



MASISI'S 'UNTOUCHABLE' BUSINESS PARTNER

INSIDE BOTSWANA'S TRANSACTIONAL PRESIDENCY

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Masisi's 'Untouchable' Business Partner

- DCEC, FIA fail to investigate Ram
- His partnership with Masisi buys him protection?
- FIA, DCEC conflicted as they report to OP
- FIA, DCEC claim independence

KEABETSWE NEWEL
LAWRENCE SERETSE
LETLHOGILE MPUANG

The Financial Intelligence Agency (FIA) and the Directorate on Corruption and Economic Crimes (DCEC), which are Botswana's top 'go-to' enforcement agencies in financial crime, did not investigate and ascertain the financial wrongdoings which President Mokgweetsi Masisi's business partner and Choppies CEO, Ramachandran Ottapathu is accused of having committed in the forensic and legal investigations into Choppies' recent financial scandal.

FIA and the DCEC are Botswana's top two agencies aimed at uprooting corruption and financial crime. The FIA Director General, Dr. Abraham Sethibe, reports to the Minister of Finance and Economic Development, Dr Thapelo Matsheka, but he is directly appointed by the President. Brigadier Joseph Mathambo at DCEC was also appointed by President Masisi to whom he also reports directly.

It emerged last week that President Masisi is in a profitable venture with the controversial Choppies CEO, Ottapathu. A company called Arcee (Pty) Ltd, which was incorporated just before Masisi became President in 2017 has been paid millions of pula by Choppies Enterprises Limited since 2017 for supply of goods. For 2017 and 2018 only, President Masisi and Ram (through Arcee) benefitted around P8 million. In 2017, over P6.7 million was paid and a further sum exceeding P1.2 million was

paid in 2018. Since Choppies is yet to further release its 2019 full year annual report, it is unknown how much Arcee benefitted in 2019.

Masisi owns 10 percent of Arcee while Ram controls the remaining 90 percent.

The company is listed in the Choppies 2018 (latest) annual report under the "related party transaction" section. "Related party transactions" are those transactions through which Choppies directors, especially Ram, as CEO and major shareholder, used the companies that he himself owns to supply Choppies with goods and services. In simple terms, it is when a director transacts with himself or with an entity in which he has interest. As CEO, it was Ram who decided to appoint the company that he co-owns with President Masisi to supply Choppies for a profit. Whether the company was subjected to required corporate governance and procurement requirements of open tender, only Ram knows.

Choppies is a public company listed on Botswana Stock Exchange (BSE), meaning that members of the public are shareholders. In an interview, Ram has confirmed that he is in business with President Masisi, saying there is nothing wrong with that. Asked if he does was not using President Masisi for political expediency, he answered in the negative.

The Botswana Gazette sent questions on Friday last week to Bathalefi Leagajang, the President's Press Secretary. In the questions, this publication wanted to know why President Masisi

chose to do business with Ram in 2017 just before he became President. Further, this publication asked whether the President was not bothered by previous controversies which alleged that Ram, a multi-millionaire, surrounded himself with politicians for political expediency and patronage.

It also sought Masisi's views on his fiduciary duty to the Office of the President and judgement of character in being a commercial partner to Ram, who is accused in forensic reports and legal audit reports of financial wrongdoings for personal gain that led to the collapse of Choppies' value in regional markets.

Further, this publication wanted to know President Masisi's position regarding the recent findings at Choppies about his business partner, which led to Choppies shareholders losing over P3 billion in value. Ram has denied that he was responsible for putting Choppies in P8 million debt. Despite promising to respond to these enquiries, the Office of the President failed to meet press deadline. Leagajang confirmed that Masisi had seen this publication's enquiries.

Sometime in 2018, Choppies was unable to release its annual financial statements, owing to a number of irregularities which were highlighted by auditors. Ernst & Young was engaged to conduct a forensic report while Desai Law Group conducted a legal investigation. Findings by both these reports alleged that Ram, in his capacity as Choppies CEO, may have personally been at the centre of the financial mess at Choppies.

According to the forensic investigation conducted by Ernst & Young, it was alleged that Audit firm, Grant Thornton Botswana was paid by the Choppies CEO Ram to conceal fake transactions amounting to more than P90 million in which Ottapathu is alleged to have conducted to enrich himself personally.

In an interview, Ram has confirmed that he is in business with President Masisi, saying there is nothing wrong with that.

Documented evidence compiled by the previous Choppies board of directors (from the forensic investigation), led by now former Chairman and former president Festus Mogae (which *The Botswana Gazette* has seen), Grant Thornton was engaged by Ram to prepare and present feasibility reports in respect of the acquisition of four stores in South Africa, of which the value was allegedly inflated by millions of pula belonging to Choppies shareholders.

The previous Choppies board said the reports were prepared based on inaccurate information given by Ram then, in collusion with the purported sellers of the four stores to Grant Thornton to secure reports reflecting an inflated valuation for the four stores.

It was found that fictitious transactions were concluded in relation to sale of stock to disguise the historic stock deficit and to mislead the board, its shareholders and the lenders. The transactions

entailed the sale of non-existent stock and a purported receipt of payment.

Further, Desai Law Group reported that Ram used his position to personally and illegally finance, with millions of pula, the acquisition of Payless shares for his associate and to personally acquire 50 percent shares in the Fours Group for himself without the knowledge of the board. This, the lawyers said, was in contravention of the Companies Act and the Competition Act and in violation of the Botswana Stock Exchange (BSE) Listings Requirements. Further, questions over money laundering and fraud were raised, especially at the Choppies Zimbabwe operations.

SURVIVING THE WRATH OF LAW ENFORCERS

Ordinarily, these kinds of happenings would attract the unforgiving attention of FIA and DCEC, especially that Ram was personally questioned over transactions of millions of pula, belonging to Choppies public shareholders. With his business dealings with the President, the failure by the corruption bodies to investigate have led to belief that Ram's financial relationship with President Masisi may have bought him immunity from FIA and DCEC the Director Generals of which are appointed and answerable to President Masisi. There are beliefs that Ram's financial relationship with President Masisi bought him immunity from institutions such as FIA and DCEC whose the Directors General are appointed by and are answerable to President Masisi.

Interestingly, DCEC and FIA chose not to pursue the matter. Under normal circumstances, Choppies, and Ram especially, since the forensic and legal ingestions pointed to him personally, DCEC would have taken up the matter at least to ascertain if, according to the allegation, there was any wrongdoing.

At FIA, Dr. Sethibe's defence was that his agency

is not mandated to investigate. This publication asked Dr. Sethibe for reasons why FIA did not look into the Choppies scandal, especially since questionable transactions, which allegedly pointed to possible fraud, money laundering and corruption, were raised. Fraudulent transactions and money laundering fall under the ambit of FIA.

Dr. Sethibe said the mandate of FIA, as stated under Section 6 (1) of the Financial Intelligence Act, does not cover investigations. He pronounced that as per the FIA Act, the agency shall be the central unit responsible for requesting, receiving, analyzing and disseminating to an investigatory authority, supervisory authority or comparable body, disclosures of financial information concerning suspicious transactions.

However, Dr Sethibe says he does not investigate, which is to probe, but only analyzes information. Synonyms for the word "analyze" include examine, inspect, scrutinize, look over, peruse, investigate, probe, inquire into, go over with a fine tooth comb, dissect, audit, and evaluate.

The Choppies CEO was allegedly found by Ernst & Young and Desai Law Group (reports are public information) to have been engaged in a questionable transaction in which four retail stores were bought under the Choppies name in South Africa. Forensic reports show that prices were heavily inflated by Ram to personally enrich himself. It was found that simulated transactions were concluded in relation to sale of stock to disguise the historic stock deficit and to mislead the board, its shareholders and the lenders. The transactions entailed the sale of non-existent stock and purported receipt of payment. However, according to Dr Sethibe, his organisation, FIA did not analyze this financial information (forensic report) which contained alleged suspicious transactions. As an expert in finan-

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TENDERS

The Human Resource Development Council (HRDC) invites bids for the following tenders;

1. Consultancy Services to Carry out a Review of the Human Resource Development Fund (HRDF) to Address Issues of Accessibility and Sustainability
2. Supply and Installation of Cluster 2 and 3 Air conditioning for the Human Resource Development Council (HRDC) office building at Plot 60113, Block 7, Gaborone

For more information about these tenders, kindly log onto our website www.hrdc.org.bw

Physical Address: Plot 60113, Block 7, Ext 48, Gaborone, Botswana
Postal Address: Private Bag BR 108, Gaborone, Botswana
Email: marketingcomms@hrdc.org.bw
Tel: +267 393 0741
Fax: +267 393 0740 / 393 0814



Masisi's dealings With Ram Were Not Declared – ex-PSP Morupisi

- Khama says he was unaware of Masisi and Ram's dealings
- Former PSP says he remembers none of Masisi's declarations

GAZETTER EPORTER

Former Permanent Secretary to the President (PSP), Carter Morupisi, says he does not recall seeing any declarations of President Mokgweetsi Masisi's dealings with the controversial Choppies CEO, Ramachandran Ottapathu, for a commercial company established in 2017 when Masisi was Vice President. Infact, Morupisi is adamant that there was never any declaration by Masisi at the time he left public service in February 2020. "Maybe the declaration would have been after I left," the former top civil servant told *The Botswana Gazette* this week. "Ask the new PSP. Honestly I have never seen any of his declarations." For his part, former president Ian Khama responded: "I received declarations from different members of the Cabinet. Therefore, I cannot recall every declaration.

However, the PSP was responsible for keeping a register. So you can check with the former PSP, *Rre* Morupisi. I was not aware of their business dealings."

In July 2019, Parliament adopted the Declaration of Assets Act. The law requires a specific range of public officials such as heads of state, cabinet ministers and MPs to declare all their financial and business interests. These declarations were to be made to Director General of the Directorate on Corruption and Economic Corruption (DCEC), the Speaker of the National Assembly, the Permanent Secretary to the President and Permanent Secretaries. According to CIPA records, President Masisi has business interests in at least 10 listed businesses underneath. His co-shareholders are powerful and wealthy businessmen such as Ottapathu. Masisi became a shareholder in most of these companies after becoming President in April 2018.



When Festus Mogae stepped down in 2008, he was soon made a shareholder and Board Chairman at Choppies. A few years later, the then spy chief Isaac Kgosi was also awarded shares in Choppies. The two, and a few members

of Khama's cabinet, were spotted in images leaked to this publication in 2019 at a wedding of Ram's child in India. The images showed former DISS chief Isaac Kgosi, his wife, former transport minister Dorcas Makgato (now High Com-

missioner to India), former High Commissioner to India Dorcas Kgosietsile and a number of other high profile politicians at the wedding that was celebrated in India and Qatar where the guests went by chartered flights.

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BluThorn's Multimillion Pula Scandal Widens

- BluThorn clients owed over P100m
- Clients money unpaid since December
- 2019Company has 26 active client
- P50m untraceable

KEABETSWE NEWEL

Scandal-ridden investment firm, BluThorn Fund Management, is failing to pay over P100 million in matured investments to its clients because of unavailability of liquid funds, *The Botswana Gazette* has established.

The company was temporarily closed by the Non-Bank Financial Institutions Regulatory Authority (NBFIRA) in terms of Section 57 of the NBFIRA Act. This led to litigation which Bluthorn lost. It was subsequently placed under statutory management as per a letter written by the NBFIRA on the 2nd of April.

Peter Collins of Collins Chilisa Law Firm was then appointed the Statutory Manager effective March 2020.

BluThorn's portfolio has as-

sets under management (AUM) exceeding P220 million. *The Botswana Gazette* has independently established that some clients have not been paid their dues since December 2019, six months down the line. It emerges that the clients invested millions of pula in BluThorn under an arrangement that they would be paid some interest on their money monthly. This was the money which the clients used to pay operational costs.

One of the clients who spoke anonymously to this publication said the last payment his company received from BluThorn was in November last year. "For the past six months, BluThorn did not pay us," said the client, an institutional investor. "This is the money we use for our operational costs. This has caused a serious disruption to our business."

This publication, further in-

quired with Collins, BluThorn Statutory Manager as legally appointed by the NBFIRA. He confirmed that clients have not been paid by BluThorn, owing to the company's illiquidity. "I have traced approximately 26 active Clients/Investors. Of these 26 investments, 9 have matured (between January to April 2020) totalling approximately P100 million and these have not been paid/redeemed for lack of liquid funds. The previous management admits this," Collins said in response to *The Botswana Gazette* questions.

Further, he said the balance of approximately 18 investments have maturity dates ranging from August 2020 to September 2024 and, apparently, total P107,852,299.70. "I am still investigating the other side of the equation versus the outward investments made with investors' funds, he revealed. "It would appear (but I am not yet certain) that the invested funds were on-lent (or on-invested) to related parties: Prime Employee Benefits (Pty) Ltd (approximately P120 million), Bluthorn Procurement Solutions (Pty) Ltd (approximately P76 million) and Bluthorn

Holdings (Pty) Ltd (approximately P20 million)."

"The destiny of these funds is still under investigation. Suffice to say that BFM's inability to have sufficient liquid or near-liquid funds to pay some P100 million owing immediately to investors is ominous."

"I have traced approximately 26 active Clients/ Investors. Of these 26 investments, 9 have matured (between January to April 2020) totalling approximately P100 million and these have not been paid/ redeemed for lack of liquid funds.

Efforts to get an insight from Joseph Mosimane, CEO of Blu-

Thorn, were futile. He said his willingness to respond is made impossible by the fact that being under Statutory Management, all enquiries are directed to Collins, the Statutory Manager.

Red flags were raised after BluThorn failed to provide the NBFIRA with trails of over P48 million belonging to its clients, with some funds said to have been used to settle the company's operating expenses.

In an inspection carried out by the Authority from 7 May 2019 to 14 May 2019, NBFIRA found that sums of P14. 9 million, P13.7 million and a further P19.6 million were moved to BluThorn associated companies. BluThorn failed to explain to NBFIRA where the money went and for what purpose. The total sum of unexplained money amounts to P48 176 349. One of the companies, Ecsponent Projects (Pty) Ltd, in which P14 915 000 was paid, is no longer in existence. The company was placed under statutory management by the regulator after what NBFIRA said was a refusal and or negligence and failure to furnish it with an explanation.

Deposit Interest Rates

For the month of June 2020

Type of Deposit Account	Nominal Interest Rates (%)	Actual Interest Rates (%)	Minimum Opening Balance
	(Lowest-Highest)	(Lowest-Highest)	(Pula)
Current	Nil	Nil	Nil
Call	0.10% - 0.25%	0.10% - 0.25%	1,000
Savings	0.20% - 3.75%	0.20% - 3.75%	100
91-Days Fixed Deposit	1.50% - 1.75%	1.50% - 1.75%	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
Prime Lending Rate	5.75%	5.75%	

The Prime lending rate of 5.75% is effective from 4th May 2020

Deposit Interest Rates shown are indicative only

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Fairgrounds Branch	- 367 4600	Selebi Phikwe Branch	- 263 1000
Airport Junction Branch	- 371 9700	Palapye Branch	- 494 1000
The Square Branch	- 398 5700	Maun Branch	- 682 0000

Ghanzi Sales and Service Centre	- 659 8800
Molepolole Sales and Service Centre	- 592 3050
Lethakane Sales and Service Centre	- 298 5011
Kanye Sales and Service Centre	- 544 6300

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

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Masisi's 'Untouchable' Business Partner

From Page2

cial crime, FIA was supposed to have analyzed the transactions and ascertain whether there was financial misreporting and wrongdoing before allowing the DCEC to probe the corruption and the alleged fraud.

"After receiving the information from reporting entities, the FIA analyses such information and disseminates the output known as the financial intelligence to the relevant law enforcement agency for investigation. As an intelligence organ, all intelligence products that are produced by FIA are shared only with the relevant authorities and are not for public consumption," Dr Sethibe stated without noting that did FIA invoke its own mandate.

The Botswana Gazette asked Dr. Sethibe if Ram's money making partnership with President Masisi creates a conflict of interest to execute his job since he was appointed by Masisi. He answered that an intelligence organ does not kiss and tell. Further, the DCEC boss, Brigadier Mathambo, also reports directly to President Masisi. In the run-up to 2019 general elections, the DCEC pounced on several suspects for alleged money laundering and corruption. It has since slowed its pace. The directorate was accused by the opposition

of being selective and pouncing only on those who were not on President Masisi's side.

A classic example is of DISS agent Wilhemina 'Butterfly' Maswabi who was suspected to have, in coordination with former president Ian Khama and ex-spy boss Isaac Kgosi, of looting around P100 billion from the state. The matter is still pending before court. Former top civil servants like ex-Permanent Secretary to the President Carter Morupisi also felt the wrath of Brigadier Mathambo over allegations of corruption and bribery. Carter is defending the charges. Brigadier Mathambo has since rubbished claims of political allegiance.

The Botswana Gazette asked the DCEC why they never took interest in the Choppies matter which was widely reported, especially that the forensic and legal reports containing evidence of wrongdoing are in the public domain. Lentswe Motshoganetsi at DCEC said he is not in a position to share details on the DCEC operational matters as it is non procedural to do so.

Asked whether the DCEC was conflicted by the fact that the office reports to President Masisi, who is a commercial partner to Ram, Motshoganetsi answered that the DCEC is independent.

Unionists among retrenched employees

Much against the letter and spirit of the law in the advent of COVID-19, several companies in the diamond beneficiation sector are retrenching employees under tenuous circumstances in which expatriates are all the while being recruited

TEFO PHEAGE

The Commissioner of Labour is investigating staff retrenchments that include union leaders at two diamond manufacturing and trading companies in the midst of untenable choices, *The Botswana Gazette* has established.

The retrenchments at Signet Direct Diamond Sourcing Limited (SDDS) and Safdico add to similar shedding of employees in the diamond sector since the advent of COVID-19 after MotiGanz Diamond Group, Schter, Dalumi Diamonds and Jerusalem also recently retrenched.

Altogether 50 employees have been retrenched at SDDS alone, all in the past two weeks. *The Botswana Gazette* has established that the retrenched employees have approached the Department of Labour where they reported alleged reluctance of management to share financial information, which is a requirement in the event of retrenchments under COVID-19 conditions.

The Botswana Diamond Workers Union (BDWU) is anxious about what it sees as the targeting of unionised employees, some of whom have demanded information on alleged loss of business, as well as training and localisation policies.

Prominent among retrenched

employees of SDDS is Annah Gim, who is the General Secretary of BDWU. “They claim that there is no business but some of us have been working for over 11 years here and we know when we are making money,” she told *The Botswana Gazette* in an interview, adding that retrenchments were taking place alongside recruitment of Indians.

“Indians are taking jobs that we have been doing for many years,” said Gim. “It is not about skill because we work with them and know that there is nothing special about what they do. There is nothing to warrant recruitment of foreigners. At any rate, if the retrenchments were for reasons of financial loss, they would affect the foreigners as well. We have reported cases of unfair retrenchment to the Commissioner of Labour.”

At Safdico, employees were allegedly presented with a difficult choice between taking retrenchment packages after the State of Emergency or staying on without pay until October. The company’s Human Resource Manager, Bakang Mopipi, said she was not in a position to say anything and gave this publication an email address to send questions to.

A call to the Minister of Employment, Labour Productivity and Skills Development, Mpho Balopi, was not answered.



GABORONE 2 June 2020, Students wearing face masks as a preventive measure against the spread of COVID-19 coronavirus attending class maintaining the guided social distancing at Livingstone Kolobeng College in Gaborone on June 2,2020. President Mokgweetsi Masisi ended the 48-day national lockdown on May 21, 2020 but kept some restrictions, including movement between regions. (Pic:MONIRUL BHUIYAN/PRESS PHOTO)

Interest Rates for June 2020



FNB

First National Bank Savings and Investments Rates

The following standard Savings and Investment rates will apply

Type of Deposit Account	Nominal Interest Rates(%)	Actual Interest Rates(%)	Minimum Opening Balance
	(Lowest – Highest)	(Lowest – Highest)	(Pula)
Current (Individual)	Nil	Nil	Nil
Call	0.025% to 0.025%	0.025% to 0.025%	1,000.00
Savings (Poloko)	0.10% to 1.00%	0.10% to 1.00%	500.00
Flexi Fixed (3 Months)	1.50%	1.51%	100.00
Flexi Fixed (6 Months)	2.75%	2.78%	100.00
Flexi Fixed (12 Months)	3.40%	3.45%	100.00
91-Days Fixed Deposit	1.00%	1.00%	1,000.00
6 Months	1.25% to 1.30%	1.26% to 1.31%	1,000.00
12 Months	1.30% to 1.90%	1.31% to 1.92%	1,000.00
24 Months	2.00% to 2.25%	2.02% to 2.27%	1,000.00
Over 24 Months	3.37%	3.42%	1,000.00
Prime Lending Rate	5.75%		

For term deposits the minimum amount is BWP 1 million to qualify for a special rate.

For more information please enquire at your nearest FNB branch or visit www.fnbbotswana.co.bw

PUBLIC TENDER NOTICE

The Non-Bank Financial Institutions Regulatory Authority (NBFIRA), also known as the **Regulatory Authority**, wishes to invite proposals from companies for the below listed tender:

TENDER NO: NBFIRA 001/2021

TENDER FOR THE DESIGN, LAYOUT AND PRINTING OF THE NBFIRA ANNUAL REPORTS FOR THE FINANCIAL YEARS ENDING MARCH 31,2020, 2021 AND 2022

The tender opens on **June 1, 2020 at 08:30 Hrs.** and closes on **June 30, 2020 at 11:30 Hrs.**

Tender documents will be sent to bidders via email **between 08:30am and 16:30pm** during week days for a non-refundable fee of P250.00 (two hundred and fifty pula only), which is to be deposited to the NBFIRA Bank Account. Account Details are stated below:

Non-Bank Financial Institutions Regulatory Authority
Stanbic Bank
Fairgrounds Branch
Account number: 9060001296510
Branch code: 064967
Swift code: SBICBWGX

Proof of payment, sent to procurement@nbfir.org.bw will be required, for issuing the tender documents. Tender documents will be sent once proof of payment has been received.

The **closing time** for tender offers shall **not be later than 11:30 Hrs on Tuesday June 30, 2020.**

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Police Deny Raid On Minister Matsheka's Office

While DISS has confirmed that the CID raided the constituency office of the MP for Lobatse for donations of money and relief food in the hard times occasioned by COVID-19 that were being diverted for use as political largesse, the police say there was never such a thing

GAZETTE REPORTERS

Investigations by *The Botswana Gazette* have established that two weeks ago, officers of the Criminal Investigations Department (CID) raided the constituency office of the Member of Parliament for Lobatse, Dr. Thapelo Matsheka, following a tip-off that the office had allegedly been receiving and mismanaging food and money donated for relief for people in the course of extreme social distancing occasioned by COVID-19.

While the Commander at Lobatse Police Station, Baakile Moshashane, says he was not aware of the raid that took place on 20 May, a high ranking official of the Directorate of Intelligence and Security Services (DISS) has confirmed that Minister Matsheka was

questioned by the CID in relation to COVID-19 donations.

Allegations are that several companies and individual well-wishers in Lobatse donated sizeable food parcels to the MP's office with the understanding that the parcels would be fairly distributed to the people of Lobatse. Information gathered by this publication in Lobatse indicates that the MP's office has indeed received lots of food parcel donations but only a handful of people in Lobatse are benefiting from them. It is further alleged that the donated food parcels are used by those close to the town's MP as political largesse to cement and attract more support.

A phone call to Dr. Matsheka was abruptly ended as soon as the minister established it was from *The Botswana Gazette*, with Dr Matsheka saying he

was in a meeting, on Monday last week. Several follow-up questions sent to him were unanswered inspite of having undertaken to read and respond to the inquiry sent to his mobile phone on the same Monday.

Efforts to reach the Senior Office Administrator in the Lobatse MP's office, Therah Mokwena, proved futile as the office line went unanswered for the whole day. This publication has established that two men close to Dr. Matsheka, who are not even employees of the constituency office, were in charge of distribution of the food. They are Wedu Tafa and Keotshephile Moisaapula.

Tafa has confirmed that there was a CID raid on the MP's office on Wednesday 20 May. According to him, searches at his home and at the homes of two others – Mokwena, and Moisa-



apula turned up nothing.

However, it subsequently emerged that food parcels were found at Moisaapula's residence and he was allegedly detained for some time by the CID for questioning. But upon being contacted, Moisaapula flew off the handle without confirming or denying the allegations except to say he was not going to discuss the matter.

In an earlier public announcement, the Minister of Presidential Affairs and Public Administration, Kabo Morwaeng said the government was against any COVID-19 donations being made to individual leaders like MPs, ministers, councillors and civic authorities. Morwaeng said monetary donations should be deposited into the COVID-19 Relief Fund account while donations in kind should go to the COVID-19 Task Force. Leaders were accordingly advised against receiving donations. It emerges further that a First National Bank (FNB) account number in the name of Kabo Hirschfield was broadcast to the Lobatse community to deposit donations for COVID-19 into.

According to information seen by this publication, well-wishers were requested to transact through a Pay To Cell mobile platform number 74177991. Through Pay to Cell, one simply sends funds to a number linked to an FNB account. The number in this instance belongs to Kabo Hirschfield. Sources say sizeable amounts of money were deposited into the account. This publication was unable to establish if the MP's office has declared donations or disclosed what the funds would be used for. In an interview, Hirschfield was reluctant to respond. "Go and ask whoever gave you that information," he said.

Dr. Matsheka also did not respond to further inquiries from *The Botswana Gazette* which sought to establish why the MP's office would provide a personal bank account for official COVID-19 donations. This publication also wanted to know why the donations, which were in food hampers and money, were not re-routed to the COVID-19 Task Force and the COVID-19 Relief Fund accordingly.

Meanwhile, Commanding Officer for Lobatse and surrounding areas, Senior Superintendent Paul Molapisi, has told *The Botswana Gazette* that he is not aware of any raids. "I have also confirmed with the Station Commanders in Lobatse and they are also well not aware of it," he briefly informed this publication, contradicting what the high ranking DISS official said to this publication.

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WITHDRAWAL OF TENDER

We regret to inform you that the request for quotation on Design & Build/Construction & completion: refurbishment of Pre-school into a structured office block at BOTSWANA NURSES UNION (BONU) headquarters Plot: 2684, Phiri Crescent, Extension 9, Gaborone dated 27th May 2020 has been withdrawn with immediate effect,

We apologise for any inconvenience caused.

Thank you.

#Wash hands with soap regularly
#Maintain social distancing.

Chinese Tycoon Stashes P100m in Canada To Dodge Tax

- Allegedly more than P100m transferred to Canada
- Likely to face money laundering and tax evasion charges
- Plot to eliminate key state witnesses thickens

LETLHOGILE MPUANG —
A local Chinese businessman named Jian Liu could soon be shown an P80 million tax bill by the Botswana Unified Revenue Services (BURS) after he allegedly stashed P100 million away in Canada, *The Botswana Gazette* has established.

This publication understands that the taxman is edging closer to completing investigations into Liu's company, Sunshine Construction. So far preliminary investigations have revealed that the company made several false tax declarations between 2010 and 2018. In the process, over P100 million was transferred to a bank account in Canada where his family is said to be residing. He is also believed to have invested in property in both Canada and New York, USA.

Financial transactions seen by *The Botswana Gazette* show that in 2010,

Sunshine Construction company accounts held at Banc ABC, FNB, Stanbic Bank and Barclays Bank were used to transfer more than P10 million to Royal Bank of Canada (Swift Code) ROYCAT2, Vancouver, Canada, account. In the same year, the company only paid P9750 in tax returns based on declared income of P114 000. The trend continued for years while millions upon millions of pula were continuously moved to the same account in Canada.

The taxman is also said to have established that the company had several contradictory financial results. Sources reveal that BURS has to this point established that the company owes P80 million in tax, including accumulated interest.

BURS General Manager (responsible for) Investigations, Compliance and Enforcement (ICE), Kaone Molapo, was unavailable for comment at the time of going to press. Liu did not

respond to this publication's enquiry sent to him on Monday evening. His phone also rang unanswered throughout.

Liu and his company were raided by BURS in March. He was found to be in possession of more than a million pula in hard cash. He is likely to face charges of money laundering, tax evasion and falsifying invoices.

Liu and his company were raided by BURS in March. He was found to be in possession of more than a million pula in hard cash. He is likely to face charges of money laundering, tax evasion and falsifying invoices. His construction com-

pany has seen a great deal of government business over the years.

KEY STATE WITNESSES RISK DEPORTATION

Meanwhile, *The Botswana Gazette* understands that two key state witnesses in this case could be deported allegedly to weaken Liu's prosecution. According to sources, Liu is accusing his former employees of misappropriation of

his company's funds. The Criminal Investigations Department (CID) are said to have begun investigating the two employees.

In March, this newspaper reported that there was a possible plan to thwart these investigations to ultimately kill the case. It is understood that a certain immigration official was under investigation in connection with this plot. The official, whose names are

known to this publication, is said to have revoked the work and residential permits of one of these two men linked to Liu after they fell out with him.

It is said one the two, who is also a Chinese national, has threatened to report a whole lot of illegal dealings involving Liu. *The Botswana Gazette* is in possession of copies of some of the transactions that are under investigation.



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Teachers Decry Increased Workload

- Say it is unfair for them to perform COVID-19 health duties
- Unions aware of burdensome supplementary workload

SESUPO RANTSIMAKO

The teaching profession is headed for a collision course with government over long working hours and a work overload that is made worse by COVID-19 health protocols, *The Botswana Gazette* has established.

At the centre of their concern is that the government rushed to open schools before ensuring readiness.

A Nyangabgwe Primary School teacher who prefers to remain anonymous says the lack of readiness has dragged them into the unknown territory of doubling as Safety and Health (SHE) Officers to ensure that COVID-19 mandatory protocols are adhered to by pupils.

According to the teacher, this has increased their workload and is forcing them to go beyond their normal working hours.

This is resulting in some teachers dumping

pupils. "What should be noted is that the work load starts in the morning with the screening process and sanitising of hands. All this needs our supervision because of lack of the human resource for the work," says the teacher.

The same complaints were raised by teachers at Mater Spei College who further raised a concern over the mandatory registration exercise, saying it is time-consuming and affects the learning period. "Screening for temperature is time-consuming, especially when students should be going for lessons. So there is a serious need to resource the schools for adhering to the health protocols in order to avoid putting students lives at risk," one of the teachers said.

The Vice President of Botswana Sectors of

Educators Union (BOSETU), Mogomotsi Moshagwa, has confirmed that teachers are already feeling the pinch of the workload due to the health protocols. Moshagwa says they foresee a worsening of the situation going forward. "The government must take this issue of working hours seriously and address it," Moshagwa stated in an interview with *The Botswana Gazette*.

His views were echoed by the Secretary General of Botswana Teachers Union (BTU), Agang Gabana, who said they received many complaints on the first day of re-opening of schools. "In the agreement we signed with the government, it clearly states that supplementary responsibilities should not be given to our members as they are already overwhelmed," Gabana said.

"Teachers who took the responsibilities of SHE officers were scared by what the Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Basic Education, Bridget John, said recently. The PS went on television to say head teachers should perform some roles if the need arises."

Efforts to talk to the Minister of Basic Education, Fidelis Molao, proved futile as his phone went unanswered.

FCC Introduces Revamped Ipelegeng Programme

- Proponent of new programme calls for retraining
- Beneficiaries to work on 10-month contracts
- Beneficiaries downsized from 2000 to 926

SESUPO RANTSIMAKO

The city council here has introduced a revamped Ipelegeng programme whose main features include a 10-month contract for employed beneficiaries who have been downsized from over 2000 to 926.

The contract aspect that replaces the three-month rotation of beneficiaries should give a sense of stability and job security, albeit still temporarily. The revamped programme, which was influenced by COVID-19 protocols, also comes with a clearer 'job description' because the focus of the beneficiaries will mainly be general cleaning of school premises.

The Councillor for Itsekeng Ward, Lesego Kwambala, who is credited with the revamped programme, says there is a need for a countrywide re-training of Ipelegeng beneficiaries to make them relevant to COVID-19 protocols. "I would like to see a more robust review that entails longer contracts of at least a year and increased monthly allowances, if the poverty eradication aim of Ipelegeng should be meaningful," Kwambala said in an interview.

"The training should be broad in order to equip the beneficiaries with skills that they can use to find employment or become self-employed. COVID-19 has laid bare our total dependence on our neighbours for food. The re-training of Ipelegeng beneficiaries should therefore aim towards plugging this gaping hole by including food production skills. As things stand, the poverty eradication aspect of Ipelegeng is defeated because the beneficiaries learn nothing that they can rely on for themselves in future."

Reached for comment, the Minister of Local Government and Rural Development, Eric Molale, referred all enquiries to his Permanent Secretary, Boipolelo Khumomathare, whose phone rang unanswered for two days and the PS did not respond to messages sent to his mobile phone.



Legal Aid Botswana (LAB) is a corporate body established by an Act of Parliament in accordance with section 19(1) of the Legal Aid Act. It was established to provide legal advice, legal representation and public education on legal matters for citizens of Botswana. The organisation has a challenging and exciting opportunity for a seasoned legal professional to spearhead its operations as its **Chief Executive Officer**.

JOB PURPOSE

Accountable to the Board of Directors, the incumbent will be responsible for providing the necessary strategic and operational leadership of LAB, as well as, overseeing the implementation of long- and short-term plans in accordance with organisational strategic objectives.

THE JOB

The incumbent will be responsible for among others, the following;

- Supporting operations administration of the Board and implementing Board decisions.
- Developing and maintaining effective interfaces with Government, partner organizations and other stakeholders, whilst ensuring relevance of the organisation to the community.
- Providing technical advice on developing and implementing all policy matters concerning the regulatory practices & policies in the legal area.
- Ensuring consistent reviewing of service procedures and structures, as well as, ensuring excellent service provision in line with best practice.
- Ensuring prudent use of financial resources to ensure long term financial sustainability of the organisation.
- Managing and developing strategies to instill a high performance culture in order to achieve the organisations strategic objectives.
- Ensuring adherence to the Legal Aid Act, as well as, other relevant legislation and legal aid best practices.

THE PERSON

The right candidate will possess the following:

- A Bachelor of Laws Degree, with a Master of Laws Degree presenting an added advantage.
- A minimum of fifteen (15) years experience in the field of law, five (5) of which should have been at strategic management level.
- Admitted to practice in the Courts of Botswana.

COMPETENCIES

- Strategic Leadership.
- Strong Business Acumen.
- Stakeholder relationship management.
- Problem solving and decisiveness.
- Strong interpersonal skills and demonstrated ability to communicate effectively with a wide range of people.
- Energy, drive, and passion for continuous learning.

To apply conveniently submit your application to sethunya@peopleconnections.co.bw. Applicants should please ensure that they submit a detailed curriculum vitae and provide names and contacts of at least three traceable referees.

Closing Date: 8 June 2020

For enquiries: contact Tsholofelo/ Bame on 3975917/ 3915503

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Second Phase Of Food Relief Presents Problems

- Relaxed lockdown means different things to different households
- A total review of households implies delays and costs to recall temporary social workers

SESUPO RANTSIMAKO

FRANCISTOWN: As the COVID-19 food relief enters its second phase, the government is reportedly in a dilemma regarding its implementation after the lifting of extreme social distancing that separated people from their livelihoods.

The Coordinator of the programme, Gabriel Seeletso, is finding it difficult to determine who should receive the food hampers

The Coordinator of the programme, Gabriel Seeletso, is finding it difficult to determine who should receive the food hampers. One problem is that re-assessment of households would delay the roll-out and prove expensive for the government because temporary social workers would be needed again.

According to Seeletso, he is yet to meet with stakeholders to appreciate the challenges faced in the first phase. "We have to check if the situation of households that benefitted in the first phase is still the same," he says. "This is to see if the breadwinner has relocated and if the number of household members is still the same. We will use the information that we already have but we must re-look the whole situation of households."



Call for creative arts submissions



FNBB in partnership with FNBB Foundation is making a nationwide call for creative arts submissions. The creative community has been hard hit by the Covid-19 pandemic, prompting us to introduce the **Bodiragatsi Jwame, Lentswe lame** initiative aimed at supporting creative arts during this difficult time.

Music

FNBB has partnered with Yarona FM to run a music show where artists will be challenged to record and submit songs which have an underlying message on the COVID-19 pandemic.

- Submit your profiles & a recording (mp3 format) to music@yaronafm.co.bw no later than June 8th, 2020
- A committee comprising of members from both the bank and the radio station will evaluate the submissions for shortlisting. Submissions will also be judged mainly on superiority of quality, the impact of the message and the number of votes garnered during the period of the Campaign.
- Shortlisting of songs will be based on submissions received per music genre.
- Songs shortlisted will be entered into a weekly competition where the top 3 songs will be rewarded as follows: First Prize P25,000, Second Prize P15,000 and Third Prize P10,000.
- Each week, only one category will compete from Monday to Thursday;
- The Top 3 songs will play daily "back to back", and listeners will be given an opportunity to comment On Air. The general public will also vote for their favourite songs via the Yarona FM SMS line 16106.
- The votes will be tallied and every Friday the winners will be announced on Air and online; in order of the one with the most votes.
- The content remains the intellectual property of the owner post the competition.
- The initiative is open to Botswana citizens only.
- The review process may take up to 1 week
- Only successful candidates will be contacted.

Submit your profile & recording to music@yaronafm.co.bw; T's & C's apply.

For more information call

395 9881 **0800 302 302** (BTC & Orange)

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FNBB

How can we help you?

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FNBB FOUNDATION
In Partnership with the Community

The logo of the Botswana Alcohol Industry Association, featuring a stylized yellow outline of Botswana's map on a black background.

**Botswana Alcohol
Industry Association**

BOTSWANA ALCOHOL INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION

Our frontline workers and the Presidential COVID 19 Task force in collaboration with you Batswana ko malapeng , have performed in an exemplary manner to contain the spread of of the pandemic.

As Botswana Alcohol Industry Association, we are pleased about the announcement that the sale of alcohol is to be resumed. We can now resume the business that contributes greatly to employment as more than 20 000 people return to work.

We are elated that we continue to contribute to the economy through taxes and other means. The impact and importance of the alcohol sector cannot be understated and we are excited to continue to do our bit for our economy and our people.

Having understood how important this sector is to the economy, it is important that we implore you all to approach this re-opening responsibly. Your actions affect this pandemic and the necessary responses that must be taken to keep in under control.

Please use caution and act with foresight. Use e-commerce, home delivery services, pre ordering and complying to safe distances when shopping in store.

Your responsible actions will keep the products flowing and the economy growing.

Botswana's Transactional Presidency

The new liquor laws favour retail giants like Liquorama, which is owned by President Mokgweetsi Masisi's business partner, Ramachandran Ottapathu. However, the President's decision to open up the market for his business friend is not anything new. The Mogae and Khama administrations were characterised by expansive business networks that often favoured buddies, writes **TSHIRELETSO MOTLOGELWA**

When the time came for government to announce the unbanning of alcohol consumption as part of the slow loosening of lockdown conditions, it had to summon the highest officer to do it, The President. The entire two months of lockdown had led to a constant complaint by many citizens that the banning of alcohol rendered the lockdown unbearable. Therefore, the release of citizens to be able to imbibe came to be delivered last Saturday by none other than the President Mokgweetsi Masisi himself, prompting a nationwide excitement.

However, the President warned that it would only be the next day Sunday that the specifics of the unbanning would be released by the Minister of Trade and Investment, Peggy Serame. Indeed the minister announced Sunday afternoon that on Wednesday of the following week alcoholic beverages would be allowed under limited times and only at a select number of places. These will include bottle stores and restaurants and will only be open between 10am and 6pm from Wednesday to Friday and on Saturdays from 10am to 4pm.

However, a very important part of the alcohol selling industry was not unbanned – the home brewers and small scale traditional sellers. Those will have to wait. In fact, for those, as Minister Serame put it, consultations over whether to unban them and how, were still yet to be done. She said she would have to meet the traditional leadership to consult with them extensively and then make a determination over whether to release the locks. Significantly, the minister only mentioned this after being specifically asked about this sector. It is a rather cavalier attitude by the

minister to forget to conduct all consultations covering all subsections of the sector and so as to produce a well rounded programme that incorporates the poorest of the poor in this lucrative trade, the traditional home brewers.

Critics have come out to point out that infact this reopening of alcohol sellers only favours the big retailers. Restaurants will find that the time for selling alcohol on their premises is cut off immediately at the moment their clients arrive at the restaurant. After all, restaurants receive business from people who are engaged in work during the day. If the cut-off time is 6pm, that gives the client an hour between the time s/he knocks off and the time s/he should be at the restaurant seated and to be served both food and alcohol. Secondly, the bar owners also depend on customers who come late at night after the restaurants and bottle stores have closed at 6pm because they do not sell at a retail price to make a profit until 11pm, as was the case before now. The decision would seem to have been made without including the specific needs of restaurant owners. If the new alcohol rules were for anyone, it is the big retailers, the biggest of whom is liquor sales giant, Liquorama, for whom the new rules will work neatly.

It turns out only a few days later that the President is a business partner to troubled retail magnate, Ramchandran Ottapattu, who owns Choppies. The two co-own Arcee, one of a myriad companies in which the retail man has a finger. Ram owns 90 percent while Masisi has 10 percent. It just turns out that Arcee is one of many enterprises that the President co-owns with various businessmen of Indian origin, according to media reports. *Gazette* investigations reveal that Arcee hurriedly registered a number of subsidiaries before the declaration of the state of emergency for COVID-19. It is those financial relations that tie Masisi and his business partner's interests into one. It is in light of that relationship that Masisi government's alcohol policy on Covid-19 should be seen.

But it is not the first time that Ram - or Liquorama, for that matter – is the recipient of favours from government relating to access to the lucrative alcohol sales market. In 2016, Liquorama had a

problem surrounding the designation of liquor trading as an exclusively citizen owned business. Liquor trading was an area reserved for citizens while Liquorama was majority owned by foreigners. It is not as if the partners were about to dump their foray into the multi-billion pula alcohol industry. They couldn't sell their stake to locals, of course, but they wanted in on the action. What was to be done?

The Trade and Liquor Act of Botswana was explicit on the issue that the liquor business is among "certain trades and businesses to be reserved for citizens". But Ram was never far from a solution because the then Minister of Investment, Trade and Industry, Vincent Seretse, soon came to the rescue. Seretse wrote Ram an exemption to the rule and the India-born man of retail could proceed. Ram was given the special permission to sell alcohol, albeit being the minority owner of a business whose majority shareholding belonged overseas.

In a letter written by the Department of Trade and Consumer Affairs on 27 September 2016, Liquorama which then was registered as ZCX Investment, was made immune to the law that bars non-citizens from operating bottle stores. At that time Liquorama owned 46 bottle stores across the country. Minister Seretse exempted the Ram-owned venture from Regulation 5 of Liquor Regulations 2008 which stipulate that "bottle store businesses shall be reserved for citizens of Botswana or companies wholly owned by citizens of Botswana".

According to Section 18 (1) of the Liquor Act, "The Minister may make regulations providing that licences to carry on a reserved trade or business in liquor shall be issued only to citizens of Botswana or to companies wholly owned by citizens of Botswana." In the case of Ram, Seretse crucially made a special directive to exempt Liquorama from Section 18(1).

Section 18 further states that "(3) A joint venture of a medium business enterprise between a citizen and a non-citizen may be granted a licence in a reserved liquor trade or business where a citizen has a minimum beneficial ownership of 51 percent of the joint venture; Provided that a citizen partner may, with the approval of the Minister, hold less than 51 per cent shares in a joint venture arrangement." But in the case of Liquorama, it was not a "medium business enterprise" according to the definition applied in Section 18 (4) which says, "for the purposes of this section, "medium business enterprise" means a business that employs less than 100 people and which has an annual sales turnover of between

P1,500,000 and P5,000,000. Liquorama, even at that time, was a multimillion business running about 46 stores across Botswana and employing hundreds of people.

It appeared the letter from the Department of Trade and Consumer Affairs came after Ram and Co. had requested for exemption from Regulation 5. This was also at the time when ZCX was being sold to Spark Capital. Lawyer and Ram's business associate then, Rizwan Desai, was the addressee of the letter. Desai, together with his then partner at Collins Newman, Parks Tafa, then owned Chalk Farm Investment, a company which had a stake in the liquor company. Tafa is known for his connections in former president Ian Khama's regime where he was the president's personal lawyer, business partner and political adviser most of the time.

At that time in 2016, Ram had 14.99 percent of Spark Capital while the Botswana-registered Chalk Farm Investment had 5.20 percent in its pocket. The majority owner of the company that controlled Liquorama in 2016 was Standard Chartered Private Equity from Mauritius with a stake of 53.82 percent. Liquorama then got into the hands of Choppies distributor Kamoso. In this deal, when Kabomo purchased Spark Capital, Ottapathu and his long time business partner, Farouk Ismail, pocketed P452 million when they sold the companies to Standard Chartered Private Equity and Development Capital Partners. Kamoso, the company which now controls Liquorama, in 2017 sold 72 percent shares owned by Standard Chartered Private Equity and Development Capital Partners to Investec Asset Management and RMB Ventures. Kamoso was formed in 2015 as part of an investment by Development Capital Partners, a New York investment firm, and Standard Chartered Private Equity. After the P452 million big money deal of Kamoso, Ram - now with his politically influential partner former President Festus Mogae - went on to list Choppies on the Johannesburg Stock Exchange in a deal in which the duo are said to have pocketed over P600 million when they sold shares on the South African bourse.

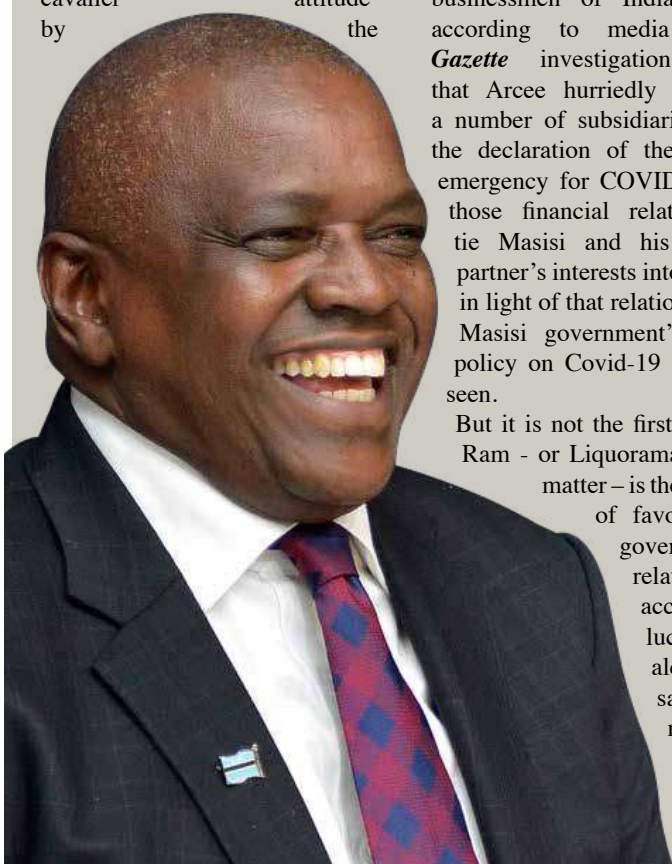
Mogae who has now resigned as Choppies Chairman, a position he assumed after he left the presidency, is reported to have at the time walked home with almost P300 million from

the JSE deal.

Former President Mogae himself jumped into the Choppies bandwagon earlier, having been part of its founding. But Mogae had other friends who under him came to enjoy the largesse of government policy making. When government made a decision to establish a pension fund, his business associates who came to dominate the multi-billion pula asset management industry that emerged out of that indirectly through the corporate giant, 21st Century, which consisted of some of the most powerful men in Botswana society, 21st Century came to own a big chunk of the businesses utilizing some of the strategic access in political circles. The conglomerate had a specific advantage over other companies because of the network connected to it and the resultant connections relating to those who were within the circles occupied by the shareholders both personally and professionally. As a result, it often found itself front-row in any potential deals.

On the other hand, those close to Khama during his term, especially those associated with Wilderness Safaris, gained from their association with the president. His tourism strategies, and policies, were positioned to bring as much benefit to his friends and business associates as he could muster, from directing how concessions would be allocated to attempting to grant the tourism outfit ownership of the national flag carrier at a nominal fee. Some rules were bent by the administration to accommodate the interests of Khama's tourist operator business associates.

It is therefore little surprising to find that Masisi, the self-styled champion of citizen economic empowerment, disempowered the most powerless of his citizenry to accommodate the financial interests of his business partners.



The President Holds The World Record For Individual COVID-19 Quarantines

Over the last few weeks, the nation of Botswana has been overwhelmed with reports of corruption, wastage of government funds and incredible administrative blunders executed by the current government. These blunders seem to form a big part of the current administration's modus operandi. The litany of blunders includes wastage of money that was supposed to be used to fight the Coronavirus pandemic where toilets at primary schools were built at exorbitant amounts. To add salt to injury, senior ministers in the administration then went on the rampage lamenting and criticizing this waste that is done under their watch!

Other unprecedented blunders of the regime include the actions of a President who is currently in quarantine and has been quarantined more than three times for behaviour that could easily been avoided. The President holds the world record for the individual with the most quarantines during the COVID 19 lockdowns. These blunders are concerning and point in the direction in which this country could be heading.

Lately there have been reports of the COVID-19 subsidy scheme not being credited to companies to pay workers despite the government publishing information to the contrary. Lowly-paid Batswana have sacrificed so much during the lockdown and to-date many have not been paid their subsidy salaries, not to mention those who are suffering in the informal sector who were not catered for at all. Some companies are yet to receive salary subsidies for the months of April and May. These unprecedented blunders are proving too heavy a burden to carry and are now weighing down on the conscience of the nation.

There is a very serious court action in the offing with legal papers of demand that imply that the nurse who seemingly precipitated the hurried adoption of the state of emergency earlier on in the year might actually not have had COVID-19. There are serious allegations that the whole debacle was contrived. Should these fears be found to be true, this would constitute the lowest point of our leadership's moral deficit.

Two days after the state of emergency laws were passed, the spokesperson of the Botswana Patriotic Front, Justice Motlhabani, was arrested at 2200hrs at night by over 20 armed police officers who came after him as if he were some armed and dangerous bank robber. All this drama for what we learnt were trumped up charges ostensibly to do with some benign social media stories! We condemn this delinquent behaviour in the strongest possible



terms because no citizen should be arrested at night, stripped naked and hand and ankle chained like an animal. This is reminiscent of how Madam 'Butterfly' was escorted to court over trumped up charges by tens of heavily armed security personnel. She was charged with another suspicious offence of stealing P100 000 from the Bank of Botswana. These trumped up charges are seemingly going to cause Botswana to be blacklisted in the international financial community in October this year. Motlhabani and his colleague, Dikologang, were subsequently tortured whilst in police custody allegedly by members of the Serious Crimes Squad. The cruel and inhumane torture and everything that they went through during their detention and interrogation will come out in court as we call out some ministers and influential figures in government to testify.

This was the first time in the history of Botswana that political activists were tortured by state apparatus.

Another ugly blight of the current regime seems to be undoing all the good reputation of Botswana that was built over decades. The idea seems to be to make Botswana a truly 'African' country in the mould of Kagame and Munangagwa. These actors have for some reason become our new best friends, together with the Chinese Communist Party that had a keen interest in the last general elections that were rigged.

The current President was awarded an honorary doctorate by the University of Botswana soon after ascending to the presidency in a curiously unprocedural manner. There are

intimations that some in the government now want to add a new title of 'Father of the Nation' to the doctorate.

We as a party have no qualms with the penchant of African leaders to have bizarre titles like Conqueror of the British Empire, but we would like to caution that now is not the time for peculiar titles. This is not the time for personal aggrandisement. This is the time for the nation to be united in fighting COVID-19 and ensuring that we win the war of our generation. We believe that the focus of government should be to cater for all sectors of the economy, especially those that have been ignored like the informal sector. It is a time to ensure that vulnerable members of our society are catered for with food rations on a non-partisan basis and for strategies be implemented to resuscitate the collapsed economy.

But corruption has skyrocketed in recent months and we have heard of tenders running into the tens of millions of pula being awarded to newly formed companies. The question in many of our people's minds is how these 'new' tenderpreneurs knew about the opportunities to tender when we were all under lockdown and could not conduct business. Nearly all of these tenders were not advertised, most were by direct appointment to the 'new' companies. This state of affairs leaves a lot to be desired and flies in the face of good governance.

The finance minister recently announced that the Botswana Government, through its embassies abroad, had purchased medical goods to the tune of P2.4 billion and that

these supplies were on their way to Botswana. We want to know what was being purchased and when these goods will arrive in Botswana. All these happenings are a concern because Batswana have given a of money to the COVID-19 Relief Fund to assist our government, only to learn that this goodness could have been erased by the most corrupt period in the history of this nation. The Moody's Rating Agency report recently downgraded Botswana from a stable outlook to a negative one. No doubt that even Transparency International is going to downgrade this country, looking at the recent corruption allegations lamented by even senior ministers. Amnesty International is also keenly looking at our reports of torture meted out to our activists. There has been violation of lockdown regulations by the leadership in the BDP led by the President who is not embarrassed and who goes into his third quarantine and sees nothing wrong. Imagine if any essential services employee had gone for their third quarantine! That's more than one month of being indoors at this time of need.

In conclusion, we call upon the BDP government to start taking the nation seriously by taking actionable steps in fighting the cancerous corruption that is eating away at our economy and stability. And that we can't continue like this when we are faced with an economic crisis and possible job cuts. This is the time for leadership to emerge and for our country to resume its long held place in the league of great nations of the world.

Biggie Ganda Butale
President of the Botswana Patriotic Front

The Gazette Newspaper is published by News Co. Botswana (Pty) Ltd,
Plot 125 Sedimosa, Gaborone
Int. Finance Park (next to Game City), P. O. Box 1605,
Tel: 3912833/3900451/3180701 Fax: 3972283.
Gaborone Botswana, printed by Printing and Publishing Company
Botswana (Pty) Ltd, Nakedi Road, Broadhurst, P. O. Box 130,
Gaborone, Botswana.

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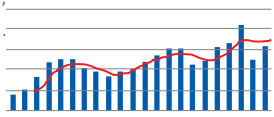


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PEEPA's Nasty Brawl Over Salaries

- Board revokes salary increments made by ex-chief executive Moumakwa
- Five staffmembers drag PEEPA to court for illegal reversal of salary increments
- PEEPA loses in court and awaits appeal judgement
- Court says PEEPA was wrong
- Board determined to undo everything Moumakwa did

KEABETSWE NEWEL

Five key staff members at the Public Enterprises Evaluation and Privatisation Authority (PEEPA) have seen their salary increments and promotions that were effected about seven months ago cancelled and revoked in a classic case of *collateral damage* by a board that seems determined to undo everything done by PEEPA's deposed Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Ezekiel Obakeng Moumakwa, *The Botswana Gazette* can reveal.

In July 2020, the Court of Appeal is expected to make a ruling in a case in which the PEEPA lost at the Industrial Court (Francistown) for making unlawful salary deductions on five of its staff members.

In April 2019, the former CEO of PEEPA, Ezekiel Obakeng Moumakwa, effected a performance-based salary increments in the favour of five staff members. The employees are Mothusi Mokoto, Mooketsi Kgosi-bodiba, Letshego Moeng, Mpho Seretse and Segomotsi Matswiri. Before months of March and April, Mokoto was an Analyst, Kgosi-bodiba an Accounts Officer, Moeng a Portfolio Manager – Utilities and Transport, Seretse an Analyst while Matswiri was Portfolio Manager – Financial Sector.

Court documents reveal that during the months of March and April, Moumakwa wrote letters to the staff members informing them that their salaries had been increased. The ex-CEO wrote that he had personally reviewed the performance of each of the five staff members and that being pleased with it, had awarded them an increment. Documents reveal that some increments were quite considerable. One of the staff members got an increment from P30 449.08 to P45 193.76 per month. It

emerges, Moumakwa at that time stated categorically in a letter to the board of directors dated 13 June 2019 that these were neither salary increments nor adjustments but performance-based increments. In the letter to the board, Moumakwa said that the effective date of these increments was the 1 April 2019 and emphasised that that the increments were not to be construed as “the inflationary salary adjustment pronounced and effected by the government from time to time”.

Further, it emerges that not only did Moumakwa increase their salaries but he also deployed and elevated some of the staff members. Seretse was deployed to the CEO's office to provide it with executive support, business services and coordination while Moeng was elevated from salary band 4 to the higher band of 4A but retained his position. The employees accepted the increments. Their remuneration clauses and contracts changed by the end of April 2019.

For about seven months since April 2019 to October 2019, the staff members enjoyed the increased salaries. For these seven months, PEEPA never revoked, cancelled or amended the newly acquired remuneration benefits.

Moumakwa had his fair share of battles with the board of directors that was then chaired by Tiny Kgatlwane. On the 9 and 14 May 2019, PEEPA held a special board meeting where Moumakwa was requested to explain how and who had approved the salary increments for the five staff members.

Moumakwa replied through a letter dated 13 June 2019 in which he sought to explain that the increments were a reward for good performance. In the letter, he said they did not require any board approval, as wrongly opined by some

For about seven months since April 2019 to October 2019, the staff members enjoyed the increased salaries. For these seven months, PEEPA never revoked, cancelled or amended the newly acquired remuneration benefits.



of his colleagues. Further, he said once the salary structure was approved by the board, promotions, acting appointments, performance-based increments, temporary as well as new appointments, fall within the province and prerogative of the management. Further still, Moumakwa told the board that the performance-based increments and redeployments of officers and salary band elevations fell within the province of the CEO and did not require the board's approval.

It emerges further that on 19 June 2019, the board, after receiving Moumakwa's response and a forensic report, resolved to subject him to a disciplinary hearing. At the hearing on the 22 October 2019, Moumakwa was dismissed immediately.

Meanwhile, the five staff members were paid their salaries fully (with the increments) in October 2019, as had been the case in the previous six months. However, on October 2019, the PEEPA board had a meeting where it resolved to undo what Moumakwa had done, which led to revocation of the salary increments of the five members of staff and making them revert to their pre-April 2019 salaries and positions. The staff members were informed of the board's decision on 15 November 2019. The board's reasons were that the increments were not approved by the board.

Acting Chief Executive Officer at PEEPA, Ishmael Joseph, wrote to each of the five staffers on 22 November confirming the revocations. On 25 November, the five were paid their salaries without the increments granted to them by Moumakwa since April 2019. The redeployments and band elevations were also undone. In the decision taken by the board, the five staff members were never consulted, according to court papers. Aggrieved, they engaged Shathani Somolekae, attorney at Collins Chilisa Consultants.

On 2 November 2019, the Attorney demanded that PEEPA stop the cancellations of the increments and band elevations immediately. She argued that Moumakwa was well within his rights to effect increments and band elevations. Collins Chilisa Consultants demanded a written revocation by 29 November 2019.

However, on 5 December 2019, PEEPA's lawyers responded by declining to

provide the written revocation sought and rather invited the five employees to launch a review application in court, which they did.

The issue was argued before the Industrial Court sitting in Francistown. On 10 and 11 December, Justice Baruti ruled that as CEO then, Moumakwa was responsible for the day to day management of PEEPA, which includes overseeing the recruitment, training development, mentoring, motivation, retention and appraisal of the executive management and that pursuant to paragraph 9.1.2 of the Conditions of Employment, the duty of the former CEO was to review and assess management staff on a quarterly basis. Further, Justice Baruti said the five staff members had enjoyed the increments for seven months and that a revocation would cause an irreparable harm to their financial positions. Justice Baruti further ruled that Moumakwa had acted within his powers, save that he did not seek the board's approval. “Secondly, he was granted the mandate of running the day to day operations of PEEPA. Increment of salaries cannot strictly be held to fall outside the former CEO's mandate,” Justice Baruti ruled.

Further, the judge said while the former CEO might have sought the board's approval, it was not for the five employees to peep behind the shoulders and check if the increments were rightfully approved. As a result, Justice Baruti ordered on 20 December for PEEPA to pay the five employees monies unlawfully deducted from their salaries.

However, PEEPA has no such intention and is contending that the deductions were lawful through its lawyers, Armstrong Attorneys, who have filed an appeal with the Court of Appeal. Collins Chilisa Consultants applied on behalf of their clients, also as a sequel to the 20 December ruling, an application that sought leave to execute the order granted on 20 December 2019, pending an appeal by PEEPA filed with the Court of Appeal.

The application was filed on the 27 January 2020. As result, a *rule nisi* was further granted by Justice Baruti to the five employees on 11 February 2020 at the Francistown Industrial Court pending the outcome of the appeal.

The case is expected to be heard again this week at the Court of Appeal.

Botswana Faces a Further Downgrade

- S&P downgraded Botswana in March 2010
- Moody's further changes ratings outlook to negative 3 months later
- COVID-19 worsens diamond prospects
- Both agencies foresee a gradual drain on foreign reserves

KEABETSWE NEWEL

Just three months after credit rating agency, S&P Global, downgraded Botswana's long-term sovereign credit ratings, another agency, Moody's, has changed the outlook further, from stable to negative, of Botswana's 'A2' rating for long-term bonds denominated in both domestic and foreign currency, fearing a further downgrade.

In March, S&P downgraded the country's sovereign credit rating for long-term foreign and domestic currency bonds from "A-" to "BBB+" and retained "A-2" for short-term foreign and domestic currency bonds. The downgrade

was as a result of declining foreign reserves and weakening diamond prospects, which analysts feared could spike skepticism among investors and financiers.

Three months later, Moody's Investors Service (Moody's), in the latest out-of-calendar review of the credit ratings, affirmed Botswana's rating of 'A2' for long-term bonds denominated in both domestic and foreign currency. Sadly, Moody's changed the outlook from stable to negative. This is the same outlook that S&P had pronounced stable only three months ago.

According to Moody's, this update to the recent March 2020 rating, on a date that deviates from

the previously published sovereign release calendar, is prompted by risks associated with COVID-19 shocks, given Botswana's strong dependency on the diamond industry for growth, exports and budget revenues.

This week, Paul Rowley, De Beers Executive Vice President-Diamond Trading, said following a positive start to the year, the global impact of COVID-19 and subsequent restrictions on the movement of both people and goods had a major impact on wholesale demand for both rough and polished diamonds, as well as consumer demand for diamond jewellery.

"While lockdowns are now be-



ginning to ease in some countries, a return to 'normal' activity appears some way off, other countries have yet to see a peak, and concerns of further waves of infection persist," he observed, adding that the closure of De Beers stores globally would dwindle revenue.

Diamonds continue to be the number one revenue earner for Botswana, contributing around 80 percent of export revenues.

In April, De Beers disclosed that the outbreak of COVID-19 had affected its rough sales for February, which plunged by 36 percent from January. Moody's said the revision of Botswana's outlook from stable to negative reflected the increasing risks of lower growth, higher budget deficits and a likely resultant increase in government borrowing. In their assessment, Moody's observed that these adverse effects of COVID-19, combined with the current challenges the government faces on fiscal consolidation, could mean further deterioration of fiscal metrics to a level not consistent with the 'A2' sovereign credit rating.

Further, Moody's cautioned that the ratings could be revised downwards on account of challenges encountered in halting the fiscal deterioration associated with the pandemic, suggesting a durable deterioration of fiscal strength. Similarly, Moody's cautioned that a material weakening of the fiscal metrics, as a result of either an increase in financial support to state-owned enterprises, larger gross borrowing requirements or a further deterioration of the external position beyond current forecasts, would increase the likelihood of a downgrade.

However, Moody's overall assessment is that the country's economic fundamentals, economic strength, debt profile, institutions and governance strength, have not materially changed since the

last rating, hence the affirmation of the 'A2' credit rating for Botswana.

The two agencies – S&P Global and Moody's – coincide in that weakening ratings are undermined by the prolonged weakening of the external market for diamonds, pressures on expenditure due to the increase in public sector wages and the resultant expected gradual decline of the country's strong fiscal and external buffers in the near to medium-term. They expect that the country will run twin deficits (fiscal and balance of payments) over the next few years, resulting in a gradual draining of the country's traditionally strong savings.

As at March 2020, Botswana's foreign exchange reserves amounted to P62 billion. The savings are on a gradual decline as feared by the credit rating agencies. In November 2019, the foreign reserves had a balance of P70.6 billion, which was also a decrease from P74.5 billion in November 2018.

The ratings could further be revised downwards on account of the prolonged weak demand and prices for diamonds, and increase in government spending that will lead to a deterioration of the country's fiscal and external balances. At De Beers, Rowley noted that demand from the USA, China and India – the three top consumers of Botswana diamonds – remains weak, which will affect earnings.

S&P long warned that Botswana faced a "deteriorating outlook" in 2017, a move that suggested then that a dreadful downgrade from A-/A-2 sovereign credit rating could be on the horizon.

That notwithstanding, an official at the Ministry of Finance and Development Planning expressed confidence that Botswana would recover along with the global environment. "We just need to improve our budget deficit by diversifying products of the economy,

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

In the matter between:
**SAMUEL MOTLHALEFI DINTSI
TUMELO SEBOWE**
and
SATU INVESTMENTS (PTY) LTD
(For placement under judicial management
and the appointment of a judicial manager)

CASE NO UAHGB-000060-2020

1st Petitioner
2nd Petitioner
Respondent

DRAFT ORDER

(for the placement of the Respondent under judicial management)

Before the Honourable Justice BUSANG on this 30th day of March 2020;

UPON HEARING Attorney Mrs G.C Jotia for the Petitioners and having read the documents filed of record;

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED AS FOLLOWS:

- that this matter is urgent and that the Rules of the High Court relating to the service of process, time limits and other formalities be and are hereby dispensed with to the extent necessary;
- that the Respondent company, **SATU INVESTMENTS (PTY) LTD**, be placed under provisional judicial management in terms of the Companies Act;
- that while this order remains in force the Respondent shall be under the direction and management of the Provisional Judicial Manager, **DANNY JULIUS GUDULI**, and that the said Provisional Judicial Manager shall himself be subject to the supervision of the Registrar and Master of the High Court;
- that as from today any other person or persons vested with the management of the Respondent's affairs shall be divested thereof, and that the affairs of the Respondent shall forthwith be managed by the Provisional Judicial Manager appointed in terms of this order;
- that the Provisional Judicial Manager shall discharge the duties prescribed by Section 472 as read with Section 474 of the Companies Act;
- that the Provisional Judicial Manager shall be empowered without the authority of the shareholders but subject to the authority of the creditors and the Master, to borrow money with or without security on behalf of the Respondent for the purpose of paying essential running expenditures in and about the business of the Respondent including salaries, wages and utilities for the business required by the Respondent and to pledge the credit of the Respondent for any goods or services required;
- that while the Respondent is under provisional judicial management all actions, proceedings, the execution of all writs, summons and other processes against the Respondent be stayed and be not proceeded with without leave of this Court being obtained;
- that the rate of remuneration of the Provisional Judicial Manager be fixed by the Master in accordance with the services rendered and the disbursements incurred.
- that a rule nisi be issued calling upon all interested persons to appear and show cause, if any, to this Honourable Court why;
 - a final judicial management order should not be granted;
 - the following directions should not be included in the said order;
 - that the management of the Respondent shall vest, subject to the supervision of the Court, in the Final Judicial Manager and that the affairs of the Respondent be managed by such Judicial Manager to ensure continuity in the business of the Respondent;
 - that the provisions of paragraphs 4, 5, 6, 7 and 8 hereof should apply mutatis mutandis;
 - and why the costs of this petition shall not be costs in the judicial management.
- that a copy of this Order be published forthwith twice in the Government Gazette and the Botswana Gazette newspaper.
- that a copy of this Order be sent by prepaid registered post to the known Creditors of the Respondent.
- that the service of this order be effected upon the Respondent at its registered office.
- That any party intending to oppose the relief sought in these proceedings should exercise their rights in terms of the Rules of the High Court, that is to say, within 7 days of publication of the Order, to file their notice of opposition, and thereafter within 14 days from publication of the Order, to file their answering affidavits or any other answer. In the event of failure to file such answer, the Petition shall proceed as unopposed.

BY THE COURT

REGISTRAR & MASTER



which results in increased revenue streams,” the official said.

But beneficiation - a process by which Botswana extracts more value from each diamond mined in its territory as well as diamonds mined elsewhere in the De Beers empire - has not helped diversify economy. More than four De Beers-accredited diamond polishers have closed down due to poor cash flows, suggesting failure of beneficiation as a solution to Botswana’s economic diversification.

Weighing in on the matter, analysts interviewed by *The Botswana Gazette* said investors - anxious about the direction of the minerals-led economy - would lose confidence in Botswana’s potential to bounce back. Another analyst added that a downgrade may impact the ability of the country to borrow from domestic and international institutions such as the World Bank and International Monetary Fund (IMF).

“We will be viewed differently by the lenders,” Ishmael Radikoko, finance lecturer at the University of Botswana (UB), noted in a previous engagement. Radikoko said rating agencies could be concerned about the vulnerabilities presented by reliance on mining and negative sentiments presented by the Southern African Customs Union (SACU) receipts from the Common Revenue Pool (CRP).

The SACU Common Revenue Pool increased from R79.2 billion in the 2016/17 financial year to R99.6 billion in 2017/18. Botswana’s share increased from P11.7 billion in 2016/17 to P17.8 billion for the period under review.

Meanwhile, at Motswedi Securities, Head of Research, Garry Juma, worries that current global economic challenges resulting from the Coronavirus will result in reduced imports and global trade, which will dwindle SACU receipts.

Further, the SACU Secretariat’s

Paulina Mbala Elago warned that global economic growth will be subdued and that SACU trading partners will also experience a slowdown in total trade. She said the trade could also affect the revenue pool in the negative, which means that Botswana will probably get a smaller share out the SACU CRP, consequently diminishing state revenues.

SACU receipts account for over 25 percent of state revenues, which means reduced receipts increase the vulnerability of Botswana’s fiscal position. Juma said it would affect the cost of credit that Botswana will incur in assessing external debt for project funding.

An analyst at Investec said a downgrade would “increase our cost of sovereign debt” and spike interest rates. Government and government-guaranteed debt for the 2018/19 fiscal year is projected at P46 billion, which analysts say gradually decreases Botswana fiscal standing and credit rating.

According to Bank of Botswana (BoB), government and government-guaranteed debt for the 2018/19 fiscal year is projected at P46 billion, of which P36.1 billion is government’s own debt, the balance being government-guaranteed debt.

Total external debt amounts to P30.5 billion or 15.4 percent of GDP, while domestic debt, at 7.8 percent of GDP, amounts to P15.5 billion. Overall, total projected debt as at March 31, 2019 is equivalent to 23.2 percent of forecast GDP and below the statutory ceiling of 40 percent of GDP, with both domestic and external debt being lower than the 20 percent of GDP limit for each category.

The debt is expected to increase as a result of consecutive deficits. S&P believes that the deficits will eat into Botswana’s national savings and increase domestic and external debt.

De Beers Acknowledges COVID-19 Effects

The giant player says it is eager to return to business as usual in Botswana



TLOTLO KEBINAKGABO

Like other business operations around the world, the De Beers Group is also a victim of the changes brought by the COVID-19 pandemic.

This is because of worldwide restrictions on the movement of both people and goods that have consequences on demand for both rough and polished diamonds, including consumer demand for diamond jewellery.

According to De Beers, while lockdowns are now beginning to ease in some countries, a return to ‘normal’ activity still appears some way off because other countries have yet to see a peak while concerns of further waves of infection persist.

“The lockdown in the USA has led to severely reduced consumer demand in the market, representing around half of global demand,” De Beers Executive Vice President, Diamond Trading, Paul Rowley, noted during a media roundtable held by the company last Friday. “Some States are now relaxing lockdown restrictions but most stores remain closed and demand is heavily impacted.”

Rowley noted that the lockdown restrictions had also severely impacted retail sales in China, which is the second largest diamond global market. However, he said there were encouraging signs in that country as consumers are returning and most of stores are now open. Ongoing lockdowns across India continued to have a significant impact on demand for diamonds.

“With the vast majority of the world’s diamonds being cut in India, the lockdown over there saw midstream demand grind almost to a halt,” said Rowley. “Restrictions on international

travel and shipping also saw trading activity dry up in key centres.”

He decried the impact of COVID-19 on the company, noting that mines across the world had seen operations paused or stopped. There were questions regarding whether some operations would return at all after the pandemic. “With those mines that are operating, there are significant logistical challenges and operations are at a reduced level,” he stated.

“Sight 3 was also not held in light of logistical challenges related to lockdowns in Botswana, South Africa and India while Sight 4 was only attended by local beneficiation sight holders as international customers are unable to travel.”

De Beers Group is a multinational company that specialises in diamond exploration, diamond mining, diamond retail, diamond trading and industrial manufacturing. The company is active in open-pit, large-scale alluvial, coastal and deep mining. It operates in 35 countries, including Botswana from where it generates 75 percent of its earnings.

Rowley noted that during these trying times when international customers cannot travel, De Beers was doing all in its power to work with its partners in the Botswana Government to see how they could generate revenue. His company was also working on reducing global production guidance by 7m carats to reflect demand and support long-term value, as well as refocus and repurpose marketing plans to reflect the changing situation - timing, targeting and product types.

He said De Beers was focused on returning to business as usual in Botswana as soon as possible.

Mood At Chobe Holdings Not Dampened By These Tough Times

- Group expects minimal effects of COVID-19
- Says its marketing push of "don't cancel, defer" has worked for them



The Local Enterprise Authority invites DIGITAL TECHNOLOGY ENTREPRENEURS with market ready solutions to apply for Market Access Facilitation programme at LEA. The applications must meet the following requirements:

- The digital technology solutions must address COVID-19 related challenges, be commercially viable and relevant post-COVID 19 pandemic.
- The solutions must be fit for purpose, satisfy relevant digital technology requirements and ready for the market.
- Applications are open for locally grown/developed solutions only.

If you meet the above requirements, download the Technology Entrepreneurs Market Access Facilitation guidelines at: www.lea.co.bw/publications

Completed applications must be emailed to: techentrepreneurs@lea.co.bw Hand delivery applications will not be accepted.

Closing date for applications: 7th June 2020.

For enquiries contact: gmoroka@lea.co.bw / 3644000



empowering the entrepreneur to start and grow their business



TLOTLO KEBINAKGABO

Despite experiencing difficulties in generating revenue due to travel restrictions meant to curb the spread of COVID-19, eco-tourism outfit Chobe Holdings Limited is hopeful that it will bounce back to business strongly as soon as it fully resumes operations.

According to the group, while travel into Botswana is currently banned, the marketing push of "Don't Cancel, Defer" has been largely successful for them in ensuring that they do not entirely lose clientele.

This is after more than 70 percent of the confirmed bookings that were scheduled to travel in the April to June 2020 period deferred their travel to 2021. "Directors are therefore confident of a fairly quick recovery when it is deemed safe for international travel to resume," the group said in its audited financial results for the year ended February 2020 released last Friday.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the World Tourism Organisation (WTO) predicts a 22 percent fall in international tourist arrivals during the first quarter of 2020. According to WTO, that could lead to an annual decline of between 60 percent and 80 percent, compared with 2019 figures.

WTO anticipates that signs of recovery will start emerging in the last quarter of 2020, but mostly in 2021, with leisure tourism expected to recover quickly. The recovery will, however, be dependent on containment of the virus, easing of travel restrictions and re-opening of borders.

Meanwhile, the group announced that it recorded a 10 percent revenue increase for the period ended February 2020, compared to the same period in the prior year. According to the group, the revenue increase is a result of better achieved bednight rates in US Dollar terms and depreciation of the Pula against the US Dollar.

But, compared to the same period in the prior year due to increased competition and perhaps the effects of negative press around the lifting of the hunting suspension, occupancy remained fairly flat.

The group's financials show that operating costs were contained even though they increased by three percent. The tourism operator parted with P45.9 million financed from internally-generated cash flows on the purchase of game drive vehicles, a Cessna Caravan, and significantly improving existing buildings and equipment. A further P15.4 million was spent on purchasing two game farms in the period under review.

Chobe Holdings Limited owns and operates eleven eco-tourism lodges and camps on leased land in northern Botswana and the Caprivi Strip in Namibia through its subsidiaries. The holding company operates under two well-known hospitality brands, Desert & Delta Safaris and Ker & Downey Botswana.



KhoiSan wouldn't 'Suffocate' under lockdown

The duo will instead be releasing an EP with amapiano group, MFR Souls, and have been working with 18 artists from other parts of Africa to produce an aptly named song "Phumelela" that salutes the resilience of the human spirit. **GOSEGO MOTSUMI** reports



Musical duo KhoiSan has been hitting all the right notes under lockdown and their hard work will finally pay off with the release of their untitled debut album at a date to be announced, as well as an international collaboration and an EP release up their sleeve, *Time Out* has established.

Signed under Roc Lefatshe Records, the KhoiSan duo of Oratile Kofa and Thabang Rasefako have been working tirelessly to dish up their highly anticipated album with singles that are currently dominating local airwaves.

In an interview, the Executive Producer at Roc Lefatshe Records, Suffocate, said the Coronavirus had postponed the release date of the album that he described as completed, submitted, approved and awaiting publishers for digital distribution. The stable will also be releasing the first music video of the song, "Sethubege," in the next two weeks.

"We decided to stay together and move the studio to my house during lockdown in order to continue working," said Suffocate. "We managed to complete the 15-track album that is now ready. We are still struggling to give it a title because there are so many hits in this upcoming project."

According to one of KhoiSan's leading vocalists, Thabang Rasefako, the new album will offer different sound variations to cater for people from all walks of life. "People already know our sound, hence we have given this new project a tweak so we cater for different tastes. It will not be boring or uptight," Rasefako said.

Determined that they would

not suffocate under lockdown, they also managed to connect and collaborate with 18 international artists from other parts of Africa virtually to produce the song "Phumelela," which is owned by Zimbabwean artist Bekezela Nkomo. The track is in response to the Coronavirus that is currently wreaking havoc on livelihoods across the world.

Released on 1st May 2020 on the Bekezela Music Youtube channel, "Phumelela" speaks to the resilience of the human spirit and how humanity will overcome COVID-19 in the same way that it has overcome other afflictions over the centuries.

The pandemic has come at a time when the world is facing multiple other problems that include poverty, war, unemployment, and other diseases that have afflicted humanity since time immemorial. The song "Phumelela," though inspired by COVID-19, is not exclusively relevant to this particular issue.

Bekezela said: "Many other musicians could have been a part of the project, but only those who live near studios or have home studios could take part because of lockdowns everywhere. Because this is a legacy project that is meant to outlive COVID-19 pandemic, more projects will follow."

In more projects, KhoiSan will be releasing an EP (Extended Play Record) with amapiano group, MFR Souls, in the next two weeks. MFR Soul is a South African two-member group of Tumelo Nedondwe and Tumelo Mabe, the "Love You Tonight" hitmakers. Their hit single was released in October last year and has more than 3.8 million views to-date.

"This is a huge milestone for KhoiSan because they have accumulated a million views on their on-line content," Suffocate noted. "They work with music heavyweights like DJ Maphorisa and we are humbled by that. We hope this opportunity will open every door that we have been trying to unlock."

Suffocate admits that even though they have been able to do much to boost spirits through the magic of song, they were financially crippled by the lockdown because gigs and tours were cancelled. Just before the lockdown, their hit single, "Sethubege," was starting to top charts in media platforms.

"We were just about to bag more gigs when everything was shut down," he said. "We would have made more endorsements. I estimate that we lost 13 gigs in the month of lockdown. We used to perform eight gigs in a day."

Leipego Captures the “New Normal” in Latest Photography Series

As the society is adjusting to the changes brought about by the novel coronavirus, photographer Letso Leipego of Letz Photography this past Monday released his photography series that focuses on the impacts the pandemic continues to have on Botswana’s heartland

communities. The photographer captures some of the changes in society, giving a glimpse of the new normal through his lens. “There is real adaptability shown by Batswana, proof of how seriously the Covid-19 era is affecting lives in every community, but also a war cry that the proud



nation will remain resilient in the face of emerging challenges,” the photographer said in a statement.

Traditionally, Leipego says there has been a lack of awareness and attention given to mental illness across cultures in Africa, and Botswana is hardly an exception. The photography series offers a stark look at the often-overlooked elements of mental health that become all too apparent when the country – and the world – is faced with a major pandemic.

Leipego said: “Drawing from personal questions about how people’s daily existence is being affected by the unseen monster among us, and tapping into the different moods and emotions evoked by these, this photo series strives to tap into the minds of those affected, to offer a glimpse of the personal struggles, hopes and fears that the average person experiences during this trying era of social distancing and new cultural norms.”



Leipego’s photography of rural life in Botswana is inspired by curiosity – something he says he inherited from his grandfather, who also features in many of his photographs. Letso is inquisitive about light: his work emphasises contrast, and a stylized manipulation of light and shadow. This playful illumination evokes the artist’s motivation for creating the work. Letso “makes pictures that call attention to things that the observer tends to overlook”. His interest in light and darkness extends to a curiosity about people living beyond mainstream urban society, whose stories and histories are seldom illuminated with the same intensity as in his striking photographs. Leipego is represented by Guns and Rain and his first solo exhibition in Johannesburg took place in 2018. His work has been shown at the Investec Cape Town Art Fair (2019), and is included in the ARAK collection (Qatar) and Amawal Collection (Spain) among others.

Public Notice



Re-registration of Companies and Business Names Extended to December 02, 2020

The Companies and Intellectual Property Authority (CIPA) wishes to inform the general public and our valued customers that the Re-registration of Companies and Business Names on the Online Business Registration System (OBRS), which was due to end on the 2nd June 2020, has been extended by a further six months to the 2nd December 2020. CIPA recognises and is mindful of the economic hardships brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic in Botswana, and in light of this we have taken heed of numerous requests from the public, by extending the re-registration period in order to provide some relief to our valued customers. Please take advantage of the extended period.

To re-register, please follow the following simple steps:

1. Visit www.cipa.co.bw
2. Create a profile or use an already existing profile.
3. Search for your Company or Business Name
4. Click on RE-REGISTER NOW.
5. Provide the latest information of your Company or Business name.
6. Make a payment of P150 for Business Names or P300 for Companies.
7. All outstanding annual return debts will be cleared, and the new certificate will be sent by email.

Payments on the Online Business Registration System can be done online through the use of a debit/credit card. Customers without these facilities should send an email to deposits@cipa.co.bw requesting a reference/deposit account number and then deposit money through internet banking or at FNB ATMS into the CIPA account as follows:

Account Name: Companies And Intellectual Property Authority
Bank: First National Bank
Account Number: 62813051365
Branch Code : 282267
Branch Name: First Place
Swift Code: FIRNBWGX

For further information, please email info@cipa.co.bw or call any of the following numbers:

3674797	3673908	3673758
3673783	3673748	3673700

Bill Ready for Tabling in winter session of Parliament

GOSEGO MOTSUMI

Two weeks after it was put out, the Ministry of Youth Empowerment, Sport and Culture Development (MYSC) has received 55 submissions on the draft National Arts Council Bill from creatives.

According to the Permanent Secretary, Kago Ramokate, there was a surge after Minister Tumiso Rakgare raised concern that creatives were not responding.

May 15 was set as the closing date for these submissions for the bill to be ready for tabling during the winter session of Parliament. “After we sent out the call for submissions of feedback, the response was below average,” Ramokate said. “But just before the closing date, we witnessed a surge in feedback from artists’ organisations, individual artists and other relevant stakeholders. We are happy and satisfied with the response.”

Our next step is to share the draft with lawyers before it is tabled before Parliament. The main thrust of the bill is to set up an autonomous, professionally run organisation with proper governance structures for promotion of the creative sector.

“Our next step is to share the draft with lawyers before it is tabled before Parliament. The main thrust of the bill is to set up an autonomous, professionally run organisation with proper governance structures for promotion of the creative sector. The council will be budgeted for next year because it will take some time to set processes in motion.”

Regarding furlough for artists from the COVID-19 Relief Fund, Ramokate said the ministry was still receiving applications and that the process was running smoothly. “The only issues we might have are if people decide to submit their applications after the closing date, which is on the 4th of June,” he said.

Beneficiaries are people whose primary occupation is in the arts. They should be Botswana citizens aged 18 years or older, be able to demonstrate a direct impact of COVID-19 on their livelihood, prove membership of COSBOTS, and have registered for the 2020 President’s Day Competitions. Applicants should have not have benefitted from the COVID-19 Wage Subsidy Scheme.

P70.2 million has been set aside to support stakeholders under the ministry

for the months of April, May and June. Professional artists will receive an allowance of P2 500 each while supporting or back-up artists will be paid P1000 each per month.

Measures have been put in place to ensure that only eligible people will benefit. Minister Rakgare has warned that cheats will face the wrath of the law. “Giving false information to the government is a crime,” the minister has said.



EXPRESSION OF INTEREST



INVITATION FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI) TO SERVE IN THE PHARMACOVIGILANCE COMMITTEE OF BOTSWANA MEDICINES REGULATORY AUTHORITY

The Botswana Medicines Regulatory Authority (BoMRA) is a new authority that is set up under the Medicines and Related Substances Act (MRSA) of 2013 and was established by the Botswana Government to regulate the supply chain of medicines and related substances, cosmetics and medical devices in order to ensure their quality, safety and efficacy.

Functions of the Pharmacovigilance Committee

- i. The Committee shall make recommendations on risk benefit assessments on the quality, safety and efficacy of the use of medicines.
- ii. The Committee may make recommendations to the Registration Committee on safety and efficacy pre and post marketing authorization
- iii. For medicines that require intensive monitoring (e.g. a new medicine) the Committee may request additional monitoring measures.
- iv. The Committee shall make recommendations on risk management systems to the Marketing Authorization holders and health programs.
- v. The Committee shall consider Periodic Safety update reports (PSURs) and make appropriate recommendations.
- vi. The Committee shall review Promotional and Advertising materials and make recommendations.
- vii. The Committee may make recommendations to the Registration Committee based on signals identified internationally for national regulatory actions.
- viii. The Committee shall make recommendations on the applications or Clinical Trials, in accordance with the Act, Regulations, Policies and Standards.
- ix. The Committee shall review and recommend to the Board policies, procedures and standards that it deems relevant for pharmacovigilance and clinical trials matters.
- x. The Committee shall perform other duties as may be assigned to them by the Board in accordance with the Act.

Criteria for selection

The Authority is seeking the following technical experts to serve in the Pharmacovigilance Committee:

- i. a registered Pharmacist with research background
- ii. a registered Medical Practitioner with research background

Applicants to serve in the Committee should have at least 10 years current experience in their professional practices.

Term of office of members

Members shall hold office for a period of three (3) years, and shall be eligible for re-appointment by the Board, but may not serve for more than two terms consecutively.

Eligibility

Eligible candidates should be individuals of high calibre and persons who have distinguished themselves in line with the criteria above. They must possess high degree of integrity and probity; precision in execution of work with attention to detail; good judgement; tact and discretion in the handling of confidential files and information.

Application Procedure

Persons with the requisite competencies are hereby invited to submit a letter of motivation and a brief Curriculum Vitae (CV) of maximum length of **3 pages**, to fill the said positions. The brief CV should highlight the academic and professional qualifications, positions occupied starting with the current or most recent, past and current committee/board membership, in that order. **Certified copy of Identity document** should also be provided.

Non-compliant submissions will not be considered, and late submissions will not be accepted.

Only shortlisted candidates will be responded to. The application should be sent by email or delivered to the address below:

Chief Executive Officer
Botswana Medicines Regulatory Authority
Plot 112, Gaborone International Finance Park
Private Bag 2 Gaborone Station
Tel: (+267) 3731728 / 3186730 / 3731727
Email address: info@bomra.co.bw /pgurumurthy@bomra.co.bw

Enquiries relating to the EOI, please contact **Dr P. Gurumurthy** or **L. Koitsiwe** at **3731773** or **3731753**.

The closing date for applications is 19th June 2020.

Plot 112
International Finance Park,
Gaborone
+267 373 1727/20
Toll Free : 0800 600 216
+267 318 6254

+267 76 895 896
Private Bag 2
Gaborone Station,
Botswana
info@bomra.co.bw
Botswana Medicines Regulatory
Authority

- Integrity
- Customer Focus
- Efficiency
- TeamWork

www.bomra.co.bw



Motswana singer elected as UN - World Peace Day Ambassador in Germany

On the occasion, Nomina will be performing her new powerful song that deals with the delicate topic of sexual abuse

Botswana's talent export to Germany, Pamela Bhulu better known as Nomina in music circles is hoisting the country's flag up high as she was recently selected as an Ambassador for the UN-World Peace Day slated for Berlin, Germany on September 21, 2020. On the occasion, Nomina will be performing her new powerful song titled "Fetish Daddy" live on stage before she moves on to promoting a remix of the hit single that racked up over one million Youtube views soon after its release.

Some artists make music just to entertain. Others, on the other hand, have a much more powerful message

In a statement, the singer said: "Some artists make music just to entertain. Others, on the other hand, have a much more powerful message. Fetish Daddy talks about sexual abuse. It reached over one million views in the first month, on YouTube, and is being played on international radio stations."

During the COVID-19 lockdown, the number of child sex abuse and domestic

violence had grown significantly higher and Nomina's new track is a powerful song, which deals with a very delicate topic in a subversively, light-hearted manner.

The artist shares that the song is easily relatable for people from all walks of life, fun and enjoyable on the surface, but on a deeper level, it explores themes, which are thought provoking and deeply meaningful. The lyrics tackle the poignant theme of sexual violence around the world, highlighting an issue, which affects around 15 Million young girls, often silent victims, who do not report their cases and never seek help.

"The song manages to package these hard questions within a catchy, upbeat single which also deals with love, peace, protection and the wish to live a happy life without any intruders - something that anyone in this world should be entitled to," she says.

Nomina, was born in Zimbabwe. She grew up in a family of five children in Gaborone, Botswana, and had to learn, very early on in her life, to survive without her parents. Today she lives in Germany, where she began her music career after finishing a Business Studies degree.

Her previous single titled "Amadlozi" proved itself to be a resounding success from day one. For ten weeks it stayed in the top ten and was number one on the US Radio urban charts for three weeks, with the video being featured on MTV, MTV Base, and on major Spotify playlists.

Social distancing redefines personal space

Tempers lost over invasion of personal space in queues, live music festivals and public transport. However, this could be a thing of the past, thanks to COVID-19. **GOSEGO MOTSUMI** reports.

New rules of maintaining space between people in order to prevent possible exposure to the novel coronavirus is bringing relief to everyone, especially women who have had to deal with men - oblivious, purposeful or plain careless - of the discomfort they cause them when they press against their bodies below the midriff.

The reality is that without the social distancing imposed by COVID-19, crowded spaces offer perverts an excuse to touch other people inappropriately that approximates being fondled by a complete stranger.

Professional counsellor and President of Botswana Counselling Association, Tshepo Shoshong, says deliberately grinding against women's rear either in queues amounts to sexual harassment that should not be normalised. The victims should therefore put themselves first and speak up.

"Most women let it go if they are just touched because they see it as nothing but will want to report the abuse if it gets physical," Shoshong says. "There are instances where the perpetrator gains power over them and makes it difficult for women to report by threatening to harm them if they speak out. As an individual, you come first and should not protect the abuser by blaming the victim."

However, the reality is that some people are so insensitive that even when women show signs of discomfort in a queue by moving further forward, they advance to close the gap, prompting a telling off. According to media personality Ontametse Sugar, social distancing should survive the Coronavirus as a practice.

"For the first time I see people respecting one another's spaces and it is interesting that it took a pandemic for us to understand this," says Sugar in an interview. "For once I am not worried about someone brushing over me as they pass or as they

stand behind me and it is so freeing. We do not worry a lot about pickpockets because they cannot come close enough without being too obvious. I really hope the social distancing still applies even when Corona is over."

Ruth Kedikilwe's personal space was violated when she hurriedly boarded a bus from Selibe-Phikwe to Gaborone. She realised that there were no empty seats on the bus and had to stand in the aisle along with other passengers. "I was in a rush and I hopped on the departing bus," says Kedikilwe. "The road between Phikwe and Serule was bad and we were squashed together. The bus was swaying this way and that as it drove over potholes and I felt the hardness of the man behind me. I was so freaked out I got off in Serule to wait for the next bus from Francistown."

A woman who asked to remain anonymous says a feeling of discomfort overcame her at an overcrowded music festival. They were pressed together as people jostled to catch a glimpse of the performers on the stage when she was inappropriately handled by a stranger behind her. "It actually went from this guy attempting to hump me from behind by holding my waist and forcing me to bend. He made as though it was a dance move he just invented. When I did not cooperate and questioned his actions, he hurled insults at me. I was forced to leave because he became aggressive but was making it seem I had done something wrong."

Professional counsellor Shoshong notes that abusers often use emotional blackmail to make it difficult for the victim to report the abuse. But she points out that the more women act timid and 'ladylike,' the more men take advantage of them. "Cry for help. Scream if you can. Make sure to report the abuser. It doesn't matter who will and will not believe you," she says, emphasising that taking action is absolutely necessary.



FIRST AND FINAL LIQUIDATION AND DISTRIBUTION ACCOUNT


Master’s Reference: ESHGB 000225/ 19

IN THE ESTATE of the late **BEVERLY JEAN DENBURY** who died at **Plot 21684 Phakalane, Gaborone, Gaborone District**, Botswana on the **30TH July 2019**.

FIRST AND FINAL LIQUIDATION AND DISTRIBUTION ACCOUNT in the Estate will lie open for inspection at the office of the Master of the High Court at Gaborone for a period of twenty-one (2 l) days from the date of publication hereof.

Any objection on the Estate Account may be lodged to the Master.

DATED AT GABORONE this 27 day May 2020



The Executor
David John Denbrlry P O Box 1842
Gaborone
Tel: 71774237

SECHELE J
IN THE HIGH COURT OF THE REPUBLIC OF BOTSWANA
HELD AT FRANCISTOWN

In the matter between:
SIHARA INVESTMENTS [PTY] LTD
t/a WORLD BAZAAR PALAPYE
AND
MUNRO ENGINEERING TECHNOLOGIES
EDWIN MUDONDIRO

CASE NO: CVHFT 000066/20

APPLICANT

1st RESPONDENT
2nd RESPONDENT

SUBSTITUTED SERVICE

TO: The 1st Respondent in this matter is **MUNRO ENGINEERING TECHNOLOGIES** a company duly registered in terms of the company laws of Botswana with full capacity to sue and be sued, whose principal place of business is PLOT 11329, Independence drive, Selibe Phikwe but addresses for purposes of this suit shall be P O BOX 1187, Selibe Phikwe.

AND TO:The 2nd Respondent is **EDWIN MUDONDIRO** an adult male of full legal capacity employed as a director by the 1st Respondent of Selibe Phikwe, whose addresses for the purposes of this suit shall be P O BOX 1187, Selibe Phikwe, whose full and further particulars are to the Applicant unknown.


TAKE NOTICE THAT by summons issued by this court you have been called upon to give notice within fourteen [14] days after publication thereof, to the Registrar at Francistown High Court and to the Plaintiff’s attorneys of your intention to defend [if any] in an action wherein the Plaintiff seeks the following reliefs:-

a.Payment in the sum of P301 492.54 [Three hundred and one Thousand Four Hundred and ninety two Pula Fifty four Thebe] jointly and severally liable the one paying the other being absolved.
b.10% collection commission in the event payment is in installments.
c.Costs of suit at attorney and own client scale.
d.Further and or alternative reliefs.

TAKE FURTHER NOTICE THAT in the event you fail to give such notice within the aforementioned time frame, judgment as set out above, may be granted against you without any further reference to you.

DATED AT PALAPYE ON THIS 25th DAY OF JUNE 2019

NDAWANA, DUBANI AND COMPANY
(Applicant’s Attorneys) PLOT NO: 1247
P.O. BOX 1090
PALAPYE



IN THE HIGH COURT OF BOTSWANA
HELD AT GABORONE

In the matter between:

PIPE FITTINGS & ACCESSORIES (PTY) LTD
and
SATU INVESTMENTS (PTY) LTD

CASE NO. CVHGB 004033/18

Plaintiff

Defendant

NOTICE OF SALE IN EXECUTION

BE PLEASED TO TKE NOTICE that a sale in execution against Defendant will be held by **DEPUTY SHERIFF MESHACK MOSHABI** to the highest bidder as follows;


DATE : 25th June 2020
TIME OF SALE : 10:30 am
PLACE OF SALE : Broadhurst Police Station

PROPERTY TO BE SOLD : 1 x 3 Office Desks, 1x wooden cabinet, 1x printer,1x fax machine, 1x 4 lap tops, 1x 7 office chairs, 1x bar fridge, 1x Isuzu Bakkie Reg: No. B 594 AXT white in colour, 1 x Isuzu Bakkie Reg No. B 596 AXT white in colour.

Terms and Conditions : Cash or Bank guaranteed cheques.

DATED AT GABORONE THIS 28TH DAY OF MAY 2020.

Deputy Sheriff Meshack Moshabi
C/o Paul & Partners
Plot 54513, Unit 6
The Courtyard
P O Box 885 ABG
GABORONE [PM/pj/0288]
TEL: 71263198 / 71619553



PAUL & PARTNERS
Attorneys, Notaries & Conveyancers

ATTORNEY

A busy law firm in Gaborone is looking for the services of an Attorney

Purpose of the job and key performance areas:

1. Provide advisory services on corporate law, corporate governance, compliance, intellectual property, and risk management.
2. Conduct general and commercial litigation.
3. Draft pleadings and other legal documents.
4. Conduct research and provide legal opinions.
5. Monitor and manage staff.
6. Provide leadership, guidance, and coaching of junior staff.

Required Skills and minimum requirements:

- An admitted attorney with a minimum of 10 years post qualification experience.
- LLB Degree or equivalent qualification.
- LLM Degree or other postgraduate qualification in corporate, commercial, or business law.
- Additional qualifications in intellectual property, business or management will be an added advantage.

Applications accompanied by CVs and certified copies of certificates must be sent via post to **The Managing Partner, P.O Box 6AAH, Gaborone.**

Closing date: 22nd June 2020.

IN THE HIGH COURT OF BOTSWANA
HELD AT GABORONE

In the matter between:
ITALTSWANA CONSTRUCTION COMPANY (PTY) LTD
and
GIANT BUILDING CONSTRUCTION

CASE NO. CVHGB 002681/13

Plaintiff

Defendant

NOTICE OF SALE IN EXECUTION

BE PLEASED TO TKE NOTICE that a sale in execution against Defendant will be held by **DEPUTY SHERIFF MESHACK MOSHABI** to the highest bidder as follows;


DATE : 26th June 2020
TIME OF SALE : 10:30 am
PLACE OF SALE : Broadhurst Police Station

PROPERTY TO BE SOLD : 1 x 3 Computer sets, 1x Laptop, 1x 6 office desks, and 1x Isuzu FTR 800 Truck Reg: No. B 754 AOA white in colour, 1 x KIA K2700 mini truck Reg No. B 655 ANL white in colour, 1x Isuzu KB 250D double cab Reg No. B 127 ACX white in colour, 1x JOJO Tank, 1x 8 fence roll, 1 x Toyota Corolla Reg No. B 689 ASF Silver in colour.

Terms and Conditions : Cash or Bank guaranteed cheques.

DATED AT GABORONE THIS 28TH DAY OF MAY 2020.

Deputy Sheriff Meshack Moshabi
C/o Paul & Partners
Plot 54513, Unit 6
The Courtyard
P O Box 885 ABG
GABORONE [PM/pj/0577]
TEL: 71263198 / 71619553



PAUL & PARTNERS
Attorneys, Notaries & Conveyancers

IN THE HIGH COURT OF BOTSWANA
HELD AT GABORONE

In the matter between:

RDC PROPERTIES LIMITED
and
INDINGO HOLDINGS (PTY) LTD
ABDUL NSENGIYUMVA

CASE NO. CVHGB 000419/19

Plaintiff

1st Defendant
2nd Defendant

NOTICE OF SALE IN EXECUTION

BE PLEASED TO TKE NOTICE that a sale in execution against Defendant will be held by **DEPUTY SHERIFF MESHACK MOSHABI** to the highest bidder as follows;


DATE : 26th June 2020
TIME OF SALE : 10:30 am
PLACE OF SALE : Broadhurst Police Station

PROPERTY TO BE SOLD : 1 x BMW 330i Reg No. B 828 AGK White in Colour.

Terms and Conditions : Cash or Bank guaranteed cheques.

DATED AT GABORONE THIS 28TH DAY OF MAY 2020.

Deputy Sheriff Meshack Moshabi
C/o Paul & Partners
Plot 54513, Unit 6
The Courtyard
P O Box 885 ABG
GABORONE [PM/pj/0577]
TEL: 71263198 / 71619553



PAUL & PARTNERS
Attorneys, Notaries & Conveyancers

MASENE RICHWELL MATENGU IN NEED OF HERDBOYS CONTACT ME ON 71569659.



DROP IT, LETS
TALK FINTECH

ONKABETSE
GWAMULUMBA

4Ir: How Other Economies Are Embracing It

With a sizeable amount of money invested in both the West Africa Cable System (WACS) and the Eastern Africa Submarine System (EASS) by the government, Botswana is not doing badly

By now we have established rapport. We have an idea of what 4IR is. I hope we have eliminated fear and the idea that 4IR is complicated. In my conversation with my pals, I always emphasize that 4IR must not be viewed as complex. Take it like your car or TV set. Many of us cannot assemble a car but can drive one. I cannot re-assemble a stripped down TV set to save my life. But that is not important. The key thing is being able to understand the purpose of a car or a TV set.

Central to 4IR is the Internet. Access to the Internet is the new normal. We need to have a clear understanding of what the Internet is. The Internet is not the World Wide Web (the Web), as many have come to misconstrue. The Internet is more like a warehouse where individual technologies reside. The web is one of those technologies that reside inside the Internet. The web is a collection of documents through links and the individual document is a web page. A linked group of web pages managed under one umbrella are known as a website. The Internet and The Intranet are essentially the same, the only difference being that the **Intranet** is private whereas the **Internet** is public. One might ask, how do we then access the Internet? We access these through several technologies. The most effective and common is Broadband. Broadband has four notable forms: Fibre Optic (Currently the fastest), DSL (Digital Subscriber Line – utilises unused telephone lines), Cable (Characterised by shared bandwidth) and Satellite (the slowest but an upgrade of the Dial-up). The Prince of Broadband circles is the fibre optic.

I wish to share a study (Abridged for the purpose of this column – with commentary) by Cable.co.uk with regards to access to the Internet. This is a prelude that will usher us into talking about the Internet of Everything. The interest is around six regions.

Africa: Africa is behind the rest of the world when it comes to broadband provision, relying primarily on wireless (WiMAX, 3G, 4G) connectivity rather than cables to cover its vast spaces. Madagascar has the fastest access to the Internet in Africa, clocking in at an average speed of 22.57Mbps, placing it 33rd globally. This is because of the underwater EASSy cable that supplies the island's urban centres with respectable fibre broadband speeds. Most other African nations are not so lucky, with six out of the 40 included nations having to get by on average speeds of less than 1Mbps. Botswana sits at 165 in the world at 1.92Mbps and a Download Time (DT) of 5 hours 56 mins for a 5GB movie. Madagascar has a DT (5GB movie) of 30 mins.

Arab States: Yemen has the lowest speed globally with an average speed of just 0.38Mbps. In Yemen, the DT (5GB movie) is 30hrs, 01min and 40secs. The UAE has a download speed of 9.62Mbps, offers an average speed significantly above 6Mbps, and no country at all in the region reaches 10Mbps or greater

Asia and Pacific: This region is a mixed bag, offering some of the fastest countries in the world – Taiwan, Singapore, Japan, Hong Kong and New Zealand – and at the same time some of the slowest – Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Timor-Leste. Taiwan is number one in

the world with an average speed of 85.02Mbps, with last year's champion, Singapore, not far behind in second place globally, with an average speed of 70.86Mbps, and Taiwan coming third in the region and sixth in the world with an average speed of 42.77Mbps.

Europe: This continent has the world's highest concentration of countries with fast or extremely fast broadband. Fifty-four countries were measured in the European region and all but one (Armenia) fell within the top 100 fastest. Europe makes up a staggering 37 of the top 50 fastest countries. Jersey is Europe's fastest jurisdiction, offering an average speed of 67.46Mbps. Armenia is Europe's slowest, with an average speed just 4.85Mbps, though this is still an improvement on last year.

North America: Only four countries were included – the United States, Canada, Greenland and Bermuda. However, these cover a vast land mass. America also offered the largest sample – a whopping 132.5 million speed tests from 25.6 million distinct IPs. The United States has the fastest broadband in the North American region – no surprises there – with an average speed of 32.89Mbps. Greenland is the slowest with an average speed of 6.51Mbps.

South/Latin America: Countries in the South/Latin America region fail to get a single entrant into the top 50 fastest countries. The Cayman Islands is this region's fastest country, with an average speed of 16.12Mbps, with Venezuela at the bottom of the regional table with average speeds of just 1.37Mbps, which is a small improvement on last year. Generally, the countries in this region occupy the centre portion of the global league, with no South/Latin America country in the 40 fastest or 40 slowest.

The Internet of Things

needs faster access to the Internet. In Botswana, we have home basic broadband sitting at an average of about 4Mbps. At peak, however, this drops to lows even below 1Mbps. We experienced this during peak usage (during COVID-19 lockdown). Imagine having to split less than 1Mbps to streaming a movie on Netflix projecting through your Smart TV utilising Wi-Fi, on the other end your partner trying to have work done through their laptop utilising the same Wi-Fi and all your smartphones running social media apps! Things move swift in 4IR. You might be wondering what the Internet of Everything (IoE) is because in the previous chat-ups, we only mentioned IoT. IoT is more concerned with machines (smart TV, smart gadgets et al), whereas IoE invites intelligence and human interaction with the machines.

My favourite tech city that I would like to traverse one day is the Silicon Valley. However, it is noteworthy that it comes 3rd on the Top 50 innovative cities in the world, behind London (2) and Tokyo (1). This was a ranking through a study on Business Insider for 2018 by Innovation Cities Programmes. I believe the ranking brings perspective to understanding the rush and urgency at which other countries are concerning themselves with 4IR – through innovation, of course. No Chinese city features in the top 10. The interesting thing about this study is that it has top companies that are headquartered in the respective city. The Top 10 comprises of #10 Sidney (Companies-Canva, Atlassian, Zip Money, Nuix), #9 Paris (Orange, Deezer, Thales Group, Daily Motion), #8 Toronto (Wealthsimple, InterAxon, Wattpad, The Stars Group), #7Boston (GE, Hubspot, Bain Capital, Boston Dynamics), #6 Singapore (DBS Bank, Singtel, CapitaLand Limited, Flex), #5 L.A. (Snap Inc, Space X, Riot Games,

Hulu), #4 New York (WeWork, Verizon, IBM Watson, Citigroup), #3 Silicon Valley (Apple, Google, Facebook, HP Intel, Netflix, Tesla), #2 London (Barclays, Transferwise, BP, ASOS.com, Monzo) and #1 Tokyo (SoftBank, Hitachi, Toshiba, Sony Corporation, Mitsubishi).

In Botswana, we know that our banks have joined the global village in adopting technology. You can now open an account at SCB without physically visiting them. You can make deposits through ATM for most big banks in Botswana. Mobile Banking has grown in leaps and bounds. Technology is developed daily. Application (Apps) development has become an obsession of software developers. The government has invested greatly in Internet access. A sizeable amount of money was put in both the West Africa Cable System (WACS) and the Eastern Africa Submarine System (EASSy) cables by the Government of Botswana. This is how the aim of National Broadband Strategy is summed up: "The initial target was to offer 50% of citizens a minimum speed of 2 Megabits per second (Mbps) by end of 2014 and 90% of the population having access to 20Mbps broadband by 2018."

The cities noted in the study shared previously have the private companies leading the pack of developments. Governments are providing enabling environments to help the private sector thrive. The Government of Botswana has done well in this area and must be commended. It is high time the government opened the economy a little bit wider. We currently have eight commercial banks and are a well-banked country. However, there is room for more banks to be opened. We currently have only three Mobile Network Operators and five radio stations, all based in Gaborone. We have

two cities and five towns, and therefore there can be growth in these areas. Such growth will attract innovation of sorts, and yes, we are many years away from Tokyo but at least we must begin making a movement towards being innovative and building our own technology.

What I have noted is that most of the innovative cities are crowded and as such there are a lot of problems. Innovators pick these problems and solve them using the latest most available technologies. Remember 4IR is a fusion of technologies. Watching Netflix from your phone or laptop through a Smart TV is a combination of about 3 Industrial Revolutions. A TV is a 2IR, Netflix & Wi-Fi are 3IR while Smart TV is 4IR. The problem solved is that other than watching your favourite movie through using a DVD or a USB stick, you stream it, and instead of connecting through a cable such as HDMI, you use Wi-Fi to connect! Convenience achieved.

There are so many problems that we have that need solutions. I wish to reiterate that 4IR is out for the taking. Think about tracking your livestock using an App. That is how relevant 4IR is. Think of tracking your crops using technology. Several countries in Africa are exploring various ways of improving efficiency in their crops and cattle using Apps. Some of these include eSoko, Hello Tractor, and M-Shamba. In employing the technology offered by these Apps, crucial data is harvested and used to get to traits, frequency, behaviours and so on. Data Intelligence and Artificial Intelligence rely on data, and with reliable data, they become dependable. In Botswana, we should prioritise data collection in all its forms and implore our IT guys to develop as many Apps as possible. Top entrepreneurs taking advantage of 4IR and the kind of businesses they are doing. 4IR is here! See you next week.

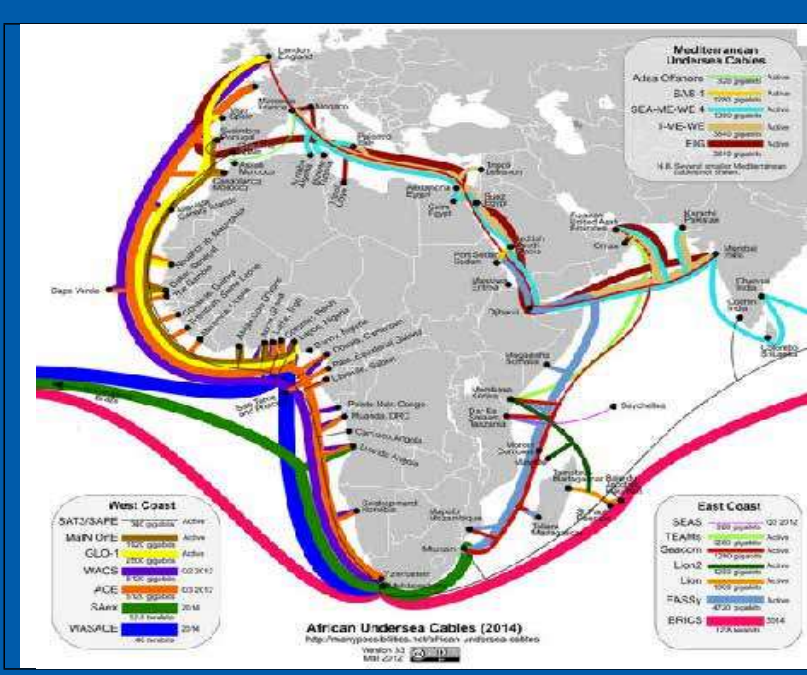


DIAGRAM OF VARIOUS AFRICAN UNDERSEA CABLES SOURCE: AFRICA UNDERSEA CABLE 2014. Based on the ICT Development Index (IDI) of all countries in Africa, as reported in the ITU 2010 report-Measuring the information Society (ITU, 2010), Africa is still at an early stage of ICT development as verified by the relatively low IDI values of all countries in the African region. In developing nations, mobile broadband subscriptions between 2000-2009 were increasingly more popular than fixed broadband subscriptions. To achieve the goal of universal access, Communication Satellites and variants of other wireless systems such as Code Division Multiple Access (CDMA), Global System for Mobile communications (GSM), Wireless Fidelity (WiFi) Long-Term Evolution (LTE) etc remain the cornerstones for rapid implementation of ICT infrastructure to complement the sparsely distributed terrestrial networks in the hinterlands.

Source: ResearchGate

Inside BERA's Un-Curtailed Corruption

An Appeal Letter From The Board To The Minister

CEO's Car Allowance Anomaly

When the CEO-Rose Seretse was engaged in September 2017 her contract erroneously awarded her a car allowance and at the same time gave her a personal vehicle in a form of a Range Rover for her personal use. The Board picked the anomaly in November 2017 and raised it with the then Honourable Minister of MMGE, Advocate Sadique Kebonang and while the issue was yet to be resolved, the Chairman Mr. Bernard Ndove decided to unilaterally convert the car allowance to something called "Professional Allowance" which the Board had an issue with.

The issue was again brought to the Board in March 2018 where it was discussed at length but was still unresolved as the HR Committee was asked to benchmark with other

Parastatals on how they treated the issue of car allowance versus allocation of a dedicated vehicle.

Subsequently, the Board made a resolution in camera, that clearly noted it was wrong for the CEO to earn both the car allowance and at the same time be given a car. She was to forfeit the car and continue to earn the car allowance. It was unanimously agreed that changing "car allowance" to "professional allowance" as the Chairman of the Board did without the Board was unlawful and should never have been done. Despite that, the CEO continues to earn both. The CEO has resisted all efforts to correct this anomaly and is now involved in a witch-hunt to have the board dissolved.

Engagement of a Tanzanian Consultant without the Due Process

The Board during its sitting of the 5th June 2018 noted prima facie evidence improper award of contract to Mr Edwin Kiddiffu as a consultant to provide secondary regulations for BERA.

Mr Kiddiffu is a Tanzanian national. His appointment was spearheaded by Mr. Duncan Morotsi without the Board's authority, tender or approved budget. During the Board sitting the BERA Board took a resolution to conduct an Inquiry on the process leading to the engagement of Mr. Edwin Kiddiffu.

Prima Facie Findings

The Commission of Inquiry team indeed found prima facie evidence that there were anomalies in the procurement of the consultant but not limited to;

The Management Tender Committee does not exist nor has it ever met to adjudicate over any tender. The engagement of Mr. Edwin Kiddiffu was spearheaded by Chief Operations Officer (COO). The only time the issue of engagement of Mr Kiddiffu was discussed

was during a normal meeting and what was mainly discussed were logistics to host him in Botswana. Present at that meeting were the CEO, COO, Director of Finance and Director HR.

There had been no Request for Proposals and Responses received from Mr. Kiddiffu or other consultants. There are no minutes for the Management Tender Committee (MTC) and the relevant agenda for the meeting

There has never been an open competitive tender for the project

Mr. Kiddiffu was single sourced without the necessary due process followed

Mr Kiddiffu's qualifications and experience has never been scrutinised so as to compare it to those of the locals

There is no indication that the project was an emergency

There is no indication that the project was budgeted for

The manner in which the consultant was paid the 1st instalment is strange where a driver was sent to cash his fees (US\$3000) and to give it to him in cash.

There has been no withholding of tax on the consultancy fees paid to Mr Kiddiffu

There are no terms of reference for the project

The Consultant has never presented the deliverables to BERA Senior management COO is the procuring Officer, Project Manager, Authorising Officer for payments and a liaison officer as well as working with the same consultant

There is no indication that EWURA sanctioned the whole process

There is no correspondence from EWURA and BERA on the project

There is no letter releasing Mr. Kiddiffu to BERA and the associated conditions thereof

The CEO confirmed during her interview with the commission that there has never been a Management Tender Committee to adjudicate over the tender, there are no budget set aside as the amount was small, there has never been an open competitive tender, she has no view to the CV of the Consultant and she was not aware of the cash payment to the consultant CEO confirmed that Mr. Duncan Morotsi spearheaded the project right from procuring the consultant up to project implementation.

The team also visited the records office at BERA Head Office and they found that there were absolutely no record

of the transaction

The project was termed emergency but to date the results have not been presented or implemented

Based on these prima facie corporate governance breaches it was the Commission of Inquiry recommendation that the Chief Operations Officer (COO) be suspended pending a full investigation. The suspension is necessary to ensure that the investigations are not hindered or compromised.

As a follow up to this resolution, a letter was written to the COO suspending him on the 11th June 2018 pending full investigations. The Commission of Inquiry work is continuing and is to report to the next Board Sitting in July 2018. The CEO has refused to act on the

Board's instructions. She is in fact defiant and has granted COO leave. We consider her action to be insubordination deserving of the most severe sanction. It undermines the authority of the Board, lawfully constituted by the Government to provide oversight authority.

Purchase of a 2nd Hand Volvo Station Wagon for COO

Sometime towards the end of the financial year, the COO personally obtained quotations and

bought himself a second-hand car worth over P700 000 without the Board's approval and notwithstanding that he is paid a car allowance. The purchase of the second-hand car was authorised by the CEO against all known governance principles and financial prudence.

When the Board took issue with this, the COO and CEO became vindictive and have been spearheading malicious article in newspapers.

Morotsi however denied ever buying the car for himself. He told this publication that the car was bought for use by the board. He said he never even drove the car himself and was always chauffeured when on official duty.

2.5 Suspension of the COO

The CEO has frustrated the Board's decision to suspend the COO despite the Board exercising its oversight authority. We believe this is misconduct.

CEO Tax Liability

The CEO is unwilling to pay tax on her car benefit and insist on keeping both the car and being paid a car allowance (renamed professional allowance).

She is the only one who gets paid a "professional allowance" to mask this need to cheat the treasury.

Unethical conduct and pursuit of personal interest by the CEO

Following the issuance of the Presidential Directive approving drafting of legislation to amend the BERA Act, the CEO and the COO took it upon themselves to instruct Mr. Kaluzi (the Board's Technical Advisor) to draft amendments to the BERA Act proposing a new structure that makes the CEO the Executive Chairperson and the COO the Deputy Executive Chairperson.

We have since learnt that the said instructions have been submitted to the PS for onward transmission to the Attorney General's Chambers.

Regrettably, the said instructions were never brought before the Legal and Licensing Committee and neither were they ever brought to the Chairperson of the Committee that oversees and coordinates the de-

velopment of legislation in BERA. Even worse, the instructions were never brought to the attention of the Board.

The said instructions are being issued whilst the Legal and Licensing Committee has recommended to the Board that an independent consultancy firm experienced in establishment of economic regulators be engaged in order to assess gaps, if any, in the BERA structure and propose solutions on how those gaps can be corrected.

The CEO's instructions not only attempt to make the CEO, Executive Chairperson, but that there was a deliberate attempt to make the COO the Deputy Executive Chairperson, and also to make Full Time Board Members to be appointed by the Executive Chairperson.

One can only discern from these emails that there was a deliberate attempt to circumvent the Board and make submissions changing the Board structure directly to the Ministry and the Cabinet without the Board's involvement.

Given the complete disregard for Board processes and resolutions made by the Board, the CEO's conduct is utterly unethical and tantamount to gross misconduct. At executive level, the CEO and the COO are held to higher ethical standards and professional conduct.

Chairman's Complicity

The Board chairperson has failed to lead the Board and undertakes efforts to frustrate board resolutions related to the above-mentioned issues. The reason being that he is conflicted because whistle-blowing information has implicated him in a scheme whereby he colluded with the CEO to use a company he is associated with to supply computer equipment to BERA. An issue of gross misconduct that makes him unfit to lead.

Furthermore, we have recently learnt that the Chairman has a conflict of interest on the refurbishment of BERA offices at Lobatse. He failed to disclose this information during the various initial meetings of the contractor's appointment.

Detailed documents on the above mentioned are available should the Minister wish to appreciate the discussions and the level of personal interest with which the CEO and the COO have been managing BERA, with no regard whatsoever for the best interest of the Authority and best international regulatory practice.

NB: This is a letter from BERA's 2018 board signed by board members Jonathan Moseki, Sydney Mogapi, Kenneth Kerekang, Matsapa Motswetla and Kelebogile Moremi to the former Minister Kebonang.



The Grand Palm Resort is Open for Business

The Grand Palm Hotel, Casino and Convention Resort temporarily ceased business operations following a notice from the Ministry of Investment, Trade & Industry on 26 March 2020 relating to the global health concerns around the Coronavirus (COVID-19). More than two months later, restrictions have been lifted enabling The Grand Palm to reopen on 27 May 2020 under certain provisions. These include daily temperature screening and record keeping of guests at the casino entrance, frequent sanitising of public areas, wiping commonly touched surfaces and the deployment of extra hand sanitiser dispensers to key public and employee areas.

The resort's gaming activities have resumed with slot machines operating 24 hours a day, and table games operating daily from 14h00 to 02h00 under strict guidelines. These restrictions include a limited number of players per tables game and alternate slot machines being disabled to ensure adherence to social distancing requirements.

As per government legislation, hotels and dining establishments will reopen on 05 June 2020. For guests wishing to stay over, the luxurious Peermont Walmont hotel will be operational, with limited services, and the rooms will be disinfected on a regular

basis. The Beef Baron Grill and Rib Room will resume normal trade, serving plated meals to a limited number of guests. Those in need of some rejuvenation and pampering can visit the Camelot Spa where a range of spa treatments and therapies guaranteed to de-stress, re-energise and transform body and mind. The remaining facilities at the resort will remain temporarily closed.

"We are thrilled to reopen and welcome our guests back to The Grand Palm. Peace of mind remain paramount during these uncertain times, and that is why we have enforced a multi-layered set of protocols and procedures to ensure the well-being and safety of our guests. In addition, our employees have also been fully briefed and educated on best hygiene practices," comments Charlene Ludick, Regional General Manager for Peermont Global Botswana.

Guests need to continue practising good hygiene, wear mandatory protective face masks and practise social distancing. Any guest with the advised symptoms of fever, flu or respiratory problems will be asked to consult a health care professional immediately.

The Grand Palm is a Peermont resort. Visit www.grandpalm.bw for more information and connect with us on Facebook, Twitter and YouTube.



BAIA Commends The Re-Opening Of Liquor Trade



GAZETTE REPORTER

The Botswana Alcohol Industry Association (BAIA) Chairperson Mothusi Molokomme said government's decision to re-open liquor trading will help sustain thousands of jobs dependent on the industry.

Molokomme said BAIA commends the Government for its exemplary leadership during this crisis.

"We also applaud the Government for having considered re-opening of the Liquor industry (on a restricted basis) effective from Wednesday 3rd June 2020 as this will save the Industry that supports employment and livelihoods and is a key revenue earner for Government," he said.

The alcohol industry has around 15 000 direct employees, with 15 000 more jobs created indirectly.

Further, BAIA called on all traders to ensure that all health protocols are in place prior to re-opening of their outlets as per the COVID-19 proto-

cols (including for all their employees). Further, he said they must ensure that markings in and outside the outlets are clear where consumers will queue to ensure social distancing and also to make sure that a limited number of customers at a time are allowed in to the outlet. Further, Molokomme said liquor outlet owners should also ensure that security measures are in place to safely disperse dense crowding outside of a liquor outlet.

"For online ordering and delivery, we urge traders to consider engaging citizen-youth companies to develop ordering-apps & provide delivery (this will create an opportunity for a new industry).

"For online ordering and delivery, we urge traders to consider engaging citizen-youth companies to develop ordering-apps & provide delivery (this will create an opportunity for a new industry).

Similarly the Association calls on consumers to strictly adhere to all the COVID-19 health protocols," he stated.

The sustenance of the industry according to the BAIA Chairperson is heavily dependent on industry players' behaviour and approach towards this.

Further he said alcohol will be sold strictly for home consumption as per the amended liquor laws (except for restaurants) and as such we plead with the consumers to adhere to this.

"BAIA calls on all stakeholders to work together to ensure that the industry is protected hence protecting the livelihoods of many families and thanks the Government for playing its part," he said.

COVID-19 Deepens BVF Sorrows

• Disrupts the code's search for sponsors and partners • BVF leader hopeful that his code will benefit from government wage subsidy even-though its not professional

TLOTLO KEBINAKGABO

Botswana Volleyball Federation (BVF) Daniel Molaodi says the damnable COVID-19 pandemic has massively disrupted their drive to look for sponsors of their league and tournaments.

The BVF national league has long been suspended after their union with Mascom elapsed and was not renewed at the end of 2018. The Molaodi-led federation is facing the same predicament in cup competitions for which there is also no one coming forward to sponsor their tournaments. JB Sports was one of their sponsors for tournaments in recent years.

With COVID-19 around, Molaodi told Gazette Sport in an interview that it is going to be even more grueling for his federation to secure sponsorships after beginning the year on a high note doing that. "Those companies that usually sponsor local sport are the ones that are helping the government with money to fight this virus," he said. "And it may be difficult for them to aid us with funds and sponsorships when we ask for help; they are after-all also affected by the virus."

Molaodi said his federation will however, not despair and

will aggressively persist with their drive to look for sponsorships. They will not be selective when doing that and will accept help as it comes. "Whether it is short term or what because we understand the financial effects that are left by this virus," noted Molaodi who has been at the helm of BVF for more than ten years now.

Meanwhile, the BVF head honcho informed Gazette Sport that he is hopeful that his sport code will benefit from the government wage subsidy even-though local volleyball is yet to turn professional. This after the Minister of Youth Empowerment, Sport and Culture Development (MYSC) Tumelo Rakgare earlier this month announced that professional sport setups will get financial aid to mitigate the impact of the pandemic.

"The tone of the message that was passed on emphasized that only professional setups that have contractual agreement will be helped," Molaodi said. "But our argument is that local sport is yet to be fully professional. "So we told our clubs to submit requisition for the subsidy because some of them take care of these players. Our belief is that they should be helped if they can prove that they incur costs taking care of the players."



ABSA Premiership Set For July Return

BONGANI MALUNGA

Botswana's ABSA Premiership contingent of Moga-kolodi Ngele, Lesenya Ramoraka and Thatayaone Dithlokwe could be back in regular action by July 1 according to multiple reports. South Africa's top tier league was halted by the Coronavirus pandemic with South Africa being the most affected African country.

The last ABSA Premiership games took place on March 11 before the lockdown, with over two months of inactivity the players have been eagerly anticipating their return to action and they could finally get their chance next month.

Many had called for the

2019/2020 season to be declared null and void or for the current standings to stand with clubs rewarded or demoted based on their latest standings, this would have been a disadvantage for Ngele as Black Leopards would have likely been relegated while still having a fighting chance to preserve their league status with six games left.

With the league restarting soon, Ngele and his teammates will have a chance to save themselves from relegation, he is a multiple league winner and a relegation would put a blemish on his illustrious PSL career.

Dithlokwe's Supersport United are eight points behind log leaders Kaizer Chiefs although United are two games ahead of Chiefs. United has an outside chance of winning the league if by miraculous

chances Chiefs and Sundowns could drop points while they (Supersport) stack up wins. Ramoraka's Highlands Park are in pole position to secure the eighth spot on the log which would give them a place in next season's MTN8 competition. Highlands Park are currently eighth on the log with a three point lead over their nearest rivals, Bloemfontein Celtic.

An official statement from the South African government, through their Ministry of Sport, Arts and Culture, revealed that contact and non-contact sport is allowed to resume training as of June 1st. The clubs will start a three week period of getting back to full match fitness while also undergoing multiple COVID-19 tests to ensure that the spread of the virus does not affect the clubs.



'Lack Of Hard Work Is The Downfall Of Local Strikers'-Makwengwe

TLOTLO KEBINAKGABO

The inability to work extra hard in training is the reason why local strikers do not excel, former Botswana Football Association (BFA) Technical Officer Philimon Makwengwe, has said.

Makwengwe said this answering to a question from *Gazette Sport* which sought to understand why it is difficult for local strikers to score 20 goals or more in the league. Of which according to him, local strikers have low conversion rate because they do not work hard in training.

"They must refrain from depending on coaches, they must work extra hard on their own," he said in an telephonic interview with this publication. "We always hear stories that world class players like Ronaldo (Cristiano) and Messi (Lionel) remain behind after training to perfect their skills but that is not happening in Botswana. Local players always want to rush home after training; they never strive to develop their talent."

Over the previous five seasons, Thatayaone Kgamanyane of Gaborone United remain the only local striker to have reached the 20 goal mark. He achieved the feat during

the 2017/18 season. Retracing back to the 2014/15 season, local striker Lemponye Tshireletso became the top goal scorer with a mere 15 goals before Tendai Nyamadzwayo (foreign striker) netted 19 goals the following season.

Terrence Mandaza (another foreign striker) then claimed the league top goal scorer during 2016/17 after he found the back of the net 17 times then followed Kgamanyane in 2018 before Thero Setsile scored 18 goals last season.

With that, Makwengwe said the reason other reason why local strikers fail to score more goals is because they are not good in positioning themselves. "They do not position themselves at the right place and time to execute the adequate technique," he decried. "Their mental strength is also not up to scratch." He said the local yesteryear strikers used to utilize chances because they worked harder as compared to recent marksmen who are talented but are not working hard.

Makwengwe noted that the problem with Botswana football is that it is dominated by ball players but not lethal strikers. "We need such kind of strikers who will get the ball and

go straight to the goal post to score without any fear," he noted. "Strikers should not be ball players, they should be hustlers and have hunger to score goals consistently." To him the latest lethal striker to have graced local football is former Zebras marksman Tshepiso 'Sox' Molwantwa.

To that end, Makwengwe think they (as coaches) should on the other hand be blamed for not developing players in front of the goals from an early age.

Even so, the former Prison XI coach is of the view that the strikers cannot be entirely blamed for the poor conversion rate as they lack supply. "They most of the time do not have feeders. Remember how the likes of Joel Mogorosi and Kekaetswe Moloi used to score more goals at Mochudi Centre Chiefs, they did that because they had supply," he recalled. "They had enough feed from Elvis Meleka and Dirang Moloi, enough supply is essential for strikers."



DOWN MEMORY LANE: Moatlhaping's Historic Feat

WITH BONGANI MALUNGA

On June 16, 2008 then Zebras striker Moemedi 'Jomo' Moatlhaping created a national and personal record in an international friendly played at the King Zwelithini Stadium in Durban, South Africa. Moatlhaping became the first ever Zebras player to score an away goal against Bafana Bafana.

The game ended 2-1 in favour of South Africa on the day. Bafana defender Bryce Moon opened the scoring a few minutes before half-time. Earlier in the second half Moatlhaping equalized for the Zebras before Sibusiso Zuma restored Bafana's lead in the 81st minute.

This was Botswana's second trip to South Africa, they had previously lost 1-0 against Bafana in a COSAFA Cup semifinal tie courtesy of a Teko Modise goal.

Although the result did not go his way, the striker forever engraved himself in the local history books with his goal. This was Botswana's second trip to South Africa, they had previously lost 1-0 against Bafana in a COSAFA Cup semifinal tie courtesy of a Teko Modise goal.



Seakanyeng Cherishes 'Aiding' Maltese Club Gain Promotion

- As Lija FC gets promotion to elite league after Malta football season get cancelled due to COVID-19
- Player says he is now a free agent

TLOTLO KEBINAKGABO

Zebras forward Kabelo Seakanyeng says he is delighted to have played an integral role in helping Maltese football team Lija Athletic FC gain promotion to the country's elite league.

Lija FC has been promoted to the Maltese BOV Premier League following a decision by the Malta Football Association (MFA) Council to cancel the season because of the COVID-19 pandemic. The Council also agreed that all the leaders in the country's four divisions - Premier, First, Second and Third divisions to be declared as champions.

The MFA Council further voted in favor of a proposal which stated that for this season, there will be no relegations in Malta's various leagues organised by the association; an outcome much welcomed by Seakanyeng's Lija. The team will join the BOV Premier League which will for the next season feature 16 teams instead of traditional 14. Lija was on the

second place when the MFA took the decision to halt football activities on March 14.

"I am very delighted that the team is promoted to the Premier League because I played a big role on that."

"I am very delighted that the team is promoted to the Premier League because I played a big role on that," Seakanyeng briefly told this publication in an interview from United Kingdom where he is at on vacation. This is the player who has featured in 18 of 19 league games of Lija FC's fixtures this season, bagging seven goals and three assists.

"Skhebo," as the ever hard working and speedy player is known at home here, joined

Lija FC in July last year on a year's contract after being 'homeless' for nearly six months after his contract with South Africa's Chippa United was terminated. He told *Gazette Sport* that he is currently a free agent after his contract with Lija FC lapsed. He is not sure if he will be playing for Lija in the 2020/21 season.

Meanwhile, this publication understands that Lija FC refused to sell 'Skhebo' earlier this year after the player attracted the keen attention from top Maltese Clubs which among other include ultimate BOV winners Floriana FC. As *Gazette Sport* understands it, 'Skhebo' has been a much sought-after man in Malta since October last year following a series of his impressive displays in the second tier league of the Mediterranean Sea island country.

In addition to the island's premier league winners Floriana FC, some of the clubs that were after Skhebo's services since late last year are Mosta FC, Valletta FC and Birkirkara FC.

Rollers Could Stand A Chance to Re-sign Gaolaolwe

BONGANI MALUNGA

Township Rollers could be presented with a great opportunity to re-sign Zebras defender Moshia Gaolaolwe in the next transfer window. His current club TS Galaxy, through their owner Tim Sukazi, is actively in negotiations with ABSA Premiership side Bloemfontein Celtic to purchase their league status, if the deal goes through players' contracts will be nullified to negotiate fresh terms that are of the standard of the PSL.

The Botswana trio of Gaolaolwe, Ezekiel Morake and Thero Setsile sought moves away from the club citing unsatisfactory wages. Setsile managed to move as he re-joined Jwaneng Galaxy while Gaolaolwe and Morake are still at TS Galaxy.

With new contract talks on the horizon, there is a possibility the talks could go either way as the players would be rendered free agents. Sukazi is expected to keep at least 70 percent of his core squad intact as reported by Gazette Sport last week, he regards Gaolaolwe as an important member of the squad but there is still a possibility that new contractual talks may not go as expected.

This could present Rollers, who have been credited with interest in the player, to sign the player on a free transfer as opposed to paying the R1.2 million price tag they were quoted in January when they tried to re-sign the player. With the COVID-19 pandemic affecting local clubs' finances the chance to sign a highly rated nation-

al team player on a free transfer would be appealing for Popa.

Contacted for comment, Rollers president Jagdish Shah told this publication that they would gladly make a move for Gaolaolwe if the opportunity ever presents itself. "For now we cannot be drawn into talking about a situation we do not have more information on. However, he is a very good player, he was our player, if he wants to come back then we would have to sit down and discuss a deal which would please both parties. That can only happen if he is a free agent, that way we can negotiate a deal with him if such an opportunity presents itself," Sha briefly told Gazette Sport.

Meanwhile Sukazi was quoted by South African publication Soccer Laduma stating that once the Celtic buyout is completed the team will still be based in Mpumalanga. "TS Galaxy is not based in Bloemfontein and when we buy the PSL franchise of another team, we will convert into a PSL franchise of TS Galaxy. Now we are based in Mpumalanga and that will not change. The minute everything of the sale is done, the name and status will change to TS Galaxy, which is the condition of the sale. There is no South African fan or football lover who can expect me to wake up tomorrow wearing a different colour. I am the TS Galaxy president and our colours are red, that won't change," he told the South African publication.

