

V THE voice

Friday
May 7, 2020

SPEAKS FOR ITSELF

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(Incl VAT)

MP MAJAGA'S DEFILEMENT PREGNANCY SCANDAL

I am willing to do a parternity test- Majaga

BY SHARON MATHALA

ON Thursday police were yet to arrest Member of Parliament (MP) for Nata/Gweta, Polson Majaga for allegedly defiling a 16-year old despite a

warrant of arrest that was issued for him on Tuesday.

Majaga was on Monday reported for defilement in a case that is currently being investigated by Sowa Town Police.

The BDP backbencher has been accused of molesting a 16-year old girl of

Malelejwe cattle post in the Nata- Gweta constituency.

The 46-year-old mother of the alleged victim reached out to the police after what she said was Majaga's failure to financially support the pregnant girl as he had promised before.

TURN TO PAGE 2



ACCUSED: Majaga



BACK TO JAIL: Ellese being shackled

NO BAIL FOR NKANGE SHOOTER

TURN TO PAGE 9

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CRACK DOWN ON CORRUPT COUNCILLORS

Minister molale warns against COVID-19 fraud

BY SHARON MATHALA

As reports of city mayors and councillors winning Covid-19 supply tenders continue to surface, the Minister of Local Government and Rural Development, Eric Molale this week issued a stern warning for politicians to desist from corrupt practices.

In a strong worded letter addressed to councillors, Molale has warned that if his office was to discover that the councillors have abused their authority by using insider information to win tenders they would face the full wrath of the law.

In the letter titled, "Compliance with section 88 of the local government act," the minister stated that he was aware that some councillors already had their business running before the pandemic, but that should not be used as an excuse to disadvantage other business owners.

"In addressing this letter to you collectively and individually wish to caution you of the inappropriateness of relying on information you may have come into possession of perceived or otherwise in your line of duty as councillors, to bid for supply of good and services in councils," Molale warned.

"Where it emerges in due time that this request was not heeded, due processes will be followed to evoke the relevant status, particularly section 24 and 31 of the corruption and economic crime act to address such an inappropriate practices. Where there are exceptional situations that may need to be considered, such will be sanctioned by my office with full justification," the letter stated.

Reached for further clarification on the sidelines of Parliament this last Wednesday, Molale



GIVES WARNING: Minister Molale

acknowledged the letter.

The Minister further said that his office was dealing with a few cases but no councillor has so far been found guilty of any irregularity.

"We have cases where in one village the councillor was the only one who owns a general dealer so you can imagine that in that instance the said councillor would have not necessarily flouted any process. All we ask is for the councillors to declare their interest," Molale further explained.

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"What I want to clear however is the perception that these tenders are a preserve of the Botswana Democratic Party (BDP) councillors. We have opposition former councillors and current councillors who have also benefited. I have cases in point but I would not want to get into it for now," Molale noted.

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MAJAGA'S SCANDAL

FROM PAGE ONE

The mother to the now seven months pregnant teen told the police that the MP acknowledged the pregnancy was his and said he was going to provide support to both the mother and the unborn child and then disappeared into thin air.

According to a leaked Police report which surfaced this Wednesday evening, the duo's illegal sexual relations began as far back as September 2019.

Confirming the warrant of arrest on Tuesday, Sowa police station commander, Oteng Selalame said, "Investigations have just started on the matter. As you maybe aware the MP is currently attending the parliamentary session in Gaborone. We have his warrant of arrest. We have already been in touch with the alleged victim and her parents for interviews."

The Voice reached out to the accused MP on the sidelines of Parliament on Wednesday evening and he said, "This is a political smear campaign against myself and I know who is plotting my downfall. They are within my political home, the Botswana Democratic Party (BDP).

When probed further on whether he molested the girl or not Majaga said, "I know the girl (alleged victim) you speak of. She is one of the many young girls from my area who

refused to go to school. I know this because a group of them came to my office asking for jobs."

He then went on to speak of how he secured hostels around the village, which the girls could turn into a lodge.

"That is how I helped her earn a living. I did not sleep with her."

Vehemently denying any sexual encounter with the teen the MP said he was waiting to do a paternity test to prove his innocence.

"I am willing to do that. All I know is that there was a rumor that the man she shared the yard with was exploiting her sexually, so he could be responsible and not me. I have not done anything to take advantage or abuse her. All I tried to do was help," he said.

Meanwhile Police spokesperson Near Bagali refused to comment on why Majaga was not arrested outside parliament as per the original plan. "We will stick with the information you reported on yesterday," said Bagali.

However the National assembly powers and privileges act prohibits the arrest of members within the precincts of the assembly while the assembly or a committee is sitting for any criminal offence without the consent of the speaker.

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BOY FALLS TO HIS DEATH FROM DAD'S MOVING VAN

BY FRANCINAH BAAITSE-MMANA

A GOOD deed backfired horrifically for a Maun man as he lived through every father's worst nightmare – relegated to a helpless onlooker as his child died in front of him.

It is believed the 37-year-old was driving home after helping a relative with a leaking tap when his son, six, fell out of the moving van.

The young boy's head was reportedly crushed by one of the

wheels.

"The incident happened this past Saturday around 17:30 hrs in Bombadi ward in Maun," Police District 5's Officer Commanding, Peter Gochela told Okavango Voice this week.

According to sources close to the family, the boy adored his father and had begged to be allowed to accompany him on his trip.

"From what we were told, the boy opened the door while the car was moving. He fell out and the car drove over his head. He was rushed to hospital where he was certified dead upon arrival," continued Gochela.

The man, originally from Mo-chudi, is said to be completely devastated. He has since been charged with violating Covid-19 lockdown regulations as he did not have a movement permit.

Meanwhile, Gochela urged parents to be vigilant while driving with minor children and to ensure that their seat-belts are properly secured before starting a journey.

"Children have to be always secured to the car seats, if they are above car seat age, the seat-belts have to be adjusted to fit them safely," stressed the top cop.

This is not the first such incident to happen in Maun.

Last year January, a three-year-old girl died when she was flung from her parent's moving vehicle when the car door accidentally flew open at a junction. She hit a tree trunk and crushed her skull.



BEARING SAD NEWS: Gochela

Deposit Interest Rates

For the month of May 2020

Type of Deposit Account	Nominal Interest Rates (%) (Lowest-Highest)	Actual Interest Rates (%) (Lowest-Highest)	Minimum Opening Balance (Pula)
Current	Nil	Nil	Nil
Call	0.10% - 0.75%	0.10% - 0.75%	1,000
Savings	0.00% - 3.75%	0.00% - 3.75%	100
91-Days Fixed Deposit	1.25% - 1.50%	1.25% - 1.50%	1,000
6 months	1.75% - 2.00%	1.75% - 2.00%	1,000
12 months	2.05% - 2.25%	2.05% - 2.25%	1,000
24 months	2.25% - 2.50%	2.25% - 2.50%	1,000
Over 24 months	2.80% - 3.00%	2.80% - 3.00%	1,000
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The Square Branch	- 398 5700	Maun Branch	- 682 0000

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THE BACK BENCH THAT CAME TO THE PARTY



MOKGWEETSI MASISI



CHRISTIAN GREEFF



TUMISANG HEALY



IGNATIUS MOSWAANE



MEPHATO REATILE

MPs Healy, Greeff’s impressive input during (COVID 19) debate

AFTER a successful 28 - day-extreme distancing protocol to curb the spread of the novel Corona Virus, President Mokgweetsi Masisi called another emergency parliamentary meeting

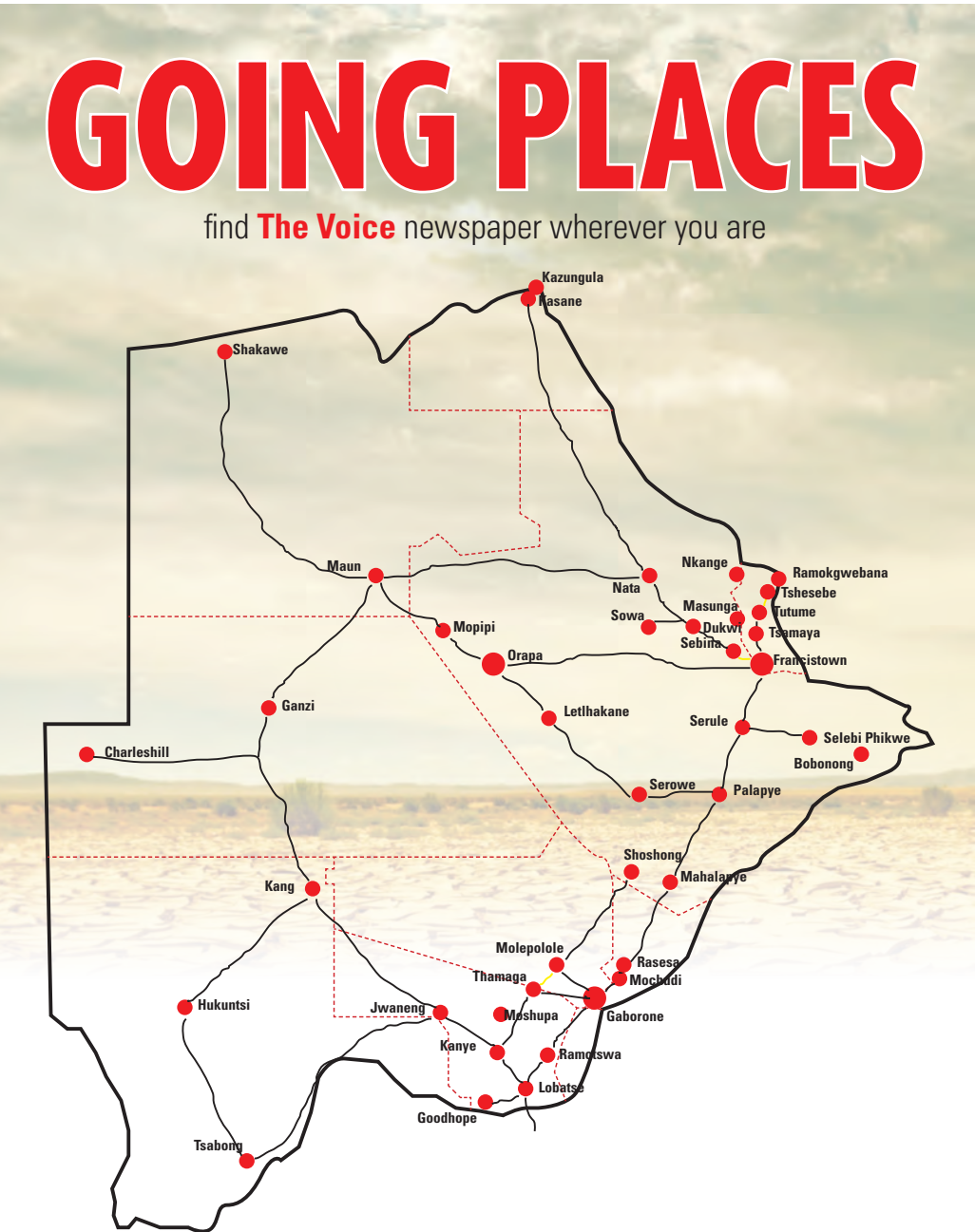
this week for Members of Parliament to debate the motion on the affirmation of the Emergency Powers (COVID -19) (Amendment) (No.4) 2020 Regulations.

The Voice Staffer, **DANIEL CHIDA** followed the Boipuso

Hall broadcast on national television and watched from the comfort of his home as the backbenchers put on a sterling performance.
Member of Parliament for Francistown West, Ignatius Moswaane and Mephato Reatile of Jwaneng Mabusane were in their element as

usual but it was the underdogs, Christian Greeff, of Gaborone Bonnington South and Tumisoang Healy of Gaborone Central who took many by surprise with their impressive contributions to the debates.
The two have been too quiet in parliament before but below is what they said yesterday much to the delight of many.

and make sure that all the required procedures are adhered to. SHE officers should be the ones helping in taking temperatures of customers and making sure clients are wearing masks and keeping their hands clean. However, I thank government for recognising the disabled people and exempting them from all the COVID- 19 protocol requirements.”



Widest circulating newspaper in Botswana

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CHRISTIAN GREEFF: “My constituency is the most affected. Out of 15 974 households assessed, only 1 540 have been given food and this is not even 50% of the population of the constituency. The worst part is that majority of the people in places like Phase 4 and Block 9 were overlooked simply because their houses look decent.
The constituency is dominated by informal sector being taxi and cab drivers, driving schools and vendors and it will be a good idea to open up for them to start their operations within COVID-19 protocols because by so doing we would offload the burden of social welfare provision from government. Our electricity tariff has also gone up and donating food only is not enough and therefore I call on the President to intervene concerning that.”

TUMISANG HEALY: “I am against the idea of people having to foot their own hotel quarantine bills as part of the amendments have suggested. This would be a major setback in fighting this virus because we have been doing very well so far with government catering to the needs of the sick and suspected patients. It would be best if we continue with the system that we have in place as it has given us positive results so far.
Since we have been encouraging people to work from home, there should be provisions of laptops in their hampers to assist with that. I am also against the idea of food distribution but suggest that we credit money into COVID 19 debit cards for people to buy groceries for themselves.
My constituency has complied with lockdown restrictions very well so I suggest that we relax some of the restrictions a bit and allow the sale of alcohol. Bottle Stores should be allowed to trade and deliver to their clients. Alcohol is consumed by adults. I therefore expect them to be responsible to make better decisions for their own safety. Regarding the opening of businesses, it will be helpful to have Safety Health and Environment (SHE) officers to monitor

IGNATIUS MOSWAANE: “We have to come up with a timeline for all food hampers to be distributed. We cannot have people locked in their homes for five weeks without food and pretend that everything is going accordingly. I want to notify this house, especially Minister Molale (Local Government and Rural Development) that his officers are not giving him a true picture of what is happening on the ground.
We have an acute shortage of social workers and this makes the process of assessing and distributing food very slow. Another issue that needs to be solved is the dispute between landlords and tenants as there has been no clear picture on what is going to happen during this time. Informal sector has been left out too and it is time we introduced a grant to assist small and medium enterprises to recover from the adverse effects of COVID 19.
MEPHATO REATILE: “I have a problem with how the zones were demarcated because most of the workers from Jwaneng Mine commute from Kanye and it will mean applying for a permit all the time as they will be travelling from one zone to another everyday. Our President should advise landlords that by not collecting rentals, they would have contributed to the COVID-19 Fund like other businesses. I also ask that after the 8th to 15th phase of the lockdown, we must do away with zones and allow free movement.”

COVID -19 RESULTS AS OF 5/7/2020

Tested.....	9540
Negative Results.....	9517
Confirmed cases.....	23
Recovered.....	9
Death.....	1
Active cases.....	13



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DEMANDS TRANSPARENCY: Keorapetse

DON'T ABUSE COVID-19 FUND

Keorapetse calls for independent COVID-19 relief fund management

BY DANIEL CHIDA

Member of Parliament for Selibe-Phikwe West, Dithapelo Keorapetse has called for the establishment of an Independent body to oversee the COVID -19 Relief Fund.

When debating the Emergency Powers (COVID -19) (Amendment) (n0.4) Regulations 2020, in parliament on Wednesday, Keorapetse recommended for government to establish an independent body to administer the COVID-19 fund instead of having the Minister of Finance and Economic Development, Dr Thapelo Matsheka as its overseer.

In his address during the Emergency Parliamentary meeting at Boipuso hall, Keorapetse said that the current system was likely to create room for corruption and abuse of the fund.

“My worry is that corruption, fiscal and revenue crimes, mismanagement, unethical governance are most likely to thrive under the current secretive environment,” Keorapetse said.

The MP warned that COVID-19 should not be used as an excuse to avoid transparency and accountability and worse, to commit acts of graft.

“We can’t afford to shelve democracy, especially the important oversight role of Parliament. We are worried about certain companies and procurements that raise suspicions,” he said.

The Umbrella for Democratic Change MP said that there is need for proper governance and accountability structures on Covid-19 Fund citing Malawi where a retired Judge has been made Chairperson of the Fund, and South Africa where an independent Board has been appointed to manage the fund as examples to emulate.

“Here the Executive dominates everything, the Fund here is absolutely controlled by Government and it is not good for transparency. We need to know why certain companies are preferred over others. We want to know what is so special about them to be given direct appointments for tenders,” he concluded.

THE SYSTEM'S NOT WORKING!

Moswaane calls for improved Food Relief programme

BY KABELO DIPHOLO

Francistown West Member of Parliament (MP), Ignatius Moswaane has expressed deep misgivings with the current Covid-19 Food Relief programme.

The maverick legislator has faulted the programme for excluding many families and putting food into the hands of those who don't really need it, while skipping those that desperately do.

In an open letter to President Mokgweetsi Masisi dated 1 May, Moswaane warned that poor communities in rural areas were starving to death.

“They have nothing to put on the table, they are missing all three meals in a day,” noted the BDP back-bencher, who was extremely careful in his wording and was quick to congratulate Masisi for the ‘good work against Covid-19’, describing His Excellency as ‘the shield of the nation’.

However, despite his praise, Moswaane went on to write, “It is now over 39 days and some families are yet to be assisted with food... What is happening amounts to Human Rights abuse, because people are locked inside their houses, they do not have money to buy food, old, poor, young and disabled people suffering and it takes a long time for them to be assessed and helped accordingly.”

The Francistown legislator also declared his concern that out of a population of over 2 million, only 300, 000 have been assessed by Social Workers.

“The question is how're the rest of the population surviving when they are in a lockdown/extreme social distancing. 1.7 million of Batswana are not accounted for during this difficult period.”



TAKING A CALL: Moswaane is a worried and busy man

In a follow-up interview with The Voice on Tuesday, Moswaane went into greater detail concerning his grievances with the Food Relief programme's current format.

He noted that in multi-residential areas, people receive the same food hampers regardless of the number of households in the yard, i.e a yard with three households will be given

the same hamper as a yard with one household. Similarly, a family of ten receives the same hamper as a family of three.

“This is wrong. Multi-residentials and extended families must be given enough food as opposed to the current system,” stressed Moswaane, adding he was worried about unemployed civil servants who are excluded from the Food Relief programmes and tertiary students who have now been turned into breadwinners.

“Some of these underpaid civil servants have school-going kids who have to be fed three time a day, as compared to just once when schools are open,” he said.

Moswaane proposed that each ward be allocated at least five trucks to deliver food.

“Councils are overwhelmed. They can't cope, especially in a situation where Social Workers are responsible for assessing, transport and logistics, supplies, proof of delivery, queries and emergency. It's impossible! My suggestion is food should be donated to families still awaiting to be assessed.”

The Francistown West MP revealed these issues are now spilling over to politicians.

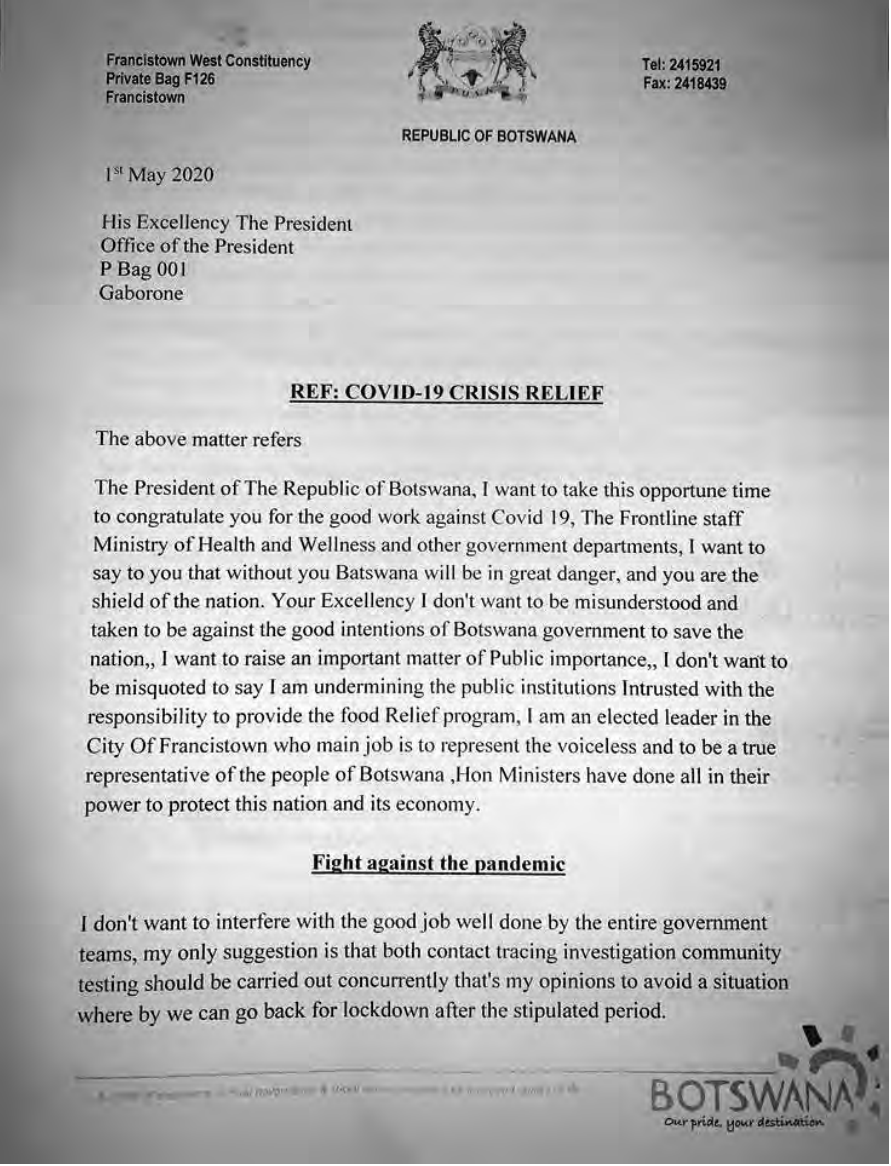
“I can't take calls anymore. I have thousands of SMS's from starving constituents,” he said, apologising again as he took yet another call.

Moswaane is adamant there should be a new way of tackling Covid-19 to avoid slight mistakes that could prove detrimental. He said contact tracing should be carried out concurrently with community testing.

“If we're not careful we may find that the entire community has a fully blown Corona outbreak at the end of this exercise and we'll be back at square one,” he warned.

“My other worry is that all the ambulances are now fighting Covid-19. Citizens have been left to fend for themselves at a time when there's no public transport. Nyangabwe Hospital used to be full with people in need of medical attention. Where did all these people go? How're they coping?” asked Moswaane.

“This I fear could be a case of gross human rights violation,” he concluded gravely.



SOCKS PULLED UP

Pastor's wife's
tuckshop tender
raises eyebrows

BY KABELO DIPHOLO

Shop owners in Chadibe, a village roughly 30km west of Francistown, have condemned social workers and local leadership for the way they award Covid-19 food supply tenders.

At the center of the controversy is Lordwish Tuckshop, co-owned by Tshepiso Moithobogi and Madzibi Socks.

Madzibi, who's married to popular Apostle, Socks of Breath of Life TV, has partnered with Moithobogi. Together the two women won a tender to supply Covid-19 food packages in Chadibe.

"This was nothing out of the ordinary as other tuckshops including mine were also inspected and given the go ahead to be ready to supply," admits Odirile Macheng, who owns a tuckshop a few blocks away.

Speaking to The Voice last Thursday, Macheng's tone quickly changes as she continues her narrative.

"However, we soon watched in envy as for three days Lordwish Tuckshop became the centre of attraction as trucks loaded with food stuffs tussled for space to offload.

"We couldn't believe our eyes! We became suspicious because this small tuckshop was the only one supplying residents with food, while other tuck-shops, including well-established big stores, were not," claims an increasingly agitated Macheng.

Her assertions are echoed by Goitsemodimo Mpolokang, another tuckshop owner whose enterprise is located a stone throw away from Lordwish.

Standing outside her neatly packed tuckshop, Mpolokang cuts a desolate figure. Her piercing gaze is fixed in the general direction of Lordwish Tuckshop, where food hampers are being loaded into two mini-vans.

Distinctly unimpressed, she sighs, shakes her head repeatedly and beckons us inside to conduct the interview. Apparently she cannot bear to watch the loading a second longer.

"This has been happening for the past three days. One tuckshop in Chadibe is supplying food, and the rest have been turned into spectators," she growls.

Trying, but failing to suppress her rising anger, Mpolokang tells The Voice that five days earlier the assigned social worker had come to her tuck-shop to inspect it and gave her forms to fill, leaving her with an assurance that her small business would be among those selected to supply Covid-19 food packages.

"It's been three days now. I approached our Councillor who said it was not in order for one tuckshop to supply food for three consecutive days. He said it was a mistake and promised to get to the bottom of it!" she reveals, her temper finally beginning to thaw.

However, when reached for comment, area Councillor, Gofamodimo Kamogenge denied any knowledge of complaints raised by shop owners in Chadibe.

Instead, Kamogenge insisted that as far as he is aware, all tuckshops in the village were awarded tenders.

"The procedure is that tuckshops should register and be inspected by the relevant authorities. No one should enjoy the monopoly of supplying food, the tenders should be shared equally," he maintained.

Meanwhile, the two ladies caught in the eye of the storm, Moithobogi and Socks, told The Voice they simply responded to government's request for local businesses to help in the supply of the much needed food relief.

"We made the decision as citizens to spend our savings to ensure that Chadibe residents never run out of food," said Socks simply.

A week later, and whilst other tuckshops in the village have at least now received tenders to supply food, Lordwish continues to enjoy the lion's share.



BUSINESS PARTNERS: Moithobogi and Socks

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Call	Nil	Nil	Nil
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Special savings	0.30% - 0.65%	0.30% - 0.65%	500
Letsibogo	0.30% - 0.85%	0.30% - 0.85%	0
Tlanelo mortgage savings	1.50%	1.50%	250
Lerako savings	1.00% - 2.75%	1.00% - 2.75%	25000
Paid up deposit	1.10%	1.10%	200
Subscription deposit	1.75%	1.75%	200
Fixed term deposit	0.75%-3.85%	0.75% -3.85%	1000
12months fixed deposit	0.75%-1.05%	0.75%-1.05%	1000-200,000
24months fixed deposit	1.20%-2.80%	1.20%-2.80%	1000-200,000
Over 24months	1.70%- 3.85%	1.70%- 3.85%	1000-200,000
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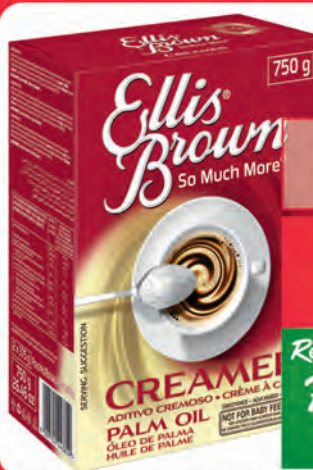
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NO BAIL FOR NKANGE SHOOTER



Ghetto Diaries

BACK TO JAIL: Ellece being shackled

BY KABELO DIPHOLO

A WELL-KNOWN Nkange businessman, farmer and politician, Abraham Ellece is facing a single count of attempted murder for allegedly shooting another man.

The 56-year-old, who was remanded in custody by Masunga Magistrates Court last Thursday, reportedly shot Hadzisane Ditoo in the back after a 'misunderstanding' at his cattlepost on the outskirts of Senete village.

Following the incident, which took place on April 28, Ellece is then said to have loaded the badly bleeding Ditoo - who worked at a neighbouring cattlepost - into his car and driven him to the clinic.

The injured man was immediately transferred to Nyangabgwe Referral Hospital where he underwent emergency surgery. He remains in critical condition, his life hanging in the balance at the hospital's Intensive Care Unit.

Meanwhile, The Voice has since discovered that Ellece, who stood and lost in the 2019 elections in Nkange under the Alliance for Progressives (AP) ticket, has a history with guns.

In 2016 he shot and killed a Zimbabwean man who attempted to rob his business.

However, Tutume Police Station Commander, Jerry Halahala, explained that the matter never went to trial at the advice of the Director of Public Prosecutions.

"We gave him his gun back. It is the same gun used in the recent shooting," disclosed the top cop.

During the suspect's mention, Investigating Officer (IO), Constable Sekane Mosinga stressed it would be unwise to free Ellece while his victim remains in a critical condition.

Mosinga also told court she was still record-

ing evidence from possible witnesses.

"I also need time to search for the bullet cartridge which is yet to be retrieved. I believe the missing cartridge can be retrieved with the help of some of the possible witnesses yet to be interviewed," she said.

The IO further told court she still has to send evidence to the forensic lab and a ballistic report.

Mosinga also revealed that in his statement, Ellece claimed the victim went to his cattlepost and began to confiscate his property including his gun, which accidentally went off in the ensuing scuffle.

"According to witnesses, that is not what transpired. My duty is to collect evidence from witnesses, including the victim and the accused, and then extract the truth of what could have transpired," closed the constable.

The accused's attorney, Martin Maiba pleaded with court to grant his client bail, noting he was not a flight risk and has no other place of abode outside Botswana.

Cross-examining the Investigating Officer, Maiba asked whether she was aware that the accused was the one who took the victim to the hospital.

"You'll agree with me that for my client to take him to the hospital means he had no intention of killing him. You'll also agree with me that with the current situation, where a permit is required for one to move around, it'd be very difficult for the accused to run away," reasoned the attorney.

However, despite Maiba's spirited attempt to win his client's freedom, Magistrate Tumelo rejected the bail application, remanding Ellece in custody until the State of Emergency is lifted.

The injured man was immediately transferred to Nyangabgwe Referral Hospital where he underwent emergency surgery. He remains in critical condition, his life hanging in the balance at the hospital's Intensive Care Unit.

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MDC-ALLIANCE LEADER: Nelson Chamisa



MDC-T LEADER: Thokozani Khupe

IT'S A CIRCUS.... BUT NO ONE'S LAUGHING!

Letter from Zimbabwe

By Sinqobile Tesa



OPPOSITION politics and an excessive increase in data prices dominated the news this week, with Coronavirus, which has been central for weeks, 'playing second fiddle'.

As you may be aware, there are two main Movements for Democratic Change (MDC): the MDC-Alliance led by Nelson Chamisa and the MDC-T (T standing for the founding leader of the movement, Morgan Tsvangirai) led by his rival, Thokozani Khupe.

The former is the main opposition party in parliament while the latter only has two seats.

However, Khupe has of late been wining and dining with the ruling Zanu PF and thus it did not come as a surprise when the Supreme Court ruled that she was the rightful leader of the MDC, which basically means she is the leader of both the Alliance and the MDC-T.

Using that technicality and her presumed powers - and of course with the support of the speaker of parliament and by extension Zanu PF - this week she recalled four MPs who belong to the Alliance.

Without dwelling much into the whole saga, what is clear is that the debacle is meant to cause confusion, weaken the main opposition and divert attention from the real problems facing this nation.

It's a pity that some of the opposition figures never learn. They will fight against each other while Zanu PF, the main beneficiary if not the instigator of the fight, cheers on. In the end these opposition figures will be thrown into the political dustbin and reduced to nonentities.

The MDC-Alliance, as expected promised to fight back with its Vice President, Tenda Biti declaring war.

"What has happened today [Tuesday following the recall of the MPs] is a declaration of war. It marks the end of normal politics in Zimbabwe... We have given peace a chance, we have given dialogue a chance..." Biti was quoted saying - one wonders what constitutes 'normal politics' in Zimbabwe anyway!

What I know is that these are empty threats and what I also know is that it's only a matter of time before he is charged with treason.

While this saga was trending on social media, people were simultaneously expressing their dismay at the crazy increase in data prices, which went up by more than 200 percent.

The sad thing about Zimbabwe is that when prices of goods and services go up, they don't do so by a small percentage. Companies go all out to ensure that people really feel the pinch, just as they have in this incident. Who in their right minds increases a service by 200 percent in the middle of a crisis?

Meanwhile, the government revised the official number of confirmed Covid-19 cases, saying previous tests had been mishandled. As of Tuesday, the official figures were 34 cases, down from 40 last week, with 5 recoveries and 4 deaths.

VACANCIES

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- Understand the target markets, including industry, company, project, company contacts and which market strategies can be used to attract clients.
- Collaborate with design and sales teams to ensure that requirements are met.
- Maintain relationships with current clients and identify new prospects within the area you have been assigned.
- Possess a strong understanding of our products, our competition in the industry and positioning.
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QUALIFICATIONS & EXPERIENCE:

- A Master's Degree in any business field is required.
- A minimum of six (6) years in a similar post at a senior level.
- Experience in modern marketing and sales tools.
- Superior IT skills are required.
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2. TECHNICAL MANAGER-LOGISTICS OPERATIONS

To head a team of logistical technical assistants, analyse and evaluate operational solutions for transportation of fast movable consumer goods (FMCG) optimization, network modelling, process and methods analysis, cost containment, capacity enhancement, routing and shipment optimization, or information management.

KEY RESPONSIBILITIES:

- Manage the despatch team cost effectively with good and effective time management. Possesses sound knowledge on the retail stock movement.
- Plan and organize the repairs, maintenances, services of the trucks, trailers and fridges, tyres and all other assets of the fleet.
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- Must have good leadership skills
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- Negotiations skills
- Problem solving skills
- Time management skills,
- Team builder also who is having numerical , logical and analytical capacity, with current market knowledge
- IT literacy & office software knowledge.

QUALIFICATIONS & EXPERIENCE:

- A Bachelor's Degree in Engineering Technology with minimum of six (6) years in fleet management or any related field.
- Must be registered with Botswana Engineers Registered Board (ERB).
- Must have practised at a senior level for a minimum of four (4) years.

Apply with your CV, References and certificates to the:

**The General Manager- Human Resources
Choppies Distribution Centre (Pty) Ltd
Private Bag 00278, Gaborone**

CLOSING DATE: 25TH MAY 2020



BANK OF BOTSWANA

April 30, 2020

PRESS RELEASE

Monetary Policy Committee Meets Bank Rate cut to 4.25 percent

At the meeting held on April 30, 2020, the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) of the Bank of Botswana decided to reduce the Bank Rate by 50 basis points from 4.75 percent to 4.25 percent and the primary reserve requirement (PRR) from 5 percent to 2.5 percent. Inflation was unchanged for the fourth consecutive month at 2.2 percent in March 2020, remaining below the lower bound of the Bank's desired medium-term objective range of 3 – 6 percent. Inflation is forecast to revert to within the objective range in the fourth quarter of 2020. This represents a significant downward revision compared to forecasts contained in the February 2020 Monetary Policy Statement.

The COVID-19 pandemic and consequent containment measures have severely curtailed economic activity globally and domestically as production, supply chains, project implementation and provision of goods and services are halted. Similarly, consumption and spending are disrupted, hence domestic demand pressures and foreign prices remain subdued. Consequently, overall risks to the inflation outlook are skewed to the downside, taking into account weak domestic and global economic activity and likely decrease in international commodity prices. However, inflation may rise above current forecasts if international commodity prices increase beyond current projections and in the event of upward price pressures occasioned by supply constraints due to travel restrictions and lockdowns.

Real Gross Domestic Product (GDP) grew by 3 percent in 2019, compared to a faster growth of 4.5 percent in 2018. The lower increase in output was mainly attributable to a contraction in mining output as well as a deceleration in non-mining GDP growth. Mining output contracted by 3.9 percent in 2019, compared to a faster increase of 7.9 percent in 2018, mainly due to weaker performance of the diamond, soda ash, copper and coal sub-sectors. Non-mining GDP grew by 3.8 percent in 2019, compared to 4.1 percent in 2018. The slower expansion in non-mining GDP was mainly due to a deceleration in output growth of the manufacturing, construction, transport and communications, and social and personal services sectors.

Projections by both the Ministry of Finance and Economic Development (MFED) and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) suggest a sharp deterioration in economic growth for Botswana in 2020. In the April 2020 World Economic Outlook, the IMF forecast GDP to fall by 5.4 percent this year, before rebounding to 6.8 percent in 2021, while the MFED estimates that the economy will contract by 13.1 percent, and rebound to a 3.9 percent growth in 2021. This wide range of forecasts attest to the challenges of making forward projections where there is uncertainty about the duration of constrained economic activity, the resultant damage to productive capacity, as well as the speed of resumption of production and pace of recovery in demand.

Broadly, the contraction in GDP reflects the substantial curtailment of economic activity due to the necessary global and domestic measures implemented to contain the spread of COVID-19 and safeguard human life. The resultant decrease in global demand and disruption in supply chains, as well as curtailed economic activity locally, has affected several sources of economic growth for Botswana. Notably, these include exports such as minerals and tourism as well as non-food retail economic activity and, also, disruption of the harvest season during a relatively good year when farmers were, in general, expecting a bumper harvest of various crops, especially cereals. Furthermore, unlike in the 2008/9 Global Financial Crisis, the exogenous shock to the economy occurs amid weakening of the country's fiscal and external buffers, characterised by government fiscal deficits for three consecutive financial years and gradual decline in foreign exchange reserves from 18.3 months of import cover in 2015 (P84.9 billion) to the current level of P68.9 billion as at end of January 2020 (or 13.3 months of import cover).

The global backdrop is that the world economy is forecast to contract by 3 percent in 2020. This is worse than the contraction experienced during the 2008/09 global financial crisis, and the fallout from the COVID-19 crisis is projected to surpass that of the Great Depression of the 1930s. Nevertheless, economic activity is expected to rebound in 2021, with global growth estimated at 5.8 percent, anchored by unprecedented policy and resource support by individual countries and multilateral institutions. However, the recovery projections are fraught with uncertainty with respect to several critical factors, namely, the intensity and effectiveness of containment efforts; the extent of supply disruptions; fiscal and market financing constraints; shifts in spending patterns; trends in commodity prices; and, ultimately, business and consumer confidence. A similar pattern of developments pertains with regard to the rest of the Sub-Saharan Africa region.

The MPC, however, recognised that the short-term adverse developments in the domestic economy occur against a potentially supportive environment including accommodative monetary conditions; improvements in the provision of utilities; reforms to further improve the business environment; concerted efforts by government to mitigate the impact of COVID-19; and a prospective economic stimulus package. These would generally be positive for economic activity in the medium term. Even then, it is projected that the economy will operate below full capacity in both the short and medium term, and, therefore not creating any inflationary pressures, going forward.

Therefore, the current state of the economy and the outlook for both domestic and external economic activity provide scope for easing monetary policy to support domestic economic activity. Accordingly, the MPC decided to reduce the Bank Rate by 50 basis points to 4.25 percent. Commercial banks are required to make the necessary interest rate adjustments with immediate effect to reflect this policy decision.

The MPC has also decided to reduce the primary reserve requirement from 5 percent to 2.5 percent, effective May 13, 2020. This is expected to inject liquidity of approximately P1.6 billion into the banking system, which should allow commercial banks to be unconstrained in performing the necessary financial intermediation to support economic activity.

Furthermore, as decided by His Excellency the President, on advice by the Honourable Minister of Finance and Economic Development following consultation with the Bank, the Bank will implement a new annual downward rate of crawl of 2.87 percent with effect from May 1, 2020, representing a change from the current 1.51 percent. This is complementary to the reduction in the Bank Rate and contributes to further easing of real monetary conditions in the economy.

Other measures already implemented by the Bank, which form part of the monetary policy and regulatory response to the COVID-19 economic fallout are:

- (a) the cost of accessing overnight funding by licensed banks from the Bank of Botswana Credit Facility is provided at the prevailing Bank Rate without the punitive 6 percentage points above the Bank Rate that prevailed before;
- (b) repo facilities that were available only on overnight basis are now offered against eligible securities with maturity of up to 92 days;
- (c) the collateral pool for borrowing by licensed commercial banks from the Bank of Botswana has been extended to include all corporate bonds listed and traded on the Botswana Stock Exchange. This is, however, subject to completing regulations and arrangements relating to valuation (haircuts), custody and settlement in central bank money;
- (d) the minimum capital adequacy ratio for banks was reduced from 15 percent to 12.5 percent; this should provide capital relief amounting to approximately P326 million for the entire banking industry; and that
- (e) the Bank will also generally exercise regulatory forbearance in relation to assessment of non-performing loans and determination of expected credit losses, for regulatory and compliance purposes.

You will also be aware of the commendable initiatives by commercial banks to offer a package of discretionary cashflow relief to support business and retail customers that are negatively affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. These include loan repayment holidays for an initial period of three months, restructuring of credit and other repayment terms for various loan and credit facilities and, also, free or discounted prices for digital banking channels. At this juncture, I wish to underscore the message that the deferral of loan repayments is only intended to provide relief to bank customers temporarily experiencing cash flow constraints during these difficult times; it should not be regarded as debt forgiveness. Consistent with the contractual obligations of the borrower, both the principal amount and interest would remain outstanding and interest will continue to accrue or accumulate increasing the outstanding amount. The Bank has initiated the collection of related data that should be available to inform the potentially evolving policy posture and the regulatory responses as may be necessary.

In summary, the policy decisions and liquidity support measures I have just announced or alluded to today should, individually and combined, be supportive of the economy in terms of:

- (a) easing borrowing costs in the economy and provide a sound springboard for future recovery;
- (b) sustaining, albeit for a short period, the cash flow position and balance sheets of both businesses and households in these difficult times;
- (c) facilitating unconstrained banking system support for economic activity;
- (d) enhance international competitiveness of the domestic industries; and
- (e) foster greater impact and traction of any economic stimulus initiatives.

Notwithstanding, the implementation of the foregoing measures, improving total factor productivity, structural reforms, export competitiveness of domestically produced goods and services as well as governance arrangements remain paramount in promoting sustainable and inclusive economic growth.

The Bank remains committed to its objective of monetary and financial stability and will respond timely to deviations of inflation from the objective range in support of durable economic development.

The Monetary Policy Report containing a full update of the Bank's outlook for the domestic economy and inflation will be published on the Bank's website on May 7, 2020.

The remaining MPC meetings for 2020 are scheduled as follows:

June 18, 2020
August 20, 2020
October 8, 2020
December 3, 2020



VACANCIES



1. Land Surveyor

Job Summary

To measure and collect data on specific areas of land in order to meet project objectives.

Qualifications and Experience

- Bsc (Surveying), BTech (surveying) or equivalent.
- Must be a professionally registered land surveyor. i.e. either with SAGC as a PLS (Professional Surveyor) or any other recognized body in Botswana.
- Minimum 5 years in engineering land surveying directly related to construction.
- A Valid Driver's License

Reference: KCBT- LS

2. HR/IR Practitioner

Job Summary

To manage the day-to-day HR issues in relation to all HR activities such as recruitment, training and development, overseeing the management of site industrial labour relations, managing grievance procedures and conflict resolution, while ensuring that the company continues to meet its business and company's objectives. The incumbent will be required to advise business and employees on all Labour related issues, highlighting risks to the business and employees whilst ensuring business objectives are ultimately achieved.

Qualifications and Experience

- Minimum Diploma in Human Resources or related qualification
- Minimum of 5 years' Industrial Relations experience in a construction site environment
- At least three years HR generalist experience.
- Sound Knowledge of Labour Legislation and procedures.
- Strong IR Background
- A Valid Driver's License

Reference: KCBT- HR/IR

3. Plant Maintenance Supervisor

Job Summary

The Workshop Supervisor Coordinates and directs the service department technicians for maximum efficiency and productivity.

Qualifications and Experience

- Minimum N4 Mechanical Engineering or equivalent and a valid Trade Test Certificate in the field of Earthmoving Equipment Mechanics.
- A supervisory effectiveness of a first line certificate will be an added advantage.
- 4 years post apprenticeship experience on Earthmoving Equipment
- 2 years' experience as charge hand or Supervisor.
- A valid driver's license is essential

Reference: KCBT- PMS

4. Project Admin Officer

Job Summary

Responsible for coordination of project activities. Manage schedules, arrange assignments and communicate progress to all team members.

Qualifications and Experience

- Minimum National Diploma in Administration or related field.
- 5 years' work experience as a Project Administrator.
- Knowledge of project management software
- Hands on experience with flowcharts, technical documentation and schedules
- A Valid Driver's License

Reference: KCBT- PAO

5. Project Manager

Job Summary

Responsible and accountable for the day to day running of construction operations on site

Qualifications and Experience

- B.Eng / B.SC. – Civil / Mechanical Eng – Registered with ERB as Professional Engineer or equivalent.
- A proven track record in achieving first-class construction management in large infrastructure projects (Pipe lines, Reservoirs and WTP)
- Minimum of 5 - 10 years' experience working in Construction Management, with at least 5 years' experience in and on a site construction environment
- A Valid Driver's License

Reference: KCBT- PM

Reference: KCBT- PP

6. QC Site Officer

Job Summary

Responsible for maintaining of quality standards by approving incoming materials, in-process production, and finished products

Qualifications and Experience

- National Higher Dip., B. Tech, B/ in Quality Management or similar advantageous
- ISO9001 Implementation/Auditing certification
- Minimum 5 to 10 years civil inspection from which must be in infrastructure projects (pipelines, resevoirs, WTP)
- A Valid Driver's License

Reference: KCBT- QC

7. Quantity Surveyor

Job Summary

Responsible from design costs to final figure. Pursue to minimise the costs of the project and enhance value for money. Ensuring that the project meets all legal and quality assurance requirements and regulations

Qualifications and Experience

- Possess relevant construction QS credentials.
- Minimum B.Tech / Diploma. – Quantity Surveying
- A proven track record in infrastructure projects, Pipe lines, Reservoirs and WTP) Minimum of 10 years' experience with at least 5 years' experience working on a site construction environment as a Site Quantity Surveyor.
- A Valid Driver's License

Reference: KCBT- QS

8. Resident Engineer Civils & Pipelines/Structural

Job Summary

Responsible for providing Resident Engineering functions and to serve as a link between management and operational areas to ensure that work is performed according to the stipulated requirements.

Qualifications and Experience

- BEng (Civil) or BTech (Civil), registered with ERB or Equivalent as a Professional.
- Minimum 10 years' resident engineer function on steel and or ductile iron bulk water supply pipelines larger than 500 mm diameter pipelines.
- Proficient with MS Office, MS Project and Drafting software
- A Valid Driver's License

Reference: KCBT- REP

9. SHE Site Officer

Job Summary

Coordinates health and safety systems. identifies hazards and assess risks to health and safety, put appropriate safety controls in place provides advice on accident prevention and occupational health to management and employees. Establish, manage and monitor standards, processes, communications, training and systems to ensure all responsibilities associated with Health and Safety

Qualifications and Experience

- OHS Diploma/Certificate or equivalent.
- Certificate in occupational health and safety i.e. SAMTRAC, Nebosh IGC
- 5 or more years relevant experience in a similar role
- Registered with relevant professional body.
- In depth knowledge of legislation (e.g. OSHA) and procedures.
- Knowledge of potentially hazardous materials or practices.
- Proficient in MS Office.
- Working knowledge of safety management systems i.e. OHASAS18001/IMS
- A Valid Driver's License

Reference: KCBT- SSO

10. Site Agent Civils

Job Summary

responsible for the management of the construction site maintains standards of health and safety, quality, environmental impact and cost control

Qualifications and Experience

- Btech / Diploma. – Civil / Water & Environment – Registered with ERB
- A proven track record in achieving first-class construction management in infrastructure projects (Pipe lines, Reservoirs and WTP)
- Minimum of 5- 10 years' experience working in Construction Management, with at least 5 years' experience in and on a site construction environment
- A Valid Driver's License

Reference: KCBT- SA

VoiceMoney

businessdesk@thevoicebw.com

THIS DAY IN HISTORY

1984
Soviets announce boycott of 1984 Olympics
Claiming that its athletes will not be safe from protests and possible physical attacks, the Soviet Union announces that it will not compete in the 1984 Olympics in Los Angeles.

GABORONE WEATHER

05 FRI TEMP: 26° 9°	06 SAT TEMP: 26° 12°	07 SUN TEMP: 24° 8°
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A MURKY HORIZON



MURKY HORIZON: Gaborone CBD

Companies anticipate tough first half of the year

BY KABELO ADAMSON

Local companies expect business conditions to deteriorate in the first two quarters of 2020, a recent survey has established.

The Business Expectation Survey (BES), a quarterly review conducted by Bank of Botswana (BoB), suggests the business world is pessimistic over conditions in the first half of the financial year due the current Covid-19 created circumstances.

According to the survey's findings, companies expect sales, profitability, exports of goods and services and other investments to decline in both the first and second quarters of 2020.

Imports of goods and services are also expected to drop in the first quarter of 2020 and then remain constant in the second quarter of the year.

The plunge in confidence is consistent with the perceptions of weaker economic growth in the first quarter of the year and the overall contraction of the economy.

The bank says the perceived weaker economic performance declared in the current survey compared to previous studies is largely down to the disruption of business operations caused by the Covid-19 pandemic.

While business confidence is forecast to fade, companies also expect cost pressures to be subdued in the second quarter of the year, mainly attributable to the expected downward pressure on cost of materials, utilities tariffs, wages and other inputs of production.

When it comes to the major impediment facing companies, particularly those in the manufacturing, finance and business, trade, hotels, restaurants, transport and communications industries, firms have once again singled out the difficulty in accessing financing from abroad as the greatest challenge to their business operations.

The second major barrier cited is the unavailability of skilled workers. This is said to be most predominant in the construction and manufacturing sectors, reflecting reported difficulties experienced in recruiting foreign skilled labour.

Furthermore, a number of companies, mainly in the manufacturing space, have highlighted shortage of raw materials as the greatest challenge to their business operations.

On a positive note, the local political climate, domestic demand and the current regulatory framework are viewed as supportive factors to doing business in the country.

It has also been observed that water and electricity sub-sectors contribute positively to economic activity. This is believed to be a reflection of an improved supply of these utilities, which has previously been a serious challenge.

kabelo@thevoicebw.com
@Kabelo_Adamson

Be READY to fight COVID-19

NOVEL CORONAVIRUS

Regularly wash your hands for more than 20 seconds with soap of hot water.

Stay home when sick and avoid social gathering.

If you need help please call MoHW 3632756 / 3632757 / 3632273

MoHW and WHO does not recommend the use of mask by healthy people. However, it recommends that patients with COVID-19 wear a face mask to protect others around them, or if the patient cannot wear a face mask, they should if they are in the same room.

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HOPPING TO SUCCESS



RABBIT SHELTER: Mauco's farm

BY KABELO ADAMSON

Six years ago, a feature in a local newsletter changed the course of Timothy Mauco's life forever.

Unsurprisingly it is a moment the 40-year-old rabbit breeder recalls with vivid clarity.

"I started in December 2014 after reading an article in the advertiser on rabbit breeding. I was drawn to breeding by the fact that rabbits can give birth from one to 12 babies and their gestation period is only a month and also that they don't need much space to rear," explains the Madingwana village native.

After setting up Rabbitry, a business which started life with just four rabbits, Mauco took to the Internet to learn more about the furry mammals he intended to breed and sell.

Amongst other things, he discovered that a female rabbit can become pregnant again within a few days of giving birth and thus could potentially produce 144 babies a year.

Seven months into the scheme and the enterprise was already completing sales.

"In 2016 I met with a couple of breeders who had just formed an association of rabbit breeders. The association is known as Botswana Rabbit Farmers Association," says Mauco, who currently serves as the organisation's Vice-Chairman.

With the help and advice of his newly found colleagues, Mauco further advanced his expertise in rabbit breeding.

He has used this knowledge to good effect, telling Voice Money that since setting up shop, financially the business has pretty much tak-

en care of itself.

"I barely use my own money to buy them feed as their sales are so good that I use proceeds from sales to feed them," he reiterates proudly.

Currently Mauco runs the business alone and has everything automated, from water drinkers to gravity feeders and the use of self-cleaning cages.

At the moment he has 25 females and five males and sells roughly 150 kits (baby rabbits) a month at P100 each.

He does not sell for meat and his clients are predominantly

pet owners, usually parents buying gifts for their children. Other breeders also make up a large part of his customer base.

As with all businesses, Rabbitry is not without its challenges.

Mauco explains that rabbits are extremely susceptible to disease and thus he has to take great care his animals remain healthy. Also the feeds he uses are expensive and when there is a delay in selling stock this cost quickly mounts.

A Diploma holder in E-Technology Computing, Mauco says

his initial interest in this field was logistics. However, now he predominantly uses his digital know-how to help his business in record keeping and research.

"I am still involved in logistics as well, only that I do it on a small scale," he adds.

Reflecting on his six-year journey to date, Mauco notes that the business has experienced 'tremendous growth' during this period. He is now driven to ensuring the industry itself experiences similar progress in the years to come.

Rabbit breeder makes big bucks

FIVE FUN FACTS ABOUT RABBITS

- A male rabbit is called a buck, and a female is called a doe. A baby rabbit is called a kit (and not a bunny as is widely thought), which is short for kitten.

- Rabbits have a gestation period of around 31 days. The female can have up to 10-12 kits, very rarely litters can be as big as 16 and as small as one.

- Rabbits are prey animals and are rarely considered to be smart, but this reputation is not entirely fair. Your pet rabbit is far more intelligent than you might think. Rabbits are clever animals. They are strong-minded and dominant and will not do anything they don't want to.

- In the wild, a rabbit's lifespan is extremely short, with only a few surviving beyond two years. However, pet rabbits typically enjoy a much longer life, with the average lifespan between 8 to 12 years. According to the Guinness Book of World Records the oldest known rabbit was as a wild rabbit in Australia named Flopsy who died a month shy of its 19th birthday.

- Happy rabbits practice a cute behavior known as a 'binky': they jump up in the air and twist and spin around!





Richard Harriman
Consumer's Voice
email: watchdog@bes.bw • website: www.bes.bw



Your Complaints Investigator

They want my ID!

I am kindly contacting you seeking help concerning emails that I have been receiving from someone, who claims that they are overseas and are willing to help me claim inheritance of a family relative in the USA.

They want me to send a scanned copy of my identity card.

I think you probably know already that this is a scam, don't you? I hope you do.

We've perhaps all heard stories of long-lost relatives dying and leaving their fortunes to their distant family members, family mem-

bers who have never actually heard of them. But they're just stories, the sort of thing we see in movies and read in romantic novels. They don't happen in real life.

This is the beginning of an advance fee scam, there's no doubt about it, I've seen many just like before. While the first contact says that you will benefit from your fake relative's fake inheritance sooner or later they'll demand money from you in order to get this fake money. Sometimes they'll tell you that it's attorney's fees, other times a tax or duty to pay, sometimes

an account opening fee. I predict it would have been P3-5,000, it's always about that amount. Once you pay that, they keep inventing more and more payments you need to make until you get your inheritance. An inheritance, you should remember, that doesn't exist.

They'll continue to demand money from you until either you realise you're being scammed or until you have no money left. Unfortunately, I've heard from too many people who given these scammers almost everything they've got. I really hope you won't be another case like this.

The best thing you can do is delete all the emails you've received from these scammers and any further emails they send you. If you feel like being adventurous you can send them an incredibly rude email telling them

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It doesn't cost you a thing so if you need our help you can reach us by email at watchdog@bes.bw, by post to Consumer Watchdog, P. O. Box 403026, Gaborone or by phone on 3904582.

Read the Consumer Watchdog blog where you can comment, celebrate and complain at consumerwatchdogbw.blogspot.com. Also join our Facebook group called "Consumer Watchdog Botswana".

what you think of them. Remember that scammers don't deserve courtesy!

Where's my furniture?

Last year I saw an advert for furniture on Facebook and I paid P600 for laybye of a double bed, head board and 2 sides, then on the 23 February I communicated with her that I will be coming to their offices to pay the balance and collect the furniture.

I hired transport to collect the furniture, when I got there I asked the guard nobody seemed to know the name of the company. I tried calling the lady but her phone was not going through. I tried the other number on

the receipt but the guy said he works for the company but at Tswapong so he is not familiar with the one at Gaborone. I went back without the furniture that day. That's when the lady communicated saying her phone battery died. I told her to bring my deposit or deliver the furniture at Lobatse because that is where I was taking the furniture to for free as their way of compensating me.

She agreed and she said their trucks will be leaving to South Africa they will pass by to drop my furniture. I sent the balance P1356 and she even gave me the number for the driver to confirm if they are coming. Unfortunately that never happened. She start-


ed telling stories and I told her they should sort it out at their company.

During the week she called to say she managed to get a truck to deliver my furniture. I went to Lobatse to await it but again she disappointed me. The following day I went again to where she had directed me, she was not there. The guys at the warehouse said she doesn't have a supervisor to report her to is her own boss. Up to date she has not called so I'm kindly asking for your help.

The lady is telling that the only way I'll get the furniture is to pay P200 more on top of all the expenses I incurred for other wise I'm still going to wait. I asked her to send back my money she is refusing.


I contacted the company and their first response was "Yes she bought furniture from us. When we open after lock-

down her things will be delivered" but then they changed their mind and became argumentative, suggesting that it was your fault that the furniture wasn't delivered. So yes, I agree that it's time for a refund. I suggest that you tell them that Sections 7(6) and 27(1) of the Consumer Protection Act both say very clearly that you are entitled to cancel the deal and get your money back. If they don't agree to that and repay you then we need to escalate the issue further. We won't give up!



NBFIRA
Non-Bank Financial
Institutions Regulatory
Authority

Access to Pension Funds upon Retirement



Panel 1: Dumelang, ke kopa go tihlolediswa tsamaiso ya dituelo kgotsa dikatso tsa phenshene fa motho a tswa mo tirong.

Panel 2: Go ya ka fa melawana wa Retirement Funds Act le waa income Tax, fa mmereki a tlogela tiro ka bogodi kana a tlogela ka mabaka a bolwetsi, o neelwa bongwe mo borarong. Fa a tlogela ka go bo a bone mafulo a matalana, o na le gone gore o ka tsaya bongwe mo boneng kana a tlogele madi mo letlolog.

Panel 3: Ke dule mo tirong ka mabaka a bogodi, mme ke bone dikatso tsa selekanyo sa bongwe mo borarong. Aa gona le kgonagalo ya gore ke ka neelwa madi ame otlhe?

Panel 4: Molao ga o letle gore re ka neela pensionara bobedi mo borarong fa e se fela madi a gagwe a le manye mo seelong se se beilweng ka fa molaong. Madi a bobedi mo borarong a dirisiwe go reka insurance ya innuity go duela phenshene kgwedi le kgwedi...

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For more information please contact NBFIRA at:

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info@nbfira.org.bw NBFIRA

LEAPING TO THE RESCUE



SMALL BUSINESSES AFFECTED: SMME's are suffering from lack of business during lockdown

Authority step in to aid SMMEs

BY KABELO ADAMSON

Having conducted a survey to assess the impact of Covid-19 on Small, Micro and Medium Enterprises (SMMEs), Local Enterprise Authority (LEA) has stepped up its efforts to help those affected.

The snap survey, carried out at the end of March, covered 382 LEA-registered SMMEs from around the country.

In total the surveyed businesses boasted 2, 669 employees with an overall monthly wage bill of P5.9 million

It was found that 63 percent of those surveyed had suspended operations, having been faced with an average 47 percent reduction in monthly revenue.

The tourism sector, which accounts for 27 percent of the jobs in the survey, is reported

to have have been hardest hit, with a 72 percent revenue loss in March putting 729 jobs at risk.

Companies that remained operational during the period faced their own challenges. These included: difficulty in importing raw material, greatly reduced revenue due to Covid-19 restrictions and inability to pay fixed costs such as rentals, loans and salaries.

It was further found that of the 382 assessed enterprises, 209 have outstanding loans with a total balance in excess of P130 million.

As part of their efforts to help, LEA assisted 300 SMMEs apply for the Botswana Unified Revenue Services (BURS) wage subsidy. This is believed to be a key factor in helping avert job losses, especially in the tourism sector which accounts for 61 percent of the loan balance.

Furthermore, 19 business-

es were aided in applying for working capital and loan repayment breaks at CEDA and commercial banks.

LEA has also assisted enterprises to accelerate the testing and certification of essential products at Botswana Bureau of Standards (BOBS) to ensure their products meet the required standards.

It is reported that companies were thereafter supported to secure orders in the amount of P2.3 million for Covid-19 related goods such as sanitizers, masks and cleaning chemicals.

Although the outbreak of the pandemic has caused massive damage to the domestic economy, it has provided an opportunity for businesses to become more innovative. To that end, LEA has identified 13 enterprises to be assisted with scaling up to compete sustainably in the production of medical consumables and personal hygiene products.

Fiscal injection to mitigate Covid-19 economic impact low

BY KABELO ADAMSON

Economists fear that the fiscal measures put in place by government to lessen the impact of Covid-19 on the economy are significantly less than what is needed.

The economic review by Econsult Botswana for the first quarter of the year notes that the fiscal measures installed to cushion the country's economy is extremely low by international standards.

The amount is estimated to be around P4 billion or 2 percent of GDP, which Dr. Keith Jefferis

and his colleagues, Sethunya Sejoie and Kitso Mokhurutshi say is a relatively small injection by international standards and may need to be topped up in due course.

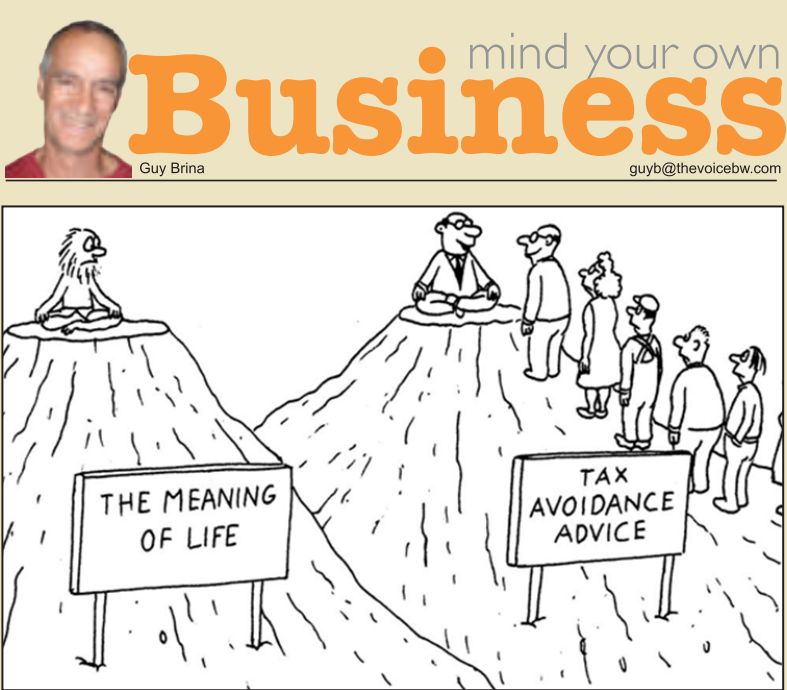
Other measures economists say require consideration is the informal sector and small and micro enterprises that do not meet tax registration eligibility requirements for access to wage subsidies as well as the issue of rent.

Government has reserved P10 million for the informal sector, an amount which is said to be low, especially considering how vast the sector is.

Although solid data on the damage caused to the economy by the pandemic is only expected to be available in three months time, Econsult economists say for other countries, there are fairly consistent estimates of economic activity being reduced by 30-60 percent in the short-term during periods of strict lockdowns.

The decline in Botswana's GDP for the month of April is expected to be around 50 percent. This is only the short-term impact expected to rely on a number of factors.

These factors include devel-



OPTIONS: Some get more interest than others

LAUGHING MATTERS

A weary man sent a letter to BURS informing the tax department he'd been struggling to sleep ever since he cheated on his return.

"I under-stated my taxable income so I am enclosing a cheque for P3000," he wrote. "If I still can't sleep, I will send the rest."

That didn't really happen... it's just an old joke.

I started with it because I haven't heard any new ones lately. As a matter of fact, I don't think I've heard anyone tell a joke since the c-word started dominating the news two months ago. There hasn't been much laughter either.

But please don't get me wrong; I'm not saying we shouldn't take the coronavirus threat and the government's efforts to control its spread seriously. I think we should; but I believe a good laugh is good for our health, and at the moment it is essential to eat well, keep fit and do other healthy things to look after our immune systems so we can fight off whatever comes our way.

So, if you have heard any new jokes, or if you have some old favourites that are clean enough to print, I would love to receive them at the email address listed above so I can share a few with other Voice readers. From your point of view, that might make future columns more enjoyable to read... and from mine, it would probably make them easier to write.

Win, win.
The only possible lose would be if any of you were to think my joking about tax avoidance means I think it is okay to cheat on our

taxes. I don't... especially not when the government needs funds to compensate workers who have lost their jobs and to get the economy going again when lock-down is lifted.

I do believe, though, the current crisis is an excellent opportunity to look at how much we value holding onto our money, compared to holding onto our health, protecting our families and helping people less fortunate than ourselves.

But I have drifted from my objective. When I sat down to write this thing, my goal was to lighten the mood and bring smiles to as many faces as possible, even if many of them will be hidden behind make-shift masks... which brings me to my final observation.

Sober, serious people are walking around in public with underpants on their heads. Isn't that amazing?

I have seen people doing that kind of thing before, but they have always been either blind drunk or professional comedians.

Two accountants are in a bank when armed robbers burst in.

The ones in surgical masks demand money from the tellers, while the ones wearing knickers on their heads line up the customers and start taking their wallets, watches and other valuables. While this is happening, the first accountant jams something into the other one's hand.

Without looking down, the second accountant asks, "What's this?" To which the first replies, "It's the P500 I owe you."



MEASURES IN PLACE: Government set to lessen impact of Covid-19

opments in the global economy, recovery in the diamond industry, the length of time it takes for international travel to re-

sume, the duration of the domestic lockdown and the restrictions imposed under the State of Public Emergency.

The Big INTERVIEW

BY FRANCINAH
BAAITSE- MMANA

TRADITIONALLY at this time of year, tour guides and operators in Maun closely monitor the movement of water in the Okavango Delta. Many will take photos as they market their businesses to the rest of the world in an attempt to attract potential clients and visitors.

Things are slightly different this year, however.

Whilst water is within a few kilometres of the Thamalakane River and flowing steadily, excitement is at an all time low. Indeed the filling of the river after last year's drought is adding to the industry's pain and frustration.

In this interview, Kenson Kgaga, the first Motswana to be granted a Tour Guide licence - an honour he achieved 35 years ago - and then own a safari company, highlights these concerns.

Now 72, the grizzled Chairperson of Botswana Guides Association (BOGA) has retired from poling and tour guiding but remains actively involved in the running of safari camps.

You are recognised as the first Motswana to get a professional Safari Tour Guide licence. How does that make you feel?

Proud. I got the licence in 1985. I was fortunate to get a job at Audi camp, then Kubu camp in 1984. That is where I developed interest in the tourism business. It became quite clear that it was not such a complicated industry as we initially thought and it need not be a preserve of foreign nationals. We were born and bred

in the delta so we understand the terrains and have indigenous knowledge about its inhabitants. In 1985 I wanted to leave Kubu camp to start my own. But the German who owned it liked my work ethic and determination so he decided to retain me by way of offering me shares and it worked, I stayed.

Is that how you got your licence?

Yes, being one of the Directors in the company my

focus was in the Tour department. I used to take visitors for day trips, either by road or into the delta by mokoro. As a result I had to apply for a Professional Guide licence.

And what was your job before you became a shareholder?

They started me off as a labourer. I was just a camp assistant. My work included litter picking and basically keeping the camp tidy. This meant that I occasionally

interacted with visitors and clientele of the camp and they liked my communication skills.

Besides before joining this particular company I had worked in other camps as a cook and waiter. Because of my friendly nature and professionalism in whatever I do, the company did not want to lose me. I ended up being sent on tour activities more often and the rest is history.

TURN TO PAGE 6A

TOP OF THE POLES



**CELEB EDITION
WITH TALENTED
ACTOR**
Molosi's Moment
PAGE 3A



SCAR DRAMA
Yarona FM suspends
Scar
PAGE 3A



**SOCIAL MEDIA
ROUND UP**
Parliamentary
Meetings
PAGE 6A

Like us on Facebook and enjoy exclusive video content...

1. How does it feel
2. Voice Lifestyle
3. Voice on sport's
4. The Voice Today
5. TheVoiceBW Lockdown Sessions with United Artists Social Club

LOCKDOWN SESSIONS

STAY HOME STAY SAFE

STAY UP TO DATE

COVID - 19

WASH YOUR HANDS

SOCIAL DISTANCING

COVID - 19



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Impressive! I wasn't aware that you hold shares at Audi camp?

I don't. With the change of ownership and management over the years I ended up selling my shares. It is a long story, probably for another day. After selling my shares, I registered my own safari camp, Bush Safaris, which I sold in 1999. Competing with bigger and more established companies presented new challenges. Back then it was difficult for mobile safaris to secure campsites inside prime areas like Moremi Game Reserve.

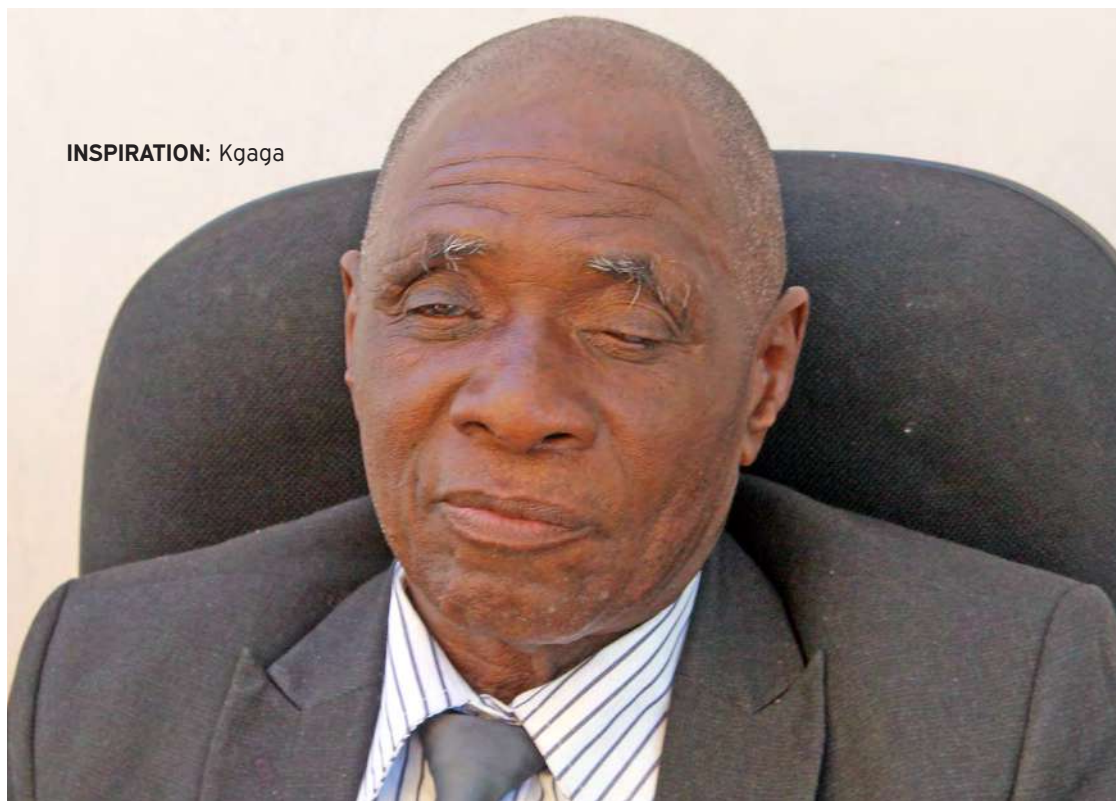
So how did you bounce back?

I was very much known in Maun and Ngamiland as 'Kgaga wa disafari' (Kgaga of safaris) and I became a point of reference for many aspiring safari owners. I didn't like being the only black Motswana who is in this business. I wanted others to get in because most Ngamilanders understand the delta and the bush very well. I wanted more of them to benefit from these rich resources hence I was always encouraging them to venture into the business. I utilised the media a lot, especially Okavango Observer, now The Ngami Times. I raised awareness and many Batswana showed interest in the business.

So you became more of an agent?

Sort of, though not completely - and I was not doing it for money! Even when I was running the camp people still came to me every day for advice. Back then for one to get a guides licence, they had to be recommended so I had to rec-

INSPIRATION: Kgaga



GUIDING HIS OWN DESTINY

ommend many of them. I used to receive 15 to 20 people at my office every day until one day I asked them to find a place where I can address them all at the same time. A meeting was organised and held in 1998 at Sedie Secondary School. The meeting led to the formation of Botswana Guides Association (BOGA), officially launched on the 5th April 2000 at Sedie hotel. I was appointed its Chairman.

20 years later and you remain the association's Chairman! Doesn't your post have a term limit?

It does. We go for elective congress every two years but I have been voted back every time. I now wish to retire. In fact I once wrote to the Executive Committee requesting to be excused from the position. They agreed, but when the congress dates were close, nobody showed interest to stand

for the task and I was therefore asked to rally for the post again.

I have even asked to be selected for Deputy Chairman but the membership has refused. However, since the current term ends this year, I really do not wish to retain the seat. I have done my part - others now have to take the fort.

When is the congress?

We were supposed to hold elections this coming November. But because we had a special conference last year, same month, a lot of money was used and now we are facing financial problems emanating from the Covid-19 outbreak and closure of the tourism business. To answer your question, we are not even sure if the congress will take place this year because our membership is generally struggling financially due to movement restrictions. Again you have to understand that our membership gets business from international travellers and with this Covid issue, businesses are on their deathbed.

How big is BOGA, in terms of members?

BOGA has a membership of over 400, including professional mobile safaris and individual guides. The impact of Covid-19 on our membership is huge. In the safari industry, there is a booking system that requires clients to pay deposits before hand. Some book a year in advance and two months before the trip, the clients deposit the balance. So when Corona and lockdown came in, they were hit with cancellations and clients wanted refunds. We are not talking small monies!

Bare in mind, when the booking is made, safari operators have to book hotels, parks and all other necessities to prepare for visitors. The lockdown came in so fast, leaving our operators mostly bankrupt and in debt. It is a stressful situation. Our cancellation policy says it has to be for a reasonable cause, and Corona is reasonable enough.

With the flooding of Thamalakane River, won't your members at least get local business?

Aah, Batswana fear mokoro eh! The flooding of the river is only opening our wounds because we know this is supposed to be the beginning of peak season. Our business is supposed to pick up but we can only watch from a distance and feel happy for farmers. We are indeed grateful because water is precious; at the same time we pray for Corona to disappear so that everything will go back to normal. Of course we know it will take years for us to recover from this, but such is nature.

In your many years as a guide, did you ever have a close encounter with a vicious animal?

I have never had an encounter in my years as a guide. I believe God has always protected me and I was always vigilant because even when you are in the water, you have to be alert and know when and where to go.

Personally, how has the lockdown affected you?

I run safari camps, Naga Mobile Safari and Mako Rest Camp. My plan was to open another camp in Sankoyo; everything is ready, but the lockdown has delayed the opening.

So is there now fair competition in the tourism sector?

Not really, but things are better now. After forming BOGA in 2000, things opened up because we were able to negotiate with government and policies were eased to favour local and small businesses. That is when I opened Naga Safaris and never looked back.

You are a true go-getter and an inspiration to any! So how do you balance the demands of being a politician, a businessman and union chairperson?

There is no hassle at all. This is what I have been called to do on earth: to serve people! For me being a politician is more like being a church leader. It is all about trying to fight injustices. I just can't stand seeing a person being oppressed by another.

I am an active advocate for human rights. That is one thing very close to my heart - it makes me what I am. I just want to speak and represent the voiceless.

And on the home front, are you a family man?

Yes I have a wife and seven children, two sons and five daughters.

What is your favourite leisure activity?

I have a cattlepost. That is where I go to in my spare time. That is what all old men do!

Really! And finally Thank God It's Friday, what are you up to this weekend?

Yes. We are all on lockdown. I will probably be home or out helping other people in my ward. As you can see, my phone rings non-stop, I have to provide answers to even things I am clueless about. So I am always busy solving problems for others!

Notice

Reduction of Prime Lending Rate

Following the adjustment of the Bank Rate by Bank of Botswana by 0.50% from 4.75% to 4.25%, BancABC part of Atlas Mara has reduced the Prime Lending Rate from 6.25% to 5.75% on all lending products accordingly. The adjusted Prime Lending Rate is effective from 4th May 2020.05.04

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CELEB EDITION

BY SHARON MATHALA

WITH all that he has achieved, it is hard to believe that Donald Molosi is still only 34.

Molosi bears a striking resemblance to Botswana's first President, Sir Seretse Khama and, like his famous doppelganger, has done much to put the country on the global map. From starring on Broadway to the big screen, to writing his own hard-hitting plays and novels, Molosi is truly a man of many talents.

How's lockdown treating you?

Well outside of being glued to the TV set for the latest on Covid-19 trends, I have been busy with my creative consultancy. I still have to meet and discuss ideas with clients so we have had lots - and I mean lots - of Zoom meetings! Outside of work, I also caught up on reading.

Once lockdown is finally lifted, what's the first thing you intend to do?

The first thing I am going to do after lockdown is to go for a walk or jog outside the yard. I have missed that. This is something I have never really quite appreciated until I was not allowed to do! Who would have thought in this lifetime we would experience such?

What is the one thing this lockdown has taught you?

This lockdown has re-shown me the bitter truth that the failure by Botswana government to decolonize the African classroom means that our curriculum cannot be taught online. But I guess it is a topic that needs an open debate.

Any new projects coming up?

Yes. Sadly I had to postpone the filming of my new project but it will resume filming around October. I'm quite excited about the project and would have really hoped to have it done by the year end.

You are a well-travelled man - which country have you visited that remains close to your heart?

I love Morocco a lot and the people's warm hearts remind me of the welcome I always receive in Tanzania and Taiwan. Like Botswana, they are also my homes.

If you had one superpower, what would it be?

I would wave my wand and make Coronavirus disappear and for the

lessons learnt to be internalized by our leaders.

Who is the last person you called?

Ummm, the last person I called was my friend Kaone Kario. I wouldn't want to get into what we discussed during the phone call. Not for public consumption (laughing).

What is the first thing you do when you wake up?

The first thing I do when I wake up is express gratitude for life through chanting.

Five things people don't know about you?

1. I am half Kalanga and half Ngwato

2. I grew up in Werda attending Werda Primary School

3. I like silence and meditation

4. I didn't start dating until I was in my mid-twenties

5. My first film role was opposite Matt Damon



TALENTED ACTOR: Donald Molosi

IS SCAR BEING PUSHED?

The Buffet breakfast show to leave Yarona FM

BY SHARON MATHALA

CELEBRATED rapper and radio presenter, Thato Matlhabaphiri popularly known as Scar is reportedly on his way out from his popular morning radio slot on Yarona FM.

The Buffet Breakfast show host, which he previously co-hosted with Mimi 'Zizi' Dintwe, was slapped with a suspension letter from the youthful station on Labour Day, The Voice can reveal.

His former co-host, Zizi also left the radio show amid controversy early last month.

This week Zizi refused to share details on why she exited from the 106.6 FM dial except to say, 'it was a personal decision so I wish not to get into it. It's been weeks now and I would rather not get into it. I remain forever grateful to the station for their support.'

Concerning Scar's looming exit, an inside source said, "he was slapped with suspension for

some things he allegedly said on social media. There are other charges he faces too. I don't think they will make amends. I can assure you he is leaving the station."

When Voice Entertainment reached out to Scar for clarity, the 'Caesar' rapper refused to divulge any details. "That's an internal matter. Please liaise with the station," he said

SHED

Yarona FM Programmes manager, Tshepang Motsisi also refused to shed light on the matter.

"That is a matter between employee and employer. I will not comment on it for now," he said.

When asked if the station was headed for a shake up of their line up, Motsisi also refused to share details.

Meanwhile Scar is expected to attend his "disciplinary hearing next week."

sharonm@thevoicebw.com
@sharonmathala

PUSHED?: Thato "Scar" Matlhabaphiri

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SUNGLASSES: The sun rays are piercing more than ever, these are essential for going out and manoeuvring around for essential services.



A MASK: in line with the regulations by the government of Botswana, donning of a mask is mandatory. Why not act in solidarity with the rest of the world and get yourself a home-made mask?



WINTER ACCESSORIES 2020

WE can all agree that winter season 2020 is here. We are weeks into lockdown but the world of

fashion is at a standstill.

All that the fashion industry is currently focused on is the global masks sew-a-

thon going on.

So what is this winter's most coveted must have accessories to breeze through the winter despite the lock-

down? Here are some of my must have accessories picks for winter 2020.



A BEANIE: Since hair bars and salons are closed, why not opt for a versatile piece that provides warmth while also helps to hide a bad hair day?



CROSS SHOULDERS BAGS: This is not the time to adorn yourself with a lot of things, minimalism is ideal.



SNEAKERS: This is the season of a more comfortable sole and there is no better way to feel than donning a sneaker.

BEST DRESSED OF THE WEEK:

The Voice on Fashion Stunner

I give **Jemima Osunde's** look 10/10 because of its sheer comfort, warmth, and absolutely edgy streak.

This cold season has backed a pandemic up but that should not make you not to put your best foot forward. One way to look effortlessly elegant and sophisticated is by donning leather. Leather is one chic way to look sway but also warm this season!



BIG PICTURE BIG HEADLINE SHORT STORY





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WHERE TO GET HELP

Lifeline Botswana - 3911290
(Face-to-face Counselling), 3911270 (Telephone Counselling)

Childline Botswana - 3900900
(Children's Issues, Counselling, Parenting Skills)

Men's Clinic - 3909402
(Male Sexual Health)

BOSASNet - 3959119/72659891
(Substance Abuse Education, Prevention & Rehabilitation)

BOCAIP - 3916454 (Counselling, HIV Testing, Care & Support)

Ipoletse HIV/AIDS Call Centre - Toll Free
Numbers 0800 600 700 / 711600

CEYOHO - 3919958/71763659
(Counselling, HIV Stigma Reduction, Behaviour Change, Health Education and Support for Young People)

Women Against Rape - 6860865
(Counselling, Legal Aid, Emergency Shelter)

Botswana Gender Based Violence Prevention & Support Centre (BGBVC) - 3907658/9, 3900516
(Counselling, Medical & Legal Aid Support for Women and Children affected by Domestic Violence)

Youth Counselling on Air : YOCA (Toll-free counselling facility to give youth a platform to voice out their challenges. Short code number 17250, accessible via all mobile network service providers and landlines from 10h00 to 22h00 daily)

New Perspectives - 73888898 / 3184344 (Individual and Group Counselling, Marriage and Family Therapy, Relationship Management, Midlife Adjustment Counselling, Retirement, Grief, Interpersonal Conflict, Career/Vocational, Anxiety, Stress, etc)

Heart & Hands of Compassion - 73516022
(Face-to-face counselling with emphasis on Spiritual Counselling)

Emang Basadi
Tel: 3909335/3959424
Face to face and group counselling



MY ALCOHOL AND THE LOCKDOWN

I always hear people say that you will never know how much something means to you until it's gone. For most cases this refers to romantic relationships. Well, I have to agree with whoever came up with the statement. Even though for me it's a bit different as I am not referring to a relationship with a person but to alcohol. I am a bit embarrassed and ashamed to admit this.

Let me tell you a bit about myself. I am a young man in my mid20s. I have a stable job, my salary is not enough but I guess it's better than nothing. I live in a bachelor pad with my girlfriend. My life has been characterized by going to work and knocking off at 5pm from Monday to Friday. Weekends are my chill time. I usually go out for a few drinks with my guys; normally we discuss life issues, but mostly we make jokes and get a good laugh.

I have always been convinced that I don't have a drinking problem. I always considered myself a responsible drinker because I pay all my bills, take care of my girlfriend and give her all she needs. I was performing well at work and I even sent money to my mother now and then.

I felt that my drinking was under control and it was just for social rea-

sons; to chill and have a good time with others after a long week. I always said, 'if I want to stop alcohol I can stop anytime without a problem'. I always said that I am not like other people who are controlled by alcohol, because I always believed that people who have a drinking problem are weak and don't have a strong will power. Well, until one fateful day.

I clearly remember that day; I was listening to the radio on my way to work as any other day. I came across a report that due to the increasing threats of the corona virus the government had taken a decision to stop all sales of alcohol. To be honest I thought I was fine. I did not expect this to have an impact on me.

During the first few hours at work most people were talking about the issue.. The more I heard about it the more anxious I became. I could not concentrate during our staff meeting. Immediately after the meeting I rushed to my car and drove off to the nearest bottle store. I decided to use money from my savings account to buy enough alcohol to last me 30 days. My heart was pounding and I felt a sense of desperation to stock up for myself.

The long queue at the bottle store was also not helping. I wondered what I would do if the alcohol finished before I got mine. I started to feel sweat rolling down on my body. My phone rang several times and I could see that it was my boss

but I ignored the calls. I had an urgent matter to attend to; it felt like it was a matter of life and death.

Finally, after what felt like an eternity, it was my turn to enter into the bottle store. I loaded my trolley with as many cases as I could. I kept asking myself if it would be enough. The trolley was almost overflowing when I felt content and finally went to the till to pay.

All the anxiety and panic that I had felt before entering the bottle store melted away. I felt a fresh breeze of relief and a sense of excitement. I felt prepared for the 30 days. I went home to drop off my stock of alcohol then returned to work. In the evening I had to answer a lot of questions from my girlfriend, but that's a story for another day. The gist of the matter is that as I lay on my bed that night and reflected on how I reacted when I thought of not having any access to alcohol for at least 30 days. Why did it make me anxious? Why did I feel like I was sentenced to death? 'I think that I have a drinking problem'. I decided to contact BOSASNet.

If you find it difficult to cope with substance abuse related issues during this Extreme Social Distancing time contact us for support. Call or SMS 72659891 or like our Facebook page where you can ask us any question.

#StayHome #StaySafe #COVID-19



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CONTACT: Gertie, Kago, Percy, Murphy or Lindiwe **CALL:** 3161585/2416621



SOCIAL MEDIA ROUND UP

BY TUMISANG DALE RANKOPO



OUR HELPER: Steve 'Mothusi' Harvey with President Masisi

WITH much of the world still confined to their homes, social media activity remained in overdrive this week.

Heavy traffic was centred around topics such as a Motswana man's debatable ingenuity, an American superstar's generosity and, as always, sex.

HARVEY'S HEAVY DONATION

AMERICAN comedian Steve Harvey recently announced he is donating 5 tonnes (that's 5,000kg to you and I) of Personal Protective Equipment to Botswana and the Covid-19 Relief Fund.

Harvey described Botswana as his second home and reaffirmed his commitment to standing with the country. While there was an overwhelming outpouring of gratitude from social media over the donation, some sceptics questioned what 'Mothusi' has to

gain from him adopting Botswana as his new home. Others queried the slightly obscure '5 tonnes' wording and wondered why the US superstar couldn't just state exactly what his donation would include.

"Maybe we will start to see the benefits of this new relationship now, because we haven't seen much," noted one comment.

STARTING AGAIN

THE Botswana government has a lot on its plate as they attempt to ease the country out of extreme social distancing. Various agendas are up for discussion, including schools and churches reopening. Social media is an attentive onlooker as developments play out, with some students expressing concern.

"University of Botswana has thousands of students, how can you possibly maintain social distancing in such an environment. Lecture halls with 100 students in them," pointed out

one worried student.

Of course there was the usual plea for the reopening of bottle stores, perhaps that will be discussed at some point. Fingers crossed!

CHIBUKU VS COVID

WITH the Coronavirus still at large, all citizens have been instructed to protect themselves by wearing masks when out in public. Unfortunately not all have access to masks but one man made do with what he had. There is a video online showing a gentleman wearing a homemade 'mask' consisting of an empty Chibuku carton and a ripped tomato sack tied around his head.

Social media pundits almost fell out of their seats watching the clip.

"It's better than nothing," reflected one comment while another replied, "Creativity and innovation at its best."

The homemade mask gets ten out of ten for imagination although I fear it will be less



SEX EXPERT: Dr. Gure

than effective!

DR GURE'S SIZZLING SEX TIPS

SEXPLANATIONS with Dr. Gure has taken social media by storm. Indeed, although his Facebook page is relatively new, it already has over 189, 000 followers – I guess it's true what they say, sex really does sell!

Dr. Gure is a medical doctor known for his advice and vast knowledge on sexual matters. The good doctor does a solid job



IN TROUBLE: Yaya Mayweather

of explaining and answering sex related questions to the regular Motswana in a way that is easy to understand.

Social media users congregate hungrily at his posts to see what new tips the guru has for everyone.

"Minister of Sexology is it not too early in the day for such conversation," jokes one Facebooker while another notes cheekily, "Dr. Gure is trending more than the parliament meeting."

It is clear Dr. Gure has the people's attention and is willing to help bring couples closer through sexual intimacy as he would say.

MAYWEATHER'S DAUGHTER IN HOT WATER

Yaya Mayweather, the daughter of famous boxer Floyd Mayweather Jr, landed herself in a lot of trouble recently after allegedly stabbing the mother of her boyfriend's child.

Yaya, who has been dating rapper NBA Youngboy, reportedly stabbed the young lady during an altercation. The baby mama, Lapattra Jacobs, recently took to her social media to reveal her injuries and attempted to move her arm.

Social media seems convinced that Yaya is going to jail over the incident and has little sympathy for her.

"Yaya is too foolish, she needs to be locked up for a long time," blasts one Twitter user. Another user said, "She is crazy, maybe if she pleads insanity she will go to a psychiatric ward instead of prison."

We will have to wait and see how this saga unfolds.



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WHAT A BULGE!

➔ SHAYA recently came across a short social media post from popular fitness trainer Chyna on how to stay in shape during lockdown.

Well Shaya admits he struggled to focus on the message as his attention was distracted by something else – an obvious bulge in Chyna's tight-fitting shorts that left little to the imagination! Anyway, nice one buddy, my lady friends are gushing over the picture although I can't say I feel the same! Shaya's not the jealous type so it's all good – and besides, I'm reliably informed it's not the size that counts, isn't it ladies? Isn't it?



CHYNA

35/38



LEUNGO

KING BEE FLYING HIGH

➔ CELEBRATED local radio personality, Leungo is said to be head over heels with his new catch.

The smitten 'King Bee' is apparently spending less time with friends to focus on his new bae. Shaya caught wind of the romance this past festive and wishes nothing but the best for the new lovers. What puzzled me though is that when I last checked, this young catch was reportedly in a long term relationship – I guess Shaya's sources got that one wrong! Anyway, be warned new person, don't go breaking Leungo's heart – we need him to focus his energies on that Grammy Award gig and not on any heartache.

A PEST IN THE WEST

➔ FRANCISTOWN West Member of Parliament, Ignatius Moswaane spoke passionately about corruption in the way Covid-19 Food Relief programme is being undertaken.

It seems the maverick MP has a point. Shaya has heard reports that some of those at the forefront of the programme are out to line their pockets and looking to gain by any means necessary. However, the MP would do well to take a closer look at his own constituency, or Monarch to be precise.

Apparently there's a shop in the area that has been distributing food collected from local schools while billing government in the process. While it's common knowledge that government food stuffs are never for sale, this shop is apparently using the ignorance and desperation of residents to provide them with food packages collected free of charge from government schools. This business owner is literally stealing from government in plain sight.

MP, Shaya knows you as one legislator who abhors corruption, but sir you've a dodgy shop owner in your neighbourhood!



NOT FOR SALE: Milk packaged for government



NOT FOR SALE: Oil packaged for government

MIKE TYSON OFFERED \$1 MILLION FOR CHARITY COMEBACK FIGHT

➔ FOOTAGE of former heavyweight champion Mike Tyson training went viral in the past week as the 53-year-old showed he still has some fight left in him – albeit in a controlled setting.

But it seems that the footage has caught the attention of the right people as Melbourne boxing promoter Brian Amatruda reportedly offered Iron Mike a million

dollars to do a charity bout.

"We'd have to wait until the coronavirus shutdowns are over of course so the fight probably wouldn't be until early next year - as long as we can get the visa. They gave him one in 2012 and he was fine, he's a quiet family man now. He didn't cause any trouble then, so why shouldn't they let him back in?"

The fighters rumored to potentially take on Tyson are well known in Australia, but not inside the boxing ring.

FEEDBACK @ CHILLIN' OUT

The views expressed on this column are not necessarily of the management, sponsors and paper.

GHETTO'S SIP OF DEATH

➔ IT is now over a month since alcohol taps stopped flowing –eish it feels more like a year!

The Covid-19 pandemic forced President Masisi's hand as he ordered that bars, bottle stores and nightclubs be shut to help curb the spread of the dreaded virus. Inevitably, this opened the gates for knock-off whiskeys from Zimbabwe to find their way into Botswana. Popularly known as 'a sip of death' in Zim, the fake drinks apparently include whisky,

brandy, gin and vodka.

Some traders, allegedly working with rogue security officers manning the Ramokgwebana border, have stockpiled this counterfeit liquor, which is now being consumed in many households in Francistown. The booze is selling at double the normal price but is still flying out the car boots. I guess this is the moment when one says, "If I die I die!"

Guys, Shaya is as thirsty as the next bloke but it's just not worth it – let's wait for the bars to re-open!

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MUMMY'S BOYS: Boitumelo with her twin sons, Vusi and Busi



A HELPING HAND: DJ LA Timmy lending assistance to the Mosadi Tota Ambassadors



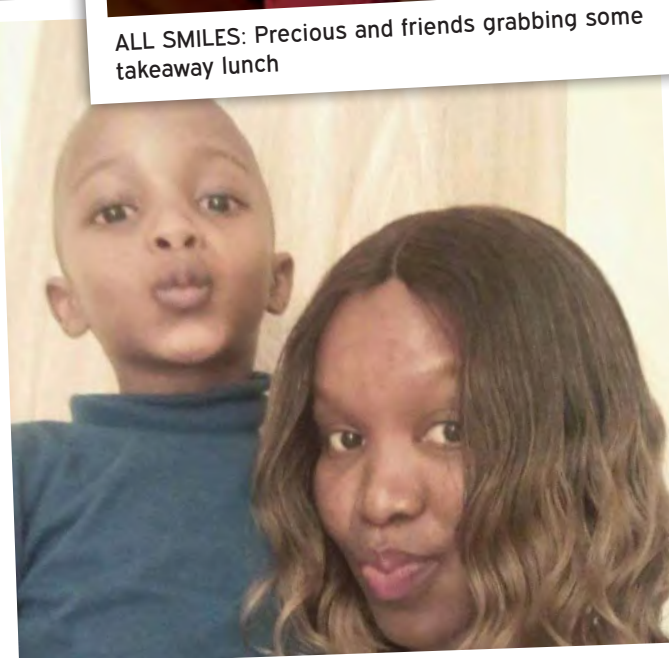
ALL SMILES: Precious and friends grabbing some takeaway lunch



BROTHERS FOR LIFE: Kealeboga and his younger sibling captured in black and white



LIKE FATHER LIKE SON: Alec and his baby boy Anang bonding at home



GOLDEN MOMENTS: Gauta with her son taking an indoor snap



SELFIE SISTERS: Gofa and Tebogo taking a quick pic at home



SUN KISSED: Gao and a friend posing in the sunlight



CHILLING OUT: Collin and a friend relaxing at home



WORKING GIRLS: Didi and her colleagues at the office

SOCIETY IN ACTION

After the lockdown extension, it appears extreme social distancing remains in full force for now, but that did not dampen spirits. As always, The Voice's reliable lens captured stand out moments across the land.

EMAIL YOUR SPECIAL MOMENTS TO: mookamik@thevoicebw.com

BEST BUDS:
Bendance and
Brian taking a
selfie



11. Senior Land Surveyor

Job Summary

Measures and collects data on specific areas of land in order to meet project objectives.

Qualifications and Experience

- Bsc (Surveying), or equivalent.
- Must be professionally registered with SAGC as a PLS (Professional Surveyor) or Equivalent
- Minimum 10 years in engineering land surveying, directly related to construction
- A Valid Driver's License

Reference: KCBT- SLS

12. Health and Safety Manager

Job Summary

To Manage and coordinate the overall Safety & Health initiatives and systems at the company. Ensure and assure legal compliance to minimize risk, litigation exposure and adverse publicity.

Qualifications and Experience

- Should possess a four-year degree from an accredited post-secondary institution within construction engineering, occupational safety or a related field of study.
- At least 10 years related experience in the construction environment Staff management and relevant labour legislation
- Health & Safety legislation & implementation
- Knowledge of Health & Safety practices & systems
- Professional Registration with relevant body
- Extremely proficient with Ms Office
- Excellent Communication skills
- Ability to work under pressure.
- A valid Driver's License.

Reference: KCBT-HSM

13. Environmental Officer

Job Summary

To assist in the management of an effective environmental assurance function in accordance with Legislative, Client and Company Projects and other requirement.

Qualifications and Experience

- Degree/National Diploma in Environmental Management or equivalent.
- 2 to 5 years' Environmental experience
- MS Office and administration
- SHE legislation & implementation
- Knowledge of Environmental, Health & Safety practices & systems.
- Extensive knowledge of Occupational Health and Safety Acts,
- Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment, Legal Compliance Assessments, Construction Regulations and other similar training
- Understanding and use of HIRA methodology
- Extremely proficient with Ms Office
- Excellent Communication skills
- Ability to work under pressure.
- A valid Driver's License.

Reference: KCBT-EO

14. Payroll Clerk

Job Summary

To perform general administrative tasks related to Payroll and benefits, remuneration and employee conditions of employment.

Qualifications and Experience

- Diploma in Payroll administration, book keeper
- Training in Sage Pastel
- 3 to 5 years.VIP Premier Experience (Full Function)

- Advanced Excel Experience (including Formulas)
- Understanding of Basic Conditions of Employment
- 3 years' experience in construction, engineering or similar environment
- Provide and compile Payroll input and reports and attend to employee queries
- Experience in working with complex cost to companies including fringe benefits
- Understanding of statutory laws and relevant Acts
- Proficient in Ms Programmes.
- Excellent Communication skills
- Ability to work under pressure.
- A valid Driver's License.

Reference: KCBT-PC

15. Foreman Civils /Structures/ Pipe laying

Job Summary

To assume supervisory responsibility over workers, materials and plant in respect of a trade specific part of the work on a contract ensuring that work streams to a programme and deadlines are met as agreed with the supervisor.

Qualifications and Experience

- Trade certificate/Diploma
- At least 5 years' experience in a construction, engineering/built environment
- Knowledge of construction processes and applicable trades
- Read and interpret drawings
- Setting out and levelling
- Knowledge of materials, plant and equipment
- Knowledge of site administration systems
- Staff supervision and Basic IR
- Safety requirements and safety and health legislation
- Registered with recognised Professional body.
- Proficient in Ms Programmes.
- Excellent Communication skills
- Ability to work under pressure.
- A valid Driver's License.

Reference: KCBT-F

16. Mechanic

Job Summary

To work as light and heavy equipment mechanics handling tools repairing equipment as per the set mechanical repair procedures.

Qualifications and Experience

- Trade B Heavy Plant Mechanics/Relevant Vocational Certificate
- Basic Knowledge of maintaining equipment and troubleshooting of various kinds of equipment including light and heavy equipment.
- +5 years' experience working as mechanic within a civil construction industry.
- Excellent Communication skills
- Ability to work under pressure.
- A valid Driver's License.

Reference: KCBT-MEC

17. S/S Mechanic Assistant

Job Summary

To perform various mechanical tasks assisting a Mechanic to repair, operate and refurbish vehicles.

Qualifications and Experience

- Relevant Vocational Certificate or equivalent
- +3 years' experience in maintaining and servicing automobile equipment within a civil construction industry.
- Ability to follow procedures for safe disposal of motor oil, tyres and other vehicle fluids
- Conduct periodic checks of the equipment and

- ensure that they are free of clutter and broken materials.
- Have ability to install, repair and replace mechanical parts in automobiles.
- Excellent Communication skills
- Ability to work under pressure.
- A valid Driver's License.

Reference: KCBT-ASSMEC

18. Store Manager

Job Summary

To be responsible for receiving, storing and controlling stock items from suppliers and to issue to departments and / or contractors. To safe guard company assets by the overall management of the company stock and the usage thereof.

Qualifications and Experience

- Tertiary qualification in Procurement/supply chain management
- 5+ years' experience in a procurement environment
- 3 years' stores experience
- Exposure to materials buying in a construction environment and knowledge of logistics handling
- Understanding of procurement procedures
- Ability to manage multiple tasks and relationships within a fast-paced, team oriented environment
- Experience on inventory software systems Knowledge of tools, equipment and material used in construction industry.
- Proficient in Ms Programmes.
- Excellent Communication skills
- Ability to work under pressure.
- A valid Driver's License.

Reference: KCBT-STM

If you are not contacted as a short listed candidate within 4 weeks of the closing date, please consider your application as being unsuccessful.

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NB: PLEASE NOTE THAT ALL POSITIONS ARE PROJECT BASED.

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Call Teedzani Maposa or Peter Mathambo at **+2673180644** for clarifications

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TUJILIJILI HITS BOTS



ILLEGAL IMMIGRANT: Tujilijili

Banned Zambian whisky floods local market

It was banned in Zambia way back in 2012.

Nobody within the country's borders is allowed to manufacture, consume, stock or import it. Those caught drinking it face a possible two-year prison sentence.

Eight years later and tujilijili, the potent spirits contained in 60ml plastic sachets, have found a market in Botswana.

In Kazungula and Kasane especially, tourism towns that lie along the Zambia-Botswana border, tujilijili whisky is a common and increasingly popular drink.

Local police have discovered that during the current ban on liquor sales in Botswana, tujilijili sachets have emerged as the people's favourite.

"This liquor does not have a common name, but we have arrested many people who are selling it," confirmed Kazungula Police Station Commander, Superintendent Paul Chimbi Chaluza.

The top cop revealed that often they catch the consumers first who then lead the police to the sellers.

"This past weekend we arrested one who was selling sachets of Bols whisky," continued Chaluza.

The strong booze's alcohol content traditionally exceeds 40 percent. Usually consumers dilute the contents with water to make the hard-hitting beverage last longer. The concoction is said to be selling a lot cheaper than bottled liquor on the black market further adding to its popularity.

"They come in different names and we have arrested others selling this kind of liquor before," added Chaluza.

The policeman also disclosed that an elderly couple was arrested in Kazungula last week for defying the ban on tobacco and selling Kingsgate cigarettes.

According to Chaluza, a 62-year-old man, his wife and a driver, who transported 364 packets of tens (3, 640 cigarettes) to Newstance location in Kazungula, were charged for the offence.



SERONGA GETS MAKESHIFT ISOLATION TENT



GENEREOUS: GPC management with Seronga's Covid-19 response team

In keeping with the general current of generosity seeping through the country in the fight against Covid-19, Great Plains Conservation (GPC) has donated a makeshift isolation tent to Seronga community.

The donation is to help prepare the village and surrounding settlements should Coronavirus rear its ugly head in the area.

Seronga has no hospital and the only clinic is already swamped with cases of Malaria. Thus GPC saw fit to intervene and provide an alternative place where individuals exhibiting Coronavirus symptoms can be tested and cared for should they need to be

isolated.

"We donated the tent to make sure we are ready for the speed of the disease. Health workers can do the test and keep those infected isolated in the two compartments of the tent. It is an act of concern and sense of care," explained GPC's General Manager, Bruce Petty, adding an oxygen ventilator, protective clothing and other sanitary materials that may be needed for such a makeshift health center were also made available.

"Covid-19 affects us all and it is important that we are ready for it. We may not have any cases in our area yet, but it is much better to be prepared than regret later," stressed Petty.

For his part, Seronga chief, Maeze

Maeze was full of praise for the kind donation, which was handed over to the village's Covid-19 response team last week.

Maeze noted that such gestures extended to his community by tourism investors operating in his area are of great value and benefit to his people.

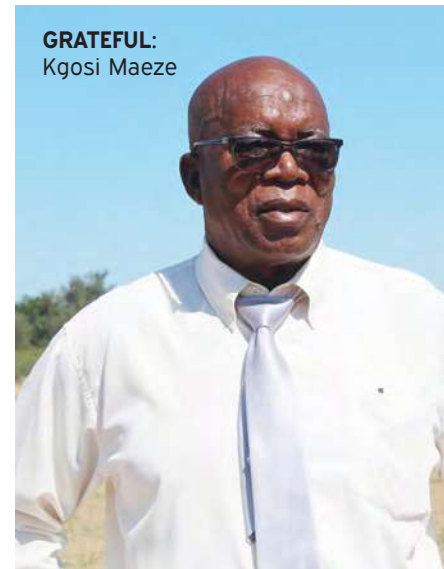
"We really appreciate the support we are getting during this trying time. Our clinic is already taking a lot of strain from many patients and Covid-19 can potentially complicate things for us," said the grateful chief.

The nearest hospital from Seronga is Shakawe Primary Hospital, over 100 kilometres away and only accessibly through gravel road via the Mohembo ferry station.



STOCKING UP: Supplies for the tent

GRATEFUL:
Kgosi Maeze



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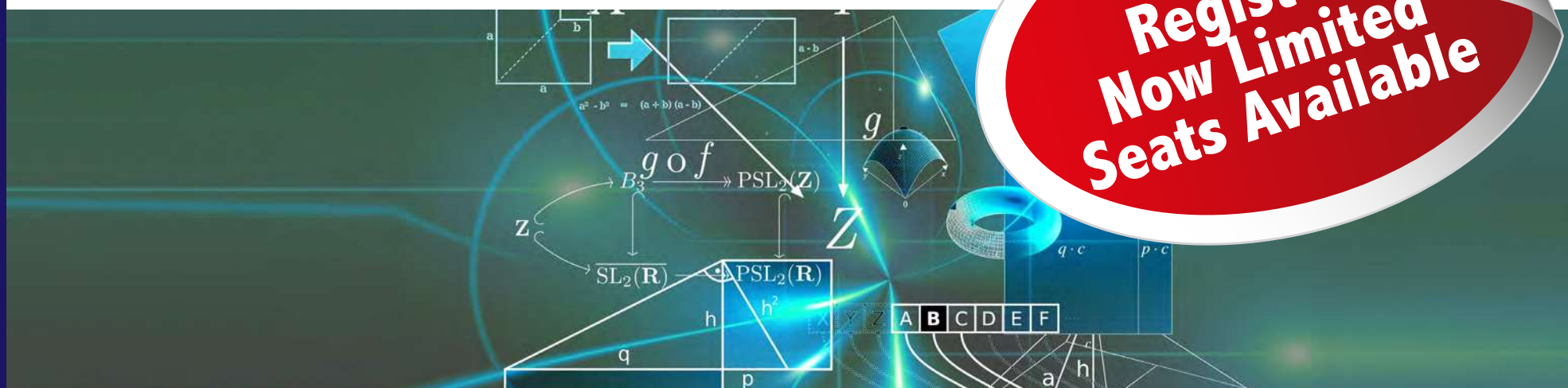
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THE RIVER IS HERE

Excitement reaches fever pitch as water reaches Maun

BY FRANCINAH
BAAITSE-MMANA

AROUND January this year, floods hit many parts of Angola, destroying people's lives, homes and crops.

Two months later, in March, the same destruction was reported in Zambia where houses, church buildings, bridges and crops were ravaged as the river made its way into Botswana's North West District.

The Angolan floods were the beginning of a more than 2000 kilometres long journey of the water into Botswana's world heritage site, the magnificent Okavango Delta.

People living in settlements along the Delta in Botswana have now been issued with warnings to move away from the river as the water is slowly creeping into their homes.

Flying over the Okavango Delta last week Wednesday, the blue water streams snaking around the tall green trees were a marvel to watch.

For me the excitement was to see how far the water was from Maun's Thamalakane River.

"This place is very beautiful and it is worth every penny to visit. True magic is in timing the floods and the marvel will simply take your breath away. It has that healing effect, and it exudes a sense of serenity. Every one needs to experience it and describe it in their own words



WILDERNESS AIR ACTING MANAGER: Kago Paul

because it is more than amazing," said Wilderness Air acting Manager, Kago Paul.

The water was moving at a snail's pace into Boro DRC mokoro station.

Of late, people have defied the extreme social distancing regulations and gone out to see the much-anticipated arrival of the water.

Videos and photographs of people taking a dip into the first flow and canoeing along the river are being shared on social media prompting the North West District council to issue a warning against this practice.

The district commissioner, Keotshepile Leipego warned people that they risk to be charged if they are found



LEISURE TOURISM: Tourist

roaming around the river without proper movement permits.

"The public is hereby reminded that the country is still in the COVID 19 lockdown period and therefore, everybody should be observing the lockdown rules especially to stay at home," Leipego stated.

The Okavango River is a lifeline for many people who live in settlements along its water channels. It is a source of food and employment for many and as such there is always excitement within these communities when the water arrives. Some believe bathing or taking a dip into the first flow can bring them better luck.

By Wednesday this week,

this water from Cuito and Cubango River in Angola was left with just about fourteen kilometers to reach Maun's Thamalakane River, a tourism town, which is a gateway into the Okavango Delta.

The two rivers connect at the Namibian and Angola River to create a river that flows into Botswana through Namibia's Caprivi Strip.

It then enters Botswana through Okavango River, which spreads through many channels that forms the Okavango Delta.

Some of these streams from the delta flow into Boro and Kunyere channels that feed the Thamalakane river and it is these particular streams that I wanted to see

from a bird eye's view when Wilderness Safaris Air offered us a ride above the delta. But we were headed to Seronga, which takes us away from the Gomoti, so I was not able to see this stream.

Nonetheless, from the ground, reports are that Xudum that feeds Kunyere is flowing fast, making it a two-river race to feed Thamalakane.

But where does all this water eventually go? According to Water Affairs department most of the water is seeped into the dry and thirsty sand of Ngamiland and when there is too much water, the rest of it ends in Lake Ngami and Makgadikgadi pans.

LOCKDOWN DELAYS BORO SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION

BY FRANCINAH BAAITSE-MMANA

EXTENSION of movement restrictions, which was announced this week, has caused a delay in the construction of a much awaited satellite primary school in Boro where hundreds of young learners were expected to start classes next year January.

Expressing concern on the delays in the project, area councillor Kenson Kgaga said, "Construction should have been allowed to continue during lockdown, for the sake of progress."

"I don't see why it was necessary to shut down all works. Food is not the only necessity in life and therefore other shops including hardware stores should have been opened. It is very important that this school is built and completed within time. Anyone who understands the plight of these children would have not looked the other way," said Kgaga in an interview this week.

About two months ago, the North West District Council set aside over P2

million to construct the school under the constituency Development Fund for Maun West.

The two-classroom block is for standard one and two pupils who would be saved from a daily grueling journey of 15 kilometres to school and back.

Boro is divided into Boro 1, Boro DRC and Boro prison. The school will be built at the central location in Boro prison, meaning those in Boro 1 and DRC would still have to travel about seven kilometres to reach the school.

"We need three satellite schools because Boro is broad. These children will still have to walk a relatively long way to and from school. They will still have to encounter and deal with wild animals along the way," Kgaga added.

Children as young as six years of age have to walk from Boro to the now crowded Matlapana primary school, which is a catchment school for other major wards in and outside Maun, including Sexaxa and Matlapana.

Following Parliamentary debates on Wednesday this week, it was announced that more shops would be opened. However at the time of going to press the list of those to open were not yet released to the public.



LONG WALK: Boro learners

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HEAVENLY RESCUE FOR ELEVEN ANGELS FC



A HELPING HAND: Donations from 020 Holdings

BY KABELO DIPHOLO

Ghetto's high-flying First Division North outfit, Eleven Angels FC received much-needed aid from two good Samaritans: Tlhase Film Works and 020 Holdings.

The two Francistown-based companies donated goods worth a combined P10, 000 to the youth-ful side.

Last Thursday, Legodile Kemong, through his company, Tlhase Film Works, donated food hampers worth P7, 000 to the club. Six days later, on 6 May, 020 Holdings followed suit, donating toiletry worth P3, 000.

In an interview with Voice Sport, the team's founder and coach, Seemo Mpatane admitted that following the suspension of the season, his club has struggled to maintain players.

Like most sides in the country they are heavily reliant on gate takings

"Without football action it is tough for a small team such as Eleven Angels," reiterated Mpatane.

Mpatane, whose remarkable rise as a coach is the stuff of leg-



FOOD HAMPERS: Mpatane and Kemong

end in the second city, revealed he sent out an SOS to a number of companies to assist his players.

"Both 020 Holdings and Tlhase Film Works responded" he added happily.

For his part, 020 Holdings Director, Obonetse Ofentse explained they have a long-standing relationship with Eleven Angels.

"We've supplied them with replica t-shirts and other logistics throughout the season. We were actually planning to buy food hampers for players and on realising that another company had done that already, we decided to buy toiletry."

Ofentse said his company, which deals with fuel maintenance and logistics, has always lent a helping hand whenever they can.

"These are young people and it's our corporate social responsibility to ensure they remain on the straight and narrow during these trying times," he added.

When the season ground to a

halt in March, Eleven Angels FC were third in the table with 29 points, behind Nico United and Sua Flamingos who are level on 34 points.

With just four matches remaining to crown the Champion, Mpatane is optimistic his charges can close the five-point gap and at least make the play-offs.

"Both Sua and Nico were flying high before the league suspension. They were winning their matches with ease. However, this break will have definitely affected their momentum, and it might work to our advantage," Mpatane said.

The youthful coach told Voice Sport that although he hopes his team will push for a top two finish in the last four matches, he's also concerned that his players may struggle when the league resumes.

"I've asked my players to train individually and send me videos of their training sessions everyday. I also send them daily drills to follow," said the tech savvy tactician.

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A FISH OUT OF WATER

FROM BACK PAGE

"Right now my focus is to stay fit and work with my coach on a plan to train when I get a chance and move forward. All the pools are closed and it's not very safe to go outside, but I train indoors with some home workouts and I have some equipment," she said.

Talking of the situation in Florida where she lives with housemates, "because it's more cost effective than living alone," she is concerned by the number of Covid related deaths in the USA.

"It's very scary when you see the figures but I am very safe as I stay in a secure environment. I just hope everything gets back to normal so that I start competing again," she said.

Although she would not be drawn on questions regarding her social life or politics - "These are personal questions that I'd rather keep to myself!" - she did admit to feeling somewhat homesick at times.

"I come home to Bots once or twice a year. I miss my family, friends and Setswana food."

But having experienced life in Florida and New York she adds, "I like the diversity of living in a



QUEEN OF THE POOL: Ruele

big city and being exposed to different cultures. Being here is not really as different as everyone makes it out to be."

Naomi admits to speaking with an American accent in which, "My Botswana accent seems to seep through still," and although she holds a Bachelor's Degree in English and Communication from the University of Florida, still her greatest dream is to hold an Olympic swimming medal.

At a time when all of us are dreaming of better things, we wish her all the success in the world.

LOAN WARRIOR

FROM BACK PAGE

Motlogelwa further explained that under normal circumstances they would only have received the full donation upon fulfillment of specific criteria.

However, because of the disruption caused by Covid-19, all 211 FIFA affiliated associations received the entire amount.

"The money will be used to mitigate the financial impact of Covid-19 on the associations to meet financial or operational obligations that we have. The association also has employees that need to be paid their salaries and take care of other bills," declared the BFA's second in command.

"We decided to take part of the money to assist some clubs through BPL. We understand that most of our teams do not have sponsors and they rely on selling merchandise and gate takings. Now that football activities have been suspended for over a month, they are struggling financially," continued Motlogelwa, adding in total the BFA had sent the Premier League P320, 000 to cover the eight teams.

He revealed they are still waiting for the Relief Fund from FIFA to help clubs directly, adding they expect to receive the monies - although he did not disclose how much - by the end of the week.

Additionally, the VP said they have also submitted their budget for the Government Relief Fund but are yet to hear back from the Minister of Sports.

On the issue of Covid-19 subsidies, Motlogelwa said BFA submitted clubs' payroll but it was disappointing that most of the teams did not comply.

"Players do not pay as they earn because teams are failing to pay their full monthly salaries and some have arrears which makes it difficult to pay tax. Some teams did not even pay their annual subscriptions to Registrar of Society and can be de-registered at any time and thus would automatically lose their BFA affiliation!" warned Motlogelwa, adding this could potentially return to haunt the offending clubs once Coronavirus is finally banished.

"This is likely to backfire because Botswana Unified Revenue Services now has teams' database and they will make follow-ups after Covid. Some of our teams do not comply which will end up affecting players and we have always warned them. This pandemic will expose them," he predicted darkly.

As for a possible return to league action, Motlogelwa admitted the unpredict-

able and unprecedented nature of the pandemic has made it difficult to plan for such.

However, if things go well, he revealed they are considering letting teams resume training for the first three weeks of June with fixtures commencing in the fourth week.

He added it would mean next season starting in January and ending in December.

For the country's football starved fans, following the famine of April, a feast could be on the horizon!



HELPING HAND: Motlogelwa



PREMIER LEAGUE ACTION: Township Rollers and Gilbert Lions during a previous fixture

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Notice: Reduction of prime lending rate

Following the announcement by the Bank of Botswana on the 30th April 2020 to reduce the bank rate by 50 basis points from 4.75% to 4.25%. BBS Limited will reduce rates on its products and services by the same margin. The new lending prime rate is now 5.75% from 6.25%. The reduction will be as at 30 April 2020.

Thank you

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Voice Sport



FOOD HAMPERS: Mpatane and Kemong

HEAVENLY RESCUE FOR ELEVEN ANGELS FC

SEE PAGE 18

Association bails out 8 BPL teams



BY PORTIA MLILO

The Botswana Football Association (BFA) has thrown eight Premier League teams a lifeline in the form of P40, 000 loans.

The bailouts, dispatched earlier this week, are to help the financially struggling sides cover outstanding payments for their players' April salaries.

The beneficiaries include: Extension Gunners, TAFIC, Miscellaneous, Prisons XI, Mahalapye Railways, Notwane, Gilport Lions and Molepolole City Stars.

Before the BFA stepped in, there had been rising panic amongst the teams after some of their players were reportedly threatened with eviction over unpaid rentals.

The normally cash-strapped association were in a position to help after receiving a US\$500, 000 (P5 million) Operational Fund from FIFA.

It proved to be a timely intervention.

Speaking to Voice Sport on Thursday, BFA Vice President, Marshlow Motloglwa explained FIFA – the sport's global governing body – had released the operational funding due to member associations for the years 2019/2020.

It is the first step of FIFA's relief plan to assist the football community impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic.

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BFA TO THE RESCUE

A FISH OUT OF WATER

Swimming sensation and Olympic hopeful Naomi Ruele talks about the frustrations of lockdown in the USA

BY TSHEPO KEHIMILE

Just two months ago when the world was something like normal, Naomi Ruele was on the brink of qualifying for her second Olympic Games.

Now with the restrictions of Covid-19 all that is on hold. However, Botswana's only female swimmer to qualify for the global games remains hopeful that when the shackles are off, she will again rise to the occasion.

At the age of 23, Mochudi born Naomi has no equal as the most decorated swimmer to come out of Botswana.

It is a remarkable journey that began at a pool in a Gaborone hotel.

Speaking to Voice Sport she revealed, "My passion for swimming started at a very tender age. I used to swim at my mom's workplace at the Grand Palm, and it was mainly for fun. But the love developed and I took it from there."

The 'there' has now taken her to

the USA and the Florida International University together with a CV that makes an impressive entry on the pages of Wikipedia.

"I got an opportunity to go to the USA to study and do professional swimming by emailing a couple of Universities. So many University coaches wanted me to be in their respective teams. I got enrolled at Florida, and everything transitioned quickly as I was introduced to impressive training facilities, a coach, physical therapy and sports psychology which played a vital role in my performance as a swimmer," she said.

Quizzed about her biggest achievement so far, she said, "Being chosen as Conference USA Swimmer of the Year winner for four consecutive years, Botswana Junior Sports woman of the year and the AUSA Region 5 Sports woman of the year are all highlights."

But qualifying for the 2016 Summer Olympics in the woman's 50 metre freestyle, which saw her ranked 47th in the world, has been her crowning glory

to date.

"The atmosphere of the Olympics was out of this world. It was unlike anything I've ever seen. It is an empowering experience and something I will forever cherish being surrounded by some of the best athletes in the world. I was very nervous for the entire time I was there though. It can be overwhelming and often you doubt yourself. But overall an amazing experience."

Her appearance on the international stage is one she is itching to repeat.

"Just a week before everything paused due the Covid-19, I had a solid training plan with my coach to prepare for the upcoming Olympic qualifiers. My confidence was really high," she added.

At the moment she admits to being something of a fish out of water and can't wait to get back into the pool.

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OLYMPIC HOPEFUL:
Naomi Ruele