



sundaystandard

July 19 - 25, 2020

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PC, Union fight to dis- rupt power supply

REUBEN PITSE

Botswana faces an electricity crisis as tensions between the Botswana Power Corporation (BPC) and its workers union reach breaking point.

Botswana Power Corporation Workers Union (BPCWU) has already received a mandate from staff to pursue "the [power] struggle" through other means beyond negotiations if need be.

BPCWU secretary general, Gonaone Marumoagae disclosed this week that they are about "to exhaust all channels of negotiation" with the employer, and will resort to picketing. "If not for the state of emergency we would go for an outright strike".

BPC management is expected to make an urgent court application to prohibit the union from mobilising members to engage in any form of industrial action.

The standoff between the BPC and its union escalated into a game of brinkmanship this week after the two parties failed to break their deadlock over cost of living negotiations. The two parties met in Gaborone last week and neither was willing to climb down. Marumoagae issued a press statement that: "It is with deep sense of sadness that we Botswana Power Corporation Workers' Union announce that there has been a disagreement with the employer at the negotiation [table] over an adjustment of the cost of living."

He said this had occasioned a mandate from members to pursue "the [power] struggle" through other means beyond the negotiations if needs be. He explained that the BPC embarked on a restructuring exercise that was intended to reduce the size of the organisation, but they only increased the number of employees from 2032 to 2187 - many of new positions which are not essential to the business.

He indicated that such appointments are usually questionable, with a clear sign of nepotism. He further stated that what hurts the most is the fact the corporation continues to outsource jobs that can easily be done internally.

This move, it is alleged, led to the company bleeding cash while still paying salaries for the same work. He further said if there was no money, the corporation would stop the "senseless multi-million-pula tenders" which are usually awarded to friends and associates.

The statement also said the BPC diverted money that was earmarked for a five-year transformation strategy known as (MASA 2020). The strategy was conceived to turn the BPC financial fortunes around. It further emerged from the press statement that the strategy had identified only three services to be outsourced being security, cleaning and fleet services.

In a brief press statement, the BPC spokesperson Dineo Seleke said: "I wish to advise that the Corporation is not in a position to discuss its internal matters with staff on a public forum."

Corruption forces Masisi to hoard Covid-19 billions

- Ministry of Health inflated the Covid-19 budget
- Ministry padded price of test kits by about P200 million
- Masisi takes P2 billion Covid-19 budget away from Health Ministry
- Covid-19 Procurement Unit cancelling and reversing ministry's questionable procurements



President Mokgweetsi Masisi with the Health Minister, Lemogang Kwape

PIC: OAITSSE SEJAKGOMO

SUNDAY STANDARD REPORTER

President Mokgweetsi Masisi has assumed absolute command in the fight against the coronavirus pandemic, and has shunted the Minister of Health and Well-

ness Dr Lemogang Kwape aside.

Sunday Standard investigations have turned up documents revealing that the president has also withdrawn the more than P2 billion Covid-19 budget from the Ministry of Health and placed it under The Office of the President. Masisi who chairs weekly Covid-19 Task team meetings is now commanding the

widespread corruption.

The more than P2 billion is now being administered by the Covid-19 Procurement Unit with is part of the Covid-19 Task team under the Office of the President. Masisi who chairs weekly Covid-19 Task team meetings is now commanding the

fight against the pandemic and the attendant corruption.

Investigations have further revealed that the Covid-19 Procurement Unit under the Office of the President has already started reversing and cancelling some questionable procurements made by the Ministry

of Health and Wellness.

The *Sunday Standard* can reveal that among Ministry of Health procurements which have been stopped by the Covid-19 Procurement Unit was the procurement of 400 000 Covid-19 RT-PCR Kits. These are test kits used in COVID-19 real-time

reverse transcription polymerase chain reaction (rRT-PCR) test for the qualitative detection of nucleic acid from SARS-CoV-2 in upper and lower respiratory specimens.

Documents in the *Sunday Stan-*

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Sir Ketumile Hospital employees test positive for COVID-19

THOBO MOTLHOKA

At least two employees of a cleaning services company engaged by Sir Ketumile Masire Hospital have tested positive for Coronavirus in the line of duty, *Sunday Standard* has established. The two employees and colleagues with whom they had come into contact have been placed under quarantine following the dis-

covery.

The company premises were on Friday swarming with job seekers looking to replace those still under isolation.

The company Operations Manager (name withheld) would not entertain questions from this publication instead referring our enquiries to the COVID-19 Task Force.

"We are not in a position to answer such questions. It is only the

Task team that can respond to your

concerns," he said. An employee who spoke to *Sunday Standard* said they had raised concerns about the company's failure to provide employees with personal protective clothing (PPE).

The reported positive cases raise concerns about the safety of those working in the frontline against the pandemic. Efforts to get answers from the COVID-19 Task Force

proved futile as they would not re-

spond to *Sunday Standard* questions.

The Task Force have always hid

behind the Doctor/patient confi-

dentiality to avoid disclosing infor-

mation about Coronavirus cases.

Coordinator of the Task Force

Dr Kereng Masupu told the nation

last week that Botswana's confirmed

cases stood at 522 cases. The coun-

try recorded the highest number of

any given day on Wednesday July 15

with a record 50 confirmed cases.

The only ever recorded case involv-

ing a frontline worker was that of a

Block 8 Clinic nurse who has since

challenged the positive diagnosis at

the courts. Since then the Task Force

have been cagey with information

about specific cases citing patient,

doctor confidentiality.

The nurse made demands that

the Ministry of Health furnish him

with signed results by the person

who carried out the laboratory tests.

His results were delivered during a special parliament sitting in April with the positive diagnosis leading to all Members of Parliament and those who attended the session undergoing a mandatory 14-day quarantine.

According to legal documents the nurse was admitted at Sir Ke-

tumile Masire Teaching Hospital on

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WEATHER & INFO

WEATHER FORECAST GABORONE

SUNDAY

Max: 25°C
Min: 02°C

MONDAY

Max: 23°C
Min: 02°C

TUESDAY

Max: 23°C
Min: 02°C

Source: www.weather.com

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BDP convinced Moswaane is about to join BPF

Sources at both the Botswana Democratic Party (BDP) and the Botswana Patriotic Front (BPF) say that it is just a matter of time before the Francistown East MP, Ignatius Moswaane, joins the latter party. Such defection was actually expected to happen last year before the general election but was deferred to a later date. Moswaane's actions also show that he is setting up a scenario that will force President Mokgweetsi Masisi's hand.

Masisi suspended Moswaane last Wednesday through a letter whose very last sentence states: "You are directed not to share this internal party communication with third parties." It is unclear when Moswaane received a copy of the letter but at 1659 hours of the same day, he posted its photocopy to his Facebook page. The latter means that in addition to "behaving in a grossly disorderly and unruly manner that might put the party name into disrepute"

and behaving in a manner calculated to bring the party name into disrepute", Moswaane has managed to add another charge that Masisi will certainly haul him over the coals for if he stays in the BDP.

BDP and BPF sources say that Moswaane is going for broke because he is headed to the BPF, which was founded by Masisi's predecessor and nemesis, General Ian Khama. Ahead of last year's elections, Moswaane didn't even seek to make his political relationship with Khama a secret. Khama actively and publicly supported Moswaane's re-election bid and according to BPF sources, around that time the Francistown East MP was being wooed to leave BDP. They add that while he remained put, he also indicated that he would join BPF at a later stage. In parliament, Moswaane operated almost like an opposition MP, in one instance deviating from positions taken by the parliamentary party.

"I am warning those that attack the party to stop doing so. Some MP here has gone into that habit, forgetting the hard work the party put in to have him elected," said Khama. "I am warning him to desist from his tendencies, failing which I will take action."

Moswaane desisted from his

tendencies and Khama never took any disciplinary action against him. On the other hand, his latest action that immediately followed his suspension shows that he has no fear this time around. Ironically, in joining BPF, the rabble-rousing MP wouldn't be able to be as assertive and as daring with Khama as he can be with Masisi.

Moswaane engages in this brinkmanship at a time that he doesn't have the power he had going into the 2019 general election. Then Masisi had to treat dissident BDP MPs with kid gloves out of fear that they might decamp to the opposition and cost him votes he desperately needed in what everybody thought would be a do-or-die election. Having won with a comfortable margin, Masisi also has no such fear. He would retain that margin even if three more BDP MPs (Reggie Ratile, Molebatsi Molebatsi and Paulson Majaaga) decamp to the BPF as been alleged in the media.

Since the lockdown, Mo-

Long-standing and unlawful police practice clashes with Masisi's wishes

"Bagaetshe, I want to encourage all of you to use public transport and make use of the carpooling method, whenever possible, and to walk or cycle," said President Mokgweetsi Masisi in his most recent national address when addressing the nation on the current fuel shortages.

However, carpooling is in direct conflict with an unlawful practice that the Botswana Police Service have normalised and engage in across the country with impunity. Last Tuesday, a Molepolole man was charged for "using a private vehicle as PSV w/o appropriate permit" by the Thamaga police who slapped him with a P1500 fine and impounded his car. "PSV" means "public service vehicle" and "w/o" means "without". His contention is that the people in his car were his neighbours, that they were not paying passengers and that they were merely carpooling. In the case of Gaborone, it is likely that other motorists carpooling from peri-urban places like Thamaga, Ramotswe and Mochudi have suffered similar fate.

However, even if these motorists are not carpooling and as even senior police officers confirm, there is no law against giving people a lift in one's car. That



President Mokgweetsi Masisi

notwithstanding, and for more decades, traffic police have misinterpreted Section 5 of the Road Transport Permit Act which penalises using a private vehicle as a public service vehicle without appropriate permit. It is common knowledge that virtually all motorists who give passengers

a lift ask them to pay at the end of their journey. However, the police are helpless in this case because they actually need to see money changing hands for them to say that the law has been broken.

Continued misinterpretation of Section 5 of the Road Transport Permit Act will certainly make it impossible for motorists to carpool – meaning that President Masisi should have asked for the permission of traffic police officers who have established practice that puts carpooling on the wrong side of this Act.

The most egregious example of this law-breaking by the police happened last year when two young men almost died when two Seabelo Express buses collided along the A1 Highway in a freak fatal accident in the Tropic of Capricorn area. The men, Mosisane Chakala and Buzwani Kwelagano, boarded a Francistown-bound private car in Gaborone at the Tawana hitchhiking spot on a rainy day. At Dibete, the officer manning a roadblock learnt that the driver had given Chakala and Kwelagano a ride and ordered them out of the car with the explanation that "hitchhiking is against the law." The reality though – which some police officers themselves confirm – is that hitchhiking is not against the law; paying for a ride is but even then police need proof that money changed hands.

Government should do due diligence on COVID-19 donors - UDC

While he acknowledges the difficulty of distinguishing between good and bad donors, the spokesperson of the Umbrella for Democratic Change, Moeti Mohwasa, says that in principle it is morally wrong for the government to be accepting COVID-19 donations from companies that have cases pending at the district labour office and the Industrial Court. The short-term solution he proposes is for the government to develop a mechanism through which it can re-route that money back to its rightful owners – workers of "donor" companies.

As COVID-19 ravages the economy and credit rating agencies downgrade Botswana, President Mokgweetsi Masisi has sent out an appeal for donations.

However, the donations have caused a great deal of consterna-

tion in some quarters. The Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Employment, Labour Productivity and Skills Development, Kabelo Ebineng, has publicly lamented that while some of the donors have shelled out millions of pula to the COVID-19 Relief Fund, they "have not paid their employees amounts as little as P3000. That is wrong."

The long-term solution that the UDC spokesperson proposes is for the government to do thorough due diligence that goes beyond identifying donors who may have cases pending at the district labour office or the Industrial Court.

"Otherwise the government runs the risk of accepting stolen money," says Moeti, adding that the due diligence he proposes is one that a UDC government

would have undertaken to prevent a situation as problematic as the one the government currently has to deal with.

There is yet likelihood that the government could itself be the primary source of the "donations" that are being poured into the. This is how: some names appear on both the donor list and the Botswana Unified Revenue Services wage subsidy list.

To offset some of the financial ruin occasioned by the April/May National lockdown, the government subsidised wages by 50 percent for qualifying companies. This subsidy was administered through BURS which has reported in the past, some of the donors took off masks (which is an offence in terms of the COVID-19 Emergency Regulations) because one big element of this ceremony is PR gimmickry.

Mourning mum sues hospital P10 million for loss of child

OBUSITSE KOLOGWE

On the 30th of September 2010 while her daughter was in a toilet, she experienced a sharp pain and felt as if something had blocked her anal passage. She however pulled it out and to her shock it appeared to be a medical gauze. She showed it to her mother and during the same day she reported the matter to the hospital staff.

According to her court papers sometime in June 2010, her daughter (name withheld) felt an extreme pain in her abdomen. The health problem persisted until she took her to Jubilee Hospital on the 21st of September 2010 to get pills for constipation but the situation did not improve.

Disturbed by her daughter's deteriorating health condition, on or about the 9th of June 2010 she took her to Nyangabwe Referral Hospital where she was admitted the same night.

Mazhan was informed by surgeons on duty that they needed to operate on her daughter to remove her appendix to relieve the pain.

The operation was done on

the same night on the 9th of June 2010. After the operation the plaintiff's daughter continued to feel the tightness in her stomach and to a certain degree it became sore.

The plaintiff's daughter continued to feel the pain especially when she was relieving herself. The situation got worse to the extent that she started swelling in the neck sometime in June 2010. The health problem persisted

until she took her daughter for a CT-Scan at Nyangabwe Hospital to see what the problem was. The daughter was attended by one Dr Mcharo who suggested that a second biopsy operation be carried out and that her daughter

should be admitted on the 14th of October 2010.

On the 30th of September 2010 while her daughter was in a toilet, she experienced a sharp pain and felt as if something had blocked her anal passage. She however pulled it out and to her shock it appeared to be a medical gauze. She showed it to her mother and during the same day she reported the matter to the hospital staff.

The plaintiff found a junior Doctor, one Dr. Max Nthato who assigned a nurse to preserve the object and to take it to his supervisors after independence holidays. The plaintiff only managed to have one meeting months later with the hospital superintendent (Dr Mosweu). Dr Mosweu and her staff advised her that they could not in any way take responsibility for what happened.

The plaintiff feels that the

CONTINUES ON PG 4

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Kgosi wants court to quash graft charges

MPHO KELEBOGE



Isaac Kgosi

It appears Isaac Kgosi's steam to fight the State over graft charges stacked against him hasn't fizzled out as yet. The former Director of Directorate of Intelligence Services (DIS) has filed an application asking the High Court in Gaborone to review and set aside the decision of the state to charge him for abuse of office and corruption.

This came after the State, represented by Senior Counsel, Wesson Manchwe, requested the matter to be committed to the High Court for trial arguing that they have gathered all the necessary evidence.

Kgosi is charged alongside Bakang Seretse, Kenneth Kersekang and others for siphoning some P250million out of the National Petroleum Fund under dubious circumstances.

When appearing before Magistrate, Kamogelo Mmelesi on Thursday, Kgosi made an application

for a stay of proceedings pending an application which is before high Court Judge Michael Leburu to be determined on the 17 August 2020.

Through his attorney Thabiso Tafila, Kgosi said he was introduced to the charges late last year.

"Thus the High Court is fully charged with the review Application, the Orders of which materially and wholly affect the current proceedings before this Court. A successful review application will

automatically abort/terminate the proceedings before this court. Given the seniority of the High Court, it is only proper that this court defer to the High Court and stay the proceedings before this Court," said Tafila.

He said the other reason for the stay of the current proceedings has to do with the appeal by the respondent (DPP) of the Ruling of this very court dated the 13th December 2019. The Appeal is yet to be heard by the High Court.

Union seeks to halt BPC power trip

REUBEN PITSE
& KHONANI ONTEBETSE

The Botswana Power Corporation Workers Union (BPWU) has dragged the cash-strapped power utility before the High Court alleging violation of an agreement on retrenchment packages.

The Union seeks, among others, an order calling upon the Botswana Power Corporation (BPC) to show cause why its decision of 14th December 2016 cannot be reviewed, corrected or set aside.

The Union also seeks an order directing that the retrenchment of and redundancy packages agreement signed by the parties on the 13th March 2013 be implemented.

The union also seeks an order directing the BPC to pay the costs of the application on attorney and client scale.

According to court records, sometime in 2009, the BPC and the union concluded an agreement dubbed The Early Exit Policy. The purpose of the policy was to outline terms and conditions in case of early exit such as retrenchment, redundancy and early retrenchment. The said policy was revived by the parties on or about 1st April 2014 and it is now titled the separation policy.

In his founding affidavit the union's general secretary, Bohithet-

swe Lentswe states that the process affected the same employees who were identified for retrenchment in 2015.

He said in February 2016, the BPC issued a letter to the union requesting it to come to the table to negotiate failing which the corporation would apply the minimum package conferred by law.

It also stated that there are two separate packages to be applied in the case of early exit, retirement, retrenchment and redundancy.

It also stipulated that the minimum rates shall be reviewed from time to time depending on markets trends and the corporation's financial position.

Court records also show that on or about 6th January 2016, letters were issued to employees of BPC in terms of which the corporation informed its employees of the likelihood of retrenchment.

Another letter was also issued to the Commissioner of Labour informing him of the said impending retrenchment. Those who were affected were employees in Customer Services and Support Department, Rural Department, Corporate Services Department, Corporate Finance Development, Corporate Human Resources Development and Transmission Department.

"It is my averment that the termination of the process of retrenchment which started in March 2015 was solely to avoid the imple-

mentation of the retrenchment and redundancy agreement," said Lentswe.

He added: "For instances services which were outsourced still remain outsourced and the positions relating to the same are redundant and having been redundant from the date a decision was made to outsource them."

He said the Retrenchment and Redundancy Package: Conclusive Agreement is binding upon the parties. He added that the said agreement constitutes a collective agreement which is binding on the parties and the union's members.

"It is my averment that the Early Exit Policy forms part of the Human Resources and Policy Manual which document we also incorporated in the terms and conditions of employment of the Respondent's employees," said Lentswe.

He said the package was negotiated by BPC and the union to be implemented or used with the Corporate Strategic Agenda 2013 to 2018 or any retrenchment within BPC.

He said BPC used its power to terminate the agreement for ulterior purposes and to achieve that which was not intended by section 40 of the Trade Dispute Act.

Court exposes Mogae, Khama "mad man" injustices faux pas

KHONANI ONTEBETSE
& REUBEN PITSE

Botswana past presidents Festus Mogae and Ian Khama face a constitutional faux pas after it emerged that they may have, illegally, jailed a mentally challenged convict.

This emerged from a judgement in which Gaborone High Court Judge Tshepo Motswagole found that the continued incarceration of Sergeant Batshani by Botswana Presidents between 2002 and 2015 was illegal.

At the time Mogae and Khama served as Presidents of Botswana respectively.

While Motswagole found that the action of the President was illegal and that Batshani sought a number of declaratory orders among them those of Constitutional nature, he referred the matter to the Court of Appeal for guidance describing the case as matter of public importance.

According to papers before the Court, Batshani was arraigned and tried on an indictment of murder and found guilty in 2002 but insane at the material time.

The result was that the trial judge made a report to the President (Mogae at the time) who was empowered to determine his fate. In the interim, the judge directed that Batshani be remanded in custody as a criminal lunatic. In 2003, the President issued a presidential confinement order directing the confinement of Batshani at the then Lobatse Mental Hospital. However, he was subsequently transferred to Lobatse State Prison on.

"The crux of the matter is that



Former president, Festus Mogae

Batshani was so confined notwithstanding the subsequent recommendations by two separate Medical Health Boards to the President for his release on 15 January 2006 and 20 November 2020 respectively with an unfavourable report, not attributable to his mental status in between on 6th March 2008," Motswagole noted.

Court records show that Batshani was moved from mental facility to Lobatse Prison on October 2007 along with others persons considered to be ring leaders following acts of protest against the institutional authorities.

In 2014 he approached the High Court seeking an order compelling the President to release him. A consent order was issued "directing the President to take all necessary steps to cause an inquiry into the mental health of the plaintiff (Batshani)."

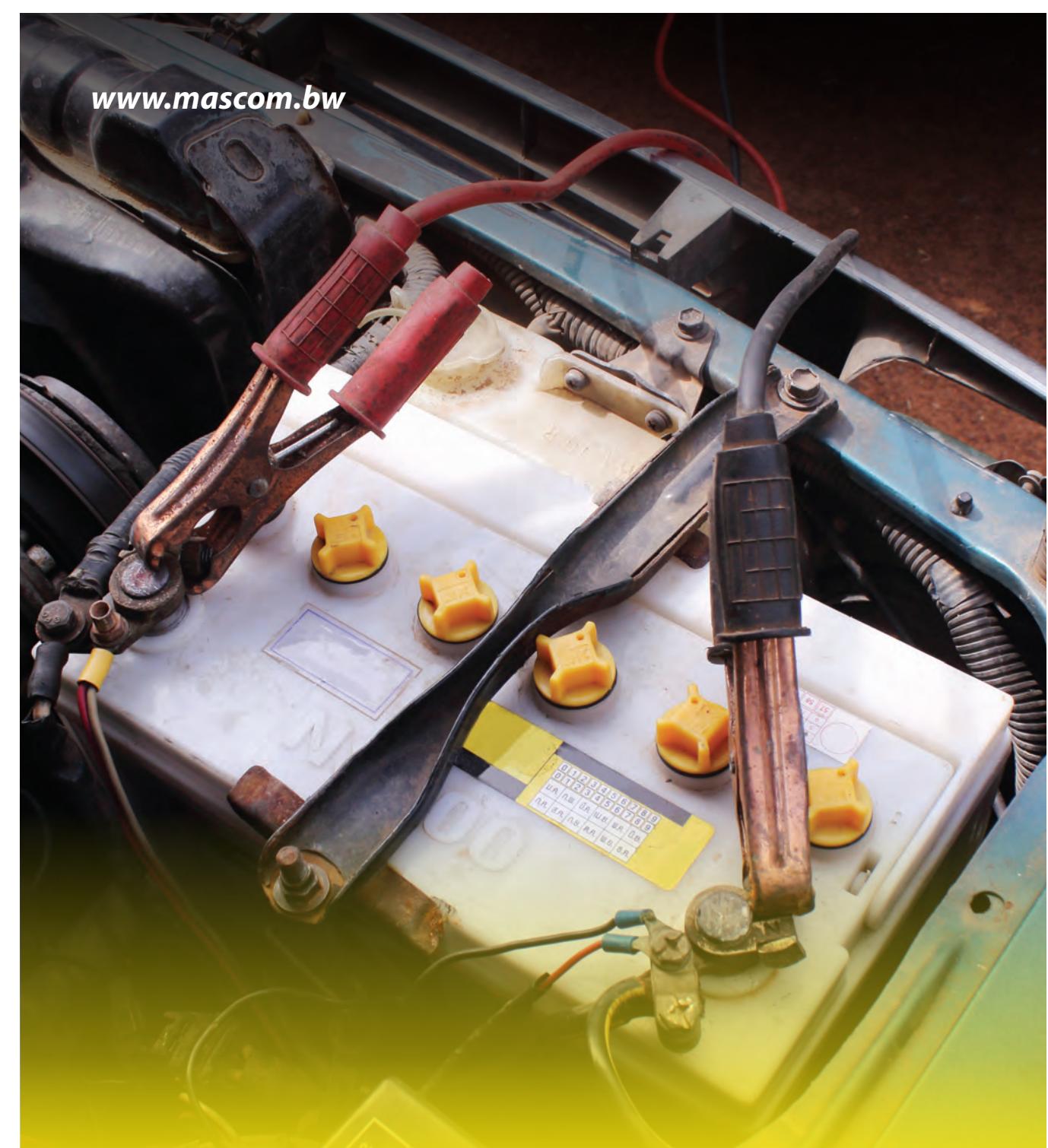
The outcome of the inquiry was a recommendation for his re-

lease and he was released in April 2015 and by that time he had spent 14 years in confinement.

Motswagole found that "There are pertinent issues that may need exploration in an appropriate case such as the instant case. How do we reconcile the fact that someone who is not found guilty is nevertheless to be incarcerated at the 'pleasure of the President as per Section 160 (3) of CAP 08:03 in the light of the principle of presumption of innocence enshrined in Section 10 of the Constitution?"

He said "What makes the case at hand difficult and troubling too judicial conscience, borrowed when one took the of office, is that accused person dealt with in terms of Section 160 of CAP .08:02 would have been found fit to stand trial to section 159 of CAP .08:02 and the finding of guilty of the act but insane in section 160 (1) of CAP:08:02 which deals not with the present but the past."

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Corruption forces Masisi to hoard Covid-19 billions

CONTINUED FROM PG 1



President Masisi

Sunday Standard possession reveal that the Ministry of Health had padded the price of the kits by about P200 million. In a budget estimate made to the Ministry of Finance, the Ministry of Health had indicated that it would spend P240 million to procure the kits at P 600.00 a unit.

It has however emerged that the Ministry of Health had inflated the price by more than 400%. The Covid-19 Procurement Unit was able to procure the same kits for P50 million at US\$12.00 a unit about (P140 a unit).

The Covid-19 task team is also understood to have forced the Ministry of Health to cancel the procurement of flu shots after it emerged that they were to be delivered after the winter flu season and would not be used next year as the flu strain would have mutated.

The Ministry of Health was initially allocated P2,153,691,190.00 to fight and contain the pandemic. This was after former Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Health and Wellness presented a Covid-19 budget estimate of P2,259,694,550.00 comprising P 2,088,249,450.00 for personal protective equipment, drugs and medicines and P171,445,100.00 for operational costs. The Ministry of Health and Wellness was able to source P106,003,360.00 from its 2020/2021 recurrent budget allocation and asked for an additional P2,153,691,190.00 "to augment and cover COVID-19 budget estimates." This followed a request made to the Ministry of Finance on 6th April 2020 by the then Health Permanent Secretary

Sunday Standard investigations have turned up information that President Masisi and the DCEC sprang into action after COVID-19 Task Force Coordinator Dr. Kereng Masupu complained that the procurement sleaze was undermining efforts to contain the pandemic.

This was after Botswana was forced to fight the COVID-19 pandemic "blindfolded" after plans to commence community testing on April 20th collapsed because government did not have enough testing kits.

It was almost three months after the Ministry of health commissioned two companies to supply testing kits which they sourced from India and China.

A fortnight into Botswana's first national lockdown, the Ministry of Health and Wellness announced plans to conduct mass community testing alongside contact tracing testing.

The COVID-19 Task team

however made an about-turn and opted for contact tracing – the use of location data to identify who an infected individual may have come into contact with and infected. The Ministry revealed that it has conducted 14 283 laboratory tests through the contact tracing programme. This is less than 1% of Botswana's population and is unlikely to give a true indication of the disease penetration.

As a result of the testing kits procurement mess, Botswana found itself in a situation that the World Health Organisation (WHO) warned against. After belatedly declaring COVID-19 a pandemic, WHO Director General, Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, said that there was

only one way that countries could deal with the coronavirus outbreak sweeping the globe: "Test, test, test." He warned countries that they couldn't "fight a fire blindfolded."

The Covid-19 Task Force had initially planned to commence community testing for COVID-19 by April 20th. Former Deputy Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Health and Wellness Moses Keetile and Director of Health Services, Dr Malaki Tshipayagae, issued statements mid April that they had collaborated with the University of Botswana, National Strategy Office, Statistics Botswana and Botswana-Harvard Partnership to conduct the tests. The testing which were to be done at selected households in greater Gaborone, greater Francistown, Gantsi, Ngamiland and Chobe areas were scheduled to run for 14 days. A total of 20,000 tests were to be done.

Unconfirmed report revealed that the 20 000 test which were scheduled for 14 days were planned around the 20 000 testing kits which had been donated by the Jack Ma Foundation and Alibaba Foundation.

The plan however meant there would be no testing kits to do contact trace testing.

Hardly a week after Keetile and Tshipayagae, issued statements that the COVID-19 Task Force would conduct community testing and contact trace testing concurrently, Coordinator of the COVID-19 Task Force announced a new and revised plan at a press conference. He explained that due to limited resources, they were unable to do community testing.

Court exposes Mogae, Khama "mad man" injustices faux pas

CONTINUED FROM PG 3

consider the recommendation of the judge presiding over the inquiry and to make an appropriate order attaching conditions as he may consider appropriate.

"The that the President "may make such order...as he thinks fit, "does not mean he has unfettered power. The power given can only be so exercised for the intended purposes. Such purpose is for the care and medical treatment of the person confined or for public safety. This is the reason section 167 (1) of CAP:

08:02 requires the assessment of the subject's mental condition and the desirability to continue or to end the confinement," said Motswagole.

He said these are the issues to which the President ought to apply his mind in the exercise of the confined power.

"The President is obliged to consider both the report of the Director of Health Services and the Medical Certificate. For the same reasons that the Director of Health Services could not ignore the Medical Certification, the President also cannot ignore the report and the medical certification," said Motswagole.

He said the President in considering the report and the medical certificate for the purpose for the deprivation of personal liberty, namely the care and treatment of the subject person or the protection of the public, all of which are objectively ascertainable.

"It must be objectively established either that the subject person still has a mental health problem and therefore in need of care and treatment or that because of his or her mental health problem he or she constitutes a threat to public safety," said Motswagole.

He said the real problems begin when a person who is not

found to be insane or suspected of being insane is incarcerated for any other reason than for his care and treatment or the protection the public as envisaged by Section 5(1) (h) of the Constitution.

Motswagole said since it was medically ascertained that he was no longer mentally challenged and the Medical Health Board recommended that he ought to be released, the President, given the constitutional prescriptions, ought to have obliged or at the worst caused an inquiry to be conducted.

"The constitutional breach was heightened by the fact the subject person was kept in confinement from November 2004 until April 2009 notwithstanding medical findings of sanity and recommendation for release," he said.

Motswagole said "I'm satisfied that the treatment of Batshani by the State agents and the President in particular was in accordance with section 5(1) (h) of the Constitution once it was communicated to him that Batshani was no longer mentally challenged. In the circumstances, any subsequent detention of the Plaintiff was unlawful and in breach of his constitutional rights."

Motswagole found that Batshani may have been confined not because he was found to be in sane or suspected to be insane but because he was found guilty, not of a crime but of an act that is an element of a crime.

"To put it bluntly, he was found not guilty of the offence charged but was incarcerated as a "criminal" lunatic and this is so even though section 11 declares him not criminally liable," said Motswagole.

"It cannot be denied that he has suffered damages but that is

a matter to be tried to determine the quantum of such damages. However, I think it will be in the interest of justice and for the public good that the full bench of the Court of Appeal be afforded the opportunity to provide guidance in the light of what I stated above," said the judge.

He ordered that the President was obliged to release Batshani from confinement once he received a determination of the Mental Health Board per the letter dated 6 January 2006 to the effect that plaintiff was no longer mentally incapacitated.

Motswagole also ordered that the continued confinement of Batshani after the Mental Health Board had certified that he was no longer suffering a mental disorder constituted an infringement of his right to personal liberty and freedom of movement.

The judge also found that the continued confinement of Batshani in a prison meant for criminals and not a mental hospital constituted inhuman and degrading punishment. Batshani is presented by Paul Muzimo of Paul and Partners law firm is also demanding more than P5 million as payment of damages. The judge said the High Court would deliver a ruling on the quantum after the Court of Appeal had given direction on some of the declaratory orders sought by Batshani.

Motswagole said given the fact the matter touches on fundamental human rights and freedoms and in the light of the decisions from democratic countries including Europe, Canada and the Caribbean countries, whose constitutions share the same historical heritage as ours, an authoritative statement is required from the highest court in the land.

Motswagole stated that 15 of the Court of Appeal permits

a judge of the High Court to reserve any question of law for determination by the Court of Appeal.

Therefore he wants the Court of Appeal to determine whether or not the provisions of section 160 make a reasonable provision for differentiation between on the one hand, the persons who were instance such as not to appreciate the nature of their action or omission at the time of the occurrence of the unlawful act or omission but are otherwise no longer insane at time of delivery of the special verdict of guilty but insane and or the other hand the persons who were insane at the material time of the occurrence of an unlawful act or omission and continue to be so or at the minimum are reasonably suspected to be so at the time of delivery of the specially verdict.

Motswagole also wants the Court of Appeal to determine if whether or not a trial court ought to conduct a specially inquiry to ascertain the mental condition of the person subject to a special verdict before proceedings in terms of section 160.

The Court of Appeal was also asked to determine whether or not the trial court is obliged to advise the President that the person subject to the special verdict of guilty but insane is not guilty of any crime and is consequently entitled to be presumed innocent with the meaning of the provisions of section 10 (2) (a) of the Constitution.

Editor's note: The "mad man" supposition is not meant to play down the severity of the matter at heart or ridicule the protagonist but to highlight the insensitivities of both past presidents over the issue.



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**THE
MILITARY
VETERAN**
RICHARD MOLEOFI

Air Botswana Finally Going our Way

The Corona pandemic is here to change almost every facet of life especially the way we have been accustomed to doing things. One of the things we have not been doing in this country is air travel.

For every country it is the choice they make in as far as transportation mode is concerned. This past week when I interviewed Mr David Magang, he highlighted to me that his legacy as a cabinet minister is found on our road network system. He says he retired content after he had achieved doing a network that links the entire country from Gaborone to Maun via three routes.

In 1994 I was actually perplexed when I arrived at Mogadishu International Airport to find a massive graveyard of planes right along the runway. It was obvious that these were not war wrecks because they were not showing any marks of any violent ending.

However, most of them had been cannibalised. These were airplanes from the 1950s and 60s. This was a sure mark that the Somalis had been airborne much earlier than most of Africa.

Air travel has greatly compromised the development of road infrastructure in most parts of the continent. It amazed me when I was in the Democratic Republic of Congo to realise that there was no road connecting Lubumbashi and Kinshasa. Imagine when there was no road connecting Gabo-

rone to Francistown.

Now that we have a road network we can be proud of, it is time we acclimate ourselves to air travel. Air Botswana has existed in this country from pre-independence years with the name Bechuanaland National Airlines and it transformed over the years until now.

But Air Botswana was never an asset for the ordinary citizen. Unlike Botswana Railways which has been enjoyed by all classes in society, the national airline has been for a very long time the preserve of the rich and the foreign white traveller. The COVID-19 pandemic will unlock the local air travel as Air Botswana has finally taken a decision to resume local flights. It may be necessary for government to bring along a small subsidy for air travel until we have gotten ourselves addicted to it.

The announcement by Air Botswana to resume local air travel is in itself an announcement that business in this country is back on its feet. The airline will need to formulate a strategy to encourage local tourism. Now that Batswana with disposable incomes can no longer travel to Durban and Cape Town, the money needs to be spent in our country.

I am one of the well-travelled citizens of Botswana in as far as this country is concerned. But I have failed to convince others to travel locally to enjoy the beauty of our land. But I am no better than them because I was travelling at government expense. Botswana has some of the world's most beautiful and untouched places. The Okavango stands out from the rest and once Batswana get a taste of this pristine destination, they will be hooked for good.

Air Botswana needs to work

out a strategy in conjunction with government and HATAB the tourism controlling body in the country to get ordinary people to travelling by air. The risk of contracting Corona virus becomes less when travelling by air. This may become a contentious issue, but there is less risk as the time of exposure gets reduced.

HATAB will certainly have to come to the party by reducing accommodation costs. The prices must come as low as possible because in as much as Batswana are not accustomed to air travel, paying for accommodation is not in their culture as well. They would want to travel to Kasane and lodge at a cousin's house.

Government will have to reduce travel by road by its staff especially at a time when we are struggling with fuel issues. The country's economy needs to be fired up, and air travel and local tourism are certainly the two most critical players in this dream. Looking at what is happening in South Africa, we certainly are a long way from welcoming our well-resourced neighbours from the south. Convoys of 4x4s could be streaming into the country right now as they always do to escape their bitter cold.

Air travel is not always about affordability to the customer, it is all about a paradigm shift. Take for instance the fact that BDF's old guard has been resisting the idea of transporting troops by planes to operational areas. The military in Botswana is endowed with a reasonably large fleet of transport planes. The three Hercules C-130 are just what the doctor ordered for the turn-around logistics strategy for the military.

The entire private sector will need to participate in the whole exercise of making the economy float again. Companies must use air transport as well. This will not only boost the aviation industry but it will also reduce traffic on our roads leading to the automatic reduction of road accidents.

We are already seeing business owners that are dependent on bringing their merchandise from China turning to air cargo. The international airport in Gaborone has its remaining pulse and heart beat from the trickling air cargo traffic. It has become clear as well that it is not always ideal to travel to that part of the world to buy stock. Things can be ordered online and that comes with huge savings.

Air travel and local tourism can actually become a home grown economic stimulus for our country and we may not need to look up to international monetary institutions for our economic redemption.

If this strategy to move local tourists by air succeeds, then Air Botswana will be truly flying our way. This airline has in the past refused to harken to the voice of the ordinary citizens as people were protesting the air fees that were not affordable. Furthermore, the airline will have a great opportunity to expand by increasing its fleet through this local growth. There are so many airlines around the world filing for bankruptcy, and Air Botswana must benefit from such liquidations for their growth.

editorial

We just have to accept that Coronavirus will be with humanity for a long time

Botswana like the rest of the world has with time become more aware of the effects of Coronavirus pandemic on the economy but also on the health of people.

A lot has still to be learnt including scientists who are at the forefront.

But there is no exaggerating that capabilities have generally improved.

At the beginning the strategy was to close down economies and hope that by the time they were reopened Coronavirus would have passed. That has proved more wishful.

Since many of the world economies opened after widespread lockdown, it has become clear that Coronavirus is spreading with much greater vigour and speed than was the case when most of the world first went into lockdown.

One of the positives is that it has also become clear that scientists are fast learning the virus itself, including how it spreads.

This adds to a lot of information as

to whether or not the virus is airborne and also the long-term effects on people that catch the virus.

All these are very important. But learning that coronavirus spreads at a much greater speed than was first thought has been most humbling.

That has put paid to most of the strategies that mankind had known or devised to effectively fight it and others similar to it before.

It follows therefore that trying to run after the virus will in time lead to the collapse of many economies across the world. That means we need a total rethink of initial strategies.

Until a vaccine is found humanity might have to live side by side with the virus.

Lockdowns have proved economically deleterious even for bigger and more sophisticated countries.

For poor countries especially in Africa, it has been a ruin on the economies.

We need to learn to live with coronavirus.

Most practices against this virus are really basic and near universal; washing hands, social distancing and also covering nose and mouth with masks.

Botswana's economy, like those of many countries in Africa cannot afford another lockdown. The disruptions that the last lockdown has had on the economy are heart wrenching.

It will be years before the country's economy is back to pre-pandemic levels.

It was clear after the lockdown that the informal sector was almost wrecked to

death.

Those who work in this sector almost starved to death as relief from the state was neither enough nor timely.

Many businesses came from precipice while others literally fell off the cliff edge.

Strategies against the pandemic have to graduate towards testing, contact tracing, isolating and improving capacities of

hospitals.

The current strategy by Botswana government to increase vigilance at borders is most appropriate, especially given the prevalence rate of other neighbouring countries. It will be years before the nation fully heals.

There are already signals that society feels like they have been tested beyond the limit.

They are very unlikely to cooperate in the event of a second lockdown.

That became clear when recently the president ordered a lockdown of the Greater Gaborone region.

It lasted for only a few days, but people were clearly rebelling.

The country should move towards learning ways of living with the virus.

This means perfecting national lockdowns to much smaller and localized areas.

This should be more targeted.

This will require a greater agility on the part of the Covid-19 Task Force.

opinion



**GUEST
COLUMN**
KWAPENG MODIKWE

The battle for control of Moruleng rages on

by Letshele Linchwe.

I gave this response aware that there is a section of Bakgatla in Mochudi who would have had something to celebrate if Rampho Photo had been the one appointed to lead the Moruleng people. He has his own supporters in Mochudi. I can say with certainty that they are not happy with the elevation of Ramono Linchwe.

They will not make noise because they do not want to cross swords with Kgosi Kgafela. I am referring to a group aligned to Deputy Kgosi Sekai Linchwe. It is a faction of Mangana regiment. This is the

faction which is also known infamously as "Mathlokgosi" because one of their leaders had been going around Mochudi in the recent years claiming that he was Kgosi Kgafela II's eyes in Botswana. This is the group which is credited for having fought so hard for the re-employment of Sekai by the Government as deputy kgosi. This is the group which tried to make Mochudi ungovernable during Sekai's absence from the kgota after he had retired because he had reached compulsory retirement age of 60. They did not want the leadership of Kgosi Segale Linchwe.

This is the group which dispatched a delegation to Moruleng demanding that by virtue of being the deputy kgosi, Sekai should always be seated next to Kgosi Kgafela during kgota meetings instead of Kgosi Motlhe Linchwe or Ramono Linchwe despite him being too junior in the royal hierarchy. This is the group which demanded that Ramono Linchwe stop assigning former radio personality, Mogutsi Kwapa master of ceremony to kgota meetings. The problem with Kgosi Motlhe and Kwapa was that they were not aligned to the Mangana faction.

Ramono Linchwe and Sekai Linchwe had

not been in talking terms for a considerable length of time. In fact, Sekai is not

in talking terms with all the seven royal

uncles. He depends on Mangana faction

and two headmen who are hoping nepotism

will one day get them promotion to

senior positions at the main kgota. They

are his strength.

So far, one group which calls itself

"Dithsipi tsa Kgafela" has openly declared its support for the removal of Kgosi Nyalala "as it was long overdue" but has declined to endorse Ramono Linchwe. The group says "many are left flabbergasted" by the appointment of Ramono Linchwe. Writing on Face book, the group said, "many had expected a different name", adding "we are yet to witness a lot of things as we embark on a new epoch". This group is not known to many in Mochudi but it appears that its views on Moruleng chieftainship coincide with those of Mangana. The difference between it and Mangana is the tone of its approach. It looks like it is manned by very mature people judging from the tone of its message. Mangana faction is themselves a radical bunch of people who do not care about allowing sanity to prevail.

Also interesting is an ambiguous story in a local newspaper. It begins, "Bakgatla Royal Family in Botswana has welcomed a decision by the South African Provincial government to oust Nyalala Pilane as the senior traditional leader". There is no attribution but at the end of it, the story quotes Kgosi Sekai as saying that "due to the covid-19 protocols, the royal family will have to find ways of communicating this decision with the Bakgatla tribe". It is not clear if the opening sentence of the story was said by Kgosi Sekai. I have no problem with the last paragraph as it is attributed in clear terms to Sekai and it may be referring to Kgosi Kgafela sending word to Mochudi about the latest development. If it were not due to covid-19 protocols, the Mochudi people would soon be heading to Moruleng to formally be briefed. Based on what I know regarding the politics of kgotsi issues of Mochudi, no one associated with the faction of Mangana can claim to be the spokesman of the royal family in Botswana.

By the royal family in Botswana I am referring to the house of Kgosi Linchwe which includes the Queen Mother, Mma-Seingwang, Seingwang herself, Bakgatla Kgafela and Mmusi Kgafela. This royal family has been the subject of abuse by the Mangana who used every opportunity during kgota meetings to ridicule them. Therefore, it is unthinkable that any associate of the Mangana faction can claim to speak on behalf of the internal royal family on any issue unless he or she abandons that group or if the group disbands or retracts its known anti-MmaSeingwang and children sentiments. That faction's known position is that it does not recognize Kgosi Linchwe II's house as a royal house of Bakgatla-ba-Kgafela because the baton has since shifted to that of Kgafela II. While it is not in dispute that the baton passed on to Kgafela in 2008, to suggest that Kgosi Linchwe's house is not a royal one is an insult. Again, the manner in which the Mangana conveyed that reminder to the house of Kgosi Linchwe II lacked the respect. It was aimed at trying to ridicule Kgafela's younger brothers, their sister as well as Kgafela's mother. Unfortunately, no body intervened when that Mangana faction was on the rampage belittling the Queen Mother. Words such as "o iibaya a re ke selo mang" (what does she think she is) were directed at her. It was also claimed that both Bakgatla and Mmusi should stop involving themselves on bogosi matters as they "are no longer the royal family" since Kgafela II's installation. It was also wrongly claimed that culture did not allow them participation on issues of bogosi.

With regard to Nyalala Pilane's withdrawal of certificate of recognition, one

would think that perhaps Job Moggoro should have waited until the last word of the court in the Moruleng saga had been spoken. I hold this view because I am told there was a pending case before the court in which Nyalala Pilane and some royal people in Moruleng are challenging the Malukele commission report. Now Nyalala Pilane and Bakgatla ba Kgafela Royal Family in Moruleng have filed another case challenging the premier's latest decision in the High Court of South Africa in Mahikeng. The case is registered as case no. 1/20. Apart from the premier, other respondents are Ramono Linchwe and North West Provincial House of Traditional Leaders.

not Covid-19. If there is anybody who doubts what I am saying, let them request autopsy results of those the government claims died from COVID-19 to prove they died of Covid-19. No autopsies were performed and the only way to determine the cause of death is through an autopsy.

On the 8th June, BBC reported that New Zealand lifted almost all of its coronavirus restrictions after reporting no active Covid-19 cases in the country. Many countries like Sweden, Iceland and many others which don't take instructions from the WHO and Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation are recording progress even though they didn't impose hard lockdowns. Taiwan didn't even have a lockdown at all.

CONTINUES ON PG 9

opinion

ANC Government leaders and their NCCC advisors undermine our intelligence

SAM DITSHEGO

The President of SA Inc., Cyril Ramaphosa, leaders of the ANC government, Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma, Zweli Mkhize and their advisors such as Abdo Karim, Glenda Gray, Schabir Mahdi and others undermine the intelligence of the people who see through their transparent lies. I say they undermine the intelligence of those who can see through their transparent lies since there are those who believe their lies.

I would like to begin by urging everybody to read the World Health Organisation's document titled International Health Regulations (2005) and learn about the agenda of the psychopaths and idiots behind that document and those who are trying to implement the draconian

measures outlined in that document.

The contents of that document will be of interest to jurists, medical professionals and scientists of integrity because it calls for measures that are unconstitutional and medically unethical. South Africa and about 195 other countries are signatory to that document even when it is unconstitutional and violates medical ethics.

After reading that foreboding document it will be clear why global players like Bill Gates, WHO bureaucrats, and others planned a pandemic and claimed there is a virus that causes a respiratory disease which will be stopped by a vaccine. In every one of his addresses to the nation including his last address, Ramaphosa spoke about getting a vaccine. He maintains this misguided belief despite studies indicating that it is impossible to develop a vaccine for a respiratory disease. Ramaphosa doesn't tell us that his master Bill Gates has a patent for what they call a corona virus. Why does Bill Gates own a patent for a virus whose servant Ramaphosa promotes? Their belief in the unreliable vaccine science is like a religion to the likes of Ramaphosa and Bill Gates.

Reading this document will also make it clear why these global players and their puppets inflate the so-called Covid-19 statistics and deaths and prolong lockdowns. Remember the first lockdown was supposed to last for three weeks to "flatten the curve" but it has lasted for more than three months; yet the curve is still unflattened. According to this foreboding WHO document these countries must respond to the WHO by September this year. Does it become clearer why Ramaphosa and his NCCC keep on extending the lockdown and tightening its rules?

Ramaphosa and his NCCC told us Covid-19 cases and deaths have increased. They banned the sale of alcohol, banned gatherings, emphasised the wearing of masks, social or physical distancing and gazetted them.

There are scientists who say there is no evidence that SARS-COV-2, the virus they claim causes Covid-19 exists because it hadn't been purified and isolated. There are no documents to prove this virus exists. All those scientists who are advancing Ramaphosa and the ANC government cannot produce those documents because they are not there. People who are dying are dying from other diseases

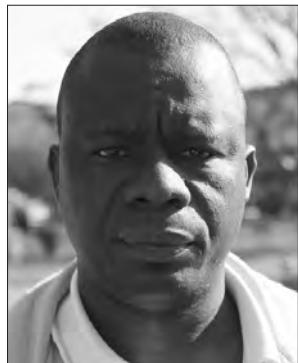
& analysis

cartoon



opinion

Botswana's cabinet is proving to be a bunch of wasted talent specializing in mediocrity!



BADGE OF COURAGE
KENNETH DIPHOLO

It is an intuitive approach to life that when the chips are down and when a government appears dysfunctional because a number of its cabinet ministers are ignorant of their duties and responsibilities, we tend to miss those who we had earlier characterized as famed thieves and a bully squad startlingly bereft of intellectual depth. In other words, it is easy to be tempted by nostalgia, which is why the past always seems sweeter than the present.

A measure of this rotten nostalgia in Botswana is that the immediate past administration was a better devil than the current regime. This is symptomatic of low-effort thinking in politics that account for our belief that the generation of political heavyweights who passionately upheld the concept of public duty has long passed and in came venerated thieves. This would mean that the mob making up the current administration will also be considered to have been good after they left office.

It is widely held that in the previous administration, political advancement in terms of appointment to cabinet posi-

tions depended on some stupefying level of loyalty to the president hence the appointment of hooligans with no talent except for making mischief on behalf of the president.

An overriding conclusion was that there was no independent thinking, no seriousness or just a semblance of moderating pragmatism. Cabinet meetings resembled a parade of a team of adult mischief makers and an exhibition of talented adult hecklers. As a result, the public has lost respect for ministers of government. The upshot of this is that new cabinet ministers had to shoulder the burden of having to navigate the misadventure of being inexperienced.

Since voters now hold cabinet ministers in low esteem, exaggerated affection and defense of the president is seen as rampant sycophancy that results in ministers abdicating their responsibilities.

Yet, this was the hallmark of the immediate past administration, which we now seem to crave, wherein intellectually bereft cabinet ministers excelled at getting

angry on behalf of the president. And for the very reason that the president disliked sharing the limelight with his crew, he made sure that his cabinet composed of people who occasionally forgot that they belong to the human race.

The lack of depth in the squad that passed as the executive branch of the government meant that President Dr Khama posed as a big beast, a ruthless Machiavellian who did a better job than the dancing crew that often tried to work hard but appeared out of depth.

So when current President Dr Masisi deviated from the norm of appointing small-minded delinquents to head government ministries, some of us felt relieved that we have been spared another installment of a circus crew.

When the news space was filled up with frightening stories about allegations of widespread rigging at the polls and the quarantining of those requiring to be placed in separate locations for obvious reasons. Since a majority of us were locked down and because President Masisi was in quarantine, the show was left to the Vice President and cabinet ministers and on a daily basis Botswana watched in disbelief as ministers dished out contradictory, half-baked statements some of which bordered on negligence of duty or sabotage of government.

Then came COVID-19, in particular, the order for people to stay home and the quarantining of those requiring to be placed in separate locations for obvious reasons. Since a majority of us were locked down and because President Masisi was in quarantine, the show was left to the Vice President and cabinet ministers and on a daily basis Botswana watched in disbelief as ministers dished out contradictory, half-baked statements some of which bordered on negligence of duty or sabotage of government.

To add cherry on top and complete the jigsaw puzzle, these specialists were matched with ministerial portfolios to somewhat complete the jigsaw puzzle.

Many of us were filled with pride that instead of constituting an obedient cabinet

and instead of appointing someone to cabinet for their lack of education, President Masisi surrounded himself with people of substance who have distinguished themselves before crossing over to politics.

Until COVID-19 pandemic laid bare their limitations especially their lack of experience in government operations, the predominantly youthful group was boisterous, impressive and a source of inspiration. Their educational qualifications filled for their lack of governmental experience and for a while many were convinced that this was a cabinet notable for its intellectual value and youthful exuberance. It was not and isn't a cabinet that has been appointed to do what it is told but a cabinet of high principle, a mixture of intellect and oratorical genius.

Then came COVID-19, in particular, the order for people to stay home and the quarantining of those requiring to be placed in separate locations for obvious reasons. Since a majority of us were locked down and because President Masisi was in quarantine, the show was left to the Vice President and cabinet ministers and on a daily basis Botswana watched in disbelief as ministers dished out contradictory, half-baked statements some of which bordered on negligence of duty or sabotage of government.

The implication of it all is that President Masisi must take a fresh look at his cabinet because Botswana deserves better. Botswana is faced with many unpredictable and potentially crippling vicissitudes that require intelligence, competence and broad-based knowledge to face head-on and restore confidence in the ability of government to lead. It is said that when the righteous are in authority, the people rejoice (Proverbs 29:2).

The hardest part which is usually about digging the economy out of a recession lay ahead and from what we witnessed this far things are looking gloomy mainly because the executive is timid talent, newbies who appear unfamiliar with the full scope of their responsibilities.

And when the Vice President stuttered in front of television to fill in for the president, the public was thrown into a fit of anxiety and fear and wished for President Masisi to come out of quarantine for good or for worse.

The inconsistency, indecision, lack of internal consultation and cohesion that clearly demonstrated a holier than thou attitude and silo management of government departments told the story of a mediocre gang that managed to sell us a dummy. Yet, this was their time to woo skeptics; to demonstrate that they are knowledgeable and can be counted on at critical times like this and that they are the best people qualified to navigate the perils that lay ahead.

Regrettably, the ministers not only failed to temporarily fill in for the confined and beleaguered president but also dismally failed the basics to knit together, show a brave face and give the impression of a government in control of a crisis.

The judiciary and medical professionals must realise and admit the ANC government and its NCCC are complicit in this global diabolical scheme.

to accept Bill Gates's mandatory vaccines, digital ID and microchip implants if they panicked us well enough.

The WHO document mentions invasive procedures on people and surveillance. This social or physical distancing is meant to carry out surveillance on people, enable facial recognition cameras to operate with ease and monitor people through their smartphones to detect this questionable Covid-19. In crowded places it is impossible to do such things. All these measures the WHO and global elite urge the ANC government to do on us and the other people of the world constitute invasion of privacy and an erosion of our inalienable rights such as our civil liberties, natural and human rights.

The judiciary and medical professionals must realise and admit the ANC government and its NCCC are complicit in this global diabolical scheme.

huge relief as though it was the return of a medicine man, a prodigal son.

It became evident that the nation had needed a leader and this was not because of our inherent reverence of the state president as the first citizen but simply because for a longer time the nation was gripped with anxiety and fear and had stared into the void without any reassuring posture of confidence; any calming scripted speech and the comforting appearance of a stand-in regent.

In a way, the nation wished for radiant and confident leadership with the humility to empathize with people who were clearly nervous. In fact, the nation really did not need President Masisi in person. It is only that in his absence, no one really stood out to lead. It is said that when the righteous are in authority, the people rejoice (Proverbs 29:2).

The implication of it all is that President Masisi must take a fresh look at his cabinet because Botswana deserves better. Botswana is faced with many unpredictable and potentially crippling vicissitudes that require intelligence, competence and broad-based knowledge to face head-on and restore confidence in the ability of government to lead. It is said that when the righteous are in authority, the people rejoice (Proverbs 29:2).

The hardest part which is usually about digging the economy out of a recession lay ahead and from what we witnessed this far things are looking gloomy mainly because the executive is timid talent, newbies who appear unfamiliar with the full scope of their responsibilities.

Granted they had to learn on the job but they also need to graduate fast or the president will have to call time on their employment seeing that he will be the biggest loser, the most distinguished face of the failure of government.

The brutal lesson we have to learn is that flat track bullies who prefer a soft life in picking fights with the opposition to do the bidding of the president, a nomadic wannabes and computer hackers are not what Botswana desperately needs.

The truth is that this lettered Cabinet has been an embarrassment to those who stayed longer in school and tend to give massive respect to a qualification.

In the end, an emphatic conclusion is that the cabinet urgently needs a shake up so that the President could have thoughtful, independent-minded people who take themselves and their responsibilities seriously.

Additionally, President Masisi must stop acting like an absent father and become more visible without necessarily turning himself into a street preacher.



THE WATCHDOG
SPENCER MOGAPI
DEPUTY EDITOR SUNDAY STANDARD

No economic parity for natives unless we reduce the power of chain stores and those running them

Events of the last few weeks have totally exposed the emptiness, vanity and precariousness of Botswana's economic independence.

That no national leader with any weight or clout has been able to stand up and endorse the cause for which indigenous citizens are clamouring for should be instructive enough.

Botswana you are on your own!

President Mokgweetsi Masisi has just announced the CEDA guidelines. And that is most welcome.

Make no mistake, even at face value these guidelines look and sound overly generous. They go far and beyond expectations.

The guidelines will continue from exactly where the old ones left. In other words the announced guidelines essentially provide for more money. And money is important for starting or running any business.

That however does not make the guidelines a panacea much less the end of the struggles of an indigenous Motswana businessman and woman.

The underlying structural disabilities that indigenous Batswana have always had to contend with will remain intact.

They might even intensify.

There is no how artificial and organized cartels will be removed by more money that CEDA plans to disburse.

As things stand, Government is most likely to feel like they have done their bit. In fact that was clearly inferred from the tone of the president when after completing his prepared notes he murmured something to the effect that Botswana now needed to stop complaining about Indians forthwith.

Relations are already fraught as we speak.

This paves the way for a deep schism between government and non-indigenous business on the one hand and the indigenous Batswana on the other.

Here is a short anecdote to illustrate my point.

Almost two years ago government decided to stop all imports of bottled water.

Immediately following many young Batswana jumped to the opportunity to process and package bottled water.

For all of them the adventure has led to economic ruin.

They approached CEDA for machinery, many of them on the strength of a letter from chain stores like Choppies that they will sell the products through the retail giant that has close to hundred stores in Botswana alone.

By the time they delivered their first consignment of bottled water they found out that Choppies had no less than seven brands of its own already selling in its stores.

To make matters worse some of them had to buy bottles from Choppies which was by now not an enabler but a competitor.

These senior government officials were among those who had tried their luck at packaging bottled water. He too closed down.

Luckily for him he was appointed a High Commissioner. That will enable him to pay back CEDA.

Another government official had tried to open a chicken run competing against such brands like Nando's, Chick'n Licken' and Hungry Lion. Before long he too has now been appointed Botswana's Ambassador to a faraway foreign land after failing to break the wall of foreign monopoly.

We point these out to show that not only are these issues structural in nature but also that no indigenous Motswana is immune.

Batswana should not give up.

Money is an important part of the equation. But throwing money at the problem without addressing other matters in tandem cannot be the solution.

That is not all.

Chain stores like Choppies, Sefalana, Pick 'n' Pay, Shoprite, Payscale, Spar and others like them are intrinsically refusing to go native in their key decisions.

Their benefits to indigenous consumers and producers trying to supply them are often exaggerated and embellished.

Their biggest crime is what has come to be known as anchor tenancy.

All these chain stores invariably always aim to become anchor tenants in all trading anywhere close to their stores.

Anchor tenancy is a South African invention.

An anchor tenant is able to purchase and abrogate to themselves many monopolistic characteristics.

They effectively can determine who else can come in as a tenant. And what any potential tenant can trade on. They literally can forbid competition from trading anywhere close to their stores. And in Botswana they always do.

Government has to accept that the economic imbalances against indigenous citizens are not only unsustainable but also an existential threat to the nation.

Lastly our political leaders need to demonstrably stop consorting with the settler merchants if they need to keep the trust of the majority.

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST



RADIOFREQUENCY SPECTRUM IN THE FREQUENCY BAND 2300-2400MHz

1. The Botswana Communications Regulatory Authority (BOCRA or the Authority) is a statutory body established under the Communications Regulatory Authority Act of 2012 (The Act). The Authority is mandated to promote efficient provision of communications services throughout the country. The Act is available from Government Printers in Gaborone, Botswana or may be obtained at the following website: <http://www.bocra.org.bw>.
2. Pursuant to Section 47 of the Act, BOCRA invites licensed Operators who possess a Network Facility Provider (NFP) license in Botswana to express interest in the use of the Radiofrequency Spectrum in the band 2300 - 2400MHz band for Fixed Wireless Access connectivity.
3. The "new normal", induced by COVID-19 has resulted in the congestion of telecommunications networks, BOCRA therefore intends to provide spectrum resources to address new connectivity demands and quality of service issues.
4. BOCRA has a 60MHz spectrum available in the 2300-2400MHz spectrum and intends to assign it as follows:
 1. 40MHz for national coverage allocated at 20MHz operator.
 2. 20MHz for regional coverage. The minimum spectrum for each regional license is 5MHz and the maximum is 10MHz. The operator is allowed to choose more than one region and at different bandwidths. The regions/ areas to be covered by regional licenses are depicted at Annexure 1.

NB: Gaborone and Francistown regions include areas within the 20km radius.

Submission Format

5. An Expression of Interest should be sent by e-mail to procurement@bocra.org.bw summarizing the amount of spectrum the operator is interested in. For regional licenses, the submission should be tabulated as follows:

Table 1: Submission format for regional licenses

	Region	Spectrum (MHz)
Total		

6. The deadline for the expression of interest is 31st July 2020.

Notes

- a) Operators who offer a national mobile service are not eligible for regional spectrum.
- b) Responding to this invitation does not guarantee an automatic award of spectrum.
- c) Business case is not required for this Expression of Interest.
- d) Following the submissions, BOCRA will make a determination based on the outcome of the EOI within 2 weeks. For any further information regarding the EOI, please contact the Procurement Office at: 368 5500/09/33/34 e-mail: procurement@bocra.org.bw

Gaborone & Greater Gaborone
Mogoditshane
Mmopane
Metsimotlhabe
Gabane
Tlokweng
Phakalane

Francistown & Greater Francistown
Tati Town
Borolong
Shashe-Mooke
Tutume
Serowe
Moshupa
Thamaga

Tonota
Bobonong
Mmadinare
Mahalapye
Mochudi
Molepolole
Kanye
Palapye
Maun
Lethlakane
Jwaneng
Ramotswa
Lobatse
Tlokweng

Ghanzi
Selebi Phikwe
Mathangwane
Mmathethie
Gweta
Kumakwane
Masunga
Bokaa
Oodi
Maitengwe
Kang
Sefophe
Good Hope
Rakops

Shakawe
Nata
Mmankgodi
Lerala
Letlhakeng
Molapowabojang
Otse (South East)
Gumare
Tsabong
Kasane
Kopong
Orapa
Shoshong



Gaborone's AfriForum gamble – a political drama with many more twists and turns to come

The intriguing saga playing itself out in Gaborone and Pretoria over Bridgette Motsepe-Radebe's alleged conspiracy with former Botswana president, Ian Khama, has now sucked in advocate Gerrie Nel and AfriForum. It's shaping up to be a blockbuster. Writes Kopo Mapila*

Just over two weeks ago, I was seated at my home workstation when I scrolled through Twitter and saw the words "Botswana" and "AfriForum" entwined in the same 280 characters that one tweet allows. Out of curiosity, and with some bemusement, I clicked the accompanying link to a news article that read, "Botswana enlists AfriForum's services in fraud case involving Bridgette Motsepe-Radebe".

As it turns out, what is already a legal debacle with all the makings of a Netflix top 10 – a big budget (\$10-billion); a star-studded cast (an ex-president, a foreign businesswoman, a mid-level spy codenamed "Butterfly") and a hefty dose of political intrigue (coup attempts, espionage and offshore cash) – has aired its second season. This time, taking a "right-wing" turn with the co-star of a politically questionable organisation.

The plot: Billions and a Butterfly

Botswana's Directorate of Public Prosecution (DPP) has sought the services of Advocate Gerrie Nel who heads AfriForum's private prosecutions unit to assist in a multi-billion dollar money-laundering case dating back to Botswana's 2019 elections.

It's alleged that influential South African businesswoman Bridgette Motsepe-Radebe, and former Botswana president Ian Khama, conspired in a failed plot to overthrow the incumbent Botswana president, Mokgweetsi Masisi and install former president hopeful and long-time senior cabinet minister, Pelonomi Venson-Moitoi.

In turn, Venson-Moitoi would allow the former military man to maintain his grip on power and influence. As the theory goes, this was to last until such time as Khama's younger brother, who at the time was a minister, ascended to the number one seat.

For her efforts, Motsepe-Radebe would get free access to her neighbouring country's lucrative and largely untapped business opportunities. According to state prosecutors, the entire plot was to be bankrolled by billions stolen from the country's central reserve (the Bank of Botswana) with the aid of a corrupt mid-level spy, code-named "Butterfly", as intermediary.

Butterfly, whose real name is Wilhelmina Maswabi, lost her anonymity during her bail hearing prior to being detained for almost two months on charges of financing terrorism, possession of unexplained property and false declaration of passports. Her case will be heard again on 17 August.

Since then, both Ian Khama and Motsepe-Radebe have taken to the media to denounce claims of any wrongdoing. Khama, whose presidency was punctuated by persecution of the media, even did a short whirlwind tour with South Africa's radio and television broadcasters. Claiming that the state's case was evidence of Masisi being "drunk on power", Khama scoffed at the merits and legitimacy of the government's claim.

In the same media interview, Khama, who, together with his brother and close cronies defected to form a new party, the Botswana Patriotic Front (BPF), made his disdain for Masisi's leadership clear. In no uncertain terms, Khama stated that he voted for the BPF in "both parliament and council" level elections.

Motsepe-Radebe also took to the airwaves in similar fashion. In November 2019, after her accounts received a clean "audit" from Absa and Standard Bank, the businesswoman stated that the case was nothing more than "wild claims" amounting to a "state-sponsored smear campaign". This tone changed noticeably during her media appearance on 24 June.

On popular South African talk radio, 702, a less-certain sounding Motsepe-Radebe pleaded with Gerrie Nel not to take the case, likening her experience in the debacle to gender-based violence. Despite her best efforts, Nel accepted the case.

Of course, Nel is no stranger to blockbuster legal battles. For most of us outside the legal fraternity, we first watched him as he meticulously sparred with Barry Roux as state prosecutor in the televised legal bout that was the Oscar Pistorius murder trial. It was shortly after this trial that Nel resigned from South Africa's National Prosecuting Authority (NPA) and joined controversial AfriForum.

Stardom and storyline aside, hearing that the Botswana government was now in concert with AfriForum made my face in my hands. My immediate thoughts were: this will be a diplomatic scandal with Botswana's biggest regional partner. A scandal mid-pandemic and a scandal of their own making.

The co-star: rightwing rhetoric

The place which AfriForum holds in the eyes of the South African government and "progressive" political circles is an unenviable one. The organisation, whose website describes it as an "Afrikaner interest organisation... [that] works to ensure that the basic prerequisites for the continued existence of Afrikanders are met", is at best seen

as a lobby group advancing the rights of a minority group via racially charged rhetoric.

At worst, AfriForum is seen as an organisation hell-bent on undermining both the South African government and society by sowing racial disunity and corroding gains made in post-apartheid democracy. In fact, in 2018, AfriForum CEO, Kallie Kriel, claimed apartheid was not a crime against humanity and justified this by saying "not enough people died" to meet the term's criteria. Kriel's comments were made despite the United Nations General Assembly recognising apartheid as a crime against humanity as early as 1973.

More recently, in 2019, deputy CEO, Ernst Roets, tweeted a picture of the apartheid flag shortly after the Equality Court ruled that given South Africa's history, its display amounts to hate speech.

The famous "farm murder" trope is an example of AfriForum's finest work. Drawing from its claim that it protects the existence of Afrikanders, this trope stokes fear and anxiety among its constituents that entrenches a distrust of state institutions under ANC rule. Why I term this as "fine work" is because of the elevated status that farm murders have typically received vis-à-vis other murders in public and political discourse.

So agrandised is this trope that in 2018, Kriel and Roets were interviewed on Fox News in a segment titled: "White farmers are being brutally murdered in South Africa for their land." If farm murder rhetoric fanned racial tensions, doing so at a time when land expropriation was high on government's agenda only served to add fuel to the flames.

However, even AfriForum's own data barely supports the fears it mongers. Based on their stats, in 2019, there were a total of 57 farm murders across South Africa. While every murder is one too many, such focus on farm murders at the exclusion of others becomes curious when compared to national crime statistics. For the same period, official police statistics show that South Africa suffered over 21,000 murders. In essence, for every one farmer murdered, there were roughly 368 other South Africans killed. Looked at differently, one more person was murdered on a daily basis (an average of 58 murders per day) than farmers were killed over the course of the entire year. Proportionally, the farm murder trope barely stacks up when compared to gender-based killings – the only spate of murders to receive similar public attention. In 2017/18, the murder rate for women over the age of 18 was 15.2 per 100,000. By comparison, the murder rate calculated from AfriForum's 2018 data and an estimated farmer population of 760,000 (based on agricultural employment stats), is under half that, at 7.1 per 100,000. Given that many under-aged girls are victims of femicide and many farmers are only farmers by "lifestyle" and not labour, we can assume the discrepancy is even wider.

Regardless, whether you believe the data or the dogma, AfriForum's ability to successfully agitate towards a desired outcome is undeniably impressive. So successful is its advocacy that in the 2019 elections, AfriForum's brethren at the ballot, Freedom Front Plus (FF+), grew by six parliamentary seats to make it the fifth most popular party. By comparison, the ANC and the DA both shrank by a combined 24 seats. FF+'s results were an impressive feat for what was a party teetering on obsolescence.

The script: Gaborone's gamble

With all this in mind, the Botswana government still decided to choose what, on the face of it, appears to be a short path to a diplomatic dead-end. Why would this be the approach?

As a nation with a sophisticated intelligence network and a highly skilled diplomatic corps of its own, Botswana's choice is certainly not born out of ignorance. There is no doubt that Gaborone is well aware of the acrimonious relationship between AfriForum and Pretoria.

When I finally came to raise my head from my hands, I thought perhaps it's because they know this, that they chose this path. Perhaps it was calculated. Perhaps this is a careful dance of brinkmanship and two-level game theory that has weighed up the diplomatic cost against the domestic gains, and the latter deemed it worthwhile. Perhaps the stakes are so high domestically that the regional cost is negligible – or, at worst, bad, but reconcilable.

With this thinking, what on the surface looks like a terrible blunder may, in fact, be a tactical blindsight. Foreign policy is inextricably tied to domestic politics, and the contours of the latter impose constraints on the former. This way, negotiations between countries become a game of tapping into each



Bridgette Motsepe-Radebe

other's domestic constraints to gain leverage at the international level.

Part 1: International negotiation

According to the head of Botswana's DPP, Stephen Tirokagosi, his government had grown increasingly impatient following a request to South Africa's foreign office (Dirco) for "mutual legal assistance", which went cold. Made in late September 2019, the request had apparently been diverted to the Department of Justice over nine months ago where, given the delay, it appears to have been "sat on". This suspicion is strengthened when this case is contrasted with others in Botswana involving less influential individuals.

One example is the DPP's case against Tim Marsland, the South African founder of Capital Management Botswana, an asset management firm that allegedly siphoned between \$13-million and \$35-million from Botswana's civil service pensioners. Facing 30 criminal charges in Botswana (24 of which are for money laundering), Marsland, who failed to present himself to Botswana authorities upon request, is currently detained in a Johannesburg jail where he has remained since his July 2019 arrest.

The arrest, as if a scene in a film, took place at the busy OR Tambo International Airport following a successful Interpol operation. Of course, this is not to argue for detention for any of the accused in the "Butterfly" case. The two cases, each with their legal and procedural distinctions, no doubt differ in detail. This is, rather, to draw a comparison between the speed, efficiency and international cooperation seen in the two cases.

If we understand the pace and progress of a legal case in Botswana, with a high-profile South African citizen at its centre, as a negotiation between two governments, the decision to engage AfriForum begins to appear like Masisi tugging at a domestic political lever to expedite the international legal debacle.

With a "stalled negotiation" between the two countries, Botswana's blindsight sought to break the deadlock.

Part 2: Domestic politics

By enlisting masterful agitators politically at odds with the South African government, Botswana knew there would be a reaction. Good or bad, this reaction would re-establish traction and the

legal debacle would rise on South Africa's list of priorities. Already, AfriForum has come to the table, describing Dirco's delays as obstructive and a clear "unwillingness to assist" their client.

Timing is everything in a negotiation and by Gaborone's calculations, South Africa's domestic constraints in light of the pandemic place it somewhere between vulnerable and flatfooted to such a surprise move.

With nearly a quarter of a million confirmed Covid-19 cases, fatalities edging towards the 5,000 mark (with many more anticipated), and signs of a health system taking strain, South Africa is besieged with managing the largest outbreak on the continent. As if that's not enough, a secondary wave of unrest has ticked up following a spike in gender-based violence under lockdown.

For their part, segments of the business community have also added to the fray. Taking issue with lockdown regulations, lobby groups have hurled legal battles at government's Covid-19 response. So seemingly disoriented is their disaster management, that government strayed from their widely regarded and neatly coordinated exit strategy with the introduction of "Advanced Level 3".

With all this at play, there are signs of growing dissatisfaction and distrust in the government's crisis management. Opposition parties, media, civil society and even government's own "inner circle" scientists have slammed the pandemic response in recent weeks. Working towards restoring the pre-lockdown cohesion that he painstakingly garnered, on 2 July President Cyril Ramaphosa hosted a first of its kind virtual Q&A engagement session on live television with his constituents.

Fully aware of these shifting dynamics, Botswana indirectly legitimised a known government "adversary" with the potential to further erode the strained ties between the South African state and society. If news of Botswana's arrangement with AfriForum is a "bump in the road", the fact that South Africa's local elections are only a year from now significantly raises political stakes.

By contrast, Botswana's domestic environment has the government on the front foot. Other than a temporary fuel crisis caused by lockdown-induced border gate bottlenecks, the country is relatively unaffected by the pandemic. Managing some of the lowest Covid-19 numbers in the region, the government has more political room to wrestle with its rivals.

As for the legal saga, it is only when the courtroom finale is aired that we will know whether the claims made are factual or fictitious. What we know, for now, is that this political drama is certainly fascinating. DM

the incumbent's agenda. In this light, the money-laundering case seems to be the biggest whip at Masisi's disposal.

In addition, successfully cracking this whip gains Masisi the secondary benefit of improving Botswana's global image. In May 2020, contrary to what most onlookers have become accustomed to, Botswana joined the likes of Zimbabwe and Uganda on a European Union blacklist due to shortfalls in its anti-money-laundering and anti-terrorism financing interventions. Seen as a high-risk country by the Financial Action Task Force, Botswana seeks to make clear its clawback efforts.

With key wins at stake domestically (consolidating power and earning political capital via improved global reputation), by Gaborone's calculation, sacrificing some diplomatic mileage with its neighbour is well worth the effort.

The cliffhanger: Going forward

While there may be some strategy behind the stand-off, given the weight of South Africa's significance in the region, Botswana's blindsight is still undeniably a gamble. With an unstated principle of solidarity among governing parties written into South Africa's approach to regional engagements, this move no doubt provoked Pretoria.

On hearing the news of the AfriForum arrangement, President Ramaphosa geared up to send Minister of State Security, Ayanda Dlodlo, as an envoy to Botswana to address the situation. According to onlookers and analysts, this trip was meant to be an act of admonishment rather than an attempt at alliance building. Whatever the motivation, the trip was cancelled at the 11th hour. It is likely, given the sensitivity of the matter, that both capitals agreed to instead manage this with a presidential tête-à-tête in the coming weeks, as a first step towards a short-term resolution.

In the longer term, more work will be needed to repair the fallout. Botswana is currently undergoing an ambassadorial revamp, with the deployment of new ambassadors across its foreign embassies. As part of this revamp, Masisi will place one of his most skilled and trusted representatives in Pretoria who, unfortunately, will have the messy job of mending the diplomatic damage.

As for the legal saga, it is only when the court room finale is aired that we will know whether the claims made are factual or fictitious. What we know, for now, is that this political drama is certainly fascinating. DM

***Kopo Mapila is a former public sector policy analyst working in the private sector. He holds a Master of Public Policy degree (University of Oxford) and opinions which he shares strictly in his personal capacity. Sunday Standard has reproduced this article with his explicit permission**

PROCUREMENT NOTICE CONSULTANCY 002/2020

Sediments Assessment Study of the Cubango-Okavango River Basin

The Permanent Okavango River Basin Water Commission (OKACOM) with support from the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and financing from the Global Environment Facility (GEF) seeks the services of qualified and reputable research institutions to conduct a Sediment Assessment Study of the Cubango Okavango River Basin (CORB).

Detailed Terms of Reference can be downloaded from the OKACOM website (www.okacom.org/prourement) and submission of proposals online should be done by Friday 14 August 2020 at 21:00 (CAT)



OKACOM
The Permanent Okavango River Basin Water Commission
Comissão Permanente das Águas da Bacia Hidrográfica do Rio Okavango



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Farm 75-NQ, Northeast District Botswana
Telephone: +72337127 Fax: 0027 865056228

Mupane Gold Mining (Pty) Ltd (MGM) is a 100% owned subsidiary of the Canadian TSX Venture exchange listed company GALANE GOLD LTD, a gold producer and explorer with its operations in the Republic of Botswana.

The Mupane gold mine is located approximately 50 kilometres by road from Francistown in north eastern Botswana. In continuous operation since 2005, MGM has recently increased the operational life of mine and exploration activities are on-going to determine if there are further opportunities to develop additional resources.

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NB: Correspondence will only be made with shortlisted candidates.

Closing date: 31st July 2020

SEATHOLO MASEGO TUMEDI

On the bank of the river Shashe in Tonota, amidst carcasses of old motor vehicles some of which last hit the road during the colonial [era], lives a bow-backed old man who is a living epitome of raw talent and natural genius. [He is] a Ndebele-Briton-Motswana who is also the founder of Mmandunyane, a sub-village of Tonota.

Harry Tainton is one of those rare species of mankind who never had to go through formal education for the acquisition of their skills. For Harry Mmandunyane, as he is popularly known to Tonota [residents], that would have been a waste of precious time. In fact [he says] he never refers to a book for anything.

"That's a waste of time," he retorts. "Whoever would have written that book would have been created by God. And so was I."

The old vehicles that meet the eye from a distance at Harry's not-too-well-off home tell only a part of his story. During his hey days he was, in addition to being a mechanic, a blacksmith, a gunsmith, watch repairer, and a jeweller. A number of older women [...] in Tonota still remember how efficiently Mmandunyane used to work on and repair their sewing machines.

"He could turn a mere coin into a beautiful wedding ring," one villager says.

Refraining from sparing his own trumpet, and with a twinkle in his eye, Harry himself says: "Those who could beat me are not yet born. If I failed to repair anything, then no one on earth could."

With his stable mate (the pipe in his mouth), trembling hands, and aged pride illuminating his wrinkled face, Harry goes around his generously populated home [moving] from one object to another, [and pointing at] remnants of his own creation. A 32-year old Chevrolet truck which is still going strong (when he bought it in 1947 it was almost a scrap, but he [expertly] repaired it). There is also a battery charger, a bicycle pump, and his personal



Mr Harry Tainton

'waterworks' plant.

The waterworks plant is in the form of an engine which draws water through a pipe buried deep down [in the sands of] the Shashe River. Harry recalls how in the old days his waterworks plant used to help Tonota residents to draw clean water during flood periods. He used to charge the residents only 'a few pennies' or nothing for this service.

"But [now] the Government has robbed me of this job," he laments. "The [introduction of] the water reticulation system in the village.

A hater of Boers for their apartheid practices, Mmandunyane, though of British descent, and his best known language being Setswana; considers himself a Ndebele. Perhapso. The name Mmandunyane itself is a corruption and derivative of a Sindebele word. But before

plunging into that aspect of his personal history, Harry would slip into his house and from a 'treasure box' he would bring out an ancient watch on whose lid is inscribed in fancy letters: WJT. At the back of the watch appears the inscription: 'WJ Tainton from his old friend D. Francis 1893'.

Taking this piece of advice William Joseph Tainton, who was married to a Ndebele-captured Motswana woman who was distantly related to Bangwato royalty, had crossed into the then Bechuanaland Protectorate and settled at a place called Ramathetketho, now Lady Mary, in the Tsetswe area where he later died. It was here that Harry was born to Tainton's daughter, Chilo, in 1909 shortly before the Taintons moved to an area north-west of Tonota. This place was to become Mmandunyane, a Setswana distortion of Ndunyana.

When Harry was [virtually] a baby, he discovered that he was the only man in the family and his mother was blind. All the family burden fell squarely on his shoulders. He found his grandfather's tools and with no one to guide, lead, or teach him [how to use them] he set out on his own. He had no time to go to school save for only a few months. Besides nursing his blind mother he devoted his time to experimenting with his grandfather's tools. One of the

things he created as a small boy was a prototype gramophone. This [initial invention marked] the beginning of a long multifaceted career. Soon he was able to work on anything whether it a wagon, a motor vehicle, a gun, a sewing machine, anything and everything.

The crack in Harry's career came when in 1943 a group of Bangwato were moved from Serowe to Tonota to [found] Maboledi ward. Kgosi Tshekedi, [apparently] acknowledging Tainton's distant relation to Bangwato as well as well as Harry's talent, requested him to move from Mmandunyane to Tonota to help service and repair the wagons which had been used as a means of transport during the establishment of the Maboledi ward. This saw him very busy working on wagon after wagon, and his fame grew.

When wagons became an obsolete mode of transportation in the village and the motor vehicle took over, Harry changed with the times and automatically became a formidable mechanic. Clients came from near and far [demanding] his services; and his place provided all the necessary benefits a modern [mechanical workshop] could offer. Tonota residents commend him as 'one hell of a mechanic' who could even assemble his own car. He, himself, tells how in 1944 he turned an Overland into a coal-drawn vehicle.

"Petrol had become too expensive by then," he says. "The price had risen from about two-and-six a gallon to about six shillings."

[Harry created the new source of energy by] simply filling a can with mophane coals to which he set fire. Upon combustion the coals produced a gas that worked in the same way as petrol. He ran the vehicle for about a year.

An only child of his late mother, Harry married thrice and has a total of 11 children about whom he says:

"I have trained all my children and grandchildren. They are all good. But none of them can reach up to my standard. I'm just going to go into the grave with this God-given talent."

(Article originally published by Kultwano magazine in December 1980 with the title 'Mmandunyane')



BOTSWANA BUREAU OF STANDARDS - TRAINING PROGRAM AUGUST 2020 TO MARCH 2021

BOBS is accredited by the Botswana Qualifications Authority as an Education and Training Provider.

Organizations and/or persons attending BOBS training may refer to the Human Resources Development Council (HRDC) guidelines for refunds against training undertaken.

After successfully passing the Public Health COVID-19 Compliance Inspection, BOBS will resume offering training courses to customers in August 2020 as per the Training Program below. BOBS shall ensure the resumption of any course aborted due to COVID-19 effects at a later date when the situation normalises but shall not be liable for extracurricular costs incurred by the course participants. Any participant exhibiting flu symptoms or registering a higher than normal body temperature shall be compelled to withdraw from the class. Any participant forced to withdraw from the class will be allowed to join another class at their convenience. In order to comply with social distancing requirements there will be fewer number of participants per class and enrolment will as usual be based on those who pay or produce purchase orders first. BOBS is laying the groundwork for the provision of Trainer Lead Online Training and customers will be informed once BOBS is ready to start provision of the service.

BOBS is pleased to announce that the UNDERSTANDING BOS ISO 45001:2018 OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS and the AWARENESS OF BOS ISO 45001:2018 OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS courses have been approved by the Botswana Qualifications Authority.

BOBS also caters for in-house training when requested by organizations, provided such organizations' training facilities have successfully passed the Public Health COVID-19 Compliance Inspection. A synopsis of each course can be viewed in the Training Brochure on the BOBS website, www.bobstandards.bw.

BOTSWANA BUREAU OF STANDARDS - TRAINING PROGRAM 2020/21									
COURSE NAME	PRICE IN PULA	Mar							
		Aug 2020	Sept 2020	Oct 2020	Nov 2020	Dec 2020	Jan 2021	Feb 2021	Mar 2021
Awareness of the BOS ISO 9001:2015 Quality Management Systems	P2500.00			25-26					
Understanding BOS ISO 9001:2015	P4000.00	3-7 17-21	14-18	12-16	2-6		1-5		1-5
BOS ISO 9001:2015 Quality Management Systems Documentation	P2700.00	26-27	23-24	28-29	11-12	20-21	17-18		10-11
BOS ISO 9001:2015 Quality Management System Lead Auditor / Auditor	P4500.00	7-11	5-9	23-27		25-29			1-5
Understanding BOS ISO 14001:2015 Environmental Management Systems	P4000.00	7-11		2-6		22-26			
BOS ISO 14001:2015 Environmental Management Systems Auditing	P4500.00				7-11				
Awareness of BOS ISO 45001:2018 Occupational Health and Safety Management Systems	P2500.00			18-19		23-24			
Understanding BOS ISO 45001:2018 Occupational Health and Safety Management Systems	P4000.00	10-14	21-25	19-23	30-4		8-12		
BOS ISO 45001:2018 Occupational Health and Safety Management Systems Auditing	P4500.00								
Awareness of BOS ISO 14001:2015 Environmental Management Systems	P2500.00								
TO BE OFFERED INHOUSE ON REQUEST									

Application and Payments
Application forms and other course related information can be accessed through the BOBS website www.bobstandards.bw, under Training Services or requested from the Training Unit. Applications can be emailed to training@bobstandards.bw, or faxed to 39903420, or posted to Training Unit, Botswana Bureau of Standards, Private Bag 80 Gaborone. Applications should reach BOBS at least 15 working days before the course commencement date. Applicants must pay or submit purchase orders at least 10 working days before course commencement date to improve their chances of enrolment because enrolment is on a first paid first enrolled basis and enrolment is closed when the class is full. If the number of applicants who have paid for a course has not reached the minimum number required for a class, BOBS will cancel such a course. Applicants who have paid or submitted purchase orders should confirm that the course they applied for will be conducted when the course commencement date approaches.

Meals and refreshments will be provided at no additional cost to the participants. Cheques should be made payable to: Botswana Bureau of Standards.

Training Venues

The venue is the BOBS' Headquarters, Main Airport Road, Plot No. 55745, Block 8, Gaborone, Botswana.

Corroded Pula Steel fails to attract investors



KHONANI ONTEBETSE & VICTOR BAATWENG

Bleaguered Pula Steel braces to be stripped and its components auctioned off at a deep discount after it failed to attract investors it has emerged.

Pula Steel, which is the country's pioneering steel plant in final liquidation is struggling to attract investors with its woes having escalated early this year when one of the potential investors was disqualified for failure to deliver on its promises.

Pula Steel liquidator, John Hinchliffe, informed creditors that after approving the sale process at a creditors meeting, the successful offeror had failed to meet their commitment to pay the balance of the purchase price and was therefore

disqualified from the sales process and had forfeited their deposit.

"This was after Vermas (Ranvir and Deepak) had delayed the whole process with an application to the High Court to invalidate the creditors meeting at which the process and offer were approved. I also informed creditors that we would work out the forward, obtain approval from the Master and update them periodically of the progress," said Hinchliffe.

He said in conjunction with WH Auctioneers "we came to the conclusion that we should make one more attempt to sell the plant through a bidding process. If there are no successful bidders after that process, we would then have to break the plant and sell it off through an on sight public auction process."

He said there was some delay in obtaining approval from the Master as the responsible person for this liquidation in the Master's office changed in January, Nomsa Moatswi being replaced by Sibaziso Mtunzi.

"I met with Mma Mtunzi in February and she approved the proposed process," said Hinchliffe.

He said interested parties who have previously shown interest and other potential buyers have been invited to bid and the offer document which outlines the reprocess and the format for the bid has been posted on WH Auctioneers website.

"The offer document was finalized in early April and posted immediately but unfortunately lockdown and borders between Botswana and neighbouring countries were

closed.

According to Hinchliffe, due to the inability of interested parties from outside Botswana to view the plant, the deadline for submission of offers has been extended and will continue to be extended until it's possible for viewing to take place for those who reside in neighbouring countries and cannot currently enter Botswana. The current deadline for submission is 31st July 2020.

"In addition, now that COVID-19 related restrictions are being relaxed in Botswana, the sale will be advertised locally in newspapers to ascertain the level of local interest. If decent offers are received locally then there may not be a need to extend the deadline further," Hinchliffe said.

For his part, Deepak Verma said, "For record purposes,

I would like to state, the Liquidator cannot find the buyer and he is blaming me and my father for delaying, but the so called potential buyer who did not conclude the sale DH

Machine from South Africa was wanted by Hawks and his accounts were seized by Hawks in South Africa. So why blame us and miss inform creditors? I would humbly bring to the notice, if the liquidator or the auctioneer cannot sell he cannot shift the blame on us. That way he can also say, because Deepak and Ranvir brought the case against him so DH failed and that is why Covid-19 pandemic happened. Blaming someone is very easy. He had 3 years and he could not find a buyer."

Deepak added that, "I feel pained & I would humbly request through this platform to the liquidator, if u cannot

find a buyer then inform. I further request the creditors, this plant can run, but it needs will and team work.

If we get together as one, we can start this plant. I further recently informed the liquidator that there is a possible buyer but for a low price with the terms. I believe, the project is just being derailed by some people who don't want this project to come live. It has all the elements of success but it needs long term approach and correct decision. I hope liquidator and auctioneer finds a buyer asap."

According to Verma, it was the liquidator's own decision to pursue with DH machines and wanted to convince creditors over the Verma's bid where he claimed "he has done all due diligence on Coin-it who was funding DH machine and are the sister concern".

Verama rhetorically asked, Infact we notified it in court on that day that DH machine tools cannot raise funds. We just are being blamed for his own wrong judgement about the business. This looks quite personal as in every report he mentions that we delayed, but he never mentions that the due diligence failed him not us".

The Minister of Investment, Trade and Industry Peggy Serame in February this year informed Parliament that the company that had paid the required deposit of P300 000 for bidding was unable to pay the balance that was set for end of January.

Therefore, she said, the sale of Pula Steel could not proceed. The Minister revealed that the liquidator had since engaged auctioneers to assist in the disposal of the plant and equipment, following failure to sell the plant. She indicated that the Liquidator had only been able to sell the movable assets of the business and the proceeds were used to meet the expenses of the liquidation.

Through family company known as Wealth Key Trading (Pty) Limited, the Vermas had made an initial bid of P22 million for the Pula Steel assets whilst their only competitor, DH Manufacturing offered P21 million.

The family is part of the initial shareholders of Pula Steel, a company that the Botswana government through the then BCL Limited and the Citizen Entrepreneurial Development Agency (CEDA) invested millions of Pula in its bid to diversify the economy of the now ghostly town of Selebi Phikwe.

uses current prices, advanced by 3.6 percent to P197.3 million, yet still lower than 2018's 5.7 percent growth.

From 2010 to 2018, GDP rate on average grew by 3.7 percent, reflecting a gradual decline in economic growth over the ten-year period. At these rates, Botswana's economy is said to be operating below potential output, which experts have suggested should be above 6 percent for the economy to create the much-needed jobs.

Moody's cuts Botswana's growth forecast

SUNDAY STANDARD
REPORTER

Credit ratings agency, Moody's, has retained Botswana on a negative and cut growth outlook, citing the country's exposure to falling commodity prices that would affect its fiscal position, thus raising concerns about meeting loan obligations.

In the latest annual credit ratings, Moody's maintained Botswana's rating at 'A2 Negative', the same rate it gave the country in May. The

scorecard outlined increasing risks to Botswana's fiscal strength due to the severe shock to its growth and the government's revenue resulting from the coronavirus pandemic impact on the economy and the important diamond sector in particular.

Moody's said significantly lower growth, much weaker government revenues and

higher borrowing requirements will aggravate already deteriorating fiscal trends and risk accelerating the erosion of fiscal buffers. Though the country has reported fewer than 400 confirmed cases of Covid19, the country's top export, diamonds sales, were hampered by the pandemic.

The coronavirus outbreak and its wider impact on global

trade, commodity prices and financial markets present long-lasting and severe economic, financial and social challenges to many African sovereigns, Moody's said in its latest report.

The ratings agency added that the fall in revenue from the economic slowdown, spending on measures to support the economy, and a rise in healthcare spending will

sharply widen fiscal deficits and increase borrowing requirements.

"Many African governments have limited financial and institutional capacity to absorb the current coronavirus shock," said Kelvin Dalrymple, a Moody's Vice President – Senior Credit Officer and the report's author. "The longer-term negative

effects on the region's sovereign credit profiles will leave them with diminished capacity to absorb future shocks."

Moody's has cut growth forecast for Botswana, projecting the diamond dependent economy's gross domestic product to contract by 10.9 percent this year on the back of domestic restrictions and less demand in sectors such as tourism and mining.

The country's economy has been weakening, growing at a decelerating pace. The GDP grew by 2.5 percent in the first quarter of the year, which was lower than 2019's first quarter GDP rate of 4.2 percent. Last year's real GDP grew by 3 percent to P99.4 billion which was a drop from the 2018's 4.5 percent. Nominal GDP, which

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Botswana betting on India and USA recovery

BONNIE MODIAGOTLA

Botswana's diamond dependent economy has pinned its hopes of recovery on developments in India and USA, two of the world's most hard hit by coronavirus pandemic yet key markets for Botswana's diamond exports.

Marcus Te Haar, the managing director of Okavango Diamond Company (ODC), a government owned diamond company, this week revealed that the diamond industry is in its worst economic downturn, owing to disrupted supply chains caused by Covid-19 containment measures that has led to clogging up of the diamond pipeline.

ODC was formed in 2012 after the Botswana government negotiated with global mining giant De Beers to sell 15 percent of Debswana's rough diamonds to the state-owned diamond company. Te Haar said that diamond sales this year have been impacted by developments in India, a leading market for rough diamonds, and the United States (USA) which is the biggest market of jewellery.

About 75 percent of ODC's rough diamonds end up in India for polishing and manufacturing. The Asian country which is responsible for over 90 percent of rough diamond imports has recorded over 1 million confirmed cases of coronavirus, placing it just behind USA and Brazil. India in late March imposed a nationwide



lockdown, restricting movements and shuttering business activities.

"If we cannot access the Indian market it creates a huge bottleneck for us. ODC is no different, every single rough diamond seller in our part of the

pipeline is feeling the same," Te Haar said.

After around two and a half months of restricted business activities in India, diamond markets and factories resumed operations beginning of June. However, some parts of India had to shut down the factories after many diamond polishers tested positive in mid-June.

The diamond industry in Surat, a major diamond cutting city in India, has been badly hit with over 600 diamond polishers testing positive till date. Mumbai, where most rough diamond buyers are based, has also recorded high number of infections.

"Our customers are not inclined to buy our rough diamonds because they cannot process the materials that are in their factories. We have two other problems in India. We have got a high level of diamond inventory, which is carried from 2019," said Te Haar.

"The Indian manufacturing community as a whole have a self-imposed embargo on importation of rough diamonds. So, they collectively decided that they are not going to import diamonds from anywhere in the world."

CONTINUES ON PG 19

Deloitte.

About Deloitte

Deloitte is a leading global provider of audit and assurance, consulting, financial advisory, risk advisory, tax and related services. Our global network of member firms and related entities in more than 150 countries and territories (collectively, the "Deloitte organization") serves four out of five Fortune Global 500® companies. Learn how Deloitte's approximately 312,000 people make an impact that matters at www.deloitte.com

In Botswana, Deloitte is one of the leading professional services organisations. We specialise in providing Audit, Tax, Consulting, Risk Advisory and Corporate Finance services. We serve clients in a variety of industries from financial services, to consumer business, energy, mining and manufacturing, tourism, TMT and the public sector.

Deloitte professionals are unified by a collaborative culture that fosters integrity, outstanding value to clients, commitment to each other, and strength from cultural diversity. They enjoy an environment of continuous learning, challenging experiences, and enriching career opportunities. Our professionals are dedicated to strengthening corporate responsibility, building public trust, and making a positive impact in their communities. Our talented professionals and our clients understand the link between a strong learning and development programme and the ability for Deloitte to deliver on its promise of consistent, high-quality service delivery worldwide.

At Deloitte

At Deloitte you have the opportunity to develop your talents and capabilities and be in the driving seat of your career. Our unique culture, commitment to continuous learning and accessible leadership encourages personal initiative and rewards innovative thinking. Whatever your age, gender or culture, you'll make more of your career at Deloitte. You will:

- Join a fast-growing practice and work with like-minded people who are at the forefront of their chosen field
- Work within a stimulating and challenging environment, with a focus on teamwork and outstanding client service
- Be involved in all facets of business development, sales, delivery and client/account management
- Develop responses to opportunities
- Prepare and facilitate workshops and interactive sessions
- Participate in the development of new tools, solutions and market offerings
- Develop and mentor more junior members of staff

We are looking for high caliber professionals to take up the following opportunities in Deloitte Botswana:

RISK ADVISORY DIVISION

Position

Senior Manager Risk Advisory – Deloitte Consulting Services

About the job

As a highly experienced Internal Auditor and Fraud Examiner, you will be assisting clients to achieve their governance and risk management objectives, leveraging on your risk management, controls consulting and business skills as well as providing expert forensic and related services:

- A minimum of 8 years' experience in Risk Management, Internal audit and Forensic Investigations
- Application of Data Analytics tools e.g. ACL, IDEA as well as being able to operate remote polling systems will be an advantage
- Extensive understanding of Fraud Risk Management and Investigations. Hands on experience in risk and control management in financial institutions
- Experience in Enterprise Risk Management and development of Enterprise Risk Management Frameworks, Policies and Procedures and performing Risk Assessments
- Experience of computer and internal audits of financial and banking systems
- Extensive experience in the audit of internal control systems
- Exposure to and a thorough understanding of security and risk assessments and governance reviews
- Understanding of and experience in Financial Crime Investigations
- Understanding of and experience in Forensic Investigations
- Donor funding audit experience will be an advantage

About You

Candidates must hold a relevant degree (e.g., in B. Com (Internal Audit), must be a Certified Internal Auditor and a Certified Fraud Examiner with a minimum of 8 years' experience:

You would need to have the following Competencies:

- A minimum of 8 years' relevant professional experience with an international professional services firm (e.g. Big Four) in a similar environment.
- Ability to effectively and efficiently prioritise and plan.
- Focused, with a strong attention to detail.
- Understanding of business processes, risk and controls.
- Effectively manage projects and project teams
- Forensic investigation experience.
- Internal Audit experience.
- Strong Communication and report writing skills.
- Ability to mentor and motivate others.
- Ability to use initiative and think outside the box.
- Client focused attitude with professionalism at all times

CORPORATE FINANCE DIVISION

Position

Corporate Finance – Senior Consultant

About the job

The incumbent will be responsible for transaction support services, including managing the due diligence engagements (financial & commercial), business valuation assignments, coordinate M&A activities, provide financial advisory services on transactions, day to day communication with both the target and the transaction team, carrying out evaluation for goodwill impairment, purchase price allocation, provide extensive financial and operational research, developing financial model, assisting in preparation of reports and schedules. You will further identify targets for mergers and acquisitions providing sound advice on optimal acquisition structure, pricing and identifying purchasers. Key performance areas are as follows:

- Valuations
- Due diligence reviews
- Mergers and Acquisitions
- Financial modelling
- Analysis of potential targets
- Analysing various investment options
- Acting as reporting accountant
- Deal Structuring
- Fund raising and capital markets

About You

Candidates must hold a relevant degree in finance (e.g. CA / ACCA / CIMA / master's in finance) and minimum of 3 - 4 years relevant experience.

You would need to have the following Competencies:

- A minimum of 3 - 4 years relevant professional experience and working with firms (e.g. Big Four) in a similar environment would be added advantage.
- Good communication skills (oral presentation skills and writing skills)
- Good negotiation skills
- Sound technical/problem-solving skills
- Analytical and logical
- Good project management and organisational skills
- Sound business acumen
- Self-starter
- Ability to work independently with minimum supervision
- Ability to work quickly and accurately in a highly pressurized environment
- Proficient in MS Word, Excel and PowerPoint
- Previous experience in a corporate finance background will be an added advantage.

Closing date:

Interested Applicants are to submit a detailed C.V and motivation letter to zagberecruitment@deloitte.com by **05 August, 2020**.

NB: We will respond to shortlisted candidates only.

PrimeTime's profits drops

SUNDAY STANDARD REPORTER

buildings bring in about 36 percent of the income.

The anticipated fall in 2019's profit comes at a time the company is assessing another potential drop in profit for this year. During the country's lockdown that began in April and lasted in the third week of May, Kelly said they have projected a possible substantial drop in rental income and a risk that PrimeTime may breach on some of its loan payments, with the company planning to act immediately to assist some of their most at-risk tenants.

He said the support and assistance had been overlaid onto PrimeTime's forecasted cashflow to highlight financial pressure points over the coming months and have already begun talks with their financiers.

"We have compiled a risk schedule of PrimeTime's tenants where we have assessed, in our opinion, their continued ability in the short/medium term to pay rent. We will only find out by month end whether they can and will pay rent," Kelly told shareholders in April.

APPLICATION FOR LOST DEED OF TRANSFER

Notice is hereby given that the undersigned intends applying for a certified copy of Deed of Transfer number **842/1990** registered on the **23rd day of July, 1990** made in favour of **MARY MORUDIEMANG PULE**:

CERTAIN:	Piece of land being Lot 7869, Gaborone
SITUATE:	In the Gaborone Administrative District
MEASURING:	660m ² (Six Hundred and Sixty) Square Metres

Any person having objection to the issue of such copy is hereby required to lodge the same in writing with the Registrar of Deeds within three (3) weeks from the last publication of this notice.

BRISCOE ATTORNEYS
Plot 133, Independence Avenue
P O Box 402492
GABORONE
Tel: 3953377
Fax: 3904809
DKB/kn/Conv.14012

IN THE HIGH COURT FOR THE REPUBLIC OF BOTSWANA

HELD AT LOBATSE

In the matter between:

CVHGB- 003382-16 Plaintiff

BARCLAYS BANK BOTSWANA LIMITED and

ALLEN MOAGISI LEKWAPO Defendant

NOTICE OF SALE IN EXECUTION

BE PLEASED TO TAKE NOTICE that pursuant to a Judgment of the above Honourable Court, the following Immovable Properties of the above-named Defendant will be sold by Deputy Sheriff Bathusi Billy in the manner herein set out.

DATE OF SALE: Friday, 7th August 2020

TIME OF SALE: 10:30am.

VENUE OF SALE: Tribal Lot 1017, Mmadiare

PROPERTY TO BE SOLD: **Tribal Lot 1017, Mmadiare** The property is situated at Mmadiare in the Bangwato Tribal Territory, measuring 1908m² (One Thousand and Nine Hundred and Eight Square Metres), held under Memorandum of Agreement of Lease No TL 568/2002 dated 12th day of August 2002 made in favour of **ALLEN MOAGISI LEKWAPO** together with developments thereon being a four (4) bedroomed house, kitchen, sitting room, bathroom and toilet, a servant quarter with a toilet and bathroom together with a boundary wall.

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

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

ARMSTRONGS ATTORNEYS
Plaintiff's Attorneys
2nd Floor, Acacia House
Plot 74358, Cnr Khama Crescent, Extension
and PG Matane Road
P.O. Box 1368, Gaborone
[Ref: SM/m/41362]
Deputy Sheriff Bathusi Billy
Cell: 71607940

CEDA eases borrowing terms to specifically empower citizens

KABELO SEITSHIRO

In an effort to demolish hurdles impeding citizen participation in the economy, the revised guidelines by the Citizen Entrepreneurship Development Agency (CEDA) promise to ease borrowing by providing extended periods of loan repayments.

The CEDA Board Chairman Dr Alfred Tsheboeng has said the revised guidelines, with a number of added incentives for sectors that aid economic transformation, offer Batswana an opportunity to engage in entrepreneurship as an alternative to formal employment.

He said clients should take advantage of the changes to engage in businesses that will add impetus to the government transformational agenda.

"The development of the guidelines could not have come at a more needy time given the COVID-19 pressures for domestic production and less dependence on imports," said Tsheboeng.

He further spoke of the changes in loan limits, loan tenure and interest rates as well as changes in equity funding. He said for special sectors (currently manufacturing, mining, energy, construction, technology & innovations, agriculture, creative industry and tourism) and as may be selected by the board from time to time, an interest equivalent to prime lending rate of 5.75 percent minus 3 percent equals 2.75 percent will be charged.

Dr Tsheboeng said in line with common practice, CEDA will charge fees for certain services it renders in order to effect partial cost recovery. He added that the Board of Directors from time-to-time will determine the quantum of fees.

"No fees will be charged on micro and small loans. Security requirements will be discounted for People with Disabilities (PWDs), women and youth across all loan classifications," said Tsheboeng.

The Minister of Investment, Trade and Industry, Peggy Serame, said CEDA

guidelines were revised as a result of a manufacturing study which was carried out in 2019. She said through the manufacturing study, CEDA assessed investment opportunities in the manufacturing sector in Botswana with a view to ensure full exploitation by entrepreneurs.

She said the manufacturing study recommended a transformational approach which was the defining factor in the revision of CEDA Guidelines of 2008. Serame stated that it is envisioned that the revised Guidelines will increase citizen participation in key sectors.

"As Ministry of Investment, Trade and Industry we will continue to improve the doing Business Environment and promote investment and development of sustainable industries," said Serame.

She is of the view that the revised CEDA Guidelines will go a long way in providing the requisite platform for development of sustainable SMME's and diversification. She believes that this will indeed promote inclusivity



and bring us closer to realizing our national vision of a diversified, knowledge based high income country by 2036.

"We are therefore confident that with the relaxation of CEDA funding requirements, we will see development of the private sector resulting in a significant growth in start-ups investment in new areas and exploit value chain in all sectors, whilst taking advantage of the opportunities presented by the 4IR and Covid-19 response strategies."

Serame stated that implementation of the guidelines would transform SMMEs, culminating in creation of the much-needed jobs for the citizenry.

She said that can only happen with support from relevant entities such as the Local Enterprise Authority (LEA) through their entrepreneurship development proficiencies and the Botswana Bureau of Standards with their quality assurance expertise, combined with implementation of the regulations of the Trade and Industrial Development Acts.

MMAPULA MOLAPONG

The proposed Citizen Economic Empowerment (CEE) Law came under the scrutiny of legislators at the Public Accounts Committee (PAC) last week.

Members of Parliament (MPs) demanded answers from the accounting officer at the Ministry of Investment, Trade and Industry, Permanent Secretary, Keganele Malikongwa, on whether or not the draft bill will make it to the July Parliament sitting for debate.

MPs are worried that the CEE Bill will be passed into law without their constituents appreciating what is in store for them.

"We have not consulted our constituents through Kgota meetings so that they can also appreciate and contribute to the CEE draft law so that they feel included in the process too. We are concerned that constituents

will only meet this new law after it is published," Noted MP for Bobonong, Taolo Lucas.

Malikongwa said they consulted different stakeholders about the proposed law but they could not go to councils due to the Covid-19 lockdown.

"We have consulted different stakeholders but we could not go to council level due to the lockdown, but we have been able to consult them through support from Local government. Local government was able to consult councils on our behalf using their different structures," Malikongwa said.

The recently suspended Botswana Democratic Party (BDP) MP for Francistown West, Ignatius Moswaane got heated up and asked the PS: "Who did you consult at council because councillors have not been sitting, the town clerk is not council, when you

say council you have to be referring to councillors."

Alliance for Progressives (AP) MP for Francistown South; Wynter Mmolsoti who was standing in as chairman of the committee had to intervene and calm down the aggravated Moswaane.

Mmolsoti asked the PS if she thinks parliament will be able to debate this law in the upcoming parliament session, to which the PS responded that she hopes so, failure to which parliament will be notified.

Malikongwa said the draft is not ready for publishing because there are other processes that have to undertake before they can publish. She said the plan is to have the draft bill law debated during the next sitting of parliament.

The Bill is supposed to be presented during the next parliament sitting slated for the 27th of July 2020 for debate.

The discomfort was sparked by MP for Ghanzi North, John Thite when he passionately spoke about Batswana businesses that have closed down in the past due to the mushrooming of big retail stores.

He further pressed on the accounting officer to ask if the ministry is still steadfast into seeing Batswana taking part in the retail business and see them participate in the economic transformation of this country.

"Are you confident that you can continue to tell Batswana that you are still helping them develop in terms of entrepreneurship since the inception of big retail stores like Choppies and Spar?" He questioned.

He spoke out against the tendency

of an establishment of a monopoly that seems to be erupting with giant stores and foreign investors.

"We continue to see lots of Batswana taking part in poultry business and all these big retail shops do not have room to accommodate them, do you continue to say as a ministry this mandate is still relevant where you want to develop local entrepreneurs and see them take part in the economic activity? Do you still not see the poultry market as a monopoly?" asked the Ghanzi North MP.

The PS said they are alive to the fact that the whole value chain is being monopolized. And that is why they need to review the current policy and turn it into a law.

Government published the amended Industrial Development and Trade Acts, paving way for some sectors of the economy to be in the hands of citizens only.

The new Trade Act reflected some changes made to the list of certain business ventures that are exclusive to citizens or wholly owned citizen companies. The list includes auctioneers, agents, car wash, cellphone shop business, cleaning services, florist, general dealers, dry cleaning services, general hire services, importation of pre-owned cars and laundromats.

Legislators jittery over CEE Bill

Thite spoke about a retail model that Botswana used to have in the form of Lucky 7 stores which in his view used to seek to promote local enterprises that has collapsed due to the emergence of big retail stores.

He further pressed on the accounting officer to ask if the ministry is still steadfast into seeing Batswana taking part in the retail business and see them participate in the economic transformation of this country.

He asked the ministry what it was doing to intervene.

The poultry business has, in recent days, been a much-heated topic that saw Batswana urging one another on social media to boycott buying poultry products from giant retail stores. They encouraged the idea of "buy

PROPERTIES FOR AUCTION

Stanbic Bank would like to notify all stakeholders of upcoming property auctions.

<p>LOT 349 OODI</p> <p>Bid starts at: P1,400,000.00 Date of sale: 31st July 2020 Time: 14:30pm Plot Size: 2342m² Two bedroomed-thatched house, dining room, toilet, bathroom and one bedroomed thatched house</p>	<p>LOT 2351 GERALD, FRANCISTOWN</p> <p>Reserve Price: P340, 000.00 Date of sale: 5th August 2020 Time: 10:30am Plot Size: 382m² Three bedroomed house (master bedroom ensuite)</p>	<p>LOT 21027 PHASE 5 (MONARCH AREA) FRANCISTOWN</p> <p>Bid starts at: P600, 000.00 Date of sale: 4th August 2020 Time: 09:30am Plot size: 540m² A house comprised of sitting room, kitchen, bedrooms, fitted toilet and bath. Servants quarters, electrified screen wall.</p>
<p>LOT 2629 MAIN (SEDI WARD)</p> <p>No reserve price (Subject to Bank's confirmation) Date of sale: 7th August 2020 Time: 10:00am Plot Size: 1584m² Four bedroomed house, sitting room, kitchen, dining room, toilet and bathroom. Servants quarters and two garages.</p>	<p>LOT 24664 GABORONE WEST (EXTENSION 23)</p> <p>Bid starts at: P585, 000.00 Date of sale: 28th July 2020 Time: 10:00am Plot size: 525m² Three bedroomed medium cost BHC House with fence.</p>	<p>LOT 23551 GABORONE WEST (EXTENSION 20)</p> <p>Bid starts at: P810, 000.00 Date of sale: 29th July 2020 Time: 11:00am Plot size: 450m² Three bedroomed house, open plan kitchen, sitting room, paved yard, wall and electric fence.</p>
<p>LOT 6697 GABORONE BROADHURST (NEXT TO SEAFALANA)</p> <p>No reserve price (Subject to Bank's confirmation) Date of sale: 31st July 2020 Time: 14:30pm Plot Size: 667m² Two bedroomed house with master ensuite, sitting room, kitchen, common bathroom with toilet, screen wall. Servants quarters with a bedroom, kitchen, shower and toilet.</p>	<p>LOT 4563 MOCHUDI (BEHIND BEE SIX BAR OPPOSITE JAZZ BREW)</p> <p>No reserve price (Subject to Bank's confirmation) Date of sale: 31st July 2020 Time: 10:30pm Plot size: 947m² A shop with store room, electrified office, stock delivery room, and pit latrine.</p>	<p>LOT 2249 LOBATSE</p> <p>No reserve price (Subject to Bank's confirmation) Date of sale: 25th August 2020 Time: 11:00am Plot size: 523m² Two bedroomed house with sitting room, fitted kitchen, combined bathroom and toilet. Servants quarters consisting of one bedroom, kitchen and shower.</p>
<p>LOT 1024 PORTION 96 MOKOLIDI</p> <p>No reserve price (Subject to Bank's confirmation) Date of sale: 11th August 2020 Time: 10:30am Plot size: 2550m² Three bedroomed double storey house, sitting room, dining room, kitchen, common bathroom with toilet, double garage, 2 balconies, bath combined with toilet and screen wall.</p>	<p>LOT 68066 GABORONE NORTH</p> <p>Bid starts at: P986, 000.00 Date of sale: 15th August 2020 Time: 10:30am Plot size: 710m² Three bedroomed house with bathroom, toilet, sitting room, garage and screen wall with electric fence.</p>	<p>LOT 69432 GABORONE NORTH</p> <p>No reserve price (Subject to Bank's confirmation) Date of sale: 14th August 2020 Time: 10:30am Plot size: 930m² Four bedroomed house with ensuite, 1x master bedroom, dining room, sitting room, kitchen, swimming pool, screen wall with electric fence.</p>

Stanbic Bank IT CAN BE..

*Detailed terms and conditions of sale may be inspected with the Deputy Sheriff as indicated in the advertisement.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Special Economic Zones Authority (SEZA) Botswana is a parastatal under the Ministry of Investment Trade and Industry (MITI). It was established through the Special Economic Zones Act No.13 of 2015. The Organisation is responsible for the overall coordination and implementation of activities related to the establishment and development of Special Economic Zones (SEZs).

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST TO REGISTER IN THE SEZA SUPPLIER DATA BASE

SEZA Botswana invite 100% Citizen owned companies to submit proposals for registration in the supplier database. In order for consideration for the provision of various products and services, companies must be appropriately licensed for the supply of products/service in accordance with the laws of Botswana for the provision of any of the following services or products.

1. Recruitment & Training Services

2. Stationery

3. Catering

4. Health and wellness

5. Project Management

6. Travel Agency and Shuttle

7. Mail Courier services and customs clearing

8. Hotel and hospitality

9. Advertising and Marketing

10. Information Technology services

11. Architectural (Professional Services)

12. Electrical Engineering (Professional Services)

13. Quantity Surveying (Professional Services)

14. Plotting & Printing Services

15. Safety, Health & Environmental (Professional Services)

16. Maintenance Services (Electrical, Mechanical, Carpentry)

17. Consultancy Services

Interested service providers should register from the link <http://83.143.26.2:8011>. Companies that have previously registered are requested to re-register in order to be considered for shortlisting as SEZA service provider.

Enquiries should be sent to procurement@seza.co.bw or call 370 8335

Proposals should be submitted by the 11th August 2020 at 1000hrs through the provided link.

Late submissions will not be accepted.

OFFICE CONTACTS

- Fairspace Predict, Plot 70667, The Tower, Fairsgrounds
- Private Bag SK6 Gaborone, Botswana
- (+267) 370 8300
- (+267) 316 6952
- invest@seza.co.bw
- www.seza.co.bw



Lucara MD - Naseem Lahri

Lucara changes tact

BONNIE MODIAGOTLA

Lucara Diamond Corp has changed its sales strategy, foregoing the usual tendering process and opting to enter in a contract with a single buyer that will offtake the diamonds, boosting cashflow at a time when diamonds are proving hard to sell.

The Canadian diamond miner, listed on the Toronto Stock Exchange and Botswana Stock Exchange, on Thursday announced that it has entered into a definitive supply agreement for the remainder of 2020 with HB Group out of Antwerp, Belgium, in respect of all diamonds produced in excess of

10.8 carats in size from its wholly owned Karowe diamond mine in Botswana.

The company said its large, high value diamonds in excess of 10.8 carats in size from Karowe account for approximately 70 percent of Lucara's annual revenues, and though the mine has remained fully operational throughout the Covid-19 pandemic, Lucara made a deliberate decision not to tender any of its +10.8 carat inventory after early March 2020 amidst the uncertainty caused by the global crisis.

In May, the miner said it was postponing and rescheduling the second quarter tender, originally scheduled for mid-May 2020,

citing the downturn in market conditions. Lucara further revealed that the Botswana government has granted temporary permission to the company to conduct sales in Antwerp.

In a departure from the usual tender sales, Lucara says that under the terms of the supply agreement with HB, the purchase price paid for Lucara's +10.8 carat rough diamonds shall be based on the estimated polished outcome, determined through state of the art scanning and planning technology, with a true up paid on actual achieved polished sales thereafter, less a fee and the cost of manufacturing.

"This unique pricing mechanism is expected to deliver regular cash flow for this important segment of our production profile at superior prices," the company said in a statement.

Eira Thomas, Lucara's CEO, added that the agreement will deliver regular revenues on superior pricing terms to those currently being achieved at tender, and help position Lucara to move forward with key underground expansion activities for Karowe in 2020.

"It is our strong view that the success of our industry in these very uncertain times,

requires better alignment between producers, manufacturers, and retailers to establish a healthier, more efficient global diamond supply chain. We are excited to be working with HB to support this new paradigm," she said.

Earlier this year, Lucara, HB and Louis Vuitton announced a collaboration to cut and polish the 1,758 carat Sewel diamond recovered from the prolific Karowe mine in April 2019. In the first quarter of 2020, Karowe was stripped of 0.9 million tonnes of ore, with 0.64 million tonnes of that ore processed, resulting in 91,536 carats recovered.

The financials for the first quarter show that Lucara registered a \$3.2 million loss, a massive drop from last year's corresponding quarter that delivered \$7.4 million profit. The loss has been attributed to less carats sold amid decline in diamond prices as the miner's average price per carat fell by nearly 23 percent.

The global diamond industry which had begun to recover early this year has been disrupted by the widespread impacts of COVID-19, affecting the entire value chain, resulting in fewer diamond sales, weaker pricing, logistical challenges in the movement of goods and people and, production curtailments at several mines.



PRESS RELEASE REVISED GUIDELINES

Since its inception in 2001, the Citizen Entrepreneurial Development Agency (CEDA) has been gradually reviewing its guidelines to match the ever evolving and dynamic environment in which it operates. The review of the CEDA guidelines is aimed at positioning the agency to grow, become highly sustainable and develop SMMEs to be the drivers of economic development. The first review of the CEDA guidelines was 8 years after the Agency was established.

In line with CEDA's commitment to move with the times, the agency reviewed its financing model to ensure continued relevance as per stakeholders' expectations. This review was meant to put focus on CEDA's core mandate which is to finance, develop and sustain citizen-owned businesses. CEDA strives to provide accessibility, sustainability and growth for its clients and the latest review covers adjustments on loan limits, interest rates, repayment periods and security/collateral requirements.

The review was aimed at key external factors that would potentially influence CEDA going forward and these include, among others; improved focus and investment in citizen empowerment initiatives aimed at dealing with a highly competitive environment, the deterioration of global economic conditions, increased mobile penetration and use of technology as an enabler of business processes and strategy. The review also considered and addressed issues of high urbanisation rates, reduction in government subvention and most importantly, the need for CEDA to be sustainable going forward.

As such, the reviews as announced by His Excellency the President of the Republic of Botswana, Dr Mokgweetsi E. K. Masisi recognises the importance of stakeholder engagement and input in the review of the guidelines. Stakeholders engaged include CEDA clients, members of the public, CEDA staff, CEDA board, sectoral representatives, and civil societies, amongst others. As previously highlighted, of immediate importance was the review of the CEDA's minimum and maximum loan limits for the delivery of various financial solutions to emerging SMME needs.

CEDA has approved and adopted the following:

1. Increase small/micro scale projects loan limits from a **maximum of P500, 000 to a maximum of P1, 000,000.**
2. Increase medium scale projects loan limits from a **maximum of P4,000,000 to a maximum of P10,000,000**
3. Increase large scale projects loan limits from a **maximum of P30, 000, 000 to a maximum of P50, 000,000.**

INTEREST RATES

An interest rate equivalent to the prevailing Bank Rate per annum will be charged on all loans. However, for special sectors (currently manufacturing, mining, construction, energy, technology and innovations, agriculture, creative industry and tourism) as may be selected by the Board from time to time an interest equivalent to prime lending rate minus 3% per annum will be charged.

REPAYMENT PERIODS

Repayment periods have been reviewed such that loans of up to P1, 000,000 will not exceed 7 years. Loans from P1, 000, 001 to P5, 000 000 will not exceed 15 years while loans from P5, 000 001 to P10, 000, 000 will not exceed 20 years.

Repayment periods for large scale projects will now not exceed 20 years. Previously they were not to exceed 15 years.

SECURITY REQUIREMENTS

Security/collateral will be mandatory for loans over P5, 000,000, whereas security/collateral requirements for large loans in the special category will be personal surety and security over assets financed. Additional security requirements may be discounted based on job creation, economic diversification and location of the project. Furthermore, CEDA endeavors to ensure that security requirements will be discounted for people with disabilities, youth and women and will be determined by the board from time to time.

These guidelines are with immediate effect.

De Beers' sales and diamond output plunge

Covid-19 disruptions and reduced sales hit second-quarter production

ALLAN SECCOMBE

difficulties in its platinum division. Anglo said its overall production as measured as a copper equivalent to give one generic output metric, fell by 18% during the quarter to end-June compared to a year ago.

The strong performance at its Minas Rio iron ore mine in Brazil and a record performance at the Collahuasi copper mine in Chile eased the blow from operational disruptions caused by Covid-19 lockdowns at its African and South American operations.

"Building up from a production level of around 60% of total capacity in April, we continue to increase and had reached about 90% of production capacity by the end of June," said Anglo CEO Mark Cutifani.

Anglo kept its already reduced full-year production forecasts intact, despite the difficulties in the quarter, but it lowered targets for metallurgical and thermal coal operations in Australia, SA and Colombia by a total of 4-million tonnes.

Analysts forecast De Beers would contribute about 2% to Anglo's full-year earnings before interest, tax, depreciation and amortisation (ebitda), down from 6% from 2019.

Quarterly diamond output dropped by 54% to 3.5-million carats. This brought the interim decline in diamond production to 11.3-million carats, about a third lower than the previous year.

The largest single fall in the quarter was from mines in Botswana, which relies heavily on the diamond export sector for revenue. Output fell by 68% to 1.8-million carats as Botswana locked down the economy in the quarter.

Production restarted at the largest source of diamonds for Anglo, but it warned output would be tempered against lower demand for rough and polished diamonds globally.

"During quarter two, the demand for rough diamonds was significantly affected by a combination of Covid-19 restrictions impacting consumer demand and access to Southern Africa, as well as severely limited midstream cutting and polishing capacity due to lockdowns, particularly in India," Anglo said.

Anglo American's second-quarter production update showed the broader ravages of the Covid-19 pandemic at its operations and sales, as well as

Refined platinum production for the quarter dropped by nearly three-quarters to 160,600oz, while palladium fell by two-thirds to 147,400oz.

Amplats, the world's second-largest source of platinum group metals (PGMs), notified the market in March of the processing difficulties and reduced its full-year platinum output target by 500,000oz.

Amplats retained its annual revised production target of 1.5-million to 1.7-million oz of platinum and up to 1.2-million oz of palladium.

Platinum sales for the interim period fell by nearly 60% to 435,600oz and palladium halved to 383,300oz.

At Kumba Iron Ore, a 70%-held Anglo subsidiary, sales fell by nearly a quarter to 8.1-million tonnes because of disrupted mining as well as rail and port logistics due to the SA lockdown.

Source: Business Day

Financial services sector thrives amid Covid-19

Up until the outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic in the first quarter of 2020, Botswana's financial sector, comprising mainly the banking and insurance industries was healthy and vibrant – WRITES JOSEPH BALISE

The impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on the performance of the financial sector in Botswana is currently unknown and expected to be unraveled in the near future. Fears abound that like other sectors of the economy, the likelihood of the financial sector getting out unscathed are very minimal.

Comprising of 10 commercial banks and three statutory banks respectively, the Botswana banking sector is dominated by commercial banks that hold 91 percent of total loans and advances, and 93 percent of assets. According to banking Supervision Annual report 2016, oligopolistic market conditions continue to be prevalent within the five large commercial banks, namely; Bank ABC, Barclays Bank (now Absa), First National Bank, Stanbic Bank and Standard Chartered Bank which account for more than 90 percent of total banking loans, advances assets and deposits.

Despite the reflected healthy conditions of the banking and insurance industry sectors, there have been challenges to be grappled with including the decline in commodity prices over the past two years that translated into lower export values and lower mineral revenues.

It is also observed in the report that credit growth in the commercial segment has slowed down significantly in the last three years, with declining commodity prices impacting the segment as well as the overall economy.

"This is in contrast to the previous years when growth grew in double digits (excluding 2013). There is a decline in credit growth within key sectors of the economy such as mining, manufacturing and agriculture. The mining sector's credit growth is negative due to low commodity prices - which has resulted in the

The Grant Thornton report also says that the credit deposit ratio of local commercial banks has improved steadily from 64 percent in 2011 to 86 percent in April 2018, with banks having to move a significant portion of their risk free investments in Bank of Botswana Certificates (BOBCs) into loans and advances to both commercial and household segments of the local economy.

Gross loans and advances experienced a compounded Annual Growth Rate (CAGR) of 9.4 percent from 2012 to 2017. As at December 2017, the figure stood at P54.1 billion, which is 59 percent of GDP versus 46 percent in 2012.

According to a 2018 Grant Thornton report titled; "Botswana's Banking, Financial and Insurance (BFSI) industry at inflection point", the banking financial and insurance industry has experienced continued growth over the last three years, and its contribution to the country's Gross Domestic product (GDP) stands at 5.1 percent. The size of the banking and insurance industry is currently P4.7 billion in real terms (constant 2006 prices) and P7.9 billion at current prices.



closure of some big mines such as African copper, Discovery Metals, as well as BCL that has been placed in provisional liquidation", laments Grant Thornton.

According to the report, credit growth declined from 6.2 percent in 2016 to 5.6 percent in 2017. Slower credit growth of the commercial segment is mainly on account of lower debt to parastatals, not the private sector.

The decline in credit growth and rates over the years, as well as increased competition has seen the normalization of the banking industry's profitability.

In yet another report dealing with banking industry performance, a report titled: "Performance Evaluation of

Listed Commercial Banks in Botswana: The Camel Model", released in October 2017, it is posited that the banking sector together with the insurance and business services accounted for 14.7 percent of the GDP in 2015, having risen over the years from six percent some 50 years ago.

The study by C. R. Sathyamoorthi, Mogotsinyana Mapharang, Shabane Ndzinge, Gobona Tobedza and Lillian Wally-Dima evaluated the financial performance of the listed commercial banks in Botswana for the period 2011 – 2015 applying the Camel Model concluded that "the selected banks were highly leveraged and that their liquidity position

was sound", and the results of the study are expected to be helpful to the management of the selected banks in making appropriate managerial decisions.

There is a widespread consensus that financial performance of a business enterprise has to be evaluated on a regular basis hence the study on the three oldest and largest commercial banks. Performance measurement is described as the process of quantifying efficiency and effectiveness while effectiveness is compliance with customer requirements, and efficiency is how the organization's resources are used to achieve customer satisfaction levels.

1997 and 2008 financial crisis".

It is further observed that since 1975 when Botswana established its own financial system, the banking sector has been characterized by rapid growth and high level of profitability compared to other countries in Africa. This has been achieved on account of good credit management policies, high bank fees, lack of effective competition and very low risk market conditions.

According to Dr Keith Jefferis (2009) the contribution of the banking industry to GDP doubled from 4 percent in 1995/6 to 8 percent in 2007/8.

The banking industry has also been commended for the role it plays in the Botswana Stock Exchange through its dominance in market capitalization. The down side of the banking sector in Botswana, however, is that it has remained small with high levels of concentration in relation to the economy size.

According to Bank of Botswana (BoB), the banking sector managed to maintain stability, soundness and solvency despite the global financial crisis of between 2007 and 2012. However, in the past five years since 2011 banks profitability started declining due to subdued global demand for commodities, particularly diamonds which have been the main export of Botswana, low interest rates and sharp decrease in market liquidity.

Moreover, the fall in profitability might have been contributed to by a two-year

moratorium on banking fees and charges placed on shoulders of commercial banks in 2014 by the reserve bank. This onerous factor might have strained the banks' earnings although the intention might have been to revitalise the borrowings by the public.

This study found that during the period in which it was undertaken, a sharp plunge of 50 percent in commercial banks profitability as measured by Return of Equity (ROE) was witnessed although assets were rising.

"Implications of these results to the banks are that they should find means to shield themselves against inflation related risks and try to match their increasing operating expenses with revenue growth. As banks chase corporate customers, they should not lose sight of household customers since excessive exposure to the former may lead to high risk in case of defaults due to macroeconomic factors. Bank liquidity should be brought under control while banks become more vigilant on assessing deserving customers for loans and advances to reduce the likelihood of defaulting. Banks should also intensify pursuit for non-interest income sources which can guarantee constant income to cover some non-interest expenses", advised the study authors adding that banks should strike a balance between assets, liquidity, and liability management in order to remain competitive and earn higher profits.



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Botswana Railways to transport Minergy coal to SA

PORTIA NKANI

Botswana Railways and Minergy coal mining company this Friday launched coal export deal in which the rail company's

50 wagon train carrying over 250 000tonnes of coal produced in Medie will be transported to South Africa.

The connection rail from Tshele hill to the main rail line was funded by Absa bank Botswana. Botswana will emerge as a major transportation hub or gateway on the regional corridor and help support overall trade in the medium to long term.

The Botswana Stock Exchange listed Minergy which has been pioneering the coal industry in

Botswana has so far evacuated 200 000tonnes of coal out of Botswana becoming the first company to move it across the border to South Africa and Namibia by road. More than 90 percent of Minergy's target market, in volume terms, is in South Africa.

Speaking at the launch of the partnership, Minergy Chief Executive Officer, Morné du Plessis highlighted that, the efficiency of rail will give them an opportunity to evacuate more of their coal. The Coal will reach South Africa same day and within five hours.

He added, "we want to develop the coal industry. Botswana has 200million tonnes of coal. We should not sit on the opportunity. We are negotiating with our customers to transport one train a week. The rail project of Mmamabula-

Lephale needs to be developed so that Botswana is able to export coal to other countries. We hope the project will materialize quickly."

Launching the partnership, Minister of Transport and Communications, Thulagano Segokgo emphasized that the partnership must be nurtured into a sustainable and long lasting one. Railways are still struggling to transform themselves particularly in the African continent. Coal mining will become one of the largest rail users in Botswana and as such, Segokgo said rail transport is critical to supporting economic development; "unless it is fully developed Botswana may not realise its full potential in exploiting its abundant natural resources and wealth. There is need for robust rail infrastructure



to support the evacuation of coal to international markets, especially Asia where there is high demand. Given the geographic location of Botswana, adequate infrastructure is critical for the growth and competitiveness of

Botswana. Inadequate infrastructure may be a threat to Botswana's growth potential but at the same time it's an opportunity for private sector investors to finance physical infrastructure assets as railways."

There are significant opportunities for railway development in Botswana as a result of potential production of large volumes of goods such as bulk minerals commodities that are natural markets for railways. It is for this reason that, Segokgo's Ministry has set aside funding for bankable feasibility study

for the much anticipated Mosetse-Kazungula and Mmamabule-Lephale railway lines.

According to Minister Segokgo, the process of evaluating the bids is ongoing and he went onto add that there is urgent need to fast-track the Mmamabule-Lephale link to transport the coal reserves as the current rail capacity cannot support the envisaged export volumes. Government is considering Public Private Partnerships to develop these rail links. There are four proposed rail links, Mmamabule-Lephale, Mosetse-Kazungula, Trans Kalahari and Port Tchobanane heavy haul rail project.

The development of these lines is the main focus for Botswana Railways and will have a significant impact on the Southern African Development Community (SADC) region.

Botswana gets P2.4 billion in export earnings

KABELO SEITSHIRO

Botswana has realized P2.4 billion in export earnings between April 2019 and March this year.

This was revealed by Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Investment, Trade and Industry Keganele Malikongwa appearing before the Public Accounts Committee (PAC).

"The markets include AGOA at 329 million, the European Union 500 million, SACU and Mozambique and United Kingdom EPA 60 million and SACU 65 million" said Malikongwa.

Commodities that brought earnings to various markets include auto parts car harnesses and batteries, underground mining vehicles, morula products, PVC pipes, children's clothing, beef, animal vaccines and contemporary furniture.

Malikongwa said government through the Botswana Investment and Trade Centre (BITC) is implementing the Botswana Export Development Programme, whose objective is to grow exports by developing capacity of local companies to be export ready.

She further stated that the Ministry also continues with coordination of implementation of the Doing Business Roadmap, adding that to date, 45 reforms out of the 48 reforms have been completed.

She said one reform is the commencement of the Industrial Development Act 2019 and the Trade Act, 2019 and their regulations on the 1st June 2020. She is of the view that the aim of this reform is to simplify licensing procedures and reduce the time taken to start a business. He believes that this will improve efficiency in the issuance of trade and industrial licenses and registration certificates.

"In an effort to decentralize business facilitation services in Botswana, a One Stop Business Centre

was launched in Francistown. The office facilitates investors in Francistown and surrounding areas, covering the SPEDU Regional block and other areas such as Orapa-Lethakane and Maun," Malikongwa said.

The law is being developed to ensure inclusivity and empower citizens to participate in development of the economy and ensure compliance of the different citizen economic empowerment Policies, Programmes and Initiatives. She said it is fostering accountability as well as monitoring and evaluation of the CEE initiatives. She

added that the draft Bill is expected to be tabled before the National Assembly during the July/August 2020 sitting.

Quizzed on effects of COVID-19 on trade balance and the economy, Malikongwa said the ministry continues to document emerging lessons from the COVID-19 pandemic in the trade and industry Sector.

She stated that according to the International Monetary Fund (IMF) forecast for the global output (GDP) will contract by 3 percent in 2020 while domestic output is expected to decline by 8.9 percent.

Furthermore, she said trade in services (tourism, financial services, transport, law, accountancy, consultancy) which has been the largest contributor to GDP at more than 50 percent will also be affected due to economic slowdown.

Malikongwa said the situation will be largely affected by the Covid-19, cautioning there is urgent need to upscale production of food and other essential products.

"Our key performance indicators are being or focusing on foreign direct investment; domestic investment and expansions; business start-ups; number of jobs as well as value of exports," said Malikongwa.

Consumer inflation falls to record lows

SUNDAY STANDARD REPORTER

The inflation rate has hit record lows, reflecting reduction in cost of living, on the back of fuel costs reduction.

The monthly inflation report released by Statistics Botswana shows that the annual inflation rate fell to 0.9 percent in June from 2.4 percent in the previous month. This was the lowest rate since available records began in January of 1997, amid a plunge in transport prices (-6.7 percent vs -0.1 percent in May) and a sharp slowdown in costs of alcoholic beverages & tobacco (5.4 percent vs 22.3 percent).

Also, prices rose less for housing & utilities (5.7 percent vs 6.2 percent). Conversely, inflation quickened for food & non-alcoholic beverages (3.6 percent vs 3.2 percent) and clothing & footwear (2.2 percent vs 2 percent). On a monthly basis, consumer prices retreated 1.2 percent, after being flat in the previous month.

In May and June, Botswana Energy Regulation Authority (BERA) made massive reductions to retail pump prices for petrol, diesel and paraffin, a move that slowed the inflation rate which had grown by a larger pace to 2.5 percent, up from the 2.2 percent rate that stretched since December. The sudden upward movement in prices was largely due to the 22 percent increase in the electricity tariff that was implemented beginning of April.

In June, the central bank's Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) decided to maintain the bank rate at 4.25 percent, motivated by the inflation rate which

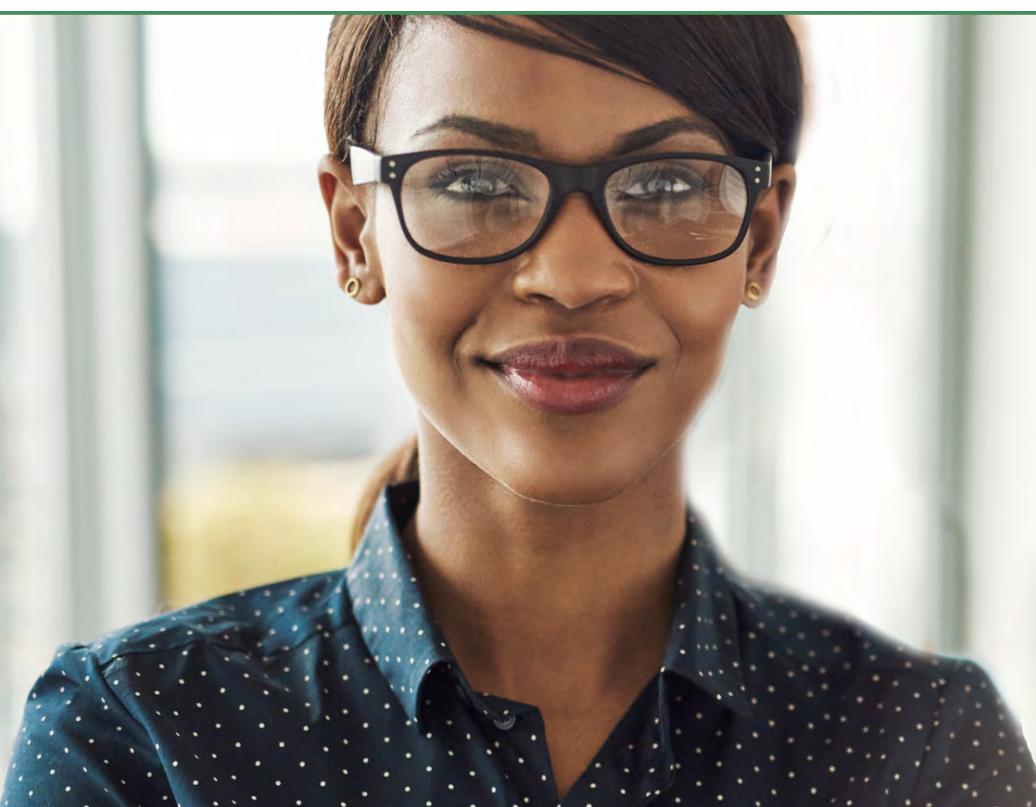
remains below the lower bound of the Bank's objective range of 3 – 6 percent. Central banks usually tweak the bank rate looking at economic conditions, decreasing the rate to stimulate demand and increasing the rate when prices start picking up.

Moses Pelaelo, the Bank of Botswana (BoB) governor who also leads the MPC, said COVID-19 pandemic and consequent containment measures have severely curtailed economic activity globally and domestically as production, supply chains, project implementation and provision of goods and services are constrained.

"Similarly, consumption and spending are disrupted, hence domestic demand pressures and foreign prices remain subdued. Consequently, overall risks to the inflation outlook are skewed to the downside," Pelaelo said in a statement released after every MPC meeting, which happens every two months.

The governor said inflation may rise above current forecasts if international commodity prices increase beyond current projections and in the event of upward price pressures occasioned by supply constraints due to travel restrictions and lockdowns.

According to the central bank, inflation is forecast to revert within the 3 – 6 percent objective range in the third quarter of 2021, a significant downward revision from the April 2020 forecast in which BoB forecasted inflation to remain below the lower bound of the objective range for the remainder of the year.



Join our team

Botswana Agricultural Marketing Board (BAMB) seeks the services of a qualified, innovative, results oriented and self-driven individual for the following positions:

1. HUMAN RESOURCE RELATIONSHIP MANAGER - RE-ADVERTISED

JOB SUMMARY:

The successful candidate will provide business HR partnership solutions to business and function teams. The candidate will interpret human resources business requirements, manage implementation of HR processes, sustain, and maintain good employee relations climate within the business, support HR activities and projects in area of responsibility. The candidate will partner with staff at all levels of the business, utilizing HR domain expertise, analytical skills, change leadership, influence and effective communication to drive business results.

POSITION REQUIREMENTS

Education: Bachelor's Degree in Social Sciences, Human Resources, Organisational/Industrial Psychology or related field. Master's Degree is an added advantage.

Experience: At least 6 years post qualification experience, three (3) years must be in HR middle management position in a multi discipline environment and membership of professional HR body is added advantage.

COMPETENCIES:

- Relationship Building and Management
- Communication, Influence and Impact
- Planning and Organisation Skills

2. CUSTOMER SERVICE EXECUTIVE

JOB SUMMARY:

The successful candidate will be responsible for coordinating stock management activities, maintain accurate stock movement records and provide administrative support to the branch to ensure that it contributes towards the achievement of the Board's goals.

POSITION REQUIREMENTS

Education: Degree in Business Administration or equivalent.

Experience: At least 3 years post qualification in administration and stock management experience in a medium-large organization.

COMPETENCIES:

- Attention to details
- Procedural Awareness
- Product knowledge
- Crop grading
- Customer care skills
- Initiative
- Communication Skills
- Supervisory Skills
- Computer literacy
- Positive work ethics

3. CASHIER

JOB SUMMARY:

To account for all cash collections in accordance with laid down policies and procedures.

POSITION REQUIREMENTS

Education: Certificate in Accounting and Business Studies.

Experience: At least two years' experience as a cashier or in sales

COMPETENCIES:

- Customer care skills
- Initiative
- Attention to detail
- Cooperative
- Communication skills
- Computer literacy
- Positive work ethics
- Communication

SALARY

BAMB will offer a highly competitive remuneration package to the right candidate, commensurate with qualifications and experience.

Applications with detailed CVs and certified copies of certificates should be submitted not later than the 31st July 2020 and addressed to:

HEAD, HUMAN CAPITAL
Botswana Agricultural Marketing Board
Private Bag 0053, Gaborone
Or email to:
recruitment@bamb.co.bw

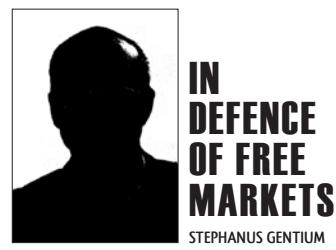
NB. We will only respond to shortlisted candidates



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Loss of freedom for Hong Kong cheered by 53 countries in Geneva



**IN
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OF FREE
MARKETS**
STEPHANUS GENTIUM

This is why the Chinese communists decided to turn their backs on the moribund communist economic system and embraced elements of Hong Kong's free enterprise system save for individual liberty. And it is no wonder therefore that China's per capita doubled from \$ 4000 to where it is now after emulating Hong Kong.

Hong Kong was established as a city which did not place any restrictions on the movement of its people. It was supposed to stay that way for 50 years when the British left in 1997. The deal that China signed with Britain guaranteed Hong Kong civil liberties including judicial and legislative independence up to 2047. And you cannot really fault the British for the deal because they thought they were dealing with a party that just like them, treated legal agreements as sacrosanct.

All that however is sadly being blown into smithereens by the repressive and overbearing Chinese regime. The Mao era of trying to be like Hong Kong has come to a screeching halt. Now China is busy making Hong Kong in its image; a place where dissent is not only discouraged but severely punished with imprisonment and country with neither an independent judiciary nor democracy.

As a result, it became a dynamic and prosperous place. Its GDP per capita in 2019 stood at \$ 40 000 or P400 000. This is 301 times bigger than the world average. China's GDP per capita on the other hand is \$ 8 000.

In Crisis, Second Best Solutions might be the best. Notwithstanding, Government Corruption is our Major Undoing



**POLITICAL
ECONOMY**
PROF BROTHERS MALEMA

The President's address on Thursday 09/07/2020 came at a time when the country was and still is at the centre of a fuel crisis probably unprecedented post-independence. I believe it was the right thing for the head of state to come and address us as the citizens of the country. This was a statement which sought to make us appreciate that the leadership was alive to the predicament we are facing and was doing something about the current fuel impasse. The President made it known to us that our private vehicles will have to be filled up at a maximum of P250-00 per vehicle. While this will augur well for those whose cars are not fuel guzzlers, it doesn't help those whose cars need more than P250-00 of fuel to go slightly above quarter tank. Others celebrated at the idea that their cars will be filled up to capacity at the stipulated maximum. Indeed policies and measures taken often benefit some more than others. However, we need to appreciate that in a time of crisis the best policy/measure/intervention will most likely be the second best in a time of non-crisis. I would hasten to state that the policy inadvertently limit our movements between areas, since someone who wants to travel from Gaborone to Francistown with a car requiring P800-00 worth of fuel to fill the gas tank, will be constrained in this case. It's a great inconvenience to such a person but the crisis by itself is more of a greater inconvenience than the fuel ration.

There is a very strong logic to this initiative or measure of fuel rationing, though more beneficial to some and not all. If we were all to strictly adhere to this interventionary measure, we would most probably have enough fuel to move locally without necessarily exhausting what would be remaining in the filling stations. This would also allow the slow inflow of fuel from the neighbouring countries to find us barely surviving at the worst. Unfortunately, it is not in the nature of humanity to be selfless and that's why capitalists driven by self-interest thrive to the detriment of all the others. It is in the minds of most of us to trot in between filling stations and fill our tanks with P250-00 at a time. Where possible we will also desire to refill our tanks to full capacity when they are at three quarter full. This gives one the assurance that you have enough cover for any eventuality. It is this kind of rampant mind-set amongst us which exacerbate the crisis, than would otherwise have been the case if we complied strictly with the fuel rationing intervention.

It reminds me of the tragedy of the commons, whereby when ten farmers are given 100 hectares to share and graze their cattle, at ten herds per farmer, each in his own little mind

In pursuit of that goal, last week China imposed a security law in escalation of its crackdown on Hong Kong liberties. So unlike how we would do here with a new law the Chinese security law wording was kept secret until it was enacted. And unlike in democratic countries including Botswana, the people of Hong Kong through their legislature, were denied their right to consent to the law. In practical terms, China simply bypassed Hong Kong's own legislature.

Also last week, the matter finally reached the hallowed hall ways of the Human Rights Council in Geneva. 53 nation's lined behind China in support of the crackdown of the liberties of Hong Kong people. Unsurprisingly some of those countries included leading lights of world democracy

and institutionalized poverty such as Cuba, North Korea, Iran, Pakistan, Somalia, Syria, Sudan, Venezuela and Zimbabwe. Other supporters included those hoping for Chinese financial largesse from China such as Lesotho and Zambia.

On the other side, the free world led by the UK stood up to defend the free enterprise principles which made Hong Kong what it is. The UK was joined by largely free and high income nations. These were Australia, Belize, Canada, Denmark, Netherlands, Japan, New Zealand, Sweden, Switzerland, Slovenia and Palau among others. So we see that lining up against the Hong Kong crackdown were countries that pursued free enterprise to achieve prosperity. And this very prosperity buys you a passport to freedom.

Botswana betting on India and USA recovery

CONTINUED FROM PG 14

The second issue is the tax levied on online purchases of diamonds going into India, which has impacted pricing, Te Haar said, adding that until India opens up, companies like ODC and their competitors are in a tricky spot in what they can sell.

The diamond industry value chain has also been affected further downstream as the largest market for polished diamonds is battling to fend off high number of Covid-19 infections. The USA has the world's highest number of Covid-19 infections at over 3 million, with the outbreak affecting consumer sentiments in the world's biggest economy.

"The USA is important as a retail destination for polished diamonds. The vast majority of diamonds are sold in the USA in the second half of

the year. If there is any squeeze on the ability to sell polished diamonds in the USA it affects the entire value chain," Te Haar said.

Signet, which is the largest diamond retailer in the USA, is closing 380 stores this year, representing 12 percent of their retail footprint. Most of retailers are projecting 20 to 40 percent of diamond sales for 2020 retail year.

"In my experience in the diamond industry, which is over a decade, I have never seen an impact which has been so severe and so sharp as this particular one," he said.

Te Haar added that the Covid-19 outbreak in late January reversed what appeared to be a recovery in the diamond industry, which has been under pressure since 2017 due to high inventory of lower value rough diamonds. The disruptions caused by the Covid-19 containment measures

have resulted in sharp declines of diamond prices, forcing diamond companies to postpone some of the planned sales.

The ODC boss said they are exploring other avenues to sell internationally. The company usually holds ten rough diamond sales in Gaborone, with annual sales hitting over P5 billion. But with Gaborone currently closed off to foreign travellers, Te Haar says they are sending their products to Antwerp to see if there is any demand there. The city in Belgium is the only diamond centre in the world that is currently open but represents a small component of ODC's customer base.

"We would rather sell than not at all. But it is not all bad news. We think the recovery is imminent. Two most important factors have to happen, India needs to open up and so does the USA," Te Haar said.



PROPERTIES FOR AUCTION

Stanbic Bank would like to notify all stakeholders of upcoming property auctions.



LOT 349 OODI

Bid starts at: P1, 400,000.00
Date of sale: 31st July 2020
Time: 14:30pm
Plot Size: 2342m²
Two bedoomed-thatched house, dining room, toilet, bathroom and one bedroomed thatched house



LOT 23571 GERALD, FRANCISTOWN

Reserve Price: P340, 000.00
Date of sale: 5th August 2020
Time: 10:30am
Plot Size: 382m²
Three bedoomed house (master bedroom ensuite)



LOT 21027 PHASE 5 (MONARCH AREA) FRANCISTOWN

Bid starts at: P600, 000.00
Date of sale: 4th August 2020
Time: 09:30am
Plot size: 540m²
A house comprised of sitting room, kitchen, bedrooms, fitted toilet and bath. Servants quarters, electrified screen wall.



LOT 2629 MAUN (SEDIE WARD)

No reserve price (Subject to Bank's confirmation)
Date of sale: 7th August 2020
Time: 10:00am
Plot Size: 1584m²
Four bedoomed house, sitting room, kitchen, dining room, toilet



LOT 24664 GABORONE WEST (EXTENSION 23)

Bid starts at: P585, 000.00
Date of sale: 28th July 2020
Time: 10:00am
Plot size: 525m²
Three bedoomed medium cost BHC House with fence.



LOT 23551 GABORONE WEST (EXTENSION 20)

Bid starts at: P810, 000.00
Date of sale: 28 July 2020
Time: 11:30am
Plot size: 450m²
Three bedoomed house, open plan kitchen, sitting room, paved yard, wall and electric fence.



LOT 6697 GABORONE BROADHURST (NEXT TO SEFALANA)

No reserve price (Subject to Bank's confirmation)
Date of sale: 31st July 2020
Time: 14:30pm
Plot: 667m²
Two bedoomed house with master ensuite, sitting room,



LOT 4563 MOCHUDI (BEHIND BEE SIX BAR OPPOSITE JAZZ BREW)

No reserve price (Subject to Bank's confirmation)
Date of sale: 25th August 2020
Time: 11:00am
Plot size: 947m²
A shop with storeroom, electrified, office, stock delivery room, and pit latrine.



LOT 2249 LOBATSE

No reserve price (Subject to Bank's confirmation)
Date of sale: 25th August 2020
Time: 11:00am
Plot size: 523m²
Two bedoomed house with sitting room, fitted kitchen, combined



LOT 1024 PORTION 96 MOKOLODI

No reserve price (Subject to Bank's confirmation)
Date of sale: 11th August 2020
Time: 10:30am
Plot size: 2550m²
Three bedoomed double storey house, sitting room, dining



LOT 68066 GABORONE NORTH

Bid starts at: P986, 000.00
Date of sale: 15th August 2020
Time: 10:30am
Plot size: 710m²
Three bedoomed house with bathroom, toilet, sitting room, kitchen and another house comprising of three bedrooms



LOT 69432 GABORONE NORTH

No reserve price (Subject to Bank's confirmation)
Date of sale: 14th August 2020
Time: 10:30am
Plot size: 930m²
Four bedoomed house with ensuite, 1x master bedroom, dining room, sitting room, kitchen, swimming pool, screen wall with electric fence.

Stanbic Bank IT CAN BE...

*Detailed terms and conditions of sale may be inspected with the Deputy Sheriff as indicated in the advertisement.

PRESS RELEASE

Icho Molebatsi appointed as partner at PwC



PwC is pleased to announce the appointment of Icho Molebatsi as a partner in its Botswana practice, with effect from 1 July 2020.

Icho has been with PwC for 17 years and rose through the ranks from new graduate to his admission to the partnership. During this time, he has worked in Botswana and South Africa, where he was seconded to work in our Mining and Utilities industry group. Before his appointment as a partner, he served a cross section of industries in the capacity of Associate Director. Icho will be responsible for overseeing and growing our Broader Assurance Services practice in Botswana.

Icho is a member of the Botswana Institute of Chartered Accountants (BICA), Association of Chartered Certified Accountants (UK) and the Institute of Internal Auditors Botswana (IIAB). He is a member of the Botswana Integrated Reporting Committee under BICA and a former board member of the IIAB.

Commenting on Icho's admission to the firm's partnership, Butler Phirie (Country Senior Partner), said "I am pleased to welcome Icho as a partner. His admission bears testimony to our firm's training and development efforts. At PwC, we create opportunities for personal growth and success, value diversity, and stand for quality and integrity. Icho represents the next generation of leaders who put people first — leaders who do the right thing for our staff, our clients, and the communities in which we live. Icho's dedication and focus on quality and client service have been exemplary. He is a true professional dedicated to contributing to solving important societal problems."



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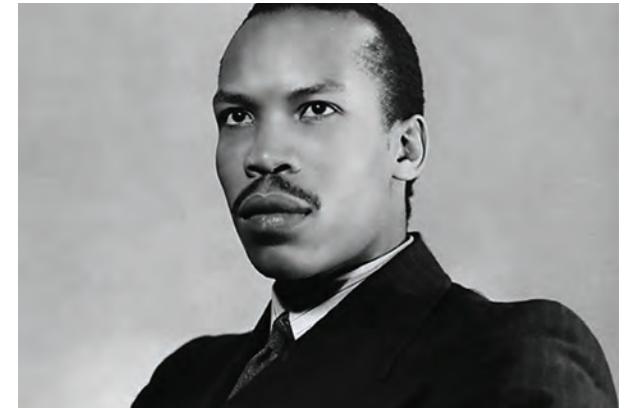
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Sir Seretse was big on history, not on culture

>> P22

July 19 - 25, 2020



How Masisi outsmarted Khama to take the reins in Botswana

This feature story by BARRY MORTON is being reproduced on President Mokgweetsi Masisi's first President Day since he won his first presidential election last year. The story captures Botswana's first difficult transfer of Presidential power

Mokgweetsi Masisi's decisive victory in the recent Botswana elections over a coalition backed by his former boss, Ian Khama, is the culmination of an astonishing 10 year political career.

Morphing from an obscure first-time MP in 2009 to a surprise vice presidential appointment in 2014, and then president in 2018, the man affectionately known as "Sisisboy" (a play on his surname) has wrested control of Botswana from the powerful Khama family. This he has achieved using tireless campaigning and "the rebirth of the Botswana Democratic Party" (BDP).

The Khama lineage has dominated Botswana's politics since the 1870s, right through the modern presidencies of Sir Seretse Khama (1966-1980) and Ian Khama (2008-2018). But they are now a discredited, spent force with Ian Khama's new party having won only 5% of the vote.

The prosecution of Khama's security chief, Isaac Kgosi, and presidential secretary, Carter Morupisi, following his assumption of power in 2018, showed that Masisi was no longer willing to tolerate the widespread corruption that flourished under his predecessor. Investigators continue to uncover allegations of shocking malfeasance.

Masisi, 58, is on a mission to restore Botswana's reputation as a beacon of

clean governance on the continent, and is pouring resources and energy into that effort.

His ascent and success have surprised everybody. Even Khama admitted

I have come to realise that I have maybe misjudged him.

The early days

My own acquaintance with Masisi goes back to childhood, when we attended the same schools and played tennis at the same club. The last time I saw him was at a now defunct laundromat in northern Gaborone, in 1994. He was his usual friendly, well-mannered self, inquisitive and loquacious. Recently returned from completing his master's degree in education at Florida State University, he was one of the co-owners of this faltering business.

Prior to going to Florida State, Masisi had worked on revamping Botswana's social studies curriculum for its secondary schools, which he continued to do in the 1990s under the sponsorship of UNICEF. Knowing that the curriculum was a disaster (having no Botswana history at all and being full of outdated colonial and Bantu Education myths), I doubted he could make meaningful changes. Whether he ever did or not, his early career in pedagogy undoubtedly led him to confront government dysfunction head on.

Gaborone in the 1970s and 80s was



President Masisi

a small, intimate place, and Masisi grew up there surrounded by the families of the Botswana bureaucratic and business elite. Despite this somewhat privileged milieu and education, nothing about him then suggested that he would go on to become such an influential national politician.

Although his father, Edison, was a senior cabinet member, Masisi did not display the charisma of a Sir Seretse Khama, the first president of independent Botswana. Neither did he show the technocratic brilliance

of a Quett Masire, who succeeded Seretse Khama as president in 1980; nor the emotional oratory of a Daniel Kvelagobe, the BDP chairman. Although Masisi today compares favourably to any of these political legends, none of this seemed evident in his youth.

He has always been easy to underestimate. Although a prefect at Gaborone's Thornhill and Maru A Pula private schools, he was not a standout personality. Strong in humanities rather than the sciences, he was a middling

student. Similar things could be said about his teenage sports career, during which he never showed the same tenacity and killer instinct on the tennis court that he has shown in politics.

The 'priest'

Masisi's greatest moment in his young life was when, at 20, he was cast as the umfundisi (priest) in a 1983 Gaborone theatrical adaptation of Alan Paton's "Cry the Beloved Country". Playing a much older man with grey hair, a shuffling gait, and a quavering voice, Masisi turned in a powerful performance that brought him a standing ovation from Paton himself and President Masire.

While his acting career ended after a role in a highly forgettable straight-to-video feature, his portrayal of the priest nevertheless presaged key themes of his future political life.

After leaving UNICEF in 2003 Masisi entered politics, but failed to win his father's old seat in Moshupa, the family home 41km northwest of Gaborone. He then endured a period of "failure, illness, unemployment, being seen as unfit for certain things, scorn and ridicule". He relied on his newly-wed wife Neo's salary for a time. He nevertheless persevered and built up a following, while also welcoming the birth of his daughter, Atsile.

Masisi managed to win the governing BDP's primary and general election, landing in parliament in 2009. Within two years he was in the cabinet.

In 2014, President Ian Khama, looking for an inexperienced and pliable deputy, appointed him vice-president.

Like the priest in Paton's story who went to Johannesburg seeking his sister and son only to find a degraded and desperate situation, so Masisi found the central government and cabinet unrecognisable from the institutions that his late father had served so well in the past. With the BDP having been taken over by a coalition of Khama lackeys and "tenderpreneurs" – business people who enrich themselves, often dubiously, through government tenders – even the party's founder, former President Masire, disowned it for lacking the values and discipline of the original.

Masisi's role as vice-president was to serve as a short-term stopgap for Ian Khama's Fredo-like brother, Tshekedi. His looming appointment as Khama's successor was highly unpopular inside and outside the party.

Ever since 1998, the BDP has transferred power from the president to the vice-president a year before the next general election. Masire did this for Mogae in 1998, who then did the same thing for Ian Khama in 2008.

Outmanoeuvring the Khamas

It is clear that former President Khama (66), like many others, underestimated his young vice-president. Masisi took advice in secret late-night sessions with former presidents Masire and Mogae as well as

other veterans who despised "the New BDP" that Khama led.

Using their counsel, he attended party meetings across the entire country to build up his own constituency. Masisi described his years as vice-president as "brutal hell", adding that

I was the most abused vice-president.

Once Khama handed power to Masisi in April 2018, "Sisisboy" moved quickly onto the attack, arresting the despised Isaac Kgosi and installing his own supporters in key positions. Once the Khama brothers defected to the opposition ahead of the 2019 election, they and their supporters were thoroughly outworked by Masisi's relentless campaign organisation.

The full story of how the underling Masisi prosecuted his silent war with Khama is one we must wait for. Ultimately, it is his energetic campaigning and his desire to bring back the forgotten ethos and policies of the early BDP – of Seretse Khama and Masire – that won over the voters despite the defection of the Khamas.

Masisi now vows to reinvigorate Botswana's stalled economy. In this regard his supporters expect him to show no less stamina than he did in the election.

*Barry Morton is a Research Fellow, African Studies, Indiana University
And he receives funding from Sir Ketumile Masire Foundation.*

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Sir Seretse was big on history, not on culture

On a holiday that celebrates the presidency and barring COVID-19, also showcases Botswana's cultural heritage, it may be worthwhile to reflect on the legacy of the founding president with respect to indigenous culture.

Of all Sir Seretse Khama's speeches, the most famous is one in which he stresses the importance of history: "We should write our own history books to prove that we had a past and that it was a past that was just as worth writing and learning about as any other. We must do this for the simple reason that a nation without a past is a lost nation and a people without a past is a people without a soul." In one other part of that speech he states that "We were taught ... to despise ourselves and our ways of life."

He made this speech in 1970 but five short years later, took umbrage at Bakgatla-ba-ga-Kgafela, under the leadership of Kgosi Linchwe II, reviving bogwera and bojale - cultural initiation schools for pubescent boys and girls respectively. The Botswana Daily News of July 24, 1975 quotes

Khama as "scoffing at the sudden upsurge of interest in the so-called tradition such as the revival of the old ritual of circumcision." Three months later in his Independence Day message, he described bogwera as a "wasteful", "long-forgotten" and "divisive ritual."

"I would not agree with anybody who might want to convince me that bogwera is a useful ritual in this day and age, for all it does is to encourage tribal identities and ethnocentrism at the expense of national identity and national unity. The very fact that this primitive ritual has, in some cases, resulted in death gives me every reason or right to discourage it as much as I can. In any case, it would be irresponsible of me to encourage the mutilation of our young boys and girls in the bush. There are more useful things to do than running around naked in the bush."

A Bangwato crown prince who never got to wear the crown, Khama was born at a time that his grandfather and born-again Christian, Khama III, had abolished the "heathen" practice of bogwera. At a time that cultural rights had not gained traction, Sir Seretse thought that national unity



First President of Botswana Sir Seretse Khama

could be attained by erasing the cultural identity of individual tribes

and having all coalesce around a single (Tswana) identity.

Four decades later, there is national identity is a serious national realisation that a mono-cultural security threat, that there are no

such things as primitive practices and that one of the reasons why elderly Bakgatla women are excellent herbalists is because of the medicinal knowledge they acquired in the bush. On becoming president in 2008, Khama's son, Ian Khama, introduced the hugely popular President's Day Arts and Culture Competitions which celebrate indigenous culture. COVID-19 containment measures have forced the government to cancel this year's rotation of the Competitions.

While Sir Seretse's views were mistaken, nothing suggests that he was motivated by malice. He was merely expressing the predominant thinking of his time. Bogwera was just one aspect of indigenous culture that the founding president wouldn't touch with a barge pole but from 1966 to date, successive governments have never been enthusiastic about indigenous cultural heritage. Leaders across a wide spectrum, most of whom have acculturated into a western identity, are only too happy to quote the nation-without-a-past-is-a-lost-nation and pay lip service to meaningful revival of indigenous culture.



Happy President's Day!

As we celebrate our nation's highest office, and the Presidents who have led us through the years, from strength to strength. Living out the dreams of those who came before us, while pursuing our own. Whether that dream is to lead the nation, feed the nation or any other. Each dream partnered with action, brings the future we aspire to, closer to being. **IT CAN BE**

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Masisi - The ultimate survivor

FROM SUNDAY STANDARD ARCHIVES

President Masisi is in his element. He is dropping nuggets of wisdom about our democracy, waxing lyrical about Botswana and running us through the country's political intrigues. We are not so much interviewing him as marveling at his beautiful mind roving from subject to subject. And then midway through a question he cuts in: "Mhh! it was in January 2017" he says as if caught in a flashbulb memory.

It is 23 months since the January 2017 Cabinet retreat where he survived an attempt on his Vice Presidency, yet all cabinet ministers who were present still recall in detail the partisan rancor that engulfed the meeting.

Weeks of machinations by some cabinet members acting with the support of substantial sections of the Botswana Democratic Party (BDP) leadership and former President Lt Gen Ian Khama to remove the vice president culminated in a huge Masisi pile on.

There were contenders to the vice presidency who rustled up support for the putsch. Then there were their sidekicks who made overtures to other Cabinet members and party leaders with elaborate indirectness, with each revealing just enough to advance the ball but not too much to be seen as agitators. Further down the food chain lurked wavering ministers who were waiting out the endgame before making up their minds. On Masisi's corner were a few Cabinet colleagues who tried to close rank around him, and at the centre of it all was President Khama, the puppet master who played bad cop good cop.

After Masisi had been hauled over the coals by his cabinet detractors, everyone waited for President Khama to deliver the coup de grace, which would have been the finishing

piece on a long-planned strategy to cautiously but decisively knock the Vice President off the perch he'd held since November 2014.

To everyone's shock, the president went back on the initial plan, appealed for peace and called on all cabinet ministers to work with Masisi.

Twenty-three months later, we are seated around a garden table that looks like a bargain from a garage sale. On the background a bleak and cheerless brick and mortar monstrosity which is an excuse for a State House overlooks a desolate garden adding up to a depressing visual sweep. We are trying to establish the extent to which the blockbuster cabinet retreat has defined the Masisi presidency and relations with his cabinet colleagues.

He insists that January 2017 is now all water under the bridge. "I don't think much (of it) to be honest, because I thought they were being sincere and I thanked them for it. People were speaking their minds openly base on what they believed."

Masisi says he does not have a problem with anyone who thinks he is not equal to the job. "It's for me to prove that I am and it's for them to think that I am not."

Not all cabinet members who were present however remember January 2017 as erudite and nonchalantly as the president. Some are adamant that events of that day retain a powerful hold on the BDP collective consciousness. It is one of those moments that caused a shift in the tectonic plates of BDP politics. That is where the battle lines in the campaign to oust Masisi were first drawn. They point out that the ongoing BDP intrigue to subvert Masisi's presidency does not only hark back to January 2017 but the fault lines bear a curious similarity; the January 2017 agent provocateurs make up the leadership of the New Jerusalem faction which is baying for



President Masisi

the president's blood.

There is a sense that while Masisi's detractors saw January 2017 as an opportunity to push Masisi overboard, the former president tried to use it as a slight of hand to corner Masisi into doing his bidding. The former president's bad cop good cop strategy was a manipulative technique which psychologists call the "fear-then-relief" technique." The technique preys on a person's emotions. Here, the manipulator causes someone a great deal of stress or anxiety and then abruptly relieves that stress. After this sudden mood swing, the person is disarmed, less likely to make mindful or rational decisions, and more likely to respond positively to various suggestions. BDP watchers argue that the former President used January 2017 to show Masisi how vulnerable he was, then projected himself as his savior and tried to corner Masisi into a deal to appoint Tshekedi Khama vice president.

President Masisi is however adamant that he never made a deal with former President Ian Khama to appoint Tshekedi vice president. "Let me make it categorically clear, there was never a deal. I don't owe anybody anything. I never promised anybody anything. Clearly there were signs that this may be preferred over the other, but I took that as normal and everybody is free to express their wish as some in the media fraternity also tried to persuade me to select one person or another as vice president. I saw that as normal. The former president in our discussions, which were very many, in various forms in our engagements we talked about the transition and he made his feelings known as any human being would. I never was cornered, forced into or had anything extracted from me by way of a promise.

So I was very comfortable in assuming office. This transition issues as I have now come

to talk about essentially manifested themselves post that and when one reflects, you can see elements of their beginnings prior to. I will stop thus far."

Three weeks after the January 2017 cabinet retreat, President Masisi escaped a fatal plane crash when a Botswana Defence Force (BDF) passenger aircraft Casa 212, which was scheduled to transport him to Tsabong the next day crashed en route from Thebeaphatswa Air base in Molepolole to Sir Seretse Khama airport killing all three passengers on board. Conspiracy theories about a secret plot to assassinate the vice president started flying fast and thick. Adding more grit to the conspiracy theories mill were further reports that

emerged revealing how Masisi had had to be airlifted to Morningside hospital in South Africa after suffering a deadly bout of food poisoning. No sooner had the countdown to the presidential succession started than the air was thick with fear and loathing. Conspiracy theories on the plot to assassinate Masisi had spread from the fringes to the political mainstream with local headline writers having a field day on how the vice president feared for his life and had stepped up his security.

The President however seems to be flying light and does not carry any baggage from his vice-presidency. Just like with January 2017, president Masisi is quite blasé about the alleged attempts on his life. "Botswana is rich with imagination. I have no evidence of any plans to down the aeroplane, me in it or even the pilots unfortunately who perished in it. As for the poisoning there have been all sorts of theories put across on wherever I may have gotten whatever I ingested. I have no evidence of the source of that and it did not make me a different president. Whatever happened I just thought, look I'm going to start afresh. I'm a survivor. I survived all manner of attempts to have me removed. There were many in Cabinet who were convinced that I was not fit for duty, but I was very clear on one thing. I will never bully myself or bully anybody into clinging onto this job as vice president. I offered my resignation on four different occasions, one of them right in this house, for various reasons but they were declined. There were many who were asking that I quit, but for reasons that were

not honest, and I was able to dispel them, but I ended by saying I am willing and ready to resign if my president wants me to go because I had promised him three things; to always respect him the government and the party; never to embarrass him; and to always submit to his desires in terms of my placement or deployment because that is keeping in consonance with the Constitution of the party and the government... so I offered that if I am the problem I will go immediately and will find the vocabulary to explain it, but I don't want to have untruths said about me as the basis for my going. That I will fight with all might."

With only six months before the Botswana Democratic Party Special congress, it is January 2017 all over again with all of the bickering, back stabbing and belligerence. The ultimate survivor faces the biggest political fight of his life ahead of the party congress where his detractors are rallying to topple him.

No one can predict how the leadership challenge would pan out. The history of the BDP infighting tells us that whatever happens next, it will be messy but the party would not risk rocking the boat too violently a few months before what promises to be the most difficult general election in the history of Botswana. For now Masisi is confident that he is in charge. "I feel competently and confidently in charge. There may be arguments about the extent to which and these are nuances of stability more than my ability to make things happen."




**The Board, Management and Staff of
Special Economic Zones Authority (SEZA) Botswana wish
His Excellency, The President Dr. Mokgweetsi E.K. Masisi
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Vacancy

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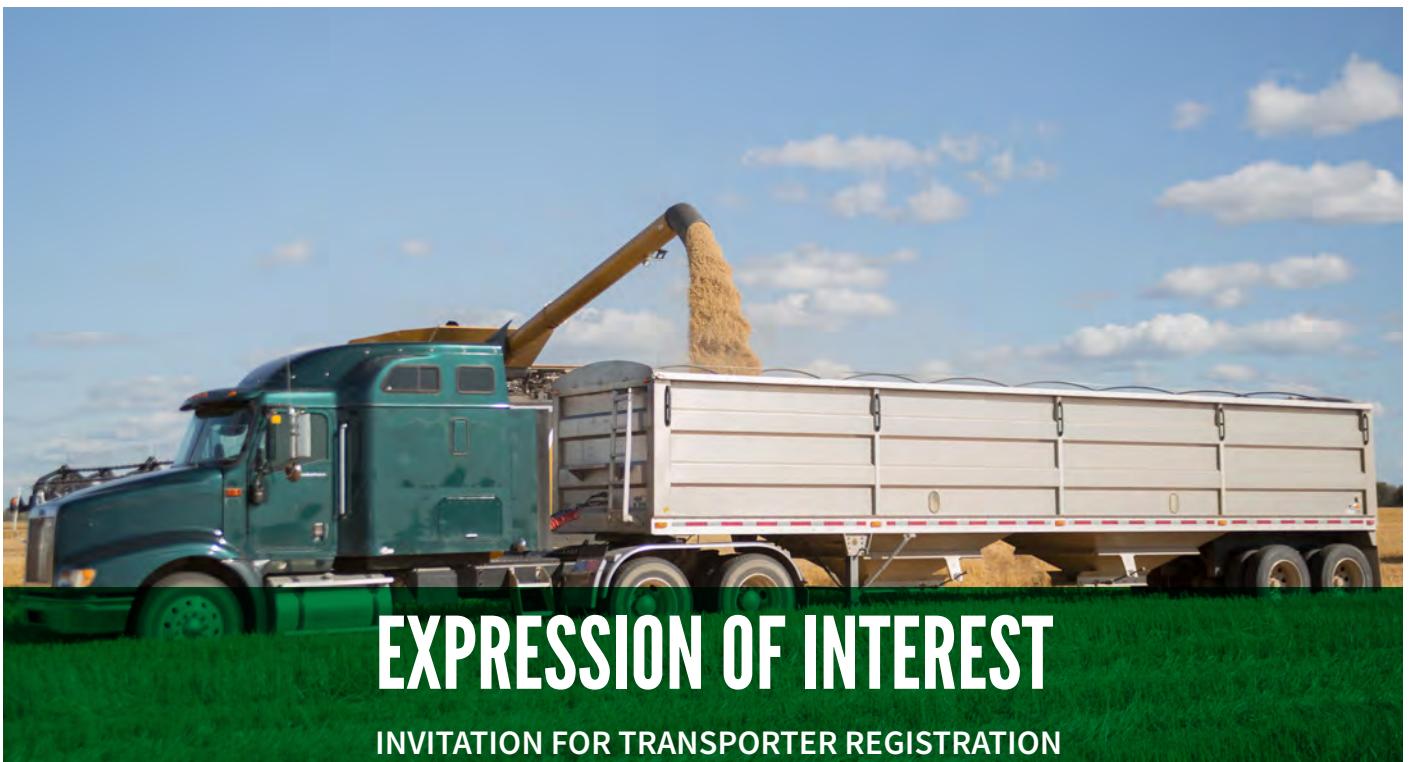
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Note:

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For further enquiry and clarification contact: Shirley Mmegwa 3922826/3951341




Thabang Mekgwa is your typical Motswana "hustler." The Gaborone tricenarian juggles a nine-to-five job at Capital Bank in Gaborone with a chicken breeding business.

Botswana is caught up in a wave of glorified moonlighting which has become a full-on culture complete with its values, mores and language. In popular slang, you do not hold down two jobs, you have your regular job and your "side hustle" or "second gig".

In hustlesee, the second gig

is "an optimistic endeavour, something that makes life easier, a way to grease one's most ambitious life track."

Thabang Mekgwa explained the hustles code to the *Sunday Standard Lifestyle*: "to make your side hustle a success, you need to put in the time. It can be

Botswana hustle culture is a ticking time bomb

In Botswana "hustling" has become a full-on culture complete with its values, mores and language - Writes MPH0 KUHLMANN

tempting to borrow a little work time, especially if things are slow which is what most people do. What many people fail to realize

is that if/when you reach a point where you feel like you're only doing it for the money, you're more likely to get burned out."

For many millennials, work itself has become not just a means, but an end. Hustling means constant working. It means devoting as much of your day as possible working. There is no time out or time in at work. Work is done in the office, outside the office, at home, at coffee shops — anywhere. When you talk of hustling, the more you work, the more celebrated you are.

Never mind that you miss meals, sleep, and other important events. In hustle culture, taking a break is for the weak. Working on and on may seem like an attractive thing at first glance, but in actual fact, not much is accomplished.

Thabang Mekgwa warned that, "Instead of taking a

step back and recognizing that something is wrong, they push themselves to work that much harder to land the next client or finish a big project. All that pressure and stress has a cumulative effect that can do a lot of damage. The sense of detachment from the business and loss of enjoyment can spread from your side hustle to activities with family and friends. You need rest, exercise, nutrition, and time with family and friends. Otherwise, you're likely to get sick and tired of both your jobs—and maybe just sick and tired, period."

Botswana's growing hustle culture may actually be a ticking time bomb. Kgomo Jongman

achieving more than those around you.

It's easy for hustling to go from being a push in the right direction to straight into a burnout. Between trying to balance school (for some), having a social life and looking for jobs/internships, it can seem like there aren't enough hours in the day. With the world's weight on our shoulders, millennials find it easy to prioritize everything except themselves, so they keep grinding it out, feeding into the hustle mentality. We live in a society that glamorizes being busy all the time, when what we should really be thinking about is how to be productive.

Working overtime is consuming. If you are working a full-time job and hustling on the side, time management becomes a serious issue. This effect can spill over into your personal life. Many aspiring business owners burn out before they even get started."

Working overly long hours results in poorer mental health and increased anxiety. Hustle culture promotes accomplishing as many tasks as possible, with little regard to workmanship.

This culture creates a toxic environment that pressures people to be working constantly. People want the reputation and to be viewed as being able to handle everything. The number one killer in the hustle culture is the comparison factor—comparing yourself to others as there is a constant need to be the best by doing more and



UNIVERSITY OF BOTSWANA INVITATION TO TENDER

The University of Botswana invites companies with reputable experience to submit bids for the following:

1. TENDER FOR PROVISION OF CLEANING SERVICES AT VARIOUS UNIVERSITY OF BOTSWANA BUILDING BLOCKS, TENDER UBT 2020/2021-05
2. TENDER FOR MAINTENANCE AND SERVICING OF TRANSFORMERS, SWITCH GEARS AND MASTERPACKS AT UNIVERSITY OF BOTSWANA MAIN CAMPUS, CCE FRANCISTOWN AND OKAVANGO RESEARCH CENTRE (ORI) MAUN TENDER, UBT 2020/2021-06
3. TENDER FOR MAINTENANCE AND SERVICING OF AIR CONDITIONING AND REFRIGERATION PLANTS AND UNITS AT UNIVERSITY OF BOTSWANA MAIN CAMPUS, TENDER UBT 2020/2021-07
4. EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI) FOR TRANSACTION ADVISORY SERVICES FOR THE MANAGEMENT AND OPERATION OF UNIVERSITY OF BOTSWANA HOTEL AND CONFERENCE CENTRE UBT/EOI 2020/2021-01
5. EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI) FOR SALE OF SCRAP MATERIAL AT UNIVERSITY OF BOTSWANA CAMPUSES IN GABORONE, FRANCISTOWN AND MAIN, UBT/EOI 2020/2021-02

The following tenders will have site visit, at the stipulated date and time:

No	Tender Number	Site Visit Date	Mandatory	Time	Venue
1	UBT 2020/2021 - 05	4 th August 2020	Yes	0900hrs	Block 129 Committee Room
2	UBT 2020/2021 - 06	10 th August 2020	Yes	0900hrs	Block 129 Committee Room
3	UBT 2020/2021 - 07	12 th August 2020	Yes	0900hrs	Block 129 Committee Room
4	UBT/EOI 2020/2021-01	7 th August 2020	Yes	0900hrs	Block 129 Committee Room

Full details will be provided in the Tender/EOI Documents are obtainable from the Office of the Deputy Director, Business Services, Block 129, (Inside Maintenance Yard) Office No.1 between the hours of 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. and 2:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. from Thursday 23rd July 2020.

The University of Botswana reserves the right to award the whole tender to one bidder or split the tender amongst various bidders. The University of Botswana is not bound to accept the lowest tender or to assign any reasons for acceptance or rejection of any tender.

Tender documents may be obtained against payment of a non-refundable documentation fee of P224.00 each (VAT inclusive), payable at Cashiers Office, Administration Block. **NOTE: The (EOI) Document for Item 5 is obtainable free. After payment at the Cash Office, interested parties are to proceed to the Business Services Building, Block 129 Office 001 inside University Maintenance Yard to obtain the relevant Document.**

Sealed Tender clearly marked with the tender title and number of the respective tender and must be addressed and hand delivered to: **The Secretary, Tender Committee, University of Botswana, GABORONE, BOTSWANA, at Block 129 (in the Maintenance Yard).**

Tel: (00 267) 355-2086, Fax: (00 267) 390 1523

Bid submission deadline is 26th August 2020 at 1200 hrs.



FOREIGN SERVICE NATIONALS RETIREMENT FUND (AMERICAN EMBASSY)

Call for Deferred Members of the Fund

The following Deferred Members of the Fund are requested to contact the Fund Administrator (Aon Botswana) with regard to their pension benefit:

NAME	Gender	Date of Exit
Edward A Mosala	Male	30-Nov-2004
Valencia Msibi	Female	31-Mar-2006
Peace Moakofi	Female	31-Mar-2008
Calistus Mokobi	Male	31-May-2010
Peter Mokgware	Male	31-Jul-2010
McFreddie N Akatoka	Male	31-Aug-2008
Mildred Masoeu	Female	30-Jun-2011
Edward Amankhwah	Male	31-Dec-2012
Alison Collins	Female	31-Aug-2013
Regina Mosalagae	Female	31-Jul-2013
Annah Thari	Female	28-Feb-2014
Ivy Wamasole	Female	30-Sep-2013
Daniel Mokhwe	Male	31-Jul-2015
Lesego Manthe	Male	31-Aug-2014
Joyce Maneto	Female	31-Dec-2016
Gladys Thipe	Female	31-Dec-1956
Percy Raphoto	Male	31-Jul-1957
Garebatshidi Basimane	Male	31-Jan-2018
Lesedi Phalagae	Male	30-Jun-2019

For further enquiries, please call or email Mothusi Mbole (74852690 or mothusi.mbole@aon.co.bw) or Keemenao Mmoloki (72389686 or Keemenao.mmoloki@aon.co.bw) at 3617300

Epstein, Maxwell case in US has eerie echo for Botswana

Some Gaborone modelling agencies are actually high-class prostitution rings

As details of how a now dead tycoon and his dual-role mistress unfold in the United States, clear parallels can be discerned with what is happening in Botswana, especially in Gaborone.

The tycoon is Jeffrey Epstein whom a woman called Ghislaine

Maxwell procured girls as young as 14 to sexually abuse. While the pair are supposed to have had a romantic relationship in the past, some have disputed that, stating that Maxwell could not have been Epstein's girlfriend "because she was not 14 years old." Maxwell lured the girls to Epstein's lair with promises

of modelling contracts. Not only did Epstein sexually abuse these children, he also trafficked them to his rich and powerful friends. Among men that Epstein allegedly sex-trafficked children to in the past are US president Donald Trump and Prince Andrew, Queen Elizabeth's son who represented Britain at the

BOT50 Independence anniversary celebrations in 2016. Following his arrest and detention, Epstein either committed suicide in his prison cell or was silenced forever by a hit man. A fortnight ago, the Federal Bureau of Investigation smoked out Maxwell from a mansion that she had been holed up in.

What Epstein and Maxwell did has been alleged in Botswana and not only has *Sunday Standard* reported about it, it has also passed on credible second-hand information to the police.

To be absolutely clear from the get-go, there are modelling agencies whose business operations are

above board. However, there are also those that are actually fronts for escort agencies – a fancy term for high-class prostitution conduits. In one instance, a Gaborone woman recounted an ordeal that followed her response to a casting call for models. Alarm bells went off when the owner of the modelling agency, a notorious well-connected man, walked into the reception area and arrogantly announced to a group of young women waiting to be interviewed: "Everyone here must be prepared to wear a thong!"

When the source's turn to be interviewed came, she says that the man asked her if she would be comfortable undressing to her underwear. When she told him that she wasn't comfortable, he asked her if she would at least lift her blouse to show her tummy. Given how desperate she was for a job, she acquiesced. As her tummy remained exposed at the man's urging, one of his hands disappeared under the desk as he interviewed her in a wavering voice. One of the questions was whether she would be available that

evening to dine with a visiting British businessman that evening at a plush hotel. Thankfully, she connected the dots and declined the offer.

In another instance, *Sunday Standard* learnt of a local sex trafficking operation that involved a bank teller at a major bank who used his front-line position to recruit beautiful young women (who came as customers) for a modelling agency that passed them to a filthy rich businessman who has been naturalised as a citizen. The latter, who reportedly paid P30 000 for

10 girls, hosted orgies that featured other rich and powerful men. The modelling agency would deploy the girls to what the latter were told were house parties that would give them an opportunity to polish their social etiquette with the high class.

This was pre-COVID-19 and as details of what Epstein and Maxwell did tumble out, what becomes apparent is that Botswana imported a toxic product from abroad. With COVID-19 ravaging the economy, these prostitution rings will certainly be going into overdrive.



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Thank You

The Mello, Sekhukhuni and Makobole Families wish to express sincere gratitude to all who gave them support during the bereavement of their beloved one - Harry Noko Mello

From The Mello Family.

IN THE HIGH COURT FOR THE REPUBLIC OF BOTSWANA HELD AT GABORONE
CASE NO. CVHGB - 001160 - 17

In the matter between:-

PLAINTIFF

RDC PROPERTIES LIMITED
and

1ST DEFENDANT

DESKTOP HOLDINGS (PTY) LTD
GOBONA TOBEDZA
2ND DEFENDANT

SUBSTITUTED SERVICE

BE PLEASED TO TAKE NOTICE that pursuant to a Judgment granted by the above Honourable Court, the following Immovable property will be sold by public auction by **DEPUTY SHERIFF NONOFO MABINA** to the highest bidder as follows:-
PROPERTY TO BE SOLD: Cell phone covers x 182, Self-adhesive rolls x 1, Cartridges x 147, Rulers x 89, Files bag x 12, Slide binders x 1 box, Maths set x 83, Card Holder x 37, Note pad x 26, Calculators x 90, Box of Pen x 3, Box of Crayons x 2, Box of Pencils x 1, Box of Pencils (leads) x 1, Box of Ball pens x 1, Pencil sharpener x 13, Pen stand x 36, Paper shredder x 3, Giant puncture x 4, Medium foldback clips x 1 box, Small puncture x 1 box, Box of Pen x 1, Ball pens, pencil grip, push pins & paper clips x 1 box, English dictionary x 17, scissors x 10, Display x 1, Poster frame x 3, White board x 4, Fight rocket x 1, Notebook series card x 9, Black nylon x 2, Fan x 1, Manual VGA switch 20, A-11 filter x 1, Pen refill x 1 full container, USB cables x 1 full box, school bags x 2, Spiral binders x 18 boxes, Power paint x 15, Message pads x 14, Wire binds x 13 boxes, Books x 109, Pin board x 6, Pen & wipe white board x 9, Clipboard x 19, White board cleaner x 16, Stapler & puncture set x 3, White board eraser x 13, White board marker x 6, Calculator ruler x 5, A4 hardcover, A5 scribbler x 8, filers x 3, Clip boards x 2 boxes, Files (blue) x 68, small files x 11, Suspension files x 14, Mother board, Big brown file x 2, Mother board set x 2, Laptop batteries x 25, RMI pad Holder x 4, IDE cable x 10, Desktop adapter x 9, Metal file tray x 4, Bag x 10, Bag x 9, Wallets/money belt x 6, Pen peripherals x 2, Professional card x 7, printer service kit x 1, Ginger puncture x 2, Fiber optic device 2, Envelope boxes x 122, Plastic file boxes x 2, 1 big plastic of files, English dictionary x 18, Paper colourful board x 3, Calculators x 4, Wire bind x 25, Staples x 11, Punctures x 5, Plastic filers x 2, Radeon x 1, Projects board x 20, Express card x 2, Can card x 4, PCI adapter x 1, Laminating pouches x 3 boxes, Rotary trimmer x 1, Small pin boards x 6, Till rolls, File booklet x 8, Money clip packs x 4, Power punch x 3, Laminating pouches x 10, White board duster x 68, Box of laminating machine x 1, HP hard drive x 2, Box of duplicate books, Bundles of files, Box of binding slides and spirals, Tip chat, Cable x 10, Cables covers x 2, Fuser unit x 3, Letter tray, Multi switcher x 1, Staples x 2 boxes Erasers x 2 boxes, Paper roll x 2 (big), HP toner x 1, Formatter board x 2, Visitors Chair x 10, Executive desk x 1 x 4, Office desk x 1, Executive chairs x 2, Samsung TV plasma x 1, DSTV x 1, Fridge x 1, Book shelf x 4, Computer sets x 1 x 4, Bar fridge x 1, Wooden cabinet x 1, Wooden book shelves 1 x 2, Printer x 2.
TERMS OF SALE: Only cash or bank guaranteed cheques will be accepted.
DATED AT GABORONE THIS 13TH DAY OF JULY 2020.

DEPUTY SHERIFF NONOFO MABINA c/o RAMALEPA ATTORNEYS
Plaintiff's Attorneys
Plot 3171, Morupule Drive
Along Nelson Mandela Drive
Extension 11,
P.O. Box 70567
GABORONE (UB)

RA RAMALEPA
ATTORNEYS



**GUEST
COLUMN**
KITSO KEMOENG

Close to two decades ago one of the best writers ever to grace our print media space, Modirwa Kekwaletswe - then writing for Mmegi - proposed his Best XI of Botswana football, in response to which few days down the line I countered with my own.

I continue to listen to and on occasions be part of debates on who really is the best to have emerged from Botswana football pitches and, true to the saying that "a supporters' team never loses because it never plays", no side ever meaningfully wins the debate. Such debates never go without small pinches of club affiliation, generational influence, personal affection to individual players for one reason or another and such considerations. Impartiality and reason are normally just an insignificant component.

Football by its nature is more than anything else anchored on passion. Business considerations are normally secondary, especially that they cannot prosper independent of passion. Ordinarily, those who ultimately make money from football would have initially come into it for passion, as does those who come in for health and other psychosocial purposes.

But that is a story for another day.

On the surface, football is all about results which, more often than not, are objective. But there is the subjective part of it which seems to drive many of us. What others see as the best is not necessarily what everybody else sees as the best. Yes, in terms of results or placings, it is possible to arrive at a common choice in terms of who the best is.

The score decides the winner. But even then, we still do have some others who would argue that the winner is not necessarily the best. After losing a match, football coaches would more often than not argue that the best team lost. Some championship teams do also get criticised for not being the best although they win championships. What with subjective matters like 'The Best XI', where opinions take precedence!

I would have wished to once again take a challenge to propose my Best XI of Botswana football pitches over the years, but very mindful of the subjectivity of the topic and other factors like generational disparities, I am hesitant – never mind the fact that I have had a go at it close to two decades ago.

My almost five decades of football would yield something that later generations would most likely differ with; not to mention generations before me who would dismiss me of a youngster who has missed 'real football' of yester decades. I must also admit that whatever proposals I make, they would be to the disadvantage to footballers who only emerged in the past three years when I had self-exiled myself from Botswana football pitches particularly the elite league. But, if the media is anything to go by, I have not really missed anything.

I have seen many players good in one way or another; some exceptionally good as individuals, some strictly team players and some both. In any case, the choice of any good team depends on a variety of factors including the type of opposition on the day, the ability of players to fit the pattern of the day and the fitness of the players, among others. It thus makes it difficult for one just to come out with one solid XI as they do in the dressing room and in platforms like 'Team of the Week'. But I can propose a pool.

Any of my teams will have any of Benjamin 'Steering' Segale (GU), Matsediso 'Saxton' Kowa (Chiefs), Mooketsi 'China' Mading (Nico), Modri 'Carlos' Marumo (BDF) and Kabelo Dambe (Rollers) as goalkeepers. At least each of these have been the country's number one at one stage or another. Of course we have had other greats like the quartet of Newman Motsepe, Mochou 'City' Manyelela, Thabo Motang and Mwapele Masule of Rollers and

Ramagwinya 'Jomo' Bogatsu (Gunners), Boniface 'Wonder' Tlape (GU), Willie 'Paymaster' Dennison (Notwane), the Rollers duo of Clement 'Muller' Mothelesi and Molalu 'Coolie' Molalu, as well as Dirang Moloi (Chiefs). You could also mention Horatio 'Chippa' Mahloane, the Rollers duo of Boyo 'Oris' Radipotsane and Sola 'Ace' Mokgadi, the Tafic duo of Nobody 'Jomo' Mosweu and Mmoloki 'BB' Sechele, as well as Mmoloki 'Zara' Ramanoko (BDF XI) and lately Mothusi 'Min' Cooper (Rollers).

'Scara' and 'Gino' are a luxury to have for their versatility. Ramagwinya was something else. If you needed a trickster in the belly of the pitch, here was one. 'Scara' and Dirang are also options in this regard. 'Wonder', 'Paymaster' are also a luxury to have, especially in terms of supporting the attack. 'Muller' was exceptional.

At right back I will have any of the GU duo of Terrence Mophuting and David 'Defaulter' Ntebelwa, as well as Tshepo 'Talk-Talk' Motlhakabankwe (Chiefs/Rollers). Look at the GU of the early to mid-80s for the justification of Mophuting and Ntebelwa. Also look at the 20th anniversary match where Botswana beat Malawi 2-0 (possibly our first ever victory against Malawi), where the technical team had the luxury of one at left back and the other at right back. 'Talk-Talk' has convinced many a national coach – pre, during, and post AFCON 2012; deadly in attack from that right wing-back position.

Terrence and 'Defaulter' would also meaningfully compete for the left back position with the Gunners duo of Joshua 'Jojo' Mogotsi, Naphthali 'Scara' Kebalepile, Kgololo 'Ace' Phukula (Tafic) and Mosimanegape 'Twizer' Ramohibidu (BMC). Of the lot, I do not recall 'Ace' in any national team, but his technique with that left always made it a pleasure for me to watch. While Terrence and 'Defaulter' would be best as stoppers, 'Ace', 'Jojo', 'Scara' and 'Twizer' would make your typical left wing-back with searching crosses into the box.

My central defence will have Bushy 'States' Hirschfeldt (Gunners) as sweeper, partnered by any of the GU duo of Reuben 'Rhoo' Mgadla and Lele Sebele, any of the Rollers duo of Paul 'Special' Makobo and Mogogi 'Gino' Gabonamong, Ambrose 'Walker' Rathedi (Notwane), Odirile 'OD' Sengwaketse (Gunners) and Mompatti 'Apache' Thuma (BDF XI). Kgosi Michael 'Spokes' Gaborone (Black Peril), Ogotpote 'OG' Godirwang (BDF XI) and Lepoletha 'City' Senne (GU) are also considerations.

I do not recall 'Special' in any national team, but his start-up moves during Ezekiel Mpofu's Rollers made him an exciting central defender during his club's transition from the thabela ko pele football that the team was synonymous with to carpet football. 'States' was simply my kind of sweeper, with the ability to start off moves from the back complemented by his height, speed and hunger; occasionally sneaking forward to nod in one when the chips are down.

Mgadla's speed, strength and leadership made him indispensable for the real 'Money Machine' of the 70s and the then Botswana XI. 'Lele' might have been slow and too clean a defender, but his reading of the game, command and distribution from the back made him a good central defender. He has also been part of the national teams from the late 60s into the early 70s. As for 'Walker', I suggest he played football at the wrong time.

He is one player who, in my view, would have been and export during his prime. 'OD' was essential when the team needed a tractor to grade everything that comes its way, with occasional raids into the opposition box for corner kicks and crosses with a high conversion rate.

Need I justify 'Apache' and 'Gino'? Honestly?

My central midfield will be crowded with any two of the following depending on their compatibilities: 'Scara', 'Gino',

I do not remember 'Coolie' in any national team. But to me, in him, Rollers had a stabiliser who could even step in at central defence. Here was a Rollers unsung hero who for some unknown reason was constantly ignored for Botswana XI.

Right wing I would enlist any of Bankane 'City' Mokgare (GU), Simon 'Sam' Makgalemele (Notwane), the Rollers duo of Morwalela 'Pro' Seema and Sekhana 'Nando' Koko, as well as Peter 'Mpharanyane' Mabile (Gunners), Philip 'Jones' Mfakose (BMC) and Pontsho 'Piro' Moloi (Chiefs).

'City', Mabile, 'Jones' and 'Nando' were your traditional wingers with great speed and trickery. Mabile could also do the left wing. 'Sam' was also tricky. 'Pro' was a speedster and very forceful, with a hard shot. Both 'Sam' and 'Pro' could also do top. 'Piro' was not necessarily

your speedster, but his bravery and intelligence on the wing created opportunities for the team up front.

Top. By all means Schularo 'Horse' Pelekekae (BDF XI) and any of the GU trio of Goli 'Chev' Impalampala' Tibone, Patrick 'Zee' Zibochwa and Diphetogo 'Dipsy' Selokane, as well as Christopher 'Pro' Ollyn (Tafic), Boyce 'Sponono' Moffat (Notwane), 'Sam' and 'Pro' Morwalela.

By me, 'Horse' was the most complete striker the country ever had, barring generations before me. A speedster, very strong with his head as with his foot. His appetite for goals was unequalled. 'Chev Impalampala' also had speed and a good eye for goal.

'Pro' Ollyn was luxury in attack, capable of causing anything for his teammates in the box. If we kept

'Junior Kaiser' and Shuffle were your typical left wingers, with the former also an option in central midfield. Moyana and Kopi's beautiful crosses gives them a mention; both with an option to be left wing-backs.

As I have confessed, it is difficult

to pick out a Best XI, especially across generations. It does not mean that I have no appreciation for many other good players who grazed our football fields throughout the generations; many of whom would make starting line ups in many a coach's cards.

I suggest that someone should

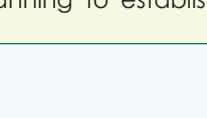
make it possible for matches to be electronically recorded for archives, even if they are not broadcast life. It would make debates on the best the most interesting as against the current fantasy about the past that possibly confuses later generations.

But, whichever way, beauty shall

always be in the eyes of the beholder.

Adios.

Football Beauty is in the Eye of the Beholder



Institute Of Development Management



www.idmbls.com



IDM partners with SOS Children's Village



IDM Country Director, Onalenna Seitio - Kogkwe



SOS National Coordinator, Mr Motshwari Kitso

The Institute of Development Management (IDM) and SOS have partnered to strengthen their programs and services in early childhood development. Based on the strength and capabilities of SOS, IDM will, through SOS pre-schools and village facilities in Tlokwe, Serowe and Francistown, provide training resources for Early Childhood Education.

The collaboration marks yet another milestone by IDM to remain part of the social fabric of Botswana in matters pertaining to basic education.

This relationship, will witness the reopening of SOS early childhood centers /preschools ran in collaboration with IDM starting with Francistown in early August this year. The preschools are targeted at benefiting children in and around the localities in which they exist, says Mildred Bafalese, a coordinator for SOS/IDM early childhood centers.

In addition to the education of children, the centers will be set up to offer a learning opportunity for other entities or individuals planning to establish, or already running early

childhood education. The centers will benefit from IDM highly skilled consultants in early childhood education and other disciplines to provide quality early childhood education and services.

These centers will also offer opportunity for IDM and other students training to become early childhood teachers and practitioners an opportunity to experience the real world of work Talking about IDM students undertaking early childhood studies, Ms Balefete said

"We want to ensure that every student undertaking this course acquires the relevant practical experience and skills needed to step into the employment world at the end of their studies. They are also exposed to acquiring skills to run their own establishments should they choose to open pre-schools after completion of their studies," she revealed.

For her part, IDM Botswana Country Director, Dr Onalenna Seitio-Kogkwe, said the Institute's Early Childhood program is a strategic program geared towards addressing the national needs and aspirations of a skilled workforce as expressed in various policy documents including the National Development Plan 11, Human

Resource Development Strategy and Education Sector Strategic Plan.

According to Dr Kogkwe, the education sector is one of the key sectors where IDM is making a notable contribution in building a skilled workforce for the country.

She said: "We established an Early Childhood program in 2016 in line with the current needs and national priorities. In order to strength and support this program, particularly in the area of development of practical skills, we found it compelling to explore collaborative partnerships with institutions such as SOS who have the necessary resources and experience in early childhood education".

The National Director of SOS Children's Villages in Botswana, Mr Motshwari Kitso, said the partnership comes at the right time when SOS is rolling out its community re-integration program.

"We welcome this collaboration as timely and relevant. We are particularly pleased by the fact that IDM's interest in SOS is not profit-driven, but aims at advancing the national agenda of creating Botswana a society that is knowledgeable with relevant quality education. We want to be part of that legacy."

The BPL – A Powerful yet Destructive Force

■ BPL plays its hand and presses for autonomy ahead of elections

BOTLAHE KOOHUPILE

As a voting bloc, the Botswana Premier League (BPL) board is one of the most powerful allies for any aspiring Botswana Football Association (BFA) National Executive Committee (NEC) member.

While it holds just a quarter of all the votes, with a mere 16 votes from the total of 60 in the BFA elections, the BPL's influence is seemingly huge.

According to those in the know, the power of the BPL board to influence the elections is however not confined to just the 16 direct votes it holds.

Because they have to be affiliated to their regional football associations, the BPL teams seem to also have a certain degree of influence at regions as well.

Please the BPL and your battle to the BFA NEC position is half fought, fight against them, you kiss your ambitions goodbye.

"They hold a significant number of votes and they also have a far-reaching influence. One cannot afford to fight them and lose their vote," one aspiring candidate hints.

There is however one catch, pleasing the BPL is a task easier said than done. The BPL board is more of a bunch of suicide bombers, ready to blow themselves up in order to

destroy the enemy.

A case in point is the 2016 BFA elections. Ahead of the 2016 elections, the then BFA NEC led by Tebogo Sebego had numerous acrimonious encounters with the BPL.

As the BPL wreaked havoc and destabilised its own house, the Sebego regime tried to intervene and suspended the entire BPL board.

With the wars between the BFA and the BPL board escalating, the Sebego led BFA NEC would later try to appease them but it was a little too late.

"At the time, we had held several meetings with Sebego warning him not to suspend us but he still did. We then punished him," one chairman hints.

The chairman went on to point out that when acting in unison like they did in 2019, the BPL board is a very influential structure.

"When we voted in Letshwiti at the time, he did not even have the same football administration credentials as Sebego. We just voted him in because we wanted to oust Sebego," the chairman says.

While their battles with the former BFA president were the first time the BPL board had been so openly political, some believe it was not the first time it had flexed its muscles to dethrone a sitting president.

"From what I have learnt from



The BPL is allegedly using its voting power to bargain for autonomy as the BFA election race heats up

BFA president," he says.

The same sentiment is shared by another football analyst Molathogi Mangole, who says 'as the brand of national league football,' the premier league is influential.

Mangole says as such, it takes a very strong character to effectively deal with the premier league, which he describes as 'self-destructive.'

Given their now common use of their voting power to get their way, the BPL is allegedly using it once again to bargain for autonomy.

Their bargaining has seen the hastening of the processes, a move which is seemingly agreeable for many within football who say the time is now for the BPL to be independent.

"They are big crybabies and the BFA should not be shouldering the responsibility. They have to get their autonomy so that the BFA can now focus on its core mandate of developing football," an aspiring candidate opines.

It is the same sentiments shared by Mangole. He says the BPL should now fend for itself.

"It is surprising that the BPL is still being taken care of and being accommodated by the BFA while the lower structures are out there fending for themselves. They should not be dependent on the BFA as it is right now," Mangole concludes.

being close to the BFA elections, whoever the BPL board aligns to is more likely to win elections," football commentator Monty Gagomokgwa opines.

He says for the past two consecutive elections, the BPL had been very active and has to a large extent influenced who occupies the biggest sit in Botswana football.

"It happened when they supported Sebego to take over from David Fanie and then repeated itself when they dethroned Sebego to install the incumbent Maclean Letshwiti," he says.

In fact, Gagomokwa says when the wars between the BFA and BPL board escalated ahead of the 2016 BFA elections, some BPL team

chairmen went to lobby Letshwiti to stand.

Whereas they had to a large extent not been keen to be active in regions where they affiliate, Gagomokgwa says 2016 was different as the BPL teams actively campaigned for Letshwiti in their regional associations.

From the events leading to the 2016 BFA elections, he says one realises the BPL is capable of collapsing everything to make its point.

"When they do that, deliberately destroying the league, people outside will say football is dead and point an accusing finger at the incumbent

There's a "Zwift app" cycle around Covid-19

ANITA RANNOBA

The COVID-19 pandemic is here, and it may be here to stay. As the world prepares to live with the virus, the sporting world may not be far behind.

Like any other event, sport is continuously trying to adapt to the new normal and some codes like cycling seem to be adapting much faster. Cycling is already riding on the saddle of technological advancement and many apps are mushrooming cycling tries to stay active and relevant during these times of uncertainty.

One such app is the phenomenal virtual reality training program Zwift, Co-founded by Jon Mayfield.

The app is helping transform once monotonous 'socially distant' indoor cycle rides into a world of competition and social interaction.

So much success has come off the app and one of the world best races, the 'Tour de France' has adopted it.

With all sporting competitions cancelled, 'Tour de France' organizers



Botswana cycling is not ready to adopt technological advances in virtual cycling

one the privilege to compete with any cyclist, even the elite across the world.

With the current situation of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, Lebopo says technology may totally change the sporting landscape.

"It is indeed true that the world is slowly taking the direction of including technology everywhere even into sport. The world is changing and we need to embrace it and be a little creative to still uphold the value of sport," said Lebopo.

The young cycling sensation says he is still intrigued by the ability of the Zwift application, which he says can be used by anyone, including amateur cyclists.

Like the actual cycling races, Lebopo says Zwift races are divided into categories from A to E, with category A being for elite cyclists.

With regards to himself, Lebopo says he races in category B which is for the semi elite cyclists.

"The big difference between Zwift races and the actual races is that

are using the Zwift virtual reality platform to conduct the world-famous competition.

With all these latest developments taking place, how close is Botswana sport and in particular cycling to adapt to the new normal?

According to Botswana Cycling Association (BCA) spokesperson Game Mompe, it is still a little early for the country to adopt such technologies for competitions. "For now, as a nation I do not think we really need the device unless one individually purchases it for training," she says.

The BCA spokesperson says this is mainly as the association's competitions do not always attract a lot of people.

"If we are to host a competition, we will surely attract less than 75 people, more so that we hardly have spectators," Mompe says.

Mompe however says the BCA may still need around 10 of the virtual reality deceives for continental competitions should the African Cycling Confederation (CAC)

adopt it to be used for a specific tournament.

On how the application has been received by individual cyclists here in Botswana, she says at least 50% of their athletes do not have the device as it is expensive and it requires highspeed internet to connect.

"So far, we have not yet had a competition which required Zwift, but we do have a few athletes who train with them even during lockdown it was one device to use that gave one

the feeling of being outdoors," she highlights.

One such cyclist who has had the privilege to use Zwift is none other than emerging talent Lebopo Mompe.

Commenting on the use of ZWIFT, Lebopo says even though the device captures one in game mode and competitions seem like virtual game, it however is an interesting platform.

He says the application gives

with Zwift there are no challenges such as the wind to slow you down, rocks or trees to block your view. You are competing from the comfort of your own home," he says.

"Even so, it takes you into reality and gives one the feeling of being in the area they selected. For example, when you climb a mountain your legs feel the pressure and gives you the feeling of being there," he explains.

Lebopo says while the bicycle stationed in one's living room with aircon on and water readily available, cycling for about two to three hours nonstop is not a joke.

While there is no doubt that the use of virtual reality may be the future for sport, many are however of the view that Botswana is not ready to fully embrace it.

They opine that for a country like Botswana, competing in prestigious events through virtual platforms may lead to disappointments as the country tends to have load shedding and internet problems.

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