

THE VOICE

Friday
April 03, 2020

SPEAKS FOR ITSELF

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UDC Vice President: Saleshando

**POLITICAL,
UNION LEADERS
OPPOSED TO
MASISI'S
RULE BY DECREE**

SEE PAGE 4

HOW GOVT. BLUNDERED ON COVID-19 DEATH

**Hundreds
exposed
to the virus**

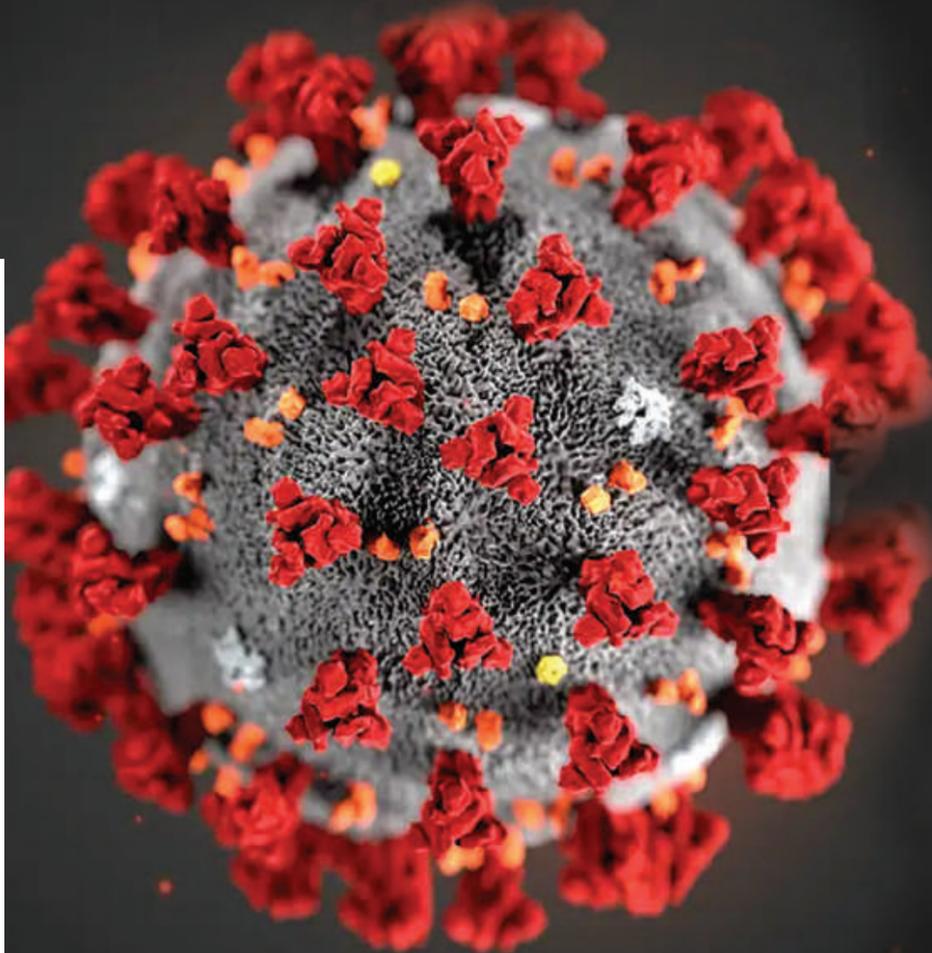
BY SHARON MATHALA

GOVERNMENT secrecy and unreliable communication this week dealt a devastating blow to the fight against COVID-19, exposing hundreds of people to infection in Ramotswa, Gaborone and surrounding areas.

As people reeled from the announcement of the first COVID-19 death in the country on Tuesday afternoon, it emerged that government had known about the 79-year-old Ramotswa woman's status since last week Thursday and concealed the information both to the family and mortuary that handled her body.

On Wednesday afternoon, traumatised Babereki Ka Lorato Mortuary staff spoke of how they were carelessly exposed to the deadly virus.

TURN TO PAGE 2



Dr Madisa explains COVID-19 testing procedure

THE Voice team visited Head of National Health Laboratory, Mine Madisa, on Wednesday evening for an understanding on how coronavirus testing is done.

Madisa explained that once there is a suspected case, specimen is taken and the testing begins.

"We have given ourselves and government a turnaround time of 72 hours. What happens is that once testing begins, we either have a negative result, a positive or an indeterminate result," he explained.

Madisa continued to explain that an indeterminate result means that the specimen would not give out a definite answer of either positive or negative. Positive or indeterminate results are then sent to South Africa for further verification and a report is then sent to the Minister.

"Some tests may need to be repeated if they are inconclusive. They may be repeated to resolve the status of the tests as it was the case with the fourth positive case (the Ramotswa woman)," Dr Madisa explained.

Patients in quarantine, Madisa explained, are monitored daily and tested on day 10 and day 14 of the quarantine before one can be cleared and released for self-isolation.

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Jack Ma's donations marred by controversy

BY DANIEL CHIDA

PART of the Jack Ma Foundation's pledge to donate test kits, masks and protective suits was fulfilled last week.

The Foundation donated 200 test kits, 100 000 masks and 1 000 protective suits to each African country.

Botswana accepted its share amid international reports that some countries had turned the facemasks away after they were proved to be faulty.

International media has reported that the Dutch government has recalled over half a million face masks that were used by health professionals treating patients of the coronavirus. The mouth masks that are not satisfactory have been retrieved," reported the Holland's Ministry of Health.

"The Netherlands said on Saturday that it had asked its hospitals to return around 600,000 face masks that were used by health professionals treating patients of the coronavirus. The mouth masks that are not satisfactory have been retrieved," reported the Holland's Ministry of Health.

The report has further stated that the faulty masks failed to meet safety requirements because they did not fit on the faces of doctors and nurses and were failing to prevent particles of the COVID-19 virus passing through.

The Ministry of Health and Wellness did not respond to *The Voice Newspaper* questionnaire on the quality and safety of Jack Ma's donation. The Ministry's spokesperson, Doreen Motshagwa, ignored our questions and calls amid suspicions that the same masks turned away by Holland could be the ones that were diverted to Botswana a week ago.

HUNDREDS EXPOSED TO THE VIRUS

FROM PAGE ONE

Speaking in an interview with *The Voice Newspaper* on Wednesday, the concerned Chairman of the mortuary, Martin Gabokake, said the woman was brought in a body bag on Friday.

"Our employees asked why someone who had died at Bamalete Lutheran Hospital a day before was brought in a body bag and they were told she died of asthma, and so they let the body in and handled it in the manner they normally handle all other bodies," Gabokake explained.

He went on further to explain that it was only yesterday that to their shock and horror, the staff was told of the true nature of the old woman's passing.

"Had we been told the truth to begin with, the body would have been handled in a safer way. The fact that they brought her in a body bag means they knew something and they blatantly lied to us," Gabokake said.

Her funeral was also not accorded the security screening associated with COVID-19 deaths, a source has revealed. Health officials have since asked villagers who had attended the old woman's funeral to submit for testing as they may have been exposed to the virus. This was another terrible blunder by government. Had they disclosed that the old woman had died of COVID -19 or even told us that she was a suspected case, most of us would have kept away," said the source.

Meanwhile, government moved

to quarantine 14 family members on Tuesday. All mortuary employees and close associates of the woman were also locked up for observation on Wednesday.

Colleagues of the deceased grandson, who works for a local hotel, have also been summoned for mandatory testing.

"Her grandson (name known to this publication) continued working with us and it was business as usual. He did not know his grandmother had the virus and died from it. They were very close. He is the one who took care of her and took her to hospital for examination," the worried colleague has revealed.

Efforts to get a comment from the grandson were futile at the time of going to press. In a telephone interview from quarantine, he told *The Voice* that he wished for privacy.

Botswana has recorded one death as a result of the COVID-19 with three positive cases currently stable at the Sir Ketumile Teaching Hospital in Gaborone. There are 189 negative results, 593 lab test performed and 1,856 people currently in quarantine.

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BILLION PULA SCANDAL ROCKS KWENENG LAND BOARD

BY SHARON MATHALA

IN a scandal that could rock the nation, employees at Kweneng Land Board are accused of making millions through illegal land trades.

The Voice can exclusively reveal that as of Wednesday last week, 30 employees had been slapped with suspension letters pending criminal investigations.

However, more suspensions are expected as the true extent of the rot comes to light.

The implicated employees are likely to face charges including: conflict of interest, abuse of office, obtaining by false pretences as well as living beyond their means.

Former cabinet ministers, politicians and high profile businessmen have also been fingered in the multi-billion Pula saga and are currently under the radar of both the Directorate on Corruption and Economic Crime (DCEC) and the Directorate of Intelligence and Security (DIS).

"Serious allegations of maladministration on your part that you have been implicated in the use of inside information to acquire land and benefited in kind from the current model of compensation," reads one of the suspension letters.

The Voice has learnt that the suspensions range from board members to junior officials.

"During the period of suspension, be within a radius of 150km from your duty and be able to avail yourself as and when you are needed to do so to assist with the investigations. In addition, you shall not enter the Kweneng Land Board premises or attend any business or affairs on behalf of the Land Board without express written permission from the Land Board Secretary," continues the letter.

Although the suspensions are active with immediate effect, the suspended employees remain on full salaries.

It is alleged the rot started mid-way through 2019, shortly after the Ministry of Land Management, Water and Sanitation Services introduced its 'compensation-in-kind' scheme.

The initiative, which applied only to the Kweneng Land Board, permitted landowners to surrender one hectare of their ploughing fields in exchange for six resi-

dential plots.

The idea was for the ordinary Motswana to benefit.

However, according to a source close to the investigation, instead, employees with inside information would purchase the hectares for themselves.

They would then allegedly allocate themselves plots in prime areas such as Ledumadumane and Mogoditshane Block 9.

"From our preliminary investigations, it would seem some employees did not explain the 'compensation-in-kind' arrangement to the unsuspecting old men and women who owned the land. Rather, they purchased the hectare for themselves and then traded it with the Land Board," said the insider, who preferred to remain anonymous.

The Voice is informed that a one-hectare plot in the market is currently going at P200, 000.

PROFIT

"They would make profit because after buying for that amount, they would sell each plot they obtained from the land board for about half a million and that is multiplied by six!" explained the source.

In January, the Ministry ordered the Land Board to halt the compensation plan. The Board was also instructed to submit a detailed report on land acquired after the introduction of the compensation-in-kind policy, detailing the total number of plots generated from such land and those allocated to various groups (land rights owners, their children, those on the waiting list etc).

Confirming the criminal investigations, Kweneng District Council Chair, Leo Motlhopi, told *The Voice*, "As council, we have been briefed about the investigation and we were told that the land allocation has been halted pending investigations."

The Ministry had not yet responded to *The Voice* queries by the time of going to press despite holding off on the story for a week.

Similarly, efforts to get a response from the Kweneng Land Board chair proved futile.

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POLITICAL, UNION LEADERS OPPOSED TO MASISI'S RULE BY DECREE

Politically Speaking

President Mokgweetsi Masisi this week declared a 28-day lockdown and proposed an extended State of Emergency, a day after three cases of coronavirus were recorded in the country.

The Voice staffer, **DANIEL CHIDA**, engaged party and union leaders on what the latest move means for Botswana.

Dumelang Saleshando - Umbrella for Democratic Change Vice President

It was inevitable that coronavirus was going to find its way into Botswana. It's important for Botswana to take heed of the measures proposed by government to try and contain the spread and avoid an explosion similar to the ones we have seen in places like Italy. We have a dysfunctional and under-resourced public health system that won't cope with the COVID-19 spread. The proposed extended state of emergency is not necessary.

Under the proposed state of emergency the President will rule by decree; meaning that he makes new rules alone, diverts public resources as he wishes and awards contracts to those he chooses, among other things. The President does not need to rule alone to fight the virus. We are in consultation with attorneys and have sought audience with the Vice President to propose measures available other than Rule by Decree. A lockdown can be enforced through the Public Health Act, no need for State of Emergency.

Ketlhalofile Motshegwa - BOFEPUSO Deputy Secretary General:

Countries that have declared lockdown have not even declared state of emergency. These are Countries with high cases of COVID-19. It is important and right for our country to go on lockdown, but is the state of emergency that necessary?

The state of emergency should have been the last resort, unless if Masisi just wants to be a dictator during this period, do what he has always haboured to do and only restricted by democratic processes at hand.

Parliament should hold the President



KETLHALEFILE MOTSHEGWA

accountable to state reasons for declaring this state of emergency, and in fact Parliament should focus on getting the President to indicate the state of our preparedness to fight COVID-19 and economic measures to protect workers, businesses and society in general.

The problem with the state of emergency is that the safety and health of workers might be compromised and we will not have a say, as this tool will allow the President to be dictatorial and disregard input of social partners on protection of employees. The Public Health Act and other laws can deal with the matter rather than state of emergency. With declared state of emergency, we should be careful not to slide into a police state. We, however, agree with the President on lockdown and safety measures announced because we need to unite as a country to fight COVID-19. What is not coming out clear is the economic stimulus package for protection of jobs, assistance to businesses, particularly SMMEs and the informal sector

Biggie Butale - President of the Botswana Patriotic Front

There is the danger that Government may take advantage of the state of emergency to impose unwarranted restrictions on human and civil rights to neutralise 'opponents' or for some other self-serving purpose that would be impossible to achieve under normal circumstances, like raiding the fiscus. There is always that ever present risk that a 'constitutional dictatorship' may be sprung upon an unsuspecting populace in the guise of a state of emergency declaration. In our current circumstances, the declaration of a state of emergency to deal with a virus pandemic seems to be an overkill on the part of government. There are a plethora of laws and regulations that could have adequately addressed the need for a countrywide lockdown and restriction of movement without resorting to the 'open cheque' that the state of emergency declaration constitutes.

There is always that ever present risk that a 'constitutional dictatorship' may be sprung upon an unsuspecting populace in the guise of a state of emergency declaration.

In my opinion, the lever setting of a state of emergency must be pulled in only dire of circumstances and where no other legal remedies are available. In our current situation, as I have stated, the various public health laws and regulations would have adequately sufficed when used in conjunction with executive power, to address the current challenges facing our nation. We can only pray that all parties involved will resist the urge to use and abuse the 'open cheque' that the state of emergency declaration represents.

Sidney Pilane - BMD President:

The declaration of the state of emergency was unavoidable and timely.

Of course, it could not contain detail, and the devil will be in the detail, and details of the operation of the lockdown will be crucial, must be well thought out and must be comprehensive. It must, inter alia, cater for the mitigation of the losses of all private sector employers



DUMELANG SALESHANDO

and employees, and it must make provision for how members of the public will be able to access basic needs and medical needs during the period of the lockdown. I commend government for engaging banks, by which I take it the President meant financial institutions and all money lenders. It is important that all lenders declare a moratorium on the repayment of all lendings during the period of the lockdown. Although it was right for the government to leave modalities to lenders, one hopes that lenders will not be selective but will extend mitigation and the moratorium to all borrowers as all borrowers will be affected by the lockdown and its financial rigours.

The government is also to be commended for deciding to include all national stakeholders, including politicians and Parliament, in decision-making in respect of Government initiatives and activities in response to this existential threat.

It is my hope that the government has and will continue to include health workers and their organisations in the decision-making, planning and execution of the comprehensive response to this scourge, health workers in all their categories being the people most at risk by reason of them being in the coalface of this emergency as the frontline people

and first responders, it being particularly important that their fullest protection and facilitation be assured. I suspect that we may not, depending on the scale of the emerging problem, have enough health workers to deal with the emergency. In the event that I am right, the government must feel free to invite volunteers to assist in places where patients will be kept and treated, under the direction and supervision of health workers.

It is of the utmost importance that law enforcement should, while enforcing the lockdown, do so with due patience and understanding. The use of soldiers must be kept down to the utmost minimum and, where they are used, it should be under the direction of police officers as law enforcement is a police and not a military function.

The use of military people in law enforcement in the past in Botswana, and by our neighbours presently, has been characterised by brutality and violence. That we cannot have in Botswana as it would be intolerable. *Ntwakgolo ke ya molomo*. The Botswana Police are among the best law enforcement in the world on account, inter alia, of their professionalism and self restraint. They will be tested, and I urge them to be as we know them.



BIGGIE BUTALE



SYDNEY PILANE



IMPORTANT NOTICE

Botswana Life Services

Botswana Life wishes to inform its valued customers that in response to protective measures towards containment of the spread of COVID-19, some services have been suspended.

Customers are informed that only those wanting to process funeral claims will be allowed in the branches.

All other customers are kindly urged to stay at home and observe the recently gazetted regulations around this pandemic.

OUR ACCESS LINES ARE;

Contact Centre: **3623700**

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ONCE UPON A TIME

THE sun has not yet risen when the news arrives.

A hurried greeting precedes the real reason for the call. 'A o utlwaletse?' It is

a sepulchral utterance, an agreed code that is whispered. Have I heard? My silence prompts the caller to share the name of the one who has died. My gasp prompts the caller to ask if I am still

there. I am. The conversation will tread this path over and over for days. The words have the power to immobilise; they undo long made plans.

They arrive at ungodly hours, these

messages that speak of death. Pronouncements of this kind used to require a face to face visit, if one wished to be correct. Nowadays, it seems a short message will suffice; sometimes the breaking news is stolen from a social networking platform, and passed on, hot and steaming, before it cools. Signed off with a 'Rest in Peace' or similar, it burns.

Later, news of the death is broadcast over the airwaves on the radio programme, *Dita-tolo*. Its signature tune is clanging bells; an announcer whose sorrowful voice announces the date of the deceased's death, date of burial and from whom the notification comes; a sombre hymn closes the show. At the home of the deceased, a military green tent is erected to stand like a giant umbrella of mourning; it will be taken down when the burial is complete. A fire is lit; it will be doused when the funeral is over.

Days of prayers follow with the night before the burial taking longest. There will be no sleep for some. Someone says the weather forecast predicts rain, so a makeshift tin shelter is erected round the back of the house. Three-legged pots are lined up for the funeral meal to be prepared: *seswaa*, *ting*, cabbage, maybe butternut. As women peel and chop and stir, men stoke the fire, lift heavy lids and cook the *seswaa*. The food is supposed to be bland, for it is not meant to be enjoyed. But that has changed now; when the food is served, someone remarks it is tasty and asks for seconds. The meal is washed down with homemade non-alcoholic ginger beer.

We still bury at dawn here. It makes sense to be done with the heavy work of covering the grave before the sun reaches its zenith. As mourners arrive to view the deceased, a friend whispers to me: 'I want to remember him happy and smiling.' I understand, for that is the memory I want to keep. But some say different. They insist that closure comes from seeing a person dead in a coffin. There are speeches and singing, and always more prayer, before we proceed to the cemetery. The police will help control the traffic, if you ask. We live in the city where life is fast and people are busy living. Had we been in the village, passers-by would have paused to acknowledge the death.

Entering the cemetery, I want to tiptoe round the mounds of soil. There is something about walking on someone's grave, like you might wake them from their rest. There are shovels stacked by the dug grave. The family is called on to scatter soil into it before it is covered. I listen to the sound of the soil falling on the casket. Others toss red roses into the grave. We walk back to our cars. Carpooling is the norm.

When we return to the home of the deceased, an aluminium bath full of water is placed outside the gate. We wash our hands before entering the yard. I think it is to say, it is done. I had nothing to do with the death of this person. The final speaker says, we have left the person at that place. Never more will he return.

It is done. On the night of the funeral, exhaustion battles insomnia and wins. Just as I close my eye, as sleep creeps up on me, a message arrives. A relative has died; hands are needed to assist with the burial.

And then there is a knock on the door. *Ko ko. Ko ko.* The bearer of the tidings is smiling. A baby was born last night.

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KILLER SOLDIER SENT BACK TO SBRANA

BY CHRISTINAH MOTLHABANE

A mentally disturbed man convicted of the brutal murder of his two young daughters three years ago was remanded in custody by Francistown Magistrates' Court on Tuesday.

The court also ruled that troubled former soldier, Thebe Njavera, 30, who is now facing charges of armed robbery and attempted murder, be sent for psychiatric evaluation.

Presiding over the case, Magistrate Dlamini Ngandu ruled, "You were denied bail in your last mention yet you did not challenge the investigating officer when he was praying that you be denied bail."

"You are allowed to seek bail at the High Court. Until then, you will remain in police custody. Additionally, the accused must be taken to Sbrana for psychiatric evaluation," continued Ngandu, before setting the next mention for 25th May.

Having escaped from Sbrana Psychiatric Hospital in October last year, Njavera was re-arrested early last month after he was overpowered by the people he was allegedly trying to rob.

Police believe that on the evening of March 3rd, the ex-BDF man, armed with a gun, attempted a robbery at Glory Miracle Pabernacle Church - located in the bush between Francistown Club Golf Course and Donga location.

It is said Njavera found three people praying at the church and demanded they give him money, threatening to shoot them if they refused.

However, his plan reportedly backfired, with the trio - two men and a woman - managing to overwhelm him. They then promptly dragged him to the police station.

Njavera's latest brush with the law follows his 2016 conviction for killing his children; four-year-old Palesa Ramaditse and Paseka Ramaditse, 2.

The two girls were brutally murdered at their home in Francistown's Somerset Extension location on 4th February, 2013 following an altercation between Njavera and their mother.

However, the High Court ruled that Njavera was of 'unsound mind' when he committed the offence. Upon direction from the then President, Ian Khama, the murderer was sent to Sbrana where he was detained up until his escape six months ago.



NOTORIOUS: Njavera

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CEDA COVID-19 RELIEF FUND

Further to the notice that the Agency put out on the 27th March 2020 with regards to changes in the daily operations of the Agency, and as result of the address by His Excellency the President of Botswana, Dr Mokgweetsi Eric Masisi, on the 31st March 2020 the Agency has put in place a special relief protocol in an effort to cushion the effect of the pandemic towards SMMEs that are most vulnerable and susceptible due to their compromised capital reserves to absorb the economic shocks of Covid-19.

1.1 CEDA COVID-19 RELIEF FUND

A special CEDA COVID19 Relief Fund will focus on working capital facilitation and providing repayment breaks for CEDA clients (both Mabogo-Dinku and Mainline).

The interventions that have been put in place for mitigating the impact of the economic downturn brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic are:

- Rescheduling of loans
- Restructuring of loans
- Provision of working capital

The Fund will be funded with an amount of **P40 million** to support the continued operational activities of the existing CEDA funded SMMEs.

Below is the framework that has been implemented for the support through the Fund:

1.1.1 WORKING CAPITAL

SOLUTION	WORKING CAPITAL
Objective	Sustain business cash-flow needs during the strained business period due to Covid-19
Purpose	Payroll expenses, Rent, Property payments, Utility expenses and or any other operational expenses of a similar nature
Eligibility	All CEDA Clients in good standing affected by Covid-19
Period of Offer	April, 2020 until 31st December, 2020
Amount	Up to 50% of total normal business operational expenses
Tenure	Up to 24 months, Dependent on sector impact
Moratorium (interest free)	Up to 12 months, Dependent on sector impact
Interest Rate	5% below P500,000 and 7.5% above P500,000

NB: Moratorium period is within the maximum allowable 24 months tenure and not separate

1.1.2 MABOGO-DINKU REPAYMENT HOLIDAY

SOLUTION	MABOGO-DINKU MORATORIUM
Objective	Repayment holiday during the strained business period due to Covid-19
Purpose	Lessen the burden of loans repayments on micro businesses to cushion the hardships on the livelihood of the promoters
Eligibility	All Mabogo-Dinku Clients affected by Covid-19
Period of Offer	April, 2020 until 31st December, 2020
Tenure	Up to 6 months, reviewable
Moratorium (interest free)	Up to 6 months, reviewable

1.1.3 REPAYMENT HOLIDAY (ALL OTHER CEDA LOANS EXCEPT 1.1.2)

SOLUTION	MORATORIUM
Objective	Repayment holiday during the strained business period due to Covid-19
Purpose	Lessen the burden of loans repayments during the period which affected most of the industries especially hospitality and transport mainly due to travel restrictions
Eligibility	All CEDA clients in good standing affected by Covid-19
Period of Offer	April, 2020 until 31st December, 2020
Tenure	Up to 12 months (dependent on the market recovery and type)
Moratorium (interest free)	Up to 12 months

1.2 COVID-19 ESSENTIALS SUPPLIES LOAN (NEW PRODUCT)

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. The loan is aimed at ensuring heightened citizen participation and empowerment in the production and supply of items such as sanitizers, gloves, masks and other identified essentials to ensure the country's sufficiency.

SOLUTION	ESSENTIALS SUPPLIES LOAN
Objective	Facilitating new entrants in the market of identified essentials through a special loan.
Purpose	To increase the country's independence on medical and other critical essentials as identified during Covid19- effect, to ensure sustenance through local production
Eligibility	Botswana citizens
Period of Offer	April, 2020 until 31st December, 2020
Tenure	Up to 15 years
Moratorium (interest free)	Up to 24 months

We would like to emphasise that there are specific terms and conditions to both the relief fund as well as the essential supplies loan being:

- Non - performance should be related to Covid-19 pandemic.
- Total proposed CEDA exposure including existing CEDA loans must not exceed P30 million.
- Purpose of the loan should not be for domestic consumption but for business rescue only.
- Submission of proof of CEDA funding utilisation during the business rescue period.
- Applications will be subjected to validation for benefit of other Government interventions/ subsidies meant to address the similar effects of Covid-19 pandemic.

2. NON-FINANCIAL SUPPORT INTERVENTIONS

The Agency will put in place special mechanisms through its business support provision to provide non-financial support interventions to the affected businesses during the period of effect. These interventions will be meant to assist businesses to turnaround after and during the period of distress as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

NB: ALL OTHER GENERAL CEDA LOAN CONDITIONS SHALL APPLY

For more information, the following can be contacted during the 28 Day Extreme Social Distancing period. Applications will only be received via email. (reliefapplications@ceda.co.bw) Application forms are available at www.ceda.co.bw/applications.

BRANCH LOCATION	CONTACT NUMBER TO TEXT	LANDLINE
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Kanye Branch	+267 74853512	+267 5440324
Hukuntsi Branch	+267 72922802	+267 6510170
Ghanzi Branch	+267 77504736	+267 6597331
Maun Branch	+267 76342365	+267 6864169
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Selebi Phikwe branch	+267 72688229	+267 2622377
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The public is further notified that the Agency will not be accepting any new business loan applications from 02nd April 2020. The Agency will ONLY consider CEDA COVID-19 Relief Fund & COVID-19 Essentials Supplies Loans.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank you Batswana for your patience and understanding through these times of uncertainty. CEDA will always stand tall in the crucial role of empowering Batswana and we reiterate our stance on Building Batswana for Botswana. We would like to encourage the nation at large to stand united and remain calm during this trying period. For any further information kindly contact:

Anno Tshipa

Head- Marketing & Communications

Cell: 71900723

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GABORONE WEATHER

03 FRI



TEMP: 21° 15°

04 SAT



TEMP: 22° 14°

05 SUN



TEMP: 27° 14°

THIS DAY
IN
HISTORY



3 April 1930

Tafari Makonnen proclaimed Emperor Haile Selassie I of Ethiopia

Born in 1891 (some sources say 1894), Tafari Makonnen - or Haile Selassie, as he was later known - was born the son of Ras Makonnen Wolde Michael, the Governor of the region of Harrar.

Bank registers 15 percent profit increase

ABSA IN THE MONEY



ON THE UP AND UP: Pheko-Moshagane



HAPPY BANKER: Kalifungwa

BY KABELO ADAMSON

TWO months after its official name change, Absa Bank Botswana has announced a 15 percent jump in profits.

This week, the bank's Managing Director, Keabetswe Pheko-Moshagane, revealed that despite the challenges faced by the industry, Absa registered profit after tax of P678 million for the 12-month period ending 31st December, 2019.

Highlighting the bank's success, Finance Director, Mumba Kalifungwa, explained it continued on a forward momentum of driving interest income growth through prudent lending across all segments.

"On a gross basis, interest income was up by 10 percent

year-on-year (YoY). However, market liquidity in the year was thin and this resulted in increased costs of funds," he said, adding overall net interest income increased by six percent.

Furthermore, according to Kalifungwa, Absa's net trading remained flat despite an increase in trading volumes.

Absa registered profit after tax of P678 million for the 12-month period ending 31st December, 2019

"This was due to the tough trading conditions and the global geo-political challenges experienced in the year. To this end,

in 2019, our net fee and commission income as a portion of total income represented 35 percent of total revenue which resonates with our strategy to diversify our revenue mix," he said.

When it comes to credit losses or impairments, the bank's expected year-on-year credit losses decreased by 64 percent in comparison to the prior period.

Kalifungwa attributed this to Absa's enhanced collections capability, conservative credit extension to high-risk sectors especially in the Retail segment as well as significant recovery from one of their clients.

The Finance Director added that as they continue to pursue growth the overall balance sheet grew by 11 percent, ending the year at a whopping P18 billion.

"For the year under review,

our customer loans and advances grew by 13 percent compared to market growth of 7.7 percent. This was achieved by growth in all our segments in line with our growth strategy," he explained, noting the main driver behind the balance sheet's growth continues to be loans and advances and customer liabilities which remain key drivers of the bank's total revenue.

During the period, Absa's loans and advances to custom-

ers increased by 13 percent YoY to P13 billion.

"The growth was fairly distributed across the segments in line with our strategy and continues to be focused around prudent lending in our chosen business segments," Kalifungwa concluded.

Meanwhile, the bank has set aside a total of P231 million as dividends for the year, with shareholders set to receive 25 Thebe per share.



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Powering Botswana To Prosperity

DIAMOND INDUSTRY ON SICKBED AGAIN

BY KABELO ADAMSON

DE Beers group says it will not hold its third sight which was scheduled for this week in Gaborone due to movement restrictions that have been put in place.

The announcement is a major blow, not only to the diamond industry which was on its deathbed last year, but to the country's revenue base as the country relies on diamonds for the majority of its revenue.

The diamond industry was expected to recover this year and signs began to show during the first sight of the year when rough diamond sales amounted to US\$545 million, which was more than US\$500 million registered during the same period last year.

However, effects of COVID-19 started to show on the industry when the second sight badly performed, with sales falling by 36 percent.

Now, the diamond company will not go ahead as the world continues to grapple with the spread of the deadly COVID-19 which has claimed over 20,000 lives globally.

In their special edition report which focuses on the economic impacts of the coronavirus, Econsult firm - led by Dr Keith Jefferis - feel the country is already experiencing the effects of the global growth shutdown.

Diamonds are the mainstay of the economy, accounting

for the majority of Botswana's exports, in the process becoming government's largest single source of revenue.

The mineral resource also makes a significant contribution to the country's GDP. "2019 was a difficult year for the global diamond industry, with weak sales. Nevertheless, there were signs of stabilisation and recovery in December 2019 and January 2020," Econsult economists said.

While the last sight resulted in weaker sales, it is anticipated that future sales will not be spared.

"Future sales rounds over the next few months will be further impacted by the global slowdown, as reduced demand for diamond jewellery feeds back to purchases of rough diamonds by the cutting and polishing industry and jewellery manufacturers," Jefferis and his colleagues, Sethunya Sejo and Kitso Mokhurutshe, explained.

With this, they reckon reduced diamond sales and exports will have an impact on Botswana government revenues.

It is believed that Debswana and De Beers have already exceeded their capacity to stockpile their unsold diamond without selling any after having stockpiled last year.

As a result of the current dynamics, economists forecast a contraction in the contributions of both diamond mining and diamond sales to GDP in 2020, which will impact negatively on growth.



BUSINESS AS USUAL: CA Sales and Distribution do not expect to slow down

LOCAL SUPPLIERS ALLAY FEARS OF SHORTAGES

BY KABELO ADAMSON

FEAR marched menacingly into the country this week as the reality of COVID-19 began to hit home.

Botswana, which goes into lockdown this Friday, imports the majority of her basic commodities - including food, beverages and fuel - from South Africa (SA).

With SA having embarked on a three-week lockdown from last Thursday, it seems inevitable this will lead to a shortage of supplies here.

Although travel is restricted between the two countries, government has announced that movements of goods will be allowed.

However, it is feared the South African lockdown will lead to demand surpassing supply in the country, which in turn will drastically reduce the amount of goods available for export.

A potential disaster for local supply looms after South Africans engaged in widespread panic buying, emptying shelves in major stores.

The rapid spread of the virus, which has already reached many parts of the world, claiming thousands of lives in the process, has had unprecedented effects on the global economy.

While there is fear of shortage of foodstuffs, distributors have allayed such concerns, as they believe they

have enough stock to supply the local market.

It will soon be seen if their confidence is well placed!

Claude Hassett, the Managing Director of one of the leading distribution companies, CA Sales and Distribution, told *The Voice* on Wednesday this week that consumers need not worry as CA Sales has triple extra stock to supply the market.

"Besides, trucks are still allowed to get into the country," said Hassett, adding that they are hoping that the situation will not get worse.

Hassett said although the spread of the COVID-19 has affected virtually everyone, they have enough stock in the inventory.

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CHOBÉ: Quiet can be bad for business

WATCHING OUR HEALTH

WHEN my partner and I entered Botswana three weeks ago, government officials took our temperatures and asked us to monitor our health.

That was back in the days when Batswana were free to move around, touch friends, and not see other people as a threat to their well-being. Anyway, we bought a thermometer so we could fill in our coronavirus checklists, and then carried on with my plan to show Sal the beauty of the country. Along the way, I also kept an eye on the health of the tourist trade.

The car rental agent at Seretse Khama Airport got us rolling by being friendly and extremely efficient. He even moved our return date back a day to compensate for SAA Express getting us to Gaborone a day late.

We also met friendly people in Palapye where we stopped for lunch and in Francistown where we stayed for three days. Highlights there were the Roots of Africa cafe and the Marang Hotel. Sal, an English woman who had never been to Africa before, was blown away by the grounds, the food and the friendly service. And when we headed north, she was equally impressed by the people, the birdlife and the setting at Nata Lodge.

Then, after seeing her first elephants and giraffes on the drive to Kasane, we had a delicious buffet meal at Chobe Safari Lodge. Sal said the African lentil curry was the best she had ever tasted. Having lived in Botswana for 18 years, none of these things came as a surprise to me, but experiencing them with Sal made it clear Botswana's tourist trade has a great deal to offer and should be thriving.

Unfortunately, when we had our meal, there were very few other diners, and then when we went out on the river the next afternoon, we were one of only three boats on the water. That may have been good for the elephants and other animals that can be hassled when there are ten times as many boats, but the low numbers were definitely bad for business, and they turned out to be a warning of things to come.

Many lodges closed down the day we left Kasane, and we were the last customers to be served at Planet Baobab when we stopped there for lunch on the way to Maun. I know that because the employees were getting their marching orders as I paid the bill.

Fortunately for us, nine tourists were still at O Bona Moremi near Khwai village when we arrived, so the lodge was open. But once again, we were the final customers before the health scare closed the camp and the friendly, highly trained people who took care of us there were sent home.

When we boarded the final flight out of Botswana last week, we were in perfect health and no coronavirus cases had been confirmed, but the disease had already claimed many jobs and the tourist trade was extremely ill. The product is outstanding, so I'm sure the trade will recover, but I'm afraid the people who work in it are going to go through some very hard times before that happens.



BOTSWANA OIL LIMITED'S RESPONSE TO THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

Botswana Oil Limited (BOL) is alive to international and national developments surrounding the outbreak of the COVID-19 disease.

- As an essential service, throughout the lock-down period BOL will continue to service its loading and offloading customers. Both the Gaborone and Francistown depots will be available for service. Bulk Vehicle Operators will be allowed access to BOL depots to load or offload, under new stringent health safety measures. These include:

- Compulsory screening and sanitizing at the point of entry
- Use of clinical latex gloves for all Bulk Vehicle Operators
- Use of mouth and nose masks, preferably N95
- Hand sanitizers with an alcohol content of at least 70%

- Other stakeholders and customers are advised to contact BOL through the communication channels provided below:

- Botswana Oil Head Office Gaborone CBD: 3981700
- Botswana Oil Gaborone Depot Hail Selassie Road: 3999400
- Botswana Oil Francistown Dumela Industrial: 3999444

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www.bac.ac.bw



PRESS RELEASE

CAMPUS CLOSURE

The Corona Virus continues to spread across the globe and the increasing number of infections in neighbouring countries poses even a higher risk of exposure to everyone. On this basis, BAC Management has decided to completely close both the Gaborone and Francistown campuses with effect from Monday 30th March 2020 and allow employees to work from home as a precautionary measure to protect them from contracting the COVID-19 virus until further notice.

Applications to enroll into BAC are still ongoing and we will continue to guide and support new students with their applications. Please take note;

- Our prospectus is available on www.bac.ac.bw/documents
- WhatsApp Business line **75 030 066** for enquiries and downloading of prospectus
- Applications can be submitted online by logging onto <http://thitoacademics.bac.ac.bw> and can also be accessible through the website.

As part of our Crisis Management Plan, an Emergency Command Centre (ECC) has been set up to support our current students and to enable them to engage with the institution during the closure of our campuses, contact details are as follows.

Emergency Command Centre **3980 661/ 3980 654**

The BAC Management has made arrangements to ensure that learning and teaching continues through online learning and e-learning platforms. E-Learning materials and resources will be availed for all our students throughout the period of closure.

Should you require more information or clarity please contact the Registrar on **395 3062** or email admissions@bac.ac.bw.

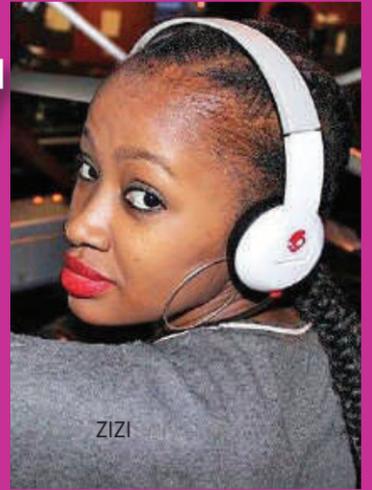
About Botswana Accountancy College

Botswana Accountancy College is a Public Institution established in 1996 with two campuses in Gaborone and Francistown. Over the past twenty-one years, BAC evolved from being an accounting school to a premium business school providing a diverse portfolio of globally recognized undergraduate, postgraduate and professional programmes. To date BAC has graduated more than ten thousand professionals across various disciplines. For more information about BAC *visit www.bac.ac.bw*.

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The Big INTERVIEW



ZIZI

ZIZI BIDS YARONA FM FAREWELL
Scar left all alone
PAGE 8 A



SIMPLY THE GREATEST

WITH her career seemingly drifting into oblivion, stained by a failed drug-test six years ago, the country's most decorated athlete produced arguably her greatest comeback earlier this month.

On 14th March, at a low key University of Botswana Athletics Club meet, former 400m World Champion, Amantle Montsho, qualified for the 2020 Tokyo Olympics (now postponed until July 23rd, 2021).

Displaying the determination and guts that have defined her time on the track, the 36-year-old defied her aging limbs, clocking 51.22 seconds to smash the required qualifying time of 51.35. In doing so, the Maun native once again carved her name into the history books, becoming the first Motswana to qualify for four Olympics.

Having missed out on a place at the last Games due to suspension, for Montsho, it represents redemption of sorts and a final shot at a medal she was .03 of a second away from claiming at the London 2012 Summer Olympics.

The current Commonwealth Champion sat down with *Voice Sport's* **PORTIA MLILO** to look back at her eventful career, a career that might contain one more incredible high.

Who inspired you to become a professional athlete?

I joined athletics when I was doing Standard Three in 1992 and by then I was doing it for fun. Our Coach at Bonata Primary School, Thobogang, recognised my talent and nurtured it. I started running 100m and 200m but by junior school, I focused on 400m. When I finished my Form Five in 2003, Botswana Athletics Association called me up for out-of-school camps and that was when I started to take it

seriously.

I started competing in regional competitions. In 2006, International Athletics Federation (IAF) called me to train at their high-performance training center in Dakar, Senegal.

Why did you choose to be a runner?

Athletics is the number one sport in the world followed by football. In football,

when you win as a team, you share the prize money while in athletics the money is all mine (laughing). There are also many athletics competitions in a year in different countries and that is why I decided to be a professional runner. I used to play softball but after one of my teammates got injured, I decided to quit and focused on athletics.

TURN TO PAGE 10A



BANKS

BANKS STEPS UP
Confusion over Banks' COVID-19 interview
Page 8A

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

I run! (laughing). I wake up, take a shower, eat breakfast and go for training.

Is there any athlete who motivates you to do your best during competitions?

There is a lady who makes me take athletics seriously, the American track and field athlete, Allyson Felix. She is the 2012 Olympic Champion, a three-time World Champion and two-time Olympic silver medallist. She really inspires me. I always wanted to be a champion like her!

What do you regard as your most memorable race to date?

The World Championships in Daegu, 2011, when I won the Gold medal. When approaching the finishing point, I really enjoyed the moment. It was very competitive and I was fit. I was with Felix at the front and I managed to beat her.

What is your favourite part of being on the track?

I enjoy it when I compete with the best athletes and when the fans cheer us on. Most Botswana used to follow and support football and were not too bothered about other sports codes. But I made them like athletics and take it into consideration!

I enjoy most when I approach the finishing line because I go all out from 150m. I also enjoy when there is an athlete who gives me competition.

Massive congratulations on being the first athlete

THE HUMBLE HISTORY MAKER

COMEBACK QUEEN: Montsho

from Botswana to qualify for four Olympic Games. How much does this mean to you?

This really means a lot. It shows I am doing something right. I had so many challenges in this career but I remained focused and do what I love most. I am very thankful to our government, Botswana National Sport Commission, Botswana Olympic Committee, our association for giving me the necessary support to become a professional athlete.

This should be an**inspiration to others, especially female athletes, because we go through a lot of challenges. You are expected to be married, have kids; people forget you also have other interests like sports career!****What makes a great athlete?**

Discipline, determination, dedication and focus. You must have goals and set targets to achieve them. You have to follow your coach's instruction. Growing up, I was very disciplined. I missed out on

a lot of things that young people considered 'cool'. I did not drink alcohol or smoke. It was only two years back when I could have a glass of wine, drinking not to get drunk. You should be careful what you eat and drink. You must be disciplined, otherwise your career will be very short!

You mentioned your Gold medal World Championship winning run as your most memorable race. How did it change your life financially, professionally and socially?

My life changed. I was now the country's diamond, a role model so I had to do things professionally. I even had to be careful what I shared on social media because now I had a large following, both locally and internationally. After winning Gold, I had a few endorsements and Nike increased its sponsorship. We have seen a lot of athletes struggling with life after sports so I decided to invest in property with the money I was making from athletics. So far, I have six houses in Block 7, Gaborone.

What are the biggest challenges you face as a top athlete in Botswana?

Lack of facilities! Athletics is a big sport and it is high time the country established a high performance centre. The other challenge is when you do not deliver as the nation had expected during major competitions. People will start bashing you and put you under a lot of pressure.

Money and fame often make people lose focus, how do you ensure you are not led into temptation?

Like I said, discipline is important. Refrain from things that will ruin your career. Avoid unnecessary trips and misusing money. Invest for the future and do not lose focus. In life, you should know what you want then it will not be easy for someone to shift your focus. Just remain humble, respect others and manage your finances well.

How do you relax during the off-season?

I love travelling so I visit my friends in other countries. I also go shopping, especially when I have stress. I make sure I spend time with my parents and my siblings.

The 2020 Olympics have been postponed until next year due to the Coronavirus pandemic. How is this going to affect your form and what are you going to do to ensure you remain fit?

It is unfortunate that the games have been postponed to 2021

due to the outbreak of COVID-19. I am on form and I was ready to compete. Now facilities, stadiums are closed and we do not have access to the track. The President has also announced extreme social distancing, which is going to make it difficult to do road work. I will be indoors training at my house to keep fit - fortunately I have a gym.

Realistically, what was your target for the Tokyo Olympics?

My target was an Olympic medal. I had trained very hard to win a medal. This was supposed to be my last competition. I believe I have done my part in sports and it is time to quit. I still have to talk to my coach and see if I will compete next year since I have qualified.

We've touched on some of the highs of your career. At the other end of the scale, what has been your most disappointing experience as an athlete?

Eish, the doping case! I tested positive for a prohibited substance - methylhexanamine - in Glasgow at the 2014 Commonwealth Games. That was the worst experience I'd ever had. In 2015, I received a two-year ban. I couldn't go home because I was afraid; my father was very angry. I also had to hide from the media and the public. I will be forever grateful to the government for engaging a psychologist!

I stayed at a hotel for two years and I even changed my number. I couldn't go to the mall or interact with people. At some point, I thought of quitting. The psychologist advised me not to and I also believed I could bounce back. After three months, I started training on my own because one of the conditions was that the association was not supposed to help me with anything. I made a great come back and in 2017, I qualified for the World Championships.

How did it happen?

I went to a pharmacy in Gaborone to buy an energy drink. The pharmacist recommended the drink and said it did not have any prohibited substances. I was so depressed.

How do you intend to spend your retirement?

I want to start my own academy. I want to turn one of my houses into an athletics academy. This is a way of giving back to my country and contributing to athletics development. I was supposed to start an athletics coaching course after this year's Olympics.

And finally, Thank God It's Friday, what are your plans for the weekend?

Extreme social distancing. I will be locked in my room.

ARTISTS GO DIGITAL AS COVID-19 STRIKES



SUPPORTIVE: Seabelo Modibe



STAGE SET: A live band

BY VOICE REPORTER

AS the nation goes into lockdown on Thursday midnight, entertainers across the country have conceptualized ways to preserve citizens' sanity in these trying times.

The banning of music festivals and closure of entertainment centres has given birth to online parties and music festivals.

Spearheaded by leading TV music channels such as Channel O, locals followed suit with their own online lockdown parties as more and more music lovers turned to social media for their weekly fix.

Promoters and business people like Bonno Ngaka (DJ Colastraw) and Mosa Puso (DJ Cue) have taken up the initiative to ensure that while people are asked to remain behind walls for at least 21 days, they

can still enjoy music.

The online parties have, however, attracted criticism from certain quarters, who argue organisers are infringing on composers' copyrights.

These complaints have discouraged some artists who fear being on the wrong side of the law. However, some promoters feel differently.

"I don't think so," said veteran music promoter and business man Seabelo Modibe.

The founder of Botswana International Music Conference dismissed the critics, Modibe is supportive of the online initiative and sees no flouting of the Copyright Act.

"It's not for commercial use, so it's very difficult to see exactly how any of the artists' rights are being infringed upon," reasoned Modibe.

He further maintained people should be happy that their music is being promoted online, which has an audience that potentially runs into the

billions.

"Social media also pays royalties. In South Africa for instance artist get royalties from Google, YouTube, Facebook and many other platforms through a collection society called CAPASSO (Composers, Authors and Publishers Association)," continued Modibe, adding that instead of screaming 'exploitation' artists should grab this opportunity and embrace online platforms.

Voice Entertainment has, however, not yet established whether any local composers and publishers are members of CAPASSO, a mechanical rights hub in Southern Africa founded in 2014 which licenses all forms of musical reproductions. The association boasts a large territorial reach over Africa with the sole aim of ensuring that members are duly compensated for the exploitation of their works due to the rise in digital music consumption.

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ON DUTY: Didi and Tsholo at work in Chobe



FRIENDLY PACK: Dineo, AG, Wangu, Dodo and Nunu pictured in Rustenburg



IT'S OFFICIAL: Bonny and Masego Tlharelwa during their wedding in Mankgodhi recently



HAVING FUN: Calvin and his team in Ramotswa



HANGING OUT: Friends having a good time in Maitengwe



SOCIALISING: Aobakwe and friends posing for a picture



RELAXED: Simon enjoying a chill session with friends in Mogoditshane



FRIENDS LIKE THESE: Katlego flanked by friends during her 24th birthday recently



STUNNING: Bonnie, Gorata and Pearl celebrating Pearl's birthday

COLOURFUL WEEKEND

This past weekend, *The Voice* lens captured various activities, from birthday parties to chill sessions. Here are some of the memorable moments.

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Chillin' Out

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ZIZI BIDS YARONA FM FAREWELL

➔ Yarona FM's morning show host, Zizi Panther, has tendered her resignation with the youthful radio station amid controversy.

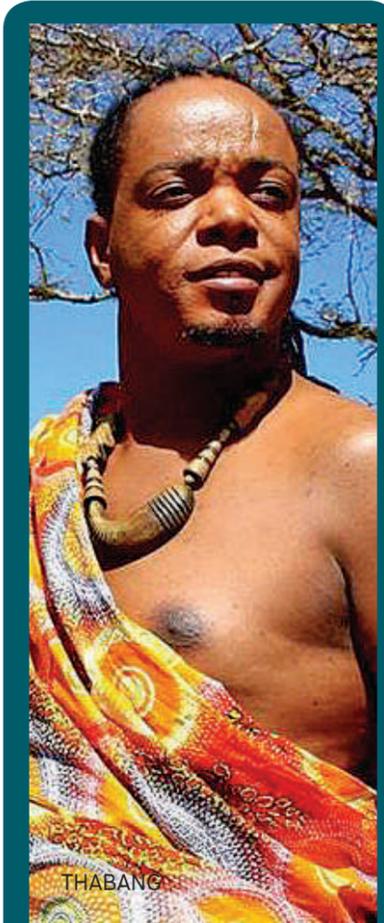
A little birdie has told Yours Truly how her superiors allegedly mistreated the pint-sized presenter after her resignation in the wake of her mother's passing.

Zizi was this week ordered not to enter Yarona FM premises after she refused to accept a salary pay cut for the week she spent mourning her mother. There seems to be a brewing sense of ill treatment going on at the station and Shaya advises management to straighten up



ZIZI PANTHER

because cases like this could soil the 106.6 station's reputation.



THABANG GAROGWE, PLEASE SEEK HELP!

➔ He is the man of the moment, having fought bitterly for his rights, but Shaya has spotted something amiss with the celebrated Jazz star, Thabang Garogwe.

The man is not new to controversy so Shaya was alarmed by neither the star's weight loss nor his money troubles, but instead by his Facebook post - sometime last week - that he was having a skin reaction because of a new product he was using. C'mon, my brother, if you need to talk about it, Shaya can always lend an ear! In the mean time, seek professional help.



MOTSWAFERE

MOTSWAFERE'S TRANSITION

➔ HE has never kept his sexuality a secret but recent pictures of the singing sensation, Motswafere, seem to suggest that he may have undergone a little enhancement to his body.

Motswafere looks ever dashing in the pictures, leaving Shaya wondering if the talented singer has had some work done on his body. Whatever the case may be, Shaya is all for freedom of expression and so wishes you well, Motswa!

OF BANKS AND COVID-19



➔ On Tuesday morning, the rest of the world learnt about Botswana's first confirmed cases of Coronavirus. Botswana Democratic Party spokesperson, Kagelelo Banks Kentse, broke the news live on eNCA.

Yes, you heard right. The news of the country's three confirmed cases was not broken to the world by Minister of Health and Wellness or a Government spokesperson; it was left to the party spokesperson. It is still not clear on whose instruction Kentse was acting.

Shaya does not - for a minute - believe that he was acting on the instruction of the party leader or perhaps the leader of the State. Whatever the case, it looked a bit untidy and points

KAGELELO BANKS KENTSE



to the blurry line between party and government.

THE COSBOTS JOKE

➔ On Monday, some local artists invaded COSBOTS offices demanding Payment for their royalties. Videos of the altercation quickly surfaced on the Internet and quickly caught Shaya's attention.

Two days later, e-Wallet payments were sent out to art-

ists at rather embarrassing amounts.

I mean, how can you have an artist like Franco getting P4 200, with Vee also getting P4 000, and many others getting less than P100? I don't know what stunt the management is trying to pull but big brother's eyes are on you now! We are still dealing with the pandemic, when life returns to normal, we will come for you!

FEEDBACK @ CHILLIN' OUT

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



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Claims & Assessing Mobile	+267 75624454
Policy Administration Email	personal@hollard.co.bw, commercial@hollard.co.bw
Policy Administration Mobile	+267 71328528

For Hollard Insure/Short-term Clients, please contact the numbers above for alternative payment modes and banking details.

Hollard Life:

Customer Service Email	customerservice@hollard.co.bw
Contact Centre	+267 77797553/+267 73652720
Business WhatsApp	+267 76230009
Claims Email	lifeclaims@hollard.co.bw
Premium Collection and Allocations Email	premiumadmin@hollard.co.bw

*For Hollard Life Clients, please note that the alternative payment mode for cash payments and arrears is *174#.*

Client engagement remains a key part of our business. We will, as far as possible, utilize the technology at our disposal to interact with you via mobile phone and email. We look forward to your usual co-operation and continued support as our valued partners and clients through this critical time.

As the COVID-19 situation evolves, we shall provide you with further updates. We encourage our community to wash hands frequently and observe social distancing. Know that Hollard has got you covered. Our thoughts and prayers are with the entire nation.

Thank you.

Hollard Life

Life • Funeral • Keyman • Credit Life / Home • Car • Business • Commercial

Hollard Insure

hollard.co.bw

Hollard Life: Tel: +267 363 3000/
+267 318 8133 Fax: +267 319 1706
Office: Plot 54511, Fairgrounds
(Opposite AFA), Gaborone

Hollard Insure: Tel: +267 395 8023
Fax: +267 395 8024 Office: Plot 70667, 2nd floor
Fairscape Building, Fairgrounds, Gaborone

Francistown Office
Tel: +267 241 6678/8835
Fax: +267 241 6896

Ghanzi Office
Tel: +267 859 6082



FROM DRAWING WITH LIGHT TO BRUSH STROKES AND RASTA

BY ARCHIE MOKOKA

HAVING served as a photographer for over 20 years, spending a great deal of that time in the newsroom, Lefoko 'Ras Fox' Mogapaesi says it is now fine art season.

"When I came to Gabz as a young man, I was taking photos. But drawing and photography is the same thing. It's all visual art and I'm a visual artist!" the 40-year-old exclaims from his residence/studio at Gaborone's Block 3 location where he is holed up honing his craft.

After years as a newspaper lens man, Mogapaesi ran Magnum Photos, a media services company, and ended up rubbing shoulders with CBD big cats.

However, in 2018, he decided it was time for a change.

"You see, nowadays we are in the fourth industrial revolution. People have cellphones with very sophisticated cameras and editing apps so the

need for a photographer is diminishing. Very soon we will have robots programmed to take photos and that's why the value of paintings, drawings and other handmade crafts is going up. People are building houses and need art!"

Mogapaesi stares at the soil a few feet from the brick he is seated on. It's a blank stare. Perhaps the interview has brought back memories.

He brings his fingers and thumb tips together and, in his usual monotone, continues, "As a media photographer, I didn't have a chance to practice art. Now I can spend a whole week in the house either drawing or painting."

Ras Fox has just completed a penciled Haile Selassie and is working on a commissioned Bushiri portrait. The legendary Ethiopian Emperor, a revered figure in the Rastafarian movement, is an evident favourite.

The artist's voice rises an octave and he turns to face me. He explains that Rastafarianism has always been his calling; from when his three-year-old body started rejecting meat to the time he joined the Ethiopian Orthodox Church.

"I did this to honour Selassie as my King. Rasta is the true religion for the black man. It teaches righteousness, encourages working with your God-given hands and eating the right organic food. Selassie also wanted us to keep our kids from drugs because they are the enemy's weapons.

"Mussolini's Italy brought drugs and disease upon the people and Rastaman challenged him. We must do the same and stop eating junk food," urges the devout Rastafarian, his long dreads tucked away in a scarf such that it looks like a pointy hat.

POSITION

He explains the turban is a sign of his elderman position within the Rasta community.

"I am a high priest after being anointed by another high priest impressed by my righteousness and adherence to Rasta principles," he tells Voice Entertainment.

Since turning to the pencil two years ago, the creative has produced more than a 100 paintings and drawings.

Although he terms this time as 'practice years', Ras Fox feels he is ready to unleash his artistic messages on the unsuspecting public.

"This is the time for themed exhibitions and partnerships with other artists and stakeholders," he adds.

Mogapaesi is not new to exhibitions. He has been part of the National Museum Art exhibition and had a studio at Thapong Visual Arts Centre.

But that's all in the past. Though he has sold some artworks and received occasional commissions, Rasta says up until now, it has mostly been practice.

His tourism and culture-themed artwork is ready for exhibition but there is no money.

"I need to get my art out there so that it can communicate with the people but an exhibition is expensive," he explains, his head beckoning towards his numerous creations behind him. Some of his sketches include African hats, baobab tree, a rhino, elephant and other cultural, wildlife and food drawings.

"Canvas and other materials for painting and other styles are expensive; that's why most of my creations are in pencil," he adds.

The question about his future prompts Ras Fox to look up in contemplation.

"I want to have galleries across Southern Africa and hold exhibitions all over the world. Most importantly, I want to engage the youth in art so that they can stay away from Babylon drugs and poisoning. Yes, I!"



BHC UPDATES DURING STATE OF PUBLIC EMERGENCY DUE TO COVID-19

The Botswana Government has declared a State of Public Emergency for the coming 28 days with effect from midnight on April 2nd, 2020 to combat the spread of the Corona virus in the country. In line with these Government interventions, the Botswana Housing Corporation (BHC) has come up with measures to protect its employees, Customers and stakeholders from the risk of being infected and or even spreading the virus at the workplace. Therefore, the Corporation has put in place the following measures for the duration of the State of Public Emergency:

1. SUSPENSION OF ALL BHC OPERATIONS DURING THE STATE OF PUBLIC EMERGENCY

The Corporation's operations will be suspended for the duration of the State of Public Emergency. This therefore means that all BHC offices across the country will be closed and services will not be available throughout the 28-day period. Contractors engaged on all BHC projects will also not be on duty throughout this period. Only minimal emergency maintenance services such as pipe bursts and sewage blockage will be rendered on a case by case situation.

2. MAINTENANCE STANDBY FOR EMERGENCY WORKS

All BHC Maintenance Supervisors and Inspectors will be on standby to arrange for emergency maintenance works on pipe bursts and sewage blockages only. All maintenance works will be suspended during this period. The BHC Call Centre will be open for the duration of the State of Public Emergency for reporting purposes only. Below are the contact details for all Maintenance Supervisors for the two BHC regions;

SOUTHERN REGION

Ms. Warona Kgobetsinyana 71639571
Mr. Elliot Lekhoru 71336739

NORTHERN REGION

Mr. Mpho Setshwane 71610053
Mr. Gosegomang Machaya 77003455

3. ELECTRONIC BANKING SERVICES FOR ALL PAYMENTS

To help prevent the spread of Coronavirus, Tenants/ customers are advised to use mobile and internet banking for their rental payments and all other payments. The Corporation's banking details are provided below.

FIRST NATIONAL BANK BOTSWANA (FNBB)

Account Name: Head office collection

Account No.: 62372575765

Branch Name: Main

Reference: Customer No./Tenant Name

The Corporation will continuously monitor the situation and provide updates on any changes with regards to its operations for the duration of the State of Public Emergency. We further encourage our customer and indeed the nation to join hands with the Government to help stop the spread of COVID-19. For more information please contact the following;

Gomolemo Zimona

Head of Marketing & Communication

Cell: +267 72 417 166

Email: gzimona@bhc.bw



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POVERTY EXPOSES CHILDREN TO COVID-19

BY FRANCINAH BAAITSE MMANA

"KEEP children at home," this message has been shared over and over again since COVID-19 (coronavirus) was declared a world pandemic early last month.

Botswana government has since closed all schools and public gatherings. However, for many parents in Ngamiland and the North West region, this message has not yet registered. Children are being sent to run errands in public places, getting exposed to high risk of contacting the deadly coronavirus in

the process.

"I am a single mother and I have to bring my baby with me everyday to town because I cannot afford a babysitter and all my other five children depend on me for everything. There is rent to be paid, food, clothes, milk for the baby as well," explained Lesego Gopi, 43, a street hawker at Maun's old mall.

Gopi says during school holidays, her older children help run the household, selling second-hand clothing and sometimes take the younger siblings to the clinic. "It is not because I like it, I have no other choice!" the teary Gopi explained before detailing all her frustration of single motherhood and how the

outside world was quick to judge her parental skills when they have no idea of her everyday struggles.

Ngami Member of Parliament, Carter Hikuama, who has been holding consultative meetings in several tribal administrations (*dikgotla*) in his constituency, added that children who are sent out for errands during the pandemic season are a general concern in the region.

He said in fact Village Development Committees (VDCs) have raised this as a concern. "Matters rising from these meetings that come as a general concern are that parents are not keeping children at home. Older children are sent to take the



ALARMED: Luke Motlalesele



CONCERNED: Hikuama

younger siblings for monthly weighing at local health posts."

Hikuama added that these children end up crowding the health facilities because, in most cases, when a child goes on such an errand, others will accompany them, "instead of being confined, they are roaming around and the issue of social distancing becomes a hard task."

Botswana recorded its first four cases of coronavirus this week, including one death. As of Wednesday morning this week, over 42 000 people around the world had died from the virus and over 33 000 were recorded to be in critical condition.

The virus that reportedly

broke out in China late 2019 has infected over 861 000 across the world and around 176 000 of those have since recovered and discharged from hospitals worldwide.

"The problem in Botswana, especially in rural areas, is that people have not understood the gravity of the problem as yet. They are not taking this thing seriously. For them, it is business as usual and it is very scary," added Bojanala Councillor, Luke Motlalesele, who confirmed that indeed parents continue to send children out for errands in the midst of a deadly pandemic because it is their lifestyle.

BY FRANCINAH BAAITSE-MMANA

The search for a 28-year-old man who went missing a few weeks ago from Thito ward in Maun has come to a sad end with the discovery of his dead body on Sunday.

Maun Police Station Commander, Chenamo Orateng, confirmed that Keorapetse Gaotlhobogwe's body was found hanging by a wire from a tree and he is suspected to have committed suicide. "We do not suspect foul play, a Pathologist has confirmed it," said Orateng.

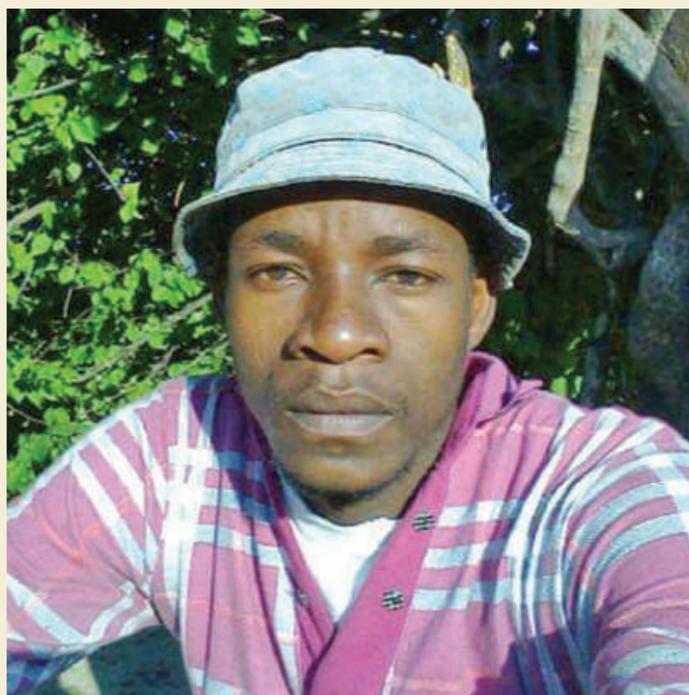
According to Orateng, Gaotlhobogwe, who was affectionately called 'Dipass' by his peers, had shown signs of stress prior to the incident. He said investigations have revealed he had at some point told someone that he was being accused of rape.

However, the police superintendent said no such rape case had been reported to them.

A farmer just outside Shashe ward found his decomposing body. He was buried the same day in Maun.

Gaotlhobogwe left home for church - which is in his neighbourhood - on the 15th of March, 2020, and never returned. He was a Security Guard at Security Systems and used to sell mealies on the roadside to supplement his income.

During the search that started a week after his disappearance, Gaotlhobogwe's jacket and shirt, which he had worn to church on the day he went missing, were found abandoned on the streets. However, a Security Officer at Tawana Primary School later told investigators that he had seen a man alight from a taxi in the



LATE: Keorapetse Dipass Gaotlhobogwe

wee hours of the morning, take off his clothes and disappear into the village streets.

Although suspicions are

rife that Gaotlhobogwe could have panicked after being accused of rape and decided to end his life, his family does not



AT A LOSS: Kananyo Lekau

buy the story. Instead, they strongly believe he was killed.

"The person who did this is very evil and knows how to

cover his tracks," explained the deceased's sister, Kananyo Ponaka Lekau.

MISSING MAN FOUND DEAD

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

In the matter between: CASE NO: CVHFT-000069/19
THATO SISA **PLAINTIFF**
 AND
BOITUMELO VERONICAH NDOLOVU **DEFENDANT**

NOTICE OF SALE IN EXECUTION

BE PLEASED TO TAKE NOTICE that pursuant to a judgment issued out of the above Honorable Court in the above matter, the following movable property of the Defendant will be sold by public auction by the Deputy Sheriff **KEITSENG LETHOGELA** to the highest bidder as follows:

DATE OF SALE : 10TH APRIL, 2020
TIME OF SALE : 10.30 HRS
VENUE OF SALE : MAGISTRATE COURT, NTSHE HOUSE

PROPERTY TO BE SOLD : HONDA FIT REG B 176 BGB SILVER IN COLOUR & HONDA FIT REG B 495 BHL BLUE IN COLOUR

TERMS OF SALE: Cash or bank guaranteed cheques only.

DATED AT FRANCISTOWN ON THIS 23RD MARCH 2020.

Assistant Deputy Sheriff Umile Gunda
 For Deputy Sheriff Keitseng Lethogela
 Cell: 74777581

TAFJA J THE HIGH COURT OF THE REPUBLIC OF BOTSWANA HELD AT LOBATSE

In the matter between: CASE NO: CVHGB 000118/2018
FIRST NATIONAL BANK BOTSWANA LIMITED **PLAINTIFF**
 AND
GOFENYAMANG MADISA **1ST DEFENDANT**
ABEL MADISA **2ND DEFENDANT**

NOTICE OF SALE IN EXECUTION

BE PLEASED TO TAKE NOTICE that pursuant to the Writ of Execution of this Honourable Court the immovable property of the above-named 2nd Defendant will be sold in execution to the highest bidder by the Deputy Sheriff **D.P. Gabobakwe** in the manner hereinafter set out.

DATE OF SALE : 14 MAY 2020
PLACE OF SALE : LOT, 35155 GABORONE
TIME OF SALE : 10:30 HOURS

TERMS OF SALE : Cash or bank guaranteed cheques

PROPERTY TO BE SOLD: Piece of land being Lot 35155, Gaborone situate in Gaborone West Extension 35, Measuring 401m² held under Deed of Transfer No. MA 3126/2008 dated 09th November 2008 made in favour of Abel Madisa, together with Developments thereon being, 3 bedroomed House, sitting room, Dining room, kitchen, bathroom, single garage, servant quarter attached to main house.

The conditions of sale may be inspected at the Offices of Modimo & Associates at the address below

DATED AT GABORONE THIS 25TH DAY OF MARCH 2020.

Deputy Sheriff D.P. Gabobakwe
 73900288/72901534
 C/o Modimo & Associates
 Plaintiff's Attorneys
 2nd Floor, BBS House
 Private Bag BO 77 GABORONE
 [Ref: TMR/tm/FNB0227]



APPLICATION FOR CERTIFIED COPY OF TITLE DEED

FIRST PUBLICATION

Notice is hereby given that the undersigned intends applying for a certified copy of Memorandum of Agreement of Lease No. 47/96 dated the 7th day of February 1996 made and entered into by and between NGWATO LAND BOARD and PAUL RAMATHELE in respect of the following property:

CERTAIN: piece of land being Tribal Lot 9, Mathathane;
SITUATE: at Mathathane in the Bangwato Tribal Territory;
MEASURING: 1338 m² (One Thousand Three Hundred and Thirty Eight Square Metres).

All persons having objection to the issue of such copy are hereby required to lodge the same in writing with the Registrar of Deeds at Francistown within (3) weeks from the last publication of this notice.
 Dated at SELEBI PHIKWE this 23rd day of March 2020



C & H Town House, Plot 6569, Unit 1
 THE MALL, P.O. BOX 358, SELEBI PHIKWE
 Tel: +267 2610660 Fax: +267 2614052
 Cell: 71757544 / 71656294
 Email: maratamolefe@gmail.com

LETSIDIDI J THE HIGH COURT OF THE REPUBLIC OF BOTSWANA HELD AT LOBATSE

In the matter between: CASE NO: CVHGB 001683/2015
FIRST NATIONAL BANK BOTSWANA LIMITED **PLAINTIFF**
 AND
786 ENTERPRISES (PTY) LTD **1ST DEFENDANT**
AOBAKWE NIKKY KATSE **2ND DEFENDANT**
AIJAZ LIAKATALI KAZI **3RD DEFENDANT**

NOTICE OF SALE IN EXECUTION

BE PLEASED TO TAKE NOTICE that pursuant to the Writ of Execution of this Honourable Court the immovable property of the above-named Defendants will be sold in execution to the highest bidder by the Deputy Sheriff **D.P. Gabobakwe** in the manner hereinafter set out.

DATE OF SALE : 29 APRIL 2020
PLACE OF SALE : GOO- MODIMO WARD, LETLHAKENG
TIME OF SALE : 10:30 HOURS
TERMS OF SALE : Cash or bank guaranteed cheques

PROPERTY TO BE SOLD : 1 X Toyota Altis Registration No B 789 BEO, 1 X Renault Truck 280 D X 1 Registration No BN 89 CY GP, 1 X Room Divider, 1 X Dining server, 1 X 34 inch Samsung TV, 1 X Samsung washing, 1 X Dely Fridge, 1 X 3 piece sofas, 1 X Dining Table, X 8 Chairs, 1 X Russel Hobs Microwave, 1 X display.

The conditions of sale may be inspected at the Offices of Modimo & Associates at the address below

DATED AT GABORONE THIS 25TH DAY OF MARCH 2020.

Deputy Sheriff D.P. Gabobakwe
 73900288/72901534
 C/o Modimo & Associates
 Plaintiff's Attorneys
 2nd Floor, BBS House
 Private Bag BO 77 GABORONE
 [Ref: TMR/tm/FNB0079]



NOTICE OF INTENTION TO CHANGE MARITAL PROPERTY REGIME SECTION 8 (1) OF THE MARRIED PERSONS PROPERTY ACT (Cap. 29:03)

- **SAI SRINIVAS JANAPAREDDY** and **BONTLE JANAPAREDDY**, married on the 8th day of August 2011, in community of property at Maun wish to change their marital property regime to out of community of property.
- The parties intend to apply to the High Court of Botswana after three (3) consecutive issues of this notification having been published in the Government Gazette and one edition of a locally circulation newspaper.
- Any creditor, debtor or person or establishment, that has an interest in assets and liabilities of the parties matrimonial estate, who has not already been notified by letter, and who has legal basis for objecting to the change of marital property regime, can do so by informing the attorneys whose address appears herein under before the expiration of the three (3) weeks of circulation of this notice or make representation at court once the contemplated application has been lodged.

DATED AT MAUN THIS _____ DAY OF _____ 2020

LECHA & ASSOCIATES
 Multichoice Centre
 Old Mall Extension
 P.O.Box 21532
 Maun

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

In the matter between: CASE NO: CVHGB-001820/2019
FIRST NATIONAL BANK BOTSWANA LIMITED **PLAINTIFF**
 AND
SWIFTPASS HOLDINGS (PTY) LTD **1ST DEFENDANT**
THULANI SANKOLOBA **2ND DEFENDANT**
MBINGANYI DENNIS PHUMAPHI **3RD DEFENDANT**

NOTICE OF SALE IN EXECUTION

BE PLEASED TO TAKE NOTICE that pursuant to the Writ of Execution of this Honourable Court the immovable property of the above-named Defendants will be sold in execution to the highest bidder by the Deputy Sheriff **D.P. Gabobakwe** in the manner hereinafter set out.

DATE OF SALE : 22 APRIL 2020
PLACE OF SALE : BROADHURST MAGISTRATE
TIME OF SALE : 10:30 HOURS

TERMS OF SALE : Cash or bank guaranteed cheques

PROPERTY TO BE SOLD : 1 X Toyota Land Cruiser Registration No B 963 BAF, 1 X Toyota Corolla Registration no B 899 AKM, 1 X Samsung TV 65 inch, 1 X Hisense 40 inch TV, 1 X DSTV Decoder, 1X TV stand, X 55 inch JVC top computer, 1 X Samsung printer, 1 X Bookshelf, 1 X Double bed.

The conditions of sale may be inspected at the Offices of Modimo & Associates at the address below

DATED AT GABORONE THIS 25TH DAY OF MARCH 2020.

Deputy Sheriff D.P. Gabobakwe
 73900288/72901534
 C/o Modimo & Associates
 Plaintiff's Attorneys
 2nd Floor, BBS House
 Private Bag BO 77 GABORONE
 [Ref: TMR/tm/FNB0374]



NOTICE OF OF DEBTORS AND CREDITORS

ESHFT-000033-18

IN THE ESTATE of the late **KITSO MANGOLE** who died at **BOKAMOSO PRIVATE HOSPITAL** on the **6TH SEPTEMBER 2018**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Debtors and Creditors of the above mentioned Estate are hereby required to pay their debts and file claims of whatever nature with the undersigned within (30) days after the publication hereof. Creditors are advised to deliver proof of their claims against the Estate to the Executer/ Executrix prior to the date of the meeting.

DATED AT FRANCISTOWN THIS 01th DAY OF MARCH 2020

TSHWANOLOGO MANGOLE
P.O.BOX 443
Tonota

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

In the matter between: CASE NO: CVHGB-003783/19
FIRST NATIONAL BANK BOTSWANA LIMITED **PLAINTIFF**
 AND
TRAM HOLDINGS (PTY) LTD (T/A BIMBOS) **1ST DEFENDANT**
CONVAN (PTY) LTD **2ND DEFENDANT**
RAQUEL (PTY) LTD **3RD DEFENDANT**
BARON (PTY) LTD **4TH DEFENDANT**
ROCHA INVESTMENTS (PTY) LTD **5TH DEFENDANT**
SESETI MOGAMI **6TH DEFENDANT**
MALEHO MOTHIBATSELA **7TH DEFENDANT**
RONALD DE ABREU ROCHA **8TH DEFENDANT**

NOTICE OF SALE IN EXECUTION

BE PLEASED TO TAKE NOTICE that pursuant to the Writ of Execution of this Honourable Court the immovable property of the above-named 5th Defendant will be sold in execution to the highest bidder by the Deputy Sheriff **D.P. Gabobakwe** in the manner hereinafter set out.

DATE OF SALE : 12 MAY 2020
PLACE OF SALE : LOT 5641, GABORONE
TIME OF SALE : 10:30 HOURS
TERMS OF SALE : Cash or bank guaranteed cheques

PROPERTY TO BE SOLD : Piece of land being Lot 5641 Gaborone, Situate in the Gaborone Extension 16, Measuring 2482m², held under Deed of Transfer No. 110/1983 dated 30th March 1983 made in favour of Rocha Investments (Pty) Ltd, together with Developments thereon being a warehouse with air conditioners, toilet, screen wall and parking lot space, paved.

The conditions of sale may be inspected at the Offices of Modimo & Associates at the address below

DATED AT GABORONE THIS 25TH DAY OF MARCH 2020.

Deputy Sheriff D.P. Gabobakwe
 73900288/72901534
 C/o Modimo & Associates
 Plaintiff's Attorneys
 2nd Floor, BBS House
 Private Bag BO 77 GABORONE
 [Ref: TMR/tm/FNB0407]



DEALING WITH COVID-19 AWAY FROM HOME



Before Justice Ketlogetswe
IN THE HIGH COURT OF THE REPUBLIC OF BOTSWANA HELD AT LOBATSE

In the matter between: **BOTSWANA BUILDING SOCIETY** and **REBATHO OTSILE MOILWA** **PLAINTIFF** and **DEFENDANT** CASE NO: CVHGB 000316-19

NOTICE OF SALE IN EXECUTION

BE PLEASED TO TAKE NOTICE that pursuant to a Writ of Execution of this Honourable Court dated 15th May 2019, the following immovable property of the above-mentioned Defendant will be sold in execution to the highest bidder by **DEPUTY SHERRIFF D. P. GABOBAKWE** in the manner hereinafter set out.

DATE OF SALE : Wednesday 06th May 2020
TIME OF SALE : 10:30 a.m.
PLACE OF SALE : Lot 55292, Gaborone

TERMS OF SALE : Cash or bank guaranteed cheques

PROPERTY TO BE SOLD: Certain piece of land being **Lot 55292, Gaborone**, situated in the **Gaborone Administrative District**; measuring **765m²** held under Deed of Transfer No.3569/2015 dated **09th December 2015** made in favour of **REBATHO OTSILE MOILWA** together with developments thereon being double storey house with 3 bedroom, master ensuite upstairs, one bedroom down stairs with open plan kitchen, sitting room, screen wall, electric fence, motorized gate.

*The conditions of sale may be inspected at the Offices of **Modimo & Associates** at the address below*

DATED AT GABORONE THIS 24TH DAY OF MARCH 2020.

Deputy Sheriff D. P. GABOBAKWE
C/o Modimo & Associates
73900288, 72901534
Plaintiff's Attorneys
2nd Floor, BBS House
Private Bag BO 77 GABORONE
(Ref: ODP/kp/B0234)



Before Justice Motswagole
IN THE HIGH COURT OF THE REPUBLIC OF BOTSWANA HELD AT GABORONE

In the matter between: **BOTSWANA BUILDING SOCIETY** and **MARINA REHMAT KHAN** **PLAINTIFF** and **DEFENDANT** CASE NO: CVHGB 000765 -16

NOTICE OF SALE IN EXECUTION

BE PLEASED TO TAKE NOTICE that pursuant to a Writ of Execution of this Honourable Court dated **29th April 2016**, the following immovable property of the above mentioned Defendant will be sold in execution to the highest bidder by **D. P. GABOBAKWE** in the manner hereinafter set out.

DATE OF SALE : Tuesday 05th May 2020
TIME OF SALE : 10:00 a.m.
PLACE OF SALE : Portion 32, a Portion of Portion 2 of the Farm KENMOIR No.1-KP

TERMS OF SALE : Cash or bank guaranteed cheques

PROPERTY TO BE SOLD: Certain piece of land being **Lot Portion 32**, a Portion of portion 2 of the Farm Kenoir No.1-KP, Ruretse, Fenced 3.9752 HA, in the South East Administration District under Deed of Transfer No. 1387/15 dated **01st June 2015** in favour of **Marina Rehmat Khan**.

*The conditions of sale may be inspected at the Offices of **Modimo & Associates** at the address below*

DATED AT GABORONE THIS 24TH DAY OF MARCH 2020

Deputy Sheriff D. P. GABOBAKWE
C/o Modimo & Associates
73900288 / 72901534
Plaintiff's Attorneys
2nd Floor, BBS House
Private Bag BO 77
GABORONE
(Ref: ODP/kp/B0098)



COVID-19 has turned the world on its head and I find myself in complete agreement with sentiments expressed by many that this is the new world order and possibly the greatest challenge we would have seen in our lifetime.

As a scholar, it has been a particularly stressful time. Until recently, we were reeling from the stress endured due to the industrial strike that plagued UK learning institutions recently, which resulted in the interruption of lectures.



BY TSHEPO MAPHANYANE

tshepom@thevoicebw.com

The strike also meant students could not consult with lecturers even via email. Just as we were looking forward to resuming classes for at least the two weeks left before the end of a crucial semester, a complete shutdown was ordered due to the growing concerns following covid-19. Balancing heavy school loads and adjusting to virtual learning environments while also trying to prepare for the unforeseeable fu-

ture by ensuring one has all they need has caused much strain. "Shop shelves have been wiped clean by those stockpiling and that has left so many people vulnerable. Surely, we could've done better and left some stuff for others. Now, instead of staying safe and indoors, people are forced to go on the hunt for essentials," says Nkosilathi Tshabalala, a Bristol University student.

However, she adds yoga and meditation have been helpful.

As some students rushed to beat the travel ban, for some, it is a painful reminder of how far home is. "My housemates have left, and it is a lot quieter," says Katlego Ketlhaetse at South Wales University. "The quietness is eerie and a sharp reminder of the challenging environment we are in. It has been difficult to concentrate on the books."

Benson Motswetla in Manchester agrees, "Under different circumstances, the silence and reduced movement would be appreciated but the reality is that it's a reminder of how as human beings we want to be with loved ones at times like these. The uncertainty of things is unnerving."

Although Bakotelo Mmipi at the University of Essex concurs that being with loved ones would be ideal, he says the decision to go home was not an easy one to make.

"The situation is bad all around. Countries are on lockdown; travel restrictions are in place. Even if one managed to get a flight home, they would need to be certain that they are not carrying the virus," he says.

Like the other scholars, Kitso Dikube also agrees that it helps to be in touch with others for moral support; "Technology allows us to connect and even get to do activities together virtually."

Keitumetse Mosewe, in Scotland, says as a parent, it was a lot harder being away from family and not knowing how long this situation will last.

Boitumelo Se-raise at Bangor, North Wales, is of the view that there are opportunities that lie within these challenging times. "In addition to surviving now, we also have to consider life going forward. We must adopt the use of technology extensively and not just talk about it. 4IR is now here and we need to get on board."

VIRUS

Laone Van Vuuren in York says the scariest thing is the burden on the NHS should more people contract the virus. "Like many others, I have not had the best of luck with the system as seeing a doctor is a process and, a specialist even harder to see, so I shudder at the thought of too many people needing medical attention all at the same time as it is already hard enough to cope," laments Van Vuuren.

"It is a difficult situation all around," says University of East Anglia scholar, Chedza Moon Ntobedzi, who had to go on self-isolation upon discovering that her housemate had attended a packed football game a few days before the lockdown.

NOTICE OF LOST DEED

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT the undersigned intends to apply for a certified copy of Deed No. **584/91** dated **17th May 1991**, made in favour of **Gagonkgope Juliet Basupile** in respect of:

CERTAIN : Piece of land being lot No. 4879 Francistown

SITUATE: In the Francistown Administrative District

MEASURING: 439cm² (Four hundred and thirty nine square meter)

HELD UNDER: Deed of fixed period State Grant No. 584/91 dated 17th May 1991

All persons having objection to the issuance of such copy are hereby required to lodge the same in writing with the Registrar of Deeds Francistown within three weeks from the last publication of this notice

NOTICE OF INTENTION TO CHANGE MARRIAGE PROPERTY REGIME

(In terms of Section 8 (1) (f) of the Married Persons Property Act, 2014)

KOZIBA GIBSON and **GALANI TUWA** married in community of property on the **28th October 2017** at **Nswazwi**; wish to change their property regime to "out of community of property"

The parties intend to apply to the High court of Botswana after expiration of the three (3) week Statutory notice from the date of first publication hereof.

Any person, creditor, or debtor, who may have an interest in the asset and/or liabilities of the parties' estate, should they have objections to the parties changing their property regime, are to inform the parties' Attorneys Williams Attorneys, before the expiration of the said three (3) weeks period, or make representations before the high court of Botswana once the contemplated application is lodged.

DATED AT FRANCISTOWN THIS 25TH DAY OF MARCH 2020.

WILLIAMS ATTORNEYS
(Applicant's Attorneys)
Plot 1476
Thangwe Drive
Minestone
P O BOX 40151
BLUE JACKET
FRANCISTOWN

BETWEEN A DEADLY ROCK AND A HARD PLACE



DESERTEED: A normally busy street in Bulawayo (PIC: Ministry of Information)

FOR us in Zimbabwe, the lockdown due to COVID-19 has been like being kicked when already down.

Our unemployment rate is more than 90 percent, which means the majority of us are in the informal sector, hustling to make ends meet and basically living from hand to mouth.

So, with the lockdown in full swing, it means no income coming in yet one has to put food on the table, food which is already pricey and in increasingly short supply.

My heart bleeds for mothers and fathers whose workplaces are the streets of our country, selling airtime, sweets, fruits and vegetables among other things.

Where will they get money to buy food and pay rentals? Life has always been a struggle for them yet here we are facing a double-blow situation.

While we hope and pray that the lockdown will not go beyond the 21 days as the majority might end up restive mainly due to hunger and monotony, the reality is that we are faced with a grim situation and a virus that will take time to be wiped away from the face of the earth.

Many people in Zimbabwe, especially those in urban areas, had somehow gotten used to life without electricity and running water.

However, there was comfort in waking up in the morning to do what one can do away from home. But in the next coming days, we will all wake up and be confined to our home environments, with no running water, electricity and who knows? ...some with very little food.

This, alone, might drive people to the edge. As somebody said, many Zimbos will die of hunger before they are killed by the coronavirus. President Emmerson Mnangagwa knew very well that the lockdown would hit most of us hard yet he did precious little to mitigate for it.

"I know that these measures may seem drastic and will upset all of our daily lives, but there is no other way," he said as he announced the 21-day lockdown which began on Monday.

While people do appreciate

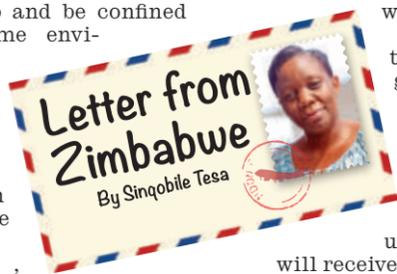
these efforts to curb the spread of the virus, they will always blame the government for the sorry state of our lives as the virus hit us when we were already vulnerable mainly because of poor governance.

Indeed, COVID-19 surely couldn't have come at a worse time!

Even though the government has announced that some poor households in urban areas will receive cash, I know for a fact it will not be enough to cover the needs and that some of the money will inevitably end up in the wrong hands.

Many will thus suffer even more with nowhere to find solace. Meanwhile, people in major towns and cities adhered to the lockdown as most city centres resembled ghost towns with very little to no movement of people and vehicles.

I guess this is our reality for the next few weeks! Stay safe, everyone.



hot off the press every Friday

WANTED

Herboy / Girl wanted by Betty K. Phori at Setsile cattle post in Kang.

Apply and send to: Box 55, Kang
E-mail phoribk@gmail.com
Call / WhatsApp 73284847

Closing Date: 23 April 2020

Before Justice Motswagole IN THE HIGH COURT OF THE REPUBLIC OF BOTSWANA HELD AT GABORONE

CASE NO: CVHGB 003518-15

In the matter between:

BOTSWANA BUILDING SOCIETY
and
MORWADI SEJOE

PLAINTIFF
DEFENDANT

NOTICE OF SALE IN EXECUTION

BE PLEASSED TO TAKE NOTICE that pursuant to a Writ of Execution of this Honourable Court dated **26th November 2015**, the following immovable property of the above-mentioned Defendant will be sold in execution to the highest bidder by **DEPUTY SHERRIFF D. P. GABOBAKWE** in the manner hereinafter set out.

DATE OF SALE : Thursday 07th May 2020
TIME OF SALE : 10:30 a.m.
PLACE OF SALE : Lot 58903, Gaborone

TERMS OF SALE : Cash or bank guaranteed cheques

PROPERTY TO BE SOLD: Certain piece of land being **Lot 58903, Gaborone (Block 7)**, situated in the **Gaborone West Extension 48**; measuring **486m²** held under Deed of Transfer **No.2097/2005** dated **20th September 2005** made in favour of **MORWADI SEJOE** together with developments thereon being 3 bedroomed house, sitting room, kitchen, bathroom, separate toilet, screen wall and sliding gate.

The conditions of sale may be inspected at the Offices of Modimo & Associates at the address below

DATED AT GABORONE THIS 24TH DAY OF MARCH 2020.

Deputy Sheriff D. P. GABOBAKWE
C/o Modimo & Associates
73900288, 72901534
Plaintiff's Attorneys
2nd Floor, BBS House
Private Bag BO 77 GABORONE
(Ref: ODP/kp/B0074)



Before Justice Moroka IN THE HIGH COURT OF THE REPUBLIC OF BOTSWANA HELD AT LOBATSE

CASE NO: CVHGB 002281-13

In the matter between:

BOTSWANA BUILDING SOCIETY
and
LEWATLE RESOURCES
MICHAEL KEAKOPA

PLAINTIFF
1ST DEFENDANT
2ND DEFENDANT

NOTICE OF SALE IN EXECUTION

BE PLEASSED TO TAKE NOTICE that pursuant to a Writ of Execution of this Honourable Court dated **18th November 2013**, the following immovable property of the above-mentioned Defendant will be sold in execution to the highest bidder by **DEPUTY SHERRIFF D. P. GABOBAKWE** in the manner hereinafter set out.

DATE OF SALE : Wednesday 13th May 2020
TIME OF SALE : 10:30 a.m.
PLACE OF SALE : Lot 55625, Gaborone

TERMS OF SALE: Cash or bank guaranteed cheques

PROPERTY TO BE SOLD: Certain piece of land being **Lot 55625, Gaborone** situated in the **Gaborone Administrative District**; measuring **1031m²** held under Deed of Transfer **No.1815/2012** dated **15th August 2012** made in favour of **LEWATLE (PROPRIETARY) LIMITED** together with developments thereon being 3 bedroomed house, sitting room, open plan kitchen, master ensuite, servant quarter, screen wall with electrical fence and motorized gate.

The conditions of sale may be inspected at the Offices of Modimo & Associates at the address below

DATED AT GABORONE THIS 25TH DAY OF MARCH 2020.

Deputy Sheriff D. P. GABOBAKWE
C/o Modimo & Associates
73900288, 72901534
Plaintiff's Attorneys
2nd Floor, BBS House
Private Bag BO 77 GABORONE
(Ref: ODP/kp/7443)



THE GRIM REALITY OF LOCKDOWN



Martin Batshwareng

BY CHRISTINAH MOTLHABANE AND KABELO ADAMSON

THIS Friday, the nation embarks on a 28-day lockdown in a desperate bid to stop the spread of coronavirus.

While President Mokgweetsi Masisi's decision was somewhat inevitable, especially after the country recorded its first confirmed cases of the virus on Monday, for those who make their living on the street, the lockdown has been greeted with dread.

The Voice took to the streets of Francistown and Gaborone to find out how prepared this helpless group are to cope with the coming month with no income to rely on.

MARTIN BATSHWARENG, STREET VENDOR

This lockdown is going to badly affect those of us who survive on the streets - and the worst part is we are not receiving any relief! We have been asked to stay home but where are we going to get money? We are only just surviving; every day when I sell a t-shirt, I can manage to buy something for the kids. Unfortunately, as you can see, I am packing up. It's my last day here and I am leaving with nothing. The month of April is going to be tough; we will pawn fridges and other stuff.

EVERLADY JABARI, 43, STREET VENDOR

We survive on selling sweets, food and airtime, but they say we should now stop. It means my children are going to starve for the next month. I am a widow, I take care of my three kids alone



Everlady Jabari

and do that by selling along the roadside. So when I stop selling, it means we run out of food. It is fortunate that I have my own place in Kopong or else rent was going to be another problem.

SITHEMBILE GOMBOGWA, 64, STREET VENDOR

As you can see, we barely survive here. I have only bought bread for the kids at home. I pay rent from the proceeds that I make from my small business. Now that I will no longer be able to sell, it means we are doomed because I cannot afford to pay rent, water and electricity. I don't know how we are going to survive next month.

ODUETSE MOGOMOTSI, 29, TELEVISION REPAIRER

The government's decision to impose a nationwide lockdown is a painful one for me as I have not planned for it. I do not know how I will pay my April rent without hustling. Even though I did not buy food, I can go the village where I will eat watermelons and other crops at the field. The President only cares for the government employees and some few companies. He did not mention the self-employed in his speech on how he will assist the people. He should plan something for us, like helping in paying rent.

MODISA ROBERT, 34, LUGGAGE LOADER

My sister, as you can see, the streets are empty but I am here. I work with the Zambians. I help them with carrying their luggage from the Chinese shops and loading it in their cars. Since the borders closed, they have not been in Botswana. I come to the bus rank checking where



Sithembile Gombogwa

to hustle so I can make some money, but it's hard. The Chinese shops are closing and I am doomed. I did not plan for the lockdown. I did not buy food as I used the money to pay rent. I am asking myself how I am going to survive as I literally have nothing. I can't say the government's decision is unfair. We are trying to avoid new infections but it will benefit those who budgeted for the lockdown. The problem is the government is only looking at those who are working, as for self-employed hustlers, we are on our own!

TEBOGO MOKGOSI, 22, ASSISTANT AT CHINESE SHOP

During the lockdown, I will stay at home so I do not come into contact with anyone. Unfortunately, I have not prepared for the lockdown as we are yet to be paid. If we get paid before Friday, I am going to buy everything that I will need. The government's decision was fair; it will reduce the spread of coronavirus. We all realise this is a dangerous disease that needs everyone to be cautious. So being home will reduce the infections.

CHENZIMU GOCHELA, 33, FOOD SELLER

This is a stressful time. I did not plan for the lockdown. I am really worried and don't know how I will survive. I bought the food, yes, but it is not enough. As you see, there is no business, everything is at a standstill. The decision to enforce a lockdown is a good one as it protects our lives even though I don't know how I will pay my rent. Our population is very small so if the number of those infected grows, we are all dead!



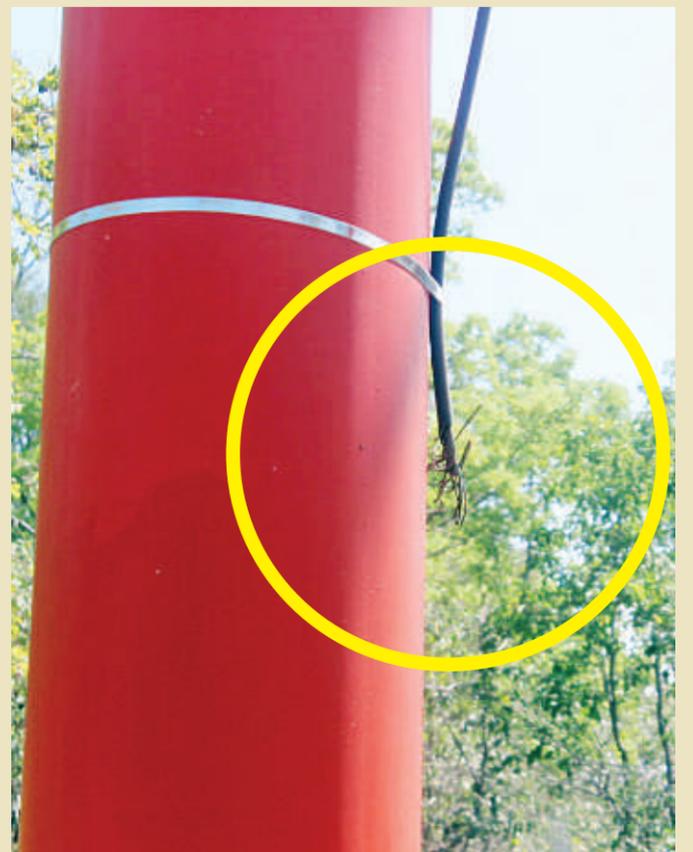
Oduetse Mogotsi



Modisa Robert



Chenzimu Gochela



VANDALISED: A severed earth wire at the tower

DANGER ATOP NYANGABGWE HILL

BY KABELO DIPHOLO

THERE'S a disaster waiting to happen atop Nyangabgwe hill, some 1.083 kilometers above ground.

The famous Francistown hill, which is frequented by a large number of fitness fanatics on a daily basis, is also home to a number of transmission towers belonging to different organisations, among them BOFINET and Btv.

The Voice has established that some of these transmission towers have been vandalised, with thieves making away with the earth copper wires.

A sharp-eyed hiker made this discovery on Sunday after seeing exposed wires hanging from the tower's three supporting pillars.

"Are those earth wires?" she exclaimed in shock, as she puffed up the hill with this newly converted health conscious journalist.

A security guard, who used to work night shift at the post, narrated a harrowing experience he had one stormy evening.

Speaking anonymously, he told *The Voice* the area around the tower is unsafe whenever there's a storm.

"I had to cower in one of the small cabins provided here as lightning repeatedly struck the tower. The electric charge in the area was unmistakable," he recalled dramatically, adding he feared he was going to die that night.

"Since then, I never stayed on my post whenever there was a storm. I hiked down to seek a safer shelter. In fact, I don't think there's any security guard who stays guard during a stormy night because it's dangerous. Can you believe they don't even have toilets there!" exclaimed the former guard.

The Voice contacted the Btv General Manager - Engineering, Kabo Dikolobe, who claimed he was unaware of

the vandalism.

"From what I know, we earth all our towers because a tower should never be left unearthed," he explained, adding maintenance of the transmission towers in Francistown is the responsibility of the Selebi Phikwe Regional Station.

"We've never received a report," continued Dikolobe, before reiterating that a tower should be earthed.

According to Wikipedia, the purpose of the earth wire is to provide a path back to the source of the electrical current in the event of a fault. The current should be enough to trip the breaker or blow the fuse. The principle of grounding is simple: it diverts an electric current which might escape from a device to a metallic conductor (cable) that ends with a stake (rod) buried in the ground. These losses of current may occur, for example, when a damaged power cable is stripped and the electrical wires come into contact with the device's casing.

Without an earth or ground wire, the current would pass through the body of the first person to touch the device resulting in electrocution and possible death.



DANGER: Transmission towers at Nyangabgwe Hill

'I JUST WANNA PLAY FOOTBALL!'

BY TSHEPO KEHIMILE

Zebras star, Lebogang Ditsile, on the frustrations of not playing

While COVID-19 has seen players kicking their heels rather than kicking a football, the frustration of not playing is an experience Jwaneng Galaxy's lanky defensive midfielder, Lebogang Ditsile, knows all too well.

In an unhappy three-year stint at South African side, Highlands Park FC, Ditsile made only a handful of appearances, and only one in the club's promotion season to the Premier Soccer League (PSL).

"It was so frustrating not to break into the team considering the effort I put into training," he said in an interview with *Voice Sport*.

Ditsile said his passion for football started in his teenage years.

"I started being serious about football when I was 17 when I featured in the National Under 17 team while playing for a Kweneng Division 2 team named Sweet XI. After that, Township Rollers signed me but I struggled to break it into the starting 11. I got a loan move to Letlapeng SC where I fought to resuscitate my premature football career," he said.

The Ramotswa-born lad con-



FILE PIC: Ditsile defending the ball from a Gaborone United player

tinued by saying that he returned to Rollers but still failed to make the cut to the team.

"It was still difficult to make a breakthrough. No one can judge how good you are if you're not playing!"

The inaction prompted a move to Gilport Lions where he

immediately commanded a regular place in the team. It wasn't long before Highlands Park spotted his talent and gave him the opportunity to move south.

"It had always been an ambition to play in South Africa and when the chance came, I jumped at it. I joined Highlands in 2016

and they were on course to get promoted to the elite PSL league and we eventually achieved that. However, trouble came when we reached the PSL. I was consistently overlooked while I feel that I deserved to start some of the matches, and that frustrated me a lot. It was a nightmare. I

was really unhappy about not being given a chance to prove myself, but I did not despair nor lose faith in the talent I knew I had.

"I decided that there was nothing else I could do but return home. I was transferred to Jwaneng Galaxy and I am deeply thankful to them for giving me an opportunity to resurrect my career," Ditsile said.

Back in the spotlight, it was only a matter of time before Botswana National team Coach, Peter Butler, called him to the squad as he believed he was the future of Botswana's midfield.

But just when it looked like his football inaction was a thing of the past, he ended up being suspended from the national side after allegations that he brought booze and women into the Zebras training camp.

"It was one of those days where I almost lost it as a football player. I have learned from it and I told myself that I will never do it again," he said.

Ditsile's inspirational play in midfield saw Galaxy lifting the 2018/19 Mascom Top 8 trophy and finishing second in the league.

"Being part of the Galaxy family has taught me a lot and I hope we lift the Orange FA Cup and the BTC League this season and I am certain that we can do it," concluded Ditsile.

COVID-19 WHACKS TENNIS OFF-COURT

FROM BACK PAGE

Thipe was, however, confident that the association will get back on track and fully execute their mandate of developing the sport in the country.

"Our plan was to roll out this Level 2 Coaching Course to many of our coaches, unfortunately we had to postpone. I'm, however, confident that by October 2020, everything will normalise and we will stage a tennis month with lots of activities," he said.

He said it was important to train and upgrade local coaches to help them be at par with the best in the region and the world.

"We only have one Level 3 Coach in Botswana named Thato Masunga and we have several Level 2 Coaches. Our aim is to increase the number of Level 3 Coaches in the near future," he said.

He said they have proposed to the ITF to have all the postponed activities take place in October.

"We expect to host international players whose presence in the country will hopefully spark interest among local tennis fans and Batswana in general," he said.

The seemingly frustrated sports administrator said his association is also faced with a lot of challenges, chief among them being lack of financial investment in the sport.

"Our biggest challenge is lack of investment in our sport. We need sponsors to come on board and help us send some of our promising talents to Europe's elite schools where they can study and play professionally. This will definitely turn the fortunes of local tennis," Thipe said.

UNITED FORCE: FUB President, Tshekiso (r), and Secretary General, Masaseng



FOOTBALL FINANCIAL FEUD

FROM BACK PAGE

So far, only the institutional sides, plus Township Rollers and the mining outfits - Jwaneng Galaxy and Orapa United, have paid their players' March salaries while Gaborone United have forked out half.

BDF XI have since written to FUB promising to pay players as per contractual agreement despite the unprecedented situation.

Morupule Wanderers, meanwhile, are said to have proposed to pay half salaries for the rest of the season amid reported complainants from the Palapye side's sponsor that their budget is

too high.

Speaking to *Voice Sport* after the highly charged meeting, FUB Secretary General, Kgosana Masaseng, revealed the players were unimpressed with their employer's continued excuses for failing to pay their salaries.

According to Masaseng, only half of the Premier League clubs have been paying salaries consistently.

"At the beginning of every season, teams submit financial requirements for consideration of club licencing to show they have the budget to run for 12 months.

"The current situation cannot be used as an ex-

cuse because some teams have not been complying with club licencing requirements. Some of the teams have sponsors which cover the whole season so we expect them to pay their employees. We are waiting for clubs to come up with a better proposal then we will see how we conclude this," warned Masaseng.

For his part, BFA Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Mfolo Mfolo, explained the negotiations covered issues of club licencing, constitution and play rules and regulations.

He stressed the economic implications of COVID-19, adding it was thus impor-

tant to consult clubs and players' representatives.

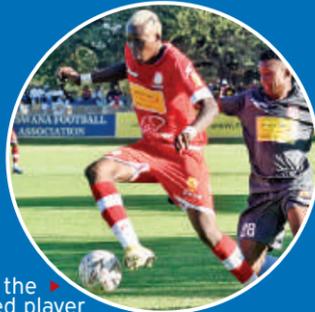
With the Premier League season two-thirds complete, and with ten rounds still left to play, Mfolo is confident of completing the league when the government eventually lifts the restrictions.

"These are difficult times for sport, not only football. Most of the teams depend on gate takings and selling merchandise so there is no income when there is no football activities.

"This not only affects Premier League teams but also first division. Joint position statement will be released when discussions are over," concluded Mfolo.



Voice Sport



FILE PIC: Ditsile defending the ball from a Gaborone United player

Zebras star, Lebogang Ditsile, on the frustrations of not playing

SEE PAGE 27

THE RUCKUS IN A RAQUET

◀ NO WHERE TO GO: Tennis player during a tournament

BY TSHEPO KEHIMILE

AS sports codes across the world continue to feel the impact of the COVID-19 scourge, Botswana Tennis

Association (BTA) is also among the many thrown off balance by the dreaded virus.

In an interview with *Voice Sport*, BTA President, Oaitse Thipe, said they

had to suspend a series of planned crucial activities such as the International Tennis Federation (ITF) Level 2 Coaching Course.

It's an important level that focuses on communication skills, and helps coach-

es to identify their verbal and non-verbal strengths and weaknesses, and also to understand different types of communication in a given situation.

TURN TO PAGE 19



FUB deliver ultimatum to top clubs over players' wages

PAY UP OR FACE THE CONSEQUENCES!

BY PORTIA MLILO

The issue of players' salaries came to a head this Wednesday at a heated meeting between Botswana Football Association (BFA), Footballers Union of Botswana (FUB) and club officials from the top three divisions.

With all football postponed indefinitely due to the coronavirus pandemic, most teams feel their players should be on half-

salaries until the resumption of matches.

However, players - through the FUB - are demanding full pay for the next three months (starting from April). Only then (July), will they accept a 50 percent pay cut if the season is still on lockdown.

At the meeting, FUB announced that if these terms are not met, players of all defaulting teams would terminate their contracts.

TURN TO PAGE 19



FILE PIC: Prisons XI players