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BoB still unable to account for missing “large amounts” – Auditor General

■ BoB governor insists no money has been stolen ■ Auditor General says BoB governor cannot account for “large amounts” ■ Khama and his team hitching their campaign on governor’s statement

SUNDAY STANDARD REPORTER

Claims that billions of Pula have been stolen from the government’s main account with the Bank of Botswana (BoB) took a new twist this week with the Auditor General stating that the bank governor has failed to account for missing “large amounts” from the controversial account.

The account is currently at the center of a money laundering investigation by the Directorate of Intelligence and Security (DIS).

While DIS investigating officers claim the former administration raided the account, BoB Governor Moses Pabalelo insists that no money has been stolen from the account.

A high-level team made up of Cherie Blair wife of former British Prime Minister Tony Blair and Thuli Madonsela South Africa’s former Public Protector put together by former President Lt Gen Ian Khama and his South African ally Bridgette Motsepe to challenge DIS claims latched on the BoB governor’s statement to support their campaign.

The Auditor General’s report made public on Thursday August 20th 2020 however revealed that the controversial government account with the central bank “remains open to doubt”, because transactions “involving large amounts” cannot be accounted for.

In the report released this week, the Auditor General Pulane



BoB Governor Moses Pabalelo

Letebele said the credibility of the account remained “open to doubt” because of failure by BoB to account for items “involving large

amounts.” The “large amounts” that the BoB cannot account for is however nowhere near the P100 billion

that the DIS claim has been stolen by the previous administration.

The Auditor General says despite assurances by the bank

Governor Moses Pabalelo to the 2016/17 sitting of the Public Accounts Committee that he would have reconciled the accounts by

“October 2018, as at March 2019, the bank reconciliation statement

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Deadly deliveries – report exposes Botswana’s maternal deaths scandal

SUNDAY STANDARD REPORTER

Batswana women who cannot afford medical aid and have to be attended at government hospitals are more likely to die from complications surrounding pregnancy and childbirth than their counterparts who are treated at private hospitals – an explosive audit report has revealed.

For many Batswana the Auditor General’s performance audit

report into the country’s public health system only confirmed what they already knew - being poor and pregnant carries more risk.

The audit revealed that scores of Batswana women suffer life altering injuries or die during childbirth because government hospitals and medical workers skip safety practices known to head off disaster.

“There was inadequate monitoring of mothers in the third and

fourth stages of labour in facilities, particularly in hospitals. As a result of inadequacies in the monitoring of patients in labour, there was an increase in the occurrence of complicated cases, some of which resulted in maternal deaths”, states the audit report.

“Domiciliary Care Health facilities did not adequately carry out domiciliary visits as most of them either did not conduct them at all or conducted a smaller number of

domiciliary visits as compared to the number of deliveries per year.”

It further emerged that, “there was no effective management of obstetric emergencies, as hospitals were not adequately monitoring and preventing complications. Out of a total of nineteen cases reviewed from the Maternal Death Audit Reports for the period 2014 to 2016, 40% were caused by poor monitoring of patients and prevention of complications while

30% were caused by poor intervention and the other 30% caused by poor diagnosis.”

The audit confirms earlier findings by the United Nations that Botswana’s maternal and child mortality rates were a major stumbling block to the country achieving Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

The former UN resident Coordinator Anders Pedersen revealed a few years ago that current mater-

nal and child mortality rates were not encouraging and, therefore, much effort is needed to reduce them drastically in order to achieve the desired target.

The Auditor General’s report also turned up congestion in hospital wards. “Some health facilities had patient numbers and beds beyond their prescribed carrying capacity, which was an indication

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Inside how government tried to hide the Alcohol Fund plunder

SUNDAY STANDARD REPORTER

For close to a decade, Botswana government tried to hide information that it was misappropriating funds collected from alcohol drinkers under the Alcohol Levy – it has emerged.

The Auditor General revealed this week that for many years the fund was shrouded in secrecy, and independent auditors “had not been able to ascertain that 80% of the levy which is allocated directly to the Consolidated Fund and 10% to the Department of Gender Affairs in the Ministry of Nationality, Immigration and Gender Affairs fell within the scope of the purpose of the Fund Order, namely, collection of levies “---- to promote projects and activities designed to combat alcohol abuse and minimise the effects of alcohol abuse ----”, as they did not have access to the records relating to the use of these funds by the said Ministries.”

The revelation comes after a study by the Botswana Institute of Development Policy Analysis (BIDPA) found that the levy introduced on alcohol has failed to achieve intended result – to restrict consumption of alcoholic drinks. The BIDPA report revealed that not only did it fail to reduce the alcohol consumption rate, the tariff actually forced drinkers into more desperate alternatives. One of the highlights of the BIDPA study was that in terms of consumption, nothing much has changed since the levy’s introduction, but due to the perception that the levy made alcohol expensive, Batswana resorted to using other forms to get intoxicated.

It has however emerged that the money levied against beer drinkers to create a fund that would protect them from their habit was diverted to other projects.

In her report, the Auditor General stated that she was required by law “to appoint an independent auditor to audit the accounts of the Fund. Accordingly, following the award of the tender, I had appointed the auditors to carry out the audit of the Fund for financial years from 2010/2011 through to 2015/2016. The auditors had consistently qualified their opinion on the accounts of the Fund in respect of the following matters. - As they did not have access to the records of the Botswana Unified Revenue Service relating to the collection of levies on alcoholic beverages imported or locally produced, their audit procedures were restricted to the amounts rendered in the Fund’s ledgers. The differences in the levy

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**WEATHER
& INFO**

**WEATHER
FORECAST
GABORONE**

SUNDAY
Max: 26°C
Min: 07°C

MONDAY
Max: 28°C
Min: 08°C

TUESDAY
Max: 31°C
Min: 09°C

Source: www.weather.com

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Letlole La Rona rebuffs CEO's P14 million benefits claim

MPHO KELEBOGE

Letlole la Rona Limited has instituted writ of summons against the suspended chief executive officer (CEO) Chikuni Shenjere-Mutiswa who is currently facing a disciplinary hearing.

Letlole la Rona slapped the CEO with a writ of summons, seeking a court order declaring that the CEO is not entitled to payment of some P14 million (BwP14 948 368.29) as his benefits claim.

In the writ dated 14th August 2020, the lawyers from Armstrong attorneys asked the court to dismiss Shenjer-Mutiswa's claim which was through a notice dated 28th April 2020.

According to court records, the particulars of claims are that the defendant has made a demand for payment to the plaintiff (Letlole la Rona) under a Long-Term Incentive Plan Agreement (LTIP or the Plan) dated 11th December 2019.

Letlole la Rona seeks to declare *void ab initio* (invalid) the LTIP executed on the 11th December 2019 by its Board of Directors Chairperson on behalf of the plaintiff and the Defendant who has made a claim under the LTIP.

According to courts papers, before Lobatse High Court Judge, Modiri Letsididi the first version (LTIP 1) is initiated on each page and signed by the chairperson and by the CEO and is dated 11 December 2019.

It contains a clause which triggers clients' obligation to make payment of the incentive benefits under the agreement in the event of the change in the board's control through "the removal, resignation or departure in whatever manner and for whatever reason, within twelve months, of three or more of the existing members of the Board, in office as at the approval date of this plan or an increase, of three or more in the number of directors from the number of appointment directors as at date of approval of the plan" read part of the LTIP version.

The second version (LTIP 2) while bearing the signature of both the chairperson and the CEO and date of 11th December 2019 is only initiated on each page by defendant (Shenjere-Mutiswa) and not by the Chairperson. It in all respect with LTIP 1 but contains a different clause 1.1.15.5 providing for the payment-trigger based on a change in the board's control through, "a change (being the removal, resignation, departure, addition or inclusion) in whatever manner and/or for whatever reason, within 12 months of at least three members of the board in office as at the approval date of this plan.

Letlole La Rona through their lawyers at Armstrong attorneys said the second version furthermore contains a clause 18.3, whereas the first does not. This clause provides that it is unnecessary for the agreement to be initiated or for the signatures to be witnessed for the agreement to be valid.

"The change in the two versions was brought about by the CEO's fraudulent misrepresentation in that the Chairperson's signature was signature required due to change in plaintiff logo only. The defendant conduct in regard to LTIP 2 constitute a repudiation of LTIP 1, which repudiation, the Plaintiff, as it was entitled to, has accepted," read part of the content of the summons

Letlole la Rona through their attorney prays from court for an order declaring that the LTIP initiated on each page and signed by both defendant and plaintiff's Board of Directors chairperson on 11th December 2019 is of no legal force and effect, alternatively was cancelled by the plaintiff.

They also prayed for an order declaring that the defendant is not entitled to the payment of P14 million (BwP14 948 368.29).

According to LLR documents, the company boasts properties valued at about P819 million mainly in the industrial and retail sectors suspended Shenjere-Mutiswa with full benefits, pending the outcome of further and full investigations. LLR is 45 percent owned by Botswana Development Corporation.

The Company is currently on a closed period as it has started preparing for the results for the financial year ended 30 June 2020 and are expected to continue until 30 September 2020 or thereafter when the results are expected to be published.

Botswana fails epidemiology test on Covid-19 local transmission

KHONANI ONTEBETSE & REUBEN PITSE

The COVID-19 Presidential Task Force and the Ministry of Health sloppiness in conducting testing on samples collected during a random community testing of more than 6000 people in Mogoditshane has raised alarm this may have led to a spike in local transmissions.

While details are sketchy as to why there was a delay in conducting tests on specimen samples from the random community tests in Mogoditshane, clues are beginning to emerge showing what could have led to Botswana recording a spike in local transmission, *Sunday Standard* can reveal.

The random community testing which was conducted in June was necessitated by reports from neighbouring Zimbabwe showing that some returnees to that country from Mogoditshane had tested positive after they were tested in their country. The Zimbabwe nationals who had been staying in Mogoditshane and tested positive were four.

Since then the number of local cases has been accelerating undetected and even spread from Gaborone to other parts of the country insiders said.

There are claims that had testing been done at a reasonable time, the country could have contained the pandemic because it is still yet unknown how long the virus can survive in samples.

It is also understood that apart from reports that there had been a delay in conducting tests on the collected samples the Task Force and the Ministry officials are yet to share their findings with the nation



Sir Ketumile Masire Hospital

or even respondents.

"There was a lapse when the samples were not conducted because the virus started circulating in Gaborone and even across the county," a source said.

While the COVID-19 Presidential Task Force and the Ministry officials are mum on what could have led to a spike in local transmission, information obtained by *Sunday Standard* shows that Botswana has been sitting on a ticking time bomb.

It is understood that local transmission rose at the time when reports emerged that samples collected during the community testing in Mogoditshane took more than a month to be despite reports

showing that some Zimbabweans tested positive upon return to their country of origin tracing pointed to Mogoditshane.

COVID-19 Communications Committee member, Kago Mmopi had initially promised that the President COVID-19 Task Force would respond to *Sunday Standard's* questionnaire but later backtracked and referred this publication to Deputy Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Health and Wellness Dr. Mareko Ramotsababa.

Immediate comment from Ramatsababa was not available as his mobile phone rang unanswered. He had also not responded to the questionnaire forwarded to his email address at the time of going

to press.

Sunday Standard investigations have also turned up information showing that respondents from at least 1600 households who had participated in the random community testing are yet to be furnished with their results.

Prior to carrying out the random community testing, the Ministry's Public Health Specialist Dr. Labapotswe Tlale told the nation during a televised briefing that Mogoditshane was identified as a high-risk area. The expectation was that the Ministry should have shared the results with the respondents within three days.

"Who knows maybe after conducting tests on the samples, the

virus was no longer viable because it is still unclear as to how long it can survive," a source said.

Sunday Standard had sought to establish among others why those who were tested for COVID-19 during the random community testing in that area did not receive their results, why there was a delay in testing the samples, what the status of the results was and establish if it was true that portion of the samples were later conducted at a laboratory in Palapye after more than a month.

This publication also sought to confirm claims that the Presidential Task Force was caught off-guard after it shifted focus to testing drivers at points of entry and took a long period of time to conduct testing from samples collected from community testing in Mogoditshane and whether the increase in local transmission could be attributed to failure to conduct tests on time from those samples.

Sunday Standard also wanted to know if it is true that the Sir Ketumile Masire Teaching Hospital is overwhelmed because of the number of patients admitted there and what is its capacity as well as the number of patients admitted there.

Meanwhile a memo purported to be from Princess Marina Hospital Superintendent Dr. Tshepho Machaha addressed to staff on Friday states that 16 staff members and 15 patients tested positive for COVID-19.

The memo says the patients are currently admitted at Sir Ketumile Masire Teaching Hospital adding that "the rate of infection at the medical wards is alarming therefore we kindly encouraged proper use of PPE(Personal Protective Equipment)."

EU blacklisting caught Botswana by surprise - Dr. Matsheka

THOBO MOTLHOKA

Botswana was caught off-guard by the European Union blacklisting imposed earlier this year, Minister of Finance Dr. Thapelo Matsheka has said.

Addressing Parliament last week Matsheka said government was concerned that there was no proper consultation before the announcement was made about the imminent blacklisting.

This is despite Botswana rushing over the past year to pass reforms, many of them at lightning speed in anticipation of possible blacklisting by the European Union which unfortunately came to pass in May this year (2020).

The European Union usually spells out to countries what it perceives to be lacking and how it can be addressed before taking drastic measures.

Matsheka said they were also surprised by the failure by the European Commission to appreciate the significant progress made by Botswana in strengthening the Anti-Money Laundering (AML) and Combating the Financing of Terrorism (CFT) legal framework including through implementing the six Financial Action Task Force (FATF) action items which forms the basis for the Commission's decision.

"Botswana received a correspondence from the Delegation of the European Union dated 6th May 2020 informing us that 13 the European Commission, in exercising its delegated authority, has decided to adopt an updated list reflecting recent developments since 2018 and align it with FATF



Dr. Thapelo Matsheka

assessments, and that the updated list includes Botswana," Matsheka said when delivering a speech on Anti-Money Laundering (AML) and Combating the Financing of Terrorism. Early this year the European Commission published a new list of high-risk third world countries, including Botswana, said to have strategic deficiencies in their AML and CFT systems.

Botswana was among four African countries added by the European Commission to a list of countries that pose financial risks to the European Union due to anti-money laundering and terrorism financing shortfalls.

The three other countries included Ghana, Mauritius and Zimbabwe. The EU said at the time that all countries on the list with the exception of North Korea had

pledged to change their rules in order to address the problem.

Banks, and other financial and tax firms are obliged to scrutinize their clients who have dealings with the listed countries.

Companies from the listed countries are also banned from receiving future EU funding.

Consequently, the listing obliges all EU member countries to instruct their financial institutions and other designated non-financial businesses and professions to apply enhanced due diligence when dealing with financial transactions involving Botswana.

The EU published in their Official Journal of June 19, 2020 the decision to blacklist Botswana and the other three countries. The Regulation was to enter into force within 20 days following publica-

tion, meaning the blacklisting has now been effected.

"This decision was communicated to Botswana on 23rd June, 2020. 25. In taking these decisions, the EU Commission relied on a report of the ICRG, which as I have noted is a committee of the FATF," Finance Minister Matsheka told Parliament.

"However, it is important to note that the 14 shortcomings from the EU's perspective are its own interpretation of the actions indicated by FATF for Botswana to address strategic deficiencies. For example, FATF action item (i) requests Botswana to conduct a money laundering and terrorism financing risk assessment relating to legal persons and legal arrangements and non-profit making organizations (NPOs)."

for the Central Medical Stores.

A Public Relations Officer of the Ministry of Health at the time, Temba Sibanda told Sunday Standard that President Ian Khama and former Minister of Finance and Development Planning, Kenneth Matambo, made a decision to give Central Medical Stores P30m from the fund to purchase drugs.

Khama performed poorest on 'rule of law' he touted last week

Savouring what he considers to be his victory against the government in the "Butterfly" case, former president Ian Khama lamented precipitous decline in the "rule of law" in a country whose executive leadership has been inherited by his nemesis and successor, President Mokgweetsi Masisi.

On the basis of research done by a Canadian think tank whose findings Khama thought credible enough to periodically incorporate into his presidential speeches, the rule of law is the last thing he would want to talk about in the manner he did.

The latest edition of the "Economic Freedom of the World Report" published by the Fraser Institute shows progressive decline in Botswana's scores for the area of Legal System and Property Rights. This area focuses on the importance of the legal system as a determinant of economic freedom.

"Many would argue that it is the most important function of government," says the report, adding that the key ingredients of a legal system consistent with economic freedom are rule of law, security of property rights, an independent and unbiased judiciary, and impartial and effective enforcement of the law.

Two years after Khama took over as president from Festus Mogae (that is in 2010), Botswana's score on this area was 6.68 but five years later, had declined to 6.11 and further to 5.34 in 2016. Legal System and Property Rights has nine components which indicate how effectively the protective functions of government are performed. In the case of Botswana's decline, notable among these are Impartial Courts, Judicial Independence and Military Interference in Rule of Law and Politics. In 2005, Botswana scored 6.57, two years later, that score had dropped to 6.32 and the following year dropped further to 5.42. The country's score for Judicial Independence in 2010 was 7.27, dropped to 6.11 in 2015 and in 2016 was 5.34. Two years after Khama took over, Botswana was still scoring a perfect score (10.00) on Military Interference in Rule of Law and Politics. However, that changed in 2015 when that score dipped to 8.33 and remained unchanged the following year.

The years of 2015 and 2016 were perhaps the most turbulent in Botswana's judicial history and it comes as no surprise that the country's scores for those years is as low as it is. In a saga that began in 2015 and ended after two years, the legal fraternity locked horns with the executive. First, Khama disregarded a recommendation by the Judicial Services Commission to appoint attorney Omphemetse Motumise as High Court judge. This prompted the Law Society of Botswana to launch a long-running and ultimately successful legal challenge. Then, 12 judges petitioned then Chief Justice Maruping Dibotelo, raising a litany of complaints about his stewardship of the Botswana judiciary. Four of those judges (Dr. Key Dingake, Modiri Letsididi, Mercy Garekwe and Rainer Busang) would be suspended by Khama (who is the appointing authority) for having unlawfully received housing allowance that they were not entitled to. The quartet maintained that the suspension was instigated by Dibotelo to punish them for being party to the petition against him.

These and other developments put a country once touted as "Africa's shining example of democracy" under controversial focus. From around the world, institutions that once used described Botswana with superlatives expressed grave concern about what they saw as erosion of judicial independence. Among those joining the fray was the International Commission of Jurists (ICJ) which released a press statement condemning Khama's government.

The "Butterfly" is a now two-year old saga that involves Khama, the former Director General of the Directorate of Intelligence Services and Security, Colonel Isaac Kgosi, a DISS employee called Wilhelmna Maswabi – code-named "Butterfly" as well as South African tycoon, Bridget Motsepe-Radebe. Khama, Kgosi and Maswabi – who became the face of the saga, are alleged to have trucked out P100 billion from the Bank of Botswana foreign reserves and laundered the money into a bank account controlled by Motsepe-Radebe. On Wednesday, international forensic investigators cleared the quartet, noting that the so-called evidence was actually fabricated by the Botswana government.

Matsheka skirts around the P100 billion “hot potato”

THOBO MOTLHOKA

Finance Minister Thapelo Matsheka on Friday refused to be drawn into discussing the controversial P100 billion Bank of Botswana (BOB) alleged heist.

Two days earlier the issue had been at the centre of former President Lieutenant General Ian Khama and South African businesswoman Bridget Motsepe's international press conference to clear their names after hiring “private investigators” to tell the world what is already in the public domain.

Matsheka, who was delivering a statement on anti-money laundering and financial terrorism, steered clear of the controversy despite attempts from legislators Dithapelo Keorapetse and Wynter Mmolotsi to draw him into the issue.

The two Members of Parliament (MPs) wanted the Minister to explain to parliament if the controversy surrounding the alleged heist could have contributed to Botswana's blacklisting by the European Union and international rating agencies.

“I Don't think the big fat lie that has been peddled that money was stolen from the central bank, an allegation that has been denied by the Governor himself, as a contributing factor to Botswana's reputation having been tarnished internationally,”

Keorapetse asked.

Matsheka however chose to adopt a blanket approach to the question, citing the credibility of state institutions and their ability to carry out their mandate as a key consideration in the assessment of any country.

“All statements which are made by politicians, legislators, and journalists, sometimes without facts, have profound implications on perceptions,” Matsheka said.

“And as a result it is the duty of all of us as nationals and citizen compatriots to really pay attention to the statements that we make because we want to be able to separate institutions and their abilities to carry out investigations, report and follow court processes, which is why a lot of what is required by the *International Country Risk Guide*, and Eastern and Southern African Anti-Money Laundering Group is to make sure that our legislative framework can be relied upon to actually make judgements on our ability to comply with our own laws.”

Matsheka said as the government they have a legal process that they are following to conclusion so that they can be satisfied.

“Certainly some of these reports add to the anxiety by institutions that are seeing this process. It is important that statements of this nature are actually contrived and controlled because they have got far reaching impli-

cations for our ability to finance the midterm review, to finance the economic recovery and transformation plan.”

Keorapetse and Mmolotsi's concerns came in the wake of the Khama, Motsepe press conference featuring among others UK's Cherie Blair, and facilitated by former SA Public Protector Thuli Madonsela.

The aim of the press conference was to ‘clear’ Khama, Motsepe, Isaac Kgosi, and Wilhelmina ‘Butterfly’ Maswabi's names in relation to the P100 billion ‘Butterfly’ money laundering case in which the five are alleged to have stolen money from Bank of Botswana.

A forensic investigation by Omnia Strategy LLP, an international law firm founded by Blair and reportedly funded by Motsepe and released this past week found that “...allegations of money laundering against former Botswana president, Seretse Khama Ian Khama, and South African businesswoman and Ambassador to the Pan African Parliament, Bridgette Motsepe, were fabricated.” The report also cited the BOB Governor's statement that no such amounts have been stolen from the bank, to support their case.

“It has been reported that the *Governor of the Bank of Botswana*, Mr *Moses Dinokore Pelatlo*, confirmed to *Botswana's* Parliamentarians that the *money* never left the *bank* and that *Botswana* never

had that amount of *money* in its accounts in the first place,” the report says.

An affidavit filed by the Directorate on Corruption and Economic Crime (DCEC) claims that President Khama, while still in office and with the help of former spy chief Kgosi, channeled in excess of USD10.1 billion (P100 billion) to various international and South African bank accounts some of which Motsepe and Maswabi were co-signatories.

“Critically, there is no evidence that USD10.1 billion ever left the Bank of Botswana or entered international or South African bank accounts... Furthermore, in relation to the alleged inflow into South Africa of part of this money in 2019, the South African Reserve Bank (SARB) has confirmed it ‘could not find any record of the (i) transaction referred to, (ii) the payment having been approved (cleared), either inbound or outbound, or (iii) of any cross-border flow of funds in the amount referred to, inbound or outbound from South Africa’,” the report said.

Khama and Motsepe told the media last week that they have instructed their legal counsel to launch defamation claims against the Botswana government. In addition, Kgosi and Maswabi are also expected to launch defamation claims against the govern-

Justice Walia’s contract extension raises eyebrows

THOBO MOLTTHOKA

The decision by the Judicial Service Commission (JSC) to extend 73-year-old Lakhvinder Singh Walia's contract with the Court of Appeal (CoA) has reignited the debate around the Commission's propensity to recycle judges at the expense of other qualified citizens.

Member of Parliament (MP) for Selebi Phikwe West Dithapelo Keorapetse said such conduct compromises the independence, integrity and public confidence on the Judiciary.

“Any person who keeps getting contract extensions cannot act independently because they have to constantly act in a manner that guarantees their next contract renewal. This privatization of the Court of Appeal, especially by the Judge President, when is it going to end, because he has also long reached retirement age but the JSC continues to extend his contracts,” Keorapetse said in Parliament recently.

Justice Walia reached the mandatory retirement age of 70 years on the 30th of December 2016 while he was serving as a Judge of the High Court.

He was subsequently granted an extension of contract.

“The extension was granted in compliance with Section 104 of the Constitution, which provides that the JSC has the power to appoint and remove Judges. The procedure is fair to the extent that it was carried out in compliance with Constitutional



Justice Walia

provisions. Section 103 (4) and (5) provide that the JSC will independently regulate its own procedures and shall not be subject to the direction or control of any other person or authority,” Minister of Justice Kagiso Mmusi responded.

He said in terms of Section 101 (1) of the Constitution of Botswana, Justices of the Court of Appeal, unlike the High Court, are specifically eligible for appointment on contract after attaining the age of 70 years and as a result the law has not been undermined in extending Walia's contract.

The JSC, Mmusi said, when making recommendations for judicial appointments acts in the best interest of the administering justice. “I believe that the JSC remains mindful of the need for qualifying and deserving Botswana to be appointed and will therefore continue to balance

this need.”

Walia has not been without controversy during his career as a judge. In 2015 he was reported to then Chief Justice Maruping Dibotelo and the Judicial Service Commission (JSC) for “judicial misconduct”.

He stood accused by Leburu Attorneys of pre-judging a murder case in which the State was prosecuting their client for murder. Leburu Attorneys had filed an urgent application for bail.

The matter was allocated to Justice Walia and after conferring with the Registrar of the High Court, the matter was set down for the 19th of June 2015. The set down was also communicated to the prosecution.

“However on the 16th of June 2015, I was informed by Justice Walia's clerk and the Assistant Registrar Nlanda that Justice Walia has written a letter to the Registrar stating that the mat-

ter is not urgent. A misnomer to us,” Leburu Attorneys stated in their letter.

They argued that at the time Walia authored the letter he had not heard any representations from counsel on both sides and had made decision on his own.

Most recently the Directorate on Corruption and Economic Crime (DCEC) told Sunday Standard they had launched an investigation against Walia following allegations of conflict of interest.

The investigation followed a complaint by a local company Tours of Africa. “I'm writing this to express our discontent in particular the manner at which the said Justice has conducted himself and his conflict of interest in the matter involving Tours of Africa (Pty) Vs Regent Insurance Botswana Limited...” the company wrote.

Walia was again accused of conflict of interest following his involvement as part of a panel of CoA judges in a case that pitted African Alliance and two of its former employees, former CEO Don Gaetsaloe and Moarabi Mariri, a Senior Sales Executive.

African Alliance was represented by Armstrongs Attorneys where, the two former employees argued, Walia used to be partner and that his wife also worked for the law firm. Walia will be at least 78 years old by the time his current contract runs out. Judge President of the CoA Ian Kirby is currently 75 years old.

Covid-19 hits Batswana in the pocket

KHONANI ONTEBETSE

Botswana taxpayers are expected to bear the brunt of the COVID-19 as government announces a raft of cost recovery measures to mitigate the impact of the pandemic on the economy - a document prepared by the Ministry of Finance and Economic Development has revealed.

The document titled: “Economic and Transformation Recovery Plan (ERTP) 2020/21 – 2022/23, Final for Parliament July,” details how the government intends to rebuild the economy which is reeling from the effects of COVID-19 by raising funds among others hiking vari-

ous kinds of taxes.

Among the proposals include adjustment of VAT proposed to increase VAT to 13 percent in April 2020/2021 and 14 percent in April 2022/2023, combined with a substantial scaling down of zero-rated and exempted items.

The government also intends “Increasing withholding tax rates (e.g. on dividends and interest payments received) from April 2021” as well as “Introducing Electronic Billing Machines (EBMs) for VAT-registered entities to improve tax compliance and collection efficiency.”

The government is also “Considering the introduction

of carbon taxes; raising the fuel tax and other levies on road users, during the 2020/21 financial year, Electricity and Water tariffs to be progressively raised to market levels within a specified period (say 3 years).”

According to the document, this should reduce the need for government financial support and allow parastatals to raise funds in the market on the strength of their own balance sheets. Some of the identified corporations are cash strapped Botswana Power Corporation (BPC) and Water Utilities Corporation (WUC).

The document states further that “Cost-sharing and cost-re-

covery should be revamped post COVID-19 without compromising inclusivity. Those able to pay should bear a greater portion of the cost of providing public services by Government pay, through means-tested user fees.”

It shows that “Education is one area that could be considered, but the principle could be extended to some components of health care, Expand coverage of taxes (for example, unused land, updating of property valuations) and reduction of exemptions and Enhancing the ability of local authorities to meet more of their financial needs,

CONTINUES ON PG 4

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Deadly deliveries...

CONTINUED FROM PG 1

of congestion of patients. In one instance, there were 48 beds in an ante-natal ward designed for a 30-bed capacity. The post-natal ward on the other hand had a bed capacity of 52 beds but had an extra 22 beds and 18 patients sleeping on the floor. This compromised patients' privacy as well as quality of health care services."

The audit team found that, "the Ministry of Health and Wellness did not put mechanisms in place to ensure that all services were provided in an efficient and cost-effective manner. Substantial investments were made in construction of health facilities, which remained of no benefit to local communities because they remained unutilized for a considerable period of time after their completion for a variety of reasons.

"During the audit, three facilities, which had been constructed and remained unutilized for a considerable period of time, were identified. These were Matshwane Clinic in Maun, where a maternity ward was completed and fully equipped in 2014, but never utilised; a similar clinic in Donga, Francistown was also completed and commissioned in 2011, but never utilised. The third was Letsholathebe II Memorial Hospital Intensive Care Unit in Maun, which was constructed and completed in 2010 with some defects that remained unrectified and as a result the ICU facility had never been utilised. In response management stated that Donga Clinic, which was undergoing maintenance to add structures such as sluice facilities, was expected to be completed in financial year 2018/19. Matshwane Clinic Maternity Ward was not yet operational due to shortage of midwives while the Ministry was working on rationalization and recruitment of midwives.

Hospital management acknowledged the findings and promised to make significant changes. "In response management stated that they planned to procure equipment that would facilitate continuous and timely monitoring of women in labour and they were to further devise guidelines that would manage skills utilization within and across the institutions. They were also to consider incorporating midwifery to the General Nursing programme so that when one finished training they would have attained both skills. This would help address the shortage and maximize service provision. Management was also in the process of developing Human Resource (HR) policy, which would advise the staffing norms."

Covid-19 hits Batswana in the pocket

CONTINUED FROM PG 3

by generating more revenues or potentially by borrowing."

The document says that a priority will be to extend the scope of property taxes (rates) and ensure updated and realistic property valuations and implement efficient collection procedures.

The financing gap can also be filled by reducing expenditures,

such as rationalising subsidies to the agriculture sector to target support for medium and large-scale producers and cluster infrastructure and services (but ensuring that subsidies do not become indefinite or unsustainable), and away from subsistence farmers.

"More generally, subsidies should be rationalised and reduced, reducing subventions to parastatals following rationalization and rationalising and targeting social welfare

schemes," the document says.

The document further shows that overall expenditure for the ERTIP will be more than P18 billion for the next financial year. It is proposed that an amount of P14.5 billion is allocated as additional fiscal resources for the ERTIP.

"This amount is in addition to the P4 billion allocated to the short-term fiscal stimulus package already implemented. The total amount of P18.5 billion is equivalent

to approximately 10 percent of 2020/21 GDP. ERTIP spending will be spread over the remaining years of NDP 11, i.e. from 2020/21 to 2022/23," reads the document in part.

Most of this amount will be devoted to additional development spending. The amounts allocated will be tentatively distributed as follows: P0.5 billion for 2020/21, P7 billion for 2021/22 and for 2022/23 the cost will be P7 billion.

The document says an initial response to COVID-19 was to withhold some budgeted expenditure, to align with revenue flows that had been dramatically reduced by COVID. In the face of falling revenues in the current financial year (2020/21), the responsible Minister invoked Section 28 of the Public Finance Management Act to withhold spending warrants, to manage the emerging crisis.

"Since that time, there has been a slight improvement in projected mineral revenues for 2020/21. In addition, provision has been made for additional borrowing to finance the medium-term economic stimulus programme. Hence, the original expenditure for 2020/21, which was partially withheld in April 2020 as part of prudent financial management, has since been largely restored," the document says.

BoB still unable to account for missing "large amounts" – Auditor General

CONTINUED FROM PG 1

still included unidentified items going back to 2005, involving large amounts."

The BoB has been unable to account for the "missing" money for sometime now.

In her 2017/2018 report, the Auditor General issued a qualified audit opinion on the account because transactions running into billions of pula could not be accounted for.

The Auditor General further called for an investigation into the account. In the previous report, the Auditor General revealed that government could not account for debits of P 4 933 156 857 in the controversial remittances account which is the main government account with BoB. The Auditor General stated that the bank statement balance included among others unidentified debits totalling P4 932 156 857 in the bank statement and receipts totalling P114 459 342 728 in the general ledger which should be investigated", she stated.

It emerged that some of the items that cannot be accounted for date as far back as 2005. "I have not been able to appreciate how receipts of this magnitude could be in the General Ledger and not in the bank statement over such a long period", stated the Auditor General.

The Auditor General said she could not certify the correctness of

the value of the government's main account with the bank of Botswana because "verifications of cash and bank balances as at March 2017 had shown weaknesses and shortcomings in the reconciliations and monitoring of the accounts making up the year-end totals. She said this was part of the reasons leading to the qualification of the account.

In her latest report released this week, the Auditor General said she could still not certify the correctness of the value of the government's main account with BoB because the governor had not cleared reconciliation issues.

The report states in part: " the remittance account, the main government bank account at Bank of Botswana had an overdrawn balance of P 356 662 620 as at 31st March 2019, despite the Accounting Officer (bank governor's assurance to the Public Accounts Committee that he would have cleared all bank reconciliation issues by October 2018. As at March 31st 2019, the bank reconciliation statement still included unidentified items going back to 2005 involving large amounts. Until the old reconciliation items are cleared and the reconciliation brought up to date, the correctness of the year end balance of this important bank account would remain open to doubt."

Bank of Botswana



PUBLIC NOTICE

The Companies and Intellectual Property Authority (CIPA), is a parastatal established by an Act of Parliament, the Companies and Intellectual Property Authority Act of 2011, to promote and enable the full protection of the rights of investors and right holders obtained under the Companies Act, Registration of Business Names Act, Industrial Property Act, and the Copyright and Neighbouring Rights Act.

ADDENDUM NO. 2

EXTENSION OF CLOSING DATE
TENDER NO: CIPA 01-20/21 PROVISION OF SECURITY SERVICES FOR COMPANIES AND INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY AUTHORITY (CIPA) OFFICES AND
TENDER NO: CIPA 02-20/21 PROVISION OF CLEANING SERVICES FOR COMPANIES AND INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY AUTHORITY (CIPA) OFFICES

- Notice is hereby given that the closing dates of the above Tenders which were published on Sunday standard July 26-01 August,2020 page 30 and on Mmegi Friday dated 24th July 2020, vol 37, no. 25 page 06 have been extended.
- The tender closing dates are extended by two (2) weeks; that is from the 21 August 2020 on the 07th and 08th September 2020.

Closing and opening date: Tender No: CIPA 01-20/21 Provision of Security Services for CIPA on the 07th September 2020 at 10:00hrs at Conference room, Floor 1. BLOCK A, PLOT 54358, PRIME PLAZA, CBD GABORONE

Closing and opening date: Tender No: CIPA 02-20/21 Provision of Cleaning Services for CIPA on the 08th September 2020 at10:00hrs at Conference room, Floor 1. BLOCK A, PLOT 54358, PRIME PLAZA, CBD GABORONE

Enquiries: **The Tender Secretary**

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Botswana has always done business with racist entities

We maintain relations with a country whose leader is an unreconstructed white supremacist who thinks that Africa is made up of ‘s¢thole’ countries and since 2017, has made it extremely difficult for Batswana to visit the US*

As should have been expected, AfriForum’s first public statement last Wednesday on its dealings with the Botswana government has ignited another furor. The charge being restated is that the government shouldn’t have any dealings at all with a white supremacist organisation that seeks to turn the clock back to the apartheid years when there was official policy to treat black South Africans like used contraceptives.

While racism is odious, the reality is that going back to the administration of President Sir Seretse Khama to date, Botswana has always done business with racist regimes and organisations.

In its early years, Botswana found itself sandwiched between the racist regimes of Rhodesia as well as South Africa and its colony of South West Africa. It was not uncommon then for Batswana to work in Rhodesian farms and mines – some Batswana men worked as contract labourers at Wankie (now Hwange) Colliery. An even greater number of them worked in South African mines under an arrangement that was put together by a racist colonial government to enable the former to pay hut tax. Without racist South Africa, Botswana would not have survived and from 1966 to date, South Africa

has always been its major trading partner.

After being lobbied by the Arab League, Sir Seretse broke off diplomatic ties with racist Israel which since its creation to date, has always treated Palestinians like used contraceptives. His successor, Sir Ketumile Masire, would restore those ties even as Israel maintained its racist policies towards Palestinians. Not too long ago, Botswana, which dabbled in rooftop diplomacy during the presidency of Ian Khama, remained mum as Israel deported some 40 000 African immigrants who qualified as refugees in terms of the 1951 Refugee Convention that Israel itself helped formulate. Israelis’ racist disdain for blacks is no secret and in 2014, a basketball team owner in the United States called Donald Sterling, was caught on tape telling his Latino girlfriend to not socialize with blacks. “You go to Israel, the blacks are just treated like dogs,” Sterling says on the tape.

Botswana also maintains diplomatic relations with a country that has been racist from its founding to date – the US. More blatant than subtle, such racism has been put on full display by the country’s current president, an unreconstructed white supremacist who has stated that Africa is made up of “s*¢thole” countries and forced his predecessor, a black man, to literally show his birth



Ian Khama

certificate to prove that he was indeed an American citizen. Donald Trump doesn’t want blacks in the US, has asked four US-born, black-origin congresswomen to “go back to where they came from” and increasingly nowadays, more and more Batswana find it extremely difficult to get a visa at the US Embassy in Gaborone and visit the US. Beyond new rules from Washington, white Americans who think like Trump have been

deployed to diplomatic missions across the globe.

The Botswana government is fighting an unusual case in which it has not been able to get help from the South African government in the “Butterfly” case. That left it with no option but to hire a highly skilled courtroom practitioner called Advocate Gerrie Nel who has worked as South Africa’s chief prosecutor. Nel is best known for securing prosecutions against Olympic gold medallist, Oscar Pistorius, and former head of police, Jackie Selebi. Not only is he an able lawyer, he also knows how the South African government operates at the highest levels. It is more than likely that he also has sources who can leak him information he needs to perform A-class lawyering in a money laundering case in which African National Congress royalty, in the form of tycoon Bridget Motsepe-Radebe, has been implicated.

Motsepe-Radebe, who is a graduate of the University of Botswana, is sister-in-law to President Cyril Ramaphosa and is married to a cabinet minister, Jeff Radebe, and is also both a member and one of the main financiers of the ruling ANC.

While a brilliant lawyer, Nel is also a member and official of AfriForum, which fact doesn’t sit well with some people and organisations in Botswana.

Upon learning that the gov-

ernment had engaged Nel, the Law Society of Botswana (LSB) issued a condemnatory press statement asking the government to reconsider its decision to engage a “racist and white supremacist” AfriForum to assist in processing mutual legal assistance request made to the South African government. From a moral standpoint, LSB had a very valid reason but if it is bothered by the government’s dealings with white supremacy, it has yet to publicly express outrage about that same government doing business with Israel (which developed the National Master Plan for Arable Agriculture and Dairy Development) and the US, which it has allowed to do highly invasive HIV/AIDS research that it could never do in the US. Much of Botswana’s national economy is controlled by white South Africans, some if not most of whom are white supremacists. Some of these white supremacists do lucrative luxury tourism business in the Okavango Delta - which the Director of a London-based pressure group called Survival International, Stephen Corry, has referred to as a “white ethnostate.” The LSB has never once released a statement about the Botswana government doing business with Okavango Delta white supremacists. We stand to be corrected but we also have no recollection of LSB releasing any statement when agents of the Chinese government took a leading role in the eviction of lawful black tenants in China as a COVID-19 containment measure.

Be it western, middle eastern or eastern, all racism is odious and while it has selectively condemned this racism, Botswana has also always been pragmatic in dealing with racist nations, largely because its foreign policy was built on pragmatism. If the government of Sir Seretse had chosen to not do business with racist South Africa, the new state of Botswana would have collapsed within weeks. As one of the worst-affected countries in the world in terms of HIV/AIDS infection and prevalence, Botswana needs US money to run its health programmes. The man who gives final approval for the disbursement of such money is “a low-IQ racist sex pest” (protestor’s placard) who can’t pronounce “Namibia” properly and won’t even identify Botswana on a world map. Granted, AfriForum has an odious agenda but it also has a brilliant lawyer whose help Botswana desperately needs at this point in time.

In the final analysis, President Mokgweetsi Masisi is doing what all his predecessors did – holding his nose and out of a sense of pragmatism, doing business with a racist entity.

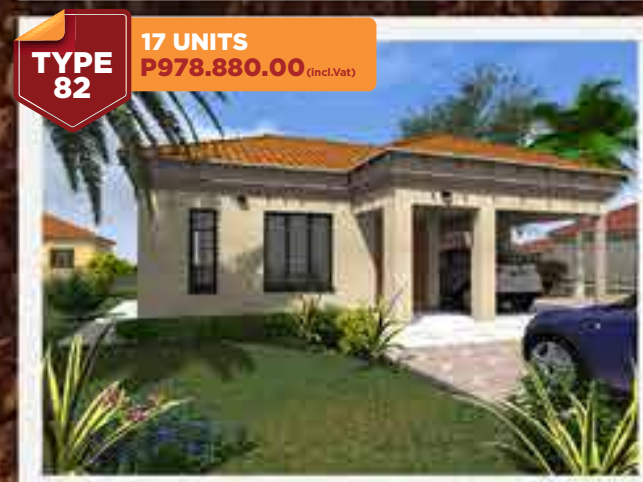


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- Certified copies of Identity Cards (Oming) for both applicant and spouse, if married, and Certificates of Naturalization, if born outside Botswana.
- Spouse's written consent to purchase a BHC house.
- Certified copy of marriage certificate, if married or widowed, and/or copy of decree absolute, if divorced.
- Letter from Financier stating the maximum loan qualified for to purchase a house.
- Bank Statements indicating sufficient funds, if self - financing.
- Affidavit declaring if the applicant and/or spouse purchased property directly from BHC before.
- Current payslip (spouse included)

COMPANIES

- Copy of company registration certificate certified by the Registrar of Companies.
- Copies of share certificates and Identity Cards of shareholders certified by Registrar of Companies.
- Certified copies of Certificates of Naturalization, if shareholders were born outside Botswana.
- Letter from Financier stating the maximum loan qualified for to purchase a flat.
- Bank Statements indicating sufficient funds, if self financing.
- Company resolution on purchase of BHC property.

Closing date for applications:
30th September 2020

For more information please contact:
Limbo Selelo (+267) 74155810 | Ms Moswate (+267) 4921075



(Before RADIJENG J)

IN THE HIGH COURT OF THE REPUBLIC OF BOTSWANA

HELD AT GABORONE

CASE NO: CVHGB-001743-18

In the matter between:

FIRST NATIONAL BANK OF BOTSWANA LIMITED

and

ANTONINETTE RATANG DIJENG

Plaintiff

Defendant

NOTICE OF SALE IN EXECUTION

BE PLEASED TO TAKE NOTICE THAT pursuant to the Judgment granted by the Honourable Court the following immovable property hereunder of the Defendant will be sold by public auction by Deputy Sheriff to the highest bidder as follows:-


DATE OF SALE: 16th September, 2020
TIME OF SALE: 1030 hours
PLACE OF SALE: Lot 32461, Gaborone;

PROPERTY TO BE SOLD: Defendant's right, title and interest on a certain piece of land being Lot 32461, Gaborone, measuring 748m², held under deed of transfer no. 1137/2007 made in favour of Antoniette Ratang Dijeng, with some developments thereon being a house comprising of sitting room, dinning room,, lounge, visitors toilet and shower, kitchen, master ensuite, combined bath and shower plus toilet, 2 bedrooms, servants quater, swimming pool, paved, screenwall plus electric fence, sliding gate.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS: Cash or Bank guaranteed cheque otherwise detailed and conditions of sale may be inspected at the Plaintiff's Attorneys Office.

DATED AT GABORONE THIS 17th DAY OF AUGUST, 2020.

KEBONYEKGOSI NTEBELE
c/o RAMALEPA ATTORNEYS
Plaintiff's Attorneys
Plot 3171, Morupule Drive
Extension 11,
P.O. Box 70567
GABORONE (UB)
(VR/mm/10023) 71694303



RAMALEPA
ATTORNEYS
NOTARIES & CONVEYANCERS

(Before DUBE J)

IN THE HIGH COURT OF THE REPUBLIC OF BOTSWANA

HELD AT LOBATSE

CASE NO. CVHGB-001525-18

In the matter between:

BOTSWANA BUILDING SOCIETY

and

MEHLULI KENNETH

Plaintiff

Defendant

NOTICE OF SALE IN EXECUTION

BE PLEASED TO TAKE NOTICE THAT pursuant to the Judgment granted by the Honourable Court the following immovable property hereunder of the 1st and 2nd Defendants will be sold by public auction by Deputy Sheriff to the highest bidder as follows:-


DATE OF SALE: 11th September, 2020
TIME OF SALE: 1030hours
PLACE OF SALE: Tribal Lot 2155, Mogoditshane

PROPERTY TO BE SOLD: Defendants' right, title and interest on a certain piece of land being Tribal Lot 2155, Mogoditshane, with development thereon being an unfinished structure/house comprising of double door garage, master bedroom, kitchen (open plan, dinning room, living room, sitting room. Combined bath and toilet, 3 bedrooms, servants quarter attached to the main house, separate and complete two and half house, screen wall plus electric fence, sliding gate.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS: Cash or Bank guaranteed cheque otherwise detailed and conditions of sale may be inspected at the Plaintiff's Attorneys Office.

DATED AT GABORONE THIS 17th DAY OF AUGUST, 2020.

KEBONYEKGOSI NTEBELE
c/o RAMALEPA ATTORNEYS
Plaintiff's Attorneys
Plot 3171, Morupule Road
Extension 11,
P.O. Box 70567
GABORONE (UB)
(VR/mm/7216) 76943030



RAMALEPA
ATTORNEYS
NOTARIES & CONVEYANCERS

(Before KEBONANG J)

IN THE HIGH COURT OF THE REPUBLIC OF BOTSWANA

HELD AT GABORONE

CASE NO. CVHGB-002856-18

In the matter between:

BBS LIMITED

and

PHODISO BRIAN MALOPE

Plaintiff

Defendant

NOTICE OF SALE IN EXECUTION

BE PLEASED TO TAKE NOTICE THAT pursuant to the Judgment granted by the Honourable Court the following immovable property hereunder of the Defendant will be sold by public auction by Deputy Sheriff to the highest bidder as follows:-


DATE OF SALE: 28th September, 2020
TIME OF SALE: 14:30 hours
PLACE OF SALE: Plot 62979, Gaborone

PROPERTY TO BE SOLD: Defendants' right, title and interest on a certain piece of land being Lot 62979, Gaborone, measuring 375m², held under deed of transfer no. 3270/2015 dated 17th November 2015 made in favour Phodiso Brian Malope, together with developments comprising of a 3 bed roomed house, sitting room, garage, master insult, servant's quarter attached to main house, open plan kitchen screen wall, Mahindra gate, electric fence, paved.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS: Cash or Bank guaranteed cheque otherwise detailed and conditions of sale may be inspected at the Plaintiff's Attorneys Office.

DATED AT GABORONE THIS 17th DAY OF AUGUST, 2020.

DITIRO GABOBAKWE c/o
RAMALEPA ATTORNEYS
Plaintiff's Attorneys
Plot 3171, Morupule Road
Extension 11,
P.O. Box 70567
GABORONE (UB)
(VR/mm/10631) 73900288



RAMALEPA
ATTORNEYS
NOTARIES & CONVEYANCERS

(Before KHAN AgJ)

IN THE HIGH COURT OF THE REPUBLIC OF BOTSWANA

HELD AT GABORONE

CASE NO. CVHGB-000632-20

In the matter between:

FIRST NATIONAL BANK OF BOTSWANA LIMITED

and

THE DASH FAMILY TRUST

HENRY SCHOEMAN STEYN

DEBRA ANNE STEYN

OFFICE CONTROL (PTY) LTD

Plaintiff

1st Defendant

2nd Defendant

3rd Defendant

4th Defendant

NOTICE OF SALE IN EXECUTION

BE PLEASED TO TAKE NOTICE THAT pursuant to the Judgment granted by the Honourable Court the following immovable property hereunder of the Defendants will be sold by public auction by Deputy Sheriff to the highest bidder as follows:-


DATE OF SALE: 29th September, 2020
TIME OF SALE: 1430 hours
PLACE OF SALE: Lot 65902, Gaborone, a Portion of Lot 55720, Gaborone;

PROPERTY TO BE SOLD: Defendant's right, title and interest on a certain piece of land being Lot 65902, Gaborone, (A Portion of Lot 55720, Gaborone), measuring 884m², held under deed of transfer no. 2645/2013 made in favour of THE DASH FAMILY TRUST, with no developments thereon.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS: Cash or Bank guaranteed cheque otherwise detailed and conditions of sale may be inspected at the Plaintiff's Attorneys Office.

DATED AT GABORONE THIS 17th DAY OF AUGUST, 2020.

KEBONYEKGOSI NTEBELE c/o
RAMALEPA ATTORNEYS
Plaintiff's Attorneys
Plot 3171, Morupule Drive
Extension 11,
P.O. Box 70567
GABORONE (UB)
(VR/mm/13786) 71694303



RAMALEPA
ATTORNEYS
NOTARIES & CONVEYANCERS

(Before GAREKWE J)

IN THE HIGH COURT OF THE REPUBLIC OF BOTSWANA

HELD AT LOBATSE

CASE NO. CVHGB-000162-20

In the matter between:

BBS LIMITED

and

MAURO FERNANDO MOGNE LOFORTE

Plaintiff

Defendant

NOTICE OF SALE IN EXECUTION

BE PLEASED TO TAKE NOTICE THAT pursuant to the Judgment granted by the Honourable Court the following immovable property hereunder of the Defendant will be sold by public auction by Deputy Sheriff to the highest bidder as follows:-


DATE OF SALE: 28th September, 2020
TIME OF SALE: 14:30 hours
PLACE OF SALE: Plot 62610, Gaborone

PROPERTY TO BE SOLD: Defendants' right, title and interest on a certain piece of land being Lot 62610, Gaborone, measuring 334m², held under deed of transfer no. 800/2018 dated 15th May 2018, together with developments comprising of a 1 master bed room, 2 bedrooms, combined bath and toilet, separate toilet, sitting room and kitchen open plan, servants quarter attached to the main house, screen wall, electric fence, sliding gate, half paved, made in favour of MAURO FERNANDO MOGNE LOFORTE.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS: Cash or Bank guaranteed cheque otherwise detailed and conditions of sale may be inspected at the Plaintiff's Attorneys Office.

DATED AT GABORONE THIS 17th DAY OF AUGUST, 2020.

KEBONYEKGOSI NTEBELE c/o
RAMALEPA ATTORNEYS
Plaintiff's Attorneys
Plot 3171, Morupule Road
Extension 11,
P.O. Box 70567
GABORONE (UB)
(VR/mm/7049) 71694303



RAMALEPA
ATTORNEYS
NOTARIES & CONVEYANCERS

(Before SECHELE J)

IN THE HIGH COURT OF THE REPUBLIC OF BOTSWANA

HELD AT GABORONE

CASE NO: CVHGB-001382-15

In the matter between:

FIRST NATIONAL BANK OF BOTSWANA LIMITED

and

MARGARET K. BONTSENG

Plaintiff

Defendant

NOTICE OF SALE IN EXECUTION

BE PLEASED TO TAKE NOTICE THAT pursuant to the Judgment granted by the Honourable Court the following immovable property hereunder of the Defendants will be sold by public auction by Deputy Sheriff to the highest bidder as follows:-


DATE OF SALE: 17th September, 2020
TIME OF SALE: 1200hours
PLACE OF SALE: Tribal Lot 213, Ramotswa

PROPERTY TO BE SOLD: Defendants' right, title and interest on a certain piece of land being Tribal Lot 213, Ramotswa situated in Bamalete Tribal Territory measuring 1210m² held under Notarial Deed of Cession No. MA977/2013 dated 13th day of December 2013 made in favour of Margaret K. Bontseng, together with developments thereon being a three bed roomed house, bath and toilet combined, kitchen, sitting room, varander, fence and gate.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS: Cash or Bank guaranteed cheque otherwise detailed and conditions of sale may be inspected at the Plaintiff's Attorneys Office.

DATED AT GABORONE THIS 17th DAY OF AUGUST, 2020.

OMPHEMETSE PETER KAISARA c/o
RAMALEPA ATTORNEYS
Plaintiff's Attorneys
Plot 3171, Morupule Drive
Extension 11, Gaborone
P.O. Box 70567
GABORONE(UB)
(VR/mm/10786) 71222244



RAMALEPA
ATTORNEYS
NOTARIES & CONVEYANCERS

(Before GABANAGAE J)

IN THE HIGH COURT OF THE REPUBLIC OF BOTSWANA

HELD AT GABORONE

CASE NO: CVHGB-000499-19

In the matter between:

FIRST NATIONAL BANK OF BOTSWANA LIMITED

and

PINKIE NAGE

Plaintiff

Defendant

NOTICE OF SALE IN EXECUTION

BE PLEASED TO TAKE NOTICE THAT pursuant to the Judgment granted by the Honourable Court the following immovable property hereunder of the Defendant will be sold by public auction by Deputy Sheriff to the highest bidder as follows:-


DATE OF SALE: 24th September, 2020
TIME OF SALE: 10:30 hours
PLACE OF SALE: Tribal Lot 49 Metsimotlhabe

PROPERTY TO BE SOLD: Defendants' right, title and interest on a certain piece of land being Tribal Lot 49, Metsimotlhabe situated in the Bakwena Tribal Territory measuring 1632m² held under Notarial Deed of Cession and Declaration No. MA379/2009 dated 1st day of September 2009 made in favour of Pinkie Nage, together with developments thereon being two houses each with 2 beds sitting room, kitchen open plan, screen wall and motorised gate.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS: Cash or Bank guaranteed cheque otherwise detailed and conditions of sale may be inspected at the Plaintiff's Attorneys Office.

DATED AT GABORONE THIS 17th DAY OF AUGUST, 2020.

DITIRO GABOBAKWE c/o
RAMALEPA ATTORNEYS
Plaintiff's Attorneys
Plot 3171, Morupule Drive
Extension 11, Gaborone
P.O. Box 70567
GABORONE(UB)
(VR/mm/11042)73900288



RAMALEPA
ATTORNEYS
NOTARIES & CONVEYANCERS

(Before RADIJENG J)

IN THE HIGH COURT OF THE REPUBLIC OF BOTSWANA

HELD AT GABORONE

CASE NO. CVHGB-003636-20

In the matter between:

BBS LIMITED

and

MARY KENYADITWE MABOTHO

Plaintiff

Defendant

NOTICE OF SALE IN EXECUTION

BE PLEASED TO TAKE NOTICE THAT pursuant to the Judgment granted by the Honourable Court the following immovable property hereunder of the 1st and 2nd Defendants will be sold by public auction by Deputy Sheriff to the highest bidder as follows:-


DATE OF SALE: 29th September, 2020
TIME OF SALE: 1030hours
PLACE OF SALE: Tribal Lot 4410, Mogoditshane

PROPERTY TO BE SOLD: Defendants' right, title and interest on a certain piece of land being Tribal Lot 4410, Mogoditshane, measuring 2045m², held under memorandum of agreement of Lease No. MA 19/2012 dated 19th January 2012, with development thereon being a double story house comprising of (4) units with sitting and kitchen open plan, 2 bedrooms combined bath and toilet, unfinished structure attached to the double story, and a stand alone house comprising of sitting room, 1 bed, 1 master bed, 1 bath combined with toilet, dinning room, kitchen, varendor, screen wall, sliding gate, made in favour of MARY KENYADITWE MABOTHO.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS: Cash or Bank guaranteed cheque otherwise detailed and conditions of sale may be inspected at the Plaintiff's Attorneys Office.

DATED AT GABORONE THIS 17th DAY OF AUGUST, 2020.

KEBONYEKGOSI NTEBELE c/o
RAMALEPA ATTORNEYS
Plaintiff's Attorneys
Plot 3171, Morupule Road
Extension 11,
P.O. Box 70567
GABORONE (UB)
(VR/mm/7216) 76943030



RAMALEPA
ATTORNEYS
NOTARIES & CONVEYANCERS

(Before RANNOWANE J)

IN THE HIGH COURT OF THE REPUBLIC OF BOTSWANA

HELD AT GABORONE

CASE NO. CVHGB -000222- 17

In the matter between:-

LETSHEGO FINANCIAL SERVICES LIMITED

and

MARX VICTOR VALELA

Plaintiff

Defendant

NOTICE OF SALE IN EXECUTION

BE PLEASED TO TAKE NOTICE that pursuant to a Judgment granted by the above Honourable Court, the following movable property will be sold by public auction by DEPUTY SHERIFF N. OOKAME to the highest bidder as follows:-

DATE OF SALE: 28th August 2020
TIME: 1030am
VENUE: G-West Police Station


PROPERTY TO BE SOLD: 1 X Silver Mercedes Benz Registration Number B 484 BAW, 1 X Everlast Gym Bicycle,

TERMS OF SALE: Only cash or bank guaranteed cheques will be accepted.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS: Cash or Bank guaranteed cheque otherwise details and conditions of sale may be inspected at the Plaintiff's Attorneys Office.

DATED AT GABORONE THIS 16th DAY OF JUNE 2020.

N.OOKAME
Cell: 72879169/77435503
c/o RAMALEPA ATTORNEYS
Plaintiff's Attorneys
Plot 3171, Morupule Drive
Extension 11,
P.O. Box 70567
GABORONE (UB)



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opinion



THE
MILITARY
VETERAN
RICHARD MOLEOFE

Judge Advocate General’s Corps: Blowing Hot Air About Nothing

“The Judge Advocate General’s Corps (JAG Corps) is the branch or the speciality of a military concerned with military justice and military law. Officers serving in a JAG Corps are typically called judge advocates. Only the chief attorney within each branch is referred to as the Judge Advocate General; however, individual JAG Corps officers are colloquially known as JAGs.” Wikipedia

The issue regarding the establishment of the office of Judge Advocate General has certainly raised a lot of dust in the country’s political arena. The question at hand is; what is the real issue behind this matter? There is a lot of ignorance at play in the public debates and even those taking place in parliament. The definition and the role of the office has been explicitly made clear in the open statement here and that should help us understand even better as we go forward with this debate.

First of all I think this matter has been far too politicised and that has terribly clouded the real issues that should be at the centre of the debate. We all know that what has now come to the centre of the debate has now become the identity of the person who is expected to occupy that position. The ugly part of this debate is that it has become so partisan. Actually this has become the most partisan issue regarding the military in the history of this country.

Let us take a look at the history of military law in Botswana before we entangle ourselves with issues we are not well versed with. The establishment of the BDF came in 1977 as a result of an Act of Parliament. That was the basic law that ignited the birth of our military. The British were at play in helping draft the Act. In actual fact they simply did cut and paste and this is why some of the laws found in the Act have remained irrelevant for our circumstances.

The first attorney that BDF had early in the years was Brigadier Ndelu Seretse and he was followed by Colonel Sailor Mooketsi. Both of these gentlemen were coming from a group of first officer cadets at BDF and they were trained in Zambia. Seretse did his LLB at the University of Botswana and later completed at Edinburgh as it was the order of things in those years.

Part of Seretse’s training took him to train with the US Army as a JAG in 1992. This course was offered and paid for by the US Department of Defence through a programme known as IMET (International Military Education and Training). However, BDF was not ready at the time to establish a fully operational office of the JAG. The commander at the time did not want this office to be established because it would take away a lot of his powers as he enjoyed sweeping authority over everything military. The other factor was that the defence force was too small and could not generate enough work for this office if established.

It was in the commander’s comfort zone to deal with issues

of military law within the scope of the Summary Disciplinary proceedings, an arrangement that is skewed to benefit the command and not the troops. BDF began to experience problems with its legal system when soldiers began to realise that that they could opt for a court martial as opposed to summary disciplinary hearings that were often bangled up and came to be known to represent injustices to the troops.

When a growing number of soldiers were opting for the route of the Court Martial, the commander at the time rushed to parliament to change the law and prevent Non-Commissioned Officers from having any options other than to be dealt with summarily by their commanding officers. Most of these commanding officers were just as good as ward headmen in our villages and the verdict always had to please the commander. Those who acted independently in the interest of justice were side-lined for promotion.

It is important to clear the mist on this new appointment that it does not necessarily have to be held by someone who is a military general. It is just as the Attorney General is not a general. The current Director General at DCEC was serving as Inspector General at BDF while he was still at the rank of colonel.

There are unfounded fears that bringing a civilian JAG will make him a uniformed soldier and that falsehood has been perpetuated by those seeking to serve their own interests. That is not true! In any case, the BDF has a Chaplain General who is a civilian in uniform and has been taught how to salute and he has certainly become good at it.

Some during the debates in parliament have suggested that the post of JAG be reserved for the past crop of lawyers that served at BDF. This sounds ideal but it comes with a host of problems. These are the very officers who have been against justice for decades and cannot in anyway be converted to become part of the judicial solution to the military. The legal problems that BDF has were created by themselves. Worse of all, these general officers have never won a single case at court and that rules them out as novices.

The Legal Department at BDF as it is known has been manipulated by senior officers who successfully created a leadership vacuum in order that their relevance perpetuate into infinity. The choice of an outsider will help to change the culture of injustice and impunity.

The reader must understand that the BDF Act literally gives the commander the power to sentence a soldier to death through the processes of the Court Martial. The JAG will help in every way to safeguard that justice prevails in the barracks. Soldiers have suffered for far too long and they need their retribution from injustice now and not later.

editorial

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 interference.

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 em-

powered by giving them more not less voice. A Human Rights Tribunal has to be restored.

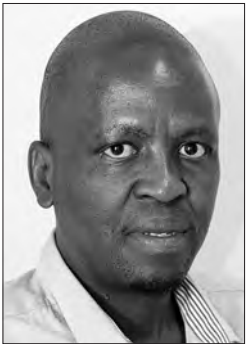
Forty years in existence can only be worth celebrating if there is clear hope for the future. That hope includes clear evidence to embrace change by those in leadership.

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.

opinion

Weathering the Storm : Trying to Heal from the 10 years of the Khama Era (Error)



GUEST
COLUMN
THABO SELEKE

In Botswana corruption has existed since the last decades, however, much has not been written about it. This has thus earned Botswana’s government a reputation for “clean” governance of public resources and is often seen as a haven of prosperity and stability in a region full of economic and political misery.

A survey on the literature of the corruption tsunami that swept across the country in the 1980s and 1990s however, portrays an illusion in the many accolades the country has received. The presentation by one of the leading scholars of African political economy, Abdi Samatar depicting the country as having managed to elude rampant corruption was full of flaws that needs to be revisited. Samatar’s thesis is almost totally uncritical of the glaring negative features of Botswana’s corruption scandals especially those that beset the country in the 1990s at the hands of ruling BDP political elites and their close family members. (See Seleke Sunday Standard 30, 01, 2011, K Good, 1994).

Corruption continued to raise its ugly head even under former President Ian Khama’s regime. The explosive rate of corruption under Ian Khama has been described by many of his critics as having elements of arrogance and one with the I don’t care attitude. The dramatic rise in corruption under Ian Khama is however, ironic since he came to power largely on anti-corruption campaign platform. His critics however, have always held a different view stating that Khama’s saw corruption only in other people’s eyes and not himself, his family members and close cronies.

The ‘Nchindogate’ case is still fresh in our minds. In that marathon case former Minister and former Chief Executive Officer of BEDIA at that time Rre Jacob Nkate was called as state witness. He fared badly. Nkate admittedly stated that the statement he made to DCEC on Nchindo was false. In the entire case Nkate suffered severe battering from Lot Moroka who restrained himself from branding Jacob Nkate a liar. Lot Moroka stated that Nkate’s performance in court was unfortunate and said he struggled to ‘place Nkate as an animal or a bird given his shifting evidence.’

Newspaper headlines reported that former President Ian Khama soon after ascending to the Presidency announced his 4Ds roadmap. The Ds were Discipline,

Development, Dignity and Democracy and later the 5th D was announced at a BDP election victory rally at Diswinking freedom square at Old Naledi in October 2009, where Khama show cased his hitherto unknown dancing skills with his Khama Kwasa dance moves.

In his 10 years of Presidency Ian Khama critics have been a constant thong on him stating that he completely mis-understood the script, as he deviated from his 5Ds agenda. They state that, he was just confused and as a result resorted to populist agenda, taking cover with his village walkabouts, causing poor grannies to ululate and dance endlessly, with young kids lining up to receive some Pong pong (sweets) and also causing old men to climb trees to have a glimpse at the Philanthropist pretender. His critics have argued that his is tantamount to what is termed pornography of poverty where he would be shot donating bibles and shirts to the poor rural folks.

It has always been clear right from day one, that Khama was not in touch with reality. The nation was just hypnotized and duped by the fake magician. His critics have argued that in his 20 years of political career, Khama proved to be more concerned about discipline of others than his own, even post presidency he still believes in that fallacy.

Some of his critics are even suggesting that he is an ungrateful self centred megalomaniac thriving on identity politics and tribal breast-beating. They sum it by saying that his current stunts are a clear indication that he is just in a state of panic and is doing his usual rhetoric, playing victim. Never the one to admit his short comings and mistakes, as to how he has been able to charm and fool many people from outside Botswana that he is innocent remains a mystery, some of his critics have claimed. Unfortunately for him Batswana are now wiser, smart, educated and are not fooled by his hypocrisy.

With only two years after Khama has left office, the country is going through a painful healing process. It is even trying to recover financially from the alleged corrupt practices dating back to his tenure in office. To make matters worse , Botswana has now been added to a new list of countries that pose financial risks to the European Union due to anti-money laundering and terrorism financing shortfalls.

Currently there is a marathon case involving one lady code named Butterfly – Welminah Maswabi which has led to issuing of some report by Ian Khama where he called for BDP to voluntarily relinquish power and pave way for credible elections since the investigations, clearly indicate that the State is unfit to manage the affairs of the state. However, AfriForum issued a statement dismissing the report as irrelevant. Stating that :

“If you possess the means to commission and fund an investigation of yourself by people appointed by yourself it remains just that and that only the police will have the mandate to officially investigate a crime since the report is unendorsed, unofficial and untested investigation”.

The nation is waiting with unbated breath to see justice done. As to whether the crime has been done or not only the Courts will make such as determination. In its current state, it is just speculation.

AfriForum announced that the Private Prosecution Unit, under the leadership of Adv Gerrie Nel, has brought a mandamus

application against , amongst others , Ronald Lamola, the Minister of Justice and Correctional Services, to force the Department of Justice to take steps to facilitate Mutual Legal Assistance (MLA) in the money laundering and fraud case in which business woman Bridgette Mosepe- Radebe is implicated.

For his part President Masisi unlike former President Ian Khama has unfortunately inherited a government which is in shambles with its economy in a near state of collapse. There is also rampant systemic and institutionalized corruption and deceit. Coupled with these are the political caricatures who have now become turncoats and are now hellbent on spreading malice rather than being sincere, open and honest.

We all know that politicians lie and lie a lot, until today it has reached a stage where it is often completely shameless. Lying and doing so in a wanton and blatant way is now such a part of everyday politics that is barely news worthy. However, now that their lips have been sweetened with honey, with some of them back to Parley and with the new freshmen who have finally made it to parley after numerous attempts, can now afford double breasted suits, sushi, cigars and cognac after a long dry financial spell, have resorted into being traitors, sell outs and cheap gossip mongers. They have

suddenly forgotten what they used to tell the nation about Ian.

The abuse of entrusted power by politicians through rent-seeking and corruption is a threat to many modern democracies with Botswana not being an exception. Many countries, provide seemingly endless examples of political elites diverting funds intended for basic public services such as health, schools, and roads for private gains. While the pervasive effects of corruption on economic development have been well documented, the root causes are poorly understood.

In Botswana the nation is going through a healing process and would not want to see a repeat of the Khama Era (ERROR). The Masisi administration must therefore crack the whip and carry out serious cleaning & cleansing, weed out the dead woods and the cabal of schemers working undercover with the Khama regime. This is the time that HE Masisi need good advice, not just his favourite people, but the best brains available, then he will listen and follow advise. One legal eagle made the same observation and called out the DPP to act as appropriate and end the case by either withdrawing the charges or expediting the prosecution of Welminah Maswabi as it has been pending for too long. Justice delayed is justice denied.

AP calls for repeat of MPA

WYNTER MMOLOTSI

MR speaker I wish from the onset to express my support for this motion and add that as the Alliance for Progressives we believe that media freedom and freedom of expression are foundational and facilitative rights that should be protected and entrenched in our Constitution. That is the reason why we tabled before this Parliament a motion, through Hon. Dr Pheno Butale, in 2015, calling for the media practitioners act to be repealed. It is shocking that almost five years later the government is still giving the same reasons it gave in 2015 for rejecting Dr Butale’s motion. Even today the minister says they are still consulting. Fact of the matter is that the position of the Media Fraternity hasn’t changed since 2008. They do not want this law. Full stop.

Before I get into my substantive points I want to disabuse some members who spoke before me, of the misinformation they peddled in this house.

1. Kgafela and the LAW SOCIETY’S POSITION ON MEDIA PRACTITIONERS
IT IS FALLACIOUS TO SUGGEST THAT THE LAW (Media Practitioners Act) ALLOWS FOR SELF REGULATION as suggested by Hon Kgafela.

The Law society itself - which I would want to believe the Hon Member Kgafela affiliates to, has

consistently refused to honor the requirement in the Act that expects them to provide a person to chair the Appeals Committee.

In a widely publicized press release entitled “ We applaud Law Society of Botswana on Media Practitioners Act”, that appeared in the mmegi newspaper edition of 09 August 2009, a year after the law was promulgated, then MISA chairperson, the Late Laona Segats’ho (may his soul rest in peace) wrote ‘

“Following their convention earlier in July, the law practitioners resolved not to respond to the requirement in the Act that expects them to provide a person to chair the Appeals Committee. The Law society of Botswana has adopted a very brave position considering the fact that it is expected by the law to participate in the implementation of the Act. We are confident that LSB adopted this position after a thorough scrutiny of the law and having considered all other options.”

This provision says the chairperson shall be appointed by the Minister, being a ‘legal practitioner, admitted to practice in the courts of Botswana and recommended by the Law Society of Botswana’. And the law society has since 2009 refused to participate citing the draconian nature of the law. One would have expected Hon Kgafela to be alive to this fact.

2. Botswana media ranking before and after the MPA

The are some Honorable members,

including minister Morwaeng, who disappointed me by displaying gross ignorance of the subject matter. They erroneously wanted to suggest that there is nothing wrong with the MPA except for a few clauses that can be amended.

It is our position as AP that the law in its entirety is at odds with the foundational and facilitative right to Free expression. Many press freedom reports have identified this act as a major threat to a free and unfettered press. In fact, between 2013 and 2018 Botswana fell eight places in the World Press Freedom Index,” largely due to this act which features prominently in all reports covering this period.

3. Rakgare’s wrong suggestion that the media freedom under Masisi has changed for the better.

In his usual fashion, Hon Rakgare sought to pass the blame to the former administration while wrongly and without facts trying to suggests an improvement in so far as arrest of journalists is concerned.

We still have in our statutes a raft of laws that the government can tap into to curtail media freedom and these media unfriendly laws include the National Security Act, the Media Practitioners Act 1998, the Sedition Act, the Protected Areas Act and the Cybercrimes and Computer Related Act 2007, the DISS act and

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& analysis

cartoon



opinion

Protests are not only for booing and chanting vulgar slogans; they must inspire the youth to vote!



BADGE OF COURAGE
KENNETH DIPHOLO

This column recently decried what it described as drab politics in Botswana further lambasting the opposition UDC for getting carried away by Facebook revolutions. The column commented that the UDC is a brand with some of the finest brains Botswana ever produced and that such distinguished people should not be as desperate as to glorify haphazard protest activities that mainly attract truants.

However, the column acknowledged that youth protests reveal the huge potential of the power in young people to shake the ruling establishment but that in electoral democracies protests are like preliminary events before the headline event-the [general] election.

In this regard, a protest should never be an end in itself. It is also worth noting that glorifying irregular and individualized protests risks distracting from honest engagement in party politics.

Indeed, protests are very effective at raising the level of consciousness and mobilizing support especially among the youth but giving them prominence over globally accepted, tried and tested forms of political activity is like living in a world of pure fantasy.

Without any doubt, there is power in the youth but such power must be harnessed judiciously by mobilizing the youth to see politics as a way of life not a part-time activity for releasing their

frustrations and confirming that indeed they are a lost generation that is continuously misused by the political elite. If the youth genuinely aspires for change which would improve their lives, they ought to see themselves as torchbearers of social change with the duty to free the country from bondage.

Globally, young people are regarded as the vanguard of social change and the last hope for a better future. This is no small honor that demand the youth to recognize their special place in society. In effect, young people ought to rise beyond the confines of chanting and booing if they want to be taken seriously. As former US president Barack Obama would say, the youth must not only boo but must importantly participate in elections by voting.

Protests that seem like attention-seeking gimmicks wherein the youth want to test and showcase their bravery, valor and/or ill-breeding may have the unintended effect of turning youth activists into celebrity thugs and suicide bombers.

When young people skip political rallies and other party activities in preference for street protests where they tote offensive banners and make provocative chants with everyone pushing to be in the front

row for television cameras, it reveals that theirs is not about effecting social change but more about making names for themselves and creating their own identities.

Engaging in spontaneous street protests and participating in protests movements is a welcome initiative for mobilizing young people but these protests movements should never overshadow party activities even as we know that most of these parties are symbols of failure and age-old stories of disappointment.

Protests movements are normally short-lived and narrow in orientation for they usually mobilize support and create awareness of a particular issue usually led by people whose main goal is to create an exclusive identity and image of sophistication for themselves.

In effect, while protest movements and spontaneous street protests may raise the level of consciousness, particularly for the uninitiated, they also have the potential to distract from the broader goal of regime change.

This is because a good number of youth activists simply derive momentary pleasure from chanting abusive slogans and throwing bowls of expletives without facilitating social change.

After repeatedly taking part in protest activities without seeing any tangible changes, the youth become fatigued, disoriented and indignant at being tricked by the organizers who sought to cultivate their own power.

The reality is that booing and chanting vulgar slogans would have the required impact if an equal portion of the protesters' energy is channeled towards intelligent voting at the polls.

Essentially, protests should be rehearsals for general elections to enable young protesters translate their anger into a meaningful act of voting out those who make our lives miserable.

In this context, while chanting slogans, provoking those in power and dancing like creepers is good for beginners, protesting youth who genuinely aspire for real change have an obligation to up the ante, graduate from obsession with being seen as the embodiment of extreme vulgarity to becoming party activists and habitual voters.

The core of this argument is that protest movements and street protests that certainly appeal to the youth should never be regarded as alternatives to po-

litical parties even as we acknowledge that for the most part political parties are a conveyor belt for the political elite, their families and associates to reach the honey pot via popular sentiments.

While youth protests are ideal in complementing party activities, the reality is that there is a huge gap between passion for participating in incoherent protest marches and the passion for participating in general elections.

This gap is demonstrated by the fact that the majority of voters are generally older persons while protesters are usually young people. This seems to suggest that young people invest more and are attracted to protest marching for reasons other than the desire for social change.

In this regard, political parties need to figure out how they can integrate the youth with their militant credentials while pursuing the goal of regime change through the ballot box.

In liberal democracies with a conservative political culture such as ours, political parties are readily recognized as legitimate organs of power and opposition parties are lawful bodies with the constitutional privilege to challenge for state power.

Anything else such as social movements would likely make our conservative voters jittery. Voters would somewhat be wary of the real intentions of people who are indifference towards political parties considered as the legitimate, official organs to use for struggle against misuse.

Thus, the youth need to be mindful that their radical tactics would achieve nothing if they are not integrated into party politics. They can try some weird tactics to topple the government or arrogate to themselves space traditionally reserved for political parties but as long as they bypass political parties, their efforts just carry a significant risk of miscarriage.

In conclusion, it is worth reminding young people that courage is not seen in attempts to launch one's political life in the most bizarre way or disregarding political parties as legitimate institutions to use to effect social change. Rather, courage is found in the resolve to re-invent political parties so that they become relevant and reposition them to address the plight of the ordinary citizen.

As you plan your next protest parade, remember the wise words of Barack Obama – ‘don’t boo, vote’.



THE WATCHDOG

SPENCER MOGAPI
DEPUTY EDITOR SUNDAY STANDARD

How opposition has been able to capture not only the narrative in parliament, but also public imagination!

The ongoing session of parliament has sent a mixed frisson of surprise, anger and excitement among the public.

This is because for the first time, Parliament is being screened live on Botswana Television.

Many members of the public cannot believe what they're seeing on their screens.

The nation is grasped and often mesmerized by what sometimes looks like a soap opera. There is an unmistakable element of grandstanding and also playing to the gallery by Members of Parliament.

The opposition in parliament is increasingly showing the guile perhaps never seen before within their ranks. And the public is taking notice.

Good performers relish every minute of the drama for they know that half their campaign will be complete long before the next election cycle begins.

All of a sudden there is disgrace, and down the line a heavy price to pay for being a poor performer in parliament.

The laggards have nowhere to hide. Voters' wrath awaits them at the next General Elections.

On a daily basis the opposition bonhomie is on public display as the BDP continues to lose grip.

The Botswana Democratic Party has been left chasing the wind, running after a buoyant opposition that is acutely aware that it now controls the narrative.

The ruling party is living with the consequence of its past deeds to mercilessly feed on own children.

There is a gap of almost a generation that is simply not there inside the BDP.

Strategists are watching with helpless anguish unable to proffer a response that can work.

The motions lined up by the opposition go right to the bottom of who and what Botswana has always stood for.

The opposition is playing a long game. They are slowly chipping off the BDP reputation. At the core of this game is to sow seeds of doubt on the public psyche. They want to expose the BDP as incompetent, while showing that they could do a much better job.

Reading many of these motions on paper, one would think they are from the BDP establishment.

Yet the BDP finds itself forced to reject every single one of them – and for no plausible reasons at that.

Under the rules, motions are not binding on the executive.

But it looks rash to reject a motion simply because it comes from the opposition.

And this fills the BDP, especially the front bench with anger and disdain. For the opposition it's a campaign ploy – they are taking aim at state power. And for the BDP, it's a double-edged sword.

In the voter's mind the opposition is planting an imagery that they are already in power.

The BDP finds itself in unenviable no win situation; accepting the motions would look like the party in power is under the spell of opposition from which it is lamely taking orders.

Rejecting them, as the BDP has done thus far annoys the public who interpret it as a sign of immature partisanship on the BDP part. Already the watching public is getting fed-up at what they perceive as BDP childish intolerance. The BDP poor performance is a combination of outright incompetence and absence of strategy. The opposition has also profited from lack of proper coordination on the part of the governing party. Among the ruling party MPs there is general laxity and lethargy. There is nothing more laughable than watching them on screen.

They are like little kids on their first day at school. Many of them appear lost at sea and totally unaware of what to do.

There is also an element of apparent leadership rigidity, which does not allow individual talent to shine.

Many BDP members of parliament look scared, afraid of saying anything on the floor lest they find themselves on the wrong side of the

so-called party caucus.

The public is slowly beginning to share a worldview preached by the opposition on the BDP and government lackluster performance.

The gap opened by the opposition is growing, but it remains recoverable. The public like what they are seeing and what the opposition is capable of. And if that continues, they will definitely be rewarded.

Dumelang Saleshando is in charge but for much of the current session, visibly angry.

Pono Moathodi is on his element. Every time he stands-up he displays his mastery of parliament Standing Orders which he often bends to his will with wanton abandon.

He has become the latter-day Daniel Kwelagobe. And the ruling party benches often watch his theatrics and use of eccentric language with helpless bemusement.

He exudes a lot of confidence. And is often not easy to control, including by his own side. The BDP in parliament has cut an image of a huge truck that lacks agility.

Even cabinet ministers are often hesitant and unsure.

The party relies too much on vice president Slumber Tsogwane who also carries the lofty title of Leader of the House.

Save for his dogmatism, Tsogwane has for the BDP been a real savior in the current session. Without him the sky would have long fallen on them. The opposition wants to overrun the BDP. But first they have to overrun Tsogwane.

Like Moathodi, he too knows the house rules. His undoing so far has been his insatiable appetite for confrontation. He behaves like a pit-bull.

Most in the opposition bench demonstrate varying levels of intellectual curiosity.

The soft composure of Kenny Kapinga, for example belies his competence.

The depth of his reasoning is a marvel to watch. Like a lawyer that he is, Kapinga presents his arguments in magisterial tones.

Wynter Mmolotsi's combination of experience and robust debating skills easily make him one of the finest treasures in parliament.

Anybody looking for cabinet material across the opposition benches would not struggle to find it; Taolo Lucas, Kesitigile Gobotswang, Dithapelo Keorapetse, Never Tshabang, Carter Hikuama, Goretsetse Kekgonagile. The list is actually much longer.

Personally, I enjoy watching Yandani Boko on stage. He conjures in me images of footballer Rahim Sterling during the days when he was at Liverpool. Like Sterling, there are signs of raw talent and unrefined brilliance in Boko. While at Liverpool, Sterling would go straight at his opponents, dribble them and then dribble himself before losing the ball by running far ahead of it at great speed – all of it a result of poorly developed coordination. Now at Manchester City, Sterling has mellowed. Boko needs a similar drill that Pep Guardiola put sterling through. He is a political gem waiting to mature.

Meanwhile all attempts of a BDP comeback in parliament are often easily dismissed as corny.

The opposition has craftily created doubts surrounding the State of Emergency. Their soft message is to say the State of Emergency was never necessary, but the BDP used their numbers to bring it so as to provide cover for corruption in the covi-19 related procurement.

The BDP has failed to convincingly respond to this argument. They cannot do so without upping their game.

It is because the opposition has momentum, their message is getting through and things are going for them.

If only their leader could stop being grimy. Saleshando should cease nursing grudges. His current performance lacks the passion he showed in his first tenure as Member of Parliament.

He should lighten up and stop behaving like the whole world is up against him.

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GENERAL PROCUREMENT NOTICE

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS (RFP)
FOR
PROVISION OF EXTERNAL AUDIT SERVICES FOR BUMMHI

BID REFERENCE: RFP-BUMMHI-08-002

- BUMMHI** is a citizen led and governed non – governmental organization providing health systems strengthening services to the Ministry of Health and Wellness (MOHW). BUMMHI is an implementing partner of the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), through which it provides PEPFAR – funded HIV care and treatment technical assistance to MOH. BUMMHI is therefore inviting audit firms based in Botswana with the requisite capacity and experience to submit proposals to be considered for appointment as BUMMHI auditors.
- Scope of Work:**
The auditor must review all applicable documents considered necessary to provide audit services. These include, but are not limited to:
 - Cooperative agreements
 - A-122 "Cost Principles for Non-profit organizations";
 - The budgets, scopes of work and written procedures approved by the donor
 - All program progress reports, accounting systems descriptions, and procurement policies and procedures, as necessary to successfully complete the required work
 - The financial statements and local statutory compliance
- BUMMHI is seeking to hire and retain an experienced, eligible, and reputable Audit firm for appointment to provide External Audit services. The RFP response must include the following information:
 - An official letter from authorized official expressing interest of the firm to provide services.
 - General profile and back ground of the firm which should elaborate the following:
 - Commercial Registration of the firm attaching necessary practicing certificate, Trading license, Certificate of incorporation
 - Confirmation of Botswana Accountancy Oversight Authority (BAOA)/BICA registration and number for the firm and the auditors
 - Tax Registration and compliance with existing laws in Botswana.
 - Core Business of the firm
 - Record of experience and qualification of the firm(s) staff in handling similar assignments) non-audit and tax services to organizations in the not-for-profit industry) for the last five years.
 - At least 3 (three) client references for provision of similar services in the last 3 years
 - Description of firm's audit approach/methodology and the firm's use of technology in auditing.
- Interested firms are required to submit their RFP response to the following email address admin@bummhi.org. The RFP response must be submitted electronically CLEARLY marked **Reference RFP-BUMMHI-08-002: Proposal for BUMMHI Audit Services**
- Interested firms may direct all enquiries by writing to the e-mail: dnganga@bummhi.org Copy bchiranga@bummhi.org
- Interested firms can request the specific Terms of Reference from tmalabola@bummhi.org Copy admin@bummhi.org.
- The deadline for submission of Technical & Financial Proposal is **17:00hours CAT on Friday 4th September 2020**. Late Bids will not be accepted.

BOTSWANA
GEOSCIENCE
INSTITUTE

PUBLIC TENDER NOTICE

Invitation to Tender

Botswana Geoscience Institute (BGI) Invites Local reputable companies with relevant experience and requisite skills to participate in the below mentioned tender.

| Tender No | Tender Description | Required PPADB Codes | Tender sale date | Tender submission Closing date and Opening |
|------------------|---|--|------------------|--|
| BGI/DID/20/08/25 | Provision of Server Infrastructure Up-grade | Code 120 – ICT Techni- cal Support Services Sub-Code 02 – Server Management and Maintenance Services Sub-Code 05 – Network Management Services | 24th August 2020 | 24th September 2020 @ 1000hrs |

Sale of Tender Documents.

- ITT Documents are available for collection during working hours –0800 to 1200 and 1400 to 1630 on weekdays at BGI Procurement and Assets Management Office 013
- Enquiries in relation to this notice can be made to motsumis@bgi.org.bw.
- Non-refundable Tender Document Fee: BWP250.00.00 (EFT or bank guaranteed Cheques)

Bidders are required to make payments to the Institute's bank account as shown below and provide proof of payment upon collection of a tender document:

First National Bank Botswana
Account Number: 62594432371
Branch Number: 281767
Branch Name: Lobatse Branch
SWIFT Code: FIRNBWGX
REF: Company Name

In line with Government Policy Reform 2015: Affirmative Action in favour of youth, (100% CITIZEN OWNED) companies pay half price of (BW125.00) to purchase tender documents on production of youth directorship proof. Detailed Bids/Tenders must be submitted in a plain sealed envelope clearly marked with Tender Number and Tender Title, and must be submitted no later than the date/time stated above.

Bids/Tenders must be hand delivered to the address below:

Chief Executive Officer,
Botswana Geoscience Institute
Procurement Office
Plot 1734, Khama 1 Avenue
Private Bag 014
Lobatse, BOTSWANA

Postal address: Private Bag 014, Lobatse, Botswana
Physical address: Plot 1734, Khama 1 Avenue.
Telephone: (+267) 5330327 Fax: (+267) 5334295
Email: info@bgi.org.bw

Africa and COVID-19: The Sick Man of Globalization?

Until African countries can tell their own stories and devise locally-grown policies to solve their problems, no one will take them seriously
-Writes **TAMBA FRANCOIS KOUNDOUNO**



When the World Health Organization (WHO) declared COVID-19 a “global health emergency” on March 11, months after the viral bug had caused devastation in Wuhan, China, there was a lingering feeling that Africa, the perpetually needy adolescent of world affairs, would soon become the virus’s new home.

With a lethal, rapidly spreading disease wreaking havoc in some of the world’s most advanced economies, argued the high priests of the “Save Africa” gospel, what hope was there for a continent where some countries hardly have ICUs, many without a single ventilator?

Undeserved success?

Underpinning such rhetoric was the assumption that, with their traditional assistance providers desperately fighting to fend for themselves, African countries, supposedly lacking ingenuity and agency, were headed to a viral purgatory, where they would passively wait for Westerners to first weather the storm at home and then come to rescue their dying, eternally sick globalization relative.

By mid-April, however, as COVID-19 infection and death rates remained significantly low in most of Africa, the assurance of Africa’s coming catastrophe turned into a query. Why was Africa almost unscathed while hospitals in the developed world crumbled?

In most cases, the question came not from concerned Africa-watchers who genuinely wanted to understand. It came, to a considerable extent, from a place of surprise and shock. It aimed at unearthing — because Africa is synonymous with primitiveness and chronic lack — why it was taking so long for Africa’s under-resourced, ill-prepared health systems to be overwhelmed by an invisible enemy that had already forced to genuflection countries with state-of-the-art hospitals and well-trained medical personnel.

In the vertiginous scramble for an explanation, there emerged a few theories. These mainly included the continent’s youth and its generous climate. Sheer luck, then, was offered as the main reason Africa was doing well. The point was this: In no conceivable world can African governments, known for their ineffectiveness, be responsible for their relative success in dealing with COVID-19.

Read also: How North Africa is Responding to COVID-19

But what of Morocco, where the largely salutary measures — early lockdown and mass production of hand sanitizers and masks — have been life-saving? What about most of sub-Saharan Africa, where the situation is largely under control? What of Tunisia, Mauritius, and Rwanda, three countries that, by any standards, deserve to be in the high honor class in this “pandemic summer?”

Yet, the mainstream narrative decided that no one wanted to hear from a bunch of lucky African countries thought to be undeservedly, cluelessly winning their fight against the pandemic. Instead, we were told about the resourceful Japan, the convention-defying Sweden, the resilient China, and the ingenious South Korea and Singapore, among others.

Beneath this dismissal of positive stories from Africa is the deeply-rooted belief that, besides its natural resources and world-renowned athletes and entertainers, nothing enviable comes out of Africa. As Simukai Chigudu, professor of African politics at Oxford, has perceptively put it, as COVID-19 became a global concern, the well-established narrative about Africa as primordially poor and unresourceful quickly reinforced the belief that the continent was destined to be the “virus’s final frontier, where it will yield untold damage.”

Not over yet

While infection and death cases have worriedly jumped across Africa in recent weeks, igniting talks of a second lockdown in countries like South

Africa and Morocco, the continent’s numbers so far are nowhere near the catastrophe that was announced.

Governments’ early and aggressive response, the widespread use of unproven but apparently effective treatments — chloroquine and locally-made herbal concoctions, for example — as well as a long history of epidemic outbreaks are (rightly)

thought to account for Africa’s comparatively low COVID-19 figures.

But there is more to the story: Some African researchers have actually been working on finding a cure. And while research in Africa has not been as cutting-edge and as widely publicized as research from, say, China or South Korea, there have been considerable efforts on the in-

novation front, from the conception of local, cheaper ventilators to the development of alternative testing kits, to the quest for an effective cure or vaccine.

Still, African governments and public health experts are betting on caution, maintaining that there is no reason for a premature, misguided triumphalism. “We have won the battle... but we have not yet won the war,” Mauritian Prime Minister Pravind Jugnauth said on May 18, even as he announced “zero active cases.” In Morocco, despite indications that the virus was largely under control by the end of June, most of the past weeks have been about extending the extension of emergency measures, with authorities rightly fearing a second, more severe wave of infections.

All this speaks volumes about the increasing awareness in the continent that while foreign aid is appreciated, it is suicidal to just sit around and wait for external succor. For enthusiastic pan-Africanists, meanwhile, this pandemic has shown the world that Africans are not waiting for saviors. That they are no Hegelian infants naively waiting to be rescued from “history’s

waiting room” by Western altruism.

The new Africans

In another, related sense, this crisis has revealed that pan-Africanism comes in different guises.

Madagascar’s President Andry Rajoelina, the chief promoter of the unproven herbal cure Covid-Organics, hit a traditional pan-Africanist argument on its nose when he argued that the pandemic has exposed the global community’s tendency to disparage ideas from Africa. Western countries, he suggested, cannot stomach the idea that, as the world faces an unprecedented crisis, salvation could come from Africa.

Elsewhere, Oby Ezekwesili, a former Nigerian minister and World Bank economist, has controversially called for China, where the virus first emerged, to redeem itself by paying reparations to African governments. And when an official at the Chinese embassy in Lagos responded that this was an “irresponsible” idea, Ezekwesili resorted to a more defensive pan-Africanist trope: “China must know that where our lives and livelihood are concerned, no country, regardless of how powerful it may be, can intimidate us Africans ever again.”

The two ideas, while obviously different, are premised on one foundational pan-Africanist narrative: That globalization has not been working for Africa.

Increasingly emerging from this posture, however, is a type of clear-

eyed pan-Africanism willing to “complicate” the very idea of Africa and do away with unhelpful buzzwords like Afro-pessimism, Afro-optimism, and “Africa rising.”

As adherents of this new cohort see it, postcolonial hubris solves very little, if anything at all. They are intent on deconstructing the domineering presence of the West in the postcolonial imaginary without idealizing pre-colonial Africa. As a young Moroccan environmental activist recently told me, they are interested in enacting palpable change, not reiterating throaty, feel-good slogans.

Yet the original question lingers: Why are most African countries perpetually resorting to external financial assistance and debt relief pleas? Is Africa indeed the sick man of globalization?

A survey of contemporary African thought provides no straightforward answer, and responses vary according to the ideological inclination — clear-eyed pan-Africanism or radical Afrocentrism, Afropolitanism or cosmopolitan patriotism — of the responder.

Beneath this fog of competing visions, however, there emerges one robust consensus: Until African countries can tell their own stories and devise locally-grown policies to solve their problems, no one will take them seriously.

Morocco World News

Councillor confirms CKGR residents not allowed to plant crops

The pre-packaged supermarket food they get from the government has reportedly introduced an epidemic of chronic diseases like diabetes and high-blood pressure



Crops

A letter from London has illuminated an obscure and loosely enforced legal requirement used to regulate the residence of San communities in the Central Kgalagadi Game Reserve.

“We have also received reports that Bushmen have been stopped from planting melons and other foods in the CKGR and again hope that is not official government policy,” reads a letter from Stephen Corry, the Director of Survival International, an indigenous-rights pressure group that is based in London and routinely tussles before with the Botswana government.

Headlined “Arrest and Harassment of Bushmen in the Central Kgalagadi Game Reserve”, the letter is addressed to President Mokgweetsi Masisi and is copied to the Minister of Environment, Natural Resources Conservation and Tourism, Philda Kereng; the Director of Wildlife and National Parks, Major General Otisitswe Tiroyamodimo; and Botswana’s High Commissioner to the United

Kingdom, Reverend Dr. John Seakgosing.

A long-time CKGR resident, who now represents a community that was forcibly removed from the CKGR (officially the euphemism “relocated” is used) in the Gantsi District Council has confirmed to *Sunday Standard* that in a COVID-19-related development, they have indeed been ordered to stop planting crops. When Masisi ordered a national stay-at-home in April, the government undertook to feed the needy in order to curtail movement. Jumanda Gakelebotse, who is the councillor for New Xade, says that he and some of his colleagues in the Council suggested that as an economic empowerment measure, the government should buy melons from CKGR farmers for its feeding programme.

“The response was that the government would be setting a bad precedence if it bought produce from the CKGR because no crops are supposed to be grown in a game reserve,” says Gakelebotse who before joining politics, was the last co-ordinator of First Peoples of

the Kalahari, a San-rights pressure group that worked closely with Survival International in a major international campaign to restore the residency rights of CKGR communities. “Government officials said that if crops had been planted in the CKGR, that would have been illegal.”

What is baffling is why a supposedly illegal activity has been allowed to go on for decades and why it had to become an issue now. When Roy Sesana, a San-rights activist of international renown, was suspended for absence from work for a protracted period of time, he would later contest such suspension because he felt he had done nothing wrong. He told *Sunday Standard* that all he did was visit his ancestral home in Molapo, a small village inside the CKGR, to “plant a few hectares.” The Setswana he used was “*Ke ne ke ile go baya ditemanyana ko Molapo.*” That was a decade ago and there is no way that the government, notably game scouts and police, would not have known that CKGR residents who won a court case through which they sought to return to the game re-

serve, were engaged in farming.

It remains to be seen how the government will handle the crop-planting issue but historically, it has never applied a common-sense approach to CKGR-related issues, lurching from one blunder to the next.

The saga began in the 1990s when De Beers discovered alluvial diamonds at Gope in the game reserve and convinced the government of President Sir Ketumile Masire to declare the largest game reserve in the world a red zone in line with its policy. This basically meant kicking out people who called the CKGR home. It was then that FPK was founded and under the leadership of its first coordinator, John Hardbattle, established a working relationship with Survival International. One of FPK’s earliest and most prominent international supporters was Prince Charles of England who gifted the organisation with a Land Rover van. In later years and as FPK grew, it would cultivate support among Hollywood A-listers like Julianne Moore.

With De Beers exerting pres-

sure on the government behind the scenes, residents were forcibly removed from the CKGR in 1997, whereupon some of them launched a legal bid to have their full residency rights restored.

At a cultural level, the government grossly mishandled the whole exercise. One of the arguments that the residents made was that they couldn’t be separated from the CKGR because their ancestors were buried in it. Performing the trance dance at or near graves is central to San religion. In a moment of extreme cultural insensitivity, a senior government official said that the claim about graves was false because he was part of a team that had visited the game reserve “and we didn’t see any graves.” In order to appear genuine to him, a grave had to be constructed the same that a western-type grave is constructed. A San man was torn away from his wife and when he protested, his claim that he was married to the woman was promptly dismissed by the Gantsi District Commissioner who said that the woman didn’t have a wedding ring on her finger.

This ring is western and even culturally Tswana tribes started using it in the mid-1900s when they adopted western ways.

In a High Court judgement that didn’t completely favour the residents, only the litigants were allowed back but the court also pronounced that the government was under no obligation to provide the returnees with services. Everybody else remained put at the resettlement villages of New Xade and Kaudwane. The government’s denial of water services to the returnees would prompt a South African company to take pity on them and sink a borehole in the CKGR at its own cost. In 2015, after more than a decade of battling with Survival International and the First People of the Kalahari, the government finally caved in and restored its essential services in the CKGR.

Decades later, the people who were kicked out of the game reserve are being replaced by multi-national companies who are tearing up the CKGR in search of mineral wealth and setting up luxury safari camps that the average San is never go-

ing to be able to afford stay in for at least the next century. A credible report released by Survival International a few years ago shows that the displaced now have to battle with chronic diseases like sugar diabetes and high blood pressure. The report attributes these diseases to a sedentary lifestyle and eating processed food distributed to San communities by the Gantsi District Council under a feeding programme for the destitute. Two years ago, Gakelebone told *Sunday Standard* that he had recently hosted a group of concerned constituents who asked to go back to the CKGR.

“They were saying that when they were relocated from the CKGR to New Xade, the government promised to eradicate their poverty and make them rich. However, they are complaining that instead of those riches they are now getting infected with AIDS. They want to escape the certain death that will come with this AIDS by going back to the CKGR,” said Gakelebone.

He added that before the communities were removed

from the CKGR, “AIDS was just a name of something we didn’t know.” At the time of the resettlement, there was a lot of construction work going on – New Xade has a health clinic that is bigger and plusher than any in Gaborone. Gakelebone points the finger of blame at construction workers for having introduced the disease to members of his community.

“The prevalence rate is now unbelievably high,” he said. “What adds to the problem is alcohol abuse which we were not used to in the CKGR. Yes, there was alcohol in the CKGR prior to the relocation but the one you would find would have been brought in by visitors. For that reason, there was no alcohol abuse. That is not the case in New Xade where there are two bars and countless shebeens. With Gantsi being within reach, some people travel there to buy malt in shops and brew *kbadi* (traditional wine) for their own consumption. There are times when up to 60 people in the village are brewing their own *kbadi* at the same time.”

Over 70% of workers in Botswana earn below P10 000

SUNDAY STANDARD REPORTER

As Botswana's unemployment roll continues to grow, recent labour data has shed some light on the country's working class, revealing that majority of workers are untrained, hold low level jobs, while over 70 percent of the country's workers earn less than P10,000.

According to Statistics Botswana's labour data for the first quarter of 2020, the country's population of people above 15 years is 1.6 million. Nearly 60 percent of this comprises of the labour force, defined as any person above the age of 15 years and is able to work. With a labour force estimated at 978,396, only about 76.8 percent or 751,798 are employed. The unemployment rate is 23.1 percent, representing the 226,598 people without work. The unemployment rate is even higher when you add the discouraged job seekers, bringing the number of jobless people to 285,813 or 27.5 percent of the labour force that is not employed.

Even those employed are not fairsing better, as majority are found in low paying jobs and in sectors that are adding jobs at a lower pace, and sometimes working without job security. About 492,915 workers are in formal sector employment, accounting for 65.5 percent of the 751,798 workers. Formal sector employment is defined as jobs from companies registered to pay



Kromberg strike

tax, employing five or more personnel and does not operate from households.

Majority of formal sector employment is absorbed by the private sector, employing 33.4 percent of workers, while government's share of employment is 24.2 percent, self-employment at 16.1 percent. Ipelegeng workers represent 9.7 percent of people counted as workers. The average

earnings for formal sector employment is P4,848, made lower by the majority of workers holding jobs with low wages.

More than half of the 751,798 workers are holding jobs in vulnerable occupations such as service or sales roles, and many in elementary occupations - defined by the International Labour Organisation (ILO) as work consisting

of simple and routine tasks, mostly used loosely to refer to labourers. According to Statistics Botswana's data, about 61 percent of workers do not have any formal training, partly explaining a larger portion of workers in elementary occupations.

Professionals in the formal sector, mostly with university degree, can expect to earn P14,714, while

technicians and associate professionals are said to earn P11,312 and managers tend to earn P8,638. The figures pale in comparison to majority of workers in the elementary occupations, whose average pay is P1,289.

Of the 492,915 workers in the formal sector, only about 78 percent are truly said to be in formal employment, which refers to jobs with better security

and benefits. This is employment that is liable for taxation, pension or gratuity. The workers also get paid or maternity leave, allowances and medical services. The employers are bound by contract agreements, which offer employees protection through instruments such as Labour Act or regulations like minimum wage. The workers are also paid overtime.

Still, even within formal employment, about 36.6 percent have some form of secondary school education, while university graduates account for 22 percent of formal employment. The largest proportion of formal employment by occupation was found in the services or sales roles, 17.6 percent in elementary occupations and 16.1 percent as technicians. Of the 385,693 workers in formal employment, the public service sector leads by 16.8 percent share of workers, followed by education which employs 15.4 percent of the workers, while wholesale and retail trade's share of workers is 12.7 percent.

Statistics Botswana's labour force also illuminates the country's falling wages - average pay in formal employment fell from last year's P7,015 to P6,915 in the first quarter of the year. The average pay masks an even worrying larger figure, where 73.6 percent of workers earn below P10,000. Narrowing it even further, 55.8 percent of workers earn less than P4,000.

Most of the employees in formal employment (40.2 percent) who were earning P2,000 to P4,000, were working as service or sales roles. Elementary occupation workers accounted for 40.6 percent of employees earning in the range P1,000 to P2,000. The group of employees who were earning between P10,000 and P30,000, 39.6 percent of them were technicians, followed by professionals at 30.2 percent within the group.

Botswana needs P43 billion to fix the battered economy

BONNIE MODIAKGOTLA

The Botswana government which has spent P4 billion on the COVID-19 Economic Stabilisation Plan, a short term plan developed and implemented by government during a tough lockdown that ran from April to June, says it will need ten times more to turn the economy around.

The minister of Finance and Economic Development, Thapelo Matsheka, has presented an altered eleventh National Development Plan (NDP) that reflects the impact Covid-19 containment measures have had on the country: reduced economic growth and national income, and worsened country's fiscal and balance of payments positions. Government revenues are projected to be 16 percent lower in the current, 2020/21 financial year than they were when the Mid-Term Review was prepared, and 11 percent lower over the remaining years of NDP 11, which began in 2017 and ends in 2023.

The Mid-Term Review has been updated with the equally ambitious Economic Recovery and Transformation Plan (ERTP), which was unveiled in late June, with efforts aimed at the restoration of economic activity and incomes, facilitate economic growth and the further expansion of productive capacity,



Dr Thapelo Matsheka

accelerate economic transformation and build the resilience of the economy.

"The aim is to promote implementation of the pre-COVID-19 development and transformation agenda, while incorporating the lessons learnt and seizing new opportunities to pursue the path towards high-income status by 2036," Matsheka said in parliament when presenting the Mid-Term review paper.

NDP 11, as amended during

the Mid-Term Review and with the addition of the ERTP, includes a large number of development projects, which have pushed the public expenditure requirements for the remainder of NDP 11 higher. The minister added that the various measures introduced to respond to the impact of COVID-19 through an economic stimulus package amounts to some P18.5 billion, or almost 10% of GDP, an amount that has been chosen

to be sufficient to provide a significant fiscal stimulus to counter the impact of COVID-19 on the economy.

But with falling revenues, and widening budget deficits, Matsheka said the financing requirements have to be addressed upfront. The total financing requirement projected for the second half of NDP 11 amounts to P43 billion.

"To address this, some money will have to be raised through a combination of increased domestic revenues such as taxes and levies, and borrowing," the minister said, and added that the government has little scope to draw down further on the Government Investment Account - the government's portion of the foreign exchange reserves - as this needs to be preserved as a financial buffer. The GIA account has been declining in recent months as government pulled emergency funds from the buffers.

"Additional borrowing will be sourced from the domestic capital market, including pension funds, and from the banks. It will also be necessary to borrow from external sources. Fortunately, due to prudent financial management, the Government starts off with relatively low debt, and even with the additional borrowing the debt level will remain sustainable and well within the statutory limits on public debt," Matsheka added.

De Beers eager to fill Covid-19 consumer spending gap

PORTIA NKANI

Rough diamonds mining giant De Beers is eager to fill spending gap left by Covid-19 travel cancellations as some consumers find themselves with additional discretionary income to spend elsewhere.

There is a potential that consumers will allocate this discretionary income to alternative purchases, creating something of a unique opportunity for diamonds.

De Beers Group last week released the third instalment of its Diamond Insight Flash Report series, which looks at the consumer perspective in the US and how it continues to evolve as the country progresses through the stages of the Covid-19 pandemic.

The latest report includes a focus on consumer discretionary spend including the potential for diamonds to capture luxury market share in light of the current reduction in travel spending, which has been the key competitor to diamond jewelry in recent years, particularly for the Millennial share of wallet.

Bruce Cleaver, CEO, De Beers Group, said: "As a product that can be both experiential and meaningful, diamonds fill the temporary void left by travel in the way few other luxury products can. Diamond marketing themes that highlight these attributes

are likely to be particularly well received by consumers who have additional money to spend due to their lack of spend on travel, and are looking to create a special gifting experience this holiday."

The latest round of this research note, conducted among 500 Americans aged 18 and above, found that 44 percent of consumers had more disposable cash due to the cancellation of travel, dining or other experiences during the year. When it came to travel specifically, more than two-thirds of Americans had cancelled travel plans for 2020 and of those, 55 percent found themselves with extra money as a result. In the absence of travel, one in eight consumers said they would instead choose diamonds to mark a special occasion.

The report also looks at how consumer confidence has changed since De Beers Group started this research in March. While consumer confidence was relatively fragile on the whole compared with previous research waves - largely due to the increased spread of the virus and uncertainty regarding the upcoming presidential election - the latest research found that almost half (46 percent) of consumers had an optimistic outlook on life overall for the next three months and more than 60 percent said the pandemic had not

affected their personal finances. In addition, 46 percent said their jewelry spending was back to normal, with a further 25 percent expecting it would normalise in the next six months.

Just a fortnight ago, David Prager De Beers' Executive Vice President, Corporate Affairs, told Sunday Standard that the company has been doing research for the demand under the tough times of Covid19.

It became evident consumers are looking for fewer things that can last, stable pieces that communicate consistency. As it is now few months away from the Christmas festivities and the Chinese New Year, Prager further indicated that the National Diamond Council will soon launch a new campaign targeting those consumers who want to express themselves through purchases that present a clear purpose of sense and connection.

"As the climate improves, consumers will have a greater respect for all things natural and seek brands that have honest mission to be truly sustainable. They will be purchasing luxury goods with greater meaning," said Prager.

The group aims to continue to maintain strict cost discipline, while focusing on accelerating the transformation of its business that was already underway prior to the pandemic.



JOB VACANCIES

Botswana Qualifications Authority (BQA) invites applications from qualified candidates to fill the following positions:

- Legal Officer**
- Institutional Audit Officer**

Suitably qualified candidates should submit application letters, detailed CVs, names of three referees, certified copies of certificates and Omang on or before **04 September 2020** through the links below:

- Legal Officer:** <https://www.trending-talent.com/portal/QuestionnaireForm.aspx?qi=672&pi=1335>
- Institutional Audit Officer:** <https://www.trending-talent.com/portal/QuestionnaireForm.aspx?qi=673&pi=1334>

For detailed advert, please log onto: https://www.bqa.org.bw/sites/default/files/external_vacancy_circular-no_2_-2020_0.pdf

BoB seeks to support economic recovery by maintaining Bank Rate at 4.25%

VICTOR BAATWENG

As expected, Botswana's central bank kept its benchmark interest rate unchanged on Thursday saying the current level was consistent with efforts to support the recovery of the domestic economy.

At the meeting held on August 20, 2020, the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) of the Bank decided to maintain the Bank Rate at 4.25

percent according to Moses Pelaelo – BoB Governor.

Pelaelo said that maintaining the Bank rate at 4.25 percent is in line with the bank's accommodative monetary policy stance which is in line with the country's short-term adverse developments which occurred against a potentially supportive environment including accommodative monetary conditions.

In the past few months, the Botswana government also implemented reforms to further

improve the business environment in a bid to mitigate the impact of COVID-19.

"These would generally be positive for economic activity in the medium term," said Pelaelo.

The BoB MPC decision comes at a time when the International Monetary Fund (IMF) has made an aggravated guess on Botswana economy saying it will shrink by 9.6 percent this year, a revision from the 5.4 percent that was projected in April.

The IMF projection, just like

the government's does not begin to describe the economic collapse which has now stretched into the second half of the pandemic year.

The Central bank this week joined and sang a chorus that says economic projections by the Ministry of Finance and Economic Development and the IMF suggest a deterioration in economic growth for Botswana in 2020.

While the IMF pegs the economic growth to a negative growth of 9.6 percent, the Economic Development

Ministry says the economy will go down by 8.9 percent – a figure lower than an earlier forecast of 13.1 percent negative growth.

"The disparity in forecasts attest to the challenges of making forward projections when there is uncertainty about the duration of constrained economic activity, the resultant adverse impact on productive capacity, as well as the speed of resumption of production and pace of recovery in demand," said Pelaelo on Thursday.

Pelaelo who was addressing



Moses Pelaelo

a media brief via a virtual press conference from the bank's head office in the capital Gaborone told financial journalists that the COVID-19 pandemic and consequent containment measures have severely throttled economic activity globally and domestically as production, supply chains, project implementation and provision of goods and services are constrained.

"Consumption and spending are disrupted, hence domestic demand pressures and foreign prices remain subdued. Consequently, overall risks to the inflation outlook are skewed to the downside", said Pelaelo.

The monthly Consumer Price Index (CPI) 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.

While the inflation rate might be at its lowest, Pelaelo on Thursday said domestic 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.

Legislature bemoans foreigners grab localised jobs

KABELO SEITSHIRO

Member of Parliament (MP) for Selibe Phikwe West Dithapelo Keorapetse has decried that a significant number of foreigners hired in Botswana are without special skills not available locally depriving citizens of opportunities.

Acting Permanent Secretary (PS) in the Ministry of Employment, Labour Productivity and Skills Development (MELSD) Claude Mojafi admitted before the Parliamentary Accounts Committee that there is lack of labour market database. He said the Human Resources Development Council (HRDC) is working on the establishment of the database.

Keorapetse, who is also the PAC chairman, observed that foreigners continue to take jobs that would be filled by the local citizens.

"There is a pattern of companies bringing foreigners in mining and chain stores who are not specialists while others do not have required qualifications," bemoaned the MP.

For his part, Mojafi stated Botswana has been experiencing challenges with regard to productivity and work ethic issues for the past few years. He added that the World Bank Group's Doing Business Reports have repeatedly indicated poor work ethic as one of the most problematic attributes for doing business in the country.

"I am advised, by staff that prior to the rationalization of ministries, the Directorate of Corruption and Economic Crime (DCEC) conducted an audit at MLHA, which identified corrupt practices within the procurement processes and procedures," said Mojafi.

He further stated that to monitor compliance to labour laws, the ministry conducted 2665 labour inspections—against a target of 4560. He said 87 percent compliance rate was recorded among those

(2665) inspected. He added that the common contraventions noted during inspections were; failure to insure workers and failure to maintain employment records. Corrective measures as provided for, by the law, were taken against non-compliant establishments.

In relation to mediation, Mojafi stated that the ministry handled a total of 3,294 case, adding that out of this number, 1,925 (58.4 percent) cases were mediated during the period under review. He said particularly high numbers of trade disputes were recorded in Maun, Francistown, Palapye and Gaborone. He is of the view that this is attributed to high economic activities in these areas and he added that the increased activity adversely affected the turnaround time for the mediation of cases.

As for arbitration, he said a total of 70 cases were heard and were awaiting enforcement of arbitration awards by the Commissioner of Labour. He stated that appropriate interventions, by the Commissioner were hampered by some limitations in the Trade Disputes Act, 2016.

"Registration and placement of jobseekers: In the period under review a total of 19,023 job seekers were registered, out of which 16,894 were placed," said Mojafi.

Mojafi said he ministry continues to facilitate employment through the issuance of work permits to investors and employees. He spoke of emergency Work Permits, Exemption Certificates and Long-Term Permits. He said the turnaround time for the issuance of work permits is still a challenge for the ministry.

"Due to capacity constraints, in the area of adequate personnel and automation, the monitoring of training and localization performance areas remains a challenge. This results in non-citizens holding positions for a long or unreasonable time," said Mojafi.



Our Business is Keeping You in Business

What resilience lessons can we learn from COVID-19?

One important learning is that Botswana should take a regional approach to its efforts to contain the pandemic.

Covid-19 looks like it is here to stay, and we ought to learn to adapt to this new reality. The Botswana government is currently doing a great job at containing the virus but that is not enough if our neighbors are still struggling. By their very nature, pandemics span borders, and governments in the region should not only depend on isolated COVID-19 combat strategies but should also start planning to escalate to regional strategies and subsequently continental strategies.

Did businesses adequately plan for the pandemic?

But what lessons can we learn from Covid-19 as individuals and businesses?

Could the business community have planned better for this pandemic—and did its existing business continuity plans readily accommodate pandemic planning?

Every pandemic has its own particular challenges, but we should integrate what they teach us into our future business continuity planning. After all, we live in a VUCA (volatile, uncertain, complex and ambiguous) world, so we need to have our plans in place to be able to respond to any type of disaster holistically.

Although the Covid-19 pandemic came as a wake-up call to businesses and governments, it too will come to

an end. But other threats and vulnerabilities are still out there, and businesses ought to revisit their plans to ensure that they are protected against those threats.

For example, the current disruption of petrol supply is currently threatening businesses and homesteads, and could ultimately threaten the government's efforts to contain the spread of COVID-19. As Botswana, how do we deal with the vulnerability created by our dependence on South Africa for all vital/ essential supplies now and in future? What plans do we need to put in place to guard against those vulnerabilities?

How did businesses respond to the COVID-19 pandemic?

When the COVID-19 emergency broke, most businesses were able to quickly invoke their disaster recovery (DR) plans for the critical business functions to limit the impact at operational level. Many businesses focused on moving some staff from head offices to home to conform with social distancing regulations and to have a fallback position in the event of one of the sites having to close owing to a COVID-19 infection.

However, we all know that organizations had limited time to make the home environment conducive for work. There just wasn't sufficient time to ensure everybody had connectivity and to allocate company PCs/laptops as well as training of staff on etiquette and cyber-security. Some organizations also tried to implement technology to monitor staff productivity levels whilst working from home.

But will working from home become the new normal? Can companies really rely on working from home to build resilience into their businesses?

At ContinuitySA, we strongly believe that working from home should not replace a dedicated DR site but rather augment it. The resulting three-tier approach would mean that companies can split office staff between the primary site, the DR site and home. Such an approach is much more flexible and provides many options for companies. By con-

trast, relying just on working from home means that the company would have to invest in making their employees' homes resilient to ensure business continuity.

Are companies ready to make investments at employees' dwellings such as proper office furniture, standby power generators (diesel or renewable) and to commit to the opex associated with maintenance and fuel costs?

We have been rather fortunate to have had stable power and connectivity during lockdown with minimum disruptions—but what if we experienced extreme load shedding or power failures during the lockdown period? Of course, there are many reasons why we experienced minimum power disruptions but the obvious one would be less demand from heavy industry such as mines, which had scaled down their operations during lockdown.

We have also launched a cloud-based backup and replication service for small and medium enterprises (SMEs), which aims to make cutting-edge resilience available to organisations of all sizes. Cloud Connect recognises that the digital environment has now become mission-critical to businesses, and must be recoverable within the shortest possible time. At a time when companies are building work from home into their business-as-usual scenarios, Cloud Connect makes it easy and affordable to protect that all-important data.

COVID-19 will ultimately fade, but other threats remain. It remains imperative our business continuity plans are updated and regularly tested to ensure that our businesses are always ready to deal with any future disruptions.

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www.continuitysa.co.bw

Contact us on: +267 3606600

Our Business is Keeping You in Business

For more information contact Tel: +267 360 6600/2
Email: botswana@continuitysa.co.bw | www.continuitysa.com

Tale of two economies: Pension industry recovers

BONNIE MODIAKGOTLA

A rebound in global markets as positive sentiments return amid coronavirus outbreak has helped cushion Botswana's multi billion pension industry.

The first half of 2020 was a tale of two markets. The year's first quarter culminated in sharp drop of assets value, as volatility spiked to unprecedented levels and the coronavirus pandemic spread like wildfire. The second quarter, however, proved the best quarter in over twenty years. Aggressive stimulus and policy, vaccine optimism, and a faster-than-expected rebound in some economic data contributed to the strong performance.

From April to June, global equity markets recorded their best quarterly gains in decades as economies began to reopen and massive fiscal and monetary stimulus boosted sentiment. Liquidity conditions improved, and bond yields stayed near record lows as central banks supported markets through corporate and government bond purchases. Throughout the quarter, markets also appeared to react to reports of progress in developing treatments and a vaccine for the coronavirus.

Botswana's pension fund assets jumped by 11.3 percent to P91.9 billion. About 62.2 percent of the funds or P57.2 billion is invested offshore between equities (76.5 percent), bonds (11 percent) and alternative market securities (12 percent). The P91.9 billion strong pension asset base is made up of various pension funds in the country, including the biggest of them all, Botswana Public Officers Pension Fund.

A photograph of Andrew Higgs, Barclays CEO, speaking at a podium. He is wearing a dark suit, a light blue shirt, and a patterned tie. The background is a blue wall with the Barclays logo and name repeated. A microphone is positioned in front of him.

Former Bank of Botswana Deputy Governor - Motshidisi Oduetse was recently named the new CEO at NBFIRA. He has also served as board chairman at Barclays Bank (Now Absa Botswana)

(BPOPF), and the runner up Debswana Pension Fund (DPF).

Though its yet to release its latest fund size and performance, BPOPF's assets were valued at P66.5 billion in 2019, which is nearly 70 percent of Botswana's total pension industry assets. The second largest pension fund by assets, DPF, in its August update said earlier impacts on the fund's assets under management (AUM)

in the first quarter of the year are already starting to have early positive recoveries.

“The Covid-19 pandemic and the consequent fall in the price of oil, has resulted in a steep drop in risky asset prices such as global equities. Markets have shown increased levels of vulnerability with most sectors of the global economy affected by the outbreak. Tourism, Travel,

Manufacturing and Oil are some of the industries most affected by the pandemic,” said Gosego January, the chief executive officer at DPF, which represents nearly 10 percent of Botswana’s pension industry assets.

In the first quarter of the year, DPF's assets under management dropped by 8.7 percent from P8.4 Billion to P7.3 Billion. This has since been followed

by a commensurate increase of 9.5 percent in the fund's asset position to P8.5 billion in the second quarter.

“This was largely driven by global asset prices that outperformed on optimism that the reopening of economies would drive economic activity. Interventions taken by countries across the world to stimulate the economy through central bank

actions and coupled with fiscal stimulus actions have provided the much-needed tailwind to equities and bonds," January said.

The public and private pensions funds have become targets for the Botswana government which is considering various ways of funding the P43 billion it says it needs to transform the jobless economy that has been growing at a faltering pace.

PPC Botswana's Botlhole decries cement dumping

PORTIA NKANI

PPC Botswana is disconcerted by imported cement dumping which drives local manufacturing companies out of business.

Speaking during a tour of the company's manufacturing plant by Minister of Investment, Trade and Industry Peggy Serame on Friday, PPC Botswana Unit head honcho Tuelo Bothole decried that local companies are being drained, driven out of business and forced to shut down by product dumping from imported cement.

“This limits the local manufacturers from increasing their employment base, industry

beneficiation and the tax brackets which improve our national services to Batswana," I am basted Bothole.

There has been a going concern for years by the Botswana Unit which produces an annual capacity of over 300,000 tons of cement, a chemical process

managed by Batswana experts in two shifts.

The tour allowed PPC Botswana management a window of opportunity to share its journey, strategy, achievements and short-comings with the minister.

Bothhole highlighted PPC's involvement in supporting local enterprises and his industry's

downstream beneficiation.

"We have a Local Enterprise Development Program which identifies and supports small enterprises within our industry chain. Through empowerment workshops and other good empowerment initiatives we enhance local efficiencies for small enterprises to compete and enhance local productivity," he told the minister.

For her part the Serame commended PPC for its sustained growth and creation of jobs.

"We commend your efforts to make a difference in the community from which you draw employees and operate. That

is the model of local development we commend and support. It is impressive to see a local manufacturing plant that is able to produce such an amount of cement which has built iconic features in the country such as the iTowers, Boatle Game City Road, Morupule B and Dikgathong Dam," Serame shared his excitement.

The minister went on to commend PPC for being able to employ and empower Batswana with cement manufacturing skills and be able to engage local suppliers saying this boosts the economy.

Serame said her ministry will look into product dumping and advise in due course after further consultations.

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 |



It's all about
PEOPLE.

Meaningful participation

HEAD OF FINANCE

Botswana Ash (Pty) Ltd (Botash) is a Soda Ash and Salt producing Company situated on the Sua Pan in Botswana, approximately 180 km by tarred road northwest of Francistown. The Company employs over 450 employees who live in Sowa Town, about 20 km east of the factory.

These are exciting times for Botash, as the company continues to embark on its impressive journey of diversifying the business and growing revenues whilst aspiring to excellence and maintaining the highest standards of customer service. The Head of Finance is a vital role with a remit significantly broader than finance. As a member of the executive team you will be a key player in shaping business growth and ensuring all operations, commercial pursuits and investments within the Group meet financial frameworks and strategic requirements. In addition, you will oversee the Group's information and communication technology, regulatory compliance, inbound supply chain and materials management and be expected to demonstrate commercial acumen to

advise on business strategy and direction. This includes: advising on capital structure and investments; commercial analysis; evaluation of day-to-day business processes; and assessment of projects.

Integral to Botash are the values of integrity, excellence, team focus, accountability and customer centricity and it is expected that you espouse these values as a qualified Chartered Accountant. In addition to your Degree, you will have had a minimum of 12 years' experience (with 6 of those at executive level), and proven yourself as a strong, competent leader with extensive experience in: strategic planning and implementation in a commercial environment; managing all aspects of regulatory financial reporting; improving the internal control environment and providing critical business advice to an organisational leader; a hands on executive able to mentor young talent across the area of responsibility. It's a great role for any CA looking for a challenge and wanting to be part of a fully committed executive team.



To progress your interest please visit www.hrmc.co.bw where you can apply and download more information. To register your application, enclose a letter of motivation and curriculum vitae. Closing date for applications is **Sunday 6 September 2020**.

For a confidential enquiry email Naeem Bhamjee at naeem@hrmc.co.bw

HRMC Management Consultants

Tel: (+267)395 1640 Fax: (+267)391 1494 Email: admin@hrmc.co.bw
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Infrastructure development: A compelling recipe for economic development

Infrastructure development contributes to high economic growth in the long term. Capital is also important for enhancing growth initiatives. Government advised to improve capital by subsidizing human capital development to avoid reduction in consumption which may affect the level of growth – WRITES JOSEPH BALISE

Economic experts generally agree that infrastructure development plays an important role in a country's economic growth. It is considered an effective tool to promote economic growth and competitiveness.

According to a Botswana Institute for Development Policy Analysis (BIDPA) March 2019 working paper titled: "The Growth of Infrastructure on economic Growth in Botswana" authored by associate researcher Mpho Raboloko, the World Bank in 1994 asserted that provision of infrastructure in their right quantity and quality determines the success or failure of a country in the areas of diversification of production, trade expansion and reduction of poverty among others.

It is further acknowledged that infrastructure development plays a key role in determining the growth and performance of a country's economy. As such, many countries around the world have invested and continue to invest in infrastructure development. Infrastructure development is observed to be a priority for any economy. It is every country's desire to attain the highest level of infrastructure development.

In the Botswana context, the author of the working paper explains that the government recognizes the importance of efficient provision of public infrastructure and utilities to support competitiveness and productivity.

According to Raboloko, Botswana has made significant strides in terms of infrastructure

development in recent years. Notwithstanding this, the country is still faced with several infrastructure challenges some of which include a sizable investment on maintenance and upgrading of existing infrastructure such as roads.

Good infrastructure is acknowledged to be an important variable towards improving productivity and competitiveness which ultimately lead to increased economic growth, as public infrastructure and machinery and equipment, have a strong association with productivity and growth.

A 2004 study by Canning and Pedroni found that the net effect of infrastructure on long run economic growth on countries that had developed their infrastructure over time had better economic condition as compared to those who did not consider infrastructure development as a path of economic development.

They argued that infrastructure especially telecommunications, electricity growth and energy growth, paved roads, basic health and educational facility have direct impact on the country's economic development and also improved the income level of the common people.

It has also been established that both infrastructure stock and quality are positively and significantly related to real GDP per capita growth.

In the working paper, Raboloko concluded that healthcare infrastructure in Botswana is important for the long term economic growth. "It is widely accepted that health is

an important element of human capital formation, and that the improvement of health produces a positive effect on the generation of economic growth and productivity. Therefore, it should be in the interest of policy makers to prioritize the improvement of healthcare infrastructure in order

region. It is also accepted that the type of infrastructure influences the level of productivity of economic agents and economic growth. Infrastructure, from the household's point of view is regarded as final consumption expenditure, while the firm's

significant boost on economic growth. Another researcher using the Botswana data found "unidirectional causality between electricity consumption and economic growth and a positive connection in the long term".

The Mbulawa study shows that infrastructure (measured by

intensified and power cuts should be minimized to boost economic growth.

China as a country has played a pivotal role on infrastructure development in Botswana as demonstrated in a 2009 study titled "China's Role in Infrastructure Development in Botswana"

in the construction industry in Botswana and have made satisfactory returns on their investments according to Chen.

Understanding Chinese a success in penetrating the infrastructure sector in Botswana according to Chen requires a careful consideration of the mode of entry, the role of Chinese government support, and the low-cost bidding strategy utilized by State Owned Enterprises (SOEs) and private firms. Setting aside some individual problems, the overall benefits of Chinese engagement in this sector to Botswana have been to substantially lower the costs of infrastructure projects and create new employment opportunities for the local people.

It is acknowledged in the study that Chinese firms involved in infrastructure construction in Botswana have carved out a prominent place in a sector once dominated by South African and European firms.

Chen also warns against the quality of Chinese firms delivered projects, "these firms need to be aware of the risks involved in operating in Botswana and work to ensure that they observe quality standards".

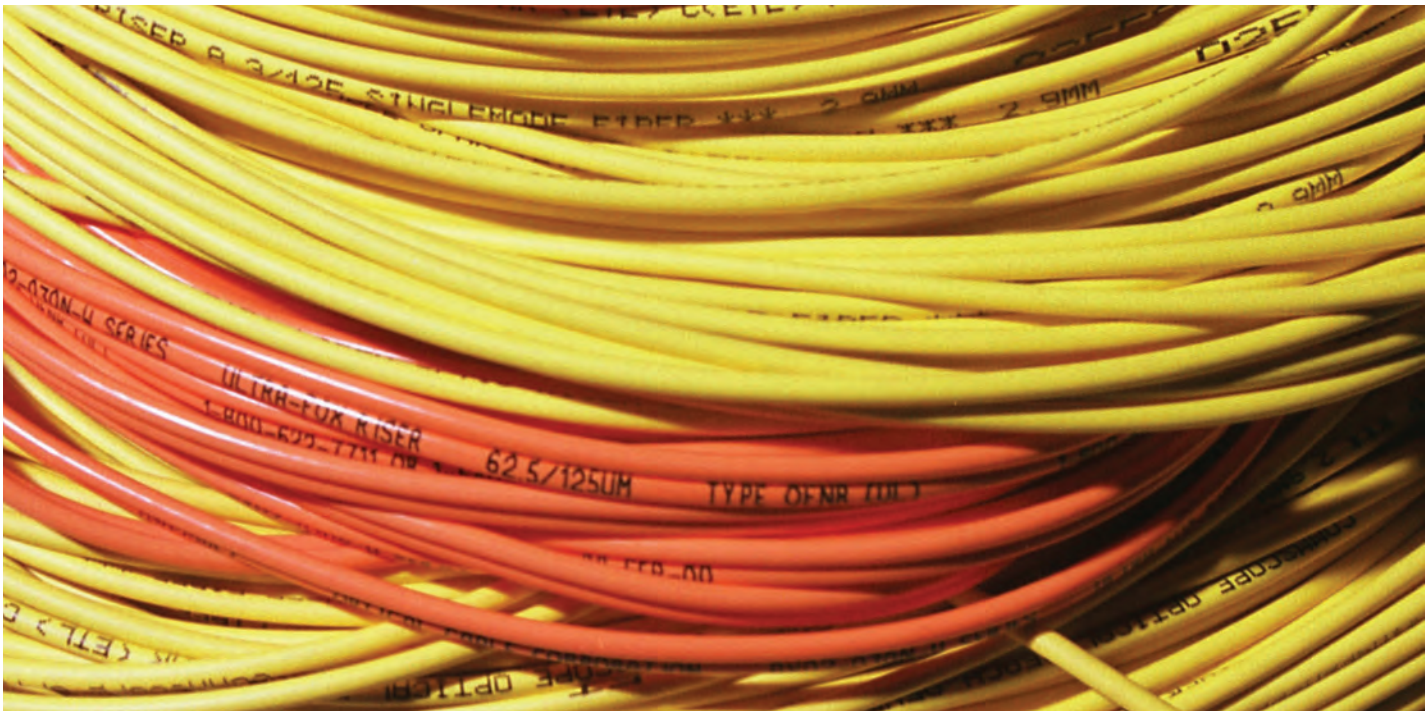
Chen advises that "it is the responsibility of the local government to put adequate laws in place and monitor the enforcement of such law. The evaluation of projects and proper communication between the contractor and the project owner are vital. At the moment, although there are complaints from the end users, such complaints are neither investigated nor documented; therefore, there are no forms

of recourse with the Chinese contractors, and more sadly, nothing can be learned from these problems".

Another study, titled "Transportation and Economic Development in Botswana: A Case Study" undertaken by Vijay Raman noted that the government of Botswana played a major role in the transport sector by virtue of its policy assuming responsibility for transport infrastructure. With a few exceptions, all major investments in infrastructure have been the government's responsibility.

"The policy on further development of infrastructure will be to consider projects on the basis of economic justification with particular consideration of non-quantifiable strategic and social factors in individual cases, including environmental aspects. However, this approach must be tempered by the macro-economic resource scenario, as reflected in the mid term review of NDPs, where the potential for significant growth in revenues from mineral developments must be considered to have reached a plateau. This and the nation-wide shortage of skilled manpower are the limitations within which successive NDPs will set global priorities and indicate the resources available for individual sectors, including transport", argues Raman.

Raman's paper concludes that by using rational methods of developing the transport sector demands, the future development of the transport sector in Botswana will continue to provide a catalytic effect on the country's economic development.



Cables

to spur economic growth", argues Raboloko in the working paper.

In yet another study titled "The Impact of Economic Infrastructure on Long Term Economic Growth in Botswana" undertaken by Strike Mbulawa, it is recognized that the impact of infrastructure development on growth has been studied in both developed and developing countries where it was found that the availability or absence of infrastructure influences the level of development for a country or

point of view it is an intermediary expenditure.

Economic infrastructure according to Mbulawa has been defined as the infrastructure that promotes economic activity which includes roads, sea ports, airports, railroads, electricity, water supply and sanitation. Social infrastructure has been defined as that which promotes health, education and cultural standards.

It has also been established that total public infrastructure capital investments have a

improvement in road network and electricity distribution) contributes to high economic growth in the long term. Clearly the results support the infrastructure led growth hypothesis. Again results also show that capital is also important for enhancing growth initiatives. Thus, any conservation strategy on development of infrastructure will retard growth. As much as the development of roads contributes to economic growth electricity distribution should be

by Anna Ying Chen notes that China's total imports from Botswana surged from US\$8.1 million in 2006 to \$26 million in 2007. Although no detailed trade breakdowns can be sourced, the upward import trend and the surging figures correspond with Chinese construction companies' footprint in Botswana".

Following the arrival of China Civil Engineering Construction Company (CCECC) in 1985 to rehabilitate the railway line, Chinese firms have been active



TENDER NOTICE



BOTSWANA PUBLIC OFFICERS PENSION FUND

TENDER FOR THE PROVISION OF ASSET MANAGEMENT SERVICES – BOTSWANA LISTED EQUITIES TENDER NO: BPOPF/IM/2020/005

1. TENDER DOCUMENTS CONTAINING DETAILS OF THE REQUIREMENTS ARE AVAILABLE FROM:

Botswana Public Officers Pension Fund
Plot 54366, Unit 3, Second Floor, Peelo House
Central Business District,
Gaborone P/Bag 00192, Gaborone
Botswana

Business hours are 08:00hrs to 17:00hrs (Mondays to Fridays)

2. TENDERS MUST BE RECEIVED NO LATER THAN 12 NOON ON THE FRIDAY 11 SEPTEMBER 2020

3. THE TENDER IS OPEN FOR LOCAL REGISTERED / INCORPORATED COMPANIES ONLY.

4. A NON-REFUNDABLE DEPOSIT OF BWP 1, 000 SHALL BE PAID VIA EFT IN FAVOUR OF THE BOTSWANA PUBLIC OFFICERS PENSION FUND.

BANK ACCOUNT DETAILS

Account Name: Botswana Public Officers Pension Fund
Bank name: FNBB
Branch: Corporate
Account Number: 62098584967
Branch code: 282267

Proof of payment shall be emailed to: mmarumoloo@bpopf.co.bw prior to collection of the tender

Tel: 3717158

STATEMENT BY GENDER FAITH BASED ORGANISATIONS IN BOTSWANA TO CONDEMN GENDER BASED VIOLENCE

The Faith Based Organisations (Gender Sector) in Botswana Condemns Gender Based Violence. Gender Based Violence is Violence that is directed towards an Individual based on their Gender. Acts of Gender Based Violence inflict Physical, Mental, Sexual harm or suffering and Sadly Murder also known as a Femicide.

Since the COVID-19 Pandemic, Botswana Police Service has reported increasing and disturbing incidences of Violence Against Women and Children. Faith Based Organisations (Gender Sector) in Botswana condemn Brutal Murders, /Femicide, Rape, Incest, Defilement, and all forms of Violence that is unwanted and Violates the Human Rights and liberties of others. Additionally, the Violence has also been looming largest where Victims should be safe – In their own homes. This results in families and Communities across Generations being affected.

We are committed to Assisting and empowering the marginalized, and, Vulnerable Batswana who are subjected to Gender Based Violence. We are appealing to Members of the Public to join in combating this immorality that has enveloped Botswana.

Our Commitment tackling the Gender Based Violence Scourge is guided by the following Scriptures:

- From the Bahai Scriptures, Baha'u'llah gives these prophetic words "The world is in travail, and its agitation waxeth day by day, its face is turned towards waywardness and unbelief.
- The **bible** says "Speak up for the mute those who can't speak for themselves, speak up for the rights of those who are poor and oppressed, speak up and judge fairly and righteously"[PROVERBS 31:8]
- The **Qur'an** chapter 4 verse 1," O mankind be careful of (your duty to) your Lord who created you from a single being and created its mate of the same(kind)and spread from these two, many men and women, and be careful of your duty to Allah by whom you **demand your rights, and to the ties of relationship**".
- The Bhuddists believe that your thoughts influence your feelings, your feelings influence your actions your actions create the life that you live
- Guta Ra Mwari's twelve lesson's and 52 Chapters of God's work says,**" Fathers, do not provoke your Children to anger as this will discourage them. They need your parental love and guidance"(**C.H. 28 HAVE CONFIDENCE IN GOD**)
- Ancient Hindu Scriptures like Vedas** show profound respect for feminine principle. A woman is a Goddess to be worshipped. Women and Children enjoy freedom, equality and liberty.

Faith Based Organisations (Gender Sector) plead for Justice to prevail on behalf of those who have been affected by Gender Based Violence. We trust in the Lord that God created humankind in his image and that he is a fair, just and compassionate God.

Below are the concerned Faith Based Organisations

- Bahai Faith
- Christian Communities
- Islamic Community
- Hindu association
- Botswana Buddhists Association
- Guda Ra mwari

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Botswana risks power shortages as Morupule B breaks-down again

BONNIE MODIAKGOTLA

The country remains at risk of power outages, with the troublesome Morupule B breaking down and taking longer to fix, with backup power supply through imports also coming under threat as suppliers face equipment breakdowns.

The Botswana Power Corporation (BPC), the state-owned electricity distributor, warned last week of constrained power due to unexpected power generation loss of 200 MW from Morupule B power station following critical equipment failure. The power utility advised consumers to reduce their electricity consumption to avoid load shedding. Full recovery of the lost generation capacity at the coal powered power station was expected Tuesday, but the corporation has since announced a delay in fixing the fault.

Botswana's average maximum demand of power is 610 MW, with a peak demand of 702 MW. BPC has failed to generate enough power to

meet this demand, relying on imports to fill the gap. The corporation's owned power plants, the 600 MW Morupule B and the 132 MW Morupule A, are operating below capacity. Morupule A's availability rate estimated at 70 percent while Morupule B's availability rate is 31 percent.

The big coal power plant is currently undergoing remediation process at the contractor's expense. Morupule B was commissioned in

2012, gobbling nearly P10 billion, but has never been fully functional, with only half of the four units functioning most at a time.

The shortage in local power production has been met through imports which have grown large in size and cost over the years. In the first quarter of the year, the country imported 529, 352 MW of power, representing 52.3 percent of total electricity distributed during the period. Eskom

On Thursday the South African power utility announced that supply constraints have eased after it managed to return the three generators to service, avoiding a planned load shedding.

was the main source of imported electricity at 55.9 percent of total electricity imports. Still, the South African power utility last week

reported breakdowns at some of its plants.

On Thursday the South African power utility announced that supply constraints have eased after it managed to return the three generators to service, avoiding a planned load shedding. However, Eskom cautioned the public to continue using electricity sparingly as the aged generation infrastructure is unpredictable, unreliable and volatile.



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INVITATION TO TENDER

Suitably qualified Citizen Owned service providers who are fully licensed and registered to operate as a Broker are hereby invited to tender for the following services to Debswana Diamond Company (Pty) Ltd at Debswana Corporate Centre (DCC):

Doc476732660 : Provision of Broking Services – Group Employee Long Term Insurance Benefits for Debswana

Brief:

Debswana Diamond Company wishes to engage a dedicated specialist insurance broker on an insurance broking and consultancy basis to handle matters relating to employee long term insurance benefits for a period starting 1 October 2020 to 30 June 2022 in respect of locally placed covers. The covers requested are;

- 1) Group Life Assurance Cover with an embedded Group Funeral Scheme for Debswana employees inclusive of their spouses.
- 2) Occupational Disability Benefit Cover
- 3) Group Student Cover-Life Assurance and Occupational Disability Benefit.

Tendering on Ariba

Debswana has adopted SAP Ariba – an online bidding and supplier management solution for all its tendering and supplier registration requirements.

Bidders who wish to participate in this tender will need to register their interest with Annah Paul at apaul@debswana.bw contact +267 71396943 on or before 27th August 2020, 12,00 noon.

Bidders who are already registered with Debswana on SAP Ariba should just register their interest on the RFP as per Part 2 below.

Bidders who are not registered with Debswana as Suppliers will need to complete the following steps in the Debswana SAP Ariba platform (Part 1 and Part 2):

Part 1: Registering as a vendor on SAP ARIBA

To participate in any event on SAP Ariba, a supplier will need to be registered on SAP Ariba and have a valid SAP Ariba Network Supplier account and profile by following the steps below:

1. Go to Debswana SAP Ariba self-registration page:
<https://s1-eu.ariba.com/Sourcing/Main/aw?awh=r&awssk=VgHHdkqr&realm=debswana&dard=1>
2. Initiate Account creation
3. Complete account registration
4. Once you have SAP Ariba Network Supplier Account and access credentials, proceed to as per Part 2 below:

Part 2: Indicating Interest to Participate in the RFP (for Ariba Registered Suppliers)

- i) Register your interest with Annah Paul at apaul@debswana.bw contact +267 71396943 on or before 27th August 2020, 12h00 noon by following the following steps:
 - a. Send an email (to the above email address) with the following details;
 - i. Subject of the Email “Doc476732660 : Provision of Broking Services – Group Employee Long Term Insurance Benefits
 - ii. Name of the Company (as registered in Part 1 above)
 - iii. Name of the Contact persons
 - iv. Contact Details of the Company (Phone Number, Email Address and Postal and Physical Address)
 - ii) Debswana will then invite you to participate in the RFP on 28th August 2020 and
 - iii) Once invited by Debswana, you will receive an email notification that you have been invited to participate in the RFP
 - iv) Respond to the RFP and submit through SAP Ariba platform

Submission

Bidders are required to submit their respective bids on or before the 14th September 2020 at 08h30hrs through the Debswana SAP Ariba platform as per the instructions to be provided in the RFP.

Offline Tenders and Tenders received via telephone, telex, email or facsimile will also not be considered. Debswana reserves the right to accept or reject any tender and does not bind itself to accept the lowest tender.

For any enquiries please contact Mrs. Annah Paul at – Tel: +267 71396943 or e-mail: apaul@debswana.bw

This tender notice can also be viewed at:
<http://www.debswana.com/Supply-Chain/Pages/Current-Public-Tenders.aspx>

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North East water crisis: Govt cushions supply

OBUSITSE KOLOGWE

FRANCISTOWN - Government has finally begun the upgrade and remedial works for the North East – Tutume Sub District Water Supply Scheme in an effort to cushion water supply challenges that have been plaguing the districts for years. The long awaited project which was financed by the World Bank at over P200 million will entail among others; expansion and upgrading of Masingwaneng Water Treatment Works, construction of a pump stations and water reservoir at Kalakamati and Mbalambi villages. There will also be construction of storage tanks in Tutume, Maitengwe, Moroka, Ramokgwebana, Jackalas no 1, Jacklals no 2 and Nshakazhogwe. Government has engaged Unik Construction Engineering (Pty) Ltd, a Chinese company to undertake this project. It commenced on 8th May 2020 and expected to be complete on the 1st of August 2021. Upon completion the project will help ease the flow of water supply to 52 villages across these districts and 110 000 residents are expected to benefit. Last week the Minister of Land, Water and Sanitation Services Kefentse Mzwiniila performed ground breaking ceremonies in various villages in North East District and Tutume Sub District to mark the commencement of the project. Speaking during one of the ground breaking ceremonies in Kalakamati village he said the current water demand for the villages is about 14 000 cubic metres per day and it is projected to reach about 18 000 cubic metres per day by 2033. “The North East–Tutume Sub District Water Supply Scheme has two sources; Maitengwe well field and Ntimbale Dam which are used conjunctively. The Maitengwe wellfield has a recommended safe water extraction rate of about 3, 300 cubic meters per day against the current rate of extraction rate of 8 600 cubic meters per day presenting a clear over-mining of boreholes,” he said. The minister explained that the effects of over-mining may be depreciating water quality or the drying out of the well field. On the other hand he said Ntimbale Dam water scheme through the treatment plant in Masingwaneng village was designed to produce 14 000 cubic metres per day, but currently producing only 7 000 cubic meters

per day. However Mzwiniila said it is important to note that most villages in Tati West Constituency receive water supply except for Jackalas 1 due to its elevation challenges. “Moroka village on the other hand has a deficit of 100 cubic meters per day. The other area of concern is Makaleng where we are currently experiencing frequent water pipe bursts because some material used in pipes cannot sustain the existing pressures necessary for the distribution of water in the entire village,” The minister said. He further revealed that there is shortage of water in Letsholathebe village where they are currently rationing when supplying Masunga Secondary School which has a high population. The minister explained that they regulate water flow to Letsholathebe to supply the school, a challenge which becomes pronounced when school opens. He said they are currently working hand in hand with the North East District council to augment the supply of water to these affected villages. Among other important issues he said the new project will pump water in two parts; between Masingwaneng and Kalakamati villages thereby improving scheme efficiency. “When the project is commissioned, there will be a good opportunity for adequate water supplies for at least a day while maintaining the systems during breakdowns. Kalakamati village has had reliable water supply mainly because of its close proximity to Ntimbale water treatment plant, despite that this project will cater for projected high water demands for the village as it continues to grow both in size and in water demand in the future,” said Mzwiniila. The minister said through this project, there will be increased water quantity and quality supply by Water Utilities Corporation(WUC). He said consistent supply of the right quality and quantity is very important at this moment given the outbreak of the Corvid 19 pandemic. In conclusion he pleaded with the contractor to complete the project within the stipulated minimal period as much as possible. The minister also commissioned completion of the construction of Shashe Mooke village primary water supply infrastructure on Friday. The village had been experiencing acute shortage of water due to the growth in demand.

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Agric Ministry buys P14 million worth of local produce

PORTIA NKANI

The Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security bought farm produce valued at just over P14million (P14, 033,766.00) from smallholder and commercial farmers in all the ten districts since the first lockdown.

Assistant Minister of Agriculture, Beauty Manake told parliament recently that government has also provided P200 million through the COVID-19 Relief Fund, to Botswana Agricultural Marketing Board (BAMB) for purchasing grain for the strategic grain reserves.

“It is worth noting that the bulk of the procurement has been done locally and it is still ongoing. There was a price increase in commodities such as millet by P900.00 per tonne, thus making it P4000.00 from P3000.00 per tonne,” she said.

“The country has never been this

ready to facilitate sustainable food production, and ensure its availability and accessibility to Batswana to avert food insecurity. The ministry has started to enable a conducive agricultural environment by analysing local production capabilities against the national demand and identifying agricultural commodities, which we have the comparative advantage to produce as a country,” she said.

The junior minister was addressing questions thrown in by the Nata/Gweta legislator Polson Majaga who asked whether or not Batswana farmers are able to support the country during the trying times and if so to state: (i) how the ministry helps Batswana in improving their yields since inception of Integrated Support Programme for Arable Agriculture Development (ISPAAD); (ii) if the ministry procured farm produce from subsistence and commercial farmers in Botswana; and (iii) whether the country has enough food supply to

last the whole year.

In her decorative submission to members of parliament, Manake said agricultural production zones across the country have already been



Maize

English medium answer you gave us. The northern farmers are struggling as we speak. There was no rainfall, the drought is persistent, the community dams have dried up. I want to know the specific plan that you have for the northern farmers because it is evident that this draught, the worst in four years, is going to cause catastrophic results.”

Dr Tshabang also pointed out to the little amount of cattle and crop yield that is there for the northern farmers saying with the Francistown BMC closed, Maun and Lobatse BMC are far. In that context, he asked what the ministry had in store for the northern farmers specifically because they are the worst affected this year.

Manake indicated her ministry is working on an assessment through the rural development to see how they can assist those areas across the country which are hit hard by drought.

It is of a norm that the Ministry of Agriculture is often not given priority during budget allocations; in this regard, Legislator for Ghanzi North, John Thiite asked Manake who had just read out beautiful and jaw dropping ideas, where would her Ministry get the budget since under the current budget the allocation cannot address all her ideas she mentioned.

She responded; “the economic recovery plan in one of those things, we have agreed with the ministry of Finance and Economic Development that they should increase our budget share so that we can show them that we can be able to produce, and they will actually be able to give us more.”

What also transpired is that, to ensure resilient agricultural growth, the ministry embarked on farmer profiling and needs assessment to provide targeted subsidies across all the different subsectors. From farmer profiling, there would be farm registrations to ensure good agricultural practices for traceability purposes, for the reasons of food safety as described by the Ministry of Health which is also a partner on food nutrition related issues to avert malnutrition and also to provide guidance on our cropping plan and production pattern.

The ministry headed by Dr Edwin Dikoloti also claims that it has worked on agricultural land inventory which has identified chunk of unutilised and underused productive land with available water resources that the farming community is in need to increase food production especially the youth. Same plans are also underway with the Ministry of lands to help identify agricultural productive land across the country.

Gov’t to merge NFTRC with NARDI next year

CEDRIC SWANKA

Government is to merge the National Food Technology Resource Centre (NFTRC) by the end of the current financial year in a bid to reduce parastatals with overlapping mandates.

Government says it is optimistic the process to introduce sustainable solutions to most challenges faced by agricultural entrepreneurs and start-ups will be completed.

Under the National Agricultural Research and Development Institute (NARDI) the services previously offered by the NFTRC, the Department of Agricultural Research (DAR) and the Botswana National Veterinary Laboratory (BNVL) will be effectively decentralised across the country.

“This is to support stakeholders from the vantage point of cluster-focussed, community based regional research centres. As well as specialist agricultural research and development innovation centres, testing and diagnostic laboratories and agribusiness incubation centres around the country,” Agriculture Minister Edwin Dikoloti said.

Furthermore, the Minister said NARDI is set to consolidate the existing high value public investment in the infrastructure, equipment and facilities at NFTRC, DAR and BNVL to engage in high quality, innovation intensive and needs driven research and development.

The entity will also promote the beneficiation of Intellectual Property and related intangible assets such as Botswana’s indigenous knowledge systems and agro-based geographical indications to enhance agriculture related knowledge creation, knowledge management and knowledge dissemination. Besides research and development, the entity comes

with a whole division dedicated to commercialisation and technology transfer activities across the agricultural value chain, to benefit consumers, farmers, industry government and science in transformational way.

NARDI is expected to operate along key research thematic areas focussed on horticulture, field crops, floriculture, industrial crops, ornamental plants, fodder, livestock production, animal health and Biosystems engineering. As well as food science and technology, Agricultural Economics, innovation, intellectual asset beneficiation, technology transfer and commercialisation.

“I believe this intervention by my Ministry will provide a holistic transformation and sustainable solution to most of the challenges faced by agricultural entrepreneurs and start-ups across the value chain in both food and non-food enterprises,” he said.

The Minister was answering a question from Member of Parliament for Kanye North Thapelo Letsholo who asked, among other things, the efficacy of the NFTRC and if it’s delivering on its mandate sufficiently.

The Minister explained it is not possible to state how many people benefited from training NFTRC as it offers training of trainers and for every individual trained there is potential for several others to benefit.

“Since its incorporation NFTRC has been training an average of 120 individuals per year in various aspects of food processing and food safety. In the five years between 2013 and 2018, a total of 763 individuals from all over Botswana benefited from NFTRC’s training of trainers food processing courses including dairy processing, food packaging, Nut and oil processing and food safety,” Dikoloti said.

Bank Gaborone Property Auction

Bank Gaborone would like to notify the public and its valued customers of the upcoming auction of different properties in Francistown, Gaborone and the surrounding areas.

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For more information please contact the respective Deputy Sheriff or the following numbers 3671500, 71374432, 71374427 and 74004159.



STARTING BID: P700,000.00

Deputy Sheriff: Gaone Ratsoma
Contact: 72199719
Date of sale: 6th September 2020
Time: 1430hrs
Place: Lot, 70146, Gaborone (G-North)
Plot size: 507m2

Developments: A three bedroomed house, fitted kitchen, double garage, dining room, driveway paved, walled with electric fence.



STARTING BID: P1,300,000.00

Deputy Sheriff: Bathusi Billy
Contact: 71607940
Date of sale: 1st September 2020
Time: 1030hrs
Place: Tribal Lot 1461, Tlokweng
Plot size: 1188m2

Developments: A 5 bedroomed house including 3 insuit, tv room, combined lounge and dining room, sitting room, fitted kitchen, double garage, maid’s quarters, walled with electric fence and sliding gate.



STARTING BID: P450,000.00

Deputy Sheriff: Nonofo Mabina
Contact: 71657100
Date of sale: 1st September 2020
Time: 1430hrs
Place: Tribal Lot 3650, Mogoditshane
Plot size: 900m2

Developments: A two bedroomed house with open fitted kitchen, 2x toilets, 2x bathrooms, setting room and walled with sliding gate.



STARTING BID P400,000.00

Deputy Sheriff: Nonofo Mabina
Contact: 71657100
Date of sale: 7th September 2020
Time: 1430hrs
Place: Tribal Lot 5207, Tati Siding
Plot size: 1069m2

Developments: A three bedroomed house with en-suite, sitting room, dining room, single garage, kitchen, two toilets, two bathrooms, walled electric fence with sliding gate.



STARTING BID P650,000.00

Deputy Sheriff: Nonofo Mabina
Contact: 71657100
Date of sale: 7th September 2020
Time: 1030hrs
Place: Lot 11657, Francistown
Plot size: 405m2

Developments: A three bedroomed house with en-suite, sitting room, dining room, kitchen, bathroom, walled electric fence with sliding gate.



STARTING BID P750,000.00

Deputy Sheriff: Nonofo Mabina
Contact: 71657100
Date of sale: 1st September 2020
Time: 1430hrs
Place: Gaborone
Plot size: 825m2

Developments: A three bedroomed house, kitchen, bathroom, sitting room, servants quarter and boundary wall.



STARTING BID P3,400,000.00

Deputy Sheriff: Nonofo Mabina
Contact: 71657100
Date of sale: 2nd September 2020
Time: 1030hrs
Place: Portion 47, a Portion of Portion 2 of the Farm Kenmoir No.1 -KP
Plot size: 3,6484 ha

Developments: A 5 bedroomed house, sitting room, kitchen & scullery, 3x toilets, 2x bathroom 1x shower swimming pool, 5x horse block, 5 rooms hostel shower, 1x toilet, open shade, store-room, non working borehole and electric fence.



STARTING BID P1,100,000.00

Deputy Sheriff: Gaone Ratsoma
Contact: 72199719
Date of sale: 4th September 2020
Time: 1030hrs
Place: Tribal Lot 1240, Tlokweng (behind Eros)
Plot size: 2358m2

Developments: 2x commercial buildings for a butchery and supermarket, the butchery building has an office service area, kitchen, toilets, shower, store-room and space for cold room, the suprtmarket building has store-room, toilets, a thatched gazebo on gum poles, carport on iron sheet and steel poles.



STARTING BID P900,000.00

Deputy Sheriff: Bathusi Billy
Contact: 71607940
Date of sale: 1st September 2020
Time: 1430hrs
Place: Tribal Lot 671, Tlokweng
Plot size: 1136m2

Developments: Two yards sold as one
(i) Three bedroomed with fitted kitchen, sitting room, dining room, one separate toilet and one bathroom.
(ii) Two bedroomed house with a kitchen, a shower combined with toilet. Both yards walled with electric fence and sliding gates.



STARTING BID P400,000.00

Deputy Sheriff: Bathusi Billy
Contact: 71607940
Date of sale: 3rd September 2020
Time: 1430hrs
Place: Mochudi
Plot size: 1594m2

Developments: A three bedrooms all with en-suite bathrooms and built-in cup-boards, and the guest toilet incorporates a w/c and a wash hand basin, the living areas include the lounge, family room, dining room, double garage, walled.

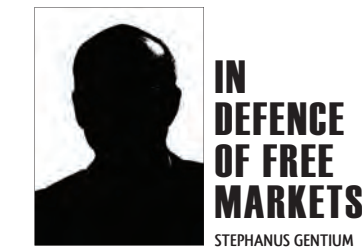
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Our individual liberties remain sacrosanct, even under COVID



It is very easy for proponents of big government to use the outbreak of the coronavirus pandemic to chip away at our rights and in the process, exercise even more control over our lives. There are some who believe somewhat perversely, that you should never allow a crisis to go to waste. The coronavirus is one such opportunity that they have in their quest to remake

society. However, we the people should not allow the coronavirus hysteria to be used to introduce intrusive rules that some obviously crave but could not implement hitherto in the knowledge such measures would not find the requisite levels of public support. They therefore see the powers that they now possess, as cover to finally curb some of the liberties that they have always detested. This is why we should tread carefully on the notion of “new normal” because with the progress of time, it may come to mean different things to different people. It may be a prelude to a subtle campaign to place limits on our individual liberties under

the guise of saving us from public health emergencies. So the coronavirus could very well turn out to be a dry run of what is in store down the line. And we could see that during the last two lockdown episodes, as non-core by our powerful bureaucrats were the freedom to run your own business, smoking, drinking and religious liberty. The fact that expanding religious services for example became the subject of a protracted and

of people allowed for religious services was set arbitrarily and increased only after public outcry. What is scary is that in discussing religion, they went about in an unconcerned manner and saw no need to consult the clergy. It was that the time honoured tradition of separation of church and state continues to be the hallmark of our society. The same cavalier attitude was on full display again when it came to banning cigarette sales.

the spread of the virus. However banning cigarettes in both South Africa and Botswana led to expensive illicit products which in turn forced smokers to share the zol even more! So in addition to encroaching on the rights of smokers, the government triggered a price increase for smokers at a time when the ability to generate income was already extremely difficult because of the lockdown. When it came to alcohol, the respect for consumers was not any different. It was the nanny state all over again. Drinking was driven underground and scarce police resources went into chasing these illicit brewers and bootleggers all because of lack of

respect for individual liberties. You have to contrast all these invasions of civil liberties with how government viewed its business during lockdowns. There was a pervasive view that all government work is essential. Save for schools, pretty much everything that the government does, went on with little disruption. You would have thought that because the bulk of what the government does is not productive but alas. However we should remember that power is like a drug and we should not allow the government to take too much of it away from us, lest they get addicted. Once they are addicted they won't give it back it.

some in the corridors of power hold the view that a few liberties and natural rights are somewhat dispensable. Chief among the liberties which were treated

heated debate in parliament was a hint of its place in the pecking order as far as the powers-that-be are concerned. Even after lifting the lockdown, the number

You have to contrast all these invasions of civil liberties with how government viewed its business during lockdowns. There was a pervasive view that all government work is essential. Save for schools, pretty much everything that the government does, went on with little disruption. You would have thought that because the bulk of what the government does is not productive but alas.

Thanks to Gov’t institutions, Botswana’s Integrity is now at a capricious state



The integrity of our country and government is at stake courtesy of what seems like a very confused state of affairs owing to the apparent siphoning of a rumoured US\$10 billion out of the country’s central bank during the reign of President Dr SKI Khama. The issue of this alleged theft came out at the beginning of the year. The looting has had national investigating apparatus at work to gather the necessary details surrounding the embezzlement of state funds that has become synonymous with the government. It is no wonder that the country has lost

its position as the least corrupt country in Africa. At the very time of the disclosure of this theft the Director General of the corruption busting agency, the Directorate of Corruption and Economic Crime reported over the national television, Botswana Television (BTV), that his agency was investigating a loot of at least 5.6 million Pula which left the country within the first three months following the relinquishing of power by HE Festus G. Mogae and the ascendance to the throne by Dr SKI Khama. It is not clear as to whether or not the 5.6 billion pula is a part or not of the allegedly stolen 100 billion Pula plus, which has had the former President Dr Khama and South African billionaire lady Bridget Motsepe-Radebe amongst others implicated.

irony surrounding the unfolding drama which has left most of us wondering as to whether this is a political battle between the current administration and its immediate predecessor or is indeed a case of stolen money. If indeed it is a political battle, it will certainly be the epitome of outright foolishness decorated with a total disregard and ignorance of the ethos defining a galvanized and efficient governance system. The irony of this drama is in that the victim of the theft which apparently is Bank of Botswana (BOB) has apparently denied that such money have been stolen from it, while on the other hand the Directorate of Public Prosecution (DPP) is in court in the pursuit of the stolen money which is ‘not stolen’. Both BOB and DPP are central to good governance as the roles they play are very key

in ensuring that the country has an efficiently running financial and legal systems respectively. To have DPP prosecute for allegedly stolen money, which the alleged victim denies, seems to defy logic for most of us. The central bank (BoB) is the custodian of Botswana’s financial system. It supervises the commercial banks and other financial institutions. It is expected to lead by example and if the conduct of its business is suspect and porous, certainly the efficacy of the country’s financial system will be compromised. The admission of theft amounting to what is currently under discussion will be serious indictment on our financial system and will certainly scare away investors owing to the diminished confidence in the country’s financial system. The admission of such an amount, even if it indeed occurred will

be a serious dent if not crush, on the integrity of Botswana’s financial system. We need to understand that our economic policies are significantly anchored on government through the fiscal policy dispensation and Bank of Botswana through the monetary policy avenue. These two are very critical to the macroeconomic smoothness of the country’s economy. The ability of BOB to remain a central bank with demonstrated prudent financial management is necessary for overall sound economic management and investor confidence which is so central to attraction of foreign direct investment. In cases of financial lapse which could be a result of cybercrime amongst an array of possible financial crimes, it would be our expectation that DPP should ensure that justice

is meted out. In the case of the P100 billion, it seems that these two integral institutions are one contrary to the other. I have all along thought to myself that BOB must be trying not to confirm the stolen money until all evidence has been gathered, as a damage control exercise. This was premised on my understanding at the time which might have been flawed, that the denouncement by BOB was not under oath and therefore a public stunt to maintain its integrity and retain investor confidence. It was until I heard that such statement could have been made under oath that I then wondered as to where DPP gets the confidence to prosecute for an offence apparently never committed. The differences between DPP and BOB is what I find confusing. It is possible the two might be privy to something which is unknown

to the public. The release of the findings of a report by those implicated in the theft is not very much helpful in this predicament, from where I am standing. The report was commissioned by those allegedly implicated to exonerate them from any wrong doing. Its findings are therefore consistent with its objectives as should be expected. This is not to say the findings are flawed, but it lacks autonomy as it was commissioned and possibly the bill footed by conflicted parties. The loathness or failure of the South African government to expeditiously assist with required information, which ultimately led to the engagement of Afriforum is also a worrisome factor which might compromise the good relations between these neighbouring countries. It also tempts one to wonder if there

is something being hidden of its possibly a matter of protracted processes. I am of the view that the country and its government will certainly be dented at the end of this drama. It will ultimately come to the open as to which of the two institutions BOB and DPP was more credible in this case. I find it difficult to believe that DPP will incur great cost at the expense of other national competing priorities, when they fully know that there is no case. I believe there is something critical to this case for which we the public are not privy to. Much as BOB is considered independent of government, the reality is that such is practically not the case while DPP is a government organ. This drama certainly has repercussions for government integrity unless BOB denounced P100 billion but not anything less.

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What kind of nation will Botswana be in 2045 when UN turns 100?



BOTTOM
LINE

VICTOR BAATWENG

Sunday Standard
Business Editor

On Friday morning I was privileged to join three other panelists – Zia Choudhury, Pato Kelesitse and Bradley Fortuin on a ‘dialogue’ organised by the United Nations (Botswana chapter) as part of their 75th anniversary. The moderator – Lorato Modongo asked

what I consider a very critical question to us: What would your ideal world look like in 25 years? Today I want to pass the same question to Botswana – What kind of nation are we going to be 25 years from now (2045)?

We are in 2020 - a year that in our Tswana tradition and norm could easily be referred to as the ‘Covid-19’ pandemic year. While Covid-19 is barely new in our shores, there is something that has been with us for as long as we have existed as a nation. It is called inequality. The most prevalent form is the income inequality and it is the same that has led to us being ranked amongst the top three unequal nations in the world. Botswana as a member of

the United Nations, will in 2045 join other members states to celebrate 100 years of the UN existence. The question is, what is our ideal nation like in 2045 when UN turns 100? Are we still going to be part of the top three unequal nations or maybe, and just maybe part of the most prosperous nations of that time?

If today one is asked to describe the nation of Botswana, the shortest description would be – ‘Posh but Poor’ or ‘rich state, poor citizens’. These are possibly the shortest yet precise descriptions of the perils of Botswana’s impoverished citizens particularly the so called middle-class. Past and recent global reports on wealth and equity distribution

have documented the growing rates of impoverishment of people of this land. Is this our ideal nation? The answer is surely no. So, questions could be asked, what do we need to do to close the gap between the rich and the poor of this country? How do we ensure that by the year 2045 when other member states of the UN celebrate 100 years of the existence of this noble global organisation, we too join the celebrations without a feeling of guilt?

What sort of policies and possibly even laws or even action do we need to take as a nation to ensure that half of the country’s population which is either living in poverty or damn near close to it graduate to a higher socio-



economic class? How do we ensure that going forward this cohort does not find itself squeezed between rising living expenses, stagnant wages, and thin work benefits as is the case now?

The answers to these questions in my view lies in citizens capacity building. The lack of capacity – be it financially, knowledge or otherwise tends to not just block the people of the land’s best potential pathway to the so-called upper class but also hampers our nation’s broad-based economic growth. Much has changed since the days that we used to sell a large chunk of diamonds to the world and in turn earn huge revenues. Those were the times that we could have serviced a lot of land and allocated it to the indigenous citizens as part of a strategy to develop sustainable citizen owned enterprises.

Even before we think about UN’s 100 anniversary, we need to ask ourselves whether our country’s current state of Social Justice is leading us towards stability or instability. It is a well-known fact that Botswana has been classified as a peaceful nation for so many years. This - to a larger extend is due to the people who, despite being discriminated by the system chose to ‘play by the rules.’ The question is whether these people can afford to continue playing by the rules when it

is no longer a rewarding undertaking. Can they continue to play by the rules when a battle line between the have-s and the have-nots has already been drawn?

These questions if we ask, and answer them with honesty should draw us towards putting up a plan that will help us build capacity of the people of the land. As the controversial rapper – ATI once said, “The people of the land need to be prioritised”. This priority needs to start NOW if at all the Botswana nation is to proudly join other UN member states in 25 years’ time to celebrate some of the global key humanity achievements. Our fate will be determined by how we walk the tightrope between populism and pragmatism, and our ability as a nation to adequately share a common vision and implement it. Without further delay the nation of Botswana must we must open a new chapter of citizen-building. It is during this chapter that our people will be provided with the required skills to gather, understand and analyse evidence about the contexts and institutions that affect their lives – particularly their economical lives. The **#Bottomline** is that the people of the land need knowledge, support, services and opportunities in order to thrive economically now and in the year 2045 when the United Nations clocks 100.

Gov’t urges private sector to invest in diamond museums

CEDRIC SWANKA

The Minister of Mineral Resources, Green Technology and Energy Security Lefoko Moagi has urged the private sector to invest in Diamond Attraction Centres – known as diamond museums.

Speaking in Parliament recently Moagi expressed eagerness to establish diamond tourist attraction centres across the country taking a leaf from Debswana Diamond Company which has constructed the Adrian Gale Diamond Museum in Orapa - operational since 2018.

The concept of a diamond museum, the minister said, was established as part of Debswana Diamond Company’s sustainable development initiatives as well as to support mine closure plans. The Adrian Gale Diamond Museum is an educational and tourist facility in celebration of Botswana’s rich diamond heritage.

“The Museum presents the metaphoric story of “from Crust to Crown. How the discovery of diamonds in Orapa in 1957 forever changed the economy of Botswana from being one of the poorest countries in the world at independence to a middle-income country today and now striving towards a high-income economy. Debswana diamonds and replicas are displayed in the Museum for the public to appreciate and the museum is currently in full operation and open in the public and tourists,” Minister Moagi said.

Member of Parliament (MP) for Ghanzi South Motsamai Morsamai had asked Moagi if his ministry would consider establishing a Diamond Attraction Centre which will provide information and samples of diamonds

for viewing to raise revenue for Government and awareness on the diamond industry.

Across different regions around the world, mining and tourism activities are growing side by side. Mining tourism has been described as any form of tourist activity in industrial sites, technological sites and industrial heritage sites.

When mines are closed at the end of operation this creates an opportunity for the development of mining tourism. Most frequently, these sites are carefully prepared as tourism products. There are visible interactions between mining and tourism. The quality of these associations is influenced by awareness of authorities and local governments in potential industrial and post-industrial areas.

Further, MP Motsamai quizzed the minister on whether or not the ministry is doing enough to attract interest from locals and foreigners.

Moagi highlighted that mines are attracting other activities that will keep them alive such as game parks, museum exhibition and centre for information dissemination.

“Efforts will never appease everyone, it is a lifelong learning experience, so we will continue to teach people about what is there so that Batswana take the lead in caring for these museums without help from outsiders,” Moagi said.

“It is true we must expand our tourism linked to diamonds because when we talk about diamonds and tourism, they are the leading contributor to the GDP in Botswana. When we look at all the mines in Botswana, they are repackaging themselves to have game) and fauna so that the public can be interested in other parts of the country,” he said.

JOB VACANCIES

| | |
|------------|--|
| JOB TITLE: | 1. Regional Group Head of Business – East & West Region: Acts as span breaker and “deputy CEO” for the Group CEO, ensuring the full delivery of the Group’s Strategic Plan targets. Provides oversight to subsidiaries within the region. Ensures full execution of Strategic Plans at the country level. Manages regional P&L and performance reporting at regional level. Responsible for client development across geographies within their regions. |
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| | 3. Head of People Transformation: To provide strategic direction in planning, operational excellence, project management and monitoring of key people transformation initiatives across the Group with a focus on transforming Letshego’s People function of service delivery to a driver of strategic talent, business outcomes and overall employee experience. Design and facilitate organizational culture and engagement initiatives that support Letshego’s mission, values and business strategy, in partnership with business leaders and Human Capital teams. Partner with in-country Human Capital teams to ensure Letshego’s culture is ingrained in all employee systems such as talent sourcing, performance management, rewards and recognition, learning and development, and talent management. |
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Take it or leave it – Batswana women give their partners marriage ultimatums

While women as home makers have to worry about their ticking biological clocks, men as providers on the other hand want more time to advance their careers and secure their future before settling down – Writes MPHO KUHLMANN



In Botswana, the battle of the sexes just got nastier. Women's marriage fixation and millennial men's commitment phobia has set a stage for a grueling confrontation unlike anything ever seen in previous generations.

The persistent state of tension between Batswana males and females has escalated from banishing boyfriends to the sofa to "If we're not engaged or married by X date, we are done", ultimatums.

The new millennium has gifted Botswana with a lot of things, among them female gender benders who just cut to the chase and propose to their commitment-shy boyfriends. And then there are the no-nonsense straight shooters who tell their men to take it or leave it.

Dr Poloko Ntshwarang, senior Social Work lecturer at the University of Botswana says, "I think there are women who still give ultimatums. Some women go into relationships with the goal of getting married and will do anything to get that goal achieved, some don't really care and some don't want marriage at all. The possible outcomes in each ultimatum situation are that your spouse gets it and this forces him/her to confront their bad behavior and make changes. Another outcome is that the eventuality many fear may come to pass. The spouse refuses to acknowledge the ultimatum and this causes destruction to the relationship. For a lot of women peer pressure pushes them into issuing ultimatums, they see their friends getting married and having babies and decide to get the same by manipulating/persuading their spouse."

While women as home makers

have to worry about their ticking biological clocks, men as providers on the other hand want more time to advance their careers and secure their future before settling down.

There is a huge societal pressure piled on women to get hitched. They have to deal with dreaded questions from family, friends, relatives and society. It can all add up to a lot of pressure. Most women in long term relationships are ready to get married before their partners even have thoughts about proposing. Starting married life off with an ultimatum means that one person feels hostage to the other. For men, casual cohabitation, the long process of career building and saving for a mortgage, has pushed the proposal further down the list of priorities but for women who are very aware of their biological clock, the race to have it all – man, job, home, marriage while still on the right side of 35 has never felt more pressing. Although ultimatums get the job done for some people, they are actually destructive to relationships. For starters, an ultimatum is a demand, which is expressed as a deal breaker. An ultimatum is usually drastic, it is all or nothing. Ultimatums are detrimental because they make the other partner feel pressured and trapped, it forces them to take action which won't be genuine, and leads to resentment.

Many women give these ultimatums consciously and subconsciously for the sake of securing a companion. They see others around them getting engaged or married and they feel they've reached a phase in life where it's time to settle down. And while a number of women believe that they are simply trying to move things along,

they are placing more pressure on themselves than on their mates when it's not necessary. For many men, the uncertainty may not be about their partner. It could be that they see their married friends having a tough time, or perhaps their parents' marriage



didn't go so well. The biological clock is very real and often times it drives women to make bad choices.

Kgomotso Jongman of Jo Speaks in Gaborone says "some people have very real fears of failure about their own experiences - for example,

coming from a divorced home and the fear of ending up the same way. Your partner might not feel ready to take the next step, as they don't feel they are financially stable or might not want to start a marriage with piles of debt, people have different

reasons. Most people are afraid to discuss marriage earlier on into the relationship. Some offer an ultimatum because they believe their relationship needs need to be met, while some might do it because they require a deeper sense of commitment. The

person who made the ultimatum will always wonder whether they made the right decision. The person who was offered the ultimatum might always question whether the decision to marry was genuine and might even feel trapped."



Job Title : Service Technician

Department : Services – Botswana

Reporting To : General Manager

JOB REQUIREMENTS

Minimum Qualifications:

- Qualified Fitter & Turner / Millwright
- Valid driver's licence

Minimum Experience:

- 3 years' experience in Minerals Processing Plants
- Knowledge of relevant safety legislation

Key Tasks:

- Installation of pumps and other Weir Minerals products
- Start-up commissioning of all Weir Minerals products
- Assist with assembly of pumps
- Fault finding, trouble shooting and rectification of equipment issues on site
- Carry out and assist in planned maintenance of Client's equipment
- Protect spares business against piracy and Competitors in giving feedback of site information through site reports.
- Perform repair services of Weir equipment on Customer's Site/s or Workshop
- Maintain a high level service repair work on service contracts
- Keep contract packs up to date
- Provide onsite customer pump operation and maintenance training when required
- Assist with the upkeep of the Health and Safety regulations on all Sites
- Accumulate consumption of spares and pump performance history
- Perform standby duties
- Offer new products, value adding solutions to contracts
- Compile a field service report on the findings, ensure that it is signed by Customers and submit to Service Centre Supervisor. Follow up on recommendations from report/s
- Maintain and assist with LEAN implementation
- Ensure complete customer satisfaction at all times & Increase Service Centre revenue
- Adhere to all HSE and housekeeping requirements at the Branch and on Site
- Adhere to Duty of Care Policy at all times

Minimum Skills/Abilities:

- Good Communication on all level
- Strong technical understanding
- Computer literate – MS Office Suite
- Identify and solve problems in a timely manner
- Customer focused
- Safety conscious

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Authorised By: Shana Clarke

Sins of alcoholic parents visited upon their children

Children who grew up in alcoholic families often bear the brunt. Often, the full impact isn’t realized until many years later. The feelings, personality traits, and relationship patterns that they developed to cope with alcoholic parents, come with them to work, romantic relationships, parenting, and friendships – Writes MPHO KUHLMANN

Can the sins of alcoholic parents be visited upon their children? Dr Poloko Ntshwarang certainly thinks so. A senior Social Work lecturer at the University of Botswana makes a disturbing prognosis about children raised by parents with a drinking problem: “Although children who grew up in alcoholic families know firsthand how devastating the use of alcohol and drugs can be, they may still develop substance abuse problems themselves. Being raised in an environment permissive of heavy substance use, early age of first use, a lack of positive coping mechanisms for managing stress or some combination of these things. However some choose to stay far away from alcohol knowing and seeing how destructive it was but then they develop other coping mechanisms. Most adult children from such families face a multitude of problems including anxiety and/or depression, antisocial behavior, relationship difficulties, behavioral problems, and/or alcohol abuse. Emotional neglect is common in an alcoholic household. Sadly, a parent in the throes of addiction is simply unable to provide the consistent nurturing, support



and guidance their child needs and deserves. In addition, all too often, the parent who is not an alcoholic is too swept up in their spouse's disease to meet the child's needs.”

In a nutshell, what Dr Ntshwarang says is that for most children who grew up in an alcoholic family, chances are this has had a profound impact on them. Often, the full impact isn't realized until many years later. The feelings, personality traits, and relationship patterns that they developed to cope with an alcoholic parent, come with them to work, romantic relationships, parenting, and friendships.

One misconception that many people dealing with alcoholism have is that their drinking doesn't affect anyone else. Children of alcoholic parents bear the brunt. Most alcoholic families are in “survival mode.” Usually, everyone is tiptoeing around the alcoholic, trying to keep the peace and avoid a blow-up. Home can be a scary place. Alcoholics are often unpredictable, sometimes abusive, and always checked-out emotionally and sometimes physically. As a child, you never know who would be there or what mood they would be in when you come home from school. Stress levels are usually through the roof. Since alcohol use is normalized in families with alcoholism, children can often struggle to distinguish between good role models and bad ones. Children with an addicted parent often experience a chaotic or unpredictable home life which may include physical and emotional abuse. Even more common is emotional neglect, where the child's emotional needs are neglected due to the chaos and focus on the parent's addiction. Some children cope by trying to be perfect and others cope by cracking jokes and getting into trouble.

Kgomotso Jongman of Jo’ Speaks in Gaborone explained to Sunday Standard Lifestyle that, “children of alcoholics often have to deny their feelings of sadness, fear, and anger in order to survive. Since unresolved feelings will always surface eventually, they often manifest during adulthood. They experience feelings of shame - that they are bad or wrong and unworthy of love. There are so many things that alcoholic families don't talk about – to each other and especially to the outside world. These secrets breed shame. When there are things so awful that they can't be talked about, you feel there is something awful about you and that you'll be judged and cast away. When you feel unworthy, you can't love yourself and you can't let others love you either. “

Addiction and the resulting chaos are a tightly held secret in most addicted families. Children are clearly told not to talk about what's going on at home. Family members don't have the opportunity to explore their own interests and feelings. Life is about keeping the peace, simply surviving, and trying to keep the family from imploding. Even though these children have likely been hurt by the actions of their alcoholic parents, they often have an innate desire to protect them. As a result, a role reversal often takes place in the relationship between an alcoholic parent and their child, with the child “parenting” the parent. The child may clean up messes made while the parent was drunk or apologize for the parent's actions if he/she acts poorly in public due to being intoxicated. This results in the child being robbed of the traditional protection of a parent. The adult children of alcoholics almost often end up developing compulsive behavior. They may develop addictions and co-dependence in relationships. Their compulsiveness may lead them to become alcoholics just like their parents. To feel that they are in control and have power, the children who grow up with alcoholic parents develop an addiction to drama and chaos. They may be violent people and end up getting into violent crimes like robbery and rape. Some may see violence as a way of being in control of their lives and those of others.

BOOK RIVIEW – Dear Upright African by Donald Molosi

I have followed Donald Molosi's writings from social media to his book of plays – We Are All Blue. This new book, Dear Upright African, an activist manifesto to the African, I have also loved it and find it both impressive and challenging in terms of ideologies. What have remained unchanged about Donald's writing are the energy and the commitment to it. In this new book, we see a passionate writer who uses his experiences and platforms to re-educate a system that we may not feel too disturbed to review. Donald is calling for a review, re-seeing and all of us; Africans, are the ones to help effect this call.

He calls the change agents Upright African, and uses ‘Dear’ and truthfully, I feel it is metaphorical. In short, I think it is sarcastic. If we have ignored some very interesting and important part of the African heritage such as less attention to language and culture, then we may not necessary be upright, except we are upright by faith. Donald addresses the issue of speaking the African language, the teaching of African history in schools, disapproving of the fiction of our inferiority, and the carelessness of governments across African countries that ban the use of vernacular in workplaces and schools, for whatever reasons, thereby favouring the colonial languages.

The book landed on my screen when I was questioning the things around me; culture and the custodians of culture. I had seen a circulated letter by a king in Ogoniland where I come from, where he had asked that an annual cultural display be halted and some harsh languages were used in describing the followership of the group. In one of the paragraphs, there was an issue of threat. And the security agencies in the county where this culture exists were copied.

The king sits on a traditional stool but was more of a Christian, propagating the ideologies of the church and was paying little attention to his culture. In fact, he had less patience to tolerate the people that believed in things that were different from what colonialism handed to him.

While I would want to assume that Donald was not being sarcastic with the title of his book and believe that he was addressing the Upright African who was both conscious of his African-ness and ready to defend it, I wish to say it is high time we declared an emergency there and enforced supervision of schools who champion colonialists tendencies in the open while punishing anyone who held on to non-criminal acts that only institutes culture and Africa.

This book addresses the school system where Donald advocates for a decolonized curricula and rules. It frowns at the treatment of students who kept natural hair and whose punishment was to be referred as Bushmen and given tags that may be culturally inappropriate. Donald shares the story of his life and how he was made to memorize maps in another country when he could have been studying about his ancestors and their triumph, thereby boosting his self-esteem but Europe had its agenda. The foreign languages are now called economic languages because they aid transactions and you must learn them to thrive. African languages become irrelevant and held in hostage.

Donald excuses the use of his non-African name and attributes that to his fore parents, a lineage thing. But while he has succeeded in making an excuse to keep his non-African name while urging others to take drastic measures, could it be possible that the Upright African can win all debates about his acceptability of westernization because he is usually an individual and may not have the resources and strength to confront the conglomerates that push for these orders? We all can make fantastic excuses but if we must make a change, we must do away with the things that are so dear yet are so foreign, because we are the messages we preach.

Donald's book is confrontational and powerful. Its allegiance is to everyone who has confronted a bad system within Africa. From the writers who insist on writing in their native African languages despite how it may affect global acceptance, to school students who confronted apartheid so that South Africans would not have to live in fear. It is a book that urges and reminds of the urgency of truly reclaiming Africa from our small dorms and offices spaces.

This review has been written by Bura-Bari Nwilo, the author of The Colour of a Thing Believed, a collection of short stories. It's available on Amazon.

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VACANCY

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Tenable at: Orapa, Letlhakane and Damtshaa Mines

Job Summary

To determine pathology by laboratory procedures

Minimum requirements

- Degree in Laboratory Technology
- 2 years post qualification experience
- Registration with the Botswana Health Professions Council

Key Activities

- Recommends and incorporates cost saving initiatives into budgets.
- Receives and registers specimens in the laboratory after determining their acceptability for testing.
- Decides on testing protocols for various specimens.
- Performs various tests on biological specimens as submitted by clinicians to accurately diagnose, rule out or monitor disease processes and conducts confirmatory.
- Monitors resistance and susceptibility trends and advises accordingly.
- Maintains laboratory equipment through basic maintenance, some trouble shooting and optimises their reliability by conducting calibration procedures.
- Educates patients and health staff on proper specimen collection, handling, preservation and transportation.
- Conducts testing for internal and external quality assurance programme and as well reviewing and correcting the laboratory's performance.
- Evaluates testing reagents through quality assurance procedures for accuracy, reproducibility and viability.
- Provides administrative services by filing and retrieving patient information as and when required, preparing laboratory monthly statistics for management & government and ensuring patients are properly billed for testing conducted.
- Maintains stock levels within the unit and monitors stock usage.
- Conducts recruitment and screening of prospective blood donors for communicable diseases & maintains an updated record of blood donor demographics and blood profiles.
- Identifies appropriate blood for recipients and conducts relevant compatibility testing to minimise rejection.
- Conduct micro biological sample testing across the operation.
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Only candidates who meet the above requirements need apply, enclosing a current Curriculum Vitae and certified copies of certificates.

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Gloves are off at PBAB amid coronavirus



ORATILE OTSETSWWE

Pro boxing tournaments may be off for now due to the coronavirus pandemic, but the gloves are off at the Professional Boxing Association of Botswana (PBAB).

The association, which controls professional boxing in the country is bracing itself for its long-awaited elections.

After successive postponements due to various circumstances, PBAB has finally settled for the 24th October this year as the date for its elective General Meeting.

The contentious PBAB elections were initially slated for 2019 but were postponed after affiliates expressed displeasure with some candidates.

“When the elections were supposed to be held last year, there was a disruption as some affiliates were unhappy with the people who were campaigning for positions,” PBAB president ‘Tsietse ‘Shakes’

Kebualemang explains.

“The affiliates were of the view that some of the candidates had no knowledge about pro-boxing, no history and affiliation with PBAB,” he says.

Given the affiliates concerns, Kebualemang says the association had no option but to reschedule the elective general meeting.

As the elections were due, the PBAB president says his committee then notified the Botswana National Sport Commission (BNSC) to request that the elections be held in June this year.

This was however not to be as the advent of coronavirus forced a suspension of all sporting activities, rendering the association unable to host the elective meeting.

To prepare for the upcoming elections and stop the repetition of the problems that stopped the first scheduled elections, PBAB will host a Special General Meeting (SGM) on the 29th this month (August). The

SGM is to be held at the National Stadium warm up area in Gaborone.

According to Kebualemang, the objective for the SGM is to clarify election guidelines, endorse rules and the election committee as well as give clarity on the criteria for one to stand for positions.

He says for one to be considered to stand for elections, the person should be familiar with sports administration and also have a history of facilitating pro boxing activities.

The PBAB president says affiliates need to study and follow the election guidelines to fix the previous mistakes.

Kebualemang says as such, registration for elections and campaign will be open after the SGM.

Meanwhile, the PBAB presidents says the association is still waiting to hear from the BNSC as to when it can resume its activities.

“A few months back, PBAB hosted a consultative meeting with the clubs to share ideas with

BNSC to resume the tournament,” Kebualemang explains.

During the consultative meeting, he says PBAB was advised to give the BNSC its plans to contain or stop the spread of coronavirus if activities are to resume.

He says the PBAB then engaged doctors to draft the necessary plans which have since been handed to the BNSC for approval.

“Professional Boxing is a contact sport and there is no how a boxer can get on the ring without being tested,” he explains.

As such, he says PBAB carries out HIV and Hepatitis tests on athletes before competitions and is hopeful COVID-19 can be part of the tests.

Still on the issue, he says financial struggles are hampering the association from carrying out some of its activities.

He says the association is yet to receive its annual grant from the BNSC for activities and ‘there is nothing to do without funding.’

COVID-19 pegs jukskei to the ground

PATIENCE LEPHOGOLE

As sport continues to suffer the adverse effects of the coronavirus pandemic, traditional games are also coming under strain.

One such is jukskei. Like many sporting codes, the code has delayed efforts to resume training and competitions.

“Covid-19 has affected all sectors of society including sport and we are not alien to the effects of this virus,” the chairperson of jukskei Evans Kesilwe observes.

According to Kesilwe, these lockdowns that come with the spike in virus infections are making things a little bit more difficult on the association.

“We have to adapt and find alternative ways that can keep us afloat and focused on the sport,” he says.

The Juskei association chairman however says despite all this, they

remain hopeful that the pandemic will be defeated and allow them to resume their plans for this year.

In the meantime, Kesilwe says they encourage affiliates and members to continue individual training.

“Since private spaces in yards can be utilised for individual training, we encourage our players to construct temporary jukskei courts in their residential places,” he says.

“This has kept the spirit of competition burning. Lockdown therefore did not deter individual commitment to sport development in our country,” the Jukskei chairman observes.

He says as the pandemic continues to disrupt daily lives, it is important for athletes to keep active as a measure to cope.

“Commitment to sport remains an individual choice to escape the nightmares that pandemics such as this one bring to our lives. As a trainer and a coach, I strive hard to instil

focus among the players,” he adds.

On the other hand, Kesilwe says the association also continues to advocate for financial independence for members.

He says they have various entrepreneurship efforts to enable them to survive the hardships brought forward by unforeseen circumstances such as COVID-19.

“We continue to impart financial skills on our players and encourage them never to put all their eggs in one basket,” he says.

“We are a family of entrepreneurs outside the courts of jukskei and this helps in keeping us focused,” says Kesilwe.

On the brighter side, Kesilwe says as Jukskei is a family sport, it helps families to stick together during trying times like the current one.

“This sport in particular helps our families to stick together more especially during times like these. As a family sport, Jukskei made staying

together and lockdown to positively affect our lives,” he says.

“Our lives were affected both negatively and positively, but we chose to remain motivated,” the Jukskei chairman says.

He further says there were lessons they learnt from the advent of the corona virus. He says ‘lockdown strengthened family values and forced families to form strong bonds.’

“We learnt to stay together despite our differences, we learned to use the little we had and we learned to comply with health protocols,” he says. “It also opened new wave of opportunities that we have learnt to grab and utilise.”

Post the pandemic, Kesilwe says the intention is to continue growing the sport to reach all corners of Botswana.

“We are very optimistic that we will reach all parts of Botswana in no time and have regional competitions,” he concluded.

Letshwiti plays “squeaky clean” financial record to bolster his BFA presidency campaign

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association having to pay them as they had been added in the consolidated audited financial report.

Sebego’s assertions on the BPL being the major cause of the deficit also echoes the explanation given by

Motlogelwa a year ago.

Speaking in an interview at the time, Motlogelwa explained that ‘at the top of the concerns are the taxes owed to the Botswana Unified Revenue Services (BURS), most of which are related to the Botswana Premier League (BPL).’

He says in the past, the BPL was registered as an independent entity which was liable to pay taxes despite being a structure of the BFA. This however allegedly never happened as the BPL never paid taxes and the BFA now had to take over the debt.

By the time the BFA made its

consolidated audited financials, the debt to the taxpayer had accumulated over the years and attracted penalties and interests to stand at P5 million.

Aside from tax related debts, the BPL had also accrued other debts, among these monies owed to the BNSC for the use of stadiums.



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Are Retrenchments looming at Premier League?



BPL offices

DUNCAN KGANGKENNA

The Botswana Premier League (BPL) is on a drive to professionalism, but the livelihoods of its employees are allegedly hanging by a thread. According to a source within the Lekidi, the BPL is on the verge of retrenching staff at

its secretariat office.

Sunday Standard sport has it on good authority that the retrenchments are guided by the perceived professionalization drive to turn the fortunes of the league around.

The league recently appointed a four-man committee to spearhead its professionalization and to come up with ways of turning the

fortunes of the league around.

Led by Jagdish Shah of Township Rollers, the team also comprised of Gaborone United (GU) investor Nicolas Zakhem, Gilport Lions owner Kelesitse Gilika and Prisons XI chairperson Anthony Mokento.

The committee was tasked with forming a company that is to run the BPL. They have since registered it, Botswana National

League. The shareholders of the company are all the premier league teams.

As part of the process, it is said the BPL will undertake a restructuring process as it seeks to rope in skilled staff to drive the professionalisation processes.

“The committee that has been set up to look into how the league can be profitable

and self sustainable is strongly advocating for an overhaul of the league secretariat,” the source says.

As part of the process, the source says there is a recommendation for the BPL to lay off some staff members and replace them with ‘energetic business persons.’

“The committee leading the professionalisation drive is ready

to bring in its own people who will be aligned to the philosophy of the newly formed Botswana National League,” says the source.

Once the process resumes, the source says the overhaul and restructuring exercise will be expected to be completed within a two month time period.

Though the committee has made up its mind to retrench

some of the staff, premier league board chairperson is not aware of the drastic decision to be taken.

Reached for comment the BFA CEO, Mfolo Mfolo denied any knowledge of the pending retrenchments.

“I am not aware of that. The league is in transitional period, we want it to separate from the BFA and run as an independent

legal entity,” explained Mfolo.

He said they expect the league to be independent when the new season starts sometime next year.

In preparation for professionalisation and autonomy of the elite league, the Botswana Football Association (BFA) has over the past month or two been busy teaching teams about professionalism.

Letshwiti plays “squeaky clean” financial record to bolster his BFA presidency campaign

The finances of Botswana Football Association (BFA) are proving to be a key issue as the campaign for the control of Lekidi gains momentum. Sunday Standard reporter BOTLHALE KOOTHUPILE look into the matter

“Why get back to the RED if you can stay CLEAN with Maclean?” so reads a campaign slogan from incumbent BFA president Maclean Letshwiti.

The slogan is a direct jibe at Letshwiti’s predecessor and now also his opponent at the upcoming association elections, Tebogo Sebegu.

When Letshwiti took over the BFA presidency, the association was allegedly knee deep in debt.

In the words of the association’s current 1st vice president Pelotshweu Motlogelwa, ‘back then, the association was financially in intensive care.’

And as the buck stops with

the leader, all fingers point to Sebegu for allegedly overseeing a reign of ‘financial mess at the BFA.’

Now as the issue crops up again as one of the key campaign issues, the question is, ‘how did the Sebegu led BFA end up in the red?’

When it comes to matters relating to the Botswana Football Association (BFA), however, separating myths from facts is often an exercise in futility.

Four years ago, in 2016 at the BFA elective General Assembly (GA), the association posted a record deficit for the first time.

From having posted a surplus of P538 544 for the financial

year ending March 2015, the association now suddenly found itself P10 656 177 in the red.

Three years later in 2019, the association was back in the green, posting a record P6 642 663 surplus.

For Letshwiti, voted in during the 2016 elective assembly, the reported deficit and recovery was to be a stick with which to whip his predecessors.

“They had left the association in a financial mess which he had to clean,” he would fire back when tongue lashing his predecessor.

Now as the association prepare to head for another elective assembly, the issue of the BFA finances is becoming



Tebogo Sebegu



Maclean Letshwiti

one of the most contentious and controversial.

Of recent, Letshwiti’s predecessor Tebogo Sebegu is hitting back at the suggestion that he left the association in dire financial situation.

According to Sebegu, who along with Ookeditse Malesu will challenge the incumbent for presidency, when he left the association, ‘it was in good financial state.’

“It was only in 2016 when the current 1st vice president recommended that we make a comprehensive and consolidated audit of all BFA structures that we then had a deficit,” he says.

According to Sebegu, most

of the debt which he allegedly left at the BFA was accumulated by the Botswana Premier League (BPL).

But was the BFA ever so deep in debt? How was the recovery done? In an interview with this publication this past year, Motlogelwa, who is the man behind the numbers, alluded that getting the association back on the positive was no easy task.

He says they put in place strategies to mitigate the association’s then critical financial situation.

“Among our strategies, we put in place cost containment measures, prudent financial management systems as well

as putting in place measures to pay the association debtors,” he explains.

Sebegu however contends that while all the debts of the association were included in the consolidated audited financials, not all of them needed to be paid and were not paid.

“When some of the debtors came out when I was the leader of the association, we decided to contest the debts. As a result, we won the litigations and the debts naturally fell off, never to be paid,” he contests.

He says this therefore meant the deficit decreased without the

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