

WEDNESDAY 07 APRIL 2021

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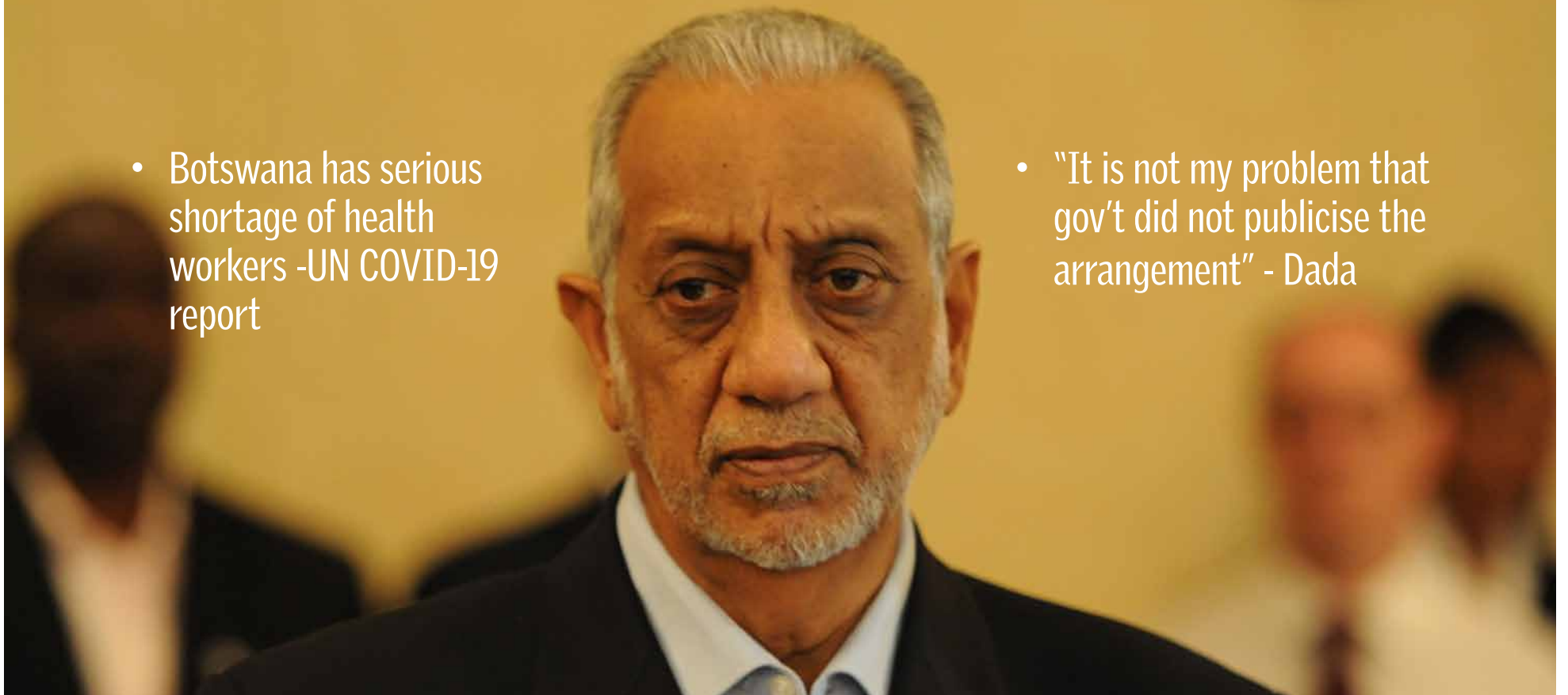
"Kitso ke maatla"

20 HEALTH WORKERS DEPLOYED TO DADA HOME

DPSM UNAWARE OF P80, 000 OVERTIME PAYMENT **PAGE 2-3**

- Botswana has serious shortage of health workers -UN COVID-19 report

- "It is not my problem that gov't did not publicise the arrangement" - Dada



BBS BOARDROOM BRAWL:

- CEO Molefe tussles with board over unlawful increase of tenure
- Board attempts to sack both the Managing Director Pius Molefe and PR Showa
- The board acted unlawfully, has no power – Legal Opinion by Armstrongs Attorneys

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Here for good

Corruption runs in the veins of the BDP - Mohwasa

Says selection of Dada's residence cannot pass the test of equity and fair play



MPHO MATSHEDISO, LAWRENCE SERETSE

Use of the sumptuous residence of business mogul Satar Dada as an exclusive vaccination centre for VIPs is an indication of how corruption runs through the veins of the ruling Botswana Democratic Party (BDP), the Secretary General of the Umbrella for Democratic Change (UDC), Moeti Mohwasa, has said.

"The place does not appear on the list of (official) vaccination sites," Mohwasa said in an interview with *The Botswana Gazette*. "We are sure others could have availed their places if they had been made aware of such a possibility. Vaccination is not allowed at private facilities but is allowed at a private home?"

"It might have been good but this cannot pass the test of what reflects equity and fairness in the distribution and delivery of a crucial service in our lives. What then follows is a question of whether those who got vaccinated at the site did not jump the queue. This is not surprising, coming out of the BDP government which has a bad reputation when it comes to prudent use and allocation of state resources."

But the UDC publicist was hedging regarding the fact that members of the opposition coalition also went to Dada's house for their jabs. "I cannot comment until I have heard from them," he said.

Twenty health workers were deployed to Dada's residence at the upmarket neighbourhood of Extension 11 in Gaborone over the Easter weekend while certain public health facilities where vaccination was taking place reportedly experienced shortage of personnel.

This prompted the MP for Selibe-Phikwe West, Dithapelo Keorapetse, to question criteria used to decide on the residence of Dada, who has been the Treasurer of the BDP for decades, as a vaccination site. "How did the Ministry of Health identify this individual out of many Batswana with houses? If a private facility is used for COVID-19 vaccine rollout, it should be a known private hospital or clinic identified in a transparent manner," Keorapetse said in an interview, adding that there is much secrecy and no accountability under the State of Emergency (SOE).

Meanwhile, the Member of Parliament for Sefhare-Ramokgonami, Dr. Kesitegile Gobotswang who confirmed to have gotten the jab at Dada residence has noted that although he had registered online to get the vaccine, it was not a requirement. "I suspect they got the list of people to be vaccinated from the Clerk but the target was 55 years and above. Judges and other VIPs may have been there before us," he concluded.

According to a public relations officer at the Ministry of Health and Wellness (MoHW), Christopher Nyanga, anyone wishing to help with vaccination sites is welcome. A press release from MoH this week said vaccination is targeted at areas which have been hard hit by COVID-19. Ngamiland, Greater Gaborone and Greater Francistown are listed among such places.



COVID jabs throw judiciary into controversy

- Administration of Justice says it did not know that it was Dada's house
- Registrar says AOJ communicated with justice ministry

TEFO PHEAGE, LAWRENCE SERETSE

After news broke that judges were vaccinated against COVID-19 at the home of the Treasurer of the Botswana Democratic Party (BDP), Satar Dada, the Registrar and Master of the High Court, Juliana Dube, said the Department of Administration of Justice (AOJ) did not know that the house belonged to him.

The vaccination arrangement from which ministers of state and MPs also benefited was not publicized and has triggered heavy criticism for being elitist and discriminatory.

Responding to questions from *The Botswana Gazette*, Dube said AOJ had formally communicated with the Ministry of Defence, Justice and Security to facilitate vaccination of judicial officers. The

ministry arranged for judges aged 55 and older to be vaccinated at Dada's house.

This publication was not able to establish if all judges who qualified under this stipulation showed up for their jabs. "The instruction as to when and where vaccinations for judicial officers would be taking place was communicated to the Administration of Justice by the Ministry of Defence, Justice and Security," Dube said.

"We were reliably informed that the Ministry of Defence, Justice and Security engaged the Ministry of Health and Wellness requesting the Administration of Justice to provide a list of judicial officers indicating their locations, and dates of their birth, which was provided to the Ministry of Health. The AOJ was not privy to who owns the facility."

20 HEALTH WORKERS DEPLOYED TO DADA’S HOME

The use of Dada’s home over the holidays to vaccinate high profile individuals rouses public ire.

- “It is not my problem that gov’t did not publicise the arrangement”-Dada.
- Botswana has serious shortage of health workers -UN COVID-19 report



LAWRENCE SERETSE, TEFO PHEAGE

The Directorate of Public Service Management (DPSM), Goitseone Mosalakatane is not aware that BDP Treasurer Satar Dada will cover overtime pay for the healthcare workers who were dispatched to the latter’s home over the holidays to carry out vaccination of the country’s VIPs.

Dada has told this publication that upon offering his house in the upmarket Extension 11 in Gaborone for COVID-19 vaccinations over the Easter weekend, he was told by the government that although the gesture was welcome, it was not budgeted for.

“I then asked how much they were talking about and was told that it is around P80 000,” he said. “So I said let’s go ahead I will see how I source the funds, and I did. The money was for about 20 health workers who were working at my facility.”

However, the Director of DPSM says she knew nothing about Dada’s arrangement to pay her own staff overtime. “I am not aware of such a gesture but I will investigate,” she told *The Botswana Gazette* when asked about it.

The unusual arrangement has come under heavy criticism from members of the public. It is criticised for catering to the elite including “Members of Parliament, members of the judiciary and other elders within the proximity of the site”, according to a statement from the Ministry of Health and Wellness released yesterday (Tuesday).

“I made the gesture upon hearing that there was shortage of facilities as well as numerous reports of people complaining that they often spend seven to eight hours in queues,” he said in an interview. “The facility was open to all citizens, not (only to) Indians and BDP officials, as some claim. That the government did not see the need to publicise the facility or gesture as done with others is not my problem. Had I known that some designated facilities were publicised, I would have asked that they do the same with mine because I hate discrimination and its manifestations.”

He expressed shock that some people saw his gesture in a negative light, saying the criticism contrasted with the positive feedback that he had been receiving.

“I have made several donations to people of this country and they were quite happy,” he said. “I am sure the government will come out to clear the issue of the current donation.”

It has come to this publication’s attention that several senior citizens were vaccinated at the facility, although some of them have said they were not informed of who owned it.

SHORTAGE OF HEALTH WORKERS

Meanwhile, a recent report by UN Botswana on the Socio-Economic Impact of COVID-19 in Botswana reveals that one of the ma-

“The facility was open to all citizens, not (only to) Indians and BDP officials, as some claim. That the government did not see the need to publicise the facility or gesture as done with others is not my problem.

jor bottlenecks the country’s health system faces is availability and geographic coverage of qualified health professionals.

Botswana has a doctor to population ratio of 5.27 doctors per population of 10,000, representing half of the WHO recommended 10 doctors per 10,000. The density of nurses and midwives to the population is estimated at 54 per 10,000. Urban/rural disaggregates reveal significant disparities in availability of qualified health-care professionals.

According to the report, the inevitable rationalisation and equitable distribution of healthcare workers in response to COVID-19 in a country already facing shortage of skilled health workers will very likely impact continuity of essential health services.

Further, the nationwide closure of all educational institutions may affect the pool of health-care professionals by negatively affecting the supply of graduates from health training institutions, it noted. Botswana recorded 25 new COVID-19 related deaths over the Easter holiday, taking the fatalities to 616.

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	(Lowest – Highest)	(Lowest – Highest)	(Pula)
Current (Individual)	Nil	Nil	Nil
Call	0.025% to 0.025%	0.025% to 0.025%	1,000.00
Savings (Poloko)	0.10% to 0.75%	0.10% to 0.75%	500.00
Flexi Fixed (3 Months)	1.50%	1.51%	100.00
Flexi Fixed (6 Months)	2.50%	2.53%	100.00
Flexi Fixed (12 Months)	3.15%	3.20%	100.00
91-Days Fixed Deposit	0.75%	0.75%	1,000.00
6 Months	1.25% to 1.30%	1.26% to 1.31%	1,000.00
12 Months	1.30% to 1.90%	1.31% to 1.92%	1,000.00
24 Months	2.00% to 2.25%	2.02% to 2.27%	1,000.00
Over 24 Months	3.37%	3.42%	1,000.00
Prime Lending Rate	5.25%		

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INFECTION SPIKE IN INDIA AFFECTS VACCINE CONSIGNMENT TO BOTSWANA

Ministry of Health diversifies sources

LAONE MOLELO

Botswana’s vaccination plans have suffered a setback following an announcement by The Serum Institute of India (SII) that as many as 90 million doses of the shot destined for the COVAX initiative worldwide will be delayed through the end of April as India’s government grapples with a spike in infections in the country’s 1.4 billion people.

The Permanent Secretary (PS) in the Ministry of Health and Wellness, Kabelo Ebineng, has told *The Botswana Gazette* that as a result of the delay, the government is currently engaging other manufacturers to procure COVID-19 vaccines.

“We had long indicated that government has ordered different COVID-19 vaccines from various platforms and India is part of it,” said Ebineng, adding that although this has greatly affected their efforts, they are hopeful that other manufacturers will help.

He disclosed that President Mokgweetsi Masisi has authorised the health ministry

to look at multiple sources because in addition to its own upsurge in infections, India is overstretched because it supplies vaccines to 180 countries around the world.

“We were working throughout the weekend to find alternative sources by approaching different manufacturers so that we continue with the rollout of the vaccine” Ebineng said, adding that the 30 000 doses of Covishield vaccine that was recently donated by the Indian government has run out. “We are currently rolling out the second consignment,” he noted.

Botswana finds itself racing against time after scientists predicted the coming of more waves, prompting countries to speed up their vaccination programmes towards achieving herd immunity.

After the Indian donation of 30 000 doses of Covishield, Botswana received a similar quantity of vaccines through donations and procurement the through the COVAX facility. This has seen vaccination commencing throughout the country, targeting frontline workers and the elderly first.



Invited guest showing cup cake reading “Arm Ready” for vaccine. (Pic: MONIRUL BHUIYAN/PRESS PHOTO)

When he received 33 600 doses at Sir Seretse Khama International Airport recently, Vice President Slumber Tsogwane said Botswana was determined to save humanity by ordering more vaccines. He referred to President Mokgweetsi Masisi remarks that the government is so committed to fighting the scourge that it could even forgo certain development projects.

“We were working throughout the weekend to find alternative sources by approaching different manufacturers so that we continue with the rollout of the vaccine”

Tsogwane assured the nation that everyone, including politicians, will be vaccinated when their turn comes.

Earlier this year, Government announced that it had identified different platforms for the procurement of vaccines, adding that payments approximating US\$10million have already been made, in order to secure the various vaccines. It was further announced that the allocation is population based and three platforms were shared.

Government said COVAX facility will be a platform through which enough doses are secured to cover its front-line workers, whilethe African Medical Supplies Platform through African Union (AU) has been able to secure a provisional 270 million for Africa—from which Botswana will receive its share, and lastly the engagement of Private sector.

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Current		NIL	
Call	0.05% - 0.40%	0.05% - 0.40%	10,000
Savings (Tema)	0.10% - 2.00%	0.10% - 2.02%	500
Ordinary Savings	0.00% - 0.10%	0.00% - 0.10%	100
30 Days (Regular Fixed Deposit)	0.25% - 0.50%	0.25% - 0.50%	1,000
90 Days (Regular Fixed Deposit)	0.75%	0.75%	1,000
6 Months (Regular Fixed Deposit)	1.85% - 2.50%	1.86% - 2.52%	1,000
12 Months (Upfront Interest Fixed Deposit)	2.85% - 3.00%	2.85% - 3.00%	100,000
12 Months (Regular Fixed Deposit)	3.00% - 3.25%	3.00% - 3.25%	1,000
24 Months (Regular Fixed Deposit)	3.30% - 3.75%	3.30% - 3.75%	1,000
Over 24 Months (Fixed Deposits)		Not available	
Prime Lending Rate		5.25%	

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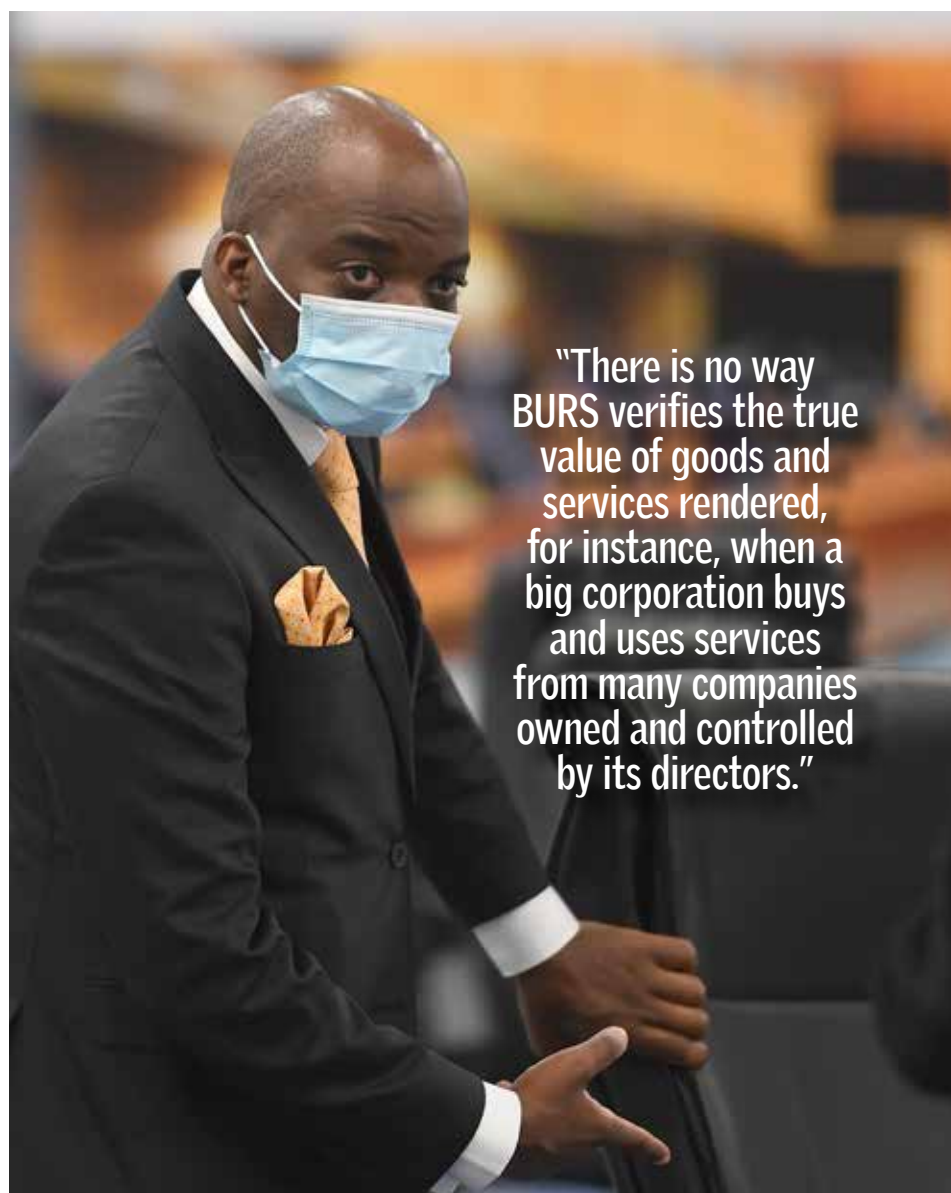


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"There is no way BURS verifies the true value of goods and services rendered, for instance, when a big corporation buys and uses services from many companies owned and controlled by its directors."

Keorapetse calls P172m supplementary budget "colossal"

Says VAT is not the only answer to declining revenues and COVID-19 scourge

MPHO MATSHEDISO

Following the announcement by the Minister of Finance and Economic Development, Dr. Thapelo Matsheka in this year's budget speech that there will be a 2 percent VAT increase to 14 percent, the government is set to generate over 1.3 billion in revenue, *The Botswana Gazette* has established.

Responding to the VAT bill that effected on 1 April, the MP for Selibe-Phikwe West, Dithapelo Keorapetse, commented: "VAT is not the answer to the state of declining revenues and the COVID-19 scourge as it further empties the pockets of Batswana. It is important to ensure efficiency and effectiveness in collection of government revenues, hence strengthening the Botswana Unified Revenue Service (BURS) should be prioritized."

"The Ministry of Finance should also consider legislative improvements to deal with transfer pricing and collection of donations and inheritance tax. There are problems with implementation of the Inheritance Tax because there are insufficient information and control mechanisms to monitor Inheritance Tax transactions."

Keorapetse said transfer pricing is unfairly regulated in Botswana. "There is no way BURS verifies the true value of goods and services rendered, for instance, when a big corporation buys and uses services from many companies owned and controlled by its directors."

He called the supplementary budget of P172 million proposed by the finance minister "colossal" because supplementary budgets are meant for emergency financial situations. "There is need for a parliamentary budget office to assist (and) effectively scrutinize the budget," he said.

He also appealed to his fellow MPs to formulate policies that include the shaping of the budget and the civil service, as well as other state institutions like the police and the military. "The bureaucracy (is) encouraged by political heads in the finance ministry (to) influence our budget with Parliament playing a minimal role," Keorapetse said.

MPs are set for another Salary Increase

- Parliament to set up commission for MPs' welfare
- MPs currently earn P40 000 per month, ministers P60 000



LETLHOGILE MPUANG

Members of Parliament are set for yet another salary increment in this new financial year that began on 1 April, with a commission due to be appointed this week for the purpose, *The Botswana Gazette* has established.

The Minister for Presidential Affairs, Governance and Public Administration, Kabo Morwaeng, is expected to present a government bill that seeks to appoint a commission to review the remuneration of MPs, councillors, magosi (Members of Ntlo Ya Dikgosi) and specified offices before the current sitting of Parliament ends.

Although details around the matter are sketchy, sources say the increment is due after an undertaking was made to MPs before declaration of the first State of Public Emergence (SoPE) in March last year. At the time, the proposed increment had to be halted because resources had to be channelled into fighting the new coronavirus pandemic.

Reports have previously stated that MPs were due for a 10 percent salary increase after the legislators, mostly backbenchers and the parliamentary opposition, complained that it was costly for them to travel between Gaborone and their constituencies, noting that their use of government ve-

hicles was limited.

Minister Morwaeng could not be reached by the time of going to press.

Information relayed to this publication shows that the President's current salary ranks at P1, 075, 056 per annum. The Vice President, at the rate of P943, 032 per annum while a Minister earn P724, 992 per annum. The Speaker rates P724, 992 per annum his deputy P557, 880. The Leader of the Opposition earns P557, 880 per annum, Government Whip pockets P489, 396 per annum while Opposition Whip P479, 808 per annum. Any other Member earns P470, 364 per annum. These salaries exclude allowances. Salaries of Members of the National Assembly were increased in April 2019 by the 11th Parliament.

Furthermore, MPs are entitled to a reported P11 000 per month housing allowances. Reports have also indicated that MPs want their housing allowances increased to P22 000 a month, which government is said to have rejected. Some MPs have also expressed their displeasure over the state of MPs' hostels. They say most have decided to look for accommodation elsewhere. MPs' hostels were recently undergoing renovations, which forced government to lodge MPs at Avani Hotel in Gaborone for more than P5 million.



Auction properties available for purchase

View available properties for auction below:



Location Tribal Lot 1368, Mmankgodi
Date 9 April 2021
Time 10:30
Deputy Sheriff Urgent Jay Chilisa - 72821439/
74931240
Plot size 938m²
Reserve price P1,057,102.79
Open market value P1,260,000.00

This three bedroomed house comprises of an entrance verandah, lounge fitted with an air conditioning unit, dining area, TV room, fitted kitchen and master bedroom fitted with an air conditioning unit and fitted bathroom ensuite, fitted common bathroom. There is a gazebo, carport for two cars and staff quarters attached to the main house.



Location Lot 64651, Gaborone North
Date 23 April 2021
Time 14:30
Deputy Sheriff Nonofa Mabina - 71657100
Plot size 750m²
Reserve price P1,275,000.00
Open market value P1,020,000.00

This property situated in G-North and it comprises of spacious four bedrooms with an integral double garage, a swimming pool and a LAPA. The house features an entrance verandah, lounge with air conditioning, dining room, open plan fitted kitchen, study and TV rooms, all with carpeted floors. The three bedrooms contain built in cupboards and the master bedroom features an ensuite bathroom, air conditioning and walk-in in closet. The house also features a common bathroom with a shower, bathtub and hand wash basin, a separate water closet with hand wash basin and a guest water closet.



Location Lot 24603, Gaborone
Date 10 April 2021
Time 10:30
Deputy Sheriff Urgent Jay Chilisa - 72821439/
74931240
Plot size 600m²
Reserve price P862,500.00
Open market value P1,150,000.00

Three bedroomed house with an entrance verandah, lounge, kitchen, dining and shared bathroom. There is a carport and staff quarters. The property has a boundary wall and electric fence fitted with a motorised steel sliding gate.



Location Tribal Lot 1265, Mmopane
Date 23 April 2021
Time 10:30
Deputy Sheriff Bathusi Billy - 71607940
Plot size 900m²
Reserve price P330,000.00
Open market value P440,000.00

The development comprises of two outbuildings. Each outbuilding comprises a living room, kitchenette with sink unit, bathroom with shower, toilet and hand wash basin.



Location Plot 20566, Francistown
Date 15 April 2021
Time 09:30
Deputy Sheriff Stanley Mbolai - 71635200/
75947349/2415504
Plot size 764m²
Reserve price P592,800.00
Open market value P1,430,000.00

This property comprises of a main house, garage and living quarters. The main house features lounge with fireplace, dining area, fully fitted kitchen, common bathroom, two bedrooms one with air condition the other with a ceiling fan, a master bedroom with wardrobes, air-conditioning and an ensuite bathroom. The garage comprises a storeroom and parking space for a single car. The living quarter comprises of a bedroom and bathroom.



Location Lot 19223, Gaborone
Date 23 April 2021
Time 09:30
Deputy Sheriff Nonofa Mabina - 71657100
Plot size 345m²
Reserve price P800,000.00
Open market value P1,000,000.00

This three bedroomed house comprises of an entrance verandah, lounge fitted with a fire place and an air conditioning unit, dining area, fitted kitchen, common bathroom and master bedroom with a bathroom ensuite. A carport with a space for four vehicles. It has a boundary wall with a motorised gate and electric fence.



Location Plot 32827, Botho Estates, Francistown
Date 20 April 2021
Time 09:30
Deputy Sheriff Stanley Mbolai - 71635200/
75947349/2415504
Plot size 916m²
Reserve price P872,578.12
Open market value P1,805,000.00

This three bedroomed house comprises of a lounge and dining room both fitted with air conditioning, a fully fitted kitchen, an integral pantry with shelves, and a scullery. The master bedroom is fitted and has a walk-in dressing area with wardrobes and an ensuite bathroom. Featured on the property is a guest wing with an en-suite bathroom fitted with a shower and hand basin and a garage which provides parking space for two cars, a gazebo, a partially enclosed LAPA with a grass thatch roof, swimming pool and car port.



Location Plot 10326 Extension 7, Gaborone
Date 24 April 2021
Time 10:30
Deputy Sheriff Queen Khame - 72670000
Plot size 445m²
Reserve price P755,000.00
Open market value P855,000.00

This three bedroomed house comprises of an entrance verandah, lounge fitted with a fire place and an air conditioning unit, dining area, fitted kitchen, common bathroom and a carport. It has a boundary wall with a motorised gate and electric fence.



Location Plot 40569 Block 5, Gaborone
Date 20 April 2021
Time 10:00
Deputy Sheriff Uyapo Mafika - 71696997
Plot size 497m²
Reserve price P862,500.00
Open market value P1,150,000.00

This property comprises of a main house, garage and living quarters. The main house features lounge with fireplace, dining area, fully fitted kitchen, common bathroom, two bedrooms one with air condition the other with a ceiling fan, a master bedroom with wardrobes, air-conditioning and an ensuite bathroom. The garage comprises a storeroom and parking space for a single car. The living quarter comprises of a bedroom and bathroom.



Location Plot 34292, Block 8 Gaborone
Date 26 April 2021
Time 10:00
Deputy Sheriff Opelo Mothibi - 72234419
Plot size 1,022m²
Reserve price P1,581,000.00
Open market value P2,870,000.00

This four bedroomed house features an integral staff quarters and a double garage. The property is currently being used as a pre-school.



Location Tribal Lot 2027, Mahalapye
Date 23 April 2021
Time 10:30
Deputy Sheriff Urgent Jay Chilisa - 72821439/
74931240
Plot size 729m²
Reserve price P255,000.00
Open market value P300,000.00

Two bedroomed house with entrance verandah, lounge, kitchen with double sink unit, bathroom with a bathtub, hand wash basin and water closet.

BOARDROOM BRAWL AT BBS:

CEO MOLEFE TUSSLES WITH BOARD OVER UNLAWFUL INCREASE OF TENURE

- Board attempts to sack both the Managing Director Pius Molefe and Head of Communications Sipho Showa
- The board acted unlawfully, has no power – Legal Opinion by Armstrongs Attorneys

LAWRENCE SERETSE

Legal advisors to Botswana Building Society Limited (BBSL) have accused the bank’s Board of unlawfully attempting to fire Managing Director Pius Molefe and Head of Communications Sipho Showa, after the former declined to rubber stamp a resolution that would extend the board’s tenure beyond prescriptions set in the bank’s Constitution.

Board Members were allegedly displeased that five members who are retiring on 26 April, 2021 will face competition from five other candidates for election to the Board at BBS Limited’s Annual General Meeting slated for Friday 30 April 2021.

“The five retiring Directors being Ms. Pelani Siwawa-Ndai, Mr. James Kamyuka who has been on the Board for more than 10 years,



Deposit rates as at April 2021

Type of deposit account	Nominal rates	Actual rates	Minimum opening balance (BWP)
Current	0.00% - 2.48%	0.00% - 2.51%	50
Call	0.00% - 2.47%	0.00% - 2.50%	10,000
Savings	0.00% - 3.25%	0.00% - 3.25%	100
91 days fixed deposit	0.25% - 0.25%	0.25% - 0.25%	1,000
6 months fixed deposit	1.03% - 1.20%	1.03% - 1.20%	1,000
12 months fixed deposit	1.25% - 1.75%	1.25% - 1.75%	1,000
24 months fixed deposit	1.60% - 2.30%	1.60% - 2.30%	1,000
36 months fixed deposit	1.70% - 2.50%	1.70% - 2.50%	1,000
Prime rate	5.25%		

Mr. Michael Tlhagwane who, in any event, is barred by Bank of Botswana regulations from serving on the Board of the envisaged commercial bank because he works for a parastatal entity MVA Fund, Mr. Richard Molosiwa and Mr. Kgalalelo Monthe appear to have expected nominations from other parties not to be accepted so that they can be re-elected without opposition,” a statement to Shareholders from management reads.

An advisory opinion authored by Armstrongs, the bank’s attorneys declared that the Board acted unlawfully and that attempts to sack the MD and spokesperson were unconstitutional.

BBS Management has issued a statement to Shareholders labeling the Board’s decision as egregious and that it has also taken the necessary steps to report the concerned members of the BBS Limited Board to regulatory authorities over violations of the bank’s constitution and the flouting of good governance practices.

On the 6th April, Molefe’s lawyers Collins Chilisa slapped Board Chairperson Ms Pelani

Siwawa-Ndai with a letter of demand declaring the 5th April meeting of Board of Directors of BBS Limited to consider the termination of the executive management unlawful.

“Mr. Molefe, the Managing Director was not invited to the said meeting. Any resolution that was taken there is for that reason unlawful,” the letter stated, compelling the board to immediately overturn the decision by Wednesday end of business (today).”

“As a director of a public company that is listed on the Stock Exchange, it behoves you to exhibit the highest standards of governance. This requires you to subordinate narrow personal interests, and place the Company’s interest ahead of yours. Your actions in seeking to defer election of directors are clearly not in the interests of the Company and are driven by personal motives,” further reads the letter of demand.

BBS is pursuing its ambitions to become a commercial bank and is undergoing due-diligence and compliance processes required by the Bank of Botswana.

Man considers mounting anti-police brutality campaign

- His wife was allegedly maltreated by G/West police
- She was allegedly detained with 15 others without regard for mutual infection with COVID-19
- She allegedly had an anxiety attack and collapsed
- Was allegedly denied medical attention
- Was detained with 15 others in a small room



MPHO MATSHEDISO

A man is considering mounting an anti-police brutality campaign after his wife allegedly collapsed in the course of being maltreated at Gaborone West Police Station where she was detained for allegedly violating the 8pm COVID curfew in the evening of March 24 in Gaborone.

In an Interview with *The Botswana Gazette* this week, Moanamisi Gadiile narrated how his wife, who is prone to epileptic fits, was allegedly put in a small room with 15 other detainees without regard for their potential exposure to the highly infectious and contagious COVID-19 virus.

“They were not charged during the time they were detained except being told that they were arrested for breaking curfew times and being verbally accused of spreading COVID-19 for which they would be detained overnight,” Gadiile said. “My wife asked what charges she faced and for a charge sheet but was ignored.”

“She asked for something warm and was denied. She later collapsed for about 20 minutes and was manhandled by one male officer and two female officers when she said she needed medical attention. She sustained injuries in the process. We have since taken the matter up with the Station Commander.”

But the Station Commander, Superintendent Oniuos Maziba, says he is not aware of the specific case of Gadiile’s wife because “I was not on duty at the time” and has denied that his officers do not observe COVID-19 protocols. “Operations are ongoing to ensure that COVID-19 protocols are observed,” Maziba said in an interview.

“We ensure that offenders have their masks on when we detain them and there is social distancing in our cells. Their temperature checked and they are tested, especially our cross-border offenders. We have so many cases of people not observing COVID-19 protocols and I was not on duty at the time of the incident. My leave started on the 24th of March and I resumed work yesterday (29 March 2021).”

Meanwhile, observers say growing incidents of police maltreatment of people for allegedly violating COVID-19 protocols underscore a need to establish an independent police complaints commission in Botswana.



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NGAMILAND FARMERS QUESTION SUSTAINABILITY OF NEW MARKETS

- Say private abattoirs fare better
- Want clear answers from gov't



LAONE MOLELO

The Ngamiland Joint Farmers Association (NJFA) is anxious about sustainability of newly identified beef markets in Vietnam and Hong Kong, *The Botswana Gazette* has established. This follows a recent announcement by the government about discovery of the two destinations as new beef export markets for cattle farmers in Ngamiland.

According to the Chairman of NJFA, Frank Mafela, previous foreign markets identified for Ngamiland farmers collapsed without explanation. “We have lost confidence in such markets because over the years markets like Kuwait and Mozambique have emerged but we do not know what happened to them,” Mafela said.

“The problem is that government processes are too slow and frustrating. We never get to understand what happens to these markets. We export beef for a short period before the market collapses with much of an explanation given to us. We cannot get excited by news of markets being discovered because we don’t understand why they keep collapsing. We are expecting the minister here soon and we will raise this concern.”

“The problem is that government processes are too slow and frustrating. We never get to understand what happens to these markets. We export beef for a short period before the market collapses with much of an explanation given to us. We cannot get excited by news of markets being discovered because we don’t understand why they keep collapsing. We are expecting the minister here soon and we will raise this concern.”

Another concern of NJFA is that private abattoirs seem to be doing better, including in Ngamiland that Mafela says secured the Kuwait market after it dumped the government.

The Assistant Minister of Agricultural Development and Food Security, Beauty Manake, recently told Parliament that meat from Ngamiland is currently marketed locally within Ngamiland itself and in neighbouring Chobe District where it retails for P19,50 per kg. Ngamiland meet retails at P23 per kg in the rest of Botswana while it retails for P38.50 per kg in the export market that includes the DRC, Mozambique, Kuwait, Gabon and Zimbabwe.

She said in addition to reopening the Maun abattoir of the Botswana Meat Commission (BMC), the government was always looking for market opportunities for Ngamiland beef. “Currently my ministry, with support of the European Union, is implementing Commodity Based Trade (CBT) for Ngamiland beef,” she disclosed. “CBT facilitates safe trade for beef originating in FMD-endemic areas such as Ngamiland.

“It involves implementing measures such as herding and quarantining animals prior to slaughter and other sanitary measures to render beef safe for trade. CBT is already bearing fruit with several markets opening up for Ngamiland beef such as Vietnam and Hong Kong.”

Minister Manake said cattle slaughtered for local consumption within Ngamiland are not subjected to quarantine, this being a requirement only for FMD-free zones in Botswana and for export. “Direct slaughter of cattle at authorized abattoirs in Ngamiland, including BMC, is permitted without cattle going through quarantine,” she emphasized. “However, it should be noted that the meat will fetch the lowest prices of P19.50 per kg. It is important to note that freezing improves the shelf life of meat but does not make the meat safer (as believed).”

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Changing the way we shop and how we spend in 2021



Although the past year has been difficult for many of us, things are starting to look up, writes Fehmida Motara, Head of Retail Products, Absa Regional Operations.

There can be no doubt that many of us have been negatively affected by the coronavirus pandemic. Although it is difficult to say just how deep this impact has been, what is certain and is borne out by key data numerics, is that consumers are tightening belts – whether forced or by design – and also opting for consumer channels that are safer, easier and cheaper.

The pandemic certainly accelerated evolving trends in the market, such as a growing shift to on-line shopping and facilitated by digital channels, with many of these changes in consumer behaviour look like being cast in concrete for the foreseeable future.

The spending slowdown

Despite this acceleration of trends, the current economic uncertainty has led to consumers being unwilling to splurge on non-essentials, and to save money wherever possible.

This has had a material impact on spending and spending patterns and notable events on the retail calendar such as Black Friday and Christmas shopping saw a noticeable downturn in sales volumes last year compared to past periods.

Although there have been many negatives, COVID-19 has forced many individuals to adopt a fiscally prudent attitude to saving and their medium-term finances.

At some banks, there has been reduced card rev-

enues for Point-of-sale transactions, indicating that people are swiping cards much less often and are, instead, saving. Additionally, the shift to using on-line channels to approach banking should result in cost-savings at a branch level over time.

The roll-out of vaccination programmes across the continent will help revive economic activity as sectors, particularly travel, leisure and tourism, a key revenue generator in Africa, begin to rebound.

Yet it is fair to say there is still a great deal of economic uncertainty linked to the COVID-19 pandemic and it will take some time before we can say that the situation is back to anywhere near what it was before.

To entice consumers, retailers are looking at deeper discounts to ensure increased customer traffic and ultimately transactions. Yet despite many retailers sacrificing margin to boost volume, consumers will generally be reticent to spend at levels exhibited in previous years, which has the unintended consequence of slowing down economic activity at a time when economies are desperate for a pick-up.

There remains the risk, however, that the extent and lure of the discounts in discretionary categories may convince some consumers to engage in potentially reckless spending behaviour which they may come to regret in time.

What to spend on

Although every consumer has a different profile, most would do well to increase saving efforts and hold off on additional spending, particularly on expensive discretionary items.

If you do spend money, go with purchasing the essentials and always keep in mind a “worst case scenario”. For those who are financially secure, there are likely opportunities for relatively good deals.

But often, paying down debt in a low interest rate environment, as is now the case in many African states, is the best way to spend money. It makes sense to take advantage of low interest rates to reduce debt levels and future interest costs as much as possible. If your home loan or vehicle payment was a certain amount before rate cuts, keep paying that amount so that you trim your debt faster. Done in a methodical and disciplined manner, this will help create the financial freedom down the line to be able to spend on wish list items.

We have seen a marked increase in the use of digital channels as people increasingly consume services and products this way and this is an uptake we expect will remain in a post-COVID world

Changed behaviour

We have seen a marked increase in the use of digital channels as people increasingly consume services and products this way and this is an uptake we expect will remain in a post-COVID world.

There is also a clear reduction in trading on discretionary goods and cutting back on holiday spend – not least because of the large-scale shutdown of air travel as well as resorts and hotels – and many consumers have structurally adapted to spending more time in the home. This has, unsurprisingly, led to a rise in home entertainment expenditure, along with an increase in the sales of electronic products which support a work-from-home orientation.

Grocery purchases are also being delivered more often now, as people generally seek to avoid malls and large crowds, and traditional retailers are increasingly adapting to this trend to meet the evolving needs of consumers. The pandemic has undoubtedly fast-tracked changes that may otherwise have taken years to manifest.

The e-commerce segment has seen a marked increase in some markets despite the devastating economic impact of the pandemic which cost a significant number of jobs and hit consumers hard, and the growth in online shopping is a trend we are likely to see replicated across the continent.

The big picture

Companies and financial institutions have generally responded to the shifting sands by tightening lending criteria as gross domestic product forecasts across Africa have declined substantially over the past year.

While the extreme effects of COVID-19 are largely starting to dissipate as the phased roll-out of vaccines take place and economies are slowly recovering, the uncertainty for corporate and small and medium enterprises' financial outlooks remains material, which has ramifications for consumer spending patterns.

Barring a major unforeseen global event, the situation will be better over the coming year. Retailers and financial institutions should use this time to fully understand the changed landscape and how best to meet the needs of customers in this new normal.

Consumers should similarly use this time to entrench financial discipline, build up healthy credit scores, as well as financial buffers, and to save towards next the next major shopping days at the end of 2021.

It's time failed Masisi steps down



April Fool's Day is an annual custom on April 1 consisting of practical jokes and hoaxes. Jokesters often expose their actions by shouting "April Fools!" at the recipient. Mass media can be involved in these pranks, which may be revealed as such the following day. One can only wish that President Masisi is playing a big prank on all of us.

Ours is a sad day, for a serious and truthful joke is pulled on us. As families gather across the world to play and celebrate life, Botswana will be sinking deeper and deeper into debt. April fool's day unfortunately, marked the introduction of new taxes, the hiking of old ones, increment of other forms of levies. It is a day, a sad day, for Botswana as they have to battle the harsh realities of life and a repressive regime.

Everything that can go wrong is spiralling out of control. It has been along three years, a period of authoritarian populism. To mark President Masisi's third anniversary of misrule, the BDP members of parliament have gifted him with another six months extension of the State of Public Emergency.

The past three years have been punctuated by blunders and failure. It is for that reason that the President finds nothing amiss with noting chief among his achievements, lock down, imposing movement restrictions, introduction of regulations on use of sanitizers and masks. Clearly there is confusion in the presidency, objectives are treated as achievements. After spending 4 Billion responding to covid and nearly depleting foreign reserves from 31 billion in 2018 to 5 billion in 2021, we should be seeing an intensive care hospital somewhere. That's how

achievements are accounted for. We should have procured several hundred ventilators by now, we should have been ahead in the procurement of vaccines. But clearly these were never priorities. After one year of one man's rule under State of Public emergency, we celebrate the use of sanitisers and masks as direct products of "a one man show" when there are many pieces of law that would have achieved that and beyond under a democracy.

Three years into power, the cost of living index has increased, cost of electricity, water, government services have all increased. At the same time, the economy has experienced a decline. If ever there was a bad time for government to harvest resources from people, it is now. We should be looking at relaxing laws, taxes and levies to allow people to feed and clothe their children. We should be making it easy for people to access government services instead of introducing fees and levies to access government services.

President Masisi came to power riding on a wave of untruths. He portrayed himself as a self-styled anti-corruption agent citing misrule and mismanagement of funds by the previous regime as problems that he was going to reverse. We know how the P100B Incase was waved in the face of all who cared to listen. Three years later, cases are crumbling in court. Government agencies are being accused of fabricating evidence against unsuspecting Botswana. As if it's not enough, Bank of Botswana, the custodian of Botswana's monetary policy and finances has come out clear rebutting any insinuations of missing funds.

While answering a question in Parliament recently, Hon Morwaeng of the BDP indicated that the

DCEC is inundated with reported corruption cases related to covid 19 procurement. Over 58 cases have been reported to the DCEC, and only 1 has been handed over to the DPP. THIS IS A CLEAR INDICATION that President Masisi only pays lip service to fighting corruption.

Crimes against women have increased under the Masisi regime. Botswana has been reported as the second most abusive country on their women, yet the government has not set a clear path of dealing with Gender Based Crimes, especially crimes against women. RAPE is on the rise. One rape is one too many.

President Masisi came to power riding on a wave of untruths. He portrayed himself as a self-styled anti-corruption agent citing misrule and mismanagement of funds by the previous regime as problems that he was going to reverse

President Masisi is a dishonest leader. The presidency of our republic is under a dark cloud. We can not take what the presidency says as a policy direction because the president is a peddler of untruths and dishonesty.

As we celebrate 3 years of confusion and misrule, I call upon Botswana to stick together through this trying times. Be your brother's keeper. If you have one more grain than you need, share with your neighbors. We call upon Botswana to care for the under privileged. We call upon Botswana to invite the underprivileged for a meal around the fire. We cannot allow the government of President Masisi to erode the moral fabric that makes us who we are, we are Botswana. The years ahead will be rough, the economy will decline but a day will come, a day of reckoning, when you will all be challenged, to paint a picture of a life you all want. A life of Shared hope, shared destiny. When that day comes, let us make sure our votes are cast in a way that counts. Together we can overcome president Masisi and his dictatorship.

Masisi has failed. It is time he goes. We cannot have a President who came to power in a disputed election terrorize us this much. Botswana are tired and soon their patience will run out. Masisi is not fit to run a country. If we do not have him stepped down now we must know he will once again rig the election in 2024. This is why he seems not to care what Botswana think or want. He knows he manufactures votes, he rigs. Sir, you have failed, please leave the presidency before you totally collapse our country.

***Benny Madeluka is a worried citizen of Botswana.*

New PAYE & PIT Tables Are Out



The Minister of Finance & Economic Development, Hon Dr T Matsheka proposed a number of tax changes to Parliament when he presented the 2021-2022 national budget. One of those changes was to increase the threshold where PAYE or Personal Income Tax (PIT) is levied from the current P36 000 per annum to P48 000 and guess what, this reduces tax. I will analyse this matter in detail below and show you how it reduces tax. You may also need to know that a law to that effect was published through the Government Gazette on 26 March 2021. In this article, words importing the masculine shall be deemed to include the feminine.

PAYE & PIT brief

PAYE is a tax paid by employees on remuneration stemming from an employment arrangement. Personal Income Tax on the other hand is personal tax which is payable by individuals who, in most instances, are self-employed. These include lawyers, accountants, insurance brokers and those who run other businesses as sole traders. Having

laid the background above, let me now get into the details of the new tax tables.

Enter less tax

On 26 March 2021, the above-mentioned Minister published the Income Tax Amendment Bill 2021 through the Government Gazette wherein new PAYE & PIT tables were proposed, which now exempt from tax the first P4 000 per month or P48 000 per annum. This bill is set to become law as from 1 July 2021 if approved by Parliament and its key feature is that individuals who earn P4 000 or less per month will not pay tax. There had been calls by many tax practitioners to increase this threshold in previous years as it had been overtaken by inflation. For your information, that threshold had last been adjusted in 2011.

No tax on 1st P4 000

Whilst this new proposed law completely obliterates tax for persons earning not more than P 4 000 per month, it also reduces tax for those who earn above the said exempt threshold. As an example, a person who earns P12 000 per

month currently pays P1 087.50 as tax per month and will pay P900 effective 1 July 2021, saving P 187.50. High income earners will also pay less tax due to the said change. For instance, a person who earns P100 000 per month currently pays P 23 087.50 but will pay 22 837.50, realising a drop in monthly tax of P 250. Whilst this may not be much, it will slightly cushion taxpayers from the price adjustments linked to other tax increases.

The new table

Well, I could have done a PAYE table for you but tables and articles are usually not friends, so let me burden you with a string of figures as I break down the new tax bands. So, any income between P4 000 and P 7 000 per month will be taxed at 5% whilst that between P 7 001 and P10 000 will be taxed at 12.5%. Income between P10 001 and P13 000 per month will suffer tax at 18.75%, whilst 25% will apply on monthly income in excess of P13 000.

Don't twist it

It is important to state that the PAYE and PIT rates have not yet changed as Parliament still has to approve them. Therefore, no-one must suggest that Yours Truly said that the new rates have already taken effect. Lastly, my view is that it is ideal for these tables to be re-

viewed at least once in a period of 3 years, to match them with inflation.

Well folks, I hope that was insightful. As Yours Truly says goodbye, remember to pay to Caesar what belongs to him. If you want to join our Tax Whatsapp group or know about our 9 Tax ebooks, send me a text on the cell number below.

This article is of a general nature and is not meant to address particular matters of any person. Tax consulting is advised if decisions are to be made. Jonathan Hore is a Managing Tax Consultant at Aupracon Tax Specialists and feedback may be relayed to jhore@aupracontax.co.bw or 71 81 58 36.



JONATHAN HORE

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PUBLIC NOTICE

The BANK OF BOTSWANA wishes to invite prospective bidders for the following goods and services:

TENDER NO.	CONTRACT TITLE	SUBMISSION CLOSING DATE
BOB/2021/03/11	Expression of Interest – Provision of Consulting Services to Review the Insurance Strategy of the Bank	April 30, 2021
BOB/2021/03/12	Expression of Interest – Production and Supply of Protective Services Staff Uniform	April 30, 2021
BOB/2021/03/13	Expression of Interest – Consulting Services to Review and Improve the Risk Management Frameworks of the Bank	April 30, 2021
BOB/2021/03/14	Expression of Interest – Refurbishment of Francistown Branch High Security Gates, Doors and Shutters	April 30, 2021

Interested bidders may view the detailed requirements for Expressions of Interest on the Bank's website (www.bankofbotswana.bw) under "Current Tenders" from April 8, 2021. Those who wish to submit documents must pay a non-refundable fee of P350.00 (Three Hundred and Fifty Pula VAT inclusive) by EFT or cash at the Bank's Banking Hall, (Botswana Rd - Main Mall) from Monday to Friday at 0900 hours to 1400 hours before the "Submission Closing Dates" specified above. Submissions must include proof of payment of the fee. The 50% price preference for purchase of EOI document will be applied to youth, woman and disabled groups who should provide proof of the same to qualify. Those who have already paid the tender fee, are advised to submit the same proof of payment they received then. At this stage, prospective bidders will not attend the EOI opening sessions.

Bank Details for EFT payments
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The Expressions of Interest submissions will be used to pre-qualify and short-list companies to be invited for the full tender, in due course.

The Bank of Botswana supports a "Domestic Preference" procurement policy.

For specific inquiries in relation to the aforesaid tenders, bidders are advised to liaise with Project Officers listed under each tender and general inquiries should be forwarded to:

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When We Engineer Idiots and Tribesmen but Not Citizens



The Executive Director of the Botswana Centre of Public Integrity, **PUSETSO MORAPEDI**, asks: Have you helped perpetuate the making of idiots and tribesmen or contributed to the making of citizens?

According to ancient Greeks, there are three types of people on earth – the idiots, the tribesmen and the citizens (Citadel of Great Influential Minds Organisation). But can an idiot make a meaningful contribution? Who is an idiot? Can a society create idiots? How do idiots make decisions, work, and vote?

The word “idiot” comes from the Greek noun *ιδιωτης* *idiōtēs* ‘a private person, individual’, ‘a private citizen’ (as opposed to an official), ‘a common man’, ‘a person lacking professional skill, layman’, later ‘unskilled’, ‘ignorant’, derived from the adjective *ιδιος* *idios* ‘private’, ‘one’s own’ (Wikipedia.org). In Athenian democracy, an idiot was someone concerned only with private, as opposed to public, affairs. It means an idiot is someone who is self-centred, selfish, always looking out for his personal interest.

This definition underlines also that an idiot is a person lacking professional skill, “no skill, no character and no virtue” to contribute positively to society and community. Do you know of an idiot near you?

Tribesmen, according to the Greeks, did not necessarily mean belonging to a specific tribe but also meant having a tribal and a ‘tribalistic’ mentality. The Greek observed that “tribes-people” are those people who are not able to think beyond their small tribes. For “tribes-people,” their primary allegiance, their only allegiance and their ultimate allegiance are to their tribes. They are suspicious and fearful. They always deal with different people and dif-

ferent people with intimidation, with force, and with finance. Think of an institution that makes good tribesmen and/or good idiots.

Do you know people who look at everything from a point of view of their tribe: club, political party, and clique? Do you know people who believe in you only if you are part of their ‘tribe’ even when they know wrong is wrong and right is right? They stand with the tribe at the expense of the common good. And you will find these people in Parliament. Tragic.

The ideal person for the Greeks was the citizen. For the Greeks, “the citizen” did not mean legal status or political status. It meant the idea or the ideal of citizenship. And who is “the citizen”? “The citizen,” according to the Greeks, is someone who has skills and the knowledge to live a public life: who is able to live a life of civility. “The citizen” recognises that he or she is a member of a commonwealth, and thus strives for a common good.

Refusing to be a citizen, refusing for people to be citizens by not availing the education necessary to orient and reform them to be citizens, could say two or three things:

Those responsible for the programming of citizens are idiots and/or tribesmen.

And because idiots, tribesmen and citizens are voted into power, the majority that vote are idiots and/or tribesmen because they vote what they resonate with.

The small number of citizens trembles at the thought of taking rightful positions

of responsibility against the ruthless idiots and the warring tribesmen.

The ideal person for the Greeks was the citizen. For the Greeks, “the citizen” did not mean legal status or political status. It meant the idea or the ideal of citizenship. And who is “the citizen”? “The citizen,” according to the Greeks, is someone who has skills and the knowledge to live a public life: who is able to live a life of civility. “The citizen” recognises that he or she is a member of a commonwealth, and thus strives for a common good.

The Greeks believed that idiots were born and citizens were made, through education. One is inclined to concur. If we do not invest in the making of responsible citizens, we will have idiots and tribesmen roaming the streets but also running our lives. How tragic! Avoiding politics and

debate is a refusal to be a citizen. It was seen as dishonourable and selfish, and it must be seen the same today. Do we know and understand our role in society, our responsibility and contribution to society?

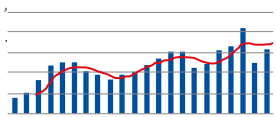
When people say they hate politics, it is a statement of confession that they are not ready to be confronted with how they live in a society that does not equip them with tools and philosophy to engage with politics and debate the distribution of wealth and resources. They are not ready to take responsibility for their own actions. It is easier to point a finger at an idiot and tribesman without taking ownership to account to how one got to a detrimental position.

Remember, idiots and tribesmen do not care. They cheat and steal look out only for themselves and their personal interests. They push the interests of the tribe before all else. What do you think happens when you have elected an idiot? What happens when you have elected a tribesman? *Go tlhokana le go nna strong.*

This is why it becomes important to build strong democratic institutions with accountability systems and ethical culture. For when an idiot and/or tribesman is elected to lead, and is not reformed, the institutions, well established, become the saviour needed. Democratic institutions are essential because they can even help an idiot or tribesman to leave behind a great legacy of leadership when used effectively and efficiently when used as instruments to deliver public common good.

So Motswana, how have you contributed? Have you helped perpetuate the making of idiots and tribesmen or contributed to the making of citizens? Where do you belong? Have your personal interests taken priority over the public interest? Have debts and living far above your means so chained you to idiocy that being a tribesman is the only solution to comfortable living?

Are you an idiot, a tribesman or a citizen?



SLIGHT IMPROVEMENT IN BOTSWANA'S GDP



"The contraction in the domestic economy was observed across all sectors except Government, Agriculture, Finance & Business Services and Social & Personal Services,"

GAZETTE REPORTER

Growth of Botswana's real Gross Domestic Product (GDP) has decreased by 4.1 percent in the fourth quarter of 2020 compared to a contraction of 6.0 percent registered in the previous quarter, Statistics Botswana has revealed.

According to report by Statistics Botswana issued by Statistician General, Dr Burton Mguni, the improvement in the fourth quarter GDP, reflected continued efforts to reopen businesses and resume activities that were postponed or restricted due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Dr. Mguni stated that the country's nominal GDP for the fourth quarter of 2020 was P48.4 billion compared to a revised P44.7 billion registered during the previous quarter.

Dr. Mguni stated that the country's nominal GDP for the fourth quarter of 2020 was P48.4 billion compared to a revised P44.7 billion registered during the previous quarter. This represents a quarterly increase of 8.4 percent in nominal terms between the two periods. The main difference between nominal

GDP and real GDP is the adjustment for inflation. Since nominal GDP is calculated using current prices, it does not require any adjustments for inflation.

With that, Dr. Mguni highlighted that GDP at constant 2006 prices for the fourth quarter of 2020 was P24.2 billion compared to the revised P23.3 billion recorded in the third quarter of 2020. Dr. Mguni says the real GDP declined by 4.1 percent during the period under review, compared to an increase of 1.7 percent in the same quarter of 2019. "The contraction in the domestic economy was observed across all sectors except Government, Agriculture, Finance & Business Services and Social & Personal Services," he said. "The unfavorable performance of the economy was mainly due to the impact of measures that were put in place to combat the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic."

The Agriculture industry increased by 2.8 percent in real value added during the fourth quarter of 2020, relative to a contraction of 1.0 percent registered during the same quarter of 2019. "The main driver of the improved performance stems from an increase in real value added of Horticulture, Crops and Livestock farming sub industries, which posted growth," Dr. Mguni said. He also noted that the General Government sector increased by 2.3 percent in real value added compared to 3.5 percent during the corresponding quarter of 2019. Dr. Mguni attributed the positive performance to the wide range of support measures implemented to mitigate the impact of COVID-19 on the economy and society.

The Finance and Business Services industry on the other hand registered a positive growth of 1.6 percent due to the favorable performance from Banks and Business Services by 4.2 and 1.2 percent respectively.

COVID-19 PANDEMIC IMMENSELY AFFECTS CRESTA HOTELS BALANCE SHEET

- As the hotel revenue drastically fall by P194.3 million
- Gross profit declines from P160.8 million in December 2019 to P52.1 million in December 2020

GAZETTE REPORTER

Booking cancellations or postponements, the national lockdown period, low occupancies, conferencing restrictions and ban of alcohol sales all caused by the COVID-19 pandemic resulted in Cresta Marakanelo Limited (CML) revenue and gross profit deterioration in 2020, this publication has established.

According to Cresta Chairman Moatlhodi Lekaukau and Managing Director Mokwena Morulane in the behemoth hospitality group financial results released recently, CML's revenue declined by P194.3 million as at December 31 2020 compared to the prior year. Cresta also incurred a net loss of P63 million (2019: profit P24 million) which Lekaukau and Morulane attributed to disruptions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic on the travel and hospitality industry.

As if things were not enough, gross profit margin also drastically declined from P 160.8 million in 2019 to P52.1 million in the period under review. "This

continues to page16

COVID-19 PANDEMIC IMMENSELY AFFECTS CRESTA HOTELS BALANCE SHEET

from page15



was primarily due to the continuance of full salaries for the majority of staff, while operations were closed or curtailed,” the two said.

Towards the end of March 2020,

The aforementioned moreover resulted in Cresta’s cash generated from operations in the year under review declining by 91 percent as a result of cash utilized in funding operating expenses during the period when the hotels were closed.

the Government of Botswana announced that the country would be on lockdown to limit the spread of COVID-19; an instance that to CML temporarily closing its hotels for normal operations from 1 April 2020 to 4 June 2020.

The Botswana market was the only available business for eight months, from 1 April 2020 to 1 December 2020 due to the closure of borders to non-citizens and non-residents hence the Cresta decline in revenue and gross profit.

The aforementioned moreover resulted in Cresta’s cash generated from operations in the year under review declining by 91 percent as a result of cash utilized in funding operating expenses during the period when the hotels were closed. “Total cash utilized in operating activities amounted to P4.4 million, compared to cash generated from operating activities in the prior year of P90.4 million,” Lekaukau and Morulane explained. “Cash utilized in investing activities amounted to P P17.8 million primarily as a result of the acquisition of the Cresta Bosele Hotel property in February 2020 (2019: acquisition of four hotel properties for P251 million).”

With regards to financing activities, P9 million was utilized from existing loan facilities to fund the acquisition of the Cresta Bosele Hotel property; while P33.9 million was spent on loan and lease payments. Cresta ended the year with cash resources of P56.7 million (2019: P103.1 million).



BBSL Records P14 Million Loss

- Due to effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, the bank assisted 555 mortgage customers with a payment holiday from April 2020 to December 2020
- Anticipate recording another loss in the coming year because of continued significant investments in systems

GAZETTE REPORTER

Aspirant commercial banking outfit BBS Limited (BBSL), recorded a loss of P14.6 million as at 31 December 2020 compared to the loss of P35.7 million for the comparative year ended 31 December 2019, BBSL Managing Director (MD) Pius Molefe has said.

According to Molefe in BBSL financial results released recently, the year under review was the most challenging for the bank, its shareholders and customers due to the difficult economic environment and the negative impact of the coronavirus. He said in response to the challenges that, BBSL was forced to put in place several measures to ensure that the business withstands the impact of coronavirus and also to cushion mortgage customers from the effects of the pandemic. “Since April 2020 up to the end of December 2020, BBSL assisted 555 mortgage customers with a payment holiday,” he said.

This is the bank whose total balance sheet declined by 12 percent from P4, 626 billion for the year ended. 31 December 2019 to P4, 088 billion as at 31 December 2020. As if things were not enough, total savings and deposits at the bank declined by 14 percent from a balance of P2, 885 billion as at 31 December 2019 to P2,494 billion as at 31 December 2020.

On a much brighter side, BBSL mortgage loans and advances improved from P3, 401 billion to P3,408 billion with impairment allowance significantly improving to P78,648 million from P102,532 million for the year under review, representing a positive variance of 23 percent. BBSL Limited maintained a strong capital base with capital adequacy ratios of 26.32% for the year ended 31 December 2020.

Meanwhile, Molefe noted in the results that they are hoping for a positive outcome during the implementation of the new BBS Limited corporate strategy, whose main drive is commercialization of operations, which is in full force. “It will be spurred on by the positive results we have achieved for the year ended 31 December 2020, and our planned submission of our banking licence application to Bank of Botswana,” he noted. We are hoping for a positive outcome during the course of the year.”

Moreover, the BBSL MD highlighted that the bank is proceeding full steam ahead to prepare for life as a commercial bank. “Part of the process includes hiring qualified staff to help us deliver on our strategic imperatives,” he noted. “Information technology is going to be one of our key platforms in delivering innovative products and services in an efficient and timely manner.” He noted that by the end of 2021 m BBSL customers will be able to use VISA to transact in BBSL machines and those of other similar service providers in Botswana and outside the country. “We are looking forward to launching BBSL VISA family of debit cards, non-BBSL customers will also now be able to use our machines,” he said.

For her part, BBSL Chairperson Pelani Siwawa-Ndai further cautioned that in the coming year, BBSL anticipates recording another loss because of continued significant investments in systems and human resources in line with our commercial aspirations. “That said, BBS Limited is a resilient business and will get even stronger in years to come,” she said.

Inspire Tomorrow, Today



Programmes Advertisement

The Botswana Open University (BOU) invites applications for the following programmes for the Academic Year 2021/22, starting in July 2021. Note that all the Programmes are offered online. Therefore, all admitted students need to have a device that can access the internet (internet connectivity) to be able to interact with study materials, tutors and other students.

Programme	Duration	Entry Requirements
1. Certificate for Distance Education Practitioners (CDEP) – Registered under Gaborone Regional Campus)	Minimum 1 year and 3 years maximum	(i) Botswana General Certificate of Secondary Education (BGCSE) or its equivalent, with 4 passes, one of which should be English (ii) The participant shall be a practitioner in a distance education organization (iii) Computer literacy and internet knowledge
2. Certificate in Disaster Management (CDM) – Registered under Gaborone and Francistown Regional Campuses)	Minimum 1 year and 3 years maximum	(i) At least a pass in six subjects at the Botswana General Certificate of Secondary Education (BGCSE) or its equivalent, OR (ii) Junior Certificate (JC), supported with relevant working experience. (iii) Computer literacy and internet knowledge
3. Certificate in Community Based Work with Children and Youth (CBWCY) – (Registered under all Regional Campuses; Gaborone, Francistown, Palapye, Maun and Kang)	1 Year	(i) Minimum Primary Leaving Certificate (PSLE) plus Relevant work experience working with children and youth in a given organisation (iii) Computer literacy and internet knowledge
4. Certificate in Small Scale Business Management (SSBM) – (Registered under all Regional Campuses; Gaborone, Francistown, Palapye, Maun and Kang)	1 Semester	(i) The course targets people already in business and those who aspire to set up their own businesses. (ii) The minimum entry requirement is the Botswana Junior Certificate or its equivalent. (iii) At least two years relevant experience in business will be an added advantage.
5. Diploma in Human Resources Management – (Registered under all Regional Campuses; Gaborone, Francistown, Palapye, Maun and Kang)	2 years	(i) At least 4 passes at Botswana General Certificate of Secondary Education (BGCSE) or equivalent plus credits (Grade C or better) in Mathematics and English Language, OR (ii) At least 4 passes at BGCSE or equivalent plus a certificate in Human Resources Management, or any other related course/programme completed from a recognized institution OR (iii) JC plus (5) five years relevant experience and a certificate in Human Resources Management, or any other related course/programme completed from a recognized institution.
6. Diploma in Business Management – (Registered under all Regional Campuses; Gaborone, Francistown, Palapye, Maun and Kang)	2 years	(i) At least 4 passes at Botswana General Certificate of Secondary Education (BGCSE) or equivalent plus credits (Grade C or better) in Mathematics and English Language, OR (ii) At least 4 passes at BGCSE or equivalent plus a certificate in Business Management, or any other related business course/programme completed from a recognized institution OR (iii) JC plus (5) five years relevant experience and a certificate in Business Management or any other related course/programme completed from a recognized institution.
7. Diploma in Integrated Early Childhood Development – (Registered under all Regional Campuses; Gaborone, Francistown, Palapye, Maun and Kang)	2 years	(i) JC and a Certificate in Early Childhood and 2 years relevant work experience, OR (ii) A pass in at least four (4) subjects at BGCSE or its equivalent and relevant work experience (iii) Current employment in an Early Childhood setting is a requirement.
8. BEd – Integrated Early Childhood Development –(Registered under all Regional Campuses; Gaborone, Francistown, Palapye, Maun and Kang)	2 years	(i) A Diploma in Integrated Early Childhood Development (DIECD) or Early Childhood Education OR (ii) Any related diploma qualification awarded by other universities or institutions, acceptable to BOU (iii) Computer literacy and internet knowledge (iv) Proficiency in English language
9. B.Ed.- Primary (Registered under all Regional Campuses; Gaborone, Francistown, Palapye, Maun and Kang)	2 years minimum and 4 years maximum	(i) A Diploma in Primary Education (DPE) (ii) A minimum of two years of relevant post-qualification experience (i) Computer literacy and internet knowledge (iii) Proficiency in English language
10. BEd– Special and Inclusive Education (Registered under all Regional Campuses; Gaborone, Francistown, Palapye, Maun and Kang)	2 years minimum and 4 years. maximum	(i) Diploma in Education (Primary, Secondary, Special Education and Integrated Early Childhood) (ii) A minimum of two years of relevant post-qualification experience (ii) Computer literacy and internet knowledge (iii) Proficiency in English language
11. Bachelor of Commerce (Human Resources and Industrial Relations) - (Registered under all Regional Campuses; Gaborone, Francistown, Palapye, Maun and Kang)	3 and half years.	(i) At least five (5) passes at Botswana General Certificate of Secondary Education (BGCSE) or equivalent with a Grade C or better in both English and Mathematics OR (ii) At least five (5) passes at BGCSE and a certificate, preferably in Human Resources Management or any other business course/programme completed from a recognized institution.
12. Bachelor of Business and Entrepreneurship (BBE) – Registered under Gaborone, Francistown, Maun and Palapye Regional Campuses)	3 and half years.	(i) At least five (5) passes at BGCSE or equivalent with a Grade C or better in both English and Mathematics OR (ii) At least five (5) passes at BGCSE and a certificate or a Diploma, preferably in Business Studies or any other related course/programme completed from a recognized institution.
13. Bachelor of Business Administration (Leadership and Change Management) BBA LCM – Registered under Gaborone, Francistown, Maun and Palapye Regional Campuses)	3 and half years.	(i) At least five (5) passes at BGCSE or equivalent with a Grade C or better in both English and Mathematics. OR (ii) At least five (5) passes at BGCSE and a certificate, preferably in Business Studies or any other related course/programme completed from a recognized institution. (iii) Computer literacy and internet knowledge
14. Master of Education - Educational Leadership - Registered under Gaborone and Maun Regional Campuses	2 years minimum 5 years maximum	(i) Bachelor's degree, preferably education related. (ii) Working in the education and/or training field for two or more years. (iii) Proficient in English which is the language of instruction. (iv) Computer literacy and internet knowledge (v) Preference will be given to those in leadership positions
15. Commonwealth Executive Master of Public Administration (CEMPA) - Registered under Gaborone Regional Campus	2 years minimum 5 years maximum	(i) Relevant and related undergraduate degree with good standing (ii) A minimum of two years of relevant post-qualification experience (iii) A working knowledge of the English language at the post-graduate studies level (iv) Functioning in an executive position will be an added advantage (v) Where necessary, the College may require applicants to sit an admission test, and the applicant should score a satisfactory grade in the test. (vi) The application should be accompanied by; a. a comprehensive curriculum vitae, b. a short covering letter stating the programme that you want to be considered for and describe how acquiring the programme qualification will be of relevance to you or any other beneficiaries of your choice
16. Commonwealth Executive Master of Business Administration (CEMBA) - Registered under Gaborone Regional Campus		
17. Postgraduate Certificate in Quality Assurance in Education – Registered under Gaborone Regional Campus	1 year minimum and 2 years maximum	(i) A first degree, preferably in education or equivalent (ii) A minimum of two years of relevant post-qualification experience in an educational environment. (iii) Computer literacy and internet knowledge (iv) Proficiency in English language

Application Requirements and Procedures

- (i) Applications should be done on-line through the University website at www.bou.ac.bw under **Online Services**.
- (ii) **BEFORE** processing applications, applicants should carefully read the **Guidelines for Applications and Payment on the University website**.
- (iii) Applicants may use the computer rooms at the University Regional Campuses **OR** Internet Cafes to process their applications.
- (iv) Certified copies of certificates, identification document and either results slips or transcripts should accompany the application following the online Application Guidelines. Please make sure that you have scanned soft copies of these documents before you start the process of applying. Please note that online attachment of these documents is core as these are used to assess your eligibility for admission.
- (v) Applicants are required to pay a non-refundable application fee of P61.00 online. Application fees paid after closing date or without authorization by the University shall be forfeited

Application Deadline: 30th April 2021



Samantha Mogwe drops new single

"Beautiful" is a timely love letter to someone who needs to be reminded of who they are

After taking a brief hiatus, singer/songwriter Samantha Mogwe has released a brand new single, "Beautiful," that is currently on high rotation on the airwaves. The song is a fusion of neo-soul, Afro-beat and the trap-soul written by the songbird and arranged and produced by KD Bangers. It is available for streaming on all digital platforms

"The song is a timely love letter to someone who needs to be reminded of who they are," Mogwe said soon after the song was released last week. "It is a gentle reminder that you are worthy of beauty and joy and all the great things that could ever happen to you and for you."

Samantha Mogwe is a singer and songwriter who fuses elements of neo-soul and RnB in her craft. She embodies the spirit of using music as a tool to touch people across any divide.

She has performed on numerous stages in her native Botswana, as well as in South Africa, Namibia, Ethiopia and Sweden, sharing the stage with the likes of Zahara, The Soil, Zonke, Joe Thomas, Kenny Latimore, Lira, Micasa and the late Hugh Masikela.

This multifaceted artist is a wife, mother, radio presenter, voice coach, a businesswoman, and a fitness enthusiast all wrapped into one. The songbird has won multiple awards, among them a YAMAs award (Yarona FM Music Awards) for "Best Female Artist for the Year" and a BOMU Award (Botswana Music Union Awards) winner for "Best Packaged Album," affirming her ability to capture the hearts of different audiences.

Samantha is a talented artist who believes in and continues to encourage the African-rooted culture of collaborations and creating timeless music.

The Cosmic Egg to showcase at RapidLion Film Festival

RapidLion Film Festival follows in the footsteps of the Tribeca Film Festival to host a virtual reality showcase

GOSEGO MOTSUMI

Local African science fiction reality film, The Cosmic Egg, will hoist the country's flag high at the pan-African Virtual Reality (VR) showcase featuring films from across the African continent.

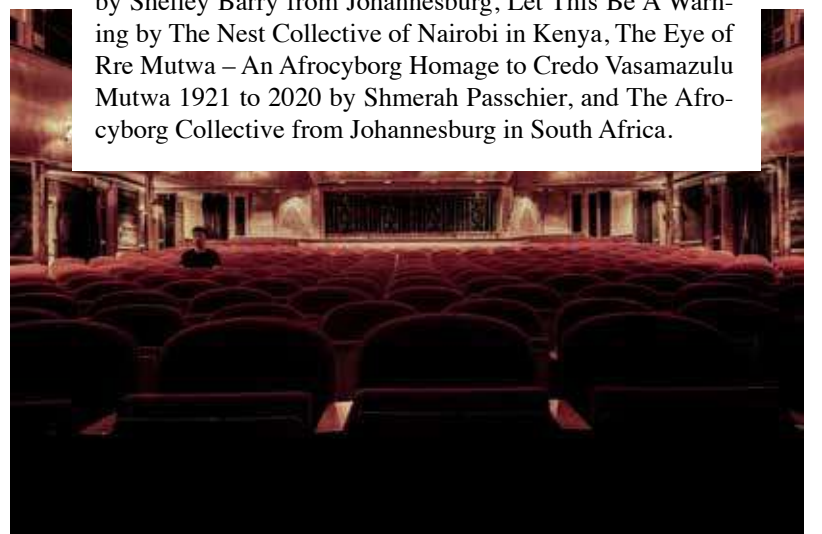
Slated for 5th to 11th March at the Market Theatre in Johannesburg, the RapidLion Film Festival follows in the footsteps of the Tribeca Film Festival of New York to host the VR showcase.

"The Cosmic Egg is an anciently-futuristic myth about an ostrich egg hunt that turns into an environmentally-conscious tale in the form of a time-travelling eco-mystery," said the director and producer of the film, Moratiwa Molema, who was at the opening of the festival opening on Monday this week. "The Cosmic Egg features human-animal-spirit-machine-cyborg dancers who urge us to consider environmentally-sustainable practices if we are to avoid paying the ultimate price for our collective environmental degradation."

The RapidLion is the first film festival to showcase VR films in South Africa in the Fourth Industrial Revolution. Virtual Reality (VR) is a technology designed to experience digital narratives by teleporting into the world of story. RapidLion Festival Director Eric Miyeni said Africa must not be left behind as it was when all the past three industrial revolutions happened. "Through this Africa-wide VR showcase, RapidLion seeks to highlight the importance and necessity for Africa to enter and be a leader in 4IR," Miyeni said.

Talking about the ground-breaking pan-African VR showcase, Shmerah Passchier, VR curator for RapidLion, explained: "This technology is designed to help us experience digital narratives. No frames, no squares, no rectangles. You're there, inside the narrative. This RapidLion VR Pan-African showcase celebrates the many techno-ancestors with the power to beam us into parallel worlds of imagination such as San cave paintings, Egyptian hieroglyphs, (and) African modes of mythology, and sage wisdom, helping us share the capacity to reimagine past, present and future narratives that describe our shared African humanity."

Through a collaboration with AFDA and The Digital Lab Network, RapidLion 2021 will showcase other African VR films for free, including The Other Dakar by Selly Raby Kane of Dakar in Senegal, Spirit Robot by Johnathan Dotse of Accra in Ghana, Nairobi Berries by Ngendo Mukki of Nairobi in Kenya, LeLac by Nyasha Kandara of Zimbabwe whose film was shot in Niger, Chad and Cameroon, HERE by Shelley Barry from Johannesburg, Let This Be A Warning by The Nest Collective of Nairobi in Kenya, The Eye of Rre Mutwa – An Afrocyborg Homage to Credo VasaMazulu Mutwa 1921 to 2020 by Shmerah Passchier, and The Afrocyborg Collective from Johannesburg in South Africa.



The first organic Ntshe juice in the offing

Once customers see and taste the product, the initial shock leaves

GOSEGO MOTSUMI

Businessman, Moarabi Makutu has taken the road less traveled by introducing the country's first organic ntshe (sweet-reed) juice to the market. Sweet reed juice is obtained from sweet-reed plant that is usually planted alongside the main local staple food crops and is a refreshing drink that comes with a host of health benefits.

"I studied a bit for both my undergraduate and postgraduate outside the country where I saw people of different cultures using different indigenous plants to make an income," the Serowe native told *Time Out*.

"One of those crops was sugarcane. So, after working for some time I decided it was time I make a legacy and I pulled from the bag the various experiences learned outside and the ntshe drink was born."

Although there is something relaxing about stripping off the ntshe green bark and chewing the ntshe flesh for its juices before spitting out, Makutu point out the taste remains the same with the ntshe juice. He says the response towards the product has been interesting as most people are still finding it hard to wrap their minds around the concept

of ntshe being a drink.

"But once they see and taste the product, the initial shock leaves," he said.

Currently their juices are purely organic and their live span is for only five days. However, the company is in the research development stage with a South African lab to give them a longer lifespan. "So for now our product is seasonal but when the ntshe season ends, it opens up to the sugarcane juice and the continuation of the legapu (water-melon) juice," he adds.

The ntshe producing company, M.Organic, which was registered last year is also currently working on a number of products from the same plant. Products in the pipeline include jam and syrup among others. There are other products outside the ntshe line, which they are currently doing some research on and will soon be revealed.

To meet their growing demand they currently take orders from customers and make deliveries. They are in talks with various shops to shelve their products. While the ntshe juice is a 100% sweet red product with not additives, their other products such as legapu and sugarcane juices have different flavor variations such as lemon, mint and ginger.



Cookout Africa 2021 turns to Southern Africa

Botswana songwriters are eligible for the growing song writing masterclass with Grammy Award winner Vincent Berry II

GAZETTE REPORTER

The Cookout Africa 2021 edition continues to roll out – virtually – across the continent. Following the recent East African edition, it is now time for southern African singer-songwriters to collaborate with Grammy Award winner Vincent Berry II and add another potential hit to the growing library that includes five songs with over 50 legally recognised African songwriters.

With international interest in the songs growing, all official collaborators stand to become part of African music history.

The Cookout Africa is part of the build-up to the Creative Africa Nexus (CANEX) at the Intra-African Trade Fair 2021 (IATF2021) which will take place in Kigali, Rwanda from 8-14 December 2021. This dynamic programme will bring together Africa's creative industries in the most important and memorable gathering of the year.

The Cookout Africa series with official IATF Goodwill Ambassador, Vincent Berry II, is just one part of an on-going virtual programme that aims to build a transformative way to engage, educate and encourage creatives globally to collaborate. The Cookout Africa 2021 Southern Africa thus invites all emerging and professional songwriters.

Participating songwriters will have the opportunity to create a song in real time, contributing lyrics to locally created beats through a truly collaborative

process (creatively and legally). This collaboration with IATF2021 will enable the creative industry of the future to continue to produce fresh, conscious and emotionally available content in a sustainable and cutting-edge manner.

Vincent Berry II is most celebrated for being the lead writer of "Sandcastles" on Beyonce's highly acclaimed project, "Lemonade" that instantly became a pop culture phenomenon. The album and film provoked an intense worldwide discussion about race, feminism, social media and the music industry. Berry II had the distinct honour of being part of this 59th Annual Grammy Award-winning project.

Continuing the path of success, Berry II has participated in six Grammy-nominated projects over the past eight years, most recently participating with J. Cole & Dreamville on the "Revenge of the Dreamer III," a 62nd Annual Grammy Award Nominee for the Best Rap Album of the Year. Berry II has also written for Akon, Ari Lennox, Babyface, Brandy, Chris Brown, Estelle, Mary J. Blige, Migos, Sean Paul, Shaggy, Ty Dolla Sign and Usher, to name a few.

To take part in this free song writing masterclass, artists can register at: <https://bit.ly/3ua2s9y> to reserve a spot. Songwriters eligible for the edition of The Cookout Africa 2021 are Angola, South Africa, Namibia, Botswana, Lesotho, Eswatini, Mozambique, Zimbabwe and Zambia. All participants will receive an official Certificate of Participation.



pic credit (Botswana Unplugged)

WHY WE MUST INDUSTRIALISE NOW

Until we industrialise, our dream of becoming a high-income economy will remain a mirage, writes the Secretary General of the SRC of Tonota College of Education THABANG KOPELO

Botswana has been paraded as one of countries in Africa which have grown their economies from nothing to something. However, the advent of the coronavirus has shown us that we are just another poor African country and that there is nothing exceptional about us.

At the drop of a hat, government ran out of ideas and revenue. The first instinct became to tax citizens more and more. It is now proven that the depleting mineral resources and the tourism sector can never make us a high income country. The solution then is for us to industrialize today. We cannot create enough jobs and grow this economy well enough by taxing citizens beyond their capacity as this government is doing.

In similar vein, drawing up an austerity budget as a way of reducing government expenditure with the goal of saving the economy is the same thing as rubbing chicken pox hoping that it is a remedy: the Minister of Finance must visit a book written by Mark Blyth on the history of a dangerous idea. It has been proven for the previous 55 years and from time immemorial that taxes and levies alone can never raise sufficient capital for the state. The government must push for industrialization and citizen economic empowerment with prominence given to indigenous black Batswana while guarding against narrow nationalism. By so doing, we would be affirming the words of Julius Nyerere that "nationalism that is not pan-Africanistic is dangerous and reactionary".

At the centre of our struggle is the land issue, about which you and I must both agree that as the children of Africa, we must have equal share and access to the land. We cannot be treated as if we are step-children in our own home by foreigners. The state must be the custodian of the land; the land is the mineral resources beneath the soil and food from our farms. With the land, we would be able to set up state owned banks and retail stores which would not be after profit alone for foreign interests but also to service our people. At the moment, we are dying of simple diseases which could be cured easily if our people owned and controlled pharmaceutical companies because they would invest in indigenous herbs and medicines.

IT IS TIME FOR AFRICAN SOLUTIONS FOR AFRICAN PROBLEMS.

We must formulate an African-policy and our government must content and form of decisive in-export capacity. While pursuing tion, we must jealously protect industries through subsidies and any other progressive means to help them compete. Locally, we must reduce our import bill and stop creating hundreds and thousands of jobs for Europeans while our people remain unemployed and exposed to harsh poverty.

All the

driven industrial dictate the pace, industrialization with industrializa- infant

country must be processed into finished goods to ensure that sustainable jobs are created. We can sell semi-processed goods to other African countries or even set up factories across the continent to create jobs for our brothers and sisters. In their current form, special economic zones are not capacitated enough. The state must redefine them and pump money into them so that they can grow and serve their purpose to our people.

No other country has decisively grown its economy without industrialization except for a few countries that export oil. Most high income countries have taken the industrialization route as there is no shortcut to economic transformation. It is about time that Botswana stops being directionless and unscientific when it comes to developing our economy. Radical and decisive industrialization is our ticket to being a world-class developed country. Great attention must be paid to how countries which after World War 2 developed into high income economies and those that followed after them. As a nation, we must observe how China has developed to where they are at the moment.

Decisive action must be taken into formulating a manufacturing policy in full form with export capacity: all these progressive policies must be implemented as they will revive and permanently boost Botswana's economy. We are talking permanent and sustainable jobs for our people, the masses. By so doing, there would be a huge cut in our import bill and the millions saved would be injected into capacitating state-owned enterprises and factories across the country. The industries must be built in the most rural areas and other places where the multitudes that reside in most of our cities and towns come from as a way of depopulating those areas.

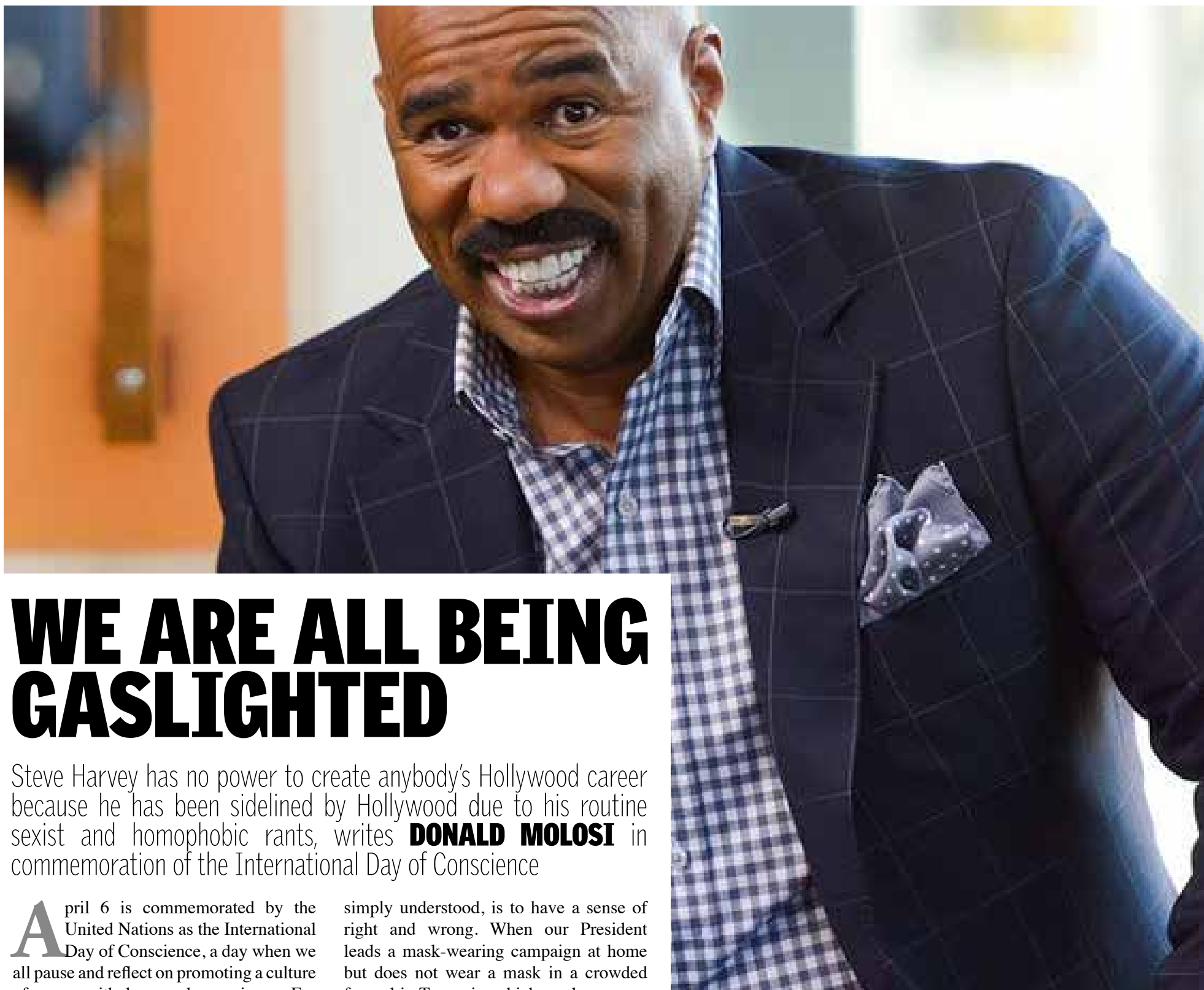
State-owned companies must be capacitated in such a way that they would become multinational corporations in the way that China has done. Kromberg and Schubert produces electrical wire harness systems for premium cars and this shows that we already have the know-how to build cars as we are already involved in producing their key components. The time is now for us to use borrowed technology and produce cars with the investment and protection from the state. Japan has done the same with Toyota, South Korea with Honda and Hyundai and India with Tata. We must also compete in production of household electronic appliances and gadgets -

phones and drones. Our people must be equipped with the skills and knowledge in the field of science and technology in order for them to compete globally.

Industrialization will determine our country's trade, monetary, fiscal and foreign policies. Once we do it in the correct way, it would lead us to the long awaited continental integration. The country would appreciate the need for state-led and owned energy security. We would use both renewable and non-renewable energy to stabilize energy supply in our country. These barren policies which are being imposed on us by the capitalists will not develop and stabilize our country. We must produce goods and services which have a global demand. Until then, we shall forever dream of being a high-income country.

min-erals mined and produced in our





WE ARE ALL BEING GASLIGHTED

Steve Harvey has no power to create anybody's Hollywood career because he has been sidelined by Hollywood due to his routine sexist and homophobic rants, writes **DONALD MOLOSI** in commemoration of the International Day of Conscience

April 6 is commemorated by the United Nations as the International Day of Conscience, a day when we all pause and reflect on promoting a culture of peace with love and conscience. For Botswana, which is a country renowned for peace and love, commemorating the International Day of Conscience remains a curious exercise.

One wonders, for instance, whether we Batswana still care about being peaceful with each other or we have just become exceptional at paying it lip service? Despite our reputation of being hospitable, do we even still have the conscience to welcome visitors into our homes? Botswana has a kind of dysmorphia: the difference between who we are reported to be and who we truly are is huge and it is a threat to peace.

For starters, we are told by thick reports from abroad that Batswana have a culture of peace. What I do know is that we are quite passive-aggressive when not outright violent. We Batswana are all participants and enablers in this culture of aggression, and it is difficult to unlearn it. This year, on April 6 and beyond, may we then begin to reflect on where our appetite for the murder of women comes from? In our own families, let us ask why we violently limit the potential of queer children as human beings by grooming them for a projected homophobic future where they may not legally and culturally exist still?

Botho is a lived Tswana belief that you exist because other lives do, that all lives are all interconnected and that all sentient beings deserve compassion. Conscience,

simply understood, is to have a sense of right and wrong. When our President leads a mask-wearing campaign at home but does not wear a mask in a crowded funeral in Tanzania, which mask message by the leadership is right? When our President tells us to stay home in isolation from friends but he himself flies in and out of the country to see his "friends," then which of the two messages is from his heart? Which one is wrong? Are you sure?

Gaslighting is a political force. It is also an enemy of certainty, an enemy of peace. When we cry daily and bury our loved ones because of COVID-19, our government responds by literally buying us T-shirts and balloons for millions of pula to fight COVID-19 instead of vaccines – gaslighting Batswana in order to enable corruption.

When Steve Harvey, an American TV presenter side-lined in his own country because of alleged plagiarism and sexual misconduct, is flown into Botswana to lord over Botswana's young talent with promises of Hollywood careers, then you know we are being dangerously gaslighted, at the very least. Now the Botswana taxpayer is somehow paying millions of pula to sure up Harvey's pockets, to fly him in and out of Botswana in private jets full of entourage.

It is often difficult for Botswana herself to reflect. There is little incentive for Botswana to do so when she is constantly bombarded with self-interested reports from abroad about how much better she is doing than her poorer African cousins. Sadly, we as Batswana now believe that

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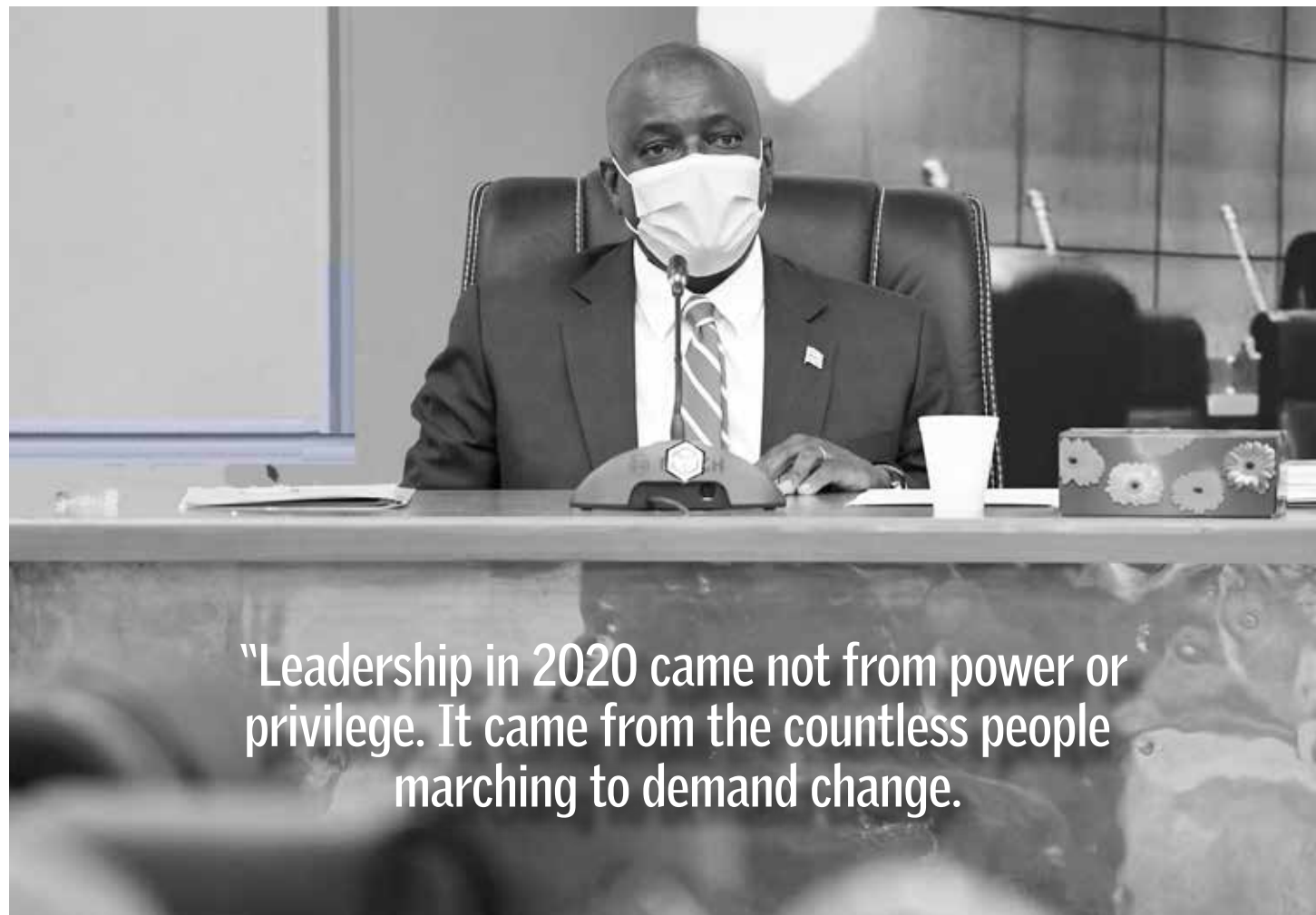
being better than worst case scenarios means we are doing well.

That hubris has created xenophobia against fellow Africans, and Botswana remains one of the most socially hostile countries for fellow Africans, particularly if they are darker or have 'deeper' accents. In the interests of creating a culture of peace with love and conscience, I hope we begin to take a hard look at the mirror this April 6.

Donald Molosi is an award-winning Broadway and Hollywood actor. He has featured in numerous films, including *Breakfast In Hollywood* opposite Jay Tarses, *Green Zone* starring Matt Damon and *A United Kingdom* starring Rosamund Pike. Molosi is the star of award-winning UK film *2064*. His next film appearance will be in *Freedom From Fear* (IMDB working title) due for release in Botswana in May 2021. He is the Founder of the Upright African Movement. Molosi is the award-winning author of *We Are All Blue* and *Dear Upright African*.

CONFLICTS IN SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA: THE DEVASTATING IMPACT OF COVID-19

Pandemic hits those shackled by oppression hardest thanks to decades of inequalities, neglect and abuse. It lays bare massive systemic inequality with marginalized communities, unemployed people, health workers, and women among the most severely impacted. An Amnesty International Report finds COVID-19 was weaponized by leaders to ramp up assaults on human rights.



The COVID-19 pandemic has exposed the terrible legacy of deliberately divisive and destructive policies that have perpetuated inequality, discrimination, and oppression across Sub-Saharan Africa, Amnesty International said in its annual report published today.

Across the region, the devastating impact of armed conflict in countries such as Ethiopia, Mozambique, Cameroon, and Nigeria, was compounded by the pandemic as a number of states weaponized it to crack down on human rights. The crackdowns included killings of civilians and arrests of opposition politicians and supporters and human rights defenders and activists in countries such as Angola, Guinea, and Uganda.

Amnesty International Report 2020/21: The State of the World's Human Rights covers 149 countries - including 35 in Sub-Saharan Africa - and delivers a comprehensive analysis of human rights trends globally in 2020. In it, the organization highlights conflicts between states and armed groups and attacks on civilians continuing or escalating in most parts of the region.

"Conflicts between states and armed groups and attacks on civilians have continued or escalated in most parts of Sub-Saharan Africa. In Southern Africa, the long simmering violent tensions in Mozambique's Cabo Delgado province intensified into full-blown armed conflict. The Horn of Africa region saw an outbreak of conflict in Ethiopia's Tigray region," said Deprose Muchena, Amnesty International Director for East and Southern Africa.

"At the same time, armed groups maintained a foothold in West Africa and the Sahel region, attacking civilians in Burkina Faso, Mali, Niger, and Nigeria. They blighted many lives in Cameroon, the Central African Republic (CAR) and Chad. In response, state security forces also committed grave human rights violations against civilians,"

Pandemic has amplified decades of inequalities

The report also describes those already most marginalized, including women and refugees, as bearing the devastating brunt of the COVID-19 pandemic, as a result of discriminatory policy decisions by leaders in the region.

"COVID-19 has brutally exposed and deepened inequality across Sub-Saharan Africa. Governments should urgently re-invest in people and 'repair' the broken economic and social system which perpetuates poverty and inequality, including leaving too many behind," said Samira Daoud, Amnesty International West

and Central Africa Director.

COVID-19 worsened the already precarious situation of refugees, asylum seekers and migrants in many countries, trapping some in squalid camps, cutting off vital supplies, or precipitating border controls that left many stranded.

For example, Uganda, the largest refugee-hosting country in Africa with 1.4 million refugees, immediately closed its borders at the start of the pandemic and did not make an exception for refugees and asylum seekers trying to enter the country. As a result, over 10,000 people were stranded along its border with the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC).

The report highlights a marked increase in gender-based and domestic violence with many women facing increased barriers to protection and support due to restrictions on freedom of movement.

Health workers operated in insanitary and unsafe environments

Across the region, many working in the informal sector have been left without an income or social protections due to lockdowns and curfews. Health workers operated in insanitary and unsafe environments due to shortages of PPE and sanitizers.

For example, in South Africa, by early August, at least 240 health workers had died after contracting COVID-19. By July, about 2,065 health workers in Ghana had been infected and six had died due to COVID-19-related complications. Despite facing increased workloads and additional occupational risks, health workers in most countries remained without adequate compensation.

Weaponizing the pandemic to further assault human rights

The report also paints a dismal picture of countries where authorities continued to restrict liberties in their handling of the pandemic. From Togo to Kenya and Angola to South Africa, the annual report highlights governments using excessive force to enforce compliance with COVID-19 response measures.

"In many countries, authorities violated freedom of expression and peaceful assembly to silence critical voices leading to large numbers of arbitrary detentions and killings of demonstrators," said Samira Daoud.

Use of excessive force led to several cases of multiple killings, including while enforcing COVID-19 measures. In Nigeria, brutal policing has resulted in security forces killing people for protesting in the streets, demanding their rights, and calling for accountability.

ity. In Zimbabwe at least 10 people were killed, while thousands including protesters, were arbitrarily arrested and detained in the context of enforcing COVID-19 measures. In Guinea, seven people were killed during demonstrations against the security forces' enforcement of COVID-19 movement restrictions.

"Conflicts between states and armed groups and attacks on civilians have continued or escalated in most parts of Sub-Saharan Africa. In Southern Africa, the long simmering violent tensions in Mozambique's Cabo Delgado province intensified into full-blown armed conflict. The Horn of Africa region saw an outbreak of conflict in Ethiopia's Tigray region," said Deprose Muchena, Amnesty International Director for East and Southern Africa.

"The pandemic has cast a harsh light on the failure to cooperate effectively in times of dire global need. The only way out of this mess is through international cooperation. States must ensure vaccines are quickly available to everyone, everywhere, and free at the point of use. Pharmaceutical companies must share their knowledge and technology so no one is left behind. G20 members and international financial institutions must provide debt relief for the poorest 77 countries to respond and recover from pandemic," the report recommends.

Failed by their governments, protest movements the world over have stood up

Regressive policies have inspired many people to join long-standing struggles as seen with #ZimbabweanLivesMatter, against constant human rights violations and the #End SARS protests in Nigeria as well as the #ShutItAllDown protests to spotlight gender-based violence in Namibia among others.

"Leadership in 2020 came not from power or privilege. It came from the countless people marching to demand change. We saw an outpouring of support for #End SARS, #ZimbabweanLivesMatter as well as public protests against repression and inequality in places across the continent. Often risking their own safety, it was the leadership of ordinary people and human rights defenders the world over that urged us on. These are the people at the frontier of the struggle for a better, safer and more equal world," said Samira Daoud.

"We are at a crossroads. We must release the shackles that degrade human dignity. We must reset and reboot to build a world grounded in equality, human rights, and humanity. We must learn from the pandemic and come together to work boldly and creatively so everyone is on an equal footing," added Deprose Muchena.

Slavia Prague's Ondrej Kudela will not play at Arsenal as Uefa opens case



Uefa has opened disciplinary proceedings against the Slavia Prague defender Ondrej Kudela for alleged racial abuse and announced he is suspended for the Europa League quarter-final first leg at Arsenal on Thursday, hours after the Czech club said he would miss the game anyway because of injury and illness.

Kudela was involved in an incident with Rangers' Glen Kamara, who said his opponent had racially abused him during the Czech side's win at Ibrox on 18 March. Uefa has provisionally suspended Kudela for one club competition match on account of violating the disciplinary rule that takes in "insulting players or others present at the match". That ban is separate from the accusation of racism, which Kudela has denied.

The 34-year-old is now being investigated for an alleged breach of article 14 (1) of Uefa's regulations, which targets anyone who "insults the human dignity" of a person on grounds that include race. If he is found guilty a suspension of at least 10 matches would ensue.

Kamara is also under investigation, for his role in a post-match fracas which allegedly occurred in the tunnel area. Uefa is inves-

tigating whether he carried out a "serious assault", which would bring a suspension of five matches or a specified period.

The move to suspend Kudela from the Emirates Stadium tie carries little practical weight given Slavia had confirmed on Tuesday morning that, having also missed the goalless draw at Zbrojovka Brno on Sunday, he would be absent. "He has a cold, virosis and fever, and after a blow to the nose he also has inflammation," the Slavia assistant coach Zdenek Houstecky told the club's website.

The nasal injury occurred last week in the World Cup qualifier between Wales and the Czech Republic in Cardiff, when Gareth Bale caught Kudela with an elbow late on. The Slavia player had made the trip despite initial reluctance from the club to release him.

Police Scotland are also investigating the incident at Ibrox, while Slavia said they had submitted a criminal complaint of their own relating to events after the game. Kamara's lawyer had said he expected officers to question Kudela when he returned to the UK to face Arsenal, although he is not believed to have spoken to police during his stay in Wales.

APPLICATION FOR CERTIFIED COPY OF LOST TITLE DEED

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the undersigned intends to apply for a certified copy of Deed of Transfer **No.FT 143/2009** dated **16th day of February 2009** made in favour of **HOPE SEONYATSENG BAYANI** in respect of the following:

CERTAIN : piece of land being Lot 20859, Francistown

SITUATE : in the Francistown Administrative District

MEASURING : 713m²(Seven Hundred and Thirteen Square metres)

All persons having objection to the issue of such copy are hereby required to lodge the same in writing with the **REGISTRAR OF DEEDS FOR BOTSWANA** within **three (3) weeks** of the last publication of this notice.

DATED AT GABORONE ON THIS 22ND DAY OF MARCH 2021.

MAKGANE ATTORNEYS
Plot 5233, Antbear Road
Village
P.O.Box 3035
GABORONE

APPLICATION FOR CERTIFIED COPY OF MORTGAGE BOND

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the undersigned intends to apply for a certified copy of Covering Mortgage Bond **No.FT 1161/2011** dated **19th day of December 2011** made in favour of **NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT BANK** in respect of the following:

CERTAIN : Piece of land being Lot 20859, Francistown

SITUATE : In the Francistown Administrative District

MEASURING : 713m²(Seven Hundred and Thirteen Square metres)

All persons having objection to the issue of such copy are hereby required to lodge the same in writing with the **REGISTRAR OF DEEDS FOR BOTSWANA** within **three (3) weeks** of the last publication of this notice.

DATED AT GABORONE ON THIS 22ND DAY OF MARCH 2021.

MAKGANE ATTORNEYS
Plot 5233, Antbear Road
Village
P.O.Box 3035
GABORONE

SEGOPOLLO J
IN THE HIGH COURT OF THE REPUBLIC OF BOTSWANA
HELD AT GABORONE

In the matter between:
AFRICAN BANKING CORPORATION LIMITED
t/a BancABC
and
NEO GIFT MOLEFHE

CASE NO. CVHGB-002790-2020

Plaintiff

Defendant

NOTICE OF SALE IN EXECUTION

BE PLEASED TO TAKE NOTICE that pursuant to judgment granted in the above Honourable Court on **11th December 2020**, the Defendant's property will be sold by auction to the highest bidder by Deputy Sheriff Meshack Moshabi.

DATE : 30th April 2021

TIME OF SALE : 10.30 am

PLACE OF SALE : Lot 64645, Gaborone (A portion of Lot 10104, Gaborone)

PROPERTY TO BE SOLD : piece of land being **Lot 64645, Gaborone (A portion of Lot 10104, Gaborone)**; situated in Gaborone Extension **64**; Measuring **750 m² (Seven Hundred and Fifty Square Meters)** held under Deed of Transfer **No.44/2019** dated **14th January 2019** made in favour of **NEO GIFT MOLEFHE** with some developments therein being; a 2 bedroom house, sharing common bathroom, master ensuite, sitting room, kitchen, dining room, double garage, store room, screen wall, electric fence, paved, guest toilet.

Terms and conditions : Cash or Bank guaranteed cheques.

DATED AT GABORONE THIS 18th DAY OF MARCH 2021.

Deputy Sheriff Meshack Moshabi (71623026/71263198)
C/o Serole & Partners
The Courtyard, Lot 54513, Unit 1
P O Box 1679 ABG, Sebele
GABORONE

NOTICE OF DEBTORS AND CREDITORS

Master's Reference : ESHGB 000094-19

IN THE ESTATE of the late **WILLYS CHAKUMANDA SIMFUKWE** who died at **Parkview, Gauteng JOHANNESBURG, REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA** on the **10th day of APRIL 2019**.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN to all Debtors and Creditors of the above mentioned Estate are hereby required to pay their debt and file their debt and file their claims of whatever nature with the undersigned within thirty (30) days after the publication hereof

DATED AT GABORONE this day 01 April 2021

The Executrix
Brendah Longwe
Masitonto Avenue
Gailor Manor Wendy wood
Sandton
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA
Cell no: +27 682 909 711



TAYLOR TASKED WITH STRENGTHENING BFA'S COMMERCIALIZATION DRIVE

- Taylor becomes BFA's first ever female full time CEO
- Taylor armed with 18 years of commercial experience
- Tasked with bringing stability to a position that has seen constant chopping and changing

BONGANI MALUNGA

The Botswana Football Association (BFA) has appointed Goabaone Taylor as their new full time Chief Executive Officer (CEO). Taylor is the first ever female full time CEO in the local football association's history, she has been tasked with driving the BFA's commercialization drive.

The newly appointed CEO boasts 18 years of commercial experience having tenured at large corporations such as BTC and Econet Media Botswana (Kwese TV). For the better part of the last 10 years the BFA has been experiencing financial problems and struggling to bring in numerous commercial sponsorships and partnerships that could have strengthened the association's revenue stream.

Bridging the gap between football and commercial prowess has been a sticking point for the BFA and Taylor has now been appointed to address that problem. In their official statement welcoming Taylor the BFA stated that the key reasons why they hired her was because she has a "distinguished track record of identifying the uniqueness of brands, accentuating their appeal, taking them to market, and maximizing their value, she brings a unique set of skills, perspectives, and relationships to lead the BFA into the future."

BFA President Maclean Letshwiti welcomed the arrival of Taylor stating that the move represents a step in the right direction. "I feel this is the best move to bring football forward. This restructuring of BFA's leadership will ensure the company's future success while expediting organic growth and new acquisitions," Letshwiti stated.

Taylor has been appointed in a position that has seen constant chopping and changing in the last nine years. The BFA CEO position has seen numerous changes with since 2012 with Duncan Kgame, Keith Masters, Ookeditse Malesu, Kitso Kemoeng and Mfolo Mfolo all coming and going through the revolving door. While Taylor's predecessors have gone for various reasons, the CEO position has been regarded as somewhat of a poisoned chalice because of the lack of longevity in that post.

For her part the new CEO stated the following in a media statement released by BFA; "My strongest conviction is to use all these skills to good effect in developing the local football eco-system, from grassroots onwards for both boys and girls. We need to build a 'one vision' view of the future where the interests of many prevail over the agenda of individuals within the game and its administration. Success will only come to those who work hard, together, for the love of the game. From the top to the bottom of football locally, regionally, and beyond."

"In partnership with the President of the BFA, Maclean Letshwiti and his NEC, it is time, in my opinion, to focus on what is best for the sport, from the very bottom to the very top. It's time to come together. I can only do my part of course, but the way to excellence is clear. As the BFA, we ought to inculcate and push towards working as a team, for the sole purpose, passion, and the will to capacitate and facilitate this talent's growth and development. That is my job, with the help of the Association, to lead in the progress of the game, in all its facets," said Taylor.



Unhappy League Return For Morocco Based Duo

OCK Khouribga suffers first defeat of 2021

BONGANI MALUNGA

Fresh from missing Botswana's AFCON 2022 Qualifiers against Algeria and Zimbabwe, Morocco based duo Kabelo Seakanyeng and Tumisang Orebonye returned to league action this past weekend as their club OCK Khouribga suffered a 1-0 defeat against league leaders Olympique Dcheira.

The top of the table clash provided OCK the perfect platform to ascend to the top of the log but they could not get a result as they narrowly lost out. The promotion chasing OCK had previously been unbeaten in 2021, largely due to the form of the Botswana attacking duo who have been scoring and assisting on a near weekly basis.

OCK was the most in form team in the league as they were the only side to avoid defeat in their four previous games.

The weekend defeat has seen Wydad Feis displacing OCK from the second spot on the log after 16 rounds of league action. Things will not get any easier for OCK as their next game will be against the second placed Wydad Feis this Saturday as both teams aim to keep up with the league leaders and put themselves in a position to cement their place in the automatic promotion places as the league has now entered the second phase.

Botolola 2, the second division of Moroccan football, automatically promotes the first and second placed teams in the league while the third and fourth placed teams will qualify for the playoffs.



TAYLOR TASKED WITH STRENGTHENING BFA'S COMMERCIALIZATION DRIVE

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Cooper Shines Again For Lusaka Dynamos

BONGANI MALUNGA

Mothusi Cooper has continued his rich vein of form in the Zambian Super League after earning yet another Man of the Match award for Lusaka Dynamos. Cooper was rewarded for his graft and workaholic display in his club's 1-1 draw against Kabwe Warriors, the diminutive midfielder's all action display was one of the key reasons why they avoided defeat.

Cooper made well timed interceptions, ball retentions and tackles throughout the game to ward off the threat posed by Kabwe Warriors' attacking midfielders. The Zebras star first made his presence known in the sixth minute as he intercepted Eric Kabamba's attempted pass to win possession for his team, the pass would have started a dangerous counter attack as Dynamos' players had committed themselves to adding numbers in the opposition half.

His interception started another move for Dynamos but Cooper's teammate Collins Sikombe could not convert

the chance from long range as his shot drew a save from the Warriors goalkeeper. Dynamos controlled much of the game and they were rewarded in the 33rd minute when Emmanuel Chabula gave them the lead.

Dynamos looked set to win the game by a single goal but they conceded in injury time to share the spoils. Dynamos were recently dealt a blow in their attempt to fight for the title as they have suffered two defeats in their last five games, the latest draw is yet another setback as they had aimed to get a morale boosting win.

Cooper's side is now fourth in the Zambian Super League standings, a win would have propelled them to the second spot on the log. Dynamos will face Zanaco FC this Saturday (3pm) live on Supersport. The former Township Rollers midfielder has quickly endeared himself to fans and the media in a short spell in Zambia, in February he was awarded the Man of the Match award in the 1-0 defeat against NAPSA Stars.

