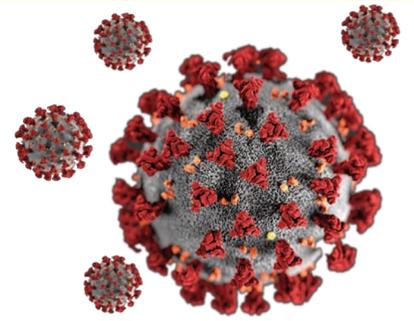


# The Patriot

**on Sunday**

'BALANCED & FAIR'



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## Unions reject 6%, 10% freeze

- DPSM, 6CTU meet Monday for negotiations
- Unions demand talks be held in a proper structure
- Demand govt present evidence on how budget is affected
- Govt refuses to cover tax liabilities caused by 6 months arrears
- 'Negotiations cannot go on forever (lenyalo ga le relwe ruri),' Morwaeng



**Morwaeng**  
**DITIRO MOTLHABANE**  
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**M**INISTER FOR Presidential Affairs, Governance and Public Administration Kabo Morwaeng, alongside Director of Public Service Management, Goitseone Mosalakatane were not totally honest, when they told the nation on Saturday morning that they were awaiting a response from six public sector trade unions over suspension of salary increases.

The Patriot on Sunday can confirm that Mosalakatane and Morwaeng were aware of a letter written by the six trade unions' negotiating team dated 22 April 2020, rejecting government's request to defer salary increments for six months. "We demand that the employer should implement the agreed adjustment of the public service salaries by 6% and 10% for the C & D and A & B grades respectively effective April 2020 as per the February 2019 Collective Agreement and the subsequent Public Service Directive No. 1 of 2020," reads part of the letter signed by the Coordinator of the six cooperating trade unions

# Masisi to extend LOCKDOWN

- Demarcation of Red, Orange and Green zones coming
- Total shutdown in Red zones -the hotspots
- Free movement in Green zones



Deserted roads in Gaborone

[PIC:PRESSPHOTO]

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**P**RESIDENT MOKGWEETSI Masisi is expected to extend the ongoing lockdown, which ends on Thursday, by a further 14 days after an increase in cases of local transmission were recorded, The Patriot on Sunday has learnt.

Last week Botswana recorded two new cases of local transmission of covid-19 bringing the total number of local transmission to 7 and total confirmed cases to 22 with one death.

President Mokgweetsi Masisi is expected to announce the extension of the lockdown next week in order to allow for the contact tracing exercise to run smoothly.

On Saturday, newly appointed Press Secretary to the President Bathalefi Leagajang, said Masisi was still consulting with the Covid -19 coordination team to form a position on the status of the lockdown which is scheduled to end on Thursday. "The Task Force team led by Dr Masupu will assess the situation and make recommendations to the President on the way forward, as a way of advice," said Leagajang.

The head of the Covid-19 coordination team Dr Kereng Masupu was cagey when asked if they will advise government to extend the lockdown during a media interview recently. The coordination team is said to have advised the Director of Public Health Dr Malaki Tshipayagae that an extension of the

lockdown is needed with stringent measures in areas where the virus has spread. Sources indicated that the task team will divide the country into various zones being the red, orange and green as a way of tackling the virus. The red zone will be one with the hotspots and maximum cases while orange zone will be those where people are under surveillance and green zone will be the ones with negligible cases.

Molepolole, Metsimothabe Mahalapye, Sviya and Bobonong are currently regarded as red zone and highly placed sources have indicated that there will be a total shutdown in order to do contact tracing and testing people within the localities. "Movement of people in those areas is expected to be

highly restricted as it has turned out that those areas are hard hit by the virus, which might have spread extensively," revealed the source.

Already the COVID-19 contact tracing in Siviya has already started after the health officials discovered that there were people who were initially identified as contacts but then denied having contacted the COVID-19 patient when approached for testing by medical officers.

In Bobonong one suspected case of Covid-19 was registered recently and the suspect had already had contact with members of the community.

Inside sources have revealed that just like other SADC countries, Botswana might follow suit and extend the lockdown in order to contain the spread of the Covid-19.

## Ntlole bites back

- Soldiers face salary deductions
- Forced to contribute to COVID-19 Relief Fund
- BOFEPUSU condemns the decision as oppressive

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**E**Mployees of THE disciplined forces are poised for a debilitating blow after Botswana Defence Force (BDF) officers were ordered to contribute part of their monthly salaries to assist government in the fight against COVID-19. The euphoria and excitement that immersed the military, police and prisons barracks as a result of Ntlole perks is now causing anxiety for employees as some view the move as unkind decision. This comes in the backdrop of massive blow as the government have also taken a decision to suspend 10% and 6% salary increases for public servants for 2020/21 financial year.

The members of disciplined forces emerged as the big winners earlier last year when President Dr Mokgweetsi Masisi made well-paid salary perks increment for them widely known as Ntlole.

Yet, it seems like Ntlole will not be lucrative at least for the next six months as it is back firing as the workers will be voluntarily facing salary chop varying on their levels of ranking or positions. To make matters worse the members of disciplined forcers unlike other public servants are not allowed to unionise therefore they have no trade union that can intervene in their grievances.

BDF Commander Lt General Placid Segokgo in a letter written to the officers said they will be exhibiting the BDF values such as Botho and Courage by pledging to make monthly sacrifices. Then BDF uniformed personnel in the rank of Lt General and Major General are expected to donate P2 000, Brigadier P1 000 with Private the list with P50 per month just to mention few.

The monthly voluntary contributions by Prisons and Police were not yet clear but it is alleged the Botswana Police Savings and Loans Guarantee Scheme will contribute funds same like BDF. Efforts to reach Police Spokesperson Dipheko Motube were futile as his mobile phone was off.

In an interview with some members of the disciplined forces who are currently on standby duty to ensure that citizens adhere to the lockdown rules, they expressed discontent over plans. "It is very



**Lt Gen Segokgo**

painful that I am expected to contribute part of my hard earned salary to COVID-19 relief fund while I am also paying tax. BDF caught us off-guard on this decision and it will be bad if we don't donate as it will trigger form of ill-treatment for us in future," said one army officer.

Deputy Secretary General Botswana Federation of Public Private and Parastatal Sector Unions (BOFEPUSU) Kethalefile Motshegwa opined that the decision amounts to coercion of the soldiers. He said the fact that soldiers are not allowed to unionise makes them the most oppressed with no platform to register their grievances. He warned that failure to contribute will lead to victimization.

### Notorious Ntlole

The Ntlole increment posed threat towards dividing the public servants as well having impacts on the economy with opposition complaining that its funds came out of the initial budget agenda. For example, in late December last year the opposition threw out the P 1.1 billion request by the minister of Finance Dr Thapelo Matsheka to be used for paying public servants' salaries.

The rejection led by Leader of Opposition Dumelang Saleshando questioned the authority under which Dr Matsheka was requesting a supplementary budget of P757 million to fund the salary increases for disciplined forces.

Opposition MPs argued that ntlole salary increment was ill-advised as the ruling BDP was using it to canvass for votes from the disgruntled civil servants, disregarding its repercussions.



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<b>Account Type</b>	Corporate Current
<b>Bank Name</b>	Absa Bank Botswana Limited
<b>Branch Name</b>	Government Enclave Branch
<b>Branch Code</b>	290267
<b>Account Number</b>	1044199
<b>Swift Code</b>	BARCBWGX

# Release prisoners of conscience – AI

**A**UTHORITIES IN SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA must take urgent action to protect people in detention from COVID-19, including releasing prisoners of conscience, reviewing cases of pre-trial detention, and guaranteeing access to healthcare and sanitation products in all facilities, Amnesty International said today.

"As COVID-19 spreads across Sub-Saharan Africa, the severe overcrowding seen in many prisons and detention centres risks becoming a public health catastrophe, especially given the general lack of health care and sanitation," said Samira Daoud, Amnesty International's Director for West and Central Africa.

"In many countries across the region, a high proportion of those in detention are there just for peacefully exercising their human rights. As well as being the right thing to do, releasing prisoners of conscience immediately and unconditionally would free up space in these facilities and help to protect prisoners and staff from the virus."

Amnesty International is also calling authorities to consider early, temporary or conditional release of older prisoners and those with underlying medical conditions, as well as women and girls who are in detention with dependent children or who are pregnant.

Across Sub-Saharan Africa, pre-trial detention remains widely used excessively and as a tool of punishment. As at June 2019, there were 28,045 people detained in prisons in Madagascar which have a total national capacity of 10,360. More than 75 percent of the 977 boys detained were in pre-trial detention. Children and adults accused of petty crimes in Madagascar are equally forced to stay in

overcrowded and unhygienic prisons for longer than the legal term of pre-trial detention. In Senegal, before the release of detainees announced in March 2020, the country had 11,547 people held in 37 prisons with a total capacity of 4,224 detainees. Similarly, Burundi, whose prisons have a capacity of 4,194 people, had 11,464 detainees by December 2019, of which 45.5% were in pre-trial detention.

The latest data available from Makala Central Prison, in the DRC, shows that in 2016 it held 8,000 prisoners, more than five times its official capacity of 1,500. While about 700 prisoners were released countrywide in 2019, at least 120 detainees died from starvation, lack of access to clean water and proper healthcare in the same period.

"Even before the COVID-19 pandemic, prisons in DRC were deadly places. As well as exposing the appalling reality people deprived of their liberty face, the virus is exacerbating the risks that detainees face day to day," said Deprose Muchena, Amnesty International's Director for East and Southern Africa.

Journalists, human rights defenders, students and many countries in the region have a long record of arbitrarily detaining people for exercising or defending the rights to freedom of expression, peaceful assembly or association, which has contributed to overcrowding. Amnesty International has highlighted the plight of several prisoners of conscience, who are now faced with the real threat of COVID-19 in prison. These include:

The journalist Ignace Sossou in Benin was sentenced on 24 December 2019 to 18 months imprisonment for "harassment

through electronic means of communication" for tweeting remarks attributed to the public prosecutor, who spoke at a conference organized by the French Media Development Agency (CFI).

In Burundi, human rights defender Germain Rukuki was arrested for his work and is currently serving a 32-year prison sentence, while four journalists working for one of the country's few remaining independent media, Iwacu, were sentenced on 30 January 2020 to two and a half years in jail for attempting to investigate deadly clashes in the country.

Three students, Fomusoh Ivo Feh, Afuh Nivelle Nfor and Azah Levis Gob, were sentenced to 10 years in prison for "failing to report terrorism related information" after texting a joke on Boko Haram in Cameroon. Among people still detained for protesting peacefully either against the alleged irregularities during the 2018 presidential election or in favor of economic and social rights in English-speaking regions, there is notably the case of Mancho Bibixy Tse. He was arrested on 9 January 2017 and sentenced on 25 May 2018 by a military court to 15 years in prison for "terrorism", simply for having peacefully protested marginalization of English-speaking Cameroonians.

In Chad, Martin Inoua, the director of the privately-owned newspaper Salam Info, was sentenced to three years imprisonment in September 2019 for defamation, slanderous accusation and criminal conspiracy after publishing an article alleging sexual assault by a former minister.

"Amnesty International considers all these



Samira Daoud

people prisoners of conscience who have been imprisoned for exercising their human rights. They must be released immediately and unconditionally," said Deprose Muchena.

In Guinea, activists of the National Front for the Defense of the Constitution (FNDC) are arbitrarily detained for peacefully demonstrating against a constitutional reform project that could allow President Alpha Condé to run for a third term and the holding of the constitutional referendum of 22 March 2020. Ibrahim Abu Mbaruco, a journalist in Mozambique, was forcibly disappeared on 7 April 2020 after sending a text message to a colleague saying he was being harassed by soldiers near his house in Palma town, in Cabo Delgado Province in the North. Mozambican authorities are known for arbitrarily detaining journalists in prison, and subjecting them to torture and other ill-treatment.

"It is frightening that such a large number of people who peacefully exercised their human rights are now faced with the risk of contracting the deadly COVID-19 in prisons across Africa. They must all be released without further ado," said Deprose Muchena. In Somaliland, President Muse Bihi Abdi pardoned 574 prisoners on 1 April to ease overcrowding in the face of COVID-19 but failed to release freelance journalist Abdimalik Muse Oldon, who was arrested and arbitrarily detained a year ago for criticizing the president on Facebook.

## Political opponents and government critics

In Congo, four supporters of the opposition movement "Incarné L'Espoir", Parfait Mabiala, Franck Donald Saboukououlou Loubaki, Guil Miangué Ossebi and Meldry Rolf Dissavoulou, were accused of endangering state security and have been detained arbitrarily for several months. Political opponents and candidates for the 2016 presidential election, Jean-Marie Michel Mokoko and André Okombi Salissa, were condemned for endangering the internal security of the state in 2018 and have since been in arbitrary detention.

In Eritrea, anyone expressing a differing political view from that of the government is at risk of arrest; thousands of politicians, journalists, human rights defenders and even their family members have been detained for years with no record of their release.

While Ethiopia has released over 10,000 prisoners about to complete their sentences or serving a maximum of three-year jail-terms in the face of COVID-19, the government continues with the unjust detention of opposition politicians and journalists simply for

their views or for doing their work.

In Madagascar, Arphine Helisoa, publishing director of the 'Ny Valosoa' newspaper, was sent to pre-trial detention in the capital city's Antanimora prison on 4 April after being charged with spreading "fake news" and "incitement of hatred towards President Andry Rajoelina", for criticizing the president's handling of the national response to COVID-19.

In South Sudan, the National Security Service has arbitrarily detained hundreds, possibly thousands, of perceived government opponents, journalists and members of civil society without charge since the conflict began in 2013. Prisoners rely on their families for food, many of whom are now unable to do so because of COVID-19 restrictions. In Tanzania, human rights lawyer Tito Magoti and his co-accused Theodory Giyani have been in police detention since 20 December 2019, the court adjourning their trial for the ninth time on 15 April 2020. In Uganda, military police arrested writer and law student Kakwenza Rukira on 13 April 2020 over his book "Greedy Barbarians", which criticizes the country's first family. He is yet to be charged.

"The spread of COVID-19 is a public health concern even in prisons and other detention facilities. Reducing the number of people in detention should be an integral and urgent part of state responses to COVID-19, which must begin by immediately and unconditionally releasing all those who shouldn't be incarcerated in the first place," said Samira Daoud.

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## Nchalupi creates a COVID-19 digital permit

**O**RARILE NCHALUPI, A 23-YEAR OLD BA (Hons) in Professional Design 3rd year student at Limkokwing has developed a Covid-19 Digital Permit that one can apply for, from the comfort of their home.

Oarabile said he was motivated by the rising cases of Covid-19 infections globally and locally to design a digital permit that will respond effectively to the issue of social distancing, time management and strategic monitoring. "I had realized that our government was still using the traditional method of authorizing permits to citizen's logistics, I thought of designing a PDF Digital permit which consists of design security features as well as an authorization security code. I also realized that many people do not afford internet at homes and I intended to take advantage of social media especially WhatsApp which is the most affordable and tested this process through WhatsApp and it worked well, meaning that anyone who has subscribed for WhatsApp can have access to the service," he said.

Oarabile said he used Adobe Illustrator CS6 to make the PDF Digital Permit and used more than 10 security features that are of the same standard as a bank note to restrict duplication in case anyone tries to copy it illegally. "I made this permit ready for a software and app which can later be



Nchalupi

developed and be used by administrators who issue out the permits. For now, I have created a second option that instead of the software, other students can volunteer to edit this permit and submit to people via WhatsApp for a limited number of people in a district e.g hundred people daily in each district. Instead of people going to crowd at the district council they can receive this permit in their smartphones via app," he said. Limkokwing Senior Faculty Manager for Design Innovation Faculty Otsile Molome applauded students for innovative initiatives and appealed to Government to recognize and embrace such talents. He concluded by saying that they are exploring ways in which they can assist students to finalize their design and bring it to life for the benefit of the nation at large.

## COVID-19: resumption of online contractor registration services

**T**HE PUBLIC PROCUREMENT AND Asset Disposal Board (PPADB) informs the public that the service for online contractor registration applications has resumed except applications that requiring site visit/ inspection

The above service is offered in addition, to evaluation, adjudication and award of tenders in cases of emergencies like those intended to address the COVID-19.

Due to the ongoing Extreme Social Distancing (Lock down), other services like Capacity Building are still suspended until further notice.

Contractors are encouraged to pay online using the Integrated Procurement Management System (IPMS) portal or at Botswana Post offices that are still operational.

For clarification or requests for assistance on online payments and online contractor registration, the public or relevant stakeholders should contact the Contractor Registration Unit (CRU) Administrators, Assessors and Adjudicators at the following:

Contractor Registration:  
Email: CRU@ppadb.co.bw  
CRU Receptionists  
Mobile 1: 76887058  
Mobile 2: 76887053  
Service Desk:  
Email: servicedesk@ppadb.co.bw  
Mobile 1: 76878905  
Mobile 2: 76887054

In order to facilitate more free flow of information regarding PPADB services



Elijah T. Motshedi, Executive Chairperson at PPADB

during the extreme social distancing, the public can also contact the following for assistance in accordance with the issue at hand:

Divisional Manager Supplies: 71845210  
Divisional Manager Services: 74550668  
Divisional Manager Works:  
71825113/73825113  
Contractor Registration Manager:  
74525317  
Board Secretary: 72307230  
Public Relations and Education Manager:  
73991127.

Thank you,  
Yours faithfully,

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Public Relations and Education Manager



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# Sekwakwa: villain or victim?

**STAFF WRITERS**

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**T**WO CONTRADICTORY SAVINGGRAMS from the Ministry of Health & Wellness and the Covid-19 Response Team are said to best depict a poor working relationship at government enclave, which saw Permanent Secretary Solomon Sekwakwa and his deputy fired on Tuesday.

When Sekwakwa was moved from the Ministry of Finance and Development Planning to that of Health and Wellness as Permanent Secretary, those who have worked with him closely started to pen down his public service obituary. Not because of incompetence but due to his stance when it comes to governance matters and that because he is man who believes in facts and research based decisions. "You must remember that most to the guys who worked at MFDPA are very principled and don't just accept orders from politicians and he is in the same mold as Festus Mogae during the NDP loans and then Serwalo Tumelo with the then Vice president Ian Khama," revealed a close associate of Sekwakwa.

Mogae in 1992 refused to cancel outstanding loans by some cabinet ministers and MPs to National Development Bank and Tumelo defied Khama by refusing to appoint Joshua Galeforolwe as PEEPA Chief Executive Officer.

On Tuesday evening President Mokgweetsi Masisi fired Sekwakwa and his deputy Dr Morrison Senvula with immediate effect without providing reasons. Highly placed sources at the government enclave revealed that Sekwakwa and Dr Senvula didn't agree with the number of things and approach taken by the COVID 19 Coordination Team and stood their ground leading to President Masisi dismissing them on Tuesday night.

Sekwakwa refused to comment on his dismissal. Since the outbreak of Covid-19 and the appointment of COVID-19 Coordination Team led by Dr Kereng Masupu, the exit door for Sekwakwa was slowly opening as he didn't agree with some of the procurement decision taken by the team. This led to the team reporting him to President Mokgweetsi Masisi that he is uncooperative and doesn't want to take instructions from the coordination team.

Things came to a public spectacle in March this year when Sekwakwa withdraw a savingram written by the Director of Public Health Dr Malaki Tshipiyagae regarding the mandatory quarantine for all those who came from countries affected by covid-19. The no-nonsense Sekwakwa wrote a savingram the following day withdrawing the savingram regarding the mandatory quarantine as he felt he was not consulted as Permanent Secretary in the ministry. "It was supposed to have been Dr Tshipiyagae

- Clashed with Covid-19 Task Team, he was no pushover
- Questioned some procurement of medical equipment
- 'He had a casual approach to work, like a village clown' - co-worker
- 'At MoHW you cannot play dice with lives, people die' - colleague



Sekwakwa

to withdraw the savingram not Sekwakwa because as it stands now it is clear that there is disharmony at the MoHW," revealed a source.

Economist by training and profession Sekwakwa is alleged to have had another showdown with health officials in his ministry regarding the procurement of the rapid test kits from a certain company. "He questioned the price of the kits and why that company was chosen and whether there are no any other companies that supply the kits," revealed inside source, indicating that Sekwakwa even refused to sign for procurement of the kits even after the instruction from the Office of the President citing lack of proper procurement procedures.

The outspoken Sekwakwa who has worked for Ministry of Finance since 1998 is said to have vowed that he is not going to facilitate for corruption practices to manifest before his eyes. The conservative Economist who holds Masters of Arts in Development Economics, Sekwakwa shocked many when he informed the Public Accounts Committee that they have long warned government about looting of the special funds. Appearing before the PAC in 2018, Sekwakwa revealed that they have long advised cabinet to move the special funds to Bank of Botswana. "If cabinet

refuses to heed to our first request we will then move to the second stage of checking how the funds are used and whether they are used for the intended purpose. If it is not the case, we will raise the red flag," he informed the PAC.

Sekwakwa started his working career as an Industrial Planner and has held a number of senior positions since he joined the civil service in 1979. In 1998 joined the Ministry of Finance and Development Planning as Principal Economist Thereafter, he assumed various senior roles at the ministry, culminating in his appointment as Secretary: Development and Budget Division in January 2007.

**Colleague disagrees**

Not everybody believes Sekwakwa was some kind of a hero. Immediately after his dismissal some of his subordinates at MoHW took to social media to dispel the myth that he was a principled man, who played by the book.

One of them (names withheld) wrote that, having worked under Sekwakwa for almost 10 years at the Ministry of Finance s/he observed traits that made his leadership deficient. S/he cited poor listening skills, where Sekwakwa would not allow a subordinate to finish a sentence before he interjected, thus denying himself the benefit

of professional advice.

The former PS is also accused of indecisiveness. "When seeking guidance from him you came back even more confused not knowing what you are supposed to do. Later you will be told you did not do as you were told when in fact you were told nothing and no decision or guidance was provided."

Further, the colleague accused Sekwakwa of being argumentative, very casual in his approach and behaving more like a 'village clown'. S/he cites the example of Sekwakwa's withdrawal of the decision by Director of Health Services that all those coming from the UK must go through a 14 day mandatory quarantine. "It is clearly a sign of a leader who does not listen to professional advice and indecision. Dealing with corona virus which is a matter of life and death for people, economy and just our way of life, has exposed and magnified this leadership weaknesses. Now as a nation we are grappling with growing cases of corona virus, most of which are imported from the UK. Other cases from Thailand and South Africa are not as troublesome. Keeping him longer would have delayed the response to covid 19 which would keep us longer in lockdown with more resources diverted from their original intention," the former colleague argues, firmly.

# Cops decry forced deductions

- BPS uses officers' savings to fight COVID-19

**JOSEPH KGAMANYANE**

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**P**OLICE COMMISSIONER, KEABETSE Makgophe has been heavily criticised by junior officers following an announcement that the Botswana Police Service (BPS) will use part of their savings to contribute towards the Covid-19 relief fund.

It emerged this week that Botswana Police Service (BPS) and the Botswana Defence Force (BDF) ordered their members to contribute towards the fund, which government will use to assist mitigate the impact of Covid-19. This publication has learnt that BPS has reportedly set itself a target to contribute a total of P10 million towards the fund.

A source within the police service revealed that they were this week instructed to sign forms which authorizes for part of their individual savings to be used for contribution towards the relief fund. The source said the amount which differs according to police ranks will be deducted from their Saving and Loan Guarantee Scheme.

The higher the rank the higher the deduction. Constables will reportedly contribute P550, Sergeant P1050, Sub Inspector P1500, Inspector P2000, Assistant Superintendent P2500, Superintendent P3000 and Senior Superintendent P3500. The Police Commissioner himself has reportedly pledged to contribute P6000.

Aggrieved members of the police service complain that there was no proper consultation prior to the urgent requests. In one of the police stations, an officer indicated that they were only told about the request a day after Makgophe had met with their superiors. "The following morning after the commissioner had gone they brought forms for us to sign and we were told that they should be signed with immediate effect."

"It appears this announcement comes to us when the commissioner has already decided on how we are going to contribute, they do not care if we agree or not, all they want is to give the President 10 million Pula," a frustrated officer complained.

He lamented that even though they are not in agreement with the said request there



Makgophe

is however nothing that they can do to stop this from happening. The officers fears to be victimized should they not accede to sign the said forms. The victimization they highlight might come in terms of being denied promotions and opportunity to further studies.

This is not for the first time that police officers expressed their grievances against Makgophe especially with regards to their benefits. The officers have previously complained that the commissioner ceased their housing and upkeep allowance without proper convincing reasons. "That complain has fallen to deaf ears because its almost four years now and we are still not receiving such allowances," one officer complained.

In 2015 Makgophe wrote to his policing staff informing them that police officers across all ranks do not qualify for the said allowance by virtue of already enjoying free housing. The officers argues that the allowance was meant for all public servants with members of the police service included. "It was never said that the allowance was only for officers who are not accommodated by government. That the allowance was initially introduced as a Recession Relief Allowance and it is supposed be enjoyed by all civil servants who are below the E2 scale," they pointed.

While the officers appreciate the recent review of their salaries there are some who are still not happy that little is being done with regard to their general welfare and other concerns. This include issues such as lack of accommodation as the officers complain that they are still forced to share accommodation.

BPS Spokesperson Assistant Commissioner Dipheko Motube has refused to comment on the matter noting that he cannot discuss police monetary issues with the media. "Those are internal matters so I cannot discuss them with you," Motube said, briefly.

# Unions reject 6%, 10% freeze

**FROM PAGE 1**

(6CTU), Tobokani Rari. In fact, DPSM has responded to the letter written by the six trade unions, where they outline government's reason for deferring payment of salary increments that was scheduled to be effected on April 01, 2020. The Patriot on Sunday is in possession of correspondence between the parties on this matter, with the last DPSM letter signed by Mosalakatane dated 24 April 2020 (Friday). In the letter Mosalakatane conceded that they did not engage the trade unions timeously. "We humbly apologise for this communication gap though it was due to circumstances beyond our control," she wrote.

By Friday, five of sixteen local authorities (District Councils) and three out of twelve landboards had already effected payment of salaries with the agreed increases as earlier advised by Mosalakatane through a Memo at the beginning of April. In her letter on Friday she also admitted that disparities in salaries caused by this development will cause differences in pension benefits due to upward adjustment of salaries by 6 and 10%. "We have been assured that at the end of the deferralment period, pension contribution for each employee will be computed and credited as lump sum to individual pension accounts," she said.

The unions' bone of contention is that government has not furnished them with sufficient evidence to convince them that indeed there are no funds to pay. Therefore, the six trade unions have scheduled a meeting with the employer party-DPSM, tomorrow (Monday, April 27th 2020) where government has been requested to present concrete evidence about the effects of Covid-19 on the budget. The unions, will in turn, present their own demands before they agree to accept the deferralment of salary increases for six months, which ironically government has already implemented.

One of the major demands by the trade unions is that government must commit to cover tax liabilities that will arise from salary increase being paid retrospectively after six months. "When the arrears are paid after six months it is a given that it will be a substantial amount of money that will push salaries into the tax bracket. Consequently, BURS will penalise civil servants for such amounts that shouldnt have ordinarily attracted tax deductions," a source explained the source of complaints from the unions.

During the Saturday morning briefing, widely covered on national television and social media platforms of all mainstream media, Morwaeng was adamant that government is negotiating in good faith with the trade unions. He, however, gave away the attitude and approach by government when he responded in vernacular that "lenyalo ga le rerelwe ruri". He was responding to a question why he was addressing the nation on an issue that they are yet to conclude with the trade unions, and what government will do if civil servants reject the deferralment he was proposing. After a mind boggling, lengthy and rather irrelevant analogy about a death of a family member (a mother), Morwaeng concluded, again in vernacular; "ga re kake ra lesa mmaarona a bolla mo ntlung re sa mo hitlhe". In short, Morwaeng was telling the nation that government will disregard the position of trade unions, should they not agree with the proposal to suspend salary increases.

The unions are unhappy with how Morwaeng is handling the issue because they feel that he is undermining all the tenets of collective bargaining in good faith. Rari declined to comment on the issue after the Morwaeng briefing. "As far as we are concerned we are meeting DPSM on Monday," he said briefly, declining to confirm or deny if indeed they have rejected government proposal and made some demands on DPSM.

# Govt buys P2.4 billion Covid19 supplies

- Budget refocused, no salary hike for public servants
- COVID-19 causing damage on Govt coffers, economy

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**T**HE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND Economic Development Dr Thapelo Matsheka has said government of Botswana through Ministry of Health and Wellness has turned to China to procure medical supplies in the fight against COVID-19 worth P 2.4 billion and expected to arrive in short period.

Dr Matsheka made the revelations on Friday afternoon while briefing the media he insisted that Botswana and China enjoy good relations of health ties hence the reason for courting Chinese.

"The process of buying this medical supplies has been triggered by the danger that coronavirus poses to our country's exposed health systems due to the nature of the disease. The medical supplies worth P 2.4 billion and we are expecting them to arrive anytime soon," Matsheka said. He went on to buttress that COVID-19 emergency has forced government to change its plans in terms of allocating the 2020\ 21 financial budget hence cancelling some of the proposed plans.

The inconvenience he said, resulted in government chopping proposed salary increment of 10% and 6% percent for the public servants adding that perks alone will need a budget P 1.4 billion.



Donations from the Jack Ma foundation

[PIC:PRESSPHOTO]

Government in return received harsh backlash from Labour trade unions following its decision to defer the agreed salary perks hence eroding what was promising relations between the two.

"We refocused a lot of budget proposals by not only halting salary increment for civil servants but we cancelled other things to divert funds to coronavirus. We will not be able to pay salary increment to civil servants in any near future if this situation still persists," minister buttressed.

Moreover, he elaborated that the country's

economy is poised for enduring tough conditions due to COVID-19 stating that Botswana's economy will shrink by 13% thus need for refocusing.

"It was anticipated that that the world economy will grow by 3% instead it will diminish by 3%. Our local economy was forecasted to grow by 4% and will shrink by 13%. Also, government has anticipated to have P 62.4 billion but instead government will have P 48 billion," he bemoaned.

Part of the budget amounting to P 26 million has also been allocated for hiring

social workers engaged in doing assessment for COVID-19 food basket scheme while P 140 million has been allocated for the April food basket scheme, Matsheka underlined saying it might gobble more.

He revealed that Botswana has only P68.9 billion in foreign reserves but only P 20.1 billion belongs to government and therefore is not enough to sustain should the virus spread wide.

Jack Ma donations Prior, Chinese E-Commerce tycoon and founder of Alibaba Jack Ma donated twice to Botswana twice medical items that includes of 20 000 tests kits, 100 000 masks and 1 000 protective suits.

The medical consignments were also donated by Jack Ma foundation to all 54 African states and were disseminated through African Union (AU) from Addis Ababa, Ethiopia to rest of continent.

"We cannot ignore the potential risk to Africa and assume this continent of 1.3 billion people will blissfully escape the crisis. The world cannot afford the unthinkable consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic in Africa," Jack Ma said quoted in Chinese Embassy in Botswana website.

The Minister of Health and Wellness Dr Lemogang Kwape have since said the medical supplies are effectively working in fighting COVID-19 as some probed the quality of Ma's donations kits.

# Botswana's COVID-19 Dashboard



## Visualisation, Monitoring, and Modelling the Spread of the COVID-19 Pandemic in Botswana

Through strong scientific partnerships with South Africa's iThemba Laboratory for Accelerator Based Sciences (iThemba LABS) and the School of Physics at the University of the Witwatersrand (WITS), Botswana International University of Science and Technology (BIUST) has embarked on a project for visualising, monitoring, and modelling the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic in Botswana.

The Botswana dashboard is managed by Otsile Tikologo, an MSc student who has been trained at iThemba LABS in the application of Monte Carlo methods for designing biological shielding for nuclear particles and radiation. Tikologo is also heavily involved in training his counterparts in Namibia, Zimbabwe, and Mozambique to setup and manage their own COVID-19 dashboards.

"We are proud of the fact that our dashboard has been designated as the official dashboard for the COVID-19 Presidential Task Force of the Republic of Botswana," says Professor Gregory Hillhouse, Head of the Department of Physics and Astronomy at BIUST. "In addition to visualisation aspects, we are working closely with iThemba LABS and Wits to use the data for model predictions that will inform policy and decision makers in Botswana."

The nature of the collaborative COVID-19 project is interdisciplinary, where medical data and expertise need to be combined with a wealth of methodologies and algorithms used in advanced analytics, Big Data and Data Science.

Assumptions used in the project revolve around our current level of understanding of advanced analytics driven by Data Science and other disciplines. Both main-stream statistical frameworks, frequentist and Bayesian are an underlying assumption to model development. Input from the different medical, virology and custodians of static data pertaining to populations, social and medical vulnerabilities, access to medical infrastructure, prevalence of various relevant pre-existing conditions are also underlying assumptions.

"The project encapsulates methodologies in Data Science and Artificial Intelligence that effectively combine medical and other data to provide a comprehensive synthetic view of the predictive landscape," says Professor Bruce Mellado of Wits University and iThemba LABS.

The chief goal of the project is to control the number of people infected, hospitalisations, ICU admissions and mortality. These outcomes are predicted as a function of non-pharmaceutical interventions in the post-lockdown period to allow for the economy to reactivate.

Analytical and predictive tools developed by these projections will assist policy makers to enact rules and regulations with which to revive economic activity while preventing a massive outbreak of the virus. This is

essential to alleviate the economic impact of the virus in African countries, in particular to slow down the rate of job losses.

The above foray into the COVID-19 project has emerged as a natural extension to existing collaborative links between BIUST, iThemba LABS, and Wits University, through official Memoranda of Understanding in the areas of Big Data, Nuclear Physics, Radiochemistry, Collider Physics, and Materials Science. One of the successes of this collaboration includes the first Botswana student, Gaogalalwe Mokgatitwane [Supervisors: Dr. Kureba (BIUST), Prof. Mellado (Wits and iThemba LABS)] to complete an MSc research project, and who is currently pursuing a PhD, at the European Organisation for Nuclear Research (CERN) which operates the largest and most advanced particle physics laboratory in the world.

"It is gratifying to see that the transferable Physics skills that I acquired during my MSc project at CERN can be applied to develop predictive models for informing the health and economic sectors of countries," says Mokgatitwane, whose PhD degree at Wits focusses on employing sophisticated data analysis frameworks together with the state-of-the-art Artificial Intelligence techniques to search for new exotic particles from huge amounts of data recorded by the ATLAS detector at the Large Hadron Collider facility at CERN.

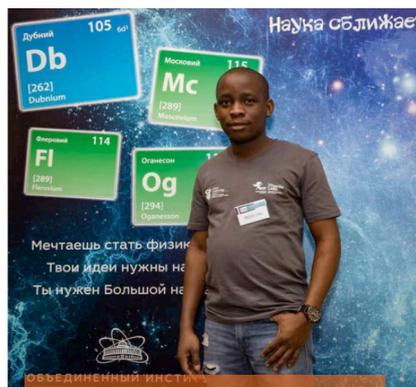
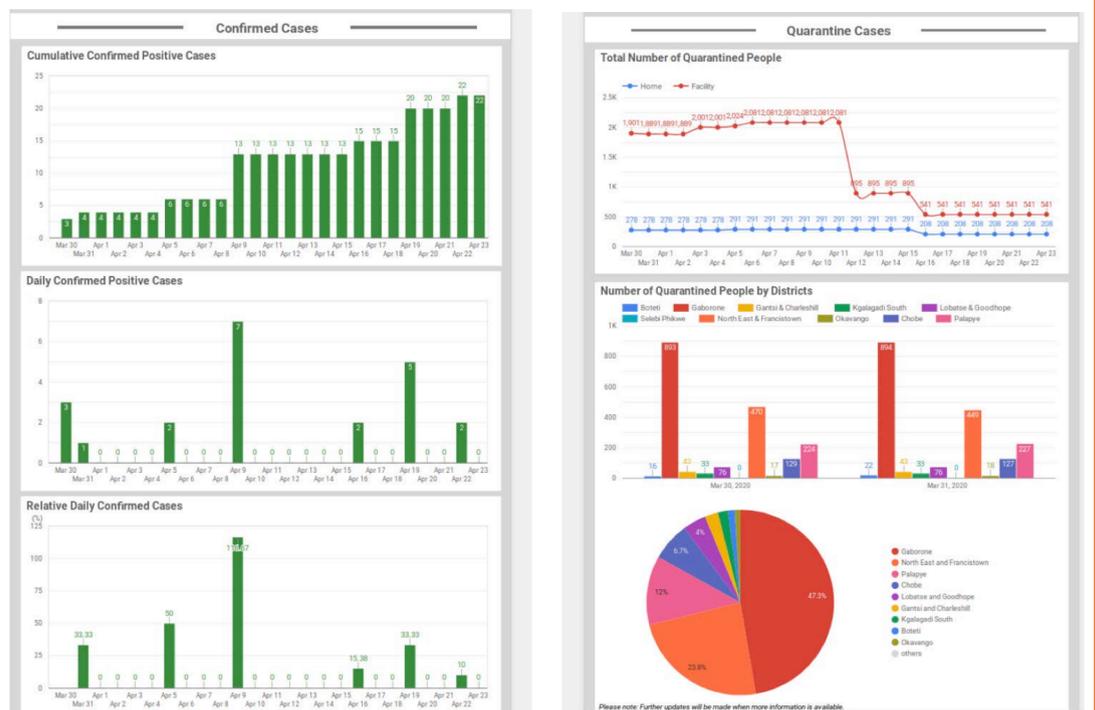
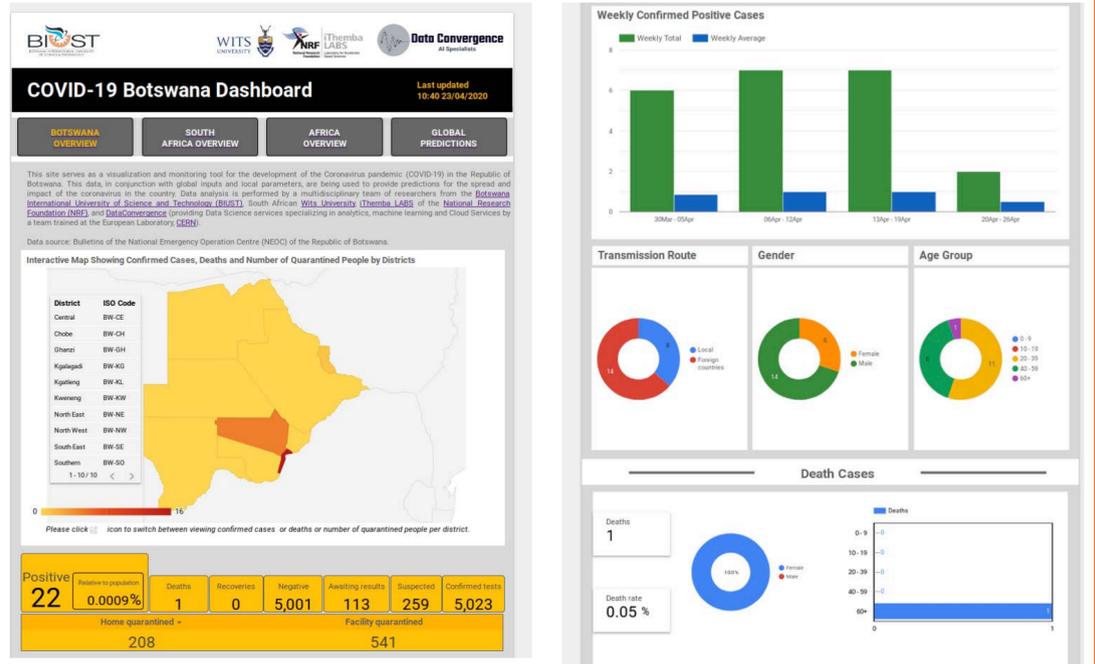
A further highlight of the collaboration with iThemba LABS is that Adolf Motetshwane [Supervisors: Prof. Hillhouse (BIUST), Dr. Steyn (iThemba LABS)] is the first Botswana student to complete an MSc degree using the proton beams at iThemba LABS to study production yields of radioisotopes for medical applications.

"The importance of accurate and speedy testing in stopping COVID-19 virus cannot be overstated. Apparently one of the most reliable and widely used laboratory methods for testing for COVID-19 virus is a nuclear-derived technique called REAL-TIME REVERSE TRANSCRIPTION-POLYMERASE CHAIN REACTION (RT-PCR) and many countries are working with the International Atomic Energy Agency to use this technique. With my Nuclear Physics background I am prepared to collaborate with researchers from other fields, especially Biological and Chemical Sciences and start the ball rolling for applying this technique locally," says Adolf Motetshwane who is currently working on his PhD project at iThemba LABS.

<https://www.biust.ac.bw/>

<https://www.wits.ac.za/covid19/covid19-news/latest/wits-covid-19-dashboard-gets-grant-award-from-the-ieee.html>

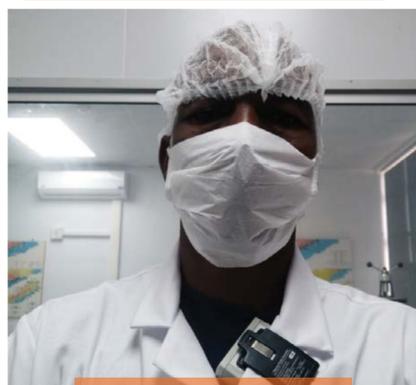
## Snapshots of the BIUST COVID-19 Visualisation Dashboard



Otsile Tikologo, manager of the BIUST COVID-19 Dashboard



Professor Gregory Hillhouse (left) and Professor Bruce Mellado (right)



Adolf Motetshwane



Gaogalalwe Mokgatitwane



# The RAPULA OKAILE Interrogation

PART:  
1

Embattled Capital Management Botswana (CMB) chief executive officer, Rapula Okaile, is a man 'living on borrowed times' as the noose is tightening around him over the embezzlement of around P500 million siphoned from Botswana Public Officers Pension Fund (BPOPF), through a local private equity partnership - the Botswana Opportunities Partnership (BOP). In this SERIES OF PAPERS, **The Patriot on Sunday** reproduces transcripts verbatim of Okaile's interrogation before the Registrar & Master of the High Court where he was hauled over hot coals by Advocates representing creditors in the liquidation process of CMB.

Due to the COVID -19 pandemic, the CMB Liquidation Interrogation proceedings have since been adjourned to July 2020 when the BPOPF Principal Officer is scheduled to take the stand. [MORNING SESSION: Friday 16 August 2019]

**Mr Mgadla: Mr. Okaile, could you please turn to page 242 of the bank statement**

Mr. Okaile: Yes.

**Mr. Mgadla: Yes. You see on 14th September 2016 an amount of P124,000,000.00 was credited to CMB F1 and it was referenced Kawena Holdings Fund. Could you explain what that transaction was?**

Mr. Okaile: This is the transaction that ... emanating from the Cash Management Agreement. Kawena received its money, which is P124,000,000.00 and directed it to be deposited into CMB Fund1 in accordance with the Cash Management Agreement. So that was accepted, that was receipt of the balance of the purchase price which came from BOP

**Mr. Mgadla: Purchase price.**

Mr. Okaile: Yes

**Mr. Mgadla : I understand a drawdown notice of P150,000,000.00 was issued on 13th June 2016.**

Mr. Okaile: Yes

**Mr. Mgadla: Could you explain what the balance of the amount, what happened to that amount, BWP24 odd million**

Mr. Okaile: I beg your pardon

**Mr. Mgadla: Can you please explain what the difference between 150 and 124million, it's a difference of over a million Pula? Do you know what happened to that amount of money?**

Why is it not credited as P150,000,000.00, it is credited as P124,000,000.00

Mr. Okaile: Because the balance to that was the money that Clem used to buy out the other shareholders in South Africa and then the P124,000,000.00 came to CMB Fund1 in accordance with the Agreement.

It's just like when I am buying something from you, you tell me to say pay this person, you cannot come back to me to say now I did not get the money. Because you would have directed it to go there.

**Mr. Mgadla: Okay.**

If you go down to 27th September 2016. An amount was paid to one Wayne ... do you see it?

Mr. Okaile: Yes

**Mr. Mgadla: An amount of P75,000.00**

Mr. Okaile: Yes

**Mr. Mgadla: And on the 3rd October, an amount, the same amount to Adam Robert Hudson. Could you please explain who these people are and why they were paid this amount of money from the Kawena funds?**

Mr. Okaile: I want to probably take all the transactions at once to say to you that in accordance with the agreement, the agreement at 4.1.2.3 says "ensuring that all surplus are invested in a manner as may be determined by the company at its sole discretion."

So, in accordance with this and the source documents, that ... provide because we haven't had access to the office for the last 2 years, all these transactions were done in accordance with the Cash Management Agreement and the source document will be made available

**Mr. Mgadla: So, the source documents will explain why those individuals were paid.**

Mr. Okaile: Exactly

**Mr. Mgadla: And why were they paid? What was the purpose of this payment? Because this payment happens on various ... not just the dates that I have showed you. It is a consistent amount**

Mr. Okaile: Like I am saying, there should be information pertaining to that, which I don't have right now, but that information can be provided. I said we have not been in the office for the past 2 years

**Mr. Mgadla: You can't recollect or?**

Mr. Okaile: Definitely

**Mr. Mgadla: If you go down to 4th October and amount of P33,000,000.00 was credited to the account and is reference Manor Squad services. Could you explain to me why funds of Kawena were used to purchase Manor Squad Services, could you explain the transaction.**

Mr. Okaile: That would be an agreement between Kawena and CMB Fund1 to invest in Manor Squad and those source documents will be provided.

Mr. Mgadla: I am just a bit confused because I thought the whole purpose of the investment was to invest in Sherewa Investments or and Kawena South Africa. It seems like you were investing on behalf of Kawena

Mr. Okaile: I have just read the extract here to say, "in the sole discretion of the company". So, I think this was done in accordance with the Cash Management Agreement.

**Mr. Mgadla: Okay, could you go to page 241.**

Mr. Okaile: Yes.

**Mr. Mgadla: Go to 26th October, of 2016 and as well as the 4th November 2016.**

Could you please explain that transaction? It is reference "Cell City Loan".

Mr. Okaile: Mr. Mgadla it will still go the same to say this is the investments that were done on behalf of Kawena at the sole discretion of the company and if the source documents are required, I cannot provide now because I had ... the past 2 years that I was not in the office. But remember that at this point that we are talking about, we are not talking about Botswana Public Officers Pension Fund funds, we are talking about Kawena funds.

So, the restriction in terms of the documents provision should also be seeing that we are talking about Kawena funds not BPOPF funds. BPOPF funds have been catered for. I am reminding you

**Mr. Mgadla: Okay please turn to page 238**

Mr. Okaile: 138?

**Mr. Mgadla: 238**

Mr. Okaile: Okay.

**Mr. Mgadla : Go to 6th February 2017.**

Mr. Okaile: Yes

**Mr. Mgadla: Could you please explain that transaction? What is Msight and who are the shareholders of Msight?**

Mr. Okaile: It would seem like Mr. Mgadla I will be giving you the same answer because even up to now, I would have to remind myself who are the directors of Msight, the source document to Msight, so in actual fact, the same answer will go, I have to find the source documents

**Mr. Mgadla: Which you can provide?**

Mr. Okaile: And I am saying to you, you should remember that in accordance with the agreement and we are talking about the Kawena funds at this point, not the BPOPF.

**Mr. Mgadla: Please turn to page 236**

Mr. Okaile: 236?

**Mr. Mgadla: Yes. Go to 29th March 2017.**

Mr. Okaile: 29th March 2017.

**Mr. Mgadla: Could you please explain that transaction?**

Mr. Okaile: It would still go the same Mr. Mgadla that this is the transaction that happened some 2 years back, I would have to remind myself through ...

**Mr. Mgadla: Is not the 1% that you paid towards the investments in BOP?**

Mr. Okaile: Like I am saying that would be ...

**Mr. Mgadla: Because it seems that it was paid out of Kawena funds instead of your own funds**

Mr. Okaile: Instead of ...

**Mr. Mgadla: CMB's funds**

Mr. Okaile: And I would like to know what would be the problem with that Mr. Mgadla

**Mr. Mgadla: Paying out of Kawena funds?**

Mr. Okaile: Because if there is a clause here that says at the sole discretion of the company, and then Kawena funds maybe CMB Fund1 has agreed with Kawena that they can use those funds to do that, then what would be the problem?

Assistant Master I think let's restrict this. He is asking you questions, you answer them. So, try and avoid asking him

Mr. Okaile Okay

Assistant Master Just answer the question, whether you know, you don't know, you need time, lets avoid a dialogue here. Okay

Mr. Okaile It will still go the same Mr. Mgadla that there will be an agreement that money can be paid out of Kawena, because that is the agreement between CMB Fund1, Kawena and CMB. Which does not include



Okaile

BPOPF

Mr. Mgadla: Okay and on 5th April 2017, on the same page. What is the relationship between Mr. Siqola and the Kawena transaction?

**Master: Say again please**

**Mr. Mgadla : Sikhokokhela**

Mr. Okaile : Sikhokokhela

**Mr. Mgadla: Apparently, you know him.**

Mr. Okaile: You can call him Sikho, that's how they call him. Like we said earlier on, we had what we call agents looking for investments on our behalf

**Mr. Mgadla: Oh, so he was an agent?**

Mr. Okaile: Yes.

**Mr. Mgadla: And do you have any documents?**

Mr. Okaile: Like I said it could be provided because I don't have access to the ...

**Mr. Mgadla: Do you know what he was acting for, the Mphoko, to what particular transaction? An agent of what transaction?**

Mr. Okaile : I would not remember from the top of my head

**Mr. Mgadla: Then on 12th April same page, Mr. Marsland received P6,000,000.00. Do you have any knowledge of this transaction and why he received that amount of money?**

Mr. Okaile: Still goes to say that there would be documents pertaining to that. So

**Mr. Mgadla: Do you have those documents in your possession?**

Mr. Okaile: I wouldn't. Like I said earlier on, the office was taken from us, though I heard your colleague saying earlier on that it was abandoned. But the office was taken away from us with the documents, so we still have to find those documents.

**Mr. Mgadla: Okay go to page 230**

Mr. Okaile: Yes.

**Mr. Mgadla: I see an amount on 20th April 017 an amount P2,7million was paid to you. Could you explain that transaction**

Mr. Okaile: I wouldn't be able to explain it off the top of my head, like I said

**Mr. Mgadla: It was paid to your personal account?**

Mr. Okaile: I know, I am still answering to that. That it was paid to my personal account because all these transactions what happened was that we were doing the investments on behalf of either Kawena, Agile, or whatever was happening. So, we have to look at those documents for me to be able to give you the proper answer. If I have to assist this session.

Mr. Mgadla: So, you do not remember an amount of 2million being transferred to...

Mr. Okaile: I remember the amount, but I am saying

**Mr. Mgadla: What for?**

Mr. Okaile: ... that I would have to have the documents to speak to them

**Mr. Mgadla: You don't have any source documents bank statements anything that can show**

Mr. Okaile: The problem with having just a bank statement is that we just see entries. So, I have to have the source documents that triggered this transaction. And I have them from the documents that were in the office.

This is why I said to you Mr. Mgadla most of or all of the transactions in this statement it will be helpful to this gathering for me to have all the documents the source documents so that I can explain to you what happened and what took place.

**Mr. Mgadla: Okay, on the same page on 20th April an amount of BWP75,000 was paid to Mr. Sadique Kebonang as well as an amount of BWP250,000.00 on the same page, 234, you see on 20th April 2017.**

Mr. Okaile: Yes

**Mr. Mgadla: Could you explain those transactions?**

Mr. Okaile: I would still have to look at the source documents because some of these transactions like I explained earlier on, my duty was to manage the assets on behalf of [audio skips] and BPOPF. There was somebody dealing with the financials directly. And for those things to happen we had to produce some documents for that to base. So, from the top of my head it would be very very unfair for me to be able to talk to the transactions which I haven't had possession of for the past 2 years.

**Assistant Master: I think it is on record that, from Sadique Kebonang's evidence that the money was used for the chairman's contribution when the current president was running for Chairmanship of the ... would you like to comment on that?**

Mr. Okaile: Yes

**Assistant Master : The 75,000.00 and the 250,000.00 he says this was received by him as a contribution to the chairman's campaign.**

Mr. Okaile: Madam Master I know of a meeting that Mr Lekalake, who was here yesterday, Mr Sadique Kebonang and Tim Marsland had with the then V.P who is the now chairman, who is the now Head of State for this Country.

So, I would think that what emanated from that meeting will be the contribution that they made. [audio skips] involved to the nitty gritty of how it happened.

**Assistant Master: Was this money part of Kawena's investment?**

Mr. Okaile: Ma?

**Assistant Master: This 75,000.00 and 250,000 was that part of the money from Kawena?**

Mr. Okaile: I wouldn't say so Madam Master, because most of this we need to look at closely to this statement because it is not only the 124million that is being talked about here. There are some funds that are coming into CMB Fund1 and being paid out and sort of the cash management issues. So I wouldn't straightly say to you it was part of the Kawena money because there was some transactions that was coming

in for instance there was some from, if I read well from the investment of what do you call this, from the interest from BIFM something like that, so I wouldn't say for a fact that it came from the Kawena investment.

**Mr. Mgadla: Okay, on the same page can you go to 5th May 2017. This is in relation to the Fleming Asset transaction.**

Mr. Okaile: Yes

**Mr. Mgadla: I understand that Mr. Lekalake said that CMA purchased Fleming.**

Mr. Okaile: Yes.

**Mr. Mgadla: Is that correct?**

Mr. Okaile: Yes sir.

**Mr. Mgadla: How is it that funds from Kawena were used to purchase Fleming Asset Management?**

Mr. Okaile: Yes, there must have been an agreement between Kawena and CMA for them to do that transaction.

And to still repeat, to be on record, my thinking was that, like this was doing were following the trace of the money for BPOPF. Here we are talking about Kawena money, which should be explained by Kawena and in relation to what they want and didn't want.

**Mr. Mgadla: Do you have the agreement, or do you have knowledge of the agreement between CMA and Kawena?**

Mr. Okaile: I can't recollect for now, but I'm saying the documents could be produced at a time that they can be obtained because like I am saying, I keep on repeating this and I don't have to repeat it again, I am sure you heard me.

**Mr. Mgadla: Okay. And the first page 232, 17th May. I see that you were paid an amount of P5,000,000.00. Could you please explain that? And what the purpose of that transaction was for?**

Mr. Okaile: Like I said would a thorough look at this statement because this not only funds from Kawena. From my recollections is that even the proceeds that might have [audio skips] into our hands would go into CMB Fund1

**Mr. Mgadla : But surely P5,000,000.00 is a lot of money you would surely remember what it was paid for?**

Mr. Okaile: I didn't say I am not going to that. I'm saying some of the proceeds that would have accrued to us would be paid into CMB Fund1. So that would mean that it is not only from Kawena that would be used here. So even out of the profits that are being paid into CMB Fund1 we would have payments of either dividends or what from the CMB Fund1 accounts.

**Mr. Mgadla: Profits?**

Mr. Okaile: Ya. So what I am saying to you is that I have a recollection of that 5.9million ...erh 4.9million and what I am saying there should be, it's because I haven't looked at the statement for quite some time, there should be documents that shows that we have to be paid dividends from the

profits if we make profits. So that will be provided

**Mr. Mgadla: So, you're are saying the P5,000,000.00 was made out of profit and what else?**

Mr. Okaile: I beg your pardon?

**Mr. Mgadla: You're are saying the P5,000,000.00 was made out of profit, dividends and what else?**

Mr. Okaile: No, I'm saying that would have been the profits that accrued to CMB which we put into CMB Fund1 and when we declared the dividends, we pay from also this account. That's why I am saying the source documents to that effect will also be provided.

**Mr. Mgadla : You can provide them?**

Mr. Okaile: Yes

**Mr. Mgadla: Madam is it possible to make a ruling for Mr. Okaile to provide all the documents he can provide on a certain date?**

**Mr. XX: Madam Master, if I heard the witness correctly, he said, in respect of all those documents, that if he is given access to the office that was taken over from them, when statutory management commenced, he would be able to retrieve those documents.**

**So, the Ruling would also have to include, if it is made, access**

**Assistant Master: Mr. Liquidator is there anything in his office currently?**

**Liquidator : There is nothing in his office. What I have is documents that I received from the former Liquidator. And those documents are available if Mr. Okaile wants to come and have a look at them I can provide them. I don't know, I haven't personally gone through everything that I received, but he is welcome to come and have a look.**

**Assistant Master: What is the status of the office? Is there any office to go to?**

**Liquidator : No there is no office to go to. Whatever other documents and the server that were at CMB are at Storage Solutions under storage now**

**Assistant Master: So are you able to give the witness access to your office to find what documents could be relevant to the**

**Liquidator: I can do that Person And monitor closely monitor**

**Liquidator: I will be there I can't just let him open it up without me being there**

**Assistant Master: Do we need a Ruling for this?**

**Adv. Stais : Madam Master I was going to say we have no objection as long as it is done under supervision and can assist in making the facility available, but I am sure Armstrongs can do that themselves.**

So as long as it is under supervision and whatever is identified remains with the Liquidator and [inaudible] as are identified as relevant extracted and left with him as Mr. Okaile's version of what are the relevant source documents then we have no objection to that.

But perhaps you can make the ruling that it has to happen by a certain date, so that when we reconvene for whatever reason it will be for purposes of concluding this that we have those documents to hand

**Assistant Master : Okay, when will you be available, both Liquidator and the witness? So that we set timelines as to when this enquiry by what, by when the enquiry should be concluded with respect to the documents that you seek**

**Liquidator: I don't really have my calendar with me.**

**Assistant Master: So, can we say by the end of September?**

**Liquidator: Ya end of September should give us enough time to do that.**

**Assistant Master: So, by the 27th of September.**

**Mr. Tladi: We accept that.**

**Do we accept that? Kana Madam Master I have to be upfront with this, I have other cases that I am dealing with. September I am appearing in court, in the Magistrate Court so I too .... So, I would want September to be out because I am still preparing for another case.**

**Master: But do you need the whole of September to do a case Mr Okaile. We are just saying you ought to have it done by 27th September. The 27th being the last date.**

Mr. Okaile: Yes

# Our Diaspora Intelligentsia Should Be Incentivised to Help Move Our Economy Forward

LESANG MAGANG

OURS IS AN AGE WHERE ICT (Information and Communication Technology) is practically and routinely used to generate, disseminate and receive information.

ICT simply is no longer a casual buzzword bordering on the cliché: it is a way of life in that human work, play, and interaction patterns are fundamentally affected by systems for processing and distributing information.

Examples of ICT include software applications and operating systems, web-based information and applications, electronic textbooks, instructional software, email, chat, and distance learning programs and this is just a sneak peek into the full spectrum.

It goes without saying that our lives in the highly digitised world of our day are intertwined with ICT and to a point where millennials may wonder how possible it was for people who came along in bygone eras – the “old guards” in their cynical parlance – to negotiate the labyrinthine terrains of life without cellphones, whatsapp, the Internet, and precious other assistive technologies.

In this piece, I intend to address myself to the centrality of dividend-yielding dissemination of educational or some such crucial piece of information.

Has Botswana's educational system and paradigm lived up to this billing?

The Paramountcy of Information Dissemination

Why is information dissemination so critical in every walk of life, in every field of human endeavour?

The reasons abound. They include the need to improve the knowledge base of the target audience so that they can tap into that in the decision-making process; to inculcate, explain or promote a concept, process or principle; to elicit some feedback to input into the ultimate programme of action; to validate a theory or prognosis; and to make it easy for a group of individuals to share knowledge and routes of communication.

In short, information dissemination is about equipping people with the proper tools of analysis; deepening awareness; prompting informed responses; and helping cement the spirit of collaboration.

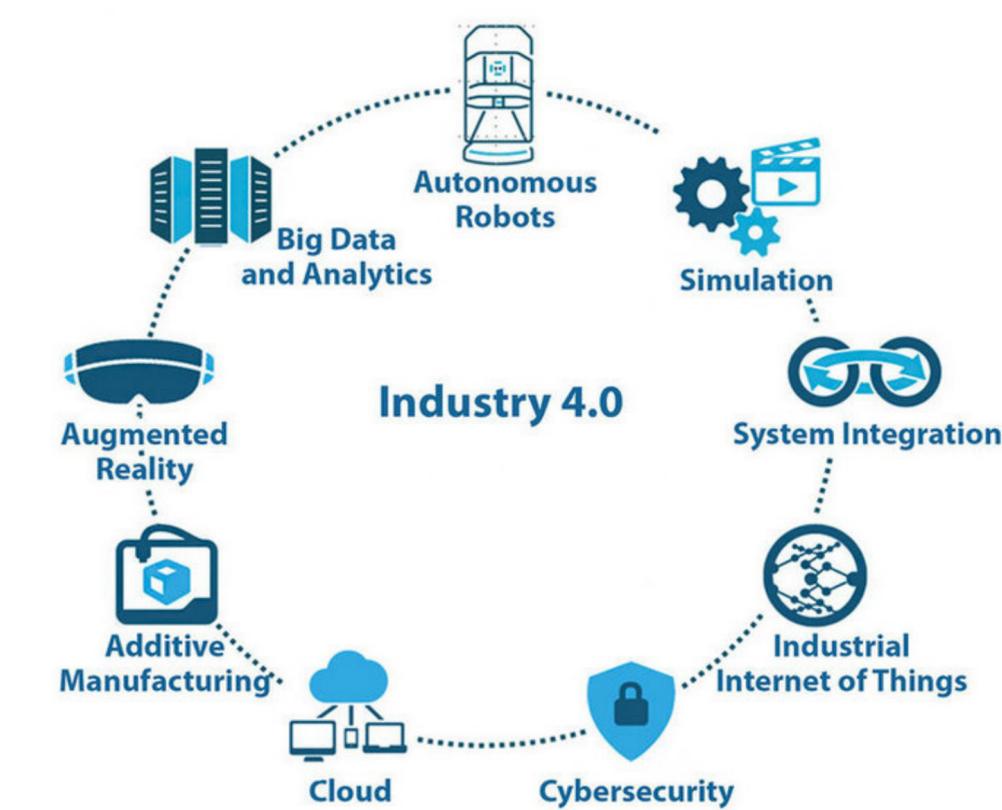
To what extent is Botswana making this a reality amongst its own people?

The Fourth Industrial Revolution

The epoch in which we presently are goes by several names, some of which we have hitherto alluded to, such as the Information Age or the Age of Experience.

Another is the Fourth Industrial Revolution (4IR). It is from the 4IR premise that our modus operandi as a government springs.

One pundit aptly situates 4IR in this sequence: “The First Industrial Revolution used water and steam power to mechanise production. The Second used electric power to create mass production. The Third used



electronics and information technology to automate production. Now a Fourth Industrial Revolution is building on the Third, the digital revolution that has been occurring since the middle of the last century.”

Another pundit couches 4IR in these terms: “Previous industrial revolutions liberated humankind from animal power, made mass production possible and brought digital capabilities to billions of people. This Fourth Industrial Revolution is, however, fundamentally different. It is characterised by a range of new technologies that are fusing the physical, digital and biological worlds, impacting all disciplines, economies and industries, and even challenging ideas about what it means to be human.” 4IR is a technological revolution which is not so much a prolongation of the Third Industrial Revolution as the arrival of a fourth, complementing one. In its scale, scope and complexity, 4IR will fundamentally, if not phenomenally, alter the way we live, work, and relate with one another.

4IR is not restricted to productive, economic, or commercial processes: its starting place is actually the classroom, from kindergarten all the way to the very pinnacles of academia.

Government on 4IR Track  
4IR is fairly accentuated in BDP's 2019 Manifesto. The watchwords in this

connection are digital economy and digital strategy geared toward bringing about a palpably knowledge-based society.

Government undertakes to get aboard the E-bandwagon with resoluteness and expedition. It is determined to intensify E-government, which has not really taken off despite having been long mooted, and make a reality of E-health, E-agriculture, E-business, and the like.

A commitment has been expressed to fund digital entrepreneurs and R&D and to make computer use and Internet utilisation regular and familiar as opposed to being a thing only well-heeled and specially trained people can fiddle with.

In a technically sophisticated world where automated processes are now the in-thing, we all should strive to be like South Korea, which is hailed as the most operationally efficient economy on Earth.

The priority is to register great advances toward the near-wholesale digitisation of the economy in the next 5 to 10 years, during which Botswana will be trained and re-tooled to enable them rise to the digital occasion and ipso facto help to dramatically transform the economy. In the process, research in relation to robotics, Artificial Intelligence (AI), nanotechnology, and biotechnology, amongst other things, will be instituted and be escalated to a level where each becomes a byword for our economy.

Government envisages a state of affairs where there will practically be no queue or hustling for anything; instead, every service will be transacted electronically, instantaneously, and therefore efficiently in the grand scheme of things. That may sound a shade utopian, but where there's a will, there's always a way.

Let's Track Our Intellectual Ambassadors  
Botswana has over the years made great leaps in uplifting its people educationally.

We now have four public universities, namely UB and BUIST – the archetypal ones – and Botswana University of Agriculture and Natural Resources (BUAN) and Botswana Open University – the upgraded ones.

Private universities have also sprang up and made their mark, and I am here talking about Limkokwing, Ba Isago, Botho, ABM University College, and Gaborone University College of Law and Professional Studies (GUS), and New Era College

But the question we must pose is this one: are these institutions of professedly superlative education churning up graduates with skills critical to the needs of the Botswana economy? Are people being educated not only to pad up national literacy figures quantitatively but even crucially so qualitatively? To what extent is the mismatch between qualifications and economically central competences?

In Botswana, we continue to have a dire shortage of doctors, chartered accountants, engineers, geologists, physicists, chemists, IT geeks, financial managers, etc., nearly 55 years since the Union Jack was lowered for good.

At the high school level, standards are not excellent but neither are they well below par. Botswana pursuing degree studies in Western citadels of learning under the high achievers programme are said to perform phenomenally, with the result that they almost invariably land highly lucrative jobs in these same countries at the expense of their own motherland.

It is a paradox that whilst Government spends gargantuan sums of money to educate some of its gifted citizenry, it's foreign governments who reap where they did not at all sow and it all boils down to our neglecting to keep tabs on these educational envoys of ours.

If Government is to recoup its investment in its people in this connection, it is imperative that OP, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs or the Ministry of Higher Education and Skills Development maintain a comprehensive database on the progress, tenure, and whereabouts of the students it has sent abroad. This should include their fixed line and mobile numbers, and email and physical addresses. As significant, the ministries must have the latest data management systems to communicate with our foreign-based students.

In countries where Botswana is represented at the diplomatic level, such as China, the US, Britain, Australia, and South Africa, for instance, embassy personnel can be counted upon to ably and meticulously perform such a function.

It is not enough to simply introduce E-books and E-libraries as is the strategic blueprint: we need the requisite expertise from our own people. If we are to develop the electric car and a host of such innovative products, those engineering scientists we sent abroad for training and who have now found a home in those same countries have to be lured back by hook and crook.

Exactly how do we do this? What “buy-back” incentives should we dangle before them?

Look at India

India has the largest diaspora in the world.

There are about 18 million Indians living outside India, with about 4.5 million of these in the US alone; 3.1 million in the United Arab Emirates; and 8 million in the Middle East as a whole.

The US readily recognises and acknowledges Indian entrepreneurship in the country as a fundamental engine of economic growth.

In much of the latter half of the 20th century, India experienced a sizeable haemorrhage of highly skilled human resources, more so scientists, engineers, doctors and IT wizards, to the more economically advanced countries. By the turn of the century, however, India was

talking about brain gain as opposed to brain drain.

The Indian government recognized that if its highly experienced sons and daughters with their highly varied skills set were wooed back to their motherland, they would play a pivotal role in its social and economic development through supporting or facilitating knowledge transfer from abroad. Returnees, it was rightly believed, were bearers of newly acquired skills and innovative and entrepreneurial attitudes.

As recently as 2003, Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee was harping on the importance of enticing his people back to India. “We want your ideas,” he said to an audience of Indian nationals in a prominent foreign country. “We do not want your riches; we want the richness of your experiences.”

In reversing the brain drain, India did not do anything magical: all it did was create an environment that was highly conducive to investment and employment and do its utmost to match or approximate the conditions of service obtainable in destination countries. In the event, about 10 percent of expatriate Indians eager to exploit the new growth opportunities already available or emerging in their home country beat a path back home, with cities such as Bengaluru and Hyderabad becoming hubs for skilled returnees.

As I write, India has a huge reservoir of manpower, with a talent surplus projected to hit 1.1 million in financial services; 1.3 million in technology, media, and telecommunications; and 2.44 million in manufacturing in the next 12 years.

Australia, France, Germany, Japan and the United States on the other hand face a talent shortage that will see them collectively lose \$1.876 trillion in annual revenues over the same time period.

The Motherland Package  
An age-old Chinese adage says a journey of a thousand miles begins with the first step. In endeavouring to re-excite our “exported” intelligentsia to re-settle back home, we could start with a 3 to 6 month sabbatical pilgrimage to provide them the opportunity to test the waters and gauge our resolve. Call that the Motherland Package.

With the advent of Special Economic Zones and the Citizen Economic Empowerment Law slated for enactment by August this year, not to mention the Public Private Partnership ethos which is yet to be fully actualised, we have laid an ample enough groundwork to facilitate our wooing efforts.

For as long as the political will is there, there's no hurdle to mammoth to overcome.

Pic Cap

“YOUR COUNTRY NEEDS YOU”:  
Atal Bihari Vajpayee, who served as Indian Prime Minister from 1999 to 2004 (and twice previously in stop-gap capacities) was a prime mover in sounding the clarion call for the return of skilled Indian emigrants to the more economically buoyant countries.

## BNF stalwart Kalake dies

■ His tribesmen wanted him to lead BNF ■ Known for upholding Kgosi Bathoen II' beliefs

BAKANG TIRO

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THE BOTSWANA NATIONAL FRONT (BNF) veteran activist and former Member of Parliament for Ngwaketse South Khabone Kalake popularly known as comrade KK passed away on Friday.

A Staunch BNF member Kalake served as the MP for Ngwaketse South from 1999-2004, the constituency that is currently known as Mmathethe\ Molapowabojang now under BDP rule.

Kalake won Ngwaketse South constituency in 1999 defeating BDP and BCP candidates but lost his second bid to return to parliament in 2004 losing to BDP candidate Lethogonolo Peter Siele.

Siele defeated Kalake again during 2009 elections by 6 979 votes with him garnering 4 925 and Edwin Raphuthi of BCP only garnered 894 votes hence BDP since 2004 rules constituency.

BDP candidates Dr Alfred Madigele and Dr Edwin Dikoloti won the constituency in 2014 and 2019 respectively defeating other BNF veteran Dr Moiserale Dibeela under the UDC ticket.

KK has been known to Bangwaketse to exercising a steadfastness loyalty to the objectives of the party that has been founded by the late Bangwaketse Paramount Chief Kgosi Bathoen II.

Kalake shown his loyalty to BNF and B2's principles as Kgosi Bathoen II was

popularly known when he remained in the party together with former late BNF leader Dr Kenneth Koma as other BNF MPs decided to leave the party and joining splinter Botswana Congress Party (BCP).

This followed when Kalake and Dr Koma endorsed proposal by President Festus Mogae to appoint Jan Khama as vice president therefore causing tension within the party legislators.

BNF lost quality MPs then amongst Gilson Saleshando, Isaac Mabiletsa, Otaadisa Koosalese and Maitshawarelo Dabutha to mention just a few all forming first BNF splinter party the BCP.

The level of loyalty displayed by KK gave him accolades from majority of Bangwaketse BNF supporters who then deemed him to be one of potential candidates to lead BNF after Koma.

This was not the case as Kalake shown no interest for contesting for the party presidency after Dr Kenneth Koma passed away but dedicated his life for working with the BNF South Structures.

During his era in parliament he debated with eagerness the independence of parliament to be free body from the executive and he also stood firm to defend in the house the accusations that the International Pentecostal Church (IPCC) that its stops members from seeking medical help.

Kalake at time defended the church which he belongs to as member from MPs brutal attacks.



Kalake

He served as the BNF Southern Region Chairman and recruited members into the party across the Southern District also turning Kanye into a stronghold for BNF working together with others then powerful BNF such as late BNF MPs being Calvin Batsile and Omphitlhese Maswabi.

Batsile was Kanye North MP for one term from 2004-2009 while served two terms

1999-2009.

Batsile lost his parliamentary seat in 2009 to Kentse Rammidi of BDP and Maswabi was lost his seat also to the former MP Abraham Kesupile during a disputed BNF primary elections in 2008.

Efforts to reach BNF spokesperson Justin Hunyepa turned out futile as his cellphone was off.

## BDP Youth Wing in COVID-19 scam

BAKANG TIRO

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A FINANCIAL SCAM NEARLY HIT THE ruling Botswana Democratic Party (BDP) after it emerged this week that businesses were nearly duped into dumping cash donations into false BDP accounts. In an unexpected move when the nation is going through a difficult time due to the COVID-19 anxiety, some of members of the ruling Botswana Democratic Party (BDP) masquerading as the BDP National Youth Executive Committee (NYEC) use the situation to swindle public donations.

The young democrats have been up to soliciting fraudulent donations in the name of raising funds for the COVID-19 relief fund by circulating a flyer on social media asking for donations.

But, it emerged that their plans did not get any authorization from Tsholetsa House after some people cautioned or searched answers BDP officials over the campaign for funds by BDP NYEC.

BDP NYEC circulated First National Bank of Botswana (FNBB) account number 62752315004 for cash donations accompanied by Orange money, Ewallet and Absa cash mobile accounts as well.

Sources within the BDP say the party is in quandary on how to deal with the suspects in the case as it is not clear on whose orders they take on a move that nearly tarnished BDP image. BDP over Secretary General Mpho Balopi and BDP NYEC Chairman Karabo Gomotsegang have since retracted the demand for said donations with culprits likely to face disciplinary charges.

In the wake up news that Youth Wing is a step ahead in unauthorized mobilization

of funds for COVID-19, the BDP Secretary General Mpho Balopi sent a stern warning to the culprits involved.

In an interview with Balopi on Friday, he said the party will be launching an investigation on the matter so as to unearth on what could have pushed the youth implicated to taking that route.

“We are party with order and good governance is what defines us at BDP. It is really disturbing how our NYEC behaved but will launch an investigations to see whether this was deliberate or a misconstrued move. But, will be guided by investigations outcome on taking action,” he added. He went on to buttress that the NYEC have since withdrawn their unauthorized intention and apologizing to the party hence cautioning anyone to stop dragging the party name in disarray.

Balopi elaborated that the business community should not be deceived by any prospective fraudsters to raise funds noting that government COVID-19 relief fund is only valid one so far.

BDP NYEC Karabo Gomotsegang in an apology letter on behalf of the NYEC said the public is urged to ignore the flier and not issue any donation to account and cellphone numbers on it. “The Botswana Democratic Party (BDP) National Youth Executive Committee wishes to tender apology to the public on a recent flier making rounds on social media to the effect that we seek donations towards COVID-19,” Gomotsegang said on statement retracting donations demand. The acts of young democrats sparked wide public outrage with some labelling them as hungry vultures who want to eat while some pardoned for not knowing processes as they are still new.

# Opinions, Reviews & Analysis



ADAM PHETLHE  
ON SUNDAY!

## UDC should have walked out when filibustering failed



UDC members of parliament

(PIC:PRESSPHOTO)

**T**HE EXTRA-ORDINARY SITTING of parliament/general assembly at Boipuso Hall to debate the motion on the President's request for a six months state of emergency to address the Coronavirus pandemic was during those sittings, more of a political event than dealing with the pandemic itself. I expected it! The debate, particularly between BDP and UDC Members of Parliament was not in large measure anchored on the seriousness of the pandemic but on the BDP MPs on one hand, trying to have the motion adopted while the UDC MPs were trying to ensure that it doesn't pass. And this is why the Speaker kept on reminding the house, repeatedly and correctly so, that it was taking its eyes off the ball.

It was clear from the onset that the UDC stood no chance of collapsing the motion given the numerical advantage of the BDP. This majority has just emerged from an election and consequently therefore, it was highly unlikely that it could turn against the President. In the meantime, the UDC adopted a futile filibustering strategy. That said, it (UDC) was presented with a golden opportunity to make a political statement when it was announced early on the second day of the proceedings that MPs had

been exposed to a nurse who had tested positive to the Coronavirus the previous day. Politically speaking, this announcement should have sprung the UDC into action whereat it could have informed the Speaker that it was ending its participation on the motion as a precautionary measure to comply with the Coronavirus guidelines of acting promptly and responsibly as soon as one is aware that they have crossed paths with a confirmed positive individual. But the UDC stayed put.

The UDC would also have reasoned that it is taking the announcement very seriously in the context of the Coronavirus pandemic by asking the Director of Public Health to take them into quarantine or self-isolation forthwith. For the UDC to have remained in the hall the whole day after the announcement is puzzling let alone being complicit to not observing the Coronavirus protocols. Further to this, it must be remembered that it had been agreed that a meeting of

some sort would have preceded the sessions where other issues would be thrashed out. The BDP it emerged, renege on this meeting where the Speaker was taken aback by the turn of events. No plausible explanation for renegeing was offered. It will be interesting to hear why the UDC opted not to walk out when a confirmed danger of a person who had tested positive and who had screened them the previous day, was publicly made. On a purely political basis and

on account that the Coronavirus issue in parliament had become a political issue, the UDC should have walked out in protest just like the BDP walked out on Hon Taolo Lucas motion on the establishment of a social justice commission in early March this year. Was the UDC afraid of walking out under some fear of a back-lash that it would have politicised a serious emergency health issue? I don't think so because it is in agreement with the global and local protocols on fighting the pandemic with respect to extreme social distancing; quarantine/ self-isolation; washing of hands and the current lockdown. What the UDC is against and from what I think emerged at Boipuso Hall, is the political trajectory the BDP intends to pursue to fight the pandemic. That is, it is against the six months state of emergency as opposed to it's (at the very least) progressive implementation of the same. This political trajectory unavoidably leads to political considerations which themselves lead to policy responses to fighting the pandemic. So while it could be conveniently argued that Coronavirus issue shouldn't be pursued along political lines, it is a political issue. As a tool available to political parties in parliament and which tool is always used as some form of protest, walking out of the UDC would have been perfectly in order. I accept however that it reserves the right to walk out or not. Kindly persuade me to abandon the views contained herein.

## Government must respect labour laws under COVID 19



Hunyepa

**T**HE HUMAN RACE FACES extinction due to the Covid 19 global pandemic if not managed well. World economies particularly those of third world countries face a bleak future if sound recovery and sustainable measures are not put in place. Botswana like the rest of the world faces this dark period in the history of mankind. All citizens have a civic duty to fight the pandemic patriotically for their health and continuity of human race. Citizens must therefore comply with World Health Organisation protocols and advice of health professionals, especially staying at home; one metre of social distancing; 20 seconds of hands washing with soap and clean water. We must all religiously comply to defeat this monster. Vulnerable groups, especially the destitute, must be urgently catered for during this lockdown period to curtail starvation. The poor are likely to die of hunger than the virus itself, or face the double threat of corona virus and hunger.

There is a topical issue of deferment of salary increment of public servants and Government seems to have failed to uphold basic negotiation principles. The labour movement is aware of the devastating effects of the corona virus and will not be unreasonable if engaged genuinely, with transparency and in good faith. BOFEPUSU and TAWU have a standing collective bargaining agreement with the employer, Directorate of Public Service Management (DPSM) regarding their 6% and 10% salary increment for the 2020/2021 financial year and commencing 1st April 2020. This was signed in February 2019, some few months before general elections. Elections are now over and DPSM has silently and unilaterally renege under the April 2020 State of Public Emergency (SOPE) powers pretext. DPSM should have been proactive on this matter and engaged trade unions reasonably on time since Covid 19 broke out around December 2019 in China and early signs were there, that it was going to reach our shores. The employer's silence, who exclusively knows government budget, meant that things were in order, and unions assumed so too, legitimately expecting salary increment 1st April 2020. The DPSM move of deferment is calculated and deliberate, as it banks on citizen sympathy that government is fighting a deadly virus, and union antagonism will be seen as unpatriotic. This is blackmail. And in labour relations, the employer is grossly disingenuous as she has violated basic tenets of labour relations. This was the worst slap ever in the face of BOFEPUSU, who last year went neutral on a voting decision, technically endorsing the BDP with their voting block, and 'fixing' UDC. Here was a workers' federation that could afford to be neutral to a capitalist system that has a history of exploiting BOFEPUSU members. It was a cardinal failure by the federation leadership. And the federation's godfather, Johnson Motshwarakgole's video went viral, publicly proclaiming that secretly he can vote Dr Masisi (BDP). Now the federation is facing

a dilemma- a moral battle versus labour rights. A shrewd legal eagle will be needed to pull the federation out of the quagmire for a win-win position.

The government's disingenuous conduct towards the unions is not surprisingly different from that of the private sector. Just after the lockdown announcement on 2nd April 2020, several companies violated workers' rights with impunity from unprocedural retrenchments, forced unpaid leave to salary suspensions, all against the spirit of domestic labour laws and ILO conventions. In stark irony, government halted several companies from dismissing workers due to Covid 19 and promised a relief fund. This has temporarily saved thousands of jobs but is not sustainable. The trade unions should now be alert. Both public and private sector workers will emerge more bruised than their capitalist employers whose businesses have amassed profits and are running even under lockdown.

The other headache for the workers is that the labour department is understaffed to ensure that the workers' rights are protected during this time and post Covid 19. The trade unions should brace for long drawn out battles with employers after this lockdown as government struggles to deliver on its relief promises. Unity and training of the workforce on collective trade unionism is paramount. Many workers could have lost their jobs if trade unions had not intervened by raising several red flags and we applaud the good work of the labour movement. Free riders have learnt on how vulnerable they are and should unionise and join the battlefield as a new world order emerges, with no job guarantees. The capitalist sharks are at work on how to maximise profit when the lockdown is lifted and economy running at full throttle. And clearly maximisation of profit is without doubt exploitation of workers. The informal sector workers will also need assistance to be organised too so that they are protected. Employment insurances for such unforeseen circumstances are now a compulsory requirement for workers and should be negotiated into the same league of employer subsidies like pension and medical aid.

Post Covid 19, government and the private sector will need the trade unions to promote industrial relations at the workplace and serve this country productively again. We encourage all visionary and smart employers to nurture good labour relations now.

Notwithstanding all these, the rights and liberties of citizens, including their labour rights, freedom of expression and speech, and so on must be respected and protected, and the onus lies with the President of the Country who is now ruling alone through the SOPE.

The UDC is in solidarity with the worker's plight and calls upon all employers to respect workers and Trade Union rights during this difficult time.

Justin Hunyepa  
BNF Publicity Secretary and UDC Labour Secretary

# A permit is not a condom

## Behave or be warned



IGNATIUS NJOBVO'S  
HEART OF THE MATTER

**S**INCE THE ARRIVAL OF Coronavirus, our lives have come to be determined by rules and regulations dictated by medical professionals. It is not common that medical professionals dictate our daily activities, unless one is not feeling well health-wise. Today I can assure you that everybody is very much ready and willing to listen to a medical doctor all day.

I think they are the most welcome visitors in our homes, if not for the 'lockdown' arrangement. Containing the virus and completely eradicating it will require that we be at our best behaviour.

Abiding by the dictates of the World Health Organisation protocols and any other advice from the medical professional shall determine the speed at which we conquer this deadly respiratory disease.

My short submission today is meant to address some characteristics that I suppose will jeopardise the very course of handling Coronavirus.

'Permit' to accessing essential duties or services. In good faith, authorities have decided on a Permit system, to accord residents access to essential services and/or perform essential duties. All intent is to avoid unnecessary movements since the virus is transported in that order. Shockingly, reports are suggesting



Permit inspection at a military checkpoint

(PIC:PRESSPHOTO)

that some people are abusing the permits trusted upon them. Instead, permits are being used as licence to do every luxurious activity one can think of.

The laxity with which we are using these permits goes against the very purpose of avoiding mingling with the masses. Such behaviours suggest to me that we assume that 'permits' are a preventative measure. We seem to think that when one has a permit, one is immune from contracting the virus.

Permit is not a condom, if I am to liken it to some preventative measure. Let us try by all means to stay at home, and only move out when it is absolutely necessary.

Lockdown and 'Intimate terrorism'. Mounting data suggests that domestic abuse is acting like an opportunistic infection flourishing in the conditions created by the pandemic.

The disdain that we are suddenly developing towards our sweethearts is shameful to say the least. Lovers

are meant to be tolerant to one another. It may be surprising to learn that human conflict if properly managed, can be the vehicle for transforming an unstable relationship into a vibrant, healthy marriage (Dobson J, 1996). Statistics so far depict that it is us men who are perpetrating such abusive acts in big numbers. I wonder what is so fashionable about abusing (especially physically abusing) your partner. Why not engage in relentless sex if one feels like having too much energy, or better still engage in more productive assignments like making up gardens, exercising or fixing your cars and bicycles.

Myles Munroe, 1984 said that men must adopt an entirely new way of thinking. They need to think in terms of purpose rather than roles. The reason they are having problems today is that they have been basing their worth on the wrong thing all along.

Roles have never been the true basis of a male's identity and

purpose. Roles can be helpful or harmful, but ultimately they merely reflect culture and tradition. We are men not because of our fat bank accounts or because we can beat up our women mercilessly, but because we can render that protection that our women are so much in need of. For those men who are culprits of this barbaric act, my advice is that you stop it forthwith, lest the law gets to catch up with you soon.

One thing that you can be assured of is that the moment you live for imprisonment; other men will immediately link up with your woman.

They will nicely render the services that you were failing to do. If you are a woman and you happen to be abusing your man, you will soon lose a good man and find yourself into the hands of a monster who shall give you double the dosage. Let us all behave accordingly so that we contain Coronavirus, and emerge from this fight as romantic lovers. [injobvu1981@gmail.com](mailto:injobvu1981@gmail.com)

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# Opinions, Reviews & Analysis

## BNF mourns veteran cde Simon Rakgomane Nkurumah Tladi

**B**OTSWANA NATIONAL FRONT (BNF) sadly announces the passing on of yet another party veteran, Cde Simon Rakgomane Nkurumah Tladi. Cde Tladi passed on the night of 19th April 2020 at his home in Morwa. Cde Tladi was born in Morwa on the 4th August 1932.

Cde Tladi leaves behind a galaxy of political star studded medals which he accumulated over the years under the African National Congress (ANC), Botswana Independence Party and the BNF.

His political associate, Cde Isaac Mabiletsa and Tladi's son, Marshall, have paid a glowing tribute to the veteran, which are attributed to this bereavement message. Cde Tladi was a former BNF Councillor for Morwa in the now Mochudi East constituency. The winds of change that blow from Ghana's 1957 independence under Kwame Nkurumah during the decolonisation of Africa, culminated in Tladi tagging himself successfully as Nkurumah of the BNF as he promised sweeping changes in his campaigns.

The name stuck and Nkurumah became popular amongst his contemporary politicians.

He began his political journey in Cape Town as an ANC activist

alongside the late comrades Motsamai Mpho, Fish Keitseng, Mack Mosepele, Kgabotshwene Manamela and others who were also working in South Africa at the time. Working in a private company called Paper Sack limited, he joined the ANC in 1954 in the Nyanga East branch.

He participated in the 1960 Sharpeville anti-apartheid protests where 69 black protesters were massacred by the apartheid regime. The Sharpeville Massacre led to several arrests and Cde Tladi managed to escape the manhunt to Botswana under a disguise. He was then banned from South Africa by the apartheid government due to his links with the ANC. Back in Botswana he helped with the formation of Botswana Independence Party (BIP) in 1962 alongside his bosom Comrade Motsamai Mpho.

The BIP had just broken away from the Botswana Peoples Party. Possessing a scarce skill at the time, he was one of the few locals who could drive a vehicle and he regularly drove underground ANC cadres from Lobatse up North to cross into Zambia and Tanzania. A risky assignment it was. Cde Tladi served two terms as a BNF Councillor for Morwa ward in 1989-1994 and



Cde Tladi

1994-1999. He had prior to his first win in 1989 been contesting and losing elections. In 1965 he stood as a parliamentary candidate for Kgatlang under the BIP and lost.

Immediately after the national elections, he crossed over to assist with the formation of the BNF in 1965. In 1969, 1974, 1979 and 1984 he stood as a BNF councillor candidate and lost.

Twice to BPP & thrice to BDP and on each of the captioned occasions without surrendering. His first electoral victory came in 1989, and he repeated the feat in 1994. "I recall his excitement stating that because of his numerous defeats on four occasions, he was doubting he was declared a winner. He said, to him it was like he was day dreaming when the presiding officer declared him a winner", recalls Isaac Mabiletsa, former Member of Parliament for the area.

Cde Tladi has travelled with the late former BNF Presidents Dr Kenneth Koma and Bathoen Gaseitsiwe to the United Kingdom, Austria, France amongst other international fraternal visits. Mmegi newspaper, once published a story about how Cde Tladi and his comrades were harassed by the BDP. "An interesting BDP government's act of intolerance of

socialism was in June 1978 when it withdrew passports of 17 persons, two of whom were leading BNF Central Committee members, who were preparing to leave for Cuba to participate in the World Festival of Democratic Youth. The 17 were said to be part of 30 BNF members who were heading for Cuba" (2 September 2011).

Cde Tladi was in this team that was sabotaged by the ruling BDP. A man of free spirit, Tladi and his two comrades, Tau and his cousin Pheto, called themselves The three Capetonians, as they claimed that they were the only sophisticated personalities in Morwa village who had worked in Capetown.

Cde Tladi will be laid to rest on Friday 24th April in Morwa. He joins his spouse and leaves behind four sons and two daughters. Due to the covid 19 restrictions Cde Tladi will be buried in the absence of thousands of BNF activists.

The BNF President, Cde Duma Boko and his Central Committee, and the general membership send their heartfelt condolences to the Tladi family.

May his soul rest in eternal peace.

**Justin Hunyepa**  
BNF Information & Publicity  
Secretary

## Within Darkness, Lies Great Treasures

IGNATIUS NJOBVU

**S**CIENCE DESCRIBES DARKNESS as the absence of light.

Darkness itself is none existent. It cannot be measured. I wonder why we even elevate its status by associating the colour 'black' to such a none entity. Darkness is a void or emptiness. It is just a consequence of the absence of that which is legitimate. Because darkness has no value other than its ambiguous existence of a place whereby somebody cannot see their way clear, we turn to associate it with evil. Such association is befitting since darkness distracts one from seeing clearly that which is within the surrounding, good things included. It therefore follows that darkness does not eliminate good things in a place but rather just hides them, making it difficult for us to see such.

We are facing a rather dark period in the form of Coronavirus. A very contagious and lethal disease that attacks the respiratory system. So far, the disease has claimed thousands of lives the world over and has affected millions. It has literally brought the world to a standstill. People don't go for work anymore, schools are on temporal closure, socializing has been curtailed and people's emotions swing wildly from despair to acceptance and back again. We are watching helplessly as the situation withers for the worst, being consumed by this insidious disease that gnaws the soul of our lives. We can only ask, what in the world is this condition.

This condition is now dictating new ways of doing things. We are confined to our homes, cleansing surfaces and our hands every now and then. Working from home has suddenly become a reality. Coronavirus is dictating a new normal. It is my view that within these desperate times, profound opportunities should emerge. The first one that comes to mind is e-learning. In as much as learning in the classroom offers the best ideal environment in so far as learning is concerned especially at lower grades, online learning comes in handy at



Gaborone Main Mall

these awkward times. Learning sites should now be utilised. Applications that allow for online discussions should be put to action. In that way, very little learning time can be lost. In short, we are not supposed to only seek for an education within the four corners of a classroom. This is one great opportunity which we need to seize as a nation.

Not only has the disease confined us to our homes, it is calling for social distancing. Soon we might

lockdown regionally depending on the statistics that would arise from country-wide testing. An opportunity therefore arises for local entrepreneurship. It would be difficult for someone to provide services from a highly hit region to a less hit region or vice-versa. Besides it is convenient and financially less taxing to source services locally. Therefore, citizens must seriously start scouting for those areas that are not found in their places.

Finally, I am of the view that Coronavirus has brought us closer together as a people. We might be exercising physical distancing, but our inner social being has been enacted. We spend more time with our families, we get to talk and do the little things that matter most in life. We chat, cry, share our successes and sorrows, and everybody is trying to contribute to the healthy laughter. Not only are we supposed to wash our hands, we also ought

to wash our worries away. This is a great opportunity to nurture our families, communities and the general populace. Let me conclude by expressing my overwhelming gratitude to the medical professionals, law-enforcement personnel, all first respondents, the support staff and everyone in the frontline, facing this scourge head-on. You are, and you will always be our heroes and heroines.  
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## Important Updates on COVID-19

(25th April 2020)

1. On 24th April, Chinese mainland reported 12 new confirmed cases, 11 of which were imported from abroad. Hubei reported 0 new infection. 89 patients were released after being cured. The latest Chinese mainland tally shows 82,816 confirmed cases and 4,632 fatalities.

Chinese mainland has reported 1,629 cases of imported confirmed infections and 0 death. There still remained 720 confirmed cases and 14 suspected cases.

2. 98.2% of coronavirus-hit major industrial enterprises resume production in Hubei

As of 17th April, 98.2% of major industrial enterprises in central China's Hubei Province have resumed production, said Meng Chunlin, deputy director of the Hubei provincial department of economy and information technology on Thursday. Meanwhile, 93% of employees have returned to their posts in the province's major industrial firms. Meng said that currently obstacles to business operation still exist, such as capital, costs, orders and supply chains, especially for micro-, small- and medium-sized enterprises, whose resumption rate is less than 80%. Therefore, the province has rolled out a slew of policies to support small businesses, including tax cuts or exemption and labor costs reduction

3. China's inactivated COVID-19 vaccine enters 2nd-phase clinical trial

China's inactivated COVID-19 vaccine entered the second phase of clinical trial on Friday, according to its developers. The inactivated vaccine developed by Wuhan Institute of Biological Products under the China National Pharmaceutical Group (Sinopharm) and the Wuhan Institute of Virology under the Chinese Academy of Sciences started its clinical trial on 12th April. Sinopharm said in an announcement that 96 persons in three age groups have received the vaccine in the first phase of clinical trial as of 23rd April. The vaccine has shown good safety so far and vaccine receivers are still

under observation. The vaccine will also go through the third phase of the clinical trial, and it may take about one year to complete the clinical trial and finally reach the conclusion on the vaccine's safety and efficacy. China has approved three COVID-19 vaccine candidates for clinical trials. An adenovirus vector vaccine was the first COVID-19 vaccine in the world that has entered the second phase of clinical trial.

4. Global leaders launch WHO plan to beat COVID-19, U.S. not involved

World leaders pledged on Friday to accelerate work on tests, drugs and vaccines against COVID-19 and to share them around the globe, but the U.S. did not take part in the launch of the WHO initiative. French President Emmanuel Macron, German Chancellor Angela Merkel and South African President Cyril Ramaphosa were among those who joined a video conference to launch what the WHO had billed as a "landmark collaboration" to fight the pandemic. The aim is to speed development of safe and effective drugs, tests and vaccines to prevent, diagnose and treat COVID-19 and ensure equal access to treatments for rich and poor.

5. Coronavirus came to New York from Europe, not China: Governor

New York Governor Andrew Cuomo said on Friday research showed that strains of COVID-19 first entered his state from Europe, not China, and that travel bans enacted by U.S. President Donald Trump were too late to halt its spread. Cuomo pointed to researchers at Northeastern University who estimated that more than 10,000 New Yorkers may have contracted the disease by the time the state had its first confirmed case on 1st March. He said he believed Italy was the likely source. The governor noted that Trump ordered a ban on travel from China on 2nd February, more than a month after news reports had emerged about an outbreak in China, and decided to restrict travel from Europe the following month. By that time, the virus had spread widely in the United States, he said.

# Business

## Economy hard hit

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**F**INANCE MINISTER DR Thapelo Matsheka was blunt in his assessment of the economy on Friday – simply declaring that the recently adopted 2020/21 budget has been put aside as the country squarely battled COVID-19 epidemic.

While the country's economy was projected to grow by 4.4 percent with all other major sectors of the economy on positive trajectory; everything has been reviewed to the negative.

Money has been shifted to priority areas of fighting the epidemic, including adopting the unpopular decision of putting on hold increasing public servants salaries. While the increment would have consumed P1.4 billion, the ministry of Health and Wellness has requested P2.4 billion to acquire immediate equipment to help fight the disease.

Already, the minister said they have approved the payment of P233 663 828, covering 165 681 employees as beneficiaries the Wage Subsidy for over 12 000 companies that have applied for assistance to meet their obligations to staff.

Government provided a seed funding of P2 billion for the Wage Subsidy Relief Fund administered by the Botswana Unified Revenue Services (BURS) where local companies were invited to apply for salary subsidy of their citizens employees. Local companies and citizens have been invited to contribute to the Relief Fund and by Friday their total contribution was over P60 million.

The subsidy has become necessary as businesses have essentially grounded to a halt due to a lockdown that has been adopted to fight the disease – to cut down infections through social distancing as people have been urged to remain indoors.

Government has continued to urge locals to increase their support to accelerated efforts of fighting the disease. Minister Matsheka has promised that Government will undertake a thorough audit of the Relief Fund to ensure that all money contributed to it have been used appropriately.

To mitigate the effects of closed economy that has thrown thousands into unemployed ranks, Government

has adopted Tax Concessions, Loan Guarantees, and looked into the National Strategic Reserves to secure Medical Supplies and offer Psycho-social support to highly affected members of society.

"A total of P114 839 250 has been approved for food hampers for the month of April while P26 230 833 has been approved for temporary workers comprising Social Workers," the minister said.

### Mining down

The Minister of Mineral Resources, Green Technology and Energy Security, Lefoko Moagi has said mining and particularly diamond sector has been heavily affected by COVID-19. Moagi when taking questions from the media on Tuesday said that giant diamond mining company, Debswana, has since scaled down its level of productions as diamonds markets are closed.

He buttressed that there is no inspection of rough diamonds by potential buyers due to travel restrictions imposed by countries to control the virus therefore this affects the diamond sales.

"Debswana is open but not fully operational because of the situation that we all see ourselves under. The big market for Botswana rough diamonds being America and other European ones are still in lockdown hence no way diamonds can be transported for sales, it is bad," he added. Additionally, he is optimistic that Botswana mining sector will be able to survive high imminent volatility that will be sparked by the disease saying is time to bank into innovation to diversify.

He revealed that Okavango Diamond Company (ODC) has been earmarked as focal point for driving diversification in order to reduce dependence on rough diamonds that are currently the most affected, adding that ODC will do diamond polishing to create jobs locally.

With regards to the energy sector, the minister said the recent adjustment of petrol prices was bound to occur due to the decline of oil in the global market evidenced by USA oil crash.

He therefore insisted that the regulator, Botswana Energy Regulatory Authority (BERA) will do reviews at least in three months depending on how oil will be faring during the lockdown time.



Dr Matsheka

## UB's bankable innovations

- VC says UB is on an entrepreneurial trajectory
- Prof Norris calls for universities collaboration
- UB innovate solutions, research on local herbs

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**T**HE UNIVERSITY OF Botswana Vice Chancellor Professor David Norris says his institution is entering a robust entrepreneurial phase as evidenced by its innovative efforts in the fight against COVID-19.

Professor Norris cited the production of masks and sanitizers which will be commercialized to assist in the COVID-19 fight.

"The university is playing a critical role in fronting research and innovation development that are proving to be worthwhile and we are keen to commercialise these R&D products to raise money for the university not that we will be selling these research to the public," he asserted.

He said UB is spending more in developing innovative products that in turn donates them to relevant health authorities but commercialising them will help them in cost recovery.

In addition, he asserted that university should not be heavily depending on government for financial support as it must create its own revenue streams, adding that the COVID-19 challenge in Botswana shows that self-reliance is crucial for the country.

According to Prof Norris, UB is in transformational trajectory by repositioning its strategic priorities to offer solutions to society driven from research evidence.

"We are open to working with other research stakeholders such as BIUST and BITRI in this fight. University partnerships are critical in this moment and this is an opportunity for indigenous tertiary institutions to be torch bearers. This is time to push knowledge economy," he enthused.

Dean Faculty of Engineering and Technology at UB Dr Benjamin Bolaane underscored the university's commitment to producing innovative solutions such as prototypes of face shields. Dr Bolaane is confident that the research team is on the right



Prof Norris

path as they have also created a dashboard to monitor the pandemic by giving up to date data on those who already did testing.

The university is also keen on working with other local stakeholders such as local traditional medicine men with Prof Norris noting that UB is already working with HEVEFRU Group from Tlokeng.

HEVEFRU Group, which is devoted to organic sustainable agriculture and promotion of health through traditional herbs, signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with UB in August last year.

The MOU aims amongst others are to promote and patent rich Indigenous Knowledge Systems (IKS) through involving extensive collaborative research, consultation and technology transfer.

Similarly, Madagascar is one few countries that have turned into local herbs in the fight against COVID-19 with the country launching a local medicine claimed to be effective against the coronavirus.

Madagascar President Andry Rajoelina on Monday launched the remedy produced by the Malagasy Institute of Applied Research and commercialized the herbal tea.

### COVID-19 Essentials Supplies Loan

## 42 companies apply

**PHILLIMON MMESO**  
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**C**ITIZEN-OWNED COMPANIES have responded positively to Citizen Entrepreneurial Development Agency's (CEDA) loan facility to manufacture essentials needed to combat Covid19 pandemic.

CEDA Chief Executive Officer Thabo Thamane revealed that they have considered 42 loan requests totaling P39 million, with P22.7 million under appraisal.

Thamane, however, raised concern that 30% of the applications were not relevant to fighting the pandemic or even applicable under guidelines for working capital.

"People are submitting business as usual applications such as opening lodges, building multi residential areas and so forth," he said. He said the Emergency Response Fund is specifically to tide businesses over the effects of COVID19, or to provide products that will help Botswana fight this pandemic.

"While we understand that all types of business success is a boon for the economy and the

country, during the period of Extreme Social Distancing, CEDA operations will focus on providing relief to their funded projects as well as the COVID19 Essentials Supplies Loan," assured the CEDA CEO.

Thamane said it was very important to Botswana that the numbers under the manufacturing sector increase as a direct link to the swelling demand for Personal Protective Equipment (PPE). This, he said, will have a direct effect on the country's ability to be self-sufficient.

The COVID-19 Essentials Supplies Loan is aimed at affording citizen-owned companies to participate in the production of essentials or products that might help in the fight against the pandemic.

"The loan is aimed at ensuring heightened citizen participation and empowerment in the production and supply of items such as sanitizers, gloves, masks and other essentials identified to ensure the country's sufficiency," said Thamane, adding that the P30 million loan facility will be interest free up to 24 months and only citizen are eligible for the loan.

## BIC continues fight against COVID-19

- Contributes to the P4.5 m to COVID-19 Relief Fund
- Free COVID Bereavement Cover extended to all BIC Policy Holders
- Premium deferrals and discounts provided to affected qualifying clients

**S**HORT-TERM insurance giant Botswana



Insurance Company (BIC) continues the fight against COVID-19 by contributing towards Botswana Government's Relief Fund. The much-needed resources will bolster the health sector's containment strategy.

The contribution was made through BIC's Holding Company – the Botswana Insurance Holdings Limited (BIHL) Group.

"As corporate citizens we have a duty towards driving hope and making life better in the communities we trade and who form part of our ecosystem. Covid-19 does not only threaten our existence as human kind, it is devastating our economic fulcrum as a country. We stand with the Government in this fight. We will prevail. I hope this contribution will go a long way in assisting our very brave frontline health workers find this pandemic and help defend the well-being of Batswana during this difficult period," said BIC Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Newton Jazire.

BIC has also pledged further support to the different business constituents such as clients, independent financial advisors, agencies and brokers to ease their financial burden during period of Extreme Social Distancing.

The economic impact of this period will be huge. In this respect, BIC has made funds available to support specific value chains and clients. This support will be communicated directly to them and will consist of a blend of financial support to all stakeholders.

We are all aware that this pandemic has the potential to devastate populations and economies of scale across the world and we know that the economic growth in all BIC markets will be lower than anticipated, with some expected to enter recessions as the lockdowns in some of our operating countries impact the growth of new business.

best expertise available in the market to execute our strategy and deliver value to all our stakeholders.

Through our continued collaboration, we will get through this challenging period. Remember, together we are better. BIC recognises the financial burden the COVID-19 pandemic will have on its valued clients. Plans are in place to alleviate this strain by offering qualifying clients the following benefits: 30% Reduction in Individual Motor Policy Premiums for all clients in good standing; Premium rescue package for our clients in, Hospitality, restaurants and bar businesses has been put in place. Please contact your broker, agent or BIC directly for more information; All BIC policy holders and their immediate family, will enjoy free COVID Bereavement cover to the value of P10 000.

To assist the youth, BIC will make available additional funds to its "Corporate Social Responsibility" Partner, The Broadcaster's Organisation. These additional funds will be used to enhance their current BIC Motshwao IT system to provide support to schools registered on the system.

## BSB announces repayment holiday



**B**OTSWANA SAVINGS BANK (BSB) recognises the financial hardships that customers may be experiencing, due to the effects of the COVID-19 (Coronavirus) Pandemic. In a bid to provide financial relief to its customers, the Bank has introduced the following measures:

All affected customers in good credit standing: Are entitled to apply for a repayment holiday – for a maximum of 3 months for their

BSB loan facilities; The tenure of such loans will get extended to a maximum of 3 months; Each application will be assessed on its own merit subject to the Botswana Savings Bank's Credit Policy; Interest shall continue to accrue on the outstanding portion of the term loans during the moratorium period. For any further information, customers are encouraged to contact the Botswana Savings Bank Contact Centre on 3670001.

#COVID-19

# Stan Chart's COVID-19 response

**S**TANDARD CHARTERED BANK Botswana, as a proud citizen of Botswana and an active member of the Bankers Association of Botswana has committed its support to the fight against the COVID-19 pandemic in Botswana. The safety, wellbeing and financial security, of our colleagues, clients, partners and community continues to be our primary focus. Drawing on the experiences of our international network especially in markets where the COVID-19 outbreak took hold earlier than in Botswana, Standard Chartered Bank Botswana took early and decisive steps to prepare for the pandemic.

### For our colleagues

Our team is our most valuable asset. As an essential services provider, we have seamlessly enabled our team to serve our clients. We have managed to significantly reduce the number of colleagues working at our offices and branches. We have migrated proprietary technology to duplicate our office environment to enable our colleagues to work from home. We have implemented the following measures for our team:

All staff in head office and across our branches were issued with Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) ahead of the mandated movement lockdown

A programme of continuous Health, Safety and Awareness communication has been implemented and continues to run for all staff

We have increased the frequency of cleaning in our branches and offices

To promote and adhere to social distancing, all our internal meetings and our interactions with our clients and investors are taking place through virtual platforms

We implemented split working teams to reduce the chance of virus transmission amongst colleagues

For those colleagues whose roles

unavoidably require them to leave their homes - such as branch teams, Client Care Centre teams and select operations - we are providing daily transport to assist their safe travel between their homes and the office.

24-hour counselling support has been made available to support the mental wellbeing of our colleagues.

The Bank continues to ensure the financial wellbeing of our team by securing the income of all colleagues including commission-based teams. No team members have been asked to leave the Bank nor do we intend to make any redundancies due to and during COVID-19.

### For our clients

Our business exists to support the needs of our clients and we took immediate steps to ensure that as their financial partner we are there for them. We increased the rigour and frequency of cleaning and sanitation in our branches, our ATMs and offices. Social distancing protocols and aids were rolled out across our branches and ATMs to assist clients and colleagues maintain safe spacing. In support of the Government of Botswana's measures and to ease the financial burden of the pandemic on our clients, Standard Chartered Bank Botswana has introduced the following relief measures to eligible clients whose income has been or will be directly impacted by the pandemic;

### For Retail Banking clients

A 3-month repayment holiday or an extension of Loan tenure by up to 12 months is available on Personal, Auto and Home Loans for eligible clients. Clients with outstanding balances on credit cards can apply for a 3-month repayment holiday on the minimum amount payment or can evoke the option to convert their outstanding credit card balance into a personal loan.

### For Corporate Clients

We remain open for business and continue to extend banking services including new loan requests to our Corporate clients during this period. We have also engaged our clients across our Corporate portfolios to understand how we can provide support under the current challenging environment and we have developed customised relief measures to respond to these needs ranging from repayment holidays from 3 to 6 months on existing facilities and also tenure extensions for upcoming maturities. We continue to engage with our clients to ensure that in this rapidly changing environment, our support is immediate and impactful.

As movement is currently restricted

we have taken the Bank to our clients through our award-winning digital platforms; Online and through the SC Mobile App. Existing and potential clients can open new accounts from their smartphones in 15 minutes without the need to visit a bank branch. As part of the financial relief to our clients, we have reduced digital banking fees by 25% and we have also waived the charges on transfers between Standard Chartered Accounts on digital channels, utility payments made on our digital channels and on Bank2wallets transfers to Orange Money and BTC Smega wallets.

### SME Banking

A 3-month repayment holiday or an extension of Loan tenure by up to 12 months is available on SME Loans for eligible clients. In addition, we will provide our clients with an option to service on the interest portion of their SME loan for 3 months. Overdraft facilities will remain available.

We encourage our SME and Corporate clients to sign up for our market-leading Straight2Bank digital platform. We have extended a 25% reduction on Fund transfers made through the platform.

### Corporate Clients

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All clients that would like to enquire about the Relief Measures for all business segments may contact our 24-hour Client Care Centre on 361 5800 or their respective Relationship Managers.

### For our community

Along with all Batswana, we are keen to do what we can to support the joint national effort to ensure that our country remains resilient through the pandemic and will emerge from the same as soon as is safely possible. Standard Chartered Bank Botswana has been evaluating with our partners different opportunities within our community for where our support can make an immediate and significant impact and will be communicating more on this in due course. Standard Chartered globally, has made USD 1 billion in financing available for companies that provide goods and services to help the fight against COVID-19, and those planning the switch into making products that are in high demand to fight the global pandemic. Goods in scope include ventilators, face masks, protective equipment, sanitisers and other consumables. We are reaching out to Botswana-based companies that qualify for this fund to offer the necessary support.

Speaking on the Bank's response to the pandemic, Standard Chartered Botswana's CEO, Mpho Masupe encouraged everyone to work together to see the nation through the pandemic; "We would like to reiterate that we are in this together with our colleagues, clients and the community, though these are challenging times, we encourage all Batswana and residents in Botswana to adhere to the protocols set out by the Government. Our collective discipline will ensure that we minimise the health impact to our country and allow us to return back from restrictions as soon as possible."

## Bokomo donates P1m worth of sorghum

■ Donation to be distributed to the needy during COVID-19 fight



Werner

**B**OKOMO BOTSWANA HAS donated P1 million worth of Champion Sorghum to the COVID-19 Crisis. This donation has been made to assist in alleviating hunger and poverty burden on the Government in this time of national need.

Bokomo Botswana CEO, Werner de Beer, said: "Our nation, as with the rest of the region and globally is being severely impacted by the COVID-19 virus. When our government announced that a relief fund has been established we began to mobilise our production teams in order to support national efforts. As Bokomo we understand our "bigger picture" role during these abnormal times. We remain fully committed to our contribution towards national food security and take this responsibility very seriously. We have also put measures in place to safeguard the welfare of our team members so that we can have

continued production and supply during these unprecedented times."

The Champion brand consists of a locally manufactured product range that includes Samp, Maize Rice and the newly released Sorghum offering, named Champion Sorghum. The Champion brand is envisioned to be a mark of pride, as the country seeks to diversify the economy by growing industries that create jobs.

Champion Sorghum is produced in Botswana by Bokomo, using the latest milling technology at its manufacturing plant located in

Gaborone West. The sorghum is sourced from Botswana Agricultural Marketing Board (BAMB) as part of a long-standing business partnership. Champion Sorghum is currently being distributed throughout Botswana and is another example of Bokomo Botswana celebrating and promoting our traditional Botswana food. Bokomo CEO, Werner de Beer further expressed gratitude to the Bokomo Botswana team.

"I would like to acknowledge and commend the entire Bokomo team for their dedication, diligence and efforts they make on a daily basis to ensure continued 24 hour production in these perilous times. Their efforts have enabled the company to make this donation. We stand united as one with the nation in the fight against the Coronavirus and are also optimistic that together, we shall overcome."

The P1 million worth of Champion Sorghum is intended to support the Botswana Government with the Covid-19 Feeding Scheme, currently rolling out across the country.

Bokomo will continue to regularly engage with the government and support Botswana until the fight with this pandemic has been won.

## PPADB resumes 20online contractor registration

**T**HE PUBLIC PROCUREMENT and Asset Disposal Board (PPADB) informs the public that the service for online contractor registration applications has resumed except applications that requiring site visit

This service is offered in addition to evaluation, adjudication and

award of tenders in cases of emergencies like those intended to address the COVID-19.

Due to the ongoing Extreme Social Distancing (Lock down), other services like Capacity Building are still suspended until further notice. Contractors are encouraged to pay online using the Integrated Procurement Management System

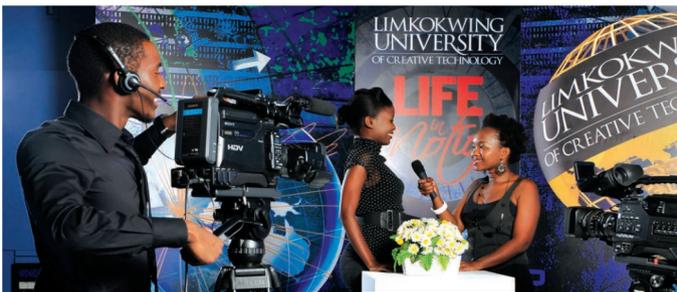
(IPMS) portal or at Botswana Post offices that are still operational.

For clarification or requests for assistance on online payments and online contractor registration, the public or relevant stakeholders should contact the Contractor Registration Unit (CRU) Administrators, Assessors and Adjudicators.

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# COVID-19

## CHALLENGE

# BOTSWANA

# INNOVATION FUND

## THIRD CALL FOR PROPOSALS

## BOTSWANA INNOVATION FUND (BIF) 3RD CALL FOR PROPOSALS FOR SOLUTIONS ADDRESSING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC CHALLENGES IN BOTSWANA

**Opens: 18<sup>th</sup> April 2020**

**Deadline for Submission: 01<sup>st</sup> May 2020 at 20:00hrs CAT**

**Eligible Applicants: Entrepreneurs, App Developers, Indigenous Knowledge and Traditional Knowledge Holders, Social Enterprises, Civil Society and Non Governmental Organisations**

**Amount of Funding: Open bid (to be determined by the most feasible solutions)**

### BACKGROUND ON CALL FOR PROPOSAL

In light of the Novel **Coronavirus of 2019** outbreak (**COVID-19** pandemic) the world is not only working towards the development of a vaccine, nations are rapidly responding by seeking solutions to abate the socio-economic impacts resulting from this outbreak. **COVID-19** has disrupted that which societies knew as the norm. This disruption has brought about opportunities for new innovations to be developed for use now and in future.

The Botswana Innovation Fund (BIF) is looking to fund the development of innovative solutions that address the **COVID-19** pandemic challenges from eligible applicants. It is also envisaged that private sector entities will have an opportunity to invest or participate in the implementation of the chosen solutions. The call places emphasis on innovative digital solutions and working product prototypes that are ready to scale and to curb the some of the socio-economic effects of the **COVID-19** pandemic. Further to this we anticipate intellectual property development and registration, technology transfer, and commercialisation of developed solutions.

### TARGETED SOLUTIONS TYPES:

#### WINDOW 1: VIRTUAL HACK

This call provides emerging digital innovators an opportunity to rapidly produce solutions that can be adopted by the market. The solutions will be informed by current epidemiological and socio-economic challenges presented by the **COVID-19** pandemic with special emphasis on the local economy. It is expected that the development of these solutions will involve individuals or collaborative teams with the requisite skills. The primary goal being the rapid prototyping of solutions with impact on society. The expected timelines to get the solutions to market are 2 (two) to four (4) weeks. The solutions targeted are at Technology Readiness Levels (TRL) 3 to 8 (TRL 3 to TRL 8), proof of concept to commercial system.

The development of any solution needs to consider that it will be hosted locally in data servers and tested accordingly. As such it is expected that the proposed solutions;

- May include mobile and web-based solutions e.g. food value chain e-commerce solutions
- Will be data enabled with the ability to analyse and publish information.
- Will adhere to the necessary standards as approved by the relevant bodies including medical bodies, as appropriate.
- May be able to provide near real time updates on the pandemic and related socio-economic impacts.

#### WINDOW 2: WORKING PROTOTYPES/SOLUTIONS

There are a number of market ready solutions relevant to the **COVID-19** pandemic which can be deployed but lack the necessary validation and tweaks to deliver them to market. In recognition of this, Window 2 seeks to provide innovators the support needed to capitalise on the opportunities presented by the **COVID-19** challenges with the aim of getting their solutions to market during this time when the market recognises the usefulness of technological solutions. The expected time of solution to market is 2 (two) to four (4) weeks.

These solutions are at Technology Readiness Levels (TRL) 5 to 8 (TRL 5 to TRL 8), prototype system to commercial system.

These may include working prototypes of products, processes, value added services, community social interventions, tools and gadgets that may be of high demand during and post the **COVID-19** pandemic. It is expected that the solutions will include, but are not limited to, those addressing challenges in:

- Health Systems (Public Health Surveillance, contact tracing, Model test-kits and accreditation and management)
- Public Service Delivery (Digital education, public service delivery systems)
- Transport (Payments, monitoring, & tracking)
- Logistics & Value Chains (Food, Fresh Produce, Medical supplies)

### EVALUATION CRITERIA

Submitted proposals will be ranked according to the following criteria:

- Clear articulation of proposed solution and approach
- Market Need
- Value Proposition (a clear path towards operationalising the product on-the-ground)
- Team Composition and Roles
- Customer Validation
- Clear Revenue Streams
- Alignment with Key Govt Objectives/National Needs i.e. **COVID-19** pandemic
- Social Impact, (evidence that the solution addresses a specific problem/challenge or need)

### SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS:

Submissions in response to this call for proposals will be made through the provided portal and must include the following sections in the order listed:

- Expression of interest letter
- Technical proposal containing the following content:
  - Concept note of the innovative solution(s);
  - Technical specifications;
  - Team experience;
  - Work Plan / Schedule for an implementation;
  - Mission team experience/profiles;
  - Implementation plan with budget and timeline.
  - Working prototype (pictures, narrative, video)
- Any other relevant documentation as an additional value proposition.

### APPLICATION PROCESS

Submit your proposal here:

**Covid-19BWchallenge** <https://form.jotform.com/innovationfund/application>

General Terms:

#### 1. Clarifications

Request for clarifications shall be sent to [innovationfund@bih.co.bw](mailto:innovationfund@bih.co.bw), [cc\\_procurement@bih.co.bw](mailto:cc_procurement@bih.co.bw). BIH will respond in writing to any request for clarification, provided that such requests are received five (5) days prior to the deadline for submission of proposals. Should the clarification result in changes to the contents of the Call for Proposals advert, BIH shall amend and issue an addendum.

#### 2. Preparation Costs

The prospective solution provider shall bear all costs associated with the preparation and submission of their proposal. BIF shall not be responsible or liable for the costs regardless of the outcome of the bidding process.

#### 3. Cancellation

BIF reserves the right to cancel the Call for Proposal without providing any reasons.

#### 4. Validity

The solutions and prototypes proposals costing must be valid for a period of 90 days

AN INITIATIVE OF



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# Opportunities at the BSE post COVID -19

**THAPELO TSHEOLE**  
CEO, Botswana Stock Exchange

THE OUTBREAK OF THE CORONAVIRUS, ALSO known as COVID-19, is arguably becoming the most disruptive crisis the world has ever experienced since the Spanish flu of 1918 which is said to have infected a quarter of the world population at the time. The economic and financial impact of this pandemic, which is still unravelling, is analogous with past events such as the Great Depression and the 2008 global financial crisis. Several jurisdictions have declared a state of public emergency to deploy measures to curb the spread and cushion the socioeconomic impact of the pandemic. From a social standpoint, the outbreak has necessitated social to take drastic measures such as extreme social distancing and extensive lockdown periods. As a result, majority of the global workforce has had no choice but to stay home, causing massive disruption in productive activity across the world.

Volatility and panic engulfed major financial markets across the world with many experiencing significant drawdowns from their 2020 highs and effectively wiping out previous year's gains due to the sell-off caused by the economic uncertainty. In response, governments and in some cases private sector, have intervened by providing social and financial support to businesses and employees most affected by the disruption, including small-to-medium enterprises (SMEs). In addition, most central banks have responded by taking an aggressively accommodative monetary policy stance by significantly reducing interest rates and launching quantitative easing programs. Regardless of the current state of affairs, history shows us that humanity has been able to survive even the direst times of distress instilling hope that the contagion will ultimately subside to manageable levels and life will return to normal, albeit a distinctively different

normal. Although the adverse socio-economic effects of the pandemic will be felt for many months to come, businesses certainly have options that they can evaluate and adopt to maintain their survival and growth during and in the post-pandemic period. As financial capital is the lifeblood of all businesses - big and small - the financial and capital markets are now more important than ever. Businesses have the ability to remain solvent by strategically accessing the capital markets to raise debt and/or equity capital or by preserving capital through certain corporate actions affiliated with instruments on the stock exchange. This paper explores how companies can use the Botswana Stock Exchange (BSE) post COVID19 pandemic to sustain and enhance recovery, thereby benefiting their stakeholders in the long term.

## THE IMPACT OF THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC ON BUSINESSES

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) indicates that the global economy has already entered a recession that could be as bad or worse than the slump after the 2008 financial crisis. The World Bank estimates that the coronavirus outbreak could cause significant economic slowdown in China with spillovers into other parts of the world. In addition, the World Bank has projected that Sub-Saharan Africa will see its first recession in 25 years because of the severe impact of the coronavirus pandemic. On the back of these projections, the performance and competitiveness of companies across most industries could be substantially negatively affected. Although the impact is systemic and idiosyncratic in some instances, the below three trends embody the impact



that potentially cuts across various industries:

**Reduced earnings:** Businesses have temporarily shut down as countries across the world have initiated lockdowns to curb potential spread of the virus and this implies significantly reduced revenues. In the absence of cash flow, some smaller businesses may be forced to reduce their staff or close down entirely and that could exacerbate the pressure on the economy.

**Increased cost of operations** The disruption of the production and supply value chain could result in increased costs of inputs as supply dwindles due to the logistics and mobility restrictions. Furthermore, supply chains may take longer time to return to normal following the lockdowns.

**Changing competitive landscape:** Companies are responding strategically by embracing flexibility in their operations and central to this is the capacity to enable work from home or alter their physical or customer environments. Domestically, stores for example, have embraced online shopping and home deliveries. Businesses that have adequately invested in business continuity plans and pandemic contingency infrastructure have experienced minimal disruption to their operations.

In addition, many firms across the world have stepped up and shifted their capacity and infrastructure towards manufacturing products required in the pandemic environment, for both commercial and social reasons. Locally, start-ups and

some universities are producing sanitizers and other forms of protective equipment. In what may become a future norm, conferences are taking place over virtual platforms to continue these important network events. These and many more examples demonstrate how the pandemic has forcefully shifted and morphed business models for adaption.

## THE ROLE OF THE BSE IN THE ECONOMY

In the broader economy and the financial system, the BSE performs a crucial function of facilitating the formation, allocation and mobility of capital. Like many other stock exchanges, the BSE is an organized and regulated marketplace where equity and debt securities are listed and subsequently traded on a continuing basis. Unlike money markets, capital markets provide an opportunity for long-term funding at the point of issuing the securities for the first time and at any other point henceforth. Such securities can be debt (bonds, debentures, or notes), equity (shares or common stock), or a hybrid (a security with both debt-like and equitlike characteristics such as preferred shares and convertible bonds).

Among other functions, stock exchanges address the needs of issuers seeking finance at reasonable cost and of investors willing to provide the finance according to their perception of risk and return. The issuance of equity, or shares, happens in the primary market when a company sells some of its outstanding shares to the public, in return receiving the funds in this transaction. Once the company is listed on the BSE, the shares can be traded continuously between the holders and members of the public seeing value in the company. While a listing may result in a flow of funds from investors to the firm in the primary market in exchange for the shares, the trading of shares in the secondary market results in the exchange of funds and shares between investors. By facilitating the trading of issued shares in the secondary market the BSE enhances the

discovery of price and facilitate entry and exit in these investments, which are critical for efficient allocation of capital by various participants in the market and the ultimate resilience of the economy. It suffices to highlight that companies and investors alike tend to prefer a public platform such as a stock exchange due to the oversight provided, applied and enforced on listed entities and participants in the market using the regulatory tools of the exchange. As a regulatory entity, the stock exchange ensures that the capital raising and investing activities are conducted in a fair, transparent, efficient manner and in a secure manner as regards the clearing, settlement and custody of securities through the central depository system (CSD).

## HOW COMPANIES CAN UTILIZE THE BSE POST COVID-19 PANDEMIC

From a business perspective, at the core of this unfolding pandemic is the concern around the solvency and liquidity of companies – the lifeblood of every economy. Most economies have introduced stimulus packages and relief measures of various forms to keep businesses and the economy afloat. At company level, access to capital is very critical in any business cycle. In this particular one, and even in glory days, it still remains critical to reiterate the importance of utilizing the stock exchange and the methods by which companies can utilize the stock exchange to stay in operation and ramp up as the impact of the pandemic dissipates. These methods primarily highlight ways in which a company can raise capital as well as preserve cash on the balance sheet.

### a) Issuing and Listing Shares on the BSE

Companies can issue and list shares through an initial public offering (IPOs) or private placement to raise capital for business operations and for various other reasons. As a pandemic is systemic, it is highly likely that valuations will get depressed during the pandemic whereas the fundamentals of a business could be viewed differently by existing and potential investors. Often, this presents opportunities to both seekers and suppliers of capital and the timing could prove beneficial in terms of optimizing the capital structure of the company by accessing public funds through the stock exchange. On the BSE, a company can list its shares on various boards depending on its ability to meet the requirements of each of the boards. These are the Main Board, Venture Capital Board, and the Tshipidi SME Board.

In addition, a company may register on the Serala OTC Board as an opportunity for its shares to be traded to facilitate the exit and entry of investors at publicly accessible share prices. In the process of remaining on the Serala OTC Board, a company also benefits from familiarizing itself with the regulatory conduct and compliance requirements of a publicly-listed company and this is useful for companies that strategically intend to eventually issue more shares to raise capital and undertake a listing on either the Main or the Venture Capital board in the short to medium term.

### b) Undertaking Rights Issues, Secondary Offerings, Scrip Dividends and Bonus Shares

Listing on the BSE affords a company the ability to build a larger and heterogeneous base of retail and institutional investors, domestic and foreign. Such an investor base is crucial for supporting the company's corporate actions on an ongoing basis, some of which are aimed at raising more money while others are aimed at preserving cash already on the balance sheet. A listed company can raise money through a rights issue which is an option for existing shareholders to buy additional shares in the company at a discounted price compared to the market price. Other than the discounted price, the attractiveness of a rights issue to shareholders is that the shares are purchased in proportion to the existing ownership thus avoiding a dilution in shareholding. For the company, it is able to raise long-term capital without increasing its debt levels. In addition, a company can conduct a secondary offering of shares, or issuance of additional shares, which could be subscribed to by any investor as a way of raising capital by the company. In some cases, companies can structure acquisition transactions financed wholly by issuing shares or through a combination of shares and cash. The fact that the valuation is already determined in the public market is an important catalyst in these transactions.

A company can preserve cash on the balance sheet by paying a dividend using shares instead of paying cash as dividends and this is called a scrip dividend. To even please its loyal shareholders, it can pay a bonus dividend in the form of additional shares instead of cash. These corporate actions are crucial for capitalizing the company so it can resuscitate or pursue business expansion, acquisitions and other activities of potential value to shareholders using the preserved cash.

### c) Optimizing the Capital Structure and Managing Risk

Debt capital is usually the dominant type of capital in a company's structure in its early years of operation and with time companies can reach a level where another form of capital is necessary to be injected for the company's continued growth. Often, this form of capital is external equity. In some instances, lenders cap their debt exposure to companies to mitigate credit risk and this can reduce the possibility of accessing debt financing at reasonable cost. Therefore, a company can strategically undertake an IPO to access equity capital, reduce its riskiness and in the process increase its attractiveness and creditworthiness to lenders so it can continue to access external debt. Interestingly, certain lenders do accept shares of a company as collateral for the loans issued as this helps to manage their credit risk exposure. Compared to a private company, such an innovative transaction as equity collateralized debt obligations can be hampered by the lack of a publicly determined value of the stock and the lack of a platform for selling the shares held by the lender if the need arises. Given the envisaged and unfolding economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, most lenders would increasingly become frugal and borrowers, being corporates, could be compelled to increase their levels of equity capital. One of the ways of achieving this is by floating their shares on the BSE to raise funds from the public. Practice has demonstrated that a listed company tends to be progressively credible for further lending by private institutions as, among several considerations, a diversified capital structure reduces its credit risk.

### d) Issuing and Listing Bonds on the BSE

A bond is a debt instrument acknowledging an obligation of indebtedness to a lender by the issuer of the bond for a specified period of time and with a pre-determined interest rate or coupon rate. Generally, bonds are deemed less risky in comparison to shares because of the contractual obligations of the borrower to the lender as regards payment of interest and repayment of principal, among other things. From a lender's perspective and in accordance with the pecking order theory, issuing debt tends to be highly preferred if internal finance is insufficient because of the many advantages of external debt financing relative to those of external equity. External debt financing can be attained by issuing a bond on the

BSE and this is applicable to both listed companies and unlisted companies. Again the value proposition is the presence of regulatory oversight but in addition what is most distinct is that a bond, especially a bond of longer maturity, is an attractive asset to pension funds and insurance companies who are managing long-term liabilities that need to be matched with long-term assets such as bonds.

Bonds can be of various types and structure, which is an important consideration in the context of COVID-19 pandemic and the expected depressed cash flow levels in the early days of economic resuscitation and recovery. For example; issuing a zero-coupon bonds takes out interest payment obligations. Issuing a bullet bond defers principal payment to the maturity date. Issuing amortizing bonds, where both the interest and principal payments are built into the coupon payment offers its own advantages of reducing the amount of debt at every payment opportunity. A company can also issue convertible bonds which, overtime and subject to the performance of the company, can be converted to shares in the company at a pre-determined conversion ratio. On the BSE, convertible bonds have historically been applied in early stage companies whose continued growth then triggered the conversion of debt to equity, saving the company the trouble of repaying the debt. These examples clearly can be very useful to companies that prefer to strengthen cash balances and utilize them for business recovery while minimizing the burden of servicing debt obligations for some time.

In addition to the aforementioned types and structures of bonds, a company can issue green and/or social bonds whose proceeds are generally directed towards environmental, social and governance (ESG) activities. The COVID-19 pandemic has uplifted the prominence of social bonds whose capital is deployed for socio-economic issues related to this pandemic. According to the African Development Bank, a record \$3 billion in a three-year "FIGHT COVID19" social bond was raised towards the end of March to help alleviate the economic and social impact the COVID-19 pandemic will have on livelihoods and Africa's economies. Due to the rising significance of impact and social investing these kind of bonds which normally pay lower interest have become appealing to institutional asset owners who strive to demonstrate their contribution to humanity, beyond just maximizing returns.

By extension, companies that issue green and social bonds directly address the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and this has increasingly become an important selling point for ESG-oriented investment mandates. As it stands, the COVID-19 pandemic will substantially defeat and regress Goal 1 of the SDGs – End Poverty, as it is estimated that half a billion people in the world could be pushed into poverty as a result of the pandemic (Oxfam, 2020).

### e) Enhancing Strategic Performance

As mentioned earlier, the outbreak of this pandemic has challenged several companies to improve their competitiveness in order to remain afloat. According to Forbes (2020), the world could be witnessing the awakening of a new world order wherein, among others, there is increased confidence in technology, technical performance and online payment sectors which are causing a change in consumer behavior, away from traditional methods. We are witnessing this wave of change locally particularly as retailers and other service providers have switched to online and technology-backed service delivery methods. This trend would likely be sustained post the dissipation of the pandemic. If so, it could greatly support the rise of financial technology companies, also known as fintechs, and challenge the viability of the various operational models. It could catalyze mergers and acquisition (M&A) activities which could intelligently be financed by cash, shares or a combination of both. Again the relevance and importance of the stock market takes center stage particularly in transactions that could involve publicly listed companies as well as fintechs that could be seeking capital for expansion. Presumably, companies could also resort to streamlining and unbundling some of its assets to be listed as stand-alone companies. As a reference point, following the 2008 financial crisis, we witnessed some level of M&A activity in the public market where a number of companies used shares to take ownership stakes in others and also merge into new entities.

### f) Marketing, Governance and Beneficiation

Companies go public for reasons beyond just raising capital initially and on a continuing basis. They frequently highlight factors related to marketing, governance and stakeholder beneficitation as some of the compelling reasons for listing. These are softer but extremely important tenets of business viability. A listing increases the visibility, improves public perception of a company and positively impacts brand loyalty. A listed company demonstrates commitment to higher standards of governance, accountability and transparency which are very crucial to creating long-term shareholder value. A listing promotes local beneficitation as the general public is afforded the opportunity to invest in companies operating in their locality and affords companies the opportunity to boost employee morale, retain and attract talent by putting in place stock-based incentive programs such as employee share option schemes (ESOP). In the tail end of this pandemic, these three tenets would still remain important contributors to the pace of recovery and the stock exchange is a credible platform to accelerate their impact on business.

## CONCLUSION

The global COVID-19 pandemic is undoubtedly causing unprecedented disruption locally and around the world and has triggered the need to delicately balance social issues with economic issues, particularly preservation of lives and sustenance of business activity respectively. To a larger extent, the draconian measures aimed at containing the spread of the virus have disproportionately impacted business output while also stimulating renewed models of business operations and opportunities. Central to recovery in the post-pandemic era, and perhaps during the pandemic, is the need to maintain solvency and to access capital when it is needed. In addition to available fiscal interventions and relief measures offered by alternative suppliers of capital, businesses need to be made aware of the various methods they could deploy to tap into the deeper pools of contractual savings in the country through the various instruments on the BSE. These methods are diverse in nature and applicable to both listed entities and entities willing to list. They serve various strategic purposes over and above raising capital and can be very important in catalyzing the pace of recovery for individual businesses post the COVID-19 pandemic. Inarguably, shareholders and suppliers of capital are monitoring and evaluating the developments during this crisis for eventual allocation of capital. Hence, companies can progressively position themselves for recovery through these methods and instruments that are available on the BSE.



## REPUBLIC OF BOTSWANA

### PUBLIC NOTICE

#### Notice issued in terms of Section 10 of the Environmental Assessment Act, No. 10 of 2011

#### NOTIFICATION FOR PUBLIC REVIEW OF AN ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR MANDUNYANE-SHASHE MOOKE- MATHANGWANE ROAD BYPASS

The public notice present major findings of the Environmental Management Plan for the design and construction of Mandunyane-Shashe Mooko- Mathangwane Road Bypass. HERBCO Technical Services have been awarded a contract by Ministry of Transport and Communication through Roads Department.

The necessity for construction of the bypass road is to contain traffic coming from the western side of the country which mostly will be Trucks going to Kazungula Border Post. The Completion of the Kazungula Bridge will spur trade as such motivate truckers to use border post and since most trucks will be coming from the North West, the bypass will help reduce congestion in the city of Francistown.

**i) Nature and Magnitude of the Activity**  
The bypass road start point is approximately 5km from Shashe Mooko. From the start point the road continues in a western direction to Borolong village, where it will cross the Francistown- Orapa Road, at approximately 2 kilometers from the village. It will then traverse still on the western side of Chadibe it reaches Mathangwane where it ends.

**ii) Location of the Activity**  
The project road will be bypassing Shashe Mooko, Borolong, Chadibe and ends at Mathangwane in the Central District

**iii) Anticipated Environmental impacts of the Activity and proposed mitigation measures to respond to the negative environmental impact**

The environmental impacts and mitigation measures identified by the Environmental Management Plan (EMP) study are presented in detail in the Environmental Impact Assessment study and summarised in the table below. A detailed EMP to help manage and monitor potential impacts is included in the EMP report.

Project Phase	Environmental Impact	Mitigation measure/Enhancement
Design	Potential wildlife and domestic animals accidents from survey excavations	<input type="checkbox"/> Cover excavations on an ongoing basis. <input type="checkbox"/> Backfill and rehabilitate as soon as investigations are complete <input type="checkbox"/> No holes should be left open overnight
	Damage of existing services	<input type="checkbox"/> Provide service providers such as Water Utilities Corporation and Department of Water and Sanitation with estimated water needs for the project area and advise them on the need to upgrade to accommodate increased needs for portable water. <input type="checkbox"/> A detailed survey of the existing services along the proposed road bypass should be undertaken to identify which properties or services will be affected as well as to avoid disturbance to local reticulations <input type="checkbox"/> Liaise with Botswana Power Corporation on the power needs for the camp sites and site offices. <input type="checkbox"/> The camp sites should have each own "clinic" to avoid the need to overwhelm local health facilities.
	Waste generations and management	<input type="checkbox"/> Portable toilets must be provided on site for construction workers. <input type="checkbox"/> Wastewater must be collected in a conservancy tank and removed from site by licensed waste collectors for proper disposal. <input type="checkbox"/> Avoid waste through application of efficient construction methods that avoids surplus and spoils. <input type="checkbox"/> Reduce waste through purchasing of specified materials only.
Construction phase	Surface water and underground water pollution	<input type="checkbox"/> Pit latrines and septic tanks should not be allowed at camp sites or offices instead conservatory tanks should be used because the camp and site office will be established where there is no connection to the main sewer line <input type="checkbox"/> Fuel/oil tanks kept on site should be duly protected in a bund wall equal to 110% of the tank volume and the surrounding area paved to avoid pollution of both surface and underground water.
	Spread of Contagious diseases	<input type="checkbox"/> At least one first aid kit stocked to the specifications as prescribed in the Factories Act Regulations should be available on site all the time <input type="checkbox"/> Contractor to provide induction to the crew on health issues particularly HIV/AIDS prior to mobilization to site
	Land alteration	<input type="checkbox"/> Appropriate licenses and permits such as mining license should be lodged with relevant authorities to avoid delay <input type="checkbox"/> To ensure rehabilitation, the client should tie rehabilitation to the construction liability cost such that these funds can only be released once proper rehabilitation has been undertaken and approved by the Department of Mines
Employment Creation	Employment Creation	<input type="checkbox"/> Recruit as many local people as possible especially in the semi-skilled and unskilled category
	Potential risk of road and construction accidents	<input type="checkbox"/> Construction vehicle drivers should be on the lookout for local traffic, pedestrians and animals. <input type="checkbox"/> Construction drivers should constantly be educated on the importance of abiding by the Road Traffic Act. <input type="checkbox"/> All construction vehicles should be fitted with flashing/warning lights and those hauling construction materials should be covered at all time. <input type="checkbox"/> The contractor should have a road safety officer full time on site during construction
	Potential damage to property	<input type="checkbox"/> Assessment of affected properties should be undertaken by the monitoring environmentalist, Tonota Sub Land Board, property owners before commencement of construction. <input type="checkbox"/> Valuation of affected properties should be done and compensation paid fully to affected people prior to construction works.
Operation Phase	Road accidents/ vehicle animal collisions	<input type="checkbox"/> Speed calming measures must be put in place to promote safe use of road. <input type="checkbox"/> Fully equipped rest areas (sitting places and waste bins) should be provided along the road to encourage drivers to stop over and reduce road accidents from fatigue <input type="checkbox"/> Since road passes through a wildlife rich area, the rest areas should not be placed along areas with evidence of active wildlife activity or crossing <input type="checkbox"/> There should be warning signs along the road indicating the presence of wildlife.
	Travel time saving	<input type="checkbox"/> The road should be maintained whenever the need arises to achieve travel time savings

#### iv) Environmental Impact Statement Placement

Copies of the EIA can be reviewed at the following locations:  
 - Department of Environmental Affairs (Francistown)  
 - Shashe- Mooko, Mandunyane, Borolong, Chadibe, Mathangwane (Kgotta)  
 - Roads Department (Francistown)

Written comments or objections from those likely to be affected by the project and other interested persons should be submitted directly to the Department of Environmental Affairs, Francistown Office by 20<sup>th</sup> April 2020.

#### v) Correspondences

All correspondences should be addressed to The District Environmental Coordinator (DEC), Department of Environmental Affairs, Private Bag F020 Francistown. And Tel: 2417363, Fax 2417108 or hand delivered to Francistown DEA Office, at Ntsho House first Floor, Office No.2 112/2.110/2.109

Further enquiries regarding public review of this document may be lodged with DEA officers listed below.  
 Mr P. Sandawana at TEL: 2417363



Department of Environmental Affairs Ministry of Environment, Natural Resources Conservation & Tourism

### KITSISO MO SECHABENG

#### Kitsiso e ntshiwa mapadi le Karolo ya Lesome (Section 10) ya molao wa Tshakatsheko Seemo sa Tikologo No. 10 wa Ngwaga wa 2011

#### TALETSO YA KANOKO KA SETSHABA MABAPI LE TSHAKATSHOKO TIKOLOGO MABAPI LE GO DIRWA GA TSELA E FETANG KO THOKO YA MANDUNYANE- SHASHE MOOKE-MATHANGWANE

Kitsiso e e soboka Ditlamorago tsa dipatlisiso tse di borweng fa go dirwa tshakatshoko ya tikologo mabapi le go dirwa ga tselae e e fetang ko rite ga Mandunyane- Shashe Mooko- Borolong- Chadibe, Mathangwane. HERBCO Technical Services Pty Ltd e thapilwe ba Lephatla la Dipatlisiso le Ditshaleletso mo lekaleneng la Ditsela.

Go dirwa ga tselae e, ka le bakata la gore tselae e kgone go amogela, pharankano ya dikoloi tse di tswang ko Bophirima ja lefatsho tse bontsi jwa tseone e leng ditiraka tse di tswang ko molekwaneng wa Kazungula. Go fetang ga tiro ya go agwa ga borogo jwa Kazungula go sololelwa fa go ta oketsa theko le thekiso ya ditoho ka jalo go sololelwa fa go tsile go kophatsa badirisi ba ditiraka go dirisa molelwane oo. Ka go sololelwa fa ditiraka ka bontsi di ta bo di tswa ko Bokone Bophirima di tsema mo bokone le legare, tselae e e dikologang e ta fokotsa mosuke wa dikoloi tse di tseanong mo Francistown.

#### i) Boleng le Selekanyo sa Tiro

Tselae e e simolola dikilometara tse thano go tswa mo Shashe Mooko. Go tswa fa e simolola Dieng ti ta tswelela e tsamaa ka fa bophirima go dikologa motse wa Borolong, ko e ta kgabanganyang teng tselae ya Francistown- Orapa teng, ka dikilometara tse pedi go tswa mo fetseng wa Borolong. E ta tswelela e dikologa e ntshe e le ka fa Bophirima e feta motse wa Chadibe go fitlhelwa e gorga ko Mathangwane ko e fetseng teng.

#### ii) Lefelo la Tiro

Tselae e, e simologang kwa Shashe Mooko, e bo e dikologa, Borolong, Chadibe, e bo e ya go felela ko Mathangwane.

**iii) Ditlamorago tse di ka thagogaang ka nako ya tiro le tse di akantsweng go ka dirwa go fokotsa manokonoko a kamego ya tikologo**  
 Ditlamorago tse di ka thagogaang ka nako ya tiro le tse di akantsweng go ka dirwa go fokotsa manokonoko a kamego ya tikologo tse di lenoglweng ka nako ya fa go dirwa ditshakatshoko tsa kamego ya tikologo di akareditwae mo tafeleng e e fa tlase. Tshipu ya ditlamorago tse, e e tseaneletseng e mo lenanong la pabalelo tikologo ka botlalo.

Legato la tiro	Tse di amang tikologo	Dintsha tse di fokotsang manokonoko mo tikologong
Ka nako ya go dirwa ga mealo	<input type="checkbox"/> Kgonagalo ya dikoloi tse di amang dipholologo tsa naga le tsa mo gae go dirwa ka mafuti a a apilweng go dira ditshakatshoko.  <input type="checkbox"/> Tshenyho ya ditlamele tse di ntseng di le teng.	<input type="checkbox"/> Mafuti a tshwanetse go katelwa ka nako tothepe <input type="checkbox"/> Katela mafuti othe morago ga dipatlisiso <input type="checkbox"/> Mafuti a tshwanetse go katelwa go ise go nne bosigo
Ka nako ya kago	<input type="checkbox"/> Tshenyho ya ditlamele tse di ntseng di le teng.	<input type="checkbox"/> Ba lephata la metsi ba Koporosa ya metsi le Lephata la Water and Sanitation ba tshwanetse go neelwa, kabelelo ya selekanyo sa metsi a tiro e tla ta thokang go tswa mo lefelong la tiro. Le go ba gakolola go ipaakanyetsa go kgona go emelana le koketsego ya metsi a dirisiwang mo lefelong leo.
	<input type="checkbox"/> Tshenyho ya ditlamele tse diteng	<input type="checkbox"/> Ba Botswana Power Corporation ba tshwanetse go itsewise mabapi le lefelo la tiro ya motlakase ko kampeng ya babereki le ko ofising ya ga konteraka. <input type="checkbox"/> Go tshwanetse ga dirwa kokelwana mo kampeng ya babereki go fokotsa mosuke mo dikokelwaneng tse di mo motseing.
	<input type="checkbox"/> Kgonagalo ya dikoloi tsa tselae le tsa babereki	<input type="checkbox"/> Ditshekatsheko tse di tseaneletseng tsa ditlamele tse di fa tlase ga tselae di tshwanetse go dirwa go re go bonwe gore ke dire tse di fa amegang le go leka go di fapoga. <input type="checkbox"/> Mealo e tshwanetse go rotoetsa go dirisiwa gape ga sekonotere se se ntseng se ntshiwa go baakanya tselae. <input type="checkbox"/> Fa go sa kgonagaleng gore ditlamele di ka fapogwa, beng ba ditlamele ba tshwanetse go dirisiwa go go busanwe ka phimoa dikoleli le go fudusiwa ga ditlamele tsa bone.
Koketsego ya menyetta ya go thama mebereko	<input type="checkbox"/> Kgonagalo ya dikoloi tsa tselae le tsa babereki	<input type="checkbox"/> Mantlwana a botiketso a tshwanetse go nna teng. <input type="checkbox"/> Lefelo la go latlha ga matlakala le go a tsa, le tshwanetse go dirwa mo kampeng, fa go mothogo go gorga teng <input type="checkbox"/> Ditanka tsa metsi a lewise le matlo a botiketso a mafuti, ga di a tshwanetse go dirisiwa mo kampeng, go ka dirisiwa matlwana a dirisiwang metsi go kophale lewise, mme go na le thulaganyo ya gore lewise leo le tsewe gore le tsholelwa go babalesegileng <input type="checkbox"/> Metsi a a lewise a tshwanetse go gopelwa mo ditankeng tsa kgopo ya metsi a a lewise a bo a ntshiwa mo lefelong la mmerako ke ba ba fihweng tseletsego ya go dira jalo a bo a tsholelwa ko mafelong a a lebaneyo. <input type="checkbox"/> Fema go dira matlakala ka go dirisa methale ya kago e e sa rotoetseng go sala ga dilo tsa kago tse di ka se thologang ka dirisiwa. <input type="checkbox"/> Fokotsa matlakala ka go reka fela dirisiwa tse di kalweng.
	<input type="checkbox"/> Kgonagalo ya go senyeng ga dikago	<input type="checkbox"/> Ditanka tsa loekwane le ole tse di mo lefelong la tiro di tshwanetse go bewa fa go sinletsegileng, mo lekotswaneng le le kganelang go rwela ga loekwane mo lefatsheng. Go tshwanetse ga dirwa le boalo go dikologa lefelo la fa ditankeng go isa go kgotlelesegile ya lefatsho le metsi a kwa tlase ga lefatsho. <input type="checkbox"/> Mantlwana a botiketso a mafuti ga a tswanaga go lefelo mo kampeng ya ba babereki ba konteraka.
	<input type="checkbox"/> Kgonagalo ya go senyeng ga dikago	<input type="checkbox"/> Lefelo la tiro le tshwanetse ga nna le bokose le le lengwe la thuso ya potlako, le le setseng morago ditsetlana tsa molao wa madirole <input type="checkbox"/> Konteraka e tshwanetse go ruta babereki ba e le gone ba firwang ka tsa botsoago go remeletswa thata mo go tsa mogare wa HIV/AIDS.
Koketsego ya menyetta ya go thama mebereko	<input type="checkbox"/> Go senyega ga lefatsho	<input type="checkbox"/> Go netefatsa gore lefatsho le busetswa ko seamong se se siameng, go tshwanetse ga patlaganyang go baakanya ga lefelo la tiro le dituelo, gore go se ka ga nna le dituelo dipe tsa di dirwang fa lefelo la tiro le tsa busetswa ko seamong se se siameng <input type="checkbox"/> Ditesolelo tsa go epa di tshwanetse go neelwa ba mapatha a tshwanetseng ka nako go isa tisa.
	<input type="checkbox"/> Kgonagalo ya dikoloi tsa tselae le tsa babereki	<input type="checkbox"/> Beng gae ba tshwanetse go firwa ka dipalo tse dintsi, bogolo jang mo ditirong tse sa thokeng botsoipa doepe.
	<input type="checkbox"/> Kgonagalo ya dikoloi tsa tselae le tsa babereki	<input type="checkbox"/> Bakgwetsi ba dikatakata ba tshwanetse go nna kelothoko mo badirising ba tselae, batsamaya ka dinao le dipholologo. <input type="checkbox"/> Bakgwetsi ba dikatakata ba tshwanetse go tsibosiwa ka bothokwa ja go obanella matlwana ya ditsetl. <input type="checkbox"/> Dikoloi tsothe tsa konteraka di tshwanetse go tsengwa dipone tsa tsiboso, mme o o olelwang o tswanetse go khurumediwa fa o setse o iswa ko lefelong la mmerako ka dikoloi. <input type="checkbox"/> Konteraka e tshwanetse go fira mmeraki wa tshaleletso ya dikoloi tsa tselae.
Koketsego ya menyetta ya go thama mebereko	<input type="checkbox"/> Kgonagalo ya go senyeng ga dikago	<input type="checkbox"/> Ditshekatsheko tsa dikago tse di ka amegang di tshwanetse tsa dirwa ka moit-saanape wa tsa tikologo, lephata la ditsha la Tonota, lephata la ditsha le beng ba dikago pele ga tiro e ka simololwa <input type="checkbox"/> Ditlhothomiso tsa metse kana dikago tse di amegang di tshwanetse tsa dirwa batho ba ba amegang a phimoiva dikoleli ka fa go tshwanetseng pele ga tiro e ka simololwa.
	<input type="checkbox"/> Kgonagalo ya go senyeng ga dikago	<input type="checkbox"/> Melawana e e rotoetsang lebelo la dikoloi le le kotlase e tshwanetse ya dirwa go dirisiwa tiro ya tselae e e sinletsegileng. <input type="checkbox"/> Mafelo a botlopotlo fa thoko ga ditsetla a tshwanetse a dirwa go fokotsa dikoloi tsa tselae tse di okiwang ke tselae
Koketsego ya menyetta ya go thama mebereko	<input type="checkbox"/> Kgonagalo ya go senyeng ga dikago	<input type="checkbox"/> Melawana e e rotoetsang lebelo la dikoloi le le kotlase e tshwanetse ya dirwa go dirisiwa tiro ya tselae e e sinletsegileng. <input type="checkbox"/> Mafelo a botlopotlo fa thoko ga ditsetla a tshwanetse a dirwa go fokotsa dikoloi tsa tselae tse di okiwang ke tselae
	<input type="checkbox"/> Kgonagalo ya go senyeng ga dikago	<input type="checkbox"/> Melawana e e rotoetsang lebelo la dikoloi le le kotlase e tshwanetse ya dirwa go dirisiwa tiro ya tselae e e sinletsegileng. <input type="checkbox"/> Mafelo a botlopotlo fa thoko ga ditsetla a tshwanetse a dirwa go fokotsa dikoloi tsa tselae tse di okiwang ke tselae
Koketsego ya menyetta ya go thama mebereko	<input type="checkbox"/> Kgonagalo ya go senyeng ga dikago	<input type="checkbox"/> Melawana e e rotoetsang lebelo la dikoloi le le kotlase e tshwanetse ya dirwa go dirisiwa tiro ya tselae e e sinletsegileng. <input type="checkbox"/> Mafelo a botlopotlo fa thoko ga ditsetla a tshwanetse a dirwa go fokotsa dikoloi tsa tselae tse di okiwang ke tselae
	<input type="checkbox"/> Kgonagalo ya go senyeng ga dikago	



# COVID19 WAGE SUBSIDY – FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

<b>Q1</b>	<b>What nationality do the employees need to be?</b>
	Citizens of Botswana with valid o'mang.
<b>Q2</b>	<b>How much should employers pay employees?</b>
	The purpose of the subsidy is to provide assistance to employees of eligible sectors. The Government cannot dictate to employers how much they must pay employees but encourages employers to do their best to meet employees wages and salaries.
<b>Q3</b>	<b>Can an employee apply on his own?</b>
	NO. The facility is to be accessed by employers on behalf of their employees.
<b>Q4</b>	<b>Is there a difference between wages and salary for purposes of the subsidy?</b>
	No. Wages and salaries are the same for purposes of the subsidy. The computation of subsidy however is based on the basic wage or salary of the employee.
<b>Q5</b>	<b>How do we treat non-monetary benefits in computing subsidy?</b>
	Non-monetary benefits are not considered in determining 50% of the employee's wages or salary.
<b>Q6</b>	<b>If a business is owned by a non-citizen, can the business apply for the subsidy?</b>
	Yes. The criteria for application is that the business must be an eligible business with Botswana employees
<b>Q7</b>	<b>If a business owes BURS any taxes can they apply?</b>
	Yes. The subsidy applies even if the employer owes BURS any taxes. However, businesses are encouraged to continue meeting their tax obligations.
<b>Q8</b>	<b>How does the subsidy work for domestic employees such as house help and farm help?</b>
	The subsidy does not apply for private employment. It only applies in respect of registered and eligible businesses.
<b>Q9</b>	<b>Can an employee for whom taxes have never been deducted be eligible for the subsidy?</b>
	YES. Some employees do not earn the minimum income to pay tax. However they remain eligible to be paid under the wage subsidy
<b>Q9</b>	<b>Construction employees not on current payroll due to finished or completed project?</b>
	Any person not considered to be an employee at the time of the subsidy is not eligible for receiving subsidy support.
<b>Q10</b>	<b>Can I correct or amend a claim form once I have successfully uploaded it?</b>
	Yes. An amended claim form may be submitted. However BURS may make enquiries to determine the reasons for the amendment
<b>Q11</b>	<b>Rent-a-chair hair salon – can we claim for the individuals renting chairs?</b>
	In the instance of rent-a-chair, the renters are not employees and cannot therefore be considered for the subsidy. However, if the renter is a business registered for tax and is considered to be an employee of that business they may be eligible.
<b>Q12</b>	<b>Which identification numbers should non-citizens enter during registration?</b>
	Non-citizens should use the number of the passport they used to apply for a residence or work permit.
<b>Q13</b>	<b>Common claim form issues:</b>
	<b>a. Changing the structure of the form</b>
	Applicants should not change the structure of the Claim Form template. That is, do not add or remove column headers and do not rename column header labels
	<b>b. Error message: Unsupported file format validation</b>
	The downloaded template is in the format of a csv file. After completing the template ensure that the file is saved in this same format i.e. csv (comma delimited) before attempting to upload.
	<b>c. Omang starting with zero:</b>
	To address this, follow the following steps:
	Step 1: Highlight the ID (Omang) column in excel.
	Step 2: Right click and choose Format Cells.
	Step 3: In the list that appears, select text and click ok.
	<b>d. Error message: Sorry we could not process your request</b>
	Applicants are advised to download a new form and complete that.
	<b>e. Adding commas or 'P' to monetary amounts</b>
	Applicants are advised not to include commas or 'P' in completing monetary values.
	P2000.00 is incorrect and should rather be entered as 2000.00.
	30,000.00 is incorrect and should rather be entered as 30000.00
	<b>f. Which account number should be inserted in employee rows?</b>
	The completion of the cell is optional
<b>Q14</b>	<b>Some of my employees left my employment during the period between December 2019 and March 2020</b>
	These individuals are not the claimants employees and should not ordinarily be considered for a claim. See Question 26 for guidance on how to treat retrenched employees
<b>Q15</b>	<b>During registration, which account should I use, the employer or employee account number?</b>
	The account number to be used for registration is that of the employer. The payments from BURS will be paid to employers for onward distribution to employees. See question 19 below.
<b>Q16</b>	<b>Employee left my employment before end of April 2020 but is currently unemployed. Can I claim for them as my former employee?</b>
	NO. The employee is not in your employment and should therefore not be considered for an employers claim.
<b>Q17</b>	<b>Employee left my employment before end of April 2020 and was due to commence employment at a new employer in April. Can the new employer claim for them?</b>
	The new employer may not claim for the new employee as the employee has no wage record with the new employer.
<b>Q18</b>	<b>What if I don't have internet access? Can the process be accessed in any other way?</b>
	Unfortunately the facility is only available online to reduce the risk of exposure to COVID19. BURS will not accept registration or claim forms in any other way other than online.
<b>Q19</b>	<b>Who will be receiving payment from BURS, the employer or the employee?</b>
	The employer will receive the subsidy funds for onward distribution to employees.
<b>Q20</b>	<b>What should be entered in the Subsidy Claimed column on the WAGE SUBSIDY CLAIM FORM?</b>
	The completion of this column is optional. BURS will compute the subsidy claim on the basis of the basic contractual salary or wage of the employee and notify the employer.
<b>Q21</b>	<b>My business is not listed in the list of Business Sectors in the Registration form? What should I do?</b>
	The list of business sectors on the registration form is not exhaustive. Applicants are therefore requested to find a business sector that closely resembles their business. However, the business sectors in the Guidelines at Question 2 are not eligible.
<b>Q22</b>	<b>If an employee is on maternity leave and are earning a reduced salary or wage which salary or wage can they use for claiming subsidy?</b>
	The salary or wage to be used is their basic contractual salary or wage.
<b>Q23</b>	<b>Can we use an Orange Money, Mascom My Zaka, bemobile smega or similar payment instead of a bank account number during registration?</b>
	NO. Payments are to be made only into account numbers of banks registered in Botswana. Payment facilities such as the ones mentioned above are not to be used for this purpose.
<b>Q24</b>	<b>My employer is not keen to apply for the subsidy. How can we be helped?</b>
	Employers are encouraged to apply for the subsidy to supplement wages or salaries of employees if their ability to pay full wages has been compromised by COVID19. Employees are therefore advised to the Secretariat of the Public Finance Management (COVID-19 Pandemic (Corona Virus) Relief Fund) as advised in Question 12 to the Guidelines.
<b>Q25</b>	<b>My employees don't have bank accounts. How do I pay them?</b>
	The subsidy is paid to employers for distribution to employees. Employers are encouraged to find ways of ensuring employees are paid especially during this period of lockdown. Q26 What if I had retrenched employees before the subsidy was made available? Employers who had retrenched employees due to the fall in business as a result of COVID19 are advised to retain their employees and ensure they are paid the wage subsidy.

# lifestyle

## Lockdown vibes!

### ■ Passion prevails over Covid-19

**JOSEPH KGAMANYANE**  
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**T**HE RAVAGING COVID-19 PANDEMIC might have hit the entertainment industry hard but local musicians have not allowed the devastating situation to define them as they continue to push on with their passion against all odds.

When the prolonged extreme social distancing was recently imposed resulting in many of music festivals to be shelved and clubs shut down most of the artists did not despair and resorted to do live stream performances.

Of recent a number of local musicians have been taking the radio air waves by storm with their newly released hit singles amid the difficult times experienced by the industry. Not to mention all but only a few,

sensational Mpho Sebina recently dropped a single dubbed Pula. Through social media Sebina revealed that she wrote and recorded the song during lockdown in Gauteng, South Africa. "Making music has been keeping me sane during these crazy times. I'm privileged to be able to create during lockdown and also thankful to be locked down with two insanely gifted King," she said.

About a week ago seasoned rapper, Kast of Tlatsa Lebala fame also dropped a new song titled PHOKO in which he featured local producer, Beat Slayer. Kast narrated interesting events and challenges he encountered behind producing the single owing to the disruptive pandemic. Extreme social distancing in most African countries came at a time when Kast and Beat Slayer were about to tour SADC countries to shoot

a documentary project titled 'My Africa.' The project was however disrupted by the world wide pandemic. The duo could not be allowed into Namibia as the country by that time recorded its first case. They eventually got stuck in Makunda a small village close to the Namibian border. This is where Kast says the single (PHOKO) was realized and recorded.

"While we were stuck in Makunda we recorded four songs and PHOKO was one of the songs that we managed to complete. We did not have proper recording equipment so we had to improvise using a boom microphone and a small laptop. It was really a small thing but it end up coming out big," Kast told Patriot Lifestyle.

Interestingly, Kast indicated that he also had to improvise even when shooting a promotional video for the single because



[PIC:PRESSPHOTO]

he could not go out and shoot the video professionally as he would please. He indicated that the sleeve and the promotional video of the single was shot and edited using his mobile phone. His son, Loapi Molapisi and wife, Veronica Molapisi

played a crucial role in all this. Loapi was the cameraman while Veronica made sure that lights and everything was on point.

Despite all the hustle behind producing the single Kast lamented that due to the ongoing lockdown he is however not able

to promote his single the way he would have wanted to do. "In Botswana we make money through shows so even when you have released a single like me you are unable to go to a club or a festival to promote it," Kast decried.



# NOW ON SALE!

AVAILABLE IN THESE OUTLETS

CHOPPIES | SEFALANA AND SHOPPERS SHOPS  
| PUMA SETLHOA | PUMA BLOCK 6  
| PUMA BORDERGATE TLOKWENG | SQUAREMART

## Are you social distancing? 16 things you can do to keep yourself busy

**T**RY THESE ACTIVITIES TO KEEP YOU busy when confined at home during COVID-19...

With the world practising self-isolation and social distancing amid the coronavirus pandemic, all individuals in the UK have been urged to work from home if they can. But staying in can be just as fun and productive as going out, with HELLO!'s tips to keep boredom at bay during the COVID-19 lockdown. From learning new skills to embracing your inner DIY guru, we've got you covered...

1. Clear out your wardrobe  
Dedicate your new-found time and attention to sorting out your clothes, declutter your home, ditching items you haven't worn for six months and co-ordinating clothes into sections so it's easier to browse in the mornings. This is a great opportunity to get inspired by new outfits or rediscover an old favourite.
2. Give yourself a manicure  
Sometimes it's the small things in life that make us feel better, with a fresh manicure being up there. Take some time for yourself, push your cuticles down, slather on some hand cream and choose a shade that makes you smile from ear to ear.
3. Read a book  
It's time to read that book that's been sat on your shelf for the last few months. Get inspired by a best-selling memoir, indulge in a celeb-approved book or escape to a different world for a few hours. Hot drink and blanket desirable.
4. Write a letter  
Remember how enjoyable it was to receive a letter in the post? Do that with your friends and family - make their day. Buy some nice paper and spread some love to a friend or family member.
5. Do evening drinks (from home)  
More and more of us are turning to virtual slumber parties on video apps like Houseparty and Zoom so we can keep up

with friends, have a laugh, a glass of wine or three, and make the best of the lockdown. Why not become the Quiz Master and organise the ultimate pub quiz.

6. Lego  
David Beckham has been killing time in coronavirus lockdown by building Lego sculptures with his kids, and who can blame him? Lego is perfect for keeping your mind busy and you get the ta-da at the end of it. Winning. For kids (or grownups) at a loose end over the Easter holidays Lego has launched a #LetsBuildTogether challenge with daily build-alongs.

7. TV  
Did you miss the Game of Thrones craze or are you late to the Grey's Anatomy party? Now's the time to catch up on all that TV you've been curious about, so get comfy and get ready to commit hours of your life to watching someone else's dramas. If you want to watch the Kardashians from day one, be sure to sign up to hayu.

8. Watch Disney movies  
How often do you get a chance to sit around and watch Disney movies all weekend? Disney+ has officially launched, so prepare to be obsessed!

9. Buy a dartboard  
Can't go to the pub? Bring the pub to you with a cool dartboard. This one is magnetic, so a lot safer if you have children.

10. Do a crossword/Sudoku  
Looking for something a bit more challenging? Put your brain to the test and do a crossword or Sudoku puzzle and see how far you can get. There are lots of online crosswords or word puzzles which means you don't have to leave the house to have a go.

11. Do a jigsaw puzzle for adults  
Take your eyes off a screen for an afternoon while you tackle a tricky 1000-piece jigsaw. Amazon has plenty to choose from, and stocks puzzles for all ages. Here's HELLO!'s picks for the best jigsaw

puzzles for adults.

12. Read a saucy book  
According to reports, quarantine erotica is on the rise - and more and more women are enjoying downtime reading a saucy book. Move over Fifty Shades of Grey, the new book causing a fuss is Sex During the Coronavirus Pandemic by WH Fielding. Protagonist Lucy tries to satisfy her sexual desires while performing social distancing, and the strapline is: "They could lock down her country, but not her heart" and the front cover features a protective mask.

13. Make cheese from scratch  
Calling all cheese lovers! This kit is the ultimate lockdown essential - equipped with a range of herbs and spices, 3 cheese moulds, and a glorious recipe book. There's enough ingredients to make a grand total of 40 batches, and the kit has a shelf life of at least 12 months - so it'll keep you going for ages.

14. Make a photo album/back up your phone pictures  
Remember that girls' holiday you took in 2016 or when you swam with dolphins? Ensure that memories like this are treasured by taking the time to compile a photo album or scrapbook. Similarly, make a back-up of photos on your phone, to ensure you don't lose them in years to come.

15. Plant some flowers  
Introduce some welcome colour to your house or garden and plant some flowers. Now that the sun is shining, it's the ideal time to get out in the garden and watch your flowers bloom.

16. Start a blog  
Are you the modern-day Carrie Bradshaw or Bridget Jones? Or does your fashion taste rival that of Olivia Palermo and Estée Lauder? Use your down-time wisely and start a blog to share your thoughts or favourite hobbies. WordPress is a favourite with most bloggers and it's very simple to use. [www.hellomagazine.com]

# London Marathon organisers in talks to clarify if race will count towards Olympic qualification

**T**HE LONDON MARATHON WILL SEEK clarification from World Athletics over whether results for the re-scheduled race can go towards Olympic qualification.

The event was due to be held on Sunday but has been [delayed until October 4 because of the coronavirus pandemic](#).

World Athletics announced this month the [qualification period for the Olympic Games](#) was suspended until the start of December after the Tokyo Games were delayed until next year.

London Marathon race director Hugh Brasher said: "The time someone would run, if they hadn't got the qualifying time, wouldn't count."

"We are in talks with World Athletics about that or whether that was a decision made around track and field or marathon runners. It's such a movable feast. Those conversations are ongoing."

The race was postponed in March and pushed back six months but Brasher admits the date may move again.

"We are looking at so many different scenarios and those scenarios have quadrupled in the last 48 hours," he said.

"I was on a call with the other race directors around the world and collectively we swapped ideas. I chucked one in we had which blew a few people's minds and we



Eliud Kipchoge

have a call next week when we're learning from each other.

"There are so many scenarios we're doing and nothing is off the table. We have to look at it holistically for society. It's what is right for society and that's a really important part of the decision-making process."

"Probably there are about 10 different scenarios, some will drop off as things change."

Eliud Kipchoge, who ran the first sub-two-hour marathon in Vienna last year, was due to defend his title. It was not an official world record because of the use of pacemakers but the Kenyan believes someone will eventually break the barrier in open competition.

He said: "Why not? I trust and believe in the next 10 years someone will run two hours in a normal marathon. I trust I have shown everyone the way."

Kipchoge was due to go head to head against Kenenisa Bekele, the second-fastest man in history, on Sunday. They are the only two men to have run sub two hours two minutes over the distance and Brasher is hoping they will line up against each other when the race does take place later this year.

"We hope we can welcome them back in October but at this stage we just don't know what is going to happen." [www.skysports.com]

## What's next for Shelly-Ann Fraser-Pryce?

**A**FTER OVER A DECADE OF dominance, what's one more year to Shelly-Ann Fraser-Pryce?

**The GOAT of female sprinting will be 34 when the Tokyo Olympics finally roll around, but if her comeback in 2019 taught us anything, it's that history can wait.**

Sitting at her home in Kingston, Jamaica - where she's currently under a curfew during the coronavirus pandemic - Fraser-Pryce opens up about all things Tokyo, her last dance in Oregon, the new Nike spikes that are set to see records fall and of course her two-year-old son Zion...

The six-time Olympic medallist and nine-time world champion seems almost embarrassed when I reel off her achievements.

A list that culminated last September - after a break from the sport to become a mum - with a fourth world title over 100m. A haul that's more than any other athlete in history, even her illustrious compatriot Usain Bolt.

Victory in the 100m next summer would make her the first female to claim a trio of Olympic sprint golds - but for now, that's

on hold. "I was devastated," Fraser-Pryce told *Sky Sports News*, when asked about learning the Tokyo Games would be postponed until 2021.

"I was like 'wow, what do I do next? I'm 33, this is my final Olympics. I've been grateful and honoured to go to three already so I was like 'wow' my plans just went 'puff' in front of me."

"The plan was definitely to do the double this year but with the Olympics being pushed back to 2021 it's a different test now, something we have to revisit to see if it makes sense. "I won't risk losing a gold medal in the 100m to go for the 100m and the 200m, but the bigger the goal and the bigger the chase, I'm all in."

When asked if she had any concerns over the Olympics being further delayed, Fraser Pryce added: "Right now I try not to entertain that at all because it is a real concern. I'm just focused on hopefully having some sort of a season."

The World Athletics Championships in Oregon - which were due to take place in the summer of 2021 - have also been pushed back and will take place in 2022, an event which is set to be Fraser-Pryce's final outing on the track.

"That could definitely be my last major

and my last competition altogether," she said.

"For a lot of my family and friends, it's very expensive for them to travel to Tokyo but knowing the World Championships would be in Oregon, it is right there so a lot of them were excited."

"Some of my family have never seen me compete internationally - what a way to wrap things up. I take it a year at a time, I don't get to get too ahead of myself, and I want to enjoy it, savour the moment, and continue to create history."

History, it's clear, dominates our chat.

Doing the impossible, the unthinkable and proving people wrong.

Nothing sent a clearer message than her return to the track last September to win the world 100m title, over a decade after her first global gold. The ultimate comeback.

"When I got pregnant and I was turning 30 I was mortified, I was like 'no, this is not the right time'," she said.

"I've always been driven and motivated to chase the impossible, that's always been me."

"So when that opportunity came and I had my son and I went back into practice, I was all in. I went to meets in 2018 and lost races, but I knew the ultimate goal.

Fraser-Pryce's son is present throughout



Shelly-Ann Fraser-Pryce

the interview. Not in person, but in the form of a giant canvas on the wall behind her in their Kingston home.

Another clear sign she is not just Shelly-Ann the athlete, one of the greats, but

Shelly-Ann, the mum.

"At the end of the day, track and field is for a time, and things will happen, but being his mum and raising him and just being a mother is a lifetime and it's priceless," she

said. "I slept with my son the night before the 100m final [in Doha] and I had no sleep - my husband was like 'are you sure you want to do that' and I'm like 'yeah why not.' [skysports.com]

## 'Mane has been the total package' - De Bruyne



Mane

**K**EVIN DE BRUYNE SAYS SADIO MANE has been "the total package" for Liverpool this year, and would be his Premier League Player of the Season. The annual Professional Footballers'

Association (PFA) Awards would have been scheduled to take place on Sunday, April 26, but have naturally been postponed along with the rest of the campaign.

Mane has registered 14 goals and nine assists in the Premier League so far this

year, and has been one of Jurgen Klopp's star performers throughout their title challenge.

Asked on BT Sport who would be his pick for the individual award, De Bruyne said: "I would say Mane."

"I think he has been the total package this

year for Liverpool.

"He has been important, so if I had to choose somebody, I would choose Mane."

De Bruyne himself was among the favourites for the award prior to the disruption of the coronavirus outbreak, with a combined 25 goals and assists in the Premier League.

The list of favourites was, of course, dominated by Liverpool players, with Klopp's side still 25 points clear as the season hangs in the balance.

Mane's relentless attacking performances meant he was many people's favourite to win the award but captain Jordan Henderson and last year's winner Virgil van Dijk were also in the running.

Despite their dominance of the domestic scene this season, however, Mane has been clear that their incredible title charge hasn't been easy.

"Easy? Oh, I wish," Mane told BBC Sport before the season was interrupted.

"We know the Premier League is the best league in the world and every single game you have to give 100% if you want to win."

"It's what we always try and I think it's working very well but we have to keep working hard to get what we want."

"Our target from the beginning was to win the league, so if we win it, it will be great for the club and for the fans."

Mane has seen his own personal output grow year-on-year since joining Liverpool from Southampton in 2016.

He scored 13 goals in all competitions in his first campaign, 20 in his second and 26 last season as his side went agonisingly close to a league and Champions League double. [gHYPERLINK "http://www.goal.com/oal.com"]

## Coronavirus: EFL warns 'suitable testing' must be in place before football returns

**T**HE ENGLISH FOOTBALL LEAGUE (EFL) has warned that football cannot resume before adequate testing arrangements are in place for coronavirus, and that cannot come at the expense of front-line workers.

Responding to news that the Premier League has stepped up planning for a return behind closed doors as early as June, the EFL said its own position remains unchanged as it looks to find a way to resume play as soon as possible.

In a statement, the EFL said: "Clearly, before any return to football can take place, suitable testing arrangements for participants must be in place and this is core to our current



planning, as is ensuring there is absolutely no negative impact on the country's front-line workers, the emergency services, league and club staff members." [www.skysports.com]

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# Online chess boosted



Woman International Master (WIM) Onkemetse Francis in action

[PIC.PRESSPHOTO]

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**T**HE LOCAL ONLINE CHESS INITIATIVE has received a shot in the arm after the Botswana Chess Federation (BCF) pledged to sponsor one of their tournaments.

While other sporting codes have been put on hold completely by the covid-19 pandemic, this is however not the case with chess as its players have alternatively fallen back on online games.

Though online chess has always been played before, the electronic game has since grown as a result of the covid-19 induced lockdown which banned all physical

sporting activities. Players compete against each other from the comfort of their homes using electronic gadgets. FIDE International Organiser and Arbiter, Vincent Masole has tapped on the initiative and is organizing daily tournaments for local players.

He started the online chess tournaments weeks ago just after President Mokgweetsi Masisi put the country on a 28 days lockdown.

He says the online initiative is to facilitate for chess players to continue playing the game up until the covid-19 situation is contained.

"Chess is so addictive you can't stay away from it so after the lockdown announcement we thought of how we can

continue playing the game, and after finding the best programme we started organizing online tournaments," he told the Patriot Sports.

He started with organizing open tournament which he says is played almost everyday starting from 8 pm.

The daily tournament has since become the most popular after gaining a lot of following. According to Masole, the tournament has also attracted seasoned national players such as International Master (IM), Providence Oathotse, Fide Master (FM), Thatho Olebile, Candidate Master (CM), Tebogo Pitlagano, Candidate Master (CM), Abdul Kamara and former national team player, Thuso Mosutha.

Masole thereafter went on to organize another tournament which was dedicated only for players under the age of 14 and its inaugural was played last week Saturday. The tournament attracted about 32 young stars. Woman Fide Master (WFM) Naledi Marape triumphed the tournament scooping position one while Candidate Master (CM) Thuto Mpene got position two and the third position was taken by Peo Segwele.

Masole also plan to host another tournament for local veteran chess players whom he indicates have shown a great interest in the online initiative. This coming weekend Masole will host Open and Women sections that will be sponsored by

the local chess federation. BCF president, Mothokomedi Thabano confirmed the P2500 prize money for the Lockdown Blitz Tournament noting that the fund is to encourage the chess community that have kept the game going despite extreme social distancing.

Thabano says depending on the availability of funds they intend to continue sponsoring the online games.

Initially the games were played just for fun without any incentives but Masole has revealed that negotiations with potential sponsors to introduce monetary prizes for players are ongoing. "People are happy and excited about the games and some of them have since approached us to ask as to how

they can assist in terms of partnering with us," he noted.

The International Arbiter believes that online chess might be the future noting that even the International Organizing Body has announced that they will be hosting some of their lined up events online.

Just like any other sporting codes, chess has also been disrupted by the covid-19 outbreak. The 44th Chess Olympiad which was billed for summer this year in Moscow has since been postponed to next year. Local highest rated players, International Master (IM), Providence Oathotse and Woman International Master (WIM) Onkemetse Francis have already qualified for the Olympiad.

## Sport Associations tackle boardroom squabbles

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**I**T IS RARE TO FIND A NATIONAL SPORT association's executive committee pulling together as a team to achieve their mandate as per the promise they were when voted into office because everyone now wants to push their own agenda taking advantage of the platform they were afforded by the affiliates. Non-compliance and governance in sport leadership is amongst reasons as to why Botswana sport is stagnant and not producing any positive outcomes from administrators to athletes on the field.

Ministry of Youth Empowerment, Sport and Culture Development through the National Sport governing body Botswana National Sport Commission (BNSC) took a decision to suspend all sport activities and international travels last month in the wake of Corona Virus Pandemic which left almost all sportsmen in the world idle. According to the information gathered by The Patriot Sport, majority of the local sport associations are utilising this period of "no

action" to fix their relations amongst each other and reflect on their leadership as far as compliance and governance is concerned.

In an exclusive interview with The Patriot Sport, the recently resurrected Botswana Table Tennis Association (BTTA) President Kudzanani Motswagole said they are currently going through their constitution and documents that governs their association for compliancy purposes.

"We have been out of action for almost a year due to administration issues that halted the progress and growth of our sport because of certain leaders that occupies executive positions with wrong motives. We are in a recovery process and we are focusing improving our communication strategy, roll out plan of at development level and players transfer act so that when the situation normalises, we are ready to implement. This is the right time for planning and fixing all the mess that deter us from progress and obviously we don't have time to meet due to national lockdown, but it doesn't bar us from thinking," he said.

On their part the struggling Botswana

Netball Association (BONA)'s President Malebo Raditladi said they are hard at work preparing reports and revisiting their documents to ensure that they are complaint as opposed to the none-existent status that have seen their performance level drop drastically.

"We have been working as a team of various communication mediums and we are busy collecting documents and information from our affiliate teams, so we submit what is required by the registrar of societies. This gives our members more time to re establish professionalism in managing which will be the face of the association in order to attract sponsors and other investors who can contribute towards the growth of the sport," Raditladi said.

National Sport Associations such as Botswana Basketball Association (BBA), Botswana Badminton Association (BBA), Botswana Karate Association (BOKA) and Botswana Taekwondo Federation (BTF) are amongst National Sport Associations that have been hit by infightings within its leaders that have seen their performance regress over the years.



Botswana Netball Association (BONA) President Malebogo Raditladi

[PIC.PRESSPHOTO]