

Alcohol industry jobs on the line

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BDP in sixes and sevens



Nicholas Mokwena
BG reporter

Member of Parliament for Jwaneng-Mabutsane Mephato Reatile has put his party - Botswana Democratic Party (BDP) - in an awkward position. This follows his decision last week not to vote with his colleagues for the suspension

SEE PAGE 6

-  **BDP MPs losing trust in Reatile**
-  **'VP and other senior party MPs supported the motion so expectation was that Reatile will vote with us'**
-  **I am a BDP member in good standing-Reatile**

Botswana will send peace troops on a need-to basis

Ernest Moloi
BG reporter

Botswana will deploy troops in peacekeeping missions only when there is "absolutely certain positivity" that such effort will result in the promotion of a settlement, President Dr. Mokgweetsi Masisi has said.

Masisi who is the incoming Chair of the SADC Organ on Defense, Politics and Security Cooperation told the media Wednesday evening at State House 1 Gardens after a virtual Summit of the Organ Troika plus Force Intervention Brigade-Troops Contributing Countries (FIB-TCC) and the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC).

Flanked by ministers Unity Dow and Kabo Morwaeng of Foreign

SEE PAGE 5





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Sefalana pays shareholders

BG reporter

Sefalana group last week announced that the board of directors has approved 27.5 thebe per ordinary share as gross dividend for the year ended April 2020. This follows the recent publication of the

company annual financial statements. The dividend will be paid around the 25 th of August 200 to shareholders registered by 14 th of the same month. Sefalana is a fast moving consumer goods group which has also invested in several sectors of the economy here and in the Southern African region.

BTC halts FY 2020 dividend on Covid 19

BG reporter

Botswana's biggest telecoms company by assets, BTC Limited this week announced that due to 'the uncertainties presented by the COVID-19 pandemic, the Board have recommended that out of prudence no final dividend be declared in order to retain cash in the businesses. The company recently announced its year ended financial results to March 2020, following a delay mainly due to Corona Virus. For the year under review, profit was P106 million compared to P162 million a year ago. Meanwhile, the company plans a structural cost reduction programme enabled by digital transformation and automation in order to drive EBIT-DA growth.

What they said...

Play by the rules, but be ferocious
-Phil Knight

Turnstar meeting coming in two weeks

BG reporter

Turnstar Holdings annual general meeting will be hosted on the 20 th August 2020 at the group centre management within Game City mall. The meeting will also be held online for interested unit holders. Part of the agenda will be to receive, consider and adopt financial results to January 2020. Patrick Balopi and Mokgadi Nteta, who are directors of

the company, have raised their hands to be re-elected into the board. The meeting will also approve remuneration for directors for the period under review. Shareholders will also have an opportunity to appoint Ernst and Young as auditors. In addition, the shareholders will also be asked to consider having future annual reports published and circulated to unit holders electronically.



BG moment



GOOD LIFE PRIOR TO COVID-19...moments like this will not be seen in the next coming winter Parliament session due to COVID-19 protocols.

PIC: BOTSANG MOITOI

Firms expect credit to drop

BG reporter

Local companies expect the cost of credit to decrease across all markets, and a few cited the need for affordable credit to stimulate economic activity in the wake of the adverse impact of COVID-19 pandemic, as the main reason. This is according to Bank of Botswana's latest Business Expectation Survey

published this week. "A few other firms based their expectation of lower lending rates on the recent policy rate cut by the Bank. Regarding borrowing volumes, firms broadly expect an increase in domestic credit, and a reduction in credit from South Africa and elsewhere in the twelve-month period to June 2021," said BoB. Bank rate is currently 4.25 percent.

Absa appoint new finance chief

BG reporter

Absa Bank Botswana has announced the appointment of Cynthia Morapedi as the finance director and Executive Director of the Board, effective 24 July 2020. She is Chartered Accountant with over 16 years work experience, joined the Bank in October 2015 as the Financial Controller, and has since cemented and successfully led the team into a dynamic and high performing team, while significantly contributing to the Finance Department. Prior to joining the bank, she amassed vast finance experience as a leader responsible for areas such as financial reporting, business planning, performance and analytics, tax management, treasury operations, general administration, governance and control. Morapedi holds a Masters of Business Administration (MBA) degree from Oxford University Brookes (UK), as well as a Bachelor's degree in Accounting obtained from the University of Botswana. Cynthia is a Fellow and a member in good standing of both the Association of Certified Chartered Accountants (ACCA, UK) and the Botswana Institute of Chartered Accountants (BICA).

Botswana IFSC undergoing improvements



BITC CEO Keletsositse Olebile

Tlotlo Mbazo
BG reporter

Botswana is working on improvements to align its International Financial Services Centre (IFSC) structure to be at par with competitive IFSC regimes like Mauritius.

BITC CEO Keletsositse Olebile admits that although Botswana benchmarked on Dublin-Ireland, one of the world's best and most advanced IFSC regimes, the country has since fallen behind and is now playing catch up.

"IFSCs in their nature are fast advancing and evolving competitive creations, where falling behind is not an option," he said during a media engagement.

Well established and globally recognised IFSC regimes include London where the IFSC contributes 25.5 percent to total employment, Hong Kong contributes 18.6 percent, New

York 10.6 percent and Singapore contributes 5.5 percent.

Botswana's immediate competition, Mauritius has a highly aggressive and competitive IFSC regime within the sub-continent. Other aspiring IFSCs in the region include Nairobi, Morocco, Accra and Kigali.

Olebile said it is in the best interest of Botswana, a country which has been widely endorsed internationally, as an ideal Financial and Business Services Hub in Africa to accelerate forward and take a leading position as an attractive hub for regional, cross border financial capital flows.

According to Olebile, they are currently putting forward some recommendations that are expected to enable Botswana to be more attractive. They include the development of legislation and regulations to support Bank Holding Companies.

Currently under the IFSC

Local goods transportation now reserved for Batswana

Dikarabo Ramadubu
BG reporter

Parliament has passed a motion reserving the distribution, courier and transportation of goods in Botswana for 100 percent citizen owned companies.

Moving the motion MP for Kanye North Thapelo Letsholo proposed that all foreign transport and courier companies be allowed a single drop off once they arrive in the country.

Letsholo who received support from both sides of the aisle said the nurturing, establishment and eventual development of local industries is important if the country is to reach the economic growth it desires.

He said Botswana is an import-led ecosystem, importing fuel, food, beverages, tobacco, machinery, electric equipment, chemicals, rubber products, vehicles and others and that 75 percent of the total imports are from South Africa.

The suppliers of imported goods, mostly based in South Africa, appoint their own transport magnates to handle the transportation, delivery and distribution of goods to and within Botswana, which constitutes a missed opportunity for local transport and logistics companies who could handle domestic distribution of imported goods.

Letsholo said the transport, courier and distribution sector offers ripe opportunity for 100 percent citizen owned companies to explore and participate in the transport and logistics sector.

"I am aware that CEDA and other financial institutions have supported and funded a number of transport companies who should access this opportunity forthwith".

Botswana IFSC undergoing

From Page 3

structure, there is only one bank, BancABC, hosting a holding company in Botswana although there is no specific legislative regime that underpins Bank Holding companies.

They have also motivated for the development of legislation and regulations for Protected Cell Companies, which according to Olebile is a popular method of structuring companies for purposes of winding down.

"It's a way of structuring your company such that one cell is distinct and protected from the other cells. In the event that one cell becomes problematic, you can easily liquidate it and protect the rest of the business," Olebile says.

They have also advocated for the development of legislation and regulations for International Investment Funds, Trusts, Limited Partnerships, Limited Liability Partnerships.

In addition, they are in the process of launching a targeted campaign to expand the 15 Double Taxation Avoidance (DTA) agreements that Botswana has signed.

"We can't effectively compete with the likes of Mauritius when they have in excess of 100. We need to make a deliberate effort to identify strategic countries to enter into DTAs so that investors that we attract through IFSC would not have to be taxed in the source jurisdiction."

Among the recent reforms that have been implemented is the amendment of the Income Tax Act to include the lifting of the ring fence and permit the utilisation of a single entity to conduct both IFSC and domestic business. Another is to allow IFSC domiciled Funds to raise funds from domestic

sources.

Botswana also adopted Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) Transfer Pricing Rules in July 2019, as well as passed Bills including the FIA Act, Insurance Act and Company Registration Act.

Botswana currently has 51 certified companies in IFSC however 23 are operational, while Mauritius currently has thousands of companies. The 23 employ on average 18 people each.

Olebile explains that companies certified under the regime since its establishment were over 100, but numbers fell as the OECD insist strictly on substantive presence.

"In Botswana we do not allow registration of brass plate companies. We want to see where you operate, your employees, board and all necessary structures in place," he said, adding that this has unfortunately not attracted the numbers.

He added that a lot of companies have been deregistered over the years. "Our procedure is that if you don't set up in 12 months we terminate."

IFSC positions Botswana as a regional gateway for financial and capital flows into SADC and the rest of Africa.

"That is why it is very beneficial that we keep it and ramp it up in terms of marketing so that we can attract more companies to locate here," BITC Chief says, adding that a lot of the FDI that Botswana registers within the BITC comes through new and existing companies within the IFSC.

IFSC is regarded as a big enabler of the broader Financial Services Sector, which is the third largest contributor to GDP in Botswana

Local goods transportation now reserved for Batswana



Kanye North Legislator Thapelo Letsholo (L) lobbies for logistics industry.

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Letsholo said it was on this basis that the motion seeks foreign companies bringing goods into Botswana to select one point of delivery and all further necessary local deliveries be handled by 100 percent citizen-owned entities.

Letsholo said should the motion pass it would benefit commerce in agriculture and see increased growth, specialisation and diversification.

The introduction of reefer-trucks, climate-loggers and air cargo serviced by local businesses will see an increase in agricultural business ventures as well as increased export of "our world class local beef and citrus, for instance, undertaken by local farmers as the local logistics and transport businesses grow to match the demand".

"It is often said that the cost allocated to transport forms 10 percent of the value of the goods. Understanding that Botswana's import bill is just shy of P70 billion that 10 percent would be a great business opportunity generator for Batswana; this money would go into the local business landscape, create jobs, aid development, grow our economy and most importantly increase tax revenue for the government.

MPs for Maun Goretetse Kekgonegile, Molepolole South Kabo Morwaeng, and Kainangura Hikuama of Ngami were some of the legislators that supported the motion

Botswana will send peace troops on a need-to basis

From Page 1

Affairs and Defense and Security respectively, Masisi said Botswana's participation in peacekeeping missions, if it ever happened, would be done on a case-by-case assessment.

"If it is apparent that the involvement of peacekeeping forces would not in our view provide a solution to what would essentially be a political problem we would not be inclined to participate.

"I am very sensitive about and I take very seriously the decision to put any life of any soldier of Botswana or any personnel or any citizen of Botswana on harm's way in the event that it is not for the development of peace," he said.

Masisi who expressed optimism at the task he is about to assume as Chair of the Organ Troika, explained that the Summit heard from the DRC that it supported the SADC position to communicate to the United Nations (UN) that SADC would be comfortable in maintaining the Force intervention Brigade in its current format.

The FIB component of SADC under the United Nations Organisation Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO) Mandate is made up of troops from Tanzania, Malawi and South Africa.

It is under the command of South African Brigadier General Patrick Dube. The SA Contingent of the FIB currently is the Zeerust-headquartered 2SA Infantry Battalion with an airborne component in the form of a composite helicopter unit.

According to the Defence Web it comprises three Rooivalk combat support helicopters from 16 Squadron at AFB Bloemspruit and five Oryx medium transport helicopters, drawn from either 17, 19 and 22 Squadrons or 87 Helicopter Flying School.

However, following the strategic review of the MONUSCO Mandate conducted by the UN Independent Review Team in October 201, the UN Security Council adopted Resolution 2502 on 19th December 2019 to extend the mandate of MUNUSCO for a period of one year until 20 December

2020.

But in the course of implementing this Resolution, the UN has decided to unilaterally reconfigure the FIB by repatriating one FIB Battalion for the purposes of accommodating non-SADC Troops into the FIB.

The Organ Troika will not entertain this position as it fears the inclusion of non-SADC troops in the FIB will undermine FIB's operational effectiveness and unity of command as well as cause serious repercussions to SADC regional efforts to support the DRC to stabilise the eastern part of the country through the FIB.

According to SADC Executive Secretary Stregomena Tax, the outcome of Wednesday's virtual Summit will strengthen the position of SADC as it participates in the forthcoming review of the MONUSCO Mandate in December 2020.

The FBI mandate includes civilian protection, neutralising armed groups and providing secure environment for those tackling the Ebola outbreak in the DRC.

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Botswana Life

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Reatile puts BDP in awkward position

From Page 1

of Opposition, Dumelang Saleshando.

Botswana Guardian has established that Reatile is now not a trusted member. This also comes at a time when he is suspected of harbouring intentions to join the Botswana Patriotic Front (BPF).

Last week Reatile pulled a shocker when he voted with opposition MPs against a motion calling for the suspension of Saleshando for one (1) week from services of Parliament.

Reatile has maintained that he was not voting against the BDP or its resolution but rather against a decision of Speaker of National Assembly Phandu Skelemani.

He also dismissed claims that this was an indication that he wants to dump the ruling party stating that he remains a BDP member in good standing.

It is a known tradition that when majority of BDP legislators support or oppose a motion all must follow suit. The party has always maintained that all decisions of caucuses

are binding on members.

However, even though the motion was moved by Chief Whip, Liakat Kably it was not a resolution of the party Parliamentary caucus. The matter did not form part of last week's Tuesday caucus meeting.

This week Kably admitted that this development has put them in an awkward position. He confirmed to this publication that Saleshando's suspension was not discussed at the meeting.

Last week's meeting which President Mokgweetsi Masisi and Vice President did not attend was chaired by party Secretary General Mpho Balopi who is also Minister of Labour, Productivity and Skills Development.

"It was not a party resolution but the MP was observant of our voting pattern. He saw that all BDP MPs were in support.

Vice President supported the motion and other senior party MPs so expectation was that Reatile will vote with us.

"It is a difficult situation because we cannot take action for going against a resolution since there

was no resolution. It could also set a bad precedence for other MPs," said the worried Kably.

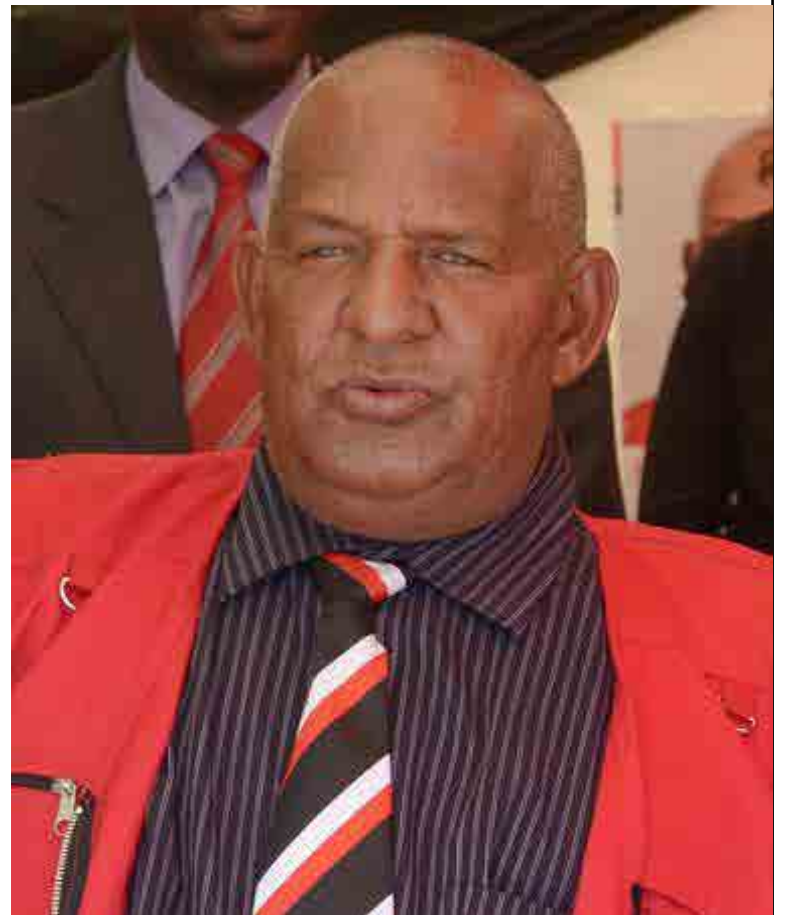
Kably who is also MP for Letlhakeng-Lephephe said MPs know the channels they should follow when not happy about something. He said what transpired last week could send a wrong signal that the BDP MPs are not united or working as a block.

Kably said such situations might compromise their working relations and make it difficult for the party leadership to share some sensitive information with the MPs.

He confirmed that even though this is worrisome, this week's caucus meeting chaired by President Masisi did not discuss the issue.

Asked about the alleged mistrust from colleagues Reatile this week said that is the least of his worries. He said he comes from far with such news but he remains a BDP member in good standing.

"That is not anything new to me. Such has been said for a long time about me. I take everything as it is. I am a BDP member in good standing," Reatile stated.



Chief Whip Liakat Kably

Reatile joined the BDP from the Botswana National Front ahead of the 2014 general election.

He lost his parliamentary seat during the 2014 elections to Shawn Nthale of the BNF under the Umbrella for Democratic Change (UDC). He was then appointed Specially Nominated councillor and became Chairman of Southern District Council.

He would later become Specially Elected Member of Parliament chosen by the President Dr. Ian Khama when the Constitution was amended to increase the number of SEMP from four (4) to six (6). Last

year he won the Jwaneng-Mabutsane constituency under the BDP ticket.

The BDP leadership's failure to grace his launch last year was widely associated with his relationship with Khama whom at the time his standoff with Masisi had worsened. Reatile was launched by former Mahalapye East MP and assistant local government minister Botlogile Tshireletso in Sekoma while the party leadership converged in Gaborone to launch Gaborone Bonnington North candidate Anna Mokgethi.

This is said to have never sat well with Reatile who felt he was being sabotaged.

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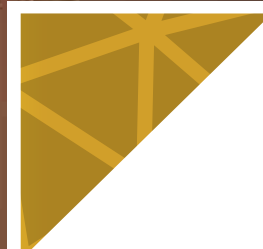
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Alcohol industry jobs on the line

...as sale of liquor is banned

Nicholas Mokwena
BG reporter

Uncertainty returns to the multi-million alcohol industry after Government on Wednesday took a decision to ban the sale of alcohol with immediate effect.

The decision was made through a notice on the Government Gazette published on August 5, 2020 by Director of Health Dr. Malaki Tshipayagae, as cases of COVID-19 continue to rise. Dr. Tshipayagae said the decision was taken after it was discovered that alcohol consumption contributes to failure to adhere to COVID-19 protocols.

“His Excellency the President, acting in accordance with regulation 30G of the Emergency Powers (COVID-19) Regulations, 2020, has with immediate effect suspended all liquor licences issued in terms of the Liquor Act.

“The suspension of the sale of alcohol is based on evidence that consumption

of alcohol increases the risks posed by COVID-19 due to its negative effects on adherence to COVID-19 protocols”, said Dr Tshipayagae.

He said all liquor stores in Botswana shall therefore remain closed and liquor shall not be sold or consumed in public places until further notice. He said “liquor” includes all traditional beers.

This is the second time alcohol sale and consumption is banned in the country. It was first banned in April this year when the country went under lockdown in a move to contain the coronavirus. The ban was lifted at the beginning of June this year after the industry pleaded with government indicating that thousands of people have lost source of income.

The industry employs over 30 thousand people.

This development means many jobs are once again on the line. When the ban on alcohol sale and consumption was lifted



in June the industry had promised to ensure adherence to COVID-19 protocols such as off premises consumption but has incidentally failed.

Consumers were also found wanting as they failed to obey the set down protocols thereby posing a risk for the spread of the virus.

COVID-19 spread has Task Team at sixes and sevens



Presidential COVID-19 Task Team, Professor Mosepele Mosepele

Nicholas Mokwena
BG reporter

The likelihood of community transmission of COVID-19 exists given the number of cases registered during contact tracing, Presidential COVID-19 Task Team Deputy Coordinator Professor Mosepele Mosepele has revealed.

Contact tracing was undertaken last week following the recording of unprecedented number of COVID-19 positive cases in

Greater Gaborone Zone. This resulted in the zone being placed under a two (2) weeks lockdown.

Updating the nation on Wednesday this week Prof Mosepele expressed concern at the rate at which the disease is spreading.

He said they have discovered that there have been some lapses in adhering to COVID-19 protocols. He said currently there are serious cases which are still being investigated.



VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

The Southern African Development Community, with the support of the European Union and the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development, implements the Programme “Strengthening the National-Regional Linkages in SADC” (SNRL) in SADC. The programme contributes to the acceleration of progress towards the implementation of the SADC regional integration. The Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH as a lead implementation agency for the SNRL Programme, therefore, invites suitably qualified, experienced, innovative individuals to apply for the position:

MONITORING, EVALUATION (M&E) AND KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT (MK) EXPERT

Job Title: M&E and MK Expert
Job Category: Professional, Band 4
Location: Gaborone, Botswana
Project: GIZ “Strengthening the National-Regional Linkages in SADC” programme
Duration: start 01.10.2020 (14 months)

Background;

SADC with the support of European Union (EU) and the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) implements the Programme Strengthening National Regional Linkages (SNRL) in SADC. This partnership programme seeks to contribute to the acceleration of progress towards the implementation of the SADC regional integration agenda by strengthening the capacity of SADC Member States’ structures. This is done with the view that strengthened capacities of the Member States structures will enhance, facilitation and coordination of the implementation of the regional integration agenda at country level. The Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit GmbH (GIZ) is the lead implementation agency for the SNRL Programme and its main operational partners and recipients are the national coordinating structures and other relevant stakeholders in different SADC Member States. In order to overcome some of the key challenges to the implementation of the SADC regional integration agenda, SNRL provides SADC Member States with advice and expertise based on identified needs and expressed demands of each participating country. Focus will predominantly be on achieving sustainable structural improvements in the respective national coordination structures.

About Position;

Given the magnitude of the existing difficulties and the diversity as well as geographic dispersion of the SADC Member States, a full-time, long-term team combining technical, methodological, financial and administrative expertise is required to deliver support to partners throughout the implementation period of SNRL. This team needs to be able to: provide tailor-made and consistent technical, organizational and methodological advice to the operational partners (i.e. Member States’ coordinating structures and their stakeholders); Effectively coordinate the Action’s other modalities of support (e.g. short-term consultancies, grants) and ensure coherence between them; and efficiently, effectively and transparently administer SNRL resources. To ensure optimum support SNRL seeks a Monitoring & Evaluation Expert to support coordination of progress monitoring of change project implementation in terms of outputs, outcome and impact. Working under the guidance of SNRL Deputy Programme Manager the position supports the implementation of SNRL M&E and knowledge management (KM) system. The ideal candidate will possess relevant expertise and/or experience in the SADC region.

Key Responsibilities;

- Contribute to the continuous conceptualisation and implementation of SNRL monitoring and evaluation system and plans to define standard operating systems and guidelines for M&E, reporting, and related services;
- Contribute to the establishment of guidelines and the development of standard monitoring and evaluation tools for change projects
- Support member states monitoring and data collection approaches and initiatives to ensure alignment with and use of the SADC M&E system;
- Collect, analyse and process data on the progress of the change projects supported by the Action
- Coordinate progress monitoring of change project implementation in terms of outputs, outcome and impact;
- Compile data on SNRL’s progress in line with the M&E requirements of GIZ and the SADC Secretariat

- Identify and define information requirements for change projects and the Programme in general concerning planning, monitoring, and evaluation
- Participate in SNRL missions and other meetings to assess the implementation progress in the members states;
- Identifies impact/results-oriented initiatives from the change projects and makes recommendations their publication and dissemination among SNRL counterparts and stakeholders in collaboration with the Communication Expert support
- Coordinate the generation of knowledge management products within the programme and with partners in the member states and SADC Secretariat as well as dissemination of lessons learnt;
- Provide input to periodic overview of SNRL activities, milestones, achievement and impact;
- Contribute to the Action’s progress reports to the SADC Secretariat, EU and BMZ;
- Assess training needs relevant to monitoring, evaluation, and management information systems
- Assist management with planning, coordinating and documenting meetings, workshops, seminars, evaluations and other project activities with a focus on monitoring and evaluation;
- Organises and updates SNRL documentation, the filing systems and the SNRL library;

Qualification

- Master’s Degree in Project Management, Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) Development Studies, International Relations, Public Policy or any related discipline
- Additional relevant professional trainings and courses are an asset.

Skills and Experience

- Demonstrated ‘hands on’ results-based project development, management and monitoring experience in the development sector in the SADC region.
- Proven experience in international development field, implementing regional integration initiatives and projects.
- Understanding of the political, economic and social dynamics in SADC and the complex factors impacting the ability to implement and achieve strategic outcomes.
- Familiarity with the operations of State structures and in-depth understanding of the technicalities and mechanisms pivotal to capacity development of national structures.
- Proven ability to collect and to critically analyse and process data
- Previous experience in the development and implementation of Change Projects as an approach to programme design and implementation is an advantage
- Familiarity with innovative knowledge management tools and mechanisms essential;
- Experience with GIZ technical cooperation approaches, support delivery processes, and advisory instruments and services.
- English proficiency is required. Knowledge of French and/or Portuguese an advantage.

Applicants who apply should enclose current CV, certified copies of certificates, ID, and two traceable references.

Applications should be addressed to:
 The Human Resources Manager
 P / Bag X12, Village
 Gaborone

E-mail address : hr-botswana@giz.de

Closing date for application is 17th August 2020 at 17:00.
For further information please contact HR unit at 3957400

Please note that only shortlisted candidates will be contacted

Kgafela free to join Ntlo Ya Dikgosi

 Has the liberty to appoint a representative



WELCOME... Kgosi Kgafela invited to Ntlo Ya Dikgosi

Dikarabo Ramadubu
BG reporter

Bakgatla Kgosikgolo, Kgosi Kgafela II can attend Ntlo ya Dikgosi if he so pleases, Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Local Government, Dr. Themba Mmusi has told the Parliamentary Accounts Committee.

He was responding to a question from Member of Parliament for Mochudi East Mabuse Pule, who had asked when government was going to allow Kgafela II or his representative to represent Bakgatla in Ntlo Ya Dikgosi now that it recognises him.

“Government recognises Bakgatla Kgosikgolo Kgosi Kgafela and the coming back into Ntlo ya Dikgosi of their Kgosikgolo is absolutely up to them. They have to meet the uncles

and, or stakeholders to talk about it because he may want to come and, or delegate someone to represent him”.

It is believed that Kgafela’s attendance of Ntlo ya Dikgosi will please Bakgatla and strengthen the existing relationship between government and Morafhe.

Bakgatla were last represented in Ntlo ya Dikgosi by the then Bakgatla regent and Kgafela’s uncle, Kgosi Mothibi Linchwe for about seven years. Linchwe is currently serving as President of the Customary Court in the South of the country.

Kgatleng and, or Bakgatla remains the only District that does not have a representative in Ntlo ya Dikgosi,

Kgafela currently resides in South Africa where he sought refuge when the Botswana government slapped him with charges related to flogging of some of his tribespeople.

COVID-19 spread

From Page 8

“There is a case of a professional health worker registered at Gaborone Private Hospital. The critical part is that this officer in line of duty in private hospital could have moved from one private hospital to the other to offer services.

“The challenging part is that we do not know where the disease could be coming from, as we know hospitals are places where many people converge. We have to also appreciate that some institutions do their own tests and that is how one of the cases at Bokamoso Private Hospital was discovered.

“A parent had accompanied a child from Princess Marina Hospital to Bokamoso where the child was to undergo surgery,” said Prof Mosepele adding that another critical case from Marina Hospital is the patient admitted at Sir Ketumile Masire Teaching Hospital on life support.

The gentleman was admitted at Princess Marina Hospital for other diseases but his situation deteriorated as his oxygen was going down and upon undergoing testing results came back positive, he said.

He said the patient is in Intensive Care Unit (ICU). He said this is a worrisome situation which should concern everyone.

According to Prof Mosepele contact tracing is still ongoing in Gaborone and Molepolole. He said infection rate at one of the schools that recorded positive cases last week - Terrence Private School - stands at 30 percent.

He added that during contact tracing in connection with Masa Primary School in Gaborone, 14 people in Serowe were tested and results were negative but the patients are still in quarantine.

Prof Mosepele has called on members of the public not to take the situation for granted indicating it has been discovered that the virus is spread easily between adults. He said everyone should adhere to COVID-19 protocols.



Arm Anti-Poaching Unit-MPs



Ministry amending Wildlife Services Act



It will facilitate the process to arm the Unit

Dikarabo Ramadubu
BG reporter

Opposition Members of Parliament are pushing the Minister of Environment, Natural Resources Conservation and Tourism, Philda Kereng to provide the Anti-Poaching Unit of the Department of Wildlife and National Parks (DWNP) with arms of war. MP for Maun East Goretetse Kekgonegile asked Kereng why the Unit was not armed and triggered a debate which saw MPs Kenny Kapinga, Taolo Lucas, Pono Moathodi, Mephato Reatile, Paulsen Majaga and Kgoberego Nkawana persistently seeking clarity on everything that Kereng

said.

Kereng promised that her ministry is committed to providing the Anti-Poaching Unit with the necessary resources and equipment and increasing their numbers, including the appropriate firearms to enable them to work effectively.

She said legislation to facilitate this process is being prepared and will be tabled to Parliament in due course.

“We have already started with the Attorney General’s Chambers to start the process of amending the Wildlife Services Act to facilitate the process to arm the anti-poaching officers”.

As for poaching in the

Okavango Delta and surrounding Concession areas, Kereng said it was a major concern for her ministry, its partners and communities as well. She said rhino poaching in the area has reached unprecedented levels.

Kereng said her ministry had collaborated with the Botswana Defence Force (BDF), Directorate of Intelligence and Security (DIS) and deployed considerable resources in the Okavango Delta to deal with the problem.

The minister said an estimated 36 rhinos were poached between April 2018 and December 2019 while about 11 elephants were also poached during the same

period.

She told Parliament that the Ministry has experienced a decline in the poaching of elephants as poachers tended to focus on rhinos due to the high demand of the rhino horn in Far East Asia.

Kekgonegile had asked Kereng to update the house on the state of poaching in the Okavango Delta and North West Concessions and to further state: (i) the number of rhinos and elephants poached between April 2018 and December 2019; (ii) whether the Ministry has intentions to change the law to arm wildlife officers (Anti-Poaching Unit) on anti-poaching duties; if not, why not; if yes, when?

Smart temperature monitoring helmet hits market



Phemelo Ramasu
BG reporter

Leading technology and innovation company, KC Wearable has invented a smart helmet that can monitor temperatures of up to 13 individuals at any one time and scan up to 200 individuals per minute with a 96 percent accuracy.

The KC N901 helmet is the latest invention that could prove handy in the fight against the COVID-19 pandemic. The smart helmet is designed to be used everywhere – from hospitals, airports to parks and pubs.

It is already in use in over 35 countries.

In Africa, South Africa, Algeria, Egypt and Gabon have partnered with the company and put it to good use. According to stats, the continent has close to 720,000 confirmed cases of COvid 19 with 16,000 lives lost.

Beyond Africa, the helmet is

already being used in over 35 countries that include Indonesia, the UAE, Italy, Netherlands, Kuwait, Chile, and Turkey to mention a few.

In an interview Global Head of KC Wearable Dr Jie Guo, explained that the device can be worn by the user or fixed on a tripod, during the day or night.

The device can connect with other data on COVID-19 tracking app as well as store all data on a 64GB internal memory.

Dr Guo says the company is discussing with several other African countries regarding the deployment of the helmet in their own efforts to reduce the infection rate including Mauritius and Jordan.

South Africa was the first African country to use the helmet following a surge in cases last month, she said.

The cost of the KC N901 Smart Helmet varies from region to region and depends on how many units are purchased.

“We are working hard with national authorities, airports and

government officials in Africa to do everything that we can to bring the KC N901 Smart Helmet to their respective countries,” she said.

“The most important thing is to save lives and prevent any more suffering for families. However, it is still important to be mindful of the fact that such sophisticated technology is expensive to develop and manufacture.

“Our price is extremely reasonable in this light, especially compared to similar products, which are not as accurate or as functional but can cost up to \$15k (US dollars),” she noted.

The company currently has orders from China, Italy, UAE, Indonesia, Colombia and many more.

“We have ongoing negotiations with distributors and potential customers elsewhere too, both in the private and public sectors,” she explains.

The company is developing a smart watch that links to the helmet, as well as a smart jacket.



EXPRESSION OF INTEREST – BOTSWANA VIRTUAL TRADE PROMOTION MISSIONS WITH ZIMBABWE AND ZAMBIA

Botswana Investment and Trade Centre (BITC) will host two (2) **Virtual Trade Promotion Missions with Zimbabwe and Zambia**. The trade missions aim to connect Botswana exporters with prospective buyers, agents and distributors from Zimbabwe and Zambia respectively. Companies are invited to participate in the Online Business Seminar and Business to Business matchmaking sessions. BITC will provide an online matchmaking platform through which Botswana, Zimbabwe and Zambian companies can register to conduct business interactions.

The details of the missions are as follows:

Virtual Mission		Date
1	Botswana Virtual Trade Mission with Zimbabwe	20 th – 21 st August 2020
2	Botswana Virtual Trade Mission with Zambia	2 nd – 3 rd September 2020

Targeted Sectors

Areas of interest in Zimbabwe include but are not limited to Fast Moving Consumer Goods, Maize and seed oils, Carrier bags and bin liners, Green bar soaps, Instant noodles, Dishwashing and related cleaning products, Corned beef, Pet food, Beef and beef products, Cosmetics, Blankets, Electrical products, Copper cables, PVC pipes, Door and window fittings and frames, Cans for the fishing and meat canning industries, Chloride batteries, Chemicals and Services.

Areas of interest in Zambia include but are not limited to Safety gear, Mining machinery, Spare parts and consumables, Manhole covers, Solar water heaters, Wooden Fencing, Road repair materials, Furniture, Corned and processed meat, Instant Noodles, Canned and dry Pet Food, Meat Relish, Cheese, Salt, Door and window frames and Protective wear products, and Services.

BITC cordially invites all interested companies to express interest to participate in these virtual missions. The closing dates for the EOI response to participate are 11th August 2020 and 21st August 2020 for Zimbabwe and Zambia, respectively.

BITC will share the detailed mission programmes with respondents to the EOI.

For more information and bookings please contact;

- o Zimbabwe Ms. Itumeleng Teseletso on teseletsoi@bitc.co.bw, Tel: 3633348
Cell: 72 413 269
- o Zambia Mr. Calvin Ketshabetswe on ketshabetswecm@bitc.co.bw,
Tel: 3633317 Cell: 75 739 398



Opposition MPs want retired soldiers for BDF Judge Advocate General

Nicholas Mokwena
BG reporter

Opposition Members of Parliament have called on government to consider serving or retired Botswana Defence Force (BDF) members for the post of Judge Advocate General.

Minister of Defence, Justice and Security, Kagiso Mmusi has tabled the BDF Amendment Bill to amend the BDF Act to allow for appointment of Judge Advocate General to be extended to non serving BDF members including civilians.

Initially the position was to be filled by a BDF officer of the rank of Brigadier but the BDF failed to fill the post as there was no one qualifying.

The position also need one to have ten years experience as a lawyer, be an advocate and be in a position to be appointed as high court judge.

Opposition MPs this week argued that there are qualified serving officers and retired officers who can fill the post.

They have expressed concern that the position seem to be created for certain individuals a situation, which they say has the potential to demoralise members of the BDF.

MP for Mahalapye West David Tshere said there has to be respect for the BDF as a disciplined force.

He said it is not a secret that a country's military can take power from government of the day if it discovers that such government is not doing things right.

"So if we take someone who is a civilian and a politician for that matter we could find ourselves in that situation.

"We are talking about a position where the person would be advising the Commander of the BDF.



AMENDMENT ... Legislator Kagiso Mmusi tables changes to the BDF Act

"There is nothing stopping that person from influencing the commander to rally his troops to stage a coup.

"This is because this person would have ambitions to become a leader, we know how politicians operate.

"If anything let us look for someone with military background if we are to employ a civilian," said Tshere adding that all should be done to avoid creating two centres of power.

Pono Moatlhodi of Tonota argued that the BDF has a pool of capable lawyers who could take up the job.

He said if the issue is about dealing with backlog of cases at BDF a request could also be made to the Attorney General to have an officer on secondment to the BDF.

Moatlhodi said the post should not be used to reward people who are also politically inclined.

He said in the appointment consideration should be extended to retired soldiers who qualify.

The Tonota legislator said the BDF is a very important department in the

country and should be treated with the utmost respect it deserves.

He also expressed concern that the appointment is done at the recommendation of the Defence Council.

"Why can't we allow the Judicial Service Commission (JSC) to deal with the process.

"This is because they have experience in these matters since the person we are looking for should be of a calibre of a judge.

"The JSC is placed than the Defence Council," Moatlhodi told Parliament.

The Leader of Opposition who is also MP for Maun West Dumelang Saleshando said it was clear that the ruling Botswana Democratic Party (MPs) would use their numbers for the Bill to pass.

He requested that at least MPs across the aisle should meet half way in the form of a compromise.

Saleshando said if the appointment is extended to civilians at least people

Opposition MPs

From Page 14

with military background or former soldiers should be considered.

He said it could be considered also within the BDF and arrangement be made to fast track promotions so that there could be an officer who qualifies for the post. Saleshando said it would be disastrous to appoint someone who knows nothing about military and later on be commissioned. He said even though the BDF Commander has told the Parliamentary Public Accounts Committee (PAC) that once appointed Judge Advocate General would be commissioned, the BDP leadership seems not to be aware and this has the potential to create problems.

“Let us reach a compromise so that the Bill could pass. It is even corporate practice to fast track a promotion when employing someone who is earmarked for a certain position,” he said.

The MP was also of the view that recommendations for the position should be made by the JSC and not the Defence Council.

Minister Mmusi said the BDF has been faced with challenges in filling the position, as the BDF Act wanted the person for the position to be a brigadier or someone of a higher rank.

According to the minister the BDF legal unit currently has 14 lawyers. He said the high-ranking officer in the unit is Lieutenant Colonel who has nine years experience.

The minister pointed out that the reason why the appointment is extended to outside is because the opportunity is being extended to retired soldiers who are no longer members of the BDF but qualify.

The minister expressed confidence on the competence of the Defence Council.

BDF has paid soldiers all their dues – Commander



OUTSTANDING... BDC Commander Placid Segokgo allays payment default reports

Nicholas Mokwena
BG reporter

Botswana Defence Force (BDF) Commander Lieutenant General Placid Segokgo says the BDF does not owe any officer, serving or retired money for foreign missions.

Lt. Gen. Segokgo revealed that everyone who was owed has been paid their dues. BDF has in the past come under fire for failing or refusing to pay soldiers who participated in external peace keeping missions.

The BDF officers also complained that they were not paid the equivalent of their colleagues from other countries. The commander accepted that it has taken some time for all those who were owed to be paid. BDF has been inundated with complaints over failure to pay soldiers for partaking in peacekeeping missions and their overtime. “As we speak the BDF does not owe anyone. We have managed to pay everyone or at least those who qualified to be paid. For instance those who went to Somalia were paid according to the set per-diem. In other missions the United Nations (UN) paid the government of Botswana and the government paid the soldiers.

“People need to understand that the UN does not pay the soldiers directly. It pays the country because it has an agreement with the country. So when government is paid that money goes into the Consolidated Fund because it is public funds. “It is only that we made a request to government that part of the money be paid to our soldiers and

government was generous enough to release all the money and we paid our soldiers but government is not obliged,” Lt Gen Segokgo told the Parliamentary Public Accounts Committee (PAC).

According to the Commander some of the officers were of the view that they have been underpaid, something which he said is not true. He said when the payments were made it was done in line with the exchange rate at that time. He said it does not mean that while UN paid the Botswana government in US dollars then the country is obliged to do the same for its soldiers.

“We consider the exchange rate when paying and if an officer believes they need the money to be dollars they can go and change at the bank,” he said. Lt Gen Segokgo did not dispute that there are some who believe they deserved to be paid but was not the case. He indicated that they dealt with the matter case by case and decisions were taken after considerable scrutiny.

He said the BDF would not refuse to pay deserving soldiers because they value their service and commitment into serving the country. These are men and women who have decided to forfeit their fundamental right which is the right to live, he said. He expressed worry that the BDF has exhausted its coffers due to COVID-19.

He told the committee that their operational funds have been severely affected and if the situation is not addressed they face a difficult future which is not supposed to be the case for a country’s military.

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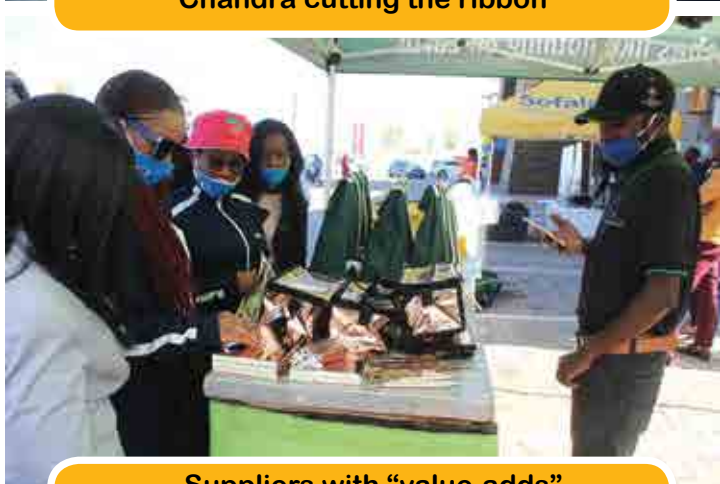
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Sefalana Holdings Group MD –
Chandra Chauhan



Chandra cutting the ribbon



Suppliers with "value-adds"



Chandra with Executive & Management



SEFALANA OPENS LIQUOR STORE IN TLOKWENG

Sefalana Holdings reached its milestone of 30 stores in 2020 by opening the liquor store in Tlokweng Royal Aria Shopping complex, which is the 12th liquor store under the group's retail portfolio.

Officially opening the store Sefalana Holdings Managing Director, Chandra Chauhan said they have planned to have over 30 stores in 2020 so this marks the milestone and they are still going to open five more stores throughout Botswana before the end of the year, including Shakawe, Sebina, Maun, Metsimotlhabe and Ramotswa.

"We have another five stores to open in Botswana this year. In a months' time we will reopen a big store in Molepolole, which has been refurbished. In the process we will employ 300 people of which 99,5 percent will be Batswana."

The group could not be limited

to continue with its commitment of opening stores this year in the midst of the Covid 19 pandemic because the projects started in 2019.

"Under normal circumstances we could have cancelled all the projects but we don't want Batswana who are the landlords of these premises' to suffer. So we are going ahead with these projects because we want Batswana to gain rental income."

Sefalana Holdings Company Limited is a major retail operation with interests in the wholesale and retail distribution of fast-moving consumer goods in Botswana, Lesotho, South Africa and Namibia. The company also has a milling company in Serowe "Foods Botswana" producing maize meal, sorghum, 'Tsa Bana & Tsa Botlhe', a plant in Gaborone producing Delta Fresh UHT milk and has franchise dealerships for MAN, TATA and Honda.



Inside the newly opened store.

Information Warfare



Security Talk

Thabo Masokola

As we left the conference room in Dar es Salaam, a military General, curiously asked me, “What do you think is the future of warfare?” I responded, “He who holds information, holds the future.” It was from this discussion that a paper titled, “Perception is a Construct,” was commissioned to look into the evolution of information warfare. Information warfare is a behaviour modifier. It serves to create a set of ‘reality’ for the target or audience. Deployed as a strategic instrument of national power, its design is to influence both the adversary’s strategic calculus and the public’s behaviour. As an instrument, it carries advantages such as deniability, flexibility of employment and deployment (functions in peacetime and wartime) and low-cost. Operations in the information environment seek to achieve informational, psychological and ideological superiority, undermine political and social cohesion. These operations encompass all spheres of social activity including diplomacy, science, sport, and culture. Information warfare is an asymmetrical instrument.

Countries all over the world are increasingly placing less emphasis on hard power as a way to gain security and advance interests. This effort is envisioned in the integration of multiple instruments of power and the involvement of both national institutions and non-state actors. However, this does not erode the need to prepare armed forces to prevail in a kinetic confrontation with other states. While the military, in this case the



Botswana Defence Force (BDF), may not necessarily depart from the big-war paradigm, decision makers in Mogoditshane ought to increasingly focus on how defence structure and posture, along with non-military instruments, shape the strategic environment in line with Botswana’s interests.

As we saw with US invasion of Iraq and Afghanistan and recently with the Islamic State, state and non-state actors now seek to achieve their geopolitical goals through the application of complex non-military measures, which often are more effective than the military ones. The main goal of these measures is not the physical destruction of the enemy but the complete submission of his will. Therefore, information warfare is increasingly becoming central to a state’s arsenal to use against other states or in covert operations, wherein countries’ political elites and public perceptions are becoming the centre of gravity in determining confrontation outcomes. Not surprisingly, many countries are now implementing policies and practices designed to promote information warfare to a level of parity with their conventional power. The desire to shape other states’ perceptions and calculus is constant, even during peacetime and periods of cooperation; thus, the lines

between peace, conflict, and war are blurred.

Current security thinking displays a willingness to harness the power of all national institutions in a continuous struggle with its opponents, both current and potential. Security strategists see the elevation of informational instruments of influence, the blurring of the line between peace and war, and even hybrid warfare as innovations advanced and practiced as force multiplier. While the enemy’s economy and state command and control system will continue to be priority targets, the information sphere has become a new critical operating environment.

Therefore, as much as the engagement of AfriForum by Botswana Government may be a function of legalities, it would be naivety of catastrophic proportions to ignore its security implications. I am of the view that, both Botswana and South Africa are of the common view that AfriForum is not an ordinary non-state actor. It occupies a ‘special’ space in South Africa’s past and present political dispensation. Therefore, there is likely to be an adverse interpretation/ misinterpretation of Botswana’s move by South Africa, which may prompt conventional or unconventional response.

Life will sometimes knock you down



The Science Corner

Kenneth T. Photlokwe

Allow me this week to drift a bit away from my usual Science topics so that I can drill this into some of my readers out there. We are all trying to get a better life, we are all trying to make a better living for ourselves, improve our standards of living and reach goals that we have set for ourselves. We all have a purpose that we live for, a mission that we have to accomplish before we depart this world. This purpose is what should fuel you every day when you get out of bed; it is what should influence your thoughts in everything you do and every decision you make. The reality however, is that we often trip along the way, we hit stumbling blocks and some of us fall permanently, while others get back up and keep going.

Why am I bringing this up today? I have no doubt that a lot of people out there listen to motivational speakers and attend motivation 'boot camps' to recharge themselves, to which I'm genuinely pro. As you read this article today, I want you to try and recall most of the speeches you have listened to, you will realise that there is one common denominator in everything they usually say; they failed at some point. There isn't

one successful person who became what they are today without hitting a barrier somewhere along the way, some even thought of giving up, well, most definitely stayed down for good, but those who chose to get back up made it to their goals and achieved their missions.

I wish I could tell the whole story of my life, where I used to be; the dark valleys I have walked through and the countless moments I felt like giving up. I can't even begin to tally the number of times I contemplated other means of getting the easy way out, just dropping everything for good, but the thought of my goals, the thought of my mission and my purpose kept fuelling me. Do I consider myself successful already? Not at all. Not even close. I still have a long way to go in order to accomplish my mission, but one thing I can say right now with my chest out is that I have made huge progress in that regard and that I am definitely on the right path to achieving everything I have always wanted to. It was not easy getting myself into this highway, believe me.

Today when I think about the way my life was a couple of years ago and compare it to how it is right now I see immense improvement. There was a time I lost everything I had, including a very significant figure in my life, my mother. The only aid I had left was my young siblings, and boy did they keep me going.

See, we have this thing in our family where we encourage each other in anything that we do. We support one another and pick each other up. Of course there are times in which we disagree on some things, we squabble a bit, but in the end we reach a common goal and get back to being the tight family we have always been. We tell each other all the time how

grateful we are to have one another.

I am writing all this today for my fellows out there who are currently finding it hard to navigate through life because of the various challenges they are having. The basic undeniable fact is that challenges will never stop coming, rough or smooth, they will always be there to knock you out into places you never imagined you could be. It's how you choose to get back up that defines the kind of person you are.

We have people today who lost jobs due to COVID-19, we have some who got fired from theirs for several reasons, some are in disgruntled relationships, others lost parents, friends, spouses, some go to bed on empty bellies, someone somewhere cannot even find that P4.00 'wa combi' to go and 'pusha hussle' somewhere tomorrow. These are all different challenges that different people out there are facing at the moment. But, no matter how big or small the obstacle is, you have to respond to it in only one way; GET BACK UP STRONGER.

I have, throughout my life, listened to a lot of different motivational speakers to hear about their life journeys, some of which I aligned with. However, the one thing they all have in common (I can stand on top of the Burj Khalifa with a speaker louder than the Krakatoa eruption and howl this to anyone listening) is that LIFE KNOCKED THEM DOWN at some point. No one is immune to that, but the success you want awaits you beyond that challenge, which is why you have to always get back up.

Kenneth T. Photlokwe

MSc Medicine (Vaccinology) - Wits

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Collective effort equals transformation



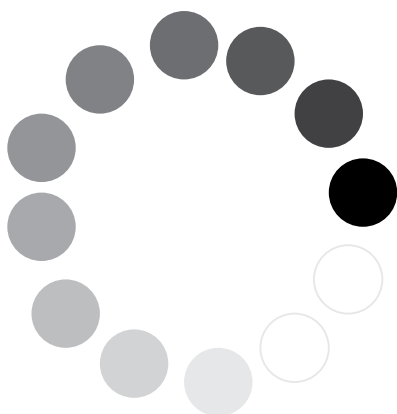
Let's talk Tourism & Heritage

Olivia Unopa Nthoi

Following an interesting article I have read recently, the COVID-19 pandemic can be a transformational opportunity in terms of the tourism and hospitality industry. I know this is something I have mentioned before but, because COVID-19 is a moving target, what one has said yesterday may not apply today. On a daily basis circumstances and various questions are raised by the pandemic. This makes it difficult to have a 'solid plan' on what to do next to be quite frank. Progress is being made, however, in the past, the absence of an 'inclusive tourism framework' while the tourism industry continued to grow was argued to have consequences on sustainable tourism and community livelihoods as elite international tourism firms were likely to cash in on the country's natural and

cultural tourism resources at the expense of the local and usually disadvantaged people. Contrary to this, it is amazing at present to see the various advertisements of locally owned tourism businesses in Botswana, may it be lodges or Safari Camps, the businesses seem to be mushrooming. This was not the case before COVID-19. Possibly because domestic tourism could have not been fully appreciated. The best is yet to come in my view. But I hope we will not lose our grip on eco-tourism as a country. While we live to witness a 2020 'virtual grand tour of Botswana' supported by Botswana Tourism Organisation (#RediscoverBotswana), Documentation of Cultural heritage through a documentary supported by The Department of National Museums and Monuments, it is only the beginning. It is in this way crucial for forums that gather representatives from private and public sectors have a strong, positive impact on the tourism development and heritage management process in the country at this time. Working under a regime of joint management actually avoids overlapping actions and generates synergies for the elaboration of intervention proposals as well as multidisciplinary and intersectoral plans. Such plans and activities

are central to transforming the tourism industry in Botswana. The establishment of shared management mechanisms able to incorporate interests, efforts and capacities from diverse related sectors can generate a number of positive effects. These will bring in more realistic analyses produced collectively from diverse viewpoints. This has started being done by the Ministry of Environment, Natural Resources Conservation and Tourism, where we have seen recent suggestions by stakeholders to revisit the 2000 Tourism Master Plan to revive the tourism industry. I may slightly differ with this one in the space of COVID-19 but it is indeed a fair suggestion generally. Further solution proposals and consultations should be established as they will demand the participation of all related actors who produce, they will help establish mechanisms capable of linking, conciliating and potentiating these different interests experiences and resources from the public, private and social sectors that are generally hard to establish and maintain. Nonetheless, the interests of various stakeholders' involved process and discussions is fundamental to the construction of a consensus and transformation of the industry. Webinar loading... *Se tshwarwa ke ntsa pedi ga se thata.*



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PUBLIC TENDER NOTICE

Botswana Unified Revenue Service (BURS) wishes to invite offers for the tenders below.

1. BURS/LEG/SER/01/2020-21 PROVISION OF CONSULTANCY SERVICES TO DETERMINE KING IV GAP ANALYSIS AND IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY OF CORPORATE GOVERNANCE STANDARDISATION FOR BOTSWANA UNIFIED REVENUE SERVICE (BURS)

PPADB Code & Grade under the following categories	Code: 317: Other Consultancy Services Sub Code 01: Management Consultancy Services or Sub Code 02: Education research consultancy
Procurement method	Open Domestic Bidding
Fee	P250.00
Collection Date	28 July 2020
Tender closing	18 August 2020

2. BURS/IT/SER/03/2020-21 SUPPLY, INSTALLATION, CONFIGURATION, TRAINING, SUPPORT AND MAINTENANCE OF HELPDESK SYSTEM - RE-TENDER

PPADB Code & Grade under the following categories	Code: 120: ICT System Development Services Sub Code 01: Systems Development Services and Maintenance Services or Sub Code 04: Desktop Management and Maintenance Services
Procurement method	Open Domestic Bidding (100% Citizen owned companies - reserved)
Fee	P250.00
Collection Date	28 July 2020
Tender closing	18 August 2020

3. BURS/FIN/SER/04/2020-21 APPOINTMENT OF PROJECT MANAGER (IPSAS EXPERT) WITH RELEVANT SECTOR EXPERIENCE TO OVERSEE SUCCESSFUL IMPLEMENTATION OF ACCRUAL ACCOUNTING FOR GOVERNMENT ADMINISTERED REVENUE ACCOUNTS ROADMAP

Procurement method	Open Domestic Bidding (Sole proprietor for individuals)
Fee	P250.00
Collection Date	30 July 2020
Tender closing	21 August 2020

4. BURSEPF ADMIN AND ACTUARIAL SERVICES/BURSEPF/05/2020-21 PROVISION OF PENSION FUND ADMINISTRATION AND ACTUARIAL SERVICES

PPADB Code & Grade under the following categories	Code 127: Insurance & Pension Sub Code 07: Other Insurance and Pension Services
Procurement method	Open Domestic Bidding
Fee	P2000.00
Collection Date	30 July 2020
Tender closing	21 August 2020

Interested companies are advised to purchase tenders from 07:30 to 12:45 and 13:45 to 16:00 hours during weekdays, at **BURS Head Office CBD, Finance Division – Tower block (Motswere), 4th Floor, South wing, Reception**. In line with Government Policy Reform 2015: Affirmative Action in favour of youth, youth companies pay half price to purchase the tenders on production of citizen youth directorship proof.

The Invitation to Tender can only be collected on production of the official receipt from;

Botswana Unified Revenue Service, Procurement Unit (Motsentsela), South Block, Ground Floor, New BURS Headoffice, Lot 54379, Eastern Commercial Road, CBD, Gaborone.

Any clarifications or queries relating to the issue of these documents should be forwarded to Secretary Management Tender Committee Mr. M. Chite - procurement@burs.org.bw - Fax: 267 3910592

The response to the Tender, is to be hand delivered or couriered to BURS and deposited in the tender box

located at **Procurement Unit (Motsentsela), South Block, Ground Floor, New BURS Headoffice, Lot 54379, Eastern Commercial Road, CBD, Gaborone, not later than 10:00hrs on the day of closing.**

Bidders are informed that an internal bid opening procedure shall be followed to ensure that we obey the Government protocols in line with the Covid-19 restrictions. A copy of the record of tender opening shall be sent to all bidders who have submitted their bids.

BOTSWANA

GUARDIANcomment:

SADC, AU should find solutions for Zimbabwe

Zimbabwe is once again burning. But this time not at the hands of President Robert Mugabe, who was deposed from his position in 2017 and later died in 2019.

The country is in turmoil but this time around at the hands of the man who forcefully took over from Mugabe and made promises that reforms will be made and that Zimbabwe will return to its glory days. President Emmerson Mnangagwa is watching on as soldiers continue to beat civilians as anger at his government grows over alleged corruption and economic mismanagement. More than 20 people have since been arrested for anti-government protests. Once again African leaders have kept a deafening silence as soldiers harass innocent civilians. The deteriorating economic and political situation in Zimbabwe calls for a dialogue within both

the SADC bloc and the African Union (AU). Both organs need to take bold decisions to try and solve the problems facing Zimbabwe. The Zimbabwean economy remains very fragile and extremely difficult for ordinary people to make ends meet. Zimbabweans have taken to the streets to demonstrate against corruption.

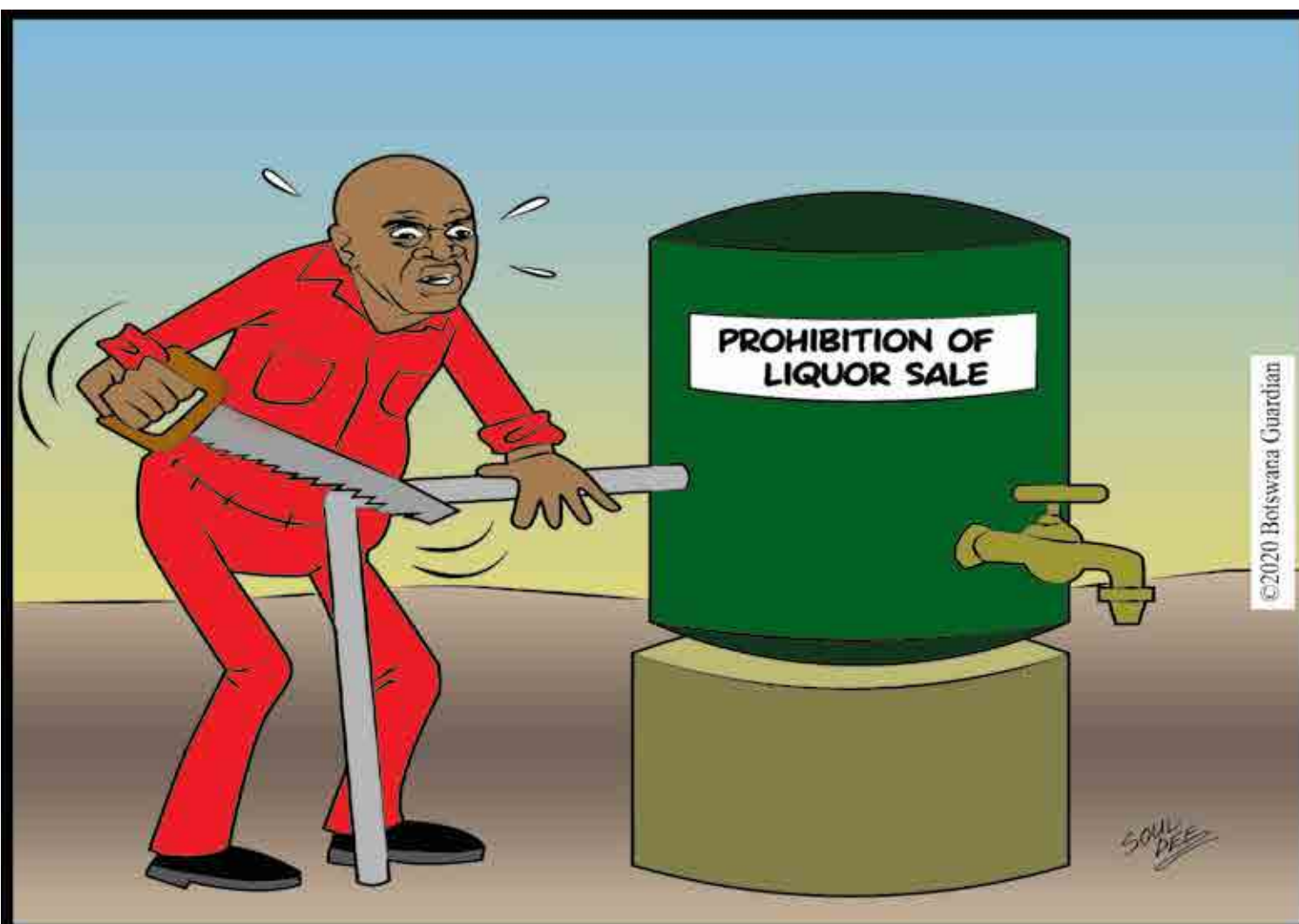
For years now the catchphrase "African solutions for African problems" has been used in most meetings of African statesmen however it seems it will remain an empty slogan because African leaders are turning a blind eye to problems such as the one in Zimbabwe. The African continent is faced with many political and socio-economic problems, but it seems AU summits have been reduced to mere talk shops. Africa must speak with one voice and act

in accord on issues of gender parity, unemployment and other problems besieging the continent. Among the common problems are unemployment, access to land, weak educational systems, gender inequalities and poor health care systems. Other critical issues facing Africa also include terrorism, war and political violence.

These are issues which need to be seriously discussed at the table and acted upon. This is no time to continue patting each other on the back while citizens continue to suffer. According to statistics the continent had six of the 10 fastest growing economies in the world in the 2000s. It also has some of the highest potential for renewable energy production and huge reserves of untapped natural resources. It is surprising that African leaders are failing to speak and come up with

tangible solutions on how to realise these opportunities for economic growth, sustainable development and poverty reduction. Unemployment continues to haunt the continent despite the abundant natural resources the continent is endowed with. Africa must remain steadfast and speak with one voice in addressing issues of unemployment. The continent needs a plan to mobilise investment in the energy sector and to work together more closely. It is a shame that the continent is gradually gaining notoriety for coming up with 'Agendas,' most of which deliver no tangible results for the people. Democracy in Africa is also on shaky ground in some countries. Many Africans continue to suffer at the hands of dictatorships while African leaders stand aside and watch. Our leaders should address these issues.

BG Cartoon

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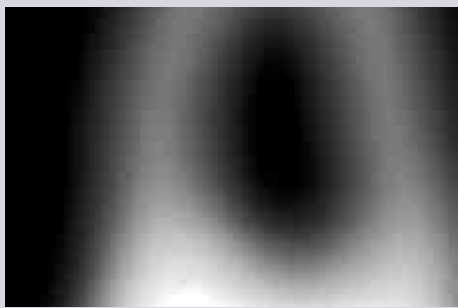
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Platform

Floor crossing is undemocratic

I would like to make some comments on the controversial floor crossing issue and the controversy concerning the Speaker in Parliament.

Firstly, floor crossing. We live in a democracy and a Member of Parliament should be free to decide on which political party he would like to support – no problems there! However, the way that this is done is open to debate. Dumelang Saleshando and his UDC clearly have stated that they are against any anti-defection bill being passed in Parliament – they say that any MP should always have the right to represent any party he wishes. He says that he upholds democracy and that the BDP is failing to follow democratic principles. However, in my view, floor crossing, as done at present, is not democratic.

Let us say that Mr. X, a member of the BDP, won a constituency in the 2019 general election. This shows that the people in the constituency have given him a mandate to represent them for the next five years as a BDP MP. But later he decides to change parties and in 2020 defects to the UDC and in the 2024 general election he stands as a UDC candidate. So, he has gone, for four years, against the wishes of his constituents who voted him to remain a BDP MP for five years. Is that democratic? They did not vote him to change parties! If they had known that he would likely do so, maybe they would have abstained from voting in 2019. Now this could even be considered corruption which, according to the dictionary, is “dishonest, illegal or immoral behaviour.” The MP could be said to have been dishonest in misleading his constituents to think that he would remain a member of the BDP until the following general election.

In 2020, the constituency should be

declared vacant since it is no longer represented by a BDP MP. Once an MP decides to change parties, he should resign the constituency with immediate effect and a by-election held within a short time, say, two months. This is democratic since the people now have a chance to decide whether to vote for the same candidate who is now going to represent the UDC, or vote for a new BDP candidate.

Let us consider another possible scenario. Mr. Y is a BDP candidate in the 2019 elections. However, a few months before the elections, he wishes to change parties but does not publicly declare his intention to do so. Now the constituency is a BDP stronghold and so he knows that he has little chance of winning it as a UDC candidate. So for this reason he shows himself to be a BDP candidate and wins the constituency. A few months later, he now abandons the BDP ship and joins the UDC. Now this is clearly being dishonest and undemocratic and a corrupt thing to do – if this is not corruption and undemocratic, then I do not know what is! So floor crossing in its present form could set a bad precedence!

Saleshando clearly has a short memory. Back in the 1980s and 1990s, the BNF – now a member of the UDC – were against floor crossing big time because it feared that some of its MPs would defect to the ruling BDP. So it's OK for the opposition to want to stop floor crossing but not the ruling party? A case of double standards?

Most politicians here consider the UK Parliament to be a beacon of democracy. So, perhaps Saleshando could learn a thing or two about how the political system in the UK works. In the 2010 general election, Douglas Carswell was elected as a Conservative MP for the Clacton

constituency. But later he decided to change parties and became a member of the newly formed United Kingdom Independence Party [UKIP]. He then resigned from the Conservative party to join UKIP on 28 August 2014 and resigned his seat a few days later. The constituency was then declared vacant and a by-election was held on 9 October 2014. Carswell won the election for UKIP and so became a UKIP MP. That is democracy in action!

Mark Reckless was also elected as a Conservative MP for the Rochester and Strood constituency in the 2010 general election. He too resigned from the party and became a member of UKIP at about the same time as Carswell and a by-election was also held in his constituency.

The controversy concerning the Speaker

During a Special Parliament sitting in April, Saleshando alleged that some relatives of the President had corruptly benefitted from COVID-19 tenders. According to the Speaker, Saleshando could not provide sufficient evidence to back up his claims. After refusing to withdraw his statements, the Speaker suspended him for five days. Now the question remains – was the Speaker right to suspend him? In this case, I would agree with Molebatsi, MP for Mmadinare, who claimed that Saleshando had failed to provide convincing evidence.

Saleshando claims that it is not up to MPs to provide evidence. Now in a court of law, a person is not guilty of an offence unless hard facts, or evidence, are presented. So it is unfair to accuse someone of committing an offence without any evidence; this could be a case of character defamation, or even slander. In the US, many people who



WHY DOES ZIMBABWE STILL OWE US?

Years ago, when a tropical cyclone hit Southern Africa, Botswana lent Zimbabwe liquid fuel and it would take absolute years for the latter to return the fuel and only after then minister Oliphant Mfa proposed that Botswana should confiscate Zimbabwe's locomotive engines. Some say that Mfa said that in jest but if that was jest at all, it certainly worked wonders.

We just learnt from the testimony of the Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security to the parliamentary Public Accounts Committee that Zimbabwe still hasn't paid Botswana for the cattle it duped the Ministry into believing it was buying.

Where is Mfa when you need him? Botswana should confiscate something from Zimbabwe – like the part of Victoria Falls on its territory.

If that's not an option, then the government can issue a directive to employers to withhold the salaries of Zim workers in Botswana.

After all, those cattle were procured from Botswana in the name of all Zimbabweans – who include those in Botswana.

ABOUT MNANGAGWA FAILING ZIM

Speaking of Zimbabwe, there is a great deal of consternation about President Emmerson Mnangagwa's leadership failing the country. That is an unfair and unsophisticated assessment. Educated people tell us that in order to solve problems, you must have stacks of university degrees – which is why more than half the people in the Botswana civil service either hold or are studying towards the MSc in Strategic Management from the University of Derby. If the most learned president in the world couldn't solve Zimbabwe's problems, how can Mnangagwa, who was kicked out of a technical college before he graduated, be able to solve them? What Zimbabwe needs right now is a leader who holds more university degrees than Robert Mugabe did.

BPF WILL PRODUCE NEXT PRESIDENT

Speaking of education, let's not forget to give props to some young activists who have been defecting from the Botswana Democratic Party and the Umbrella for Democratic Change to the Botswana Patriotic Front. Of late, speaking highly complex English (especially one sprinkled with Latin) is regarded as the main qualification to be president in the opposition. By that standard, the next Botswana president could well come from the BPF. Explaining his defection to the BPF, one activist writes

in his resignation letter: "My reasons be; 1.

The party leadership in Serowe are very ignorant to the lives of the ordinary Motswana, they only ignite when it comes to general elections only to substantiate chronicles that they later become hypocrites to. 2.

Members who wishes to actively participate objectively to the party structures and welfares of the party are rejected for, subjective malevolent propagandists. With this mentality highlighted above, we cannot deficit the Incumbent influential opposition in Serowe North Chaired by Honourable Mathoothe to name a few, who appeal to most constituents because of his humble serving eccentric/charisma."

By a recent standard established for leadership in the Botswana opposition, the writer is an intellectual gladiator who should be the next president. He doesn't have to communicate; he merely has to drop semantic bombs. He would also have been misplaced in the BDP where very few, if any members, can speak English that sophisticated.

CORPORAL PUNISHMENT FOR MASK LAWBREAKERS

We have all heard about "miracle money" that is minted at the hugely popular prosperity gospel churches. What this alerts us to is that monetary fines in the COVID-19 law will amount to nought because someone who goes about in public maskless will simply pull that money out of the air to pay the P5000

fine. That possibly explains the non-compliance rate. We have never heard of these churches being able to produce miracle second bodies – which is why the government should introduce corporal punishment for those who don't comply with mask-wearing law.

MOBILE NETWORK OPERATORS AGAINST HOME-STAY

Most people in Botswana, especially those in Greater Gaborone, would really want to stay home to contain the spread of COVID-19 but mobile network operators are making that impossible. Even when subscribers purchase airtime of very high amounts, these operators are never satisfied. Ever since the lockdowns began, they have been sending subscribers messages every 30 minutes asking them to buy more airtime. When you ignore them, the incessant messages increase tenfold and in most cases, this forces subscribers to surrender by going to the nearest vendor – without a travel permit – to buy more airtime. So, instead of telling people to stay home, the COVID-19 task force should also plead with network operators to help its effort. It should particularly ask operators to stop discount offers during lockdowns because if you get a message that says you will get more credit if you buy airtime within the next six hours, you will certainly be tempted to go to the nearest vendor – with or without a permit.

Floor crossing is undemocratic

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are accused of a crime without any evidence being provided often sue their accusers and win their cases – lawsuits are big business there!

Saleshando has also accused military police of arresting and torturing people in the early days of the general lockdown. But he could not back up his claims. His ex-boss, Duma Boko, also accused the government of rigging the 2019 general election – he claimed that he had abundant evidence to back up his accusations.

But nine months have now passed since the elections and Boko has still been unable to show Batswana any evidence to back up his claims! Perhaps his accusations were just a story or hoax? So perhaps there is also no evidence to back up Saleshando's accusations concerning the tenders, even if the DCEC were involved? Saleshando is simply using the COVID-19 pandemic as a golden opportunity to criticise government. It seems that playing the blame game to win extra votes in 2024 is more important in his eyes than working together with government to come up with ways to overcome the COVID-19 pandemic and to ensure that Batswana are kept safe.

Allowing MPs to accuse government without providing evidence could set a bad precedence for the future. That means that every day opposition MPs could accuse government of everything imaginable and even make

up stories or lies since they would not have to support their accusations with evidence. A dishonest way of scoring cheap political points; this is corruption again! Is this democracy?

Perhaps Saleshando could also learn again from the workings of the UK parliament here. Boris Johnson, leader of the ruling UK Conservative party, is often criticised during the weekly Prime Minister's Question Time.

But the Leader of the Opposition [LOO] always backs up his claims with hard facts! For example, lack of funding for the National Health Service was a major issue last year in the UK Parliament. Although the LOO often criticised Johnson for this state of affairs, the LOO would, for example, say that a particular hospital [named] in London was short of so many doctors, or that patients had to wait an average of ten days to see their doctor at a particular surgery [named] in Birmingham, etc.

Saleshando also claims that the Speaker has been disrespectful to Opposition MPs.

But again, it seems that he has a short memory. On the second day of the April Special Parliament sitting, Tshekedi Khama of the BPF protest movement spent several minutes blasting the government in a very disrespectful way. And yet I have personally seen the Speaker in the UK Parliament order MPs out of the Chamber for more trivial issues. So I was surprised that no disciplinary action was taken by the Speaker

against Khama. One could even say that the Speaker at the time was in cahoots with the Opposition, even though Saleshando and the UDC claim that the Speaker is biased towards the ruling party and in cahoots with it. And on the first day, Saleshando himself also got away with it wagging and pointing his fingers at the President – signs of rudeness, arrogance, disrespect and contempt. Had Saleshando and Khama behaved in the same way in the UK Parliament, the Speaker there would surely have suspended them.

The Leader of the Opposition in the UK parliament always shows respect to the Prime Minister without any pointing of fingers or shouting. So why can't Saleshando and his fellow Opposition MPs behave in the same way here in Parliament? So, it's OK for opposition MPs to be disrespectful in Parliament but not the Speaker or BDP MPs? Again, a case of double standards?

Saleshando can fool some of the people all of the time, all of the people some of the time, but he cannot fool all of the people all of the time. He needs to back up his claims with convincing evidence and show respect to members of the ruling party and the President. However, Saleshando can realise his potential in becoming an effective LOO and to keep the government in check – that is essential in a democracy!

Concerned Patriot



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- Car Rentals with Avis President's Club loyalty program

The VISA Signature Credit Card information is available from FNB Private Clients Relationship Managers and Premium Service suite. *For further information call 3706600 or email: premiumservices@fnbbotswana.co.bw*. The tariff guide is available at all FNBB branches and website (www.fnbbotswana.co.bw)

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

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

Submission Documents and Fee

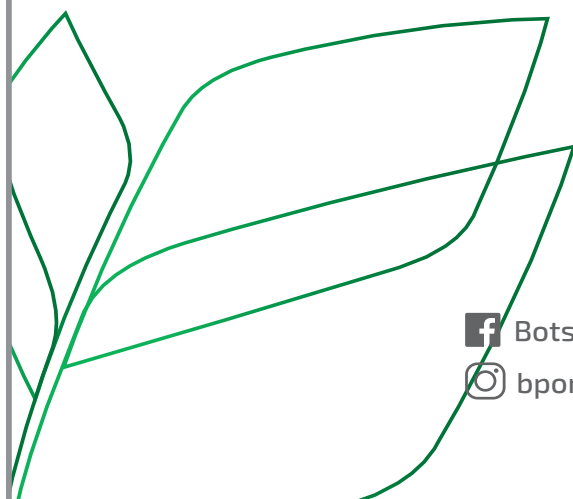
All applicants are required to pay a non-refundable fee of **P1,000.00** to the below details:

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

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

Applicants must note the following:

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





BUSINESS

'BOTC up to task'

Regulation of imports and exports has always been at the tip of the tongue of some section of the society, with the argument and fear that indiscriminate imports would soon turn the country into a dumping site. **BG business reporter, KOOBONYE RAMOKOPELWA** follows up with the newly established regulatory body, Botswana Trade Commission (BOTC), to gauge if the new kid on the block is up to the task.

Botswana Trade Commission (BOTC), a relatively new body that has been set up to, among others, regulate imports and exports, is already stamping its authority, especially at a time when the country is experiencing a second wave of new Corona Virus cases.

The Commission, which is led by Pelotshweu Motlogelwa, is also tasked with administering rebates (partial refunds) through specific guidelines. The agency now has its hands full since they have, through a government Gazette, been tasked with ensuring the implementation of guidelines pertaining to permits issued under Item 412.11. This Item is specifically for goods imported for the relief of distress of persons in cases of famine or national disaster. As things stand, some of the goods and/ser-



BOTC acting CEO, Pelotshweu Motlogelwa

vices imported for Covid -19 fight falls under this category. BOTC is tasked with helping with rebates related to some of these goods. According to Motlogelwa, one of the recent beneficiaries of these rebates which fall under Item 412.11 is the Ministry of Health and Wellness. Recently, the

ministry directly procured goods worth P17 million from outside the country that deals specifically with Corona Virus. Local companies who wish to benefit from these rebates will be assessed by BOTC before they are issued with rebate certificates from Botswana Unified Revenue

Services (BURS). BOTC has already posted documents online for companies who want to be helped with rebates. Products lines that qualifies for rebate include, but not limited to, laboratory equipment, personal protective clothing, World Health Organisation approved medicines, sugar, beans, hospital lines among others.

Motlogelwa, a well experienced corporate leader and local football devotee, told Botswana Guardian on Tuesday that, rebates will go a long way on ensuring companies are sustainable in the local and international trading landscape. Most importantly, rebates help with the reduction of production costs, allowing the beneficiaries to compete pound for pound with established entities. In Botswana, deserving companies have not been benefiting from rebates largely due to lack of information and awareness. This explains why, just before COVID -19 reared its ugly head, BOTC was on a

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BOTC

From Page 29

nation-wide tour to educate stakeholders about their mandate which ranges from rebates administration, regulation of imports and exports, protection of infant industries among others.

In future, BOTC will draft more guidelines to allow companies to benefit from their services. Motlogelwa, who is acting Chief Executive Officer, explained to this publication, that as more deserving companies benefit from services on offer, they (firms) will be in a position to grow the domestic economy through employment creation. His eyes light up when he talks about one of their mandate which focuses on infant industry protection through established tariffs. Local companies, which need infant protection and are less than 8 years-old can apply to BOTC for assessment. In due course, BOTC will also draft guidelines which will act as a yardstick to determine companies that can benefit from the above rebates.

Now that Covid-19 has restricted movements and public gatherings, BOTC is exploring the use of webinars in order to reach stakeholders and educate them about services on offer. Just before the current lockdown was announced, BOTC was just about to educate more stakeholders in Mahalapye, SPEDU region, Orapa among others, on their mandate and mission. "We have been well received by our stakeholders," said Motlogelwa, disclosing they have been to areas such as Gantsi, Maun, Palapye among others. Going forward, BOTC plans to 'have a look' at all trade agreements that the country has to ensure they can help local companies benefit from such. As a matter of fact, the Commission will also closely look at how it can protect the local firms from dumping of import surges that can among others affect the country's trade competitiveness. There have been challenges related to capacity of BOTC to execute its mandate, ostensibly due to the fact that they are new kids on the block. The parent Ministry of Trade, Industry and Investment has expectedly seconded some of their employees to the agency.

In the meantime, a recruitment process is underway to bolster up the agency's capacity level. BOTC now has a full board which is important for strategic direction and corporate governance. A fresh strategy will also be put in place. The board is chaired by well-known agricultural economist, Dr Howard Sigwele. Stakeholders, who will be key to BOTC mandate, are the parent ministry and its parastatals, BURS, Botswana Exporters and Manufacturers Association, among others.



Tlou Energy Executive Director Gabaake Gabaake

Tlou Energy sets eyes on another 10-mw tender

Koobonye Ramokopelwa
BG reporter

Tlou Energy, the coal bed methane (CBM) company, has disclosed government is currently assessing its proposal to construct a 10 mw CBM power plant which, if approved, is expected to further bolster its revenue.

More than two years ago, the Botswana Stock Exchange quoted explorer and soon to be energy producer submitted a proposal to the Ministry of Mineral Resources, Green Technology and Energy Security for the development of a CBM Gas-to-Power plant. According to the company, which will soon put pen to paper on their 2 mw power purchase agreement with Botswana Power Corporation (BPC), more advice on the project from government will be made in due course. "The Company understands that the tender is currently being assessed by the Attorney General's Chambers in Gaborone. The adjudica-

tion of this tender may be delayed due to the Covid-19 pandemic and the Company has not been provided with an expected timeline for when final award of the tender will be confirmed," said the Brisbane based company which is headed by Tony Gilby.

Few months ago, the company and BPC agreed on a historic 2mw CBM contract. Behind the scenes, the company has been looking for funds to kickstart the project which will get them their first revenue since exploration in the landlocked country some many years ago. "Project finance discussions are continuing with parties within and external to Botswana. Project finance is expected to be effectively split into tranches, the first being transmission line funding to enable connection to the grid and commence initial generation and thereafter expansion of both gas and solar power generation capacity. As announced previously,

the Company is evaluating both debt and equity funding options or a mix of both," said the company. Last month, Tlou Energy raised P24 million in an entitlement offer.

The company has also approached state-owned company, Botswana Development Corporation for a possible funding. Furthermore, Tlou Energy told shareholders that, Covid-19 affected local operations. "Many businesses including government departments are operating at reduced capacity and some staff are working from home. Airports remain closed to international travel, so some of Tlou's senior management and field staff have no access to the country and this may impact corporate negotiations and field operations. The Company has senior staff on-site at all times to manage the field operations including monitoring of the Lesedi 4 production pod," said the company which has prospecting licenses in the country.



Deposit rates as at August 2020

Type of deposit account	Nominal rates	Actual rates	Minimum opening balance (BWP)
Current	0.00% - 2.48%	0.00% - 2.51%	50
Call	0.00% - 2.47%	0.00% - 2.50%	10,000
Savings	0.00% - 3.75%	0.00% - 3.75%	100
91 days fixed deposit	0.75% - 0.75%	0.75% - 0.75%	1,000
6 months fixed deposit	1.52% - 1.69%	1.53% - 1.70%	1,000
12 months fixed deposit	1.75% - 2.25%	1.75% - 2.25%	1,000
24 months fixed deposit	2.10% - 2.80%	2.10% - 2.80%	1,000
36 months fixed deposit	2.20% - 3.00%	2.20% - 3.00%	1,000
Prime rate	5.75%		

Firms pessimistic about business conditions in Quarter 2



CBD is the business hub of Gaborone.

BG reporter

Central bank's latest business expectations survey has indicated that companies' opinions on trade were weighed down during the second quarter of the year.

"Overall, firms were less optimistic about business conditions in the second quarter of 2020 compared to the previous quarter," said Bank of Botswana (BoB), this week.

The bank indicated that the develop-

ment was consistent with the anticipated decline in production, sales, profitability, exports and imports of goods and services, among others attributed to ongoing respiratory disease outbreak.

In addition, the weakening of the business conditions is further attributed to deteriorating global economic activity also associated with the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic.

However, BoB highlights that firms that have indicated level of optimism should improve in the third quarter of 2020 fol-

lowing the decline in the second quarter of 2020, despite the ongoing COVID-19 containment measures.

"Overall, firms expect cost pressures to be subdued in the third quarter of 2020, mainly attributable to the expected decline in costs of wages, transport, rent and materials."

Though challenges have punctuated companies, some have received mitigating efforts from the government.

"The majority of the surveyed firms indicated that they had benefited from the wage subsidy while only a few had also benefited from other relief measures such as tax concessions, value added tax (VAT) refunds, loan repayment holiday, expedited government purchase orders, and government loan guarantees with commercial banks."

The bank, however said it is not clear why companies have failed to take advantage of other benefits.

Meanwhile, the BoB report said firms expect the economy to contract by 0.2 percent in 2020 and inflation to average 3.2 percent and 3.4 percent in 2020 and 2021, respectively.

"Firms expectations about domestic inflation have generally been on a downward trend since 2013 and within the Bank's inflation objective range of three to six percent since 2014."

BTC prioritizes digital solutions

BG reporter

Botswana Telecommunications (BTC) intends to continue focusing on leveraging its network investments to build digital solutions that enable businesses to operate.

The announcement comes at the backdrop of the company's results for the financial year ended 31 March 2020 and is lower than prior year. It recorded a profit before tax of P127 million, registering a decline of 35 percent compared with P197 million reported in the previous year. "Opportunity exists to increase share in the data consumption arena in particular up-scaling customers to 4G platforms to lessen impact of headwinds

on the voice performance," said BTC Chairperson, Lorato Boakgomo-Ntakhwana. She said the company plans to create seamless services using a combination of fixed broadband and wireless technologies. Boakgomo-Ntakhwana highlighted that BTC's recent investments in fixed and mobile broadband put the company in pole position for the next phase of growth. The investments include completion of major capital projects such as data centre, fixed broadband and mobile broadband (4G). Boakgomo-Ntakhwana, however cites that the investments also led to an increase in depreciation on network assets. BTC will undertake a structural cost reduction programme enabled by digital



BTC MD, Anthony Masunga

transformation and automation in order to drive earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation, and amortization (EBITDA) growth. She further said efforts to improve free cash flow will be

supported by expansion in EBITDA margin with benefit of reduction in operating expenditure, focused working capital management and disciplined capital investment. Meanwhile, the company has announced that it will continue to monitor developments related to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Boakgomo-Ntakhwana said BTC has taken several steps to further strengthen the financial position and balance sheet, and maintain financial liquidity and flexibility by improving on service areas to optimise product offerings

The company will also review capital investment and strict monitoring of cash flow projections monthly

Covid-19 lockdowns slacken rough diamonds sales

Keikantse Lesemela
BG Reporter

De Beers group expects the demand for rough diamonds to improve in the second half of 2020 and in the midst of uncertain market conditions.

The group revenue decreased by 54 percent to \$1.2 billion in its half year ended June 2020.

Rough diamond production decreased by 27% to 11.3 million carats compared to 15.6 million produced in the same period last year. This is attributed to the Covid-19 lockdowns in Southern Africa.

Presenting the results last week De Beers Diamond Trading Vice President, Paul Rowly said both diamond jewellery retail sales and rough diamond sales were significantly impacted but the group expects improvement in the second half as economies re-open.

"We are already seeing a strong rebound in China and positive early indications in the US."

He said significant challenges for rough diamond demand is set to continue in the short term with the ongoing travel restrictions across Southern Africa, as well as the risk of further

Covid-19 cases in the Indian cutting centres.

"In the longer term, the outlook for the diamond sector remains positive, and De Beers is accelerating its business transformation from discovery and mining, to how we sell rough diamonds to customers and how consumers purchase diamond jewelry to ensure it retains its position as the world's leading diamond business," said Rowly.

Currently, the group mining operations restarted following the easing of regional lockdowns,

with Covid-19 measures in place to safeguard the workforce but production resumed at lower levels, reflecting reduced demand for rough diamonds as a result of the pandemic.

In Botswana, production was 36% lower at 7.5 million carats compared to 11.7 million carats in 2019.

This is mainly driven by a lengthy nationwide lockdown from April to 18 May. Due to the shutdown, production at Jwaneng declined by 34% to 4.3 million carats compared to 6.6 million carats last year; while production at Orapa fell by 39% to 3.1 million carats due to the lockdown impact, as well as challenges relating to commissioning of new plant infrastructure. Meanwhile, in Namibia production increased by six percent to 0.9 million carats as opposed to 0.8 carats in the same period last year. This was driven by the marine operations as the Mafuta crawler vessel was under planned maintenance in the second quarter of 2019. The other challenge lay in the implementation of measures to enable continuity of the fleet while safeguarding the workforce. Rowly highlighted that this increase was offset by a 30% reduction at the land operations to 0.1 million carats following the Covid-19 lockdown. In South Africa, production increased by 37% at Venetia to 1.3 million carats supported by a significant increase in grade as the final ore from the open pit is mined prior to the transition to

underground, partially offset by the lockdown.

However, Rowly pointed out that the market outlook remains uncertain with a risk of a second wave of Covid-19 infections, ability of fiscal and monetary measure to support employment in consumer markets, and shape and strength of global macro-economic recovery.

"Significant challenges for rough diamond demand look set to continue in the short-term, given ongoing travel restrictions and the risk of further Covid-19 cases in Indian cutting centres."

Rowly also highlighted that in the longer term, the outlook for the diamond industry remains positive and De Beers is committed to leading the sector's recovery. "Our business transformation will ensure we remain in the best possible position to capitalise on opportunities and to generate benefits for our partners."

IN THE MAGISTRATE COURT OF THE REPUBLIC OF BOTSWANA HELD AT LOBATSE

Case No: CCMLB -000503-19

In the matter between:
WOODWORLD (PTY) LTD t/a STORAGE SOLUTIONS
And
SWEEDIE MOLOKO KGOSIDIILE

PLAINTIFF

DEFENDANT

SUBSTITUTED SERVICE (Order 8 Rule 4)

TO: SWEEDIE MOLOKO KGOSIDIILE an adult male of full legal capacity whose address for this purpose is PRIVATE BAG BR 215, GABORONE and whose further and better particulars are to Plaintiff unknown. (Herein called the "Defendant").

TAKE NOTICE that by summons issued out of this court, you Have been called upon to give notice within 14 days after publication hereto, to the REGISTRAR and to NYAMAMBI ATTORNEYS, the Plaintiff's Attorneys, of your intention to defend (if any) in an action wherein **WOODWORLD (PTY) LTD t/a STORAGE SOLUTIONS (PTY) LTD of c/o Nyamambi Attorneys, Plot 3088, Extension 11, Gaborone, claims:**

Payment in the amount of P2 939.99 jointly and severally one paying;
Interest at 10% per annum;
Cost of suit;
Further and/or alternative relief.

TAKE NOTICE FURTHER that if you fail to give such notice, judgment may be granted against you without further reference to you.

DATED AT GABORONE ON THIS 29TH DAY OF JULY 2020.

NYAMAMBI ATTORNEYS
PLAINTIFF'S ATTORNEYS
PLOT 3088, NORTHRING ROAD
EXTENSION 11, P O BOX 3359, GABORONE

IN THE MAGISTRATE COURT OF THE REPUBLIC OF BOTSWANA HELD AT LOBATSE

Case No: CCMLB -000497-19

In the matter between:
WOODWORLD (PTY) LTD t/a STORAGE SOLUTIONS
And
JOSEPH JEREMY BUFFLES

PLAINTIFF

DEFENDANT

SUBSTITUTED SERVICE (Order 8 Rule 4)

TO: JOSEPH JEREMY BUFFLES An adult male of full legal capacity whose address for this purpose is P O BOX 37377, GABORONE and whose further and better particulars are to Plaintiff unknown. (Herein called the "Defendant").

TAKE NOTICE that by summons issued out of this court, you Have been called upon to give notice within 14 days after publication hereto, to the REGISTRAR and to NYAMAMBI ATTORNEYS, the Plaintiff's Attorneys, of your intention to defend (if any) in an action wherein **WOODWORLD (PTY) LTD t/a STORAGE SOLUTIONS (PTY) LTD of c/o Nyamambi Attorneys, Plot 3088, Extension 11, Gaborone, claims:**

Payment in the amount of P6 160.00 jointly and severally one paying;
Interest at 10% per annum;
Cost of suit;
Further and/or alternative relief.

TAKE NOTICE FURTHER that if you fail to give such notice, judgment may be granted against you without further reference to you.

DATED AT GABORONE ON THIS 29TH DAY OF JULY 2020.

NYAMAMBI ATTORNEYS
PLAINTIFF'S ATTORNEYS
PLOT 3088, NORTHRING ROAD
EXTENSION 11, P O BOX 3359, GABORONE

JUDGE: SEGOPOLLO J

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

CASE NO. CVHGB-004119-19

In the matter between:
DEBSWANA DIAMOND COMPANY (PTY) LIMITED
and
CLASSIC WOOD HOLDINGS (PTY) LIMITED
PELOYAME NTATSI
BARULAGANYE MOGOTSI

Plaintiff

First Defendant

Second Defendant

Third Defendant

NOTICE OF SALE IN EXECUTION IN RESPECT OF MOVABLE PROPERTY

BE PLEASED TO TAKE NOTICE that pursuant to a Judgment of the above Honourable Court, the following movable property of the abovenamed Defendants will be sold by Deputy Sheriff Molebi Galeitsiwe in the manner herein set out.

DATE OF SALE: Friday, 28th August 2020
TIME OF SALE: 09:00 A.M.
VENUE OF SALE: Broadhurst Police Station

PROPERTY TO BE SOLD: 1 x white Toyota Land Cruiser Registration B457AUG; engine 1GLA385080; chassis JTELU71J0040069221
1 X black Mercedes Benz car Registration B900ARG; engine 27295231405025; chassis WWDD2120542A130966 (engine not working)
1 x grey Nissan Station Wagon 3.5 Registration B220AWN; engine VQ35134671C; chassis JN1TAW25020601825 (engine not working)

TERMS AND CONDITIONS: 10% of accepted bid on acceptance. Detailed conditions may be inspected at the offices of Deputy Sheriff Molebi Galeitsiwe. The Deputy Sheriff shall not be obliged to accept any bid made.

DATED AT GABORONE ON THIS 16th DAY OF July 2020.

ARMSTRONGS ATTORNEYS
Plaintiff's Attorneys
Prime Plaza, Plot 74538
2nd Floor, Acacia House
Western Commercial Road
Central Business District
P O Box 1368
GABORONE
(Ref: JCHRW/43373)
Deputy Sheriff Molebi Galeitsiwe
Cell No. 71632036

ARMSTRONGS
Attorneys, Notaries & Conveyancers

**TO ADVERTISE
HERE PLEASE
CONTACT:
390 8432**



PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTIFICATION FOR PUBLIC REVIEW OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR THE EXPANSION OF BVI PHARMACEUTICAL LABORATORIES TO INCLUDE A BLENDING AND FILLING LABORATORY

In compliance with Section 10(2) of the Environmental Assessment (EA) Act No 10 of 2010, the major findings of the Environmental Management Plan for the above project are as summarised below:

A. Nature and Magnitude of the Activity

The proponent of the project, Botswana Vaccine Institute (BVI) produces six (6) types of vaccine products which are consumed locally and in most parts of the Southern Africa using chemicals, water and sophisticated technology. The proponent is experiencing a high demand for vaccine products hence the need to expand the facility. The proposed expansion measures approximately 800m² and will include development and operation of a blending and filling laboratory, in order to meet market demands.

B. Location of the Activity

Botswana Vaccine Institute is located at plot 6385/90 along Lejara road in Broadhurst Industrial, Gaborone.

C. Anticipated Environmental Impacts and Proposed Mitigation Measures

The table below presents a summary of the impacts associated with proposed activity together with the proposed mitigation measures:

CONSTRUCTION PHASE	
Impact Water contamination	Mitigation *Water contaminants such as chemicals and fuels must be stored in areas located away from water sources. *Bund walls should be constructed around refuelling and oil storages areas.
Increase in ambient noise levels	*Ensure construction works are done only during the day. *Provide employees with ear protection.
OPERATION PHASE	
Impact Air pollution due to smoke stack emissions	Mitigation *Regular servicing of laboratory machinery to ensure emissions are minimised. *Regular monitoring of incineration to ensure that emissions are minimised.
Increase in production waste	*Waste produced from the site must be disposed of at legal and licenced waste facility. *Allow facilities for waste separation (recyclable materials), holding at drillers facility.
DECOMMISSIONING PHASE	
Impact Risk of increase health and safety incidents/ accidents	Mitigation *Use well maintained and functioning equipment *Develop standard operating procedures and an emergency plan and a site health and safety plan before starting any works. *Poor visibility and poor air quality due to dust and exhaustemissions *Dust suppression measures such as water spraying should implemented *Regular servicing of construction vehicles should be done to reduce emissions

Conclusion

Conclusions drawn from the Environmental Impact Statement are that negative environmental impacts may arise as a result of the implementation of the project; the impacts are manageable and can be minimised by implementing the proposed mitigation measures. Positive impacts such as employment opportunities and increased production are also expected. Mitigation measures have been proposed to curb the adverse impacts and enhance the positive impacts, and if correctly implemented, most of the identified negative impacts will be minimised or eliminated.

Environmental Impact Statement Placement

Copies of the Environmental Management Plan have been placed at the following locations for review by the general public and the Interested & Affected Parties (IAPs):

- 1.Department of Environmental Affairs Library- Gaborone.
- 2.Gaborone Public Library – Civic Center
- 3.Botswana Vaccine Institute Offices in Gaborone

Written comments from those likely to be affected by the project and other interested persons should be submitted to: The **Director, Department of Environmental Affairs, Private Bag 0068 Gaborone, Tel: 3902050, Fax: 3902051 or hand delivered to Travaglini House Plot 1271, Second Floor, Old Lobatse Road by the 21st August 2020.**

KITSISO MO SECHABENG

Kitsiso e e ntshiwa mabapi le Temana ya Bolesome ya Molao wa Tshekatsheko Tikologo wa Bolesome wa Ngwaga wa 2010

KITSISO SECHABA KA TSHEKATSHEKO, YA KAMEGO YA TIKOLOGO MABAPI LE KAGO YA NTLO YA MELEMO LE KAGO YA NTLO YA DITIRO TSA MARANYANE A GO TSWAKANYA MELEMO MO GABORONE

Mo go saleng morago tsefana ya bolesome ya molao wa Tshekatsheko Tikologo (EA Act No. 10) wa ngwaga wa 2010; kitsiso sechaba e, e supa maduo a dipatlisiso tsa tshomarelo tikologo mabapi le tlhabololo e e akanyeditsweng.

A. Sebopego le bogolo jwaTiro

Ba kompone ya Botswana Vaccine Institute (BVI) e dira mehuta ele merataro ya mekento ya go thibela malwetse e e dirisiwang mono gae le mo mafelong a mangwe mo Borwa jwa Aferika, ba dirisa metswako e e farologaneng, metsi le botegeniki jo bomarara. Ba BVI ba itemogetse koketsego ya lethoko la mekento ke ka moo ba oketsang dikago go oketsa ditirelo tsa bone. Kago e tla agiawang ke selekanyo sa 800m² mme e tla akaretse go tsamaisa ntlo ya ditiro tsa maranyane go tswakanya le go lebagana le lethoko le.

B. Lefelo la Tiro

BVI e mo setsheng sa nomoro ya 6385/90, kwa Lejara road kwa Broadhurst Industrial mo Gaborone.

C. Ditlamoragotse di solofetsweng le Metlhaleya go leka go tla/go fokotsamanokonoko a tse di maswe

Moalo o o fa tlase o supa tshoboko ya ditlamorago tse di amanngwang le tiro e, ga mmogo le metlhale e e akanyeditsweng go fokotsa manokonoko a ditlamorago dingwe le dingwe, go remeletswe mo ditshekatsheko tsa tiro e.

NAKO YA KAGO	
Ditlamorago Kgotlelesegoyametsi	Metlhaleya go di fokotsamanokonoko *Dipe tse di kgotlelang metsi, jaaka leokwane le dikhemikhale di tshwanetse tsa bewa mo lefelong lele babalesigileng. *Go tshwanetse go agelelwa lefelo le le beelang leokwane le ole.
Koketsegoyamodumo	*Tiro ya kago e tshwanetse go dirwa motshegare ka nako ya tiro. *Babereki ba tshwanetse go fiwa tsa itshireletso go di dirisa mo ditsebeng.
NAKO YA TIRO	
Ditlamorago	Metlhaleya go di fokotsamanokonoko *Kgotlelesegoyaphefo e bakwakemosi o tswangmomadirelong. *Go tshwanetse go baakangwa di machine go fokotsa mosi o tswang mo go tsone. *Go tshwanetse ga elwatlhoko tiro ya go tshuba go netefatsa gore mosi o tswang ga o montsi thata.
Koketsegoyamatlakala fa go dirwamelelo	*Matlakala a tshwanetse a tshwarwa jaaka molao wa lephatla la matlakala ba lopa. Mabeelo a matlakala a tshwanetse a nna teng molefelong la tiro *Matlakala a aborai (hazardous waste) a tshwanetse go lathelelwakwamafelong a ka fa molaong.
PAKA YA DIKAGO DI ROTLOLOLWA	
Ditlamorago	Metlhaleya go di fokotsamanokonoko *Kgonagalo ya koketsego ya dikotsi mo lefelong la tiro *Go tshwanetse ga dirisiwa di dirisiwa tse di itekanetseng. *Go tshwanetse ganna le metlhale e tlhamaletseng ya pereko le ya go tsibogela diemo tsa tshoganyetso pele ga tiro e ka simololwa.
Kgotlelesegoyaphefo	*Metlhaleya go ritibatsa lerole e tshwanetse ya tsenngwa motirisong. *Dikoloi le didirisiwa di tshwanetswe tsa sekwarekwa go tlhomamisa gore mosi o otswang mo go tsone ke ya selekanyo se seletlelesegang.

Kwa Motsobong

Tshwetso e e tserweng mo lenaneong la pabalelo tikologo le le dirilweng ke gore, ditlamorago tse di bosula di tla nna teng ka ntsha ya tiro e. Ditlamorago tse, di tla kgona go laalesega mme gape di ka kgona go fokotsa manokonoko ka go diragatsa metlhale ya go fokotsa manokonoko. Ditlamorago tse di ntle jaaka ditshono tsa tiro le kgolo ya ditirelo tsa BVI di tla nna teng go tswa mo tiron e. Metlhale ya go fokotsa manokonoko a ditlamorago tse di bosula le go nonotsha tse dintle tsa tiro e, di nankotswe, mme ga di ka diragatswa sentle, bontsi jwa ditlamorago tse di bosula di tla fokotsa kgotsa go nyeletswa Mafelo a meriti ya pego e ka bonwangmo go one

Meriti ya pego e, e ka bonwa mo mafelong a latelang go ka balwa ke sechaba le banaleseabe:

- 1.Lephata la Mereroyatsa Tikologo mo Gaborone.
- 2.Motlobo wa dibuka mo Gaborone.
- 3.Botswana Vaccine Institute in Gaborone

Dikagelo tsotlhe tsa ba ba amegang di ka romelwa kwa go **Mookamedi wa Lephata la Merero ya tsa Tikologo Gaborone Private Bag 0068, Gaborone, Tel: 3902050, Fax: 3902051 kana tsa isiswa kwa Travaglini House, Plot 1271, Second FloorOld Lobatse Road pele ga Phatwe a tlhola malatsi a le masome a mabedi le bongwe (21stAugust 2020).**



TRAVEL



EATING OUT



FOODIES COURT

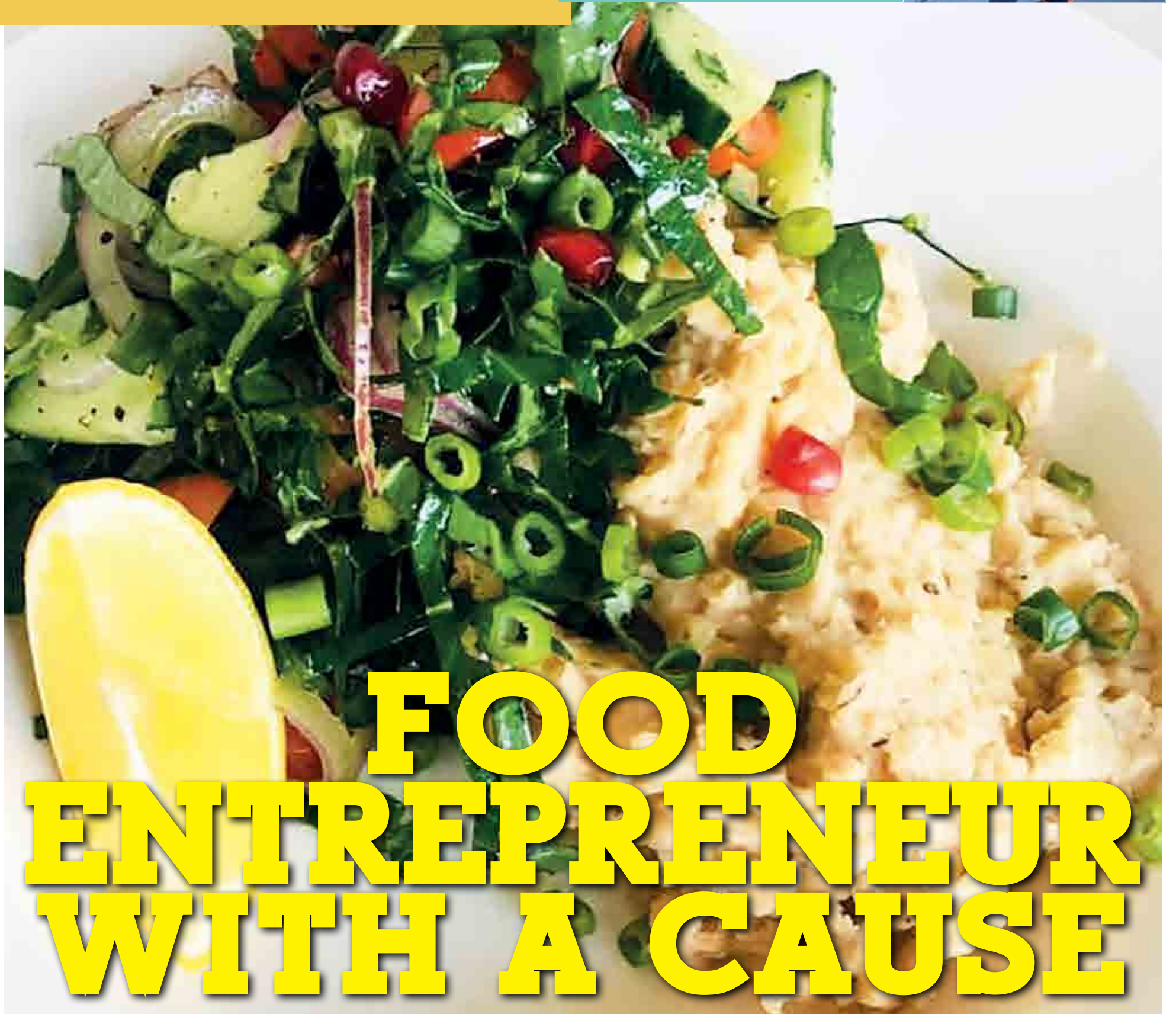


DIY

LifeStyle

7 AUGUST 2020

O.LEP
CLOTHING
MAKING
INROADS



FOOD ENTREPRENEUR WITH A CAUSE



Nollie Ngwira specializes in plant based meals

BG REPORTER

Nollie Ngwira loves food. A versatile and talented creative, Ngwira is the brains behind The Avo Tree Good Food and Catering.

Going through her social media page, you instantly pick how much she is passionate about what she eats.

Her relationship with food is on another level. And Ngwira carefully selects and prepares everything she eats, with such ease and passion.

Ngwira preaches everything that has to do with a plant based meals. And in her kitchen as evidenced on her many social media posts, she consumes an array of meals.

She has always had a good relationship with food; credit goes to her mother,

who is a really good cook for the inspiration. Her journey took a new turn five years ago when she started to struggle with anxiety and depression which changed her relationship with food completely. She was on antidepressants for two years and just turned a new leaf last year. It was then that she decided to change

TO PAGE B

HOMEMADE SALT AND SAUCES IN THE MARKET

IRENE SHONE
BG CORRESPONDENT

Grand Salts and Sauces boasts of a variety of home-made seasoning, proudly made out of salt from the renowned Makgadikgadi salt, real dried herbs and capsicums.

Founder at Grand Salts and Sauces, Mmaetsho Chokwe says their products are for home use, but have since been ordered by restaurants and hotels, while other people utilize them as a gifting resort for both corporate and personal gifts.

She tells *BG Style* that this started with their flagship product being the Chilli Relish, and she adds that it all started as a hobby.

"I would make home entertaining relishes and seasoning salts and always packaged the left-over relishes for family and close friends who always approved them and encouraged me to make more to share with the universe," she said. They now currently sell a variety of their products at Squaremart in CBD and Health Generation at Airport Junction Mall.

Among their products, they have; chilli relish, grand blends, ginger chilli, grand mexican, salt n pepper,

plain salt, plain Himalaya, Himalaya and black pepper, Himalaya chilli and Himalaya herbs. Chokwe

notes that their relish is cooked from scratch by using local vegetables and most people recommend their sauces, which they deliberately added to their grand salts.

She is of the view that packaging is the ultimate goal of any other business and therefore they had to find a suitable branding company to help them package their products for sale.

"My interest in creating home-made seasoning came as I realized that most of the spices on shelves have chemical based preservatives and colorants that I presumed bad for my family health, so I came up with an option to use real salt from Makgadikgadi salts," she explained.

She adds that using grinders for the seasoning salts as ingredients come in their most natural dry form.

She adds that they aim at selling at an international level. "Our vision is to see Grand salts being available for sale in all chain stores across the country and in the international market. It would even be great to see the State House chef using our products for the first family," says Chokwe.



Food entrepreneur with a cause

From page A

a few things when it came to what she eats. "I needed to heal myself for the sake of my children. So I really started eating more vegetables, fruits and drinking a lot of water," she explains.

Seeing that there were a lot of people who were interested in her plant based meals, she decided to share with them this journey through her latest venture, a delivery service of her daily meals. Clients also have the option to subscribe for a month, and they are guaranteed to eat healthy meals prepared with love every day. "A lot of people were interested in my plant based meals and wanted to learn more. I am big on wellness and healthy eating habits as I struggled with this for years. So I felt this will be a good time to encourage people to eat healthy, which really helps with chronic illnesses as well as depression," she explains. Ngwira highlights that she is not a vegan or vegetarian. So what are Plant based eating patterns all about? She explains that they focus on foods primarily from plants. This includes not only fruits and vegetables, but also nuts, seeds, oils, whole grains, legumes, and beans. "It also does not mean that I will never eat meat or dairy," says Ngwira.

Breaking down her amazing meals, She starts off by highlighting that there are more vegetables and fruits in her meals, and that she has also taken a conscious decision to eat more home cooked meals as this allows her to see what goes in her meals. "I am more aware of what I eat and I eat to nurture my body and to feel good and that is a major difference," she says. She likes working with a number of ingredients that include ginger, garlic, soy sauce, tahini, nutritional yeast, nuts/seeds, dates, lemons, limes, micro greens, chickpea flour, chili flakes, black peppercorns, onion powder, miso sauce, moringa, green matcha and spirulina. "Everything listed above brings a really good twist to the vegetable stir fries and roasts, smoothies, soups, bean and veg-

To page E

ASALI HAIR PRODUCTS ON THE SHELVES



IRENE SHONE
BG CORRESPONDENT

Asali Hair and Body care products, locally manufactured boasts of rich loving ingredients.

Owner and Formulator at Asali Hair and Body care products, Norma Nlanda tells BG Style that their products are inspired by nature and powered by science.

She is of the view that as part of hygiene and lifestyle, everyone desires to look good.

The start-up has a variety of products that ranges from skin care, hair care

and baby care products. Their current range is made up of Asali Sulphate free herbal cleanser and Asali Avacado and Almond conditioning smoothie on the hair care line, Asali sulphate free lavender baby cleanser for the baby range and and Asali mango and almond moisturising cream for everyone.

She explains that extensive knowledge is required while dealing with skin care, and so during the country's first lockdown, she utilized the opportunity to enrol for a Diploma in Natural Hair care formulation from a school of natural skin care based in the UK.

"This was a perfect opportunity for me as I paid and enrolled for an online course of two years but managed to finish it in five months because of the burning passion that I have for beauty and skin care," she says.

She notes that she awaits her results



She has done research for five years before joining the industry and started with her own products towards the end of last year. Noticing that there are toxic ingredients used by some brands, this inspired Nlanda to close that gap.

"Ingredients like parabens, silicones and sulphates are just bad and so, I do not include them in my products," she said. Her first released product is Asali Mango and Almond moisturising cream and she appreciates the feedback that she gets from the locals as it encouraged her to add more products to her range.

"Asali Lavender baby cleanser has calming properties while the Asali sulphate free herbal cleanser has soothing and these have just answered needs to many of our clients," she says. Her Asali Avacado Almond conditioning smoothie also has positive reviews for people's hair care.

She says that the ingredients that she uses makes her brand unique in the Botswana and she is of the view that Asali brand is the only one that uses mango butter, almond oil and wheat germ oil in the production of her products.

"The aim is not to only to be a local household name, but to be an international brand and we are currently in talks with a UK based online boutique to stock Asali products," Nlanda disclosed.



and she would since be a certified professional cosmetics formulator along her products as a graduate of Degree in Economics and Public Administration from the University of Botswana (UB).

Nlanda explains that she has always wanted to be a brand ambassador for skin or hair brand, and so this motivated her to work hard towards her dream, as she is now her products' brand ambassador.



O.LEP CLOTHING MAKING INROADS



IRENE SHONE
BG CORRESPONDENT

O.Lep Clothing is set to diversify the local fashion industry, as it focuses on urban wear and unique details on their clothes.

The clothing label told BG Style that the brand is about making every piece a master piece and setting themselves apart is very essential to their business.

CEO at O.Lep, Oteng Lepere, also a creative director says they design casual wear, smart casual, corporate wear and sportswear. He emphasized that what they create is not always black or white but rather a subtle balance between the two.

“Our designs are mostly street/urban but with some elegance and smart sense to it and we take pride by establishing all this here in Botswana,” he said. Lepere says that creativity skills make the work much easier at their company, as he is very certain about what is supposed to be done to stand out within the industry. He adds that he has always had interest in clothing brands, from a young age and this has motivated the birth of his company.

“From an early age, I started developing the love for urban culture with heavy influence from the Kwaito culture, the dickies and all-stars. I was about that lifestyle back then in 2005 and that has helped me to develop an eye for designing and subconsciously identified elements that make garments that appeal to people.

“I specifically focused on the details like stitches, pockets, prints and silhouettes and automatically started experimenting with garments,” noted Lepere. In 2006, he says he started deconstructing old garments and adding details to his own clothes, which captivated a lot of people, who now form part of his clients.

He has already been to design competitions like President’s Day Competition and also showcased his clothes at various fashion shows, including; X Fashions without borders.

Lepere reiterates the brand has come a long way, as O.Lep has always used every opportunity that he got to show his creativity within the fashion platform. He notes that at some point, he was experimenting with hand sewn applique techniques, closed finished with edges left to free abstract designs

on trees. He says this style was called ‘Lejaja’ and it was a solid brand philosophy that acknowledged imperfections.

All his life he took a developmental route to make perfection in the industry, and so he ended up at a technical college to learn more and enhance the skills he garnered from Fashion and Fabrics at senior school.

He discloses that O.Lep clothing was about urban/street wear from onset but as they got more attention on fashion shows, their concept diverted to ‘glitz and glamour’ and the couture type of fashion which fits into the international standard. They take pride in being accorded an opportunity to dress local pageant girls. Thus, they dressed Miss Botswana contestants last year for their sportswear session.

Lepere boasts that this is one of the greatest moments they have ever had under their brand. They also operate under the tag line ‘Kgaba o ikgabise’ which literally translates to look good, feel good, since they believe that fashion has an impact in boosting people’s confidence.

O.Lep disclosed to **BG Style** that they brainstorm, sketch and design their own pieces, which makes them unique

DON'T JUST SURVIVE, THRIVE



ELEGANT LIVING

Patricia Nkwane

“My mission in life is not merely to survive, but to thrive; and to do so with some passion, some compassion, some humour and some style.” – Maya Angelou

We often say we are going through a challenging time, but the truth is all times are challenging hence one needs to master the art of resilience and how to persevere. Life is not always easy. You have to go through tough times. Learning to be resilient, growing through change and thriving no matter what we are going through is the path to true fulfilment in life. Resilience is a skill and one needs to learn it, we may have developed it in childhood or never had circumstances or resources that help you learn to be resilient. The good news is that resilience is something we can develop at any time in our lives. We need to know how to cope with the different challenging situations that life will throw our way. Today we are sharing some tips that can help you thrive during challenging times.

Accept the situation

No matter how bad the situation is, you should first accept it. Denying the fact that you are in such a situation will make it more difficult for you to come out of it. Only when you have accepted it, you can then focus on how to make things better. You will start thinking positively and start taking actions.

Keep the big picture in mind.

What you're going through is just a chapter in your book, not your entire book. Maybe it's just one paragraph, or maybe even a sentence. The rest of the story is still unwritten, and once the difficult patch leaves you, you will have a blank page which means a new chapter to change the record, a new beginning awaits you. There is so much to your life than that moment. Your destiny awaits you.

Define your success.

In defining success it is critical to know yourself because what success means to me may not be the same as what it means to you. Motivational speakers often say we are the architects of our lives. If we are the architect of our lives, we must know how we want

our life to look, right? Difficult times in life require us to redefine many objectives; we have to re-modify them to fit our new situations, so we must define what betterment looks like for us.

If we cannot define it, we cannot resource it. So what do betterment and success look like to you, is it better emotional or physical health, healthy relationships, better grades, a strong career? It's okay to modify your priorities as they'll likely change from time to time, but having this framework at every phase in life can really help you stay focused in the game, irrespective of what is happening outside.

Be positive

You should always remain positive. The situation you might be going through is temporary. Better days will come. So, you should think about the future and stay positive. You should try to turn any negative situation into a positive one and think that whatever happens is for your good. You should release negativity when you are going through tough times as it makes things look worse than they already are.

Talk to someone.

Relationships are a critical component of living a life with meaning and joy. When you are going through a hard time, it is the natural reaction to shut everyone off, go in your own little hole and I completely get that. But healing and improving require support, so don't go at it alone. Be brave enough to ask for help when you need it. There is no award for doing all the hard things alone. Reach out. Talk to someone, even if it's just one person. They might have a helpful perspective that enables you to thrive even further through this difficult time.

When conditions are optimal, thriving is a lot easier. When conditions are bleak, thriving is not always so easy but if we redefine how we thrive, and just think to ourselves in a moment then we can persevere. Mind you self love comes at the top of all healing or thriving tips one can ever give you. Accept that you have a situation, keep the big picture in mind, define your success, be positive and most of all talk to someone. We all have our uniqueness so let us use our unique abilities to become ever stronger. Be Unstoppable
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Food entrepreneur

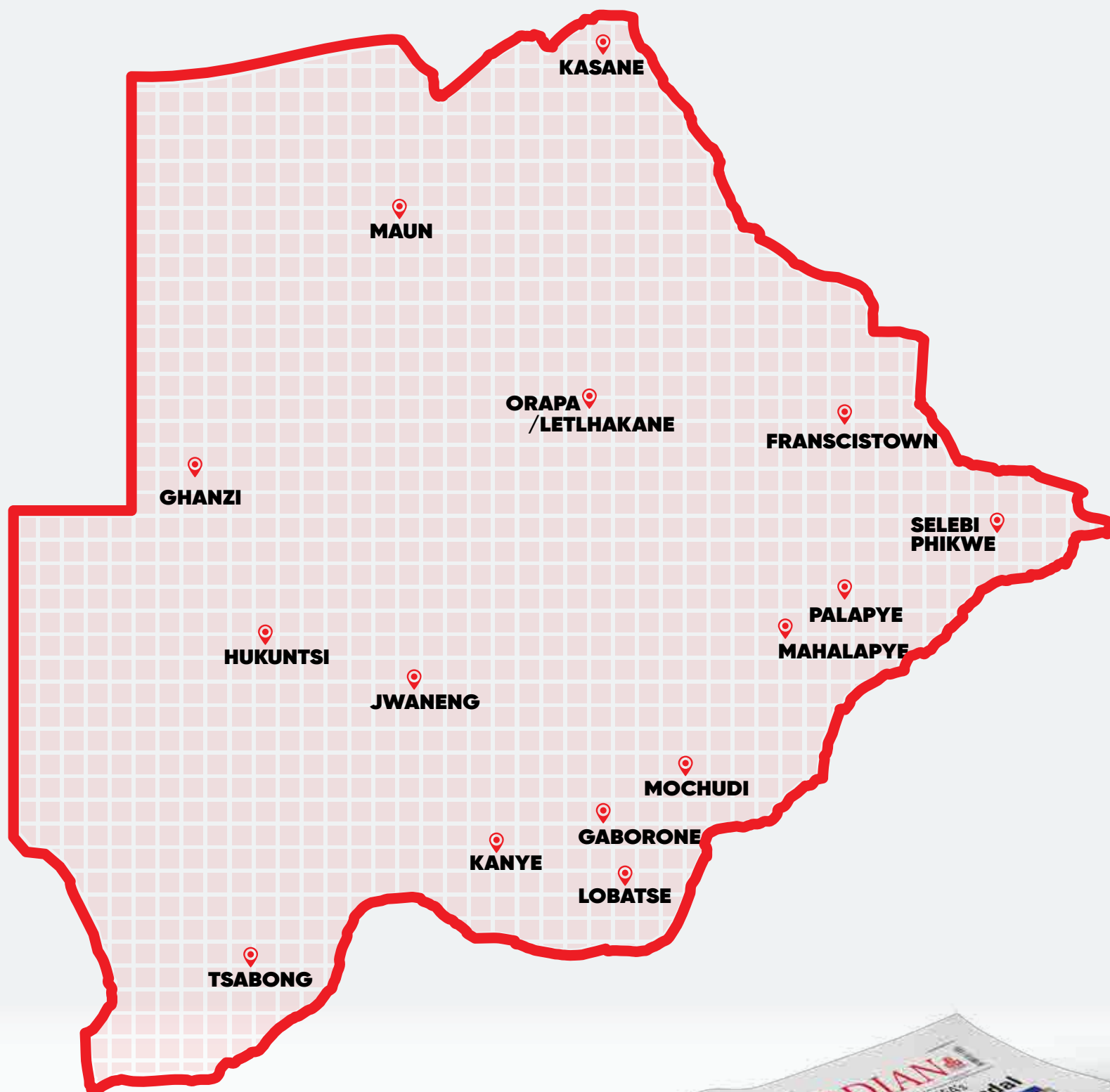
From page B

etables stews, frittatas, pasta dishes even fresh juices,” she explains. The benefits of these amazing meals, she says she benefits a lot from her amazing meals: she has a lot of energy and has shed off some weight as she is no longer consuming a lot of junk. “My gut health has also improved so much. It has helped me with inflammation, my skin is clear, and my hair is growing so fast. I am also more positive maybe because of having so much energy you know,” she says, adding that she is able to wake up without any struggles. But with every experience in the kitchen comes some not so pleasant end results in her journey to creating new dishes. “I have created really bad dishes, I have burnt some of these new dishes and I’ve failed so many times and ended up feeling like it is not worth it; and I think my love for cooking really saved me. I kept trying until today and it’s been so rewarding,” says Ngwira.

Long term, she wants to expand her business, sharing this journey with more people. She would like to write a lot of plant based recipe books, pop up restaurants around Gaborone and other major towns, making products and selling them.

“I will still be making plant based meals to my loyal clients, go into farming and finally open a restaurant within the farm. I know it’s a lot but I’m very positive and optimistic about my life path,” she points out.

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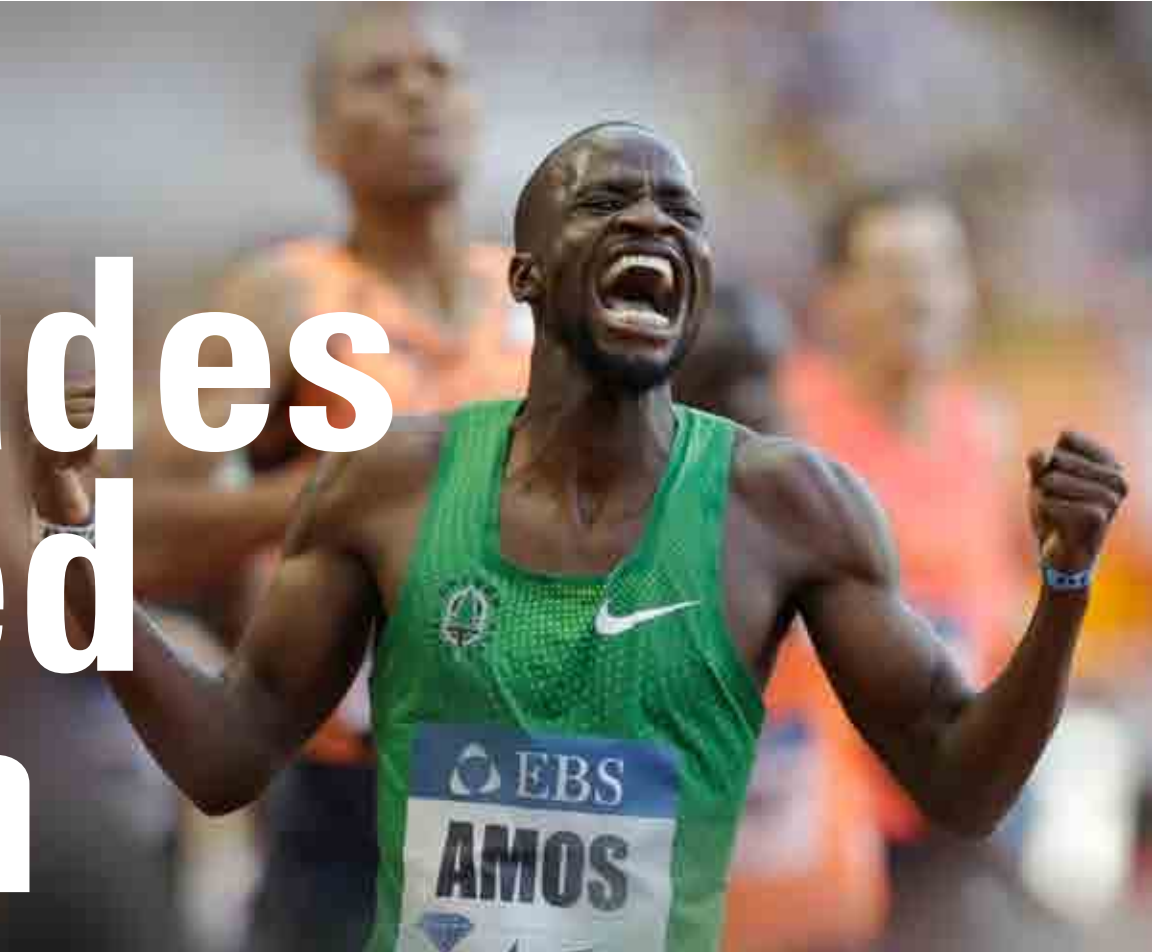
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SPORT

Amos concludes plagued season



BOTCHED SEASON...Amos along with other local athletes have been interrupted by the COVID 19 pandemic this year.



Athlete competes in last run at Oregon, USA this weekend

Isaac Pheko
BG reporter

ATHLETICS

Botswana's premier elite runner and currently the fastest man in the world at 800m meters, Nijel Amos, is expected to compete in Oregon USA this weekend. The race is likely to be Amos' last competitive run in the COVID-19 plagued 2020 season before he returns home to Botswana

for a breather.

In an interview this week Amos, who is based in Oregon under the Oregon Track Elite club, confirmed that he will not be competing in the lucrative Diamond League season opener in Monaco this weekend possibly due to international travel ban. The shockwaves of the COVID-19 pandemic have affected many international athletes like Amos as they have found it difficult to travel and compete. Nevertheless the star athlete has

not been fazed by the strange season.

"This has been a good time for me to try on new ways of doing something. I was doing more mileage this year and my main goal was to see how far my body could take me."

Amos, Botswana's only Olympic medallist after scooping the 800m silver at the 2012 London Olympics said he focused on his vulnerability

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Imported boots treated equally

League suspension afflicting all players

...Both Foreign and local players on survival mode

Kabelo Gadise
BG correspondent

FOOTBALL

Foreign players plying their trade in the BTC Premiership may be far away from

home but their economic situation amidst football suspension in Botswana is no worse than their local counterparts. An interview with Footballers Union Botswana (FUB) this week

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IMPORTED BOOTS...FUB is adamant that foreign players are being equal treatment by their clubs as their local counterparts amidst the COVID 19 pandemic.



Domestic league faces bold new future

SEE PAGE 44



INTERNATIONAL RANKS... The Botswana Cricket Association has been recognised as an emerging international force by the ICC.

ICC recognises Botswana cricket

BG reporter

CRICKET

The Botswana Cricket Association (BCA) has been celebrated as one of international cricket's emerging forces at the ICC Development Awards where the outstanding achievements accomplished by Associate Members in 2019 were recognized.

Botswana was the regional winner at the recently held awards. There were four regional winners and the other three were Brazil, Malaysia and the Netherlands.

The Awards celebrate six different global champions and eight regional winners showcasing the impactful stories of growing cricket across the world. The awards include recognition of mass participation programmes, national team performances, digital innovation and social responsibility - where cricket is used to improve communities around the world.

Cricket PNG have been recognized for their work in attracting new participants to the game of cricket, with over 235,000 people including a 50% gender split involved in the following programmes. PNG won the Gray-Nicolls Participation programme of the year.

Rwanda Cricket Association won the Cricket Builds Hope female empowerment programme which uses cricket as a tool for social change among disadvantaged women; in this category the four regional winners are Bhutan, Chile, Indonesia and Scotland.

Cricket Namibia have been awarded the ICC Associate Member Men's Performance of the Year award, for the must-win game against Hong Kong in the ICC World Cricket League Division 2 in April 2019. The victory secured the African team One Day International status for the first time in 16 years and a place in the Men's Cricket World Cup League 2 (CWC League 2) as part of the qualification pathway for Men's Cricket World Cup 2023.

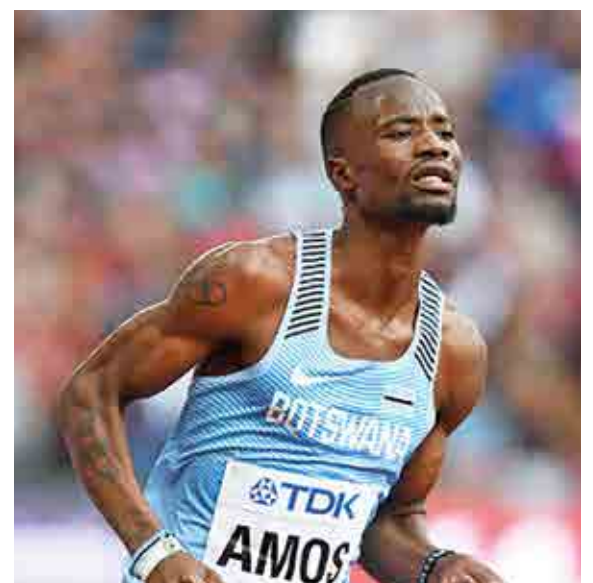
The winners were selected by an Independent Panel comprising of HD Ackerman (Broadcaster), Peter Della Penna (Journalist), Krishnendu Chakraborty (Facebook representative), Natalie Germanos (Broadcaster), Isobel Joyce (Former Ireland captain), Meg Lanning (Player), Nick Pryde (Cricket Administrator, ECB), Mithali Raj (Player), Phil Simmons (West Indies Head Coach), Lisa Sthalekar (Broadcaster) and Zunilka Whitnall (UNICEF representative).

Amos concludes plagued season

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to injuries when intensity increases during competition. "All this hard work has given us positive results thus far and now we know I can do more and how I should go around it in terms of diet and treatments." Amos, affectionately known as Zoro in Botswana said that he has now collected all the necessary data for future competitions.

Regarding his race this coming weekend Amos said: "I am going into this 800m race not looking for a fast time. I proved I can run fast, being currently the fastest in the world last year and fastest in the world since 2012 Olympics." A confident Amos said he has proven his grit and ability by winning elite competitions like previous Diamond league race meetings. "With all that is going on currently, this has become an opportunity for me to try another way of racing and practice for championship races. This weekend I am going into this race with one goal, the strategy will be to hold back as much as I can and close strong. A 1:45sec will be great for me." Meanwhile, Amos previously mentioned that he has lost over P1 million in earning this year due to the international complications of the Covid-19 pandemic. Nevertheless, the star athlete who is on good form has since qualified for the 2021 Tokyo Olympic.





ATHLETE EDUCATION...The BNOC has taken an opportunity to provide learning courses for athletes while there is no field action due to COVID-19

BNOC conducts online courses for athletes

Kabelo Gadise
BG correspondent

ATHLETICS

The Botswana National Olympic Committee (BNOC) successfully conducted two Virtual courses for local Athletes. The initiative, which is the first of its kind in Botswana, is meant to empower athletes on Sports administration, taking advantage of the global lockdown measures which have resulted in suspension of annual sporting events.

In a recent interview with **BG Sport**, Programmes Officer-Athletes Management and International Relations, Modise Mgadla said the course is targeting athletes who are nearing retirement and have interest in running for administration roles once they have hung up their boots.

"The course has different modules, which include injury management, financial management and many other diverse topics. The course was addressed to athletes who are nearing retirement and might have a burning desire to take up many other roles as administrators."

The first course which started on the 23rd of July 2020 was concluded on the 29th of July. "There was a meet and greet session scheduled on the 30th of July 2020, where athletes who were successful land managed to complete the course

“The course has different modules, which include injury management, financial management and many other diverse topics.

received their certificates and awards for their sterling performances in class.”

However, participants in the first course were active athletes mainly those in preparations for Tokyo 2020 Games. The second course which will be conducted in the second week of August will also target athletes nearing retirement from active participation in sport as submitted by National Federations.

Six OS certified National Course Directors facilitate the course together with three guest facilitators. The BNOC provides internet data for athletes to login for the course sessions which runs for about 2hrs 30min daily from 08:00am until 10:30am.

League suspension

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revealed that both foreign and local players are on the same boat regarding contractual issues with their teams and all parties are waiting with bated breath to benefit from FIFA financial assistance.

In the current situation where football has been halted and clubs are making less to no income it has proven difficult for teams to keep paying the players, let alone, foreign players whose salaries are relatively steep. Many teams are proposing to suspend the contracts of players until everything has returned back to normal. The suspension of contracts will mean teams pay players a monthly allowance instead of a full salary.

"The suspension of contracts doesn't mean players are not going to be paid, what it seeks to address is that the player cannot enforce the contract by saying the team should pay him a full salary and the team cannot enforce the contract by forcing the player to train and play matches because there is no activity," Football Union of Botswana (FUB) Secretary General Kgosana Masaseng said in an interview.

According to Masaseng, the suspension of the contracts is on the basis of contractual obligations.

He added that despite clubs having their hands tied, they are still obliged to pay players, unless contracts are terminated. "Negotiations on suspension of contracts are ongoing, you will remember that these players are still contracted and nothing has changed on that. It's just to make sure that they are not neglected during this period." Masaseng explained that the current predicament does not only involve foreign players.

"It's not only a problem for the foreigners but all the players. This is why we wanted all the players to be covered by all means necessary. The funds coming from FIFA is intended to assist in this regard and as such all players would be paid for a period until December."

Sibanda gone but not forgotten

Kabelo Gadise
BG correspondent

The local football fraternity has been shattered by the recent passing of Zimbabwean midfielder Mgcini Sibanda who plied his trade at FC Satmos, Security Systems, Orapa United and BDF XI before returning back home. Unconfirmed reports indicate that Sibanda battled with illness for some time, although gone soon the player will remain in the memories of many football lovers across the country given his passion and love that spread outside the football pitch.

With a big whole in our hearts we have to admit that the player is gone and all that is left is for us to cherish memories we have of him. Sibanda was blessed with the football brains, the first time my eyes crossed paths with him was several years ago at Lobatse Sports Complex. That time he was donning the Security Systems colours playing against Gunners; his ball retention and recovery was immaculate as he played from one end



UNTIMELY DEATH...The late Sibanda was a hardworking player revered by both his peers and supporters.

of the field to the other. His body would sweat profusely as he carried on until the last whistle. With a big heart and able to throw himself at every challenge he was my type of player and then I started observing and following him, from Systems to Orapa United then BDF XI. Just at 29, all the good he has done inside the football pitch remains memories that will take away the power of the painful hurt. That when we think of him we can divert to the good memories that will continue to heal our hearts. Although my interac-

tion with the player was rather not at a personal level his discipline and character on the field of play were unsurpassed. For those who worked closely with him that doesn't change. "It's a sad day for football, it stabs deep especially for us who worked closely with him, he was a great leader, a true professional very disciplined and committed to his work on and off the field of play," former Security Systems coach Thaloba Nthaga described the player. Former Zebras and BDF XI captain Bonolo Phuduhudu admired the Zimbabwe born midfield, "we crossed paths when he played at Orapa and Systems, he was always a tough opponent but when he came to BDF I got to know him to be a humble guy, hardworking on the field of play and willing to go an extra mile for the team. He was disciplined and a very good footballer." Although he did not win many trophies while plying his trade in Botswana, Sibanda will always be remembered for his outstanding performance in the 2016 Mascom Top 8; he helped Orapa United to win their maiden Mascom Top 8 trophy.

Domestic league faces bold new future

Transformation of Botswana football in motion

Kabelo Gadise
BG correspondent

FOOTBALL

After years of toiling, debate, hits and misses the Botswana Premier League (BPL) was finally announced as a standalone legal entity. This effectively means the league will be detached from the umbrella Botswana Football Association (BFA), with the expectation that the new entity will be responsible for running its own affairs with the 16 affiliate teams as shareholders. It has not been an easy road as the BFA has long explored various resolutions to grant the elite league autonomy. However, process has experienced a lot of gremlins and roadblocks along the way. Lack of sponsorship, clear vision and a clever business models have contributed to the league being a long suffering organizations with the BFA having to intervene and quell some of its shenanigans over the years. Fast forward to 2020 and the stars seems to have finally aligned for the long suffering domestic league as progress is finally being made. In a recently released statement, the BFA announced that the Botswana Football League (Pty) Ltd is now registered with Companies and Intellectual Properties Authority (CIPA); this means that the company will operate independently without any influence from the BFA.

According to the press statement, the journey to making the dream a reality began with the help of many stakeholders, the

FIFA professional department and Mamelodi Consultancy being at the forefront. As the new era dawns, the company is expected to rebrand local football and make it appealing and entice many partners that will get value for their money once they have invested in the league.

In an interview this week local football pundit, Citie Keagakwa, applauded the move, adding that there will be more productivity. "This means that they are going to negotiate their sponsorship deals, broadcasting rights and strive for profit like parastatal entities." According to Keagakwa, the teams will have to fit in and change their operations. "Most clubs are Societies and therefore they have to fit into this business model just by changing their operations; if they are successful in that manner then everything will fit like a glove to a hand."

Adding to that he said that the transformation comes into effect when Club Licensing is currently being rolled out. "This transformation will help with the demands of club licensing which have been giving teams a headache."

In the same light, he said clubs will have to deal with issues which have been giving them a headache more closely now; clubs will determine the timely disbursement of grants among many other things. Meanwhile recent reports are that the BPL will be looking at having at least four competitions in a season which will include the League, the FA Cup, Top 8 tournament and the charity cup to strengthen competition and grow local football.