



IN THE LURCH: Elders in Ditshiping

CRYING OUT FOR FOOD

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THE VOICE

Friday April 17, 2020

SPEAKS FOR ITSELF

V1143 P8.50 (Incl VAT)

PROFIT OVER PREVENTION

BY KABELO ADAMSON

TSWANA Pride Chicken Farm, a company that belongs to Botswana Democratic Party (BDP) tycoon and Treasurer, Satar Dada, has been accused of endangering employees' lives by disregarding covid-19 prevention protocols.

Two weeks ago, President Mokgweetsi Masisi announced stringent measures to curb the possible spread of novel corona virus, including banning of gatherings of 10 people or more in one place.

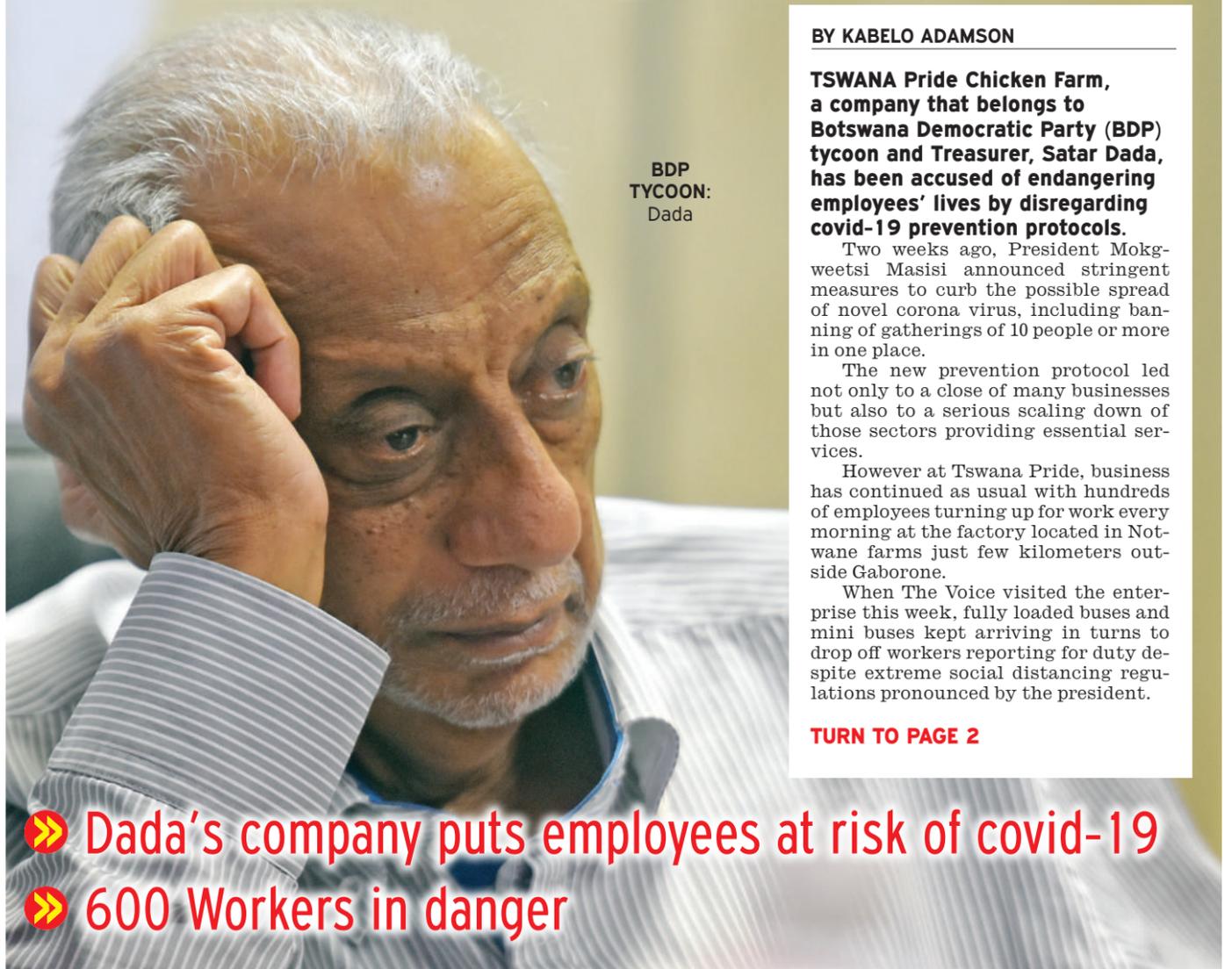
The new prevention protocol led not only to a close of many businesses but also to a serious scaling down of those sectors providing essential services.

However at Tswana Pride, business has continued as usual with hundreds of employees turning up for work every morning at the factory located in Notwane farms just few kilometers outside Gaborone.

When The Voice visited the enterprise this week, fully loaded buses and mini buses kept arriving in turns to drop off workers reporting for duty despite extreme social distancing regulations pronounced by the president.

TURN TO PAGE 2

BDP TYCOON: Dada



- Dada's company puts employees at risk of covid-19
- 600 Workers in danger



NOT AMUSED: Moyo

THE UGLY FACE OF LOCKDOWN

SEE PAGE 7



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PROFIT OVER PREVENTION

FROM PAGE ONE

Ironically, these workers who arrived in fully loaded buses and mini buses, as The Voice has witnessed, with all seats occupied, came from Ramotswa where a coronavirus casualty has been reported.

"Note that about 95 percent of workers are from Ramotswa and two of them came forward after the incident to say they attended the old lady's funeral, one of them is a cook and the other works in the abattoir and these are two crowded places," said one concerned worker.

ESSENTIAL

While agriculture has been recognized as an essential service during the period of Extreme Social Distancing, concerned Tswana pride workers pointed out that the company should have scaled-down on the number of employees reporting for work to avoid congestion both in buses and inside the factory.

"Every morning around 600 workers come here and the worst part is that we are not provided with protective clothing, not even masks or hand gloves," said one disappointed worker, adding that they have no choice because the job was their only source of income.

Many of the frustrated workers echoed their colleague's sentiments to express disappointment on how the company seemed to value profit more than their lives.

When reached for a com-



EXPOSED: Workers arriving at work

ment on the apparent flagrant disregard of the emergency regulations, which carry stiff penalties, Dada said to his knowledge the company was in full compliance.

"To my knowledge, the buses are supposed to load 50 percent and employees are supposed to be provided with protective clothing," said Dada.

However, when told that there was evidence to the contrary, the millionaire promised to investigate and find out.

Regarding hundreds of workers turning up for work at the same time, Dada said the regulations allowed them because in a factory setting each person stands at their work station far from the next person, implementing

social distancing automatically.

Tswana Pride General Manager, Wayne Detroit maintained there was no violation of the regulations, arguing that they load half of the carrying capacity on the buses and mini buses, despite of what The Voice witnessed.

"The driver is supposed to make sure that he carries the right number of passengers, which is supposed to be 50 percent of the carrying capacity. We also provide some of the workers with protective equipment but not all due to the scarcity of the clothing.

Covid-19 Team leader, Professor Kereng Masupu could not comment on the allegations because he did not take calls from The Voice or respond to the text messages sent to him.

CRYING OUT FOR FOOD

Hungry tears in Ngamiland

IN THE LURCH: Elders in Ditshiping

BY FRANCINAH BAAITSE- MMANA

"Two women came to me, literally crying and on their knees as they begged me to go to their houses to see empty containers and hungry children."

Bojanala councillor Luke Motlalesele's voice crackles with fierce emotion as he recounts his experience of this week's visit to Quhau settlement, just outside the tourism capital Maun.

"One was an elder, around 50 years of age or so and the other was younger, about 25," continued Motlalesele, who joined a Covid-19 Village Response Team which went to the settlement on Tuesday to assess and prepare a list of those in need of food hampers.

The list is expected to be extensive.

A mobile clinic was also in attendance for Antiretroviral Drugs (ARV) refill and general health care.

"I was there helpless and I ended up crying because the suffering is too much in these settlements!"

Pausing to compose himself, the councillor admits he was shocked at the misery he witnessed.

"The 25-year-old said she has children but they have gone for some days without food, with only watery tea to sustain them. All along she had been getting money through poling in the delta, but because of lockdown she has no other source of income. I watched her grab a bag of Tsabana, rush home to make the porridge for the children before returning for health care."

After pausing again, Motlalesele reveals the young mother told him she had been holding in her tears for days, as she had to be strong for her children.

"When she broke down it hit me very hard and I was so helpless."

However, there is anger mixed in with Motlalesele's anguish.

He insists the settlement's struggles would not have been as severe if the council had acted earlier.

"The bigger pain is that I have long asked the council to give priority to settlements, not because they fall in my wards, but due to their isolation and dire need," he says, his voice now breaking with a different emotion.

According to Motlalesele, the council only started visiting settlements in Bojanala this week after the District Commissioner issued a warning of looming floods in the delta.

"They went there to distribute mosquito nets, check BP patients, demonstrate to the people how to pitch water bottles at their yard entrances so as to promote hand washing hygiene during the COVID-19 outbreak. But although I appreciate the move, my question is, since we have been requesting for these services over the past years, why has it been so difficult to do it!"

Settlements in Bojanala region include: Boro, Xaxaba, Quhau, Ditshiping, Daunara and Qaraxao.

Most people in the area are dependent on tourism. With all tourism activities grinding to a halt after the lockdown and ban on travelling was enforced at the beginning of this month, food is running out in many homes.

"You will recall that these are hard to reach areas and very soon they will be locked down by floods. There is no public transport in these places and it is difficult for them to access basic needs, including health care."

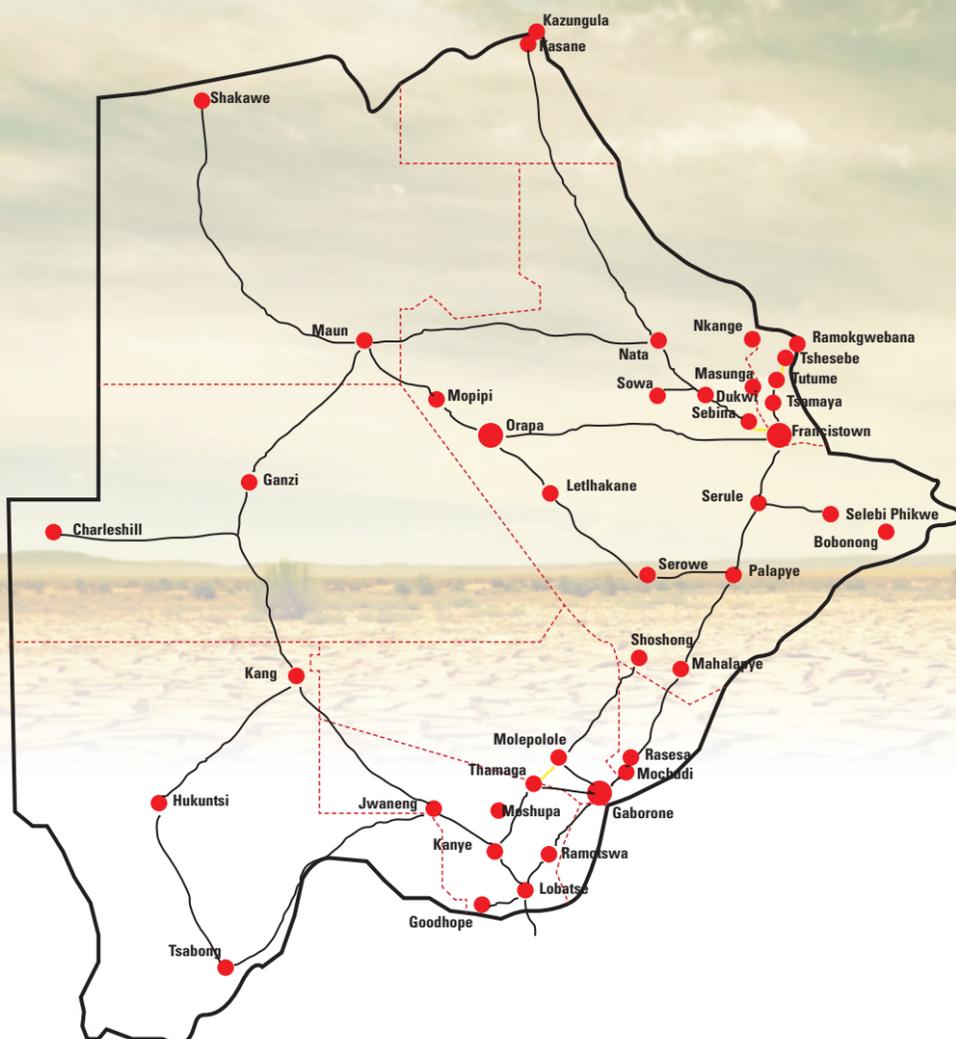
"Many of them have defaulted on medication not because of lockdown, but because of the isolation of the settlement. They are basically a forgotten population!" warned Motlalesele, his voice breaking once again.



CONCERNED COUNCILLOR: Motlalesele

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POLING: Way of life in Daunara



ETHEL MAMBO

AGE: 21

OCCUPATION: Hairdresser

HOBBIES: reading novels and singing

FAVOURITE MEAL: Chapati

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WYNTER MMOLOTSI

LEADING FROM QUARANTINE

Last week the country watched in shock as all Members of Parliament including the President, Vice President, Speaker of the National Assembly, their supporting staff and the media were ordered to go into a 14-day quarantine.

This was after a nurse who checked attendants' temperature at the Extra Ordinary Meeting of Parliament tested

Isolated MPs lament the difficulties of virtual leadership

positive for Coronavirus.

The Voice Staffer, DANIEL CHIDA who is on home quarantine after attending the said session contacted some of the quarantined MPs through the phone to get their views on how the isolation has disrupted their plans.

MP for Nkange Constituency, Dr Nevah Tshabang (UDC)- I had plans in the constituency especially working closely with the Tutume DHMT to spread the Covid-19

message and on interventions to stop the spread of the virus. We also have challenges with permit issues and it was important that I be on the group to explain why permits are also restricted.

There is no denying that the voice of political leadership is vital in the constituency during this time of public health emergency. I can't address key problems in my constituency. I cannot be free with my family; it's some kind of torture. Above all one has to understand the necessity of the quarantine at personal, family and community level. It's key to have quarantine of exposed persons. That's the only way to defeat the spread of this deadly virus.

MP for Boteti East, Sethomo Lelatisitswe (BDP)- I had planned to engage the mining management of Lucara and Debswana and the business community such as Thwaza and Juri Transport in Letihakane on extending their hand towards the temporary destitution that people of Boteti District are going to experience because of this lockdown or shutdown.

Although there has been a positive response with donors giving out food hampers, I had wanted to be part of this gesture but I failed because of quarantine. The donations will however go a long way and also keeping them in their homes during the Extreme Social Distancing period.

MP for Maun East, Goretetse Kekgonegile (UDC)- Quarantine has been such a personal and family inconvenience to me, especially when you take into consideration the circumstances it came about which was due to a decision lapse by the Ministry of Health.

In difficult times, a people's representative must be close to his family and constituents.

I had intended to go and support and provide leadership, guidance and be a pillar of support to my Constituency during this lockdown. My support was intended for bereaved families, overseeing relief packages to needy families, workers given the hard hit tourism industry, SMME workers benefiting, supporting frontline essential services workers and ensuring availability of essential services such as water in the Con-

stituency.

Currently there are significant challenges with permits given centralized points of issue when Maun East is so huge hence people are being charged in large numbers for contravening the set laws.

I intended to mobilise farmers and SMMEs to sell their produce under the ration relief packages.

I had organized educators to provide e-learning programmes to learners to utilize at home. Unfortunately I am quarantined and doing all these through calls, social media and councillors.

MP for Mogoditshane, Tumiso Rakgare (BDP)- This quarantine has been a serious blow, it's a total mess in the constituency, people are hungry, social workers are yet to reach our people for assessment but we cannot blame them since they are thin on the ground.

A constituency with almost 60 000 people needs an MP to be closer to monitor how things go but it is really painful because I am helpless now. Landlords, taxi operators, hawkers and others need my assistance but I can only be available after the 14 days of quarantine. My hope is that we all test negative so we can go back to our constituencies to help our voters. This is the time when they need us the most. It hurts.

MP for Mahalapye East, Yandani Boko (UDC)- It is not a good feeling to be here because I had a schedule, which I had started with a kgotla meeting in Mookani village followed by a series of meetings with youths.

I want our youth not to only play a role in shaping our villages for better but to also come up with meaningful ways to make a living. I had also expected to assist social workers, district commissioner and chiefs but I can only do that through the phone and Facebook. Even after 14 days we will not be allowed to leave Gaborone immediately, you can

see how frustrating this is.

MP for Francistown South, Wynter Mmolotsi (AP)- The quarantine has messed up all that I had planned to do.

As a representative one ought to be around his people during difficult times like this to provide leadership and direction. Also to advise the structures that are in place to deal with the problem, it was important that I am around. The quarantine is a nightmare given the anxiety of testing and that of waiting for the results. I am home quarantined and I do all my house chores like cleaning and cooking. I unfortunately have not been checked by any doctor or nurse save for a call from a counselor who wanted to check how I was feeling.

UDC CONDEMN ARREST AND TORTURE OF POLITICAL ACTIVISTS

BY DANIEL CHIDA

Leading opposition party, Umbrella for Democratic Change (UDC) has released a statement to express, "Concern and apprehension with regard to increasing reports of citizens who have been arrested and detained by the Police for alleged inappropriate posts on social media."

UDC's statement follows the arrest of Botswana Patriotic Front spokesperson, Justice Motlhabane and two others. The trio has been charged by the state for publishing on their Facebook page Botswana Trending News, communication that is "offensive," "disturbing the peace" "deceptive" and "malicious" with an attempt to deceive the public about Covid-19. In a Press Statement, UDC Spokesperson, Moeti Mohwasa said that the social media posts have been deemed to be criminal behaviour by the government allegedly because they are offensive to the government and leadership of this country.

"Our concerns are magnified by the fact that these arrests come close on the heels of the adoption by the ruling party dominated parliament of a six months state of emergency and the accompanying regulations."

Mohwasa said that the state of emergency and its regulations were forced through parliament by the ruling party using its numerical strength, totally disregarding the position of the entire opposition that current statutes on public health and the penal code accorded the state enough legal instruments with which to combat Covid-19. The opposition, he said, in a spirit of compromise even offered to accept the state of emergency if the ruling party were to accept a period of 28 days or three months.

"It is now becoming clear that the government forced through the state of emergency with an ulterior motive of using it to suppress any dissent against its policies by arresting commentators on social media and subjecting them to a humiliating experience of being restrained with leg irons in public view," said

Mohwasa who further noted that the UDC has always advocated for freedom of speech, which is a right enshrined in the constitution of the Republic of Botswana.

"We view these recent arrests as a choreographed intention of the ruling party to trample upon constitutional rights and to instill fear in members of the public who are critical of the government."

"The UDC wishes to remind the government to use the state of public emergency for the sole purpose of reinforcing efforts to combat Covid-19 and not to ruthlessly stifle dissent."

Mohwasa further highlighted that the right to free speech is not only entrenched in the Constitution of this country, but is also a globally recognised human right under the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. "As a consequence, we wish to alert the diplomatic community to take note of these recent acts by the government, which violate the civic and political rights of citizens of this country," the UDC stated.

The UDC mouth piece also noted that what exacerbates the situation is also an attempt by government to make it next to impossible for suspects to have access to legal representation by attempting to impose onerous requirements for legal practitioners to obtain movement permits, which would enable them to offer the required legal representation.

He called upon the government to forthwith cease and desist from the tyrannical arrest, detention and torture of innocent citizens whose only fault is to criticise the government using social media.

"The Cyber Crimes and Computer Related Offences Act was not enacted to be used as a tool for political suppression, but to address ordinary law crimes committed in cyberspace. We demand that those who have been arrested be released from detention and be allowed to enjoy their freedom until they appear in court to defend themselves against the alleged offences," Mohwasa said and went on to underscore the right of any suspects charged with an offence to legal representation and the fact that torture or degrading punishment is prohibited not only under SADC protocols but also under the U.N. Conventions

MEET THE ALL MEN COVID-19 TASK FORCE TEAM



PROF KERENG MASUPU



DR MOGOMOTSI MATSHABA



PROF MOSEPELE MOSEPELE



DR MALAKI TSHIPAYAGAE

BY DANIEL CHIDA

PRESIDENT Mokgweetsi Masisi has established a Covid-19 Task Force Team whose mandate is to advise government on what measures to take to arrest and fight the pandemic.

Below are the team members.

PROFESSOR KERENG MASUPU

A Veterinarian, Masupu is the Task Team leader. He has a Masters Degree in Epidemiology and has worked for NACA before.

He is currently a Public Health Independent Consultant.

DR MOGOMOTSI MATSHABA - A PEDIATRICIAN

A ssistant Clinical Professor of Pediatrics, Baylor College of Medicine, and Deputy Director- Botswana-Baylor Clinic, Matshaba is a graduate of University College of Dublin, Ireland.

He worked as a medical officer in Botswana from 2005-2008, when he spent one year as a physician-in-training at the Botswana-Baylor Children's Clinical Center of Excellence. He has post-graduate training in HIV management, trauma management, and fundamentals of laparoscopic surgery and completed his residency training in pediatrics at Baylor College of Medicine.

From 2011 to 2014 Dr Matshaba was the Associate Director- Training and Clinical Services at the Botswana- Baylor Children's Clinical Centre of Excellence in Gaborone Botswana.

He sits in several Ministry of Health Committees as the pediatric expert; Botswana National HIV Guidelines Committee, TB/ HIV Integration Technical Working Group, Drug Forecasting and Purchasing Committee, TB/HIV Drug Resistance Technical Working Group, Adolescent HIV Guidelines Committee.

PROFESSOR MOSEPELE MOSEPELE

He is a Senior Lecturer in Internal Medicine/Infectious Diseases in Faculty of Medicine, University of Botswana.

His scholarly interests include study of HIV associated end organ dysfunction especially cardio-metabolic disease; HIV associated immune activation and HIV treatment outcomes. Dr Mosepele provides HIV care at Princess Marina Hospital Integrated HIV Clinic.

DR MALAKI TSHIPAYAGAE,

Surgeon and Director of Health Services in the Ministry of Health and Wellness

He is an experienced Senior Consultant, General Surgeon and Hospital Superintendent with a demonstrated history of working in the hospital and health care industry. He is described as a very strong and driven professional who graduated from Howard University College of Medicine (MD) and University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences in America (General Surgery) focused on bringing safe surgical access to underserved communities.

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COVID19 WAGE SUBSIDY – FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q1	What nationality do the employees need to be?	f. Which account number should be inserted in employee rows?
	<i>Citizens of Botswana with valid o'mang.</i>	<i>The completion of the cell is optional</i>
Q2	How much should employers pay employees?	Q15
	<i>The purpose of the subsidy is to provide assistance to employees of eligible sectors. The Government cannot dictate to employers how much they must pay employees but encourages employers to do their best to meet employees wages and salaries.</i>	Some of my employees left my employment during the period between December 2019 and March 2020
Q3	Can an employee apply on his own?	
	<i>NO. The facility is to be accessed by employers on behalf of their employees.</i>	<i>These individuals are not the claimants employees and should not ordinarily be considered for a claim. See Question 26 for guidance on how to treat retrenched employees</i>
Q4	Is there a difference between wages and salary for purposes of the subsidy?	Q16
	<i>No. Wages and salaries are the same for purposes of the subsidy. The computation of subsidy however is based on the basic wage or salary of the employee.</i>	During registration, which account should I use, the employer or employee account number?
Q5	How do we treat non-monetary benefits in computing subsidy?	
	<i>Non-monetary benefits are not considered in determining 50% of the employee's wages or salary.</i>	<i>The account number to be used for registration is that of the employer. The payments from BURS will be paid to employers for onward distribution to employees. See question 19 below.</i>
Q6	If a business is owned by a non-citizen, can the business apply for the subsidy?	Q17
	<i>Yes. The criteria for application is that the business must be an eligible business with Botswana employees</i>	Employee left my employment before end of April 2020 but is currently unemployed. Can I claim for them as my former employee?
Q7	If a business owes BURS any taxes can they apply?	
	<i>Yes. The subsidy applies even if the employer owes BURS any taxes. However, businesses are encouraged to continue meeting their tax obligations.</i>	<i>NO. The employee is not in your employment and should therefore not be considered for an employers claim.</i>
Q8	How does the subsidy work for domestic employees such as house help and farm help?	Q18
	<i>The subsidy does not apply for private employment. It only applies in respect of registered and eligible businesses.</i>	Employee left my employment before end of April 2020 and was due to commence employment at a new employer in April. Can the new employer claim for them?
Q9	Can an employee for whom taxes have never been deducted be eligible for the subsidy?	
	<i>YES. Some employees do not earn the minimum income to pay tax. However they remain eligible to be paid under the wage subsidy</i>	<i>The new employer may not claim for the new employee as the employee has no wage record with the new employer.</i>
Q10	Construction employees not on current payroll due to finished or completed project?	Q19
	<i>Any person not considered to be an employee at the time of the subsidy is not eligible for receiving subsidy support.</i>	What if I don't have internet access? Can the process be accessed in any other way?
Q11	Can I correct or amend a claim form once I have successfully uploaded it?	
	<i>Yes. An amended claim form may be submitted. However BURS may make enquiries to determine the reasons for the amendment</i>	<i>Unfortunately the facility is only available online to reduce the risk of exposure to COVID19. BURS will not accept registration or claim forms in any other way other than online.</i>
Q12	Rent-a-chair hair salon – can we claim for the individuals renting chairs?	Q20
	<i>In the instance of rent-a-chair, the renters are not employees and cannot therefore be considered for the subsidy. However, if the renter is a business registered for tax and is considered to be an employee of that business they may be eligible.</i>	Who will be receiving payment from BURS, the employer or the employee?
Q13	Which identification numbers should non-citizens enter during registration?	
	<i>Non-citizens should use the number of the passport they used to apply for a residence or work permit.</i>	<i>The employer will receive the subsidy funds for onward distribution to employees.</i>
Q14	Common claim form issues:	Q21
	a. Changing the structure of the form	What should be entered in the Subsidy Claimed column on the WAGE SUBSIDY CLAIM FORM?
	<i>Applicants should not change the structure of the Claim Form template. That is, do not add or remove column headers and do not rename column header labels</i>	
	b. Error message: Unsupported file format validation	<i>The completion of this column is optional. BURS will compute the subsidy claim on the basis of the basic contractual salary or wage of the employee and notify the employer.</i>
	<i>The downloaded template is in the format of a csv file. After completing the template ensure that the file is saved in this same format i.e. csv (comma delimited) before attempting to upload.</i>	Q22
	c. Omang starting with zero:	My business is not listed in the list of Business Sectors in the Registration form? What should I do?
	To address this, follow the following steps: Step 1: Highlight the ID (Omang) column in excel. Step 2: Right click and choose Format Cells. Step 3: In the list that appears, select text and click ok.	
	d. Error message: Sorry we could not process your request	Q23
	<i>Applicants are advised to download a new form and complete that.</i>	If an employee is on maternity leave and are earning a reduced salary or wage which salary or wage can they use for claiming subsidy?
	e. Adding commas or 'P' to monetary amounts	
	<i>Applicants are advised not to include commas or 'P' in completing monetary values. P2000.00 is incorrect and should rather be entered as 2000.00. 30,000.00 is incorrect and should rather be entered as 30000.00</i>	<i>The salary or wage to be used is their basic contractual salary or wage.</i>
		Q24
		Can we use an Orange Money, Mascom My Zaka, bemobile smega or similar payment instead of a bank account number during registration?
		<i>NO. Payments are to be made only into account numbers of banks registered in Botswana. Payment facilities such as the ones mentioned above are not to be used for this purpose.</i>
		Q25
		My employer is not keen to apply for the subsidy. How can we be helped?
		<i>Employers are encouraged to apply for the subsidy to supplement wages or salaries of employees if their ability to pay full wages has been compromised by COVID19. Employees are therefore advised to the Secretariat of the Public Finance Management (COVID-19 Pandemic (Corona Virus) Relief Fund) as advised in Question 12 to the Guidelines.</i>
		Q26
		My employees don't have bank accounts. How do I pay them?
		<i>The subsidy is paid to employers for distribution to employees. Employers are encouraged to find ways of ensuring employees are paid especially during this period of lockdown.</i>
		Q27
		What if I had retrenched employees before the subsidy was made available?
		<i>Employers who had retrenched employees due to the fall in business as a result of COVID19 are advised to retain their employees and ensure they are paid the wage subsidy.</i>

Acting Commissioner General
Botswana Unified Revenue Service
Dated: 14th April, 2020

THE UGLY FACE OF LOCKDOWN

Family locked out of mother's funeral

BY KABELO DIPHOLO

It is a hot, slightly humid Tuesday afternoon.

The Moyo homestead in Donga location, Francistown, appears deserted. Save for a lone figure sitting forlornly under the comforting shade of a shepherd tree, there is no movement in the yard.

Three cars are squeezed together in the small, immaculately swept plot. A bottle of liquid soap is conveniently placed on top of one of the pillars holding the gate.

This previously rare spectacle is becoming an increasingly common sight in Botswana for a family in mourning amid the 'Coronavirus era'.

The Moyos lost their grandmother, who passed away last Tuesday, aged 60.

Under normal circumstances, family members and neighbours would have congregated at the yard for the daily vigils. A fleet of cars would be lining the yard's perimeter wall.

But these are not normal circumstances.

The family, like countless others around the country, have to comply with the lockdown rules set by the Botswana government in an effort to stop the spread of Covid-19.

To their credit, the Moyos, despite their misgivings, are doing well in observing social distancing and the required hygiene as recommended by the World Health Organisation.

Despite their compliance, the family is angry.

Movement restrictions imposed on the citizenry has left them frustrated, hopeless and, above all, angry.

In an emotionally charged interview, the family spokesperson, Aaron Moyo, 48, revealed they had initially planned to bury the old woman in Ramokgwebana last Saturday.

However, they were denied a permit and ordered to bury her in Francistown instead.

FIERCE

"We understood where the authorities were coming from and decided that we should compromise and hold the funeral in Francistown," he explained, his voice crackling with fierce intensity.

According to the greying Zezuru elder, the family encountered another problem when relatives of the old woman in Ramokgwebana were denied permits to attend the funeral.

"These include the old woman's own kids! One of her children is in Gaborone and she was also denied a permit to come home to bury her mother. Just how do we bury her in the absence of her children and family members," demanded a visibly livid Aaron, repeatedly shaking his head in disgust.

While he understands the decision taken by the authorities, Aaron does not agree with a blanket approach to all the challenges.

"First the health authorities should have established what killed the old woman and cleared her of any danger she might pose. The next step would have been to work with the family to ensure that the people who really matter are given permits to attend the funeral. Now we've a child stuck in Gaborone, while others are in Ramokgwebana!" he said, his fury now mixed with obvious desperation.

"This is a first in Botswana. Now we're stuck with a corpse as we still try to work around this issue. The family is yet to agree on the date of the burial," concluded an animated Aaron, his eyebrows knotted into a deep furrow and his lips trembling in the midst of his lined face.

Meanwhile according to the lockdown rules, there's no possible remedy for the Moyo family as a special permit can only be applied to transport a deceased person. The rules states that in this case, only the deceased and hearse driver will be granted permission to travel, and the deceased should not be accompanied during the period of social distancing.

To drive this point home, Francistown District Commissioner Chabongwa Matseka told The Voice in an interview that no permits are given to allow movement between villages or towns.

"We still see people coming here to apply

for permits and register various complaints. The truth however is unless you're an essential service worker you won't get any permit. We don't issue permits for funerals either," she said.



NOT AMUSED: Moyo

Ghetto Diaries



We stand with you

Our customers have stood with us for the past 70 years and we stand with them during the COVID-19 outbreak. We know that the COVID-19 crisis has affected a lot of our customers financially. That's why we've created a COVID-19 Relief Programme to help ease the strain during this difficult time.

Absa's COVID-19 Relief Programme for Retail customers:

- 1 Payment holiday will be offered for the following products; Personal Loans, Mortgages and Vehicle and Asset Finance and will be reviewed for eligible customers affected by COVID-19
- 2 Free Absa to Absa funds transfer on mobile and internet banking as well as on the Absa Banking App
- 3 Free ATM funds transfer to your own Absa accounts
- 4 25% discount on ATM cash deposits, purchase of airtime, bill payments and Cash Back at POS Machine
- 5 We have also launched the Absa Bot, a virtual assistant available 24/7 to answer customers most commonly asked questions

Absa's COVID-19 Relief Programme for Business Banking and CIB customers:

- 1 Loan payment holiday relief, restructuring of existing facilities and short term liquidity requests will be reviewed for sectors and eligible customers affected by COVID-19
- 2 Free new installations for Absa Integrator and Absa Internet Banking
- 3 Free monthly membership fees for new Absa Integrator and Absa Internet Banking customers
- 4 25% off on all Absa Integrator and Absa Internet Banking Domestic electronic transfers

Who can benefit from the Absa Covid 19 relief programme?

Customers in the Retail, Business and Corporate and Investment Banking segments.

When is the Covid 19 relief programme starting?

It's effective April 1 2020.

How do I access the Covid 19 programme offer?

For Retail customers, you should be signed up for our digital banking channels to enjoy the free offers.

Furthermore, affected customers should send their Omang/Passport and the official letter from the employer indicating the changes in remuneration to BotswanaAbsaDebtRelief@absa.africa for assistance or drop them off at the nearest branch.

For Premier, Business and Corporate and Investment Banking (CIB) segments, talk to your Relationship Manager.

For all your questions and queries, our Contact Centre is available on +267 315 9575 or visit our website absa.co.bw

Together, we can beat Coronavirus.

#StaySafe

SCRUB AND WIPE:
Volunteers in action

GHETTO'S CLEAN-UP KING

Fumigating the streets of Francistown

BY KABELO DIPHOLO

There is no denying the crippling devastation brought about by the outbreak of the Covid-19 virus, whose impact will be felt for many years to come.

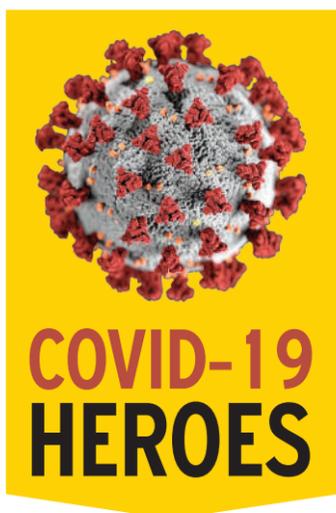
While the global pandemic is threatening to bring even the strongest economies to their knees, leaving many on the brink of abject poverty, there are, however, selfless souls who have stubbornly refused to be backed into a corner.

Instead, they have come out to use their own resources to help those in need and join government's efforts in her attempts to stop the deadly virus from spreading.

36-year-old Kago Dlodlo is one such individual.

Through his company, Carter Security, the young businessman has volunteered to fumigate the streets of Francistown, the bus rank and government fleet used by the Health Department team.

In an exclusive interview with The Voice, Dlodlo explained that the idea to disinfect the Ghetto's streets was



inspired by a chance meeting with a needy family in one of the city's rundown neighbourhoods.

"I was driving around Coloured before lockdown when I spotted this yard with a lot of people. After asking around I was notified that they were all family members who were heavily dependent on their grandmother's old age pension," revealed Dlodlo.

He was so moved by their plight that he bought them a food hamper to ease their hunger during the 28-day lockdown.

"I was, however, disturbed by the numbers I saw. My worry was that with the constant movement I observed on the streets, should an infected person visit that yard the entire family would be wiped out!" continued Dlodlo, his concern evident in his kindly face.

"It was at this moment that I realised to win this battle some of us would have to dip into our pockets to help."

And dip into his pockets Dlodlo certainly did.

After some serious soul searching and a bit of head scratching, Dlodlo came up

with the idea of fumigating the second city's streets.

He quickly sold his vision to his friend Joyce Puleng Nhovo who runs Sanganai Enterprise.

"We discussed the idea and she agreed that we should get on it immediately."

Urged on by his business friend, Dlodlo submitted a written proposal to the Town Clerk, who responded two days later.

"I met the Town Clerk and he welcomed the idea and even promised to give us a water bowser to make our task easier."

The good Samaritan further told The Voice that earlier this week, while waiting for the Francistown City Council (FCC) to avail the water bowser, they also offered their services free of charge to fumigate the government fleet used by the Health team.

"This Sunday we realised that the health team that goes around quarantine areas use a lot of cars which they also share. So we decided to fumigate the cars including all the ambulances," he said, adding it will be up to FCC to give them direction on which streets they can fumigate and how far they can go.

On Tuesday, Dlodlo and his team, clad in blue protective clothing started fumigating the Francistown bus rank.

"If FCC gives us the entire city, I'd call on Batswana to chip in and help with whatever they can. It could be brooms, labour or liquid soap."

Dlodlo currently oversees a team of 19 people who are helping him.

"Five of them are on my payroll, while 14 are volunteers who also own small companies who decided to join me in this noble course," he said, proving that not all superheroes wear capes - some are armed with a broom and a big heart!

BREWING UP A STORM

Tonota police hone in on home brewers



CRACK THE WHIP: Ngada

BY CHRISTINAH MOTLHABANE

On Friday 27 March – a date now referred to as Black Friday by many – a week before the country went into lockdown, government indefinitely suspended the sale of alcohol in Botswana.

For the most part, suppliers and brewers have stuck to the order admirably.



POPULAR: Traditional brew

Some, however, have been unable to resist brewing booze. After all, for many, selling the temporarily forbidden liquid provides the bulk of their meagre incomes.

In Tonota, a defiant few have defied the ban, making popular traditional beers, like khadi and power in their homes.

If caught, their defiance comes with a heavy penalty, as Tonota Station Commander Oteng Ngada was quick to tell The Voice.

"Since lockdown began, on 2 April, we have arrested seven people for selling traditional beer. The ones we arrested are the ones making beer and they were each charged P1, 000," revealed Ngadu, adding the seven all paid their fines and were subsequently released.

"It is hard to arrest the customers as they buy in 20-litre buckets and drink in their homes," continued the top cop.

Ngadu warned perpetrators to expect the full wrath of the law if discovered.

"The charge must send a message. We are not going to be lenient on those violating the Covid-19 procedures. They have to know that once they make these beers they attract many people and thus pose a danger of possibly spreading the disease," he highlighted.

Focusing on some good news, although he did not have the exact numbers, Ngadu declared that criminal cases in the area had dropped dramatically since the lockdown began.

"We are conducting Covid-19 patrols which have also played a big part," he concluded.

VoiceMoney

businessdesk@thevoicebw.com

**THIS DAY
IN
HISTORY**



**1970
Apollo 13 returns to Earth**

With the world anxiously watching, Apollo 13, a U.S. lunar spacecraft that suffered a severe malfunction on its journey to the moon, safely returns to Earth.

GABORONE WEATHER

17 FRI

TEMP: 37° 10°

18 SAT

TEMP: 32° 12°

19 SUN

TEMP: 33° 14°

GDP UP IN FINAL QUARTER OF 2019



POSITIVE GROWTH: Water pipeline project

BY KABELO ADAMSON

LATEST figures from the data collecting agency, Statistics Botswana (SB) reveal that the domestic economy registered a growth of 1.6 percent in the last quarter of 2019.

The real Gross Domestic Product (GDP), at 2006 constant prices, was P25.3 billion for this period, a growth of P400 million from the P24.9 billion registered in the third quarter of last year.

This was actually way below the estimated GDP at current prices of P49.5 billion compared with P49.6 billion registered in the second quarter of 2019.

Indeed, the 1.6 percent growth was in fact significantly lower when compared with the same quarter of 2018, when the economy experienced a growth of 4.2 percent.

The growth seen for the period under review is largely attributed to real value added by the sectors of water and electricity, finance and business services and transport and communica-

tions, which increased by 22.3 percent, 5.9 percent and 4.8 percent respectively.

All other industries are said to have recorded positive growths of more than 1.1 percent, except agriculture and mining, which declined by 1 percent and 8.1 percent respectively.

During the period under review, electricity recorded a positive value added of P86 million compared to P30.1 million registered in the same quarter of 2018, which amounts to a massive growth of 181.5 percent.

RISE

This is linked to a rise in the local electricity production, which increased by 22.9 percent - a figure helped greatly by the reopening of Morupule A power station. Imports of electricity during the fourth quarter of 2019 also went up by 4.1 percent.

Transport and communications' 4.8 percent growth, on the other hand, was actually less than the 7.1 percent recorded in the corresponding quarter of 2018.

The growth is reportedly mainly due to the increase in the real value added of post and communications and

road transport, which went up by 6.6 percent and 5.4 percent respectively.

The industry's performance is said to have slowed due to the rail transport problems encountered during the quarter, which had a negative impact on the goods and passengers carried.

Manufacturing, meanwhile, registered a low performance, with its real value added rising by 1.8 percent compared to an increase of 3.4 percent registered in the same quarter in 2018.

The slow growth is attributed to a decrease in real value added of beverages, meat and meat products sub-industries by 3.2 percent and 2.1 percent respectively.

The production of beverages went down by a whopping 28.6 percent compared to a drop of 10.6 percent registered in the same period last year while the number of cattle slaughtered by Botswana Meat Commission (BMC) fell drastically by 65.4 percent in the last quarter of 2019.

The reason is said to be the change in the Sales Agent, which led to a delay in farmers' payments meaning a substantially lower number of cattle were brought to the abattoir for slaughter.

Business Briefs

OPEC to temporarily cut global oil output

THE Organisation of Oil Exporting Countries (OPEC) this week entered into a deal to cut global petroleum output by 9.7 million barrels per day for the remainder of April.

Since the outbreak of Coronavirus, global oil prices have been in free fall, hitting unprecedented levels as the global economies shutdown.

BIHL Group pledges P16 million towards Covid-19 fight

BOTSWANA Insurance Holdings Limited (BIHL) Group has pledged P16 million towards the support of Government's efforts in managing the spread of Covid-19 across Botswana.

The contribution, on behalf of the Group and its Subsidiaries - Botswana Life, BIFM and Botswana Insurance Company (BIC) - and its parent company Sanlam, has been made with a view towards alleviating the financial burden on the Government in this time of national need.

BTC appoints Chief Financial Officer

BOTSWANA Telecommunications Officer Limited (BTCL) has announced the appointment of Boitumelo Paya as its Chief Financial Officer (CFO).

Paya joins BTC armed with over 20 years experience in financial management, including finance integration, business transformation, financial planning and analysis, audit and assurance, strategic decision support, investor relations and Mergers and Acquisitions support. She has previously worked as Finance Director for Kgalagadi Breweries Limited, (KBL) and Finance Director for Malawi Beverages Limited.

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TIME TO REPOSITION BOTSWANA'S TOURISM PRODUCT

Minister Kerekang freezes park fees, announces BTO campaign

BY KABELO ADAMSON

THE ministry of Environment, Natural Resources Conservation and Tourism has postponed the increment of Botswana National Parks and Game Reserve entry fees indefinitely in response to the Covid-19 pandemic.

The tourism industry, a key revenue earner for the economy, only coming second to diamonds, has been badly affected by the outbreak of the corona virus as most

countries globally closed off their borders and imposed travel restrictions.

Speaking in a televised press conference this week, the Minister of tourism, Philida Kereng said that they had intended to increase park entry fees, as they were due for a hike.

Currently, park entry fees are P10 for citizens and P120 for non-citizens.

Payments of various fees such as the tourism levy, bed nights have also been put on hold for now. Licence renewals have also been suspended and those with expired licenses advised to continue using the

old ones until further notice.

Hunting season, which was also supposed to open in April and last until September has been postponed to December. "Between now and December we will be monitoring the situation closely. If the need arises, we will push the season further to February because the next hunting season should start in April next year, but we hope things will normalize so we can run this hunting properly," she said.

Although the country's 28-day lockdown, which is scheduled to end on April 30th might have provided a window of opportunity for poachers to have a field day, Kereng said they have put everything together to control the situation and have increased the resources for anti-poaching.

PREPARATION

In preparation for the industry to bounce back, the minister announced that Botswana Tourism Organization was conducting research and monitoring the situation at home and abroad in order to reposition the industry's high value low volume model in such a way that it can allow domestic and regional tourism to thrive.

"We have given ourselves this time to think better, come up with new and different strategies so that when the Coronavirus is over, we know where to start," said Kereng.

She also revealed that there was an ongoing campaign by BTO to encourage tourists who had already booked to postpone their visits instead of cancelling their trips altogether.



BSE CEO: Tsheole

BOND MARKET PERFORMANCE DECLINES

BY KABELO ADAMSON

During the first quarter of the year, the bond market performance suffered a noticeable decline when compared with the same period in 2019.

According to the Botswana Stock Exchange Limited (BSEL) Market Performance Report, the value of bonds traded over the period was P162.5 million compared with P251.9 million recorded in the same period last year.

The recently released report shows that government bonds still completely dominate fixed income turnover, contributing P161.2 million while corporate bonds contributed just P1.3 million.

On 28 February, during government and treasury bills auction, Bank of Botswana (BoB), on behalf of government, offered additional tranches of the BW013 bond by P300 million, increasing the nominal amount in issue to P2.5 billion.

The BoB also allotted an additional P400 million to the bond BW015, more than doubling the nominal amount in issue to P746 million.

During the first quarter of the year, RDC Properties, owners of the iconic Masa Sqaure Hotel, issued two bonds, RDCP002 valued at 40.15 million and RDCP003 at P12 million. The bonds were listed on 26 March.

On the back of government tap issuance and new insurances, the market capitalization of listed bonds subsequently increased

to P18.3 billion compared to P15.4 billion as at the same period last year.

Government bonds account for P12.7 billion of the total amount whereas corporate bonds account for the remaining P5.6 billion.

Currently there are seven listed government bonds, the same number as in 2019 while the number of listed corporate bonds stands at 41, an increase from 31 registered during the same period last year.

Meanwhile, the BSEL has seen its turnover drop significantly during the first quarter of the year.

By the end of March, which marked the first quarter of the year for the stock exchange, the BSEL had recorded a turnover of P185 million, which is almost half of what was recorded in the same period last year. Indeed, it represents a drop of 46.6 percent from the P346.9 million recorded in the first quarter of 2019.

The number of shares traded in the first three months of 2020 amounted to 81.7 shares compared to 156.1 shares traded in last year's opening quarter.

Three companies, being Letshego Holdings Limited, Sechaba Limited and First National Bank Botswana (FNBB), were the top traded companies in terms of value.

The three of them accounted for 61.2 percent of total turnover compared to the 64.8 percent accounted for by the top three companies in the same period last year.



MINISTER: Kereng

ATAF SUGGESTS TAX RELIEF MEASURES

BY KABELO ADAMSON

The African Tax Administration Forum (ATAF) has in the spread of the Covid-19, suggested a few measures on how tax authorities can deal with the current situation.

While the local tax authority, Botswana Unified Revenue Service (BURS) has put in place its own measures, the body of which BURS is a member has put forward its own suggestions.

One of the suggestions made is the extension of deadlines for filing tax returns to accommodate the disruption taxpayers may be facing due to the pandemic.

However, the organization says the extension should be based on the compliance level of the taxpayer but has suggested that all taxpayers be considered, as the extension will play a dual role of easing the burden on taxpayers and limiting the transmission risk of revenue staff where there are limited digital channels or none.

The other measure that has been suggested to the tax authorities to consider is to grant taxpayers flexible payment plans like monthly or bimonthly installment payment for a certain period beyond the due date.

This ATAF has said would ease some of the economic burden exerted by Covid 19 on



PUT MEASURES IN PLACE: BURS

taxpayers.

The body says the flexible payment plan may also include the suspension of payments for a certain period.

Some of the factors to be considered when offering flexible payment plans include compliance history of the payer and economic sectors.

Tax authorities have also been advised to suspend penalties and interests for late filings by taxpayers.

Furthermore, authorities have been advised to consider temporary tax rates reduction as another way to ease the economic burden brought onto the taxpayers by the pandemic, which has so far claimed over 100,000 lives globally.

However, in considering this measure, ATAF is of the view that the jurisdiction

should be clear on the period covered by the reduction and the legal framework to safeguard such.

ATAF has cautioned that in case of consumption taxes like value Added Tax (VAT), benefits may not reach the intended public as suppliers can absorb the reduced rate as part of the price mark up in jurisdictions where there is no price control.

BURS, meanwhile, has announced it will allow for deferral of 75 percent of any two quarterly payments between March and September 2020 for businesses with deferred payments to be repaid from March next year.

The local tax authority has also reduced VAT refunds period from 60 days to 21 days.

COVID 19 DEVASTATES NGAMILAND MOBILE SAFARI BUSINESSES

- Four thousand people lose jobs
- SOPE triggers cancellation of postponed trips

BY LIVINGSTONE KENTSHITSWE

The world Travel and Tourism group has already projected over 50 million job losses in the tourism industry worldwide and US\$2,1 trillion financial losses because of Covid 19 pandemic.

In Botswana no official statistics has been released yet but the damages inflicted by the corona virus has been laid bare for all to see, especially in the tourist town of Maun.

One of the hardest hit tourism product in Ngamiland is the mobile safari business, represented by the Botswana Guides Association (BOGA)

BOGA houses 391 mobile safari businesses and 400 individual freelance professional guides and mokoro (dug-out canoe) polers.

The sectors employ a combined total number of 4000 employees. All of BOGA members fall within the small/medium enterprises category and are owned by indigenous Batswana.

The mobile safari businesses survive on walk-in business. These are self-drive, backpacker groups and individual tourists. To date, all BOGA members have ceased operations, which means 4000 employees are without work and in most cases without earnings.

To the untrained eye BOGA may sound like a giant organisation. Far from it! Juxtaposed with its counterparts in the tourism industry it pales in comparison in terms of resources, reach and influence. It's headquartered in Maun only, while its counterparts have satellites offices in Maun and other areas, with headquarters in Gaborone. The members for these organizations are well-established tourism outfits with offices and operations worldwide. They employ people in a myriad of countries on a full-time basis mostly. BOGA members on the other hand are largely freelance guides and mokoro polers engaged seasonally and without contracts.

BOGA Chairperson, Kenson

Kgaga is a worried man. His fears are not misplaced. As an example he cites the dire cases of freelance guides and mokoro (dug-out canoe) polers.

Although considered employees by the mobile safari operators who utilize their services mostly during the green or peak season, they are in business terms considered temporary employees without a contract. Kgaga is worried that they may not benefit from government's COVID19 Relief Fund.

"These members rely solely on the business they receive from the mobile safari operators," he said. The polers are also victims of another disaster; the drying up of the Delta last year.

Since the outbreak of the novel corona virus in Wuhan China in December 2019, the tourism sector in Botswana faced mass cancellation of bookings by their international clientele. A global campaign termed "Be kind to Africa, don't cancel your booking, postpone" by African tourism outfits began to take shape in Africa. The tide of cancellations was momentarily stemmed. Tourists began to postpone, as the virus had then not affected most African countries.

This year however, things took a turn for the worst as one African country after another began to register positive cases. In Botswana, the first such case was registered on March 28th 2020. Thereafter things snow balled as more cases were registered, which triggered both a lockdown and eventually the president requested and was granted a six month long State of Public Emergency (SoPE)

The world was watching and the booked tourists watching even closer. The first cancellation for a BOGA member happened the day the SoPE was passed by parliament, according to Kgaga.

SoPE, Kgaga said, triggered a chain reaction of concerted cancellations of previously postponed bookings.

"These cancellations come with a high bill to the businesses. One the start-up members (a mobile safari operator) of ours is faced with reimbursing his client an amount of P75 000," Kgaga explained. "This is advance payment made to him by the client to handle their lodging and camping bookings among other things. This amount registers as a negative on his balance sheet and he has had to pay his employees as well," explained an exasperated Kgaga.

On March 27, a day before the first COVID19 case was registered in Botswana, Kgaga says the Botswana Tourism Organisation (BTO) called BOGA and other tourism associations such as HATAB to a meeting in Gaborone.

The purpose of the meeting was to appreciate their sectorial challenges and see how government could best assist them. While he appreciates the importance of the meeting, Kgaga worries that to date, government or BTO has not formally communicated with them at BOGA pertaining how their members will be assisted.

"I have since written a letter to BTO seeking answers and I have not received any response," he said.

Kgaga says he has heard President Masisi and other senior government officials mention a business rescue package but he worries those consultations between government and the tour-



TO LOOSE JOBS: Mokoro polers

ism industry seems to focus on HATAB at the exclusion of BOGA.

"I have heard the president publicly say he has engaged with HATAB. He has not mentioned BOGA not even once although I have been to his office and that of the Vice President twice last year. I have had conversations with Vice President, Slumber Tsogwane over the phone so they know about us and that we represent the interest of the small operators," said Kgaga.

Kgaga is a veteran of the tourism industry and owner of a mobile safari business. As of today, Kgaga told this publication that of their 391 members in the mobile safari sector, al-

most all have so far reported cancellations but that's only the beginning, he says.

Ngamiland's economy is anchored on the tourism sector since the fall of the cattle farming industry over ten years ago due to the almost permanent presence of the Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD).

Ngamiland is a vast territory made up of over a hundred remote villages and settlements in hard to reach terrain. Economically it rates as either the poorest or second poorest district in Botswana yearly though it is the epicenter of tourism, Botswana's second GDP contributor after diamonds.

BANKS OFFER LOAN REPAYMENT BREAK TO CUSTOMERS

BY KABELO ADAMSON

Local banks have announced a three months loan repayment break to clients in order to alleviate the negative Coronavirus effects on both individuals and the economy.

Other measures announced this week include reduction on digital banking fees while some have even gone further to suspend charges on various banking platforms.

First National Bank Botswana (FNBB) said that it would offer cash flow relief intervention to eligible customers with a good track record of honouring their payments prior to the 1st of March 2020.

The intervention will afford customers an installment relief on their loans, including personal loans, commercial property loans and vehicle and asset finance and term loans.

For SMEs, businesses with an annual turnover of up to P10 million and an initial loan amount not exceeding P5 million will benefit from the installment relief program.

Absa Botswana on the other hand also made an announcement that it has put in place relief ef-

orts such as repayment breaks and loan restructures on its loan products for the bank's deeply affected customers across various segments.

In addition, the bank is offering short-term liquidity solutions like overdraft to its customers.

Other relief measures put in place by Absa Bank Botswana include discounted tariffs for various transactions carried out on digital platforms.

This include free Absa to Absa funds transfer on Internet banking, cellphone banking and on the Absa App.

Stanbic Bank Botswana, meanwhile says it will offer relief to its Small Medium Enterprise (SME) banking clients by providing them with a three-month payment holiday, effective April 2020.

The bank says the loan installment repayment holiday will only be available to clients whose loan facilities are in order and the customers' loan tenure will be extended by three months to maintain the installment after the holiday.

Stanbic has noted that client pricing will remain unchanged and will not be charged penalty interest during the break.

CEDA EMERGENCY RESPONSE FUND
ESSENTIALS SUPPLIES LOAN (NEW)

ABOUT ESSENTIALS SUPPLIES LOAN
This is a special loan facility that will be extended to companies that are involved in the production of essentials that are related to Covid-19 and or products that have a high propensity and viability to be manufactured during and beyond the period of Covid-19.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE?
All Batswana, even those who do not have an existing CEDA facility

LOAN MAXIMUM:
BWP 30 MILLION

LOAN TENURE:
UP TO 15 YEARS

FOR MORE INFO VISIT
www.ceda.co.bw

CHECKING OUT IN STYLE

Joe's personalised coffins, a hit among Zezurus

BY KABELO DIPHOLO

The business of coffin making is perhaps not the best topic of discussion at a time when the country is facing the Covid-19 pandemic, which as of Tuesday evening had claimed over 120, 000 lives across the world.

However, for the small-scale entrepreneur Joel Daniel, a coffin is no different from a basic need like a spade or any other tool that humans may require.

The youthful-looking 39-year-old businessman has a workshop in the corner of his house in Francistown's Donga location. It is from there that this self-taught carpenter expertly moulds his impressive wooden products.

Daniel is a highly regarded handyman in the area, capable of building anything from wood, including: bunk beds, wardrobes, wedding decorations, baby cribs and numerous other products.

It is, however, his coffin making ability that he feels is under appreciated.

"I'm known all over Francistown. I've fitted kitchens across this city and worked with some of the most reputable companies partitioning their offices. Yet when it comes to my coffins, for some strange reasons it is only the Zezuru people that buy them," he said.

"If I can fit a kitchen and wall closets in houses that cost millions, why can't people trust me to make coffins for them?" he pondered, not really expecting an answer.

Daniel told Voice Money it has always bothered him that while the populace buy most of his products and engage him to work on their properties, none of them has ever purchased a coffin from him.



A WORK OF ART: One of Daniel's coffins

"I think they're not aware that I also make coffins. I also know the subject of a coffin is a sensitive one in Botswana, but I'm hopeful that one day many people will realise that they don't have to spend a fortune on a coffin. You can spend less money and still have a quality and beautiful coffin to bury your loved ones," said Daniel.

He further told Voice Money that his coffins are affordable with prices ranging between P1, 500 and P5, 000.

"Our coffins are designed to the client's specification. If you want it personalised, I can do that and you also have the liberty to choose your own material. The price is determined by the material used," he explained.

The skilled carpenter said he has been reluctant to market his coffins for fear of offending others, who may not take kindly to the sight of a coffin.

"I've never been to school, and learnt this trade at a very young age. However, I want to use the

latest technology to market my business. I want to open a Facebook page and upload pictures. I'm also confident that this story in The Voice will reach many of my clients," he added.

Ironically, Daniel made headlines in The Voice in 2003 when he was among the Ba-Zezuru parents who refused to immunise their children against polio.

This move set him and his fellow tribesmen on a collision course with government who ordered that all children should be immunized against the deadly disease.

"I can't remember who actually took my picture and interviewed me outside court, but I still have a copy of that newspaper," he chuckled at the 17-year-old memory.

"My daughters are all fine; they're married now and I still don't believe in those vaccines," ended the nostalgic coffin maker.



SELF TAUGHT CARPENTER: Daniel



Interior

RISING UP DURING LOCKDOWN

New enterprise offers home deliveries

BY PORTIA MLILO

When the government announced a 28-day lockdown, Gilbert Promotions spotted potential amid the panic and swiftly applied for an essential service permit to provide grocery home deliveries.

In an effort to curb the spread of Covid-19 - which by Thursday morning had infected over two million people, claiming 136, 666 lives worldwide - government ruled that the public must apply for a permit to leave their homes.

This includes anyone wanting to go to the shops. Indeed, those caught in the streets without a valid permit face a possible P5, 000 fine or even a six-month jail term.

To this end, Sterr-boy offers home deliveries, perfect for those desperate to avoid the dangers of coming into

"Initially I thought of selling sanitizers but realised a lot of people are into that already, so instead I decided to be a 'sterr-boy'"

contact with large crowds and the inevitable queues at permit centres.

The enterprise charges for deliveries in and around Gaborone.

Speaking to Voice Money, Sterr-boy Director, Gilbert Seagile stressed the business will help reduce the movement of people in the capital.

"Thus it contributes towards the government's efforts to curb the spread of Covid-19," said Seagile, adding he realised there was a business opportunity after observing the long queues at permit centres.

"Initially I thought of selling sanitizers but realised a lot of people are into that already, so instead I decided to be a 'sterr-boy'. Growing up, I used to be sent to the shops by neighbours and they would give me their change. So when the lockdown was announced I thought of this business," explained Seagile, whose



THINKING OUTSIDE THE BOX: Seagile

company, Gilbert Promotions, deals with artist management and promotions.

"Since there are no social activities, I had to come up with another business idea to pay my employees. Temporary permits are issued for a day so you can imagine the hassle you go through to apply then you go to the shops. We charge P100 for deliveries in Gaborone and P150 in the surrounding areas like Mmopane and Metsimotlhabe," said Seagile, adding that so far demand for the business was high.

"We have four cars and sometimes even have to outsource to local taxi drivers. We do not encounter any problems at roadblocks because we have the relevant permits."

He explained that customers send a list of items they need and the store of their choice via text message or WhatsApp.

"Then we deliver at their doorstep. Clients send money through mobile banking for their groceries or, if they have cash in hand, they pay on delivery."

As with most new concepts, Seagile's initiative has not been without its hiccups.

"When we started it was a bit challenging because people thought we were scammers. But social media helped as some of our customers shared their testimonies," concluded the enterprising businessman happily.

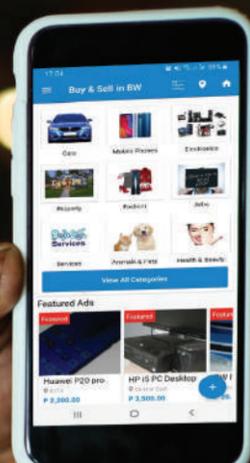
As well as groceries, Sterr-boy also pick-up medication at pharmacies for their clients.

BOTSWANA MARKETPLACE

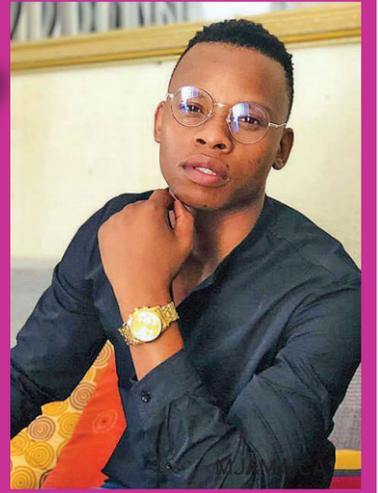
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The Big INTERVIEW



A JAMAICAN IN BOTSWANA

With over 640,000 followers on his Facebook page, 26-year-old Mjamaica's short comic videos make the Thamaga native one of the most watched individuals in Botswana.

PAGE 7A

PUT YOUR DOGS ON A LEASH

This is the most critical time for citizens. Its time to be alert, otherwise any opportunity that was supposed to go your way will be missed. If you want a favorable assessment from our beloved Social Workers keep your bony dogs on a leash

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As of 20 past one on Tuesday afternoon, the total number of deaths attributed to Coronavirus stood at 119, 686.

The pandemic has literally brought much of the world to a standstill, with countless nations around the globe going into lockdown.

In many places, the desperation and darkness has bought out the best in some corporate companies and individuals, who have risen to the occasion by donating funds and food hampers.

In Botswana, 44-year-old father-of-three, Raymond Malinga will go down in history as one such selfless soul who led the fight on the front line.

The Marobela born former Science teacher has volunteered the services of his cleaning company, Nolly Crafts, disinfecting public transport and trucks going in and out of the country.

The Voice's DANIEL CHIDA caught up with Malinga this week to find out a bit more about the initiative and the hero behind it.

Who is Malinga?

I am a single father of three kids: two girls, Violet aged 15, Ndada, 11 and a boy, Tinashe, seven. But apart from that I am a seasoned businessman who amongst his education

THE FUMIGATOR

boasts a COP in Insurance, Proficiency Certificate in Microsoft and various certificates on entrepreneurship.

I am a co-founder and partner at Nolly Crafts, a company that has amongst its entities: Micro Finance Consultancy, Long and Short term Insurance, Nolly Firm Labour Relations and HR and Nolly Cleaning Services.

I understand you have

quite the history as a unionist; take us through the journey and where it all started.

The militant in me started way back when I was Vice President at Tonota College of Education in 1998. I was convinced by the likes of Eric Ditau and Justin Hunyepa, who were leading the unions and in 2005 became Jwaneng BOSETU Regional Chair 2005, BOSETU Recording Secre-

tary 2008, BOSETU Secretary for Sports and Culture 2010 and BOSETU Publicity Secretary 2011 to 2012. I was prominent in mobilising the 2011 strike and at some point had a heated debate both in print and broadcast media with Dr Mokgweetsi Masisi when he was the Minister of Presidential Affairs and Public Administration.

TURN TO PAGE 6A

STUCK IN THE PAD?



WE ARE YOUR COMPANION THROUGHOUT

FEARLESS ON THE FRONT LINE

Last year there were reports that you were eyeing the Botswana Democratic Party's (BDP) Deputy Secretary General position. Is there any truth to this and if so why that position in particular?

For the whole of my life as a teacher my role was to mobilise, build structures and educate teachers on trade unionism. This is what always leads me to being asked to lead. My track record speaks volumes as I consider myself a people-centred leader. This is the gap I am also trying hard to see closed at BDP; the people must be led by those who live like them, those who have the same challenges. I see myself more inclined towards the people.

What is it that you want to

achieve within the BDP?

Like I did at trade unions, the first point of call is to build the structures, start from the bottom and move all the way to the top. The SG can be a busy man but the DSG must be available to build the cells, the branches, the regions and the party as a whole. We cannot relegate the running of the party to the last year of elections. The party machines must run daily. Activities, mobilisations, recruitments and training must be a daily task.

We also had a manifesto that to me was achievable if it was not for Covid-19. But yes, we still have a chance to sort stuff out. I believe strongly in the leadership of Dr Masisi and I agree more than anyone that with enough support he can move us from a resource-based economy to a knowledge-based economy. Not only

that, I believe the transformation of Botswana from a middle-income economy to a first world-class economy can be achieved now. To me we have the right political will to find our space as a country in this fourth industrial revolution. This is why I want to be the BDP DSG.

The outbreak of Covid-19 has seen you and your company leading from the front. What motivated such generosity?

I think it's just choosing to lead at a time of great challenge; this is what has always defined me. Coupled with the fact that I am a seasoned Science teacher and my project on my final year was on chemicals that kill Bacterial, Fungus and Viruses! I chose to lead the fight from the front and of-



MAN OF THE PEOPLE: Malinga

FLAME GRILLED EVERY FRIDAY!



fer to the fight what God has naturally given me, which is a talent I shall carry to the grave. I have chosen that what I am gifted in and what my country has spent educating me on can only be planted back into the community. You must take note of the fact that Nolly was a cleaning company way before Covid-19 was an issue. To us, we have always approached cleaning in a realistic approach, which has always been associated with chemical production and cleaning in relation to germs. Nolly Cleaning Service was first registered in 2018 and to date we have 60 active employees across the country.

Kindly share with us your day-to-day work.

We supply sanitisers and disinfectants but mostly we have gone a step further and provide fumigation of all germs from surfaces including the Covid-19 virus. We fight the coronavirus from all surfaces, desks, tables, handles, seats, buildings, cars you name it.

Across the globe, we have seen many on the front line who are exposed to the virus falling ill. How protected are you?

I can say we use the right protective clothing in all our duties; we cannot take that risk!

Which regions have you covered so far?

We have covered Mamuno, Ramatlabama, Lobatse, Tlokweng and all major borders linking Botswana with Zimbabwe and Zambia. Although the private sector did offer us some paying jobs we have extended our services for free to government and the general public to the tune of over P550, 000.

And your next destination?

Having done the District Commissioner's offices where people were crowding for permits, our next destination will be clinics, hospitals and schools if resources permit.

How have the public responded to your initiative?

Batswana do appreciate our efforts. We receive endless encouraging messages across the country.

Whilst you have been offering your services for free, others are actually receiving tenders to carry out such work. How does that make you feel?

Let God be the judge and let Batswana be saved. Our efforts shall be recognised even if it's not soon. Jesus was never rewarded in his entire life but today he remains a household name!

Do you see us winning the fight against this scourge and how long do you think it will take?

We will win this fight but the way we currently behave and the way I still see people all over I doubt it will be any time soon. We may end up needing a lockdown for 12 months! People don't want to stay home and the more they travel the more they risk spreading the virus. Government must come up with strict measures to curb unnecessary movements.

Friday is finally here, what are your plans?

If it was 'before' I could be going out with friends to pass time or taking out my small family. But now we have lost touch with time and to us there is no Monday or Friday, we are always busy at work!

We will win this fight but the way we currently behave and the way I still see people all over, I doubt it will be any time soon. We may end up needing a lockdown for 12 months!

CELEB EDITION

BY SHARON MATHALA

WITH over 640,000 followers on his Facebook page, 26-year-old Mjamaica's short comic videos make the Thamaga native one of the most watched individuals in Botswana.

With the country in desperate need of a laugh during these dark times, this week CELEB EDITION features the energetic comedian.

You have gained quite the following in your short career to date. Which one moment do you look back at and feel most proud of?

The moment I cherish most has to be my partnership with Orange. Getting to be on billboards was a huge highlight in my career; it is such a great feeling to literally see your face on a billboard!

What is the biggest audience you have reached with your work?

I made a video years back singing happy birthday to myself - that is still by far the most popular video looking at the views and reactions. Also, not to forget my ever-popular Magnum video. It currently sits at 15 million views and counting! I have about 16 videos that have reached an audience of millions of views.

How have you taken advantage of the lockdown?

Spending time with family has to be one of the most precious things but I now have a lot of time to create and produce more content for my fans. So yeah, I have managed to do a lot of work over the past couple of days.

So, any imminent works your fans can look forward to?

There is a whole lot in store! I prefer making less announcements and more moves. More international work is on the way as I will be working with creatives from South Africa.

Did you reach out to former Minister Bogolo Joy Kenewendo or was it the other way round?

Well, we have both wanted to work together for a long time; we were waiting for the right moment to come. She is a wonderful woman and not a bad actor (laughing). Mogagamola.

Who is the last person you texted and what did you say?

I texted my manager asking him how far with the proposal that we were working on and negotiating with a client before the lockdown came.

Have you ever made a bad joke and nobody laughed?

At times I can be put on the spot to crack a joke, and it normally turns out bad because I would have not rehearsed it. But because I'm known to be the guy that's rich in humor the audience laughs and think I did on purpose when in actual fact I did not - basically I get away with it!

What advice do you have for those interested in getting into the business of comedy?

The advice is short - go for it and keep your content clean if you want cooperates deals.

What keeps you busy during



COMIC GENIUS: Mjamaica

lockdown?

Jogging around the house and keeping fit with my family. I enjoy playing video games all day if I am not working.

Five things people don't

know about you?

1. As a funny guy, I also need funny people around to make me laugh
2. I am a foodie. Ke rata dijo tota tota!

3. I enjoy keeping fit. Health is wealth

4. I like to keep to myself

5. I am really quite shy, believe it or not!

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@sharonmathala

'MY RECORD LABEL DROVE ME TO DEPRESSION' - MOTLHA

BY SHARON MATHALA

HIS breakthrough single 'Mmamotse' was one of the biggest tracks of 2018, the feel good tune catapulting the unassuming Motlha into the limelight.

Sadly, instead of the launching pad to a great career, the monster hit has so far proved the peak, with Motlha unable to produce anything close to the magic of 'Mmamotse' since.

Now 26, the singer, winner of the ninth season of My Star in 2015, is in danger of fading into obscurity.

Scheduled to release his debut album last year, the launch was repeatedly postponed and is yet to happen.

Last week, Motlha's record label, Roc Lefatshe announced they had parted ways with the artist after a three-year partnership.

Voice Entertainment reached out to Motlha to find

out what went wrong to a once blossoming relationship that promised much but ultimately delivered little.

In an emotional interview, the singer admitted he had fallen into depression.

"I have not been able to release any music. No album. It drove me crazy! My label drove me into depression and it was time I got myself out of it. It does not feel good as an artist to record music, go for photoshoots and have everything but then have your record label just not release your work. It is frustrating and stressful. They kept on postponing my music and did not really come out clear as to why, but other artists kept on pushing their work."

Motlha revealed he felt the

only way to resurrect his career was to sever ties with the Roc Lefatshe stable.

"We sat down and agreed that I go solo. We are yet to discuss a few things especially on the business side of it all. We will do so after the lockdown."

As for the future, Motlha is confident he will not fall into the dreaded 'one-hit wonder' category. However, nor will he be hurried into any new releases.

"I will not rush to release any new music trying to prove I can do it on my own. I will take my time and work on new music so for now I don't think I will have anything out but I definitely will eventually," concluded the man born Motlha Mompe.

For their part, Roc Lefatshe's Suffocate had a slightly dif-

I have not been able to release any music. No album. It drove me crazy! My label drove me into depression and it was time I got myself out of it!



STRUGGLING: Motlha



STANDING HIS GROUND: Suffocate

ferent explanation for the singer's psychological struggles.

"We are not the reason Motlha fell into depression. I would say the loss of his brother last year really hit him hard. Also, the fact that some of his singles did not really do as well as he would have hoped."

Suffocate further disclosed that their three-year contract with Motlha had come to an end but when discussions over a renewal were about to begin, the

star indicated he wanted out.

"We parted ways amicably. We will meet again after the lockdown to finalize how we will proceed because he had already recorded music with us."

Asked if he will keep rights to Motlha's music, Suffocate responded, "We will most likely keep the rights to his music, but we will finalize the details once lockdown is done."

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SOCIAL MEDIA ROUND UP

BY TUMISANG DALE RANKOPO



CONGRATS: Frost and Zibo

THE country, like much of the planet, may be in lockdown but social media activity shows no signs of slowing down any time soon.

We offer you a fresh serving of the trending topics from the week....

MPS ILL-ADVISED SHOPPING TRIP

After the bombshell revelation that Botswana's entire parliament would have to be quarantined, social media was shocked to see a video showing some members of parliament out at a supermarket shortly after the news was announced.

One of the MPs, Pono Moatlhodi of Tonota, is seen interacting with fellow shoppers who couldn't believe their eyes. So-

cial media was disappointed in their MPs for potentially putting the general public at risk.

"You mean people's lives are now at risk so someone can get a loaf of bread?" read one of the slightly tamer Facebook comments. Botswana were very upset to say the least and expect more self-discipline from their leaders.

BABY BELLS FOR FROST

Local rapper Frost Legato and YouTube personality Zibo Bantsi are expecting their first child together.

The pair announced the news via Zibo's YouTube page - which boasts a following of almost 18, 000 - and the congratulations quickly spread across social media to the visibly delighted couple.

"Congratulations are in order. I can't wait to see this kind of content from you guys," said one excited Twitter user.

We would be honoured to have the first baby pictures shared with The Voice.

CHARGED FOR FAKE NEWS

Botswana Patriotic Front (BPF) spokesperson and former Big Brother Africa housemate Justice Motlhabani has been charged with spreading fake news online.

Motlhabani and his co-accused Letsogile Barupi and Oratile Dikologang are charged with four counts, two for 'use of offensive electronic communication' and the other two being 'publishing statements with intentions to deceive persons about Covid-19 infection'.

Social media has been littered with false information regarding various topics around Coronavirus in Botswana. On the whole the public seem glad action is being taken, although one silly comment read, "He is too small to be a threat to the



UNDER FIRE: Shimza

nation. Let him go." Big Brother surely won't be pleased!

TOP COP LETS HIS HAIR DOWN

A wholesome video surfaced online of Director of Crime Intelligence Nunu Lesetedi making the most of his extreme social distancing with some entertaining dance moves. Although he is visibly off beat, it is clear that intention was to entertain.

Social media thought it was a humorous display to take our minds off the Coronavirus crisis.

"Show these youngsters how it's done!" said one approving Facebook user. Another comment commends Lesetedi for taking time out of his busy schedule to spend quality time with his family. "Now that looks like a happy family!"

It is good to see a different side of our usually super serious police boss.

SHIMZA SLAMMED

South African artist DJ Shimza found himself on the wrong side of Twitter's wrath after telling an upcoming DJ he is annoying and to stop bothering him.

The upcoming DJ Ceega's fans started a movement to get their man a slot on Shimza's Lockdown House Party. Shimza's Twitter timeline was full of DJ Ceega and his fans petitioning the online party host. Shimza became irritated with all the Twitter traffic and replied to Ceega saying, "You need to stop harassing me, it's annoying." Social media found the response to be rude and unnecessary resulting in a lot of backlash towards Shimza. "Is this how you treat your peers and fans? There was a time you needed help too but you are too arrogant to help others," blasted one feisty comment.

Meanwhile DJ Ceega has amassed a new fan base from the online encounter. Best of luck to him in his career.



CHARGED: Motlhabani



NAUGHTY MP: Moatlhodi out at Choppies

SOCIETY IN ACTION

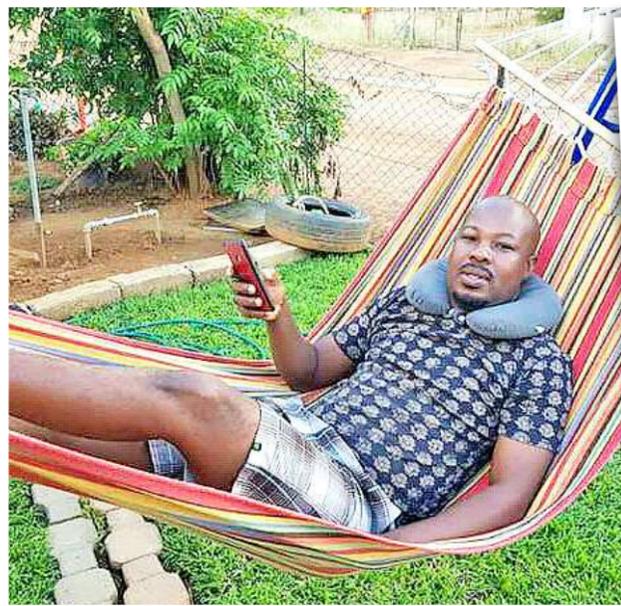
SHARE YOUR PHOTOS:

WhatsApp: +267 7273 3092

Telegram: @thevoicebw_bot



LOCKDOWN ROMANTIC: Katlego and her boyfriend Tshepang



FEET UP: Masa relaxing at home



FUN WITH FRIENDS: Lesego, Serg, Dodo and Thabang pose for a pic



ON DUTY: BDF officer checking permits



NERVOUS WAIT: Workers and residents queuing for permits at Government offices in Gabs



FOOTY FAMILY: Masitaoka fans, Morgan, Kemmony and their sister Katlego

MASIMO MAGIC: Kaone and Asi at Lentsweletau lands



FAMILY BONDS: Alex Mutandwa and his young nephew Samuel at home in Donga



DUSTY DELIGHT: Voice readers playing traditional games



SEXY SMILES: Dodo and friends in Kanye

SOCIETY IN ACTION

Week two of lockdown and with extreme social distancing in full force, action was at a premium. As always, however, The Voice's resilient lens managed to capture magical moments across the land.

EMAIL YOUR SPECIAL MOMENTS TO: mookamik@thevoicebw.com



With Khoi-Fro

tsholofelodikobe9@gmail.com

Voice on fashion

FASHION IN COVID-19 DAYS

HOW TO PUT ON, USE, TAKE OFF AND DISPOSE OF A MASK?

According to WHO (World Health Organisation) the most effective ways to protect yourself and others against COVID-19 are frequently clean your hands, cover your cough with the bend of elbow or tissue and maintain a distance of at least 1 meter (3 feet) from people who are coughing or sneezing. However, WHO recommends that a mask should only be used by health workers, care takers, and individuals with respiratory symptoms, such as fever and cough. As confirmed cases rises, here is how to use a mask the right way.

WHEN TO USE A MASK:
For healthy people, wear a mask only if you are taking care of a person with suspected covid-19. Wear a mask if you are coughing or sneezing.

BEFORE USING A MASK:
Clean hands with alcohol based sanitizer or soap and water.

- Take the mask and inspect it for tears or holes.
- Orient which side is the top side (where the metal strip is).
- Ensure the proper side of the mask faces outwards (the coloured side).
- Place the mask to your face. Pinch the metal strip or stiff edge of the mask so it moulds to the shape of your nose. Make sure that there is no gap between your



SURGICAL MASK:
The coloured side faces outside.

face and the mask.

- Pull down the mask's bottom so it covers your mouth and your chin.
- Avoid touching your face and the mask while using it. If you do clean your hands with a hand sanitizer or soap and water. Discard the mask in a closed bin immediately after use.
- Perform hand hygiene after touching or discarding the mask - Use alcohol-based hand rub or, if visibly soiled, wash your hands with soap and water.
- Replace the mask with a new one as soon as it is damp and do not re-use single-use masks.

TO REMOVE THE MASK: remove it from behind (do not touch the front of mask); discard immediately in a closed bin; clean hands with alcohol-based hand rub or soap and water.



N95 MASK:
An N95 respirator is a respiratory protective device designed to achieve a very close facial fit and very efficient filtration of airborne particles.



BEST DRESSED OF THE WEEK:

The Voice on Fashion Stunner

Hafymo, is a style aficionado, and a formidable style dribbler. Her style is filled to the brim with glamorous stay home style inspos! She believes fashion and style complement each other and go beyond satisfying the basic human necessity of clothing. They inspire people to assert their concept of self, as well as boosting the economic sector. Stay home and stay stylish!



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Chillin' Out

HOT GOSSIP BY SHAYA
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LEAGAJANG

WE HAVE MOVED TO PHAKALANE

SLOW DOWN KENTUCKY

➔ **SHAYA was about to congratulate the newly appointed Press Secretary to the President, Bathalefi Kentucky Leagajang, when Shaya was stopped in Shaya's tracks by Leagajang's interesting new demeanor.**

Instead of congratulating and welcoming him to the government enclave, Shaya then decided to issue a warning to the new president's man instead.

With just few days in your office Kentucky there is already tension brewing between you and the very people you are supposed to be serving, journalists! Shaya does not want

to dwell much on this hot gossip but Yours truly would just advise you to give the journalists you meet in line of duty the same respect that you give their editors. Your style of disrespecting journos during assignments will work against you in future. So brika Kentucky and treat everyone equally. And ooh another thing, remember you are not the boss of all BW journalists, so when you address them whether it's about dress code or any other topic, show some respect, move closer and do it in a civilized manner. Anyhow, as we say in Setswana you have heard Shaya, you are not a Letebele so congratulations and welcome *Kgabo!*

PUT YOUR DOGS ON A LEASH

➔ **THIS is the most critical time for citizens to tie their dogs. Its time to be alert, otherwise an opportunity coming your way could easily be missed.**

At a time when most are awaiting the arrival of Social Workers to be assessed for the much needed food baskets, it is a bad idea to leave your dogs roaming freely in your yard.

Apparently a dog at Coloured Location in Francistown attacked a social worker. Needless to say that particular family will not be getting any food ration from the Covid-19 relief basket this month. Where did the dog get the energy to chase the poor Social Worker? Talk about literally biting the hand that feeds you! So, fellow citizens if you want a favorable assessment from our beloved Social Workers keep your scrawny dogs on a leash.



MORWAENG

➔ **THERE is something common among politicians, which beats logic.**

Many of them, the moment they get elected into office they move out and up, away from their voters. This happens even with places surrounding the city. Shaya came across a message in which Member of Parliament for Molepolole South's wife was telling voters not to bother

checking them at Extension 5 anymore as they have relocated to Phakalane Golf Estate. The Mrs even boasted that she was hoping to run a consultancy in the city. Ok, we hear you Madam but how do voters reach you that far? Apparently a councillor for a ward in that same constituency has also moved to a posh neighbourhood in town. Shaya's eyes will be on you in 2024. Don't say yours truly never warned you.

FEEDBACK @ CHILLIN' OUT

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TOBACCO AND COVID-19



CORONA virus is a respiratory flu like illness with symptoms such as cough, fever and in more severe cases causes difficulty in breathing.

COVID-19 can be easily spread from person to person through contact with an infected person when they cough or sneeze, it can be also spread when a person touches a surface or object that has the virus and touch their nose, eyes or mouth.

With the attempt to contain and reduce the spread of the Corona virus, on the 29th March 2020, the President of the Republic of Botswana, His Excellency Dr. Mokgweetsi Eric Keabetswe Masisi issued a statement that the country is to go on extreme social distancing for a period of 28 days. This issued statement came with regulations such as restricting the sale of alcohol in the period of extreme social distancing and recently the ban of the sale of tobacco in Botswana until further notice. The restrictions put on the sale of both alcohol and cigarettes may remain for the continuation of the 6 month State of Emergency.

As BOSASNet, we understand that this sudden change and new regulations might be a cause for concern for individuals of the public. As nicotine is an addictive substance found in tobacco products such as cigarettes, it is a drug that

directly affects the brain causing the body to adapt to regular nicotine intake. If the body does not receive the regular nicotine intake, it can cause uncomfortable symptoms such as feeling irritable, headaches, increased anxiety, etc. These symptoms are commonly known as nicotine withdrawal symptoms.

Immediate Withdrawal Symptoms

During these days of lockdown, it is important for you to understand your body and what you may be feeling in terms of the withdrawal symptoms in order to better cope. Nicotine withdrawal symptoms are both physical symptoms and psychological symptoms. The physical withdrawal symptoms usually last a few days while nicotine leaves the body, about 1 to 3 days being the peak and when they are intensely felt throughout the body.

These symptoms may include:

- Sweating
- Nausea
- Abdominal cramping
- Constipation
- Headaches
- Insomnia or difficulty sleeping

Long Term Withdrawal Symptoms

Those that are mainly felt over a

long period of time are psychological symptoms, which are characterised by...

- a strong desire or craving to smoke a cigarette
- irritability or frustration
- low mood
- difficulty concentrating,
- anxiety and/or mood swings.

What to do?

As the lockdown and the restrictions accompanying it are things beyond our control, it is important to mentally prepare ourselves for the reality of withdrawal symptoms that we might feel sooner or later. According to research, people mainly feel withdrawal symptoms when they are idle, therefore, it is important to pay attention to what is happening around you when you feel withdrawal symptoms.

i. Keep busy and occupied: talking to someone, exercising, cleaning the house and/or yard, starting a garden are things that can help occupy your time. Some people have reported that keeping their hands and mouths busy helps distract them from craving; chewing gum is another way of coping with withdrawal symptoms. .

ii. Avoiding triggers: If you have a favourite spot to smoke at home, then avoid it as much as possible. Some trig-



WHERE TO GET HELP

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

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

Men's Clinic - 3909402
(Male Sexual Health)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

gers are emotions, so do relaxation exercises to maintain your calm. Meditation, yoga and prayer also help.

iii. Exercise: as mentioned above, exercise is one of the key ways to cope with cravings. Look for home exercises you can engage in for at least 30 minutes a day.

Your family members or lockdown house mates could be your pillar of strength during the lockdown period. If you stay alone, keeping in contact with friends and family could help reduce the anxiety you feel about the lockdown and be a distraction from withdrawal symptoms.

Remember that you can also contact our counselling services online through our Facebook page or call and WhatsApp us on 7265 9891.



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OKAVANGO VILLAGES PREPARE FOR FLOODING

North West District has issued a warning of imminent flooding along the Okavango Delta, which is likely to affect homesteads in some villages.

On Tuesday, the District Commissioner (DC), Keolopile Leipego reported that he was in Kauxwi, where water had risen beyond the riverbanks and was steadily creeping towards numerous homes.

"Right now the water has not reached the homesteads. But it is important for everyone to get ready and prepare for possible floods. The water is coming in too heavy and we are expecting floods to reach the people anytime," stressed Leipego.

The DC and his team drove to Shakawe area on Tuesday morning to assess the situation following reports of looming floods that may leave many people homeless.

Although the area has been crying out for water, the timing could not be worse as the country battles to keep its people in lockdown amid the fight against coronavirus.

"At the moment I cannot really make a general report of the situation because we are yet to visit other areas including Iko-ga, Etsha 13 and others," the DC further explained.

The water that is flooding the Okavango Delta originates from

the Angolan highlands and has been rising steadily in the Mo-hembo area since December.

The Water and Sanitation department has made repeated assurances that the water will reach Thamalakane River by the end of April or early May at the latest.

Last year, the water dried up a few kilometres before reaching Thamalakane due to low rainfall in Angola.



CONCERNED: Leipego

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UNSYMPATHETIC COPS

Maun police were on Monday called in to control a restless crowd at the North West Rural Administration Centre as tempers reached boiling point in the midday heat.

The cops were reportedly summoned to the centre after a sizeable number of people threatened to block council employees from leaving the premises before issuing them all with permits.

The agitated crowd maintained that they needed permits to go and buy essentials including food and medication.

The group's main grievance was that the police were giving them a hard time and charging them for leaving their homes without the necessary permits.

However, to get a permit, they have to travel to the District Commissioner's office where they often have to wait for hours.

FRUSTRATIONS

Summing up the frustrations of many, a young mum, Selebogo Masedi dismissed the system as flawed.

"We are living under dictatorship. Yesterday we were told we can go to the shops without permits and today we are charged P1, 000 for doing the same. How are we expected to get permits without leaving our homes? This is unfair. I had come to buy milk for my baby and got a charge!" seethed Masedi.

Speaking to Okavango Voice, Maun Police Station Commander, Chenamo Orateng confirmed his officers' presence at the council but maintained they were there to ensure the mandatory one metre distancing was observed by those queuing for permits.



ROAD BLOCK: Police checking for permits

'No permit.....Prepare to pay!'

ing for permits.

"People want permits but we are law enforcers. We are following directions of the Director of Health Services that anyone who leaves their home during the national lockdown has to get a permit first," Orateng reiterated.

Asked how the public were meant to get permits without first leaving their homes, the top cop was unrelenting.

"That is not the police's business. The law says when a person leaves their home to get an essential service, they must be carrying with them a movement

permit. As to how they get the forms or fill them, that is not our business, ours is to ensure that everyone abides by the law!"

According to a report from the North West District, over the first weekend of lockdown (4 and 5 April), 1, 415 pedestrians were stopped in the district, of which 397 had no permits and seven were charged. Additionally, 644 cars were stopped but none charged. With the cops new unsympathetic stance, these numbers are likely to rise drastically from now on!



COMMOTION: Queuing for permits

Peter Gochela



BREWING CONCERN

AS the country is forced into lockdown by the killer virus, COVID-19, women around Ngamiland who are faced with the insurmountable task of feeding young children and their families continue to be arrested for illegal sales of home brewed liquor.

In Seronga for instance three women aged between 25 and 40 were arrested for defying the ban of liquor sales and charged for the offence.

Confirming the charges, Seronga police station commander, Peter Masole said the women were caught in different homes following tip offs from members

of the community.

"Seronga is a relatively small village and people are generally complying with the lockdown regulations except a few who still make homebrews and secretly sell from their homes," Masole has explained.

Seronga is one of the poorest villages in the country with very few job opportunities.

On arrests the women usually plead and ask for forgiveness, of which they are mainly charged with admission of guilt which usually attracts a P500 fine.

Their excuses according to the police is that they are selling the beer because it is their only source of income to support their families.

However Masole has warned the culprits that the sale of alcohol is illegal and police will charge both sellers and customers.

"They cover the brews with blankets but usually in such a place there is movement of people who come in and out. The buyers often bring own containers," added Masole.

Last week Officer commanding for policing district 5, Peter Gochela revealed that it is evident that people continue to sneak out of their homes to buy home brews during the lockdown.

Gochela indicated that they have charged several brewers who are mostly women for defying the liquor sales ban.

PEOPLE UNDER SEIGE



Ngamiland under attack from covid-19, Malaria outbreak, diarrhoea and locusts

BY LIVINGSTONE KENTSHITSWE

As the war against Covid-19 rages on, government authorities in the besieged area of Ngamiland are bracing themselves for a looming fight against the additional triple threat of diarrhoea, malaria and a locust outbreak.

These are the ugly sides of the breathtaking world famous Okavango Delta as its waters (about 11 cubic km) fill up dried tributaries spanning over a 15000 Squared kilometers surface area of the entire region.

The inflow, having covered the Okavango sub district, is now 30km out of Maun and expected to fill up the Thamalakane River in about a week or two.

To the tourists, the waters would have been a sight to behold but to the medical experts it marks the beginning of a battle.

In an interview with this publication, head of DHMT (Ngami District) Dr. Malebogo



GIVING ADVICE: Leipego

Kebabonye said that in the transmission season of between, October 2019 to May 2020 they've registered a total of 248 cases of malaria including three fatalities for the district. 226 of these are in the Okavango sub district with one fatality. As for the diarrhoea outbreak she says there are usually two outbreaks annually occurring in January and winter respectively. There has been one in the first two weeks of January 2020 that affected over 300 children under the age of five resulting in five fatalities.

"Floods cause portable water shortages especially in remote areas leading to people resorting to drinking river water. This is the main cause for the diarrhoea outbreak. Many water samples we test show contamination. Storage of such water is also a contributing factor," said the concerned doctor.

Ngamiland District Commissioner Keolopile Leipego has echoed the same thoughts.

In an interview with The Voice Newspaper Leipego said he flew to the Delta this week to assess the situation.

"It's worrying," he said. "The water level is approaching the 3.5m height which signals possible flash floods," the DC further explained.

Although many people were relocated when the floods occurred in 2010 some people still remain on flooding areas and together with their belongings might need to be evacuated soon.

"In Etsha 13 the borehole, which supplies people will likely submerge. Portable water will have to be brought in; Ploughing fields will either be submerged or cut off affecting food security and income. There's already a locust outbreak too. Our resources will be stretched," Leipego lamented.

As for fighting the African Migratory Locust outbreak, he decried the shortage of human

resources as personnel at the department of agriculture are already engaged in the fight against Covid-19.

"We may have to ask for help from the national disaster committee. We have had to do that last year and this was under normal circumstances," he explained.

But floods create an even dire situation for the health workers as they often cut off access for their 93 mobile clinics.

These clinics are essential for delivering medical services to people in hard to reach parts of Ngamiland. 23 of these service areas are in the Okavango flood plains.

But there's a silver lining according to Dr Kebabonye.

"One of the Covid-19 outbreak positive outcome was to strengthen community mobilization. We have clusters across the region monitoring the situation and spreading awareness. Private companies, especially in the tourism sector have been very supportive. We have access to 50 vehicles from them ready to deploy across the district at a moment's notice," explained Dr Kebabonye.

The Ngamiland Council of NGO's, the regional umbrella body for nonstate entities, which has over 50 members, has mobilized its members to set up public sanitising points and identify the needy, its Executive Director Simasiku Siyoka has said.

They work closely with the

DHMT.

In relation to the Covid-19 crisis in the district, Dr Kebabonye revealed that they continue to have arrivals of Batswana from Namibia through the Molembo boarder.

"As of this week we had 4 arrivals and these are quarantined in Gumare," she explained.

She further revealed that currently they had a total of six suspected cases in the district, all under quarantine.

The six are a mixture of Batswana who had traveled abroad and expatriates.

To date over 3000 people from high burden countries have been screened for covid-19 in Ngamiland while 43 people have been tested. None have tested positive so far.

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FIGHTING INFERTILITY

Dr Molemele sets out to destigmatise barrenness



BY TSHEPO MAPHANYANE

tshepom@thevoicebw.com

THROUGH her organization, Destiny Organisation (DO), established in 2016, Dr Ikanyeng Molemele and other stakeholders, including medical professionals offer support to both couples and individuals struggling with barrenness at no cost.

D.O was conceived out of concern about the psychological and social burden experienced by those with fertility challenges. It was inspired by the need to provide knowledge, awareness, counseling, support and where possible medical intervention.

Dr Molemele was also concerned about the stigma associated with infertility and how in traditional settings, fault has always been placed squarely with the woman even without an official diagnosis.

So passionate about this project, was Dr Molemele that she decided to self-fund to shuttle between the United Kingdom where she resides and works and Botswana, her home country to drum up support for the organisation and to raise awareness on issues of infertility and barrenness.

Her selfless work was recognized when she was conferred an honorary doctorate last year during the Global Peace Summit in London and her organisation given a UN Humanitarian Award at the University of Birmingham in 2019 by the Universal Peace Federation.

The Universal Peace Federation acknowledges individuals whose lives exemplify the ideal of living for the sake of others,

and who dedicate themselves to practices that promote universal moral values, strong family life, inter-religious cooperation, international harmony, responsible representation to the public and media, as well as the establishment of the culture of peace.

Shedding more light on what drives her, Dr Molemele said. "For as long as I can remember, I have admired the role that women in all their diversity play in society." However, it is the many voiceless women who suffer silently that Dr Molemele has always particularly felt drawn to.

"It is no secret that part of our culture shuns open discussion of certain issues such as infertility. Growing up it was not a subject openly discussed, although thinking back I realize how cruel the environment was to the women who could not bear children. Even if not said to their faces, these women were considered an embarrassment and often they were ostracised by their communities. The stigma surrounding barrenness is a huge problem and it is sad that infertility is still considered a taboo subject hence very little gets said about it," lamented Dr Molemele.

She then went on to highlight that the worst thing about infertility is that it was still largely associated with women and not considered a couple's problem even though it has been proven medically that there is a 50/50 chance that it could be either the woman or the man that has a condition related to the difficulty and inability to have children.

The award winning Doctor



PHILANTHROPIST:
Ikanyeng Molemele

from the village of Lokhwabe prides herself with being resilient in her undertakings and counts among her career highlights the opportunity to deliberate on issues affecting women at a conference hosted at the House of Parliament in London alongside the former President of Malawi, Dr Joyce Banda.

In addition, Molemele has launched LUBU Signature merchandise, which comprise of LUBU Art and LUBU Lingerie. LUBU (which means salt pan in Shekgalari) is used as a representation of Dr Molemele's Shekgalari heritage.

Her work, she said is also meant to give a voice to the voiceless whilst shining a spotlight on the beauty of her country through her Sesarwa lineage.

"I am proud of who I am and where I come from. As a people, we need to move away from shunning that which we know little about. Bringing people together in beautiful spaces lined with the most enthralling artwork has led to many conversations that resonate with the work I do," she said flashing a beautiful smile.

Through the creative industry, Molemele has infused relevant and related messages to



ENTREPRENEURIAL :
Ikey in Lubu Lingerie

reach wider audiences who in turn can participate in any of the key projects she is involved in.

LUBU Art for example manages the talented, Qaeghao Moses – a Mosarwa artist from D'Kar who has exhibited at the renowned Bricklane art gallery in London during the Black History Month alongside another celebrated artist from Nigeria. "The exhibitions were a success leading to the production of merchandise to honor the contemporary beauty of Botswana and our continent's

cultural art. Not satisfied with these successes, in 2019 Molemele opened a luxury online lingerie store called LUBU Signatures. "I wanted to celebrate women of all shapes with lingerie that oozes class and sass. Women need to feel empowered and always remember that they are the most beautiful creatures to ever grace this earth with no labels of what a Queen should look like or feel like. The challenges faced every day, even the ones battled privately make us who we are," said the Doc in conclusion.



ANNOYED: President Mnangagwa must refocus his energies

OUT OF FOCUS!

SOMEBODY, somewhere is quaking in their boots as they face 20 years behind bars for spreading fake news with regards to Covid-19.

The prankster(s), who is/are yet to be caught, issued a statement purporting to be President Emmerson Mnangagwa announcing that the 21-day lockdown, which is due to end on Sunday, has been indefinitely extended.

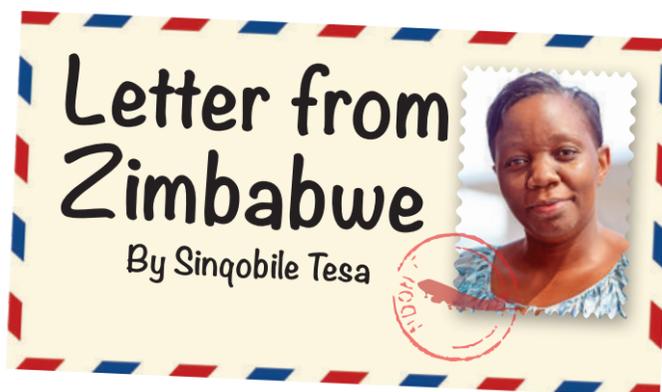
While spreading fake news about coronavirus is now a punishable offence as it can cause alarm and despondency, I honestly feel sending someone to jail for a whole two decades for such a crime is grossly unfair. After all, some people literally get away with murder – and those convicted often serve less than 20 years!

Knowing our central intelligence officers, they will leave no stone unturned as they look high and low for the perpetrator(s) as directed by the President.

Mnangagwa will then undoubtedly want to prove he is a 'man of his word' by ensuring the culprit is jailed for 20 years.

This is a matter that will not go to court as the verdict and sentence have already been passed.

I really feel for this poor soul who will be thrown inside a maximum security prison with hardcore criminals for



such a misdemeanour.

Hopefully, when eventually caught, human rights lawyers will chip in and save him/her from this dreadful sentence.

There are many white collar criminals in the country who have committed worse crimes and caused untold suffering to ordinary Zimbos, yet they continue to flaunt their ill gotten wealth as if to spite the poor. So if the President wants to prove that he is serious about fighting crime, he must first deal with well-known people who are looting from government at the expense of the people instead of flexing his muscle on petty criminals; we really have had enough of selective justice!

In all fairness, the President must focus on curbing the spread of Covid-19 in the

country and making sure that we have what it takes to deal with the virus instead of worrying himself with such insignificant crimes.

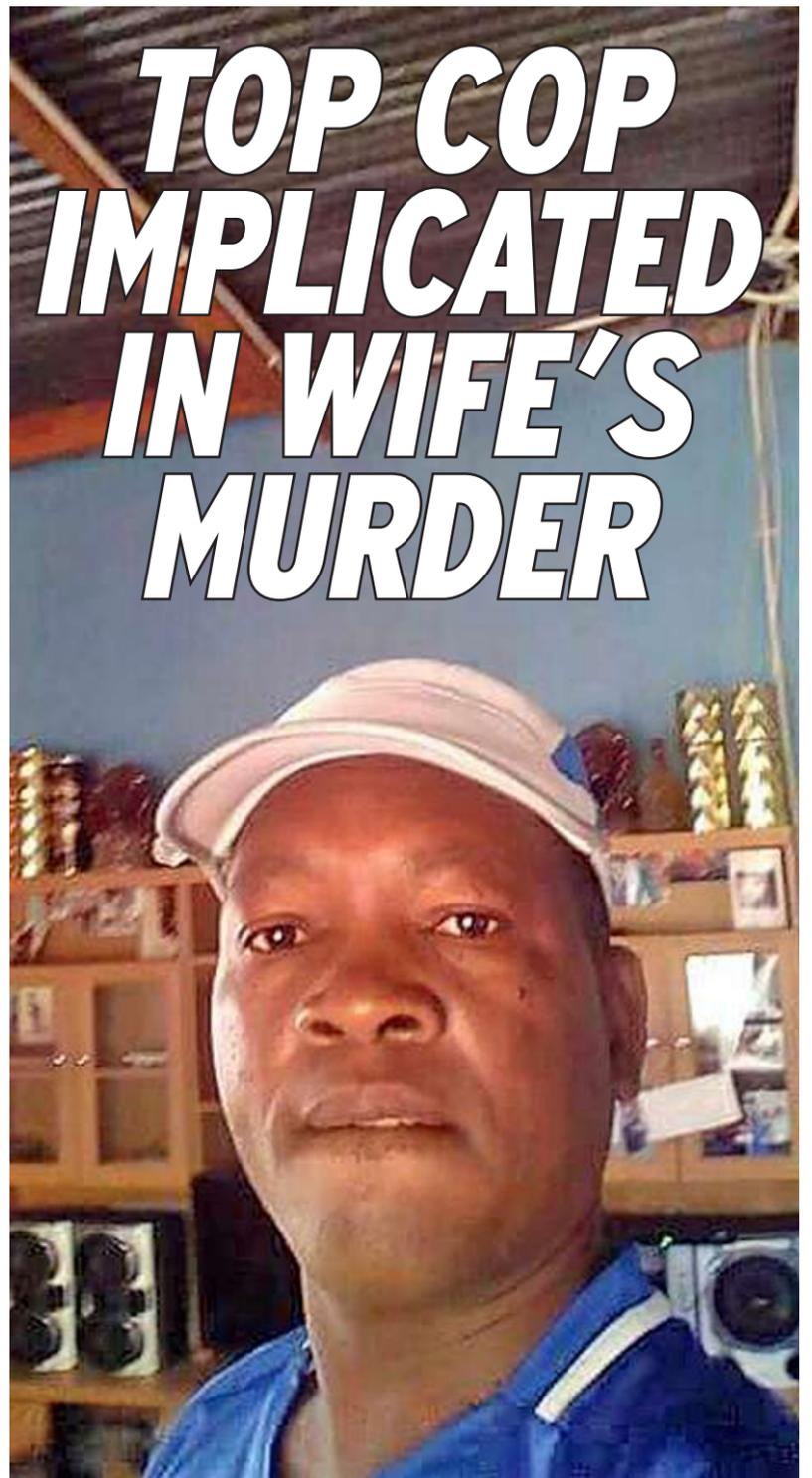
In any case, indications are that the lockdown will be extended since the number of cases is also on the rise. As of Wednesday, Zimbabwe had 18 Covid-19 confirmed cases and three deaths.

Meanwhile, government has been ordered to regularly test and screen health workers and to provide them with personal protective equipment. The ruling comes after a doctor and nurse were infected with coronavirus in the line of duty.

"If no urgent steps are taken to address the shortcomings, the country will be caught unprepared to handle a possible escalation of the Covid-19 pandemic and many lives will be lost, sadly including the lives of those at the frontline," warns a statement from Zimbabwe Association for Doctors for Human Rights.

So, Mr President, please address such concerns and not these other petty ones, let's have some focus for once!

I honestly feel sending someone to jail for a whole two decades for such a crime is grossly unfair. After all, some people literally get away with murder – and those convicted often serve less than 20 years!



IN CUSTODY: Sergeant Mogalakwe

BY GOFAONE KOOGOTSITSE

A COMMANDER at Kuke Police Post in Ghanzi District has been arrested and remanded in custody for the alleged murder of his 51-year-old wife.

According to sources close to the scene, on Tuesday the suspect, Sergeant Motlalekgosi Mogalakwe, 52, reportedly stabbed his wife of one year in the chest and back before voluntarily handing himself in to the police.

It is believed the couple were arguing over a phone conversation, although the exact details remain unclear.

Police Public Relations Officer, Senior Superintendent Near Bagali, revealed that Mogalakwe was arraigned before Ghanzi Magistrates Court a day after the incident and will appear for mention on 30 April. "We cannot disclose the full

names of the deceased as the relatives are still to be informed especially in this time of lockdown where some might be in far places. He used a sharp instrument but we cannot disclose what; that we leave to the relevant authorities," explained Bagali.

The police spokesperson confirmed that Mogalakwe, a resident of Mabutsane village, will remain on remand at Ghanzi Prisons until his mention.

Meanwhile, in a media briefing held on Tuesday, Deputy Police Commissioner Dinah Marathe disclosed that from 23-29 March, they registered two murder cases, two threats to kill together with four indecent assaults, 24 armed robbery cases and 31 cases of defilement.

From 30 March to 5 April, Botswana Police recorded two murder cases, one threat to kill, 22 rape cases of children aged two to 13 and 23 cases of defilement.



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WORRIED: Marathe

CRISIS AS DEFILEMENT, INCEST CASES INCREASE SINCE LOCKDOWN

BY SHARON MATHALA

THE Botswana Police Service (BPS) have noted with concern a staggering rise in reported cases of defilement and incest since the beginning of lockdown for COVID-19 (Corona Virus) prevention purposes.

The statistics from the period of March 23 to 29 has indicated that two murder cases, 24 robbery

cases, two threat to kill reports, 31 defilement cases as well as four indecent assault cases were committed across the country.

The serious spike in domestic violence and related crimes has prompted the BPS to launch an additional toll free number for victims to report abusers.

The Deputy Commissioner, Dinah Marathe who released the statistics this week explained that the increase in the numbers could be "because families now spend a lot of time at home, meaning that the time we spend together has increased."

Marathe further noted that what was worrying was the observation that it was mostly minor girls and older women who were targeted by perpetrators.

"Since lockdown we have noted an increase in rape incidents involving minor children aged between two years and 13 years as well as older folks. A lot of them are raped at home, culprits seem to be either parents, fathers, step fathers, brothers or cousins in the house," the deputy commissioner said.

The police boss has further noted that there were 315 recorded murder incidents in 2017, 316 in 2018 while murder statistics shot up to 320 cases in 2019.

"Rape for the same period stood at 2074 in 2017, 2064 in 2018 whilst in 2019 police recorded 2265. For Defile-

ment incidents for the same period, 2017 had 572 reported cases, 2018- 769 and last year an alarming increase of up to 1208 rape cases were recorded," Marathe further stated.

When encouraging women to report such criminal activities, the Deputy Commissioner said, "Do not feel stigmatized. Report wherever you are. The Police will have a social worker and trained service provider so they could assist by asking the right questions within a short space of time."

Marathe further revealed that last year it came to the police attention that about 67 percent of women do not report GBV cases.

Meanwhile UNICEF has strongly condemned the sharp spike of rape against minor children.

"We have noted with concern the alarming numbers of children who have been raped since the beginning of the lockdown. It is heartbreaking to hear that out of 22 rape cases reported, seven of them are children between the ages of two and 13 years. In addition the Botswana Police Service have registered 23 cases of defilement in the same week," said acting UNICEF representative Sarah Ng'inja.

***0800600144- toll free number and is free across all networks**

sharon@thevoicebw.com @sharonmathala

We have noted with concern the alarming numbers of children who have been raped since the beginning of the lockdown.

THE GENEROSITY OF MPS

Cabinet Ministers donate 10 percent of salaries to Coronavirus fight



DANIEL ONALENNA

BY KABELO ADAMSON

A week after Members of Parliament (MP) received a 10 percent salary increase to be used as travel allowance, members of the cabinet have announced they will donate 10 percent of their wages towards the government's fight against Covid-19. The pledge is valid for the next six months and works out as P167,407.20 a month.

Following the announcement, The Voice took to the streets to gauge the public's mood over this unexpected news.

DANIEL ONALENNA, 30

I don't think there is a problem with the 10 percent donation because it is something. It will make a difference.

They have tried and we give them credit for that. Even us common people, we will contribute something to the Fund as time goes on.

TREVOR

It's a good move. All the nations have been doing that so it would be unfortunate if our leaders were not leading by example. Even where I work, management has taken a decision to cut salaries of the executive team so that the business does not collapse during this period and also to make sure everyone's job is kept safe.



ATLARELANG SELEMA

In South Africa, national leaders have taken the same initiative, as they have in many other countries. Even private companies have done the same, so I think cabinet has made a wise decision.

ATLARELANG SELEMA, 64

It is befitting that they should donate because they earn a lot and I am unapologetic about it.

We could also be donating but we earn nothing, it is as simple as that! We earn nothing and there is nowhere we can get the money to donate to the fund to fight the virus, much as we would love to. Us, the poor, why should we be looked at with suspicion because government knows we earn peanuts and there is nothing that government can do, even if we tell them we are not being paid well.

Government should also consider re-opening churches so that they can pray for this pandemic. Churches can operate on sessions, with a limited number of people coming at a time because spending time indoors is not a solution.

ANONYMOUS, CIVIL SERVANT

It has been said that whoever is able donate should do and as such I believe cabinet is leading by example which is quite commendable.

I don't know their salaries but I think 10 percent is enough because at the end of the day it's their salaries and therefore they are not forced to donate. Even 10 percent is what the bible says should be given as tithes.

HERDBOY ACCUSED OF RAPE

BY CHRISTINAH MOTLHABANE

Shakawe police are investigating a case in which a 23-year-old man allegedly raped a 10-year-old girl at Metsimatala cattlepost in Gani village last Thursday.

The two went together to look for goats and on the way the suspect, a herdboy, reportedly dragged the youth into the bush where he allegedly raped her.

Shakawe police boss, Keitshokile Kebodiretswe confirmed the report to The Voice in a telephone interview this week.

"The victim's mother is the one who reported the matter to the police. We heard it was in the late afternoon when the two went to look for the goats. The herdboy has been arrested and the matter is still under investigations before he appears before the court," said the station commander.

Kebodiretswe added that in Mabuditsa ward in Sepopa village police were investigating a case in which a neighbour attempted to rape a young girl.

The 18-year-old man attempted to rape the 12-year-old girl last week Friday at night.

It was reported that when the young girl was sleeping she sensed someone creeping into her blankets and touching her so she screamed for her mother's help.

"Luckily she had recognised the boy's face and identified him as their neighbor. He has been arrested and is also awaiting the investigations so he can appear in court," said Kebodiretswe

The police chief added that rape cases in his area are high, so police have embarked on public education to teach people on the dangers of such. The top cop also urged parents to take care of their children.

Commenting on the current lockdown, Kebodiretswe stated that in his area it is hard for people to stay home because many are poor and hungry.

"People are trying very much to comply but due to some things they need they end up going out. Many people here use the bush as their toilet and fetch water from the public taps," he said.



TORONTO TACTICIAN: Kowa

TRANSFORMING TORONTO

FROM BACK PAGE

The Gaborone-based outfit moved swiftly to replace Drago, bringing in local tactician Oupa Kowa to steady their stuttering ship.

The former Township Rollers, Mochudi Centre Chiefs and Extension Gunners man found himself under immediate pressure, losing his first four matches in charge, his side failing to score a single goal.

Despite the disastrous run, to their credit Notwane's supporters showed a patience and understanding rarely seen in the cutthroat modern game.

"Management and fans understood that they had to give me time to map out a strategy that would eventually help the team get the needed results. They could see that there was bit of improvement in play despite losing so many games," recalls Kowa, speaking exclusively to Voice Sport this week.

"I took over when stakes were really high at the club - results were not coming in! I had to assess the team, and the league did not give us luxury to do that - that is why we lost so many games."

Kowa attributes much of Notwane's early troubles to a lack of fitness in the squad.

"Furthermore, I was unhappy with the level of fitness of my players at the time hence I had to improvise to at least get few points but it was not to be."

A 0-0 draw against Gaborone United followed, the rot temporarily halted as Notwane claimed their first point of the season thanks largely to the heroics of their goalkeeper, Mabitso Rapowa.

However, the goalless encounter meant Toronto had now gone 540 minutes (nine hours) without scoring.

Finally, in their seventh outing of the season, Sechaba ended their drought, a Terry Mbuque penalty securing a 1-1 draw with BDF XI.

The wait for a win would last a little longer.

A 2-1 loss to Township Rollers left Notwane rooted to the bottom on -4 points after eight matches.

Finally, on a muggy Wednesday evening in the first week of November, over two months after the Premier League started, Kowa's troops picked up their first victory.

Gilport Lions, who themselves were on a five-match losing streak, proved the perfect opposition.

With both teams low on confidence, a scrappy game ensued. In the end a single goal settled the tie and Notwane at long last had a win to savour.

The result would prove a turning point in Notwane's season.

Since the Gilport game, Toronto have accumulated 20 points from a possible 33, including a win and a draw against title chasing Orapa United.

The unlikely turnaround has seen the club launch up the league, although, because of their awful start, they still sit precariously placed, just one point above an incredibly tight drop zone.

So, exactly how did Kowa achieve such a remarkable transformation?

"With a little bit of faith in what I am doing by the players and being a father-figure to them helped a lot. They felt free to approach me with their problems on and off the pitch. It paid dividends as we are now getting those crucial points!" is the mild mannered coach's humble explanation.

ENCOUNTERS

Oozing confidence having won their last three league encounters, including a 1-0 triumph over Orapa last time out, and securing an Orange FA Cup quarter-final meeting with Jwaneng Galaxy after shooting down BDF 2-0, the postponement of local football could not have come at a worst time for Notwane.

Time will tell if the Covid-19 disruption derails the team's momentum.

For Kowa, however, there are other Corona-related complications to consider.

"I fear that the players might come back affected psychologically. A typical example would be when a player sustains a serious injury. After recovery he mostly fears contact and that might happen to our beautiful game, where players might fear contact due to this."

With the enforced break set to continue for the foreseeable future, Kowa is keen to ensure his players maintain the fitness that has been instrumental to their revival.

"Through my physical trainer I have given my boys a programme to keep fit. So on return we concentrate on strategies and game approach."

For Kowa and his in-form troops, that return can not come soon enough.

MAGICAL MEMORIES WITH MOGOROSI



Footy great reflects on glittering career

IN ACTION: Mogorosi during Botswana Premier League games

BY TSHEPO KEHIMILE

Forced to sit on the sidelines with a niggling hip injury, this season has proved extremely frustrating for Joel Mogorosi.

Now 35 - turning 36 in August - Juluka is undoubtedly in the twilight years of his career. But what a career it has been!

When he eventually hangs up his boots, and, sadly for Botswana football, that day is drawing ever closer,



FILE PIC: Mogorosi

Mogorosi will surely look back on his playing days with immense pride.

Indeed, he will go down in history as one of the country's greatest ever footballers.

A seven-time Premier League winner - six with Township Rollers and one with Mochudi Centre Chiefs - and a Mascom Top 8 champion in 2018, Mogorosi's trophy cabinet is bursting with domestic honours.

He is also one of a select few to prove he can make it beyond Botswana's borders, enjoying three largely successful years at South African Premier Soccer League (PSL) outfit, Bloemfontein Celtic.

It is a period he remembers with great fondness.

"I am happy with what I have achieved in South Africa. The love and support of Celtic lived through my veins. Those were the best years of my career hence I will never forget them," Mogorosi told Voice Sport in an exclusive interview this week.

During his stint with Celtic, where he played from 2012 to 2015, the lanky forward won the Telkom Knockout Tournament, Telkom Player of the tournament and the top scorer award.

Upon his return to his homeland, Mogorosi established himself as an integral part of a rampant Rollers team that went on to win four championships in a row.

Despite his aging years, it was a surprise to many when Popa allowed him to cross the capital divide and join Gaborone United at the start of the season.

Casting his mind back to where it all began, Mogorosi revealed, "My love for football started from a young age where I played with a ball made of plastics. Then, immediately after completing my Junior Certificate, I joined Maletamotse FC in the Southern Region Division 1, who roped in Daniel Nare as a coach. He shifted my focus to total football even though I had passed my JC to study at Lobatse Senior School."

It proved to be an inspired decision.

By the age of 19, Juluka had joined Botswana Meat Commission (BMC), where he quickly attracted the attention of the 'big boys'.

A move to Rollers soon followed, as did an unlikely sojourn in Europe, where he played in Cyprus, turning out for Pafos Athletic and Peiyas Kyniras in a two-year stay.

By 2008 Mogorosi was back in Bots, reuniting with Rollers where he won back-to-back titles. He then joined Chiefs, starting at Magosi before a dream move to South Africa beckoned.

Although he has achieved much in the domestic game, it is his time with the Zebras that he treasures the most.

"I can never forget the time I was part of the national team that qualified for the 2012 Africa Cup of Nations (AFCON) even though I was not able to play at the finals due to an injury; I am very proud," reminisces the man who was capped over 80 times by his country, many of those as captain.

Whatever happens in the remainder of his career, when he finally calls it a day, Botswana football will be all the poorer!

I can never forget the time I was part of the national team that qualified for the 2012 Africa Cup of Nations

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FILE PIC: Magorosi



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TRANSFORMING TORONTO

The brains behind Notwane's stunning revival

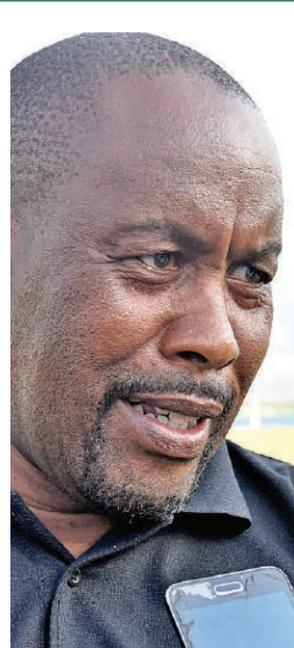
BY TSHEPO KEHIMILE

HAVING cemented their return to the Premier League with a 12th place finish, missing out on the Top 8 by just four points, many expected Notwane FC to push on this season.

However, a nightmare start quickly curtailed any dreams of glory Toronto might have haboured.

Docked six points for failing to comply with licencing requirements before a ball had been kicked in anger, once the action started the club's fortunes plummeted further.

After just one game, a 2-0 loss to Police XI, Notwane parted ways with their journeyman Serbian coach, Dragojlo Stanojlovic.



TORONTO TACTICIAN: Kowa

TURN TO PAGE 23

TURNAROUND: Notwane players celebrating a goal

