part in Smart Botswana initiative too.

Decentralisation Policy

Keaja revealed that the Decentralisation Policy is taking shape as councils are consulted by the minister over and been drafted with help Botswana Institute for Development Policy Analysis (BIDPA).

According to him, the policy is critical in the sense that it achieves to improve service delivery too. He said that the councils have been engaged on the draft policy by the minister to get their views on it.

To date, Keaja has indicated that councils such as Chobe, Jwaneng, Ghanzi and South East have been consulted by the minister of local government adding that the policy is strategic for change.

The development of a Decentralisation Policy is part of an undertaking by the Government to create a governance framework that defines and aligns the roles and responsibilities of central government, local governments and non-state actors to drive decentralised, inclusive and responsive service respectively.

Sibisibi said that the policy is key step in the right direction commending ministry for valuing it. He noted that BALA has been

advocating for decentralisation policy and he consulted councils.

"It is encouraging that there is progress on implementation of the policy. The policy will give the councils more participation in the economy and their portfolio will expand. We are committed to fast-tracking the policy when it is adopted. BALA will fully the support government," he added.

Ministerial Budget

Local Government ministry was allocated total budget of P8.5 billion for 2021/2022 financial year.

PS Keaja says the largest share of P7.1 billion is for recurrent and P1.4 billion for development budget.

According to him, P4.7 billion of the recurrent budget is allocated for councils for their operations.

"Social protection department has been given P1.5 billion of the recurrent budget to take care of the old age and destitute pensions amongst others. The Tribal Administration is getting P662 million for allowances and salaries," said Keaja noting that he expects money to be well utilized.

From the P1.4 billion development budget, Keaja said that P554 million is reserved for primary education noting that money will be for extension existing schools and building of 12 new schools.

Keaja revealed that 1 school will be built in Francistown, 2 in Gaborone, 2 in Central District, 1 in Kgatlang and 2 in North West, 2 in Jwaneng and the other 2 will be in Southern District as well.

UDC owes lawyers for BMD case

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- The two advocates demands over P500,000
- Yes, we still have legal bills to settle - Mohwasa
- 'We hope BMD will not neglect to pay us' -Mohwasa

UMBRELLA FOR DEMOCRATIC Change (UDC) are facing their unending financial challenges emanating from the court cases they had before and after the 2019 General Elections.

While the party recently managed to settle their legal fees with Botswana Democratic Party (BDP) they are now facing old debts to the two South African advocates who represented them during their case with Botswana Movement for Democracy (BMD) in August 2019.

Information gathered by this publication is that the two South African advocates Paul Kennedy and Tembeka Ngcukaitobi are demanding over P500, 000 from the UDC as legal fees.

Sources have revealed that UDC will not have a choice but to settle the bill as BMD is financially incapacitated and won't be able to pay the legal costs. UDC Spokesperson Moeti Mohwasa said their attorneys of record in the matter have not shared the taxed bill with them as such they cannot

speculate how much BMD owes them.

"Yes. We still have legal bills to settle. It has not been easy for us as we were at the summit of a financially draining election cycle. As per the order of court, we hope the BMD could pay so that we could settle. Though we are directly responsible for the bill, they are supposed to pay our costs," he said.

The UDC spokesperson said they have never been at war with the BMD as their expulsion was out of principle and not malice. "We also acknowledge their right to seek legal redress or review of our actions. We therefore, though expecting them to settle the costs, would not pursue them in a way that is vindictive and seeks to embarrass them. It is common knowledge that all opposition parties are struggling financially. We however hope that this magnanimous approach will not make them neglect to pay us," he said.



Mohwasa

Contacted for comment, BMD Treasurer Percy Bakwena said they are yet to receive the legal bill from UDC and will take it from there.

Bakwena refused to comment on allegations that the BMD is financially broke choosing to say that they are waiting for the bill from UDC. The legal costs arose from the legal challenge BMD launched against UDC just before the elections in which they challenged their expulsion.

In August 2019 BMD challenged the October 2018 decision by the UDC National Executive Committee to expel them from the coalition. BMD lost the case with costs when Justice Bashi Moesi said they failed to produce any legal and credible case to convince the court why the UDC should not expel it. He explained that the UDC as a political party had made its case and that as the court it should not interfere in the party's decision.

Their appeal against the high court judgment was also thrown out by Court of Appeal in which they wanted their case to be heard on urgent basis. When dismissing the appeal, Judge President of Court of Appeal, Justice Ian Kirby said that their appeal would likely cause voter confusion and uncertainty in elections.

Botswana faces lawsuit for killing poachers

- Nchindo family demands compensation

THE NCHINDO FAMILY IS looking to sue the Botswana government for damages after Botswana Defence Force (BDF) soldiers shot and killed three brothers and a cousin, last year at the Chobe River between Namibian and Botswana. The revelation comes after President Hage Geingob recently paid a courtesy visit on the family. "That is one of the items we highlighted when we had a meeting with the President. We asked that our government should be able to assist us with negotiating for compensation from the Botswana government. But definitely, suing for compensation is a priority as we seek recourse," a representative of the Nchindo family, Owen Sinvula told Windhoek Observer.

According to Sinvula, the general feeling from the Head of State is that he concurs, however, the challenge is that the preliminary findings of the investigation into the killings show that the four were killed in Botswana, thus under the jurisdiction of Botswana government. "So, he (Geingob) cannot dictate on the subject of compensation. Had it been here, in Namibia and committed by Namibian soldiers, it would have been easier."

On how far the family had gone with regards to its planned legal recourse, Sinvula said consultations had been held with unnamed lawyers on how best to assist the family on



President Hage Geingob visits the Nchindo family

the issue of compensation. "As it stands, Government has already committed to assist us, even as far as going to Botswana to attend court proceedings together with the Namibian High Commissioner to Botswana."

On the state of the family since the shooting incident, Sinvula said the deceased three brothers had left behind 17 children and taking care of the family was proving a challenge, thus the decision to seek financial compensation to fend for them. "It's been very difficult. The eldest is a fourth-year student at the University of Namibia, studying teaching, while the second eldest is a second-year student at a vocational institution. Some of the kids were going to private schools and their parents were the ones fending for them. Others are in boarding school. It has not been easy. Through the support we have in the family, we are trying,"

he said. "That is one reason why we actually asked Government to look at social grant aspect and consider it under special circumstances, because one caregiver is on Impalila Island taking care of the kids that are there. When they receive the N\$300 grant, it's not even enough to cover the transportation cost from Impalila to Katima. We asked Government to look at those special circumstances."

On the decision by the Presidency to keep the final report into the killings private, the family spokesperson said the family had requested to view the report's contents. "Sharing it in private with the family would probably be the best to assist us to find closure, as the process is still on going," he said.

The brothers were alleged to have been poachers by the BDF. Sinvula said, "Sharing the report might dispel the notion that the brothers were poachers." "The best time to

disclose the report to the public was last year already. But once it becomes a matter in court, I think the details will become easily accessible and available to the general public. If I had the capacity to control things, I would have wanted the report to be made public a long time ago. But I don't make decisions."

A statement by the Office of the President stated that the family's request would be considered. "With regard to the report, which the Nchindo family requested to see, the President informed that the joint investigation report into the killings was complete, as he had previously announced and the Government would consider their request to view contents of the report. However, the question of jurisdiction was equally important and the report could not be made public, the President emphasised." [OBSERVER24.COM. NA]

Masisi's day of reckoning

FROM PAGE 1

members over others. Disgruntled MPs said Masisi and Tsogwane had long shown their favoritism during the 2019 elections by launching some BDP parliamentary candidates and leaving others to fend for themselves. "This favoritism still persist today. Most of the candidates that were launched by either Masisi or Tsogwane made it into the cabinet. This divide and rule must stop.

All MPs should be given equal treatment whether they are in cabinet or not.

We matter as BDP backbenchers and the leadership should not just align itself to us when lobbying us to support bills," said one BDP

Legislator. Moreover, it is expected that the MPs will relay to Masisi their concerns over instability in government as well as decisions taken that put their political careers on the line. One of the decisions that they are unhappy about is the withdrawal of Covid-19 scorpion's jobs. Recently, Lobatse Town Council issued a notice of withdrawal of vacancy of temporary Covid-19 scorpions. Other Councils are anticipated to follow suit because local authorities are cash strapped.

"We cannot afford to see government falling into disarray. It is common knowledge from the just ended Parliament session that Covid-19 scorpions will be retained.

Voters look up to us when some of government decisions are bad. Government house should be put in order," said another MP.

Also, BDP backbenchers are not happy that new members recruited from the opposition aisle by Masisi to join the BDP are for a long time always given priority and in pole position for cabinet appointments. This, the MPs said, is creating the impression that BDP leadership doubts their capabilities.

Recently, the opposition particularly Umbrella for Democratic Change (UDC) accused the BDP for recruiting some of its MPs before the floor crossing bill was signed as they were offered cabinet posts.

Deposit Interest Rates

For the month of May 2021

Type of Deposit Account	Nominal Interest Rates (%)	Actual Interest Rates (%)	Minimum Opening Balance
	(Lowest-Highest)	(Lowest-Highest)	(Pula)
Current	Nil	Nil	Nil
Call	0.10% - 0.25%	0.10% - 0.25%	1,000
Savings	0.15% - 3.25%	0.15% - 3.25%	100
91-Days Fixed Deposit	1.00% - 1.25%	1.00% - 1.25%	1,000
6 months	1.75% - 2.00%	1.75% - 2.00%	1,000
12 months	2.05% - 2.25%	2.05% - 2.25%	1,000
24 months	2.25% - 2.50%	2.25% - 2.50%	1,000
Over 24 months	2.55% - 3.00%	2.55% - 3.00%	1,000
Prime Lending Rate		5.25%	5.25%

The Prime lending rate of 5.25% is effective from 9th October 2020

Deposit Interest Rates shown are indicative only

For firm rates please contact any of our Branches and Sales and Service Centres:

Game City Branch	- 370 4700	Francistown Branch	- 245 0000
Fairgrounds Branch	- 367 4600	Selebi Phikwe Branch	- 263 1000
Airport Junction Branch	- 371 9700	Palapye Branch	- 494 1000
The Square Branch	- 398 5700	Maun Branch	- 682 0000
Ghanzi Sales and Service Centre	- 659 8800		
Molepolole Sales and Service Centre	- 592 3050		
Lethakane Sales and Service Centre	- 298 5011		
Kanye Sales and Service Centre	- 544 6300		

For deposits more than P1,000,000 please contact 367 4377

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BOSETU CONGRESS 2021

RADICAL TRANSFORMATION OF EDUCATION SECTOR NECESSARY ADMIST COVID-19



Election officers counting the ballots 2.tif



OPENING PRAYER



DIRECTOR OF CEREMONY- BOSETU VICE PRESIDENT MOGOMOTSI MOTSHEGWA



CREDENTIALS, ROLL CALL & QUORUM



Delegate casting his vote



PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS ON THEME & NATIONAL ISSUES- CMDE PRESIDENT WINSTON RADIKOLO



INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS - CMDE VSG INNOCENT MANNATHOKO



INTRODUCTION OF GUEST SPEAKER- CMDE SG TOBOKANI RARI



Votes verification by election officers



Botswana Sectors of Educators Trade Union (BOSETU) President Winston Radikolo has decried that the local education system has been badly exposed and found wanting as Covid-19 hit home. Speaking at the official opening of BOSETU virtual elective congress, which was held under the theme "Transforming the education sector in the midst of Covid-19 Pandemic," on Tuesday in Palapye, Radikolo said the theme could not have been relevant in the context of how the Covid-19 pandemic has adversely affected the education sector.

"It is worth stating that this theme was deliberately crafted in an endeavour to stir debate and trigger national discourse on how the education system of Botswana should respond trends imposed by covid-19," he said, adding that the theme means that the manner in which teaching and learning has been carried out in schools should change to embrace Covid-19 preventative protocols.

He said schools are way too big in terms of population, as classrooms are badly congested. He further said there is also absence of connectivity in schools and as a result, there is minimum use of technology. "With the above inadequacies, teaching and learning literally halted when Covid-19 protocols such as social distancing, decongestion of workplaces and the ultimate lockdowns were imposed," decried Radikolo.

Furthermore, BOSETU President said while the pandemic has affected everyone regardless of economic status, gender or national it is quite glaring that the effects are not the same. "Poor countries and the vulnerable have been hard hit. At this juncture, the million-dollar question that should be asked is here in Botswana how is our education affected. What is our recovery plans and transformational agenda? These are the questions that should be at the centre of our debate,"

he said. He noted that the remedial proposals that they had over the years suggested to the government on education challenges are still relevant with Covid-19 mentioning that they have always called on the ministries of Education to adopt a particularistic approach to education problems since the preferred universal approach has failed over the years.

Moreover, Radikolo said, internet connectivity and the use of IT in instructional delivery is long overdue. "The use of IT has exposed the inequality in schools, the have, have access to virtual classrooms and the have not do not. The IT revolution in schools should be expedited, It is here where we call on our various Ministries to embrace fully, the working from home and flexi hour arrangement with a deliberate intention of ultimately building a strong virtual culture of doing business," he said. BOSETU President further said, one of the critical aspects of the education sector that needs to be radically transformed to respond to covid 19 is the working environment and condition of work for educators. He further said covid-19 is by any standards an occupational disease, therefore convention 155, on occupational health safety provides that any employer whose work subjects an employee to hazardous condition should provide those employees with some PPEs and should compensate them in case of an unfortunate event of loss of life.

"It is in this vein that BOSETU has on numerous occasions called on government to categorize teachers under the employees that are regarded as frontline workers and should provide them with PPEs and pay them risk allowance," he said. Radikolo also said they have always advocated for the abolishing of shared staff accommodation in schools and in other institutions. "This practice is not only inhumane but is also a health hazard is not happening anywhere else, safe for

the armed forces which of late have also been moving rapidly towards abandoning the practice, as those who stay outside the barracks are incentivized, and we have also called for the same treatment which our Government has always given a cold reception to," he said. He said the practice has also proved to be problematic when dealing with Covid-19 pandemic, particularly when house mates have to go for self isolation or quarantine. "We therefore still insist through our advocacy that the various alternatives to this shared staff accommodation crisis are still the only option which remedy the challenge," he said.

Radikolo added that the Covid-19 challenges outlined remain a parasitic threats to challenges that are historical, he however said the pandemic has also created a conducive environment for a shift towards progressive changes in the public system. "These changes happened under great duress, but they were necessary and long overdue, class size, student-educator ratio, some upgrade in some school physical infrastructure etc," he said. "We continue to remain very hopeful that such conditions would not reverse, and it is the right direction that the education system of the world, Botswana included, ought to go. It is in this vein that we call for an urgent and radical transformation of our education system towards digitalization and infusion technology," he added.

For his part, university of Namibia Lecturer, Professor Trywell Kalusopa said, Covid-19 pandemic has presented what others have called a historic shock to education system globally.

He indicated that UNESCO estimates that globally, more than 1.2 billion children in 186 countries are affected by school closure due to the pandemic. "The pandemic has radically changed the education sector forever, this had given rise to e-learning- whereby teaching is undertaken remotely and on digital platforms," said Prof Kalusopa. He

noted that in Botswana, like almost all the other 189 countries that closed their schools, the education community has had to hastily move to remote learning strategies. "During this crisis, we have witnessed policy makers, teachers, education leaders, educators and education organisations quickly activate innovative new ways of helping learner to learn," he said.

Moreover, he said in some instances television radio lessons, including through mobile phone have been some of the ways used, however he said reports show that notwithstanding recent focus on expanding the use of ICT in Botswana, the country was not ready for remote learning for all. "The ICT infrastructure is limited and technology disparities among learners became evident based on home background and geographic location," he said.

He further said statistics Botswana in their 2019 ICT brief indicate that 78.7 percent of people in rural areas had never used computer/ laptop/ tablet. "The proportion of those who had ever used a computer/ laptop/ tablet in cities and towns was recorded at 48.7 percent. Urban villages and rural areas recorded 26.6 and 11.6 percent of those who had ever used the same respectively. Gaborone recorded at 24.8 percent and Kweneng East recorded 14.5 percent. From the population only 23.7 percent reported having access to internet services. Only about 45.0 percent of persons in cities and towns reported having access to internet," he said.

However Professor Kalusopa noted that the silver lining is that COVID-19 has resulted in the public recognition that education has a critical role in society and parents' appreciation for teachers, their skills, and their invaluable role in student well-being. "Now is the time to chart a vision for how education can emerge stronger from this global crisis and help reduce education inequality," he said.



Votes verification by election officers



Election officers counting the ballots



Votes verification by election officers

Reinventing Civil Society and the Corporate World in Botswana

GOBE TAZIBA*

IT IS A THING ONCE UNTHINKABLE. THE idea that corporate culture should ever focus on social value and social capital, creating assets and livelihoods among the poor; this was anathema thirty years ago. At that time the ruling passion was profit, super profits and financial domination of other classes and social groupings. Capital had no social conscience. Big money had no moral obligation. Capital begat capital. Big money polluted the environment with impunity. It destroyed rainforests. It plundered fragile ecosystems and endangered species. It trampled on the poor and turned a blind eye to social degradation, to suffering women, to uneducated children. Market fundamentalism dominated politics and social engineering. It exploited workers, who it extracted alongside raw materials from the wilderness of miserable rural society, and the bowels of dirty cities.

In fact, when I was growing up corporate giants, by law and custom, routinely decreed frightful damnation on the poor and the vulnerable in society, both as individuals and as communities. Workers were poorly paid. Communities were dispossessed of material resources and livelihoods. Sometimes they were even displaced without compensation. But all this is slowly changing.

Yes, capital flight still exists. Contracts are still the pillars of income distribution inequalities. We must, I think, acknowledge that companies, including here in Botswana, are seriously beginning to worry about the social pathologies of industrialization efforts and struggles. Things that once fascinated only sociologists and fiction writers are now attracting the attention of company executives.

What is happening is that a different form of economy is shaping up. It is a form of economy that values giving back to society, and nature. Look at what mining companies

are doing for communities adjacent to their mining sites and operations. These companies are giving back to these communities. They are willing to share development risks and hazards with their community neighbours. This cannot be a bad thing. Look at what is happening in community trusts. Companies are now beginning to show a willingness to embrace and leverage the complex relations between humans, wealth creation and our habitat; planet earth, for the benefit of larger stakeholders than just shareholders. These commercial projects are remarkable in that they very often focus not just on financial inclusion but directly champion minority groups and promote women and indigenous people empowerment.

Companies no longer focus just on accumulation and sustainable profits. Run by a generation that grew up demanding to be heard, these companies want business methods that are inclusive, environmental conscious, and sustainable. They want to work with society, to work with communities, and not just workers. European children who grew up traumatized by the spectre of nuclear violence and pollution cataclysms want to run corporations that address social asphyxia and human decency. They want to build, and live in, compassionate societies. African children who grew up crying for freedom want corporations that have a moral conscience. Rural children who grew up in devastated wastelands, the result of climate change and environmental degradation, want to corporations possessed of sufficient compassionate courage to care for nature, to conserve the environment, and to fight climate change crisis with unflinching vigour and fortitude.

These new company executives want to bridge the gap between financial markets and political citizens. They want peace between corporations and society, and justice between the republic and the world of work, the sphere of reality, the world of

toil, woe and rewards. They want to invest in public safety; crime prevention, good schools, food security, decent housing, good paying jobs, sustainable safety nets and social protection, accessible healthcare, clean water, mental health. Private companies are invested in these things. Business Botswana even takes direct and active interest in national budgeting and sustainable development goals. They also work with, us, civil society organizations.

Corporate Botswana is growing. But for the coronavirus and the Covid-19 pandemic, Botswana would by now be making serious inroads in conciliating these competing new ideas and emerging market ethos. As a civil society organization BONASO long recognized the ascendancy of this new business culture. We are just beginning to tap into its intoxicating energy, to ride out the wave of its trajectory with gusto.

There is great potential for every stakeholder here. This is a great investment into the future of Botswana and communities living close to natural resources. It is great for the poor in all social settings because we are seeing elsewhere companies investing in the environment, in conservation, in tourism, in poor neighbourhoods, in indigenous settings, in forests, in marginalized social groups, in vulnerable demographics, and anti-poverty programs.

But how exactly can communities benefit from cooperation between civil society organizations and private companies, big or small? The starting point is that civil society must reinvent themselves. An expectation that companies rethink their business models while civil society organizations retain the status just won't do. We must rethink how we do things. In fact, we must seek out the corporate world. Talk to them, realign some of our projects and programs to their visions and missions. Remember though that companies deal in products and profits. It is important that we

demonstrate success and sustainability. We must show them good results for human effort. Our vision must impress them. Our organizational structures must impress them. Our staff must impress them. Our products and project results must impress them. We must be seen to be committed to rewarding interactions between markets and citizens, between companies and consumers, between investors and resource-rich settings. We must be seen to be committed to growing and influencing corporate passion in issues of poverty, marginality and environmental threat.

As civil society we must think ahead of those who keep our projects running. As social change advocates and agents it is important that we are seen as the visionaries and builders that we are. This is the only way to grow our profile and character as valuable and vital partners to national development and democratic participation. It is against this background that we are working hard to change the shape and character of our civil society organization. We are actively positioning ourselves as a dynamic, democratic responsive social change organization best inspired and most strategically positioned to drive social investment. We aspire to venture into the informal community sector and turn the social problems plaguing people into life changing opportunities. We aim to structure, design, or framework, specific business models for the solutions to these problems, helping, in the process to incentivize, add value to, and uplift the lives of thousands of Botswana currently trapped in poverty, vulnerability, dependence and marginality. In short, we aim to invest in the poor in such a way that the poor can eventually sustainably manage their own lives, map out their own futures, become masters of their own destinies and gain dignity and respect in good jobs and good wages, salaries and profits.

We are building a new Botswana. A twenty first century technological democratic Botswana where nobody is left behind in the areas of human dignity, justice, equality, prosperity and freedom. To us social investment, or social enterprise development, is a social engineering tool used by civil society organizations, in partnership with the private sector, to help alleviate, or improve, the myriad challenges facing humanity,

and communities, in our lifetime: poverty, environmental destruction, human rights violations, unemployment, vulnerable household livelihoods, substance abuse and alcoholism, rampant diseases and health pandemics, and harsh economic and political conditions. As an impact investment organization, we will be using specific business models to generate revenue and profits, and making sure these funds are legally reinvested into non-profit organizations.

In this way we will be creating robust, multiple, and self-sustaining pathways for thousands of Botswana to get out of poverty, and consequently driving both the government diversification program and the UN Social Development Goals. We consider ourselves visionaries, activists, and game changers who are taking a unique initiative to not only defy, and replace, outdated business models and corporate behaviour, but also design tomorrow's enterprises. We believe the harsh conditions facing the world right now require deeper, and more intelligent, understanding of customers, distribution channels, partnerships, revenue streams and new company cultures and business thinking.

And companies cannot do these things without social partnerships and community cooperation. We aim to embed and purposefully integrate ourselves in corporate Botswana and work with local companies to create social and asset value and enhanced incomes and livelihoods for marginal and vulnerable Botswana. It is our belief that the best way to fight poverty, vulnerability and economic exclusion is to create ventures purpose-built to benefit economically marginalized segments of society through sustainable civil society and corporate partnership engagements and not just public policy. We have come to the conclusion that the subsidies from taxpayers and donations from development partners are fragile themselves, already dwindling, and not sustainable for future local anti-poverty programs and projects.

There is urgent need to identify and bring about transformation in poor communities by permanently altering the prevailing social pathologies in these communities that work to their disadvantage; lack of skills, poor access to job markets, income poverty, community location disadvantage, and the corresponding daily debilitating

encumbrances in these locales like drug addictions, violence, crime and alcoholism. Botswana must be given the power to lift themselves from poverty, the power to create vital and healthy lives in their own communities and neighbourhoods now and in the future.

This is the only way to create a sustainable post-Covid19 pandemic society. This is only way to create employment for the youth. This is the only way to make sure development does not leave other citizens; the disabled, people living with HIV, and indigenous Botswana, behind. Civil society organizations must turn themselves into social impact organizations of the future. What Botswana needs right now is a socially-conscious generation of social thinkers and practitioners passionately committed to social good influencing that touches everything from business start-ups, business social responsibility, to anti-poverty development agendas, public purchasing powers and individual career choices and wealth creation.

We determined to transform the face of Botswana and redirect the destinies of hundreds of thousands of Botswana. We want to build an ecosystem of social actors that promote innovation as a vehicle to create new livelihoods for Botswana and lift their social security through better living standards and sustainable income generation ventures. We want to design and implement business strategies that scale up already existing social projects to add substance to public investment and by diversifying economic growth to include poor people.

As an advocacy and service delivery organization we aim to leverage development cooperation as a vector for public policy and and corporate revenue generation. Such revenue we shall direct towards social target areas that promote human dignity, equality, freedom, economic choices and justice. We call on corporate Botswana to work with us. To work with us to reimagine and reinvent the future of Botswana. We already have plans that are ready for funding. We already have target populations that depend on the successes of these plans and programs.

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Botswana Federation Of Trade Unions (BFTU) affiliates, regional leadership and the Executive Board wishes you a blissfull LABOUR DAY...!!



“Social Dialogue: An Imperative for tackling emerging challenges”

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Type of deposit account	Nominal Interest Rates (%)	Actual Interest Rates (%)	Minimum opening Balance	WE'LL HELP YOU TO SAVE FOR A BETTER TOMORROW
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Current	0.00 - 0.00%	0.00 - 0.00%	3000	RATES ARE NEGOTIABLE FOR FIXED DEPOSITS ABOVE BWP500 000.00
Call	0.00 - 1.00%	0.00 - 1.01%	1000	
Savings	0.00 - 2.00%	0.00 - 2.03%	100	
91 - Days Fixed Deposit	1.50 - 1.50%	1.50 - 1.50%	500	
6 Months	1.75 - 1.75%	1.75 - 1.76%	500	
12 Months	2.50 - 2.50%	2.50 - 2.53%	500	
24 Months	3.75 - 3.75%	3.75 - 3.82%	500	
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Opinions, Reviews & Analysis



ADAM PHETLHE
ON SUNDAY!

DURING THE COURSE OF THIS week, I looked at the other side of suggestions that unless President Mokgweetsi Masisi changes course, he could become the first President in Botswana political history to serve only one term.

I came to the conclusion that contrary to it, there are possibilities that he could pull another victory in the 2024 general election. Botswana political history tells us that the Botswana Democratic Party (BDP) has in recent times prevailed in the last two general elections when it was up for the taking. But not because it was the best performing political party with compelling appeal to the electorate but chiefly because opposition parties were pitifully fragmented right down the middle as they currently are. Someone opined that 'the BDP doesn't win elections, the opposition loses them.' This is a compelling statement that is not only correct in my view but difficult if not impossible to ignore.

There are a few prerequisites the President has to fulfil in order to become the BDP presidential candidate which, if he doesn't, could disqualify him from contesting the next general. He will have to win the contest of becoming the BDP presidential elections due in an election year. Something is reportedly brewing in the BDP wherein there are voices of disgruntlement against the President on many fronts. The voices are saying the President has failed to provide leadership in the party and government. Predictably, some of the voices should be some MPs who feel the President's 'roadmap' in both government and the party is not conducive to their re-election in 2024 given the subsiding mood of goodwill the President received in 2019. There are complaints from

Status quo at IEC, the Electoral Act work perfectly for BDP/ Masisi

▪ 'the BDP does not win elections, the opposition loses them.'

these MPs that they are forced to defend party positions in parliament while they would not have been appraised about them before reaching parliament. These MPs' actions have been brutally exposed by live parliamentary proceedings whereupon their voters are busy ticking the boxes whether for good or for worse. Other voices reportedly, are from those who equally feel the President has lost course and is therefore leading the party astray. Some of these would be those who religiously campaigned for him but are now left and forgotten in political wilderness. Predictably, they have an axe to grind with him. Needless to mention, this is a common political ball thrown around in the body politic of political parties.

The disgruntled voices are singing a song whose theme is to dethrone the Vice President from his position of party Chairman. This will be followed by dethroning the President himself in the 2024 party congress in which the BDP Constitution demands that during an election year, the party must elect a President who will be its presidential candidate as alluded to above. Should the disgruntled voices succeed in removing the President before the 2024 general election, the BDP would be contesting that election with a new presidential candidate. Is this realistically possible? The following should attempt to answer the question.

In 2017, the BDP held its elective congress in Tonota where the then Minister Nonofu Molefhi was challenging Masisi for the position of BDP Chairman. This is the congress in which the Masisi's camp was dubbed the Dubai Camp where all the goodies and freebies probably never witnessed at the previous party congresses were so witnessed. Members of this faction were feted on the finer things in life including the free flow of money splashed from a lady's bag. The Banonofhi or Marakanelo camp of Rre Molefhi was reportedly starving where some

of his members defected to Camp Dubai. The President and his faction swept the stakes with the opposing party failing to make it to the party's other positions on the Central Committee. I stand corrected. It must be remembered that the President uses and takes advantage of his incumbency as the Head of State and the President of the BDP in all manner of things. Incumbency therefore becomes very useful.

One does not need to go too far back in the political history of the BDP. In 2019, Mma Venson-Moitoi tried to dethrone Masisi in the controversial Kang congress which was preceded by a lot of shenanigans. When Mma Venson-Moitoi made her intentions known that she sought to challenge the President, she was immediately removed from her ministerial position. Mma Venson Moitoi would later withdraw from the contest at the eleventh hour, sending DIS Director General to deliver the withdrawal letter. Before this, the way to Kang was characterised by a dog-eat-dog kind of situation between Masisi and Moitoi. Just like how he triumphed at the Tonota and Kang congresses, the Masisi is likely to perfect his tactics to annihilate the voices of disgruntlement said to be emerging to destabilise and to ultimately remove him from the throne. On these two points therefore, the President should prevail to be the BDP's presidential candidate in 2024. Why would he be desirous of changing tactics which won him the game under similar circumstances and situations? They say if it ain't broke, don't fix it. The reasonable thing would be to perfect it for even better results.

Having cleared the party hurdle by stamping his authority, the next would be for him to win the 2024 general election in order to serve his second and final term. This is where it becomes very interesting in more ways than one. But again, the President was in a similar

situation in 2019 where the BDP looked dead and buried due to the political and socio-economic circumstances of the country. The Umbrella for Democratic Change (UDC) looked to be matching the BDP pound for pound in terms of campaign resources. This brought fear in the BDP because in the political history of Botswana, no Opposition formation had ever been so well resourced like the UDC was. The BDP government employed nefarious means to destabilise the UDC by peddling tax issues around its President; grounding his aircraft and temporarily withholding its manifesto for launching at the Maun rally amongst others. I cannot forget the UDC last mammoth rally in its President's constituency and the presidential television debate. Many people were shocked by the result of the UDC President losing to the incumbent MP. The UDC believed then, as it still does that the BDP had rigged the election. Assuming without conceding that the BDP indeed rigged them, what would stop it from doing the same in 2024? Nothing suggests this cannot be repeated if it previously delivered the goods given the high stakes in the political chess game.

The President holds all the levers of power which he can still use for purposes of political expediency. Institutions such as DIS are still under the direction and influence of the President by virtue of the fact that it reports directly to him. Forget about the recently appointed DIS Committee which is all BDP due to the withdrawal of the Opposition from it. It is just a PR exercise meant to give it some legitimacy in the public eye. The President calls all the shots at DIS as his predecessors. This proposition could partly or in whole be explained by the rejection of the Opposition motion on reforming both the Independent Electoral Commission (IEC) and the Electoral Act. A view has been expressed to the effect that by preferring the



Masisi

[PIC:PRESSPHOTO]

current status of the IEC and the Electoral Act to remain as is, it serves the BDP in more ways than one to its advantage. If this view is correct, the President would surely use it to prevail in 2024.

With the Opposition still pitifully entrenched in self-pitying and labouring on the election rigging narrative, the BDP and by extension the President, are more than happy with the status quo. By now, one would have expected the Opposition to be too far in terms of practical unity in its ranks. Toxic political statements from all and sundry

in that stable give credence to the BDP's slogan that 'There is still no alternative.' While the Opposition is doing fairly okay in parliament in my view, the same cannot be said about the same outside. The recent SRC elections at the University of Botswana where one expected the Opposition student formations to work together in the spirit of Moonoo, told a different story. By its own admission, Opposition parties have conceded that without unity in its ranks, dethroning the BDP will be as elusive as fighting against corruption. Given the above, it is still highly

likely that whatever internal and external challenges the President could face, he still holds the aces to serve the second term. His biggest and potent ace is that of incumbency. While I accept that an incumbent can still be beaten, history remains my yardstick. He has faced similar challenges in the past where he has prevailed. But I still hold the view that he must do more to ensure that he serves the second term. I am prepared to be persuaded otherwise as always.

Judge for Yourself!
adamphetlhe08@gmail.com

It is wrong, naive and poor leadership to undertake frequent reshuffles



Motshegwa

A QUESTION WAS ASKED BY Duma FM on Thursday 22nd April 2021 on whether or not it is good governance to be reshuffling Cabinet and/or transferring senior public officers regularly. Duma also wanted to know what does the phrase "serving at the pleasure of the President" mean? The import of the latter question was if H.E. is the one appointing Cabinet ministers and senior public officers, why do we question his decision when he transfers or drops them from the job he had appointed them to do?

Let me start my response with the last question or the phrase "serving at the pleasure of H.E. the President". First Botswana at independence chose the path of democracy. Democracy means not only selecting leaders through an open and transparent system where every citizen of agreed age participates but equally critical, that every decision is made after consultation. This is in line with the Setswana saying that says "Kgosi ke Kgosi ka batho". Simply meaning that there is no room for autocracy or dictatorship. A leader must always consult others and seek advice before he/she makes a decision. Our Constitution has established institutions and structures such a political party, parliament, cabinet and the public service as platforms that a decision maker such the President, minister or any leader at any level must use to advise him/herself. This is both what democracy and good governance are all about. Anybody who sidelines these structures and institutions

is undemocratic, autocratic and departing from the political culture of both the traditional and modern Botswana political tradition.

Coming to the first questions, it is wrong, naive and poor leadership to be changing your leadership team be it at either Cabinet or senior public service level. We believe you appoint a minister or a senior officer, after careful and extensively consultation and that you have therefore chosen the right person or persons to the position/s. That is, you are not guessing whether the person you choose is capable or not.

When you present your appointees before the public, as H. E or any leader for that matter, you are asking the public to believe and trust that, those are the best members of the team for the task of developing the country which you were elected to do. You are like a man or woman making a span of oxen to plough. The process is not trial and error. You choose the best that will deliver the job. If it becomes trial and error then the job will suffer.

Or to use another analogy, you are like a sport coach, a good coach will always choose the best team from the larger group. This is because you need stability and time to ensure team work and team spirit. Stability and team work are primary ingredients of good results and high performance.

So why then do we criticize H.E. the President for doing the transfers and appointments which are within his job description and authority? We do so for five reasons:

1. Frequency - since 1st April 2018 when he became President, President

Masisi has changed his Cabinet more than three times. Almost once a year. Granted there was a national election in 2019, he has still changed Cabinet twice post 2019.

2. The President has not only changed ministers frequently but even more worrisome, permanent secretaries and directors in public service and parastatal organizations frequently. These actions have brought about instability and memory loss in the whole system.

3. Instability brings about poor performance and lack of service delivery. We see this in Health, Finance, and every parastatal organisation organization.

4. Rapid change of President Masisi's team suggest that he either doesn't consult or that his advisers are poor or even deliberately misleading him.

5. Those inside this government, say it is both lack of consultation and poor advise. You change officials because you did not quite know their ability or because they have betrayed you. We do not know which is which here because he never gives reasons for the transfers or sacking of these officers.

Two points need to made here in conclusion, one is that the nation is suffering because of poor service delivery and the second is that if those who are appointed fail to perform it all reflects on the ability of the one appointing them. We know of course that part of the problem is the insistence that only BDP cardholders will be appointed to senior positions in a BDP government. This was a resolution made at a BDP Council meeting and former minister Kgati was fond of going around rooting out non-BDP senior public officers and CEOs of parastatal organizations. Some of these were among the best performers. So the nation should seek explanations of poor service delivery, corruption and poor governance from a deliberate political decision to appoint their incapable members to these positions.

"Great are those with great vision & action for humanity"
I remain genuine
K.M.N MOTSHEGWA

Women on their own, are naturally powerful



IGNATIUS NJOBVU
HEART OF THE MATTER

LET ME DEDICATE THIS opinion to narrating two real stories that occurred within my surroundings and situations. Although the stories are almost similar in nature, they occurred at different times. They both relate to the natural powers possessed by women. Once upon a time I was hiking from Maun (Ema re je - hiking point) to Francistown. With me, was a beautiful lady destined for Francistown too. It was mid-summer day and the sun was giving us more than enough of its source of energy. As expected, the beautiful lady stood under a tree to avoid the heat from the sun. It was me who kept on attempting to stop the passing cars in the extreme heat. After almost an hour of failed attempts, a GD-6 Toyota Hilux (four doors) stopped at a distance. I ran towards the car and enquired for a 'lift'. The seemingly good married man agreed. But he emphasised that I seat behind because he had files piled-up on the front passenger seat. Seeing the files, I agreed. As we were about to start off, I told him that there is a lady going to Francistown standing under that tree. He asked me to call her, which I did. When she arrived, I was instructed to remove the files from the front seat and place them behind, creating space for the lady to seat in front. Off we went.

The three of us were all quiet, we all enjoyed the gospel music which was played I guess. Just after we passed through Makalamabedi gate, the lady made a comment in a smiling mood that 'Ao rra, o ka re pega mo koloeng ya gago o bo o sa re buise' (spark some conversation Mr driver, you are too quiet). To which the driver responded 'start it we shall join in'. And indeed the two started chatting and laughing. On the way, I fell asleep until we reached Nata. The driver parked the car right on the



filling station point signalling that he is re-fuelling. 'Young man, let us fill up the tank' as he asked me to pay for my transport fees. I gladly gave him P150. He turned to the lady and asked her what she would want for a snack. How she gets to be offered the opportunity to be bought something to eat, while I am being asked to pay my transport dues, I didn't understand. She replied by saying she did not want anything except airtime. The driver and I went into the shop. He bought two packets of chips and sausage, and a P60 airtime receipt. When we arrived back to the car, he gladly offered a packet of chips, sausage and of course the requested airtime.

A somewhat similar story happened when I boarded a 25 seater bus from my home village (Lethakane) to Maun. I was occupying the front seat. In between myself and the driver, was a lady with what we call 'well-developed African body features'. Both the driver and I couldn't help but glance at the well-built assets frequently. On the way, the lady remarked in a soft

voice facing the driver 'gakena madi a lekanyeng go duelela mosepele' loosely translated as 'I don't have enough money to pay as transport fee'. She was loud enough for both of us to hear. The driver laughed at her utterances and instead asked for her phone number to which she provided. Suddenly the conversation diverted to phones rather than talking. I suspect that it was meant to eliminate me from the subject. I was hurt because I had vested interests in what would be the turn of events. And so naturally I extended my vision in a twisted angle so that I could read some message on her phone. Fortunately, I managed to zoom on one message in which the driver enquired knowledge of how much she was running short of. I couldn't follow fully the conversation because she kept on adjusting the angle of her phone when typing. As we travelled, I then saw the driver sneaking through a P200 pula note to her. This was done in the most secretive manner. The driver used his left hand to pass through the note, and the lady collected with her right hand. The two of them kept on looking at whether or not I am aware of what is happening. I pretended not to. In the end, I saw the lady popping out the P200 pula as she paid the bus 'conductor' for her transport fares.

The two shortened stories signify the psychological powers that women have in society. I am one proponent of women empowerment. In my view, I would propose women empowerment to extend to exposing them to more financial opportunities. Otherwise women on their own, are naturally powerful people. They are able to navigate through situations with ease. They can be resourceful in averting what could be a very difficult situation. As men, we need women in our lives.
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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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President Geingob condoles with the Nchindo family

Concludes consultations in the Zambezi region with traditional leaders

THE PRESIDENT OF THE Republic of Namibia, His Excellency Dr. Hage G. Geingob concluded today, Monday 26 April 2021, meetings with Traditional Authorities, and residents of Impalila Island, and condoled with the bereaved Nchindo family in the Zambezi Region.

On Saturday evening, 24 April 2021, the President held briefing meetings with the Right Honourable Prime Minister, Saara Kuugongelwa-Amadhila, the Honourable Minister of Home Affairs, Immigration, Safety and Security, Hon. Albert Kawana, the Secretary to Cabinet, Dr. George Simataa, the Regional Governor, Honourable Lawrence Sampofu and senior government officials to discuss developmental matters pertaining to the region. On Sunday, 25 April 2021, President Geingob held consultations with the Leaders of Traditional Authorities in the Zambezi Region. During the meeting, Chief Kisco Liswani III of the Masubiya, Chief Boniface Shufu of the Mayeyi, Chief Joseph Tembwe Mayuni of the Mashi and Chief George Mamilili VII of the Mafwe assured

President Geingob of their continued cooperation in order to advance the collective developmental interests of the region.

Moreover, the Traditional Leaders also denounced the divisive activities of some of the movements, including

the Zambezi Lives Matters, saying that these were aimed at instability and damaging politicization of the Nchindo killings at the hands of the Botswana Defence Force.

In that vein, the Traditional Leaders informed that the approach taken by President Geingob and the Namibian Government following the killings of the Nchindo brothers and their cousin on 5 November 2020 was correct to advance a peaceful border with Botswana and good neighbourliness.

President Geingob provided a report regarding the Nchindo killings and the border issues, and thanked the Traditional Authorities for their support and cooperation, including the role they play in social cohesion in the country.

Following meetings with the Traditional Authorities, President Geingob, accompanied by the Prime Minister and Chief Liswani III proceeded to Impalila Island where the President held a community meeting with residents of the Island, thanking them for their cooperation following the killings of the Nchindo brothers.

The President emphasized that he was not only on the Island to meet with the community, but most importantly to meet with the Nchindo Family in order to extend condolences and to hear and see first-hand how the family was doing.

Members of the Impalila community raised a number of developmental concerns, including the absence of adequate health infrastructure on the Island, and other infrastructure deficits leading to poor access to the mainland and the need for more employment opportunities for the residents.

President Geingob informed that the Government would look into the issues raised and the relevant Government Offices, Ministries and Agencies would look at addressing the concerns of the Impalila community.

The community requested President Geingob to return to the Island before completion of the Presidential term, a request the President acceded to without hesitation.

President Geingob proceeded to the Nchindo family homestead where the President extended sincere condolences to the family in person following the death of the Nchindo brothers, including their mother Alphonsina Mubu.

The Head of State provided a report on progress with regard to the killings of the Nchindo brothers, Tommy, Martin, Wamunyima and informed the Nchindo family that he had raised the "shoot to kill" policy with former President Ian Khama of the Republic of Botswana.

However, the current President



President Geingob visits the Nchindo family

Mokgweetsi Masisi of the Republic of Botswana had reassured

President Geingob that the Botswana Defence Force did not have a "shoot to kill policy".

President Geingob further informed that President Masisi was a good friend of Namibia, and had expressed regret at the shootings and also extended condolences to the Nchindo Family, including Namibia at large. The matter is currently before the institutions of Botswana.

With regard to the report, which the Nchindo family requested to see, the President informed that the joint investigation report into the killings was complete, as he had previously announced and the Government would consider their request to view contents of the report.

However, the question of jurisdiction was equally important and the report could not be made public, the President emphasized.

In the family statement, read on behalf by the family spokesperson, Mr. Owen Sinvula, the Nchindo family expressed appreciation to President Geingob and the Government for having accompanied the family during a difficult period

after the killings of the Nchindo brothers and their cousin, including their mother who passed away subsequently. Distancing the family from the activities of Zambezi Lives Matter, the Nchindo family requested further assistance following the deaths of the brothers and husbands.

President Geingob informed that the Government would look into the request for assistance, in addition to what had been provided already. President Geingob concluded today 26 April 2021 the consultations and meetings on the Impalila Island in the Zambezi Region with a tour of Government facilities.

The President was accompanied to the Zambezi Region by the First Lady, Madame Monica Geingos, the Right Honourable Prime Minister, the Minister of Home Affairs, Immigration, Safety and Security, Deputy Minister of Environment, Forestry and Tourism, Constituency Councillor, Hon. John Likando, the Secretary to Cabinet, and the Press Secretary.

[Signed]
Dr. Alfredo Tjuriimo Hengari
Press Secretary
Republic of Namibia

Botswana is deeply indebted to the Chinese Government

KABO MORWAENG*

ON BEHALF OF HIS Excellency, Dr Mokgweetsi Masisi, President of the Republic of Botswana, I am proud to be amongst you this afternoon as we receive another batch of COVID-19 vaccines. I have been informed that this consignment of SinoVac vaccines comprises 200,000 doses generously donated by the Government of the People's Republic of China.

This donation will be followed by another 200 000 vaccines purchased by the Government of Botswana from China which will arrive in the country soon. A combination of the donated vaccines and the purchased ones will make a total of 400 000 doses which will cover a significant percentage of our population.

The continued arrival of COVID-19 vaccines is testament to Government's commitment to ensure that all Botswana are vaccinated in order to improve immunity against COVID-19. Most importantly, it is a sign of our strong bi-lateral and multilateral relations with sister nations in the international community. I do note, however, that the arrival of vaccines across the world is not as fast as we would have hoped.

Allow me, Ladies and Gentlemen, to congratulate and thank all those who have already taken the vaccine. I also wish to implore all those who may be reluctant to do so, to step up and take their jobs. This process is intended for the good of all of us. I must assure you that our health authorities, through the Botswana Medicines Regulatory Authority (BOMRA), will continue to ascertain that the vaccines we receive are safe for use by all of us.

At this juncture, I wish to express



my profound gratitude to the People's Republic of China for her continued support to Botswana. Throughout the period of the pandemic, China has stood by us and extended a helping hand in several ways. To this end, Botswana is deeply indebted to the Chinese Government and its people and we will work hard to ensure that our sound bilateral relations last many more decades for the benefit of our peoples.

Bagaetsho, let me remind the whole nation that vaccination against COVID-19 does not mean that we should disregard the existing protocols. Vaccination is only one of the measures that reduces the risk of infection and severe illness. Therefore, let us continued wearing facemasks properly, keeping our hands clean, maintaining social distancing, and avoiding unnecessary travel.

**STATEMENT BY KABO MORWAENG, MINISTER FOR PRESIDENTIAL AFFAIRS, GOVERNANCE AND PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION ON THE OCCASION OF RECEIVING COVID-19 VACCINES*

VACANCY

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'Khama peddles falsehoods about Botswana'

THE MINISTRY OF Environment, Natural Resources Conservation and Tourism wishes to strongly condemn the falsehoods appearing in the Dutch newspaper, Trouw, following an interview with Former President, Lt. General Dr. Seretse Khama Ian Khama. The Ministry wishes to set the record straight that the prudent management of the country's natural resources, including wildlife, is based on legislation, policies and strategies that are consistent with sustainable development and international standards.

As such, Botswana has earned international accolades for her sterling efforts to conserve and manage the country's wildlife resources.

Disarmament of Department of Wildlife and National Parks Anti-Poaching Unit:



Khama

The decision to temporarily disarm the Anti-poaching Unit was taken with the view to put enact appropriate law which will permit the Department to carry firearms. This process is still ongoing and will be concluded in the near future. Meanwhile, the Department of Wildlife and National Parks undertakes anti-poaching activities

in collaboration with other security agencies allowed by the law to carry firearms.

Rhinos:
The re-introduction of rhinos into the wild began in 2002 before the term of office of Former President, Khama. The number of rhinos has been increasing since then. While it is true that Botswana has

been affected by rhino poaching over the last few years, it should be acknowledged that the several key rhino range states in the region have also suffered a surge in rhino poaching.

Lifting of the hunting moratorium:

It is a fact that Botswana has the largest number of elephants in the world and that they are overpopulated causing environmental stress and human-wildlife conflict in some parts of the country.

In order to mitigate the overpopulation, Government in consultation with affected communities lifted the hunting moratorium.

**REBUTTAL OF TROUW NEWSPAPER INTERVIEW WITH FORMER PRESIDENT, DR SERETSE KHAMA IAN KHAMA*

VACANCY

Admiral Touch (Pty) Ltd is a progressive farm based in Rasasa that deals with growing of assortment of vegetable crops and rearing of goats and sheep production. We are looking for a qualified **Production Manager**

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Job Description:

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- Inspect plantations and other units; confer with and advise Farm Manager on problems; requisition, equipment and materials; approve work schedules
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- Create reports on time, equipment, materials, costs, and production; keep records and prepare estimates of needs
- Manage and implement crop protection programs
- Perform routine inspections on and direct the repair and maintenance of farm buildings and equipment; coordinate maintenance of trucks, tractors, and farm machinery with Mechanic, supervisors and farm Manager
- Hire, supervise, and train employees as needed and/or assigned
- Coordinate receiving and storage of crops with supervisors to ensure optimal utilization of space and to minimize handling
- Consult with Farm Manager to ensure adequate supply of vegetables in the market and to enable sufficient purchasing from outside suppliers

Education & Experience Requirements:

- At least a certificate in crop production, or graduated from a standard vocational or high school supplemented by some college course work in agriculture; and extensive responsible experience in general farm work involving farm planning, methods, and production; and experience in supervisory farm work; or any equivalent combination of training and experience.
- A minimum of six years' experience.
- Ability to keep records of time, production, and costs, and to make reports and recommendations for improvement in methods and equipment
- Ability to plan and direct large-scale diversified farm activities, to supervise and train groups of farm workers in farm activities, and to direct skilled and unskilled employees in varied farm operations
- Computer Skills: Word Processing, Spreadsheets and email.
- Familiarity with Good Agricultural Practices and Food Safety Regulations.

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Business



Access Bank Botswana comes alive

- Top Nigerian Access Bank takes over BancABC Botswana
- Targets to have rebranded by Q3 2021
- MD Wigwe promises that top posts will remain with locals

BAKANG TIRO
editors@thepatriot.co.bw

FOLLOWING ITS SUCCESSFUL acquisition of BancABC Botswana stake, the Nigerian founded leading bank Access Bank anticipates to be fully operational as Access Bank Botswana during Q3 2021.

The Nigerian's biggest lender, which is present in 12 markets in Africa, Europe and Asia, agreed last week to buy a majority stake in African Bank Corporation Botswana.

Access Bank is expanding across the African continent to counter, among others

the stagflation and dollar shortages in Nigeria that have frustrated businesses and shrinking the lending market.

The Bank Managing Director Herbert Wigwe said that the bank expansion into Botswana was premised on the economic potential that the country boasts of as strategic market in the region.

He said the acquisition of BancABC Botswana is a step in the right direction for the bank to robustly expand across the lucrative Southern African Development Community (SADC) market.

"Our expansion into Botswana will make the country a financial centre. Botswana is a resilient market with stable

economic prowess. Our focus as we enter this promising market will be then looking at how Access Bank Botswana becomes a leading bank in the next three years," he said.

Oozing with confidence, Wigwe said BancABC Botswana has been a resilient business and therefore he is confident that the business has potential to grow in leaps and bounds as Access bank too.

In addition, Wigwe said that the bank will remain listed on the Botswana Stock Exchange (BSE). He also promised that there will be no job losses due to transition from BancABC to Access bank.

"I can confidently say that there will

be zero job losses and top management positions will still remain for the citizens. We are a business that believes in citizen empowerment. Moreover, our entrance into Botswana will come with more job opportunities as we will be carrying a massive growth drive across the country. A huge branding campaign is in the offing as well," he stressed.

Furthermore, the outspoken consummate Nigerian banker revealed that the bank is embarking on expanding into major trade centres in Africa and across the globe.

Wigwe said Access bank is targeting to reach 100 million customers milestone in 2022. Currently, he said the bank has over

40 million customers; thus reflecting large customer base.

He said the bank is worth US\$22 billion, stressing that the figure will grow as bank expands. BancABC Managing Director Kgotsso Bannalothle said it is very inspiring for the bank to be part of large Access Bank Group, pointing out that the acquisition comes with lot of growth opportunities.

He said the opportunities include that the staff will be afforded jobs in other markets where the bank is present, maintaining that the bank will continue to empower local investors.

According to him, 22% of shareholding in the bank is held by the citizen investors.

"BancABC has grown tremendously in the last 10 years and with Access Bank coming on board this will take the bank to another level. We are the fourth largest profitable bank locally and Access bank is also the third profitable bank in Nigeria. This paints how future is bright," he said.

Access Bank has a footprint in some of the strong financial markets such as China, Hong Kong, Dubai and United Kingdom. In the SADC region it operates in South Africa and Mozambique.

Botswana is the latest market for the bank to expand into but Wigwe said it eyes more markets.

Domestic inflation to deepen in Q2

- Growth driven by supply side factors
- Increase in fuel prices peaks inflation
- Bank rate maintained at 3.75 percent



BoB Governor Moses Pelaelo

[PIC:PRESSPHOTO]

BAKANG TIRO
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THE CENTRAL BANK, BANK OF BOTSWANA (BoB), forecasts that the domestic inflation will bridge the bank's objective range of 3-6 percent in the second quarter of 2020 driven by supply side factors.

BoB Governor Moses Pelaelo revealed this on Thursday during a Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) briefing.

Pelaelo noted that inflation increased significantly from 2.4 percent in February to 3.2 percent in March 2021, before reverting to within the Bank's medium objective term range of 3-6 percent.

"The increase in the inflation largely reflects the upward adjustment in domestic fuel prices in March 2021. The domestic inflation is forecast to breach the upper bound of the Bank's 3 to 6 percent objective range in the second quarter of 2021, driven mainly by supply-side factors. However, inflation is projected to revert to within the objective range in the first quarter of 2022,"

he said.

According to him, overall, risks to the inflation outlook are assessed to be skewed to the upside.

"Upside risks include the potential increase in international commodity prices beyond current forecasts, aggressive action by governments (for example Economic Recovery and Transformation Plan) and major central banks to bolster aggregate demand including successful rollout of vaccines. Persistence of supply constraints due to possible travel restrictions and lockdowns could also lead to higher prices," he added.

Additional domestic factors relate to second round effects of recently announced increase in administered prices, with experts pointing out that deepening inflation can result in slow growth.

"The risks are moderated by the possibility of weak domestic and global economic activity, which could be exacerbated by periodic lockdowns and other forms of restrictions due to emergence of new Covid-19 variants and slow rollout of vaccines and decline in international commodity prices," said BoB.

BoB said the growth projections by the Ministry of Finance and Economic Development and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) suggest a rebound in economic growth for Botswana in 2021. The ministry projections show a strong growth rate of 8.8 percent in 2021, compared to the earlier estimate growth rate of 7.7 percent, before moderating to a growth rate of 5.5 percent in 2022.

On the other hand, the IMF forecasts that the domestic economy would grow by 8.3 percent in 2021 compared to an earlier projection of 8.7 percent in the January 2021 World Economic Outlook Update.

"This is expected to moderate to a growth rate of 6.4 percent in 2022. The growth outcome will largely depend on the successful vaccine rollout as it will enable opening up of the economy to align with the projections. The disparity in forecasts attest to the challenges of making forward projections when there is uncertainty about the duration of constrained economic activity, the resultant adverse impact on productive capacity, as well as the speed of resumption of production and pace of recovery in demand," said the central but optimistic of recovery during Q2 of 2021.

The domestic expectation of an 8.8 percent rebound on the implementation of the P20 billion Economic Recovery and Transformation Plan (ERTP) launched last year by government as well as the promising outlook for the mining industry led by rebound in diamond production and sales.

De Beers Group has recently reported positive sales figures following the improvement in the demand of diamonds in its key markets such as China and United States of America (USA). The group said that it expects growth in diamond production targeting over 30 million carats in 2021. Meanwhile, Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) has maintained the Bank Rate at 3.75 percent.

MCM to boost output by 35%



Morupule B power plant

[PIC:PRESSPHOTO]

BOTSWANA'S STATE-OWNED Morupule Coal Mine (MCM) plans to boost production by over a third as the country seeks to cut its dependence on imported power, a company official said on Wednesday.

Many countries are seeking to cut the use of carbon-intensive coal to reduce climate-warming emissions.

But Botswana is anxious to use its estimated 212 billion tonnes of coal resources to curb its reliance on imported power, needed in large volumes for its diamond industry.

As part of the plan to boost output, MCM plans to develop an open cast coal mine

and on Wednesday it awarded a 5-year contract to a joint venture between South Africa's Basil Read Mining and citizen-owned company Bothakga Burrow, its spokeswoman Boineelo Seitshiro said.

The mine will boost MCM's production by 35%, she said, but she did say by when.

Botswana has national power generation capacity of 720 megawatts (MW) but plans to double output in the next six years through solar and coal-fired power as it strives to wean itself off imports and aspires to export power.

MCM ran the country's only operating coal mine until privately-owned Minergy commissioned a new mine in 2019 with an

annual capacity of 1.2 million tonnes.

The state-owned firm produces 2.8 million tonnes annually from its underground operations, feeding two nearby state-owned power stations with some of the output being exported to South Africa, Namibia and Zimbabwe.

"The team will commence with site establishment and mobilisation in April 2021 and the project is envisaged to increase coal production capacity from the current 2.8 million tons to 3.8 million tons per annum," she said. The resource at the open cast mine has the potential to supply power station-grade coal for over 30 years. [Reuters]

Botswana airline extends service to Vic Falls



CHRONICLE.CO.ZW

MACK AIR, A BOTSWANA-BASED airline, made its maiden flight into Victoria Falls from Kasane on Saturday – May 1, 2021 – launching daily scheduled flights aimed at providing seamless and scenic experience to tourists between the two neighbouring countries. Mack Air becomes the first airline to offer international scheduled flights between Victoria Falls and Kasane and will be using its new Cessna Grand Caravan EX aircraft, which carries 12 passengers and two crew members, for the 20 minute-scenic flight.

The airline's managing director, Mr Michael Weyl, said the service is expected to boost confidence in tourism in the wake of Covid-19, as well as attracting more tourists to visit Southern Africa, particularly Victoria Falls and Chobe. He said Mack Air will offer only links between Kasane and Victoria Falls connecting all Zimbabwe and Botswana destinations.

Usually on a good day, about 1 000 tourists use road between Victoria Falls and Kasane across the Kazungula border and the air service will add glamour to the tours and also connect tourists further to Hwange National Park, Mana Pools and Kariba

through partnerships with other operators.

"As promised, we are expanding our reach to accommodate all of our passengers' wild adventures. We are excited to announce that with effect from May 1, 2021 Mack Air will be operating daily scheduled flights between Kasane and Victoria Falls from where they can visit Victoria Falls and a number of Zimbabwe destinations and Botswana, all in one action packed vacation," says Mr Weyl.

"This creates an exceptional fly in safari experience for our passengers. On a normal day between 200 and 1 000 people travel from Victoria Falls across the border to visit Chobe National park.

"Previously everyone had to transition by road or charter their own aircraft."

Mr Weyl said Mack Air service will be cost effective compared to chartering own aircraft, and the daily flights will afford tourists an experience of Africa's best safaris in one package. He said the aircraft will land at the Victoria Falls International Airport at 11:20am on Saturday.

"Victoria Falls is well known as the hub for tourist activity and our new scheduled flight will bring neighbours closer together and offer people a seamless trip. We are extremely excited to start this venture, as we open up borders for tourists. We will be plying Kasane-Victoria Falls-Kasane once daily and once tourism recovers, we will increase frequency and capacity which might see us putting another aircraft," he said.

The airline has been operating for 27 years and commands a significant share of the market in Botswana especially around tourist destinations such as Chobe, Maun, Okavango Delta, Kasane, which is now extending to Victoria Falls and later to Livingstone in Zambia.

Mr Weyl said the post Covid-19 era was all about recovery of industry hence the need to connect destinations that are inaccessible by road.

"Volumes will be low initially but we are hoping to boost confidence to travel. We thank CAAZ (Civil Aviation Authority of Zimbabwe) as they have been extremely supportive, a clear indication that they want to see tourism recovering," he said.

Tlou to start Lesedi Phase 1



Tony Gilby, Tlou Energy MD

execution of its coal-bed methane (CBM) programme for the development of up to 100 MW of CBM-fuelled pilot power plants. The aim of this process is to secure a 10 MW power purchase agreement (PPA) between Tlou and the national energy utility Botswana Power Corporation (BPC).

Advisers have confirmed they are reviewing project documents including the draft PPA. Tlou is focused on progressing this to a conclusion as soon as possible.

Further, BPC has issued a tender for the supply and delivery of natural gas to the Orapa 90 MW power plant. The power plant provides power to the Orapa diamond mine, one of the largest diamond mines in the world.

Orapa is currently running on intermittent grid power and emergency diesel generation. Anglo American, which is the owner of the De Beers group and co-owner of Orapa along with the government of Botswana, has publicly stated its objective to move to cleaner fuel sources.

"Gas from Tlou's nearby discoveries could be ideally suited to assist with meeting their cleaner energy objectives. Tlou will review the tender documentation and subject to meeting the eligibility criteria, plan to submit a response. The tender closes in May," the company said.

Tlou is seeking project finance to build infrastructure to connect the Lesedi power project to the existing electricity grid in Botswana. This infrastructure includes transmission lines, electrical substations, as well as the installation of gas and solar generation assets.

"Project finance discussions are at an advanced stage with a very reputable Botswana-based entity. Owing to confidentiality, Tlou is unable to name the entity concerned at this time. However, we can confirm that their investment committee and board have discussed the project financing and are favourably disposed to Tlou's proposal. They are now proceeding with a third-party technical review of the project as part of their due diligence process. Once this report is assessed, an investment decision can be made," it said in the quarterly update.

Boomslang project

Meanwhile, all proposed project activities for the Boomslang project outlined under the EIS have been authorised, including drilling of core holes and stratigraphy boreholes, conducting seismic and geomagnetic surveys, pilot testing production wells (called pods), monitoring wells and evaporation ponds and installing pumping monitoring, gathering lines and evaluation equipment.

"Tlou believes the Boomslang project can complement the more mature Lesedi and Mamba projects, particularly given the presence of the highly prospective Serowe coal seam. The Lesedi and Mamba projects primarily target the deeper Morupule coal seam.

"EIS approval for exploration of the Boomslang permit represents another key milestone for Tlou. Successful exploration and development of the Boomslang area could facilitate Tlou's longer-term strategy of expansion beyond the current Lesedi project area," the company said.

Tlou is looking into the potential of using gas and solar to produce green hydrogen. These early-stage plans may lead to a trial project hosted at its field operations in Botswana. [miningweekly.com]

Orange Money, CEDA launch Bill Payment Solution

ORANGE MONEY HAS COLLABORATED with the Citizen Entrepreneurial Development Agency (CEDA) to introduce a much-needed Bill Payment solution targeting CEDA customers. With the COVID-19 restrictions of social distancing and staying at home, this convenient solution will enable customers to repay their loans through Orange Money from the comfort of their homes, allowing technology and innovation to put the power back into the consumer's hands.

"We are excited to have partnered with CEDA to drive greater financial inclusion by bringing our financial services closer to Batswana. This partnership allows both Orange Money and CEDA to leverage their strengths to contribute positively to the growth of the informal sector and the finance sector. As Orange Money, we are committed to providing Batswana with seamless solutions that give them peace of mind and thus bring them closer to what



Orange Money CEO, Seabelo Pilane

matter most to them," said Orange Money CEO, Seabelo Pilane

The Bill Payment service offered through Orange Money affords CEDA customers total control, flexibility and freedom when making their CEDA Loan Repayments. To use this solution, one needs to be: a registered Orange Money user; and an Existing or new CEDA customer.

To make Orange Money payments to CEDA, simply dial *133# and go to Loan Payments, Choose Orange Money and follow the prompts to submit your payment.

"At Orange Money we continue to explore new avenues to help bridge the financial gap in Botswana and collaborations such as this one are often the most effective and value-adding. We believe in improving, supporting, and bettering the lives of all Batswana and our partnership with CEDA here is a testament to that. Indeed, Orange Money continues to grow its payment partnerships helping businesses grow through payment enablement," said Pilane.



UNIVERSITY OF BOTSWANA

Public invitation

WE'RE LIVE!

UB ONLINE RADIO LAUNCH

Date: 6th May 2021 Time: 2:30pm

join us online: <https://ubradio.co.bw>

The only Comprehensive University in Botswana.

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www.ub.bw   

LEA, BOBS partner

THE LOCAL ENTERPRISE AUTHORITY (LEA) and Botswana Bureau of Standards (BOBS) have partnered through a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU); as a commitment to work together to contribute towards the growth of local Entrepreneurs and Enterprises.

Under this MoU the two entities intend to ensure that Small, Medium and Micro Enterprises in Botswana are compliant to the business practices and professional standards in the provision of commodities and services to local and international markets. This joint effort will among others focus on offering appropriate awareness creation amongst SMMEs to utilize local and international standards, testing, certification, inspection and equipment calibration to enable them to compete in both domestic, and most importantly export markets.

The MoU further demonstrates commitment to expose entrepreneurship and business management training on standards and quality assurance as well as mentorship programmes to assist entrepreneurs to uptake and adhere to quality standards. The parties will also facilitate linkages and channel information relating to standards implementation to individual SMMEs. LEA and BOBS have also committed to provide support and facilitate for testing of products for specified parameters for quality assurance and compliance with available standards and other industry/sector specific quality associations. Additionally, the two entities will facilitate resources required for the adoption of Quality and inculcate quality culture amongst SMMEs.

Pandemic a 'boon' for African Wealth Funds



ROXANNE HENDERSON
Bloomberg News

THE GLOBAL PANDEMIC WAS A moment of vindication for African sovereign wealth funds focused on their local economies as the Covid-19 crisis stoked demand across industries from pharmaceuticals to farming.

A report published on Wednesday by the International Forum of Sovereign Wealth Funds and Franklin Templeton found that "for those sovereign wealth funds that do invest domestically, the pandemic has been a boon."

"The demands of the pandemic stimulated domestic industries in which they were already invested, such as health care, agribusiness and digital technology, because their products were in high demand in 2020," it said.

A dislocation in markets caused by the

coronavirus pandemic soon gave way to the challenge of shielding economies in Africa that were already starved of investment and held back by corruption and instability. As wealth funds from Angola, Botswana, Ghana and Nigeria stepped in to help finance public spending, others looked to boost returns at a time of extra low interest rates by considering greater allocations to emerging markets such as China, according to the report.

The study consisted of interviews with officials at institutions either operating or planning a wealth fund and included a survey of eight of Africa's established sovereign wealth funds.

New Breed

"The sovereign wealth funds of Africa are at the forefront of a new breed of state-owned investors that are looking to attract capital into their home economies to accelerate economic development, rather

than deploy capital into global financial markets," the report said.

While small by global standards, the size of African wealth funds is "commensurate" with their economies, it said.

Excluding the holdings of the Libyan Investment Authority, which are frozen under international sanctions, total assets under management in 2020 reached only \$22.8 billion across 13 funds. The Egyptian sovereign fund's authorized capital accounted for more than half.

Three-quarters of the continent's funds surveyed were mandated in some form to aid domestic growth. While focusing on driving development in their countries, they must also contend with low levels of trust from international investors that consider Africa to be risky or projects to be too small.

Climate Change

Some of the funds found it harder to direct capital toward projects favoring environmental, social and governance objectives amid a common perception that the idea of climate change is "a way for the West to keep Africa subjugated," the report said. Instead, they focus on addressing challenges caused by climate change, such as food and energy security.

About 60% of African sovereign wealth funds surveyed had multiple mandates and some of these were grappling with deciding on their priorities and allocating skills.

While partnerships with continental peers represent a strategy that could be used to overcome some of the obstacles driving away foreign investment, such "collaboration is only in its infancy," the report found. Among the funds surveyed, 83% said collaboration with other similar African state-owned investors was insufficient.

After the pandemic, sovereign funds in Africa will remain on the frontline of harnessing capital for their economies.

"For those countries that already have hefty debt burdens, sovereign wealth funds will need to play an important role in attracting international capital into their economies to stimulate post-Covid-19 economic growth," the report said.

[Bloomberg]

Evolve Back launches its first ever international property in Kalahari

The property features three categories of luxury tented accommodation with the maximum capacity of twenty guests thus ensuring exclusivity that defines contemporary luxury



EVOLVE BACK, ONE OF INDIA'S LEADING luxury experiential resorts has launched their first ever international property in Central Kalahari, Botswana in South Africa. Known as the 'Evolve Back Gham Dhao Lodge', the name 'Gham Dhao' is from the local San language and translates as 'Tracks of the Lion' in English, the luxury resort is located on the northern boundary of Botswana's Central Kalahari Game Reserve (CKGR).

Situated in its own 11,000-hectare private game reserve, the lodge offers a classic Kalahari experience, with game viewing and personal interaction with the indigenous San people of Kalahari. The guests at Evolve Back Gham Dhao Lodge will experience personalized game drives led by expert Rangers, nature walks with the San people and bush dinners deep in the African wilderness under the breath-taking night skies.

The property features three categories of luxury tented accommodation with the maximum capacity of twenty guests thus ensuring exclusivity that defines contemporary

luxury, allowing you to experience the Kalahari at your own pace. The resort has its own private airstrip located in the heart of the Kalahari to make it easily accessible within Botswana.

Adds Jose Ramapuram, Director-Marketing, Evolve Back Luxury Resorts, "This has been a dream project for us. Africa is the most premium market today and we chose Botswana because we believe in going to non-commercial places and building it up while retaining its natural wilderness. With this property, our aim is to create incredible immersive experiences for our guests by introducing them to every aspect of Kalahari from its famed night skies and unique wildlife to the resident San people and their ancient culture. We want to globally reiterate our belief of being one with the land and while doing that we want to promote low-impact, high-end tourism".

For their first international project Evolve Back zeroed in on Botswana because apart from having extraordinary wildlife offerings, it has a stable democracy and the highest per

capita income in Africa. Botswana is also a country that is not overtly commercialised and strongly focuses on "high-end low-volume" tourism, maintaining the natural and wild surrounding that Evolve Back resorts are best known for.

Established in 1961 and measuring a little over 52000 sq. km, the Central Kalahari Game Reserve is the second largest game reserve in the world. Located in the centre of the Kalahari Desert, it is a distinct ecological unit that links the woodlands of the northern Kalahari with the thornveld and scrub plains of the south making it home to many exotic species such as the Lion, Leopard, the elusive Brown Hyena, Gemsbok, Blue Wildebeest and Eland. The Kalahari Desert is a large basin like plain located in the interior plateau of Southern Africa. It stretches across most of Botswana, eastern Namibia and parts of the Northern Cape province in South Africa. The spectacular location are the highlights of the Evolve Back Gham Dhao Lodge, which is now open for guests across the world. [hotlierindia.com]

Botswana International University of Science & Technology

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENTS

The University is looking for qualified and experienced individuals for the below stated positions; The positions are tenable at the BIUST Campus, Palapye. The positions are offered on fixed term contract of five (5) years.

FACULTY OF SCIENCES

DEPARTMENT OF CHEMICAL AND FORENSIC SCIENCES

1. LECTURER IN WILDLIFE FORENSIC SCIENCE

MAIN PURPOSE OF THE JOB

To teach and educate undergraduate and graduate students in Wildlife Forensics and to build the knowledge base in Wildlife Forensic Science through research and publications. To administer teaching activities within the discipline of Wildlife Forensics and provide leadership at the module or course level. To establish a national and international research reputation in the field of Wildlife Forensic Science. To be active in professional service related to Wildlife Forensics.

QUALIFICATIONS AND EXPERIENCE

- PhD in Forensic Science or MSc in Forensic Science and PhD in related field specializing in Wildlife Forensics or PhD in related discipline and professional experience in Wildlife Forensic Science
- Proven specialist knowledge and experience in forensic analysis of nonhuman DNA for species identification and assignment of unidentified samples to a particular individual of a certain species
- Must be knowledgeable in the investigation and handling of various types of crime scenes especially those related to Wildlife
- Must be knowledgeable in international laws applicable to trade in wildlife products and the role of the various international organizations involved in policing this trade
- Must be knowledgeable in the role of forensic science in collecting intelligence on organized criminal trade in wildlife and wildlife products as well as understand and apply the methods used in detection of undeclared wildlife products at national borders
- Should be able to teach introductory forensic science courses
- Teaching experience and supervision of undergraduate and postgraduate students will be considered as added advantages
- Record of attracting research grants is an added advantage
- Demonstrated and sustained excellent leadership in academic and Professional field is an added advantage
- Research and publications will be considered as an added advantage

KEY COMPETENCIES/ SKILLS

- In depth understanding of own specialization to enable the development of new knowledge, innovation and understanding within the field
- Ability to prepare and submit proposals and applications to external bodies' e.g. for funding and accreditation purposes
- Understanding of academic management structures and their functioning
- Excellent knowledge of the international academic discipline environment
- Involvement in professional activities where applicable
- Effective communication skills

2. LECTURER FORENSIC SCIENCE

- A PhD in Forensic Science or MSc in Forensic Science and a PhD in a related discipline or a PhD in related discipline and professional experience in Forensic Science
- Proven knowledge and experience in Forensic criminalistics and trace evidence analysis as well as forensic science laboratory techniques
- Should be knowledgeable in crime scene management including the handling of different types of forensic evidence.
- Should be able to teach other topics in forensic science such as document examination, impression evidence, blood pattern analysis and other related topics.
- Teaching experience and supervision of undergraduate and postgraduate students will be considered as added advantages
- Research and publications will be considered as added advantage

KEY COMPETENCIES/ SKILLS

- In depth understanding of own specialization to enable the development of new knowledge, innovation and understanding within the field.
- Ability to prepare and submit proposals and applications to external bodies e.g. for funding and accreditation purposes
- Understanding of academic management structures and their functioning
- Excellent knowledge of the international academic discipline environment
- Involvement in professional activities where applicable
- Effective communication skills

The University offers an attractive package commensurate with qualification and experience.

If you meet the requirements of the above stated positions please send your application letter and detailed Curriculum Vitae including at least three (3) recent professional references to;

Director, Human Resources at the email address below.
recruitment.chemforensic@biust.ac.bw

This advert is open until filled.

Processing of applications will commence on **01 June 2021**

ONLY SHORTLISTED CANDIDATES WILL BE RESPONDED TO.

For any further enquiries, you may call Ms Taolo/ Ms Oleseng 4931307/49413



www.biust.ac.bw

BIUST | Driving Change



EXTERNAL VACANCY CIRCULAR NO. 2 OF 2021

Botswana Unified Revenue Service (BURS) is a semi-autonomous organisation of Government responsible for assessing and collecting tax revenue as well as border administration. BURS invites dynamic, self-motivated and qualified citizens of Botswana to visit the BURS website and apply for the following positions:

1. Operational Risk Specialist – Gaborone x 3
2. Technical Analyst, Networks – Gaborone x 1
3. Graphic Designer – Gaborone x 1
4. Principal Legal Services Officer – Gaborone x 1
5. HR Business Partner North – Francistown x 1

Kindly access the advert at BURS website, BURS Facebook and twitter pages/sites as follows:

Website: www.burs.org.bw

Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/BotswanaUnifiedRevenueService/>

Twitter: [@TheOfficialBURS](https://twitter.com/TheOfficialBURS)

Director, Human Resources
Botswana Unified Revenue Service,
Plot 54379 CBD, Tower Block – 5th Floor
Private Bag 0013
Gaborone

For more information regarding these positions, please contact the Human Resources office at these numbers: **Ms. M. Bothata 3638472, Ms. A. B. Tihankane @ 3638351, Ms. E. Mmereki @ 3638932.**

Closing date: 7th May 2021 at 16:30 hours

Botswana Unified Revenue Service
Private Bag 0013, Gaborone, Botswana

BotswanaUnifiedRevenueService
@TheOfficialBURS

Botswana seeks to diversify economy

FACED WITH DECLINING DEMAND FOR its diamonds, Botswana, Africa's top producer of the gems, is recording modest success in its attempts to diversify the economy and reduce reliance on the minerals.

Demand for the gems has been reducing over the years, a situation that has worsened during the COVID-19 pandemic—which also severely affected the tourism sector, the country's second-biggest revenue earner.

The latest figures from Statistics Botswana for January indicate that Botswana's total export value rose by 43.7 percent—approximately \$239,800 from \$548,890 recorded for December 2020 to \$788,690 during the month under review. Exports from non-diamonds—mainly

machinery and electrical equipment, salt and soda, gold, and other goods—reached \$42,589.

Although the January exports figures suggest an increase in the value of diamond exports, authorities are worried that heavy reliance on the gems is not sustainable. It is for this reason that manufacturers in the country are now aggressively seeking export markets.

Apart from the pandemic igniting manufacturers' appetite for export, the recent African Continental Free Trade Agreement (AfCFTA) has also spurred the enthusiasm.

Botswana Export Manufacturers Association is also eyeing the American, Asian and European markets.

Mmantlha Sankoloba, chief executive

of Botswana Export Manufacturers Association, is optimistic that Botswana's products are ready to compete globally, as the search for an alternative export revenue earner goes on.

"The facts around Botswana's product quality status are often misconstrued and linked to (perceived) inferiority," Sankoloba told Zenger News.

"The potential for Botswana manufactured products to perform well in other markets is quite impressive," she said.

Secret Kalahari director Johannes Visagie, whose company Donkey Milk Industries is already exporting donkey milk products to the U.S., shared his views.

"COVID-19 has dealt a deadly blow to small businesses in Botswana, and the only way out is to look for markets outside of

Botswana," Visagie told Zenger News.

"Our products are high-end, and we are looking for niche markets. Customers value donkey milk for its high cosmetic properties," he said. Visagie is yet to establish exactly how much product his company can export per annum, but he is soon rolling out an aggressive advertising campaign.

"It is too soon to establish trends because we are still very new in the market," he said.

"The aim is to have enough variants of products with good marketing to reach \$1 million turnover per annum. We have only two products on Amazon. We have just added another six to make eight." He intends to spend \$16,445 to upgrade their marketing level on Amazon from "silver" to "platinum" to give his milk products better visibility on the retail giant's platform.

Exports from non-diamonds—mainly machinery and electrical equipment, salt and soda, gold, and other goods—reached \$42,589. (Wolfgang Hasselmann/Unsplash)

Another celebrated exporter from the country is the Botswana Vaccine Institute Limited, which manufactures animal vaccines exported to the Southern Africa Development Community, West and East Africa, North Africa, and the Middle East.

Other exporting success stories include Chrolide Exide Botswana, a battery manufacturing company exporting to South Africa, Namibia, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Malawi, Mozambique, Swaziland, and Angola.

Under tourism products, Botswana exports aluminum boats manufactured by Aliboats to South Africa, Namibia, Zambia, Tanzania, Kenya, Uganda, and Europe.

Francistown Knitters exports school wear, corporate wear, security wear, industrial and sportswear to Zimbabwe and Zambia.

Though these companies and many others are making headway to capture foreign markets, others have found the going tough.

Otsile Moje, the owner of Euclea Crispa Limited, a company manufacturing sanitary pads, said he lost more than \$185,000 setting up a factory that was to supply both



Sankoloba

local and export market.

Moje bemoaned the lack of support to local manufacturers before seeking markets outside the borders.

"Botswana manufacturers are competing on an uneven playing ground," Moje told Zenger News, noting that the government has allowed substandard products to dominate the local market.

Sankoloba said although the minerals sector has dominated Botswana's economy over the past years, with efforts to diversify the economy, certain products have shown tremendous potential.

"The furniture sector is a great example of a product to pick from. We have a very organized yet competitive furniture sector in Botswana, producing a range of products from household, school to office furniture."

Sankoloba said the local market is small—Botswana's population is around 2.3 million—and cannot sustain the desire for growth, hence an endless search for new markets.

"We have established great working relations with foreign counterparts from across Africa, U.S., Europe, and Asia," she said.

Recently Botswana Export Manufacturers Association signed a collaboration agreement with Indian Importers Chambers of Commerce & Industry.

Last year Bank of Botswana governor Moses Pelaeo announced that the economy's export potential has shrunk over the past five years, as a proportion of the GDP, as uncertainties have enveloped the diamond trade.

Although the January exports figures suggest an increase in the value of diamond exports, authorities are worried that heavy reliance on the gems is not sustainable. (Sabrinna Ringquist/Unsplash)

In February, he challenged the business community to rally behind the Bank of Botswana's expansionary monetary and fiscal policies to boost prospects for economic recovery.

"The redesign of industrial and trade policies to promote exports, the transition towards the digital economy, greater financial inclusion and broader participation by all segments of society in productive economic activities, should result in fast-tracking the recovery, as well as enhancing economic resilience and moving the economy to a high-income status," said Pelaeo, while launching a monetary policy in Gaborone.

The government is also bolstering the export initiative. The former minister of finance, Thapelo Matsheka, while presenting the country's 2021/22 fiscal year proposal in February, said the promotion of export-led growth requires improved competitiveness and productivity, focusing on reducing the costs of domestic production and removing trade barriers.

"Hence, competitiveness will be the overriding criteria to gauge all government policies and measures. For export-led growth to be achieved, the criteria must be applied systematically to the review of all government decisions and all major policy frameworks, systems, and procedures in the economic, labor, and social areas," said Matsheka. [zenger.news; jacksonvillefreepress.com]

(Edited by Kipchumba Some and Amrita Das. Map by Urvashi M)

DEBSWANA



INVITATION TO TENDER

Suitably qualified, experienced and fully registered **Citizen owned entities (More than 50% Citizen Ownership)** are hereby invited to tender for the following services to Debswana Diamond Company (Pty) Ltd at Orapa Mines:

Doc650002254 - RFP_Provision of Waste Management Services at Orapa, Lethakane and Damtshaa Mines.

Brief

The scope of work shall comprise of all service necessary for daily waste management including the collection, transport and disposal of general residential, operational and construction / building waste for the entire Orapa lease area including but not limited to the township, certain identified residential houses in Lethakane, and the mine operations at Orapa, Lethakane and Damtshaa mines, and any other areas as will be set out in the scope of work, all said areas falling within the Orapa lease area, and Lethakane and Damtshaa mine operations.

The proposed contract shall run for three years with rate review on annual basis. Contractor shall be expected to conform to all applicable laws and guidelines regarding waste management services as well as conformance to Debswana standard and procedures including COVID-19 regulations.

Pre-Bid Meeting:

Prospective tenderers are required to attend a Compulsory Pre-Bid Meeting in order to get more clarity on the scope of services and the conditions under which the services are to be executed. Tenderers will also have an opportunity to ask questions on the scope of services.

Owing to the on-going COVID-19, pandemic, the Pre-Bid Meeting will be conducted via Microsoft Teams® platform in lieu of Site Visits. The invitation to participate in the Pre-Bid meeting will be sent to bidders who have registered their interest to participate as per instructions below. The details of the Pre-Bid Meeting are as follows:

Date: 19th May 2021
Time: 09:00 – 11:00 hrs
Venue: Online through Microsoft Teams ® Meeting

Tendering on Ariba

Debswana has adopted SAP Ariba – an online bidding and supplier management solution for all its tendering and supplier registration requirements. There is no requirement to purchase the Tender document. Please Contact Mr. Oteng Chelane at OChelane@debswana.bw, Telephone 3648008 specifically for supplier registration on SAP Ariba Platform and Mrs. Gape Masilonyane at GMasilonyane@debswana.bw, Telephone 2902239 for support around SAP ARIBA Platform.

Interested tenderers who wish to participate in the tender should follow the Steps in Part 2 and/or Part 1.

Tenderers who are already registered with Debswana on SAP Ariba should just register their interest on the RFP as per instructions on Part 2 below. Those not registered as Debswana Suppliers on SAP Ariba platform will need to complete the following steps in Part 1 & 2.

Part 1: Registering as a vendor on SAP Ariba

To participate in any event on SAP Ariba, a supplier will need to be registered on SAP Ariba and have a valid SAP Ariba Network Supplier account and profile by following the steps below:

- Go to Debswana SAP Ariba self-registration page: (<https://s1-eu.ariba.com/Sourcing/Main/ad/selfRegistration/?realm=debswana>)
- Initiate Account creation
- Complete account registration
- Once you have SAP Ariba Network Supplier Account and access credentials, proceed to Part 2 below:

Part 2: Indicating Interest to Participate in the RFP (for Ariba Registered Suppliers)

- Register your interest by sending an email to Gape Masilonyane at GMasilonyane@debswana.bw before **12noon on Wednesday 12th May 2021** as follows:
 - Subject of the Email should be **"Doc650002254 - RFP_Provision of Waste Management Services at Orapa, Lethakane and Damtshaa Mines – Expression of Interest"**
 - State Name of the Company as registered in Part 1 above.
 - State Name of contact persons
 - State Contact Details of the Contact person (i.e. phone numbers, email address, postal & physical address)
- Debswana will then invite you to participate in the RFP.
- Once invited by Debswana, you will receive an email notification from SAP Ariba that you have been invited to participate in the RFP
- Respond to the RFP and submit through SAP Ariba platform

Submission

Tenderers are required to submit their respective bids on or before the **2nd June 2021 at 12 noon** through the Debswana SAP Ariba platform as per the instructions to be provided.

Tenders received via telephone, telex, email or facsimile will not be considered. Debswana reserves the right to accept or reject any tender and does not bind itself to accept the lowest or any portion of any tender.

For any enquiries please contact Gape Masilonyane at – Tel: +267 290 2239 or e-mail: GMasilonyane@debswana.bw.

This tender notice can also be viewed at: <http://www.debswana.com/Supply-Chain/Pages/Current-Public-Tenders.aspx>



How to start online trading

Dany Mawas explains key financial instruments that are great options for beginner traders to get started with

ONLINE TRADING IS INCREASING IN popularity as more people seek additional and convenient income options. To assist beginners kick off their trading journeys, Dany Mawas, Regional Director at INFINOX (www.INFINOX.com) - a globally recognised CFD and FX trading broker which operates in Botswana - explains key financial instruments that are great options for beginner traders to get started with.

Mawas says that while the market presents a vast array of earning potential, all beginner traders need to first understand the differences between FX and CFD trading, and that there are several factors to determine before deciding on their preferred trading instrument.

FX Trading

"FX is the abbreviated term for forex, and is the instrument for trading international currencies," he says. "With markets reacting to daily geopolitical and economic affairs, the forex market is ideal for speculating on world events and taking advantage of trade opportunities."

Mawas points out that the forex market is exceptionally popular with traders and is the largest market in the world with more than \$5trn traded everyday. This, he says, creates a hugely liquid market and makes it easy to enter and exit at the price you want to, therefore increasing trade opportunities for all types of trader. Additionally, forex instruments also provide a significant amount of leverage, and volatility, thus making it one of the most accessible instruments to trade.

CFD Trading

CFD or 'Contract for Difference' is a financial instrument used to make a profit on the price change of an asset without having to own it. As such, the trader doesn't need to buy a particular stock or commodity to make a profit in the future. Instead, the contract between a buyer and a seller provides traders with the ability to trade on margin without owning an asset outright.

The value and movements of a contract do follow the underlying asset, but note that it is not directly pinned to the price, which is why you might see slight differences between brokers. A CFD is a broad asset class, with traders able to buy and sell CFDs in the following:

CFD Equities: These allow traders to trade the share prices of some of the world's largest companies and most popular



Dany Mawas, Regional Director at INFINOX

brands using smaller margin amounts. Furthermore, they allow traders to access global stock markets and take advantage of rising and falling share prices.

CFD Indices: Indices are one of the most popular instruments to trade, and allow traders to buy and sell the value of the entire stock market in a single trade. They're a great asset to speculate on world events as well as diversifying an investment portfolio.

CFD Commodities: The world revolves around commodities and CFD commodity trading allows traders to speculate on the price of assets such as precious metals, energies or agriculture. As global events shape demand and supply, speculators will look to take advantage of trade opportunities or use them as a tool to manage their risk.

CFD Futures: Futures contracts are standardised contracts with a fixed quantity, price and delivery location that serve as a legal agreement to purchase an asset at a fixed price in the future. Most commonly, futures contracts are used for trading commodities such as soybean, cocoa and crude oil, amongst others. They're another great way to get exposure to popular markets.

Factors to consider when choosing a trading instrument

Mawas says beginner traders need to consider several factors before investing in their chosen instrument, including liquidity, volatility, low transaction costs and availability of information.

"Liquidity refers to the ease in which traders can buy and sell their chosen instrument, with high levels of liquidity seen as easier to trade," he explains. "The

volatility of an instrument refers to its continuous rise and fall, with a highly volatile instrument favouring traders - owing to its higher risk and greater profit possibilities."

Mawas adds that traders should look for an instrument that features low transaction costs as this will allow them to generate greater returns. "One must, however, be aware that their preferred broker may charge a minimal trading fee depending on the instrument chosen."

"The best financial instrument to trade depends on several factors, and for beginners, their budgets should dictate the type of instruments they trade," he says. "Traders should also choose a broker that not only offers them support by being easily contactable with a local presence, but also offers learning resources."

Another viable way to learn and kickstart your trading journey is via online community apps, such as IX Social. Here, traders can share knowledge, trades and experiences with like-minded people. Users are put in the driving seat with the latest news, community trending topics, top traders of the day and the latest prices all in one place.

"Its easy-to-use functionality, coupled with an auto-copy feature allows you to automatically copy the top traders and receive the same results. This makes it the ideal platform for beginner traders to learn and grow," concludes Mawas.

Distributed by APO Group on behalf of INFINOX Capital.

SOURCE: INFINOX Capital

PUBLIC NOTICE

27TH APRIL 2021



VIRTUAL STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT - COMPLEMENTARY MEDICINES & COSMETICS

The Botswana Medicines Regulatory Authority (BoMRA) will conduct virtual stakeholder sessions to discuss the registrability of medicines and listing requirements for cosmetics. The engagements will be scheduled as follows:

Tuesday 25th May 2021	from 0900 – 1200 hours	Session 1: Listing of Cosmetics
Tuesday 25th May 2021	from 1400 – 1700 hours	Session 2: Listing of Cosmetics
Wednesday 26th May 2021	from 0900 – 1200hrs	Session 3: Registrability process {borderline substances}

To confirm your participation please send an RSVP no later than 15th May 2021 to the following email addresses:

Confirmation of Sessions 1 and 2 should be sent to: cosmetics.services@bomra.co.bw

Confirmation of Session 3 should be sent to compmeds.services@bomra.co.bw

Detailed information regarding each stakeholder engagement session will be communicated directly to the participants via email.

For more information please contact Botswana Medicines Regulatory Authority at: compmeds.services@bomra.co.bw or cosmetics.services@bomra.co.bw.

Plot 112, International Finance Park, Gaborone
 Private Bag 2, Gaborone Station, Botswana
 +267 373 1727/20
 Toll Free : 0800 600 216
info@bomra.co.bw
 Botswana Medicines Regulatory Authority
www.bomra.co.bw



Promoting access to safe medicines

BONELA PROMOTES SEXUAL REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH AND RIGHTS FOR WOMEN WITH DISABILITIES



Group picture



Sharing her experiences with women living with disability - Gosego Mosolwa



Note from coach Legodile Seganabeng



Representative from Botswana Police



Project Overview by Tebogo Gareitsanye



Cindy Kelemi presenting the book 'VOICES ONCE SUPPRESSED' now speak out loud book



Cindy Kelemi with Lesedi



Note from coach Charles Kakome



Opening remarks by Cindy Kelemi



Representative from the Office of the President - Mma Moalosi

The Botswana Network on Ethics, Law and HIV/AIDS (BONELA) has successfully launched a book that aims to advance Universal Access to Sexual Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) Services for Women with Disabilities in Botswana. The book consists of stories documented by women with disabilities on the challenges they face including negligence from family, discrimination and being denied access to education.

Launched on Wednesday and dubbed the "Voices: Once Suppressed Now Speak Loud. Elevating Voices of Women with Disability in Botswana" the book is meant to advocate for inclusiveness of people with disabilities in the provision of Health Services.

Launching the book, BONELA Executive Director Cindy Kelemi said that advocacy is very important in advancing the sexual reproductive and health rights of women with disabilities. She noted that investing in Sexual Reproductive Health and Rights of women with disabilities is key in influencing action for law and policy adding that BONELA is committed to advocate for change.

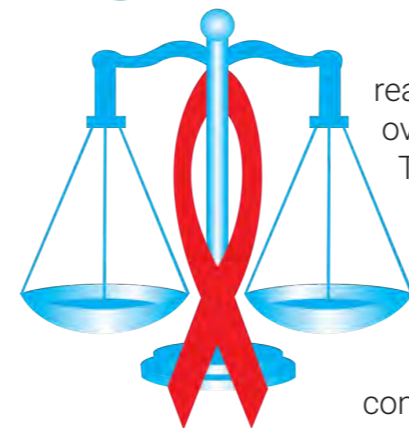
"Gender equality is a prerequisite for fully achieving Sexual Reproductive Health and Rights for women living with disabilities. The inequalities in the enjoyment of Sexual Reproductive Health and Rights for women with disabilities needs to be addressed promptly," stressed Kelemi, adding that often women with disabilities experience gender discrimination which compounds the inequalities along economic, social and health creation hence it creates severe obstacles for their lives.

"Poor Sexual Reproductive Health outcomes constrains potential access by women and girls with disability to education, employment and equal income-earning opportunities. This undermines their ability to participate on an equal basis in all spheres of life," said Kelemi, reiterating that there are people in communities who view people with disabilities as bringing/having bad luck to the extent that even some families have a tendency to neglect or disown them.

So, the BONELA Executive Director stated that the organisation works with a number of groups including women, children, migrants, prison inmates and migrants as they also make up vulnerable groups.

According to her, BONELA is committed to ensuring full

BONELA



The Botswana Network on Ethics, Law and HIV/AIDS

participation of women with disabilities in the socio and economic spheres, saying that for this to be realized key stakeholders need to act. Giving the project overview, Policy and Legal Coordinator at BONELA, Tebogo Gareitsanye said since 2014 BONELA has programmes tailored specifically for the people with disabilities.

This project entails looking at the real life situations of people with disabilities such as whether they have access to health as well as community participation among others. "In 2016 BONELA commenced a journey to advocate for PWDs and this was done through community engagements in Palapye, Francistown and Gaborone. Following these engagements women were approached to share their stories in the book so as to advocate for their rights and equality," she said.

In addition, Gareitsanye noted that according to the research it is evident that women with disabilities still don't fully enjoy their sexual reproductive health and rights thus making them vulnerable to GBV. She said coaches were engaged to help women to tell their stories in a creative manner that could spread the message that could change people's perception about women with disabilities.

One of the coaches, Legodile Segabaneng said the book contains original life stories from the women who were identified as having been bullied, neglected and sexually abused. He noted that the authors had to be creative so that the message reflect challenges on ground. According to him, the book should be used as direction for advocacy on issues that affect the people with disability commending BONELA for its sterling jobs when it comes for advocacy.

Narrating her ordeal, Gosego Mosolwa said her life became hell after she suffered a car accident which claimed lives of her parents while she was left paralyzed, and now uses a wheelchair. Despite all the abuse from her family, Mosolwa said she remained resolute as she accepted that her disability is not an inability to change her life urging other people with disability to be focused.

Kelemi underscored that it is important for BONELA to partner with important stakeholders such as the Botswana Police, Social Workers and families of people living with disabilities in an endeavour to promote education on Sexual Reproductive Health and Rights of PWDs.



Arrival and registration

lifestyle

'Writing a book helped me heal'

LESEGO MOSINYI
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LAST YEAR (2020), BOTSWANA EXPERIENCED A surge in number of Gender based violence (GBV) especially against women and children during lockdown that was imposed to control the spread of corona virus pandemic.

Following increase in these cases, government set up special courts dedicated to gender based violence and related cases. Other stakeholders which included individuals also took part in sensitizing the community about the impact of gender based violence. While most of the victims of GBV choose to stay mum, for fear of being stigmatized, some had chosen to talk about their experience.

In an interview, Janet Taunyane, a 36 year old, GBV and Mental health activist and survivor from Serowe, on Thursday, she said the experience she went through with gender based violence contributed to her activism. "I am generally a loving person, and I also had a experience with GBV, where I was raped when I was doing standard 2 by our garden boy in Selibe Phikwe and I was also molested by my father's friend when I was doing standard 5," she said.

She said the two incidents which she never reported to both the police and her parents left her traumatized. "I never told my family, the garden boy was discovered by our maid on top of me before he ran away, I was

only doing standard two, my expectation was that she will tell my parents, so she never said anything, I also kept quite and lived with that in my head," she said.

However to cope, Taunyane said she managed to block the ordeal for most of her life. She said nevertheless the trauma was triggered while at the university in 2008 where she joined a club that helped orphan children, abused children and some who went through the same ordeal. "I ended up getting sick, those who counselled me, according to what they told me is that when something like that happen, usually a person's reaction is to put that at the back of their head and sort of forget about it for sometime, you become numb, I became numb for most of my childhood, but when I got to the university, my involvement with helping the abused children triggered what I have forgotten and I broke down and went into depression, went through anxiety and even as far as schizophrenia," she said.

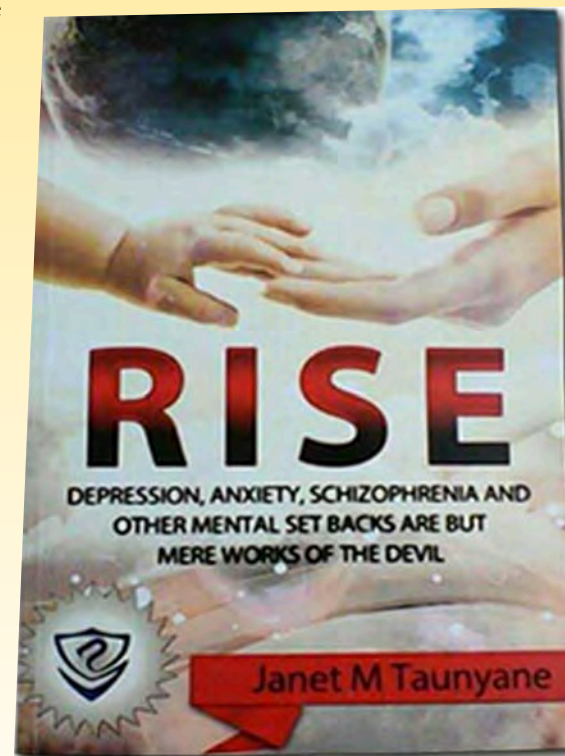
"So I started medication on that, I have been on medication since 2009, but I feel I am winning the battle of mental health, because it was a trauma that happened and it never goes away, you don't forget it, I have to deal with it everyday, and I have positive things to say to myself and to people out there who had experienced GBV, that you can be courageous, you can be positive, so everything I wrote in a book that I compiled," she added.

Taunyane said the book which was published in

2018, and titled RISE is an inspirational,

and motivational book. "The reason why I titled it RISE is because when you have gone through this things, you become dead, you are robbed of your innocence, you just don't know how to live anymore, so I am saying to the people let's just rise and take this life head on, we can make it, we can beat what the devil is trying to do, the negative thing that happened was meant to suppress me and kill me, so I am rising I am ignoring that fact and choosing another direction of my life, so it must be upward," she explained.

"The book entails the experiences I went through from childhood, the abuse, the way I was, how I coped up until I became strong, living with mental health, people don't understand that it is an everyday battle, it is all entailed in this book," she further explained.



She said the book also act as a guideline for parents of how to raise their children, how to relate with their children, so that they may be able to open up to them whenever they are in trouble or they experience abuse.

She further said the book is basically a guideline, as it gives a lot of principles of how to live and how to go about things from somebody who had been through the most of life.

Furthermore Taunyane said writing the book which can be accessed on playstore and downloaded under excess at a reasonable fee helped her heal. "What I can tell you is that I am healed, I have forgiven, I no longer have that torment in my mind, it healed me to keep looking forward, not what happened in the past," she said.

African Travel offers educational safari

AFRICAN TRAVEL IS OFFERING AN educational opportunity to top-selling Africa advisors. The company has compiled a new and exclusive educational safari visiting Botswana's unspoiled wilderness as well as Victoria Falls. Over eight days, travel advisors and their companions can explore African Travel's newest lodge, Red Carnation's Xigera Safari Lodge, and experience the flexible safari experience the lodge offers. They'll also enjoy an elephants' paradise in the Chobe Game Reserve and visit Victoria Falls in Zimbabwe, exploring the "smoke that thunders" and game spotting along the Zambezi River.

Trip highlights include:

- Three nights at the ultraluxe Xigera Safari Lodge (double/twin share)
- Two nights at the five-star Chobe Game Lodge (double/twin share)
- Two nights at the Victoria Falls River Lodge (double/twin share)
- Internal flights in Botswana (Maun-Okavango Delta-Kasane)
- Game drives, walking and water safaris
- Meals on safari
- Meet and greet services
- Scheduled transfers

The trip costs \$2,899 and is available between April 1 and Oct. 31. Space is limited and only offered to top-producing advisors. After hosting a consumer event and confirming their first booking of seven nights or more, travel advisors will receive \$200 cash back. <https://www.travelweekly.com/>

Wilderness Safaris opens two new camps in Botswana

WILDERNESS SAFARIS HAS announced the opening of the completely rebuilt DumaTau Camp as well as Little DumaTau, a co-located but smaller and more intimate camp, in northern Botswana's Linyanti Wilderness Reserve.

The two new camps are situated on the same site as the previous DumaTau, to take advantage of the views over Osprey Lagoon and the prolific wildlife of the Linyanti conservation area.

"DumaTau's location at the end of the Great Rift Valley is truly extraordinary; the camps offer an unrivaled wilderness experience, with private access to Zibadianja Lagoon and more than 45 kilometers of exclusive traversing along Linyanti River frontage, as well as the north and south banks of the Savuti Channel," said Wilderness Safaris Botswana managing director Kim Nixon.

The camps have been rebuilt with a focus on ensuring a cool environment during the heat of the day. The central Osprey Retreat between the two camps features a separate pool, deli and Safari Boutique area, as a third public space between the main area of each camp.

Further upgrades include an extended deck (with plunge pool) and awnings to create pools of shade at each of DumaTau's eight tented suites and the four suites at Little DumaTau. The camps both offer a full range of safari activities, including day and night game drives, boat excursions and guided nature walks led by expert guides. Guests at the DumaTau Camp can also enjoy customized spa experiences as part of the "restorative safari" concept.

<https://www.travelweekly.com/>

Beautiful Botswana: Exploring the Okavango Delta

WITH THE PANDEMIC DECIMATING the tourist industry, locals are delighted to welcome visitors back to this magnificent wildlife haven

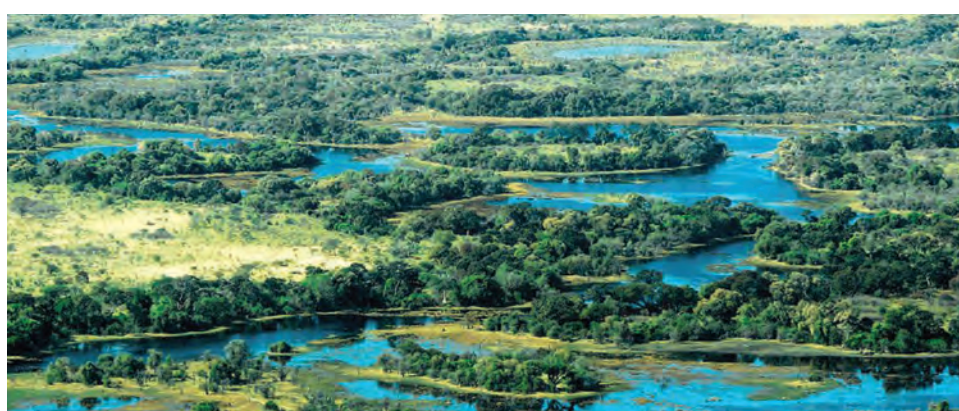
A mokoro ride is a staple of a visit to Botswana's tourism crown jewel — the place where the mighty Okavango River flows in from the Angolan highlands, splintering off across 15,000 square kilometers of African plains towards the Kalahari Desert.

Being punted along by a wiry villager from a neighboring village, who stands sentinel at the back of the canoe with a large pole, reminiscent of a Venetian gondolier, is a favored experience for international tourists, and the waterways are often full with foreign faces taking in the country's famed wildlife. But not this year, of course.

The serenity of floating through one of the Delta's famed papyrus-lined channels is the hard-earned pay off for the assault course you have to conquer to arrive here. The two-hour speedboat ride to your mokoro involves papyrus reeds, branches and large insects whipping your face while a strangled boat engine threatens to cut out as your guide deftly navigates the overgrown channels.

There are no tourists around this year, our guide explained, and therefore less boats pattering through the channels to keep the fast-growing papyrus that dominates the Okavango back. Some channels are at risk of being swallowed forever.

Botswana — like so many other tourism-reliant countries — is suffering from the COVID-19 pandemic's impact on international travel. It closed its borders on March 24, 2020, and reopened eight months later, in a bid to lure back travellers.



It hasn't yet been successful. During our trip to three camps in the Delta in January, we were only the second international guests to have arrived since the reopening. The vast majority of lodges across Botswana remain closed.

But there is a flip side to this. Botswana — which has long marketed itself as a luxury tourism destination (Prince Harry got engaged to Meghan Markle here) — offering opulent all-inclusive lodges that routinely run up to \$4,000 per night, has

had to bring down its nightly rates to incentivize locals to travel.

The country has traditionally favored a sustainable travel model similar to Rwanda and Bhutan — keeping prices high to ensure no mass tourism. Until now, most lodges in Botswana did not have "international" and "local" prices. But introducing the dual rates, sometimes a quarter of the international price, has worked to some extent. During December and the first week of January, Roots and Journeys, which operates water-based lodge Mopiri and land-based lodge Nokanyana, reported full houses.

The company adamantly believes there is a mid-range market just waiting to be catered for in Botswana. Their \$500 all-inclusive offering is a fraction of the cost of other camps in the area, and though it's

a more rustic experience, you do get to see the same wildlife. It was at Mopiri Camp that we took to the water on a mokoro ride.

While it can seem like a gimmick, the half-day excursion in a mokoro also demonstrates just how entwined many of the lodges are with their local communities. Food is purchased from the tiny nearby village of Etsha 6.

Our mokoro guide, Alco, is from the neighboring village of Tsau. "Corona was an eye-opener," our camp guide Sediq says. "The locals poured in because it was cheap.

We survived because of them." The 5-star experiences are finding it just as hard. Nearby is one of Botswana's most famous lodges: Belmond Savute Elephant Lodge. Located right in the middle of Chobe National Park, on the edge of a watering

hole frequented by giant elephants, we are its only visitors. The camp has stayed open regardless — a commitment to keeping its staff in jobs.

The staff member showing us to our rooms laughs as I suggest she must be annoyed at our interruption of a rare time of quiet. "No way," she says. "We are so bored. We miss our guests. We get excited when people come."

The elephants seem to agree. They're out in force over the next few days, perhaps reveling in the lack of tourists. We spot lions crossing a tar-sealed road, gazelle aplenty and — the highlight — a pack of wild dogs reclining on a roadside.

Our guide tells us we're "very lucky." But perhaps it's just the animals reclaiming what's rightfully theirs. [<https://www.arabnews.com/>]

'The Elephant in the Room'

Wayne LaPierre Grilled on Botched Botswana Hunt in U.S. Bankruptcy Court

DAYS AFTER THE NEW YORKER AND The Trace jointly released footage of his botched elephant hunt in Botswana, National Rifle Association chief Wayne LaPierre faced questions about the embarrassing video during the group's federal bankruptcy trial on Thursday.

A lawyer for the NRA's former publicity firm Ackerman McQueen cited the footage, widely viewed as a public relations disaster for the gun group, to undermine the CEO's testimony that he aimed to appeal to "mainstream America."

"Not to ignore the elephant in the room, but let's talk about elephants," attorney Mike Gruber said.

An outtake of the 2013 Botswana hunting trip for the once-NRA sponsored TV show "Under Wild Skies," the previously unseen footage shows LaPierre shooting at the elephant once, wounding the creature, and then again three times from point-blank range in the wrong spot. The show's host delivered the kill shot in LaPierre's place.

The New Yorker narrates:

Later that day, Susan LaPierre showed herself to be a better shot than her husband. After guides tracked down an elephant for her, Susan killed it, cut off its tail, and held it in the air. "Victory!" she shouted, laughing. "That's my elephant tail. Way cool!"

Asked about whether the footage and the cascade of embarrassing headlines that grew out of it, LaPierre answered generally: "I understand that there have been newspaper articles." "I haven't read them," LaPierre added. Gruber attempted to press the matter further by asking whether the public relations fiasco landed poorly with both hunters and non-hunters, but the NRA's lawyer Greg Garman jumped to object to the line of questioning as irrelevant and "highly objectionable."

Although Gruber cast the tapes as relevant to LaPierre's focus on his mainstream appeal, U.S. Bankruptcy Judge Harlin Hale cut him off: "I don't think we



National Rifle Association chief Wayne LaPierre [Insert]

need to go there, Mr. Gruber."

The brief and interrupted exchange fell at the tail end of LaPierre's second round of questioning. The NRA executive vice president and CEO had previously testified some six hours roughly two weeks ago, when called by the office of New York Attorney General Letitia James (D). The

attorney general sued to shut down the 150-year-old gun group for violating the state's charity law, alleging that LaPierre and other executives used the NRA as a personal "piggy bank." Earlier this year, LaPierre opened up a company Sea Girt LLC in Texas, which filed for bankruptcy on the NRA's behalf—allegedly, without

informing the group's board. The attorney general says that Sea Girt is little more than LaPierre's "wholly owned shell company" to establish a foothold in the Lone Star State for bankruptcy, in an effort to duck her lawsuit.

Some observers believe the NRA's gambit backfired, with the bankruptcy trial leading to a number of embarrassing revelations.

On April 7, LaPierre testified about his lavish lifestyle on the dime of the NRA, its donors and its friends, including flying exclusively by private charter jet. LaPierre defended his receipt of nearly \$300,000 in Italian suits from a Beverly Hills Zegna, which the group's longtime public relations Ackerman McQueen bought

him for television appearances. LaPierre also claimed that he went on Hollywood producer Stanton McKenzie's 108-foot yacht, the Illusions, after the Sandy Hook shooting for "security" reasons.

Listen to highlights from his first round of testimony on Law&Crime's podcast "Objections." [https://lawandcrime.com/]

YTV TOP SELECTED PROGRAMMES

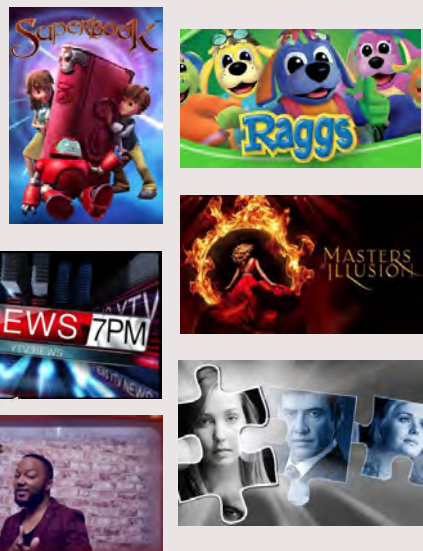


Don't Miss Our top picks of the week

Countrywide. No Subscription.

WEEKDAYS

- 15:00 SuperBook
- 15:30 Raggs
- 18:00 Masters of Illusions
- 19:00 YTV News
- 19:30 BW's Lifestyle



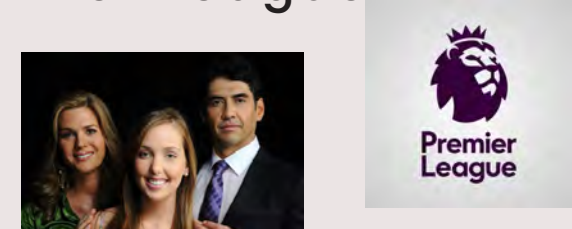
Top Picks

- Youth Plug with Tsabo
- Sports Talk with Tulani

20:00 Missing (Telenovela)

WEEKENDS

- 09:30 Missing (Omnibus) (Telenovela)
- 14:00 English Premier League
- 19:00 YTV News



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Woman on Top!

Goaba's eyes on the ball

- Baptism of fire awaits Taylor
- WASBO excited about rise of women
- Nullified 2020/21 league haunts BFA

VICTORIA MARUMO
editors@thepatriot.co.bw

THE ARRIVAL OF GOABAONE Taylor at Lekidi as the new Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Botswana Football Association (BFA) caught many football supporters by surprise and rattled feathers, as it bucked the trend many had become accustomed to.

Goaba, as she is affectionately known by her friends, has brushed aside the curious stares from onlookers and hit the ground running, launching a fact finding mission in her first week at the office to gather information about the state of affairs at the football governing body, to prepare a plan and set out priorities for the way forward. "In my first week I have been able to have a meet and greet with most senior managers and the rest of the staff where we discussed issues, challenges and opportunities for change and growth," she said, oozing with confidence after being taken through a two-day induction program facilitated by Mamelodi Consulting.

Women and Sport Botswana (WASBO) chairperson Matlho Kgosi hailed the BFA decision saying they made the best choice. She said WASBO is proud to have a woman at the helm of the most popular sport in the country. "We believe she is capable, talented and a right fit for the job. Together with our male partners we will ensure her success in reviving the fortunes of BFA," said Kgosi.

Taylor's second week was spent on training and gaining insight from other General Secretaries of Football Associations from across Africa, before attending a General Secretaries course on Football Management

hosted by COSAFA in partnership with Confederation of African Football (CAF) and facilitated by UEFA Assist.

Taylor has already attended her first BFA Executive Management meeting, where she discussed her 100 day plan with the Letshwiti and his EXCO. "My first 100 days will be focused on people management to ensure BFA is an efficient organization. Moreover, the 100-day plan will be cascaded and incorporated into the teams' scorecards for implementation and monitoring," she explained.

Taylor said she will also use this time to put together a long-term plan for future sustainability of the BFA while ensuring continuity on all matters that have been ongoing prior to my appointment. The long-term plan is to have an FA that is efficient and sustainable with reduced dependence on government grants and other areas of focus will rest on women's football and youth development to ensure alignment and prioritization aimed at yielding impressive results. Still on her journey, Taylor managed to have a meet and greet with the women's senior national team where they shared their aspirations and areas they need support. "I proceeded to have a meeting with the head coach and her team to understand areas that the association needs to focus on. It was a great meeting and it yielded enough for me to know where priorities will be given once I start to engage with other stakeholders," she said.

Armed with a Bachelor of Business Administration Degree with a major in Marketing from the University of Botswana (UB), including an array of professional courses in the

areas of Digital Marketing from the University of Cape Town (UCT), Senior Development Program with USB-Ed and Enterprise Risk Management with Botswana Accountancy College (BAC) among others, Goaba believes she is well equipped for the mammoth task ahead. Her three year tenure at the helm of BFA started on April 5, 2021.

Welcoming Goaba to Lekidi Football Centre, BFA President Maclean Letshwiti said her appointment is the best decision to take local football forward. "This restructuring of BFA leadership will ensure future success while expediting organic growth and new acquisitions," he said.

2020/21 season BFA Competitions Manager, Phutho Setete said they are aware that football supporters are disappointed because of the nullification of the 2020/21 league, but unfortunately the decision was taken as a result of the pandemic. "Based on expert medical advice from the Covid19 task force, Government has suspended all sporting activities to control the spread of the virus. However, we are hopeful that we will be back to playing fields soon," he said, explaining that the BFA have submitted a new proposal to the Ministry of Youth, Sport and Culture (MYSC) and are awaiting feedback with regards to the possibility of getting back on the field.

"We are constantly in talks with government through Botswana National Sport Commission (BNSC) but for now, national teams and national activities are still ongoing and fans are encouraged to engage and support until the situation stabilizes," he added.

Background

Armed with more than 18 years of professional experience backed by a distinguished track record of identifying the uniqueness of brands, accentuating their appeal, taking them to market and maximizing their value, Goaba brings a unique set of skills, perspectives and relationships to lead the BFA into the future.

Goaba led the commercialization of Pay TV and Free-to-Air content platforms as the Country Manager of Econet Media, implementing a go-to-market strategy, driving brand awareness, partner and customer acquisition as well as enhancing customer experience. She has also worked in the Wholesale Business arm of BTCL, spearheading business development efforts, managing international relationships with strategic business partners; a similar arrangement which exists in football with both FIFA and UEFA.

The incoming CEO said in partnership with Letshwiti and his NEC, it is time to focus on what is best for football, from the very bottom to the very top. She believes local football is awash with raw and undeveloped talent awaiting to be harnessed. "My plan is to use all these skills to good effect in developing the local football eco-system, from grassroots upwards for boys and girls. We need to build a 'one vision' view of the future where the interests of many prevail over the agenda of individuals within the game and its administration. Success will only come to those who work hard together for the love of the game. It is my job, with the help of the Association, to lead in the progress of the game in all its facets," said Goaba.

Tribute: Coach Olebile Maltas "KP" Kapaletswe

DITIRO MOTHIBEDI*

WHAT A COACH; WHAT A teacher; KP was Godsent to change the lives of young scholars using Basketball to touch all aspects of their lives, emotional support, academic development, social, moral and physical development. His classes amassed high percentage credit passes in JC exams at Boipelego Junior Secondary School (BOPSEC).

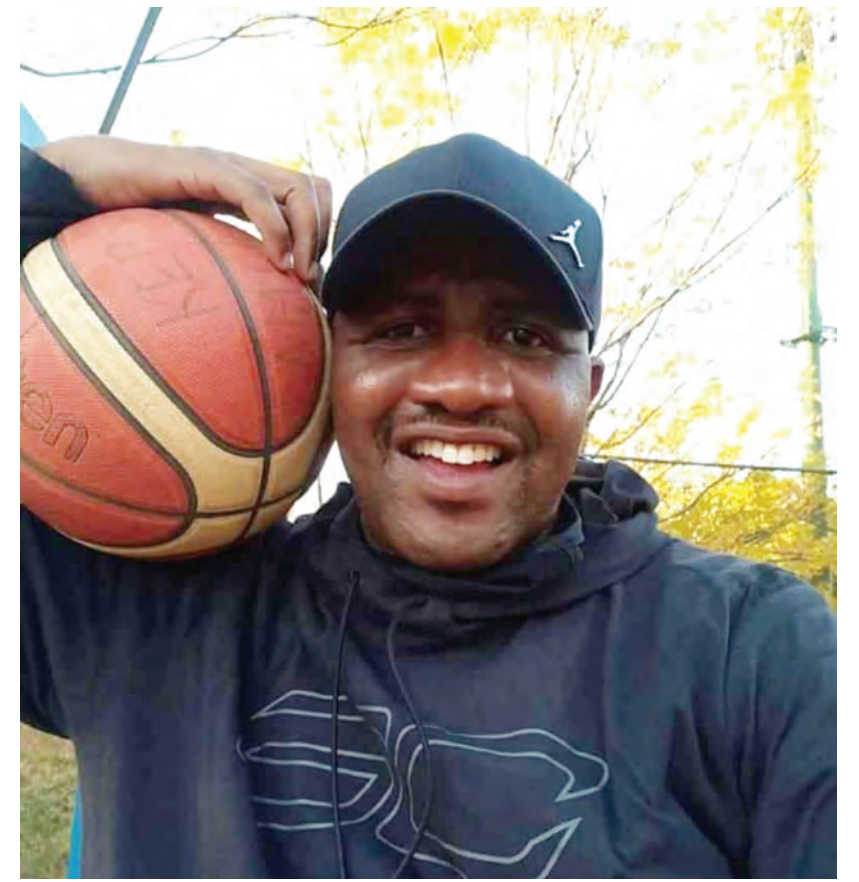
I met Coach KP in 2005 at Serowe Sports Centre where I went for individual basketball workout. I was intrigued to see kids dribbling basketball, something which never happened in Serowe. KP was a new teacher transferred from Tshwaragano Junior Secondary School where he left a huge basketball foundation. We had a chat and immediately ideas were conceived by the two of us on how we could develop basketball in Serowe and surrounding areas.

We worked on a basketball program which was modelled around Maruapula basketball development. KP started a basketball partnership program with Lotsane Senior in Palapye. He made sure Form three athletes, especially those with challenging backgrounds were admitted at Lotsane Senior School where I was a basketball coach and a chemistry teacher. This model developed top basketball athletes who are now playing in the BBA league. There was continuity in Basketball.

KP further initiated partnership between Serowe basketball and Institution Teams like BDF, Police, Serowe College. BDF team came for basketball training sessions in Serowe. Coach KP accommodated the whole team at his house and he would prefer to sleep on the couch, making sure BDF officials felt comfortable. Serowe athletes benefited from this partnership. Many of KPs former players got employed by these institutions especially BDF and Botswana Police. My friend was an amazing coach!

He lived for basketball and he wanted Bopsec to be a center for basketball Excellence. He collaborated with top development coaches as far as United States of America (USA) to develop basketball facilities in Serowe especially at BOPSEC. A visionary coach. He dominated Junior School Basketball since 2005 to 2016, the year he transferred to Pitikwe Junior Secondary School in Lobatse. Bopsec won 7 gold medals, 2 silvers and 4 bronze at the BISA junior school finals.

It still pains me why a man who developed students so much, decorated school heads office with



Coach KP

beautiful trophies was not promoted or at least given a chance to upgrade his academic qualifications. The man sweat for good academic results at Boipelego and everyone knows, school heads know, the regional office knows KP was a top performer. During his times at Boipelego JSS you could not hear of disturbing issues of drug abuse, bullying, fights and many elements of students indiscipline. He was a man who would be on duty all the week days making sure there is serenity and calmness at Bopsec. He knew all scholars and was able to trace their backgrounds and involve their parents more in their academic development. These are the things he shared with me and other coaches. He was a rare breed in the teaching fraternity. He executed duties of his mandate in a more serious fashion. He united the student community. He was the best in selecting and mentoring student leadership (SRC) wherever he worked.

KP made sure many schools in the North Central region started basketball. His initiative even reached schools in rural areas like Thabala C J S S. He identified teachers whom he shared basics basketball skills with so that they push the basketball foundation and development. He visited all these areas using his own resources.

I lost a friend, my basketball twin, a brother, a humble guy who cared for all people. He chose to smile when things got tough, he called everyone "Ntsalaka" and that made him unique, he was loved by all coaches and athletes in Botswana. He was a father and he made sure all his players cared for one another. He often said to students "the fact

that you pass the ball to a teammate means you appreciate and trust them, do that in everyday life, before you open a can of drink on camp look at your other team mate".

That mantra unified Serowe basketball athletes. They knew sharing is caring. KP would spend his last thebe to buy basic items e.g. soap, shoes for students especially the needy. He profiled his students and basketball players and followed their academic progress to tertiary level. The bond he had with his former players and students never broke, KP was an erudite teacher. The country lost a good teacher, coach, parent to all students especially basketball athletes in Botswana. He once told me he doesn't have millions to donate to all kids but his millions are the Basketball skills he shared with the nation.

He was a great fan of the late American Artist TUPAC SHAKUR. He used some of Tupac lyrics to inspire students and players, he made sure they sweat for top academic grades, they sweat for Gold in basketball championship.

"something we all adore, something worth dying for Nothing but pain, stuck in this game searching for fortune and Fame"

This made Boipelego J S S, Tshwaragano J S S, Pitikwe J S S great basketball schools because of coach KP's love for the game of Basketball.

*Rest in peace my basketball twin Coach Carter DT Mothibedi *Friend. Basketball Coach, Former Under 17 coach, Chemistry Teacher Swaneng Senior Secondary School*

'A Try for Change'

FATMA EL-KINDIY, ONE OF Rugby Africa's 12 Unstoppables, has launched "A Try for Change", which is a grassroots initiative to empower girls through the sport. She and others seek to conscientize young women and girls to grow their self-confidence, as a means of unlocking their true potential in society. Rugby is used as a medium of instruction, but the goal of her work

is to empower attendees to become agents of change in their respective communities- on or off the field of play. The programme is targeted at primary school leavers and includes modules on introspective exercises, recreational activities with learning objectives, mentorships, as well as preparatory programs in enterprise development.

As an Unstoppable leader, El-kindiy is breaking the silence of abuse

in communities by raising awareness around civil liberties and justice. She deeply empathises with young girls who are not taught about building their confidence in school, as the priority is generally put on teaching the standard course curriculum. Sessions with Fatma and her team have become safe and supportive structures for personal development in the schools and communities they serve.

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Chicken

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p/kg

Afro Butchery

Mark Down from :20 Apr 21 to 10 May 21 Service Line: 77 099 455 / 72 888 999

All Branches