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Botswana's multi-million Pula medical bills heist exposed

- Medical aid patients robbed out of millions of Pulas every year
- Medical bill heist threatens to ruin households – report
- Mother to Child transmission programme not as effective as it is made out to be
- Alarming number of teenagers and young adults HIV positive

KHONANI ONTEBETSE

Botswana on medical aid are being ripped off to the tune of millions of Pula in out of pocket (OOP) medical expenses – the Board of Healthcare Funders (BHF) has revealed.

The report by BHF has exposed a sick system under which Botswana who are on medical aid pay more for medical services, in excess of the going rate recommended by the World Health Organization (WHO). It has further emerged that Botswana's senior citizens who are on medical aid are the hardest hit.

BHF Managing Director Dr Katlego Mthudi stopped short of warning that the high out of pocket expenses paid by Botswana medical aid clients could impoverish local households.

Dr Mthudi cautioned that "key measure included in this report is OOP expenditure by medical aid beneficiaries. Health care costs can be catastrophic and lead to financial ruin of households."

The BHF report however does not disclose how overcharges make their way into bills in the first place. It is not clear if this massive heist of medical bills is a result of price fraud, errors or just overcharges.

OOP expenditure is the money contributed by medical aid clients for health services when they access care.

According to the 2019 BHF, Botswana's OOP expenditure was more than P403 million, representing at least 20% of total healthcare expenditure. In 2018, OOP expenditure was P355 million, representing 19% of total healthcare expenditure.



Gaborone main mall is hauntingly empty as the Greater Gaborone region begins a two week lockdown.

CONTINUES ON PG 2

DWNP was disarmed over coup allegations - Khama

THOBO MOTLHOKA

Former President Lt Gen Ian Khama says the Anti-Poaching Unit was disarmed because of fears of a coup plot against President Mokgweetsi Masisi.

Speaking to the Sunday Standard Friday July 31st 2020 Khama said the

decision to take away firearms from the Department of Wildlife and National Parks (DWNP) anti-poaching unit was based on unfounded fears of a possible coup.

"I have no proof but I was reliably informed it was to do with me and the irresponsible and childish allegations of a coup plot," Khama

said.

At the time of the disarmament the DWNP was under Khama's brother Tshekedi Khama (TK) who was Minister of Environment, Natural Resources Conservation and Tourism.

The decision by President Mokgweetsi Masisi following a fall out

with his predecessor was seen by any as a move to emasculate the Khama brothers.

TK himself expressed concern over the move which he said was a gift to the poachers.

Issues over Masisi's security intensified in 2019 in the lead up to the General Elections. At one point

the President's official jet OK1 made a U-turn mid-air enroute to Mozambique over what the Director of the Directorate of Intelligence and Security (DIS) Brigadier Peter Magosi said was a plot to assassinate President Masisi.

No arrests have been made over the allegations, fuelling speculations

of possible paranoia by the President's security personnel.

Last month (July) Magosi told the Parliamentary Accounts Committee (PAC) that he still feared for the President's life.

"I won't commit to a time frame

CONTINUES ON PG 4



Inside how directors broke the Choppies bank

SUNDAY STANDARD REPORTER

Personal compensation to non-executive directors of Botswana Stock Exchange (BSE) and Johannesburg Stock Exchange (JSE) listed Choppies Enterprises Ltd has shot up to a whopping P 4.6 million.

This is a 214 per cent growth during the financial year ended June 2019, compared to P1.46 million paid during the same period in the previous year, data availed to the Sunday Standard reveals.

Members who have been kicked out of the Choppies board among them former President of Botswana Festus Mogae, Former Botswana High Commissioner to India Dorcas Kgosietstle, former Barclays Bank Managing Director Wilfred Mpai, former partner at PwC Botswana Robert Neil Mathews and Chairman of Holdsport Ltd Sydney Alan Muller gobbled up a huge chunk of the P4.6 million in three months.

Choppies paid the non-executive directors P33,333 per board sitting. Kgosietstle received a pay out of P 1.3 million compared to P4,00,000 (225% increase) she received the previous year. Mogae received 8,67,000 compared to P1,33,000 (551 % increase) he received during the financial year ended 2018.

The Choppies board met almost every week since August 2018 as the company failed to publish its audited results. Subsequently, a boardroom battle involving Choppies Enterprises Chief Executive Officer, Ram Ottapathu and company board under the chairmanship of Festus Mogae broke out, leading to the CEOs suspension.

However, in the first week of September 2019, Ottapathu swept to victory in the EGM, being retained on the board by 52.05% of shareholders and securing approval of his handpicked nominees Tom Pritchard (77.75%) and Carol Jean Howard (51.2%). Ottapathu's close ally and Choppies founder, Farouk Ismail was also retained in the board with 55% of votes in support. Wilfred Mpai, Dorcas Kgosietstle, Ronald Tamale and Heinrich Standar, all members of the previous board, failed to secure reappointment, in a meeting marked by palpable tension between the board rivals.

WEATHER & INFO

WEATHER FORECAST GABORONE

SUNDAY Max: 26°C Min: 04°C

MONDAY Max: 24°C Min: 03°C

TUESDAY Max: 26°C Min: 06°C

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Contrary to what Khama said, Morwaeng has never crossed the floor

As someone whose mother tongue is English, Ian Khama should be the last person to be judo-swept by that language but that is what happened last Saturday.

Speaking at the funeral of Priscilla Mosswane, who was the wife of the Francistown East MP, Ignatius Mosswane, Khama invited his audience to ruminate on the irony of a minister who has himself crossed the floor one too many times bringing legislation that would prohibit floor-crossing.

To be clear, Kabo Morwaeng has indeed done the rounds of Botswana's political landscape and had he gone to the University of Botswana instead of the National University of Lesotho, would likely have hopped from GS26 (the Botswana Democratic Party's cell at UB) to Mass (Botswana National Front cell at UB) and the UB-origin Marx Engels Lenin and Stalin movement.

Morwaeng's political career started at Sir Ketumile Masire's BDP from where he joined Dr. Kenneth Koma's BNF and was



Kabo Morwaeng

part of a group that broke away to form the Botswana Congress Party (BCP) whose founding president was Michael Dingake. He later went back to the BDP and once more, was part of a dissident group that broke away to form the Botswana Movement for Democracy (BMD). He didn't stay too long in BMD because soon thereafter, he rejoined the BDP for the second time. Since 1994, Morwaeng had been pinning for a parliamentary seat and he was doing all those rounds in search of that seat. That ambition was realised on October 23 last year when he was elected to parliament for the very first time in his life on a BDP ticket.

A term that originated in the British House of Commons, "floor-crossing" has a very specific meaning and describes very specific set of actions by particular people that occur in a particular place: an MP literally crossing the floor to join MPs of another political party, who are seated on the opposite side of the floor. If he were to rejoin the BNF, BCP or BMD during the life of this parliament, Morwaeng would indeed be crossing the floor and would be doing so for the very first time. That is because only MPs and councillors can cross the floor. Given that the house of a party's regional or constituency secretary serves as the party's office, ordinary activists who quit one party and join another merely cross the village street. Of late, some BDP and Umbrella for Democratic Change members have been dumping their parties for the Botswana Patriotic Front. These people are not crossing floor – they are merely defecting.

The semantic distinction between "floor-crossing" and "defection" is very important, not least because words are socially-contracted commodities that have a very specific meaning to the linguistic community that uses them. Strictly speaking, Morwaeng has never ever crossed the floor and any assertion that he did distorts the historical record.

During the current sitting of parliament, Morwaeng will table a bill that would have the effect of outlawing crossing the floor with a seat.

Police start nationwide operation to enforce mask-wearing law

• A face mask costs as little as P2 but a single super spreader can rack up a health bill in the hundreds of millions of pula



Face masks are mandatory to curb the spread of COVID-19

It took a long time coming but the police are finally doing something that they should have done minutes after President Mokgweetsi Masisi assented to the Emergency Powers (COVID-19) (Amendment) (No.4) Regulations 2020 – aggressively going after people who wilfully go maskless in public.

By the time you read this, thousands of mask-law breakers would (thankfully) have been charged at police stations across the country. The order to more rigorously enforce mask-wearing law was cascaded from the Commissioner of Police, Keabetswe Makgophe as COVID-19 cases doubled last Tuesday. The order cascaded from Makgophe to Officers Commanding to station commanders to officers who patrol the streets. Towards that end, an "urgent" savingram from the Divisional

Commander North, Israel Tuelo, titled "Intensification of Enforcement of COVID-19 Protocols by Members of the Botswana Police Service" was issued last Wednesday. The savingram says that a decision has been taken to suspend all leave-taking by police officers with immediate effect. All officers currently on leave are therefore instructed to immediately report at their duty stations.

It has always been evident that Botswana was regressing in the fight against COVID-19 because wearing a mask or not wearing it properly was becoming a norm – even at the Office of the President (OP). During the lockdown, some donors to the COVID-19 Relief Fund violated this law right under the nose of Vice President Slumber Tsogwane. The latter denied that mask-wearing law was being violated at OP when

Sunday Standard published an article to that effect but found himself defenceless when a follow-up article published photographic evidence. Police officers were themselves part of the problem because enforcement was very weak. Until a vaccine is found, mask-wearing is the only way to contain the spread of COVID-19 but for a very strange reason, some people are actively resisting this very simple health measure. While some don't wear it altogether, others hang it around the neck or cover the mouth only. However, Section 2 (3) (a) (ii) (aa) of the Emergency Powers (COVID-19) (Amendment) (No.4) Regulations 2020 is very clear on the fact that a face mask or home-made item should cover one's nose and mouth. The situation is even worse in small villages that don't have police presence. During the President's Day holidays, *Sunday Standard* visited

Ditshukudu, a small village west of Lentswetlau, and didn't encounter a single person wearing a mask.

Oddly, some of the people who are wilfully disobeying health advice rely on a hugely deficient public health care system which they would have to turn to if they contract COVID-19. Masks are themselves very cheap – some cost as little as P2 at Chinese shops. It is highly likely that in choosing to go maskless or not wear a mask properly, one can infect a whole community and occasion a public health emergency that will rack up hundreds of millions of pula in medical care costs.

The people who are resisting mask law are also putting the lives of infants in danger and Childline Botswana has expressed grave concern about the potentially infanticidal misconduct of pro-coronavirus adults who continue to flout the

mandatory mask law. In the process, these adults endanger the lives of infants who can't wear face masks themselves because it is not medically safe for them to do so.

Another provision of the Emergency Powers (COVID-19) (Amendment) (No.4) Regulations 2020 that the police have started enforcing more rigorously is that relating to social distancing.

Interestingly, rigorous enforcement of these regulations would obviate the need for the government to periodically lock down Greater Gaborone, which includes Gaborone proper, the country's industrial and commercial nerve centre. It is tragic that it is only now that the government, the police especially, is waking up to the reality that more aggressive enforcement of the mask-wearing and social distancing mandates would contain the spread.



Comrade Vs Comrade: How BNF is collapsing under the weight of fake news scourge

SUNDAY STANDARD REPORTER

Botswana National Front vice president, Prince Dibeela has been forced to respond to a circulating WhatsApp message that hints at him and his followers planning to join the ruling Botswana Democratic Party.

The messages that have since gone viral on Social Media among other things allege that Dibeela is working closely with the BDP.

Crucially the identity of the other person with whom Dr Dibeela is exchanging the messages is not known.

Allegations have been made that the person is president Mokgweetsi Masisi.

But Dibeela holds that he does not have any personal relationship with Masisi.

In the conversation seen by *Sunday Standard*, Dr Dibeela is made to be saying that if he does not get his way inside the BNF he would form a splinter party that could cooperate with Botswana Congress Party and even the Alliance for Progressives, or even join the Botswana Democratic Party, for that matter.

Dibeela has rubbished the conversation as fake.

He says it is a creation of people that do not want to face inner-party competition.

He traces all of it to his comrades inside the BNF – the usual suspects.

Dibeela is challenging Duma Boko for the leadership of the BNF and this has not sat well with an insolent sub-cultural arm calling itself fearfokol.

Fearfokol controls the BNF through its deployment of vulgar language, abuse of social media, intimidation, blackmail and other use of epithets leveled at anybody they do not agree with – inside the BNF but also in the general public discourse.

Speaking to *Sunday Standard*, Dibeela said his detractors are afraid of competition.

"There is a so-called conversation between myself and some BDP person (allegedly Rre Masisi) which is doing the rounds on social media. I wish to put it on record that this is a mere concoction by desperate people whose purpose is to malign and cast aspersions on my character. This conversation is not authentic," he said.

If the conversation is found to be false it would not be the first time that his own comrades have planted something to try to incriminate Dr Dibeela.

He has consistently been the subject of ridicule and insults in public since he announced that he wants to replace Boko as the leader.

He says he remains committed to fighting the misrule of the BDP. And has challenged both the BNF and the UDC [Umbrella for Democratic Change] on whose executives he sits to go to the bottom of the circulating conversation by subjecting him to disciplinary conversation.

He said he has never been a member of the BDP, nor has he ever associated with the party's policies.

"My name and picture have been superimposed on a fake account I do not have a personal relationship with Rre Masisi, or whoever it is I am alleged to have been talking to."

He says the conversation is a cheap stunt that has come to characterise Botswana politics.

"I believe it constitutes cybercrime and as such will be reporting it to the police," said Dibeela.

He said those who are behind all of it are afraid of democratic contest.

He holds the view that these types of smears do not only target individual, but also soil politics as a vocation. The act has left Dibeela angry and saddened, not least because some senior people have bought into the trick, he said.

"It is wrong the way we use social media against each other. The abuse and emotional torture that goes on has to be curbed, otherwise this cyber vigilantism will destroy us," says Dibeela.

Trump's COVID-19 cure video widely shared in Botswana

The global digital connectivity has been such that the now infamous July 28 video about a COVID-19 cure which was retweeted by United States president, Donald Trump, has been widely shared in Botswana. While the Director of Health Services, Dr. Malaki Tshipiyagae, has previously countered claims of a COVID-19 cure by an African president, he still hasn't done the same with Trump's.

The video in question features a maskless Cameroonian woman who lives in Texas, Dr. Stella Immanuel, saying that hydroxychloroquine cures COVID-19 and that there is no need for people to wear face masks. Trump, who has stated that he takes the drug as a pre-exposure prophylaxis and considers mask-wearing to be a sign of weakness, retweeted the video. Hours later, it was being widely shared in Botswana and is still being shared on WhatsApp. While Immanuel's claims have been and are still being debunked in the US by health officials and the mainstream media, the same thing is not happening in Botswana.

Oddly, Tshipiyagae reacted to a claim by Madagascar president, Andry Rajoelina, that a tonic infusion made from an indigenous plant called Artemisia Afra (*Lengana* in Setswana) can also cure COVID-19. In response to that claim, Tshipiyagae sarcastically stated that while coffee is tasty, it is not a cure for the disease. Around the same time, Trump also stated that doses of disinfectant injected into the body instantly "knock out the virus." There was no rebuttal from Tshipiyagae's office.

While it is doing an otherwise good job of educating people about the virus and how it spreads, the



US President, Donald Trump

government is missing something that should be very obvious: that in a digitally-connected world, information about COVID-19 comes from all over the world. The Emergency Powers (COVID-19) (Amendment) (No.4) Regulations 2020 criminalise the publication of false COVID-19 information but some of that information originates from abroad through a borderless digital realm and ends up being shared on Botswana iPhones – like the hydroxy-chloroquine-cure video. The more sophisticated news consumers conduct further research to verify the authenticity of the information they get but less sophisticated ones don't get that extra mile. The latter state of affairs undoes what the government is doing through its public education programmes on COVID-19.

On the whole, COVID-19 has coincided with a period of hugely deficient political leadership across the globe. In Brazil, a macho president contracted the disease because he didn't wear a face mask; in the US, public health officials have to fact-check Trump every day and a former presidential candidate who refused to wear a mask died of COVID-19 on Thursday; in the Philippines, a loose-cannon president has advised members of the public to disinfect masks with petrol; in Burundi, a religious-zealot ignored WHO's advice and reportedly died of COVID-19; in Tanzania, another religious-zealot president says prayer cures the disease; and in Botswana, MPs have fought with public health officials when required to comply with COVID-19 health measures.

International organisations come to BPF spokesman's aid

Three international organisations and a local one plan to be in Justice Motlhabani's corner when he goes toe to toe with the state in a criminal case that is before the Gaborone High Court.

Motlhabani is the spokesman of the Botswana Patriotic Front, a party founded by former president Ian Khama last year, and is facing four-count criminal charges relating to "publishing statements with intention to deceive persons about the COVID-19 infection", and "use of offensive electronic communication." The state alleges that alongside Oratile Dikologang and Letsogile Barupi, Motlhabani is the administrator of a Facebook page called "Botswana Trending News" which published false information relating to President Mokgweetsi Masisi and the COVID-19 pan-



Justice Motlhabani

dem. The offending stories were headlined "Breaking, Masisi to pay BDP MPs P12.5 million each so that they can support state of emergency" and "Botswana hid-

ing coronavirus cases to avoid causing unrest amongst the citizens." Having been earlier denied bail by a magistrate court, Motlhabani and his co-accused succeed-

ed in a subsequent application at the High Court.

Sunday Standard learns that the American Bar Association has appointed a local law firm, Matlala Attorneys, to observe proceedings in the case. ABA is a voluntary association of American lawyers, judges and law students whose most important activities are the setting of academic standards for law schools and the formulation of model ethical codes related to the legal profession. With services ranging from advocacy initiatives to provision of technical support to trial monitoring to petitioning governments and the African Union Commission, ABA also provides legal support to cases relating to media freedoms and digital rights. Its appointment of Matlala Attorneys has been made under a regional, South Africa-based programme called Advancing Rights in

Southern Africa ARISA.

The latter learnt of Motlhabani's case through Freedom House, a United States-based, US government-funded, non-governmental organisation that conducts research and advocacy on democracy, political freedom, and human rights. The Committee to Protect Journalists, another US NGO which promotes press freedom and defends the rights of journalists around the world, is

monitoring developments in the case. Motlhabani says that CPJ will join the matter "once it's established that I published any of the articles under scrutiny."

Locally, an organisation called Molao Matters, which in written communication with Motlhabani says it is "assisting Ditshwanelo to monitor the human rights situation during the pandemic", has also offered its own assistance in the matter. Ditshwanelo – The

Botswana Centre for Human Rights, is the country's oldest and premier human rights organisation.

For now at least, the Media Institute of Southern Africa and the Botswana Media Workers Union are yet to offer similar assistance.

"MISA and BMWU have not reached out," says Motlhabani, a former Big Brother Africa contestant and University of Botswana

journalism graduate who now works as the Centre Manager for the Byte Size College campus in Palapye.

What these offers of support mean is that when the trial starts, Motlhabani will, in addition to his own lawyers, Unoda Mack and Peace Tamocho, have more legal manpower and firepower than the state. Tamocho is also BPF's legal secretary.

Choppies woes with auditors blighted chain store's financials

SUNDAY STANDARD REPORTER

Mazars, the new external auditors of retail giant Choppies Enterprise Ltd has been forced to disclaim the company's annual financial statement for the year ending 2019 after the predecessor audit firm PwC issued a disclaimer of opinion on the 2018 results.

The independent audit firm was appointed Choppies external auditors in February 2020, after the mass grocery retailer was ditched by the international auditing firm – PwC.

PwC conducted physical counts of inventories during the June 2019 which details were available to Mazars. Mazars however, concluded that, as this was their first year on the group audit, they would have covered many more stores than PwC had. As a result, counts by PwC did not give Mazars the "alternative means" to verify the physical existence of the inventories at June 2019, hence

the audit qualification, people familiar with the developments have revealed.

The disclaimer by PwC created a situation whereby subsequent audit opinions are forced to be disclaimed until the effect thereof on opening balance and comparative figures have been worked out of the reporting stream. Accordingly, 2019 audit opinion was disclaimed by Mazars.

"It is purely a technical issue and it has nothing to do with the authenticity and clarity on company's financials during the said period" they added.

As Mazars were not auditors of the company or the group in the prior year (2017-18), coupled with the fact that Choppies' previous auditor (PwC) expressed a disclaimer, Mazars could not independently verify the correctness of the opening balance and the comparative figures of 2019 of the group and company," an analyst with a leading stock broking firm said.

Mazars also informed the

stock exchanges that they were not appointed as auditors of Choppies Enterprise Limited in the prior year. "The predecessor auditor issued a disclaimer of opinion on the prior year consolidated and separate financial statements. Due to the effect of the matter noted above, we were unable to obtain sufficient appropriate evidence to form a conclusion whether the opening balances are free from material misstatements", said Mazars.

The disclaimer was based on the inability by the predecessor auditor to formulate an opinion on the consolidated and separate financial statements because of the conflicting and different interpretations on the results of the legal and forensic investigations, management's responses thereto and other evidence obtained during the audit, he said.

It is clear from the reasons for disclaiming an audit opinion by PwC on the 2018 results that the accounting for bulk sales

transactions in South Africa and Zimbabwe as well as the accounting of certain business acquisitions in South Africa, formed a fundamental reason for the disclaimer.

Investigations by the Audit Risk Committee (ARC) during the past year also revealed no wrongdoings regarding the accounting treatment of the bulk sales or business acquisitions. These allegations cost the group in excess of P17 million, not accounting for managements time and deviation of focus.

The bulk sales and business acquisitions matters were subject of a "Focused Investigations" by Adv Meyerowitz as requested by the Board and the counsel made the point that, even if the allegations were true, there is no evidence that any one party personally benefited from the alleged fraud and the evidence provided suggested that the purchase prices in respect for the purchased stores were not artificially inflated.

Botswana anti-poaching unit returns to arms

VICTOR BAATWENG

Two years after making international headlines by disarming its anti-poaching unit, Botswana is preparing to give game rangers back their guns.

Information from the government enclave suggests that the Attorney General chambers is already drafting a new piece of legislation that will facilitate re-arming of the anti-poaching unit.

The minister responsible for Environment and Tourism – Philda Kereng on Thursday also confirmed the developments to Parliament.

Responding to a question by Member of Parliament for Maun East – Goretsetse Kekgonegile, Kereng said, "My ministry is

committed to empowering members of the anti-poaching unit under the Department of Wildlife and National parks to undertake their duties. This includes providing them with necessary resources and equipment including appropriate firearms".

Kereng also told Parliament that a piece of legislation to facilitate the process of re-arming the anti-poaching unit is being prepared and will be tabled before the ongoing session of Parliament."

The latest development comes at a time when Botswana has been on the losing end of a protracted battle against poachers who have killed over 36 rhinos and 11 elephants between April 2018 and December 2019.

According to Kereng, Botswana has in recent months experienced a decline in the poaching of elephants as poachers turned their focus on rhinoceros due to high demand for their horns in the far east Asia.

Following the disarming of the anti-poaching unit in May 2018 Botswana has been recording unprecedented rise in poaching activities. The rise has resulted in a clash between the Botswana Defence Force and poachers in the Okavango and Chobe areas.

By July 2020, the army said that a total number of poachers killed since the beginning of 2020 stood at seventeen (17).

Apart from the shoot to kill policy, Botswana has recently decided to dehorn all the rhinos and

relocate them to secure, private locations.

The wildlife custodians – Department of Wildlife and National Parks said in addition to dehorning, anti-poaching efforts would be intensified.

The BDF has however admitted that poachers are using sophisticated weapons of war and communication equipment.

"As a professional, prompt and decisive force, the BDF will continue to execute its mission of defending Botswana's territorial integrity, sovereignty and national interest", says Colonel Tebo Dikole – Director of the Directorate of Protocol and Public Affairs at Botswana Defence Force (BDF).



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If Botswana parliament did not exist, would we ever need to invent it?

The motion by opposition Umbrella for Democratic Change (UDC) exposed Botswana parliament for what it is: An institution that is no more than the sum total of its parts. More exactly it is the sum of 44 BDP parliamentarians defending the party corner and 19 opposition MPs just content with kicking the government's butt as hard as they can – Writes THOBO MOTLHOKA

Talk is cheap. That would be the only conclusion to draw from Botswana parliamentary debates which have become a made for BTV jousting sport. That is if the public purse did not have to pick a hefty bill in parliamentarians sitting allowances.

The ongoing debate on the motion to re-arm the Anti-Poaching Unit tabled by the opposition Umbrella for Democratic Change (UDC) is just another rowdy expensive talking shop with the customary rank populism and a pre-determined outcome. It is the usual two parties pushing unbudgeable agendas to the edge, expected to result in a "nay" vote by the more herd mentality and less nuance ruling Botswana Democratic Party (BDP) majority and cheap rhetoric by the opposition minority.

For the Speaker of the National Assembly, Phandu Skelamani, trying to keep the Augean stables clean and make the obstreperous MPs seem honourable is like herding frogs.

The motion tabled by UDC member of parliament for Selebi Phikwe East Kgoberego Nkawana on Friday exposed the Botswana parliament for what it has become: An institution that is no more than the sum total of its parts. More exactly it is the sum of 44 BDP parliamentarians defending the party corner and 19



Parliament in session

opposition MPs just content with kicking the government's butt as hard as they can.

At best, the whole exercise is

only academic. It is mathematically impossible for Nkawana and his opposition colleagues to push the motion through.

At worst, it is an expensive waste of time, because government has already kick started the process to re-arm the Anti-

Poaching Unit anyway.

Nkawana moved that: "This Honourable House requests government to consider re-arming the Department of Wildlife and National Parks so that they can effectively and efficiently carry out their anti-poaching duties."

He was supported by fellow opposition members including MP for Okavango Kenny Kapinga who said the decision by government to disarm the anti-poaching unit was made under the false pretext that their possession of firearms was against the law. Kapinga quoted Section 73 (3) of the Wildlife Conservation and National Parks Act which reads: "Where it is necessary for the discharge of his duties or the exercise of his powers under this Act, and notwithstanding the provisions of the Arms and Ammunition Act, a wildlife officer may carry a firearm with him, even on land of which he is not the owner, for the protection of himself or any other person, the prevention or investigation of offences against this Act, or the

arrest of any person committing or suspected of committing an offence under this Act, and where the Director so directs, such firearm may be of a type not otherwise permitted under the Arms and Ammunition Act."

The Okavango Legislator said it was the core mandate of the DWNP to protect wildlife and combat poaching.

"It is the Department of Wildlife and National Parks that has been mandated with the responsibility to protect our wildlife, not the army," Kapinga argued. "The law is clear. It gives wildlife officers the authority to carry semi-automatic weapons, contrary to what the government has said."

He said even if the fight against poachers required the use of a bazooka, the wildlife officers would be well within their rights to use it.

"While we are grateful for the Botswana Defence Force (BDF) support in the fight against poaching, their role is exactly that; to support. Not to usurp the role

of the Department of Wildlife and National Parks."

In her response the Minister of Tourism Philda Kereng set the tone for the collective decision the ruling party is likely to take.

She pointed out that the motion was not necessary as there were plans for a holistic approach to anti-poaching.

"Efforts are underway to address the legislative gaps that have constrained the (anti-poaching) Unit to carry semi-automatic weapons in carrying out their duties."

Kereng said her ministry was aware of the need to resource the Anti-Poaching Unit but would wait to table a proposed legislation at a later stage despite evidence that legislation already exists that empowers the Unit to carry the necessary weapons.

"We are fully aware that poaching of species such as rhinos has increased dramatically over the past two years," the Minister said, adding "This surge requires an appropriate response including increasing resources and

manpower on the ground. It must be understood that overcoming poachers does not only require well-armed personnel. It requires holistic approach including the implementation of anti-poaching strategies."

As expected, fellow BDP MP Lefoko Moagi threw his weight behind the minister, suggesting the decision to oppose the current motion was a collective response by the ruling party. Speaking to *Sunday Standard* former President Ian Khama, a staunch conservationist, expressed his support for the motion to re-arm the Unit.

He said the disarmament of the Anti-Poaching Unit resulted in the rise in poaching activity.

"It also had the severe impact on the motivation of DWNP officers who are very demoralized," Khama says. "The success of anti-poaching has to include a motivated BDF."

If they were well led it would be achieved." The former President says however that as the custodians of the Botswana wildlife the DWNP need to play a bigger role and "it starts with rearming them".

Former Minister of Tourism, and now opposition MP Tshakedi Khama (TK) said the DWNP was armed long before he took over as Minister. "They were armed from as far back as President Sir Ketumile Masire (1980-1998). The anti-poaching unit was constituted by all the government security forces. It does not get more holistic than that."

He said even when the Unit were provided with new advanced weapons the current President Mogkweetsi Masisi and his Vice President Slumber Tsogwane (then ministers) were in agreement. "The only thing I did when I took over as Minister of Tourism was to capitate the DWNP further. I didn't introduce firearms, they already had them. The one thing I introduced was the total ban on hunting."

President Masisi dismissed the criticism of his government's disarmament of the DWNP as "nothing but hysteria" following reports that poachers were on the rampage. "This stretch of imagination of linking the poaching of any species with an alleged disarmament of the department of wildlife is nothing but hysteria," he said.

Botswana's multi-million Pula medical bills heist exposed

CONTINUED FROM PG 1

"The World Health Organization recommends that OOP expenditure by individuals should not exceed 15% of total healthcare expenditure."

"OOP expenditure among older ages was as high as P7 000 per beneficiary per annum in 2019. This amount translates to about 100% of the average annual contribution for medical aid fund membership (adult contributions). Older beneficiaries need more protection from OOP expenditure," the report warned.

It emerged in the report that most OOP expenditure in 2019, about P167 million was at Healthcare Service Providers (HSPs).

This was followed by medicines and devices outside hospi-

tal, amounting to P116 million. OOP was lower at hospitals – P111 million in 2019, translating to 20% of all healthcare expenditure at

Hospitals," the report states. The report also shows OOP expenditure by age per beneficiary and per annum basis in 2018 and 2019. The expenditure increases with increasing age. For child dependents the levels of OOP are very low in nominal terms, however as a proportion of total healthcare expenditure it is consistent with other ages.

The report also compared HSPs in 2019 to hospitals and OOP expenditure for medicines and

devices. "The bulk of this went to pathologists, medical specialists and general practi-

tioners. Of the P167 million spent at HSPs, 30% was spent at both medical and surgical specialists," states

the report. Meanwhile the report has also raised red flags on the success of Botswana's much celebrated Prevention of Mother To Child Transmission (PMTCT) of HIV.

"There are some children under five years of age with HIV, raising concerns about the success of mother-to-child transmission preventative interventions," the report says.

The report further expressed concern about the number of teenagers and young adults with HIV/AIDS.

"Another concerning obser-

vation is the number of teenagers and young adults with HIV", states the report.

It says HIV remains the most prevalent chronic condition among medical fund beneficiaries. In 2019, the prevalence of HIV was 39.6 per 1 000 beneficiaries, compared to 39.9 per 1 000 beneficiaries in 2018. The report says Cardiovascular (CVS) diseases, which include hypertension, coronary artery disease, cardio-myopathy, cardiac failure CVS-related diseases were the second most prevalent, with a prevalence of 27.9 per 1 000 beneficiaries in 2019.

This is higher than the prevalence of 25.7 per 1 000 beneficiaries in 2018.

DWNP was disarmed over coup allegations - Khama

CONTINUED FROM PG 1

as to when we expect to have made arrests over the threats to the President's life," Magosi said.

He would also not reveal who posed the threat to Masisi's life. "When the time comes, we will make arrests."

Asked why he would not delegate his juniors to take over Presidential "bodyguard" roles Magosi insisted his men were still not qualified to be on the front-line of Masisi's defence.

"I will only stop personally protecting the President once I

am satisfied that my men have been trained to carry out the job adequately," Magosi told the PAC.

Parliament last week debated a motion on the re-arming of the Anti-Poaching Unit. Khama told *Sunday Standard* of

his support for the motion saying poaching increased significantly following the decision to disarm the Unit. While the debate on the matter continues this week with most MPs yet to share their opinions, all indications are that the motion will be defeated.

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BDP slaps Mogalakwe with P1.2 million legal bill

• *A big-time commercial farmer, he also complains about poor rains and being run over by cattle during a freak accident*

Even as he opens up another legal front at the Court of Appeal that will certainly drive costs up, the last standing 2019 elections petitioner, Mogalakwe Mogalakwe, has revealed that he has been slapped with a huge legal bill.

Running on the Alliance for Progressives ticket, Mogalakwe was one-third of council candidature for the Moralane ward in the Shoshong constituency. He ran against Kesebelwang Gaorongwe of the ruling Botswana Democratic Party and Ehutsahetse Mokalake of the Umbrella for Democratic Change. When the votes were counted, Gaorongwe came out tops with 674 votes, followed by Mogalakwe himself with 637 votes while Mokalake managed only 72 votes. The BDP has engaged Bogopa, Maneve, Tobedza Attorneys to represent Gaorongwe while Mogalakwe is himself represented by Kgoadi, Legwaila, Ng'andu & Partners.

In an application he has made to the Court of Appeal, Mogalakwe says that through his lawyers, he has received two separate bills of costs from Bogopa, Maneve, Tobedza Attorneys which "shocked" him.

"They told me about a letter June 4, 2020 which stated that I had to pay P1 million for the trial but shortly thereafter they received two bills for amounts P507, 353.20 for the trial and P789, 683.00 the latter for the application for leave at the High Court. This totally changed the whole picture; I felt devastated



Mogalakwe Mogalakwe

and I had to start consultation again with my family and others and consider my position. I felt intimidated but still got support from all and have now come to this court," says Mogalakwe in his court papers, by "this court" referring to the Court of Appeal which he wants to overturn an unfavourable High Court ruling and allow a retrial.

For what it is worth, his lawyer, Patrick Kgoadi, has assured him that while the court ordered attorney-and-client scale costs only, the bill of costs that shocked him was on an attorney-and-own-client scale – which "are on an extremely high scale." The former tariff scale includes not only the absolutely necessary costs to pursue a matter to finality but also other costs which might be useful and appropriate to promote the successful party's case, although such costs might not always be deemed necessary. The latter is a raised tariff which is not charged in line with the prescribed tariffs of the rules of the

applicable court and also entails all costs incurred to pursue the matter to finality, on the raised tariff, charged in a manner agreed upon between attorney and client. Kgoadi's assurance notwithstanding, Mogalakwe says that he "still felt shattered and was clearly shaken."

Even as he launches another court battle, Mogalakwe is still recovering from injury occasioned by a freak accident at the cattlepost. He reveals no more than that the accident occurred around May 10 this year when he was "run over by cattle" and that he couldn't attend court the following month and had to follow the live proceedings on Botswana Television. Resultantly, he is still receiving medical treatment at the Mahalapye Primary Hospital. He also reveals that he is a high blood pressure patient.

Mogalakwe is a long-time Mahalapye resident and from his court papers at least, Moralane appears to be where he operates a commercial farming project, which employs "close to 50 humble people that have been working the land through the years." He personally supervises this operation by commuting from Mahalapye "daily or every other day."

Some of his witnesses at the High Court trial were from Moralane – which is around 70 kilometres away from Mahalapye and about 30 kilometres from Shoshong. Following his unsuccessful case, the one that he is now being asked to pay P1.2 million for, Mogalakwe says that he

had to make arrangements "to return all the witnesses whom I had been shuttling between Gaborone, Mahalapye and Moralane." Ever since, "I have been sharing my time now between attending farming at Moralane and medical attention at Mahalapye Hospital for checkups on my ailment."

As if all this physical and mental torture was not enough, the farming business and COVID-19 brought their own sets of challenges. In his papers, Mogalakwe complains about farm machinery breaking down in the midst of a farming season that had received poor rains. COVID-19 occasioned travel restrictions that made it difficult for him to travel freely between Mahalapye and Gaborone, where his lawyers are based.

Mogalakwe says all these and more in service of impressing upon the Court of Appeal the fact that "I have ... been operating under pressure." By his account, this pressure made it extremely difficult for him to file his appeal in good time. He wants to be allowed to file an appeal as part of broader effort to have the courts overturn the election results and order a re-election.

A veteran opposition figure, Mogalakwe cut his teeth in politics in the Botswana National Front which he was a member of until joining AP recently. Even in the BNF, he had a solid reputation for shaking things up and the extent of his determination is that even when doing so comes at a prohibitive cost, he has always been prepared to go all the way.

Khama says a new law to stop floor-crossing is a sign of "panic" on the BDP

SUNDAY STANDARD REPORTER

Former President, Ian Khama has made his position known on the government proposals to review the Constitution and make floor crossing and defections from one party to the other by members of Parliament and councilors illegal.

He has said the new law is rushed, demonstrating panic and unease on the part of the ruling party.

If the law is intended to stop the growth of his party, then that will fail, he has said.

Calling Botswana government a "regime" that has run out of ideas, he accused it of lacking patriotism.

Under the proposals published in a government Gazette, any Member of Parliament or Councilor wishing to cross the floor from one party to the other will first have to resign their position and pave way for fresh elections.

Khama has said the strategy by the government and the ruling Botswana Democratic Party is not to enhance democracy but to "entrench themselves in power."

Talking to *Sunday Standard* through an intermediary as he often does, Khama said the BDP is coming up with a new law at the expense of what little remnants are left of democracy in Botswana.

"They have been consistently eroding [democracy] for the last two years," he said.

For the last few months there has been noticeable spike in defections, especially at councilor level from Botswana Democratic Party to the Botswana Patriotic Front.

The defections have mainly happened in the Central District Council around the Serowe areas where the BPF performed exceptionally well in the 2019 General



Ian Khama

elections. Khama is a Patron of the BPF. And he readily concedes that the BPF has been a big beneficiary of the current system where Members of Parliament and Councilors are able to cross from one party to the other without first having to vacate office.

"The BPF has been a beneficiary not only because we are patriots who believe in our citizens welfare as the core and principal priority for us as a party and our strong beliefs in our traditions of democracy and the culture of

botho but also to ensure we steer this nation on a path towards prosperity and wellbeing for all through inclusiveness and con-

sultation."

Khama does not accept that BPF is a regional party and is instead buoyant that the party is set to grow ahead of the next elections.

"the BPF is not a regional party. We have structures in every constituency in the country as recently witnessed when we dispatched registration forms to all of them through those very structures. I personally received new members from CAVA [BDP] in Kumakwane and there will be more such events around the country. Why the regime is rushing this law now is a demonstration of panic," said the former

president who has since abandoned the party and government he led for ten years.

He said he is not surprised that Botswana Government has come up with such new proposals.

He said these are signs of a party and government in trouble and doing everything to stay in power.

"When you are losing members at the rate they are and are going to continue to, there will be similar attempts to try and block holes in a sinking ship springing up faster than they can plug them," he concluded.



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opinion



THE MILITARY VETERAN
 RICHARD MOLEFE

Botswana's Post COVID-19 Industrialization (Part 2)

The need for the country to set up an oil refinery in Ngamiland District will not only serve a single purpose of securing our petroleum supply, but there are a host of other benefits that will follow after. The immediate benefit will of course be the employment of many citizens and especially the residents of that district. Other industries will naturally follow as there will be a developed road and railway network with electrical power distributed all across the region.

Another major industry that is certainly unavoidable will be the petrochemical sector. The petrochemical industry directly interfaces with the refineries and always becomes the primary downstream sector that creates a host of by-products.

As someone who comes from the social sciences background, I am not writing as an authority in this field, but I do so as a citizen who sees a great opportunity for our country. I do not necessarily need to explain the nomenclature of this science. I hope someone educated in the field of chemistry will write an article to get us into the science that I am going to circumvent here. I am mainly dealing with issues of national strategy.

The petrochemical industry is mainly concerned with the production of plastic and such related products. We should not think plastic in the narrow sense of the shopping bags that we use on daily basis. But instead we must think industrial plastic and that involves water tanks, water pipes, and a host of other products. We already have a thriving motor part industry in Botswana. This is where electrical components of German cars are produced in Gaborone West by a German company. It is here that plastic is consumed in great quantities as it is used for insulation purposes.

One of the two major players in the industry of petrochemicals is BASF of Germany and DuPont of America. BASF is already involved here in the soda ash industry and that product ends up in their factories in South Africa. It may be necessary to bring in a new player like DuPont but that will of course be determined by our primary refiner. For instance, Exxon-Mobil addresses the refinery and the downstream petrochemical sector.

The petrochemical industry will be a critical sector for Botswana because it will help us to stop exporting jobs. Once the infrastructure is set up here, it will equally help in the creation of a host of other industries. The plastic industry is so critical in the medical and pharmaceutical industries.

Botswana needs to invest in a more long lasting infrastructure such as the medical and agricultural sectors. There is never going to be a time when people will have no need for food and medical attention. At least we have learnt those lessons from COVID-19 and going forward the country must have a new strategy to address the needs we have realised.

From the proceeds of the refined petroleum products combined with the savings from what we are paying now for our imports, the country can set up the

state of the art hospitals around the country and the industry that supports it. A majority of the medical equipment used on daily basis comes from the petrochemical industry.

Walking into any hospital for medical attention, the doctor will wear the rubber gloves, a mask and a plastic apron before the examination begins. Then what may follow may be a UV transmission and an injection using a plastic syringe while the patient lies on a bed made predominantly of plastic material to prevent staining. It is these things that the industry will export and as well as consume domestically.

If this country invests in a world class state of the art medical complex, the rest of Africa may never have to seek for medical attention overseas. Better and affordable medical facilities for our population will equally translate to an improved life expectancy. An investment in medical infrastructure will help grow the country's GDP in many ways. In a case where a state of the art medical complex is set up in Maun, this will attract medical tourists. These are tourists who come from overseas for sightseeing and medical attention.

India and Cuba are two countries that are cashing in on this aspect of medicine as thousands of Westerners are flocking to these two countries for medical attention. In the process, the visiting patients spend thousands of dollars on other unrelated industries. And here is an opportunity that can be taken to work on as part of our post COVID-19 survival strategy.

We all agree that we need to be self-sufficient in food as a country. But of course we do not possess the means of production. The means of production are, the plastic pipes used for irrigation and particularly drips as they have proven to be ideal for Botswana's climatic conditions.

Morden and effective agriculture requires improved technologies. One of such technology is the growing of crops under tunnels. Most African countries consume a small portion of what is the total demand globally. But it is this market that we can tap on to as the demand is still met by importing these plastic tunnels half a world away from China. Tunnels assist in growing the crop faster and in the absence of pests and disease.

When we talk of self-sufficiency in food, we are talking bringing in hundreds of tractors into the country. The petrochemical industry will serve to provide synthetic rubber for the production of tyres and this will extend to the motor vehicles we use daily.

Everyone reading this article needs to understand that they have already used several petrochemical products which include sanitizers and household detergents. We all interact with petrochemical products daily and it has become unavoidable. The plastic pipe runs the water to your house and your smart phone is another good example of how close our interaction becomes. Simply put, the world is addicted to petrochemicals and we need to fill the need. Next week we will discuss the interaction of the refinery and the soda ash mine.

editorial

You think Covid-19 is bad for Botswana; climate change will be far worse!

Across the world Covid-19 has unsettled countries and rattled those in leadership as they grow uneasy and anxious – totally confused on how to react.

Ordinary citizens have been left to the mercy and exigencies of nature as many of them are furloughed from work and cut off from their lifelong livelihoods.

The pandemic has exposed the fragility of mankind and also how flimsy the systems he has put in place are.

A few weeks after Covid-19 hit the world, all systems that ran the world collapsed.

The same world had to reimagine new ones as it moved ahead.

Botswana has not been an exception.

Two weeks ago, President Mokgweetsi Masisi unveiled the new look CEDA guidelines.

It is a virtual re-make of the ones that had been presented to parliament by the Minister of Trade last year.

The guidelines as recently pre-

sented are supposed to provide a much-needed cushion for businesses and also for families.

For many businesses the pandemic has brought nothing but catastrophe.

After the lockdown, there are discernible efforts to kickstart the economy.

But kickstarting the economy should be done through the framework of "green targets" as they are more sustainable and ultimately cheaper.

CEDA should and can dovetail climate change concerns in its overall lending ecosystem.

That can only happen if government that owns CEDA demonstrate dedication to address climate change concerns and also green technology innovations.

As it is the new guidelines are virtually empty on green measures.

Setting up a fully-fledged green bank might prove prohibitively too expensive.

But a hybrid, with overarching

emphasis could certainly go a long way.

As things stand there is a feeling that the pandemic has decimated Botswana's defence walls.

But unless we make preparations ahead to address climate change, we will with time realise that the pandemic was a nothing but a fly on the wall.

The challenge is political will. Botswana's political leadership needs to fully understand what climate change is, its likely impacts for Botswana, ramifications for late response and most importantly what mitigating it will look like for Botswana.

Botswana has to be held to a higher standard when it comes to innovation in response to climate change.

We have to stay ahead of the curve.

CEDA should set aside finance for projects that are green as part of its overall.

It is disheartening to see such commercial banks like Standard

Chartered, FNBB and Barclays – now ABSA, all of them with headquarters where they are encouraging green technology literally doing nothing of the sort in Botswana.

Investing in green technology is a public service, but it also makes good business.

Government should use CEDA to empower indigenous citizens to stay ahead.

Commercial banks also need to adopt make green investment as integral requirement of their lending requirements.

But overall, the strategy should be towards establishing a "Green Bank."

This is because the issue of financing is going to be critical if Botswana has to join other countries that are as we speak far ahead on addressing carbon emissions, climate change and the effects of the same.

For a country heavily reliant on tourism and also agriculture, it is surprising and even shocking that Botswana has not yet seen the vitality of joining the green movement – even at

the levels of sheer symbolism.

In that score the Bank of Botswana has a role to play, not only in guiding movements towards that kind of a lending institute but also changing its own policy template towards demonstrating an admission that climate change is a real policy issue that has to be confronted head on.

Botswana is currently in the middle of an uncomfortable conversation that seeks to move away from tokenism to allowing indigenous Botswana a meaningful and substantial participation in the economy of their country.

It is a conversation that will not die unless those valid concerns that started it in the first instance are truthfully, genuinely and honestly addressed.

Those conversations have been amplified by Covid-19 pandemic.

With climate change the conversations will become shrivel, uncoordinated, unruly and impossible to control.

opinion

Keeping the Mandela/Masire agreement secret serves no purpose anymore



GUEST COLUMN
 KWAPENG MODIKWE

Last Wednesday was a busy day for South Africa as they were bidding farewell to the last surviving Rivonia trialist, Andrew Mlangeni who died a week ago at the age of 95. Unfortunately less than 100 people were allowed to attend the funeral due to Covid-19 protocols. The majority of South Africans had to glue their eyes to television channels which brought live broadcast of the event. I also watched the funeral on television and I can confirm that indeed there were emotional scenes especially when the MK veterans gave the deceased military salute. The funeral was described as category one which is said to be the nearest to the state funeral. That was befitting considering Andrew Mlangeni's contribution to the liberation struggle.

For the benefit of readers, I must add a new aspect to the life of Andrew Mlangeni. As I know it, there were some coincidental scenes in that struggle icon's public life. For instance, Andrew Mlangeni was imprisoned for 26 years and that his somewhat dealing with the Botswana National Front (BNF) remained secret for 26 years! Of course this may be a strange or interesting coincidence. Mlangeni was released from prison in October 1989 together with other struggle stalwarts such as Ahmed Kathrada, Raymond Mhlaba, Walter Sisulu and Elias Motsoaledi after spending 26 years in Robben Island and Pollsmoor prison. The release of prisoners was done by installment. The first was that of Denis Goldberg in 1985 after 22 years of imprisonment. Then it was that of Govan Mbeki in November 1987 after serving 24 years prison service.

Following his release, Andrew Mlangeni was engaged at Shell House, the headquarters of the African National Congress (ANC) where he was engaged as transport officer for the

organization. As transport officer, he had to ensure that the ANC was adequately provided with transport for it to carry out its programmes. It would seem that between 1993 and 1994, the BNF approached the ANC with a request for donations of vehicles. It will be remembered that 1994 was yet another election year in Botswana. South Africa had already conducted theirs and the ANC was in power. The BNF was like any party in the race, in need of sufficient transport to traverse all the corners of the country canvassing for support. It is not clear as to who in the BNF approached Andrew Mlangeni. However, suggesting Michael Dingake would not be farfetched. Michael Dingake had been to Robben Island as well. While there, he rubbed shoulders with ANC stalwarts like Nelson Mandela and Andrew Mlangeni himself. That relationship put Michael Dingake in good position to ensure that his BNF and the ANC cooperated.

For Andrew Mlangeni, the BNF's appeal was something he could not refuse, hence he donated them five vehicles. The Botswana Democratic Party (BDP) was totally unhappy over the donation. Their point of contention was that ruling parties all over the world cooperate among themselves. Similarly, opposition parties should cooperate with their counterparts in other countries. When Nelson Mandela visited Botswana in 1994, President Sir Ketumile Masire raised the BDP's concern with him during their tete-a-tete in Gaborone. Nelson Mandela informed Sir Ketumile that he had heard of such a donation and that he suspected that it was Andrew Mlangeni who did it.

He said he was going to deal with it internally on his return home. The two presidents agreed that Mandela's undertaking to deal with the matter effectively should not be made public.



Sir Ketumile Masire

lic. Sir Ketumile fulfilled the promise and only shared the information with a few members of his central committee. Key people in the BDP central committee were Ponatshogo Kedikilwe as chairman, Daniel Kwelagobe as secretary-general and Gaotlaetse Mathlabaphiri. Mathlabaphiri gossiped it to me but seriously asked me not share it with anyone. But out of journalistic curiosity, I felt it was necessary to check that with another source even though I had no intention of sharing it with anybody. It was told to me on condition I did not share it with another person. I had access to both Kedikilwe and Kwelagobe but I did not have the courage to talk to them about it.

On August 1995, I was assigned by my bosses at BOPA to travel to London, England for the coverage of celebrations marking 50th anniversary of the end of World War II. While there, Sir Ketumile invited me to his room for informal discussions. I seized the opportunity to ask Sir Ketumile if indeed he had raised the issue of Vehicle donations by the ANC to the BNF with President Mandela and what his response was. Masire confirmed what Mathlabaphiri had said to be and he too asked that I keep it to myself. Circumstances for which both Mandela and Masire entered into such an agreement no longer exist. I have therefore decided to open the lid on this issue because key

characters in this play have departed this world and that they will therefore suffer no harm. However, other characters that played significant role in the donation are still alive.

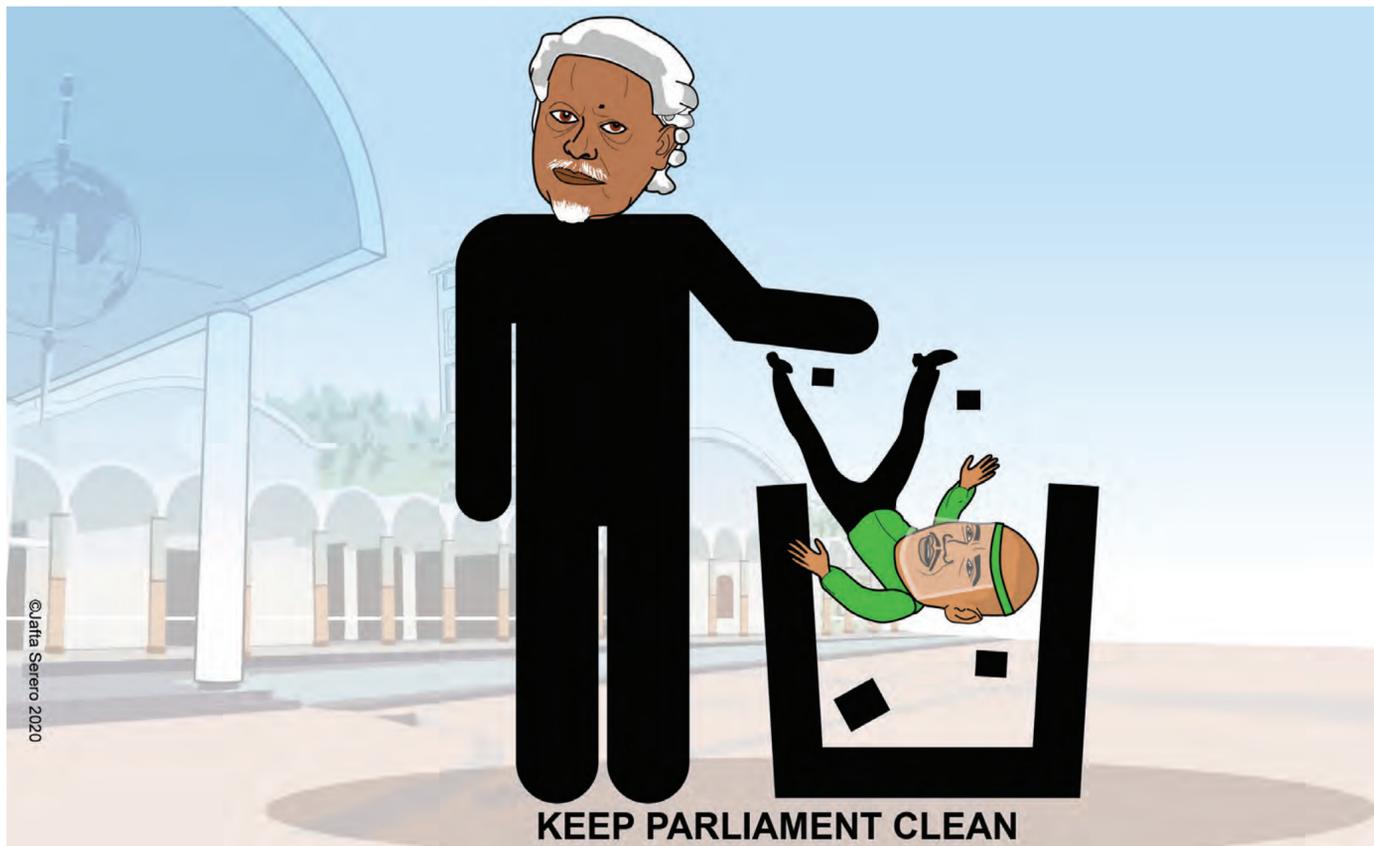
I spoke to Daniel Kwelagobe. He was aware of the BDP's response to the donation but referred me to trade unionist and former BNF official, Johnson Motshwarakgole. Motshwarakgole discussed the event as if it happened last week. He can vividly recall that the donation was in the form of VWs, Combi and corollas. Five BNF activists were dispatched to South Africa for the vehicle collection. They are Motshwarakgole, Patrick Kgoadi, Julia Mathumo, B.G. Mafoko and a certain Kelapile. Two of the team, Motshwarakgole and Mathumo spent the night at Andrew Mlangeni's home at Dube in Soweto while the rest were accommodated elsewhere. Motshwarakgole also recalls that Mlangeni was driving a brown Cressida car when he drove them from Shell House to Dube. He was playing old music in his car which made Mathumo jokingly remark that he was reminding himself of the old days before incarceration. While the success of the BNF in the 1994 election may not be due to the vehicles' donation, it is reasonable to say they added value to the party's campaign. That year the BNF registered victories at 13 parliamentary constituencies and took control of several town

and district councils. That election outcome, made many into believing that the BNF would take power in the next election due in 1999. But that was not because of a major split in the BNF which resulted with the formation of the Botswana Congress Party (BCP). As it turned out, the BDP's popularity only dropped by two percent from the 1994 election results to the 1999 election results (54.5 percent to 54.3 percent).

I watched Mlangeni's funeral on television because I wanted to hear former President Thabo Mbeki speak. He is an orator and I admire him. I and Mbeki have known each other for many years during the liberation struggle. We met for the first time in October 1989 during the Commonwealth Heads of State and Government meeting in Malaysia. But my memorable interaction with him was the summit meeting of the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) in Abuja, Nigeria in 1990 when we had a drink together at Hilton Hotel. I had been looking for the rest of the Botswana delegation without trace when he said to me "don't worry about their whereabouts may be they are out seeing Abuja by night". Earlier in the day we had been attending a Botswana chaired OAU committee which recommended that June 16 be declared Day of the African Child. The other reason for watching the funeral proceedings on television throughout the procession was because I was familiar with his place of residence, Dube, Pineville where the service was held and Roodepoort where he was buried. Both Pineville and Dube are not very far from Dobsonville where my parents used to stay during the apartheid days. Yesteryear's soccer fans in Botswana may recall Dube as home for the then famous Moroka Swallows alias, The Dube Birds and Pineville as hosts to the other famous soccer outfit called Pineville United Brothers alias, Pubs or the Skorm Boys. Roodepoort is where my parents lived before they were forcibly removed to Dobsonville to pave way for the whites. As cooperating partners and beneficiaries of ANC gestures, the BNF should have spoken loudly expressing message of sympathy to the ANC and Mlangeni's family instead of relying on the UDC to do that. They may have done that and if so, I commend them for that.

& analysis

cartoon



tributes to Gomolemo Motswaledi

The message from Africa Liberal Network

As Vice President Of Africa Liberal Network sir Gomolemo Motsoaledi was a astued charismatic leader and a visionary most importantly an African who was passionate about African politics.he was the member of Africa Liberal Network executive committee and Liberal International he was a true liberal Democrat who espoused liberal values of democracy,rule of law,free market economy and human rights. As vice president of Africa Liberal Network he was the architect of the organiza-

tion constitution as the chairperson of the constitutional review committee.he was a conciliator and the one who fosters cooperation and cohesion.he was recognized with a prestigious price for freedom for Africa Liberal Network a true inspirational leader his legacy leaves on we will never forget you.we salute you.

Stevens Mokalapa
Former President Africa Liberal Network and Vice President for Southern Africa

Morning Bakaulengwe.

In 2014 this day, we lost our founding President in the most tragic circumstances. His passing changed the course of politics in Botswana. The hope for an Orange future, a glorious future for our children, was extinguished, one hopes not forever. Let us all say a silent prayer for his soul

today in thanksgiving for the privilege, for howevet short a time, that the Lord blessed us with his life and the benefit of his manifold talents. In praying for him let us remember to also pray for our country, that he intercede for its deliverance in the Celestial Place on High, and that he soul may continue to rest in the most eternal peace whence he is.

It is said that when a giant tree falls, the earth below shakes. Indeed the whole country reverberated when one such giant fell 6 years ago

Most will tell you they remember exactly where they were when they heard the news of the passing of Gomolemo Motswaledi or Sir G as he was affectionately known

A man renowned for his oratory skills particularly in Setswana. A friend fondly remembers him saying

"Mokaulengwe, monna yo go batla re mo ikatumetsa, fa a rota re tle re itse gore moroto wa gagwe o elelela kae"

Sir G is greatly remembered for the courage he displayed by challenging the then Chairman Ian Khama through litigation for being expelled from the BDP.

Sir G is one of the people instrumental in the formation of the Botswana Movement for Democracy where he was subsequently elected its first president

He believed greatly in opposition unity and showed true leadership character and humility when many wanted him to be the leader of the UDC and deffered the position to Cde Duma Boko.

Showing "boikgwabalatso" as he often said and encouraged others to do the same. His charismatic disposition made it easy to work with here and even across the continent. Sir G was elected vice president of the African Liberal Network a position he still held at the time of his death.

He met his untimely demise in a car accident marred with conspiracy theories on the 30 July 2014.

He was beloved of youth and indeed by all those who had the privilege of meeting and knowing him.

We all miss him sorely and will never forget him.

May his soul continue to rest in peace as he lives forever in our hearts.

Botswana!!!! Wa Rona!!!!



Gomolemo Motswaledi



THE WATCHDOG

SPENCER MOGAPI
DEPUTY EDITOR SUNDAY STANDARD

Gomolemo Motswaledi at 50!

Speaking in 1985, Archbishop Desmond Tutu for the first time called for implementation of international economic sanctions against South Africa.

In addition to economic sanctions, he called for disinvestments from companies that had ties to the apartheid regime.

It was not a decision that had come easily to the revered clergyman. South Africa was going through its darkest hour. Apartheid was at its pinnacle. And a cloud of darkness hovered over the black race in that country. And, as Tutu himself put it at the time, he was not too optimistic about "prospects for change."

The famed light at the end of the tunnel was not in sight.

Tutu had given a hint a year earlier when touring the United States that if the gridlock remained between the liberation movement and the government he could be on his way to calling for sanctions against South Africa. He knew that meant arrest, prosecution and incarceration. It did not matter to him.

Perhaps more than anybody, Archbishop Tutu knew fully well that the black people on whose behalf he was calling sanctions would be the ones worst hurt by his decision.

Many of them would lose their menial jobs that were their only source of livelihood. And many people reminded him of that. And it irritated him because while true, the concerns were not wholly genuine.

"For goodness sake, let people not use us [black South Africans] as an alibi for not doing the things they know they ought to do," he said. "We are suffering now, and this kind of suffering now seems to be going on and on and on. If additional suffering is going to put a terminus on our suffering, then we will accept it."

In further response to white people who argued that economic sanctions would hurt black South Africans, Desmond Tutu had this to say: "When did white people suddenly become so altruistic and suddenly become so concerned about black suffering?" he asked.

But he maintained that first a "catastrophe" had to be avoided after which jobs would come back, accompanied by dignity.

All liberation leaders of consequence were either in jail, in exile or banned from speaking.

And he also said there was a likelihood that he too would be prosecuted for treason.

According to Tutu the sanctions had to be "punitive, coordinated and immediate."

Desmond Tutu knew as early as then that privileged interests in South Africa were not going to give away their privilege voluntarily, much less without a fight.

I was reminded of the anecdote above as I sat pondering about the difficulties facing young indigenous Botswana trying to go into business.

Today indigenous Botswana business people trying to sell their products in their country face similar conditions of despair like the black South Africans did in 1985.

The only difference is that while blacks in South Africa had a Desmond Tutu to hold the sky for them, indigenous Botswana trying to penetrate the Botswana market are all on their own as the Competition Authority is aiding and abetting their exclusion.

Indigenous Botswana are up against an iron wall made up of big business and naturalized Botswana that run chain stores.

These interests are ostensibly colluding with the Competition Authority that is either powerless, scared, unwilling or refusing to act on the side of indigenous Botswana.

A boycott would in a way force Competition Authority and those with power to work at breaking the stranglehold enjoyed by a few chain stores and also liberalizing the market.

Cartels, monopolies and cabals have to be broken down first.

After the boycott a market would naturally emerge that would

empower indigenous Botswana not just as consumers as seen by current owners of chain stores, but employers too.

Archbishop Tutu said any boycott had to be "punitive, coordinated and immediate."

This is the spirit with which indigenous Botswana have to approach the corrective boycott that they anticipate to use to achieve a market parity for their products as a means of getting out of a culture of tokenism. It is a life and death undertaking. It has to be resolved or we face a catastrophe similar to that which Tutu talked about in 1985. As my old schoolteacher used to say, there is a lot of work for us to get through!

All that, however, is for another day.

If there was no lockdown declared on Thursday night, this week had been set aside to celebrate the life of Gomolemo Motswaledi.

If he had lived, he would have turned 50 years in June.

He died only a few years ago, but it is very unlikely that he would recognize this country were he to rise from the dead and join us.

Since he has been gone the country has been turned up-side-down, in many ways really.

Ian Khama is out of power. He has been succeeded by Mokgweetsi Masisi.

To everyone's surprise and amusement Khama and Masisi are now not in speaking terms.

The two men are in fact at each other's throat.

They are telling whoever can listen about their mutual contempt for one another.

It is a sight to behold!

It actually all started the same day they exchanged power which happened over two years ago. And everybody is still struggling to make sense of it. Neither of them is willing to disclose what deal they had between them. It is a soap opera that has riveted the attention of the country.

In short, Khama reads betrayal in all of it. Masisi for his part says all he did and said when he was vice president was to take the bullet for all of us. It is hard to believe either.

The BDP issues are not the only ones that would shock Motswaledi.

Today his BMD (Botswana Movement for Democracy) has been expelled from the UDC.

I doubt that he would even be able to recognize the UDC.

He had worked so hard and suffered so much to create both the BMD and also the UDC.

He travelled long distances, worked long hours and spent sleepless nights all to create both the BMD and the UDC.

It would hurt him deeply to learn that the same UDC he had created has now expelled the BMD, also his creation.

For him no reason would be sufficient justification for such drastic action.

He would also be deeply surprised to learn that Botswana Congress Party is now a senior partner inside the UDC, with Dumelang Saleshando now sitting as Leader of the UDC in parliament.

Motswaledi would be surprised to know that multitudes of his political descendants at one point chose to break away from BMD and form the Alliance for Progressives.

His question would be to establish why the AP then never joined the UDC.

I suspect he would be appalled to learn that the same UDC he created was now openly embracing and consorting with Ian Khama.

There is no longer any talk of sending Khama to jail.

Like many of us, Motswaledi would be befuddled to hear that ahead of 2019 elections, UDC leaders were all smooches with Ian Khama, even calling him a very good and honourable man.

Motswaledi was a gifted politician with a strong political antenna. Maybe he would after all make sense of political developments that we the lesser mortals are struggling with.

Rest in eternal peace Sir G.



STANBIC BANK BOTSWANA LIMITED 2020 TARIFF GUIDE

Jan Feb March April May June July Aug Sep

EFFECTIVE 10th August 2020

TARIFF	PERSONAL	BUSINESS
TRANSACTIONAL ACCOUNT MAINTENANCE CHARGES		
Maintenance Fee: Pay as you go		
Private Banking Current Account	197.68	
Executive/Gold	73.53	
Salaried Standard/Silver	62.85	
Transact Plus Embedded Funeral Plan Account	36.17	
TransactPlus/Blue	13.64	
Business Current Account		100.00
Business Transact Plus		34.10
Maintenance Fee: Bundled		
Private Banking	268.68	
Executive/Gold	155.00	
Salaried Standard/Silver	100.00	
ACCESSIBILITY FACILITATION CHARGES		
ATM Charges		
ATM cash withdrawal (Own ATM)	3.57	3.70
ATM cash withdrawal (Other Bank ATMs)	5.87	5.87
ATM cash withdrawal (International)	20.24	19.92
ATM cash deposit	0.25% of deposit amount (free up to P1,000.00)	0.40% of deposit amount
Cash Deposit Machine	0.37% of deposit amount (free up to P1,000.00)	0.40% of deposit amount
ATM card replacement	50.00	50.62
Lost card protection insurance	0.00	0.00
ATM bill payment	3.64	3.64
Additional card issued	25.43	25.43
Balance enquiry	1.49	1.54
Buy pre-paid airtime	0.00	0.00
International Acquiring Fee	36.17	36.17
MANUAL TRANSFERS		
Interaccount transfer (own account within Stanbic)	9.95	10.46
Interaccount transfer (to 3rd Party within Stanbic)	9.63	10.29
Interaccount transfer (Foreign currency accounts)	39.15	39.15
Interaccount transfer (third party account local bank)	18.10	19.36
STATEMENTS		
Monthly bank statements	0.00	0.00
Interim bank statements	8.10	7.45
Interim bank statements (Foreign currency accounts)	6.84	7.70
Copies of old bank statements		
-less than 6 months (per sheet)	25.93	27.68
-more than 6 months (per sheet)	34.32	39.40
DEPOSIT SLIPS		
Copies of deposit slips		
-less than 6 months	28.13	28.13
-more than 6 months	62.10	64.17
OVER THE COUNTER TRANSACTION CHARGE		
Over-the-counter cash deposits		
Over-the-counter cash deposit	0.40% if amount is greater than 1,500	0.45% of deposit amount
Over-the-counter cash deposits (Foreign currency accounts)	0.45% if amount is greater than 1,500	0.45% of deposit amount
Over-the-counter cheque deposit	0.00	0.00
Bulk deposit charge	0.40% if amount is greater than 1,500	0.45% of deposit amount
Deposit of Travellers Cheque and Drafts	2.55%	2.64%
-Min	60.00	60.00
-Max	360.00	360.00
Over-the-counter cash withdrawals		
Encashment fee	1.04%	1.04%
-Min	5.62	5.71
-Max	24.46	24.85
Service Fee	1.13%	1.13%
-Min	3.83	4.09
-Max	14.81	16.10
Exchange of notes/coins over-the-counter	1.55%	1.55%
-Min	7.50	7.50
-Max	510.00	510.00
Balance enquiry over-the-counter	7.89	0.00
POINT OF SALE (ACQUIRING/USAGE)		
POS installation		582.75
Monthly terminal rental (VAT Exclusive)		
-Min		105.00
-Max		383.25
Commission rate (includes the recently approved Diner's club card)		
-Min		Under review
-Max		Under review
Status reports – obtaining and issuing		0.00
Communications / GPRS fee		271.27
Point of Sale (local) - Own	1.23	1.38
Point of Sale (local) - Other banks	1.23	1.41
Point of Sale (international) - Own	6.24	6.70
Point of sale (international) - Other banks	6.42	6.48
E-Commerce Hosting Fee	0.00	361.69
BUSINESS ONLINE		
Installation and Training		250.00
Monthly fee - Corporate		243.18
Local Transfers & Collections:		
-To own account within Stanbic		0.00
-To third party accounts within bank		5.10
-To accounts in other banks		6.92
Foreign Currency transfers:		
-To own account		0.00
-To third party accounts within the bank		0.00
-To other banks		0.00
Direct Debit		5.10
Security Token Fee		148.11
Authentic Consolidated Payments		
To other banks		6.91

TARIFF	PERSONAL	BUSINESS
To Stanbic		5.28
INTERNET BANKING		
Sign-up/Registration	0.00	26.25
Balance enquiry single account	0.00	0.00
Balance enquiry multiple account	0.00	0.00
Statement request	0.00	0.00
Cheque book request	0.00	0.00
Utility bill payment	3.03	3.68
Account Transfers		
-To own account in Stanbic	0.00	3.25
-To third party in Stanbic	3.03	3.86
-To other banks	3.03	4.30
Credit card payments	3.03	0.00
Outward telegraphic transfers	3.04	0.00
Email Alert	0.00	0.27
Foreign Currency transfers		
-To own account in Stanbic	0.00	3.80
-To third party in Stanbic	0.00	4.02
-To other banks	0.00	4.45
INSTANT MONEY		
Instant Money service charge		10.00
CELLPHONE BANKING (USSD)		
Subscription		0.00
Transfer between own accounts:		
-Within Stanbic	2.95	
-To other banks	4.82	
Payment to third party accounts (within Stanbic)	2.95	
Buy pre-paid airtime	0.00	
Mini Statement (Last 10 transactions)	2.07	
Balance Inquiry	1.04	
Make payments – Utilities/bills	3.47	
My Updates / SMS Alerts Fee (VAT Exclusive) / Fee is aggregated and collected monthly	0.23	
INVESTMENT / INTERMEDIATION CHARGES		
Term Deposits		
Charge for breaking a term deposit	(Amount to be withdrawn x Penalty interest rate x number of days left to maturity)/365	(Amount to be withdrawn x Penalty interest rate x number of days left to maturity)/365
Minimum Penalty Interest charge	213.91	213.91
SAVINGS ACCOUNTS		
Monthly maintenance fee	5.53	5.53
Koketso Savings Penalty Charge	75.00	
FOREIGN CURRENCY ACCOUNTS		
Amendments (incoming SWIFT transfers)	144.90	144.90
Amendments (outgoing SWIFT transfers)	73.11	73.11
LENDING AND OVERDRAFT SERVICES		
Unsecured Personal Loan		
Processing/Arrangement	1.12%	
-Min	489.04	
-Max	1,031.19	
Insurance administration	20.70	
Early repayment penalty	30 days interest	
Vehicle and Asset Finance:		
Processing/Arrangement	1.14%	1.14%
-Min	633.58	633.58
-Max	10,000.00	No Maximum
Insurance administration	8.25	8.25
Early repayment penalty	30 days interest	30 days interest
Small to Medium Enterprises		
Processing/Arrangement	1.14%	1.14%
-Min	560.00	560.00
-Max	25,000.00	
Insurance administration	8.53	8.53
Early repayment penalty	30 days interest	30 days interest
Home loans (and Building loans):		
Processing/Arrangement	1.14%	
-Min	597.71	
-Max	8,144.40	
Early repayment penalty	30 days interest	
Commercial building loans:		
Processing/Arrangement	1.15%	
Commission		597.71
-Min		No Maximum
-Max		8.53
Insurance administration		8.53
Early repayment penalty		30 days interest
Small to Medium Enterprises		
Processing/Arrangement	1.16%	
-Min	597.71	
-Max	35,000.00	
Insurance administration	8.53	
Early repayment penalty	30 days interest	
Overdrafts:		
Authorised facility arrangement	1.11%	1.10%
-Min	461.23	461.23
-Max	15,000.00	No Maximum
Excess avialment	Prime +15%	Prime +15%

TARIFF	PERSONAL	BUSINESS
Unauthorised facility	34.09	34.09
ITC Transunion enquiry	6.52	6.52
Loan Rescheduling Fee	106.96	106.96
Small to Medium Enterprises		
Authorised facility arrangement	1.10%	
-Min	461.23	
-Max	15,000.00	
Excess avialment	Prime +15%	
Unauthorised facility	34.09	
ITC Transunion enquiry	6.52	
Loan Rescheduling Fee	106.96	
CREDIT CARD		
Credit Card Application	48.91	
Annual Card Fees		
- Silver	120.00	
- Gold	180.00	
Secondary Card (Silver, Gold)	Free	
Lost card / replacement	91.05	
Cash withdrawal		
-Own ATM	3.29	
-Other local ATM	5.37	
-International ATM	15.57	
Declined transaction (due to lack of funds)	Under review	
Branch over the counter cash withdrawal:		
- Own bank	16.31	
- Other local bank	24.45	
- International bank	29.88	
Point of Sale purchases:		
- Own bank	1.26	
- Other Local bank	1.26	
- International bank	6.57	
Lost card protection insurance	0.00	
Outstanding balance on credit card insurance	0.30% of outstanding balance	
Over the limit cash advance	127.33	
Balance Enquiry		
- Own ATM	1.52	
- Other local ATM	2.95	
- International ATM	2.95	
Interim bank statement	8.10	
Impound credit card:		
- International	157.58	
- Local	135.85	
Introduction letter for international bank	21.74	
Currency Conversion fee	2.37%	
Account in arrears (charged per month) 30 days	136.19	
Platinum Credit Card		
Annual Fees	400.00	
Secondary card	50.00	
Card Replacement fee	85.00	
Out of order/over limit fee	120.00	
Cash withdrawal at local branch	30.00	
Cash withdrawal at International branch	40.00	
Cash withdrawal at Stanbic ATM	5.00	
Cash withdrawal at International ATM	36.00	
Technical credit limit maximization	1.00	
TRADE FACILITATION CHARGES		
Foreign Exchange Charges		
Local SWIFT bank transfer	90.27	90.27
RTGS Charges		
For DR transfers between 0830 & 1300hrs	9.33	9.33
For DR transfers between 1301hrs and 1630hrs	16.46	16.46
International SWIFT bank transfer (Outward TT)	0.37%	0.37%
-Min	70.00	70.00
-Max	400.00	400.00
Purchase of foreign notes	4.20%	4.20%
-Min	20.00	20.00
-Max	180.00	180.00
Sale of foreign notes	3.70%	3.70%
Min	20.00	20.00
Max	180.00	180.00
Purchase of foreign draft	2.55%	2.55%
-Min	60.00	60.00
-Max	371.00	371.00
Sale of foreign draft	2.55%	2.55%
-Min	60.00	60.00
-Max	360.40	360.40
Bills negotiated and returned unpaid	2.55%	2.55%
-Min	60.00	60.00
-Max	340.00	340.00
Foreign draft	2.55%	2.55%
-Min	60.00	60.00
-Max	360.00	360.00
Foreign cheque	2.55%	2.55%
-Min	60.00	60.00
-Max	360.00	360.00
Transfer to accounts at other local banks	0.40%	0.40%
-Min	65.00	65.00
-Max	360.00	360.00
Transfer to accounts at foreign banks	0.37%	0.37%

TARIFF	PERSONAL	BUSINESS
-Min	65.00	65.00
-Max	360.00	360.00
Telegraphic transfer (Inward)		
-Min	68.00	68.00
-Max	400.00	400.00
Draft replacement		
-Min	62.97	62.97
-Max	110.00	110.00
Draft and mail transfer		
SWIFT cable cost / Local swift bank transfer	87.22	87.22
Letters of Credit (inwards-export)		
Advising commission	159.00	159.00
Confirming commission	0.92 % per quarter	0.92 % per quarter
-Min	350.00	350.00
Negotiation of documents		
-Min	65.00	65.00
-Max	350.00	350.00
Amendments (other than extensions)		
Cancellation	65.00	65.00
Extension of tenure		
-Min	80.00	80.00
-Max	310.00	310.00
Letters of Credit (outwards-imports)		
Establishment of letter of credit	0.42% per quarter and or part thereof	0.42% per quarter and or part thereof
-Min	375.00	375.00
SWIFT cost on establishment		
Extension or renewal of letter of credit	0.43% per quarter and or part thereof	0.43% per quarter and or part thereof
-Min	80.00	80.00
Increase of amount of letter of credit		
-Min	80.00	80.00
Drawing commission on letter of credit		
-Min	65.00	65.00
-Max	397.50	397.50
Amendment of letter of credit		
Couriering of documents	110.00	110.00
Revolving and standby letter of credit	0.42% per quarter and or part thereof	0.42% per quarter and or part thereof
-Min	375.00	375.00
Cancellation of letter of credit	148.40	148.40
Other***		
-Min	68.90	68.90
-Max	397.50	397.50
Foreign Bills (collection charges)		
Outward collection handling		
Documentary bills	0.65%	0.65%
-Min	175.00	175.00
-Max	375.00	375.00
Clean bills	0.35%	0.35%
-Min	120.00	120.00
-Max	350.00	350.00
Inward Collection Handling		
Documentary bills	0.65%	0.65%
-Min	175.00	175.00
-Max	375.00	375.00
Clean bills	0.33%	0.33%
-Min	120.00	120.00
-Max	350.00	350.00
Cable charges	84.80	84.80
Postage/Courier Charges	73.66	73.66
Clean Bill return	180.00	180.00
Stop payments of drafts and bills	170.00	170.00
Stop order charge	11.46	11.46
Retrieval Charges from Document bank (vouchers, messages etc.)	P31.80 for statements less than 3 months P60.00 over 6 months.	P31.80 for statements less than 3 months P60.00 over 6 months.
Repurchase of drafts	2.70%	2.70%
-Min	65.00	65.00
-Max	110.00	110.00
Reissue of drafts	2.70%	2.70%
-Min	62.92	62.92
-Max	107.93	107.93
Receivable Discounting	Negotiable	Negotiable
Invoice Financing	Negotiable	Negotiable
Escrow Services		
-Min	0.50% of Amount	0.50% of Amount

TARIFF	PERSON
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Funeral speeches an acultural, oftentimes ugly spectacle

There were no speeches at a proper Tswana funeral of the past and only one person (an elderly female relative) got to speak very briefly to and not about the deceased



Funeral

It should be easy to blame the politicians who used the opportunity to speak at the funeral of Priscilla Moswaane, who was the wife of Francistown East MP, Ignatius Moswaane, to dabble in party politics but it is not. First asking if he is allowed to be “controversial-nyana” (a little controversial) without first getting the permission of the people he singled out to give such permission (Leader of the Opposition, Dumelang Saleshando and Botswana Patriotic Front president, Biggie Butale), former president Ian Khama proceeded to be controversial nonetheless.

“They have tried to silence you,” says Khama in a video clip that has been widely shared on social media. “I heard sometime last year about [ruling party officials] sending the police after you when they hadn’t launched your candidacy. Now they have

suspended you and this floor-crossing law targets you. It’s because of you that they are bringing that law and what’s very interesting is that the person who is going to bring that law, that bill to parliament, is the same person who has been crossing the floor to different political parties all his political life. What hypocrisy!”

The context of the above is as follows: the person whom Khama says is being silenced is Moswaane who has been suspended from the Botswana Democratic Party by President Mokgweetsi Masisi and the Minister of Presidential Affairs and Public Administration, Kabo Morwaeng, who has been a member of four political parties, will during the current sitting of parliament, table a bill that seeks to prohibit floor-crossing. There is also irony within the irony that Khama mentions because at the BDP national congress

in Mahalapye, then President Khama effectively silenced Moswaane by threatening to take disciplinary action against him in his speech to delegates.

BDP Secretary General and Minister of Employment, Labour Productivity and Skills Development, Mpho Balopi, could also not resist the urge to score political points when he got a word in edgewise on behalf of his party.

Funerals are supposed to be a solemn, non-political affair but tragically and increasingly nowadays, are being turned into a “freedom square” – an open-air political rally. It is an open secret that Moswaane is planning to join BPF, the party that Khama founded last year after quitting the BDP, which his father, founding president, Sir Seretse Khama, co-founded. Khama used a funeral to push a partisan agenda and there is no way that those who put him on

the programme wouldn’t have known that he would do that.

Nowadays, what happened at the Moswaane funeral across the political spectrum and with alarming frequency. At the funeral of Mareledi Giddie, a Botswana National Front veteran who was buried in Mahalapye, some party activists launched personal attacks against BDP members in attendance. One particular attack was as virulent and as precise as to compromise the identity of the people that were being attacked. Following the funeral, some BNF members actually had to call BDP members who had been personally attacked to apologise.

Away from politics, funerals now provide an opportunity for feuding family members to attack each other and in some cases, speakers mention the targets of their ire by name. Away from the podium, family members have also been known

to feud over things as petty as entrails of cows slaughtered to feed mourners. Where there is no politics and no feuding, funerals have become overly and incrementally festive. More than a decade ago, lavish funerals were the subject of a full-day symposium that was organised by the Botswana Society. The keynote speaker was then President Festus Mogae who lamented a terribly misguided practice that was impoverishing Botswana. In an attempt to lead by example, Mogae said that when he dies his wish is not to be given a lavish funeral. Time will tell. The House of Chiefs (renamed Ntlo ya Dikgosi) also tackled this topic and during his contribution to the debate, then Specially Elected Member, Basiamang Garebakwena, said that he has left strict instructions to his family that he should be buried in a simple reed coffin. Time will tell.

Despite the Botswana Society’s efforts, lavish funerals, especially Gaborone’s, only got more lavish. Modern Botswana, which culturally apes what black South Africa does, imported the idea of the lavish funeral from across the border. The after-tears merry-making sub-culture was also imported from South Africa. In January this year, one of the spades that were used to fill up the grave at the funeral of Richard Maponya, a black tycoon, had a gold blade. One can state with certainty that once life goes back to normal after the discovery of a COVID-19 vaccine, gold-blade spades will be used at some Gaborone burials.

Increasingly nowadays, one hears astonishing language that expresses an acultural attitude towards the dead: called to the podium, some speakers say that they are “celebrating the life” of the dead person. Going back centuries, there is no evi-

dence of any Botswana culture “celebrating the life” of a dead person. Celebrating the life of a dead person is western and is always expressed in English – contriving a Setswana translation would sound ridiculous because Botswana mourn the dead, not celebrate their life.

Interestingly, if Botswana had kept funerals cultural, no one would get an opportunity to dabble in politics or offend others at a funeral. According to Culture Botswana 2.0, an indigenous culture-oriented Facebook page, no speeches were made at a Tswana funeral in the past and only one person (an elderly female relative) got to address the deceased. The page quotes Charles John Andersson, a Swedish explorer who visited Ngamiland in 1852 and subsequently published a travelogue called “Lake Ngami.” According to Andersson, after a deceased person was buried,

a large bowl of water, with an infusion of bulbs, was brought forward. The mourners washed their hands and the upper part of their feet with this infusion (called mosimama in Setswana) as they shouted “Pūla! Pūla!”

He adds: “An old woman, probably a relative, will then bring the weapons of the deceased (bow, arrows, war-axe, and spears); also grain and garden-seeds of various kinds; and even the bone of an old pack-ox, with other things. They finally address the grave, saying, ‘These are all your articles.’ The things are then taken away, and bowls of water are poured on the grave, when all retire, the women wailing ‘Iyoo! Iyoo! Iyoo!’ with some doleful dirge, sorrowing without hope.”

Then 1885 happened and 135 years later, funerals have become culturally unrecognisable.

COVID or No: Why Africa will continue to pivot towards Beijing



CHEDZA MOGAE

At this most particular juncture, as the world races to meet and match the force majeure that is severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 or more commonly COVID19, the subject matter of this piece; “Why Africa will continue to pivot towards Beijing” may appear misplaced and not particularly apropos. However, while COVID is first and foremost a global health crisis, it has, if anything, only served to heighten existing geo-political dynamics and tensions. And at a time when the political priority of all governments should be containing COVID and obstructing its derailment of the efforts of world governments to see to the needs, aspirations and rights of their peoples, the unattractive underbelly of international politics has emerged. With key global political figures, most notably the American President, Donald J. Trump, taking a singular event... the outbreak of a virus in the human population... something that occurs in nature... and turning it into something “other” ... a racist rant against China apportioning blame, intended to distract from his own political failings; his mishandling of the COVID19 pandemic on American soil and his bungling of race

relations. African's are acquainted with this kind of distaste, didn't the 'same' people blame us for HIV?

His anti-China tirades have garnered international attention and widespread condemnation. And in the back-drop of this, members of his administration and elements in the Western press, have chosen to seize upon moments of discomfiture in Sino-African engagement, and emphasize them as being the norm, rather than challenges or isolated events. These attempts at disruption are nothing new and can perhaps be better understood in the broader context of Western attempts to contain Beijing's advance and more specifically, America's 's' ongoing trade offensive against China. A prime example of this being a recent “report” from The Heritage Foundation, an American think-tank, that alleges that China, used technology giant Huawei to bug the African Union headquarters building in Addis-Ababa. This recent paper, based upon nothing more than speculation, was dismissed by the African diplomats' whose attention it was called to, who pointed out that such articles constituted habitual American posture on all things Chinese. Secondly, that a breach of that nature, both of trust and security would have been impossible to keep secret, nor would they have. Thirdly,

had a violation of that nature occurred, it would have given the AU tremendous advantage in any future dealings with Beijing, that they would not have hesitated to exploit, Africans, are after all, not stupid. Next, why was it that the American's themselves had been unable to provide any concrete evidence to Huawei's alleged eavesdropping even on their own soil? Africa, they were clear, would not be drawn into a dispute between China and America, directed at a corporation that had provided vital technology infrastructure and services on the continent, enhancing both lives and livelihoods. And finally, it was made emphatically clear, that while Sino-African engagement, is not without its trials and tribulations, that the relationship is one that is ever-evolving, and would continue unabated.

If diplomacy and international relations were simply the dry; “practice of conducting negotiations between representatives of states or groups... entailing influencing the decisions and conduct of foreign governments and officials through dialogue, negotiation, and other nonviolent means ... usually referring to international relations carried out through the intercession of professional diplomats with regard to a full range of topical issues...”, then it wouldn't consume so much of

our collective time, effort and attention. And we would leave it to the the algorithms that run the programs and apps on our smartphones and computers. And the economic, geographic, ecological, national security concerns and so on and so forth of each nation would be taken into account, with computational adjustments for equity, and we would accept the outcomes, knowing that what emerged was right and fair. And diplomacy wouldn't rank as high on the professional scale, nor would it lie in the purview of Presidents, Premiers and Prime Ministers.

But instead, diplomacy is all of the aforementioned and more; it entails the range and scope of human interaction, the width and breadth of language, culture, race and gender, the import of history and experience, the motivations that involve gain and advantage, power and privilege, the vast dimension that is emotion and the traits of character that are inherent to all us of... pride and prejudice... kindness as opposed to cruelty... concern contrasted with indifference... integrity versus artifice... humility as against hubris. It is this byzantine synthesis of factors that merge and make-up global interplay. Sino-African association, is a prime example of these forces in motion.

The establishment of modern Sino-African relations be-

gan in the late 1950s, when China signed bilateral trade agreements with Algeria, Egypt, Guinea, Somalia, Morocco and Sudan. Relations at that time were reflective of China's foreign policy approach and it began to cultivate ties and offer economic, technical and military assistance to African states and liberation movements. Early modern bilateral relations were mainly affected by the Cold War and socialist ideology. China embraced several principles, among them backing the independence of African nations while investing in infrastructure projects. In 1971, the support of African nations was crucial in the People's Republic of China (PRC) joining the United Nations (UN). And since the turn of the century, China has increasingly prioritized Africa as a strategic partner at both the geo-political and economic levels, seeking to link African commodity and consumer markets to its rapidly growing economy. China's commitment to nonintervention in African domestic affairs and its determination to build partnerships based on equality and mutual respect marked a welcome departure from Western conditionalities for African access to foreign aid and investment.

Present day Sino-African engagement traverses the width and breadth of economic, political and social potentialities

and encompasses aid, trade, investment, technological cooperation, healthcare, the construction of vital infrastructure, education, agriculture, technology transfer, military cooperation, as well as mutual support and backing within the international political system. The rapidity with which China overtook the West as Africa's main trading partner and ally has been the subject of intense study and debate. It was and continues to be indicative of a fundamental change in the pattern of international relations.

The era of the international marginalization of Africa, is over. And Africa's governments have not forgotten China's role in this acute paradigm shift. Beijing brought with it to Africa more than economic opportunities when it came courting. Its proffer of deference stood in stark contrast to Western disdain. China sought synergy with Africa, when Washington and its allies have sought to dominate and to dictate. It stood on common ground as a developing nation, stood by and up for Africa in international forums, and defended the continents right to self-determination, and always the Chinese Communist Party has hailed Africans as equals, as peoples with whom they've a shared past – oppression at the hands of colonial masters – and as a continent with whom they

share a collective vision of the future, one in which both parties prosper. African heads of state are feted in equal measure to their Western counterparts when they visit Beijing. A state visit is the norm, not the exception. And these gestures, seemingly small and insignificant, carry with them a world of meaning.

Enter COVID19 stage left; first identified in December 2019 in Wuhan, Hubei, China.

While there have been unhappy incidents around the treatment of black African nationals in certain cities, in China, in and around COVID19, these incidents were aired, discussed and actions taken and assurances made to African governments, regarding the protection of their citizens on Chinese soil. And while there have been unfortunate events on the African continent, resulting in the loss of Chinese lives, in and around COVID19, African governments, have similarly taken steps to ensure the protection of Chinese nationals. Both parties are cognizant of the fact that when and where strange civilizations, cultures, languages, races mix; there exist openings for misunderstandings, but that these can be mitigated and managed.

Thus, it came as no surprise, when on the 18th of May 2020, Chinese President Xi Jinping's speech via video link

to the World Health Assembly, made it clear how vital the support of African nations is to Beijing. And even in the midst of international turmoil an estimated \$280 million of coronavirus related aid and support has been delivered to Africa, from China. A large part of this assistance emanating from from private individuals and the Chinese businesses community operating in Africa. This community is both vested and invested in Africa. The ongoing pandemic has brought to light other positive aspects of Beijing's engagement on the continent. The level of private engagement linked to COVID-19 relief in recent months shows that the relationship, continues to evolve and that the next big driver of Sino-African engagement, will not emanate from loans, but from investment.

As such, while the West continues to decry and advocate for a “buyer beware” stance on the part of Africa, with regard to China. In the harsh light of day, and in light of the clarion call in the West for the better treatment of its own citizens of color, its black denizens in particular. Western hypocrisy in its dealings with Africa, has been laid even more bare. And Africa, will continue to pivot towards Beijing, now and in the foreseeable future.

Covid-19 dims De Beers sparkle



BONNIE MODIAKGOTLA

Global diamond mining giant De Beers has seen its revenue fall by more than half, while profit took a drastic nosedive, in the latest sign of how the Covid-19 outbreak has had a major impact on the diamond market, affecting all stages of the diamond supply chain and resulting in decrease in rough diamond sales volumes at the iconic company that used to control the diamond trade.

According to Anglo American's latest financials for

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

Anglo American owns 85 percent of De Beers while the Botswana government has a 15 percent stake. De Beers and

Botswana are in one of the world's longest lucrative public private partnerships, where they hold equal shares in Debswana, which operates the best diamond mines in the country. Every year, De Beers holds sales cycles or sights in Gaborone, where diamonds from Botswana and its other mines from South Africa, Namibia and Canada are sold to selected diamond buyers known as sight holders.

But with the outbreak of the deadly virus earlier this year, De Beers offered sight holders the option to defer up to 100 percent of their allocations at the fourth

and fifth Sights and held some viewings for Sight 5 outside of Botswana, following the cancellation of the third Sight of 2020 due to Covid-19 related travel restrictions. The average realised price decreased by 21 percent to \$119/carats, down from last year's \$151/carats, driven by a higher proportion of lower value rough diamonds being sold in the first two Sights of the year and an 8 percent decline in the average rough price index.

Underlying earnings before taxes decreased to \$2 million, a massive decline from June 2019's

\$518 million, owing to the impact of the considerably lower sales volumes and the lower rough price index reducing margins in both the mining and the trading businesses.

In the first six months of the year, rough diamond production decreased by 27 percent to 11.3 million carats primarily due to the Covid-19 lockdowns in southern Africa. In Botswana, production was 36 percent lower at 7.5 million carats, below the 11.7 million carats in the same period last year. The reduction in production was attributed to lengthy nationwide

lockdown from 2 April to 18 May. Production at Jwaneng, the most valuable diamond mine in the world, fell by 34 percent to 4.3 million carats due to the shutdown. Production at Orapa fell by 39 percent to 3.1 million carats due to the lockdown impact, as well as challenges related to commissioning of new plant infrastructure. Operations restarted from mid-May, with production targeted at levels to meet the lower demand.

De Beers says the current market outlook is highly uncertain owing to the possibility of a second wave of Covid-19

infections, the ability of fiscal and monetary measures to continue to support employment and businesses in consumer countries, as well as the shape and strength of the global macro-economic recovery.

"Significant challenges for rough diamond demand look set to continue in the short term with the ongoing restrictions to travel in southern Africa, as well as the risk of further Covid-19 cases in the Indian cutting centres," Anglo American said on Thursday when announcing their latest financial performance.

"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 jewellery – to ensure it retains its position as the world's leading diamond business."

Production guidance remains unchanged at 25–27 million carats, subject to continuous review based on the disruptions to operations as a result of Covid-19, as well as the timing and scale of the recovery in demand.

Choppies shares fall in first week of trading

SUNDAY STANDARD REPORTER

Choppies shares sank to new lows in the first week of trading on the local bourse following a nearly two years suspension caused by the delayed release of audited financials, which have since reflected enormous losses, spooking investors.

On Friday by the close of trading, Choppies shares were trading at 0.67 thebe, lower than Monday's opening price of 0.69 thebe, the price the stock closed at when it was suspended from trading in November 2018 after it had lost over 75 percent of its value due to controversy surrounding the delayed financials.

The suspension was lifted on Monday after the company released its long awaited 2019

financials, sparking curiosity on how shareholders will react to the battered stock and the company's piling losses. As expected, the retailer dominated volume of shares exchanged this week, and the latest drop in the stock price could be an indication of how investors might be uncertain of the company.

Trouble began in January 2018 when the chain grocer dropped its long-term auditors, KPMG Botswana, and turned to across town rival PwC, and soon after, the company announced that there will be a delay in the release of audited financial results for the year ended June 2018, unravelling a nasty chapter that detailed the messy affairs of the retailer.

PwC had picked up certain transactions and business



Ramachandran Ottapathu

relationships which were not made fully apparent, therefore not sufficiently considered in preparation of historical

annual financial statements. Following the auditor's concerns, Choppies' board of directors appointed Desai

law Group to carry out an investigation on the retailer's corporate structure, while Ernst & Young Botswana was

tasked with a forensic report.

The two reports revealed a company in disarray, fuelled by a board dominated and

controlled by co-founder and chief executive officer, Ramachandran Ottapathu, whom the board accused of running the company single handedly, and entering into business transactions without their knowledge. The board suspended Ottapathu, but the maverick CEO assailed his detractors during an Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM) in September 2019, and made a spectacular come back to the company he has been largely credited in turning it into Botswana's biggest retailer.

Last week, the retailer released its interim and full year financial performance for 2019, which reflected staggering losses. Choppies reported a loss of P428.6 million for the year ended June 2019, which was slightly below

the P444 million loss realised in June 2018. For the six months ended December 2019, the retailer's losses piled up, raking in a P139 million loss, also significantly higher than the P59.6 million loss made in December 2018.

Choppies has attributed the losses to discontinuation of operations in markets where the retail chain stores were saddled by mounting losses. The company has decided to exit South Africa, Kenya, Tanzania and Mozambique. Though the Botswana based stores made losses for the first time in 2018, the nearly 90 stores remained the anchor of the company, showing resilience last year and bouncing back to profitability, but was not enough to parry losses from stores in discontinued markets.

Botswana's mineral revenue declines

KABELO SEITSHIRO

Botswana's mineral revenue in 2019/20 declined to P8.7 billion from P13.3 billion in 2018/19.

The mining industry however continues to grow despite the volatility of commodity prices.

Rather predictably, the diamond market has been sluggish on account of the emergence of the coronavirus pandemic.

Appearing before Parliamentary Accounts Committee (PAC) Permanent Secretary (PS) in the Ministry of Minerals Resources, Green Technology and Energy Mmetla Masire told the committee that the ministry will continue to create an enabling environment in the minerals sector.

He said this will be achieved by formulating new policies and legislation to strengthen existing ones and keep pace with current and future developments.

He added that this will enable

stakeholders to effectively play their roles in the development of this economy.

"Debswana Diamond Company produced 23.3 million carats in 2019 compared to 24.0 carats in 2018. Sales were 22.0 million carats compared to 23.5 million carats in 2018. Revenue from these sales was USD 2.7 billion and this is slightly lower than USD 3.3 billion realised in 2018," he stated.

Masire said in May 2019, De Beers and the Botswana government started renegotiations of Sales Agreement, with the current one expiring in 2020, as well as a Master Agreement, which expires in 2029. The negotiations are ongoing and it is anticipated that they will be concluded during 2020.

He spoke about Jwaneng Mine Cut-9 Project, which he said, will extend the life of the mine from the year 2028 to 2035. He said the project is envisaged to employ 1,153 people in total, of which 1,131 (93 percent) will be citizens Cut (project has 501 employees, 97 percent of them are citizens.



On the Orapa Mine Cut 3, he said the project will extend the life of the mine from the year 2031 to

2046. He said the project is currently extended pre-feasibility stage adding that various mining sequences and

that production schedules are being explored with the mining sequences and production schedules are being

explored with the objective of delivering the most optimal business case for implementation.

"Letlhakane mine tailings

carats in 2019 compared to 365 thousand carats in 2018. He said Boteti has completed a feasibility study that will extend the mine life from the year 2023 to 2041.

He observed that the company continues to recover exceptionally large diamonds with Sewelo at 1,758 carats in 2019 and an unnamed 549 carats diamond recovered in 2020. Despite

the volatile diamond markets, Boteti mine continues to perform well.

"Mowana Mine is still under judicial management. There have been notable developments in the energy minerals sub-sector as companies continue to show interest in the energy minerals," said Masire.

"Mowana Mine is still under judicial management. There have been notable developments in the energy minerals sub-sector as companies continue to show interest in the energy minerals," said Masire.

treatment project started in 2016. The company is doing a feasibility study to evaluate options of going underground. Pre-feasibility studies are anticipated to be completed by December 2021," said Masire.

On the Boteti Mining Company, he said produced it 433 thousand

MPHO KELEBOGE

The Botswana Power Corporation (BPC) has dismissed a supply chain manager, Boitshupo Puleng, from work following the decision of the board to let him go.

A source says Puleng was pushed out because he was believed to be leaking information relating to alleged corruption at the BPC and is also being accused of having played a role in having the Directorate on Corruption and Economic Crime investigate the BPC.

The insider said Puleng was against tenders which were given to the same companies most of the time. The source further said former Acting CEO

Cross Kgosiidile was once declared a director in one of the companies which was also winning tenders at BPC.

The source further said there is a company known as Dibanisa (Pty) Ltd believed to be fronting for some top officials at BPC especially former acting CEO and his associates, Cross Kgosiidile

A letter dated 18 May 2020 signed by Puleng shows that a tender no.3890/19, which was for the supply and delivery of single (1) phase and three(3) phase split,3 phase integrated GPS based STS prepayment smart meters with

open standard communications, was nullified.

The insider said Puleng was against the nullification of the tender and tried to refuse to write letters to the affected companies because he felt it was pure corruption to do selective tendering to favour South African companies against locals.

His downfall was long planned by people in influential positions and the same people are said to be associated with the former CEO Kgosiidile.

Puleng was also pushed out because

they believe he was against a company known as Dibanisa (Pty) Ltd which has won 10 tenders worth close to 200 million Pula from November 2019 to March 2020.

The owner of the company Kabelo Molefe confirmed winning those tenders but said he has followed procedure.

Sunday Standard is in possession of a document titled: Enquiry into BPC Tenders which forms part of the Directorate on Corruption and Economic Crime investigations into alleged corruption at the BPC.

The author of the documents (known to this publication) is also part of a group of people trying to expose corruption at the BPC.

The documents show a number of tenders which were won by the same companies with some being awarded under dubious circumstances.

"We have noted that the previous Acting CEO had selected few people in influential positions to have total control of BPC tenders," said an insider.

Directorate of Corruption and Economic Crime Lentswe

Motshoganetsi has confirmed the ongoing investigation at BPC.

"Sunday Standard" investigations show that a tender which was recommended by the technical Board to be awarded to Drift In, Abiasa Investments, SK Agencies and Arm Roy Investments has caused the DCEC to investigate the BPC.

When asked about the alleged corruption in the awarding of tenders to the same companies, the BPC spokesperson Dineo Seleke said they are not in a position to explain tender evaluations in a public domain.

"We regret to advise that the Corporation is not in a position to divulge information on tender evaluation and adjudication in a public domain. Complaints/Concerns in respect of the Corporation's tenders should be logged with BPC in accordance with the Corporation's Tender Regulations," said Seleke.

Responding to Sunday Standard inquiries, former BPC CEO Cross Kgosiidile denied all the corruption allegations being leveled against him. "I don't know what informs and motivates those allegations but they are totally untrue. During my entire stay at BPC I had no interest of mine other than those of the employer," he said.

BPC sacks suspected whistleblower

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Youth unemployment: A national challenges with no solutions in sight

At 37.35 percent, the Botswana rate of youth unemployment is drastically high and ranks among the highest in the African continent. It is generally acknowledged that regardless of a country's developmental stage, youth unemployment remains a critical policy issue -WRITES JOSEPH BALISE.

Writing in a 2016 research study titled: "Improving youth Employment in Botswana: The need for evidence based policy and programme development", the researchers, Keitsepe Nthomang and Kabo Diraditsile bluntly decry that "policy and programmes in response to youth unemployment in Botswana have hitherto not produced the desired results despite sustained political support reflected by massive government spending on youth development programmes, number of programmes initiated and youth enrolled.

"However, government has often been criticized for spending funds on short term under-employment and indecent jobs, quick fixes and unsustainable programmes with little impact on job creation".

According to the authors, in recent times, the world has witnessed an unprecedented problem of youth unemployment. Consequently, a compendium of studies have been conducted in both the northern and southern contexts on a wide array of social policy issues and resultant programme responses to address the problem.

The International Labour Organization (ILO) in 2013 acknowledged that youth unemployment rates continued to rise despite concerted efforts to reverse the trend. In Botswana, available data from various sources exists about the magnitude of the problem, and from these surveys/studies, it can be said

relative to adults, "the majority of young people remain. It was, perhaps, in response to the above concerns that the Botswana government has initiated and established numerous programmes to deal with the plight of the youth. Throughout succeeding national development plans, and related national strategic documents, government has sought to address and improve prospects of youth employment".

It is observed by the authors that in 1996, government formally adopted the first national Policy on Youth, and by doing so, if mainly for pragmatic rather than political reasons, the government recognized that the youth are disadvantaged and need urgent attention.

"However, this recognition did not translate into creating sustainable employment opportunities and improving quality of life for the youth in a meaningful way. Instead, there have been increasing concerns that the Youth Policy has not fully achieved its objectives", it is lamented.

The study reports that like other African countries, Botswana has not been spared the problem of youth unemployment. In 2011, out of about 2 024 904 people living in the country, about 941 371 or 46.5% were youth at the time of enumeration according to Statistics Botswana. Nationally, data gleaned from the various sources show that Botswana's official unemployment rate is high, ranging between 20.5 and 30% indicating that the majority of youth are unemployed.

During the 2018 State of the Nation address, the president admitted that government has been struggling to find

different ways to increase employment opportunities for the youth with little success.

The researchers are also worried that youth unemployment leads to increased incidence of poverty, depression and stress, all linked to lower life expectancy and poor health. There is evidence to suggest that unemployment early in life can significantly reduce an individual's future economic opportunities.

Further, these studies have consistently observed that a prolonged spell of unemployment early in a young person's life can have long term devastating effects on lifetime prospects; potential lower earnings through life; reduced health status and threat of social exclusion.

"In Botswana, high rates of unemployment mean that a large number of the youth are jobless and as such economically inactive. The effect of this is not only reduced productivity and a decline in gross domestic product (GDP) but also increased economic costs to the state due to increased social welfare costs", it is argued in other cited researches.

The study also finds that one of the main reasons for the high unemployment is a growing mismatch between supply and demand of skills. Youth unemployment is essentially a structural problem. On the supply side of labour, training institutions produce students who lack basic skills to meet the requirements of the job market. In Botswana, for example, there is an over-supply of raining for white collar jobs, at the expense of vocational skills such as in agriculture

PORTIA NKANI

Business conglomerates across Africa have warned that the Africa Continental Free Trade Agreement (AfCFTA) must not be allowed to fall by the wayside.

The AfCFTA was due to be implemented on July 1 2020, the largest free trade area in the world, uniting 1.3 billion people in a \$3.4 trillion economic bloc must.

The launch was postponed by the coronavirus pandemic in May and the African Union Commission had at some point proposed 1 January 2021 as the new tentative date for the start of trade under AfCFTA.

The COVID-19 crisis has inevitably impacted on AfCFTA implementation.

Negotiations have been suspended to complete some pending technical elements, such as rules of origin - products made in Africa - for some sensitive sectors, the exchange of tariff concessions on trade in goods and commitments on trade in services.

Last week over a teleconference, a panel of speakers discussed financing the implementation of the AfCFTA at both country and continental level through. The panellists included Business Botswana President-Gobusamang Keebine, Dr Kiprono Kittony -International Chamber of Commerce from Kenya and Sir Sola Abundunrin, President of Ibadan Chamber of Commerce in Nigeria.

Giving a keynote address through the platform, Botswana's Minister of Finance and Economic Development, Dr Thapelo Matsheka explained that AfCFTA offers an opportunity for African countries to open up trade relationships amongst themselves by availing the full force of the three trillion dollar US to every African continent player across all corners of the continent.

The expansion of this market he said, it will require African countries to make better use of their resources to meet the great demand as tariff

and non-tariff barriers to trade and investment are eliminated between member states. The Minister went on to add that, major policy shifts will require to be developed by member states individually and collectively to give effect to this new economic dispensation.

"Outside trade and investment policies, it will be necessary for member states to recognize a key element to trade investment cooperation is establishment of a robust financing mechanism which will form an engine of economic growth. That is; African continent will have to put in place institutional and policy mechanisms to provide short- and long-term financing to support trading activity depending on the nature of products available in the market. Public sector and supporting metrics will be necessary to support private sector financing if we are to effectively support the anticipated expansion of trade," said Dr Matsheka.

Minister Matsheka worried that, failure to provide such finance may impede the desired growth in trade and investment, thus necessary to explore appropriate institutional mechanisms through which risks can be managed and mitigated to enhance flow of finance.

He urged, private financial community to play a more aggressive and proactive role in laying down financial facilities for the regional and international trading community and as such; commercial trade investments and financing houses should step forward in formulating innovative strategies to meet this demand in Africa.

There is no doubt, there will be constraints in capacity, however innovation and risk taking will result in financial benefit for those who will take up the instruments, he said.

He further advised that: "African investors and trading partners seek out investment opportunities in a very treasurable strain; they must also

be taken to provide their investment with the sense of security through appropriate instruments to safeguard against political risks. It is often the case that investments are affected by political developments in Africa."

The three main panellists for the day fell for Minister Matsheka's submission and in their comment, Dr Kittony added that East Africa in particular, the reality is that the challenge remains implementation on the non-tariff barriers.

Kittony also added that, there is a lot to be done to create legal and regulatory frameworks to support rising to the next level.

We need to create a Pan African trade system for rules-based systems on how we engage as nations.

Further in terms of financing models, he suggests that, "capital markets are the best to raise money for long term finance and private equity to scale up enterprises within Africa to more effectively participate in free trade area. Development banks should also be an option to enable African business to scale themselves to participate effectively. African countries should also prioritize within their budgets funding to allow for the effective implementation of protocols within African free trade area. We have not been extremely effective on non-tariff barriers. We have a greater task in making our economies seamless."

Business Botswana President, Gobusamang Keebine said: intra Africa is what Africa needs. Keebine urged Botswana to first satisfy their home markets before doing business with the 1.3 billion Africa population.

"We need to get into our own spaces in Botswana before going outside. In terms of financing, institutions must understand what emerging entrepreneurship needs."

As the Minister hinted on the political impediments, Keebine also indicated that some of the barriers are very political, "until we come together and appreciate we can share the bigger cake. The problem as member states

is we all want the small cake. Security hostility in other jurisdictions is a problem." He further expressed that, with this AfCFTA in place, there should not be a situation where for instance a cargos is returned at the port because you don't belong to a certain economic bloc.

Sir Sola Abundunrin urged that each country must have a political will to fully implement the agreements. He added, each country must be prepared to pay the equity contribution agreed and there is need for capacity building for the officials who will be supervising the implementation of the facilitating the agreements. According to Sola, there must also be a need for sensitisation of the agreements to all stakeholders so that they fully understand and are aware of the opportunities coming within the agreement and; "the AU has to undertake this implementation and all member states must be ready to support the financing of this agreement."

The AfCFTA is targeted at creating, amongst others, a customs union with free movement of capital and business travelers -the world's largest - given Africa's 1.2 billion population and combined GDP of over \$2.5 trillion.

Economists have noted that the stakes for successful implementation of AfCFTA are high, and if successful the projections show that Africa would have a combined consumer and business spending of \$6.7 trillion by 2030. Given the impact of the outbreak on Africa's traditional intercontinental trade routes, intra-Africa trade will be key to getting the region's nations back up and running.

To date, even though one of Africa's larger economies South Africa is battling with escalating infections and death of Covid19, the pandemic has not however punished the continent with the fury seen in other areas of the world, such as Europe or the Americas.




Botswana Public Officers Medical Aid Schemes (BPOMAS), which is the largest medical aid scheme in Botswana, is looking to fill the following positions:

<p>1.0 OPERATIONS MANAGER</p> <p>1.1 LOCATION BPOMAS Office, Gaborone</p> <p>1.2 PURPOSE OF JOB The Operations Manager, responsible for ensuring the Scheme's operational efficiency, directs and oversees the BPOMAS operations in multiple service areas. As the Scheme's technical and core business, the Operations Department develops and implements efficient operational processes and procedures of best practice standards for operational excellence and organizational effectiveness. The Operations Manager works to ensure that BPOMAS remains a competitive Medical Aid Scheme for organizational positioning.</p> <p>1.3 KEY PERFORMANCE AREAS a) Strategy and Annual Business Plan b) Financial Management c) Risk Management d) Third (3rd) Party Contracts e) Operational Efficiency f) Safety, Health and Environment (SHEQ) g) Healthcare/Clinical Risk Management h) Stakeholder Relationship Management i) Research and Development</p> <p>1.4 QUALIFICATIONS a) At least a Bachelor's Degree with health related subjects b) A Master's Degree with health related subjects is an added advantage</p> <p>1.5 EXPERIENCE a) At least five (5) years working experience in Medical Aid, Insurance, financial services or a related industry, at Management Level to Senior Management; b) Relevant valid professional certification and/or accreditation that is acceptable/ recognized internationally is required; c) Knowledge and understanding of issues such as Health Risk Management, corporate governance, risk financing, insurance and contracts, enterprise risk management and general risk management; d) Experience in Policy development, Strategic Planning, Planning and Budgeting, Financial Management that is related to Medical Aid, Insurance or related industry is an added advantage.</p> <p>1.6 SKILLS & COMPETENCIES a) Good communication skills. b) Critical thinking and problem solving skills c) Analytical skills.</p>	<p>g) Pro-active and innovative e) Assertive and decisive f) Planning and Organising g) Financial Acumen h) Business Acumen</p> <p>2.0. LEGAL, RISK AND COMPLIANCE OFFICER</p> <p>2.1 LOCATION BPOMAS Office, Gaborone</p> <p>2.2 PURPOSE OF JOB Assist to plan, develop and implement the provision of legal services and Company secretarial services to BPOMAS and its subsidiary BPOMAS Property Holdings (BPH). Assists on all matters related to Legal, Risk and Compliance (Legal, Statutory, Regulatory), good Corporate Governance, Enterprise Risk Management and Legal Risk Management. Ensuring compliance with statutory requirements around issues relating to Anti-Money Laundering/Countering Financing of Terrorism, assists in contributing to the development and implementation of the BPOMAS and BPH Corporate Strategy, assists in the development and implementation of the Scheme's ERM strategy, assists in the Quality, Control and Assurance of all organizational policies, processes and procedures of BPOMAS and BPH, assists in preparing the board for board development, including Board Assessments and development of assessment tools and supports the Legal Counsel & Board Secretary in management of relations with Shareholders, the Management Committee, Board and third parties.</p> <p>2.3 KEY PERFORMANCE AREAS a) Board Administration or Governance b) Custodianship and security of Board records; c) Company Secretarial Services d) Compliance with good corporate governance best practices; e) Compliance with statutory requirements. f) Contract Management g) Legal Risk Management h) Financial Systems i) Internal Control monitoring. j) Enterprise Risk Management.</p> <p>2.4 QUALIFICATIONS a) Degree in Law or a Business Related Degree or a Risk and Compliance related degree. b) Qualification and experience in Enterprise Risk Management OR Compliance would be an added advantage.</p> <p>2.5 EXPERIENCE a) Work experience of a minimum of three (3) years in financial services or related field.</p>	<p>2.6 SKILLS & COMPETENCIES a) Good communication skills b) Critical thinking and problem solving skills c) Analytical skills d) Financial skills e) Pro-active and innovative f) Assertive and decisive g) Planning and Organising h) Accuracy, time conscious attention to detail. i) Understanding financial risk and protecting company assets</p> <p>3.0 ACCOUNTS OFFICER -TEMPORARY</p> <p>3.1 LOCATION BPOMAS Office, Gaborone</p> <p>3.2 PURPOSE OF JOB This position exists to facilitate the organising of the daily processing of BPOMAS accounting records and information to ensure the accurate and timely production of accounts in accordance with laid down procedures and schedules, accounting policies and standards and client expectations.</p> <p>3.3 KEY PERFORMANCE AREAS a) Financial accounting functions; b) Financial accounting systems management; c) Financial accounting operations; d) Auditing; e) Financial reporting; f) Risk management.</p> <p>3.4 QUALIFICATIONS a) AAT or equivalent or studying towards Bachelor's Degree in Accounting</p> <p>3.5 EXPERIENCE a) 2 years working experience in Accounting or related field</p> <p>3.6 SKILLS & COMPETENCIES a) Ability to analyse complex information. b) Ability to act on changes and use initiative to overcome challenges. c) Ability to work independently and under pressure. d) Ability to plan and organize. e) Excellent communication both written and oral. f) Excellent computer literacy and working experiences in MS Office programs and relevant accounting systems.</p>
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Interested applicants must send their CVs and proof of qualifications to recruitment@bpomas.co.bw. Closing date is 7 August 2020. Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted.






Relationship Excellence

GENERAL MANAGER

Diamonds can be a sign of social status. So, too, is working for one of the world's leading international diamond brokers and consultants. Our client's core business is to support clients in their relationships with De Beers Group. With offices throughout the world, our client provides diamond businesses with the best presence and representation possible in all major diamond centres. Their global reach and state-of-the-art information technology provide clients real-time market information and the analytical tools required to make informed business decisions.

With your finger on the pulse of the local environment you will monitor industry trends, beneficent objectives, issues and challenges, and operationally ensure the efficient management of the local office, from input into the budgeting process and managing costs to managing staff.

You will have a tertiary qualification, be a competent all-rounder and, most importantly have demonstrated experience in a relationship based B2B or high-end B2C environment. General management experience (or ultimate accountability) and a track record of delivering results in a pressurised, complex, and demanding environment is required. Sophisticated skills are required in the following competencies: building relationships, emotional maturity, written and verbal communication, cross-cultural sensitivity, financial acumen, business knowledge, diplomacy and organisation and planning. A minimum of 10 years work experience is required.

As General Manager you will act as the Botswana representative to ensure the delivery of a high-level concierge service to clients and to act as a conduit for building relationships with a variety of stakeholders including De Beers employees and executives, Diamond Hub & Ministry officials, and diamond businesses active in Botswana as well as in Namibia and South Africa. You will manage the processes which support client and team visits to Gaborone for De Beers Sights, and all planning and logistics.

If this opportunity is of interest to you and wish to apply, please visit www.hrmc.co.bw to view the detailed role profile and apply. Closing date for applications is **14th August 2020**.

For a confidential enquiry regarding your interest, please feel free to email Stuart White at stuart@hrmc.co.bw.




Tel: (+267)395 1640 Fax: (+267)391 1494 Email: admin@hrmc.co.bw
For more information on this and other positions, log on to our website www.hrmc.co.bw

@hrmcbotswana hrmcbotswana

We need to balance between saving lives and the economy



BOTTOM LINE

VICTOR BAATWENG
Sunday Standard
Business Editor

The greater Gaborone was on Friday sent back to a two weeks long zonal

lockdown. This will surely have a negative impact on our already ailing economy.

Given the damage caused and registered during the past lockdown in April/May, it has become certain that a prolonged and draconian economic freeze will have its own negative health and social effects. Luckily, the latest lockdown comes when our Parliament is in session and we look up to them

to guide the way forward. While traditionally the winter session or July session of Parliament is usually meant for legislation more than anything, it is the job of our law makers to weigh competing costs and risks that our nation could be facing at any given time. So, one hopes they will consider making time to draft some guidance on the way forward, particularly on the economic side things.

Up until the President Holidays, it appeared to many of us that the government's timely decision to step up contact tracing and enacting some of the earliest stay-at-home orders helped us slow the spread of the coronavirus. Up until recently, most Batswana largely supported public health and social measures enacted to protect them against the coronavirus. We were winning the battle, so we

thought. However, on the economic side, we seem to be fighting a losing battle. The biggest spender in the land – the government is broke. The private sector on the other side seems to be not creative enough to sustain current jobs levels or keep the engine of the economy running in the absence of the biggest spender. This is understandable because that has been the structure of our economy.

The structure that we need to change going forward. This is the structure that got us where we are in my view.

No one likes to speak of the economic costs of lives but doing so is embedded in what economists do. We therefore set our eyes specifically on our finance minister – Dr Thapelo Matsheka who is an economist by profession to guide his peers in parley. So far, the Economic Recovery Plan that was released recently by the ministry led by Matsheka has a few pointers that says we are serious about a quick recovery of our economy.

The Plan beautifully state the need for improved domestic food production to achieve a higher degree of self-sufficiency in selected products.

“Despite historical problems in developing agricultural production (slow growth in output, weak productivity, limited effectiveness of government support programmes), it is felt that the country nevertheless has potential for agricultural sector growth”, reads part of the plan.

It doesn't end there; it also states that raising the productivity of agriculture is essential and potentially a source of “quick wins”, including enhancing domestic self-sufficiency, improving the balance of payments, job creation, innovation and the adoption of new technology.

But all these are not supported by anything bold. Maybe we are impatient but the last six months should have been the period in which we would have been bold enough to put up big ambitious projects that will see our import bill radically going down. We are fortunate enough to be a nation that has a lot of young people who can come up with innovative ideas on how to get our economy back on its feet.

The social distancing and economic cooling that we went through during

the months of April and May were a necessary evil, especially considering the woeful unpreparedness of our public health sector. But as the throw jobs at each other each passing day, our MPs should not forget that there are economic consequences of locking people up over the long haul. We need to balance costs and benefits. Our legislatures should always bear in mind the level of stress that our ordinary folks who trade at the main mall, Gaborone Bus Rank, Makoro village or up north in Nata goes through during times like these. In the past when everyone else was helped they were left out in the cold to find their way back. What our policymakers and lawmakers tend to forget is that behind each of those small businesses be in Gaborone or other parts our country is an entrepreneur, often a family, that invested capital, work, hope, and a portion of their lives. Other things held constant; the SMEs are the engines of job creation in the future. Letting them fail in large numbers would have catastrophic consequences in our economy in both medium to long term. Our people must also adjust their behavior if we are to win against this virus and rebuild our economy. In the meantime, one can only make a humble submission to the government and companies operating trucks to consider providing decent accommodation to truck drivers. This would minimise the risk of transferring the virus from truck drivers to their families as some of them seem to be tempted to skip self-isolation after their return from South Africa. This would also mean a few lockdowns in the future hence room to rebuild the economy. The #Bottomline is that we need to balance between saving lives and the economy, because if we do not, depression of both the economy and the people will be the end of a nation we so much love – Botswana.



Fundamentals of Culinary Arts

Purpose:

The purpose of this course is to equip learners with foundational culinary skills and expertise in line with the labour market needs, as well as a sound anchor towards citizen participation within the local economy in the hospitality and tourism industry. This course is designed to develop & enhance the competence of operational and administrative personnel within the food industry, this ranges from catering aspirants, food processors, food handlers and administrators.

Exit-level outcomes

- Demonstrate knowledge on Front of House and Back of House Operations practices.
- Demonstrate understanding of various uses of ingredients and flavorings.
- Demonstrate knowledge and technical skills on knife handling safety.
- Perform selected methods of cooking .

This course is developed for prospectives and incumbents within the hospitality and tourism industry The target market ranges from waiters, chefs, cooks, maids, individuals and not limited to food service providers in the informal sector. The minimum entry requirements is NCQF Level 3 (Junior Certificate Education) and above. 1 year work experience , Those with are invited to contact the school for consultation and interview

Hospitality Supply Chain Management

Purpose:

The purpose of this course is to equip learners with an enriched globally aligned approach towards supply chain management with an appreciation of operations management which enables them to manage internal resources of different nature, deploy procurement strategies consciously and well as a robust approach towards cost saving. This course is designed to develop & enhance the competencies of operational (waiters, bartenders, guest room attendants, receptionists, public area cleaners, cooks, chefs, maintenance personnel) as well as department heads within the hospitality industry.

Exit-level outcomes

- Demonstrate knowledge and skill on operations & procurement practices applicable to any hospitality establishment policies.
- Develop internal quality management processes in accordance with organizational needs.
- Demonstrate knowledge on inventory control management within key operational areas.

Target population and entrance requirements

This course is developed for prospectives and incumbents within the hospitality industry. This course is developed for frontline employees consisting of waiters, bartenders, guest room attendants, receptionists, public area cleaners, cooks, chefs, food suppliers maintenance personnel, supplies clerks and this is inclusive of department team leaders (Procurement Supervisors, Head Chefs, Executive Chefs, Bar Managers, Housekeeping Supervisors, Maintenance supervisors and Restaurant Supervisors just to mention a few) within any hospitality establishment.

The minimum entry requirement is NCQF Level 3 . (Junior Certificate Education) and equivalent.

1 year work experience , Those with are invited to contact the school for consultation and interview

Front Office Operations

Purpose:

The purpose of this course is to equip learners with an enriched globally aligned approach towards Front Office Operations with an appreciation of operations management which enables them to manage the hotel front office. The front office of the hotel is considered a communication and marketing hub of the hotel. Hence it is vital for those involved in this department to be fully equipped with the knowledge on how to make it a success. This course is designed to develop & enhance the competence of operational, administrative personnel as well as management within the hospitality industry.

Exit-level outcomes

At the end of the course participants will be able to:

- Demonstrate understanding of the importance of the Front Office Department in a hotel.
- Demonstrate knowledge on the overview of Front Office responsibilities
- Demonstrate knowledge on the Guest Cycle.
- Apply the Hotel reservation system practices and procedures.
- Acquire key qualities and competencies of front office staff

Target Group

Front Office Staff, these are receptionists, reservation officers, switchboard operators, concierge, bell boys and anyone with the intention or aspiration to work in the Hotel Front Office Department.”

Minimum Entry Requirements

1 year work experience , Those with are invited to contact the school for consultation and interview
NCQF level 3, Junior certificate education equivalent or above. RPL (Recognition of Prior Learning)

PHUTHEGO J.
IN THE HIGH COURT OF THE REPUBLIC OF BOTSWANA HELD AT FRANCISTOWN
CASE NO: CVHFT-000575-19

In the matter of:
BOTSWANA SAVINGS BANK Plaintiff
And
JULIUS MARKS Defendant

NOTICE OF SALE IN EXECUTION

BE PLEASED TO TAKE NOTICE that pursuant to a Judgment and Writ of this Honourable Court the following property of the Defendant will be sold by public auction by **Deputy Sheriff Stanley S. Mbolai** (2415504/71635200) to the highest bidder as follows:

DATE OF SALE: 11th September 2020
TIME OF SALE: 1000 Hours
PLACE OF SALE: Plot 5606, Extension 13, Francistown.

PROPERTY TO BE SOLD: A Certain Piece of Land being **Plot 5606, Extension 13, Francistown** measuring **696m²** held under Deed of Transfer No. FT 368/2016 dated the 17th of May 2016 made in favour of **Julius Marks** together with developments thereon being a three Bedroomed house, Sitting room, Kitchen and Bathroom.

N.B. Conditions of sale may be inspected at the offices of the above-named Deputy Sheriff being Plot 1-94, Minestone, Francistown.

DATED AT FRANCISTOWN THIS 29th DAY OF JULY 2020.


LETLOLE & MAKGANE
LEASERS ATTORNEYS
(Plaintiff's Attorneys)
P.O. Box 160395, Tonota
Plot 873, Town-Centre
FRANCISTOWN

MOROKA J.
IN THE HIGH COURT OF THE REPUBLIC OF BOTSWANA HELD AT FRANCISTOWN
CASE NO. CVHFT-000599-19

In the matter between:
MPHO OBUSENG Plaintiff
And
PUSOLOSO SHINE TUMAGOLE Defendant

NOTICE OF SALE IN EXECUTION

BE PLEASED TO TAKE NOTICE that pursuant to a Judgment and Writ of this Honourable Court the following property of the Defendant will be sold by public auction by **Deputy Sheriff Urgan J. Chilisa** (3180990/74770666/71594008) to the highest bidder as follows:

DATE OF SALE: 29th August 2020
TIME OF SALE: 1030 Hours
PLACE OF SALE: Lecheng/Thebane.

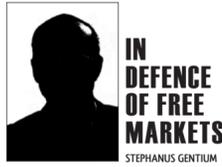
PROPERTY TO BE SOLD: A Certain Piece of Land being a Ploughing Field measuring approximately **400M X 400M X 400M X 400M** square metres situated at **Lecheng/Thebane** held under Certificate of Customary Land Grant dated the 23rd of May 2007 made in favour of **Pusolosho Shine Tumagole**.

N.B. Conditions of sale may be inspected at the offices of the above-named Deputy Sheriff being Plot 17153, Gaborone West.

DATED AT FRANCISTOWN THIS 29th DAY OF JULY 2020.


LETLOLE & MAKGANE
LEASERS ATTORNEYS
(Plaintiff's Attorneys)
P.O. Box 160395, Tonota
Plot 873, Town-Centre
FRANCISTOWN

Save lives but implement bold reforms to preserve livelihoods



IN DEFENCE OF FREE MARKETS
STEPHANUS GENTIMU

The men and women leading the fight against coronavirus deserve respect and gratitude for the work that they do. Their job is not an easy because the very idea of asking people to stay home has a huge bearing on commerce. It requires the ability to find the right balance between saving lives and mitigating the loss of incomes and jobs. And as we watch them go about their jobs, we naturally and unsurprisingly, have different opinions about how they should be doing what they are doing. We are what they call Monday morning quarter backs in the US!

There is no doubt that while we are yet to lose a lot of lives to corona virus, the negative economic consequences of the initial lockdown and ongoing restrictions are being felt across the length and breadth of the country. The situation is dire as business reel from the lockdown and as a consequence, private sector jobs are at stake. And if private sector jobs go, it is inconceivable how the government on the other hand would be able to keep its current bloated numbers. And again it is really mindboggling why the government continues to

keep over one hundred thousand people on its payroll.

It is often said that if a country cannot reform on its own steam, then it needs a crisis to prod it into action. Rwanda is cited often cited as example of county that had no option but to move quickly after the devastation of the 1994 genocide. Our crisis does not of course come close to the proportions of the Rwandan tragedy, so it is important to keep everything in proportion lest we trample on the memories of those who paid the ultimate price in that country.

In Botswana however, one senses a complacent mood in many civil servants including very senior ones. They are still stuck in a bygone era of a big government with a bottomless pit of money as the key driver of economic growth and job creation. They feel no compulsion whatsoever to think or do things differently although coronavirus has triggered the worst economic crisis this country has ever faced in its history. It still hasn't dawned on them that the 2008 global meltdown pales in comparison to what we are going through. Curiously they still live in the 90's and behave as if the mining sector is just humming along nicely and pumping money into government coffers. Coronavirus forces us to do the reforms we have always avoided. We must recognize that failure to do so will further plunge the economy into a tail spin and surely dampen prospects for

recovery as well as growth.

However all is not lost. Thankfully, the onus has again fallen on the shoulders of the sages at the Ministry of Finance to do the heavy lifting and chart the path to recover from the ravages of the coronavirus inspired lockdown. They are historically more attuned to the fact that the path to wealth, improved human condition and ingenuity in our society lies through free enterprise. As a result, they are working on a recovery strategy which I learn, will be released momentarily.

One of the issues that we should have dealt with many years ago were it not for our notoriously lethargic civil service, is to accelerate the use of e-commerce to deliver service. In this day and era of coronavirus and physical distancing, it is atrocious that the public still finds itself with no other option but queue at government offices for service. Just before the latest edition of the lockdown, I was surprised to see a meandering queue at the CEDA offices. A robust online system of applying and paying for the myriad government permits and fees, should be introduced as a matter of urgency so that people pursue their livelihoods and life doesn't stop on account of coronavirus.

So this is the time for deep-seated structural reforms to improve the ease of doing business. To try to retreat into hibernation under the cover of coronavirus is a luxury we cannot afford.

CONTINUED FROM PG 15

and engineering according to the Human Resources Development Council (HRDC).

Thus, many graduates have no jobs and are on the street because they lack work experience, practical skills and information about the market on which to base their career choices. On the demand side, slow economic growth has meant that the economy cannot generate

increased collaboration and partnerships, and creation of strong institutional structures and coordination mechanisms for effective implementation of youth empowerment programmes.

Another study titled: "Unemployed Youth and Self-employment in Botswana" also of 2016 by Latang Sechele challenges policy makers to ponder strategies towards the creation of decent employment,

policies and self-employment schemes such as the citizen Entrepreneurial Development Agency (CEDA) and the Youth Development Fund (YDF) that have been initiated by government to support self-employment".

It is urged in the study that given the youth labour market situation in Africa, where formal jobs are no longer guaranteed, attention is being paid to promotion of self-employment among the youth as

encourage innovation among young people; and seek to promote young people's self-worth in society. Moreover, self-employment is understood to contribute to start-up of families by young people as well as fostering their independence from parents.

The study concluded that a large number of unemployed youth are disadvantaged in the labour market due to their low levels of skilled human capital

removal of undue restrictions that lower unemployed young people's chances of entering the labour market for wage employment and self-employment. The lowering of the of the majority age from 21 years to 18 years would help to lessen age and legal constraints to self-employment entry. There is need to come up with affirmative action strategies to ensure that young people are given special dispensation in employment as well as allocation of resources



adequate jobs for its young people. Self-employment is also a challenge because youth lack entrepreneurial skills to create their own jobs. In a nutshell, "graduates who often lack work experience find themselves being trapped in a vicious cycle of youth unemployment" and as a result, "unemployed young people are prone to poverty, risk lower wages and future career prospects".

In conclusion, the study found that youth unemployment has a complex structural basis. The paper argued that the search for long lasting solutions must be anchored on research, monitoring and evaluation, youth empowerment through skills-based programmes,

training, wage employment, work experience and self-employment and their inter-linkages as a way of addressing youth unemployment in the country.

Sechele posits that international organizations and policy makers in developing countries, including Botswana, suggest that unemployed young people should seek to create their own jobs by engaging in self-employment activities, particularly in the informal sector.

According to Sechele, a review of literature on youth labour market in Botswana reveals that despite high levels of youth unemployment in the country, "very few of the youth are engaged in self-employment. This is in spite of a number of

a complementary employment strategy. ILO is in support of entrepreneurship and self-employment as a way of tackling the problem of unemployment.

It recognizes that this is a new development as self-employment research has been conducted on the model of the adults, paying little attention to youth and calls for further research.

Entrepreneurship and self-employment have a number of benefits in that they serve as a way of creating employment for those who start projects and employ other youth who might be marginalized in society; boost the local economy by way of providing needed goods as well as creating linkages between the formal and informal economies;

and work experience which make it difficult for them to enter the wage self-employment sectors. Unemployment is also attributed to indecent employment opportunities and not only the absence of formal jobs. Moreover, it is not feasible for young people to enter self-employment directly from unemployment.

The study further recommended increased investment and access to specialized training and skills formation activities in tandem with broader education expansion efforts to improve the youth employment prospects.

"Labour market policies, programmes and statutes need to be reviewed periodically to ensure their harmonization as well as

and access to facilities that support self-employment such as land, government market owned stalls, premises and finance", the authors of the study advise.

The United Nations System in Botswana in 2007 asserted that although there are other factors besides education that affect youth unemployment, the level of youth unemployment in the country indicates that "education is not sufficiently preparing school leavers for the world of work – whether in terms of skills, attitudes and/or expectations. Botswana has to address these challenges because the high levels of youth unemployment have wider social, psychological and economic implications, as well as political stability implications".

BIHL GROUP



Applications are invited from suitably qualified candidates for the below positions:

1. SCRUM MASTER

Job Purpose:

The role of Scrum Master is responsible for developing and leading high-performance, multi-disciplined teams, instilling in them a clear agile project vision and a passionate drive to deliver required products (project deliverables). This role facilitates the scrum/agile delivery process and sets standards for implementing quality products.

Key Performance Areas

- Lead cross-functional teams in the development and successful completion of small to large scale initiatives across a diverse set of projects using agile methodologies and scrum practices.
- Organise and lead scrum ceremonies (backlog grooming, scrum planning, daily stand-ups, sprint reviews and retrospectives).
- Configure and maintain agile project management tools (e.g. scrum desk).
- Resolve conflicts, remove impediments and coach the scrum team on removing impediments.
- Ensure deliverables are up to quality standards at the end of each sprint.
- Guide and support product owner and manage project product backlog.
- Shield the scrum team from outside distractions and interferences and represent the team's interest in external stakeholder forums.
- Manage the team's performance.
- Assess the Scrum Maturity of the team and coach them to higher levels of maturity, at a pace that is sustainable and comfortable.
- Support and foster an agile culture (of transparency, trust and high-level collaboration) within teams and across the BIHL Group.
- Coach teams, including Product Owners on agile and scrum values, methods, principles and practices of delivering projects.
- Point of contact for the project with all stakeholders.
- Develop metrics and reports to help the team understand its health and progress and to set goals.

Qualification

- A degree in Computer Science, IT, Project Management or related.
- Minimum of Professional Scrum Master level 1 (PSM1) training and/or certification.
- Project Management Certification (Agile, CSM or related)

Experience

- At least 2 years' experience as a scrum master or agile project manager.
- Some experience at a large, technology leading, and/or financial services company.
- Familiarity with scrum management tools.
- Work experience in Insurance or Asset Management firm is an added advantage.

Skills & Competencies

- Outstanding organisational and time-management skills.
- Critical thinking, Problem solving and good business intuition.
- Ability to work with and lead a team (servant leadership)
- Strong communication, interpersonal and mentoring skills
- Ability to adapt to a changing environment.
- Self-motivation and ability to stay focused in the middle of distraction.
- Excellent knowledge of Scrum techniques and artefacts (such as definition of done, user stories, automated testing, backlog refinement)
- Proficiency in at least two Agile project management tools.
- Knowledgeable in techniques to fill in gaps in the scrum.
- Knowledgeable in Agile frameworks.

2. DATA SCIENTIST

Job Purpose:

The role of Data Scientist is responsible for discovering insights from massive amounts of structured and unstructured data to help shape or meet specific business needs and goals. The job involves intricate use of analytical experiments in a methodical manner to provide diagnostic, predictive and prescriptive information to guide the BIHL Transformation and Innovation Office and decision-making and BIHL Group at large.

Key Performance Areas

- Selecting features, building and optimising classifiers using machine learning techniques.
- Data mining using state-of-the-art tools, methods and techniques
- Extending company's data with third party sources of information when needed.
- Enhancing data collection and data management procedures to include information that is relevant for building analytic systems and AI
- Processing, cleansing, and verifying the integrity of data used for analysis.
- Doing ad-hoc analysis and presenting results in a clear manner
- Creating automated anomaly detection systems and constant tracking of its performance.
- Build predictive and prescriptive models and machine-learning algorithms.
- Research, test and operationalise new analytics techniques.
- Create innovative approaches to utilising data with cutting-edge ML algorithms.
- Develop, improve and test BIHLs models to optimise business decisions by using advanced statistical modelling and simulation techniques
- Support implementation of the models working closely with software development teams.
- Present information using data visualisation techniques.
- Propose solutions and strategies for business challenges
- Collaborate with Innovation teams and development teams.

Qualification

- A degree in Computer Science, Data Science, Applied Mathematics, Statistics or related.
- Professional training and/or certification in any of the common data science toolkits.

Experience

- At least 2 years' experience as a Data Analyst or Data Scientist in a financial services field.
- Experience with common data science toolkits, data visualisation tools, common databases (Oracle, SQL) and related query languages.

Skills & Competencies

- Good communication skills.
- Critical thinking, Problem solving and good business intuition.
- Proficiency in database query languages and scripting.
- Proficiency in data analysis toolset (software, models, algorithms)
- Good applied analysis and statistics skills.
- Deep understanding of Machine learning, deep learning and AI.
- Good Data visualisation and presentation skills
- Intellectual Curiosity and business acumen.

Interested applicants should send their application with a detailed CV no later than **16 August 2020** to

Senior Business Partner – People Management
Botswana Insurance Holdings Limited
P O Box 336
Gaborone

Or email to recruitment@bihl.co.bw with the position applied for as the subject of the email.
Note: Communication will be made to shortlisted candidates only.

BOTSWANA INVESTMENT & TRADE CENTRE

PRESS RELEASE

23 July 2020

RESPONSE TO NEWS ARTICLE PUBLISHED ON THE PATRIOT ON SUNDAY UNDER THE HEADLINE 'ROT AT BITC'

- Botswana Investment and Trade Centre (BITC) is dismayed at the untruthful and distorted allegations on a news article published on The Patriot on Sunday newspaper of 19 July 2020, under the headline '**Rot at BITC**'. The article suggests that potential investors are being defrauded of 'millions of Pula' by BITC Staff.
- A few days before the defaming article was published, BITC responded to a media questionnaire from The Patriot on Sunday newspaper, indicating that **ONLY ONE** case of forgery was recently identified through the Centre's internal control processes and not DIS or DCEC as the article wrongly suggests. The suspect officer who was a **junior officer** and not a Senior Executive as purported in the article by The Patriot on Sunday was taken through a disciplinary process, found guilty, and subsequently relieved of his duties due to the disciplinary offence of forgery. Furthermore, as a signal of the organisation's detestation of fraud, the matter was reported to the Botswana Police Service who are doing their own investigations. Therefore, the Centre is NOT aware of any other case or any other BITC official under investigation either by the DIS, the DCEC, or the Botswana Police Service.
- BITC would furthermore, like to refute allegation that over P10 million could have been swindled from would-be investors. This deliberate distortion of facts and fiction of imagination is equally unfounded, baseless, and is devoid of any truth. In this article by The Patriot on Sunday newspaper, faceless sources are cited with a view to amplify the notion of rampant misconduct, corruption, indiscipline, and flagrant fraud within the organisation. The Centre continues to ensure that there are effective systems in place to timely detect and prevent any acts of misconduct. BITC pledges to continue upholding the highest level of ethical standards, conduct, and integrity in all dealings with investors.
- BITC clients, stakeholders and the general public are therefore informed to treat these assertions as malicious and false, with a high potential to mislead and bring into disrepute the good name of the Centre.
- BITC assures clients and stakeholders that the Centre is transparent, professional, and ethical in all its business dealings. In light of the seriousness of the allegations, the Centre would like to invite The Patriot on Sunday Newspaper or their purported sources to furnish the Botswana Police Service with detailed information on the alleged misconduct or any fraudulent activities at the Centre. Alternatively, reports may be submitted through the Centre's fraud and ethics hotline at Orange-1144; BTC- 0800 600 644; Mascom- 7119793; E-mail- bitc@tip-offs.com; Website- www.tip-offs.com. **END**

For more information contact:

Kutlo Moagi
Director, Corporate Affairs
Tel: +267 363 3316
Email: moagik@bitc.co.bw



Botswana's abortion Lady Justice is a feminist

When the woman decides to have an abortion, there isn't much his partner can do. This is the tragic reality that many Batswana men have to live with – Writes MPHONGU KUHLMANN

To conceive a child, it certainly takes two to tango. Surprisingly, although it is almost a cultural article of faith that after paying lobola,

Batswana men own their wives' bodies and reproductive rights, pregnancy and abortion still have a woman's face. University of Botswana Social Work Senior Lecturer

Dr Poloko why Batswana men often feel that they do not have a role to play in decisions about abortion even though they are responsible for the pregnancy. "Men are indeed also

affected by abortion, its only that our society has created a situation where parenting has been gendered and has been seen as a woman's role. Parenting practices are affected



an influenced by various factors. It's important to highlight that, even in the way the issue of abortion is discussed reflects on how the woman is the primary parent than the man while the man has been assigned the role of the provider. We see this more when the woman is pregnant, she tends to think of herself more or is more protective of the life she is carrying and which would explain why the man is always neglected whether it is with the abortion or anything else regarding a woman's pregnancy because the woman feels that the responsibility

lies solely with her. Its only in recent years that men are now stepping up to become fathers because child maintenance laws are strict on them but most just parent from afar which further makes women take on the sole responsibility. As a man who would have loved to have a child it would understandably affect him if their unborn child gets aborted and it is unfair to think men don't hurt because they would equally be as traumatized as the woman."

When it comes to abortion in Botswana, Lady Justice is a feminist. Abortion in Botswana is only legal if it will save the

woman's life, if the pregnancy gravely endangers the woman's physical or mental health, or if it is a result of rape or incest. Men on the other hand are closed out of what is universally deemed a 'women's issue.'

When the woman decides to have an abortion, there isn't much his partner can do. This is the tragic reality that many Batswana men have to deal with.

A lot of Batswana men bear scars of abortion, and often suffer in silence. Talking about abortion is an even greater taboo for men than for women. If a man wants to shed a tear, he does it privately. If

he feels that the abortion had denied him his child, he works it through himself. Typical male grief includes remaining silent and grieving alone. During this silence a man often harbors feelings of guilt and doubts about his inability to protect himself and his unborn child. Some become depressed and or anxious.

Kgomotso Jongman of Jo'Speaks in Gaborone says, "Regardless of one's position on the issue, abortion decisions are painful and difficult which bring lasting consequences. In spite of the gravity of such decisions, choices need to be made within a short time and with limited information. Too often, men and women do not properly communicate their fears and desires and as a result, an abortion decision is made which neither partner is satisfied with. Men tend to withhold their thoughts and desires concerning pregnancy outcomes and instead give the decision entirely to their partners as they perceive such behavior as "supporting" them. It is often observed that men repress their own emotions because they believe that it is the most appropriate way to care for their partners. Unfortunately, the decision to abort is often not what either of them wants but is the result of a failure of communication between men and women trying to cope with the crisis of unplanned pregnancy."

In the past, a woman often sought an abortion because her partner refused to assume responsibility for the child. It was thought that women were the ones who wanted babies while men wanted their freedom. Although there are still stories about men who abandon their pregnant girlfriends, more and more men want to be involved in everything regarding their offspring. Men grieve privately than women. Abortion has its own rules about loss - support women in their choice, keep it secret and get over it. Secret losses, especially those which are permanent like abortion, keep men from grieving and can be the source of unwanted and unacceptable behavioral change. Although abortion certainly affects women more than men, it does take two to conceive.

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VACANCY

Debswana Diamond Company – **Orapa, Letlhakane and Damtshaa Mines** would like to invite suitably qualified innovative, results oriented and self-driven individuals to apply for the positions listed and described below and join a professional team driven by service excellence, where the demands of the business are met by encouraging team work and addressing the needs of the individual.

SENIOR AUDITOR (4 MONTHS FTC)

Ref: **OLDM0000723**

Tenable at: **Orapa, Letlhakane and Damtshaa Mines**

Job Summary

To provide independent, objective assurance and consultancy services to add value and improve the effectiveness of risk management, control and governance processes at the operation by conducting internal audits per the approved audit coverage plan.

Minimum requirements

- ACCA, CIMA, BICA or equivalent or a Degree or equivalent and CIA
- 5 years relevant experience
- Associate member of IIA/ACCA/CIMA/BICA

Key Activities

- Recommends and incorporates cost saving initiatives into budgets and controls expenditure within approved budgets.
- Plans for each audit assignment by conducting risk assessment, preparing audit scope, objectives, budget and audit programme.
- Implements the audit plan through execution of audits using the approved audit methodology and in compliance with best practice / auditing standards to ensure value add to the business.
- Prepares the audit report, discusses audit findings and recommendations with management and takes appropriate action as necessary to enable finalization and sign off of the report.
- Monitors allocated audit resources to ensure compliance to audit project objectives and completion of the auditor's portfolio of audits.
- Conducts ethics and forensic investigations as and when required.
- Provides guidance and advice to management and staff and promotes awareness of ethics, governance, controls and risk management through various forums.
- Prepares audit files which conform to the requirements of professional standards for review by the Audit Services Manager.
- Identifies, coordinates and manages the implementation of and adherence to legal and corporate governance principles/requirements in area of responsibility.
- Initiates, monitors and controls short term sectional projects to ensure attainment of desired results.
- Adheres to Safety, Health and Environment policies and procedures in areas of responsibility.
- Implements the departmental talent management initiatives by ensuring the right competence and effectiveness of manpower (capacity building) through developing and implementing career, localisation/succession, training and development plans.
- Manages subordinates' key effectiveness areas by setting, monitoring, reviewing performance and taking remedial action as necessary.
- Implement knowledge management principles through application of tools and methodologies to continuously improve and sustain business performance.
- Identifies and implements creative and innovative ideas to continuously improve and sustain business Performance.
- Establish and maintain effective relationship with all key stakeholders and partners to ensure achievement of business objectives.
- Adheres to all Safety, Health & Environment policies and procedures in area of responsibility.

Behavioural Competencies

- Business Acumen
- Managing Performance and Holding People Accountable
- Planning, Coordination and Execution
- Change Leadership
- Impact & Influence
- Innovation
- Concern for Safety, Health and the Environment
- Service Orientation
- Developing Others
- Teamwork & Collaboration

Technical Competencies

- Understanding the business
- Risk analysis and control assessment techniques
- Business process analysis

Only candidates who meet the above requirements need apply, enclosing a current Curriculum Vitae and certified copies of certificates.

Send applications to e-mail: RecruitmentOLM@debswana.bw Please reference OLDM0000723 respectively in the subject line on both the email and application letter.

Closing date: **9 August 2020.**

NB: Only short-listed candidates will be responded to.

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Rollers' Shah and Goboiwang to discuss divorce settlement

DUNCAN KGANGKENNA

The seven year running power struggle between Township Rollers' financier Jagdish Shah and his estranged partner Somerset Goboiwang is far from over, and indications are that there will be lots of tears before bedtime. The two blood rivals will next week have to grin and bear it as they sit across a restaurant table at Wimpy to discuss an amicable divorce.

Should the meeting slated for August 10th at Wimpy western bypass come to pass, it will mark the first civil divorce settlement since the feuding duo decided to terminate their partnership.

The power struggle between Goboiwang and Shah for the control of undoubtedly the biggest football club in Botswana has dominated newspaper headlines over the years.

Goboiwang roped in Shah to assist him run the team in 2012 as it was financially overwhelming for him to run it alone. As an investor, Shah was to share Goboiwang's financial burden of keeping the team in peak performance. Goboiwang has already started turning Rollers professional and the pair formed Township Holdings, a company in which each held a 40% while Rollers (the society) owned the balance of 20%. Things however turned sour as Shah accused Goboiwang of failing to contribute towards his 40%. This forced Goboiwang into the backseat while Sha ran the show.

Until recently, it seemed the Rollers management, led by Shah, would never sit down with Goboiwang. In a recent article in one of the local publications, SPOTKICK, Shah was quoted as saying "between me and Somerset there is no room for reconciliation. We have to accept that and go on with our lives."



Somerset Goboiwang (left) with Jagdish Shah

Things however seem to have changed and the meeting between the two rivals is allegedly convened to persuade Goboiwang to sell his shares to Shah or to the society so that he ceases being the shareholder in the team as he is not wanted.

Shah is said to be seeking total control of the team to enable him to make decisions

on everything related to Rollers. Goboiwang on the other hand is said to be willing to listen to what the Rollers committee has to say or offer before making decisions on whatever will be tabled before him.

Contacted for comment Goboiwang could neither confirm nor deny the allegations that he was approached by

Rollers management to talk about his stake in Township Rollers Holdings.

Meanwhile, a source said at the meeting, said Goboiwang intends to demand to know whether Township Rollers has been submitting yearly returns.

If it has indeed been submitting returns, he would seek to know why he was never

furnished with the financials.

It is said Goboiwang will not accept the Rollers management demands without demanding compensation.

"The current management tarnished Goboiwang's image. They have all along claimed he was a 'foreigner' whom they did not know and was worthless.

Why do they need him now?" asked the concerned supporter who did not want to be named. The feud between Goboiwang and Shah has

divided the team. Goboiwang is of the view that whatever discussed would have to go through lawyers for legal advice before he makes the decision.



NOTICE

INVITATION TO TENDER

THE PUBLIC IS INFORMED THAT THE SITE VISITS FOR THE FOLLOWING TENDERS HAVE BEEN POSTPONED DUE TO THE PLACEMENT OF THE GREATER GABORONE ZONE UNDER LOCKDOWN;

NO	TENDER NUMBER	TENDER TITLE
1	UBT 2020/2021 - 05	TENDER FOR PROVISION OF CLEANING SERVICES AT VARIOUS UNIVERSITY OF BOTSWANA BUILDING BLOCK
2	UBT 2020/2021 - 06	TENDER FOR MAINTENANCE AND SERVICING OF TRANSFORMERS, SWITCH GEARS AND MASTER-PACKS AT UNIVERSITY OF BOTSWANA MAIN CAMPUS, CCE FRANCISTOWN AND OKAVANGO RESEARCH CENTRE (ORI) MAUN
3	UBT 2020/2021 - 07	TENDER FOR MAINTENANCE AND SERVICING OF AIR CONDITIONING AND REFRIGERATION PLANTS AND UNITS AT UNIVERSITY OF BOTSWANA MAIN CAMPUS
4	UB/EOI 2020/2021-01	EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI) FOR TRANSACTION ADVISORY SERVICES FOR THE MANAGEMENT AND OPERATION OF UNIVERSITY OF BOTSWANA HOTEL AND CONFERENCE CENTRE

NEW DATES FOR THE SITE VISITS SHALL BE COMMUNICATED IN DUE COURSE.

WE REGRET ANY INCONVENIENCE CAUSED BY THESE POSTPONEMENTS.



General Procurement Notice

INVITATION FOR BIDS

FOR

PROCUREMENT OF EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES FOR COVID – 19 SURVEILLANCE SUPPORT FOR HEALTH INFORMATICS AND DATA HARDWARE

LOCATION: Gaborone, Botswana

BUMMHI is a citizen led and governed non – governmental organization providing health systems strengthening services to the Ministry of Health and Wellness (MOHW). BUMMHI is an implementing partner of the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), through which it provides PEPFAR – funded HIV care and treatment technical assistance to MOH.

Tenders are hereby invited for the **SUPPLY AND DELIVERY of EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES FOR COVID – 19 SURVEILLANCE SUPPORT FOR HEALTH INFORMATICS AND DATA HARDWARE.**

Tender specifications will be made available upon request as from **Monday 3rd August 2020.** Interested bidders should request for tender specifications via email to the Procurement Officer on tmalabola@bummhi.org copying admin@bummhi.org

Email tenders marked, **BID REFERENCE: BPACE-COVID-19-08-001** in the subject line must be submitted to admin@bummhi.org by **17hr00 local Botswana time on Monday 10th August, 2020.** Late bids will not be accepted.

For queries, or to obtain additional information, contact in writing via email, the Procurement Officer, Tshepiso Malabola on tmalabola@bummhi.org copying dnganga@bummhi.org and bchiranga@bummhi.org

Telegraphic, telephonic and/or facsimile requests will not be entertained. All requests to be communicated in writing via email.

Sebego, Malesu score against BFA

... as football body's elections appeal board affords them right to contest



BOTHALE KOOTHUPILE

Botswana Football Association (BFA) Elections Appeal Board this past Thursday overturned the Elections Committee decision and cleared Tebogo Sebego and Ookeditse Malesu to contest the association presidency.

The reinstatement of the two aspirants, who will now compete against incumbent Maclean Letshwiti, brings a sigh of relief to their respective camps, which faced the prospect of going into the BFA elections without leaders.

While the decision of the BFA Elections Appeals Board brings a sense of justice and independence of the association's electoral processes,

there are still lingering thoughts about the independence of the BFA Elections Committee.

Following its largely unpopular disqualification of both Sebego and Malesu, the elections committee came under a lot of fire, with many accusing it of being partisan towards the current Letshwiti led regime.

Whereas the BFA Elections Committee is always adamant that it is independent, the ruling of the BFA Elections Appeals Board and the events preceding the appeals have only fostered the belief that it is not independent, at least among the current regime's detractors.

Speaking in an interview with Sunday Standard Sports following the overturning of the decision to bar him from contesting, Sebego said

he was not convinced of the independence of the Elections Committee.

The former BFA president's consternation stems from the elections board's weird and out of character decision 'to oppose his appeal at the Elections Appeal Board.'

"Normally, you expect a decision-making body like the BFA elections committee to be bipartisan. It was our expectation and belief that the current elections committee is such," Sebego explained.

While events leading to the vetting exercise undertaken by the committee pointed to possible interference with the elections committee, the former BFA president said they gave the committee the benefit of the doubt.

He however said following his and Malesu's disqualification from the BFA presidential race, the decision by the Elections Committee to oppose his pointed otherwise.

"As a decision-making body, just like in the judiciary, the Elections Committee is not an interested party and can never be a respondent," he explained.

"It thus came as a surprise for me when the elections committee decided to oppose my appeal against its ruling to disqualify me," said Sebego.

He likened the decision of the BFA Elections Committee to oppose his appeal to that of a magistrate or lower court judge opposing an appeal of his or her ruling at a higher body as a respondent, something that is unheard of.

Speaking to his appeal, Sebego said it was also surprising that the Elections Committee would disqualify him from the race over a minor offence that does not affect his credibility.

"The Law Society of Botswana wrote two reference letters on my behalf to the effect that I was of 'good character and repute.' The BFA Elections Committee then somehow overruled the references of the same body and failed me an integrity test over a minor offence," he explained.

In hindsight, Sebego said looking at the structure of the BFA Elections Committee eligibility questionnaire, he is tempted to believe they were tailor made to disqualify him and Malesu from the BFA presidential race.

Malesu, who opined that the eligibility questionnaire was drafted with hope that it will 'hold water against me and Sebego', holds the same view.

Speaking in an interview, the former BFA Chief Executive Officer (CEO) said he does not believe the current BFA Elections Committee can be trusted to hold fair elections.

He however said he was happy that things turned out the way they have as this exposed the current BFA regime, which he said would avoid competition to cover its own inequities.

Malesu was also lost for words as how to the Botswana National Sports Commission (BNSC) could have written a letter to the BFA Elections Committee informing it he was under investigation.

He questioned if the BFA Elections Committee had enquired from different sporting bodies to check whether other BFA National Executive Committee (NEC) are under investigations or if he alone was singled out in a bid to disqualify him.

"The BNSC would have not known about my candidature for the BFA presidency or about the eligibility test unless they were asked by the elections committee or someone with interest in the proceedings," he opined.

Despite a letter purportedly written by the BNSC CEO Falcon Sedimo to the elections committee proclaiming that he was under investigation, Malesu said he is still not aware of any investigation against him.

The former BFA CEO said

he even gave the BFA Elections Appeal Board a letter from the Directorate on Corruption and Economic Crime (DCEC).

Malesu said in the letter, the DCEC vouched it had not interrogated or questioned him on the said allegations and that it would not have informed him if there were any investigations against him.

Going into the BFA elections, the former BFA CEO said if it were up to him, he would have dismissed and replaced the current BFA Elections Committee to give the upcoming BFA elections some credibility.

"I am sorry to say this because the men and women in the current committee come with high reputations, but I believe they are compromised," he concluded.

Uphill battle awaits Modongo

... as clubs retract signatures

GODFREY MOWANENG

Former Botswana Amateur Fencing Society (BAFS) president Gaolatlwe Modongo's forlorn bid to return to the helm of the local fencing society is turning into a farfetched dream.

Sunday Standard has established that affiliated clubs are renouncing claims that a 'motion of no confidence' was passed against BAFS incumbent president Mandla Masuku. This is in stark contrast to allegations

made before the court of law by Mudongo that the current BAFS committee has been voted out through a vote of no confidence.

The current mess dates back to 2017 when the Botswana National Sports Commission (BNSC) slapped Modongo with a three-year suspension. While clubs were said to have signed a 'vote of no confidence document,' it has since surfaced that they signed without being informed of the facts of the matter.

It has been revealed to Sunday Standard that five of the said seven signatory clubs have since written remorseful letters to the society indicating they were misled. One of the letters directed to BAFS president dated 10th July 2017 by one affiliate indicated an apology for any inconveniences that occurred.

"We apologize for the

grievances that may have been caused. We were misled and were asked to support a meeting without being told full facts which should have been told to us," the letter reads.

"Had we have been informed prior and known there was a new executive committee in place and new chair, we would have first sought clarification with the new

committee," narrated the letter.

Another letter written by an affiliate club dated 7th July 2017 regretted being part of the letter sent to the central committee dated 24th June 2017.

"We as Tlokweg Fencing club had never intended to diminish the reputation of our beloved sport of fencing in anyway. It came as a surprise to

learn from the media about what we believe it was a hidden agenda that the letter had intended for," read the letter.

For Sir Seretse Khama Fencing club, their disclaimer letter read "we wish to withdraw its signature from the letter calling for an emergency meeting as we realize the intentions were not in the interest of the sport. It

is unfortunate that we were made part of such practice unaware."

Speaking to Sunday Standard, Mudongo indicated that he has a strong case and believes he should be the one at the helm of the local fencing society. He pointed an accusing finger at the BNSC for fuelling factions within BAFS.

"I can confidently confirm that all clubs that had been affiliates during the motion of no confidence have since been barred from taking part in BAFS

activities and are only waiting for the case. My suspension was unlawful and BNSC has no right to suspend me as they have no right to pronounce who has the right to lead a society. It is a fact that BAFS has factions and it is alarming that BNSC is sponsoring another faction," said Mudongo.

Efforts to get a comment from Masuku went futile as he shortly said "I cannot comment on the matter as it is still a subject at the court of law".



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