

# "NOTHING WOULD STOP US FROM INVESTIGATING MASISI" – DCEC

STORY ON PAGE 3

GOV'T TO ROLL OUT P500M PULA  
STIMULATION PACKAGE

PAGE 2

MASISI'S ENDORSEMENT FOR PEGGY SERAME  
DIVIDES GOODHOPE-MABULE CONSTITUENCY

PAGE 2

ASIANS ONLY' RENTAL ADVERT  
CAUSES UPROAR

PAGE 2

GLOBAL JEWELER TO SHUN BOTSWANA MINED  
DIAMONDS IN FAVOUR OF SYNTHETIC DIAMONDS

PAGE 5

EWETSE KHAMA TO ASSUME DUTIES AT BANGWATO ROYAL HOUSE

PAGE 17

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The minister of youth sports and culture development Tumiso Ragare briefs the media in Gaborone on 4 May 2021 on the preparation of Team Botswana for the Tokyo Olympic. BNSC chairman Marumo Morule and BNOC President Col. Botsang Tshenyego, MYSC permanent secretary Kabo Ramokate and BNOC acting chief executive officer Wedu Motswetla were present during the briefing. (Pic:Monirul Bhuiyan/PRESS PHOTO)

# Gov't To Roll Out P500m Pula Stimulation Package

- The first tranche of P500m to be disbursed before this year is out
- The second tranche of P500m to follow after an assessment

GAZETTE REPORTER

Government intends to roll out a stimulation package of half a billion to support ailing businesses in the country before end of this year, *The Botswana Gazette* has established.

Sources say the government will review the impact of the stimulus package after this year and then roll out another half a billion pula in furtherance of recovery

**"Because many jobs have been lost under the impact of COVID-19, the government decided to support companies in the private sector with funds for expansion tied to jobs," said a source. "Details will be shared soon."**

President Mokgweetsi Masisi broached the question of committing economic transformation and job creation during commemoration of the International Workers' Day over the weekend.

The first package will target companies seeking to expand their operations and thus create more jobs. "Because many jobs have been lost under the impact of COVID-19, the government decided to support companies in the private sector with funds for expansion tied to jobs," said a source. "Details will be shared soon."

The source added that a large portion of the stimulus package will go to the tourism sector because it has been especially impacted by the pandemic. "The government is hard at work to ensure that taxes are collected and put into the economy to help create jobs," the source added. "The intention is to encourage more businesses to stay afloat because there are fears that more companies are feeling the brunt of this pandemic and may shut down."

"We continue to engage stakeholders such as Business Botswana to assist in mapping out ways of assisting the business community. The point is that if people lose jobs, they become a burden on the state. So the idea is to help businesses financially to safeguard jobs."

It recently emerged that over 900 jobs have been lost since the outbreak of COVID-19 and that more companies are planning to retrench before end of this year. Meanwhile, during commemoration of International Workers Day over the weekend, President Masisi said government has committed billions of pula to resuscitation of the economy in order to create jobs.

"I am cognisant of the fact that as we emerge from the impact of this scourge, there is a need for us to ensure that we create an opportunity for sustainable job creation in our country," the President said.

"The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated the challenge of unemployment, particularly amongst our young people. To this end, as you may be aware, government has developed an Economic Recovery Transformation Plan and committed billions of pula in the long-term to resuscitate the economy, thereby creating jobs for our youth."

# Nata/Gweta Identifies Majaga's Challenger

- The son of the Kgosi of Nata, Mompoti Seitso comes with the trappings of aristocracy
- Majaga dismisses his potential replacement as "a council-seat reject"

SESUPO RANTSIMAKO

Although it might be too early to prepare for 2024 general elections, Botswana Democratic Party (BDP) constituents in Nata/Gweta have already identified youthful Mompoti Seitso to replace the incumbent MP, Polson Majaga, *The Botswana Gazette* has established.

As the son of Kgosi Rebagamang Rancholo of Nata, Seitso comes with the trappings of royal birth. Sources close to this development say Seitso is capable of "de-throning" Majaga and that the incumbent MP is no longer the favourite because he has shown that he does not have the interests of the constituency at heart. Perhaps most importantly, nativity is a factor in that Majaga is from Nata while Seitso is a prince of Nata by birth.

"It is high time we send someone who originate from this constituency to Parliament because they will have our best interests at heart, unlike the incumbent MP who originates from Tutume," said a source. "Seitso might be youthful but his leadership qualities and educational background speak volumes. Besides that, what frustrates the constituents even more is that Majaga's political career has been surrounded by scandals, the latest being one of allegations of defilement."

**"It is high time we send someone who originate from this constituency to Parliament because they will have our best interests at heart, unlike the incumbent MP who originates from Tutume," said a source.**

Majaga has been the subject of several controversies, including allegations of stock theft, threat to kill and a notorious defilement case from which he was eventually absolved for lack of evidence. The MP of Nata/Gweta has consistently maintained all the cases were the result of a political witch hunt by his opponents.

Seitso has confirmed that he has been approached by "constituency elders" about running in the BDP primaries for 2024. "I can confirm that I have been approached by many elders about me representing the constituency in Parliament," he told *The Gazette*. "Some came from Tso-kotshaa over the weekend. Their reasons are that they want someone with vibrant ideas and initiatives for the constituency. They say I am just such a person."

Reached for comment, Majaga responded: "If Seitso is sent by the party leadership, let it be so. It does not bother me that Seitso is the son of the Kgosi. I do not have the time to talk much because I am busy with Kgotla meetings. What I know is that he is a council-seat reject."

# "Nothing Would Stop Us From Investigating Masisi" – DCEC

Says DCEC isn't investigating Masisi at present

LETLHOGILE MPUANG

Nothing would stop the Directorate on Corruption and Economic Crimes (DCEC) from investigating President Mokgweetsi Masisi if investigating the President was warranted, the Director General of the corruption busting agency, Tymon Katlholo, has said.

"No sir, we do not have any investigations or report on the President," he emphasised. "If we were to have any corruption investigations on him, we would gladly follow it up. As I have said before, we are guided by our mandate and nothing else. We do not serve anyone's interests. At the moment we have nothing on him."

In an interview with *The Botswana Gazette* this week, Katlholo said DCEC is not actively probing the President for corruption or anything else at the moment. "No sir, we do not have any in-

vestigations or report on the President," he emphasised. "If we were to have any corruption investigations on him, we would gladly follow it up. As I have said before, we are guided by our mandate and nothing

else. We do not serve anyone's interests. At the moment we have nothing on him."

He pointed out that according to the law, Botswana's head of state is only immune from prosecution and not from investigation.

Katlholo was appointed by President Masisi late last year following the transfer of Brigadier Joseph Mathambo to the Botswana Defence Force (BDF). Sources say he was highly recommended by the head of the DISS, Brigadier Peter Mago-si. He served as the Director General of DCEC from 2001 to 2009.

The Ombudsman Augustine Makgonatsothe has also previously told this publication there has not been even a single complaint of corruption or abuse of office filed against Masisi since he assumed of-

fice as president in April 2018.

Nonetheless, some sections of the media and opposition parties have accused Masisi of possible corruption and abuse of office since declaration of the first State of Emergency (SOE) on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2020. He came under serious criticism after he pitched for and won a prime portion of government-owned Banyana Farms last year.

His business dealings with foreign businessmen have also come under the microscope of the media and the political opposition. Companies associated with some of his business partners have been directly awarded COVID-19 supply tenders. All COVID-19 procurement is done at the Office of the President.

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NB: All the programmes above are scheduled for 4 Years

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NB: All the programmes above are scheduled for 4 Years

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Botswana receives 200000 doses of Sinovac Corona virus Covid 19 protective vaccine from China as a donation on 25 April 2021 in Gaborone. Minister of health and wellness Dr Edwin Gorataone Dikoloti receives the vaccine consignment from the ambassador of China to Botswana Wang Xuefeng while minister Kabo Neale Sechele Morwaeng, Dr Lemogang Kwape, permanent secretary Grace Muzila were present among the others at the Sir Seretse Khama International Airport while the consignment arrives with an Ethiopian airways flight.

# AG Concludes COVID Funds Audit

- Two separate audits conducted
- Relevant recommendations to be forwarded to DCEC and DISS
- Winter Parliament to debate reports
- Rampant corruption around COVID funds reported

LETLHOGILE MPUANG

The Office of the Auditor General (AG) is expected release an audit report on performance and use of COVID-19 funds, the Permanent Secretary (PS) at the Ministry of Finance and Economic Development, Dr. Wilfred Mandlebe, has confirmed.

In fact, according to information reaching *The Botswana Gazette*, two separate audit reports are expected – a performance audit and the a management audit of COVID-19 funds. These reports will be presented in the winter sitting of Parliament.

“The Auditor General recently confirmed to the Ministry (of Finance) that the audit of the COVID-19 funds is ongoing,” revealed the finance PS. “One is the performance audit report, which will assess the management of the pandemic by the country, successes and challenges. The other report is the management of the COVID-19 fund, which will determine the extent to which the fund was managed in accordance with the Fund Order and Financial Regulations.”

Mandlebe added that the first of the two reports had already been concluded. “I am informed by the Auditor General that the first report is ready and is undergoing validation within their office while the second one is also at an advanced stage of completion,” he said. “Once completed and submitted to the minister responsible for finance, these reports will be tabled in Parliament as per the requirements of the law.”

Where relevant, recommendations made in the reports will be forwarded to investigating agencies (the Directorate on Corruption and Economic Crimes (DCEC) and the Directorate of Security and Intelligence Service (DISS) to pursue and determine any acts of crime or corruption.

Concerns of corruption around COVID-19 funds have been growing since declaration of the first State of Public Emergency (SoPE) on 1<sup>st</sup> of April 2020. Government set aside over P2.4 billion to help capacitate the health sector in its fight against the COVID-19 pandemic.

Before he was redeployed, former DCEC Director General, Brigadier Joseph Mathambo, told *The Botswana Gazette* in May last year that his office had received documents of possible corruption at the Ministry of Health and Wellness. His successor Tymon Katlholo has also told the media that they were following up alleged corruption cases linked to COVID-19 funds.

It has been reported that the levels of corruption at the Ministry of Health since the advent of the novel Coronavirus had upset President Mokgweetsi Masisi to the point where he eventually corralled all COVID-19 procurement under the purview of the Office of the President.

# Pandora To Shun Mined Diamonds In Favour of Synthetic Diamonds

BONGANI MALUNGA

In a move that is set to have long term effects on the diamond mining production industry across the world, leading diamond jeweller Pandora has elected to switch to laboratory-made diamonds and no longer sell mined diamonds. According to UK based media outlet BBC, the world’s biggest jeweller will now start sourcing diamonds that are laboratory-made that are somewhat similar to the naturally produced diamonds.

With the world’s biggest jeweller taking a bold step to abandon mined diamonds, there is widespread expectation that many will follow suit. This could have ripple effects on diamond mining giants such as Botswana, Russia, Canada and Australia who have already seen a decline in production due to COVID-19.

For years Africa has been plagued by reports of child labour or diamonds produced with human rights violations being prevalent in the processes of producing the precious stones. The BBC report states one of the key reasons for Pandora’s switch is that, “Concerns about the environment and working practices in the mining industry have led to growing demand for alternatives to mined diamonds.”

Botswana, on the other hand, has a unique story with conflict free diamond

production being a source of national and global pride. However, the latest report of Pandora’s switch to synthetic diamonds has raised a lot of uncertainty about Botswana’s readiness to adapt to the consumers’ new demands of laboratory-made diamonds.

De Beers, a diamond mining giant with a long standing partnership with the Botswana government, experienced an 18 % decline in production last year according to a report published by UK media outlet BBC News. De Beers has in the past embraced synthetic diamond production but they have always maintained that they have no plans to ditch mining production altogether.

In 2018, De Beers Executive Vice President (Corporate Affairs) David Prager told *The Botswana Gazette* that they “have no intention of abandoning their long-held business operations in natural diamonds and that this long term strategy is buttressed by the fact that De Beers will, over the next five years, spend 10 billion US Dollars in setting up new mines and expanding their existing operations in the exploration, mining and marketing of natural diamonds.” Prager was speaking to this publication following the announcement of De Beers’ decision to selling synthetic diamonds at the time.

Efforts to get a response from De Beers and Debswana on this developing issue were futile by time of press.

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Flexi Fixed (6 Months)	2.50%	2.53%	100.00
Flexi Fixed (12 Months)	3.15%	3.20%	100.00
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12 Months	1.30% to 1.90%	1.31% to 1.92%	1,000.00
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# Court orders in favour of Butale in BDP suspension case

## Orders BDP to pay P72,945

MPHO MATSHEDISO

The Gaborone High Court has ordered in favour of Botswana Patriotic Front (BPF) president, Biggie Butale, in a case where he had taken the Botswana Democratic Party (BDP), the Chairman of the BDP Appeals Board, and Butale’s opponent in the primaries Simon Moabi to court over the results of the 2018 primary elections.

After losing the primary elections to Moabi, Butale appeared before the BDP disciplinary committee to face charges of

allegedly telling voters in Tati West that he would contest the general elections as an independent candidate. He was subsequently suspended from membership of the BDP for six months.

The court recently ordered the BDP to cover the costs of the case that amount to P72,945. *The Botswana Gazette* has copies of court documents which state that the costs for the bill were accumulated from perusal of notice of motion, a draft order and power of attorney which comprised 100 pages at P2,500, attending at the Gaborone High Court for a status hearing at

P1,000 per hour, and copies of documents containing 64 pages filed at P1,280.

As the MP for Tati West under the BDP in 2018, Butale instructed Monthe Marumo and Associates to take the BDP to court to appeal the primary election results as recommended by the North East regional committee.

“When the matter was supposed to go to the courts, I was suspended from the BDP and my lawyer advised that I withdraw the case because even if we had won, I would not have been able to stand as a candidate because I was now suspended and could not take part in party activities,” he said in an interview. So we withdrew and they (BDP) were awarded the costs of the case.”



### Butale says bill for his case is “ridiculously high”

- The case only went as far as a status hearing
- BDP to settle the bill

MPHO MATSHEDISO

The president of the Botswana Patriotic Front, Biggie Butale, has described the bill of costs for his case against the Botswana Democratic Party (BDP) a stifling of democracy because it is too high.

“Just as they did to the Umbrella for Democratic Change (UDC), they want to stifle democracy,” Butale said in an interview with *The Botswana Gazette* this week.

The bill of costs, which is to be paid by the BDP is, is P72, 945.00 before tax deductions are made.

*The Botswana Gazette* has copies of court documents which state that the costs were accumulated from perusing the notice of motion, a draft order and the power of attorney which comprised 100 pages at P2, 500, attending at Gaborone High Court for a status hearing at P1,000 per hour and copies of documents filed containing 64 pages at P1, 280.

In 2018, Butale, at the time the MP for Tati West under the BDP, instructed the legal firm Monthe Marumo and Associates to take the party and the Chairman of the BDP Appeals Board to court over primary elections appeals as recommended by the North East regional committee.



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- The individual must be of good standing to be approved by the Non-Bank Financial Institutions Regulatory Authority (NBFIRA) to be a Trustee

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The Independent Trustee shall hold office for a three (3) year period.

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#### Orange Botswana Staff Pension Fund - Independent Trustee

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**Closing Date for applications: 14 May 2021**

**NB: Please note that only short-listed applicants will be contacted.**



# Gerrie Nel completes 'P100bn mission'

- State reportedly gave him contradictory versions of the matter
- State's accounts believed to be giving Nel a headache
- Much depends on his legal opinion of the matter



TEFO PHEAGE

While Advocate Gerrie Nel was has completed the first round of his mission to assess the high profile P100 billion case, he is left with making sense of a litany of contradictions among state institutions that he interviewed before giving his legal opinion about whether to proceed with the matter or otherwise.

"He is done and we don't know when he will come back to the DPP on the way forward," a highly placed source at the Directorate of Public Prosecutions told *The Botswana Gazette*. "What we know is that he was shocked at some of the weaknesses he observed in responses to the several probing questions that he asked during interviews."

## "He is done and we don't know when he will come back to the DPP on the way forward,"

The Director of the DPP, Stephen Tiroyakgosi, did not take this publication's calls.

While proponents of the case say that Nel - who is the head of the private prosecutions unit at South Africa's Afrikaner nationalist organisation, AfriForum - may help tighten the case, critics say he is actually here to rationalise the state's strategy before arriving at what is known as "unwilling to prosecute" or *nolle prosequi* in legalese. "They will say they are withdrawing acting on Nel's advice," said one legal guru linked to the defence.



western

Rethink Insurance

Western Life Insurance Botswana appoints Mr. Boikanyo Kgosidintsi as CEO

**Mr. Boikanyo Kgosidintsi has been appointed as the new Chief Executive Officer of Western Life Insurance Botswana.**

Speaking on his appointment, Mr. Boikanyo Kgosidintsi said, "I have been an executive in financial services for over 20 years and I am extremely excited to be joining the first 100% citizen owned insurer in Botswana. The Non-Bank Financial Institution sector has historically been dominated by majority foreign owned companies. This is an excellent opportunity to demonstrate that with the right leadership in place, customer-centric solutions and shareholder support it is possible for citizen owned entities to compete and deliver world class service to the sector."

Mr. Boikanyo Kgosidintsi joins Western Life Insurance Botswana from Letshego Holdings Limited where he was Group Head of Investor Relations; a position that he has held since November 2014. Prior to that, Boikanyo was Vice-President, Investment Banking Division: Sub-Saharan Africa Coverage at Absa Capital based in Johannesburg.

A lawyer by profession, Boikanyo has deep domestic financial services experience having been involved in stakeholder management, structuring, execution and marketing of debt capital market raisings in excess of US2bn for sovereign issuers, blue chip corporates and Government related entities across sub-Saharan Africa.

In 2019, Boikanyo was appointed member of the Investment Committee of Aleyo Capital Fund 1. He was also appointed Vice President Botswana Bond Market Association in the same year.

He completed his LLB from the University of Botswana in 1997.

**ABOUT WESTERN LIFE INSURANCE BOTSWANA**  
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# Protest Against Exploration In The Okavango Reaches International Movement

- UK-based movement joins protest
- Worried about harmful effects on fragile ecosystem

SESUPO RANTSIMAKO

UK-based Extinction Movement has joined hands with Batswana abroad to publicise the protest against exploration and potential mining for oil and gas in the wildlife-rich Okavango Delta, *The Botswana Gazette* has established.

Dubbed “Save the Okavango Delta,” the protest comes after the Botswana and the Namibian governments granted Canadian company Recon Africa oil drilling rights along the main rivers that flow into the delta.

According to one Motswana based in the UK, Joy Crooke, at the top of concerns of the Extinction Movement is that exploration and mining for oil



and gas inevitably risks polluting the delta and consequently killing the wildlife and harming people.

There is also strong conviction that oil exploration and mining have the potential to contribute to catastrophic levels of climate change, risking the death of billions of animals and people.

“We launched this campaign upon realisation that Batswana are silent about the mining project that has the potential to damage the world heritage site,” Cooke said in an interview with *The Botswana Gazette*. “The Botswana Government cannot tell us that they want to create employment yet it is busy with the project that might bring poverty in the long run.”

“We recently held a protest in front of the Canadian Embassy in order to lodge our concerns about this looming oil mining. We want this campaign to reach as many stakeholders in Botswana as possible as it could eventually click on this Canadian com-

pany that it should stop.”

The granting of exploration and mining permits to Reckon Africa has spawned a backlash from environmentalists and people of the Okavango who fear harmful effects on the fragile ecosystem.

While the Minister of Mineral Resources, Green Technology and Energy Security, Lefoko Moagi, could not be reached, he attempted to dispel these fears earlier this year. Moagi told the local media that the company would carry out an Environmental Impact Assessment before any drilling could take place.

“Botswana will learn from drilling activities in Namibia, which is already upfront with activities of oil and gas mining by the same company that has been granted the rights (here),” he told journalists early this year.



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# High Court Adjourns Mmutlane Chieftainship Case

Respondents show up in court unprepared

MPHO MATSHEDISO

The Lobatse High Court has postponed a case in which representatives of Mmutlane Village in the Central District are suing the Ministry of Local Government, the Attorney General, and Ketlareng Lekhutlile for interfering in their bogosi affairs.

Justice Modiri Letsididi has set trial for 12 May 2021 because representatives of the respondents provided documents written in Setswana and were unprepared for trial.

The Botswana Gazette is in possession of petition which states that Albert Mogaele, Robert Mosetlhe and 51 other village representatives say they want the people of Mmutlane Village to vote for their own chief without interference from government or Serowe. According to the petition the residents of Mmutlane would like to autonomously decide who to lead them without interference from Serowe.

“We would like you to remove Ntshadi Dlodlo from calling herself our Kgosi and she should refrain from calling herself chief of Mmutlane and thus she should not be conducting Kgotla meetings in our village in the pretense she is the chief of the village.

“We would like you to remove Ntshadi Dlodlo from calling herself our Kgosi and she should refrain from calling herself chief of Mmutlane and thus she should not be conducting Kgotla meetings in our village in the pretense she is the chief of the village. Her presence has only caused conflict between residents of Mmutlane,” says the petition.

According to court documents that The Botswana Gazette has a copy of, the cluster through their attorney Ndadi Law firm want the Minister of Local Government to set aside the appointment of Ketlareng Lekhutlile or any other person currently appointed as kgosi of Mmutlane. They would like the court to grant them per-

mission to elect their own Kgosi. Moreover, the villagers (Claimants) allege that they do not know how the appointment of Ketlareng Lekhutlile as their Kgosi came about as they were never consulted.

Information gathered by The Botswana Gazette reveals that a group of villagers in Mmutlane formed a coup to oust Loomat-soga Gaogane from the chieftaincy. Moreover a section of the villagers in the lowest tribal lineage in the village had gone to Serowe and informed Serogola Lekhutlile’s children that they are the rightful heirs to the chieftainship in Mmutlane. It has emerged that the villagers through a Kgotla meeting held on 12 December 2020, the people of Mmutlane cried foul of lack of consultation from government.



Botswana Building Society (BBS) shareholders elected new board members during the annual general meeting held in Gaborone on 30 April 2021. (Pic: Monirul Bhuiyan/PRESS PHOTO)



The Botswana Vaccine Institute Ltd is a Botswana Government wholly owned company with a high international reputation. It is committed to the production of high quality livestock vaccines which are exported worldwide. Botswana Vaccine Institute is now seeking to recruit a qualified and experienced person to fill the following vacant position

## HUMAN RESOURCE OFFICER

### MAIN PURPOSE OF THE JOB

Reporting to the Human Resource Manager, the incumbent will implement HR processes and activities aligned to the BVI strategy to support a high performance culture. She/He will drive PMS, Payroll Administration, Recruitment, Talent Management and staff support activities.

### KEY PERFORMANCE AREAS

Talent Management  
Payroll Administration  
Performance Management  
Recruitment and Onboarding  
Training and Development  
General HR Administration  
Employee Relations  
Availability of HR data and Management Information Reports

### JOB REQUIREMENTS:

**Education:** Bachelor Degree in Human Resource, Business Administration or equivalent

### Experience:

5 years post graduate experience in a mature HR environment  
Experience in ERP HR Modules  
Proficiency in MS Word and Excell  
Exposure to Talent Management and Succession Planning

### Competencies/Skills:

Analytical skills  
Human Resource  
People Management  
Interpersonal relations  
Employee Relations

## PURCHASING OFFICER- FIXED TERM 12 MONTHS

### MAIN PURPOSE OF THE JOB

To purchase goods and services in accordance with specifications and procedures to maximize value for money and production continuity.

### KEY PERFORMANCE AREAS:

- Cost effective procurement of goods and outsourced services
- Availability of material
- Timely and accurate processing of purchase orders and invoices.
- Timely distribution of non stock material to user departments

### QUALIFICATIONS AND EXPERIENCE:

Education: Minimum Degree in Logistics and Supply Chain Management/CIPS Level 6

Professional Membership  
Chartered Institute of Purchasing Supply Management or relevant membership

Experience: At least three (3) years in a developed supply chain environment of a mature entity

### Competencies:

- Excellent Communication Skills
- Organisational skills
- Analytical skills
- Interpersonal skills
- Negotiation skills

Applications, Certified copies of certificates, ID and CVs containing two names of referees and their contact details should reach the address below not later than **13 May 2021**

**Human Resource Manager  
Botswana Vaccine Institute  
Plot 6385 Lejara Rd. B/Hurst Industrial Ests.  
P/Bag 0031  
Gaborone.**

**Email: gthuma@bvi.co.bw**

DONALD MOLOSI

One of the cornerstones of cultural diplomacy is open dialogue between cultures. This year, Botswana turns 55. When our country was formed 55 years ago, there were no women in cabinet (or leading Botswana missions abroad) until Dr. Gaositwe Chiepe joined cabinet almost a decade later. In 1986, Emang Basadi Women's Association came into formal existence to lobby against laws that discriminated against women in Botswana. Therefore, in commemoration of the 35th birthday of Emang Basadi, I speak below to the Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany to Botswana, Her Excellency Margit Hellwig-Botte. This conversation is reproduced with gratitude to the Upright African Movement.

**DM: Thank you so much, Ambassador, for this conversation. Despite COVID-19's restrictions on gathering, it remains crucial to create conversation about gender parity. With a global pandemic raging, was your office able to commemorate the International Women's Day this year like in other years?**

MH: As you know we are operating under Covid protocol in Botswana so there was not much possibility to celebrate with other women. We basically passed our messages online, and decided to highlight that at our Embassy, many positions have been taken over by women that, for a long time, were entirely occupied by men, like the head of mission, the head of administration, and the driver and administrative assistant of the Embassy.

**DM: Those developments calm my anxieties about inequality. They must certainly make you feel proud.**

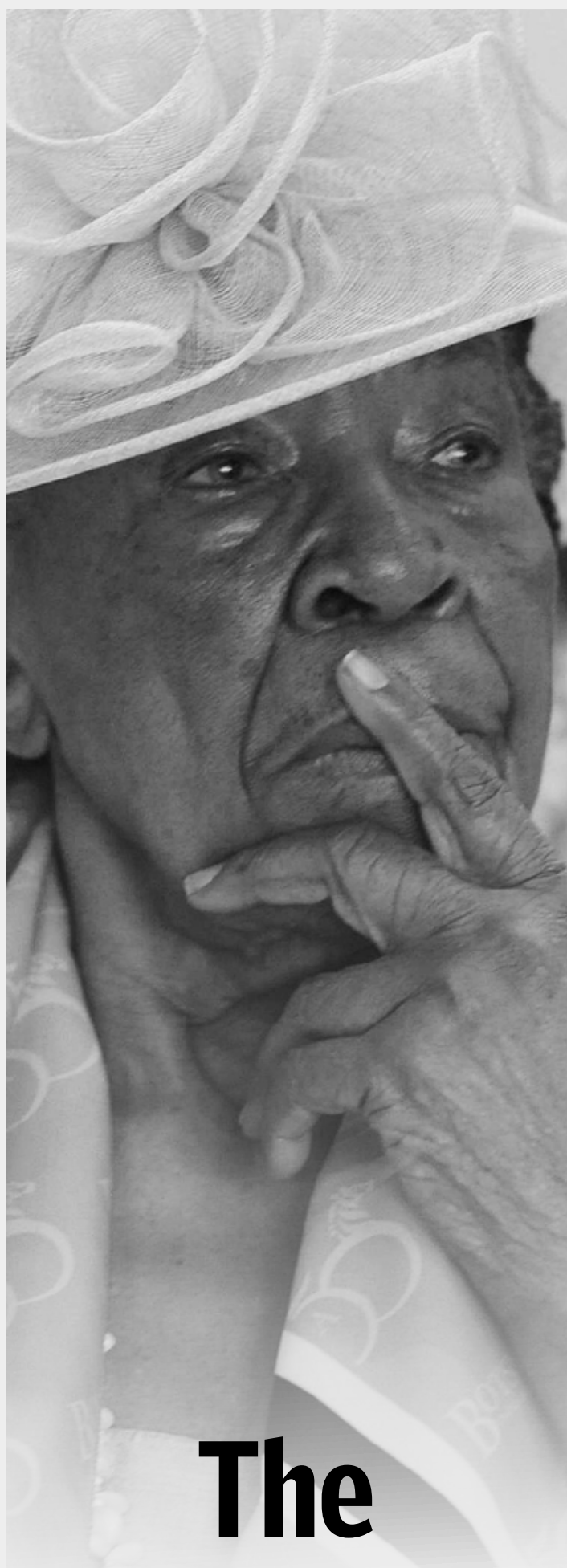
MH: I am extremely proud that my driver is a lady who is not only an excellent driver, but she also knows how to find her way in the men's world of all the other drivers of the diplomatic community in Gaborone.

**DM: Ambassador, you took up your post at the mission here in Gaborone last year. You have served around the world and across cultures. What have you observed about the status of women in Botswana?**

MH: Botswana seems to be a country of different and complex realities. There are women in high-ranking positions like cabinet ministers or chairpersons of companies – though not many women are members of Parliament. The young professionals whom I met recently at the Embassy before they were going to work or do research in Germany with grants of German companies or the German government were all women. So that means there is a lot of potential among well-educated women in Botswana to assume high positions as much as men do. But at the same time I keep on reading reports about violence against women and girls, on the rise especially in times of Covid, about women feeling insecure in the city when walking alone – that seems to indicate that there are issues for women in Botswana and they are not considered equal to men. I have not been able to travel much in the country yet, but I would assume that this is especially true in the rural areas.

**DM: There are certainly urgent issues as we have become a society that is unsafe for women. In fact, Botswana has the second highest incidences of gender-based violence in the world. His Excellency President Masisi has repeatedly pleaded with the nation to support his mandate to combat gender-based violence. In your opinion, what can ordinary Botswana do to make that change for the nation? How are such challenges comparatively addressed in Germany?**

MH: I commend President Masisi and the First Lady very much for leading by example and tackling the issue of GBV from the top. I think that



# The Anxiety Of Inequality

Botswana seems to be a country of different and complex realities. There are women in high-ranking positions like cabinet ministers or chairpersons of companies – though not many women are members of Parliament.

gives people role models they can follow in their own behaviour. But the real change for the nation would in fact have to come from ordinary people, from every parent raising their boys to respect girls, from every father empowering his daughter and considering her equal to her brother. In Germany we have recently discovered that empowering girls also means that you have to care for boys in schools and kindergartens and give them good male role models. Something else which has been established in Germany to help women in distress is to offer shelter in so called “Frauenhäusern“, meaning shelters or houses paid for by the community or the city where women can move in with their kids and live there for some time in case they are severely harassed by their husbands or partners.

**DM: Emang Basadi's 35th anniversary is crucial to us at the Upright African Movement as we seek to decolonize our thinking around gender norms. I personally grew up admiring women Dr. Unity Dow because she took the government to court and won, ensuring that Botswana women can transmit citizenship to their children. She was hugely supported by Emang Basadi, of course. When you were growing up in Kassel, Germany as a young woman, who were the women who inspired you and why?**

MH: I grew up as a single child. My family lived in a small town near the city of Kassel, quite a rural area, and I think that the first people who inspired me were both my parents. My mother taught me how to cook and to work in the garden, and my father taught me how to change the tyres of the car and to use a hammer and a screw-driver. So I didn't really have the experience of being discriminated against as a girl. Of course my mother used to say things like „girls don't do that“ when I climbed onto trees and tore my clothes but I just didn't care and continued climbing on trees because it was fun. Later, at school, I looked up to some lady-teachers because they were very independent in their thinking, also quite demanding in the courses of English language and German literature which they taught.

**DM: Botswana is internationally renowned for peace and stability. Before we can have peace at a global scale, I believe peace begins in our lives, whether we live in dignity and with access to peace in our homes. Global statistics show that the COVID pandemic has wreaked havoc on peace in Botswana households, prompting many world leaders to make connections between the pandemic and the rise in domestic abuse. What role can and does diplomacy play in today's world towards gender parity in the world at large?**

MH: In my view diplomacy is the art of talking and listening to people from different cultural and political backgrounds and, if all goes well, to bring people together for a common objective. The UN are a case in point. They do that on many occasions, also for the cause of women. Resolution 1325 of the UN security council on women, peace and security is such an occasion where the Security Council agreed on the need to better protect women in armed conflicts and also to make better use of the abilities of women to moderate and de-escalate in conflict situations. Of course, individual states have to translate this into national action plans and promote activities with and for women in their respective societies. But they can be held accountable by the UN and that is a clear progress. At the end of the day, diplomacy can only raise awareness but that is already better than not doing anything for the cause of women.

\*Donald Molosi (@donaldmolosi) is an actor, writer and public intellectual. He is the author of *We Are All Blue* and *Dear Upright African*.



## AP Caution BPF/BCP Brawl?

- Warns against battle for North and Central constituencies
- Wants Khama, Butale at the helm of BPF
- BPF says they are not at war with BCP

LETLHOGILE MPUANG

One of the Alliance for Progressives (AP) lieutenants Sedirwa Kgoroba has strongly warned against the alleged looming battle for the Northern and Central constituencies between Botswana Congress Party (BCP) and Botswana Patriotic Front (BPF).

Reports suggest that the BCP and BPF are already waging war over increasing their popularities in most of the North and Central constituencies of the country ahead of the 2024 general elections. The two parties command most of the North and Central constituencies following the last elections in 2019.

In a social media post Kgoroba, who is a former Member of Parliament (MP) for Mogodistshane, believes the alleged clash between the two parties could cause further divisions in the opposition front.

“Re utlwa gore gatwe bangwe ba lona ba setse bana le ditoro tsa ha ba sa tshwanelang go lorela teng. Ka gore BPF le BCP le laola the northern part of Dibete, re utlwa gotwe gatwe le eletsa go ja BCP.” (We understand that some BCP and BPF members have started to become over-ambitious. Since the BPF and BCP control most of the northern constituencies, we understand that the two parties are already fighting over these constituencies.)

He added that; “It is important for the opposition that the two parties bring those votes in that part of the country in the 2024 elections. I understand that it is mostly some BPF members at the forefront.”

Kgoroba carried on to warn that it was also im-

perative that the BCP avoided displaying the “big brother mentality” when dealing with the BPF as it could widen the divisions. He further pleaded that the BPF should desist from any attempts to push out either its patriot- former president Ian Khama or party president Biggie Butale. He believes it has the potential of having a negative impact on the ongoing opposition coalition talks.

**“We are working hard and we will continue to work that we unite as opposition parties. We also wish to state it as a matter of fact that we are not any war with the BCP, it is nonsense. We have a common enemy and that is the BDP.”**

In their response, BPF through their Secretary General Lawrence Ookeditse dismissed talks of possible conflicts between the two parties. In fact, he told this publication yesterday that the BPF was committed to making sure that the opposition is more than united come the 2024 general elections.

“We are working hard and we will continue to work that we unite as opposition parties. We also wish to state it as a matter of fact that we are not any war with the BCP, it is nonsense. We have a common enemy and that is the BDP.”

## DPP Boss Ignores LSB Resignation Calls

- He has not communicated anything to us -LSB
- Calls were made to sensitise the nation on the sanctity of the DPP

TEFO PHEAGE

The Directorate of Public Prosecutions (DPP) director, Stephen Tiroyakgosi, has not made any attempt to engage the Law Society of Botswana (LSB) since calls were made by the institution for him to do the honourable thing and resign to safeguard the integrity of the institution.

LSB has been on Tiroyakgosi’s neck after it emerged that the State may have fabricated evidence in the P100 billion high profile case dubbed the ‘Butterfly case’ implicating the former President and former Directorate of Intelligence Services (DIS) director, Isaac Kgosi.

Despite LSB’s calls that Tiroyakgosi should resign with immediate effect for bringing the institution into disrepute, the former says they have not heard anything from the latter, “we have never heard anything from the DPP director. And this is not to say we expected anything from him. The statements were made for the entire nation to sensitise them on what is going on and what should happen to protect the DPP. The calls were not only meant for the DPP director, but his bosses, stakeholders and entire nation,” said LSB Chairman, Tshekiso Tshekiso in an interview with this publication.

**Despite LSB’s calls that Tiroyakgosi should resign with immediate effect for bringing the institution into disrepute, the former says they have not heard anything from the latter, “we have never heard anything from the DPP director. And this is not to say we expected anything from him.”**

Tiroyakgosi was not available for comment and his mobile phone rang unanswered. He has since engaged South Africa’s Afriforum lead Advocate Gerrie Nel for advice on the controversial case.

According to the powerful body that regulates the legal profession, Tiroyakgosi has dismally failed to maintain the prosecutorial independence of his office and has brought the institution into disrepute. “There are now doubts in the minds of right thinking members of the public in respect of whether prosecutorial powers are routinely used in the pursuit of partisan political objectives and in advancing other nefarious interests,” LSB said.

There is an urgent need for restoration of public confidence in the workings of the prosecutorial arm of the State, the statement added. “In our respectful view, such restoration is not possible so long as Mr. Tiroyakgosi continues to occupy the office of DPP,” it said. “The Law Society of Botswana therefore regrettably calls for the immediate resignation of Mr. Tiroyakgosi from office so that much needed work to restore public confidence in the work of the DPP can start.”

## BOTSWANA'S RESPONSE TO COVID-19 EXPOSES CHINKS IN ITS ARMOUR: A NEGLECTED INFORMAL ECONOMY/SECTOR

The modern welfare state or to be more precise the remnants of it as we know it today was established in the post-World War II era. The fall of the Bretton Woods regime and the infamous marriage of Thatcher and Nixon heralded the beginning of an aggressive move to systematically dismantle the welfare state. This would lead to rising inequality in the world with the developing countries experiencing the highest rates of inequality. The repercussions of the rise of the Neoliberal reforms has never been greatly felt as we do now during the COVID-19 pandemic.

This is not about the politics of the SOPE but I wish to confine myself to an issue that has not been adequately by the powers that be. This article is cry for help for the informal sector.

In my previous writing I had indicated that the informal sector seems to have been neglected by government when drawing an economic response policy to mitigate against the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. For the last two weeks I have been listening and reading with keen interest to see if a well-articulated plan or policy would be brought to the fore. The rationale for protecting the informal sector should be obvious for any developing country as most people find themselves 'employed' in this sector. We must not forget that informality has also been making its way into the formal sector. For developing countries, the informal economy is key. However, Botswana much like its neoliberal kin has found a bulk of its response package going to the ultra-rich and the SMEs picking up crumbs while the informal economy or sector is largely neglected. All this a result of the neoliberal economic structuring of the means of production. The inadequacies we see are embedded in the Washington Consensus economic mechanics.

It is my belief that the failure by the Masisi administration to respond adequately is born out of ignorance of what constitutes informality. I have listened time and time again as Ministers and some government officials alike tried to respond to questions regarding the informal sector. What I discerned was a confused understanding of Small and Medium Enterprises and the informal worker or sector. One would have thought that just the word informal, without going into technical definitions, would have brought light in a dark house but that would not be the case. Constant references to possible beneficiaries needing to be tax law and companies act complaint was, for me, a clear indicator of their lack of understanding of the subject matter.

Who then are informal workers? According to the ILO these are all workers (regardless of where they worked), if their employment relations were not subject to controls, conditions set by labour legislation regarding taxation, social security contributions and social protection (holidays, work-related illnesses, redundancy payments, etc.). These workers are faced with precarious work and their work is most often undeclared. Remember the guy who your employer engages to wash his cars once in a while? That the informal worker. These are the people who are at the fringes of the formal economy even though in some cases they serve as suppliers of the formal economy (Please consider visiting the ILO literature for an in-depth discussion).

The point I am making in this piece, is that owing to the economic structure of our country which is meant to prioritise big business over the ordinary Jack and Jill many people fall through the cracks. The dismantling of the welfare state not only shrunk the fiscal provisions for social protection but increased labour market deregulation plunging many into informality. For developing countries, financial aid (loans or grants) often come with conditions that require reform (deregulation) plunging those countries into further crises. As a consequence of our neoliberal posturing our economic rescue packages often neglects the most vulnerable. Don't get me wrong, Botswana has social protection mechanisms in place which I recognise. Be that as it may, they do very little to address peculiar needs of the informal worker and of the informal economy.

Even with my observations as stated above I refuse to believe that an entire government would lack the understanding of what the informal economy is. I refuse to believe that they don't have the requisite expertise. Even if they didn't, I believe that the University of Botswana has a few labour economists who would have lent them their expertise. The economic system is designed, methinks, to be cavalier to the needs of informal economy.

To adequately address the singular and peculiar needs of the informal economy, our government first needs to appreciate the importance of this part of the economy. Countries like India have developed elaborate policies aimed at developing this part of the economy. We can't afford to have the informal economy to be reduced to a paragraph in national development plans (e.g NDP11) and national visions while there is no marked effort to provide the requisite support for those employed in the informal economy. The Covid-19 pandemic has exposed our lack of support of the informal economy and informal workers. We should do better.



## A Case For Empowering Young Activists

The Chairman of the National Youth Executive Committee of the BDP, **KARABO GOMOTSEGANG**, says he will consider it a personal failure if there is no BDP youth going to the 13th Parliament and every district council when results of the 2024 general elections are announced.

Position is a very intriguing thing. You actually exist in no other capacity but in position. It is far worse for us politicians. A year ago when I won the BDP Youth Wing National Executive Committee Chairmanship, I made a vow to fight day and night to ensure that my constituents, the youth, specifically Botswana Democratic Party (BDP) activists, are empowered. I live today proud to pursue this goal.

A BDP-led government should empower its activists but the youth are often excluded or overlooked as political candidates. Politics is typically regarded as a space for politically experienced men, and while women are often disadvantaged in accumulating experience to run for office, youth are systematically marginalised because of their young age and lack of experience. But as the increased political participation of women benefits society as a whole, the presence of young people in decision-making positions would benefit all citizens as well.

The exclusion of youth has often led to young people seeking alternative means of expressing their frustrations with government and other forms of authority. When frustration reaches unbearable proportions, the youth often turn to civil disobedience

expressed in the form of protests that sometimes become violent. But while I am still BDP Youth Wing National Executive Committee Chairman, I refuse to allow such to happen. I remain with my constituents and share with them great things that are ahead so that they do not to despair.

Undoubtedly there is a need to encourage youth to build a network of politically active peers and to participate in the country's political process. A BDP-led government needs to have a strong focus on the personal development of its activists. With increased skills and deepened knowledge, these people would be better equipped to make an impact on the growth of this great nation.

In many quarters, there has been an outcry by political activists that they have been hoodwinked and ignored by political leaders. Some have gone to the extent of labelling this as betrayal. To be honest, we need to start building a network of young political actors keen to make a difference in their communities. There is so much potential to create political change by working together with our peers. I must openly state that we need the decentralization in the youth ministry, local government and elsewhere in order to create employment opportunities for young activists. Yes, BDP youth activists because they are competitive.

I have heard in many instances people saying that government should not be politicised but who are we trying to fool here? How is the ruling party going to deliver its promises to Botswana when those tasked with implementing those promises do not share its sentiments? How is the ruling party going to be accountable to Botswana who cast their votes for us when we do not know exactly what is happening in government?

For the past couple of months, I have had the opportunity to share a table with some of the most brilliant minds that our country has produced. Some of them are actively involved in various sectors of our country's economy. We have agreed on designing strategies for inclusion of young people, ensuring diversity among youth, and addressing the disparities between the number of young men and young women entering Parliament.

Yes, I would have failed my generation when the results of the 2024 general election are announced and there is no BDP youth in the 13th Parliament. I would have failed my generation when there is no youth leading a district/town/city or subdistrict council in this country.

The BDP-led government at all levels of governance needs to recognise that young democrats aspire to express their dreams through inclusive participation in all decision-making processes, from the

To Page 13

# Young Activists

From Page 12

conception of policies and all the way to implementation. Young democrats need platforms where they can influence policy decisions concerning their welfare and opportunities through which they can actively pursue their political and socio-economic priorities, which may often differ from those of their older counterparts. The youth want to be respected and embraced to forge a meaningful partnership towards making those aspirations and priorities a reality.

It is not only a call on government only but on leaders in civil society, business, other political parties, organized labour, academia and other formations because there is need to invest in young people through mentorship and coaching. It is the mentorship that unleashes the potential in the youth to ignite change in society. It is the mentorship that can help them navigate the crisis of the moment while preparing for a changing world. The time to invest in the next generation of leaders is now. Mentors can play a significant role in preparing young people for politics and political leadership.

Some people view the youth as a threat to their ambitions. This must simply stop because when a young person is empowered, a democrat for that matter, it brings life to both country and party. I have never said this before but I believe it is very important to set the record straight. As a true believer in democracy and the will of people, I felt downright betrayed by democrats months ago when an article was published insinuating that the BDP National Youth Wing Executive Committee was contemplating having the next elective congress postponed until 2024.

This is outrageous. If there is anything I am thankful for, it is the vote and trust that the BDP youth bestowed on me a year ago to be their Chairman. Should a need arise for me or anyone else on this committee to seek another term in office, the congress shall be the deciding factor. I cannot under any circumstances borrow a leaf from Robert Mugabe’s political playbook. If we are to address youth matters and talk of reformation of government and party, we are bound to exercise democracy to the letter.

Winning the BDP NYEC Chairmanship was not an easy thing but democrats spoke and it was their victory. The hardships that I experienced then are the hardships that I do not want any young democrat to ever have to face when they seek to be part of the youth leadership. I am bound to remain committed to aspirations of this young generation. I am most optimistic that with a properly prepared report to the leadership of the party on matters concerning the need to empower our youth activists, much shall be achieved.

His Excellency the President Dr Mokgweetsi Eric Keabetswe Masisi has created an open door policy in his administration regarding innovation and youth empowerment. It is through such that I and me committee will present our case for empowering BDP youth activists. To some it may sound as ditching those not aligned to the BDP but we are not going to be apologetic about this because opposition activists have been the beneficiaries of the BDP-led government.

When a democrat seeks an opportunity and applies for a job, the narrative has always been, “Kana batho ba ya go tsosa modumo gotwe go hirilwe MoDomkraga.” Democrats have been denied opportunities based on this. Man, have I said a lot? Definitely I have much to share with you. However, I have to dash to a meeting with a couple of young people who are aspiring entrepreneurs.

Karabo Gomotsegang  
BDP NYEC chairperson  
Contact: +267 77 044 458



## 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, Letlhakane 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 Letlhakane, and the mine operations at Orapa, Letlhakane 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 Letlhakane 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:** 19<sup>th</sup> May 2021  
**Time:** 09:00 – 1100 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](mailto:OChelane@debswana.bw), Telephone 3648008 specifically for supplier registration on SAP Ariba Platform and Mrs. Gape Masilonyane at [GMasilonyane@debswana.bw](mailto: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.

Orapa, Letlhakane and Damtshaa Mines (OLDM)  
Private Bag 001 Orapa  
T: +267 290 2000 | F: +267 297 0243

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:

1. Go to Debswana SAP Ariba self-registration page:  
(<https://s1-eu.ariba.com/Sourcing/Main/ad/selfRegistration/?realm=debswana>)
2. Initiate Account creation
3. Complete account registration
4. 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)

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

### Submission

Tenderers are required to submit their respective bids on or before the **2<sup>nd</sup> 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](mailto:GMasilonyane@debswana.bw)

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





## SAEF Statement On World Press Freedom Day

As the world comes to terms with living under the new normal of the novel Coronavirus (Covid-

19) conditions, the Southern Africa Editor's Forum (SAEF) today celebrates the World Press

Freedom Day (WPDF) and the 30th anniversary of the Windhoek Declaration with every journalist, reporter, editor, and content creator in the region.

In 1991 from 29th April – 3rd May, a group of African editors met in Windhoek, Namibia at a UNESCO seminar focused on "Promoting an Independent and Pluralistic African Press, leading to the well-known proclamation of the Windhoek Declaration.

Whereas in 1991, the seminar was a physical gathering with some journalists who were jailed at the time such as Pius Njawe of Cameroun being flown in to attend and co-chair the seminar, this year's ceremony was a hybrid celebration in line with the COVID-19 restrictions. SAEF remains proud of the region as it continues to be a shining example to the continent with Namibia consistently finding itself at the number one (1) spot in Africa on the world press freedom rankings by Reporters without Borders, while South Africa and Botswana are also among the top 10 in Africa.

SAEF, however, has noticed that some member forums continue to suffer under repressive governments with journalists harassed and arrested for highlighting corruption around the procurement of COVID-19 supplies.

Countries like Mozambique, Zambia, Zimbabwe and Eswatini are a major concern to the forum as they seem to slide further down in the rankings, demonstrating that press freedom is not flourishing there.

SAEF is ready in this regard to engage with its members and state actors to help find the right solutions and regulatory mechanism that will make ethical journalism flourish in those country.

This year's theme for the WPDF celebrations which just ended in Windhoek this afternoon with another ground-breaking document, the Windhoek +30 Declaration was "Information as a public good".

SAEF believes that for this Declaration to remain relevant or true to every resident in southern

Africa more needs to be done in terms of the flow of information from government agencies to the media and the public to media.

SAEF is happy to announce that the decisions reached during its consultative process earmarked by the hosting of three webinars on 12, 13 and 16 April 2021 in collaboration with UNESCO, in which about 200 journalists, bloggers, editors, and information policy makers across southern Africa participated, were incorporate in the Windhoek +30 Declaration.

These decisions were similar to those reached elsewhere on the globe. They called for the unconditional support of credible, trustworthy, and independent media founded on verifiable, transparent, and public interest ethos as these would withstand the test of viability in these challenging times.

**This year's theme for the WPDF celebrations which just ended in Windhoek this afternoon with another ground-breaking document, the Windhoek +30 Declaration was "Information as a public good"**

They also emphasised the need for media content that incorporates principles of participation, engagement, and media literacy as important for media viability while the infrastructural deficits and the digital divide that affects the majority of rural African populations, were also noted as areas that need to be sorted out urgently for long term media viability.

As a forum, we remain confident that Africa and specifically southern Africa will soon be in the top 10 on the World press Freedom Index. We salute every journalist or media practitioner who put their life on the line to ensure that the news reaches the citizens of the of their country and the world. We thank you for your commitment to press freedom.

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## TAEF Statement On World Press Freedom Day

On World Press Freedom Day, The African Editors Forum celebrates and pledges solidarity with all African editors and journalists who continue to produce excellent world-class journalism under difficult conditions, brought on by repressive governments, tough economic conditions and the COVID-19 pandemic.

African editors and journalists also celebrate the return of World Press Freedom Day celebrations to the African soil. The 30th anniversary takes place in Namibia, the birthplace of the Windhoek Declaration which was this Continent's gift to the world.

The Windhoek Declaration, this African product, did not only go on to become the benchmark used by the United Nations General Assembly, to declare May 3, the date of its adoption, as International Press Freedom Day celebrated all over the world. No, it was used as a basis to organise similar regional seminars leading to declarations such as The Alma Ata Declaration for central Asia, Sana'a Declaration for the Middle East, and the Santiago Declaration for Latin America and the Caribbean, all relying heavily on the Windhoek Declaration.

The editors, journalists and media activists that gathered in Namibia in 1991 sought the opening of democratic spaces and the introduction of more diverse and pluralistic voices in the media around the world. This mission has, by and large, been achieved. The challenge that the media generation of 2021 faces is to ensure that both the advantages and disadvantages brought on by technological developments, the global media economics downturn, aided and abetted by COVID-19, does not reverse the gains made as a result of the work done in response to the historic Windhoek Declaration.

It remains important for the African media to continue to practice excellent ethical and fact-checked journalism to hold governments accountable. To do this, the media needs to remain viable.

TAEF believes that the challenges of the 2021 generation include but are not

restricted to the change of media economics as a result of, among others, digital revolution and COVID-19. It also includes finding solutions to dealing with infodemic so that people's access to trustworthy fact-checked information continues without any obstacles.

The challenges also include the continued criminalisation of journalism by some states in Africa and the world. This criminalisation has led to harassment detentions and the murder of journalists. To deal with this particular aspect, TAEF and UNESCO, together with other partners, have launched the Digital Platform for the Protection of African Journalists, which works through the office of the African Special Rapporteur, to ensure that impunity is ended.

On this day, TAEF once again commits itself to working with other partners to come up with solutions of how a media struggling for survival can continue to provide information as a public good without a financial burden on people.

Amilcar Cabral, the great African scholar, said every generation must define the challenges of its time and then fulfill its mission or abscond.

The World Press Freedom Day taking place in Namibia is a defining moment for Africa editors. Our challenges have been defined and as African Editors, just as our predecessors before us, we have no intention to shirk our duty but to ensure we meet the challenges of our time.

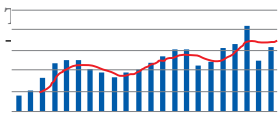
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This is the Group that had offered a rent relief amounting to P12.2 million to its tenants in order to mitigate the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic.

# Turnstar Rentals Revenue Down By P12 Million

GAZETTE REPORTER

**R**entals amassed by Turnstar Holdings Limited, the operators of the glamorous Game City Mall in Gaborone, reduced by approximately P12.28 million during the year that ended 31 January 2021, the Group has said.

The Turnstar Group consists of Turnstar Holdings Limited (Botswana), Island View (Proprietary) Limited (Botswana), Mlimani Holdings Limited (Tanzania), Turnstar Investments Limited (UAE) and Palazzo Venezia Holdings Limited (UAE). According to Turnstar, they collected rental income amounting to

P257.7 million in the period under review, compared to P269.3 million of the prior year.

This is the Group that had offered a rent relief amounting to P12.2 million to its tenants in order to mitigate the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic.

On the other hand, Turnstar's operational expenses increased by P4.1 million from P116.9 million in the prior year to P121 million in the period under review. The Group's profit for the year amounts to P81.3 million, a P34.9 million decrease compared to P116.2 million of the prior year.

"The Governments of Botswana, Tanzania and Dubai implemented lockdowns and various restrictions to

combat the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic," Turnstar in its financial results. "These restrictions led to disruptions of trade resulting in rental rebates being granted by the Turnstar Group. Turnstar considers its tenants as partners in its business, and their existence and continuity are paramount in the success of Turnstar. A strategic decision was made to grant substantial rental concessions to our retail and commercial tenants who could not operate during the initial lockdown periods. The rentals revenues of the Group reduced by approximately P12.28m during the year under review."

The Group noted that the US Dollar appreciated against the Botswana Pula during the year under review. This resulted in Turnstar having a net forex loss on a US\$ loan for the year 31 January 2021 of P2.6 million, compared to a net forex gain of P10.44 million in the corresponding previous year end January 2020 when Turnstar had a corresponding US\$ intercompany loan in Mlimani.

Botswana recorded substantial Fair Value Gains. Fair values are calculated on current rentals projected into the future on a discounted cash flow basis. They do not reflect the actual cost of the buildings and may change from year to year, depending on occupancy levels.

"Due to the vacancies in the commercial office space, and the reduction in conference centre income due to COVID, Mlimani Holdings has reported a Fair Value loss for the year," Turnstar noted.

## Orange Money, CEDA Clinch Bill Payment Solution

Simply dial \*133# and go to Loan Payments, choose Orange Money and follow the prompts to submit your payment

**O**range Money has collaborated with the Citizen Entrepreneurial Development Agency (CEDA) to introduce a bill payment solution targeting CEDA customers.

With the COVID-19 restrictions of social distancing and staying at home, this solution will enable customers to repay their loans through Orange Money from the comfort of their homes.

Said Orange Money CEO, Seabelo Pilane: "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 bringing them closer to what matter most to them."

The bill payment service 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," Pilane noted. "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."



Photo Credit: Botswana Unplugged

# BoB Maintains Bank Rate At 3.75 percent

Projects that domestic inflation will breach the upper bound of the Bank's 3 – 6 percent objective range in the second quarter of 2021

## GAZETTE REPORTER

The Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) of the Bank of Botswana (BoB) has decided to maintain the Bank Rate at 3.75 percent, *The Botswana Gazette* has established.

According to a statement from the central bank released recently, inflation increased significantly from 2.4 percent in February to 3.2 percent in March 2021, reverting to within BoB's medium-term objective range of 3 – 6 percent. "The increase in inflation largely reflects the upward adjustment in domestic fuel prices in March 2021," BoB noted.

BoB also stated that domestic inflation is forecast to breach the upper bound of the Bank's 3 – 6 percent objective range in the second quarter of 2021, driven mainly by supply-side factors. The second quarter began on April 1 when the adjustment in fiscal policies became effective as announced by the former Minister of Finance and Economic Development, Dr. Thapelo Matsheka, in his budget speech on 1 February 2021. Dr. Matsheka noted that for the country to achieve fiscal stability, Value Added Tax (VAT) would be increased from 12 percent to 14 percent effective of April 1.

The second quarter also saw the fuel levy being increased by P1 per litre and a levy on sweetened beverages being introduced at the rate of 2 thebe per gram of sugar above a content of 4g of sugar per 100 milliliters. However, BoB noted that inflation is projected to revert to within the ob-

jective range in the first quarter of 2022. "Overall, risks to the inflation outlook are assessed to be skewed to the upside," Botswana's central bank said.

**"Nonetheless, the economy is projected to have performed better in the first quarter of 2021 compared to the fourth quarter of 2020, given the gradual easing of COVID-19 movement restrictions and vaccine rollouts in the first quarter," BoB noted.**

"Upside risks include the potential increase in international commodity prices beyond current forecasts, aggressive action by governments (for example, the Economic Recovery and Transformation Plan [ERTP]) 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."

BoB said emergence of implementation capacity con-

straints, if that happened, could hinder the effectiveness of policy stimulus and the ERTTP initiative, thus resulting in lower inflation.

Meanwhile, Botswana's Real Gross Domestic Product (GDP) contracted by 7.9 percent in 2020, compared to a growth of 3 percent in 2019. "The decline in output is attributable to the contraction in output of both mining and non-mining sectors, mainly resulting from the impact of the strict COVID-19 pandemic containment measures," BoB said. "Mining output contracted by 26.2 percent in 2020 compared to a lower decline of 4.1 percent in 2019, mainly due to weaker performance of the diamond, soda ash, coal, prospecting and other mining subsectors."

According to BoB, non-mining GDP contracted by 5.9 percent in 2020 compared to a growth of 3.9 percent in 2019. BoB said the decline in non-mining GDP was mainly due to contractions in output of the Trade, Hotels and Restaurants, Construction, Manufacturing, Transport and Communications, Social and Personal Services, and Finance and Business Services sectors.

"In addition, the deceleration in growth of General Government and Water and Electricity contributed to the overall output decline of the non-mining sector," the central bank said.

Pertaining to COVID-19, BoB said the lingering adverse effects of pandemic containment measures pose uncertainty and challenges, given Botswana's high vulnerability to three external shocks, notably, on diamond prices and demand, tourism and delays in the importation of supplies.

"Nonetheless, the economy is projected to have performed better in the first quarter of 2021 compared to the fourth quarter of 2020, given the gradual easing of COVID-19 movement restrictions and vaccine rollouts in the first quarter," BoB noted.

## Botswana's Export Bill Declines By P2.3 Billion

Export of diamonds dropped by 28.1%

### GAZETTE REPORTER

Botswana's total export value decreased by P2.3 billion (27 percent) from the revised figure of P8.6 billion recorded in January 2021 to P8.5 billion during January 2021 to P6.3 billion recorded in February 2021, this publication has established.

According to the International Merchandise Trade Statistics Digest of February 2021 recently released by Statistics Botswana, the considerable decrease in the country's export bill is largely due to a drop of 28.1 percent in the value of exports of diamonds from P8.2 billion to P5.9 billion.

But diamonds remained the most exported commodity group. They were followed by Machinery & Electrical Equipment at 2.3 percent of total exports. Statistics Botswana says for the period under review, the country's exports went mainly to Asia that received 66.7 percent (P4.2 billion) of total exports.

"These exports were mostly destined to the UAE and India, having received 31.3 percent (P1.9 billion) and 17.1 percent (P1.08 billion) of total exports respectively," said Statistics Botswana. "Diamonds accounted for 100 percent of exports to each of the countries (UAE and India)."

On the other hand, Botswana's import bill stood at P6.3 billion, reflecting a reduction of 12.3 percent from the revised January 2021

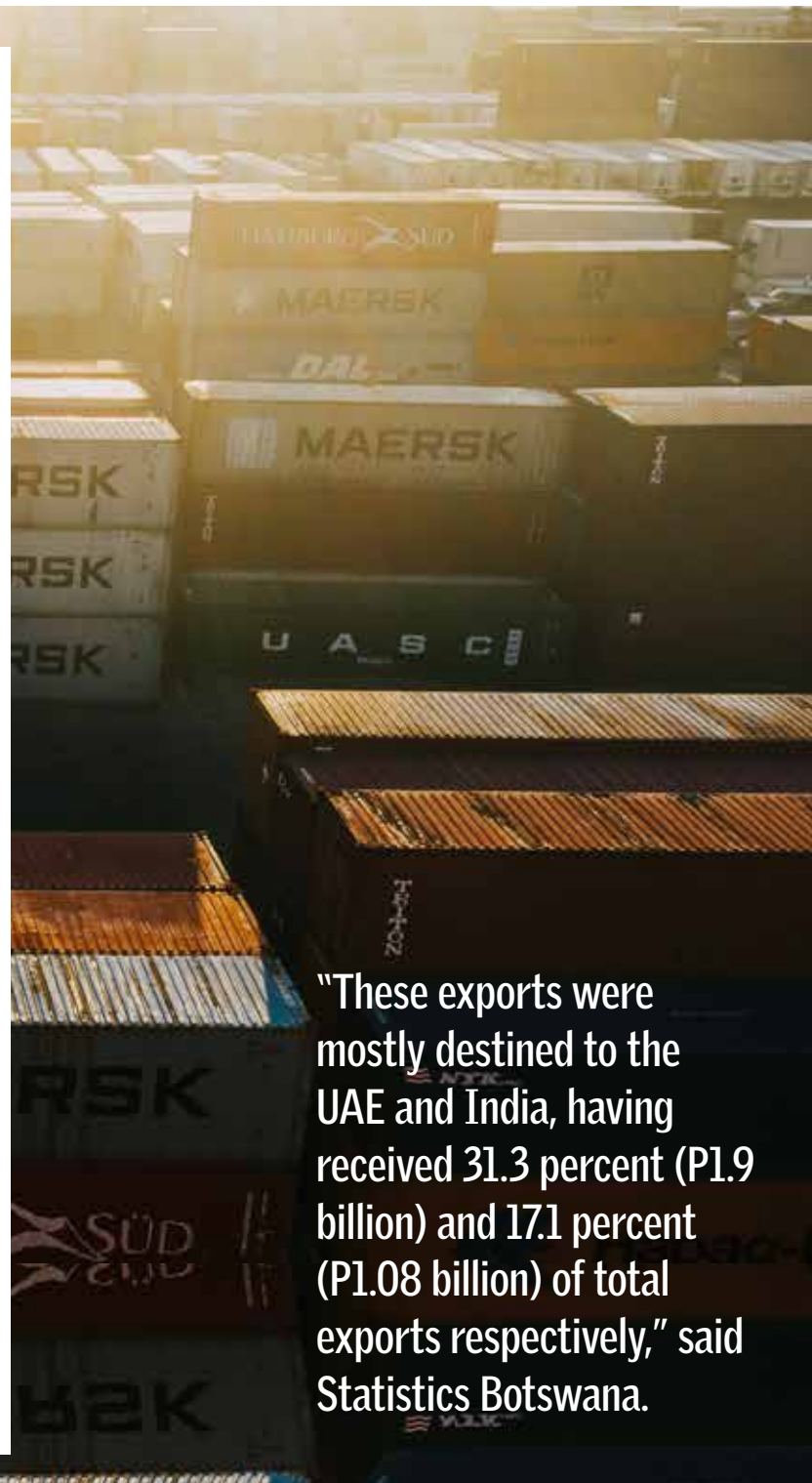
value of P7.2 billion. According to Statistics Botswana, the decline of 37.7 percent (P1.2 billion) in importation of diamonds had a substantial effect on the overall drop in total imports value.

Diamonds nevertheless contributed the most to imports at 33 percent (P2.086 billion) followed by Food, Beverages & Tobacco and Fuel followed at 12.4 percent each, with values of P784.2 million and P784.1 million respectively.

According to Statistics Botswana, the SACU region contributed 63.8 percent (P4.03 billion) to total imports during the reference period. The topmost imported commodity groups from the SACU region were Food, Beverages & Tobacco and Fuel with contributions of 18.7 percent each at values of P754.4 million and P752.1 million of total imports from the region respectively.

"South Africa contributed 55.3 percent (P3.4 billion) to total imports during February 2021," Statistics Botswana noted. "Food, Beverages & Tobacco contributed 21.3 percent (P744.4 million) of imports from that country. Fuel and Machinery & Electrical Equipment accounted for 17.7 percent (P617.0 million) and 15.1 percent (P526.9 million) respectively. Chemicals & Rubber Products made a contribution of 12.5 percent (P437.5 million) to imports from South Africa during the month under review."

**"These exports were mostly destined to the UAE and India, having received 31.3 percent (P1.9 billion) and 17.1 percent (P1.08 billion) of total exports respectively," said Statistics Botswana.**



# How A Career In Public Relations Helped Shape An African Royal

APO Group's Ewetse Khama is trading in his career in the PR industry to claim his birthright and serve his people as a member of a prominent royal family in Botswana.

To some, it might seem like an unusual career trajectory, but for Ewetse Khama, working in the Public Relations industry in Africa has been the perfect preparation for the next step in his unique journey.



From today, Ewetse is stepping down from his role at APO Group, the leading pan-African communications consultancy and press release distribution service, to serve his country and his people.

This year, Ewetse's father, Sekgoma Tshekedi Khama, retired from active duty in the Bamangwato tribe. This made way for the eldest son, Ewetse to assume his father's role as a *Kgosi* - a Batswana term meaning 'Chief', 'King' or 'Elder' - in the Khama Family, one of Botswana's most prominent royal families.

The Khamas have a long and illustrious history in Botswana. Ewetse's paternal uncle, Sir Seretse Khama, served as the country's first President after independence in 1966, and was the subject of a Hollywood blockbuster - *A United Kingdom* - about his marriage to English woman Ruth Williams. Sir Seretse's eldest son, Lieutenant General Seretse Khama Ian Khama was Botswana's 4<sup>th</sup> President from 2008-2018.

Botswana is one of the most peaceful countries in Africa, which Ewetse attributes partly to the role that traditional leaders play as a conduit between government and the people, especially in promoting harmony and understanding.

That might be one of the reasons the PR industry has been such a good fit for Ewetse, helping prepare him for the big challenges that lie ahead.

"I felt that I needed to do things for myself and forge my own career, instead of relying on my name or status," Ewetse says. "As a Khama, I had so much choice in life because many doors were always open to us, I could do or be anything I wanted. But I have always felt strongly about communications and working with people, so PR seemed like the perfect choice."

Working within the PR Agency division of APO

Group has given Ewetse a grounding, and a sense of normality. It has also broadened his horizons internationally, and given him new perspectives on Africa after being educated in Europe. Ewetse believes his PR career - and his time at APO Group - will help make him a better leader.

"I'm a good listener, which is essential in PR. You listen to what somebody has to say, then you help them develop their ideas, and connect with their audiences. The key appeal to me is that Public Relations is really about creating opportunities for people."

Ewetse's work with APO Group has certainly helped him do that. He has offered a guiding hand to many multinational organizations looking to navigate the diverse African media landscape. His experience and local knowledge has enabled those companies to succeed in markets that are often difficult to crack. Like all his APO Group colleagues, Ewetse is passionate about Africa, and provided customers with 'on-the-ground' networking and support.

As APO Group Founder and Chairman, Nicolas Pom-pigne-Mognard explains: "Not everyone in our team is from African royalty! But they are all deeply attuned to the people, country and region in which they live and operate. Ewetse's extraordinary story epitomises our commitment to local expertise, and is also a testament to APO's talent pool across Africa."

APO Group holds a unique position in the Public Relations industry in Africa. Formerly known as the African Press Organization, it has been providing content to media in all 54 African countries since 2007. Journalists in Africa know and trust APO Group, making them the perfect partner for companies looking to develop their presence on the continent.

Ewetse is now looking to bring the communications skills he honed in the PR industry into his new role as a *Kgosi* - a Batswana term meaning 'Chief', 'King' or 'Elder' - where his responsibilities include fostering local consensus and governance while also promoting social welfare and the economic empowerment of disadvantaged groups.

"As a Khama, I had so much choice in life because many doors were always open to us, I could do or be anything I wanted. But I have always felt strongly about communications and working with people, so PR seemed like the perfect choice."

"My time at APO Group has been an important part of my career, and I am proud of the work we have done to help our multinational clients and drive business into African economies. I have great memories of the people and the experiences I've enjoyed along the way. They will stand me in good stead as I take this next exciting step!"

Even though Ewetse has now moved on to serve his community and country, he will be remembered fondly by his former colleagues.

"Ewetse will always be a valued part of the APO Group team - a colleague and a friend," Nicolas Pom-pigne-Mognard says. "We will miss him, of course, but APO Group's loss is Botswana's gain. His nation is lucky to have him. I am grateful for the fact that, thanks to our fantastic team, our clients across Africa will continue to receive a royal standard of quality service!"

## Porridge In A Pandemic – CITW Zimbabwe Restarts School Feeding Scheme

After a one-year hiatus due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Zimbabwean schools are open again and Children in the Wilderness (CITW), Wilderness Safaris' non-profit partner, has provided two tonnes of nourishing porridge to primary schools in Matabeleland North province, ensuring each child has a nutritious start to the day.

Deliveries of the fortified porridge to Zimbabwe schools after they recently re-opened took place between 30 March and 7 April at St Mary's, Dinde, Jabulani, and Lesedi primary schools, situated between Victoria Falls and Wilderness Safaris' camps in Hwange National Park, resulting in 2 000 primary school children receiving an essential energy-packed breakfast for the next few weeks. The instant porridge, Mighty Meal, is made from 100% Zimbabwean-grown ingredients, including white sorghum, nyimo beans (bambara nuts), groundnuts and baobab fruit powder, and simply requires hot water to prepare.

"We are so pleased that schools have now returned and the children can get back to learning again. Furthermore, the importance of food cannot be underestimated, as it is impossible to learn anything on an empty stomach. The porridge makes such a difference to the children, helping them through the school day, and also easing some of the pressure on the parents. We are so grateful to the Grand Circle Foundation who provided the funding", said Sue Goatley, Children in the Wilderness Zambezi Programme Co-ordinator.

The porridge donation follows 170 tonnes of food distributed by Wilderness Safaris and CITW between August 2020 and March 2021 to some of the most vulnerable families in the Zambezi region, still struggling with the devastating economic effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. A total of 4 191 food hampers have been handed over to-date, positively impacting 17 000 community members. The hampers contain essential food items, including maize meal, rice, peanut butter, sugar beans, salt, cooking oil, and soya chunks and will help to alleviate the pressure placed on household breadwinners while providing much-needed sustenance to their dependants.

The latest round of donations, which took place in March, saw 506 hampers donated in Zimbabwe and 60 in Zambia. "With tourism being the predominant source of income in these villages, the challenges brought about by the pandemic have been particularly difficult and have motivated us to raise crucial funds to help particularly vulnerable families," Sue noted.

In another CITW initiative to further ensure food security, community members have also planted donated sorghum and millet seeds at all the community and school gardens, which will make a significant difference to the school children's and teachers' lunch time meals. The early preparation of the gardens, worm beds and fertility trenches by the dedicated community members, coupled with the good rainfall received this year, promise to ensure a successful crop.

CITW has also been providing hygiene products as well as educational assistance in the form of student allowances since the onset of the pandemic. While eco-clubs and other school projects have had to wait for the resumption of schools, CITW has continued driving various other important empowerment initiatives during this time, such as the worm beds and fertility trenches. A community meeting hall was also completed in Jabulani, providing shelter for income-generating groups to gather and work on their projects and to display and sell their products once tourism resumes.

"As the future of our continent is in the hands of these young children, CITW's efforts to support them, the communities themselves, the schools and other learners in the Zambezi region is as steadfast as ever, and we will continue to provide much-needed relief and a glimmer of hope during these turbulent times," Sue said.

# The King of Kwasa releases new music

- Franco has delayed his album due to the pandemic
- The legendary artist celebrates 20 years in the music industry this year

GOSEGO MOTSUMI

**I**n his quest to prove that he is still the King of Kwasa-kwasa in Botswana, Franco Lesokwane recently released a new song titled “*Motho yo ke ofe?*” much to the delight of his legion of fans. Lesokwane had taken a music hiatus after his carefully laid out plans to fill the national stadium full with revelers last year were detonated by COVID-19.

“I was supposed to release an album immediately after the Soul Fill Up Festival but corona came and stopped everything,” he said in an interview. “Since then my fans have awaited the release of my album but it wouldn’t have made financial sense. It got to a point where they asked if I still existed as an artist and this new song is my response to say I am here and will never quit.”

The “Tshutshumakgala” crooner explained that he was forced to stay quiet because he was adjusting to new times of COVID-19 after the pandemic came and ended the CD era, disrupting the performance industry.

“Our source of income was through events and CD sales,” he said. “With those two wiped out, I was forced to push back the release of my album and find innovative ways to earn an income.

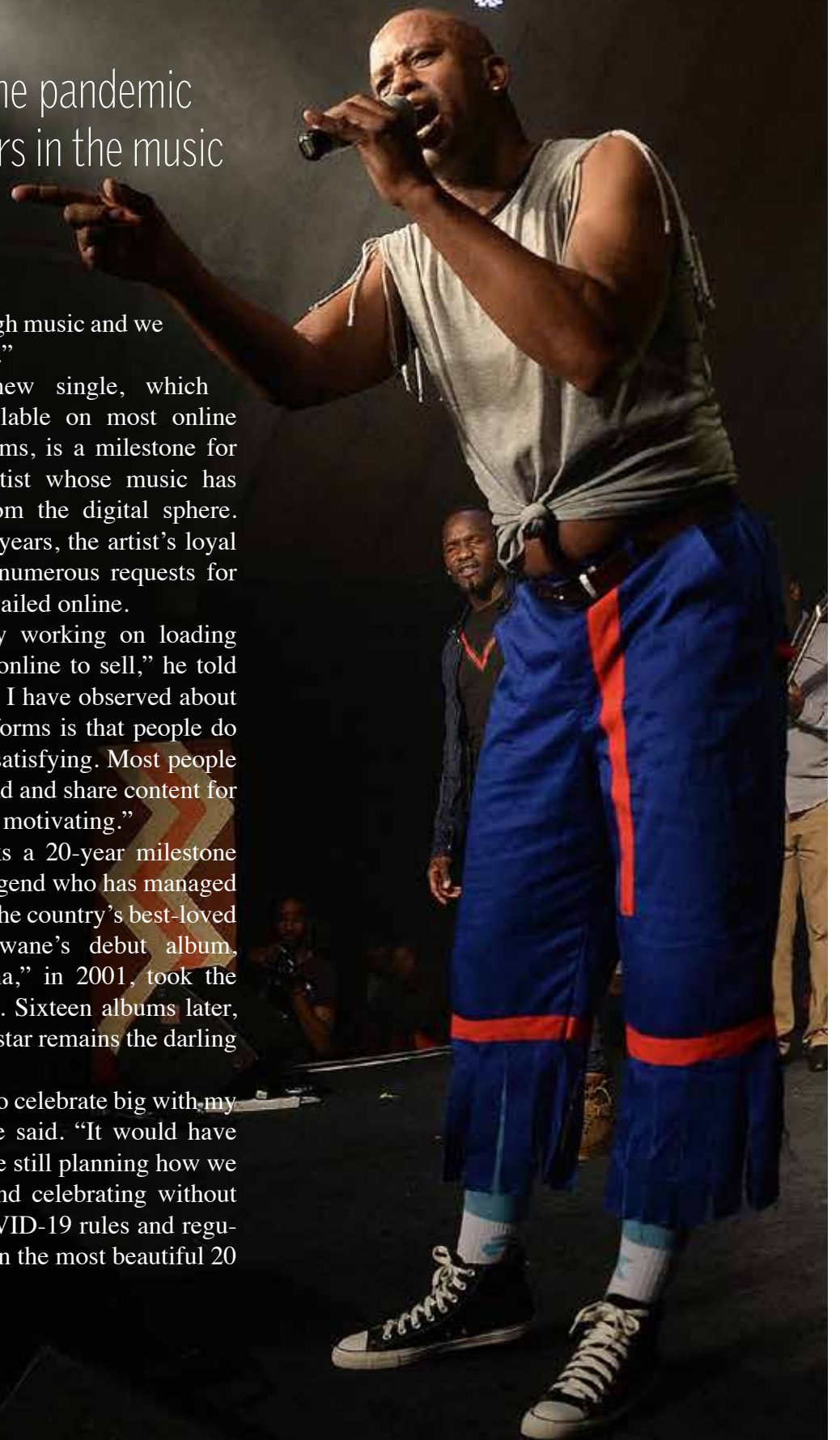
We survive through music and we want it to feed us.”

Lesokwane’s new single, which is currently available on most online streaming platforms, is a milestone for the legendary artist whose music has been missing from the digital sphere. For the past few years, the artist’s loyal fans have made numerous requests for his songs to be availed online.

“I am currently working on loading all of my music online to sell,” he told *Time Out*. “What I have observed about these online platforms is that people do buy but it is not satisfying. Most people prefer to download and share content for free, which is not motivating.”

This year marks a 20-year milestone for the *rhumba* legend who has managed to remain one of the country’s best-loved musician. Lesokwane’s debut album, “Ke Lela le Lona,” in 2001, took the country by storm. Sixteen albums later, the Gabane-born star remains the darling of the masses.

“The plan was to celebrate big with my beloved fans,” he said. “It would have been huge. We are still planning how we could work around celebrating without violating the COVID-19 rules and regulations. It has been the most beautiful 20 years of my life.”



# Botswana isolated from cautious revival of events?

Event organizers around the world are beginning to test the waters by staging small scale concerts while the local industry is still stuck in a rut, writes **GOSEGO MOTSUMI**

**W**hen the coronavirus pandemic hit last year, music festivals and concerts were among the first activities to be cancelled because of concerns for public health. But after months of trying to find innovative ways to adjust to the new normal, event organizers around the world and the neighbouring countries are beginning to test the waters by staging small scale events while revellers are sharing their nightlife experience online.

By contrast, nothing has changed on the events front in Botswana. "Countries in the SADC region are staging events but we remain as hopeless as ever," said the president of Botswana Entertainment Promoters Association (BEPA), Gilbert Seagile.

"We have not given up and continue to plead with our leadership to look into allowing our creatives to make a cautious return. Our artists and deejays are now going to South Africa to work, which I hope is not the beginning of a brain drain south. I don't understand why we remain completely shutdown."

CNN News publication last month reported that UK's flagship music awards ceremony, the Brits, would go ahead with a 4000 strong crowd, no social distancing

and no masks this month as part of a government trial that offers a peek at how large events can operate in a post pandemic world. Attendees will not have to distance from each other, but will be required to present a negative COVID-19 test taken before the event.

They are also being asked to take tests after the show while any potential transmission between among revellers will be tracked. Other trials will see 3000 people pack into a nightclub in Liverpool, 5000 people attend an outdoor concert and 21 000 football fans watch the FA Cup final at Wembley Stadium on May 15.

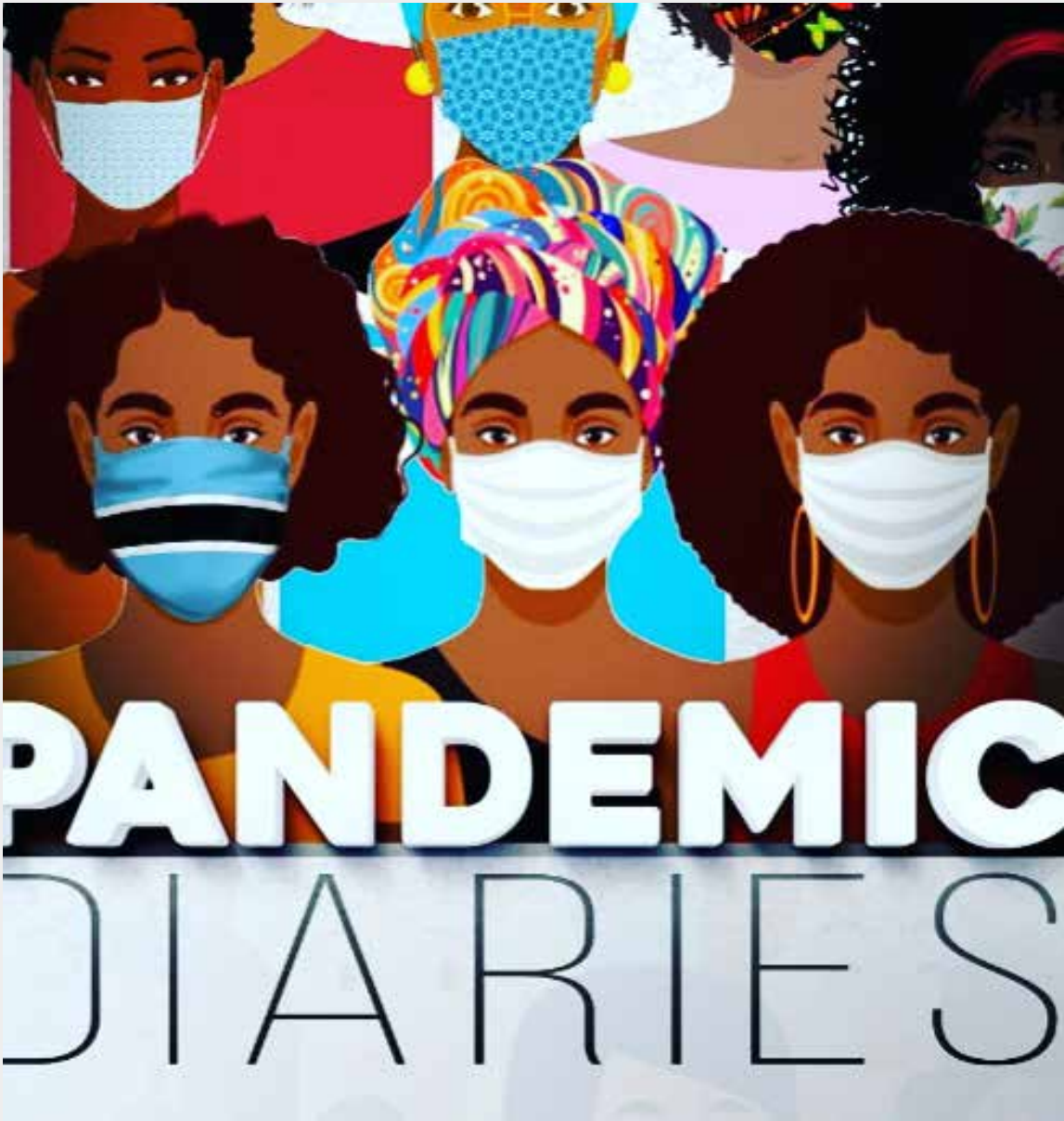
Another key industry player who commented on terms of anonymity said Botswana's COVID-19 Task Force is not sufficiently to the industries of creatives, sports and food and beverages, hence the needle is not moving.

"We are not saying they should become reckless but a cautious return to life for creatives is what is going on around the world," said the artist. "Creatives want their jobs back but the Task Force team keeps misinforming themselves about what needs to happen. We are not doctors but we see what is going on in South Africa, Zimbabwe and other countries."



# Women pen their “Pandemic Diaries”

The stories in the book are about the changes that the world experienced when the pandemic hit



GOSEGO MOTSUMI

What started off as a solo book project for book enthusiast Mabu Nteta developed into a family anthology that features 10 other women contributing their daily entries. Titled “Pandemic Diaries,” the book features stories about

the changes that the world experienced after the COVID-19 pandemic hit. Tshepo Ntshole, Dabilo Mokobi, Mimi Modimakwane, Ketsile Molokomme, Reneilwe Nteta, Thuto Ramasankate, Nasreen Essack, Pato Kelesitse, Imelda Molokomme and Samantha Matlhagela penned down stories about the sadness that resulted

from the pandemic while others noted the optimism and the silver linings in the dark clouds of COVID-19.

“It is important to share such experiences in stories because they communicate compassion, understanding, empathy and how joy can at times come as a surprise to remind us that there is God,” Nteta said in an interview. “Whilst some are not based on true events, they nonetheless ring true and are worth sharing with the world.”

As a keen writer, Nteta has always made time to create and capture memories, experiences and encounters with people and situations. When COVID-19 hit the world in the most unexpected ways, her daily journal entries became numerous, long and full of mixed emotions. Each day she was inspired to put pen to paper or type away. So when 10 pages became 20, she figured it was time to write in all earnest.

“A published author, I wondered if anyone out there during the world of COVID-19 is journaling and feeling that they too need to pour out, exhale and deposit their feelings, thoughts and emotions somewhere,” she said.

While the mind was exploring, her itchy fingers got to write a full story in three non-stop hours. At the end of the story, she was convinced that a book was in the making that would also involve others who behind the masks of COVID-19 with mouths sealed and noses hidden wanted to scream, breathe, exhale and express all that they were going through.

“I found myself writing a second story not based on personal events but imagined and fictional situations,” Nteta explained. “At the end of the second story, I was convinced a book project was being birthed.”

The book explores a mélange of many profound themes such as patriotism, community, optimism, acceptance, self-awareness, betrayal, deceit, loss, gratitude, joy, faith, strength, solitude, attitude, mindset, realisation, emotional purge and resilience. The invitation to contribute was extended to women because they wanted to tell the stories through a woman’s lens, especially that the first lockdown in April was preceded by the International Women’s Month.

This was done to continue with the acknowledgement and celebration of women and girls but Nteta says a men’s version is in the making. The 10 women who were invited to partake in the anthology have something to say to humanity and were ready to share their life stories, experiences and visions.

“In my life, I meet very amazing people who I often wish can be met and heard by the world because they have very interesting life stories, are on some inspiring paths and their visions are unfolding in the most beautiful of ways,” Nteta said. “I have sat and enjoyed listening to such people and always marvel at how they are constantly seeking their own self-improvement, care about others and strive to make a difference every day.”

The Pandemic Diaries is available for P280 by ordering on the WaveWomenandGirls Instagram page, emails made to [wavewomenandgirls@gmail.com](mailto:wavewomenandgirls@gmail.com) or cellphone orders +267 71310399.

IN THE MAGISTRATES COURT OF THE FIRST CLASS FOR THE DISTRICT OF FRANCISTOWN  
HELD AT FRANCISTOWN

In the matter between:  
**Pogiso Vasco Ntshekang**  
And  
**Orelebe Mosalagae**

**Case No: CCMFT-001026-18**  
**Plaintiff**  
**Defendant**

SUMMONS FOR CIVIL IMPRISONMENT

**TO: Orelebe Mosalagae**  
  
You are hereby summoned to appear before this court at **FRANCISTOWN on the 26<sup>th</sup> MAY 2021**, court 1 at **0800 hrs** to show why a decree of civil imprisonment should not be made against you at the suit of **Pogiso Vasco Ntshekang** in respect of non-payment of the sum of **P5,913.00** (debts and costs) recovered against you by the said **Pogiso Vasco Ntshekang** by a judgment of the court bearing date **7<sup>th</sup> day of April 2021**.  
  
**Dated at FRANCISTOWN THIS 04- MAY -2021**  
  

CLERK OF COURT

LESETEDI J  
IN THE HIGH COURT OF THE REPUBLIC OF BOTSWANA  
HELD AT LOBATSE

In the matter between:  
**NONOFO CONSTANCE KORONONIO**  
And  
**TRINITY MEDICAL LCC (PTY) LTD**  
**REUBEN MBATSHI TLHABANO**

**CASE NO: CVHLB- 001052/12**  
**PLAINTIFF**  
**1<sup>ST</sup> DEFENDANT**  
**2<sup>ND</sup> DEFENDANT**

NOTICE OF SALE IN EXECUTION

**BE PLEASED TO TAKE NOTICE** that pursuant to the judgment of the above Honourable Court, immovable property of the above named 2<sup>nd</sup> Defendant shall be publicly sold in execution by the Deputy Sheriff as follows:-  
  

<b>DATE OF SALE</b>	: 05 June 2021
<b>VENUE</b>	: Plot 4686, Lenganeng Ward, Tlokweng
<b>TIME</b>	: 10:00 a.m

  
**PROPERTY TO BE SOLD** : A certain undeveloped industrial property being Tribal Lot 4686, situated near Lenganeng Choppies Mall, Tlokweng measuring 708 square meters held under Memorandum of Agreement of Lease **No. TL 247/ 2003** issued in favour of Reuben Mbatshi Tlhabano.  
  
**TERMS AND CONDITIONS** : Cash or bank guaranteed cheque.  
  
**DATED AT GABORONE THIS 19<sup>TH</sup> DAY OF APRIL 2021.**  
  

**DEPUTY SHERIFF D.J MOYO**  
P.O.Box 20572  
GABORONE  
TELL: 3914511, CELL: 72192666

**CLASSIFIED**

Plot owner 1111 in Tatisiding Newstance intend to change land use from residential to multi-residential. Neighbors are informed. Any complaints must be directed to North East District council within 14 days of this notice.



# MASISI'S APPARENT ENDORSEMENT OF SERAME RUFFLES FEATHERS IN GOODHOPE-MABULE

Commentators say aspirants have begun to position themselves to replace Eric Molale and are unlikely to be willing to make way for anyone imposed from the top again because that has happened too many times before in Goodhope-Mabule

GAZETTE REPORTER

**P**resident Mokgweetsi Masisi's apparent endorsement of specially elected MP Peggy Serame as his choice of the next elected parliamentary representative for Goodhope-Mabule has reportedly stirred uneasiness in the constituency.

Masisi recently paraded Serame in the constituency as a part of his entourage as he the First Lady Neo donated food hampers there. Because it is now common knowledge that the incumbent legislator Eric Molale will not be in the running in the next general elections, aspirants had begun subliminal moves to position themselves to replace him. According to sources in the constituency, Masisi's apparent endorsement of Serame, who hails from Phitshane-Molopo, has not gone down well with such people and their supporters.

"It appears that Masisi wants to sell Serame as the next BDP candidate in the constituency but I can assure you that this will destroy the fortunes of the party," one source said. "In the lead-up to the 2019 general elections, compromise was preached and all aspiring candidates allowed Molale to represent the party. I doubt that will happen this time around."

The source added that the party leadership should not be seen to be rooting for certain individuals because this could drive a wedge among staunch party members and supporters. Some say the party's failure to win back the constituency in a by-election was a reflection of what had transpired in the primary elections when candidates were not happy with the way the elections were conducted.

"You will recall that at the time when Molale lost to Kgosi Lotlaamoreng in the by-elections, there were protests from those he defeated in the primary elections," another source said. "That destabilised

the party in Goodhope-Mabule, hence Molale was easily defeated by Kgosi Lotlaamoreng (of the UDC). Imposition of candidates by the leadership results in divisions and such people never get the support of fellow party members."

Although the Secretary of the Southern Region of the BDP, Moutlwatsi Moeti, says he is not aware of Serame's interest in becoming the next MP of the constituency, it is widely believed that she has such ambitions. "Many party activists compromised in the last primary elections to allow Molale to run," Moeti said. "I don't think they would be willing to do so again. There are aspiring candidates already. They were denied the opportunity to run in the primaries last time and are unlikely to be willing to make way anyone again."

A former BDP councillor in the constituency who preferred anonymity said although it would be a welcome development to have Serame in the running, she should compete for the seat with everybody else.

"I have also come across information that Molale will not be running and that he proposed a deal to those who wanted to challenge him in the primaries that he would not run in the next elections in 2024," the former councillor said. "I suppose he will have to stick to his promise. We have had people compromise for cabinet ministers during my tenure. Two people dropped out of the race to allow Kitso Mokaila to run."

For her part, Serame said she is currently focusing on her ministerial duties, adding that she will decide on her next political move at the right time. "I am currently focusing on my duties as a minister for now," she said. "I have not thought much about running for elections. If I do, I will announce my decision. Time will tell."

The incumbent MP, Eric Molale, declined to comment.

# 'Asians only' rental advert causes uproar

Debate ranged from total rejection of inherent racism to nothing wrong with pursuing free choice

STAFF WRITER

**A** rental advert insisting on 'Asian only' has caused an uproar on social media after Batswana expressed disapproval of its racial overtones and condemned it strongly.

The matter ignited intense debate on social media yesterday as subscribers slugged over acceptability, morality and even legality of this aspect of conditions stipulated in the controversial advert.

"By nature Asians prefer to stay as a community for ease of life and cultural reasons. The community does this to ease life and for convenience purposes," a high profile Indian who did not want to be identified said when engaged on the matter.

Those opposed to the strictures of the advert said Botswana is a country of equal opportunities that frowns upon any form of racial discrimination whereas the advert sought to promote something unheard of.

Some yet argued that as long as private property is involved, private rules may apply in pursuit of freedom of choice if no specific law is being broken.

This raised another debate about whether the government has done or is doing enough to protect citizens through laws to curb instances that may offend against the Tswana moral or racial sensibilities.

## "By nature Asians prefer to stay as a community for ease of life and cultural reasons. The community does this to ease life and for convenience purposes,"

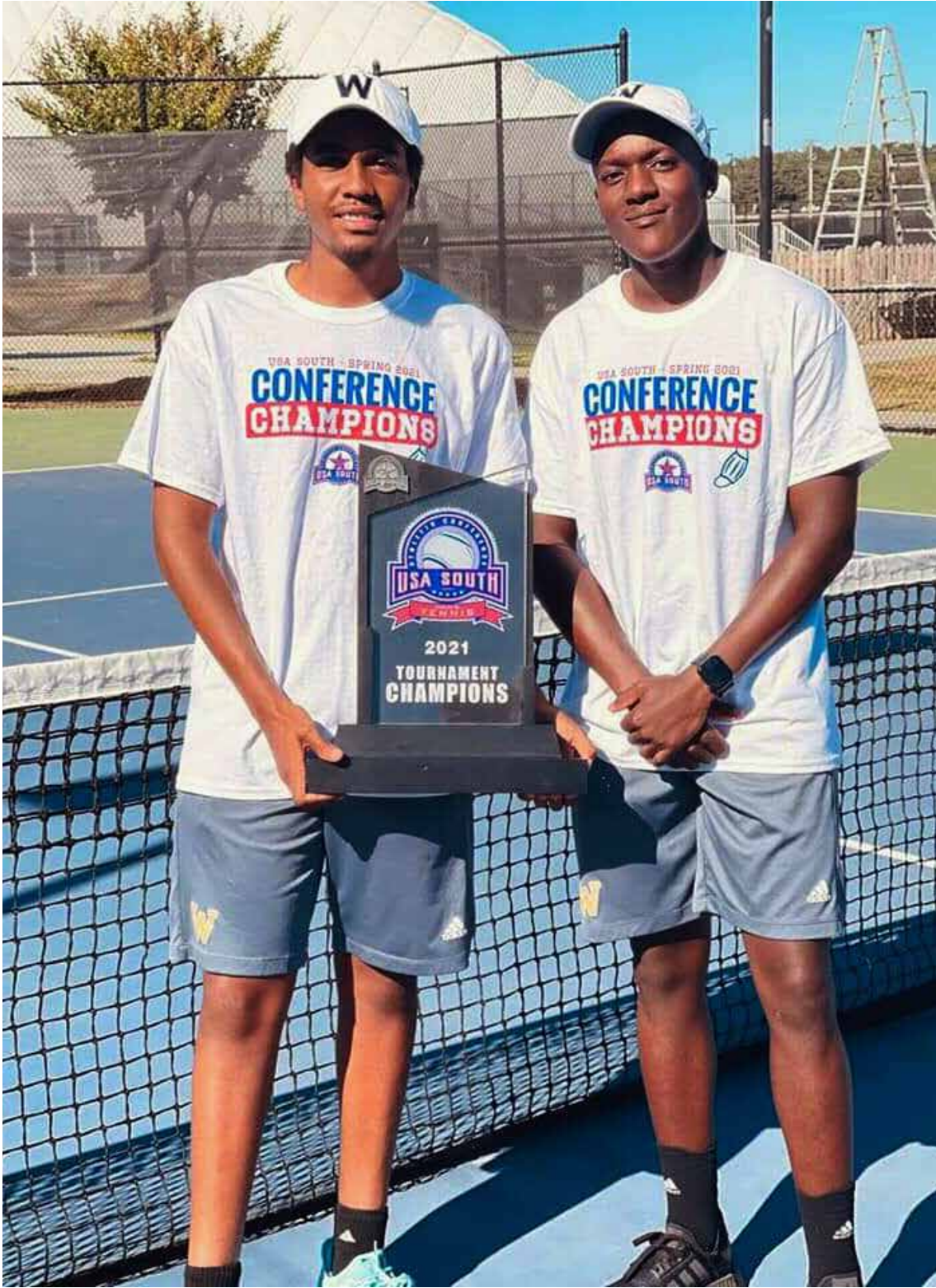
But some Batswana actually said they saw nothing wrong with the advert, adding that people were being jealous in accordance their pull-him/her-down-syndrome that contrasts with the Asian spirit of mutual assistance.

The advert also ignited the debate over the rise of powerful Asians who are regarded with a sense of trepidation for allegedly bankrolling the country's elites and threatening to take over control of the country in what has come to be known as state capture.

The publishers of the advert, *The Botswana Advertiser*, could not be reached for comment.

It is significant that the contact details that were on the advert were subsequently removed possibly due to the controversy that the advert spawned.

# Botswana Tennis Duo Crowned Conference Champs



BONGANI MALUNGA

Botswana tennis duo Thato Holmes and Tshepo Mosarwa were recently crowned Conference Champions in the The 2021 USA South Men's Tennis Conference Tournament. Holmes and Mosarwa helped North Carolina Wesleyan College win a 12th consecutive title in the NCAA Division 3 category. The Botswana duo's college has had a strangle hold on the tournament for 12 years in a row and their involvement in the team has further strengthened their grip on the title with another impressive collective display.

Holmes formed a doubles duo with John Falke and they won in their section. Mosarwa formed a doubles pair with Augusto Roca as they won 6-0, 6-0 in their section. In total North Carolina Wesleyan defeated Covenant College 9-0 to win it all.

They had adanced to the Conference Finals after defeating number two seed (second ranked) Averett University 7-2 in the semifinals. The Botswana duo's temmates made the all conference first team rankings, which means the Players of the Tournament in each category for their singles and doubles exploits.

## SPORTSBRIEFS

With Bongani Malunga

### OCK FAILS TO SEIZE ANOTHER OPPORTUNITY



Kabelo Seakanyeng and Tumisang Orebonye's club OCK Khouribga failed to seize another opportunity to go top of the Botola 2 (Moroccan First Division) this weekend as they let a 1-0 lead slip to draw 1-1 against Kawkab Marrakech. Previous log leaders Olympique Dcheira lost once again this Saturday, their slip up presented an opportunity for OCK to ascend to the top of the table but they dropped points once again. The new log leaders are now Riadi Salmi FC while OCK dropped to the third spot again. The third spot would guarantee a Playoff spot while the first two positions result in automatic promotion to the premier league.

### JWANENG GALAXY AGM SET FOR MAY 23RD

BT Premierhip champions Jwaneng Galaxy have announced that their Annual General Meeting (Election) will take place on May 23rd. The AGM will take place at the Albert Milton Hall (from 8am) carrying a theme of "Seamless Transition". The club has previously not been able to stage their AGM due to COVID-19 restrictions but this time they are expected to finally stage it with a more safety friendly approach to adhere to health guidelines for gatherings.

### COOPER AND CO. BROUGHT BACK FROM CLOUD 9



Mothusi Cooper and his Lusaka Dynamos teammates were brought back from cloud 9 as they lost 3-1 against Red Arrows in the Zambian Super League. Cooper and Co. recently made club history by winning the 2021 ABSA Cup but their elation was short lived as they registered a second league defeat in the last three league games. As a result, Lusaka Dynamos are now 15 points behind log leaders ZESCO United. Cooper's club is now situated in the 7th spot on the log.

The Botswana Gazette

# SPORT

WEDNESDAY 05 MAY 2021



# PODIUM FINISH

- Botswana relay team clinched Olympic qualification before the final
- Botswana's relay team records first World Relays podium finish since 2017
- Quartet gets P50 000 each for their efforts

BONGANI MALUNGA

The Botswana men's 4x400m made up for the Yokohama 2019 IAAF World Relays disappointment by earning a respectable podium finish at the 2021 World Relays in Poland. Botswana's quartet of Isaaka Makwala, Leungo Scotch, Ditiro Nzamani and Boitumelo Masilo finished third in the men's 4x400m final to earn a bronze medal. They recorded a time of 3:04.07 behind the Netherlands (gold) and Japan (silver).

Although they did not win the ever craved gold medal they still made a positive impression by qualifying for the Tokyo Olympics after setting a national record (2:59.06) in the qualifying heats. Botswana's main rivals are usually Jamaica and USA, with those two nations missing in the final they were expected to win the final but they gained new rivals in the Netherlands and Japan. With over a year of little to no

competitive action Team Botswana displayed an impressive showing as they outclassed many nations that were able to resume competitive action a lot earlier.

Team Botswana won their first ever silver medal at the World Relays in the Bahamas in 2017 with a team consisting of Isaac Makwala, Baboloki Thebe, Onkabetse Nkobo-lo and Karabo Sibanda. With Sibanda, Thebe and Nkobolo missing, the likes of Scotch, Masilo and Nzamani have fitted well into the team with ease and they have mixed their youthful exuberance with the experience of Makwala who shows no signs of slowing down.

The quartet will be amongst the favourites at the Olympics and very few would bet against them recording yet another podium finish if they can stay injury free. On Monday the quartet got yet another dose of good news as it was announced that they would each pocket P50 000 for their bronze medal exploits.

# TWISTER

COMBO

2 for

99<sup>90</sup>

2 Twisters + 2 Regular Chips + 2 Drinks

