

The Botswana GAZETTE

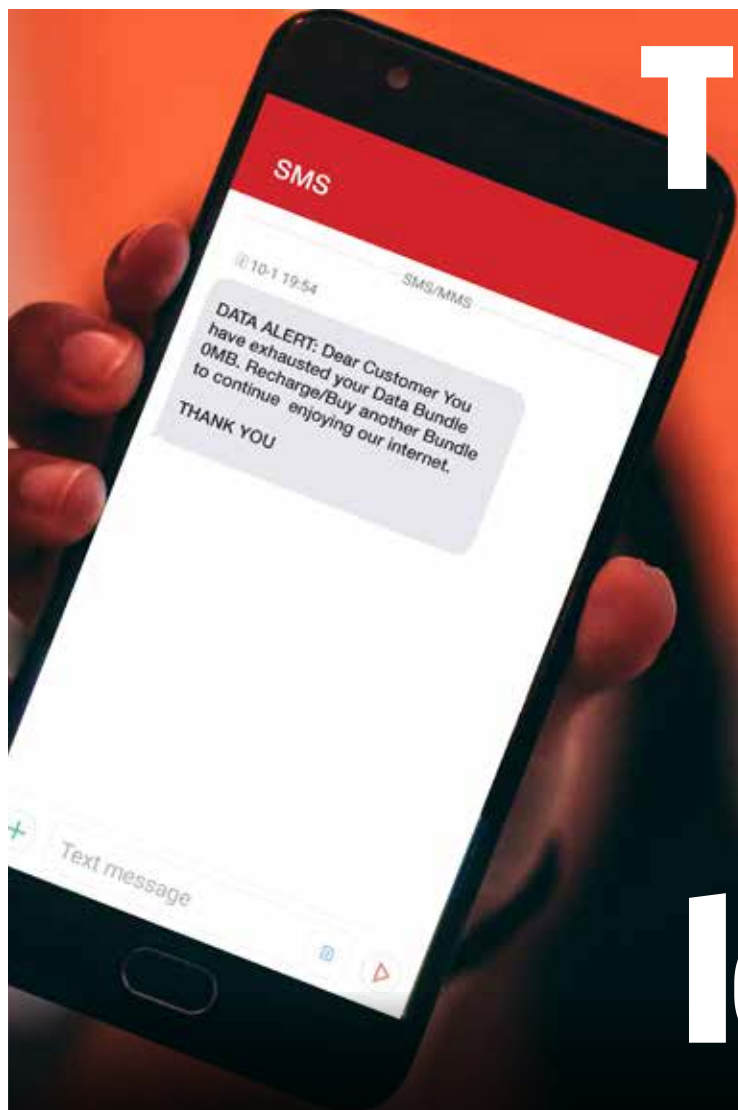
WEDNESDAY 06 MAY 2020

P9.50 (Incl) VAT

"Kitso ke maatla"

Westwood School Reels From P10m Embezzlement

PAGE 2



The heavy cost of data during lockdown

The usage of mobile internet has increased significantly since the COVID-19 pandemic lockdown as people are forced to conduct daily business from their homes. Recent reports indicate that out of 228 countries globally, Botswana is amongst the top 14 countries with the most expensive data and this has dire consequences for socio-economic growth.

PAGE 11

**DISPUTED:THE
P13M TENDER TO
PRESIDENT
MASISI'S SISTER**

PAGE 27

**40 JUMBO
EMPLOYEES
ESCAPE COVID-19
SCARE AFTER
A VISIT BY THE
SIVIYA CONTACT**

PAGE 6

**SUPPLIERS OF
RELIEF PACKAGES
DECRY RISING
FOOD PRICES**

Wholesalers are hard put to deny accusations by suppliers of food relief hampers that they are out to profit from poverty by hiking prices in the course of the lockdown.

PAGE 4

**BLACK AND
RAISING
DAUGHTERS IN
A BRUTAL MEN'S
WORLD**

PAGE 30 - 31

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Westwood School Reels From P10m Embezzlement

- School drowns in debt because of funds mismanagement
- Four staff members accused of fraud
- Staff salaries slashed by 50 percent

LAWRENCE SERETSE & TLOTLO KEBINAKGABO

A forensic report conducted at Westwood English Medium School in Gaborone found that it is drowning in a P10 million debt, which was acquired as a loan to pay salaries after four mem-

bers of management were found to have defrauded the school coffers to its last penny, documentation held by this publication alleges.

This publication made the discovery in a letter (dated May 2nd 2020) written to parents by the Chairperson of the WIS Council Peter Sedingwe

who attained his position in July 2019. According to his letter, due to the mismanagement of funds by the previous school administration, especially during the years 2017, 2018 and part of 2019, the school found itself in debt of approximately P10 million as of January 2020.

When the matter was still under wraps earlier this year, *The Botswana Gazette* spoke to administration employee Same Toteng at Westwood, but at that time she could not shed light on the matter.

In light of the new evidence, *The Botswana Gazette* contacted the school yet again this week, but could not reach anyone because of the lockdown. An email sent to the school, was also yet to be responded to by press time.

However, Chairperson Peter Sedingwe states in

his letter that by the time his Council came into office (July 2019), the previous school management and outgoing Council, had just applied for a P3 million overdraft from First National Bank Botswana (FNBB). He says the reason given for that overdraft application was that the school had apparently run out of funds and could not finance the July 2019 payroll,

Sedingwe's letter states further that the overdraft application was successful and the July 2019 salaries were paid."

The WIS Council Chairperson goes on to state that by November 2019, the school had once again run out of money of which they applied and were granted a P7 million loan from FNBB, the loan is payable over two years. "This loan was just enough to cover November and December staff salaries, end of contract gratuities and various accumulated bills," says Sedingwe.

He states that considering the school financial position, WIS council and Head of School (HOS) who arrived in office on 1st September 2019 carried an investigation and forensic audit into the school's accounts. Sedingwe alleges that the forensic audit showed that there had been financial mismanagement and or fraud on the part of four members of the school administration. "Following disciplinary hearings in January and February 2020, all four were found guilty of charges and were consequently removed from school. The case was then handed over to the Botswana Police and is part of an ongoing investigation," he says in the letter to parents.

According to Sedingwe following the school financial troubles an austerity budget for 2020 was put in place in order to cut non-academic costs wherever possible. In his letter written to parents, he states that in March 2020, the austerity budget was going to see the school through until the end of the school year. "However, by the end of March, the school found itself without enough funds to pay April salaries but not enough to meet May salaries in full," he says.

The COVID-19 pandemic made the school's financial position worse as according to Sedingwe school fee collections were

affected, something which led to a drop in revenue. To mitigate that, the decision was made by the school in consultation with their staff, to cut salaries by 50 percent for the month of April and possibly 50 percent for May (depending on the amount of school fees that will be collected in term two).

"Following disciplinary hearings in January and February 2020, all four were found guilty of charges and were consequently removed from the school."

He says the decision was also made to maintain term two fees at 100 percent to maximise revenue but to offer greater flexibility to parents for the payment arrangements based on the impact of COVID-19. "It should be made clear that, over the past eight months, since the new Council and HOS have been in office, every attempt has been made to keep Westwood going," Sedingwe's letter states. "There have been times when the very survival of the school was in question."

To ensure that the school keeps on running Sedingwe notes that budgets have been tightened where possible without making any sacrifices to the quality international education offered to students. "However, the school's finances remain precarious and more efforts will be required in the year 2020 and beyond. No one can be sure of the negative impact COVID-19 may have on the economy of Botswana and on the finances of the school," he says. "We are also grateful to you parents. At this difficult time, we are dependent on you, to do your utmost to pay the school fees that are so necessary for the continued survival of the school."



David & Goliath Affair

As Gaborone Hotel Expansion Aggrieves Vendors

- Expansion to force informal traders out
- GH manager says the land belongs to them
- Vendors say only two metres were allocated to GH

TEFO PHEAGE

War has erupted at the Gaborone Bus Station over expansion of Gaborone Hotel into space adjoining it that has been the 'preserve' of street vendors for years, *The Botswana Gazette* has established.

Although the issue started back in 2017, the street vendors are fighting through their organizations, the Botswana Informal Sector Association (BISA) and Thusanang Bagwebi, that are accusing management of Gaborone Hotel of dishonesty for choosing this time of lockdown to displace them "when the matter is still under discussion".

"The dispute is about two things - expanding during the lockdown when the matter is still under discussion and expanding beyond what they have been allocated," said the Secretary of the BISA, Mpho Matoteng. "We are not complaining about the Gaborone Hotel

expansion."

BISA has engaged the Gaborone City Council and the Ministry of Lands and Housing on the issue. "The Ministry of Lands said they have allocated Gaborone Hotel expansion of only two metres into the informal sector space but we were shocked to realise that the hotel management has decided to take all the space," Matoteng said.

Gaborone Hotel disputes this. Its Manager, Bipin Awasthi, says what they have taken from the informal sector is what belongs to the hotel. "We were allocated this space about six years ago due to our shortage of parking space," he asserted in an interview.

"It is just too bad because they have politicized the issue. It now appears as if we are bullying the small man, but that is not the case. I understand their frustrations but the truth is that the land belongs to Gaborone Hotel which we have been lawfully allocated."

Awasthi said he had tried to sat-

isfy everyone by talking with them and providing evidence of Gaborone Hotel's ownership of the land. However, the issue had dragged for so long that he eventually decided to fence the place up.

"I believe I have done everything that I could do to consult," he said. "I have even gone to the extent of engaging the police, the council and the complainants."

But BISA has issues with the Gaborone City Council and the lands ministry over the rationality or justice of allocating their space to what they call "rich guys."

The informal sector is largely credited for cushioning economies because it is a refuge for people who cannot enter the formal sector. And in an economy that is struggling to create jobs like Botswana's, experts say the informal sector ought to be protected.

Efforts to reach Gaborone City Council and Ministry of Lands and Housing proved futile at the time ongoing to press.

Masisi Was Misled - Moswaane

- Lambasts the food hampers programme • calls on Masisi to intervene • says lockdown violates human rights
- accuses government Authorities of misleading Masisi
- Political Commentators commend Masisi's efforts

SESUPO RANTSIMAKO —

FRANCISTOWN: The outspoken Member of Parliament (MP) for Francistown East constituency, Ignatious Moswaane, says the lockdown that restricts movement amounts to human rights abuse considering the unplanned roll-out of COVID-19 food hampers.

In an interview with *The Botswana Gazette* about the letter he wrote to President Mokgweetsi Masisi, Moswaane expressed his disappointment to government Ministers and Authorities who mislead the nation into believing that the COVID-19 food relief roll-out is running smoothly without any hiccups.

Moswaane lashed out insisting that what is being reported is not a true reflection of what is happening in the ground.

"I am not impressed about what is really happening on the ground concerning the distribution of food hampers hence the decision to write to the President alerting him on what exactly is happening. The President has to know what exactly is happening so that he can intervene or advise accordingly. Ever since I arrived from quarantine I have been donating food hampers within Francistown because they were yet to be assisted by the council. It is disheartening for the government to be claiming to help people while on

the ground they are dying of hunger. Locking down people for 30 days without giving them food or without any option to fend for themselves amounts to gross violation of human rights," lashed out Moswaane when explaining his letter to Masisi.

Moswaane said while other people are conceiving what is happening; he will never do that because it is will be misleading to the President. "I am only doing this because I want to tell Masisi the honest truth of what is really happening on the ground. We are already in the second month of the lockdown yet thousands of people are yet to be assisted or assessed. This operation of distribution of food hampers is

To Page 4



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Suppliers Of Relief Packages Decry Rising Food Prices

Wholesalers are hard put to deny accusations by suppliers of food relief hampers that they are out to profit from poverty by hiking prices in the course of the lockdown, **SESUPO RANTSIMAKO** reports

Suppliers in Francistown say wholesalers are taking advantage of increased demand driven by bulk purchases of COVID-19 food relief hampers to hike prices.

Some of the suppliers have told *The Botswana Gazette* that wholesalers have ignored the government’s caveat against raising food prices because they are eager to profit from poverty.

The suppliers contracted by City Council of Francistown consist of supermarkets, general dealers and fresh produces. They showed this publication receipts for 12.5kg maize-meal increasing from P61.00 to P68.00, a 10kg bread flour from P74.00 to P89.00 and 10kg sorghum meal from P60 to P68 in a matter of two weeks. A crate of 20 pints of milk went from P135 to P156 while 5kg Tastic Rice went from P72 to P79.

This is in spite of a warning by the Minister of Investment, Trade and Industry, Peggy Serame, to businesses against hiking prices of essential goods and basic food items in the advent of COVID-19. In her warning, the minister said action would be taken against businesses that ignored her.

Wholesalers are nevertheless hiking prices, according to suppliers who complain that they are squeezed for mark-ups. The products affected are mainly staples like maize-meal, bread flour and rice.

One supplier said: “The challenge we are facing is that while the wholesalers keep on hiking prices, our initial prices remain stagnant for the entire period of food relief. We have noticed that the high demand has significantly affected the supply chain. Sometimes we have to wait several days before we get what we want

from the wholesalers because they import from South Africa.”

But at Botswana’s biggest chain supermarket, Choppies, Group CEO Ramachandran Ottapathu says they have not experienced any major increase in business or supply chain disruption.

On the other hand, Finance Director at Sefalana, Mohamed Osman, says the wholesale has experienced a rise in demand that started long before the lockdown because of panic bulk buying that continued until a day before the lockdown.

According to Osman, this resulted in many homes having adequate food for at least a week because demand rose again a week into the lockdown. “We then had a surge in food donations by various institutions, which again resulted in an increase in demand in week three and four,” he said.

“Demand was particularly high for maize meal, sorghum meal, milk and other essential food items.”

According to Osman, the Sefalana Group had anticipated the increase in demand and stock-piled its warehouse before the lockdown. “In fact, we increased production at our maize and sorghum milling plants to help meet the requirements of the consumers and the food relief donors,” he told *The Gazette*. “To maintain our original prices, we secured large South African currency at favourable rates in advance of the lockdown to help keep overall cost down. This has helped us avoid having to pass on the price increases to customers. Besides that, we introduced a number of combo deals that give customers best value for money.”

Masisi Was Misled - Moswaane

From page 3



not successful because people are now forced by hunger to go out and violate lockdown regulations,” Moswaane’s letter added.

The Francistown west Legislature said though he managed to distribute 750 bags of mealie-meal he continues to receive calls of people who are in dire need of food.

Further, Moswaane said the underemployed and low earning public servants should also benefit from the food relief as they cannot manage to sustain their families during the lockdown period. “These people should also benefit because we have to consider that during lockdown food consumption also increases therefore leaving them out of the program will be unfair,” Moswaane stressed.

Commenting on Moswaane’s letter local Political Commentator Lesole Machacha disagreed with the concerns raised stating that the latter has to understand that there is always challenge within the public service therefore the coordinators of the COVID-19 food program cannot be blamed as they did not get sufficient training.

“I do not agree with what Moswaane is insinuating be-

cause the problem was not brought by Masisi. He did not even plan for this. Therefore, Masisi’s handling of the crisis is on point. It is also commendable that Batswana also are supporting him,” Machacha said in an interview with *The Botswana Gazette*.

Machacha said if Moswaane has identified some challenges on the ground he should also intervene instead of calling for the President’s intervention.

Equally another Political Analyst Leonard Sesa is of the view that no one should point fingers during the lockdown period. He said instead Moswaane should not only identify challenges but also bring solutions. “If he complains of something, he should also bring solutions because no one was ever prepared for the lockdown,” Sesa stated in an interview with *The Botswana Gazette*.

However, Sesa said there is no proper communication, which might sabotage the food roll-out program. “What the Coordinators of food hampers should do is to disseminate information so that the beneficiaries can be assisted equally in terms of food packages,” Sesa said.



Bank SBI Botswana Ltd

INTEREST RATES FOR MAY 2020

Type of deposit account	Nominal interest rates p.a.	Actual interest rates (effective p.a.)	Minimum balance (BWP)
Deposits			
Current	0.00%	0.00%	1,000
Call Deposit	0.50%-1.50%	0.50%-1.51%	1,000
Savings	0%-0.50%	0%-0.5%	500
91 days Fixed Deposit	2.00%	2.02%	1,000
6 months	2.05%	2.07%	1,000
12 months	2.15%-2.20%	2.17%-2.22%	1,000
24 months	2.25%	2.27%	1,000
Over 24 months	2.25%-2.3%	2.27%-2.32%	1,000

THE ABOVE INTREST RATES ARE APPLICABLE W.E.F 01 MAY 2020

Prime Rate*	5.75%
* Consequent upon the decrease in Bank Rate, i.e., presently to 4.25% w.e.f. 30.04.2020, the Prime Rate has been reduced from 6.25% to 5.75% w.e.f. 30.04.2020	

Deposit interest rates shown above are indicative only.
**For amounts above P1million, contact us for special rate.

For any query/ information please contact us:
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DCEC May Be Asked To Probe COVID-19 Corruption

- Saleshando accuses ministers of collecting food donations for use as political patronage
- Wants allocation of tenders for the supply of food relief investigated
- Says COVID-19 corruption is an object lesson for Batswana for voting for the BDP

SESUPO RANTSIMAKO

FRANCISTOWN: The Directorate on Corruption and Economic Crimes (DCEC) may be asked to investigate corruption in the running of the COVID-19 Relief Fund and tenders for the supply of food relief packages, *The Botswana Gazette* has established.

These donations are from different companies and are supposed to be channeled to the central relief fund, but some of these ministers are collecting them for use as political patronage.

According to the Leader of the Opposition, Dumelang Saleshando, there are instances where cabinet ministers have collected donations to the fund in food packages and kept them for themselves. “Why are cabinet ministers collecting the donations?” Saleshando queried.

“These donations are from different companies and are supposed to be channeled to the central relief fund, but some of these ministers are collecting them for use as political patronage. We receive lots of complaints and there are issues with the awarding of tenders for supplying relief food hampers. Even members of the Botswana Democratic Party are not happy and regret that they supported the declaration of a State of Emergency.”

Even so, Saleshando - who is the MP for Maun West, said what is happening is a lesson for Batswana because they voted for the BDP. “It is their choice,” he blurted. “Let them taste their own medicine.” He noted that opposition parties had opposed the declaration of a State of Emergency for fear that such a situation would breed corruption.

DCEC Spokesperson Lentswe Motshoganetsi told this publication that they have received a numerous reports of Abuse of Office and Misappropriation.

Motshoganetsi revealed that there are reports that procurement procedures were flawed in the awarding of some tenders.

The Botswana Gazette has also been informed that concerns of inflation of prices on certain services have also reached the Office of the President.

Minister for Presidential Affairs, Governance and Public Administration Kabo Morwaeng was unavailable for comment on Tuesday afternoon.



Interest Rates for May 2020



FNB

First National Bank Savings and Investments Rates

Following the 0.50% Bank Rates decrease announced by Bank of Botswana, FNB has revised standard Savings and Investments rates as below:

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

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

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

40 Jumbo Employees Escape COVID-19 Scare

- Store closed last week after a visit by a Siviya COVID-19 contact
- All staffmembers tested negative



Members of parliament wearing Coronavirus protective mask during the Special Parliament sitting. (Pic:MONIRUL BHUIYAN/PRESS PHOTO)

SESUPO RANTSIMAKO

FRANCISTOWN: Jumbo Cash and Carry in Francistown resumed operations on Monday morning after all 40 employees tested negative for the Coronavirus after a COVID-19 scare.

"We were then tested, and ordered to go for self-isolation while the store was being disinfected. After awaiting the results for about four days, we were all cleared today,"

The store was instantly closed last week after a person believed to have come in contact with a COVID-19 positive person visited the store. The person is believed to have been the primary contact of the Siviya COVID-19 case.

Speaking to *The Botswana Gazette* in an interview, a staff mem-

ber who preferred anonymity for fear of reprisal indicated that they were ordered for testing last week. According to the source, they learnt from their bosses that the Siviya contact visited the store, which placed them at risk of contracting the virus.

"We were then tested, and ordered to go for self-isolation while the store was being disinfected.

After awaiting the results for about four days, we were all cleared today," said the source.

The COVID-19 patient from Siviya has been admitted at Sir Ketumile Masire hospital where he is reportedly recovering.

Professor Mosepele Mosepele, Deputy Coordinator of the COVID-19 Task Force, said contact tracing was bearing fruits and should be intensified through target testing.

Professor Mosepele said a total of 24 contacts of the COVID-19 Siviya patient have tested negative for Coronavirus.

Though she did not want to be drawn into discussing the issue, Francistown District Health Management Team (DHMT) Coordinator Bayengemali Rose Munyere only confirmed that a contact was traced to Jumbo and eventually 40 staff members were tested. She immediately referred further inquiries to Ministry of Health and Wellness (MoHW) Spokesperson Doreen Motshegwa who said the COVID-19 Task Force is better placed to share the information.

Efforts to get a comment from COVID-19 Task Force Coordinators Dr Kereng Masupu and his Deputy Mosepele were futile as they did not respond to our questionnaire as initially promised.

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We Are Not Fighting Gov't – Nurses

- BONU loses PPE case
- Says nurses are still committed to the fight against COVID-19

LETLHOGILE MPUANG

The Botswana Nurses Union (BONU) will not appeal the ruling of the Gaborone High Court that dismissed their case against the government with costs, BONU president, Obonolo Rahube, has said.

BONU had approached the High Court to press for safe working conditions in the fight against the novel Coronavirus (COVID-19). They also wanted government to screen all healthcare workers in the front-line of the fight with COVID- 19, provide them with personal protective equipment (PPE), food in the workplace, as well as accommodation in isolation from their families and the community. The isolation was to be during shifts and 14 days after their final shift or last interface with COVID suspects or quarantined individuals.

Speaking to *The Botswana Gazette* this week, Rahube said while their commitment to the fight against COVID-19 remained intact, safe and conducive working conditions for them were important and necessary.

“We only wanted the government to ensure that health workers in the frontline are well protected,” he noted. “The safety of healthcare workers is critical because COVID-19 is a very contagious virus.

“The government has made an

undertaking to provide these conditions and we hope they will live up to their word. The fact that one of our members has already been infected by this virus shows the critical need for us to have PPE.”

We only wanted the government to ensure that health workers in the frontline are well protected,” he noted. “The safety of healthcare workers is critical because COVID-19 is a very contagious virus.

In its responding affidavit, the state had argued that it had provided protective equipment in accordance with its promise to healthcare workers in a letter dated 31 March 2020.

In his ruling, Justice Godfrey Radijeng agreed with this, saying the state had already provided some, if not most, of the demands of the health care workers.

The government had announced suspension of provision of food and transport for all frontline workers on 22 April. However, the suspension was withdrawn two days later.

Deposit Interest Rates

For the month of May 2020

Type of Deposit Account	Nominal Interest Rates (%)	Actual Interest Rates (%)	Minimum Opening Balance
	(Lowest-Highest)	(Lowest-Highest)	(Pula)
Current	Nil	Nil	Nil
Call	0.10% - 0.75%	0.10% - 0.75%	1,000
Savings	0.00% - 3.75%	0.00% - 3.75%	100
91-Days Fixed Deposit	1.25% - 1.50%	1.25% - 1.50%	1,000
6 months	1.75% - 2.00%	1.75% - 2.00%	1,000
12 months	2.05% - 2.25%	2.05% - 2.25%	1,000
24 months	2.25% - 2.50%	2.25% - 2.50%	1,000
Over 24 months	2.80% - 3.00%	2.80% - 3.00%	1,000
Prime Lending Rate	5.75%	5.75%	

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

Deposit Interest Rates shown are indicative only

For firm rates please contact any of our Branches and Sales and Service Centres:

Game City Branch	- 370 4700	Francistown Branch	- 245 0000
Fairgrounds Branch	- 367 4600	Selebi Phikwe Branch	- 263 1000
Airport Junction Branch	- 371 9700	Palapye Branch	- 494 1000
The Square Branch	- 398 5700	Maun Branch	- 682 0000

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

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

BancABC Botswana bancabc.co.bw | atlasmara.com



Notice

Reduction of Prime Lending Rate

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

For more information, call **399 3300** or visit your nearest Branch or Sales and Service Centre.

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Divisions Rock Diss Legal Dept

- Magosi makes important changes in the critical department
- Department was allegedly crawling with moles loyal to former admin
- Previous director resigned last December

LETLHOGILE MPUANG

Factional divisions are allegedly rocking the Directorate of Intelligence and Security Service (DISS) after its head, Brigadier Peter Magosi, made critical changes in the legal department of Botswana's sole secret service, *The Botswana Gazette* has established. These changes, which were allegedly

unwanted by some members of the department, following the resignation of its former director in December last year. The position is currently occupied in an acting capacity. It is said these divisions are so serious that they are believed to have reached the attention of the top echelons of DISS. Magosi was unavailable for comment while the organization's PRO, Edward Robert,

did not respond to this publication's enquiry at the time of going to press. There are growing concerns that these divisions could soon lead to insubordination within the legal department that is regarded as the engine room of DISS. Information reaching *The Botswana Gazette* is that the nub of the problem was that certain members of this department were allegedly loyal to the previous administra-



tion and therefore exceedingly dangerous to the government. "These people can easily sabotage any case against anyone any time," a source said. "All other departments, including the investigations department, are only feeders to the legal department. At the end of the day, everything boils down to legality. That is why this department is very critical."

It is said that one of the reasons the former director of the department (name known to this publication) resigned was the pressure that the department is constantly under.

"There were just a lot of cases before him, including the Wilhemiah Maswabi and Isaac Kgosi cases," the source said. "Maybe he just could not take the heat any more."

The new appointments must move with speed to secure convictions in several high profile cases, including the Butterfly and Kgosi matters.

Concerns of insubordination at DISS have cropped up before. For instance, Magosi was forced to suspend and investigate two intelligence officers who failed to arrest Issac Kgosi at the Ramotswa border post upon his return from Malaysia on 3 December 2019 in spite of a warrant to arrest the founding head of DISS who had skipped bail and stayed abroad for months being out and valid.

The two secret agents assigned to be at the Ramotswa border post were mysteriously nowhere to be seen at the material time of Kgosi's arrival and the fugitive was assisted through formalities without so much as a whimper from anyone there.

"You should be asking yourself why he chose to use the Ramotswa border post out of all the other border posts in the country and why he travelled by road," said one source. "Is it just a coincidence that there were network problems at Ramotswa border post that day?"



THE GHODRATI
foundation

THE COVID-19
PANDEMIC
RELIEF FUND

THE GHODRATI FOUNDATION CONTRIBUTES P50, 000.00

THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC RELIEF FUND

[Gaborone, May 4th 2020] The Ghodrati Foundation has contributed P50, 000.00 to the COVID-19 Pandemic Relief Fund established by the Ministry of Finance and Economic Development.

The Foundation, through this donation, pledges its commitment to supporting the Government of the Republic of Botswana, institutions, organizations, and individuals for the betterment of our nation.

The Ghodrati Foundation is also providing a tuition subsidy of P62, 300.00 to scholarship students for the current semester to ease their financial obligations during the pandemic.

"Every good deed, regardless of it being big or small can make a positive impact right now. We must continue cooperating and working together collectively to combat the effects of this pandemic." Co-Founder of the Ghodrati Foundation, Mrs F. Ghodrati.

Over the last three years, the Foundation's flagship programme, the Ghodrati Foundation Scholarship, has supported dozens of students in Botswana with their tertiary education.

About the Ghodrati Foundation

The Ghodrati Foundation is a private non-profit organization founded on the conviction that everyone deserves the chance to improve their lives, regardless of their circumstances. Our vision is to contribute to the socio-economic development of Botswana. The Foundation has partnered with New Era College to deliver the opportunity of a lifetime through the Ghodrati Foundation Scholarship, which helps young Batswana attain engineering and technology qualifications.

Contact: (+267) 71541088 or visit: www.ghodratifoundation.org

Financial Crime Risk Measures During COVID-19 & Lockdown

Malcolm Lesego Kgalemang
Financial Crime Risk Analysts FNBB

The recent outbreak of the Coronavirus Pandemic (COVID-19) declared by the World Health Organization has left people with a strong feeling of fear that prevents reasonable thought and action. Life as we know it has drastically changed overnight. The reality is that with so much going on and various interventions being put in place to combat COVID-19, issues of Money Laundering are at risk of not being top priority.

The COVID-19 outbreak has left the Money Laundering Reporting Officers (MLRO) in financial institutions with a serious challenge of maintaining Legal and Compliance dedicated to detecting and preventing financial crimes during significant business, regulatory and market turmoil.

Furthermore, during this period, most of the organisations have a working from home arrangement for both their essential and non-essential staff. This means ensuring that staff members remain vigilant and continue to detect and report suspicious transactions without fail, can be big challenge for the MLROs.

It is now imperative more than ever that the Compliance Officers and MLROs amplify their efforts to educate and alert customers of the new financial crime risk typologies poised by COVID-19 pandemic.

Some of the financial crime risks that customers are now faced with include;

- impostors who can easily pose as providers of products and services that help curb or prevent COVID-19;
- investment scams that seem too good to be true;
- insider as insider trading within the financial services sector and
- phishing.

During this pandemic, there are 2 types of people; those who are in urgent need of care; and those who want to donate money to assist the general public fight the disease. Both these groups of people have now become a target for these unscrupulous criminals. Criminals are always on the prowl to find ways to profit from this pandemic by exploiting vulnerable people. There is also a likelihood of increased fake fundraising schemes and various medical scams targeting innocent victims. Likewise, terrorists may also exploit these opportunities to raise funds.

There are already reports of criminals who have taken advantage of this COVID-19 pandemic by carrying out financial crime fraud and scams that promote and trade in fake medications, offer fraudulent investment opportunities, and engage in phishing schemes that prey on pandemic related needs and fears, as people are very vulnerable right now.

Financial Institutions are therefore implored to actively help prevent the possible financial crime risks by;

- remaining alert and vigilant during this time of distress, and especially keep tabs on businesses that are currently facing financial pressures as they may be tempted to do illegal activities;
- continuing to diligently monitor business customers activities and transactions from businesses who have been deemed as non-essential services under the Emergency Powers (COVID-19) Regulations, 2020; and
- ensuring that internal rules and process are always followed during and after the COVID-19 pandemic in order to reduce financial crimes, misconduct and potential regulatory violations by employees and their customers.



A Health worker checking the temperature of Dumelang Saleshando as he is wearing a Coronavirus protective shield during the parliament special session in Gaborone on 5 May 2020. (Pic:MONIRUL BHUIYAN/PRESS PHOTO)

Heroes with healthy attitudes



Thank you!

Batswana have heard the call and are fighting the spread of the COVID-19. While most of us are told to stay at home and practice social distancing, our essential service workers are on the front lines.

Remember we can all contribute to beating the spread of the pandemic. Let's remember to wash our hands & stay safe as recommended by health officials.

Government Covid-19 Relief Fund account details for FNBB are as follows:

First National Bank Botswana
Account Name: Covid-19 (Corona Virus) Relief Fund
Branch Name: First Place
Branch Code: 281467
Account Number: 62848017720
Swift Code: FIRNBWGX



FNBB

How can we help you?



Dr Tlhoiwe (R) handing the Donations to Mr Baleseng (L)

**DDT COLLEGE OF MEDICINE
HAS DONATED SANITIZERS
WORTH P2 MILLION TO
GOVERNMENT IN THEIR
EFFORTS TO FIGHT THE NOVEL
CORONA VIRUS (COVID-19)**



Dr Tumelo Tlhoiwe- Vice Chancellor,
DDT College of Medicine



Mr Moagi Baleseng- Director, National
Disaster Management



The pledge follows after President Mokgweetsi Masisi appealed to members of the private sector as well as individuals to assist government in dealing with the virus, which has been declared a global pandemic by the World Health Organization (WHO).

Upon receiving the donations The Director of the National Disaster Management Office Mr Moagi Baleseng applauded the Institution for the not just selfless but essential and critical donation in this war against Covid-19.

He said the donation would go a long way in assisting control the spread of the virus locally. Botswana currently has 22 confirmed cases and one death.

For her part DDT College of Medicine Vice Chancellor Dr. Tumelo Tlhoiwe revealed that these sanitizers were produced locally, by the Institution's staff members starting with the ethanol (alcohol) itself.

She congratulated her very own 2019 DDTCOM graduates who are also employed by the Institution for their expertise utilised in producing the sanitizers; and applauded other DDTCOM graduates too assisting around the Country as frontline health workers.

She said the donation was mainly for all frontline workers; Doctors, Health Workers, members of the Botswana Defence Force (BDF) the Police and Prisons amongst others.

Dr Tlhoiwe further added that this was not the Institution's first donation during this pandemic. She disclosed that DDT College of Medicine had recently donated sanitizers to the Bamalete Lutheran Hospital following the passing of the patient who was said to have tested positive for the virus and for other frontline workers early during the pandemic.

In conclusion, the Vice Chancellor congratulated all other donors and urged the public to strictly adhere to health advice saying this will surely assist defeat the deadly virus.



The Heavy Cost Of Data During COVID-19 Lockdown

The mobile internet usage has increased significantly since the COVID-19 pandemic lockdown as people are forced to conduct daily business from their homes using digital technology and the internet. While mobile operators say they have reduced the cost of data, recent reports indicate that out of 228 countries globally, Botswana is amongst the top 14 countries with the most expensive data and this has dire consequences for socio-economic growth, **LAWRENCE SERETSE, KEABETSWE NEWEL AND TLOTLO KEBINAKGABO** report.

Out of 228 countries globally, Botswana is amongst the top 14 countries with the most expensive data, according to a research done by *Cable.co.uk*. Data from 5 554 mobile data plans in 228 countries were gathered and analyzed by the company between the 3rd of February and 25th February 2020. The average cost of one gigabyte (1GB) was then calculated and compared to form a worldwide mobile data pricing league table.

BOCRA disputes findings by *Cable.co.uk*. Head of Communications, Aaron Nyelesi says the price for the newly introduced 2Gb was P95.00 at Mascom and P120.00 at Orange while a 1Gb was charged P75.00 at BTCL.

The Botswana Gazette however, found that data costs vary per package. Data for only social network accessibility may be cheaper. What BOCRA provides is the cheapest available rates in Botswana, but this publication has established that 2GB of data costs as high as P399 (60 days), as the *Cable.co.uk* report suggested. While the prices are exorbitant, consumers have on social media described the quality and speed of the internet as appalling.

Increased traffic due to COVID-19 lockdown exposed the mobile network companies and frustrated subscribers. Further, most African countries like Ghana, Rwanda, Nigeria, Kenya, Zambia and Lesotho, charge between of USD0.95 (around P10) and USD4.30 (around P47). Botswana is pegged at USD 13.7 (around P150) per 1GB. At Mascom, Tebogo Lebotse-Sebego, the Chief Communications & PR Officer agreed with BOCRA that Mascom was cheaper.

So did Golekanye Molapise, PR and Communications Manager at BTC Mobile, as well as Lane Madiba, Communications Manager at Orange Botswana.

Apart from the data prices, the network quality provided by the three mobile phone companies is left wanting. Rabi Nthobo shakes her head in despair when actually thinking that her mobile phone operator, Orange Botswana, a French mobile network company offers the latest 4G technology to their customers with compatible handsets. To her, the com-

pany is chewing more than it can swallow.

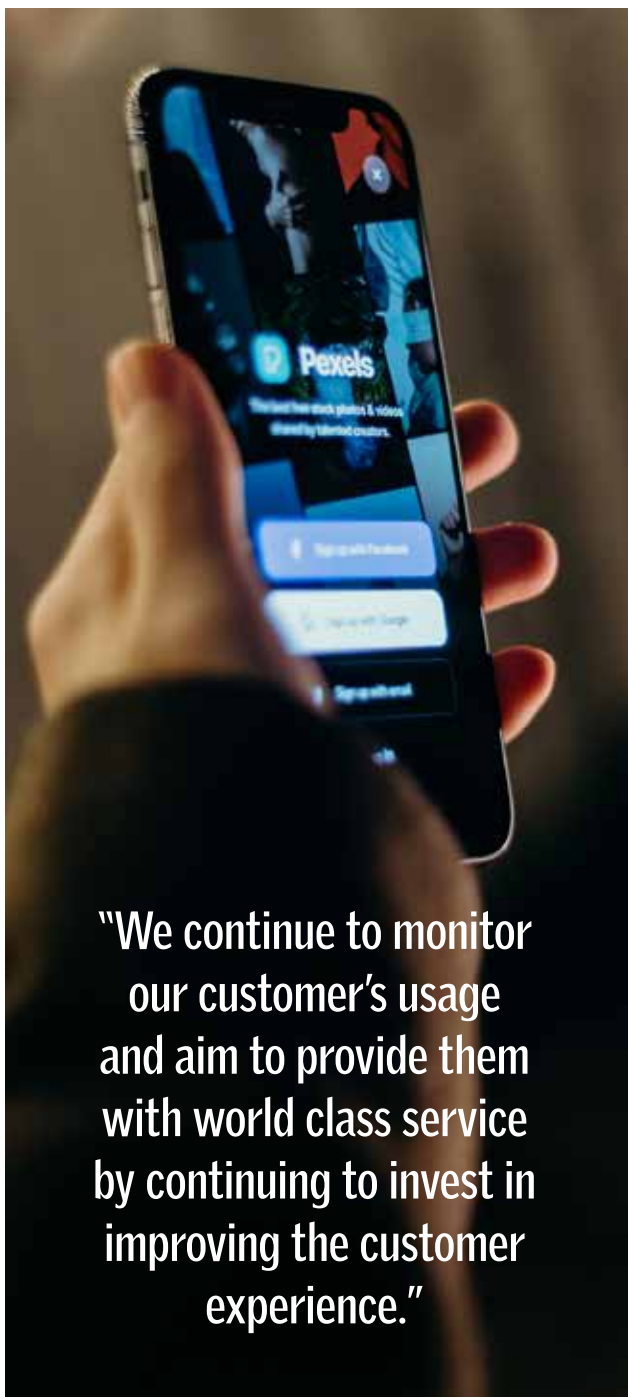
"I mean I am not even satisfied with their 3G right now. How will they handle 4G if they cannot handle 3G," she queries in rhetoric. The 29 year old accountant pulls out her Samsung S10 gadget and points to a spinning/buffering little wheel on the Light Emitting Diode (LED) screen as the Smartphone delays uploading a picture on a social media network. "Do you honestly think this speed is really 200 kilobytes per second (about 0.2 megabytes per second)," she asks, perhaps in rhetoric. Her displeasure is caused by the fact that during lockdown, the service was worse; accessing internet through her gadget was a hassle.

She seems agitated, especially because as she uses the poor service from the mobile phone giant, she loses almost P1 per MB, which piles on top of the profits made by the international French mobile company. While her network spends its better part buffering, she is not spared of the charges, which means she loses money even when struggling to access internet because of poor network.

At a previous engagement, *The Botswana Gazette* hardly got a satisfactory answer from Dr. Patrick Benon, the chief executive officer (CEO) at Orange Botswana, regarding the dissatisfactions experienced with their 3G technology and in the latest 4G technology.

At that time, he could only say technology has its limits. At Mascom Wireless, Lebotse-Sebego also struggled to reveal reasons why her company has been failing to provide quality 3G/4G speed internet, that operates at full capacity.

BTC Mobile and Mascom customers, like Tebogo Alfred (Mascom User) are unable to quench their undying thirst and addiction for social networks like *facebook*, and *twitter* because Mascom internet is not always accessible as and when customers want, and when it comes it is so slow that it tests his patience. Sebego notes with confidence that Mascom is ready and has full capacity to handle 4G and provides internet at an international speed and quality. She adds that 4G LTE, which Mascom launched, is intended to address problems experienced at 3G.



"We continue to monitor our customer's usage and aim to provide them with world class service by continuing to invest in improving the customer experience."

"It is intended to offer better capacity and speed to handle a rapid increase in data traffic. A 4GLTE network will give Mascom 4GLTE subscribers greater ease of transferring large volumes of data and will give Mascom the possibility to offer a variety of end user services," Sebego says.

However, Orange Botswana boss Benon says customers had interest in high technology. To him, it is not that 3G was slower than its expected capacity, he feels customers were now looking for a faster technology and internet, hence Orange's decision to launch 4G. At BTC Mobile, Molapise said he is aware of customer frustrations because of poor network and that BTC engineers are working around the clock to ensure smooth accessibility.

However, an Information Technology expert Bashi Kikia differs. To him, Orange Botswana, BTCL and Mascom Wireless are not going to provide a 4G speed technology practically. "This

is just a marketing gimmick," he says. Kikia, who owns an IT company called Real Time Solutions, says 4G according to him means 100 MB/second, and he is certain that there is no way these three mobile services giants will give Batswana a taste of that. The problem according to Kikia is high congestion by network users especially in Gaborone, which overwhelms the capacity of Mascom, Orange and BTC.

The IT guru says that mobile network companies do not have enough transmission towers which could reduce traffic congestion and increase quality of their services. He says that in Gaborone, where there are more cell phone users, the population overwhelms network service providers more than in other areas where there is less traffic and better service. He gives an example that in areas like Serowe, Mahalapye and others internet is faster because less people access internet hence reduced traffic on the

transmission towers. "The problem is that they are not investing in infrastructure to better the service," he adds.

His views strike a familiar chord with a report released in March 2020 by Botswana Communications and Regulatory Authority (BOCRA), which says that challenges mostly come from the lack of capacity to handle the market demand by the three local mobile network companies. A recent research by Botswana Communication Regulatory Authority (BOCRA) states that between 2016 and 2019 mobile broadband subscriptions increased by 29 percent. That is from 1,360,236 subscribers in March 2016 to 1,752,547 in March 2019. According to BOCRA which is under the stewardship of CEO Martin Mokgware, the journey to achieving broadband connectivity targets as per the National Broadband Strategy is faced with various challenges which require concerted effort to mitigate.

"For both fixed broadband and fixed wireless broadband, only 2 percent of the subscriptions are of speed over 10Mbps. This is in contrast to the proposed target that broadband speed in urban areas must reach a minimum 100Mbps by year 2023," reads the latest report from Mokgware's BOCRA.

BOCRA says it is expected that the rollout of FTTx (FTTX stands for Fiber to the X (where X is a particular name/object). and 4G will go a long way in facilitating achievement of the targets.

"It is important that the broadband infrastructure should be of high speed and high bandwidth with resilience and undoubted quality of service in order that the economy is well placed to participate in the Fourth Industrial Revolution," BOCRA cautions.

BOCRA's previous CEO, Thari Pheko once said in an interview with this publication that the local infrastructure (transmission towers) was only meant to handle voice calls, but with an increasing demand for data usage fuelled by technological development, the available infrastructure cannot handle the market demand, hence the need by mobile companies to invest to better service equipment to Batswana.

Dr. Benon at Orange Botswana however says there is no need to invest

in infrastructure because already, government of Botswana has invested in fibre cables that are to better the speed and capacity of internet. Nonetheless, his competitor, at Botswana Telecommunications Limited (BTCL) say they have recently invested 9 million Euro (Around P100 million) which improved the capacity of their core network as well as adding thirty eight 3G sites most of which are now operational. "As a result of the expansion of the 4G (LTE) network, BTC has the widest 4G coverage. We also upgraded our VSAT technology to deliver broadband in very remote areas and launched the only Tier 11 Uptime Certified Data Centre in Botswana which hosts local content and some international brands such as Facebook and Google," adds Molapise.

Furthermore, Molapise, BTC's Communications and Marketing manager, admits that there are currently some limited instances of network congestion.

"We continue to monitor our customer's usage and aim to provide them with world class service by continuing to invest in improving the customer experience," he stresses.

At Mascom, Lebotse-Sebego says great strides have been made in the deployment of Mascom's own transmission backbone and Metropolitan fibre rings. "Deployment of own transmission backbone includes fiber route between Tlokweng Border all the way to Ramokgwebana Border. This is intended to serve the villages and towns along the road," she says.

Fuether the spokesperson says, "We have also employed metro fibre to cover Gaborone and Francistown. The fibre is linked to our towers and sites to improve customer experience, network quality and prepare our network for new technology. This fiber investment is at a value of P150 Million".

Despite this, Kikia argues that Botswana Government has invested a lot in fibre network cables which has the capacity to provide superfast internet. He says the problem is that mobile networks limit the usage of these fibre cables especially to individual users but rather use them in full capacity at corporate level where they benefit increased profits. "And this is a problem that must be addressed by the regulator," he adds.

Condemn The Treatment Of Our Soldiers And Police Officers

OPEN LETTER TO MINISTER MORWAENG

You need to understand that the security of this country and its citizens depends on our law enforcement agencies. It depends on how ethical we are and how well we respect what the mandates of these agencies stipulates. Our security depends on how we treat the people.

COVID-19 AS AN OBVIOUS THREAT

COVID-19 is an obvious threat and we need to be on top of things as “A United, Proud & Proactive Nation.” And a nation, we also owe a great deal of debt to frontline nurses, doctors and other healthcare experts. Credit is due also to all the citizens who have been obeying the rule of law and practising social distancing measures.

But I have come across a few disturbing articles in The Patriot and The Botswana Gazette newspapers regarding treatment of our frontline army and police officers. I am not sure about the members of the Directorate of Intelligence and Security Services (DISS). COVID-19 is a national fight, which validates my approach to you.

The Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Health and Wellness Mr. Solomon Sekwakwa together with his Deputy Permanent Secretary Dr. Morrison Sinvula, were relieved of their duties by the President of the Republic as officially communicated by the Office of the President on Wednesday April 22nd, 2020. The public subsequently demanded answers, and if I remember correctly, you Rre Morwaeng said it publicly that the public is not owed any explanation. Though I disagree with that, I really hope you mean well with everything you do or say, which is why I have a feeling you will pay attention to this.

In addition to the articles I read, I also had a chat with a few officers from the Botswana Defence Force and the Botswana Police Service.

Below is what I have picked up and

understand:

1. I know that in law enforcement “an order is an order,” but that should not have to override the need to treat our soldiers and police officers with dignity. Why? Because their wellbeing is our national security.

2. Our soldiers and police officers were forced to contribute to the COVID-19 Relief Fund. What I gather is that their contributions are not exactly voluntary. When they complained, a form was introduced for them to fill out and make it look like their contributions were voluntary. Is this because in the ‘law enforcement’ context of the BDF, BPS and DISS, an order is an order? If you are not in the loop, talk to the lowest ranking members of the BDF, BPS and DISS and work your way up and compare information. Somewhere in there there is “truth.”

3. In the spirit of socio-economic security during this fight against the devastating Coronavirus, you cannot be taking money from citizens who are counting on your office for their own survival when your office can always look to foreign reserves. Public officers were promised a salary increase of 6% but this promise has been broken. You withhold the increment, then have our frontline officers contribute to the COVID-19 Relief Fund. Does this make any socio-economic sense to you?

4. Our soldiers and police officers are made to walk around and enforce this lockdown with no proper gear. They are forced to wear raincoats to protect themselves from cold weather instead of proper jackets for warmth. Today xxxxxxxx there was a police road block in my neighbourhood but when the rain with a thunderstorm, the officers left because they had no tent for shelter.

5. The Minister of Finance and Economic Development, Dr.

Thapelo Matsheka, about a week or so back, mentioned that the Government of Botswana “has spent P2.4 billion on Chinese medical supplies”. I wonder what kind of medical supplies cost P2.4 billion because this has not been communicated to us clearly.

We cannot compromise our national security and our citizens' health by making our protectors unhappy. Every citizen of Botswana deserves peace of mind and happiness. This is why I still call for a comprehensive plan that addresses every citizen's income.

MY THINKING

I) Why cut salaries and throw away our money to China? If we are that empathetic as leaders, why not divert some of the funds to proper treatment of our army and police officers?

II) As these people are on the ground enforcing your orders, they must eat but no food is provided for them. They are not even given water - metsi a mma metsi. They have to go to a nearby house

for water, thus breaking the social distancing rules. Some of them even have to use used 2-litre bottles of fizzy drinks to store and share tea As we preach taking care of ourselves during this battle against the Coronavirus, would we not say this is a health hazard for these people who are made of flesh and blood just like us?

III) They spend days working and walking around without proper protective gear (face-masks, gloves, etc).

IV) I have also picked up that they have been told that they will be accommodated in schools and college hostels and classrooms. Imagine more than 100 men sharing a few bathrooms right in the middle of this life-and-death situation! How is this in sync with extreme social distancing?

V) If our soldiers and police officers get infected themselves because they are not protected, who is going to defend and protect this nation? Where is our compassion and our vision?

VI) If they have been made to contribute a part of their salaries to the COVID-19 Relief Fund, where is their money going if they cannot be given food, water, protective gear, and shelter to execute their job well?

VII) Some of the officers have observed that their bosses go past roadblocks with their families without permits but to complain about it is a problem. This to me is abuse of office in the face of a virus that does not discriminate and infected even the Prince Charles of Wales while the British Prime Minister had to go through intensive care battling the virus. This thing is that serious. Our leaders MUST lead by example as a part of their own protection.

A good leader gets up and lends a helping hand. Good leaders are empathetic and ask people to do what they know they can do. They treat people how they would want to be treated. They treat every human being with dignity. How is it

logical to mistreat people who work for us? Do we honestly think mistreating people will make them deliver what we ask of them?

VIII) As I said, I know that in law enforcement an order is an order. In this situation, it is as though these human beings have been ordered to go and die. And they are also not allowed to complain.

CONCLUSION AND WAY FORWARD

Please give these people the proper treatment that they deserve. Listen to their complaints. Protect them. Give them food and water. Give them proper accommodation for sleeping and rest. Give them proper shelter for all conditions when on duty, including at the road blocks. They should not feel threatened by any weather. Whatever you do, do NOT cut their salaries. Please reverse that decision.

We cannot compromise our national security and our citizens' health by making our protectors unhappy. Every citizen of Botswana deserves peace of mind and happiness. This is why I still call for a comprehensive plan that addresses every citizen's income. Obviously, the economy is shocked at the present moment and we must replace any lost income to stay afloat. All industries and businesses that have been directly affected must be given a boost. It should not appear as if only businesses owned by the Indian community are benefiting like all these fast food places like Chicken Licken, Nandos, KFC, and Chicken Express. Please do not let the COVID-19 situation make us feel as if it is being exploited to benefit a few.

I want equal opportunity and health for every true citizen of Botswana regardless of colour, ethnicity or national origin. We have a nation to build, grow and protect together and our leaders must lead by putting themselves last.

Safie Sekgwa
E-mail: safie.sekgwa@gmail.com

DISCLAIMER

Readers please note that the views aired on this page are those of the writers and not the publishers. Letters must bear the full address and name of the author even where a nom de plume is to be used. Letters must conform to the laws of Botswana and to the Press Council of Botswana's Code of Ethics. Letters will also be edited for libel, length and language. Letters must be a maximum of 500 words and they should be received by Friday 12.00 noon.



DROP IT, LETS
TALK FINTECH

ONKABETSE
GWAMULUMBA

The 4th Industrial Revolution-Playing Economics Sport: Prelude by a COVID Catch Up With Heads Up

We are at war! Botswana seem united and law abiding than ever. There is desirable tranquil and peace. As citizens of our beautiful Botswana, once again we find ourselves blessed with very decisive leadership, cooperation by pressure groups and real time information dissemination by

journalists and analysts who always find time to refill their pens and share objective information. This support has seen us benefit and get the great health care and support one can ever ask for under the circumstances. With that said, I salute all of you infantry men and women in the health, retail and security sectors, and your

commanders alike; as you have risked it all to fight this faceless monster at the fore front where the battle is hot!

Catch-up. Circa November 2019 a small unknown rogue warrior from a clan of Corona Viruses named COVID-19 ravaged a City of Wuhan in China, and 6 months later it has unceremoniously declared itself as the adversary of the World in an unofficial World War 3 having infected 3.42 million and killing 243,000 people as at 03 May 2020. Talk of World War 3, this was long fantasized, touching on nuclear war, machine war and biological war. In all these fantasies, possible economic ramifications were faint and remotely permuted. In real life post 2008 crisis, risk strategies were employed branded as lessons learnt. Business Continuity Plans were at the forefront of the risk strategies, and truth of the matter is that pre COVID-19, they had somewhat lost the spotlight and the oomph. They had become ignored and treated with less importance as our Chiefs. They got relegated to storerooms and gathered dust – and almost waned into oblivion. Most of their contents were forgotten. In hindsight, had we put our serious thoughts into the Business Continuity Plans and made sure we advance them each year broadening the scope, 11 years later from the world recession, we would have not been found wanting as we did. Hopefully, we learnt something.

Heads-up. COVID-19 has erased the economic gains & efforts we have made overtime. We have seen Bank of Botswana come to the rescue of the Banks and the Economy with a decisive monetary policy stance; among others injecting P1.36 billion in liquidity (money available to

the market) and stimulating borrowing by reducing bank rate by 50 basis points (1% = 100basis points). Without regurgitating closing summaries of the Governor, he remarked, and I quote “... improving total factor productivity, **structural reforms**, export competitiveness of domestically produced goods and services as well as **governance** arrangements remain paramount in promoting sustainable and inclusive economic growth”. I hope I am not confusing my audience, I would like to gain status achieved by Milton Friedman who was referred by Phil Donahue (TV Host) as “a man who will never be accused of making economics confusing” and in the process decipher this whole 4th Industrial Revolution concept.

Let us now play the Economics Sport

Recessions will always come. We must embrace this. The oldest recorded recession dates to the 1st century in Roman Empire when there was a financial panic in AD33 during the reign of Emperor Tiberius. Many economic recessions would occur thereafter. Our interest is what happened after each of these recessions. I want us to look at about three recessions and look at the economic action that followed thereafter.

Credit Crisis of 1772: This was simply a **banking** disaster driven to greater heights by **panic**. A certain Horace Walpole was quoted on a letter to Mann on 1 July 1772 “...will you believe in Italy, that one rascally and extravagant banker had brought Britannia, Queen of the Indies, to the precipice of bankruptcy! It is very true, and Fordyce is the name of the caitiff...” It was after this disaster that Bank of England considered Systemic risk.

Bank of England is said to have responded swiftly and decisively using centrally a concept known as Lender of Last Resort (LLR). **The Great Depression 1929-39:** lauded as the most severe economic disaster of all times, lasted 10 years. This was triggered by a **financial disaster** that culminated in Wall Street crash of 1929. This would later be blamed on an economical concept known as laissez faire to which the political analysts believe President Hoover recklessly subscribed to. Laissez faire originates from France and legend has it that it came about a meeting between French Finance Minister and Businessman known as Le Gendre. The Finance Minister asked Le Gendre how best the Government could help commerce, and he responded “laissez nous faire” – meaning “let us do (it)”. President Roosevelt would later succeed Hoover and put in more **regulations** to the market, scraping-off some non-functioning policies and have a very sound macro-economic policies; these interventions managed to reverse the painful 10 years. **The financial crisis of 2007-08:** most of us experienced this crisis Live. We saw it unravel. The major cause was like that of The Great Depression. Lack of oversight or insufficient regulation. Post that we saw many regulations being flooded in markets across the world. Risk Management would also gain traction as a field and the extent of its coverage incredibly significant and in headlines. In the US there was a strong bail-out for “too big to fail Corporations”.

What role can 4IR play post COVID-19

It is noticeably clear from the discussion above that both BoB and Government at large need

To Page 15





They are not simple desperate wage earners who are simply used to help investors to accumulate wealth in our country and export it to their country of origin, leaving us poor.

The 7 Truths We Need To Face If We Should Reform And Achieve Citizen Economic Empowerment

MBAAKANYI LENYATSO
UDC ACTIVIST

1) The Poor

They are poor because of the systems and programmes in place, which do not support their efforts. It is their decision to keep

the current regime in power that keeps them locked in poverty. Only these masses can stand up and hold the same regime they voted for to change some laws and programmes to enable wealth creation. If the same regime they vot-

ed for is not willing to help them, they need to realise that they have the power to change it. As a country, we need to have a clear Citizen Protection Act. That will include how citizens, from small scale producers to large scale producers,

are empowered, their market protected and their easy access to funding .

2) Landlessness

The first thing this group should know and understand is that there is no land shortage in the Republic. There is only a poor land

management system and the system is kept this way to protect the few elites who have land banks to prosper in selling land and property management. We need to have access to land so we stop paying rentals, as well as have places to farm and produce food. All the land belongs to the state in a Republic and citizens should have the right to use the land. Investors should locate citizens who are holding land rights to rent or lease for their investments. They can even partner with citizens as shareholders because citizens would contribute their land rights as capital investment.

3) The Workers

They are not simple desperate wage earners who are simply used to help investors to accumulate wealth in our country and export it to their country of origin, leaving us poor. They should understand that they are a very important unit of production and that their value is either calculated as a percentage ratio to wealth accumulated; to the total turnover and be counted as part of production costs. They should not be seen as just another

expense which the company can decide to reduce or to throw out when owners want to expand their profits to go and spend in foreign countries, leaving them like destitute. That only this can happen if they value their participation in democratic process of a Republic. That means putting their mind and energy in serious issues concerning the elections of those who are mandated to make laws and programmes. It is only the workers themselves through voting rights who can change their own situation or keep it if it is what they want.

4) The Unemployed

There should be no person said to be unemployed if we really took our time to turn our natural resources into wealth. We have everything in natural resources, from fertile land to minerals. Our downfall has been the failure to industrialise our farming products and minerals. We need to process the raw materials to semi-finished and finished products. We should not import simple things like maize and its products. We need not see foreigners come here as investors only to do what we

To page 14

BUAN
BOTSWANA UNIVERSITY OF
AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES

We appreciate ALL
FARMERS

For such a significant contribution to our nation during this trying times.
TOGETHER WE SHALL CONQUER COVID-19.

**STOP
COVID-19**
CORONAVIRUS



Member of parliament for Gaborone Central Tumisoang Healy wearing coronavirus Covid 19 protective shield and mask arriving to join the special session of the parliament in Gaborone on 5 May 2020. Parliament is seating at the Boipuso Hall due to make space keeping t

The 7 Truths

From page 13

can do and hire us as labourers instead of us being the primary investors. But that will only happen when those in power are bold enough to change laws and programmes to support, empower and protect citizens from being expropriated by foreigners. If those in power cannot do that, it is up to the said unemployed to change them.

5) The political parties Sloganeers

There is no problem in loving your party and its leadership. That love should be influenced by better things they have done or promised to do for your country. It should not be how many T-shirts or cattle heads

they bought for you or how much beer they buy for you. It should be everything to do with your economic position, your health, your children education, public services and other things that allow you to enjoy your liberties. It is more important that you take 90% of your time promoting what good your political party is doing or is going to do than trying hard to belittle and mock your opponents. Your support for a political party should be seen in you and reflected through your socio-economic position. If you support the current regime and its way of doing things, it should show in your own life that as a person you are really happy with the status quo. Don't just support for the sake of it. If your life needs change, it is either holding the current regime accountable and probing them to change your life or you change the regime itself.

Around the world countries are using social media such as Facebook and Twitter to promote democracy and to share ideas and interact with their leaders for better governance.

6)The social media hooligans

Around the world countries are using social media such as Facebook and Twitter to promote democracy and to share ideas and interact with their leaders for better governance. Your contributions to Facebook politics can influence your position in life to improve or stay the same as leaders can decide issues based on your comments. If they know you are there to insult everyone who points out the weaknesses in their leadership system, they relax and bank on you to protect them. It is your post that can encourage our leaders to take us seriously or for granted. The power is in your tweet.

7)The career politicians

These are opportunists and tenderpreneurs who have relegated the standard of our politics and killed our economy. This has resulted in capable intellectuals and potential leaders shunning politics as they are afraid of being subjected to uncouth insults and victimised through political smear campaigns. They are seen as desperate employment seekers who are not honest and have to do everything to win the elections so as to put food on their families' tables. It remains in the power of the masses and their remarks and actions that can transform our politics from just a game of monied tenderpreneurs to socio-economic upliftment and holding power to account. .



REPUBLIC OF BOTSWANA

KAZUNGULA BRIDGE PROJECT REQUEST FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST



REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA

The Governments of the Republic of Botswana and Zambia through the Kazungula Bridge Project Office (KBPO) hereby invites Individual Consultants to indicate their Interest in the following assignments: **Consultancy Services for the Design and Development of Training Materials/Modules in Trade Facilitation & Border Management and Delivery of the Training of Trainers (ToT) Programme.**

The Services to be provided under the assignment include:

To Develop a Course Content of Training:

- Trade Facilitation and Border Management Subject. The training module shall combine comprehensive content/details on the theoretical & practical aspects of Trade Facilitation and Border Management and the reference methodology to be adopted by facilitators to impart training.
- Training subjects shall include but not limited to Training on the 4 Pillars of Trade Facilitation; OSBP Concept; Coordinated Border Management (CBM); Doing Business Reports of Botswana and Zambia; Trade Facilitation Guidelines of WTO, UNCTAD, UNECE, WCO; INCOTERMS and Trade Documents; HS Code; International Conventions on Transport of Goods; and Documentary Credit.

To Develop a training program and training material

- Conduct meetings with BURS, ZRA, Departments of Immigration, technical/project consultant & other representatives for the purpose of tailoring the training program.
- Based on the outline in stage 1, develop the training course/modules and content.
- Develop the training manual, including trainer manual (with explanatory notes) and the participants training material.
- Design teaching methodology and tools and guidelines for the training of trainers.

To conduct a Training of master trainer

- Conduct a training course for Training of Master Trainers (TOT).
- Capacity building of the TOT to conduct further training courses for the target groups using the developed training material & prescribed methodology.

Supervision & Coaching master trainers at one pilot training course, involving training of up to 20 people.

- Attend/Supervise the training courses conducted by Master Trainers.
- Exercise interventions & provide feedback to the Master Trainers when they are conducting the training sessions
- Revise/Improve the training materials based on the feedback / observed performance of the TOT training sessions.

Essential Specialized Skills/ Competence

The Consultant shall have the following qualifications, skills and experience

A. Qualification & Experience

- Have at least a master's degree or equivalent in the field of Trade Facilitation and Border Management or related field.
- Have at least 10 years of experience, in training, academics including the development of training materials or curricula and research in the Trade Facilitation and Border Management field.
- Have expertise in multi-disciplinary teaching, and blended teaching & learning practices, which makes the teaching learning process effective and interesting.
- Have learnt, improved, developed and evolved effective training acumen, approaches and methodologies.

B. Skills

- Outcome based training/education, and he/she shall have a

proven track record in this area.

- Trained different age-groups, across disciplines.
- Be accepted as an expert in the field of training, area of effective teaching, innovative teaching, technology enabled teaching, instructional design, blended learning and more
- Possess effective training skills, behavioral & interpersonal skills, communication & soft-skills, along with IT skills, with domain expertise in the areas of Economics, Strategy, Management, Leadership, Organization Behavior and Training & Development
- Conducted sessions and workshops for teachers, trainers, principals, and also conducted Management Development Programs, and carried out training & consultancy projects.
- Technical capacity with respect to curriculum design, development, delivery and evaluation.
- Use appropriate taxonomy in design of training program objectives, outcomes, curriculum and content.
- Use effective pedagogy/methodology in instruction design and delivery of the program; and, a comprehensive evaluation scheme to gauge the effectiveness of the entire program.

4. The KBPO invites Individual Consultants to indicate their Interest in providing the above described services. Interested Consultants shall provide information on their qualifications and experience demonstrating the ability to undertake this assignment (documents, reference to similar services, experience in similar assignments, etc.)

- Please, note that Interest expressed by a Consultant does not imply any obligation on the part of KBPO to include him/her in the shortlist.
- The estimated duration of the services is 70 working days and estimated starting date is 1st September 2020.
- The Consultant will be based in Kazungula, Botswana for the duration of the consulting period.
- Interested Individual Consultant(s) may obtain further information at the address below during working hours: 0830-1700hours.
- The expression of interest must be received at the address below no later than 15th June 2020 at 1700 hours (local time) and specifically mentioning **"Consultancy Services for the Design and Development of Training Materials/Modules in Trade Facilitation & Border Management and Delivery of the Training of Trainers (ToT) Programme"**.

For the Attention of:

The Project Managers

Kazungula Bridge Project Office,

DRTS PLOT, Along A33 Road,

Private Bag 00416

Kasane, Botswana. Tel: +2676250541 and +2676253029; Fax: +2676250324

E-mail: puseone@gov.bw

songeya2007@yahoo.com

ESTABLISHMENT OF THE SHORT LIST

10. A shortlist of three to six individual consultants will be established at the end of the request of expressions of interest. The consultants on the short list will be judged in the following criteria on the basis of their updated resume/CV.

a.	Academic qualifications	40%;
b.	Adequacy for the assignment	50%; and
c.	Experience in region	10%.
Total weight		100%

The 4th Industrial Revolution

From Page 11

to have sound **regulations** and dynamic approach to economic management. Risk Management application needs to be broadened to cover other key areas such as health, natural disasters, and threat to Globalization, furthermore Risk Management must be a **continuous exercise** not a once off document/policy that then gets shelved. One of the factors cited as having caused great depression is high wage policy that the President believed in. The concept being that if people have high wages, they will have capacity to spend. We must be careful in how we aim to **boost our economy** going forward. In my view we must start from scratch. The starting point must be merging data and have one “**big data**”. Why must I be demanded certified copy of Omang when dealing with Government? We must create industries, eliminate red-tape, and have an **enabling environment** (E.g. All license processes must be done online). Then manage inflation and balance it with sustainable growth. On the eve of COVID-19 putting us on lockdown, truth is that our economy was somewhat struggling with growth (look at indicators such as Diamond prices, GDP Growth, Fiscal Budget).

In terms of 4IR preparedness, BoB is already ahead of the curve having published comprehensive governance regulation to **electronic payment services (EPS)** which is known as electronic payment services regulations 2019. 4IR presents a dawn of hope and evidently has played a key role in managing COVID-19. We saw development of initiatives such as online permit application within few weeks and it has worked effectively for both the consumers (public) and the regulator (MoHW). The banks came and offered reduced rates and free rates for usage of their online & USSD platforms for bill payments and banking activities. This in a way helped the economy to “hold on”. Imagine what could be happening if the banks were still stuck in the traditional banking without aggressive drive to go digital and BoB clueless about EPS or digital banking; it could be chaotic. In all economic outlook reports, be it by Ministry of Finance or IMF, the outlook is negative. My thinking is we will recover by Q3 and Q4 2020; after all it is a guess game. I am alive to the fact that our economy is 75% dependent on imports from South Africa and that our three largest buckets of income (Diamonds, Tourism & Tax) are affected. I think as bad as COVID-19 is, it becomes a blessing in a sense that it now accelerates utilization of technology and citizen empowerment. The President has committed that a **citizen empowerment law** will come into effect in Q3 2020. We have seen Parliament proceedings being streamlined live on social media, which gives us first account of what our representatives do at Parley. On Tuesday 05th May 2020 Parley is said to be having an emergency physical meeting. In my

view this is where I now blast our technocrats. They are doing little to advance the growth of this country. I watched video conferencing by the Bank of Botswana Governor – it was terrible. How do we find ourselves in this position? It tells me that the President did not want to risk this meeting by video conferencing as we are simply not ready – and it would defeat the urgency and to some extent derail objectivity of the meeting. As embarrassing as it sounds, I agree with him!

In terms of 4IR preparedness, BoB is already ahead of the curve having published comprehensive governance regulation to electronic payment services (EPS) which is known as electronic payment services regulations 2019.

We must start looking at this video conferencing business with seriousness it deserves. I have read several social media posts in which people seem to be comfortable with this new normal especially around few people at funerals, few people at wedding ceremonies, ordering online (e-commerce), online bill payments, tele/video medicine & video meetings. These are opportunities offered by 4IR and they will go a long way in quickly turning around the fortunes of our economy. On Sunday as I was doing my shopping, I was shocked to learn that two of the big shops I went to have no toothpicks on their shelves! As presented in the introduction of the column, 4IR is a fusion of previous revolutions, and COVID-19 has just demonstrated how hopeless in self sustenance we are. We cannot be importing toothpicks. To boost our economy, post COVID-19 we simply must get serious. We need to develop industries and we need to own production lines in the e-commerce industry. Let us stop thinking that a Business Plan is the answer to our economic interventions. In fact, let us just scrap this Business Plan requirement for green fields. This fundamental flaw has put our diversification efforts at the mercy of lazy uninspired middle class, and in the wave let the rich get richer for they can swiftly finance ideas without delay and inept paraded as Business Plans. We have seen very beautifully written Business Plans funded and only for the business to fail miserably. This is because we are using the wrong “academic” solution for the problem we have. We need to think afresh!

Industries that must embrace 4IR in Botswana: inspired by Big Data? – see you next week!



Customer Notice Bank Rate Change

Customers are advised that following the meeting held on 30 April 2020, the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) of the Bank of Botswana reduced the Bank Rate from 4.75% to 4.25%. This has resulted in the Prime Rate changing from 6.25% to 5.75% effective 30 April 2020.

This change will affect all existing and new prime-linked loans, overdrafts and deposits.

Please visit our Branches or contact our Client care Centre on +267 3615800 for more information on changes to other Savings interest rates.

Terms and conditions apply

sc.com/bw

Here for good



Speaker of the national assembly Phandu Tombola Chaka Skeleman wearing a Coronavirus Covid 19 protective mask during the the Parliament Special session on 5 May 2020. (Pic:MONIRUL BHUIYAN/PRESS PHOTO)



Botswana President Dr. Mokgweetsi Masisi, the Vice President and leader of Parliament Slumber Tsogwane, both wearing coronavirus Covid 19 mask, leaving the Parliament after attending a Special session of the Parliament on 5 May 2020. The parliament will reconvene tomorrow in the morning to affirm the amendment of the Emergency Powers Regulations. Botswana is on the second phase of the lockdown period. (Pic:MONIRUL BHUIYAN/PRESS PHOTO)



EXTENSION 5

House for sale

This Four bedroomed home is situated in a quiet and well developed area in the centre of town.

Plot size- 1368 sqm, with a swimming pool, attached garage and detached servants quarter..

Call: 71436471



Ex Bob Governor Warns Against Misappropriating COVID-19 Funds

- Calls for transparency
- Applauds Gov’t’s interventions

TEFO PHEAGE

The Founding Governor of Bank of Botswana (BoB), Christopher ‘Quill’ Hermans has advised the government to be more transparent when it comes to the COVID-19 Relief Fund and related expenditure.

“I have heard rumours about looting and intentions to loot. Honestly, I find such absurd because they are not backed by any solid evidence. My view is that the government has to this far done so well to respond. Perhaps what we could call for is a bit of transparency on the monetary side of things,”

In an interview he said the government should be clear about what he termed “the monetary side of COVID-19”, cautioning that despite government’s brilliant efforts, mismanagement could spoil everything.

“I have heard rumours about looting and intentions to loot. Honestly, I find such absurd because they are not backed by any solid evidence. My view is that the government has to this far done so well to respond. Perhaps what we could call for is a bit of transparency on the monetary side of things,” Hermans said.

He declined to express his views on how he believes government should respond to COVID-

ID-19, saying he does not want to suggest solutions as he believes President Mokgweetsi Masisi is capable.

“Masisi is doing well and I have full confidence in him. I would be worried if it was the previous administration which I had reservations about,” he said.

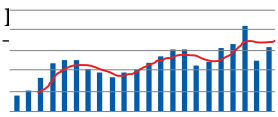
The opposition has expressed fears that the government officials have lined up their pockets to loot the COVID-19 relief fund. The leader of Opposition, Dumelang Saleshando said they are aware that the Botswana Democratic Party (BDP) will use the crisis to enrich themselves with public funds through awarding tenders to party loyalists and families.

This is despite the Minister of Finance and Economic Development Dr. Thapelo Matsheka’s assurance that looting will not be tolerated and perpetrators will be brought to book.

Briefing the media recently, Minister Matsheka said COVID-19 Relief Fund has P2 billion contributed by government and a further P60 Million from donations. The P60 million has however increased following recent extra donations.

“While it was anticipated that the world economy will grow by 3 percent it will instead contract by 3 percent. Botswana economy was expected to grow by 4 percent it will contract by 13 percent. He said government projected P62.4billion of revenue but government will instead have 48billion. He said government has now revised budget by doing away with conferences, meetings and regrettably differed salary increase of public officers. Minister Matsheka said the decisions were made to allow for government to help all citizens largely those who are economically impacted by the covid-19 pandemic,” he said.

He said the covid-19 has adversely affected the economy, and for that government will concentrate efforts in trying to limit the spread of the virus. Minister Matsheka said government is currently preparing a strategy and approach which shall be adopted post Covid-19 to revive the economy.



Diamond Industry Will Take More Than A Year to Recover

Decline in Botswana's GDP during April 2020 is estimated to be around 50%

TLOTLO KEBINAKGABO

The global diamond industry will take between 12 to 18 months to fully recover from COVID-19, economic experts have warned.

The diamond industry remains crucial to the country's economic health even though its level contribution to GDP has been declining over the years.

According to former Bank of Botswana (BoB) Deputy Governor, Dr Keith Jefferis, after performing poorly in 2019, the diamond industry was showing signs of recovery in December 2019 and January 2020.

"Now, however, the global diamond industry has ground to almost a complete halt. Retail stores are currently closed in most countries, so few sales of diamond jewellery are taking place (there are some onlinesales)," revealed Dr Jefferis last week in his first quarter (q1) economic review. Dr. Jefferies is the Managing Director (MD) at an economic think tank, Econsult Botswana. Together with his team, Sethunya Sejee and Kitso Mokhurutse, they hold the view that the diamond industry will take 12 to 18 months to recover.

Dr Jefferis and his team state that the travel restrictions which are meant to curb the spread of the COVID-19 are the bane of the diamond industry as it means that buyers cannot travel to physical sales events. "They include those held ten times a year in Botswana. There are excess levels of inventory at all levels of the diamond value chain – retailers, jewellery manufacturers, cutters and polishers, traders and mining companies."

According to Econsult, even if the retail sales of diamond were to start, it will take longer for the demand to flow through the value chain down to the level of diamond mining companies. There are also concerns that the impact of COVID-19 has been so traumatic that it will take time for spending on high-value luxuries to resume.

The think tanks are of the view that a resumption of mining operations by Debswana would help to limit the negative impact of COVID-19 on the country's GDP which they estimate that it fell by 50 percent in April. "However, mining diamonds that cannot immediately be sold means that they have to be stockpiled," Econsult noted. "GDP is boosted by the ongoing production, but the lack of sales means that export earnings and government revenues are impacted until sales recover."

The most recent comprehensive global estimates, released by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) last month predicted a contraction of 3.0 percent in global GDP in 2020, and a contraction of 6.1 percent in the GDP of advanced economies. hit. For Botswana, the IMF World Economic Outlook projects a GDP contraction of 5.4 percent in 2020.

Dr Jefferis and his team however, noted that estimates of GDP growth are updated on the basis of new developments and estimates and they are generally revised downwards. Earlier estimates that GDP would follow a "V-shaped" pattern, with a fairly strong recovery, are now being replaced by that projections of a "U-shaped" recovery, with a long base of contraction (recession) before an eventual recovery, or even an "L-shaped" outturn," they stated.

To Econsult, the longer the recession lasts, the fewer the businesses that will survive the downturn, and the slower the recovery will be and the greater the likelihood of a prolonged depression.

Meanwhile, Econsult is of the view that the impact of COVID-19 on the Botswana economy is almost certain to be substantially negative, with a large drop in GDP in 2020. They estimate is that the drop will be in the range of 10-15 percent but the impact is likely to be prolonged if restrictions on economic activity and population movement are maintained for a lengthy period," they stated.

All in all, Dr Jefferis and his team expects the negative economic impact of COVID-19 on Botswana to be severe. "This arise from the international economic slowdown and lockdown measures implemented domestically," they state. "Total economic losses are likely to be in the region of P250 – P300 million a day in terms lost GDP, and therefore lost income for households, businesses and government."



BancABC Profits Decline



istered a net interest income of USD82.6 million, 28 percent down from USD115.1 million in the comparative year. “This was a result of lower interest margins, partially compensated by growth of loans and advances witnessed in Botswana and Mozambique in the consumer and corporate loan books respectively,” the company stated in their financials.

On a much brighter side, BancABC’s non-interest income skyrocketed by 16 percent from USD81.1 million for the year that ended 31 December 2018 to USD93.8 million for the year under review. The company attributes the increase to largely improved foreign currency trading revenue. According to the company, foreign currency trading revenue significantly grew from USD18.9 million in 2018 to USD45.2 million for the year that ended 31 December 2019. It was the first time that BancABC’s non-funded income exceeded funded income since 2018.

The company’s operating expenses dwindled by 5.4 percent to USD168.5 million for the year under review as compared to USD178.1 million for the year that ended 31 December 2018. This however excludes losses on monetary items of USD11.1 million. BancABC nevertheless, attributed the decrease in operating expenses to the effects of currency translation on Zimbabwean costs. The effect of the strategic cost management initiatives across the Group were also credited for the company’s decrease in operating expenses.

Meanwhile when making their assessment on Botswana, the company noted that the country has had sub-normal economic growth throughout 2019. “During the year economic growth was estimated to have slowed down to about 3.3 percent owing to weaknesses in the diamond market, a severe drought and slower growth in neighbouring countries. Inflation averaged 2.8 percent year-on-year in 2019 compared to 3.2 percent year-on-year in 2018, which provided some relief for consumers and businesses,” the company stated.

TLOTLO KEBINAKGABO

ABC Holdings Limited Group, which operates the BancABC brand, has registered a loss of USD25.3 (P308 million) for the year ended 31 December 2019, the company’s audited financials reveal.

ABC Holdings operates a number of BancABC commercial banks across sub-Saharan Africa. The company is listed on the Botswana Stock Exchange (BSE).

According to the company, the loss excludes the International Financial Reporting Standards 5 (non-current assets held for sale and discontinued operations) re-measurement loss impact of USD40.2 million (P480 million). This is the company that recorded profit of USD13.9 million (P166 million) in the same period last year.

ABC also reg-



Sandvik Botswana (Pty) Ltd

JOB ADVERT

Applications are invited from suitably qualified and experienced persons for the following position, which has arisen in the Botswana Territory.

FIRE SUPPRESSION TECHNICIAN

THE ROLE

The Fire Suppression Technician Responsible for the efficient running of the Fire Suppression business within the Botswana region by providing excellence in service during the course of installation and servicing of fire suppression systems, as well as follow up technical/product support and daily supervision of fire suppression technicians in allocated region.

KEY SKILLS/ COMPETENCES

The Fire Suppression Technician will be responsible of maintenance of Fire suppression equipment to OEM specifications and standards, and ensure preventative & continuous maintenance of equipment, cost effectiveness. The various skills /competences are, among other things;

- Ability to work with other field service personnel as required.
- Must have the flexibility to meet customer requirements.
- To perform work in a safe manner in a team environment.
- To carry out repairs, maintenance and fault diagnostic work on Fire Suppression equipment as per the appropriate site policies.
- To provide relevant feedback to enable maintenance planning improvements in terms of efficiency and equipment integrity.
- Carry out detailed audits on customer equipment and ensure re adherence to Mines Regulation for all work performed.
- Extremely flexible to work in with customer requirements, procedures and safety policies.
- Serves as Technical Expert for the organisation to the client providing solutions to customer

challenges or requirements via methods and techniques to be applied.

QUALIFICATION

- Certificate in Fire Suppression or Qualified Tradesman (Fire Suppression) or equivalent with not less than five years post qualifying experience in mining environment.
- FPA Certificate II in Asset Maintenance an advantage.
- Understanding of SHE management Standards in ISO14001 or OSHAS18001.
- Must have Class -B Driver’s Licence.
- Computer literate.

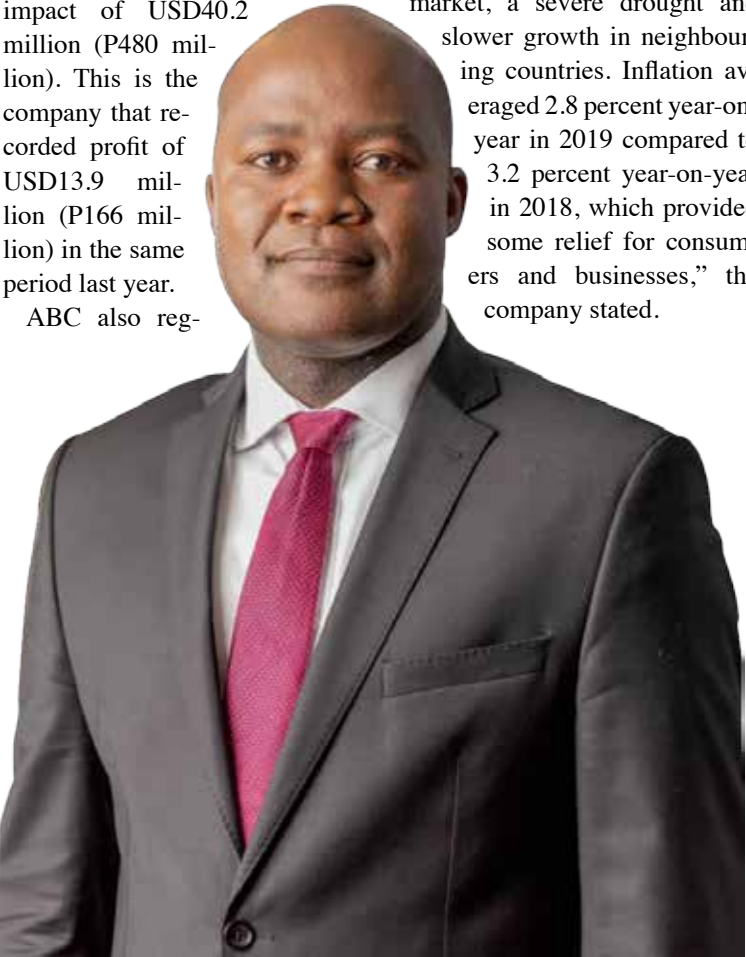
LOCATION

- The role will be based Gaborone, Botswana.

Candidates with suitable qualifications to submit their applications accompanied by concise curriculum vitae, certified copies of certificates and relevant traceable references via email to shupikai.gwanzura@sandvik.com

CLOSING DATE: 10 May 2020

- Applicants who do not meet the Minimum Qualifications clearly outlined above will not be acknowledged. Only persons meeting all of the above Qualifications will be considered and then short listed. Only those on the short list will be contacted accordingly.
- Sandvik’s recruitment policy does not require any prospective job seekers to make payments to the organization or any of its employees as a way of securing employment.
- Sandvik is committed to representivity in the composition of its employees and the creation of job opportunities across all sectors of the Botswana population.



Sefalana Enters Australian Market

- Invests P74 Millon
- Grabs 40% of an Australian retailer

TLOTLO KEBINAKGABO

Botswana’s second largest retail outfit, Sefalana Holding Company Limited Group, has sealed a deal that will see it investing about P74 million into an Australian business named Seasons Group.

Sefalana Group has entered into an agreement to purchase 40 percent of the share capital in Seasons Group. The Australian based company operates in the Fast Moving Consumer Goods (FMCG) sector. The company operates a chain of seven supermarkets in Brisbane.

“A cautionary announcement and subsequent updates were issued since 28 October 2019, whereby Shareholders of Sefalana Holding Limited were advised that the Company has entered into negotiations with a third party outside Botswana, which if successfully concluded, and subject to relevant regulatory approval, will result in a transaction that might have an impact on the price of the Company’s shares,” wrote Mohamed Osman, the Group’s Finance Director, in a note to shareholders.

Osman noted that the group entered into an agreement to purchase shares in Seasons Groups last month (April). He said the business (Seasons Group) is controlled by a consortium of shareholders, many of whom are also consortium members in the South African business in which Sefalana has a preference share interest. According to Osman, the total purchase consideration for Sefalana’s investment in Seasons Group amounts to AUD 9.9 million (P74 million), and is considered as its fair value.

“The effective date of investment is expected to be 8 May 2020. All relevant regulatory approvals have been obtained. This investment will be treated as an investment in an associate, in which Sefalana exerts significant influence, and therefore will be equity accounted,” Osman stated. He said Sefalana entered into the agreement with Seasons Group in order to pursue its Group strategy to diversify its income stream and foreign exchange exposure.

The company’s investment in Australia is a testimony that the company is growing significantly. They first operated outside Botswana in 2014 when they extended their business into neighbouring Namibia opening their first store in Katima Mulilo in January 2014. In July 2014, Sefalana purchased the Metro Group (still in Namibia) of 12 stores.

As if it is not enough in November 2015, they took over an additional store in Swakopmund (town in Namibia), bringing their total store compliment to 14. According to the company’s website they are still in constant lookout in Namibia as they work towards their medium-term target of 20 stores across in Namibia.

On top of the Namibian market, the company spread their investment wings to Lesotho on 2016 as they entered the country’s market through a takeover of the country’s largest distribution and logistics company, TFS Wholesalers, Distribution and Logistics in Maseru. Sefalana has a total of 74 stores across three countries along with three motor dealerships (MAN, TATA and Honda).



COVID-19 RESPONSE MESSAGE

As we prepare ourselves for easing of restrictions and the new normal let's all remember that the duty to educate employees and our members lies with both social partners and we urge unions to also contribute in educating their members on COVID-19 preventive measures.

Safety and health measures must be enhanced in workplaces and inspections must be enhanced. This is critical to make sure that workers are safe at work and risks for contracting the virus in the course of work are minimal.

Let us continue to follow the health protocols to protect ourselves, loved ones and communities.

Let us all keep well and prepare ourselves to contribute to the rise of Botswana post this pandemic.

Aluta continua.
Long live Workers Power
Viva comrade
Solidarity Forever

Thusang Butale
Secretary General



ALL CORRESPONDENCE MUST BE ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY GENERAL

To Fight Covid-19, Only The Formal Economy Is Getting Tax Breaks: The Informal Economy May Be Asked To Foot The Bill

Max Gallien & Vanessa van den Boogaard

As the world grapples with the consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic, vulnerable workers in the informal sector in the global south have been hit hard. Their health is disproportionately at risk. As, for example, vendors working in close quarters and heavily reliant on face-to-face interactions or as frontline care-workers in households, the nature of their businesses makes them particularly vulnerable to contracting the virus. Where medical insurance is tied to employment, their informal status represents

a hurdle to accessing proper medical care.

Moreover, the economic consequences of the pandemic are felt particularly sharply for informal workers. As countries across the world are increasingly entering phases of lockdown, home-working and part-time arrangements are frequently unavailable for informal workers, while a collapsing economy puts their livelihoods under immediate threat. A lack of institutionalised sick leave means that for many informal employees, there is an explicit trade-off between their health and their financial survival. As India's Self Employed Women's Association recently



BOFEPUSU COMMEMORATES MAY DAY

THEME: End Covid 19, & gear towards Botswana's economic independence!

Pillar 1 of the theme:

- Decent Work Programme
- job creation
- guaranteeing rights at work
- extending social protection, and
- promoting social dialogue

Pillar 2 of the theme:

- Radical economic transformation
- economic diversification & rapid industrialisation
- citizen economic empowerment
- provision of high quality & world class social services
- focus on agriculture for food security & self sufficiency
- economically empower the poor and working class

Comrades, while we remain within our homes as per the Lock Down protocols, as workers, we should be cognizant of the fact that this day came as a result of the workers' struggle. History indicates that, it was on this day that workers lost their lives and jobs when demonstrating and protesting against oppressive, slavery and very long working hours. It is the effects of the struggle on this day, which resulted in the now standard practice throughout the world, of the eight (8) hours working duration per day, and the consequent International Labour Organization

(ILO) Convention on Hours of work.

BOFEPUSU thank frontline workers for saving lives our citizens. You are gallant heroes and heroines who deserve a space in the history books of this Country. We further thank your families for their support and understanding the demands and risks of your work.

There must be establishment of industrial councils in private for formal and institutionalised social dialogue to improve welfare of private sector workers who work under deplorable working conditions. Among others we call for research based living wage, Unemployment Insurance Fund, employers to respect rights of workers.

We will continue to demand economic rights and justice for the workers and poor people in this Country.

BOFEPUSU is a fortress of workers of all sectors, focusing on the plight of workers for Protection of their rights and greater conditions of service. The economic struggle continues and workers are urged to unite in solidarity. we shall overcome.

Yours in workers victory !!!

BOFEPUSU
BOTSWANA FEDERATION OF PUBLIC,
PRIVATE & PARASTATAL SECTOR UNIONS

highlighted, these hardships are also deeply gendered, as pressures on domestic workers and price-gauging in hygiene products affect women in particular.

Tax reliefs miss the informal economy

While countries across the globe have sought to quickly roll out relief efforts to support their economies and workers, many of these programs have not reached their informal economies. As many relief efforts have built on pre-existing relationships between states, workers and businesses, they have inadvertently deepened the gap between formal and informal economies.

Economic relief efforts have largely focused on providing income replacement supports to companies or individuals and on tax reliefs to individuals and businesses. Kenya, for example, has reduced the rate of the value-added tax and corporation tax, while other countries have taken steps to alleviate immediate tax debts for taxpayers, including by extending deadlines for filing tax returns.

But these efforts don't reach the informal economy: Government wage support or supported furlough schemes are not available to workers in the informal sector. Informal businesses are not profiting from tax relief, as they often don't pay the full set of formal taxes. Even cuts to the value-added tax may have less an impact in the informal sector: while informal sector businesses may pay VAT on inputs they purchase, low-income populations are often less affected by VAT than is often assumed due to the nature of exemptions and payment thresholds.

Some governments have actively recognised the hardship that workers in the informal economy are undergoing. Even symbolically, this is a valuable step for a sector that is frequently demonised in public discourse. However, in practice, measures that directly aid the informal sector, such as utility bill relief, are still relatively rare. Other promised responses, including direct cash transfers to informal sector workers bear considerable implementation challenges. Existing social protection programmes reach only small percentages of vulnerable populations and the feasibility of quickly expanding cash transfer infrastructure is uncertain. Where transfers rely on mobile banking, the digital divide will exclude the most vulnerable.

Post-crisis efforts to expand tax revenue may target the informal sector

While people in the world's informal economies are fighting to survive the current crisis, there are good reasons to believe that the post-crisis period will see additional pressures put on the already vulnerable sector. The economic consequences for the informal sector will be prolonged. As the global economy is facing a protracted crisis, it is likely to depress demand for the products and services of informal businesses. Further, rising unemployment levels are likely to push more people into the informal economy, increasing competition between informal businesses, with the potential of displacing pre-existing businesses and workers.

At the same time, given the significant



Foodies Botswana: The Recipe For Staying Food-Savvy Under Lockdown

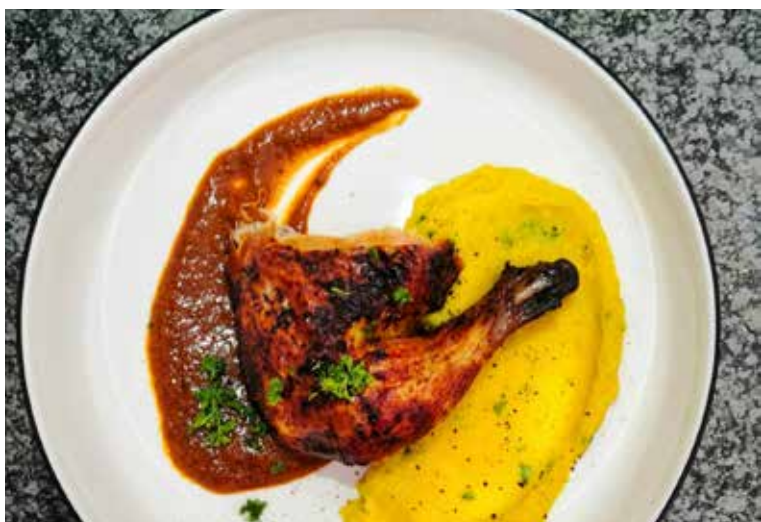
Yommy is even talking about 'Quarantine Coffee' and more delectable comestibles



GOSEGO MOTSUMI

With eating courts closed and supermarket trips becoming less frequent, people are getting creative in their home kitchens to spice up their lockdown lives. From recipes, tips and tutorials to sumptuous snaps of food, the Facebook page of Foodies Botswana is serving dishes that are being drooled over by many. Foodies Botswana, owned by the Yommy brand, is a hit on Facebook where it is consistently gaining likes, shares and new followers with timely and engaging content.

"Since the lockdown, people now have more time to experiment with food and showcase their cooking skills. Foodies Botswana gives these people the platform to showcase their food while sharing tips and recipes. Others in the group are free to recreate the same meal or add their special twist," said Kenneth Middleton of Yommy in an interview.



The page was created 11 months ago but Middleton says there has been a surge in activity since the lockdown. The page adds about 400 new members every day while the sumptuous snaps of food have earned Foodies Botswana a whopping 26 610 members and counting. Foodies Botswana was inspired by Middleton's passion for food while motivating chefs and home cooks to cook and help others to recreate the shared recipes.

"We have created a culture where everyone is working towards improving their food presentation," Middleton explains. "This includes plating techniques. In the future, I

would like to see local food companies creating engagements on the platform to promote local brands. There are certain products that are locally produced that we are unaware of that we would like to know about and consume."

Indeed social media can make the simplest of things look so interesting that everyone would want to try them out, releasing a chain of reactions. Dalgona Coffee has now gained a distinction as 'Quarantine Coffee' because it became a worldwide phenomenon on all foodies' platforms, including Foodies Botswana. So many people have recreated the Korean coffee drink be-

cause it is aesthetically pleasing and gives that coffee shop feel right at home. Many people have also been sharing their attempts at baking banana bread, which they shared on the food platform.

"When it comes to food, I do not have a personal favourite or a go-to meal," says Middleton. "I always want to try other food recipes from across the world. People are currently just sharing what they prepared using ingredients in their kitchens on the food platform and there isn't a meal that is currently trending. By the end of the lockdown we still hope to see the same or increased engagements on the food platform," he said.

Budding Filmmaker Mmakgosi Anita Responds To Arts Council Draft Bill

GOSEGO MOTSUMI

Once chased away from adjudicating an arts competition, budding filmmaker Mmakgosi Anita Tau - who has only ever been paid P30 worth of royalties in Botswana - now has the support of two institutions in the USA to write a script for her first feature film.

The proposed National Arts Council Bill is highly commendable. I think the Bill comes at a time when it is much needed. The unemployment crisis and socioeconomic disparities have not had any mercy on artists.

I have been offered “exposure” by many event organizers to perform for dignitaries in Botswana but “exposure” was not and is not enough. I needed resources - money to run programmes that I initiated. I have performed at events where international artists were better valued for the work that they do, and yet we local artists in Botswana struggle to even have airplay. I have been a member of COS-BOTS for two years and have since been paid P30 (\$3). This Bill should ensure equal treatment for all artists.

Artists have been mocked for living from hand to mouth with no source of sustainable



Photo Credit: www.awpwriter.org/

BOTSWANA TEACHERS UNION STATEMENT ON WORKERS DAY 2020

WE EDUCATE

International Workers Day, which in most cases is referred to as May Day, is used by the working class globally to amongst others reflect and dialogue in order to establish fair labour practices and employment standards. This is the terrain workers, through their trade unions managed to use to meaningfully engage employers to discuss pertinent issues geared towards improving their working conditions.

This year's workers day is different as the usual gatherings will not take place due to the outbreak of Coronavirus (COVID-19), which has been declared an International Emergency of Health Concern by the World Health Organisation (WHO). This deadly and life threatening virus has affected societal cohesion and cultural habits such as greeting by shaking hands, hugging, gatherings just to mention a few. This is done to break the transmission line of the virus which available scientific evidence shows that it is passed from place to the other by human beings.

However, the message of this year's workers day will be conveyed through available different media platforms addressing the theme; "End COVID-19, and Gear Towards Botswana's Economic Independence." The theme provides a strategic direction for Botswana to devise means of positioning herself to

be economically sound and viable to be able to stand the test of time. The effects of COVID-19 put on the spotlight our deficiencies and lack of capacity as a nation to provide the basic needs, without necessarily importing.

The lessons learnt thus far from the effects of the virus in our entire economy, will assist all stakeholders in different sectors to play a critical role in preparing Botswana's economic independence. Job creation, promotion of social dialogue, citizen economic empowerment, food security among others, should form part of the agenda if we are serious about economic emancipation. As Botswana Teachers Union (BTU), we are ready to play our part in the developmental agenda of this great republic, as we have been doing over the years.

As we celebrate workers day this year, our hearts goes out to the front-liners more especially the health workers who are at the fore in combating the COVID-19 outbreak, providing strategic direction to contain and prevent this invisible monster from spreading. We are alive to the fact that in doing their part, they are in the process exposed to hazards that put them at risk of infection. At a time like this, they need all the support from everyone as they are overwhelmed by the pandemic.

WISHING ALL WORKERS A BLESSED AND HAPPY DAY

Cde Gotlamang Oitsile
BTU President

Gaborone: 392 4516 | Palapye: 492 2778 | Tlokweng: 654 0661 | Maun: 686 5892 | Gaborone: 687 4095
Francistown: 244 1603 | Kanye: 651 7797 | Kanye: 540 3015 | Selibe-Phikwe: 265 0211

B. T. U
BOTSWANA
TEACHERS
UNION
"WE EDUCATE"

income. The real problem has been regulating industry players (getting them to pay artists commensurate to their work).

Growing up, I read Google Eyes and Chinua Achebe for my literature. I yearned to read a collection of poems or a novel by a Motswana. We need to provide local writers with support to produce, translate, and publish texts that capture our diversity and preserve our culture. I think we should also look into supporting educational programmes that provide learners with space to develop their creative skills.

I think our country needs artists who are also academics committed to studying, researching, and documenting our culture. We need scholarships to further our understanding of indigenous art, culture, and contemporary art.

In 2019, I was commissioned to judge a presidential arts competition only to be chased away by an officer who thought I was inexperienced. I hope that the board entrusted with serving us will be practitioners or patrons of the arts. We need people who respect art and its practitioners. Both the public and private sectors should be involved in developing the arts. FNB has built parks, and in my opinion this is the time to create partnerships for building theatres, film and television studios, art studios, artist residencies and museums.

I have seen my fellow artists grapple with the state of their mental health. I have tried to speak out on issues of mental health but I do not have the resources to sustain my work. I hope that the Bill will get the conversation rolling about psycho-social support for artists.

I was once asked what job my degree in filmmaking would give me. I graduated in 2019, and in 2020 I received support from two art institutions in the USA to write my first feature film. While I may have these opportunities, I realise that not all of us have such support. I think we need to invest in production of television programmes and films from the process of research and writing the script to the last phase of editing these productions.

I think our country needs artists who are also academics committed to studying, researching, and documenting our culture. We need scholarships to further our understanding of indigenous art, culture, and contemporary art.

I believe that the beneficiaries of this Bill should include marginalised communities, people living with disabilities, people living in rural areas, veterans, and the youth.

Creative Industry Weighs in on National Arts Council Bill

Says the new era of an arts council is a welcome development

GOSEGO MOTSUMI

In a move hailed as commendable, the Ministry of Youth Empowerment, Sports and Culture Development (MYSC) recently distributed the National Arts Council Bill in draft form to the creative sector and its stakeholders and invited commentary from them.

In a previous interview with this publication, the Permanent Secretary at MYSC, Kago Ramokate said the bill proposes to set up a council with an 11-member board that would receive a subvention from the government and raise funds from other sources.

Creatives moved swiftly to weigh in on the development that is set to put the arts and culture sector on a new level.

“We have been lamenting lack of an umbrella body for the arts. This is the time for us to formalise our industry spearheaded and led by the National Arts Council,” said photographer, pianist and all round creative, Batho Motlhake, in an interview.

“This will see better coordination of ideas, plans and policies, leading to better cohesion in the industry as a whole. Our various sectors will no longer work in silos. The council will oversee and regulate all these sectors.”

Motlhake added that a group of people from the creative sector had recently discussed the draft bill in a zoom meeting. The group was made up of Gao Lemmenyane, Seabelo Modibe, Tonderai Tsara, Benjamin Raletsatsi, Bathusi Losolobe, Thabiso Mashaba, Pascal Proctor, Akhutlheleng Mogami, and Motlhake who all concluded that the bill was a welcome development.

They recommended that the arts council should be registered as a private company with 100% shareholding by the government as opposed to being a parastatal. In the meantime they will seek legal advice on this recommendation. They also recommended that affiliation should be from bodies such as the Botswana Music Council and Business Botswana and not from individuals and companies. These can be aided to setup using the arts fund and promote good governance. Two representatives of each industry organisation should attend the Annual General Meeting.

Regarding appointment of the chairperson of the board, Motlhake says it is not mentioned in the draft bill. Nevertheless, they recommended that the appointment be made by the minister from the creative industry and that only two people from the government should be appointed to sit on the board. Industry bodies that are affiliated to the arts council should elect the rest.

It was also concluded in the zoom meeting that the



objectives and functions of the arts council are to establish and operate a National Arts Fund, as well as to register and regulate creative industry bodies, establish and operate a National Arts Welfare Fund to support artists during emergencies like COVID-19. The arts council should also establish and operate an artist's mobility fund, uphold and protect artist's rights, promote indigenous languages, and develop national monuments and heritage sites.

Motlhake said: “We would also like organisations like BOMU, Thapong and BEPA to send their position papers instead of having individuals each come forward with their suggestions. We are trying to do some desktop benchmarking on how arts councils in Zimbabwe and the rest of Africa and the world are doing things.”

Artist Tshepiso Kast Molapise is among the creatives who have been advocating for the formation of the Botswana National Arts Council when he embarked on a 2000 km ‘round the country’ journey in 2018. Like his fellow artists, he was excited that the moment had finally arrived for the industry to be coordinated in a way that should see growth. “It's an exciting time, especially for me and my team because for a long time we felt like we are putting so much effort to try and sensitise people about the importance of an arts council and this is a testament that it was all not in vain,” he said in an interview.

Sharing his two penny's worth on the draft bill, actor and award-winning playwright, Donald Molosi, told this publication that he would like to see more input from Botswana creative consultants who are already doing the work. He was thrilled that there would finally be a body by a statutory body to assist in professionalising the arts in Botswana.

“The council will help communicate the professional nature of what artists do for their corporate partners. The corporate world tends to be very rigid and only recognises that which looks like itself. If I were to pick board members, I would pick those people who have been doing the work so that they can bring their experience to this new structure because we will need that expertise.”

For his part, veteran disc jockey, Sidney “DJ Sid” Baitsile, said the National Arts Council is a new era for the creative industry that is way overdue. “I just hope it is given the necessary teeth to transform the industry selfishly to empower Botswana. People elected to the board are going to be key to this and hopefully they will all be chosen after intense scrutiny based solely on experience, training, expertise and ability to execute the council's mandate firmly, fairly without fear or favour,” he said.

Neo-Soul Artist Kelesitse releases 'A Poem for Poetry'

This troubadour has an affinity with poetry and uses verses to share God as her timeless love

GOSEGO MOTSUMI

Entitled ‘A Poem for Poetry,’ the debut single from Gabs-born and bred neo-soul artist Kelesitse Mokgathe is a song about hope and rectitude. Mokgathe draws her inspiration from her affinity for poetry which she characterises as a medium for sharing God as her eternal love. Kelesitse is not cut from the same cloth as any neo-soul artists, but you are just as likely to have a jam session with her music through poetic quips like, “Your words live in my sinews / I trip over my insides each time I don't give you the room you need / Like war of punctuation and enunciation / Waiting on you is an art.”

“I needed to immortalise a piece of work for God and God alone,” she told *Time Out*. “The single is a story about recognising that poetry is my first love and that poetry too deserves a poem.

“Sometimes we overlook the gifts that God gave us and look outward. The song is a reminder for myself and anyone else who needs to remember to place purpose above popularity.”

In her latest offering, Kelesitse's vocals are gentle and nourishing. She recites her lyrics like one bringing the depths of her soul to the surface. This is an artist who grew up listening to a range of world music, from rumba and hip-hop to RnB. Kelesitse started her musical journey over 10 years ago with passion projects, recording music with producer friends like DJ Mbuso of Sunshine and Groove Afrika of Daybreak.

“I can't pinpoint a particular musical influence because I still listen to so many genres. But I grew up loving the likes of Sade and Kadja Nin. My music is inspired by life more than it is by a single individual artist,” she says. “A Poem for Poetry” is a step to-

wards her debut album that is taking shape as the artist wants to share something of great value before it is released. The single will be available across all digital platforms on 6 May 2020. It was produced, composed, and recorded by Leroy Nyoni at Village Sound Studios and mixed and mastered by Maleho Makgothi at Pumi Soundz.

Kelesitse is a poet storyteller, writer, actress, voice-over artist, singer, and qualified TV presenter at OnCue Communications in Johannesburg, South Africa. She has directed and produced her own theatre play titled “Gaborone: It is Unbecoming,” showcasing in both Botswana and Namibia at the Arts Summit of Southern Africa closing night in 2018. The Kelesitse brand is aptly described as “an intimate encounter”. It is a space where she boldly shares her influential passion for storytelling with the world.





**BOTSWANA DEFENCE FORCE XI
SPORTING CLUB**

PO Box 410 BCR, SSKB,
Mogoditshane, Botswana

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**Secretary General
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Or hand delivered to our Office at SSKB or emailed to matebele1978@yahoo.com / iletshola@gmail.com or posted to address above:

CLOSING DATE: 13th May 2020

Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted.

**How Nike's Re-Release
Strategy Can Inspire a
Comeback for Local Brands**

BONGANI MALUNGA

As one of the world's leading clothing brands, Nike has always found creative ways to become relevant in an ever-changing market which has now given birth to numerous competitors. The hugely popular clothing brand uses the Emotional Appeal strategy to remain a trending topic in the fashion world.

With other brands such as Adidas, New Balance and Under Armour (to name a few) coming up with new and creative sneakers every year, Nike has prioritized re-releasing old models of sneakers with a modern twist. Designing new products is always a risk because consumers may not like the new designs or the designs may not appeal to them as the brand had anticipated.

They have adopted the Emotional Appeal strategy because they know that they will evoke nostalgia when they re-introduce a product that meant something to you when you first bought it in the past.

For example, the return of the Cortez sneaker was a huge success as many Botswana based sneaker enthusiasts bought them in abundance. They started to trend again and that even led curious young followers to yearn for them as well to be a part of the conversation.

The Air Max 90 and many other models are also getting more releases in different colours. Every year Nike decides to re-release a limited amount of sneakers,

they know that limiting the number of releases increases demand as customers will ensure that they get that exclusive pair by all means necessary.

They also collaborate with designers to ensure that they have a sense of closeness with consumers, the collaboration with new and in demand designers gives the brand a "fresh" feel to it. That inclusion also adds to their Emotional Appeal. With the competition becoming fierce, Nike uses the fact "there is a story behind every shoe" to their advantage, they continue to lure us with this approach.

Local labels such as Collections by BK Proctor, Go Hard Clothing, MN Clothing and Dlala, to mention a few, are staples in the local fashion scene and they have gone beyond expectations to become fashion lines of choice among Batswana.

Before the aforementioned local brands became big names, the likes of All Kasi, PODI, Odipeca, Acapella Kandi and Bafwe2 paved the way as they were some of the first locally produced fashion lines. Most of the already mentioned classic brands are not as popular as they were because of little or no production but they still hold special places in the hearts of fashion Batswana.

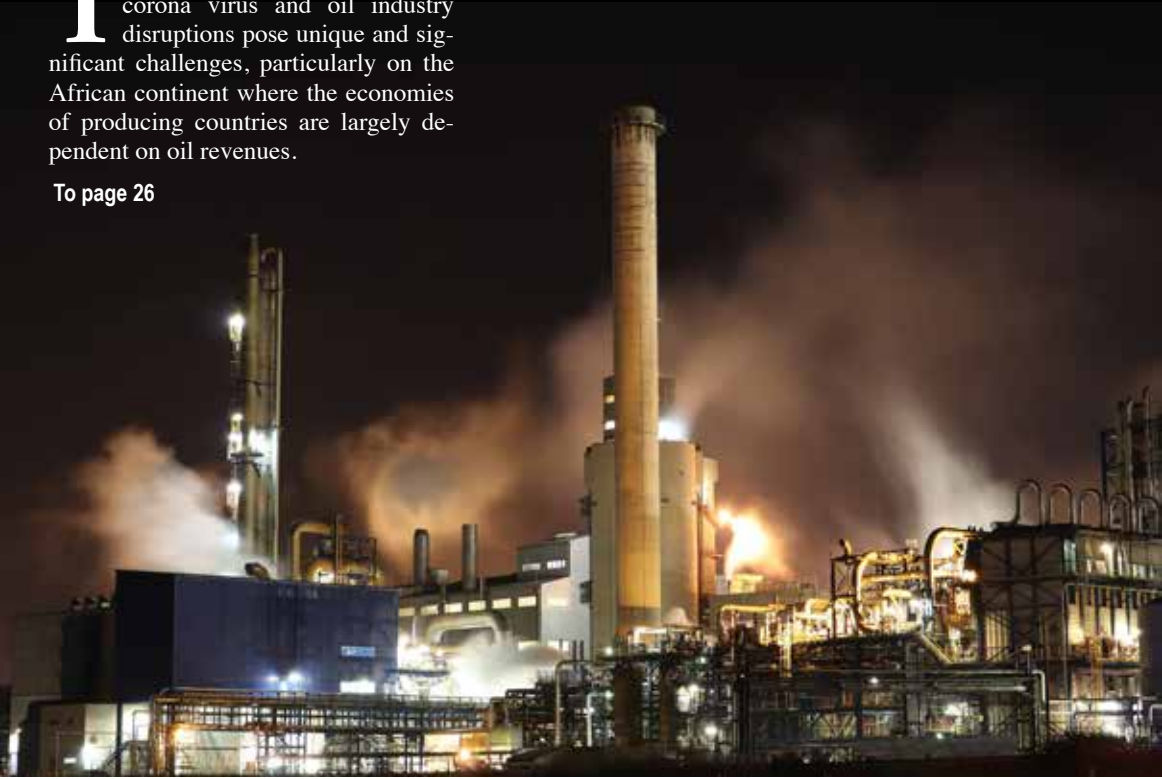
There are still bits and pieces of these retro brands around the country, as scarce as they are, they still grab one's attention because they are rare. Being rare makes them exclusive, that exclusivity has the potential to build up demand once

Mitigating Risks In The Current Industry Crisis: The Actions Oil Sector Companies Need To Take

With no end in sight, companies need to consider and take all necessary actions to mitigate all associated risks

The compounding effects of the corona virus and oil industry disruptions pose unique and significant challenges, particularly on the African continent where the economies of producing countries are largely dependent on oil revenues.

To page 26



BOTSWANA CHRISTIAN AIDS INTERVENTION PROGRAMME
Plot 8884, Ext.2, P O Box 601963, Gaborone, Botswana. Tel: (267) 3916 454 FAX (267) 3971 820,
E-mail:Info@bocaip.org.bw

VACANCY ADVERTISEMENT

The Botswana Christian AIDS Intervention Programme is a Non-Governmental Organization registered in 1999. Established as a Christian response to the Government's call for multi-sectoral response to fight the HIV/AIDS epidemic. BOCAIP has 12 centers and 2 satellite centers across the country. BOCAIP is looking for a qualified, experienced and result-oriented individual to lead the Finance Department. The position reports directly to the Organisation's Chief Executive Officer.

FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION MANAGER

Main purpose of the job
To provide all financial, management support and advice as required by BOCAIP head office, various centers and satellites; to ensure comprehensive analysis financial information for planning and controlling the financial resources of BOCAIP; and to provide financial data for management for decision making and for meeting legal and regulatory requirements.

- POSITION REQUIREMENTS**
- A degree in Accounting or Finance.
 - Certification as a professional qualified accounting or equivalent (Qualified ACCA/CIMA), an added advantage
 - BICA active membership is a must
 - 8 year's work experience with at least 3 years in managerial level of accounting and finance systems in NGO or private sector
 - Valid driver's license
 - Christian background

- COMPETENCIES**
- Communicates effectively to varied audiences through varied channels of communication,
 - Set high standards for quality of work and consistently achieves project goals
 - Able to work effectively under pressure
 - Analyze and integrates numerical, verbal and other data from a number of reports
 - Demonstrates and shares details technical knowledge and expertise with supervisors and subordinates
 - Ensure that team or department follows relevant company policies and procedures
 - Has good leadership and supervisory skills;

- coordinates group activities, ensuring that roles within the team are clear.
- Set clearly defined objectives and produces comprehensive financial plans, budgets and reports for the organization.
 - Establish adequate internal controls and procedures for all revenues and expenses and safeguard all assets.

- KEY PERFORMANCE AREAS**
- Timely preparation of accurate financial reports for board and management use.
 - Ensure adherence to existing finance and procurement procedures
 - Prompt and timely submission of repots to various donors
 - Professional writing of proposals and be able to advise the organisation on investment opportunities
 - Carryout any other duties and responsibilities; assigned to conformance with policies, standards and regulations of organization.
 - Preparation of Financial Statements for the organization,
 - Preparation of Management accounts

Only suitably and qualified candidates are invited to submit application letters, updated curriculum vitae, names of three referees (one from your church) and certified copies of certificates by the 20th May 2020 before 5:00pm.

Please kindly submit your application by mail to:
HR & Admin Manager
BOCAIP
P.O. Box 601963
GABORONE
Or E-mail to:
info@bocaip.org.bw

To Fight COVID-19

From page 20

costs of the crisis relief efforts, in the recovery period governments across the world will be seeking to raise additional revenue. As the formal tax bases of many developing countries are currently relatively narrow, the informal economy becomes a likely candidate for pressures to 'broaden the tax base'—particularly given political disincentives to tax the wealthy, which will not entirely disappear over the course of the crisis.

Expanding taxation of the informal sector brings with it significant risks for workers and businesses. While efforts to tax the informal economy may in some cases lead to novel and productive relationships between informal sector workers and state administrations, they also risk leading to the harassment, marginalisation and over-taxation of small informal businesses that are already paying a variety of informal fees and payments. These risks are severely heightened where governments face greater revenue pressures and place less emphasis on the equity and distributional implications of expanding the tax net.

Supporting vulnerable workers in the informal sector during and after the crisis

To ensure that those in the informal economy are not being further left behind, domestic and international policymakers should focus on a few key points when designing relief strategies:

Provide unconditional cash transfers. Despite the noted challenges, unconditional cash transfers remain the most straightforward and practical way to distribute relief that reaches the informal economy. Targeted transfers may have a greater impact on poverty reduction, but that is only true if countries have systems in place to target people quickly and cheaply. Rather than holding registration drives or relying on existing mobile money accounts, Berk Özler notes that a practical way of distributing cash transfers may be to rely on sequenced geographic targeting, using small administrative units to ensure everyone in poor areas receives benefits.

Focus on revenue reliefs that affect informal sector workers. While income tax and pay-as-you-earn liability deferrals do nothing to help vulnerable

workers, reliefs on utility fees, market taxes and fees, and mobile money taxes may provide breathing room where it is needed the most.

Recognise that revenue shortfalls often mean that public financing burdens are shifted onto individuals. Where governments are unable to finance key public goods, it is often communities and individuals that fill the gap through informal taxes and fees. Accordingly, when providing revenue reliefs, governments need to consider how to fill revenue gaps—whether through loans, grants, or a greater emphasis on wealth taxes and fighting tax evasion—to ensure both that it is not the poorest that bear the brunt of financing public goods and that the quality of public goods does not dramatically decline.

While the most at-risk groups need assistance immediately, post-crisis revenue raising efforts should also keep their economic and political vulnerability in mind.

Prioritise equity considerations in post-crisis fiscal responses. While the most at-risk groups need assistance immediately, post-crisis revenue raising efforts should also keep their economic and political vulnerability in mind. Faced with increasing revenue pressures, policymakers need to be thoughtful about the risks and equity implications of expanding the tax net.

Underlying all of these strategies is an increasingly urgent need for real-time monitoring of the impacts of the global pandemic on vulnerable workers in the informal sector. It is critical that research be undertaken that can help to alert policymakers and inform relief responses to the current crisis.

International Centre for Tax and Development



DISPUTED: The P13m Tender To President Masisi's Sister

- Pharmaceutical companies lodge complaint to Central Medical Stores
- Masisi's sister tight-lipped on the matter
- Her company directly awarded P13 million tender

GAZETTE REPORTERS

President Mokgweetsi Masisi's sister, Boitumelo Phadi Mmutle says she does not want to make comments on the controversial matter in which she has been directed through Monteco Solutions, a company in which she is the sole director, to procure Anti Retro Viral drugs worth P13.7 million by the Central Medical Stores (CMS).

The Botswana Gazette established that the tender has triggered a complaint from some of the competing pharmaceutical companies.

Amongst the complainants is Africure, which in a union with the others, has directed complaints to the Director of Central Medical Stores questioning the criteria used to award the tender to the President's sister.

They want to understand how and why Monteco was preferred over them.

It emerges that CMS occasionally opts directly contract companies in

cases of shortage of supply but the industry players say under normal circumstances, CMS consults all players before making decisions to

CMS has made a recommendation to the Ministerial Tender Committee to issue a waiver for the procurement of Anti- Retroviral Drugs to Mmutle's company, Monteco Solutions at the value of P13, 747,359.90.

directly award.

CMS has made a recommendation to the Ministerial Tender Committee to issue a waiver for the procurement of Anti- Retroviral Drugs to Mmutle's company, Monteco Solutions at the value of P13, 747,359.90. The decision has been approved by the Public Procurement and Asset Disposal Board (PPADB).

CMS Manager, Keletso Israel said she cannot comment on the matter because she does not have information on it.

She also declined to comment on information held by *The Botswana Gazette*. Rather, she maintained that waivers are a common occurrence in procurement.

Asked to give her side of the story, Mmutle declined. "I do not want to make comments on that matter," she stated.

Upon request, this publication shared with Mmutle the documents and reports tying her to the tender. She had promised to respond after

perusal of the documents but later chose not to.

The Ministry of Health and Wellness, Director –Health Inspectorate Setso Setso, said it is normal for ARV tenders to attract controversy.

He however says ARV tenders were not connected to COVID-19 relief programmes.

"From time to time we adjudicate over CMS but I will not be able to know how many we have adjudicated over and who they were involving," he added.

ARV tenders have always attracted controversy. Last year, *The Botswana Gazette* reported that four pharmaceutical distributing companies – Portfolio Pharmaceuticals, Monteco Solutions, Africure and Lesek Group complained over the main ARVs tender accusing CMS of incompetence.

They said the awarding of the life-saving ARV drugs tender was marred with irregularities and inconsistencies. The tender dispute went to court and was eventually awarded to Pyramid company at P100 million.

Francistown Mayor Pulls Back From The Controversial Covid-19 Food Relief Tender

- reportedly withdrew after his party's threat
- mayor declined to comment
- said Town Clerk is better placed to talk about the issue

SESUPO RANTSIMAKO —
FRANCISTOWN: Amid public scrutiny and outrage, Francistown Mayor Godisang Radisigo has reportedly pulled back from the controversial COVID-19 tender for the supply of food hampers.
Information gathered by

the Botswana Gazette suggests that though the Mayor initially took the public scrutiny lightly citing his declaration of assets as his defence, he finally succumbed to pressure after his party also threatened to seek explanation on how he participated in the tender within the organization he leads.

Since he won the tender for the supply of COVID-19 food hampers through his general dealer trading as Lwange Investment from the Francistown City Council (FCC) the Mayor has been facing outbursts with the public questioning why for starters he was allowed to participate in the bidding. The public

accused him of possible nepotism and favouritism from the FCC. However, after his party (Botswana Democratic Party) also joined the public criticism and threatened to seek explanation how he participated in the bidding, Radisigo allegedly gave up and pulled back from the COVID-19 food relief

tender.
Though the supply was effective April 25th it is not clear whether the Mayor's company partly supplied the foodstuffs before pulling back. "I cannot confirm if his company supplied the first 200 batches as per the orders allocated to all engaged suppliers. What I know is that during the first days of supply he was always with us at the wholesale where we source our food products," revealed one of the Suppliers adding if indeed he withdrew it might be after the public scrutiny extended to his party.
Through his company Lwange Investment the Mayor was awarded the tender to supply COVID-19 food relief packages at a price of P911.95 per household.
FCC Town Clerk Lopang Pule preferred a questionnaire when reached for comment insisting that he does not want to be misquoted. "I do not know why you are not engaging the Mayor about this issue instead of me. Anyway, send the questionnaire I will respond shortly," Pule said on Monday morning. However, he could no longer answer his phone when called at a later stage.
In the previous interview with this publication Pule the Mayor was given the greenlight to participate in the tender bidding because he declared his assets and owned a general dealer as per the requirements. "If he has declared like he did we assess if he is involved in the daily business of the council. We also check if there is any conflict of interest before awarding the tender," FCC Town Clerk stated.
On the other hand, the Mayor referred all enquiries back to Pule insisting that he is the one handling the matter.

PARLIAMENT SPECIAL SESSION IN PICTURES (Pics:MONIRUL BHUIYAN/PRESS PHOTO)



COVID-19 Food Beneficiaries Reject 'Cheap' Products

- Say the products are of low quality
- Accuse the council of undermining them

SESUPO RANTSIMAKO —
FRANCISTOWN: Some beneficiaries of the COVID-19 food hampers in Francistown have turned down the

products saying they are of low quality, *The Botswana Gazette* has established. The complainants who reside in Monarch, Ntshe and Donga said the products are unpalatable in

taste unlike the ones they normally buy for themselves. Some of the rejected products include *Uncle Sam Rice*, *Al milk*, *Maatla* and *Noko Mealie-Meal*. To

them, such "inferior quality food is a sign of disrespect."
Some of the rejected products include *Uncle Sam Rice*, *Al milk*, *Maatla* and *Noko Mealie-Meal*. To them, such "inferior quality food is a sign of disrespect."

They said government should only supply preferred food products like *Tastic Rice*, *Super Al Maize-Meal* and *Ultra Milk*.
In confirmation, Monarch North Councillor Gopolang Almando said a few households raised such complaints at first, but the complaints have since skyrocketed. "Almost 50 households have complained," he said.
Almando said they feel belittled by the City Council to condone procurement of the cheapest available food by suppliers so they

could maximise profit, to their detriment. He said beneficiaries feel that with the set budget, the Council should have set quality standards.
"However, I am impressed because when I took the complaints to the Council, it reacted and promised to replace the rejected products with preferred brands," Almando told *The Botswana Gazette* in an interview.
By press time FCC Town Clerk Lopang Pule was yet to neither respond to questions sent to him nor answer calls.



Back To School! Back To Normal Or A New Normal

POTLAKE BOGATSU

The novel Coronavirus is not only attacking the health of many around the world, nor economies of nations it is also going after the education systems of schools everywhere. What does this mean for school going children, and the informal sector that is pivoted by running schools?

Coronavirus demands that we as a people adhere to social distancing rules. Naturally when school going children (especially those in the lower classes) meet at times such as tea break and playtime this will be a mammoth task because part of their lives are made up of interacting with other children and games that compel them to touch each other. When friends meet on the reopening day they will hug each other as a humane sign of missing somebody and showing love.

Moreover for a while now in Botswana it has been a norm for a classroom to have over 40 children especially in senior secondary classes. There are just too many children in a class to tell them to adhere to the 1 meter rule. Dividing the classes in half and dividing the teaching time in half to cater for both sets of children may become strain the teacher. The ventilation system in place in government schools is close to non-existent but ventilation and the supply of adequate fresh/ clean air is pivotal in a time like this.

When schools do reopen will it mean that the next time they will see a school vacation will be in 2021? Is a child's brain wired and mentally strong to go many months without a time out? Or will the powers that be just be interested in ensuring that exam timetables are met?

If schools do reopen does this also mean that the special unit classes in government schools will reopen? Is the teacher student ratio in those classes enough to ensure that students who need special attention will get it, will there be adequate measures in place so that issues of social distancing and hand sanitizing are practiced.

Reopening of schools will mean that transportation businesses are operating again. Will there be laws in place that will govern how many people climb those combi's and taxis? If so would that mean that their prices will skyrocket as to ensure that their businesses will make profits and not losses. Will the government subsidize that increment in price because post corona many people especially those in the informal sector will have a mammoth task of making money and getting back on their feet. Also when schools reopen will that mean that those that sell food in front of schools will be allowed to.

There are people that make a living by selling in front of schools.

When schools reopen will they

be welcomed to do so or in an effort to discourage large numbers of people gathering will they not be allowed to be there. If they aren't allowed to be there how will they make a living? If they are allowed then there needs to be rules in place to ensure that they will not be catalysts of the coronavirus.

Schools cannot go back to their normal business. Especially with coronavirus still out there. Opening schools will mean that in a way the economy will be reopened. The transportation business also means that other smaller businesses open which means that larger numbers of people are out in the streets.

Will the demand for proper and safe face masks be met, coupled with the ever rising demand of hand sanitizers which don't come at the price of an arm and a leg? Issues of mental health also need to be looked at. Parents are under immense pressure.

Landlords will rightfully want their money amidst other strenuous issues. Some have lost loved ones and could not go bury them because of the travel ban. Others need more money to provide that comfortable life for their children and they have no place to vent out their fears. These are what parent of school going children will be faced with. Perhaps a system should be in place to offer them emotional support because if they crumble it will surely affect their child in their learning endeavors.

How the lockdown Inspired Moemba's Tracking Device

POTLAKE BOGATSU

The Coronavirus has changed the norm. We are all adapting to a new way of living that we are not accustomed to. People all over the world are compelled to stay indoors until the situation has improved.

As most of us contend with our 'confinement,' a 32-year old Motswana named Amogelang Moemba who holds a degree in Telecommunications Engineering and works for the Botswana Bureau of Standards has tasked himself with making contact tracing easier by means of technology.

As most of us contend with our 'confinement,' a 32-year old Motswana named Amogelang Moemba who holds a degree in Telecommunications Engineering and works for the Botswana Bureau of Standards has tasked himself with making contact tracing easier by means of technology. Moemba's CovidCare application is the answer to some

of the Ministry of Health's problems.

In a Whatsapp interview with *The Botswana Gazette*, he explained how he was motivated to create this mobile application after seeing how problems that the Ministry of Health faces with contact tracing and learning that some people in self-quarantine were sneaking out of their stations. To curb such reckless - and potentially dangerous - behaviour is how Moemba's tracking device came into being, especially that people cannot remember everybody that they came into contact with.

The CovidCare application works by being installed on a given person first. The person then switches on their location before entering it their COVID-19 status. From there the application will record all the locations of the person. When someone later tests positive and they have been within a two-meter radius of the person in the past 14 days, Moemba's app will alert the person (the names of the positive person will not be revealed).

The innovative engineer hopes that his application will help in tracking people and thus enhance protection of Botswana against the rampant virus. He also hopes the app will attract the interest of organizations like Botswana Innovation Hub.

Moemba says his app will be available on Google play store in due course, and he hopes that organizations like the Botswana Innovation Hub.

Black and Raising Daughte

When his daughter was born seven years ago poet and journalist **TSHIRELETSO MOTLOGELWA** recalls the birth of his son this time he felt different. A sense of dread and even vulnerability engulfed him to a point that reveals the very heart of patriarchy and the threat it holds above women, especially, black women

It is March 2013. There in my throat a lump is bulging with a sudden aggression. We are now above the Australian metropolis Sydney and the captain lets the metallic bird slow down to an almost complete stop. It is a moment before we plunge. In the meantime the Queen of Soul Aretha Franklin assails my being. We are at the very last few minutes of a 12 hour haul from OR Tambo International Airport, and now the entire jet goes dead quiet as if pondering the onerous task of plunging down to the paraphernalia of a cityscape below. Anytime soon we will become weightless as we make for the sunset-red drenched city. The lump gets thicker. I am landing on Australia's biggest city on my way to Brisbane, my wife's home town, to see my new born daughter Azania for the first, a week after her birth. When she was born, I had been in Botswana, awaiting my VISA which had been delayed. You see, with the Australians you have to work hard for your visa if you are like me. And now in a matter of three hours I would hold in my arms one of the most precious people in my life. It should have been a moment of celebration even in that plane, but a bleakness insisted on accompanying me that whole week preceding the flight since I had arrived. A sense of dread that at the time I could not decipher.

The week before I had called my friends, writers Joel Konopo and Oteng Chilume, and had told them it would have been great to procure a gun. A statement we took with the usual laughter amidst that macho camaraderie. When I confessed to being father to a daughter, Lawrence Seretse gave a more direct answer, "Get it comrade", he then took a sip of his drink.

Now I am about to see my newborn woman and both dread and fear start to express themselves, more fear now. I promise I was fine until Aretha Franklin's terrified whine pierced my ears, as she now took a chokehold of the bridge of the Paul Simon-written hymn Bridge Over Troubled Water. The first minute she just almost cajoles the song, and lets it simmer, led by the keyboard, drums and that menacing organ turned it into an emotional hit job on my masculine calmness. Her voice in conjunction with the city below with the Opera House as it emerged from the blood-red

waters around it, the weightlessness was forcing the lump up my throat by now. I am not going to cry! No, you are! No I won't. You are. I am not, *monna*. Am I?

Like Brenda Fassie, Aretha provides a perfect outlet for the bleakness and beauty that is black womanhood, the terror, torture and bliss all rolled into one. I am saying that now but it is in retrospect.

I was fighting that lump. I had fought such lumps before like when we buried my cousin and I was not going to lose to it. Like every African man raised in the rigours of proper African masculinity, I fought the lump. Swallowing it. But the lump was not moving. It was like a stubborn rat, gaining size and strategic movement now between throat and eyes. The lump, whenever it moved an inch up the throat, maybe from the oesophagus towards the actual mouth, placed pressure on the eyes. The eyes threatened to bulge and the dam walls were going to burst. I tried to swallow that thing.

Sitting on economy class strapped to the chair, I had to ask the lady next to me to make way, so I rushed to the toilet. Meanwhile 'Retha was wailing in my ears, all the way to the toilet. I yanked the door, shut it, shut the lid, sat on it and let the lump express itself. I sat there my head in my hands, tears all over the floor. I should have been celebrating. I should have made the air-crew announce to my fellow passengers that I was the proud father of a daughter. We would have toasted our economy class champagnes and maybe sang a chorus. But here I was landing an hour away from her and a moment of celebration had turned into sorrow. Why was Retha doing this to my moment of welcoming my daughter?

A week earlier I had sat down with a sharp minded friend of mine attempting to decipher his own predicament - when his daughter was born, he had confessed that he had the same sneaky feeling to buy a gun too. A double barrel one he said. So over *mokwetjepe* and *phaleche* we were attempting to understand this phenomenon.

Why was he so terrified? And why was I so emotional? After cleaning the toilet I staggered my way back to my chair. We recently celebrated her birthday and I still had not found my way

around the conundrum engulfing me. It only hit me these past few weeks as lockdown forces us into introspection that only prisoners get to experience. Then it hit me, I was sad because of what bringing a woman into this world meant for her and in turn for me too. It is a capitalist world made for men, especially men of a fairer tone.

For the first time I was facing the full spectre of a black woman's existence and experience with all its related pitfalls, from racism to patriarchy to poverty. It is the temporary vulnerability a black male feels on behalf of his black daughter, says my feminist friend Tjipo Loeto. That terror encounters me in the form of deep sadness that masquerades as a macho sense of physical presence - a gun, preferably one with a double barrel. Therein lies the crux of the matter.

Malcom X once asserted that a negro could not claim American citizenship. Not to the full extent of what that lofty concept and its applications in real life entailed. In a way the firebrand civil rights man was making a point that blackness follows you. You encounter it not just in the streets of New York, where Eric Garner met it in the form of a 15 second chokehold by a police officer of State Island Police Department on July 2014, or if you are a South African black, in the form of a Nobel Laureate FW De Klerk letter dismissing the labelling of Apartheid as a crime against humanity. The outrage, as exemplified by TV Presenter Tabane's 8 minute rant against the entire episode and what it signified. The re-awakening of the pains of blackness in South Africa.

I myself encounter it in airports where random searches often point to me from a long queue. You never know how 'random' those searches are until you pass western capital airports often, it's a random custom randomised to pick the black man. We may be black but at least we are men, and that can be consolation, because this capitalist western-led world, is a "man's", as the King of Soul James Brown would put it.

But if blackness is a burden what if it is laced with yet another layer of permanent misfortune - female-hood? Women live a miserable life overall except in the most progressive of countries. But even where they live slightly

Loeto says something more profound, she says my fear is also self obsessed in that I seemed to only care about women because I have one myself. "It need not take a man having a daughter to appreciate that women are human beings.



ers in a Brutal Men's World

s he had strange feelings. Rather than the elation and even sudden shot of macho energy he felt at the
t of wishing he could procure a double barrel gun. After nearly a decade he has discovered why, and it

better than others, they are never away from the truth, this world was made for men, white men. All this has started to make sense.

Just a month ago this was brought to sharp relief here in Australia. Hannah Baxter, a Brisbane woman, died in hospital after her husband Rowan Baxter put her and their children in a car, and doused the vehicle with petrol and set them on fire. The three kids died, she survived. Only for a few days after.

On July 2018 in Block 3 Gaborone, a young man took his girlfriend, Elizabeth Bonolo Ker-ekang, killed her and severed her head off. Her distraught family had to bury the body without the head with police officers unable to locate it in time for the funeral. A young man was later arraigned for the murder. In Botswana nearly 100 women are killed every year, by their partners or purported partners. It has come to a point where a news story of a so-called passion killing raises public interest except maybe in the details of the gore found at the scene. Writer Ngozi Chukura says even the use of the word passion killing is apologism. As if the perpetrator is possessed by some outer spirit to commit murder. In a way the reporters, help manage the narrative, and indeed defend toxic masculinity and rape culture by normalising it.

Globally up to 70 per cent of murder cases against women are accounted for by partner perpetrated killings.

So there is my problem, for a minute I am a black woman, at least on behalf of my 2 week old daughter and the pain is unbearable. My father has a theory, he says we men are cowards; women are made of solid material. I agree with him, I have watched my wife go through labour once and I have been traumatised ever since. But if women are strong, you have to imagine how strong black women have to be just to exist in this world. And therein lies my fear too, that this little girl here, would need to possess that Herculean strength just to remain alive, and I am sad for her because no human being has to go through that just to be.

Tjipo says my tears were based on something even more sinister, "You know that you men are dogs", she says bluntly. I agree. My fear is the fear of men. In a way my sadness is from the fact

that she faces the prospect of meeting men, men not unlike me. This got me thinking. In a way my resorting to violence expresses the same violence that younger men seek to solve a problem. In a way I am another man who, feels in possession of yet another woman, and indeed is prepared to exert violence to express that possession of her. Its one side of the passion killing dynamic.

One winter morning at Mmegi newspaper, a decade ago, we hung around the newsroom to chitchat with the reporters just after our planning meeting. Planning meetings made for sobering experiences as we went through all leads from various reporters, and the gory underbelly of our society reveals itself in the tales of rape and murder of women, billions siphoned off by the elite almost exclusively male. So often, perhaps to debrief, we would chat over tea to cool off after the trauma of planning meetings. As we were chatting my then Editor revealed that his biggest worry was that he is raising his daughter the best way he can, but it just may be that he is raising her for a brute to one evening just slap her over a trivial matter. He says that gave him dread. So the fear for our daughters is not from extreme love per se, but rather from the realisation that it is a brutal world we men have created for women, especially the African women we are bringing into this world. And by bringing them into this world, we are handing them over to the brutes that we men are. But Loeto says something more profound, she says my fear is also self obsessed in that I seemed to only care about women because I have one myself. "It need not take a man having a daughter to appreciate that women are human beings. Women are people in their own right, you don't need a daughter to know that and in fact to be concerned about the position of women" she argues. I agree with her, in fact the very creation of Mary in the religion of Christianity points to this bias, only she is celebrated. She is the only major female character in the entire Bible. And her claim to fame, is her having mothered Jesus, a man who is at the heart of the entire religion. Loeto says that's problematic, it means ultimately by having such care for the women we bring to this world, we are further expressing patriarchy, rather than

that somehow gain insight into it. And it is that very ownership of my daughter that expresses itself in my ownership of other women in my life. There is a short distance between that and so-called passion killings. It is often called toxic masculinity; the idea that I own everything and everyone around, women children and cattle (as Batswana men were indoctrinated growing up).

A few weeks ago on my daughter's birthday I took a minute to listen to my favourite album, soul star Mpho Sebina's Neo. She has a song called Tjuele, which borrows heavily from a Setswana folk tale of the same title. The story is about a young girl who wouldn't listen to her parents' advice and ended up paying the ultimate price of being abducted by giants. It features the flawed man of Botswana music, the irrepressible ATI. There are two versions of that song; one is recorded in Mpho Sebina's debut album. Sebina did a music video of the track and quite wisely left ATI out of it, and in there enacts a mother cuddling her young daughter. There they are, these two Batswana women, just holding each other, one the mother

and the other a daughter. There is vulnerability from the mother's caring grasp, but there is determination too. But ATI, perhaps the closest to a 2Pac character that Botswana ever got, released another version of the same song in his seminal release Envelope which I discovered later. ATI lets Sebina cajole that motherly sensibility and maternal dread out of the song. And for the moment you think ATI will leave it at that. But just when you thought the song is done, ATI adds, a gruffy almost adlib at the end, where completely confessional he takes the position of a man in regret as if he were a criminal about to hang for his sins.

He adlibs over it, almost guttural in his delivery and ends with the line, "Ke ne ke sa reetse batsadi / living life faster than the speed of sound". There is something very poignant about that moment in the song, in a way ATI, perhaps inadvertently, confirms the basis of the dread underpinning the song. That it is us men like him, and myself, who have created this world into which women have to live. And often die. That is what my tears were about.



Mitigating Risks In The Current Industry Crisis: The Actions Oil Sector Companies Need To Take

From page 25



The budgets of countries like Nigeria, Equatorial Guinea and Angola have been made mostly impractical and with annual budgetary goals now unachievable due to these unprecedented events. Nigeria, the continent's most populous country and its largest oil producer, is expected to cut its 2020 national budget

by \$4.9 billion. That budget was prepared based on the estimation of crude prices at \$57/barrel. With the Brent price at slightly over \$20 today, the country is most probably headed towards a recession, absent quick and miraculous interventions like the discovery of a COVID-19 vaccine.

As more countries remain locked down and businesses remain shut because of the pandemic, the demand for oil will remain low, leaving prices equally low. The continuing disruption in the industry distribution chain and the businesses of international oil and gas companies which the African oil market relies heavily on has caused a direct and immediate impact on the local market. Oil and gas producers and service companies from Port Harcourt, Luanda to Juba and emerging producers like Senegal and Mozambique are now faced with a myriad of financial and legal issues. Oil projects have either been suspended, like in the case of BP which issued a force majeure notice to delay taking delivery of the LNG facility for the African Tortue Ahmeyim project in Senegal; or simply terminated like the Tullow Deepwater drillship contract in Ghana.

It is now critical for companies operating in the African oil and gas sector to assess the impact of the pandemic and industry disruptions on their local operations and contractual obligations. With no end in sight, companies need to consider and take all necessary actions to mitigate all associated risks.

I have identified below some crucial issues relating to contracts and local operations.

Contracts (including Production Sharing, Joint Venture, Service and other Financing Contracts)

With the pandemic and oil price crash likely to cause some countries and businesses to suffer great financial challenges, there may be a need for oil producing governments to reconsider their position under oil contracts. International Oil Companies (IOCs) and foreign service companies may also be unable to meet their

capital spending commitments. Potential production cuts and reduced demand could affect their ability to meet up with repayment obligations under financing instruments. Consequently, it is possible that parties will seek to terminate or renegotiate existing contracts. Companies should consider their position and begin to prepare for this possibility.

Key considerations when renegotiating the contracts during this period:

Both parties' capacity to fulfil capex commitments in joint venture or production sharing contracts;

- Crude prices and global demand for crude which will affect future receivables;
- Ability to obtain other financing post covid-19;
- Political and economic stability in host country;
- Any changes in law that affect the stability of the current contract;
- Local content obligations; and
- The opportunity cost of the deal.

Another set of contracts that may be affected are those with Independent contractors and service providers. With the mandatory shutdown of business across sectors, subcontractors may be unable to deliver on their contracts commitments and obligations. It is important to review all contracts and confirm the conditions of these contractors. This will prepare the company to implement necessary measures to cushion any defaults until such a time that specific contractual remedies can be sought.

Tax implications and reliefs

Despite the negative impact of the pandemic and falling crude prices on company operations and finances, companies in the sector still have huge tax obligations to the government

which must be fulfilled. Some countries are currently offering tax reliefs and fiscal packages to companies to mitigate any adverse economic impacts

It is important that companies determine their eligibility for these reliefs. For example, the government of Equatorial Guinea has granted some tax reliefs which include a reduction in the minimum income tax from 3% to 1.5%. However, this relief does not currently apply to companies in the oil and gas sector. Other governments have provided some extension for tax payments. It is likely that governments may offer specific reliefs and tax exemptions to oil and gas companies going forward if the industry woes continue.

Force Majeure Provisions

An issue may arise where a party is unable to fulfil its contractual obligations. In such an instance, the company may find some reprieve in the force majeure provision. Force Majeure relieves a party from liability for non-performance under a contract and it generally refers to the occurrence of an event which is outside the control of the party affected by such event and which prevents that party from performing its obligations under the contract. It is usually provided in and interpreted according to the agreement. Force majeure will never be implied into an agreement. So, the definition of force majeure, the events that constitute the force majeure, the effects of the force majeure on the contract (including suspension of any obligations or eventual right to terminate) and the procedure to report a force majeure event to the other party are very important to consider when trying to determine whether a party may be able to take advantage of this provision and to what extent it can be used.

With the impact of the pandemic on operations, it comes as no surprise that several companies in the industry have already declared force majeure. Tower Resources declared force majeure on its Thali offshore Cameroon license for instance, and BP sent a notice of force majeure to Golar LNG seeking to delay the receipt of the Gimi FLNG facility. Shell which was lauded for ground-breaking success at Forcados, Nigeria, had also declared force majeure after the closure of its pipelines. However, the force majeure has since been lifted and the Forcados Oil Pipeline system, the second largest in the Niger Delta, has been reopened. Should the current situation persist, it is likely that more companies will look to suspend their obligations using force majeure clauses.

Oil and gas companies

must review their contracts, including PSCs and services contracts, to determine whether they can suspend their obligations under the force majeure clause and which obligations can be suspended during the pendency of the force majeure event. It is important to note that while some force majeure clauses permit the suspension of all obligations, others only cover the suspension of non-monetary obligations.

Employment and Employee Safety

At this crucial period, companies may face challenges with maintaining their staff on ground and ensuring that adequate levels of health and safety measures are always provided. Companies must consider the current employment regulations and measures applicable in their countries of operation and ensure strict compliance. It may be illegal to terminate employment contracts at this point as is the case in Senegal. The company could consider the option of furlough but in countries such as Gabon, the approval of the work inspection will be required for this.

It becomes prudent to discuss with labour experts in the country and closely monitor the proclamations of the authorities for any changes in laws or regulations affecting labour.

In countries where there is no lockdown and businesses are still in operation, the company must ensure that adequate COVID-19 policies and health measures are put in place to protect the employees. The protection of workers in the workplace during this period cannot be overemphasized. Some countries have swiftly adopted health and safety laws/regulations to deal with the spread of the pandemic. These laws may be applicable in workplaces. The company needs to consider these provisions and effectively implement them. Countries such as Equatorial Guinea have issued specific COVID-19 work policies to ensure the safety of workers. Companies are therefore advised to adopt protocols that, at the minimum, comply with the government prescribed policy.

The world will continue to deal with the adverse economic impact of this pandemic and the declining crude price for years to come. Certainly, many aspects of our lives and how we do business will never remain the same. Africa will be heavily impacted by this incident and will require radical government responses to push through. African oil and gas players ought to carefully assess the situation and take the necessary steps to alleviate the short- and long-term effects on their operations.

How Nike's Re-Release Strategy Can Inspire a Comeback for Local Brands

From Page 24

again because of the memories the return of the clothing brands would bring.

If the local brands can take a page out of Nike's playbook and use the re-release and Emotional Appeal strategy they could make grand comebacks. If the comebacks of FILA, FUBU and Champion are anything to go by, fashion brands never really die, they just hibernate. Bringing back classics and retro wear is a tactic that has worked wonders for the likes of FUBU, FILA and Champion while Nike has also done the same through Jordan brand as well.

Although times have changed, the impact of local brands like Odipeca will never be forgotten, the brands came at a time when international brands were still the favourite clothing choices for locals.

However, in today's market, the locals appreciate and even support their own brands a lot more than

they did in the past, the way Botswana have embraced their own clothing products has even led to high profile celebrities such as Idols presenter and rap star Proverb donning brands such as Collections by BK Proctor and Go Hard Clothing. With more Botswana supporting their home produced brands, international celebrities are often curious about the brands and end up wanting in on the action as well when they come to Botswana.

There is also a huge platform offered by social media sites such as Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and Whatsapp to spread the word a lot wider. Social media is not only an exposure tool, it is also a cost cutting advertising platform which many of the retro brands in Botswana never had in the past. The cost of resuscitating clothing labels may be a challenge but the risk is worth taking given the change of the fashion landscape in country.

Bakwadi Is Not Despairing Of His Olympic Qualification Dream

- Says he still aims at becoming the first Motswana karateka to qualify for the Games
- Is hard in training under lockdown at home

TLOTLO KEBINAKGABO —

Former African Kata champion Ofentse Bakwadi says he is using the current extreme social distancing period to sharpen his skills because he determined to achieve his dream of being the first Motswana karateka to qualify for the Olympics.

To make sure he achieves his dream, Bakwadi is currently hard in training by himself in the comfort of his home. This happens at a time when most countries around the world, including Botswana, are restricting people's movements under lockdown regimes that have so far always been extended in order to curb the spread of the deadly virus. The restrictions have made it difficult for athletes like Bakwadi to be in their best shape.

"The situation is really difficult for me but I cannot afford to curl up in a corner and snivel," he asserted in avtelephonic interview. "That is not an option because I do not want ringer rusty. I need to be in ship shape and be ready to pick up from where I left after this virus." But the 35-year old karateka admitted to this publication that the pandemic has turned his Tokyo qualification dream upside down as he had three important events to participate in that

have since been cancelled due to it.

'Shaykex,' as Bakwadi is otherwise known, nevertheless noted that he will never let anything get in his way to becoming the first local karateka to qualify for the Olympics. "That is why I am working hard with all these physical workouts and technical training," he noted. "This I do all by myself at home. I have been very consistent and am happy with my progress so far."

Like other mass sporting events around the world, the Tokyo Olympics have been postponed from this year to next year on account of the Coronavirus much to the chagrin of Blessing, who is one among Botswana rare Olympic hopes.

This is the karateka who has established himself as a brand in local and continental karate circles. He is the two-time Botswana National Sports Commission (BNSC) Sportsman of The Year and the country's youngest fifth dan Black belt holder. Among his popular continental achievements, Bakwadi was crowned the 2017 Union Federation of Africa Karate (UFAK) Championships kata champion and won two bronze medals at the same competition in 2019. He also attained two bronze medals in individual and team kata at the 2019 African Games.



'Football Is Arguably Not Even A Business In Botswana'

This is the view of top notch coaches of lower league teams Masitaoka and Peace Makers. Driven to despondency because of current uncertainty in football, Nelson Olebile and Rebagamang Keimetswe are worried by the psychological effect that the indefinite suspension of football and the silence of authorities could be having on their players

MOLEFHI KANNEMEYER OBENNE —

On the 4 May 2020, we no longer treat COVID-19 as a bolt from the blue. Everyone is aware of it, its challenges, spontaneity and severity. The pandemic has adversely affected our football. And though we say football is a big business, is it really a big business in Botswana?

Simon Kuper and Stefan Szymanski, who are authors of a book titled Socceronomics, write in it: "William McGregor, the Scottish draper who founded the English Football League in 1888, was probably the first person to describe soccer as "big business," but the phrase has since become one of the game's great clichés. In fact, McGregor was wrong. Soccer is neither big business nor good business. It arguably isn't even business at all."

I'm obliged and circumscribed to unreservedly agree with Kuper and Szymanski that football is neither good nor big business in Botswana. If it was, we could have seen regular updates about our football status amid COVID-19. The leagues have been stopped owing to the lockdown and the State of Emergency (SOE). Well and good, but since "football is a business," what are we saying about our business? Clearly it's not. Teams are in limbo and don't know what tomorrow holds for them.

During an interview with Rebagamang 'Santana' Keimetswe, who is the head coach of Selibe-Phikwe Region Division 1 league run away log leaders Peace Makers, it came light that he is pained because they were on course to win the league when football was abruptly stopped due to COVID 19 and they don't know what to say to their players any more. "It's very tough for us to motivate players," he said. "I also need to be motivated. I try but sometimes I end up wondering what am I saying to these boys." As a matter of fact, Keimetswe believes that he himself needs counselling.

At Masitaoka, Nelson Olebile was just as despondent. "We also feel for the football leadership in our country," said the head coach of the team that is at apex of the Debswana First Division League North League and was on the cusp of gaining promotion to the Premier League. "Make no mistake about it, this is a difficult period for everyone. But as coaches and club management, it is difficult for us to guide our players since nothing is being said by the league secretariat or regional leadership. We can't make proper plans for our teams."

At this uncertain juncture, I am impelled to say that our football during lockdown and SOE appears to be on autopilot. During the whole month of April, the custodians of the game in our country haven't said anything about the situation or what is their plan for our football is.

In his book titled "10 Critical Psy-

chology Concepts For Coaches," Michael Loftman, a UEFA B licence holder and Master of Science in Sports degree holder, has written: "Autopilot system mainly functions within the amygdala, corresponds to our emotions and habits." Clearly during the pandemic everyone is emotional. Unfortunately, though, as football leadership, we have emotionally kept quiet because we believe everything and everyone is emotionally affected and is drowning in the sorrows. It is our habitual way of thinking to assume that when we are in trouble we should keep quiet and allow the situation to take care of itself. Hence I reiterate Kuper and Szymanski's sentiments that our football "arguably isn't even business at all". We emotionally kept quiet to nurse our emotions and forget that we need to guide football. Loftman has noted: "Autopilot system is there to help us make quick decisions when under pressure or in danger. It is the system that was developed earlier on in the evolution process, and can be compared to the system animals use to meet the requirements of their environment." Indeed we only respond to what we see and feel instantly - not the future.

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This kind of thinking entrenched in our football but it is deeply hurtful. According to coach Keimetswe, they had to send players back to their families because they are not sure when the situation will be back to normal. "The team is funded by an individual who is also affected by the situation financially," he noted. "We can't afford to pay players' wages and rent. The players are already crying because they are struggling with no food and other necessities and amenities that they are used to."

OleBILE, who holds a CAF B licence, picks up the cue: "There is a lot of uncertainty about whether we will come back," he points out. "We were almost

there. We need some assurance to say when are we coming back or that we are not coming back so we can make an alternative plan. We know that the leadership is not in control because it's a health issue and the quietness has hit is badly."

If football was a business in Botswana, a definite plan would have been devised by now. Loftman has deliberated on another way of thinking called the intentional system that mainly functions around the prefrontal cortex and corresponds to our rational and logical thinking. Clearly, if football were a business in Botswana, stakeholders would often be kept up to date with a clear path and goals in mind.

"It is believed that this system has been developed in more recent years to help humans deal with the complex demands of modern-day society," says Loftman. "However, this system takes far more conscious effort and energy to function, making it the system which we use far less of the time, but it can be used to make more complex decisions." Our football should wake up and smell the coffee. We need to be relevant, guide football and demonstrate to the public that we care about players, coaches, sponsors and supporters. All these people need an inclusive approach and should be kept up to date about the position of our Association. Keeping quiet is a painful negligence to this complex system which has all these stakeholders longing to be led and guided.

"It is difficult to motivate players over the phone without seeing them physically, to always say, 'let's remain hopeful' but for how long? Imagine since the 18th of March, saying to them, it will get better but the clock is ticking and with no communication from the authorities to support our words is difficult," concluded Olebile who says this is not only affecting his club but all the other teams and coaches in Botswana.

Chris Bullock, a football director at Kick4Life in Lesotho, he had this to say: "I can definitely say also in Lesotho football is not a business. It is impossible to make money from football in Lesotho. People aren't planning how to weather the storm. They sit and wait for information and see how much they lose, see at the end of the month how much they need to reduce salaries by because they aren't getting match day revenue or their sponsor will only decide at the end of the month if they can afford to cover salaries of the team. That's not a business! But there is an argument that football isn't actually a business at all anywhere. What successful industries have a majority of their companies losing hundreds of millions in order to be successful? What is success to a football club? Success in football is viewed a lot differently to success in business. What conventional businesses make day to day decisions based on the emotions of those running the businesses and of the customers (fans)?"

With total calmness of my mind, football is not a big nor good business.



"The players were paid their April salaries from the team's account but we are not sure about the end of May."

Suspension Of Football May Be A Blessing In Disguise For CAF Campaigners

Because honouring CAF fixtures is costly, an extended suspension could be what local clubs need to raise the necessary money

BONGANI MALUNGA

While the COVID-19 pandemic has led to total inactivity in football, it could also be a blessing in disguise for local clubs that were set to participate in CAF competitions if the suspension of football activities continues. Participating in CAF competitions requires clubs to spend money in terms of flights, meals and accommodation. Clubs are also required to pay accommodation for match officials during home games. Such expenditures often go past P500 000 for two or more away trips. As teams progress further, the expenditure grows in corresponding proportion.

With clubs unable to generate income during this trying COVID times, they would struggle to mobilise the necessary funds for their continental trips for the season that would be due but for the suspension. Numerous clubs depend on funding from their sponsors or partners but the devastating effect of COVID-19 has seen a lot of businesses taking a hit. This could affect their ability to consistently provide assistance to football clubs around the country.

With no gate takings, clubs are currently undergoing a trying spell. With discussions about restarting the sea-

son currently ongoing, clubs are also aware of the possibility of a period when supporters might be paranoid about their safety when attending matches. The paranoia might lead to less attendance than before and this would hurt the clubs' pockets, especially clubs aspiring to participate in the CAF club competitions (which require a lot of money).

"It is quite expensive to participate in the CAF competitions. However, it depends on the distance we have to cover. If we face teams in Swaziland, Lesotho or South Africa, the cost is reasonable. Not cheap but reasonable."

Jwaneng Galaxy Public Relations Officer, Tankiso Morake, told *Gazette Sport* that participating in continental competitions is expensive for local clubs but also stressed that it depends

on the host country.

"It is quite expensive to participate in the CAF competitions. However, it depends on the distance we have to cover. If we face teams in Swaziland, Lesotho or South Africa, the cost is reasonable. Not cheap but reasonable. Usually, teams provide us with accommodation and we return the favour when we host them. In some cases, teams book unfavourable accommodation to unsettle us. So it is important for us to dispatch a two-man delegation to look for a favourable place to help us budget well. It would cost roughly more than P300 000 for the first few rounds of the competition. But it is advisable for teams to have a budget of just over P500 000 in case they go further in the competition," Morake stated.

The rescheduling and postponement of these competitions could give local clubs more time to source funds to enable them to honour their CAF Champions League and CAF Confederation Cup fixtures.

History suggests that it is almost impossible for clubs to fund themselves when participating in such competitions. The state of businesses during the post COVID-19 era will determine whether or not Botswana's clubs can continue to represent the nation in the CAF competitions.

Top Clubs Paid Full April Salaries

Mining town sides and institutional clubs so far unaffected by lockdown

TLOTLO KEBINAKGABO

The country's leading clubs, among them Jwaneng Galaxy, Orapa United and Gaborone United (GU), paid full salaries to their players at the end of April, *Gazette Sport* has established.

This is in spite of football being at a standstill around the world, thanks to the COVID-19 pandemic. The advent of the rampant virus around the world, including in neighboring South Africa, has seen teams slash their players' salaries.

Speaking in an interview with *Gazette Sport*, GU's financier Nicholas Zakhem said gatetakings were not the sole source funding for his top flight club. "I take care of the finances of the club as I have a commitment to GU and the players," Zakhem said, noting that the wage bill for GU stands at around P300 000 per month. "We will pay until we get assistance from the BFA or the government," he added.

At Jwaneng Galaxy, the club's mouthpiece, Tankiso Morake, was happy that the players were paid their salaries in full last month but was worried about sustainability. "The players were paid their April salaries from the team's account but we are not sure about the end of May," Morake said. His counterpart at another mining town side, Kabo William of Orapa United, confirmed that all "Ostriches," as the team is affectionately known, were fully paid their dues at the end of April.

Jwaneng Galaxy and Orapa United enjoy the financial backing of the country's richest diamond mining company, Debswana. *Gazette Sport* understands that institutional teams, BDF XI and Police XI, also paid their players fully at the end of April.

Meanwhile, BFA spokesperson Tumo Mpatane has told this publication that they did not aid teams with end of April salaries because their relief fund has no money. "We are yet to receive money from FIFA or the government," Mpatane said in an interview.

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Rollers Players Reject 50% Pay Cut

Players reference short notice for their refusal

TLOTLO KEBINAKGABO

Township Rollers players have refused a 50 percent pay cut on their end of April salaries that managers of the top flight club are presenting as a cost cutting measure imposed by COVID-19, *Gazette Sport* has established.

Due to the pandemic, football around the world has been brought to a standstill, resulting in financial stress for clubs and adoption of cost cutting strategies that include reduction of salaries by many.

However, players of Gaborone side Township Rollers have cited short notice for firmly rejecting halving their salaries. "They even wrote a letter to BFA president (Macleane Letshwiti) to intervene in the matter," a source close to the club told this publication.

This was confirmed by Rollers president Jagdish Shah when he was contacted by *Gazette Sport*.

"They thought that we were joking when we told them (at the end of March) that we are going to give them half salaries at the end of April,

"They thought that we were joking when we told them (at the end of March) that we are going to give them half salaries at the end of April," Shah said. "Now they say they cannot afford to get pay cuts as they did not save accordingly."

Shah added that they are still in discussions with players to see what can be done to map out a way forward. "They

will be paid as soon as we have reached an agreement," he noted. "We will not let them suffer because we value them."

Shah said he expected the players to be credited their end of April salaries yesterday (Tuesday). Popa, as Rollers are otherwise known, enjoy the financial backing of tycoon Shah who owns many businesses, among them Jack's Gym, Zebra Net and H & G Advertising. He is also a shareholder in one of Botswana's biggest distribution companies, CA Sales. He told this publication in a previous interview this year that the club's monthly wage bill is between P350 000 and P400 000.

