

NEWS

Broke BDF forces soldiers into early retirement



The Botswana Defence Force (BDF) has apparently embarked on an exercise to retire soldiers who are five years away from retirement due to lack of funds – a move that is said to be resisted from the trenches.

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BUSINESS

De Beers closely monitoring key markets



While the diamond industry is trying to stage a comeback from a difficult trading environment, De Beers remains optimistic of a world post COVID-19, where consumers will once again clamour for its quality gems.

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SPORTS

President and Henchmen called out as Elective Assembly is called off

On Monday evening, Botswana Football Association (BFA) announced it had called off its long waited elective general assembly.

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Boko guilty of professional misconduct

■ LSB Disciplinary Committee fined UDC leader P17500 ■ Boko's failure to enter an appearance got his client default judgement ■ Firm's failure to apply for condonation resulted in client's property worth P280 000.00 being executed



Umbrella for Democratic Change (UDC) President Duma Boko

By Khonani Ontebetse

The Law Society of Botswana Disciplinary Committee (LSBDC) has found Umbrella for Democratic Change (UDC) President Duma Boko guilty of professional misconduct. According to documents seen by *The Telegraph* Boko, who was in 2011 the sole propriety/partner and principal at the law firm, was fined P3 500 for neglecting the affairs of his client one Alfred Koboyankwe. Boko, a former Law Society of Botswana chairperson, was also

fined P7000.00 for failure to attend Court on behalf of his client and another P7000.00 for failing to perform a professional work of a kind commonly performed by a practitioner with such a degree of skill as expected of him. The judgement against Boko was delivered by Lebogang Pillar of LSBDC and other members Tholoana Phooko and Thabiso Tafila agreed with her. According to the judgment despite being instructed, Boko & Company did not execute their mandate, in that the Attorneys never entered an appearance to defend. It states that as a result

of failure to enter an appearance, Koboyankwe got a default judgement on the 7th December 2011. Apparently, Boko attorneys failed to reverse the judgement and they also appealed the decision but out of time, Pillar found. She also stated that the attorneys did not seek or apply for condonation. "Failure to apply for condonation also resulted in the appeal being dismissed and the complainant's property worth P280 000. 00 was executed. Judgement in the sum of P426 772.60 was granted and further costs in the sum of P18 340.00 was levied against complainant," reads the judgement.

She said the Disciplinary Committee has on the 9th September 2014 found a prima facie case against Boko. "The letter communicating the decision is dated 22nd September 2014 and shows that such communication was received by Boko & Co on the 24th September 2014," said Pillar. She said such letter called upon Boko to answer in an affidavit the allegations levelled against him. "To date there has not been any response from Mr. Duma Boko, or any of his employees. The Disciplinary Committee therefore proceeds to finalise this

matter without any input from Boko," read the judgement. The Law Society's Disciplinary Committee also found that "the facts establish, without doubt, that Attorney Duma Boko and or his employees acted in a manner unbefitting or any attorney in that though instructed, the Attorney did not act on the mandate given to him by his client and never entered Appearance to Defend resulting in a default judgement being granted against their client," Pillar stated in her judgement. The Committee also noted with

CONTINUES ON PAGE 2

At least 31 frontline workers test positive for Covid-19

By Thobo Motlhoka

Director of Health Services Dr Malaki Tshipayagae has expressed concern over the increasing cases of infected COVID-19 frontline workers.

Speaking on Monday Tshipayagae said at least 31 frontline workers had already tested positive for the virus.

He said the surge in numbers

of positive cases involving health workers will have a negative impact on the government's efforts to contain the virus.

Those infected by the virus include nurses and staff providing cleaning services. Botswana has so far conducted almost 100, 000 tests. At least 54,400 tests were conducted at points of entry while 39,020 were conducted on locals.

Tshipayagae said there were 94 cases recorded between August 11 and 13 including 67 Batswana and 27 foreign nationals. Botswana cases stood at 427 with at least 288 active cases and 136 recovered. At least 881 cases involving foreign nationals were transferred back to their respective countries.

Tshipayagae also expressed concern that the virus was now beginning to spread across the

country with cases recorded in Mahalapye and Selebi Phikwe.

Gaborone remains the epicentre of the virus. The Health Services Director said failure by the general public to abide by the COVID-19 protocols remains the main cause of the spread citing illegal gatherings as well failure to wear face masks.

"This frustrates our efforts to curb the spread of the virus," he

said. Social gatherings are limited to only 50 participants. No inter zonal movements to attend these gatherings will be permitted. Testing will only be conducted on those inter zonal travellers coming from areas where contact tracing is ongoing."



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Former DIS boss Isaac Kgosi

Magistrate prescribes “Grandpa” in “headache” Kgosi case

By Mpho Keleboge

The State has claimed having a “headache” in a case of obstructing operations on duty by the former Directorate of Intelligence Services (DIS) boss Isaac Kgosi.

“My worship, we had a long meeting yesterday about this case and it is giving us a headache, hence our delay in serving Kgosi’s lawyer up to date. The case is really giving us a headache at the [Department of Public Prosecution] DPP,” said Moseki.

Principal Magistrate Gaseitsewe Tonoki of Broadhurst Court was not amused by the DPP’s line of defense and wondered why the prosecution couldn’t buy “Grandpa” tablets to relieve themselves from the “headache”.

Tonoki instructed the DPP to expedite the matter and stop using headache excuses.

When asked to say something Kgosi, who was representing himself, said his lawyers were not in court because they were not aware of the Administration of Justice decision on the matter especially that a lockdown was announced Thursday midnight.

Kgosi, through his lawyer Thabiso Tafilu, has demanded to be furnished with evidence especially the identities of DIS operatives and the pictures taken of them.

The former spy boss is accused of leaking to the media the identities of DIS operatives who were involved in a covert intelligence operation last year.

The state wants the matter to be committed for trial while defence lawyers are demanding more evidence before such can happen.

Appearing before the Broadhurst Magistrates Court on Friday State prosecutor Boikobo Moseki told the court that they have been unable to serve Kgosi with further particulars relating to “evidence” requested by Kgosi’s lawyer before the matter can be committed for trial.

In his affidavit, the Director of the Cyber Forensic Branch at the Botswana Police Service (BPS) headquarters Kealeboga Keediretse has exonerated the former spy boss from any wrong doing. But the state wants the matter to be committed for trial while the defense lawyers want the matter to be dismissed.

“Having performed my examinations, I have reached a conclusion that the devices (two iPhones) from Kgosi which were examined) expose nothing which I received for analysis do not contain any evidence in relation to this matter. There is no indication that they were used to take pictures,” said Keeditse.

According to the charge sheet, count number one of the offence is the prohibition of disclosure of identity. The particulars of the offence are that the accused person, Kgosi, between February 18 and 25, 2019 in Gaborone took photographs of officers as well as the identity cards of the officers engaged in a covert DIS operation. On count two, he is charged with obstructing officers and support staff.

Magistrate Tonoki deferred the matter to 27 August 2020 for status hearing.

Broke BDF forces soldiers into early retirement



The Botswana Defence Force

By Reuben Pitse

The Botswana Defence Force (BDF) has apparently embarked on an exercise to retire soldiers who are five years away from retirement due to lack of funds – a move that is said to be resisted from the trenches.

This publication has learnt that the Covid-19 pandemic has exacerbated the situation. Sources allege the BDF has served those without skills with letters ordering them to tender their retirement as the army has no funds. However, this publication is reliably informed that this has been met with resentment as some within the army

are questioning why they should retire when they are still left with four years of active service.

“We have loans that we took from commercial banks and who will pay for those loans? It is unfair and BDF wants to see us poor,” said one soldier on condition of anonymity, adding that soldiers are being driven into poverty which can be a security threat.

Responding to *The Telegraph* queries BDF spokesperson Colonel Tebo Dikole justified the lack of funds at the barracks saying the commander on the 20th of May 2020 issued a circular, informing members of such. He stated that in view of the novel coronavirus pandemic,

the financial markets worldwide have been under heightened pressure, volatility and uncertainty and were experiencing a downward performance for the first quarter of the year 2020. He said consequently negative returns were anticipated with reasonable certainty in both the short and medium term globally.

“The Botswana Public Officers Pension Fund (BPOPF) of which BDF is a member has a protection policy for its members who are left with three years or less of service before their compulsory retirement,” he said.

He indicated that the policy is meant safeguard the members’ accumulated pension

against adverse investment performance. He stated that it provides the option to opt for pre-retirement switching which is made available once a year between 01 October and 31 January therefore the actual pre-retirement switch takes effect on the 1st of April being the commencement of the fund financial year.

He further stated that it is against the above background that an exemption was accorded to all those members who opt to submit a request for an early retirement to do so in line with the section 13 {2}, of the BDF Act.

He poured scorn over allegations that the army has no funds.

Covid-19 fatigued revelers sojourn at Thamalakane river

By Basadi Morokotso

MAUN: North West District Council Chairman Kebareeditse Ntsogotho has expressed concern over a growing number of people who frequent places of entertainment along the banks of the Thamalakane river in Maun.

One such place which is flocked by revelers is the renowned Matlapana Beach along the way to Moremi Game Reserve which receives hundreds of people from all spheres especially during weekends on various missions.

Boat cruising or mokoro rides are reeling from the aftermath of COVID 19.

He noted that despite efforts by government to help contain the disease, there are a lot of people who still do as they wish whenever they like, thus putting the lives of innocent people in danger.

Of recent, he said his office has been overwhelmed with reports that a lot of people have been seen camping at the place and another hotspot at Samedupe along the way to Makalamabedi village even though no arrangements have been made with council for such activities to take off since it has been observed that they also litter and make these places

uninhabitable.

Most people in Maun are naturally fun lovers who always get excited whenever rivers start flowing and it is during these times that they go all out to celebrate such events in many ways they find appropriate. But this time around the district leadership says it is faced with a dilemma of trying to contain them.

At a special full council briefing on Monday, Ntsogotho lamented that it is highly likely that Maun might in no distant future be classified as a red zone leading to a lockdown, should people continue with this kind of behavior, also taking in to consideration that even COVID 19 preventive measures are not observed. He urged fellow councilors to do outreaches within their various wards and sensitize their people on the dangers which might befall them as well as to hold discussions on how they can make themselves resourceful as a way of meeting government half way in its attempt to curb the disease.

“A lot more places have been identified and this is so worrisome because this is an issue which we cannot defend as council. We are well aware of the fact that we should be seen to be supporting local businesses, but honestly how do

we do such under the current situation? People frequent these places for entertainment which is okay.

“But it becomes a problem now that even social distancing is not observed. Therefore, we take it that those providing services at these areas should take it upon themselves to see to it that laid down rules are obeyed without fail,” he said.

He added that they want to be a transformative council which ensures communities benefit from the rare sites which surround them even though this can only be achieved if they compromise on a lot of issues.

Ngamiland District Commissioner Keolopile Liepego echoed Ntsogotho’s sentiments that indeed there is urgent need to address the situation sooner than later for the reason that the district cannot stand yet another lockdown.

He said currently there many places of entertainment in Maun which are not well managed. The good thing nevertheless he said, is that once the Maun management plan is reviewed, a lot is going to fall into place because those in authority would then know what to do and when. He called on Village Development Committees (VDC’s) and community trusts to step in and see how these places can be utilized as a

way to generate income.

However, Matlapana ward councilor Kobamelo Baikgo-disi stated that although he is equally disturbed by the escalating numbers of people at the beach, he strongly believes that a lot can still be done by the North-West District Council such as coming up with long term solutions which can benefit residents.

He argued that Ngamiland is a place of tourism and has people coming in and out cannot be ignored. He made mention also that a lot of mokoro (boat) polers and professional guides are always on standby at the beach and other water points waiting for their clients to come for boat cruises because that their only way of making a living.

“Tourism is the biggest employer in this district. There’s nowhere these people can go because they are there for a reason. This goes back to us as the district leadership to come up with ways on how such businesses can operate during these difficult times. We have come up with suggestions in the past but they have never been taken seriously. Ideas have been brought forward even by some of our stakeholders, but the only problem we have as the NWDC is the failure to implement”.

Boko guilty of professional misconduct

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

to enter an appearance to defend the matter and subsequently on attempting to remedy the situation, filed the application for rescission out of time.

“To compound the matter, no application for condonation was filed. The above repeated failure by the firm whilst inexcusable are aggravated by the extent of the loss suffered by the Complainant. The Committee has therefore decided to impose a stiffer penalty against the Attorney, which is intended to act as a deterrent,” the judgment stated. In his affidavit before the High

Court, Koboyankwe explained that summons were filed against him on 20th August 2011 by one Cecilia Mmolawa before the Lobatse High Court. He said he proceeded to give his attorneys instructions and regrettably they did not act on his instructions and did not even enter appearance to defend. As a result he said, a default judgement was entered and his property was attached on account of negligence on “account of my Attorneys Duma Boko and Co.” A letter addressed to Boko by Law Society of Botswana Secretary Tebogo Moipolai dated 6th May 2014, read: “The Disciplinary Committee has resolved

that, in a bid to encourage amicable resolution of complaints, the complaint be placed before you to consider it and explore possibilities of resolving the issue with the complainant.” He informed Boko: “You have fourteen days from date of this letter to advice (sic) on the prospects of resolution. If there are none the Disciplinary Committee will then proceed to determine if the complainant discloses a *prima facie* case of misconduct as per Section 50(20).” In another letter dated 22 September 2014, Moipolai also addressed another letter to Boko, stating: “The Committee found that a *prima facie*

case of professional misconduct has been shown by the complainant.” He called on Boko to respond and give “a full account of the matter.” “Kindly note that should you not respond, the Committee may proceed to consider the complaint without your response and may also draw inferences that may be adverse to you. The Committee also considers failure to respond as an act of professional misconduct as per regulation 42.1.24 and may proceed against you for this misconduct in accordance with regulation 43(5),” stated Moipolai.

State enlisted Manewe recuses himself in NPF case

By Mpho Keleboge

Busang Manewe has recused himself from a case in which the Attorney General and the Directorate of Public Prosecution (DPP) enlisted him to prosecute Bakang Seretse, Kgori Capital and others in the P250 million National Petroleum Fund (NPF) alleged corruption case.

Appearing before a panel of three judges, Justices Mathogonolo Phuthogo, Abednico Tafa and Christopher Gabanagae lawyer Unoda Mack representing Kebonang brothers, accused Manewe of being “heavily conflicted” and requested him to recuse himself from representing government.

Mack told the court that he wrote a letter dated 14 August 2020 advising Bogopa, Manewe, Tobetsa and Company that Manewe is “heavily conflicted” because he also represented Kgori

Mack told the court that he wrote a letter dated 14 August 2020 advising Bogopa, Manewe, Tobetsa and Company that Manewe is “heavily conflicted” because he also represented Kgori Capital (Pty) Ltd - a company which is central to some of the damning allegations against his clients (Kebonang brothers).

Capital (Pty) Ltd - a company which is central to some of the damning allegations against his clients (Kebonang brothers).

He said the answering affidavit by DPP in the matter accuses his clients being Kebonang brothers of corruption, collusion and theft and these are the same people who are charged alongside Kgori Capital - a company represented by Manewe.

When referring to the letter he wrote Mack told the court that it is surprising and embarrassing given the fact that Manewe represents Kgori Capital and now wants to represent government to prosecute his clients.

He said there is also a case that is pending before Magistrate court which is based on the same allegations in which his client is charged together with Manewe’s clients (Kgori Capital) and Manewe as a professional has been appearing for Kgori Capital.

“Without delving much detail Manewe is heavily conflicted and as such he cannot act on behalf of adversaries in the same matter,” said Mack.

In his defense Manewe said he is not conflicted and that he never consulted Kebonang brothers about his decision.

Judge Tafa then intervened and told him that Mack never said you consulted but he said you represented Kgori Capital which is also central to the corruption allegations leveled against his client.

Manewe then asked for an adjournment to consult with his clients (AG and DPP) and the court then ordered for the matter to be adjourned. When they reappeared in the afternoon (14:30hrs), Manewe then recused himself even though he maintained that he was not conflicted. He said he just recused himself to avoid the matter to be delayed by making some applications in defending himself.

The case was then postponed to the 17th September 2020, when the parties will argue the matter, which Kebonang brothers want the charges against them set aside.

Grenoh Begane from Attorney general and Wasson Manchwe from the DPP were instructing attorneys for Bogopa, Manewe and Tobetsa Company.

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Consumer inflation at historic lows

By Bonnie Modiakgotla

The inflation rate maintained its lowest level, but prices continue to rise for food, housing and utilities. The monthly inflation report released by Statistics Botswana shows that the annual inflation rate in July was 0.9 percent, same rate as June. This was the lowest rate since available records began in January of 1997, as prices slumped further for transport by 6.9 percent, following another decline of 6.7 percent in June. Recreation and culture was down 0.7 percent compared to decrease of 0.8 percent in June. In contrast, inflation edged higher for food & non-alcoholic beverages (3.9 percent vs 3.6 percent), housing & utilities (5.9 percent vs 5.7 percent) and alcoholic beverages & tobacco (6.6 percent vs 5.4 percent). On a monthly basis, consumer prices were up 0.2 percent, after falling 1.2 percent in the previous month. In May and June, Botswana Energy Regulation Authority (BERA) made massive reductions to retail pump prices for petrol, diesel and paraffin, a move that slowed the inflation rate which had grown by a larger pace to 2.5 percent, up from the 2.2 percent rate that stretched since December. The sudden upward movement in prices was caused by the 22 percent increase in the electricity tariff that was implemented beginning of April. While the inflation rate might be at its lowest, Bank of Botswana says inflation may rise above current forecasts if international commodity prices increase beyond current projections and in the event of upward price pressures occasioned by supply constraints due to travel restrictions and lockdowns. According to the central bank, inflation is forecast to revert within the 3 – 6 percent objective range in the third quarter of 2021, a significant downward revision from the April 2020 forecast in which BoB forecasted inflation to remain below the lower bound of the objective range for the remainder of the year.

PPEPA reviews operating model for Air Botswana



Air Botswana fleet

By Kabelo Seitshiro

Government says the Public Enterprises Evaluation and Privatization Agency (PEEPA) is reviewing an operating model for Air Botswana. At the same time, the Cabinet Sub Committee on the performance of the State-owned Enterprises has already consulted the airline to determine its future. Answering a question in Parliament recently from Member of Parliament (MP) for Kgalega North Talita Monnakgotla, the Minister of Transport and Communications Thulagano Segokgo said he has no intention to constitute any Parliamentary Committee to look into the airline matters because already there are two on-going initiatives on the future of Air Botswana. “The appointment of a Parliamentary committee is the

prerogative of National Assembly after the adoption of a motion bought to the House as per Standing Order 98.1,” he stated. Segokgo further stated that in 2017 the management of Air Botswana was summoned to that Sub Committee, which introduced itself as having been set up to “decide on the future of Air Botswana or lack of it”. He added that the committee members included former Ministers; Tshekedi Khama; Kenneth Mathambo and Vincent Seretse. He said the committee was chaired by Minister Kenneth Mathambo and added that management of Air Botswana was likewise engaged by the Sub Committee as and when necessary to provide any information that would assist the Committee deliver on its mandate. “At that time IATA consultant was engaged by the airline to determine suitable aircraft for

the airline, and the following aircraft were recommended for the airline’s route network,” said Segokgo. MP Monnakgotla further quizzed on the type of aircraft was proposed at the time and why was it not procured and instead a different make was purchased. Segokgo stated that on the turbo props, the ATR turboprops and Bombardier Q400 were identified as fit for purpose and as such ATR was recommended and procured mainly due to its favourable operating economics. He said on the jets, the Embraer E170 and the Bombardier CRJ900 were identified as suitable for the airlines jet sectors, with the Bombardier slightly cheaper to operate than the Embraer E170 which was found to be superior in its class especially in terms of technology. He further stated that the other Original Equipment Manufacturer (OEM) (Bombardier) had offered

Air Botswana a package of turbo props and jets without separating the offering. The consultants’ recommendation in favour of the Embraer so as to combine it with the ATR which was the most preferred turbo prop, due to its favourable economics. “I am unable to state whether [or not] there was a Cabinet Committee set up in 2015/16 to determine the future of Air Botswana. I have not found any Presidential Directive over that period or any Government decision to setup such a Committee,” he said. Segokgo recalled that the Committee on Statutory Bodies was informed by a Botswana Tourism Organisation (BTO) executive officer under Oath on 19/10/2016 that a Sub Committee of Cabinet had been setup with the mandate to conduct due diligence on Air Botswana working with Comair.

INDUSTRY NEWS

Beijing’s relations with Africa head for a reset after Covid

As the Chinese authorities scrambled to respond to Beijing’s first coronavirus outbreak in 50 days in mid-June, locking down residential compounds and sealing off a seafood market after at least 200 fell ill, an unruffled President Xi Jinping broadcast to African leaders to express solidarity in their own fight against the virus. Appearing before a row of African flags on June 17, Xi lavished praise on the joint efforts of his African partners and deployed military metaphors to promise that Covid-19 will strengthen China’s economic and diplomatic ties with the continent.

“China and Africa have offered mutual support and fought shoulder to shoulder with each other. China shall always remember the invaluable support Africa gave us at the height of our battle with the coronavirus. “In return, when Africa was struck by the virus, China was the first to rush in with assistance and has since stood firm with the African people ... No matter how the international landscape may evolve, China shall never waver in its determination to pursue greater solidarity and co-operation with Africa.”

While Xi’s speech offered a reassuring dose of rhetoric for his African audience, it was also peppered with policy announcements. He promised that China will extend debt support to distressed African partners by cancelling interest-free loans that are due to mature by the end of 2020, pledged to work with the Group of 20 (G20) debt service suspension initiative for the poorest countries and urged state-owned banks to show flexibility with their loans. That offer was a recognition that the Covid-19 pandemic and the extraordinary global economic fallout it has wrought offer the most significant challenge yet to the health and stability of a China-Africa relationship bathed in warm words but underpinned by billions of dollars in investment and loans.

The pandemic has decimated Africa’s fragile economic assumptions, sapped Chinese demand for the commodities that support its leading economies, and forced the implementation of growth-eroding lockdowns. The World Bank predicts that GDP growth in Sub-Saharan Africa could fall from 2.4% in 2019 to between -2.1% and -5.1% in 2020. That is causing African policymakers to cast a nervous eye towards the continent’s debt pile, swollen by hundreds of billions of dollars in loans from the Chinese government, banks and state-owned enterprises. Without debt support, unaffordable payments on the vast portfolio of loans from China and other wealthy nations could lead to a series of chaotic defaults by individual African countries.

Botswana’s water demand to reach 340 million m³ by 2035

By Kabelo Seitshiro

Botswana’s total annual water demand at 245 million cubic meters is expected to increase to 340 million cubic meters per year by 2035 Permanent Secretary (PS) in the Ministry of Land Management, Water and Sanitation Services (MLWS) Bonolo Khumotaka has said. She raised concern about the delay in awarding and completing of some water projects due to some being under litigation. She told the Parliamentary Accounts Committee (PAC) that there is a prolonged turnaround time for awarding tenders and poor performance of contractors. Khumotaka stated that her ministry is working on the Botswana Water Security Strategy which will address short, medium to long term solutions to water demand deficit countrywide. She stated that her ministry has

...while procurement impediments, litigation delay projects



Gaborone Dam

engaged key players to come up with a robust strategy to address the procurement impediments in the government procurement process and capacity building regarding project management. For example, she said:

“Implementation of Maun water supply and waste water projects have commenced following a challenging period of litigations.” She said the ministry continues to undertake land servicing, water sanitation projects in

different areas across the country in order to facilitate economic development. She added that the projects are either funded through the consolidated fund or loan from the World Bank. “WUC continues to implement rehabilitation of projects within the water works area,” she said. Khumotaka further stated that a total of 20 projects are implemented by project management office while Water Utilities is responsible for 22 projects. She stated that the ministry has also, during the financial year 2019/2020 engaged consultants to work on the designs for Lobatse Water Supply Master Plan. She added that the project has been delayed, firstly due to slow progress by design consultant and added that it is secondly due to the need for consultations with

the Lobatse-Boatle road project to accommodate the pipeline at the Game City and St Joseph’s interchanges. She is of the view that the beneficiation of this project is however dependent on the completion and delivery of water into Greater Gaborone through Masama-Mmamashia progressing well. She said it was awarded at P781 million, 12 months, from April February 2012 and North South Carrier 2.2 projects. She spoke of rehabilitation and upgrading of an existing plant which is ongoing in Shakawe. She added that the project is meant to increase capacity to meet heightened demand. She said the construction of the storage reservoir, pump station and pipeline are complete. She added that that installation of the treatment plant will follow and that it is planned to complete during the financial year 2020/2021.


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Land allocation backlog nears 700 000 countrywide

• *P94 billion needed to service plots to deliver on the waiting list*

By Kabelo Seitshiro

About 700 000 applicants for both tribal and state land await to be allocated land.

Permanent Secretary (PS) in the Ministry of Land Management, Water and Sanitation Services (MLWS) Bonolo Khumotaka appearing before the Parliamentary Accounts Committee (PAC) said the waiting list currently stands at 686,952 of which 11 percent are applications for state land while the remaining 89 is for tribal land applications.

She stated that this is due to limited resources across the land value chain of acquisition, planning, strategic environmental assessment surveying, geotechnical investigations and servicing.

Khumotaka revealed that cost of fully servicing the plots to deliver on the waiting lists will require P94 billion adding that this far exceeds the annual budget for the country. She said on the allocation from waiting list, residential tare allocated free of charge in tribal areas and at highly subsidized rates in urban areas.

“We are reviewing the Land Servicing Strategy for Public Private Partnership (PPP) in land servicing with the intention to introduce cost recovery measures. In addition the minis-



There is a backlog of land allocation countrywide

try is looking into giving applicants the choice to be allocated minimally serviced land instead of fully serviced land,” she said.

Khumotaka further revealed that the longest applicant waiting period is 27 years in tribal land at Mogoditshane while the shortest waiting period is one day at Hukuntsi village with the average waiting period being 13 years.

She stated that in state land, the longest applicant waiting period is 30 years in Gaborone while the shortest waiting peri-

od is four years in Francistown with the average waiting period of 16 years.

“The ministry has acquired ploughing fields, promoted change of land use and plot size reductions,” she said.

She stated that to this end, a piece of land measuring 670.5 hectares has been acquired for village expansions at the cost of P29 million at Kgalagadi, Ngwaketse, Ngwato, Tati, Tawan, Ghanzi and Kgatleng Land Boards.

She added that on the other

hand, they have reviewed the Tribal Land Act to provide for market value in Land compensation valuations in other areas to facilitate re-purposing and transfer of held tribal rights to alternative uses.

Quizzed on land servicing, she stated that minimal servicing (de-bushing, grading of roads water) on average costs P5 000 per plot. She added that for bulk servicing the average cost per plot is P15 000 while full servicing average cost per plot is P150 000.

Botswana urged to prop up gender-responsive STEM education

By Don-Martin Whande

With Botswana female students representing only 30 per cent of students enrolled in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) related fields, the country is being urged to mainstream gender equality.

Speaking on an online virtual panel over the weekend entitled: *“Insights of STEM education and policies for the development of a skilled workforce in Botswana”*, researcher Tebogo Maphosa said Botswana female students’ enrolment is predominantly low in Information communication technology (four percent) and engineering and manufacturing (eleven percent).

“If Botswana intends to improve socioeconomic development and reduce poverty in the country, then there is need for policymakers to address gender bias in Science, Technology, Engineer-

ing and Mathematics (STEM),” says Maphosa.

Over the years, the gap between what men and women contribute toward STEM in Botswana has remained largely dormant and not much action has been taken by relevant authorities to close the gap. Maphosa who was among three other panellists from Zambia, South Africa and Namibia said Botswana, as a matter of urgency, must engender STEM policy as a way of fostering a conducive environment which supports the educational achievement of all people in spite of their gender.

“In clear cut terms, such a policy must present evidence and substantiation that women and men are all receiving equitable opportunities, resources and support,” says Maphosa.

Current statistics at the moment show that Malaysia is the only coun-

try in the world considered as a model country that has achieved gender parity in STEM with 58 per cent of its science degrees held by women. Moreover, Malaysia has partnered with United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) with the intention to share its know-how and prop up gender-responsive STEM education.

Over the years, UNESCO has reiterated that STEM plays a key part in increasing productivity and competency levels for socio-economic development and that the equal contribution of men and women will allow them to achieve full intellectual potential.

Other panellists highlighted that cultures in some countries in southern Africa give special treatment to males over females and this then informs social roles and responsibilities of females.

312 have undergone heart surgery

By Cedric Swanka

PARLIAMENT: Botswana has seen 312 patients undergoing open heart transplants Assistant Minister of Health and Wellness Setlhomolaelatiswe has told Parliament.

“We had 304 successful operations and eight were not successful. Out of the eight, five people died in twelve months of post-operation and the other three patients died immediately after operation.”

The total cost of operations from 2009 to 2019 through insourcing in collaboration with Mauritius cardiac team ranged from P2.4 million to P4.5 million. Through outsourcing to Bokamoso Private Hospital and South African Private Hospital from 2016 the total cost ranged from P20 million to P24 million. The Assistant Minister told Parliament that currently no Motswana is being trained on the field of a heart surgeon and

that is why government relies on collaborations and outsourcing.

“There are many challenges associated with open heart surgery. These include a critical shortage of specialised human resource, equipment, medicines and other resources needed for provision of this service routinely in the country. The Ministry of Health and Wellness is currently implementing the Botswana Organ transplant policy which was approved in 2014 and whose aim is to create an enabling environment for organ replacement services. The policy is at its Mid-term review this financial year,” Lelatiswe said.

The licensing of more private hospitals in Botswana is expected to result in organ transplants which are a form of tertiary prevention for service of amped organ damage are expected to be available in Botswana. Hence an organ transplant programme may become feasible in the near

future and the prospects of an organ transplant may be visible.

He said: “The public health of 2013 makes provision for such developments, however these services are part of full spectrum of health care that will be provided by Sir Ketumile Masire Teaching Hospital once fully commissioned.”

Member of Parliament for Mahalapye West David Tshireh had asked the minister to appraise Parliament on open heart surgery in Botswana and to state how many patients have had open heart surgery in Botswana for the past ten years, of the operated patients how many had successful operations and how many were unsuccessful.

The minister was to also state the associated cost on yearly basis and to state the Ministry’s plans in relation to establishment of an “Organ Bank” heart replacement facilities or any policy related on heart related illnesses.

Miners union demands Debswana explain sacking of officials

By Reuben Pitse

Botswana Mine Workers Union (BMWU) has accused Debswana of failing to provide sufficient details as to why the mining company suspended three top officials based at headquarters. The trio has been allegedly accused of falsifying a ‘sensitive report’ in order to protect a former managing director.

Speaking on this publication, the president of BMWU Joseph Tsimako said: “It is true that the union was officially informed about the suspension of the three top officials who are based at Jwaneng mine”.

He said the company did not explain why the trio was suspended from duty which he described as “suspicious”.

He explained that on several occasions, the union pleaded with Debswana to provide detailed information surrounding the suspension of the trio. “Like I have already indicated to you, the union tried in different forums

to ask the employer why the three employees were suspended but the company is reluctant to share information with us which is bad,” says Tsimako. He added that it seems there is too much secrecy surrounding the suspensions which, in his view are worrisome and may somehow tarnish the good name of the company globally.

“There are several questions that are lingering in our minds whether or not those suspended might be involved in diamonds theft, corruption practices or any crime that is huge,” he said.

Similarly, there are reports that a certain particular director is also expected to be suspended in the near future, he alleged.

“It is high time that the company comes out and tells the nation what the three employees are being accused of,” he says. The Directorate on Corruption and Economic Crime (DCEC) spokesperson Lentswe Motshoganetsi said the agency is investigating

several cases at the mining giant.

“At the moment I am not yet in a better position to disclose information surrounding our investigations because that might jeopardise our investigations,” said Motshoganetsi.

Several weeks ago, this publication broke the story in which the diamond mining company’s head of security, a senior security manager and a senior employees’ relations manager had been suspended after altering a whistleblower’s report filed with Debswana.

The report allegedly implicated one of Debswana’s former Managing Directors.

The three senior officials had their gadgets which included laptops and phones seized as part of Debswana’s efforts to piece together information that could have led to the original report and why it was falsified. It is understood that a task force team swooped on the former managing directors’ farms to conduct an extensive search.



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Completed Application Forms should be addressed to the Director, Academic and Student Services, Botswana University of Agriculture and Natural Resources, P/Bag 0027, Gaborone, Botswana. The deadline for submission of application forms is 18th August 2020.


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Botswana urged to take part in vaccine trials

Current statistics show that only 2% of clinical trials conducted globally occur in Africa. If the same trajectory continues, it is feared this could hamper the effectiveness of a Covid-19 vaccine and future vaccines on the African continent

WRITES DON-MARTIN WHANDE



There world is desperately seeking a Covid-19 vaccine

nequality in vaccine coverage between low-income countries and high-income countries is extreme. Estimates show that between 1.6 and 2 million people die from vaccine-preventable diseases every year around the world, with the vast majority of these deaths occurring in Africa and low-income countries. With the world already fissured by deep-rooted racial discrimination, concern around the ethical engagement of participants in Covid-19 vaccine trials in African countries is now riddled with controversy. Vaccine trials have become such a sensitive matter mainly because of the way some European researchers undertake unethical experiments and trials on Africans by treating them as testing labs. Such unethical conduct resulted in the launch of a social media initiative in the form of a Change.org petition to stop coronavirus trials in Africa. When asked whether Af-

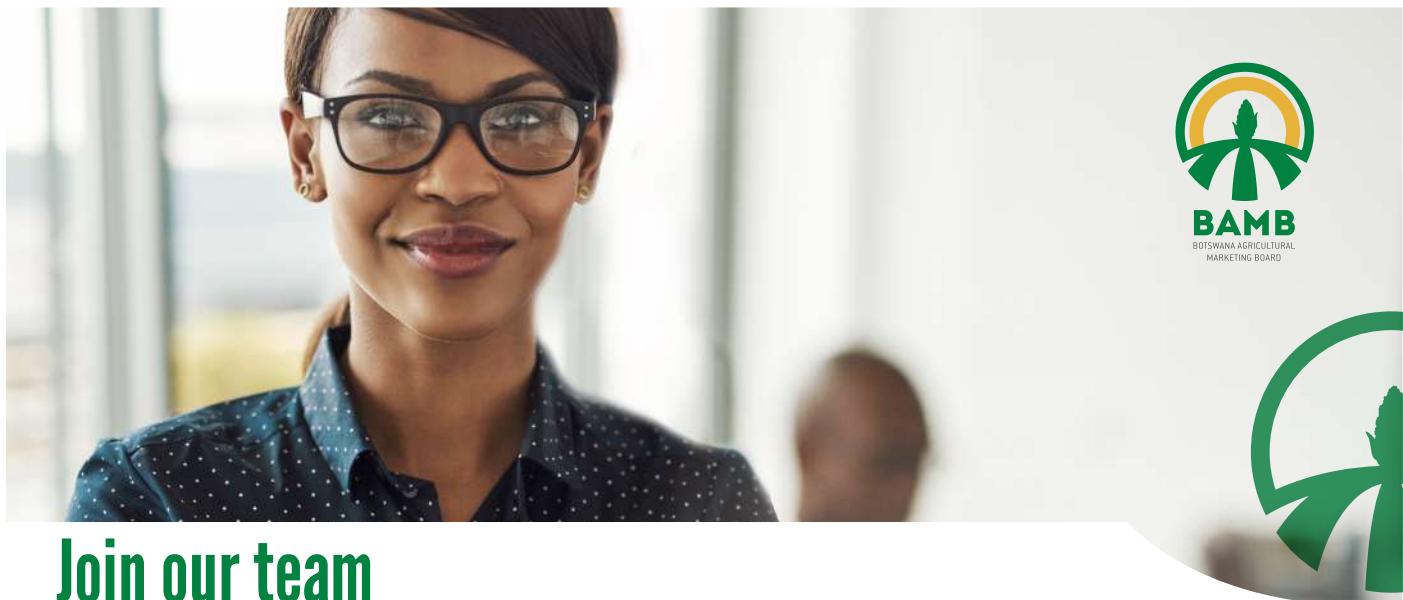
rica should take part in vaccine trials since European countries and large pharmaceutical companies always use developing countries as testing grounds, scientist and public health researcher, Taelo Morapedi said: “Of course, Africa should take part in vaccine trials.” Speaking to this publication, she indicated that to snub this prospect could potentially lead to the exclusion of Africa’s researchers from being major players in the race to develop a vaccine for Covid-19.

“Given the way the coronavirus pandemic is accelerating in neighbouring South Africa and Zimbabwe, it is essential that vaccine studies be carried out in Botswana and other countries across Africa to determine the immune response of Africans and how they respond to the vaccine trials, rather than just relying on clinical trials being conducted in Australia, Europe and other western countries,” says Morapedi. These sentiments were

also shared recently by World Health Organisation (WHO) regional director for Africa, Matshidiso Moeti who said vaccine trials must not just be held in Western countries because Africans have different circumstances and different genetic make-up that may affect how the vaccine works. “I encourage more countries in the region to join these trials so that the contexts and immune response of populations in Africa are factored into studies,” said Moeti who is also a Public health specialist and medical administrator.

This is when vaccines are effective in Europe and North America but less effective in Africa mainly because the vaccines were mainly based on rotavirus strains predominantly found in Europe and North America. “Therefore, little or no data for Africa amounts to poor or no representation at vaccine development,” says Morapedi. Morapedi said it is not sustainable in the long run for Botswana to continue adopting drastic measures such as the 48-day April lockdown to contain the spread of Covid-19. “Strict lockdowns such as the first 48-day lockdown in Botswana are no longer sustainable. Almost all the sectors in the country were decimated and recovery is still a struggle for majority of the population. Finding an effective vaccine is probably one of the best chances that Botswana and other African countries have to return to normalcy, and this can only happen if African countries participate in these trials,” she says.

Dr. John Nkengasong, who is the director of the Africa Centre for Disease Control and Prevention said a Covid-19 vaccine would allow member states to return to a fully functional economy and society. His concerns are not unfounded. The World Health Organisation (WHO) Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus has already issued a muted warning that Africa will not escape the spread of the coronavirus. While local infection rates are low in Botswana, the country has not dodged the bullet. South Africa and Zimbabwe are experiencing high local transmission rates and medical health practitioners who spoke to *The Telegraph* say the vortex pull that coronavirus is exerting on her two neighbours is likely to spill in Botswana.



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Covid-19 threatens to jeopardise Sustainable Development Goals

*The coronavirus is unleashing devastation over the globe. The pandemic which has claimed over 775 000 lives has also put additional stress on sustainable development goals (SDGs) and has reprioritised the need to look into worldwide wellbeing frameworks, **WRITES DON-MARTIN WHANDE***

In Botswana, like in much of the rest of the world, Covid-19 is extensively undermining efforts to achieve sustainable development goals (SDGs) which are the blueprint to achieve a better and more sustainable future for all. According to the United Nations (UN), “SDGs address the global challenges we face, including those related to poverty, inequality, climate change, environmental degradation, peace and justice.”

Through the pledge to Leave No One Behind (LNOB) and “endeavour to reach the furthest behind first”, Botswana along with 192 other countries pledged to fast-track progress but goals such as zero hunger, no poverty, economic growth and decent work, sanitation and reduced inequalities could be thrown off track. Last month, a virtual United Nations (UN) meeting confirmed an unwelcome suspicion that the pandemic has turned back the clock and stalled majority of the development goals the world over. Before the arrival of coronavirus in Botswana, living conditions had improved and poverty had also reduced significantly. This decrease was accompanied by a significant decline in both depth and severity of poverty. Now, the little progress the country has made over the decades has been stopped in its tracks.

For SDG 1 which is to end poverty in all its forms everywhere, the United Nations says, the pace of change with regards to poverty is decelerating and the Covid-19 crisis risks reversing decades of progress in the fight against poverty. Apart from the fact that Botswana is already experiencing soaring unemployment rates, most Batswana who have managed to hold onto their jobs may hobble to return to normal as pay cuts have become a tool for many companies to avoid layoffs. Most companies have also suspended part of their operations due to challenges presented by COVID-19, and this has affected disposable income for most households, threatening to push people into poverty.

A recently released report prepared by the United Nations entitled “*The Sustainable Development Goals Report 2020*” says that in sub-Saharan Africa SDG 3 which is to ensure healthy lives and promote wellbeing for all at all ages has been severely affected. “Illness and deaths from communicable diseases will spike. Service cancellations will lead to 100% increase in malaria deaths in sub-Saharan Africa,” states part of the report.

SDG 4 which is to ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong

learning opportunities for all has also been affected. The report indicates that remote learning remains out of reach for many and school completion rates will be dampened especially in poor households. What further exacerbates the situation in Botswana is that internet is still very expensive and slow which is stifling digital development efforts.

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development was launched in 2015 to end poverty and set the world on a path of peace, prosperity and opportunity for all on a healthy planet. The 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) demand nothing short of a transformation of the financial, economic and political systems that govern our societies today to guarantee the human rights of all.

A researcher who spoke to this publication, Oaitse Malesu is questioning whether the goals are still suitable for the post-pandemic age. The pandemic has exposed inadequacies in our worldwide framework and almost all world systems from health to economic systems have collapsed.

“The pandemic has demonstrated beyond a reasonable doubt how poverty, weak health

has depressingly affected SDGs like SDG 1 (no poverty); SDG 2 (zero hunger); SDG 3 (good health and wellbeing); SDG 8 (decent work and economic growth); SDG 10 (reduced inequalities) it has also brought a relief in areas related to SDG 12 (responsible consumption and production), SDG 13 (climate action) and SDG 14 (life below water).

With sub-Saharan Africa expected to see the largest increase in extreme poverty, Malesu says achieving some of these goals is going to be a tall order. Amongst other things he also says “the rise in domestic abuse in Botswana as a result of the national lockdown has put paid to progress in the goal for gender equality and women’s empowerment. It is worth mentioning that many Batswana women could not even access sexual and reproductive health services.”

On how Botswana should move forward, Malesu says there is need to coordinate with the international community based on sound data and science which is guided by the Sustainable Development Goals.

However A political commentator, Ronald

However, it is important to appreciate that both the SDGs and the Covid-19 pandemic response are intertwined and therefore cannot be resolved by a half baked approach. "Covid-19 pandemic must not be an excuse to push back SDG blueprint because we cannot overlook the fact that SDGs still offer us the best chance to move ahead," says Malesu.

frameworks, absence of education and lack of worldwide cooperation can worsen a crisis. The UNDP estimates that global human development—a combination of education, health, and living standards—could fall this year for the first time since 1990, when measurements began,” he says.

However, it is important to appreciate that both the SDGs and the Covid-19 pandemic response are intertwined and therefore cannot be resolved by a half baked approach. "Covid-19 pandemic must not be an excuse to push back SDG blueprint because we cannot overlook the fact that SDGs still offer us the best chance to move ahead," says Malesu.

As an example, he says while the pandemic

Dintle who spoke to this publication indicated that SDGs are worthless and ambitious. “Just before the pandemic, there were already signs that the world was fatigued and there was clear evidence of lack of global commitment,” says Dintle.

As an example, Dintle says a 2019 study by the World Bank highlighted that 30 percent of their “knowledge products”, comprising of recommendations for the SDG action plan, were never downloaded and 87 percent had never been cited.

As the world slowly shifts its focus from the traumas of 2020 to the needed actions of 2021, the international community is using the pandemic as a chance to unite in solidarity and turn the crisis into a catalyst to achieve the SDGs.



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EPHRAIM MODISE

Crony Capitalism Is Impeding The Growth Of Botswana’s Entrepreneurship

In Botswana, becoming a successful “self-made” entrepreneur is not an easy feat to manage. Put aside the socio-economic hindrances like a small population, an extremely undiversified economy, and government bureaucratic red tape and you still have another big obstacle that makes entrepreneurship an extremely complex ship to sail, the proliferation, and normalization of crony capitalism in the country’s entrepreneurship environment. So normalized is crony capitalism in this country that there is even a colloquial term for it, «connections». While in other business environments aspiring entrepreneurs seek out and build networks of individuals and/or businesses who might legitimately assist in the said entrepreneurs eventually becoming a success story, here, the popular route is to seek out and build relationships with high ranking and influential public office or political officials to get into business with. Now, of course, these said public and political figures are not sought out for their brilliance and expertise in entrepreneurship matters but rather for their ability to “make things happen”. In a country where everything is marred in bureaucracy, in order to make your way past all that bureaucratic red tape, you need on your side the very same people who are responsible for all that red tape so that they can lift it up for you and give you some sort of comparative advantage on your peers. In this country, it has become somewhat of a custom for a new story to pop up every week about a high ranking public service or political figure being entangled in some business dealings which present a conflict of interest. If it is not the figures themselves, it is often their spouses or close family members acting as some sort of front for the “big guns” themselves. Crony capitalism has become so threaded into the moral fabric of Botswana’s society that even the idea of becoming a successful “self-made” entrepreneur is considered far-fetched. Instead of young aspiring entrepreneurs being urged on to come up with life-changing and innovative solutions to the nation’s challenges, they are most of the time encouraged to focus most of their energies on meeting and forming relations with “the right people”. The problems that crony capitalism presents for the country’s entrepreneurship environment are quite obvious. First and foremost is the clear conflict of interest which subsequently leads to cases of corruption. When a crony decides to use their position in either government or political party to “make things easy” for their partner, that is a corrupt activity. Corruption does not just entail looting and misuse of public funds but also encompasses the use of influence and position to favor those close to the said official. Another problem crony capitalism presents for the country’s entrepreneurship environment

is that it impedes innovation by entrepreneurs and this can happen in one or both of two ways. Firstly, it changes the goal of entrepreneurship in that instead of it being used to address issues and challenges facing the country, it is instead used as a get rich quick scheme. Entrepreneurs set out not to be innovative but make “connections” which, coupled with the ideas they have, will make them riches very quick. Secondly, it discourages those legitimate entrepreneurs who have life-changing ideas but no “connections” with the cronies because they will not have that privilege of having the bureaucratic red tape lifted for them. This leads to the country having increasing cases of [brain drain](#) whereby those entrepreneurs take their wonderful ideas out of the country where they will be appreciated. Last but definitely not least, crony capitalism creates lethargy in the development of the country’s policies. The logic is not too hard to follow. If legislators benefit from the current status quo, what incentive do they have for changing it despite it hurting the socio-economic standing of the country? The answer is none. Like the old saying goes, never bite the hand that feeds you, so if legislators are being fed by rules and laws which exacerbate corruption, why would they be willing to change them? The fact that the very legislators who stand to benefit from acts of crony capitalism are the same ones who are tasked with coming up with ways to stop the same scourge makes it the more difficult to successfully resolve. The only way to tackle the problem is only when the people decide to say enough is enough and put the necessary pressure on legislators, by way of being vocal and critical about laws which get passed, to do right by them because if they just leave it to the legislators to identify the problem and remedy it because “it is their job”, they are just going to make sure that whatever “solution” they manage to piece together will still serve first and foremost their own interests. Now more than ever, with the COVID-19 crisis having rummaged through whatever was left of Botswana’s economy, the country needs a vibrant entrepreneurship environment which will contribute towards lifting the country from the ashes like the proverbial phoenix. However, as long as the success of the country’s entrepreneurs is determined by not how well they can address the country’s challenges but rather by who they know in the country’s top offices in government and politics, the country’s journey to an economic recovery post-COVID-19 will be a difficult one, if not downright impossible.

Ephraim is a blogger and podcaster. You can find his blog at <https://www.someblackguythoughts.com/> and his podcast «Some Black Guys Thoughts: The Podcast» on all podcast platforms”

SADC was established in 1980. That makes the body forty years this year.

This is a big milestone.

And as is to be expected, SADC leaders will spend the whole year in a celebratory mood.

But that sense of achievement will not make much sense to a majority of SADC citizens across the sub-continent.

Many of them remain poor, insecure and with not much rights than was the case forty years ago.

At inception the regional body was called Southern Africa Development Coordinating Conference.

Key among its objectives at inception was to help South Africa attain independence and also a multi-racial government.

That happened in 1994.

When it was founded, SADC was not as big as it is today. There were fewer countries in it. While challenges were numerous the goals were few and clearly spelt out.

It was largely about self-determination and also achieving peace for the rest of the sub-continent as a number of countries were involved brutal civil wars.

It evolved over time to focus more on economics.

SADC has become a club of Heads of State.

Ordinary people that make up the region have been totally forgotten. Leaders close ranks against each other.

And the rules have been drafted such that a leader cannot even be criticised by another under the guise of sovereignty and also no in-

terference.

As it marks forty years of existence albeit under various incarnation, SADC has to confront its various problems.

Of course there are issues that have to do with structure. Borders continue to undermine the sub-region’s economic full potential.

Security remains an overriding concern for many SADC citizens.

In the Democratic Republic of Congo, there are still many internally displaced people.

Regional integration has remained elusive. Yet integration is supposed to be the lynchpin of SADC.

Tariffs continue to be a real headache. The Sub-region’s potential, with a population that is young

and technologically savvy cannot be over-emphasised.

A recognition has to be made that going forward SADC has to change and transform from within.

Staying stiff would amount to an existential threat.

A system has to be created to safeguard against abuse of human rights for citizens by those in authority.

Right now the citizens of Zimbabwe are being abused by their own government, but SADC is mum because there is as yet no entry point for the regional body to even comment on Zimbabwe.

That is as unpardonable as it is unsustainable.

SADC citizens have to be empowered by giving them more not less voice. A

Human Rights Tribunal has to be restored.

Forty years in existence can only be worth celebrating if there is clear hope for the future. That hope includes clear evidence to embrace change by those in leadership.

Regional leaders need to show why SADC is still relevant. Many citizens cannot help but ask themselves the wisdom and indeed utility of continuing to pay huge subscription fees just to stay as a SADC member. Not surprisingly, SADC leaders have sharply different visions of the future when it comes to the regional body.

But none of the visions, also unsurprisingly, has citizens at its centre, much less human rights for those citizens.

This week’s **cartoon**



Promises of internet access in rural areas by Zimbabwean minister of ICT are ridiculous

Dear Editor

It is disgusting that Zimbabwean Minister of Information Communication Technology (ICT) Postal and Courier Services, Dr Jenfan Muswere promised Zimbabwean rural people that the government will expand internet services into rural areas. This is utter rubbish as all government radio stations in urban areas are not functioning well on internet. The Zimbabwean government has dismally failed to have 4 radio stations on a full functioning internet like in South Africa, Botswana, Zambia and Malawi. These radio stations include Classic 263; Radio Zimbabwe; Power FM & National FM. Listeners can only listen to

these radio stations for not more than 10 minutes and the system will be down. It is painful because those people managing the ICT infrastructure for these ra-

dio stations should have been sacked long time ago in a country which has produce more than 4000 IT graduates who are jobless.

Corrupt, careless and clueless ZANU PF government has failed and there is nothing good we can now expect to come from President

Emmerson Mnangagwa and directionless cabinet ministers.

Kudzai Chikowore
Human Rights Activist

Once the bread basket of the region, since 2000 Zimbabwe has struggled to feed its own people

Dear Editor

It is painful people in Zimbabwe are struggling food, electricity, water, shortage of money in the banks, no medication in hospitals, beds for patients they are sleeping on the floor in hospitals. The roads are full of pot holes no ambulances, people are using wheelbarrows to go to the hospitals.

Nurses are crying reputation which the ZANU-PF government knows that they are paying peanuts to the civilians. The struggle for independence, land and power runs throughout Zimbabwe’s modern history. Late Veteran President Robert Mugabe dominated the country’s political scene for almost four decades after independence from Brit-

ain in 1980.

Once the bread basket of the region, since 2000 Zimbabwe has struggled to feed its own people due to severe droughts and the effects of a land reform programmer that saw white-owned farms redistributed to landless Zimbabweans, with sharp falls in production. The fall of Robert Mugabe in 2017

freed up politics and the media, but the country remains cash-strapped and impoverished. The ZANU-PF government is clueless, careless and corrupt the only solution is for the world to force President Emmerson Mnangagwa to resign.

Kudzai Chikowore
MDC Alliance activist

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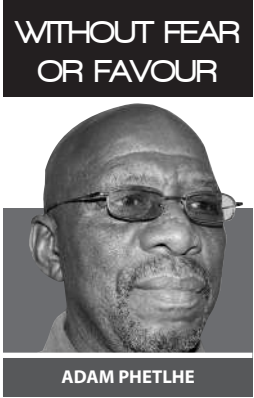
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Opinion / Analysis

Leadership bar is set so low in Botswana hence poor service delivery



WITHOUT FEAR OR FAVOUR

Recognising that there are serious issues that impact on people aspiring to ascend to leadership positions, some tools have been developed to deep dig into the moral, ethical and other aspects beyond the colourful academic qualifications such aspiring candidates could possess. The reason for subjecting aspiring candidates to integrity and credibility tests among others over and above the mainstream academic qualifications, is to ensure that only untainted candidates in any form or shape ascend to such leadership positions. Botswana Football Association (BFA) is one such organisation that has developed similar integrity and credibility tools to ensure that individuals not tainted by any 'dark cloud' of whatever form or shape ascend to leadership positions precisely because beyond the support of their supporters, such leaders inspire confidence to those who are not necessarily *per se*, interested in football. The mere fact that such leaders are not tainted by any issue bordering on integrity and credibility inspire confidence.

It is against the above that I penned an article last week on the issues

surrounding the candidature of individuals aspiring to contest the position of BFA president in the forthcoming elective General Assembly. The BFA Electoral Committee had vetted out two of such candidates on issues bordering on their integrity and credibility flowing out the ethics requirements of both the BFA and FIFA statutes. The ethics test determines these imperatives-integrity and credibility. So many conspiracy theories were brought about with respect to why these two aspiring candidates were so vetted out and perhaps stringently so as argued by one such theory while the only vetted in candidate appeared to have softly been dealt with to purportedly afford him an unfair advantage over the other candidates. It appeared from a distance that there were integrity and credibility issues affecting all aspiring candidates which on face value, could potentially disbar them from contesting. Consequently, an Appeal Committee was seized with appeals from the vetted out candidates to determine whether or not they were properly and fairly amongst others, so vetted out. It is understood a complaint in the form of an appeal against a conflict of interest issue was brought against the only vetted in aspiring candidate. I could not gather what the reasons for appealing the Electoral Committee's decision were given that these were not publicly disclosed probably because they were treated as personal and confidential. It is common cause that the Appeal Committee has

since overturned the Electoral Committee's decision to bar the two aspiring candidates thereby reinstating them to be candidates in the upcoming elective General Assembly.

Now that I am not aware of the reasons upon which the appealing aspiring candidates were reinstated by the Appeal Committee because that was the preserve of the Committee and the appellants, it is not clear to me how issues of integrity and credibility in the context of the BFA tools were dealt with at the appeal stage. I nevertheless respect the decision of the Appeal Committee. This notwithstanding, my concern still remains on whether the three candidates going to stand for the presidency of the BFA have withstood the test of the tool that supposedly, is meant to measure and pass aspiring candidates to do so. Otherwise, there will be no point of the questions raised in the BFA eligibility application questionnaire form for all the aspiring candidates on ethics and all that is contained therein. I would be raising the same concern if other candidates other than the ones in question were in the same or similar circumstances. The ethics issue is critical in all leadership roles be they in political or football positions. In a paper titled 'FIFA to the pitch: Ethics in Soccer' under the subtitle 'Ethical Leadership in Soccer', the authors hold that *'Leaders play a critical role in the ethical culture of an organisation because their actions determine what constitutes ethical behaviour in the workplace or in sports.'*

So without the benefit

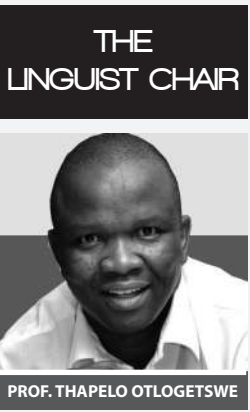
of how the Appeal Committee dealt with issues raised at the hearings and the subsequent reinstatement of the appellants, it is difficult to say whether or not the three candidates passed the eligibility questionnaire test as raised in the BFA application form. There was an issue of conflict of interest which one is not aware of how it was dealt with if it was on the table as already said. Given the public interest in this matter generated by the fact that football is a popular and probably by far an emotive sport and the non-public disclosure of its findings so far (assuming such will be made public at one point), speculation on the basis of those findings abounds. One such speculation is that because football politics seemed to have played a significant part in vetting out the other aspiring candidates, the reinstatement is, if you like, meant to soothe the pain of the losing candidates by allowing them back in the contest. But if the BFA is happy that the test was passed on a technicality as it could be suggested as opposed to the substantive questions and requirements of its own questionnaire, it could be fair to suggest that the BFA has pitifully lowered the leadership bar at the expense of overall football management and the delivery of its mandate to its stakeholders. If that is the case, it defeats the whole purpose of subjecting aspiring candidates to the test of integrity and credibility for leadership positions in its structures.

From where I stand, I am not persuaded that the

leadership bar has not been pitifully lowered. In fact and like I have alluded to above, the BFA eligibility questionnaire does not seem play any meaningful purpose for which it was presumably crafted given what has unfolded this far. This state of affairs fits very well with the general leadership challenges across society occasioned by the seemingly low standards attached thereto. In instances where a tool is availed to test the eligibility of aspiring candidates like it is with the BFA, such test is somewhat rendered ineffective by the lack of courage and conviction by supposedly those entrusted with the duty to ensure that it is so effective. The end result inevitably, becomes the poor to no service delivery to the intended stake holders. I do not have any personal issue with the presidential candidates in this particular instance because they are football individuals who have served football in different capacities at one stage or the other. What I have issue with though, is the manner in which the process and procedures of rendering applicants eligible to stand appear to have been compromised in one respect or the other hence the appeals.

Covid-19 is taking a turn for the worse. It is our duty to ensure that we defeat the pandemic. Let us wash our hands more frequently with clean soap and water and sanitise where possible, keep social distancing and wear masks. Our fate is in our hands.

adamphethe08@gmail.com



Elements of Ngwaketse wedding

For a couple to marry, there are strict traditional protocols to be followed by the two families. A groom's family, led by a maternal uncle and senior members of the extended family, delivers to a bride's family a notice of intention to marry known as *go isa mafoko* "to deliver the news". This is done by a groom's delegation (of about five to fifteen married men and women) which delivers the message in person to the bride's family. The groom's delegation is received by the bride's uncle who leads the bride's delegation. In such a meeting, the groom's uncle states when they wish to marry. A standard eight cattle *bogadi* (bride-wealth) and a sheep known in Setswana as *mokwele* (Matthews 1940) which the groom delivers to the groom, are discussed and agreed upon (Denbow and Thebe, 2006; Kuper, 2016). Unlike in the past where *bogadi* would have been contributed by members of the family, *bogadi* is now the sole responsibility of the groom (van Dijk 2017). The two families also agree that the groom's family upon delivering *bogadi*, will receive two adult cattle: *kgomo ya molhakanehwa* and *kgomo ya perepetsha* (or *perepetsha* for short) from the bride's family. The standard Ngwaketse wedding occurs over several days with the principal celebrations happening over two weekends or on consecutive Saturday and Sunday days. This is what Solway (2016: 311/312) terms "fast bogadi". After months of negotiations, three weeks before the wedding on a Thursday, the two families register for both a customary and a civil marriage. The customary marriage is registered at the main Ngwaketse kgotla with the *kgosi*, while the civil marriage is registered with the District Commissioner's Office. Thus many, marry under both customary and common law on the same day and therefore have "a double marriage" (Jobeta and Nwauche 2015). The intention to marry is then advertised on a public noticeboard for three weeks, to allow for any potential objections. This registration of a marriage is in Setswana known as *pego* "a putting up", *go pego* "to put up" or *go plaka* "to plug – in the sense of advertise" which refers to the pinning up of a notice to marry on a noticeboard. Three weeks later, early Thursday morning, the two families retrace their steps to the main *kgotla* and to the District Commissioner's Office for the finalization of the wedding processes. The groom's family drives *bogadi* of eight cattle and a sheep to the main *kgotla* to show it to the *kgotla* official before they deliver it to the bride's house to finalise the customary wedding. The groom's family also has to certify to the *kgotla* officials that they have built a house for the bride in a separate piece of land. Once the *kgotla* officials are satisfied that everything is in order, they issue a marriage certificate as proof of customary marriage. The couple and their families then move to the District Commissioner's Office for a civil marriage, either to marry there and exchange rings, or receive documents that licenses them to be married in a church (Jobeta and Nwauche 2015). This stage of a wedding is known as *pholoso* (from the verb *go folosa* "to take down") which signals the taking down of a public notice to marry. Once the *kgotla* and District Commissioner's officer processes are complete, other traditional wedding processes kick in. After *bogadi* has been presented to the *kgotla* official, it is then delivered to the bride's home to begin the *patlo* process. *Patlo* is the official asking of a woman's hand in marriage (Ellece 2011) which is gendered and is in two parts. The men and women hold *patlo* at different times and sequentially. From the District Commissioner's office, the married men's delegation moves to the bride's homestead and conduct a *patlo* at the *kgotla* in front of the yard. The men from the groom's side kneel and some sit on the ground in front of an assembled group of men from the bride's side who would be sitting on chairs or stools and proceed to ask for *sego*

sa metsi "a water calabash". Once their requested has been acceded to, they file out of the *kgotla* to fetch the eight-cattle *bogadi* which would have been kept nearby and deliver them to the kraal of the bride. The *bogadi* cattle are accompanied by a sheep that is known as *lengwalo* or *mokwele*. Mokwele is never given as cash. Upon its arrival in the kraal of the family of the bride, the sheep is slaughtered immediately and cooked because it is believed that if allowed to urinate in the kraal, such an act will render the new bride infertile. These are received by the maternal uncle of the bride.

After the groom's family has presented *bogadi* and *mokwele* to the bride's family, the father of the bride in reciprocity presents to the family of the groom two mature cattle. These could be male or female, but never a bull (A bull would be considered as an insult to the bride's family). The first of these is called *kgomo ya perepetsha* (the beast that goes out running). It is an adult cow from the maternal uncle of the bride who gives it to the groom's family as a wedding gift after he has received *bogadi*. The groom's family drives this beast to their home and later kill it when the second wedding celebration takes place at their home. The second adult cow, *kgomo ya molhakanehwa* "the beast that is shared", is presented to the groom's family by the father of the bride. This beast is called *molhakanehwa* because it is slaughtered in the kraal of the bride's family and shared between the family of the bride and groom. *Molhakanehwa* is never offered as cash since it is a ritual cow. This beast is known by three additional names. Because it is given by the father of the bride, it is also known as *yorrautsone* (the one from the father). Another name for *molhakanehwa* is *kgomo ya kapesi* (lit: a cow that dresses someone up). One of the key features of Ngwaketse traditional wedding is the ritual of hanging a thin string of omentum around the neck of the bride and groom on their wedding day (Pilane 2002). The placing of a string of omentum around the neck of the couple and their children (if they have some) is known as *go apesa lomipi* (to dress one with omentum) or simply *go apesa* (to dress). Since the omentum for this ritual is taken from the *molhakanehwa* beast, this cow is also known as *kgomo ya kapesi* (a cow that dresses someone up). During the ceremony of putting a string of omentum on the couple and their children, the Ngwaketse also use traditional medicine to doctor their bride and groom. They do this by taking a piece of meat known as *tshiamo* "goodness" from the *molhakanehwa* cow, mix it with traditional medicine, roast it, and feed it to the couple. *Tshiamo* is a piece of meat taken from the tenderloin of a cow. The traditional medicine that is smeared on the meat is believed to have powers to protect the couple against the effects of witchcraft that could separate the couple and lead to divorce. It must be noted here that many Batswana Pentecostal Christians while they may give or receive *molhakanehwa*, they do not take part in the dressing of omentum and the eating of the doctor *tshiamo*. They consider this practice to be against their biblical views. They also do not allow the use of a traditional doctor and traditional medicine. They instead use a priest to bless the wedding. Finally, *kgomo ya molhakanehwa* is also known as *kgomo ya kgolagano* (a covenant cow). This is because it is used to bind the groom and bride together bringing together two families.

Once the men's *patlo* is complete, the women's *patlo* starts inside the homestead of the bride. The married women from the groom side file into the yard of the bride to ask for her hand in marriage. This can only start once *bogadi* has been received at the *kgotla*. Once the groom's women have been officially handed the bride, she is given the marriage law (*o a laina*) by only the women from the bride's side (Campbell 1970).

BDP supports Constitutional Amendment Bill against floor crossing

The Botswana Democratic Party (BDP) welcomes the bill tabled by Minister of Presidential Affairs, Governance and Public Administration, Hon. Kabo Morwaeng which seeks to order elected representatives to surrender their seats should they wish to resign from the political banner under which they were elected. The bill was firstly brought to Parliament in 1998 by Hon. Gladys Kokorwe and widely applauded by MPs across the political divide. A thorough historic account of the bill against floor crossing in Parliament is provided in a press statement by Hon. Morwaeng dated 03rd August 2020.

We are convinced that the bill is a core democratic and necessary tool to protect the will of the electorate as expressed in the vote placed against Party symbols as shaped by our electoral system. Our current electoral system does not provide for a competent model to separate elected representatives from the vehicle/political party which ushered them a seat in parliament without distorting the will of the voter. Under this current dispensation, internal (primary) elections in our parties select individ-



Hon. Kabo Morwaeng

uals who then represent the parties at general elections. Once the internal process is complete the individual so elected becomes a **party representative**. Our view that the voter indeed passes their vote to the Party is not new in the BDP and can be attested to by the Hansard records of former MP, Lt. Gen SKI Khama on 14th August 1998 when he said

"I could not have done it on my own. There were things like the use of Party equipment when addressing political meetings. This was an indication that the people are linking the candidate with the Party of their choice and its policies".

The BDP is appraised of the counter view that the bill will vest powers on political party leaders to cen-

sor elected representatives for fear of being booted out of Parliament and/or council. We hold that such view is misplaced as the bill presented by the BDP is directed and limited to members who voluntarily resign from the party they were elected under. Members of Parliament or council who are expelled from their political parties will be free to either

join another party of their choice or to become an independent member.

We take this opportunity to assure Members of Parliament and the public that the BDP holds sacrosanct its democratic values and obligations to make laws, thus would not formulate laws that target individuals or for any selfish and personalized interests. We are a Party that believes in and respects the democratic values that built this republic. Our internal process, robust and sound internal democratic infrastructure are deliberately designed to ensure that the electorate remains paramount to our decisions in government and law-making in Parliament. We call on our representatives in Parliament and rally members of the BDP to support this bill to oblige representatives to seek a new mandate from the voting public should an MP or Councillor wish to abandon a party whose ideals they promised the voter to represent in parliament or council.

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De Beers closely monitoring key markets



Rough diamonds

By The Telegraph Reporter

While the diamond industry is trying to stage a comeback from a difficult trading environment, De Beers remains optimistic of a world post COVID-19, where consumers will once again clamour for its quality gems, making recovery in the battered sector possible, reveals market intelligence from the company's latest diamond insight global sentiment report.

The diamond mining juggernaut that used to control the diamond trade for decades says it is working actively in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic to understand the consumer perspective and monitor how this evolves as we pass through the stages of the crisis. The company conducted a quantitative consumer sentiment study in its three major consumer markets to ascertain how people are feeling around the world and their attitudes towards diamonds at this time. The respondents included 2,800 women and men across the US, China, and India, aged 20 – 65 years.

The survey results offered insights from customers trying to adjust from this year's earlier global pandemic that has infected over 20 million people and killed nearly 800,000. According to the report, consumers see themselves as being in a moment of change and unpredictability, which impacts consumer confidence. Still, De Beers says it is beginning to see adjustment by consumers to their "new normal."

This is being led by China, with

85 percent of Chinese respondents feeling at minimum they are settling into a new routine that is starting to feel familiar. About 24 percent of the total sample said they are fully reconnected to their life and work and back to their previous routine. The country was the first to report the outbreak of the novel virus as early as November before the severity of the virus gained prominence in January after reports of its fast transmission and fatalities. China was able to contain the virus with fewer than 80,000 infects and little under 4,000 deaths.

In the hard-hit US and India, confidence is relatively more fragile, as these countries are still battling to contain the surging infections and deaths. The US leads with the world's highest coronavirus infections and deaths, accounting for over 5 million infections and 200,000 deaths. India is placed third with 3.2 million infections and over 100,000 deaths. A quarter of respondents in these afflicted markets feels they are modifying their daily routines, focusing on what they can control despite moments of frustration and anxiety. The USA is responsible for over 50 percent of diamond jewellery sales while India is the biggest buyer of rough diamonds.

"Positively, in both of these markets two-thirds of consumers said they are returning to some kind of normal life and routine. Only a minority of consumers are far more pessimistic, believing that the situation is deteriorating. In the US this group represented only 8 percent of the sample; in China just 4 percent," De Beers said in the report.

Consumers from the three markets have shown strong intentions to purchase diamonds in the future, especially as the holiday season approaches. In the US, almost 60 percent of men expressed an intention to purchase for a significant other for the holidays, while nearly a third of women stated they intended to buy diamond jewellery for themselves. In China and India, over 80 percent of men and women are very or quite likely to purchase diamond jewellery for a significant other or for themselves during the festive season.

According to the report findings, high levels of intent and expectation to acquire diamond jewellery during key festive seasons for gifting, bridal or self-purchase are driven by under-35 professionals. These consumers tend to be of middle affluence and work full-time, the report reveals.

De Beers' iconic message that a diamond is forever, drilled over the years to their consumers, appears to be bearing fruit during the difficult times as over 80 percent of those intending to spend in the category have either self-purchased or gifted diamond jewellery in the past two years, indicating that the intrinsic and extrinsic benefits of diamonds are valued and understood, the company said.

"This is an important reminder that in an industry based on personal connections and relationships, we should give time and attention to our past customers."

De Beers' revenue fell by more than half while profit took a drastic nosedive. According to Anglo American's financials for the six months

ended June 2020, total revenue decreased by 54 percent to \$1.2 billion, down from last year's \$2.6 billion in the corresponding period. The more than half decline was due to rough diamond sales falling to \$1.0 billion, compared to June 2019's \$2.3 billion sales. Rough diamond sales volumes decreased by 45 percent to 8.5 million carats after the significant impact of Covid-19 on the global diamond industry.

Anglo American owns 85 percent of De Beers while the Botswana government has a 15 percent stake. De Beers and Botswana are in one of the world's longest lucrative public private partnerships, where they hold equal shares in Debswana, which operates the best diamond mines in the country. Every year, De Beers holds sales cycles or sights in Gaborone, where diamonds from Botswana and its other mines from South Africa, Namibia and Canada are sold to selected diamond buyers known as sightholders.

But with the outbreak of the deadly virus earlier this year, De Beers offered Sightholders the option to defer up to 100 percent of their allocations at the fourth and fifth Sights and held some viewings for Sight 5 outside of Botswana, following the cancellation of the third Sight of 2020 due to Covid-19 related travel restrictions. The average realised price decreased by 21 percent to \$119/carats, down from last year's \$151/carats, driven by a higher proportion of lower value rough diamonds being sold in the first two Sights of the year and an 8 percent decline in the average rough price index.

Liquidity decreased by 1.5 percent during Covid-19 lockdown

By Portia Nkani

Bank excess liquidity decreased during the first quarter of 2020, falling from 6.6 percent of total assets in December 2019 to 5.1 percent in March 2020, Econsult latest economic review has shown.

From a lay man's perspective, as a consequence of excess liquidity, market interest rates have stayed low.

This means it was cheaper for companies and people to borrow money during the April-June 2020 period, thus helping the economy recover from the financial and economic crisis, and allowing the banking system to build up liquidity buffers. This reflected the greater increase in bank lending as compared to bank deposits during the period.

Getting back on the 2020 second quarter economic review by economists Sethunya Sejoie and Kitso Mokhurutshe, which runs from April to June, the bank lending was valued at P64.6 billion in March



Bank of Botswana

2020, up by 3.0 percent which is P1.9 billion from P62.8 billion in December 2019.

During the same period, bank deposits rose by 2.0 percent an equivalent of P1.5 billion, ending March 2020 with a value of P77.3 billion. "Banks also reduced their holdings of low return earning assets such as cash and treasury bills during

Q1 which has also contributed to the reduction in excess liquidity," shows the research note.

During the difficult times of countrywide lockdowns which were experienced in April-May, the Bank of Botswana also implemented monetary policy measures to support economic activity.

The Bank Rate was reduced to

4.25 percent, and both nominal and real interest rates are expected to decrease to reflect the policy changes.

Along with other bank interventions such as the three months holiday period for loans repayments which ran from April to end June: households and businesses were positively assisted as these initiatives eased their loan servicing burdens and reduced the cost of borrowing.

BoB also reduced the Primary Reserve Requirement Ratio from 5 percent to 2.5percent, thereby injecting liquidity into the banking system. Up to date the two researchers worried that data are not yet available, but about P1.6 billion is estimated to have been injected into the banking system.

Another notable change was the downward adjustment of the rate of crawl of the Pula exchange rate to an annual rate of -2.87 percent in 2020. Sejoie and Mokhurutshe said this supports the export competitiveness of locally produced goods.

Is money as evil as many say it is?

A few months ago I shared a picture of my children counting and matching coins on one of my social accounts. Although some marvelled at the picture with comments such as "They are counting money for sweets". Some however wondered why I allowed my children to "play" with money. Nevertheless, I still felt the need to drive the point home on how important it was to introduce our children to money at an early age.

Huge sums of money missing at SACCOS

By The Telegraph Reporter

Thousands of Batswana who were hoping to improve their livelihoods through savings have been left in the lurch following embezzlement of funds at Local, Central and Parastatal Workers Savings and Credit Co-operative Society Ltd (LCGPW SACCOS), documents seen by The Telegraph show.

In a letter addressed to members dated 4 December 2019, the Minister of Investment, Trade and Industry Peggy Serame paints a bleak future of the Co-operative as a result of embezzlement of funds by its management.

With more than 5000 members across the country at its inception, the core mandate of the Co-operative is to encourage members to save and create a pool of funds from which they can get loans at competitive and affordable rates. Registered in 2006, its members included former industrial class public service, parastatal, private companies and non-governmental organizations who are members of the National Amalgamated Workers Union.

Serame's fears that the Co-operative may unfold are not unfounded. According to a report seen by this publication and conducted at the request of the Director for Co-operative Developments at her Ministry, members lost millions of Pula as a result of mismanagement by the society's board and management.

"The Director presented the Investigation Report (at a meeting held in Kanye on 21 September 2019), whose executive and audited financial statements are attached for ease of reference, were discussed by the general membership at length and all the options concerning the future of your co-operative society which included amongst others, the revival of the Co-operative, judicial management and liquidation were deliberated on," stated Serame.

She added that "It was on the basis of the above members' resolution as well as the outcome of the report that the Director for Co-operative Development resolved to place your Co-operative under liquidation.

Serame said she supports the decision taken by the "Director to liquidate your Co-operative with a view to saving it from liquidation by creditors."

According to the report by Mahube Consultancy Co-operative Society Ltd which was appointed by the Director Co-operative Development, LCGPW SACCOS has not been able to effectively execute its core mandate (Saving & Loans).

The report also states that the Co-operative has failed to promote member savings, since savings per member remained low throughout the period under review.

The Co-operative failed to take advantage of its numerical advantage to build a credit fund for provision of loan to its members and the Co-operative credit awarding process was ineffective, corrupt and unfair.

The report further states that the Co-operative mismanaged their scheme with be-mobile and other suppliers; these are sources of numerous complaints from the membership.

The investigators also found that the Co-operative's governance structures have collapsed, resulting in huge misappropriation of Co-operative's funds and the current Board and manager have proven beyond reasonable doubt their unfitness to serve the co-operative's management.

The internal controls have collapsed, hence paved way for misappropriation of funds by various

schemes.

"Our investigations revealed that the society had no lending policy, hence loan administration was done haphazardly without any laid out process. Loans were approved without following due diligence, they were issued without filing of application forms, there was no process done and there was poor record keeping," the report says.

Majority of Co-operative members were not able to access loans. Members loan balances could not be established due to poor record keeping and the member passbooks were not updated.

As a result of this maladministration of the credit process, member complaints intensified while others abandoned the Co-operative thereby, withdrawing their savings and terminating their membership.

"This has negatively impacted the liquidity and viability of the Co-operative. The society failed to do regular reconciliations of the be-Mobile account hence has currently received P12 million debt claim be Mobile. The society cannot dispute the claim due to lack of reconciliation and proper records," the report says.

It says extremely poor record keeping and failure to give members the services they continue paying for caused commotion amongst the members. Complaints were on the rise, but the board failed to address the situation. As a result some of the members ordered their employers to terminate stop order deductions, states the report.

"Our investigation established that the Co-operative Society entered into a car purchase scheme for second hand vehicles with Zawekha Motors in Mogoditshane. The scheme was originally meant for staff members however, members of the board used the same scheme to acquire vehicles for themselves. Majority of people benefiting from the scheme did not make arrangement for payment of monthly installments, therefore the society's funds were used to pay for personal cars," the report says.

The report found that one of the former chairperson of the society borrowed money from money lenders and used them for his personal use. The report shows that board members used at least more than P2.7 million between 2017 and 2019 for their personal use while staff members used at least P2.1 million for the same period. Unaccounted funds for expenses by the board from 2013 to 2019 amounted to more than P2.6 million. Unaccounted and uncontrolled overtime by staff for the same period was more than P6.1 million.

The report also shows that Co-operative Society's former Chairperson and Vice Chairperson (names known to this publication) had been suspended from the board in November 2017. The two are alleged to have cashed the funds amounting to P120 000 for personal use. Cheques were cashed over the counter. The two board members are said to have been suspended for having the tendency to cash cheques over the counter, the Vice Chairperson had the Co-operative Society's account linked to his cellphone banking without authority of the board, giving out loans to members without following due procedure.

"To the surprise of the investigation team, the remaining board members continued to do what the former chairperson and his vice were doing. The report also shows that a considerable number of assets among them, vehicles and plots are unaccounted for," states the report.

Is money as evil as many say it is?

GUEST COLUMN



OTISITSWE TAWANA-MADZIBA

A few months ago I shared a picture of my children counting and matching coins on one of my social accounts. Although some marvelled at the picture with comments such as “They are counting money for sweets”. Some however wondered why I allowed my children to “play” with money. Nevertheless, I still felt the need to drive the point home on how important it was to introduce our children to money at an early age. I also realised

that those that questioned my parenting skills must have a misconception that “Money is the root of all evil”. After all, many people including our parents strongly believed this. They believed that money made people evil or that people with a lot of money must have done something evil or sinister to acquire it. Whatever the case may be, that adage has been passed down from generation to generation.

The old statement, “Money is the root of all evil” comes from the Bible scripture taken from 1 Timothy 6:10. Unbeknownst to many, the famous scripture is often misquoted by people. The actual scripture says nothing about money itself being evil but the love thereof. The verse goes on to say “...which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows”. Here Apostle Paul warns people to not be emotionally attached to money, rather they should pursue Godly things with passion. “Loving mon-

ey” means you set your desire on that money, and your heart is centred on it. Emotional attachment to money could be the culprit behind persistent stress, anxiety, and dissatisfaction. Excessive selfishness or greed for power and money is birthed from worshipping money. Believing that with money, the world revolves around you. Greed is often the underlying cause of fraudulent and deceptive tactics that have widely destroyed society, and this is what our parents were concerned about. Money on its own is not evil, it’s what we as people attach to it.

Money is the root of all evil is therefore found nowhere in the great book. In no way does the verse imply that we should not have money, earn, save, and invest money, or enjoy exchanging money for what we need or desire. Money is therefore neither good nor bad, it is simply an instrument that we use as a medium of exchange for what is valuable. However, for one to be able to use money and invest wisely,

one needs to start early in acquiring the necessary skills.

Most dictionaries, including the Concise Oxford Dictionary, define money as “a current medium of exchange, which is recognised and widely accepted in payments for goods and services and settlement of debts”. However, what is also important is that money has to be accepted as a medium of exchange in a given country. Money is often in the form of coins and banknotes, although it comes in different forms.

Essentially, money has three main functions or characteristics, first, it is generally accepted as a medium of exchange. This means that it is used to facilitate the sale, purchase, or trade of goods between parties. This is the most common function of money that we are all familiar with. Secondly, it serves as a unit of account, which means it can be used to quote prices and keep books. In this context, money is divisible, you can make calculations and comparisons. Lastly, money

functions as a store of value, meaning it can be saved, stored and retrieved. This also means that money is a fully liquid asset, which implies that it can be used directly, instantly, and without any extra costs or restrictions to make payments.

These clearly defined functions or characteristics of money came about as an improvement over the old system for facilitating trade – barter system, which dates back to 6000 BC in Mesopotamia. Regrettably, the barter system had several limitations, such as the double coincidence of wants (the needs of the buyer and seller not matching), the absence of a common measure of value, indivisibility of certain goods, difficulty of deferred payments, and difficulty in storing wealth. Following the barter system, the use of precious metals like gold, silver, and copper became common as a medium of exchange. However, storage and transportation of the metals became the biggest challenge, and this led to the use of standardised

coins. In essence, money evolved from commodity money (barter system) to hard money (use of precious metals and coins), to paper money (banknotes & cheques), and now digital money (cryptocurrencies).

Having understood what money is and how it evolved, we can now safely conclude that money is neither good nor bad. It is simply an instrument that is used as a medium of exchange for what we think is valuable. We need to free ourselves from old beliefs that affect our perception of money. I hope this will change how as parents and caregivers we perceive money. It is time we let go of fallacies that have been holding us back from teaching our children how to use this amazing instrument – money, to create a brighter future.

Otisitswe Tawana-Madziba is the founder of Fin-Edu.

For comments and enquiries kindly send an email to otisitswe@fin-edubw.com or visit www.fin-edubw.com.

Secondary School leavers ‘lead’ the labour market in Botswana – Survey



A survey carried by the national statistics agency – Statistics Botswana (SB) during the first quarter of the year has shown that people who studied only up to secondary school contributed 42.4 percent of the overall employment in Botswana.

According to the SB’s Multi Topic Survey – Labour Force Module Report for quarter one – 2020 workers with University qualification are the second contributors

to the labour market sector at 15.7 percent while their Primary School counterparts come third at 14.7 percent.

Statistics Botswana says from a total of 751,798 employed persons, 458,371(61.0 percent) did not have any training, the majority of whom were those who had never attended school, completed primary, secondary and non-formal educational.

The survey also shows that for

this year’s first quarter (Q1 2020) shows that the country has a labour force of 978,396 people, up 2.5 percent from 2019. The labour force is made up of people aged above 15 years who are out of school and are active to undertake any kind of labour. From the 978,396 manpower, only 76.8 percent are employed, leaving 226,598 without jobs in the first three months of 2020, marking a 23.2 percent unemployment rate,

higher than the 22.2 percent unemployment rate in 2019.

The lack of jobs in Botswana has become a major issue, and without clear data, there is growing concern that the number of unemployed people might be understated. For starters, the 23.2 percent unemployment rate does not include discouraged job seekers, who after a prolonged period of joblessness have decided to stop searching

for the hard to come jobs. Statistics Botswana estimates the number of discouraged job seekers at 59,212, and when added to those actively seeking jobs, there are 285,813 people without jobs, resulting in the extended unemployment rate of 27.5 percent.

The lack of jobs in the sluggish economy has hit hard the young people most. Nearly 146,899 people under the age of 35 are job-

less – representing more than half of the total unemployed people in the country. The data also shows that unemployment is highest in urban and urban villages, and it is steadily rising in rural areas as well. From the 226,598 jobless people, about 22.2 percent or more than 50,000 are graduates from tertiary institutions, while secondary school leavers account for 60.2 percent of unemployment.

Francistown becomes home to Botswana’s first Petroleum refinery project

Chongoene Corridor Refinery (Pty) Limited (CCRL), a Botswana registered Company, is proceeding with plans for a multibillion-dollar investment in a petroleum refinery and tank farm in the Republic of Botswana. The project, which will be located in the Northern part of the Botswana, in Francistown, include an estimated 1,182km crude oil and natural gas pipelines that will originate from the Republic of Mozambique. The 150,000-bpd refinery and the advent of natural gas feedstock supplies, will have major positive and transformational impact on the economy of Botswana, as well as other SADC member states including Zimbabwe, Zambia, the Democratic Republic of Congo and the Republic of South Africa.

The proposed refinery to be developed by CCRL has a strategic link to the Chongoene Development Corridor Project (CDC), which is a private sector driven US\$7.4 billion transportation infrastructure project in Mozambique. It involves the phased construction of a 150Mtpa Deepwater Seaport, capable of docking vessels of over 200,000 Dwt, on the coastline of Gaza Province in Mozambique. It also includes investments in a Cape Gauge rail line designed to heavy haul standards, which will link the proposed new port, with the existing national rail line as well as other regional rail networks via Zimbabwe. The CDC project objective is to provide world-class transportation infrastructure backbone, as a basis to attract major

private sector investments that will transform the resource rich Limpopo River Valley, which cuts across, Mozambique, Zimbabwe, South Africa and Botswana, from a rural agricultural region, into an internationally competitive industrial and service industry powerhouse, based on its huge agribusiness, fisheries, human, industrial, mining, tourism and water resources and potentials.

The CDC is conceptualized and is being promoted by Mozambique STT S.A (STT), a private Company, which obtained an exclusive mandate from the Government of Mozambique in 2012, for implementation of the Project, without recourse whatsoever, to Government funding or sovereign guarantee. In a statement provided to

investors, “STT hired the services of a consortium of most reputable international firms led by Mott MacDonald PDNA, and including Niras A/S of Denmark and Johnstaff of Australia, and has since 2014, concluded FEL-1 studies, which have been presented to, and approved by Government. STT has gone further and secured an equally reputable EPC Contractor and is currently proceeding with Bankable Feasibility and Detailed Engineering Studies for Project implementation”.

The Chairwoman of the Board of STT Madam Olivia Thema Moisés Machel notes that “the CDC was a major dream of my late father – Samora Moisés Machel. It was his vision to gift our landlocked sister countries a piece of Mozambique’s

coastline, for them to collectively build, own and operate their own port. It was also his vision that the SADC region must be well connected with the best transportation infrastructure and cheap energy, to trigger an agricultural and industrial revolution and assure prosperity for its peoples. I am only trying to carry that vision forward in a different and an inclusive manner that will involve the participation of, and also benefits to all Mozambicans, Governments and peoples of the region”.

The CCRL project will produce fuel and lubricants from imported crude, for distribution and marketing in the Region and will also include tank farms for storage and strategic reserves. CCRL, has accordingly signed an agreement with

STT, as one of the anchor Clients for the proposed Chongoene Port.

CCRL is also negotiating with another Mozambican Company, African Renaissance Pipeline Limited (ARPL), for the extension of their planned natural gas pipeline, and the supply of natural gas feedstock to Francistown. This will position Francistown as a major energy hub, and CCRL as a major energy solutions provider in the heart of SADC. Based on recent huge gas discoveries, ARPL is promoting the 2,600km, 42-inch, African Renaissance Pipeline Project, designed to transport natural gas feedstock from Mozambique’s Rovuma and other Basins, to major provinces in the country, and to Gauteng in South Africa.

The Telegraph

Arts & Society

Journalism of courage.

Wednesday August 19, 2019

BOMU Resurrected



Botswana Musicians Union (BOMU) held their Annual General Meeting this past weekend where they also elected their new Executive committee. Phemelo Fresh Lesokwane was elected President. Papie Kaone Rakhudu was elected Vice President Administration while Letsweletse Moshabi was elected Vice President Finance. Rasina Winfred Rasina is the new Secretary General while additional members are Dj Fondo Fire, Gloria Dzwikiti and Boitumelo Nono Siile. The meeting was attended by Minister of Culture Tumiso Rakgare.

Botswana ranks 6th in Africa in children's rights guarantee

By Arts & Society Reporter

Botswana ranks 6th best place in Africa in the KidsRights Index 2020 - a study assessing how children's rights are respected worldwide and how committed countries are to improving them.

Globally, Botswana is ranked 82nd and Iceland ranks 1st as the best country to grow up as a child.

The index assessed 182 countries which are all UN member states that have ratified the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.

The report groups 20 indicators into five areas: the right to life; the right to health; the right to education; the right to protection; and the enabling environment for child rights. The performance in the latter category is based on the Concluding Observations adopted by The UN Committee on the Rights of the Child (CRC).

Four African countries are in the five lowest-scoring countries. These are Central African Republic, Equato-

rial Guinea, Sierra Leone and Chad.

In the protection ranking which comprises of child labour, adolescent birth rate and birth registration, Botswana ranks 94 out of 182 with a score of 0,832.

According to the scale, 1 is the best and highest score a country can achieve. In the Health ranking which comprises of % of under five-year olds suffering from underweight, immunisation of one-year-old children, of population using improved sanitation facilities (urban and rural) and % of population using improved drinking water sources (urban and rural).

Botswana ranks 113 out of 182 with a score of 0,823. Botswana did not do well in the life ranking where it is placed 127 out of 182. The life ranking category is comprised of indicators such as Under five mortality rate, life expectancy at birth and maternal mortality ratio.

The KidsRights Index is the first and only global rank-

ing that annually measures how children's rights are respected worldwide and to what extent countries are committed to improving the rights of children. Although the report does not directly state the impact of the pandemic, the wider report expresses concern that the coronavirus will have disastrous consequences on children and threatens to reverse progress made over the decades. "The challenges the coronavirus poses to governments worldwide are likely to have a serious and long-lasting effect on the extent to which those governments will focus on actively implementing children's rights at large, and/or will be able to do so," states the report.

Amongst other things, the report states that "the State party cooperates with civil society through formal agreements. It is concerned, however, that civil society is not sufficiently consulted in aspects of children's rights beyond those that involve service delivery".

Botswana's blood bank is half empty

By Cedric Swanka

The National Blood Transfusion Service (NBTS) is struggling to meet a target of 45 000 pints of blood it needs annually having collected only 24,000 pints in the previous year. With the Covid-19 regulations in place, the situation is likely to worsen. Those in need of blood are anaemia patients, blood disorder patients, patients under surgery, newly born babies, mothers going for delivery and accidents patients.

Answering the call for assistance with blood is Bofelo Kgaodi-Segotso, who has a month-long blood donation campaign aimed at motivating people to come forward to save lives and become champions.

Bofelo told *The Telegraph* that it started 20 years ago when he was 16 years old and he has since made his 70th blood donation in August.

The campaign has been endorsed by the NBTS. It is intended to help collect more blood, create more awareness on blood donation as well as encourage more people to donate blood.

"The spirit of love inspired my motivation towards donating blood, because giving blood is giving life and

giving life is giving love. The campaign is held under theme save lives be a champion and the importance of blood inspired the theme. The theme is developed in such a way we motivate people to come forward to donate to make know they have a purpose in life," Bofelo said.

Bofelo is the founder and head of Makoya Company AKOYA COMPANY, a Gaborone based creative powerhouse encompassing a broad range of services from music production, recording & publishing, TV & Film production, marketing, events production/management and talent management. He was first introduced to art at a tender age of 9 when he was casted to portray a character of Jesus in a school play.

He has also been part of youth activism activities such as being with Youth Health Organisation (YHO) on voluntary basis, an organisation that worked with Botswana Government, United States Government and United Nations to promote youth health through music and theatre.

The blood donation campaign aims at attracting men and women currently located around Gaborone and surrounding areas. "The kind of

people we are looking for and their age groups are men and women aged between 16 and 65 years. The age groups is in accordance with the requirements of the blood donation requirements.

The campaign began this month on the 3rd, however the recent two week movement restriction affected Bofelo and his campaign plans. "I had to adjust, change the strategy and we have trimmed down the magnitude of the campaign. We now abide by lockdown movement regulations and we communicate with people through Facebook and NBTS office has provided transport for volunteer donors as blood donation is an essential service which can't be halted."

Sharing the campaign experience Bofelo said "resources are a great challenge especially resources to market and prepare for the closing ceremony and general logistics. Government and the private sector can help by continuing to fund and expand funding as it will allow blood donation drives in their facilities."

"The whole thing is exciting despite the lockdown, I enjoy challenges as they motivate me and it is a worthwhile experience," Bofelo concluded.



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Masks pose a challenge to the deaf, hard of hearing community

By Don-Martin Whande

When the Presidential Covid-19 taskforce recommended that every person must wear a mask in public areas, this immediately became a hindrance and barrier for the deaf and hard of hearing. Hard of hearing refers to someone with hearing loss but where hearing capability may still be present.

Such individuals use hearing aids or auditory devices to provide assistance with speech. On the other hand, deafness refers to profound hearing loss where an individual may have very little functional hearing or none at all.

On most occasions, the deaf and hard of hearing rely on lip-reading, which can be a challenge behind a mask. Around the world, people are adjusting to wearing face masks to limit the spread of coronavirus. While masks may help us keep safe, they are becoming a barrier and further isolating deaf Batswana.

Kutlo Seboni who is a community member

of the deaf and hard of hearing says the beginning of Covid-19 in Botswana was particularly difficult as interpreters weren't initially common at press conferences. "Face-to-face communication is critical to the deaf community. Botswana still does not understand that the deaf and hard of hearing have many different levels of communication, understanding, and accessibility that need to be accepted," she says.

Seboni who is deaf says many people who can hear often struggle to understand Covid-19 although much of that information is accessible on TV and radio. "Now imagine how extra difficult that would be if all that Covid-19 information is only accessible through sign language. The fact of the matter is much of the Covid-19 information is not available to the deaf and hard of hearing and this is why we are still vulnerable," says Seboni.

Speaking to Arts & Society, Clinical psychologist Lesego Mosweu says the eyes and the mouth are the most informative regions on the human body. "Faces give

us a lot of information in our social interactions from joy, anger to sorrow and stress. We recognise people by their faces, but when we wear face masks identity is blurred and communication diminishes," she says.

Amongst other things, Mosweu says although we often see sign language interpreters next to Covid-19 taskforce members as they provide updates on how Botswana is fighting this virus, many deaf people still do not have access to vital information about coronavirus.

"Technology is playing a part in assisting the deaf and hard of hearing. There are now clear or see-through masks to benefit the Deaf and Hard of Hearing and to benefit interpreters. However, it will take time for such masks to reach our shores," she says.

She also urges policymakers to expedite a broad level for communication access for the deaf and hard of hearing. With more than 50 countries having mandated wearing face masks in public, it will for the foreseeable future remain a challenge to adapt to a world where facial expressions are hidden behind a mask.

Botswana's emerging filmmakers thrive despite Covid-19 restrictions

Other industries may be slowly re-opening following the national lockdown in response to the Covid-19 pandemic, but Botswana's film sector is a hive of activity, adhering to all post-lockdown regulations in continuing to create world-class film and TV content.

at the MTF Academy – a MultiChoice initiative that aims to ignite Africa's creative industries and in so doing, transform the film sector. Skilled and experienced professionals in the African film industry are scarce. The MTF Academy wants to

Covid-19 lockdowns in Southern Africa may have restricted students' personal interactions, but it has done nothing to damper their spirits, as Lorato and Masego are fast proving.

THE SKY'S THE LIMIT FOR LORATO



Masego and Lorato - MTF Class of 2020

In particular, the students of the MultiChoice Talent Factory (MTF) Academy for Southern Africa have returned from the academy headquarters in Lusaka, and are working hard, from home, to continue their studies ahead of their graduation later this year.

Lorato Orapeleng and Masego Mohwasa were the two fortunate creatives chosen to represent Botswana this year

be part of the solution by proactively growing this skills base in various Southern African countries, including Botswana, while uniting the African film sector into one formalised, professional industry.

To do this, students from across the region participate in a year-long, paid-for programme that provides them with invaluable skills and hands-on industry experience.

You could say Lorato was born for TV. Since the age of five, she has dreamt of being on screen, regularly 'presenting' TV inserts for friends and family. A failed audition for Mantlwaneng had her second-guessing her passion, and she pursued a course in accounting and business principles at the Botswana Accountancy College.

"But I knew this wasn't for me, it wasn't what I wanted, so I dropped out," Lorato says, adding that time spent with the youth NGO, SkyGirls, which encourages young girls to embrace themselves and their inherent talents, reinforced her passion for TV.

Lorato then travelled to South Africa to complete a short course in TV production, which cemented her career path. When AFDA, the South African film and TV school, opened up courses in Botswana, Lorato instantly enrolled for a Degree in Motion Picture Media, graduating in 2019.

It has really expanded my thinking and shown me the wealth of opportunities available in film and TV both in Botswana and beyond our borders. As soon as I've graduated, I want to start working on local content for DStv and then content for the region," Lorato explains.

Aside from building her skills and opening up doors to her future career, the MTF Academy has given Lorato something even more important – confidence in herself and the belief that she has what it takes to follow her dreams.

"Before this experience, I was prepared to settle for a mediocre life. I believed I would have to work for my mom and my TV dreams would never be realised," she says. "But I don't believe that anymore. My time at MTF has taught me I can achieve anything I set my mind to, and that's exactly what I'm going to do!"

CHANGING THE FILM NARRATIVE IN BOTSWANA

Interestingly, Masego's journey fol-

lowed a similar trajectory to that of Lorato. She also discontinued a business administration course she was doing in favour of pursuing her film and TV dreams. And, in the absence of relevant courses in Botswana, she too looked to South Africa for a way into her future career.

"Nothing scares me more than the thought of working in an office. As a child I loved stories, books and movies, but I never thought film could actually be a viable career option," Masego says. "As soon as I discovered AFDA and the course it was offering in Johannesburg, I applied and was accepted. When the school opened a branch in Botswana I transferred my admission, and embarked on a four-year Degree in Motion Picture Media, majoring in scriptwriting and directing, which I completed last year."

Destiny had a hand in Masego attending the MTF Academy as well: she saw a TV advert on the very last day before the deadline for applications cut off, and took a chance and applied.

"I wasn't sure of the value it would add to my life as an existing film graduate, but I was wrong! My time at the academy in Zambia showed me that African creative industries can flourish if the narrative is changed from wanting to make money to wanting to tell authentic stories," Masego adds.

More than this, her MTF experience has reaffirmed her own natural affinity for storytelling, has built her self-confidence, and empowered her to fight for what she believes in.

"I used to believe the benchmark for making it in film was moving to the UK and finding work there. Now I see I can follow my dreams right here in Botswana," Masego says. "The key is working with people who are just as passionate as you are, and the MTF Academy has shown me that."

Protea Hotel by Marriott Gaborone Masa Square – suspension of operations



Masa Centre

GABORONE – The Protea Hotel by Marriott Gaborone Masa Square would like to clarify certain information circulating on some social media sites and in some press.

The Hotel has not closed but rather suspended certain of its operations such as the bars and one of its restaurants due to challenges presented by COVID-19 and in line with government regulations. All other facilities are open. The Hotel Business has not been operating at its maximum for more than (six)

6 months despite efforts by the company to secure alternative business, however due to the pandemic, the state of emergency and the fact that borders are closed, revenues have taken a downturn.

All Associates/staff have been informed of proceedings in line with Government announcements and new developments as circumstances would dictate.

The Hotel has continually supported and assisted the Ministry of Health and Wellness by allowing access to the hotel rooms

for quarantine purposes since the beginning of the State of Emergency lockdown was announced in April 2020 and continues to do so.

Furthermore, the Shareholders have made goodwill payments every month since the lockdown commenced, over and above the Government subsidy to all Associates/staff, and hope to continue doing so in the coming months.

For further comments, please contact Andrew Kamanga the Hotel's COO

TENDER BPOMAS/3-2020/ BPOMAS DENTAL HEALTH RISK MANAGEMENT SOLUTIONS

BPOMAS invites proposals from suitably qualified companies for the provision of Dental Health Risk Management Solutions.

Submission Documents and Fee

All applicants are required to pay a non-refundable fee of **P1,000.00** to the below details:

Account Name: BPOMAS
Bank: First National Bank Botswana (FNBB)
Branch: Corporate Branch
Account Number: 62763419324

Proof of payment must be emailed to tenders@bpomas.co.bw

Applicants must note the following:

- The subject of the email should be: **BPOMAS/3-2020/BPOMAS Dental Health Risk Management Solutions.**
- Payment should be made through the bank; cash will not be accepted.
- The detailed Terms of Reference will be distributed via email upon receipt of proof of payment.
- The tender closing date is **17th August 2020.**

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Botswana Public Officers Medical Aid Scheme
bpomas_officialbw www.bpomas.co.bw



The Roses Among the Thorns

By Anita Rannoba

In a sport beset by patriarchy like football, it is a rare phenomenon to see a bevy of intelligent women vie for administrative posts.

As Botswana football goes to the elections to vote its leadership this year, six women have thrown their names in the hat.

The six are Itsholeng Disang, Joy Setshedi, Lobito Ncube, Tsosetso Magang, Kesego Okie and Theresa Hirschfeld.

In a football environment that is ever hostile to women, the jury is still out as to whether the women have what it takes to make an impact on local football.

Of greater interest however, the jury will be out to see how many will be voted into leadership, given that men make the majority of the voting delegates.

Interestingly, of the six women, four, being Disang, Magang, Ncube and Setshedi will go head to head for the seat of women representative in the Botswana Football Association (BFA).

The remaining two, being Okie and Hirschfeldt will take on the men folk for two of the three Ordinary Member positions in the BFA NEC.

While the number of women vying for the elections is the highest ever in the history of BFA, it however elicits both a great interest and a concern

Sports Journalist and Reporter, Anastacia Sibanda said as much as it brings joy to see women standing it is also not good that they are contesting against each other.

She says while this is a start, going forward, women should have the courage to take on men and also go for higher leadership positions in order to have a better number of ladies in power.

While she believes all the women contesting have impressive skill sets, Sibanda however says one candidate, Okie, has caught her eye.

Of all the women contestants, she says Okie is proving to be a ball of energy and she is therefore interested to see what she can offer if elected into the BFA NEC.

Should Okie win, Sibanda says she should be groomed as early as possible to take up bigger positions.

“Okie is a very energetic woman and fearless at heart. If groomed well she has the capability to stand for the BFA Presidency. We surely need more women like her in sport and she is one lady who will not be afraid to challenge for that position,” she boldly said.

Sibanda says that from this year’s elections, women should learn to not only focus on contesting against each other for a reserved women seat as this makes it hard for women empowerment. Rather, she says many should also contest for all the other seats as well.

For his part, *Mmegi* sports journalist Mqondisi Dube says 6 out of 23 is not a good number but a starting point for women participation.

Dube says women participation should amplify the voice of women and encourage more of them to step on board.

“The women who have taken the stand are full of integrity, they hold high posts in sports and they are driven by passion. Our hope is for them to bring something missing in the game just like other candidates who are standing; we only want them to improve football,” Dube said.

Commenting on the women contestants, football analyst Kagiso Kgaogano says he is impressed by the skill set the women will bring to the association.

“I do believe our football in general sometimes needs someone with ground experience, one who knows the challenges of football. A good candidate among them is one who has been in the game before, either as a player or Administration,” said Kgo-lagano.

Looking at individual capability, Kagiso said, Disang, a teacher by profession can blend well with the girl child, encourage and groom them well in to the game.

As for Magang, she has been an Athlete before and administrator at Volleyball and Sports Commission. Other candidates being new to the women football platform



The BFA NEC women candidates are; (From left to right) Theresa Hirschfeld, Lobito Ncube, Joy Setshedi, Tsosetso Magang, Itsoseng Disang and Kesego Okie (Pic: Press Photo)

should as well not be taken lightly. She says for them to have risen up to the challenge and raised their hands, it shows they believe they can lead exceptionally well.

“Ncube was on Marketing at Gaborone United, a club

that has taken the route to professional football way back though they had challenges along the way. For her to hold that position means she has the expertise to market football and she can do the same for the women’s game.”

“Setshedi being an entrepreneur, she has shown ambitions of building Sports through her foundation which this as well shows she has a desirable skill set,” he said.

Kgaogano says if and when some of them lose at

the upcoming elections, they should no lose heart but should rather rally around the winning women and support them and share with them ideas they have to help grow the game.

“I also challenge them to

also engage in other different structures of football so that they increase their representation even at Regions so that when we talk of delegates we can see other women who will be supporting and voting for them,” he concluded.

End of the road for chess Olympiad team

By Godfrey Mowaneng

Botswana has crashed out of the maiden World FIDE online Olympiad chess championship.

Playing in division 3, Botswana emerged seventh on the table in the highly contested group that witnessed Portugal’s grueling performance placing them at the summit of the table. With three nations making it to the next division in their efforts to make it to the final, runners up IPCA and third placed Scotland have qualified for the next round and will join some of the chess heavyweights in division 2.

While Botswana started of their journey on a high note, the match against Nigeria witnessed Botswana players winning all their games against the West African nation with only a single stalemate when Women Candidate Master (WCM) Refilwe Gabatshwane drew the last game on board six. The second round witnessed team Botswana navigating with dimmed lights as they lost all their matches to fourth placed Tajikistan.


Against runners up IPCA, Botswana won one match, drew one and lost four of the

other matches. In another interesting battle against United Arab Emirates, Botswana pocketed two wins and a draw while the UAE scored 3.5 points with three victories and a single draw. It was evident in round six and seven that Botswana was packing bags when they lost to Portugal and Scotland. It was yet another walk in the park for Portugal claiming five wins out of five.

Despite knocked out of the championship, Botswana consoled in their last match against Sri Lanka winning five of their matches against one. Meanwhile FIDE has identified some cheating nations and has since taken action against irregularities.

In a statement, FIDE announced that The Online Olympiad Fair Play Panel has identified four cases in which there are sufficient grounds to believe the Fair Play Regulations have been violated.

All the results of these players in the Online Olympiad have been turned into losses, and where applicable they will not be allowed to play any further part in the tournament. Tournament officials and team captains concerned have been informed to that effect.”





Botswana Life

Liferewards Revised Tariff Guide Charges - 21 Day Notice

Botswana Life hereby issues a 21-day Notice to its customers concerning the revised Tariff Guide in respect of the Life Rewards Card. Customers are advised of the following tariffs that will take effect on 1st September 2020.

Tariff	Current Charges (Pula)	New Charge
Branch transactions		
Cash		
Cash deposits	0.2% if > P2000.00	0.40% of deposit or Min P5.00 and Max P560
Cash Withdrawals	0.4% min P21.55	0.45% of withdrawal Min P21.55 and Max PP3000
Over the counter balance enquiry	Free	Free
Point of Sale Purchase		
POS Purchase		
POS transactional Fee (On us)	Free	Free
POS transactional Fee (Domestic)	Free	P1.12
POS transactional Fee (International)	Free	P4.50
POS Purchase Voucher Retrieval		
Voucher Retrieval	P100.00	P100.00
(v) ATM transactions		
Own ATM transactions		
Cash deposits	0.00%	0.35%
Cash withdrawals - Own	P2.80	P3.00
Declined cash withdrawal - Own	P1.50	P0.00
Balance enquiry	P0.61	P1.00
Mini statement - Own	P1.37	P2.00
Domestic ATM transactions		
Cash withdrawals - Domestic	P5.00	P6.97
Balance enquiry - Domestic	P2.46	P3.36
Declined cash withdrawal - Domestic	P3.92	P0.00
International ATM transactions		
Cash withdrawals - International	P25.82	P26.72
Balance enquiry - International	P3.30	P4.00
Declined cash withdrawal - International	P3.92	P0.00
Transaction Notifications		
SMS notification of payment	P0.27	P0.40
(ii) Card		
Card Issuance fee	Free	P30.00
Monthly maintenance fee	Free	Free
Replacement card (lost, stolen, renewal)	P66.78	P66.78
Minimum balance	P10.00	P20.00

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In a sport beset by patriarchy like football, it is a rare phenomenon to see a bevy of intelligent women vie for administrative posts.
As Botswana football goes to the elections to vote its leadership this year, six women have thrown their names in the hat.

Wednesday August 19, 2020

President and Henchmen called out as Elective Assembly is called off



BFA president Maclean Letshwiti (Right) and vice president Mashlow Motlogelwa

By The Telegraph Reporter

On Monday evening, Botswana Football Association (BFA) announced it had called off its long waited elective general assembly.

The assembly which was due to be held this coming Saturday, August 22nd 2020 will now be held at a yet to be announced date.

In the announcement, the BFA said the decision was taken 'following numerous engagements between the Botswana Football Association and the COVID 19 Task

Force.'

"The aforementioned is as a consequence of the current progression of the pandemic. We have been informed that under the prevailing conditions, it is not permissible to move across zones in pursuant to attending meetings," the BFA announced.

In the announcement, the association said it 'shall convene to review the available options and shall advise all stakeholders accordingly.'

As expected, the announcement has already divided the association's National Executive Committee (NEC).

Following the an-

nouncement of the postponement, some irate members of the NEC expressed shock at the cancellation.

The irate members took to the BFA NEC WhatsApp platform to express their shock at the cancellation, which at that point, none of them had seen coming.

'Ke bothata jaanong' (loosely translated; this is a problem now) one NEC member wrote when the announcement was thrown into the BFA NEC WhatsApp group.

'Postponed then what? Constitution ya reng? FIFA ya reng? Stakeholders ba reng? (what does the constitu-

tion say? What does FIFA say? What do the stakeholders say?) another NEC member asked.

'No one will respond. It's supposed to be emergency but no, its business as usual,' another quipped as no answers came forth.

Reached for comment, one BFA NEC member who commented on condition of anonymity said the cancellation came as a shock, more so as they never expected it.

"On Sunday, the BFA NEC had a virtual meeting where we discussed this issue and we tabled some possible solutions which we hoped we would deliberate on," the BFA NEC said.

The NEC member said as it is, the current decision is a decision by the BFA president and his henchmen, not that of the BFA NEC.

"What hurts the most is that whoever took the decision did not have the courtesy to inform us of the decision as members of the BFA NEC. We were surprised to see the announcement of the decision on social media like anyone else," the NEC member said.

Before the announcement was made earlier on the day, BFA Chief Executive Officer Mfola Mfola had informed The Telegraph Sport that they had done everything in

their power for the assembly to take place.

The BFA CEO said they had engaged the COVID 19 Task Team to ask for a waiver to host the assembly.

"We had submitted the proposal on how we intend to conduct our meeting. We briefly met the task team today (Monday) and they said they will come back to us," explained Mfola.

The brief meeting was attended by COVID19 Task Force deputy coordinator, Dr Mosepele Mosepele and Director of Health, Dr Malaki Tshipayagae.

Meanwhile, the campaign for the BFA NEC

is still ongoing, with three lobby groups facing each other in a bid to outsmart one another.

The BFA leader, Maclean Letshwiti will be seeking the second term in office against his earlier promise to only serve one term. His team comprises of Pelotshweu Motlogelwa, Masego Nchingane, Tsosetso Magang, Tebogo Kamati, Fela and Chandy Moruti. Their motto is "For the future For Greatness".

The other lobby group named Friends of Football comprises of past immediate BFA leader, Tebogo Sebege, Maokaneng Bontshetse, Senki Sesenyi, Goemeone

Lebelele, Kesego Okie, Itsholeng Disang and Carlos Sebina.

"We are friends of football. Placing football first. Committed to restore, transform and grow Botswana football" Friends of Football commented.

The last group, 'Football Ambassadors,' is led by Ookeditse Malesu. It comprises of Gabriel Ngele, Solomon Ramocotlhwane, Theresa Hutchfield, Davis Kopi.

Using the tagline "We are taking Football to the people," the group, which is seen as a dark horse, promises to change the landscape of local football.

BFA discards grassroots football development programmes

By Anita Rannoba

At its peak, Premier Skills was one of the greatest grassroots football development programs in the country.

The program, which was a collaboration between the English Premier League and the British Council, focused on young footballers between the ages of 6 and 12 years.

Initially borne out of an ambition to make kids go out and exercise, the program was also used to impart survival skills beyond the football pitch.

In Botswana, Premier skills was introduced in 2009 with its initial target being the training of coaches for grassroots development.

Among the program's first coaching luminaries were David Mogorosi and Barobi Ngwako. The latter is now in the employ of Botswana Football Association (BFA) as the Technical Director for Women Football.

Other notable instructors to have come through the program include Fatima Sedimo, Dioson Nkape, Solomon Ramochotlhwane, Sylvester Toteng, Onkemetse Masena and Kitso Dlamini.

Given this list of glittering names, one would think the program would have been kept alive. Insiders however say the programme has since been left to die a slow silent death, choked by the BFA leadership's disdain for grassroots

development.

"If you ask those around the Lekidi corridors about the program, you will not get a definite answer. It has just disappeared," a source disclosed.

According to the source, for coaches who had completed the Premier Skills course, the next stage was for them to apply for projects funding.

The source noted that Ramochotlhwane and Toteng's projects were funded under the program. Ramochotlhwane's project was on the disadvantaged members of the community of Maun while Toteng's project was in Francistown.

"The idea of premier skills was using football to improve the lives of com-

munities," he explained. "One coach could come up with a project such as horticulture. The idea being to generate income to sustain the team with regards to procurement of playing equipment, logistics and salaries for members."

"You coach the team and at the same time ensuring sustainability of the team or club going forward. Or you can apply to start a skills training project that will teach members or players sustainable trade to ultimately be on their own and get others. Football has a pull factor, in which it is being used to get children and train them," said the source.

Other projects funded through Premier Skills, ac-

cording to the source, included Kitso Dlamini's African Sports Academy. The source added that premier skills went beyond when the grassroots program was launched in Kang.

Another program, which has since faded away was the UNICEF programme which was launched in Gaborone and Francistown.

The source said the project, which was aimed at U14, 16 & 18 Girls across the country, went hand in hand with the Premier Skills program.

The niche offered by the two projects was aimed at giving children Life Skills through Football. The source said both programmes had similar objectives, the only difference

being that UNICEF was more on training children from disadvantaged communities.

According to the source, Premier Skills birthed a number of amazing development programs and FIFA also came on board and introduced 11 for Health programme.

As part of the programme, a course was conducted in 2012 with participants being from the Kgalagadi District Council.

"Its aim was to use football to teach or sensitize communities on how to prevent the spread of diseases among communities. Through this the training picks 11 diseases and use football to pass the ways and means of protecting them against

contracting the disease. E. G. Malaria to mention one. The objective being to undertake a holistic grassroots football programme across the country as a way to enable proper football development in Botswana," the source explained.

The source said while the programs were very active in their formative years, 'subsequent BFA leadership had somehow abandoned these grassroots football programs.'

"In 2016 when Letshwiti took office that was the end of the programs. I really do not know why the programs are silent. Unfortunately, reasons are not being given of why the said programs are not being used now," the source concluded.

This version is however disputed by Ngwako, who opines that 'as silent as it has been over the years, the Premier Skills program is still very much alive.'

Ngwako noted that at BFA they managed to place a grassroots officer who deals with under 12.

"Since Premier Skills dealt with the development of players aged between 6 and 12 years, we decided that we could not have different names for the same program being grassroots and Re ba bona fa, hence appointing a grassroots officer," she said.

The BFA Technical Director for Women Football was however lost for words when questioned on where these programs are.