

"BUTTERFLY" YET TO BE DECLARED A TERRORIST

Despite heavy court charges, the State is yet to gather enough evidence to declare the former agent of the Directorate of Intelligence and Security Services (DISS), Wilheminah Maswabi, code-named Butterfly, a terrorist alongside her alleged accomplices in financing terrorism and report her to the United Nations as per the protocol.

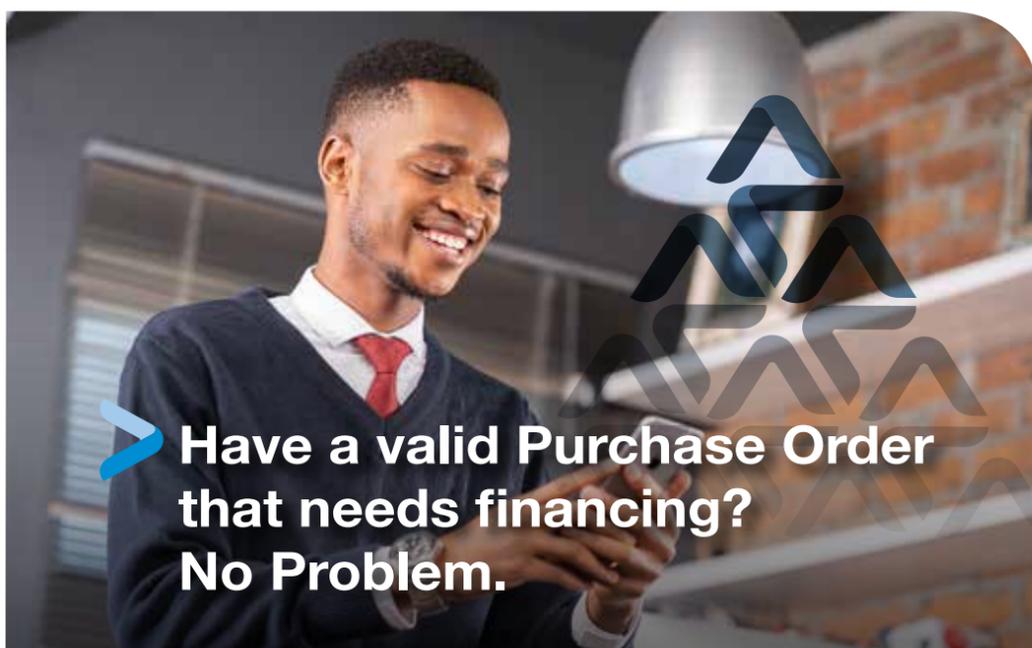
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Opposition Says First State Of Emergency Failed

Prefer a buttressed Public Health Act to another SoE

SESUPO RANTSIMAKO

The opposition has rounded on President Mokgweetsi Masisi for securing an extension to the State of Emergency (SoE) in a government bid to tackle rising COVID 19 infections. They argued that the first positive case of COVID-19 in Botswana was recorded on 1st March and that infections went up considerably afterwards.

“From 2nd April to 21st July, Botswana registered a total number of 113 cases and only one death,” President Masisi said in Parliament when he sought extension of the state of emergency by another six months on Monday this week. “However, between 23rd July and 27th September 2020, we registered 1968 positive cases and 16 deaths cumulatively.”

Masisi added that Botswana had so far tested 197 899 people out of which 194 188 tested negative while 3711 people tested positive. “These figures include Batswana, residents and foreign nationals,” the President noted. “It is regrettable that we have of late experienced an exponential rise in local transmissions after lifting of movement restrictions on 22nd May, mainly in Greater Gaborone. Particularly disturbing is that from July to August, the number of local transmission cases surpassed the number of imported ones.”

Masisi added that Botswana had so far tested 197 899 people out of which 194 188 tested negative while 3711 people tested positive.

The response of the Leader of the Opposition, Dumelang Saleshando, to these figures was that the government was failing to contain COVID-19. “Some of the reasons (for the first SoE) were that he wanted to use the period to prepare health facilities for the worst scenario but the state of the health sector has not improved,” Saleshando said. “The little that the President said has been achieved did not need six months of an SOE but rather the Public Health Act.”

He added that the failure was due to a leadership vacuum. “The problem is not the infection rate but lack of thinking in the Botswana Democratic Party government,” he said.

Similarly, the Leader of the Minority Party, Wynter Mmolotsi, said the first SoE had failed to address its intended purpose but had instead resulted in many challenges to the economy. Mmolotsi noted that there was no local transmission when the first SoE was declared in April. “As we speak, the country is battling overwhelming local transmission,” he said. “The SOE has not helped us in any way.”

“Butterfly” Yet To Be Declared A Terrorist

- Such a declaration is a requirement under international law
- The matter is still under investigation
- Charges played a serious role in the country’s grey listing by EU

GAZETTE REPORTER

The State is yet to gather enough evidence to declare agent of the Directorate of Intelligence and Security Services (DISS), Wilheminah Maswabi, code-named Butterfly, a terrorist alongside her alleged accomplices in financing terrorism.

“Butterfly” currently faces charges of financing terrorism and money laundering. As things stand, the state is yet to discuss the matter with the United Nations (UN) or any other international body responsible for dealing with issues of terrorism. *The Botswana Gazette* understands that this is because the matter still remains under investigation between DISS, DCEC, Botswana Police Service and the newly established Counter Terrorism Analysis and Fusion Agency.

“The matter is before the courts and we have been open that we are still investigating,” said Modiri Keoagile, the Director at the Counter Terrorism Analysis and Fusion Agency.

He added that the investigations were complex as they involve making requests for mutual legal assistance to other countries in Africa and beyond.

Former president Ian Khama, former spy chief Issac Kgosi and South African businesswoman Bridgette Motsepe have been implicated in her alleged crimes and are suing the State in what they call false allegations.

The Gazette understands that the National Counter Terrorism Committee, which is chaired by the Permanent Secretary to the President (PSP) Elias Magosi, is also awaiting feedback and instructions from the investigating bodies before it can advise the Minister for Presidential Affairs, Governance and Public Administration, Kabo Morwaeng, on the matter.

According to the Counter Terrorism Act, the Minister in the Presidency is responsible for declaring any person or entity a terrorist following the advice of the Terrorism Committee. The PSP was unavailable for comment yesterday afternoon (Tuesday).

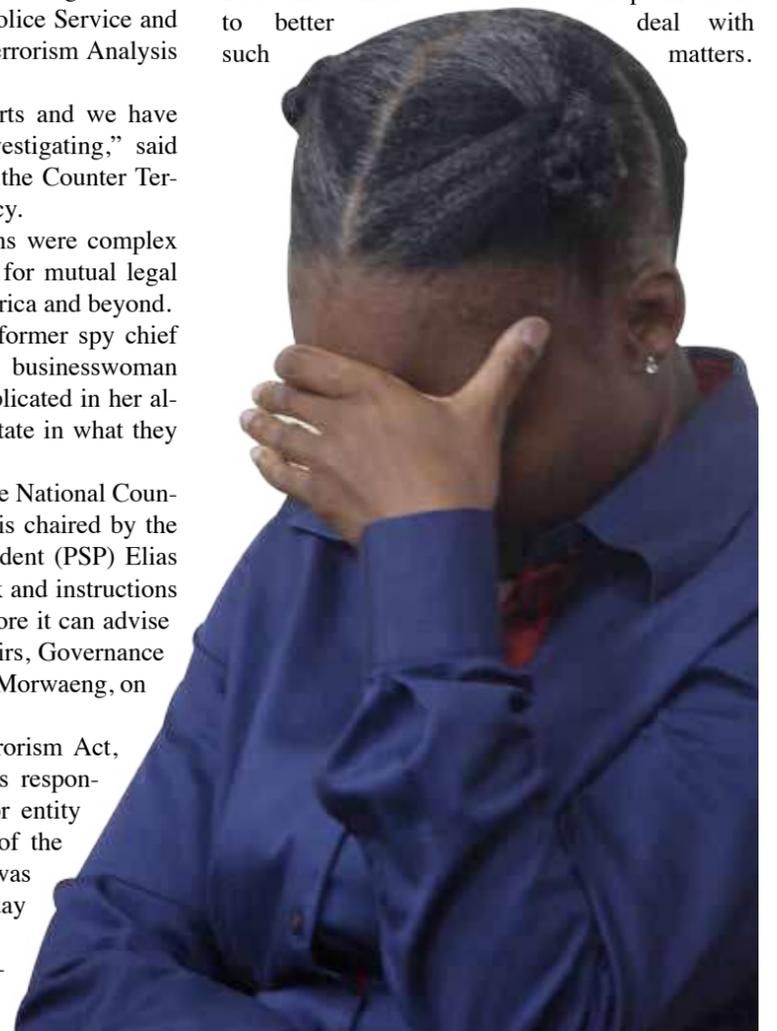
The UN Security Council Resolution 1373 requires member states like Botswana powers to

declare any persons or entities suspected of terrorism activity as terrorists.

Meanwhile, the “Butterfly” case is said to have exposed the weakness of Botswana’s systems and measures for dealing with money laundering and terrorism financing. This is believed to have played a serious role in the country’s grey listing by the European Union earlier this year.

As a member of the UN, Botswana is required to report or register suspicious terrorism activities immediately.

According to sources close to these developments, the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) also recently recommended several new guidelines that Botswana must adopt in order to better deal with such matters.



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- Exquisite finishes • Great location • Tarred road access
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- Fitted kitchen • Common bathroom • Call 74867020

Auction: Wednesday 21st October 2020 at 10:00am

Tati Siding, New Stands - Guide Price P490,000

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Auction: Wednesday 21st October 2020 at 12:00pm

Maun, Boronyane Ward - Guide Price P110,000

- Plot size 1,291m² • Bult-Up area Ca. 68m²
- Easily accessible just off the tarred road • Good location
- 2 spacious bedrooms • Lounge • Kitchen
- Very large plot • Serviced • Call 74867020

Auction: Friday 23rd October 2020 at 10:00am



Khama, Kgosi, Butterfly Demand P85 Million In Damages

- The three also want the state to drop the charges they face
- Demand public apology from the state

LETLHOGILE MPUANG

Former president Ian Khama, former spy chief Issac Kgosi and agent of the Directorate of Intelligence and Security Service (DISS) Wilhelmina Maswabi are demanding a total of P85 million from the state in damages for defamation.

Represented by Ramalepa Attorneys, Thabiso Tafila Attorneys, Mack Bahuma Attorneys and Ndadi Lawfirm, each of the three has issued a statutory notice for defamatory allegations levelled by the state in an ongoing matter commonly dubbed “the Butterfly case”.

Prominent South African businesswoman, Bridgette Motsepe, is also implicated in the matter.

The statutory notices of the three were served last week on the Attorney General, the Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP), the Director General of the Directorate on Corruption and Economic Crimes (DCEC), the Director General of DISS and the Commissioner of Police.

“Our client wants you to publicly apologise for and retract the allegations contained in the Hubona affidavit,” his lawyers wrote. ”

Khama, Kgosi and Maswabi’s demands say they were defamed in an affidavit deposed in court late last year by lead investigator of the DCEC, Jako Hubona, to the effect that all three and Motsepe had a role in alleged looting of P100 billion from the Bank of Botswana. Maswabi has already been charged with financing terrorism and money laundering.

Khama’s Demands

In Khama’s statutory notice, the former president states that Hubona’s affidavit implicates him in money laundering and indirectly financing terrorism. “Our client wants you to publicly apologise for and retract the allegations contained in the Hubona affidavit,” his lawyers wrote. “To provide him with

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Happy Independence Day Botswana

First National Bank



The leader of opposition Dumelang Saeshando commenting on the proposal by president of Botswana Dr. Mokgweetsi Masisi to extend the State of emergency for another six months, during the special session of the parliament at the Boipuso Hall in Gaborone on 28 September 2020. (Pic:MONIRUL BHUIYAN/PRESS PHOTO)

Khato Civils 'Wins' Another Lucrative WUC Tender Under SOE

TEFO PHEAGE

- Tender initially awarded to China Jiangsu
- China Jiangsu awarded P112 m in successful litigation against WUC

A n P800 million water treatment plant tender previously awarded to two Chinese companies has now been awarded to Khato Civils.

On 14 September 2020, Water Utilities Corporation (WUC) informed Khato Civils, South Zambesi Engineering Services, Ceenex, CMS Water Engineering CC, and NTR Technology Holdings Joint Venture that the tender committee had awarded them the contract at a meeting held on 3 September 2020.

The contract, Tender No: WUC 015 (2018), is for the design, supply, installation, construction and commissioning of Mmamashia Water Treatment Plant. "This work is awarded subject to confirmation of the quality service and specifications as per your tender proposal and that the price above is VAT inclusive and shall not change but remain fixed and firm until the completion of the assignment," reads the WUC letter to Khato Civils, Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Mongezi Mnyani.

Khato Civils accepts offer

Mnyani has confirmed this and that his company has accepted the offer. "We have accepted the tender and details thereof are being finalised with Water Utilities Corporation," he said. "Our key focus as Khato Civils is to execute the Masama-Mmamashia Water Project using our world-class engineering knowledge and state-of-the-art modern equipment."

"Our key focus as Khato Civils is to execute the Masama-Mmamashia Water Project using our world-class engineering knowledge and state-of-the-art modern equipment."

This tender has a winding history in that it was awarded to China Jiangsu International Botswana and Unik Construction Engineering in 2019. However, the Directorate of Intelligence and Security Service (DISS) got involved when it informed WUC that China Jiangsu was a security threat. In a breach of contract suit that followed, WUC was ordered by the courts to pay the two companies P112 million.

"The contract that the parties had entered into arising from the invitation to tender that was published by Water Utilities Corporation bearing reference, essentially, Design, Supply, Treatment Plant-Tender No. WUC 015 (2018) is hereby terminated," Justice Tebogo Tau said in his judgment.

"The Respondent (Water Utilities Corporation) agrees to pay the sum of P112 000 000.00 into the Trust Account of Tengo Rubadiri Attorneys on or before 1st June 2020, in full and final settlement of all contentions between the parties relating to the Invitation to Tender that was published by the respondent bearing the reference, essentially, Design, Supply, Treatment Plant - Tender No. WUC 015 (2018)."

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Chief Executive Officer



THE JOB

The Botswana National Sport Commission is looking for their next Chief Executive Officer to lead and steer the organization to higher highs. The incumbent will report directly to the board of directors and be responsible to provide overall stewardship through effective strategy implementation and delivery, driving organizational and culture change, and to lead and manage the development and growth of sport in Botswana.

To apply for this position, you should hold at least a degree in Sports Science, Business, Management, or related area preferably at an advance level (A Master's Degree will be an added advantage); and at least 10 years work experience of which 5 years should have been at senior management level in a sport related business activity and detailed knowledge and understanding of sport administration.

Botswana National Sport Commission offers a competitive salary and range of benefits commensurate with an organization of its size.

Application deadline: **07th October 2020.**

All applications with a detailed and up to date curriculum vitae, certified copies of certificates and names of three contactable referees should be submitted through the Staffwise website - www.staffwise.co.bw/vacancies - Chief Executive Officer - Botswana National Sport Commission. For any queries call Staffwise on +267 391 3996.



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Notice of Annual General Meeting



Notice is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting (AGM) of shareholders of the Company will be held at Avani Hotel, Gaborone, at 13h00 on Wednesday, 4 November 2020, for the purpose of transacting and considering the following business and if deemed fit, passing, with or without modification, the following resolutions:

Agenda

Ordinary business

- To read the notice of AGM (notice) and ascertain the presence of a quorum required in terms of the Constitution.
- Ordinary resolution 1:**
RESOLVED THAT, the Audited Annual Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2020 together with directors' and auditors' reports thereon be adopted.
- Ordinary resolution 2:**
RESOLVED THAT dividends of 7 Thebe per ordinary share declared on 6 February 2020 and 8 Thebe per ordinary share declared on 20 August 2020 for the year ended 30 June 2020 be approved as recommended by the directors and the distribution be ratified thereof.

4. Ordinary resolutions 3 and 4:

RESOLVED THAT the following directors of the Company who retire by rotation in terms of the Company's Constitution and being eligible and available, offer themselves for re-election be re-elected by way of separate resolutions:

Mr M Davias (Non-Executive Director)

Mr E Letebele (Independent Non-Executive Director)

It is recorded that **Mr N Mokgethi** retires as an Independent Non-Executive Director of the Company in terms of the Constitution and does not offer himself for re-election and will retire as a director of the Company at the AGM.

Biographical information of the directors to be re-elected is set out on page 67 of the Integrated Report. The Board recommends the re-election of these directors.

5. Ordinary resolution 5:

RESOLVED THAT the annual fees of the Non-Executive Directors remain unchanged from the previous year and be approved for 2021 as below:

	Proposed 2021 fee (BWP)
First National Bank of Botswana Limited Board	
Member	112 840
Chairperson	225 680
Audit Committee	
Member	64 480
Chairperson	128 960
Risk, Capital Management and Compliance Committee	
Member	64 480
Chairperson	128 960
Remuneration Committee	
Member	18 138
Chairperson	27 203
Directors' Affairs and Governance Committee	
Member	36 276
Chairperson	54 414
Board Credit Risk Committee	
Member	225 680
Chairperson	257 920
Policies and Frameworks Committee	
Member	51 584
Chairperson	51 584
Strategy	
	28 210
Training	
	48 360

Additional information in respect of Ordinary Resolution 5

- Executive Directors and Non-Executive Directors employed by the FirstRand Group do not receive fees as members of the Board.
- Fees are based on an hourly rate, currently P4030 capped at seven (7) hours for Board meetings, and are reviewed annually in line with industry benchmarks.
- The Chairpersons of the Board, the Audit Committee and Risk, Capital Management and Compliance Committee are paid at a 200% premium of the hourly rate. The Chairpersons of the Directors' Affairs and Governance Committee and the Remuneration Committee are paid at a premium of 150% of the Board hourly rate. The Chairperson of the Board Credit Risk Committee does not earn a premium.
- The members of the Audit Committee and Risk, Capital Management and Compliance Committee are paid 80% of the Board hourly rate.
- The members of the Directors' Affairs and Governance Committee, the Remuneration Committee and the Board Credit Risk Committee are paid 70% of the Board hourly rate.
- Additional Board or Committee meetings called are paid at the hourly rates agreed for the Board or Committee for preparation and attendance.
- For work of an ad hoc nature, or attendance on an advisory basis where no fee is specifically approved, members are paid at the hourly rate for the Board or Committee preparation and attendance.
- A contingent retainer of 50% of Board and Committee member fees are paid if a director is unable to attend a Board or Committee meeting through valid cause.

6. Ordinary resolution 6:

RESOLVED THAT, as recommended by the Audit Committee of the Company, Deloitte & Touche be re-appointed as auditors of the Company and authorise the directors to determine their remuneration thereof.

Additional information in respect of Ordinary Resolution 6

The remuneration of the Company's auditors is determined by the Audit Committee as per the Audit Committee Charter.

- To transact any other business which maybe transacted at an AGM.

Voting and proxies

All holders of ordinary shares entitled to vote will be entitled to attend and vote at the AGM.

A holder of shares who is present in person, or by authorised representative or by proxy shall have one vote on a show of hands and have one vote for every ordinary share held on a poll.

Each shareholder entitled to attend and vote at the AGM is entitled to appoint one or more proxies (none of whom need be a shareholder of the Company) to attend, speak and subject to the Constitution of the Company vote in his/her/its stead.

The Integrated Report and the form of proxy which sets out the relevant instructions for its completion can be found on the FNB Botswana website www.fnbbotswana.co.bw

To be effective, a duly completed form of proxy must be received at the Transfer Secretaries, PwC, Plot 50371, Fairgrounds Office Park, and PO Box 294, Gaborone by not later than 12h00 on Monday, 2 November 2020.

By order of the Board

Gaone Setlhake
Company Secretary

Ram, Farouk's sue PWC for P450m

The two single largest shareholders of retail giant Choppies Enterprises Limited, Ramachandran Ottapathu and Farouk Ismail, are demanding a staggering P450 million from PriceWaterhouseCoopers (PWC) Botswana and its Managing Partner Rudi Binedell for what they say was intentionally stalling release of financial results which resulted in Choppies losing over 75 percent of its market value, **KEABETSWE NEWEL** reports.

According to a writ of summons seen by *the Botswana Gazette*, on 19 March 2018, the date on which PWC made its preliminary presentation to the Choppies Audit Committee, Binedell attended a dinner with Rob Neil Matthews and Sydney Muller, who were members of the Choppies Audit Committee as well as Board of Directors of the retail chain store. The court document reveals that during this dinner, Binedell discussed with Matthews and Muller various issues relating to Choppies and PWC's audit of Choppies for the 2018 financial year.

It is said that Muller requested that Binedell join Choppies as Group Finance Director and thereby solicited his employment by Choppies.

Subsequent to this meeting, it is revealed that Muller and/or Matthews repeated this request to Binedell and to other members of Choppies management on several occasions. In particular, the request was said to have been repeated on several occasions orally and in writing. It is said Matthews had suggested that the Choppies Board consider Binedell being given 50 million shares in Choppies under the employee share option scheme, as an incentive.

Documents allege that Ottapathu was requested by Muller and/or Matthews to formalise an offer to Binedell in writing. Muller and/or Matthews are said to have made these requests and thereby solicited the employment of Binedell when they ought to have known that this was in con-



travention of the Audit Agreement 2018 and that it would compromise Binedell's independence and the independence of PWC throughout the audit.

As a result of these facts, documents allege that PWC bore an obligation, contractually and in terms of their ethical obligations, immediately to take action in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (ISA) and International Ethics Standards Board for Accountants (IESBA) Code of Ethics and report such threats to those charged with governance, and then to either resign as auditors of Choppies or, and at the very least, to remove Binedell from the audit team.

However, according to the documents,

In the summons, Ram and Farouk state that as a direct result of Binedell's report to the Choppies Board, it was proposed that Ottapathu be suspended as CEO, that a forensic audit be conducted on Choppies and that the trading of shares on stock exchanges be suspended.

PWC and Binedell failed to do so. "Despite these facts, PWC proceeded to conduct the audit of Choppies and its subsidiaries, with the audit team as it was then constituted, led by Binedell," the papers state.

At a board meeting on or about 17 September 2018, it is said that Binedell advised the Board of Directors of Choppies that he would not be able to finalise the audit in Botswana, South Africa and Zimbabwe due to a number of audit issues, some of which affect all regions and some of which were specific to certain regions only. The summons state that Binedell identified a number of issues of concern which he stated implicated Ottapathu's management of Choppies.

Those issues were specifically of related party transactions, particularly Fours Cash & Carry, PPAs (Purchase Price Allocations) on assets acquired, alleged suspicious cash flows between Choppies and Devland Cash & Carry, issues with Zimbabwe Intelligence Agency (ZIA) and concerns of money laundering accusations in Zimbabwe, as well as latest

provisional set of consolidated financials provided on the morning of 17 September 2018 showing a material deviation from both the previous year's results and the budgeted figures for the 2018 financial year and reportable irregularities identified by the auditors during the audit process. Further, it is said Binedell stated that he was concerned about the lack of transparency by the management team relating to certain matters. "He stated that he was under a lot of pressure from people within his firm (specifically the PWC Africa Chief of Operations) on why he was still associated with Choppies given the 'Zimbabwe press issues' and that he could not afford to jeopardise the reputation of PWC. He urged the Choppies board to obtain legal advice in both South Africa and Botswana on various legal issues arising from various transactions and advice on how the board should proceed, as well as on the board's potential exposure," the papers read.

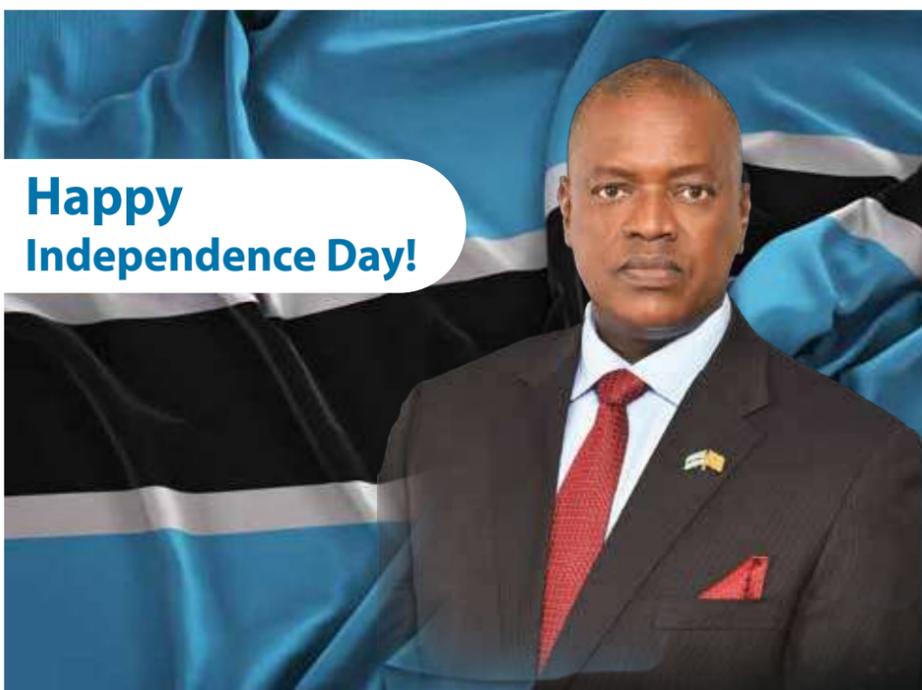
It is stated that Binedell was concerned that PWC felt exposed and that until such a time that the issues were resolved or explained, PWC would not sign off on the financials. He is also said to have noted that consequently, Choppies would not meet the deadline for publishing audited financial results by 30 September 2018, and also doubted that the audit would be completed by 31 October 2018.

In the summons, Ram and Farouk state that as a direct result of Binedell's report to the Choppies Board, it was proposed that Ottapathu be suspended as CEO, that a forensic audit be conducted on Choppies and that the trading of shares on stock exchanges be suspended.

The court papers detail that Ottapathu responded fully to the issues identified by Binedell on several occasions. It is also detailed that despite Ottapathu addressing the concerns by providing all available information, explanations and documentation, Binedell and PWC remained intransigent and insisted that Choppies procure services of a forensic investigator.

Consequently, Ottapathu was suspended and a forensic investigator engaged. The shares were also suspended from trading. It is further said that PWC proceeded to make more demands, disregarding the urgency of the audit despite Choppies management making all attempts to address Binedell's concerns. Court papers allege that as a result of Binedell's actions, Ottapathu lost an P254 174 469 as value of the shares on the BSE and a further R416 680 on the JSE. At the same time, Ismail lost P197 325 716 on the BSE. The duo is therefore demanding damages of P450 million.

Binedell would not be drawn to comment on the matter since it is before Court.



Happy Independence Day!

The Board, Management and Staff of the Non-Bank Financial Institutions Regulatory Authority (NBFIIRA) wish His Excellency the President of the Republic of Botswana, Dr. M.E.K Masi, its stakeholders and the Nation a Happy 54th Independence Anniversary.

The Authority advises the public to adhere to precautionary measures during the holiday to prevent the spread COVID-19.



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Khama, Kgosi, Butterfly Demand P85 Million In Damages

From Page 3

an undertaking that it will desist from making, publishing or causing to be published any further defamatory allegations.”

The notice avers that the statements made by Hubona are entirely baseless and false.

“Ambassador Bridgette Motsepe-Radebe wrote to the relevant banks/financial institutions with a South African presence for confirmation that the Blue Flies and Fire Flies bank accounts, in which the Hubona affidavit alleges some of the money is held, do not exist and, accordingly that she cannot be a co-signatory thereto,” the lawyers wrote. “Allan Gray, First National Bank, Absa Bank, Standard Bank, Bidvest Bank, Investec and CitiBank confirmed that the alleged bank accounts do not exist and/or the ambassador is not a signatory thereto”.

Consequently, Khama wants P25 million in compensation for his reputational damage.

Kgosi's Demands

Botswana's former top spy Kgosi says some of the defamatory statements made by Hubona are that on 9 June 2008 the Bank of Botswana created three special units under instructions from Khama and himself with opening balances running into millions of pula.

According to Kgosi, Hubona's affidavit said money was then transferred into various bank accounts around the world and that on 15 February 2019, USD48 million was transferred from Makhota Bank in Indonesia to a Standard Bank account in South Africa under the names Kgethem (Pty) Ltd.

“The allegation in the said charge sheet and Hubona's affidavit are defamatory of the client as they falsely implicate him in theft of large sums of money from Bank of Botswana, money laundering and terrorism,” Kgosi's notice reads.

“The statements in the Hubona affidavit are wrongful and unlawful and were made with the nefarious intent to damage

and injure his good name and reputation. These accusations and allegations are not only false but were deliberately fabricated as demonstrated.”

Kgosi wants the state to pay him P30 million for reputational damage.

Maswabi's Demands

Serving intelligence officer Maswabi is also seeking relief. “Hubona alleges that client is a co-signatory with other people, including Bridgette Motsepe-Radebe, in various bank accounts held in several banks under the entities known as Blue Flies (Pty) Ltd (Blue Flies) and FireFlies (Pty) Ltd (FireFlies) into which large amounts of money allegedly stolen from Bank of Botswana were transferred,” her notice reads. “Hubona lists 17 such bank accounts, 14 of which are with South African banks and the other three abroad, all held in either Blue Flies or Fire Flies.”

“Hubona alleges that the client is a signatory to 17 bank accounts of Blue Flies and Fire Flies with a total amount of USD 10 164 167 790.70. Further that she has nine personal global accounts with a total of USD390 000 000.00.”

According to Maswabi, the allegations against her are not only false and fabricated but are also defamatory of her. She avers that a report which was recently released by Omnia Strategy LLP and Alaco Limited titled “The Monarch Report - Flies and Lies,” provides enough backing to her claims that Hubona's affidavit and statements were indeed false and fabricated.

She wants P30 million from the state for reputational damage.

The state has been given 30 days to respond to these statutory notices, failure of which the three will take the matter to court.



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se monate

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Botswana Life

Boko, UDC convenors at odds

While disdain sums up treatment of the two men credited with bringing Botswana's bickering opposition parties into the credible force that is the UDC, Mpotokwane and Maphanyane say they are at peace with the cold turkey. StaffWriter **TEFO PHEAGE** reports

Convenors of the Umbrella for Democratic Change (UDC), Lebang Mpotokwane and Emang Maphanyane, have been excluded from meetings of the National Executive Com-

mittee (NEC) of the opposition coalition over what they believe was their insistence on discussing a report detailing how the Botswana Congress Party (BCP) should join the UDC.



The two men - both of whom are members of the National Executive Committee of the UDC - say they have not been invited to NEC meetings since 2017 and are consequently in the dark about the state of affairs at Botswana's official opposition party.

They blame UDC president Duma Boko and other members of the coalition's executive for this and other ills that bedevil what is essentially the fruit of their brow.

However, at the UDC, spokesman Moeti Mohwasa says in terms of the new constitution, the two men are no longer members of the NEC. In an interview, Mpotokwane said things changed when the UDC wanted to hurriedly bring the BCP into the coalition.

Both he and his fellow convenor, Maphanyane, say they were never told that they were no longer members of the NEC. "We insisted, as we do today, that there is a report - called the Dibeela Report - that should pave the way to that," Mpotokwane said.

"We later realised the comrades were not eager to discuss the report and subsequently that they had brought the BCP in without our knowledge. Since then we have never been invited to NEC meetings in spite of us being its members constitutionally."

Mpotokwane said they have never protested that they may no longer be needed and that they are quite at peace with this turn of events. Even so, they will always be available should the UDC need them again, he added. "We will be glad to finish what we started," Mpotokwane said.

At the UDC, spokesman Mohwasa does not deny the allegations but says the issues being raised by the convenors are stale and were adequately dealt with in the past. "They have been overtaken by events," Mohwasa said. "Kindly familiarise yourself with the decisions of the NEC in terms of the transition clause which led to admission of the BCP into the UDC. Further, make reference to the case brought by the BMD against the UDC."

Mpotokwane considers the issues as being more administrative than legal. A UDC conference held at Boipuso Hall over two years ago accepted participation of the BCP and composition of its NEC, Mohwasa said. He differs with Mpotokwane over the Dibeela Report and dismisses it.

"There is no Dibeela Report that we are aware of," he said. "Maybe you wanted to talk about the report that was to be worked on by Comrades Kesitegile Gobotswang and Mpho Dibeela as mandated by the 'old' UDC and the BCP. I am not aware of its submission."

Regarding Mpotokwane's assertion that he and his fellow convenor, Maphanyane, are still members of the NEC, Mohwasa responded: "There is no provision for inclusion of convenors in the constitution."

The president of the BCP, Dumelang Saleshando, who is also the vice president of the UDC, shares Mohwasa's views and says he is "not aware of any concerns by the UDC convenors". Saleshando told *The Botswana Gazette* that the issue of membership of the UDC was long settled by the courts when the BMD attempted to challenge its expulsion from the coalition last year.

Meanwhile, Mpotokwane said that he had met with Boko and Saleshando but was not at liberty to discuss details of the meeting.



INVITATION TO TENDERS SHIPPING CONTAINERS FOR SALE TO THE HIGHEST BIDDER

American Embassy Gaborone is soliciting Pula bids for sale of Shipping Containers.

Container #	Container Size in (Ft)	Reserve Price
WSCU U242354	40	BWP28,000.00
TOLU 2290718	40	BWP28,000.00
ICSU 1652650	40	BWP28,000.00
UVVU 4236780	40	BWP28,000.00
GSTU3016705	20	BWP 20,000.00
CLHU 2174575	20	BWP 20,000.00
TEXU 3741053	20	BWP 20,000.00
TEXU 3646101	20	BWP 20,000.00

Due to COVID-19 outbreak, Tender documents will only be sourced online. Tender documents will be available for request on September 28, 2020 through October 16, 2020 through GaboroneGSOShipping@state.gov. Containers are available for viewing on Monday September 28, through October 16, 2020 at Plot 22098, Unit 4/B/2, Gaborone West Industrial, from 9:00 am to 3:30 pm. Bid submissions will be open from Monday, September 28, 2020 through Friday October 16, 2020 by email to GaboroneGSOShipping@state.gov before the deadline.

U.S. Embassy Management reserves the right to reject bids found as unacceptable. Sale is "AS IS" with no guarantees and bid winners are responsible for collecting their containers. Full payment should be in bank guaranteed cheque made out to the U.S. Embassy and is required at the time of collection, which shall be within 5 working days after the award.

For more information please contact GaboroneGSOShipping@state.gov.

Vacancy

Are you ready to join the Botswana Life family?

If yes, this is your chance. Interested candidates who wish to join the company are invited to apply for the following vacancies:

ACTUARIAL MANAGER - PRODUCT DEVELOPMENT & PRICING

Job Summary

Reporting to the Executive Head - Actuarial, the incumbent will be responsible for supporting the Actuary in efficiently and effectively managing the product development life cycle of the company. This will be conducted within established departmental and product development budgets and in terms of agreed product strategy in order to consistently improve earnings of the company as well as to develop new business prospects. Additionally, the incumbent will be expected to develop future human capital capability.

Key Performance Areas

- Provide product development services to the business
- Development and management of the business's product strategy and product plan
- Provide input into the business's strategic planning process.
- Management of the product development process
- Product design in conjunction with the Product Development Committee
- Pricing of new retail products and group schemes
- Regular review of product features and re-pricing for existing products
- Maintenance of pricing models
- Creation and maintenance of policy wording in conjunction with the Compliance, Risk and Legal department
- Creation of underwriting guidelines for new products in line with the product specifications and in conjunction with the Underwriting Manager
- Work closely with the Compliance, Risk and Legal department to obtain regulatory sign-off for products
- Reinsurance optimization and negotiations with the reinsurer.
- Arrange reinsurance for new products as required
- Work with the Marketing department to plan and execute product launches
- Liaise with Learning and Development function to develop training plan for all staff and sales force
- Budgeting for the product development unit
- Implement projects as required by management.
- Provide training and development opportunities for actuarial analysts.

Core Competencies

- Analytical Skills
- Project Management
- Problem Solving
- Team leadership and management
- Data Analytics
- Business Analysis
- Communication and Presentation Skills

Qualification

- Qualified Actuary and a member of the Institute and Faculty of Actuaries or an equivalent Actuarial body

Experience

- Minimum of five years' experience in a corporate actuarial environment of which 3 years are in product development
- Must have thorough knowledge of Profit

CHANGE MANAGER

(18 Months Fixed Term Contract)

Job Summary

Reporting to the Senior Project Manager, the incumbent will be responsible for coordinating all Change Management activities across Botswana Life's projects portfolio and ensuring alignment to the overall strategic imperatives of the business.

Key Performance Areas

- Develop Change Management plans aligned to the BIHL Group's Change Management framework.
- Evaluate project plans and identify change initiatives required for successful project execution.
- Implement BIHL Group's Change Management framework and methods to deliver sustainable results.
- Perform Change Readiness Assessment to determine feasibility of implementations and present the results to business units.
- Review existing plans and recommend improvements.
- Provide information and assistance to business units in executing change initiatives.
- Act as primary contact to address any issues and queries on change management activities.
- Support Project Managers in relation to Change Management plans including communications, trainings, stakeholder engagement, and impact analysis.
- Monitor the adoption and utilization of change initiatives.
- Initiate corrective action where necessary and identify barriers to change and develop counterstrategies to mitigate or minimize potential resistance or change fatigue.

Core Competencies

- Flexible and adaptable
- Very good presentation skills
- Team player
- Ability to clearly articulate Change Management messages to a variety of audiences.
- Must be confident and highly motivated
- Exceptional communication skills, both written and verbal

Qualification

- Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration, Social Sciences, Industrial/Organizational Psychology or equivalent.

Experience

- 3 years experience working on large-scale organizational change efforts preferably within the financial services sector.
- Experience and knowledge of Change Management principles, methodologies and tools. Certificate in relevant Change Management Methodology will be an added advantage.

Remuneration

The company offers an attractive remuneration package with benefits.

Interested applicants should submit their application with a detailed CV by 11th October 2020 to: recruitment@blil.co.bw

NB: Only shortlisted candidates will be responded to



Botswana Life

FNBB Grows In Digital Banking

Non-Interest Income Reaches P1.2 Billion

GAZETTE REPORTER

As a result of vigour in digital banking amongst others, First National Bank Botswana's Non-Interest Income grew by 11 percent to record P1.2 billion for the year ended 30 June 2020.

Despite transactional fees, other major revenue sources, which contribute almost half of total non-interest reve-

nue, are foreign exchange trading revenue, Insurance commission as well as card commission revenue (including Merchant services).

"This was supported by increased volumes across the bank's digital and electronic channels but most noticeably in merchant transactions," said the CEO of the bank, Steven Bogatsu, in the financials. "Both transactional volumes and values increased due to



the improved connectivity on our digital channels, as well as the FNBB App not requiring user data to access it across all networks.

"FNBB broadened its financial inclusion by launching a new channel called Cash Plus which brings services to more remote locations and offers further convenience to our customers."

FNBB is strong in digital transactions – cellphone and Internet banking products.

"This was supported by increased volumes across the bank's digital and electronic channels but most noticeably in merchant transactions," said the CEO of the bank, Steven Bogatsu,

Meanwhile, Bogatsu has attributed the bank's success over the years to its forward-thinking approach to technology and innovation that he says will remain a central focus going forward. "The majority of the bank's workforce has been enabled to work remotely with a view to long-term flexible working arrangements," he notes in the report. "This strategy also facilitated the rapid introduction of responsible social distancing practices in line with the COVID-19 protocols."

According to Bogatsu, there has been a welcome synergy in the form of acceleration of FNBB's customers' journey into digital banking. "The FNBB APP and Online Banking registrations grew notably, with clients being further empowered to serve themselves in the form of convenient, value-added services," he says.

"Cyber security remains paramount, given the technological uptake in the market and the bank has invested significant resources in this area to provide safe platforms for customers to transact on. FNBB will continue to invest in the consumer payments ecosystem with the roll-out of further POS devices and contactless cards, as well as further investment in the POS infrastructure."



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A radical approach to ending GBV?

The collective view is that men ought to get involved, writes **RORISANG MOGOJWE**

Violence against women has become commonplace in contemporary Botswana and a hot topic on the lips of many commentators in recent weeks. Gender-based violence is violence directed against a person because of their gender, which means both women and men experience violence. However, most victims are women and girls.

The situation calls for radical change. Just last week, political activist Resego Kgosidintsi called for a “Go Big, Go Home” march against GBV. “Friday everyone must be on the streets, on the roads, outside of their offices, outside of classrooms, with their placards and petrol bombs and protest against the inaction of the BDP-led government. Buildings will burn, cars will not move, our lives are at risk 24/7 no one must sleep. President Masisi will not sleep,” she posted on her Facebook page.

This post inadvertently led to her arrest by the Directorate of Intelligence and Security Services

(DISS). While some criticised this as incitement to violence, many argued that the radical nature of the post is exactly what was needed to grab the attention of the powers that be.

This therefore begs the question: is it finally time to have a radical approach, as Botswana, to see the end of the scourge? Do we need to advocate for thorough or complete political or social reform to end violence against women and children?

Less talk, more leadership?

First, do not be scared off by the term “radical” because it is not a synonym for crazy but means going to the root and examining the systems and structures of patriarchy that have normalised domestic and sexual violence.

Analysis of gender-based violence in Botswana indicates that men act out their dominance through perpetration of violence. This dominance is created and reinforced by patriarchal beliefs and practices.

The discussions are characterised by notions of female victimhood and universal male dominance. This therefore calls for increased active participation of men in the fight against GBV driven by an approach of radical change.

Gender activist Setho Mongatane says “radical feminists helped us understand that sexual assault and domestic violence were the predictable result of men’s claim to control women in patriarchy. If we hope to reduce rates of rape and partner violence, we have to challenge patriarchy”.

One member of the public, a man, has concurred. “I think the problem with men is we think we own women,” he has said. “That when we demand they submit its because we own them. When we pay lobola it’s because we bought them. When she says no, then it is disrespectful. We feel we are deserving of certain things and if we do not get our way, the entitlement syndrome kicks in. Why should I kill a woman because she does not want me any more? Do I think I own her? Her body is for my use as and when I see fit? We are turning into more trash with every day that passes.”

The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) has made the point that in this time of crisis, it is more imperative to engage men and boys in protecting their families and communities from GBV. “Gender equality cannot be achieved without the involvement of men and boys. Change is slowly taking place, and men are increasingly working alongside women to support gender equality and the empowerment

of women and girls,” UNFPA says in its report, “Engaging Men and Boys: A Brief Summary of UNFPA Experience and Lessons Learned.”

While it is unconventional to preach radical feminism to men, it has become evident that men were needed to spearhead conversations and initiatives that would create a safe space for them to right their wrongs, whether committed knowingly or unknowingly, and to ultimately bring an end to GBV.

Men and Boys for Gender Equality Director Desmond Lunga says gender equality – which empowers women and engages men – is fundamental in the fight against violence against women and girls. “We need to increase focus on engaging men and boys to end men’s violence. Programmes and policies to promote positive change in men’s gender-related attitudes and practices, including in reducing men’s use of violence against women is important,” Lunga has noted.

Gender activists who spoke to *The Botswana Gazette* all agree that policy battles for both men and women to fight should be guided by radical reviews. “We can start by protecting reproductive rights at (the) grassroots, legalising abortion and regulating it, government engagement of anti-rape and anti-GBV movements and organisations, and challenging the way that men’s sexual exploitation of women has become normalized everywhere,” says Mongatane.

Could it be that a decent future for Botswana depends on our willingness to become radical?

LEA LOCAL ENTERPRISE AUTHORITY

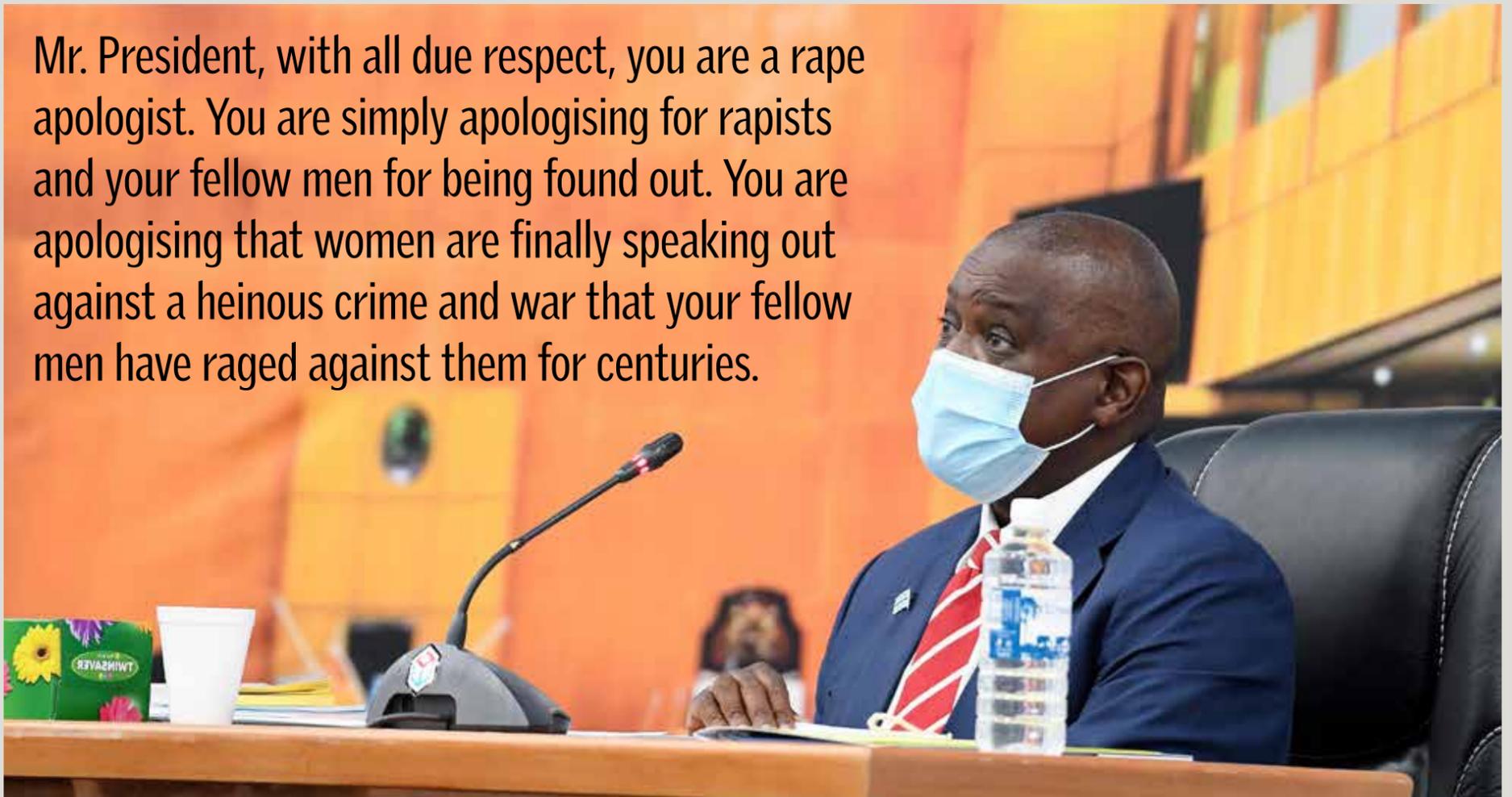
Happy 54th Independence Day

The Local Enterprise Authority Board, Management and Staff wish His Excellency the President of Botswana Dr. Mokgweetsi Eric Keabetswe Masisi and the nation a happy 54th Independence Day.

#StaySafe. Together We can Defeat COVID 19.



Mr. President, with all due respect, you are a rape apologist. You are simply apologising for rapists and your fellow men for being found out. You are apologising that women are finally speaking out against a heinous crime and war that your fellow men have raged against them for centuries.



You Defend Men In High Places

Dear Mr. President,

I am writing this note to let you know that I struggled to listen to your address on GBV and that I am still traumatised by the usual rhetoric in your speech that was your effort to break the silence and show urgency to end the epidemic of rape and violence against women.

These are the reasons why:

Intentional Silence

Your Excellency, in breaking your silence, I note with shock that you are silent on the sexual violence and rape accusations in Parliament. Even when you list perpetrators of violence, you deliberately left out politicians and MPs. This is not coincidental but a deliberate and systematic way of turning a blind eye on rape at your workplace.

Complicity

Mr. President, you are dismissing the actions of your fellow men, especially your fellow politicians as rumours and private or as internal party matters that are not really of national importance.

Rape apologist

In your address, you say it clearly that men too are raped. Apparently, in your view, two wrongs make a right. In the middle of an epidemic where daily reports of women and girls being raped are close to 10, you breaks the silence with equality in rape and sexual violence. Is violence against men to the same extent as it is against women? Is violence against men as frequent as violence against women and girls?

Mr. President, with all due respect, you are a rape apologist. You are simply apologising for rapists and your fellow men for being found out. You are apologising that women are finally speaking out against a heinous crime and war that your fellow men have raged against them for centuries.

Naming and shaming

Your Excellency, I cried when I heard this phrase coming from you. Is this how you see this? When women and girls report rape, they are naming and shaming? Is that what the laws against rape and VAW are to you? Naming and shaming men? Do you realise what you just did? You just blocked the law before it even saw the light of day? The leadership that is already protected and defended against their outrageous behaviour will make sure that the law is watered down and has no actual penalties.

#NotAllMen speech

Your Excellency, are you aware that in your speech, not once do you state that men rape women? You instead say “those of us”. How can you commit to naming and shaming if you cannot and will not say it like it is? How can women have confidence that you will walk the talk?

Normalising Trivialism

Your Excellency, once again you fall into the trap of the usual rhetoric of recycled speeches. You made the same promises in your maiden address commemorating 16 days. I know it is easy to mistake these as real actions against the epidemic that’s VAW, but saying that we should all come together to fight VAW and girls is merely justification to maintain the status quo of doing nothing. This is just more talk and no action.

Harmful campaigns

Mr. President, it is curious that you did not acknowledge the “Eseng Mo Ngwaneng” campaign that was right at your doorstep. The telling acknowledgement of campaigns that do more harm than good, the top-down organising whose sole purpose is to burn money. The commemorations that your gender department regurgitates every year, signifying nothing. The campaigns

peppered with messages that tell women and girls DON’T WALK AT NIGHT, TRAVEL IN GROUPS, DON’T DRINK TOO MUCH, MEN ARE YOUR PROTECTORS.

Those women training manuals that shift the responsibility of rape to women, the training theories that suggest that male violence is inevitable and therefore women’s freedoms must be limited. Women’s behaviour must be constrained to accommodate vicious males. These campaigns and their messages do nothing but reinforce rape attitudes. They give men power to clear women and girls off the streets, out of the workplace and out of positions of leadership and into the background.

Tragic logic

Your Excellency, your speech excuses and hides the harm that our patriarchal society has done to women and girls. ‘Our forefathers did not rape, men protect women, uncles protect families.’ Imagine the impact that your words had on a young girl who has just been raped by a brother and uncle! She is listening to the President saying that the very same people who violated her are protecting her. The shame, guilt and blame she experiences at the thought of reporting rape. I know what she is thinking. “No one will believe me.” It is tragic that yours is a deliberate move to silence girls.

Bottom line

My Dear President, in your address you offered women nothing. You please men by not mentioning them as the perpetrators. You maintained the status quo and managed to stop the law before it even started. You cemented complacency and defended rapists in high positions.

Women are triggered Mr. President! I’m triggered!

Anna Mmolai.



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Political Intolerance And The Trivialisation of National Issues - The Scummy Patch In BW's Stinking Political Swamp

In the blue corner, sits the indefatigable blue army, UDC along with the whole opposition bloc, while in the red corner sits the defending champions, the invincible red warrior, Domkrag.

A lot is at stake, the battle lines are drawn, and the gloves are off. What is clearly obvious is that each party is

busy forming a formidable brigade to trounce the other, each is ready to perform a quick TKO on the other so that when 2024 finally arrives it would just be a mere formality as the opposition fancies its chances while the BDP aims to maintain its tight grip on power. Faced with immense pressure to out-shine each other, the political demagogues, propagandists and the normal political foot soldiers are already on the campaign trail, some have now taken to social media or any other convenient platform to sometimes engage in ruthless, if not reckless verbal exchanges.

Notwithstanding the distasteful utterances (*or sweet, depending on which side you fall*), national dialogue has always been and will always be a prerequisite for any country that stakes its claim to be a beacon of democracy. While in other countries political rivals rain bullets on each other, ours is a total ball game altogether. In Botswana's fledgling democracy, political forces strictly launch verbal missiles not bullets against their nemesis. Even our forefathers before the dawn of modern governance had a vision and laid a firm foundation for our socio-political playing field when they coined these immensely rich Setswana adages: *"Ntwakgolo ke ya molomo"*, and *"Mmualebe o bua la gagwe gore motswalente a le tswe"*. Be that as it may, and in strict adherence to freedom of speech as enshrined in our constitution, one should know that those rights to jaw jaw, instead of war war, come along with responsibilities.

In the just ended session of parliament, some honourable members from both sides of the aisle engaged in what is tantamount to mockery or sarcasm when addressing their opponents even when the issues or motions on the table are of paramount importance. Thanks to BTV for beaming the proceedings live, we are now able to see with our naked eyes some MPs cartooning themselves. In one occasion some *motlotlegi* perhaps in a fit of rage or political hypnosis, would derail from the topic to say *"heela wena yo o paletswe ke sepodise..."*. How such petty talk found itself into the house remains a mystery. And alas! while you thought the subject of that ridicule has retreated into silence, then boom! *wa hula mmanoko: "Honorable rotten foods...I will continue calling him this until he takes back the words a gore ke paletswe ke sepodise"*. It is this comical showcasing that sometimes takes the bulk of the precious time reserved for important debate and the sooner it ceases, the better.

Outside the August house *lerole le beta kolobe le gone koo!* Politics, it would seem, is not for the faint-hearted, and true to the word of the respected patron of the "Ke Nako" political outfit back when he was still the president, it's a very dirty game! Even he himself is no more a saint nor a political novice, he is now to politics what a duck is to

continues to page15

BUAN

BOTSWANA UNIVERSITY OF AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES

EXTERNAL ADVERT

THE BOTSWANA UNIVERSITY OF AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES (BUAN) INVITES APPLICATIONS FROM SUITABLY QUALIFIED INDIVIDUALS FOR THE FOLLOWING POST:

1.VACANCY CIRCULAR NO. 2020:09:59 (IP)

PERSONAL ASSISTANT - 2 POSTS

THE REQUIREMENTS

The right candidate must meet the following minimum requirements, among others;

- Possess Bachelor's Degree in Office Management, Business Administration or related field.
- Entry Level.
- Experiential knowledge in administrative and office management functions.

DUTIES

The successful candidate will provide a full range of secretarial and office management services to the offices of the relevant Deans, Directors, Centre etc.; Enhance efficiency and project a positive image of the department/office.

COMPETENCIES

- Execution and Delivery
- Personal Assistance
- Administration
- Technical Expertise
- Customer Service
- Document Management

Fringe Benefits: These include motor vehicle purchase advance scheme, an optional 50% BUAN funded medical aid plan, group life assurance scheme and a contributory pension scheme. In addition, permanent and pensionable staff are offered a contributory pension scheme while contract staff are offered a gratuity of 30% of basic salary after successful completion of the contract.

Method of Application: Applications quoting the vacancy number, the post being applied for and accompanied by detailed CV, true and certified copies of educational/professional certificates, grade transcripts and national identity card, at least 3 recent references of which one should be from the immediate supervisor must be addressed to:

The Director, Human Resources
Botswana University of Agriculture and Natural Resources OR
Private Bag 0027
GABORONE

Email: academicrecruit@buan.ac.bw

Hand delivered applications should be submitted to Records office, Block 300, BUAN.

CLOSING DATE: 09th October 2020

NB: Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted.



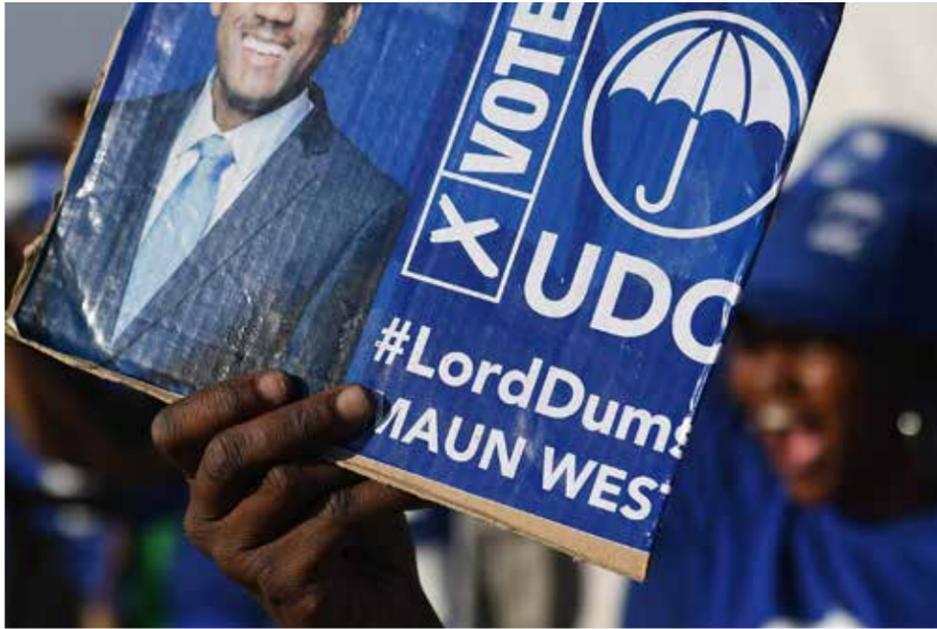
Political Intolerance And The Trivialisation of National Issues - The Scummy Patch In BW's Stinking Political Swamp

from page14

water or what a pig is to mud. Unprecedented as it may be, his verbal punches aimed at his successor have been nothing short of a fatal blow in what proves to be a bout of the century in the BW political ring. If he's not crying about being denied air transport and other countless privileges or staff being taken away from him, he is somewhere in rural areas telling all who care to listen that in Setswana culture *ga go na bogadi jwa dikgomo tse ditonanyana* perhaps as an indirect jab at president's ongoing donations of bucks and rams to random farmers in the hinterlands to help them improve their breeds. As a philanthropist of note, one would expect that he will cast aside the political differences and see these donations as complementing his efforts, but politics instead created a wedge between the hitherto close political buddies whose bromance culminated in one anointing the other to be his successor in the highest office in the land.

As mentioned in passing in the paragraph above, recently His Excellency Mokgweetsi Masisi has embarked on a trip across the length & breadth of Botswana in his small stock donation crusade. Any act of charity, however small it may seem like, is a welcome noble gesture. However, his donation of *diphoko* has now become a political fodder for his political opponents. In what I can term as "*phokolitics*" for lack of a suitable term, the president is instead mercilessly roasted and teased for going around the country donating. While they are quite correct that there are burning issues needing the president's attention, equally the small stock production and generally the neglected agriculture sector needs his attention too. Instead of the political platform being used to exchange ideas, the national assembly and other platforms are used to denigrate each other.

Last but not least, the elephant in the room - the tyranny of the majority! We have a worrying trend where important motions are shot down *go dirisiwa bokete jwa mmele/dipalo*. Some ruling party MPs even have the audacity to boast that they will use their numbers to defeat the opposition through a vote when all we needed from them was to give convincing arguments on why they are for or against any issue being debated. At times they rant and rave that the opposition is a pain in the butt, that theirs is not a government of national unity, *ba tlogelwe ba buse ka tshosologo*. This is despite the fact that just recently, after donating a buck to a young lady by the name Gaone Ditshwailwe in one of the Serowe constituencies, the president posted this: "*Special thanks to the MP for Serowe South, Honourable Leapeetswe Lesedi for gracing the occasion and for your message of support. As I said before, if the political leadership of this country lead in unison then we shall real realize the aspirations of our National Vision 2036*". These words must echo in the minds of the ruling party MPs in the next session of parliament



lest they be viewed as relegating national interests to the peripheries while putting their narrow interests ahead of anything else. When Hon Yandani Boko tabled the GBV motion, he wasn't trying to steal the limelight from the BDP, he was merely safeguarding the rights of women and children.

As a parting shot, I would like all of us in our own little corners to preach political unity, tolerance and coordination all in the name of national building for we have one Botswana for us and the future generations. Let's not allow our stable political climate to degenerate into a political war zone, may our political engagements be guided by principles not emotions and party affiliations.

MOSES ZAWILA

THE BIHL GROUP CELEBRATES EXCELLENCE IN LEADERSHIP, AS BIFM CEO WINS ILLUSTRIOUS SANLAM CEO AWARD

The Botswana Insurance Holdings Limited (BIHL) Group adds to a brimming chest of accolades across the Group and its Subsidiaries, as Botswana Insurance Fund Management (BIFM) CEO, Neo L. Bogatsu, receives a coveted award at the Sanlam Group CEO Awards 2020 at a virtual ceremony held on the 16th of September 2020. Bogatsu was one of 3 individual CEO winners at this year's ceremony, and the second recipient of the award for Botswana, the first being the BIHL Group CEO, Catherine Lesetedi, then Botswana Life Insurance Limited CEO. This is the first time this prestigious award has been awarded to the same country twice, BIHL Group making history in this respect.

The Sanlam Group CEO Awards recognise excellence across the Sanlam Group, of which the BIHL Group is a member. The platform shines a light on those who create meaningful and valuable solutions for the Group and all its stakeholders. Bogatsu was nominated by the BIHL Group CEO, Catherine Lesetedi, for her contribution to engineering legacies for Botswana through BIFM and indeed the wider Group, and for her contribution to the financial services ecosystem of Botswana.

The BIHL Group CEO, Catherine Lesetedi, said: "In such a fluid time as this, to receive such deserved and wonderful news is an incredible feat and blessing. We congratulate Neo on this esteemed accomplishment, and indeed the team that supports her in all that she does. This year marks the 45th anniversary of the BIHL Group and our efforts and investment in engineering legacies for and with Botswana. I can think of no better time to see recognition and celebration of an individual and leader whose talents are an integral part of this journey. This is a true demonstration of what we call Strength in Numbers."

A Chartered Accountant, Bogatsu's work experience includes auditing, banking and now asset management. She joined BIFM in 2011 as Chief Financial Officer and became the CEO in 2015.

Commented Bogatsu: "I am grateful and humbled by this recognition for the years of dedication to our industry and growing and supporting the wealth of talent in Botswana and indeed the region. I consider it a true blessing to be able to lead a team of such passionate and disciplined professionals, and indeed to work alongside such colleagues as those at Sanlam and at the BIHL Group, a giant in

the financial services spaces whom we have the distinct honour to stand upon the shoulders of. I am grateful too to our fellow subsidiaries at Botswana Life Insurance Limited and Botswana Insurance Company (BIC). This journey was certainly not one travelled alone, and it is the support of family, clients, friends, colleagues and mentors that has made this possible. To them, I remain eternally grateful."

Bogatsu credits her strong career trajectory to the leadership ethos of "having a lateral and end to end vision of the business." What is clear for all to see is that her passion, vision, resolve and unrivalled depth of talent which have been clear for all she works with on a daily basis have now also become duly recognised in an international arena.

No leader can be great without a strong team on their side. It takes a dedicated, passionate and united team to make progress a reality, and for this reason it would be remiss of me not to thank the entire BIFM team for the growth and progress and across BIFM and indeed the Group, Well done to you all, and let us continue to inspire each other to all soar.

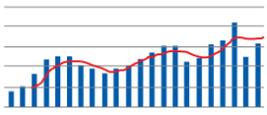



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Botswana's Outlook Revised To Negative

International credit ratings firm, S&P Global Ratings, expects Botswana's GDP to contract by around 10 percent in 2020 because of the adverse impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, compounded by weaker diamond exports.

In a research update on Botswana released on 18 September 2020, S&P Global Ratings says the fallout from current pressures could delay medium-term fiscal consolidation and further erode Botswana's external buffers. "We are revising our outlook on Botswana to negative from stable and affirming our 'BBB+/A-2' ratings," the update says.

At the same time, S&P affirmed Botswana's BBB+/A-2 long- and short-term foreign and local currency sovereign credit ratings. The firm also affirmed its BBB+/A-2 long- and short-term foreign and local currency sovereign credit ratings on the Bank of Botswana because it equalises them with their ratings on the sovereign. "The negative outlook reflects our view of anticipated higher pressures on Botswana's economic, external and fiscal performance over the next two years, stemming from the impact of the global notably on diamond exports," the agency says.

On a downside scenario, S&P says it could lower its ratings on Botswana if the fiscal trajectory remained weak beyond the initial impact of the pandemic. "This could happen if diamond prices and demand failed to recover in the next two years," says the update. "In such a case, ongoing spending pressures could derail fiscal adjustments, and the current account deficit could widen beyond our current assumptions, potentially leading to gross external financing needs exceeding 100 percent of current account receipts (CARs) and usable reserves."

On an upside scenario, the agency says it could revise the outlook to stable if Botswana is able to restore its fiscal balance to more manageable levels through fiscal discipline and an upturn in the global diamond market. "If Botswana manages to prevent a further decline of external buffers, that could also support the ratings at their current levels and a stable outlook," it notes.

The economic lockdown has had material impact on economic activity, with diamond third and fourth sightholder sales being cancelled because of global travel restrictions. Similar to many African countries, Botswana introduced fiscal and monetary re-

lief measures to mitigate the impact. The Bank of Botswana (BoB) cut its benchmark rate and injected P1.6 billion (about US\$140 million) into the banking sector by reducing reserve requirements.

S&P says as a result of the combined effects of the economic meltdown and collapse of diamond demand, prices and production in 2020, fiscal and external balances are weaker than it had anticipated in its previous forecasts. "We now forecast that the economic contraction will be close to 10 percent in 2020, reflecting the past lockdowns and potential future intermittent lockdowns in the capital city for the remainder of 2020,"

S&P says. "We consider 2020 economic underperformance as a one-off event, and we project an economic rebound of 6 percent in 2021."

The aggregate diamond industry accounts for about a quarter of Botswana's GDP, which makes its economy highly susceptible to external shocks. Diamond production at Debswana came to a standstill for a month earlier this year while very low global demand is unlikely to sustainably change the dynamics in 2020 despite some signs of recovery in diamond demand in China and the US. "We forecast diamond production will contract by 25 percent in 2020 after an already challenging 2019," the S&P update notes. "Although the banking sector accounts for about 50 percent (by total assets) of the country's GDP, we project credit growth will be moderate at about 5 percent in 2020."

According to the credit rating agency, Botswana is set to post twin deficits in the next two years. It has posted fiscal deficits since 2017. S&P initially projected a 2.5 percent fiscal deficit for 2020-2021 on the back of muted but positive real GDP growth of 2.6 percent prior to the pandemic's onset.

It also expects the tourism sector to take longer to recover from the pandemic. Further, S&P expects that the twin deficits will continue to reduce the country's traditionally strong fiscal and external buffers over the medium-term.

"The negative outlook reflects our view of anticipated higher pressures on Botswana's economic, external and fiscal performance over the next two years, stemming from the impact of the global notably on diamond exports," the agency says.



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BOTSWANA LIFE MONTHLY UNIT PRICES

For any enquiries regarding the above, please call our Finance or Actuarial Departments at 364 5100

INVESTMENT FUND	Feb-20	Mar-20	Apr-20	May-20	Jun-20
Mompoti Life Fund	11.93	11.69	11.40	11.86	11.90
Mompoti Retirement Annuity Fund	54.57	53.44	52.10	54.25	54.43
Mompoti Educator Fund	14.11	13.82	13.47	14.02	14.07
Mompoti Offshore Fund	3.05	2.93	2.70	2.95	2.97
Ex-IGI Fund	45.09	45.02	45.00	45.54	45.39
Khumo 2016 Preservation Fund	11.65	11.67	11.68	11.70	11.72
Shariah Model Portfolio Fund	0.90	0.74	0.61	0.65	0.67
Balanced Life Fund	13.06	12.80	12.50	13.08	13.15
Balanced Retirement Fund	59.82	58.66	57.26	59.97	60.28
Moderate Life Fund	15.43	15.13	14.77	15.46	15.54
Growth Offshore Fund	3.43	3.30	3.04	3.36	3.39

For more information, see our Fund Fact Sheets on our website



De Beers Shares Jewellery Trend Predictions For Autumn/Winter 2020

De Beers Group's fourth Diamond Insight 'Flash' report looks at how the pandemic is likely to influence key jewellery design trends this gifting season

Diamond jewellery design trends for the upcoming gifting season are expected to be influenced by how consumers are feeling in response to the events of this year and the impact of lockdowns, according to De Beers Group's fourth Diamond Insight 'Flash' Report, published recently.

De Beers Group partnered with leading London-based fashion trends consultancy, Adorn Insight, to review De Beers Group's consumer research data since the start of the pandemic and overlay with key fashion trends in order to forecast the prevailing themes that jewellers can expect to see for Autumn/Winter 2020 and into the coming year.

Three key trends were identified – craft's new cool factor, natural beauties and invest in the best – which highlight that the pandemic is likely to influence consumer design preferences in three key areas: enhanced appreciation for craftsmanship and bespoke design, a greater desire for designs and materials that reference the natural world, and a preference for investing in timeless pieces.

Each of these trends is already being reflected in new collections from leading jewellery brands and can be expected to increase in prevalence as the up-

coming gifting season approaches, according to the report. Said Bruce Cleaver, CEO, De Beers Group: "As we head into what will be a crucial selling season for many diamond jewellery retailers, understanding key design trends during a time of profound change and uncertainty will be important."

"The pandemic has accelerated some trends that were already underway, such as the desire for craftsmanship, authenticity and sustainability, while also generating increased consumer interest in the enduring beauty of the natural world and in classic designs that will stand the test of time. Diamond jewellery retailers will no doubt be interested in considering how these trends can feature in their upcoming collections, marketing and merchandising."

The report also includes the findings of De Beers Group's latest consumer research study, completed in late August, which found that consumer confidence in the US was starting to recover compared with the previous month. In the latest research wave, 65 percent of Americans said they were now more inclined to give a significant gift to someone they loved compared with how they felt pre-pandemic, and for those in a relationship this increased to 77 percent.

In addition, 55 percent of consumers said they had gone out shopping or socialising in the past month for the first time since the pandemic began. There was also a significant increase in women saying they felt safe shopping for diamond jewellery in person and a decrease in those saying they felt safest shopping online.

In the latest research wave, 65 percent of Americans said they were now more inclined to give a significant gift to someone they loved compared with how they felt pre-pandemic, and for those in a relationship this increased to 77 percent.

When it came to the most popular types of diamond jewellery that consumers would be willing to invest in, a diamond ring was the most popular choice at 36 percent of respondents, followed by a diamond pendant or necklace at 30 percent and then stud earrings at 22 percent.

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ABRIDGED AUDITED GROUP FINANCIAL RESULTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2020

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF PROFIT OR LOSS AND OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME

	[Audited] Year ended 30 June, 2020 P'000	[Audited] Year ended 30 June, 2019* P'000
Revenue	5,420,596	5,358,993
Cost of sales	[4,167,850]	[4,142,713]
Gross profit	1,252,746	1,216,280
Other operating income	51,961	56,645
Operating income	1,304,707	1,272,925
Expenditure	[1,096,725]	[1,180,542]
Net impairment losses	[11,280]	[19,924]
Administrative expenses	[901,870]	[924,434]
Selling and distribution expenses	[63,200]	[72,430]
Net monetary gain/ (loss) on translating Zimbabwean entities	20,366	[354]
Other operating expenses	[140,741]	[163,400]
Operating profit before interest	207,982	92,383
Finance costs	[103,087]	[63,059]
Finance income	110	257
Profit before taxation	105,005	29,581
Taxation	[6,076]	[22,597]
Profit from continuing operations	98,929	6,984
Loss from discontinued operations	[469,563]	[435,676]
(Loss) Profit for the period	[370,634]	[428,692]
Other comprehensive (loss) income		
Items that may be reclassified to profit or loss	[16,273]	[227,719]
Exchange differences on translating foreign operations	[103,801]	[299,111]
Exchange differences on translating foreign operations in hyperinflationary economy	87,528	71,392
Total comprehensive loss for the year	[386,907]	[656,411]
Loss attributable to:		
Owners of the company	[330,359]	[393,662]
From continuing operations	105,052	12,081
From discontinued operations	[435,411]	[405,743]
Non-controlling interests	[40,275]	[35,030]
From continuing operations	[6,123]	[5,097]
From discontinued operations	[34,152]	[29,933]
Total comprehensive loss attributable to:	[386,907]	[656,411]
Owners of the company	[344,394]	[623,118]
Non-controlling interest	[42,513]	[33,293]
Basic (loss) earnings per share - Thebe	[25.34]	[30.20]
Continuing operations	8.06	0.93
Discontinuing operations	[33.4]	[31.13]
Diluted (loss) earnings per share - Thebe	[25.34]	[30.20]
Continuing operations	8.06	0.93
Discontinuing operations	[33.4]	[31.13]
Headline (loss) earnings per share - Thebe	[15.27]	[25.87]
Continuing operations	9.06	2.77
Discontinuing operations	[24.33]	[28.64]
Diluted headline (loss) earnings per share - Thebe	[15.27]	[25.87]
Continuing operations	9.06	2.77
Discontinuing operations	[24.33]	[28.64]

*The disclosure of the Group's results is affected by the decision of the Board to discontinue / dispose of its operations in South Africa, Kenya, Tanzania, and Mozambique. Accordingly, the results of these operations are disclosed with effect from 1 July 2019 in terms of IFRS 5 with regard to discontinued operations. The Statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income for June 2019 is also regrouped to comply with the presentation requirement of IFRS 5 with regard to discontinued operations.

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

	[Audited] 30 June, 2020 P'000	[Audited] 30 June, 2019 P'000
Assets		
Non-current assets	1,294,631	1,169,452
Property plant and equipment	1,218,626	1,056,020
Intangible assets and goodwill	65,735	86,414
Investments in new projects	10,270	27,018
Current assets	497,089	1,017,670
Inventories	305,476	574,069
Amounts due from related entities	5,414	14,956
Other financial assets	3	3
Advances and deposits	39,092	82,502
Taxation refundable	9,887	16,676
Trade and other receivables	63,645	96,449
Restricted cash	12,845	26,300
Cash and cash equivalents	60,727	206,715
Assets classified as held for sale	49,081	-
Total assets	1,840,801	2,187,122
Equity and Liabilities		
Equity	[467,054]	[80,147]
Stated capital	906,196	906,196
Retained loss	[1,006,538]	[676,179]
Treasury shares	[29,616]	[29,616]
Hyper inflationary reserve	158,920	71,392
Foreign currency translation reserve	[396,412]	[294,849]
Non controlling interests	[99,604]	[57,091]
Non-current liabilities	984,596	755,814
Long term borrowings	355,665	572,754
Lease liability	599,869	31,688
Deferred taxation	29,062	32,262
Straightlining lease obligation	-	119,110
Current liabilities	1,155,460	1,511,455
Current portion of straightlining lease obligation	-	16,303
Bank overdraft	148,788	248,155
Trade and other payables	571,225	1,055,225
Amounts due to related entities	82,794	118,002
Taxation payable	7,248	5,388
Current portion of lease liability	153,116	22,265
Current portion of long term borrowings	192,289	46,117
Liabilities classified as held for sale	167,799	-
Total liabilities	2,307,855	2,267,269
Total equity and liabilities	1,840,801	2,187,122

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY

	Stated Capital P'000	Retained Earnings (loss) P'000	Treasury Shares P'000	Hyperinflationary reserve P'000	Foreign Currency Translation Reserve P'000	Attributable to equity holders P'000	Non Controlling Interest P'000	Total P'000
Balance as at 1 July, 2018 (Audited)	906,196	[280,257]	[29,616]	-	5,999	602,322	[26,058]	576,264
Total comprehensive (loss) income for the period	-	[393,662]	-	71,392	[300,848]	[623,118]	[33,293]	[656,411]
Loss for the year	-	[393,662]	-	-	-	[393,662]	[35,030]	[428,692]
Other comprehensive (loss) income	-	-	-	71,392	[300,848]	[229,456]	1,737	[227,719]
Total distributions to owners of company recognised directly in equity	-	[2,260]	-	-	-	[2,260]	2,260	-
Other Equity adjustment	-	[2,260]	-	-	-	[2,260]	2,260	-
Balance as at 30 June, 2019 (Audited)	906,196	[676,179]	[29,616]	71,392	[294,849]	[23,056]	[57,091]	[80,147]
Total comprehensive (loss) income for the period	-	[330,359]	-	87,528	[101,563]	[344,394]	[42,513]	[386,907]
Loss for the year	-	[330,359]	-	-	-	[330,359]	[40,275]	[370,634]
Other comprehensive (loss) income	-	-	-	87,528	[101,563]	[14,035]	2,238	[16,273]
Balance as at 30 June, 2020 (Audited)	906,196	[1,006,538]	[29,616]	158,920	[396,412]	[367,450]	[99,604]	[467,054]

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

	[Audited] Year ended 30 June, 2020 P'000	[Audited] Year ended 30 June, 2019 P'000	HEADLINE EARNINGS PER SHARE COMPUTATION
Net cash flows generated from operating activities of continuing region	619,148	551,381	Basic Earnings [330,359]
Net cash flows generated from operating activities of discontinuing region	[457,255]	[268,981]	Remeasurements
Net cash flows used in investing activities of continuing region	[3,997]	[120,539]	Loss on disposal of asset 50,994
Net cash flows used in investing activities of discontinuing region	26,465	-	Impairment losses 101,935
Net cash flows generated from financing activities of continuing region	[269,153]	[205,719]	Tax Impact [21,615]
Net cash flows generated from financing activities of discontinuing region	18,087	[17,051]	Headline Earnings [199,045]
Net movement in cash and cash equivalents	[66,705]	[60,909]	Number of shares for basic earnings 1,303,628,341
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of the period for continuing operations	[41,440]	14,928	Weighted Average Number of Shares 1,303,628,341
Cash and cash equivalents included in disposal groups	6,102	-	Basic HEPS [15.27]
Effect of translation of foreign entities	13,982	4,541	Diluted HEPS [15.27]
Cash and cash equivalents at end of the period	[88,061]	[41,440]	

SEGMENTAL RESULTS

Particulars	Botswana P'000	Zambia P'000	Zimbabwe P'000	Namibia P'000	Total for Continued operations	South Africa P'000	Kenya P'000	Tanzania P'000	Mozambique P'000	Total for Operations discontinued	Total Group
Year ended 30 June 2020 (Audited)											
Statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive Income											
Revenue:											
Trading income	4,260,178	604,147	414,143	142,128	5,420,596	2,355,498	34,871	1,385	4,891	2,396,644	7,817,240
Other operating income	47,010	4,118	576	257	51,961	13,478	[49,467]	[11,584]	1,439	[46,134]	5,827
Total segmental revenue	4,307,189	608,265	414,718	142,385	5,472,557	2,368,975	[14,596]	[10,200]	6,330	2,350,510	7,823,067
Segment gross profit	1,041,266	106,559	78,845	26,077	1,252,746	428,020	1,633	173	[416]	429,410	1,682,156
Segment EBITDA	468,079	[9,024]	19,495	[5,697]	472,853	[175,633]	[101,858]	[15,769]	[3,677]	[296,937]	175,916
Segment Impairments Loss	10,965	70	246	-	11,280	88,831	28	-	-	88,859	100,140
Segment Depreciation/Amortisation	197,666	37,282	8,004	10,640	253,592	62,958	10,143	884	-	73,985	327,577
Operating Profit/(Loss) (EBIT)	259,450	[46,375]	11,245	[16,337]	207,982	[327,422]	[112,029]	[16,653]	[3,677]	[459,781]	[251,799]
Segment Finance Income	109	-	1	-	110	751	76	-	-	826	936
Segment Finance Expense	84,131	14,854	1,293	2,810	103,087	2,735	5,613	-	2,239	10,586	113,674
Segment profit/(loss) Before taxation	175,426	[61,229]	9,953	[19,148]	105,003	[329,406]	[117,566]	[16,653]	[5,916]	[469,541]	[364,538]
Segment Taxation	[3,127]	-	[2,949]	-	[6,076]	-	[15]	[7]	-	[22]	[6,098]
Segment profit/(loss) after taxation	172,299	[61,229]	7,004	[19,148]	98,929	[329,406]	[117,581]	[16,660]	[5,916]	[469,563]	[370,634]
Statement of financial position											
Segment assets	1,281,997	213,435	210,781	85,507	1,791,720	-	26,665	4,703	17,713	49,081	1,840,801
Segment liabilities	1,847,701	202,244	37,039	53,070	2,140,054	-	143,379	12,342	12,079	167,801	2,307,855
Year ended 30th June 2019 (Audited)											
Statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive Income											
Revenue:											
Trading income	4,147,283	583,516	508,493	119,701	5,358,993	3,740,551	440,437	55,374	24,831	4,261,193	9,620,187
Other income	55,006	808	713	118	56,645	20,117	3,186	386	927	24,616	81,262
Total segmental revenue	4,202,289	584,324	509,206	119,819	5,415,638	3,760,668	443,623	55,760	25,758	4,285,809	9,701,447
Segment gross profit	1,000,542	100,083	95,843	19,813	1,216,281	602,066	65,957	7,213	4,296	679,532	1,895,813
Segment EBITDA	258,343	[38,032]	15,149	[9,233]	226,228	[196,611]	[58,219]	[12,537]	1,436	[265,930]	[39,702]
Segment Impairments Loss	16,017	3	3,904	-	19,924	9,965	17,567	-	5,543	33,075	52,999
Segment Depreciation/Amortisation	90,884	12,939	6,288	3,454	113,566	94,674	13,687	1,513	2,760	112,633	226,199
Operating Profit/(Loss) (EBIT)	151,442	[50,974]	4,601	[12,687]	92,383	[301,250]	[89,473]	[14,049]	[6,867]	[411,639]	[319,257]
Segment Finance Income	254	-	3	-	257	930	-	-	-	930	1,187
Segment Finance Expense	61,030	-	1,852	176	63,059	6,259	6,830	-	3,961	17,050	80,110
Segment profit/(loss) Before taxation	90,666	[50,974]	2,753	[12,863]	29,582	[306,577]	[95,269]	[14,049]	[15,539]	[431,434]	[401,852]
Segment Taxation	[21,886]	-	[712]	-	[22,598]	[46]	[26]	[4,171]	-	[4,243]	[26,840]
Segment profit/(loss) after taxation	68,780	[50,974]	2,041	[12,863]	6,984	[306,622]	[95,295]	[18,220]	[15,539]	[435,676]	[428,692]
Statement of financial position											
Segment assets	906,982	167,469	173,599	55,755	1,303,806	693,428	152,812	13,381	23,694	883,315	2,187,122
Segment liabilities	1,327,897	87,166	49,016	16,072	1,480,151	581,620	170,704	10,360	24,432	787,119	2,267,269

COMMENTARY

1. Nature of business

Choppies Enterprises Limited ("the Company") is a Botswana-based investment holding company operating in the retail sector in Southern Africa. Dual-listed on the Botswana Stock Exchange (BSE) and Johannesburg Stock Exchange (JSE), its operations are food and general merchandise retailing as well as financial service transactions supported by centralised distribution channels, through distribution and logistical support centres.

2. Basis of preparation and accounting policies

The abridged consolidated financial results and financial position of the Company are extracted in terms of IAS 34, from the Group Annual Financial Statements prepared in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards ("IFRS").

Any investment or similar decisions by stakeholders should be based on the consideration of the complete group Annual Financial Statements, which is available for inspection at the Company's registered office.

The accounting policies applied during the period are consistent with those applied in the previous year except for the adoption of IFRS 16 - Leases and that the methods of computation are consistent with those of the previous annual financial statements.

On application of IFRS 16, for all leases (except as noted below), the Group:

- Initially recognised right-of-use assets and lease liabilities in the statement of financial position, initially measured at the present value of the future lease payments;
- Recognised depreciation of right-of-use assets and interest on lease liabilities in the statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income;
- Separate the total amount of cash paid into a principal portion (presented within financing activities) and interest (presented within operating activities) in the statement of cash flows.

Lease incentives are (e.g. rent-free period) recognised as part of the measurement of the right-of-use assets and lease liabilities whereas under IAS 17 they resulted in the recognition of a lease liability incentive, amortised as a reduction of rental expenses on a straight-line basis.

Under IFRS 16, right-of-use assets are tested for impairment in accordance with IAS 36 Impairment of Assets. This replaces the previous requirements to recognise a provision for onerous lease contracts.

For short-term leases (lease term of 12 months or less) and leases of low-value assets (such as personal computers and office furniture) under P 50 000, the Company opt to recognise a lease expense on a straight-line basis as permitted by IFRS 16.

The Group has adopted the modified retrospective approach and under this approach a lessee does not restate comparative information. Consequently, the date of initial application is the first day of the 2020 financial year. On transition to IFRS 16, the Group recognised an additional P850.9 million of right-of-use assets and P908.7 million of lease liabilities.

3. Director's Responsibility for the Abridged Financial Statements

The directors are responsible for the preparation of the abridged consolidated financial results and financial position of the Company in accordance with BSE and JSE listings requirements and of the Companies Act of Botswana

4. Going concern

The Group's negative equity increased from P80.1 million at June 2019 to P467.1 million as at June 2020. The main contributor for the increased negative equity is the P469.6 million loss from discontinued operations.

The negative Group equity gave rise to extensive investigations into the ability of the Company and Group being able to operate as going concerns for the next year and medium term thereafter. The Board considered the 2021 budgets, detailed cash flow forecasts - stress tested, as prepared by management, banking facilities and covenants, undertakings of financial support by the founder shareholders, the economic outlook of the countries in which it operates as well as the possible future impact of the Covid-19 pandemic.

The Board, based on the evidence provided by management, concluded that the Group has already taken the necessary steps to remedy the past situation by discontinuing loss making operations in South Africa, Mozambique, Kenya and Tanzania, and that the Company and the Group should be a going concern for the foreseeable future.

The Group recognises that the Covid-19 pandemic and related disruption to the economy will result in unpredictability of the business environment. However the Group has been declared an Essential Service in the countries in which it operates in, and continues to do business even during lockdown periods. The Group will continue to monitor the situation globally and locally and will take all measures to safeguard the interest of stakeholders in a responsible manner. The Group's goals are to protect the health of its stakeholders and customers by upholding rigorous hygiene standards across all stores, offices and supply chain, and to support the imperative of minimising person-to-person transmission through "social distancing" measures. Special protocols that have been implemented for Choppies drivers of cross border trucks ensure uninterrupted and regular delivery of imported goods

5. Group results

The disclosure of the Group's results is affected by:-

- The decision of the Board to discontinue / dispose of its operations in South Africa, Kenya, Tanzania, and Mozambique. Accordingly, the results of these operations are disclosed with effect from 1 July 2019 in terms of IFRS 5 "Discontinued Operations."
- The introduction of IFRS 16 - Leases. The Group has adopted the modified retrospective approach. Under this approach, comparative information is not restated. Consequently, the date of initial application is the first day of the 2020 financial year.

The impact of IFRS 16 on FY2020 is shown in the table below where we restated FY2020 to be comparable to FY2019, where IFRS 16 was not applied.

IMPACT OF IFRS 16 ON EBITDA GROWTH RATES	Botswana	Zambia	Zimbabwe	Namibia	Total for Continued operations
As reported (P000)					
FY2020 EBITDA as reported after IFRS 16	468,079	[9,024]	19,495	[5,697]	472,853
FY 2019 EBITDA as reported before for IFRS 16	258,343	[38,032]	15,149	[9,233]	226,228
% Growth as reported	81.2%	[76.3%]	28.7%	[38.3%]	109.0%
Pula variance FY2020 to FY2019 as reported	209,736	29,008	4,346	3,536	246,625
Restating FY2020 for IFRS 16 to be comparable to FY2019 (P000)					
FY2020 EBITDA as reported before IFRS 16	316,556	[4,366]	15,725	[11,261]	316,654
% Growth on a comparable basis	22.5%	[88.5%]	3.8%	22.0%	40.0%
Pula variance FY2020 to FY2019 comparable basis	58,213	33,666	576	[2,028]	90,426

Group revenue, comprising of sale of goods, from the continuing operations increased by 1.1% to P5 421 million (2019: P5 359 million). This increase was inflation driven mainly in Botswana and Zimbabwe against a backdrop of negative sales volumes in Botswana and Zimbabwe due to the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic. The impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on the Group's continuing operation's revenue is estimated at P190 million.

Gross profit margins improved slightly to 23.1% (2019: 22.7%) following another good performance in the Botswana operations.

Group EBITDA on a comparable basis (i.e. before accounting for IFRS 16) increased to P316.7 million (2019 P226.3 million) due to the improvement in gross profit margins owing to strict cost control.

Total assets reduced by P346.3 million from P2 187.1 to P1 840.8 million despite the addition of right-of-use assets in terms of IFRS 16 to the value of P772.1m. The net reduction in total assets was mainly as a result of the discontinued operations.

Net borrowings excluding the IFRS 16 Lease liabilities decreased from P660.3 million to P636.1 million as the Group continues to prioritize the reduction of debt.

6. Operational overview

This review will focus only on the continuing operations.

Botswana

The Botswana business continued to show strong resilience in an increasingly competitive and disruptive market because of Covid-19. This year was a period of consolidation, rationalizing and balance sheet management with only 3 new stores opened totaling 91 stores. Revenue grew by 2.7% to P4 260.1 million (2019: P4 147.2 million) despite sales volumes reducing by 4.7%. The gross profit margin improved to an impressive 24.4% (2019: 24.1%) with increased consumer demand in an economic environment of low interest rates and a weak Rand. In addition, improved buying and further addition of house brands contributed to profitability.

Financial services and value-added segments contributed well to the bottom line with significant effort and resources placed behind these to improve the service delivery and profitability.

EBITDA (i.e. before accounting for IFRS 16) grew by P58.2 million or 22.5% to P316.6 million (2019: P258.3 million).

Zambia

Choppies is becoming a significant player in the Zambian market and is currently the number 2 in its market segment with a total of 21 stores (2019: 21). Revenue grew by 3.5% to P604.1 million (2019: P583.5 million) and the gross profit margin to 17.6% (2019: 17.2%). In the rapid declining currency situation, input costs are not sufficiently recovered by sales proceeds in Kwacha. This situation is made worse by some overheads like rent which are normally fixed in US dollars, a situation currently being re-negotiated. EBITDA losses (i.e. before accounting for IFRS 16) reduced significantly by P33.6 million to a P4.4 million loss (2019: P38.0 million loss).

Zimbabwe

Zimbabwe is one of the most challenging markets to operate in, with hyperinflation in three digits, concerns surrounding the economy, changes in the money market and public disturbances. Revenue declined by 18.6% to P414.1 million (2019: P508.5 million) resulting from an 87.5% weakening of the local currency against the Pula during the previous 12 months.

Gross profit margins improved slightly to 19.0% (2019: 18.8%) with EBITDA on a comparable basis (i.e. before accounting for IFRS 16) at P15.7 million (2019: P15.1 million). The abrupt changes and volatility in the currency makes operating in Zimbabwe extremely difficult. This resulted in all the gains obtained at country level getting eliminated when converted at group level due to the weak currency when compared to the Botswana Pula. Despite all these issues, the business remains self-sustaining without any cash flow constraints. However, repatriation of profits to Botswana will continue to be difficult until the economy undergoes a structural change.

Namibia

The Namibian operation is still relatively small, with five stores (2019:5), and is yet to reach a critical mass needed to generate sustainable profitability levels. Revenue increased by 18.7% to P142.1 million (2019: P119.7 million) with gross profit margins improving to 18.3% (2019: 16.6%).

The trends in sales growth and substantial improvement in gross profit levels are indicative of the future potential of the region. Based on the trends and similarities this market has to Botswana, the Namibian operation is expected to be a substantial contributor to the profitability of the Group in the longer term.

EBITDA losses (i.e. before accounting for IFRS 16) increased to P11.3 million (2019: loss P9.2 million) due to the rental payment of three non-operational stores.

7. Events after reporting date (full details in note 44 to the Audited Annual Financial Statements).

Key points as detailed in the financial statements include:-

- The Group is owed P124.1 million by Pay-less Supermarket (Pty) Ltd secured by a pledge of the shares of the Fours Group. During June 2020, the Company was instructed by the High Court of Botswana to release the shares. However, the Company has applied for a stay of execution against the court ruling. The Company still retains the pledge on the shares for all the outstanding receivables from Fours Group. The Pay-less Supermarket (Pty) Ltd receivable is fully provided for.
- The matters relating to the investigation into the allegations of fraud in respect of stock losses and bulk sales as detailed in note 43.8 of the 2019 audited financial statements were closed during August 2020. No evidence could be found that any person was prejudiced, nor that fraud was committed.
- The Company is in the process of restructuring its debt. The Debt Restructuring Plan will allow the Company to repay the lenders in smaller tranches than the previous structure which will release some cash to the Company and improve the cashflows going forward. The Board is of the view that the buffer that has been provided by lenders coupled with improved profitability levels will go a long way in keeping the Company as a going concern for the short, medium to long term.

8. Audit Report

The Group's annual financial statements have been audited by Mazars who issued a modified opinion. Mazars' audit report is published on X-News simultaneously with this abridged release of results. This abridged financial information which has not been reviewed by the Group's external auditor, has been extracted from the audited annual financial statements.

9. Dividend

The Board has considered it prudent to not declare a dividend for the period under review.

10. Changes in board members

During the year under review there has been changes in the Board of Directors of the Company as detailed below:

Changes in Board

- Dorcas Ana Kgosietsile (Resigned 4 September 2019)
- Heinrich Mathiam Stander (Resigned 4 September 2019)
- His Excellency Festus Gontebeny Mogae (Resigned 4 September 2019)
- Ronald Tamale (Resigned 4 September 2019)
- Wilfried Victor Mpaai (Resigned 4 September 2019)

Current Board

- Farouk Essop Ismail
- Ramachandran Ottapathu
- Carol Jean Harward (Appointed 4 September 2019)
- Tom Pritchard (Appointed 4 September 2019)
- D. K. Uttum Corea (Appointed 9 September 2019)

The Company's primary listing is on BSE and its secondary listing is on JSE. The listing on the JSE is currently suspended.

For and on behalf of the Board

D. K. U. Corea (Chairman)

R. Ottapathu (Chief Executive Officer)

REGISTERED OFFICE
Plot 50371, Fairgrounds office park,
Gaborone, Botswana.

COMPANY SECRETARY
DPS Consulting Services (PTY) Ltd,
Plot 50371, Fairgrounds office park,
Gaborone, Botswana.

AUDITORS (appointed 17 February 2020)
Mazars
Plot 139, Finance Park,
Gaborone, Botswana.

Inspire Tomorrow, Today



Vacancy

ADVERTISEMENT Procurement Officer

BOU is looking for a highly motivated, strategically minded and solution driven individual who can work in a multicultural environment with a track record of experience in his/her areas of specialisation for the position of Procurement Officer.

Main purpose of the Job

Assist in the procurement of goods and services for the University following the laid down procurement procedures to ensure the efficiency and effectiveness of different operations.

Key Performance Areas

- Assists in the purchase of goods and services required for University operations in accordance with policies and standards to promote efficiency and effectiveness.
- Engages with suppliers to request for quotations for required goods and services to ensure purchase requests are compliant with the University procurement standards.
- Assists staff with preparing requisitions of special requirements and guides the choice of appropriate suppliers who meet the specifications sought to ensure effective procurement.
- Communicates with suppliers to facilitate delivery of required materials, deals with damaged goods and responds to delayed payments or any related matter to ensure efficient and effective management of materials.
- Receives goods from suppliers and physically verifies them to ensure that they conform to the University requirements and are stored safely before being dispatched to users.
- Enters received goods into the University system in accordance with laid down standards before forwarding the invoices to the relevant office for processing of payment.
- Issue goods to staff and maintains stock cards in accordance with University policy in order to monitor consumption of goods and to maintain a traceable record of distribution.

Qualification & Experience

- Degree in Purchasing or related field, or professional qualification such as CIPS (MCIPS)
- At least 3 years of experience in procurement environment

Competencies

- Thorough knowledge of University materials and products
- Knowledge of supply chain management principles
- Good organising skills
- Excellent negotiation skills
- Computer literacy

BOU offers a competitive salary package for qualified/competent candidates.

Interested persons who meet the above stated requirements should send or hand deliver their applications together with copies of their Curriculum Vitae, relevant certified copies of certificates and two recent references to:

Director, Human Resources
Botswana Open University
Private Bag BO 187
Gaborone
Tel: 3646000

Closing date: 12th October 2020

Western Bye-Pass, Garamothose Junction, Plot 39972, Block 6, Gaborone, Botswana
www.bou.ac.bw

PUBLIC NOTICE

Postal Tariffs Adjustment: Effective 1st October 2020

Dear Valued Customer,

BotswanaPost continues to be a customer-oriented organisation. To ensure consistent value for money and quality service standards for you, the customer, it is necessary to adjust our tariffs from time to time.

To this end, our tariff changes for some postal services will come into effect from the 1st October 2020. The new tariff is available at your nearest Post Office and also on our website www.botspost.co.bw.

BotswanaPost remains committed to offering you the most compelling value proposition in all our products and services.

BotswanaPost Customer Contact Centre:
• Tel: 391 1473/ 393 0629/ 0800335577
• WhatsApp & SMS Line: (+267) 77 537 517
• Email: enquiries@botswanapost.co.bw
• Website: www.botspost.co.bw



Born & Raised Launches Detergents

- Director announces retailers of the soaps
- Minister Matsheka emphasises need for economic empowerment law
- BnR says annual festival will be COVID-compliant



GOSEGO MOTSUMI

In a bid to diversify its product offerings in the climate of COVID-19, youth enterprise Born & Raised (BnR) recently launched detergents at New Capitol Cinemas in Gaborone.

The products, which have already secured shelf space at various supermarkets nationwide, are lavender and lemon multipurpose cleaners and a lemon dishwashing liquid.

"It is worth noting that local manufacturing companies need to have more access to the market in order to grow and provide more employment and remain sustainable." - Minister of Finance and Economic Planning, Thapelo Matsheka.

Speaking at the launch, the Minister of Finance and Economic Planning, Thapelo Matsheka, said despite existence of government schemes, effective citizen participation in some sectors of the economy has not been satisfactory. For that reason, government has decided to move from policy to law to ensure effectiveness in application and implementation of the citizen economic empowerment agenda. Minister Matsheka said the

highly anticipated law will address inequalities of the past by transferring the country's wealth to disadvantaged Batswana, thereby facilitating more participation of citizens in the economy.

"Born & Raised gives me hope in the realisation of citizen participation in our economy," he noted. "It is worth noting that local manufacturing companies need to have more access to the market in order to grow and provide more employment and remain sustainable."

Also speaking at the launch, Director of BnR, Molatedi Kgotla, said obtaining retail shelf space for the products has challenges because some retail players are reluctant to accept the fact that the Phusha BW Movement is here to stay.

"The economic empowerment law should speak to committing all retailers to list locally produced brands unconditionally, of course, taking into account the quality of products and capacity," Kgotla asserted. "It must review the listing requirements and conditions imposed by these retail giants on local producers."

Kgotla said Choppies was the first to accept listing his company's products. Square Mart (commonly known as Food Lovers), Thuso Wholesalers and The Cold Room in Serowe, World Bazaar, Daily Needs, Welcome Cash & Carry and Kamoso Africa had also agreed to be official distributors of the products of Born & Raised.

Kgotla took advantage of the product launch to announce that the annual Born & Raised Music Festival will take place on Christmas Eve (24 December 2020) at Serowe Sports Complex. "We will be submitting our proposal to the COVID-19 Task Force Team detailing how we intend to host a COVID-19 compliant event," he said.



Botswana Insurance Fund Management (BIFM) CEO, Neo L. Bogatsu, receives a coveted award at the Sanlam Group CEO Awards 2020. Bogatsu was one of 3 individual CEO winners at this year's ceremony, and the second recipient of the award for Botswana, the first being the BIHL Group CEO, Catherine Lesetedi, then Botswana Life Insurance Limited CEO. This is the first time this prestigious award has been awarded to the same country twice.



THE TAX
DIALOGUE

JONATHAN
HORE

Property Inheritances Are Now Almost Tax-Free

If you didn't know, there is a tax which is charged on heirs on the transfer of property to such persons known as Inheritance Tax or Capital Transfer Tax. I want to show you that inheritance taxes are almost non-existent following changes made to the Capital Transfer Tax Act, effective 1 March 2020. In this article, words importing the masculine shall be deemed to include the feminine.

Inheritance taxes brief

The concept of an inheritance tax arises from the fact that an heir or any such beneficiary suddenly finds themselves sitting on piles of cash or immovable property that they never worked for. The taxman then wants a share of the newlybegotten wealth. Before 1 March 2020, it was potentially chargeable on almost all property, including immovable property, cash, cattle, shares and other valuables. I must state that this tax used to be so heavy because it was also charged on the market value of immovable property.

In addition to inheritance tax, there is a tax called Transfer Duty, which is also potentially chargeable to a beneficiary when property changes hands. However, you will see below that heirs never used to worry about this tax as the Transfer Duty Act exempted them from paying tax. So the main tax to worry about was and still is inheritance tax.

Almost tax-free

Let me now show you how tax laws have made inheritances almost tax-free. Well, remember that I just stated that the Transfer Duty Act has for long exempted heirs from paying transfer duty. What this means is that any other person who is not exempt will pay transfer duty whenever immovable property changes hands to them at 5% for citizens and

30% for non-citizens. As already stated, there is an heir who is exempt.

Now, effective 1 March 2020, the Capital Transfer Tax Act, which levies inheritance tax, borrowed all exemptions of the Transfer Duty Act. This means that an heir who used to pay inheritance tax before 1 March 2020 is no longer required to pay such tax as they are now exempt. I know that sounds like gibberish. but let me break it down for you.

The tax that used to be so heavy due to the market values of immovable property is no longer charged on such property because the exemption for heirs sitting in the Transfer Duty Act now applies to inheritance taxes. So if an heir is solely inheriting immovable property, they technically no longer pay inheritance tax at all.

When a person inherits property after the just-mentioned date, their tax will be as follows:

- **Inheritance tax:** The tax that used to be so heavy due to the market values of immovable property is no longer charged on such property because the exemption for heirs sitting in the Transfer Duty Act now applies to inheritance taxes. So if an heir is solely inheriting immovable property, they technically no longer pay inheritance tax at

all. Further, if they inherited shares in a property-holding company, so much of the value of such company attributable to immovable property no longer suffers tax. Tax will only be levied on other non-immovable assets such as cash, shares in companies not holding immovable property and personal livestock.

- **Transfer Duty:** Remember that we have stated that heirs have always been exempt from transfer duty. So this is not a tax to talk about.
- **Capital Gains Tax:** A person who realises capital appreciation on certain assets may potentially be taxed on the gain, a tax called Capital Gains Tax (CGT). BURS has ruled that there is no CGT when property changes hands to heirs on inheritances.

I have made it clear that inheritance taxes used to be heavy as immovable property was subject to the tax but this is no longer the case. In conclusion, if one is inheriting assets predominantly consisting of immovable property, one doesn't pay Inheritance Tax, Transfer Duty and Capital Gains Tax.

Now, if that opened your eyes, say this with me, "High Five!" Well, folks, I hope that was insightful. As Yours Truly says goodbye, remember to pay to Caesar what belongs to Caesar. To join our Tax Whatsapp group or know about our eight e-books on tax, send me a text on the cell number below.

This article is of a general nature and is not meant to address particular matters of any person. Tax advice is recommended if transactions are contemplated. Jonathan Hore is a Managing Tax Consultant at Aupracon Tax Specialists and feedback can be relayed to jhore@aupracontax.co.bw or 71815836.

BluThorn Ordered To Re-Capitalise

- Liquidation temporarily halted
- Shareholders racing against time to raise over P100m
- BluThorn failed to re-capitalise before

KEABETSWE NEWEL

In a desperate attempt to save their company from liquidation and total shutdown, shareholders of insolvent investment management company, BluThorn Fund Managers (BFM) (Pty) Ltd, have successfully importuned the Non-Bank Financial Institutions Regulatory Authority (NBFIRA) for one more chance to recapitalise properly.

The goal is to raise P100 million in an instant.

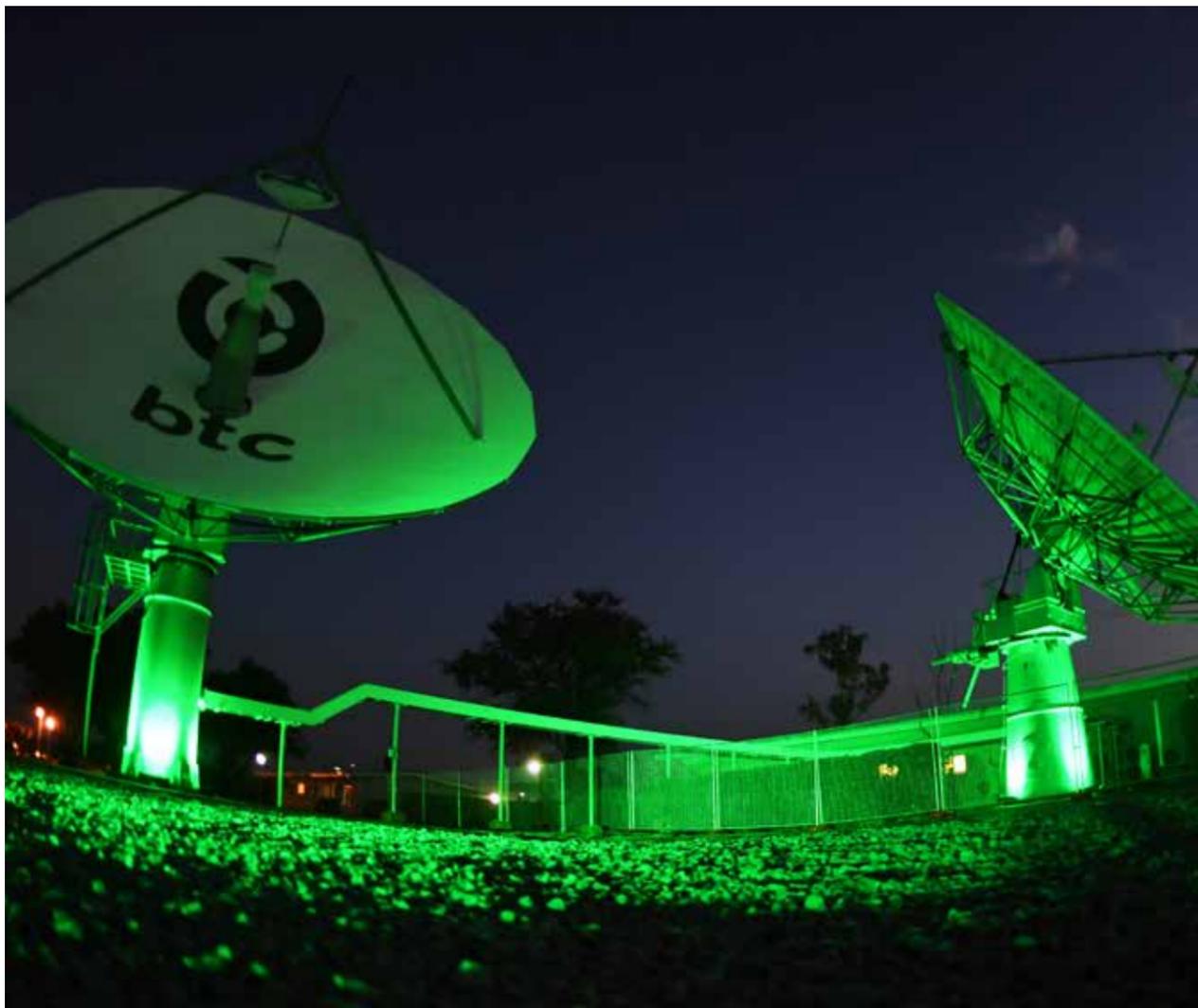
NBFIRA has given them just a few weeks to recapitalise the struggling firm, failing which liquidation will proceed.

A fortnight ago, NBFIRA, acting on the recommendation of the Statutory Manager, applied to the High Court for liquidation of BluThorn Fund Managers (Pty) Ltd. At that time, NBFIRA said the application for liquidation was made after it was found that BluThorn was insolvent.

However, details of the breather are scanty because the Corporate Communications Manager at NBFIRA, Boa Chomba, says the regulator is not in a position to discuss them because the matter is still before the courts. *The Botswana Gazette* had asked NBFIRA whether it had indeed granted BluThorn Fund Managers a chance to re-capitalise temporarily halted liquidation of the company. At BluThorn itself, the chief executive Joseph Mosimane said they could only comment once the company had been removed from the statutory management. Peter Collins, the Statutory Manager, similarly declined to comment.

A fortnight ago, NBFIRA, acting on the recommendation of the Statutory Manager, applied to the High Court for liquidation of BluThorn Fund Managers (Pty) Ltd. At that time, NBFIRA said the application for liquidation was made after it was found that BluThorn was insolvent.

NBFIRA said BluThorn's audited financial statements of February 2018 had revealed that the company was insolvent because its liabilities exceeded its assets and the Authority requested BluThorn to recapitalise accordingly. According to NBFIRA, BluThorn did recapitalise shortly thereafter. However, a subsequent on-site inspection by the Authority revealed that the company had not recapitalised appropriately. The decision is reportedly what led to the application for liquidation.



BTC Advances 4IR In Agriculture

GAZETTE REPORTER

The recent introduction of VSAT (Very Small Aperture Terminal) technology by Botswana Telecommunications Corporation Limited (BTC) has seen local farmers taking advantage of the development to enhance their operations.

According to BTC, the introduction of VSAT technology was motivated by research from Agrilinks which shows that more than 60 percent of Africa's working population is in agriculture and that the sector accounts for a third of the continent's GDP. However, BTC worries that the sector is plagued by use of outdated methods and tools, hence the need for rapid modernisation.

"I settled for this alternative because I am required to be in communication with the commercial world as well as with my farm workers. But since the introduction of the BTC VSAT technology, farm operations and communication with stakeholders has improved significantly."

According to BTC Managing Director, Anthony Masinga, the lack of modernised and up-to-date methods of farming has been a setback to the local farming sector and has attributed to a decline in production when digitisation and high speed information can

yield massively improved results.

He added that there are signs that the expansion of high-speed Internet coverage into settlements and rural areas has boosted production of farming locally because farmers use the Internet for market information, identify better implements which are vital details that influence farming decisions.

The VSAT technology enables countrywide coverage even in the most remote parts of Botswana, giving farmers Internet connectivity through its vast telecommunications network. Results are already showing, especially at the cattle ranches in the Kaka region. Farmers can now also access the BAITs System and Herd Cards easily. In addition, computerised movement permits and new Change of Ownership documents can be printed on the spot.

The BAITs system provides a platform for farmers to provide information on their livestock. It is offered online use for use for animal registration, transfer of ownership, arrival of livestock, veterinary drug treatments and removal of dead stock.

Prior to its introduction, farmers had expressed interest in using the Internet and digital technology to enhance their operations. Five years ago, a website developed for livestock farmers failed to gain traction due to poor access for those in remote areas. "Communication has been bad in this part of the country, which led me to installing a satellite phone which is very expensive to maintain," said Gokatweng Coach Tshkiso, a cattle rancher in Kaka.

"I settled for this alternative because I am required to be in communication with the commercial world as well as with my farm workers. But since the introduction of the BTC VSAT technology, farm operations and communication with stakeholders has improved significantly."

Lockdowns Affect Minergy Sales

But the company sees game-changing opportunities in its bid to supply Eskom and a rail link between Mmamabule and Lephalale in South Africa



TLOTLO KEBINAKGABO

Minergy Botswana, the coal mining and trading company that owns Masama Coal Mine at the Mmamabule Coalfields, has reported a devastating impact of COVID-19 that saw sales limited to certain “essential supply” to customers from stockpiles existing at the end of March 2020, Morne du Plessis, the CEO, says in the company’s financial results for the year ended 30 June 2020.

“Ninety percent of the target market was shut down during this period,” he notes. “Sales volumes showed a slow recovery in June 2020 as customers started to return to operations following the lifting of certain of the lockdown restrictions applicable in South Africa.”

In the second part of the financial year (March 2020

to June 2020), sales volumes dropped dramatically to roughly 10 to 15 percent of volumes supplied prior to the lockdown, with coal stockpiles at Masama sufficient to cater for the limited demand during this period.

“Even with the later relaxation of lockdown restrictions, access to the border between South Africa and Botswana remained largely restricted, making the delivery of coal both difficult and inconsistent,” says the CEO.

Minergy’s earnings before interest, tax, depreciation and amortisation (EBITDA) for the period under review amounted to a loss of P95.3 million (2019: loss of P34.6 million) after adding back depreciation of P5 million (2019: P0.5 million),” says the report. “In its first year of operations, Minergy sold 198 000

tonnes from which it generated revenue of P81 million.”

Du Plessis says it is important to note that a comparison between the results for the 12 months ended 30 June 2020 (current year) and the previous financial year to 30 June 2019 is not practical on a like-for-like basis.

“Such include construction of the required mining infrastructure, including water and power supplies sufficient for targeted production and delivering on the first signed off-take agreement with a South African cement producer,” he says. “We also managed to secure P150 million in debt funding and to raise P35 million in equity.”

“During the previous year, the group was developing the Masama coal mine and advancing it toward operational status,” he says. “During the current period, the group moved into commissioning, ramping up production and sales at the mine.”

In the report, du Plessis notes that Minergy reached some substantial milestones in the first part of the financial year (July 2019 to February 2020).

“Such include construction of the required mining infrastructure, including water and power supplies sufficient for targeted production and delivering on the first signed off-take agreement with a South African cement producer,” he says. “We also managed to secure P150 million in debt funding and to raise P35 million in equity.”

Du Plessis speaks of game-changing opportunities ahead in anticipation of an already submitted Eskom supply tender and progression of the Mmamabule-Lephalale rail link for exports.

Minergy has already successfully delivered six trains of coal to a customer in South Africa.

Exports Massively Decline In June

Trade deficit reaches P6.3 billion

TLOTLO KEBINAKGABO

As COVID-19 takes a toll on the economy, Botswana’s overall exports in June 2020 decreased by P70.3 percent (P2.2 billion) to P943.5 million compared to the revised May 2020 value of P3.1 billion.

This is according to International Merchandise Trade Statistics Digest of June 2020 released by Statistics Botswana mid-September.

The decline is attributed to reduced diamond exports during the period that contributed negative 75.1 percentage points to the overall change in total exports.

According to the Digest, 58.2 percent (P549.5 million) of the country’s total export bill in June 2020 was attributed to diamonds nonetheless.

“Machinery and Electrical Equipment contributed 10.7 percent (P101.3 million), while Salt & Soda Ash made a contribution of 8.2 percent (P77.1 million) to total exports during the period under review,” the report by Statistics Botswana indicates.

The government statistics agency shows that during the period under review, Botswana’s exports



were mostly absorbed by the Southern African Customs Union (SACU) with a market share of 41.3 percent. South Africa topped the charts with 38.8 percent of total exports.

“Machinery and Electrical Equipment contributed 10.7 percent (P101.3 million), while Salt & Soda Ash made a contribution of 8.2 percent (P77.1 million) to total exports during the period under review,” the report by Statistics Botswana indicates.

Botswana recorded a trade deficit of P6.3 billion during the period. By comparison, Botswana’s imports stood at P7.2 billion, displaying an increase of 45.4 percent from the revised May 2020 value of P4.9 billion. Diamonds worth P3.4 billion were imported into the country during the period. Diamond imports contributed 49.2 percentage points to the overall increase in total imports in June 2020.

“The positive contribution made by diamond imports was however counteracted by the negative contribution made by the fall in Fuel and Vehicles & Transport Equipment imports, which contributed negatively by 9.3 and 7.2 percentage points respectively, to the overall increase in June 2020,” Statistics Botswana indicated.



Picture credit: YaronaFM (FACEBOOK PAGE)



The YAMAS 2020 "a PHUSHABW event"

- Virtual show ensured continuity
- Han C the biggest winner
- MYSC paid P772 320 for broadcasting rights for NOW! TV
- P612 320 empowered 139 arts and culture practitioners

GOSEGO MOTSUMI

While the organisers of this year's YaronaFM Music Awards (YAMAs) could have easily put their bubbly on ice and postponed the event until the world got a bit more 'real' again, they decided it would take more than a marauding virus to stop them.

And so music enthusiasts logged in last weekend to witness the first virtual awards streamed live on youthful TV channel, NOW TV, and DStv channel 290 while New Capitol Cinemas at Phakalane hosted another watch party on the same night.

Brought under the theme "Fabulous 21," the 2020 edition of the YAMAs was originally slated for the University of Botswana's (UB) Campus Indoor Sports Centre early this year but the plans were scuttled by the Coronavirus pandemic. "Going virtual gave us a chance to make sure the awards do not die out," said the founder of Yarona FM, Percy Raditladi, in an interview.

"We did not anticipate this, but this is the next chapter of our lives. Even though the awards turned out beautifully, it was not an easy journey. We lost two days of sleep trying to perfect the art of a virtual show. There will always be teething problems but we are happy. Virtual is good. It's a new journey that requires a new mindset."

Presented by Yarona FM stalwarts, Leungo Pitse and Kedi Molosiwa, the virtual affair showed short clips of every video in the running before the lucky winner was announced for each category. The video was then cut to the winner's speech, pre-recorded in case the artist won. Because everything was pre-recorded, including performances by ATI and Girly, the awards were delivered seamlessly.

Said Raditladi: "While it would never be able to quite compete with the excitement and spontaneous nature of an actual event, it successfully showed that this format could be adopted for today's life. Personally, actual events still mean a lot to me but virtual also ensured that we do not kill the programme."

In his keynote address, the Minister of Youth Empowerment, Sports and Culture Development (MYSC), Tumiso Rakgare, said the objective of their partnership with Yarona FM was to deliver the first televised music awards. As a former sports presenter with the radio station himself, Rakgare said MYSC was grateful for the role that the station continued to play to nurture and grow talent, music and the broadcasting industry in Botswana.



purchased exclusive rights to broadcast the YAMAS 2020 as a strategy to increase local and entertainment content on the channel.

"The rights were acquired at a cost of P772 320. From this amount, P612 320, which constitutes 79% of the total budget, will go directly towards the empowerment of about 139 arts and culture practitioners. This event is 100% locally created with everything sourced locally. It is a proudly PHUSHA BW event."

Meanwhile, this year's awards saw many new youthful entrants made it to the

nominations list and female artists made a mark by winning awards in categories for which they were nominated in. However, the biggest winner of the night was singer/songwriter Henceford "Han C" Magapatona who snatched the coveted People's Choice Artist of the Year award that came with a whopping P35 000, Song of the Year featuring DJ Khuchi, Best RnB Song and Best Collabo with FME DJs, ATI and Mjamaica, as well as Best Pop Song with Frost and Towdee Mac.

The Icon of the Year award went to Itumeleng Tumie Ramsden while the Hall of Fame award was claimed by Eric Ramco.

Yarona FM partnered with MYSC, First National Bank Botswana (FNBB) and Mascom who contributed money for the cash prizes from P10 000. "We recognise the hardship that has befallen the creative industry due to the COVID-19 pandemic," Station Manager, Kelly Ramputswa, said. "The effort of gifting artists with money is a big boost since most of them did not have any income from live performances due to COVID-19 that led to suspension of many events."

The biggest winner of the night was singer/songwriter Henceford "Han C" Magapatona who snatched the coveted People's Choice Artist of the Year award that came with a whopping P35 000.

"As custodians of youth and arts industries, we found it paramount to synergise our efforts with Yarona FM through NOW TV channel," he noted. "MYSC

Expert calls on musicians to "keep your fans clicking"

GOSEGO MOTSUMI

The Companies and Intellectual Property Authority (CIPA) and the World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO) recently co-hosted a virtual music conference to equip Botswana artists with skills to market their works in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The facilitator of "The Business of Music: Promoting and Selling Music During and After COVID-19" was US-based music expert Carlos Delgado-Imbert, who noted that COVID-19 has had devastating impacts on the music industry that largely depends on live music events as its biggest revenue earner. "The global live music industry revenue was expected to amount to US\$31 billion by 2022," he told the 63 local artists in attendance.

Delgado-Imbert advised the artists to use their stage names to establish a solid digital real estate in order to make it easy for their fans to locate them. He said the artists should ensure that they are continually providing content so that their fans are agog for more.

"Due to the pandemic and subsequent bans on crowded entertainment venues, this figure will not be achieved. The World Health Organisation (WHO) has also predicted that the pandemic may continue into 2021/22. This then calls for concerted efforts by stakeholders in the music industry to seek alternative ways to take their music to the market and run successful music businesses during and after the pandemic."

Musicians were reminded that the pandemic will not take away the music industry because fans will continue to listen to their music. Delgado-Imbert advised the artists to use their stage names to establish a solid digital real

estate in order to make it easy for their fans to locate them. He said the artists should ensure that they are continually providing content so that their fans are agog for more. "Keep people clicking," the expert said in a recurring reprise.

This is especially relevant for Botswana where lockdowns have been intermittent, leading to increased use of social and digital media. Because they have established followings, said Delgado-Imbert, musicians should now look into monetising their online content and pointed to portals such as StageIt, BandsInTown, Triller and Bandcamp as tools that can be used by artists to interact with fans and to host live online concerts for a fee. He said use of these portals will have the added advantage of raising the musicians' international presence and growing their reach beyond the borders of Botswana.

The expert advised artists to foster a close relationship with CIPA as the protector of their intellectual property and encouraged them to affiliate with COSBOTS in order to start earning royalties. Whereupon CIPA's Awareness and Communications Manager, Marietta Magashula, said her organisation will contact the participants to collate their individual responses to the webinar and gauge how they will implement what they learned from it. "The participants expressed appreciation of the conference," she said. "They said it presented them with opportunities to explore more avenues to commercialise their works."

In his remarks at the beginning of the webinar, the Registrar General of CIPA, Conductor Masena, had spoken of how the government will soon launch the National Strategy for the Creative Industries. The strategy is a project that CIPA, which is under the auspices of the Ministry of Investment, Trade and Industry, has been working on in collaboration with the Ministry of Youth Empowerment, Sports and Culture Development (MYSC).

Masena said it seeks to promote economic diversification through the creative industry and achieve an inclusive, structured, adequately resourced and sustainable sector.

Meanwhile, Delgado-Imbert appealed to the artists to collaborate with health authorities and private entities to spread COVID-19 awareness messages to their fans.



Power of women, racism take centre stage in Wildflower Season

Author says the novel is for people interested in women's development, social advocacy, relationships and race relations

GOSEGO MOTSUMI

The latest offering from the literary world is an inspirational fiction novel titled "Wildflower Season." Written by former media and communications personality, Lelang Ferguson, the book addresses the power of contemporary women who use their voices to achieve unity towards a common goal.

"My target audience is people who are interested in anything related to women's development and social advocacy, relationships and race relations." - Lelang Ferguson, author of Wildflower Season.

It also addresses issues of racism and the need to reconcile as human beings rather than retaliate against one another. "This is my first novel," said Ferguson in an interview. "My target audience is people who are interested in anything related to women's development and social advocacy, relationships and race rela-

tions."

Released two weeks ago, Wildflower Season chronicles the story of a family that has been assigned to break limitations imposed by racism and different generations of the same family becoming game-changing activists. The story is mainly about Fidelia Bishop, a young black woman and her adoptive mother, Jennifer Cooper, who is a widowed white woman.

Their relationship leads to Fidelia discovering her purpose, understanding her family and history and inspiring the life of her great-granddaughter Selma to follow in her footsteps. "I have been writing most of my life but I was not focused on creative writing," Ferguson explained. "It has mostly been inspirational and motivational writing through blogs and as an editorial writer."

In the wake of COVID-19, the publishing world has had its fair share of challenges brought on by the virus. For Ferguson, who is passionate about race, women, children, community and social advocacy, the only challenging part has been logistics. Many organisations have been affected by the outbreak of COVID-19, which has meant working with fewer employees and processes taking longer than usual for her.

"On the other hand, technology has given us an advantage because we are able to sell our books online, and has made communicating with audiences much more effective," she said. "So not all hope is lost."

The new book is available on Amazon for \$15.99 and in Botswana for P220.00. It is also available in South Africa and on Bookshop.com. Ferguson is a Christian mother of two teenage girls, daughter and sister. She has been in the media and communications industry for almost 20 years in various capacities, including news anchor and news and current affairs editor and producer.





LEGAE ENGLISH MEDIUM SCHOOL HAS AN OPENING POSITION FOR A NETWORK TECHNICIAN

Required qualifications

A holder of networking certifications, such as CompTIA's Network+, Cisco's CCNA, and Microsoft certifications in Windows Server and Windows Client and FortiGate.

Please forward application letter, CV, Certified copies of qualifications and the names of two referees to:

The Managing Director
Legae Primary School
P. O. Box 641
Gaborone

Email: legae@legaeinvestors.com

Be prepared to work with the School's Ethos and Policies.

The School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and applicants must be willing to undergo child protection screening, including checks with past employers and criminal records.

CLOSING DATE FOR APPLICATIONS: 09.10.2020

COVID-19 alters Botswana Day celebrations

But task teams extend a special dispensation to holidaymakers with advance bookings



(Pic: MONIRUL BHUIYAN/PRESS PHOTO)

GOSEGO MOTSUMI

Known for bustling crowds across the country, this year's independence celebrations, or Boipuso, will be a muted affair in accordance with what the doctor ordered in safety prescriptions for Botswana at 54, thanks to COVID-19.

The Ministry of Youth, Sports Empowerment and Culture Development unveiled details of its virtual festivities that will take the place of live performances that Botswana have come to expect at this time of the year.

Botswana Day is also an opportunity for event planners to cash in on the patriotism with music festivals.

"This year's Independence is different," said the Coordinator of the task team, Dr Kereng Masupu. "Normally we would be travelling to re-unite and

celebrate with our loved ones but now there is COVID-19. If you are in Gaborone, stay here if it is not essential for you to travel."

What this means is that the music festivals, fireworks, parades, picnics and family reunions that have become the standard fare of Botswana Day will be conspicuous by their near-absence.

The National Stadium in Gaborone is usually filled to capacity for a military parade that kicks off the celebrations before troupes of dancers perform a wide repertoire of traditional renditions as the Blue, Black and White flag billows everywhere throughout the country.

Across towns, villages and hamlets, Botswana converge at the Kgotla, the central square, to rejoice and share a meal from the same pot before "dikwaere" stamp their authority on the proceedings right up to dusk when people, especially the youth, head to house parties. Botswana Day is also an opportunity for event planners to cash in on the patriotism with music festivals. Not this time around, thanks to COVID-19.

Gatherings are still limited to two persons, except for funerals, cultural events and sports where only 50 persons are allowed, according to the Director of Health Services, Dr Malaki Tshipayagae.

But there is a little dispensation for local tourism because after cancelling inter-zonal permits for the independence weekend in a bid to contain the virus, the COVID-19 Task Team backtracked with a waiver to allow only those who had pre-booked their holiday destinations to travel.



Legae English Medium School is a registered PSLE and Cambridge International School offering Botswana Primary School Leaving Examinations in English First Language, Mathematics, Science and ICT.



STANDARD 1 TO STANDARD 5 LIMITED SPACES AVAILABLE ACCEPTING APPLICANTS FOR 2021, 2022 & 2023 - STD 1

Our Motto
"Every Child Is Yours"
Reflects the Indigenous tradition in Botswana that all members of a community have a collective responsibility in molding the next generation.

Chinese language lessons have been incorporated in the school's curriculum, commencing from Standard 2 onwards. Setswana is taught commencing from Standard 1. Other extra-curricular activities offered includes Spanish and Horse Riding.

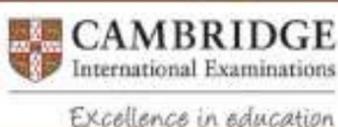


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(+267) 72303366 (Head)
Email: cashier@legaeprimary.com
administrator@legaeprimary.com

Find us on  @Legae English Medium School



BTC and Thapong host workshop for artists

The workshops are a part of BTC's 40th anniversary celebrations

BTC Foundation is helping Thapong Visual Arts Centre host a development workshop to equip visual artists with an array of skills geared at improving and making their artwork more appealing.

The two-day workshop forms part of a Memorandum of Understanding between the two parties on promotion of the arts and creative sector in Botswana. In 2018, the BTC Foundation agreed to sponsor Thapong with P1.7 million for three years to help create opportunities and open a window for the growth of the industry as an employer and revenue earner for artists.

Says Golekanye Molapisi, Corporate Communications and PR Manager at Botswana Telecommunications Corporation Limited (BTC): "As stakeholders, we struggle to extricate ourselves from the ideology that views the arts as merely a part-time preoccupation designed only to entertain or delight. The arts must and should be viewed as a potential contributor to economic growth, job creation and social emancipation."

BTC Foundation is a vehicle through which BTC delivers its corporate social responsibility mandate and is the official sponsor of the BTC Phonebook cover design and Thapong Artist of the Year Award (TAYA) competition. In line with the MOU between the two parties, the subject matter of the workshops, which will be held in Gaborone and Mahalapye, is based on learnings from benchmarking in the SADC region, as well as recommendations and feedback from various judges on the annual BTC Phonebook Cover and TAYA competitions.

"Through our MOU and sponsorship agreement, we want to develop the visual arts at grassroots level and afford artists an opportunity through workshops to share skills with an array of established professionals to ensure that they gain international exposure and widen their scope," says the Coordinator of Thapong, Reginald Bakwena:

According to Bakwena, the idea is to enable artists to learn and pick up skills from experienced artists so that they may enhance their mastery in different areas such as craftsmanship, art criticism, innovation, artwork pricing and getting ready for competitions.

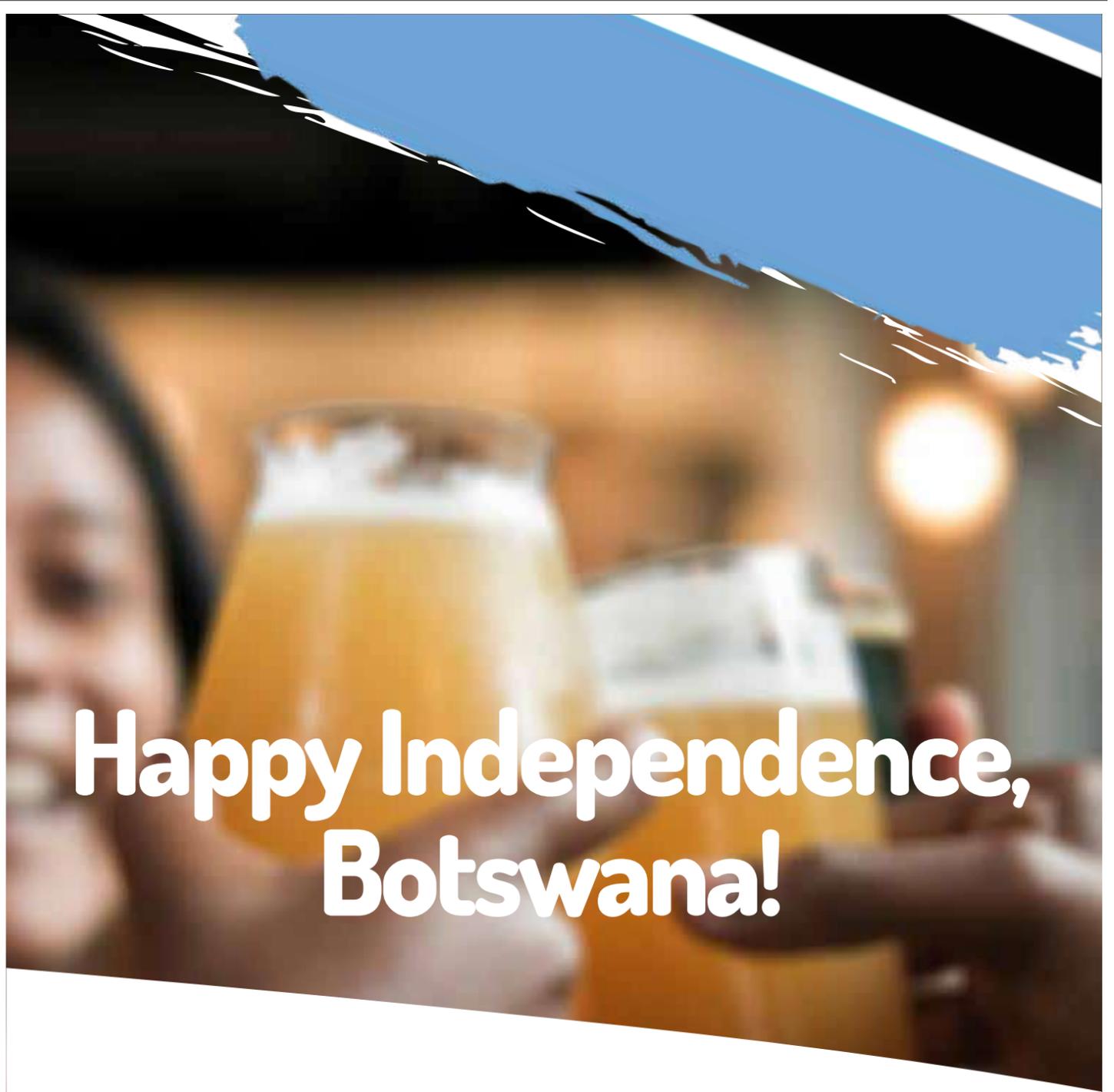
BTC, which is celebrating 40 years of progress and social development this year, is keen to nurture to help artists unleash their potential by enabling

them to make a living from their craft. Besides making public spaces more appealing and approachable, BTC believes that unleashing the artistic talent that abounds in Botswana can help the country to become the hub of the creative industry in the SADC region, and thus draw tourists to Africa's oldest democracy to soak up a refreshing creative scene.

Over the years, BTC has been giving back to Botswana by supporting various initiatives, from sport development and environmental protection to entrepreneurship and innovation in the arts and creative sector. "This is because when communities that we operate within thrive, we also thrive as a business," Molapisi says.



Picture credit: Thapong Visual Arts Centre



Happy Independence,
Botswana!



Let's continue to stand together in the battle against Covid-19. Drink responsibly while complying with regulations set by government - keep your masks and maintain social distancing. #ResponsibleTogether



Fluiconnecto Botswana (Pty) Ltd, Broadhurst Gaborone

VACANCY : SENIOR MACHINIST(Fitter & Turner)

Qualification Requirements :
 1. Certificate Class 1 & 3 Fitter Machinist/Turner.
 2. Vast knowledge on Hydraulics, Pneumatics Cylinders and Cranes.

Key Performance Indicators :
 Minimum of 7-8years working experience in similar field is required, with traceable references.
 Inspection of all hydraulic components after stripping.
 Assembly of hydraulic cylinders and pumps.
 Precision standard work using micrometers.
 Servicing of Lathes/Drilling machines/Milling machines.
 Providing drawings as per samples supplied.
 Machining of required components as per diagram or sample.
 Ability to work unsupervised, be motivated and self-driven and results orientated.

We offer : i) 50% Medical Aid on approved Scheme
 ii) Market related Remuneration package

Submit application titled "Machinist Vacancy" enclosing full CV, testimonials, references and copy of Omang .

Applications by email to : recruitment@fluiconnecto.co.bw
 Closing date of applications is Friday 23rd Oct2020.

NB. Response will only be to "Shortlisted candidates"

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Graduate Entrepreneurship Programme incubation Invite



The Botswana University of Agriculture and Natural Resources (BUAN) invites the BUAN class of 2019-2020 to apply for incubation opportunities at the University.

The Graduate Entrepreneurship Programme is a three-year incubation programme that is intended to produce graduates who have both technical and business skills to run commercial agriculture or natural resources enterprises. The programme is coordinated in partnership with the Local Enterprise Authority (LEA).

Selected individuals will be provided with land, equipment, materials, tools, utilities, accommodation, transport, and mentoring.

Graduate Entrepreneurship Programme incubation Invite
CLOSING DATE: 2 October 2020

The available projects are; vegetable production, herbs production, piggery, broiler production, and layer production

REQUIREMENTS

1. Citizen of Botswana
2. Successful completion of studies at BUAN in August 2020
3. A letter of intent highlighting:
 - a. Qualification (with copies of certificate)
 - b. Entrepreneurial traits / skills
 - c. Enterprise of interest
4. Resume
5. Three references
6. Certified copy of National Identity card
7. A Summary of enterprise of interest outlining:
 - a. The enterprise
 - b. Justification
 - c. Market
 - d. Potential challenges for the enterprise

Eligible candidates should submit required documents to; GEP@buan.ac.bw

Inquires can be directed to; GEP@buan.ac.bw or 3650157/ 75509049

Man who cut girlfriend's ears granted bail

A 34-year old man who cut his girlfriend's ears has been granted bail in a Molepolole court this week.



Poloko Gabaikangwe of Lekgwapheng Ward in Molepolole is facing one count of causing grievous bodily harm

after he cut the ears of Tsholofelo Tiribe at Boditsane farmlands near Thebephatshwa on 7 January 2020 after Tiribe allegedly insulted Gabaikangwe's mother.

The prosecutor asked the court to set a date for reading the facts of the case because the charge was changed from unlawful wounding to grievous bodily harm. Bail conditions include the accused reporting himself to the nearest police station once a month, not committing any crime while on bail or interfering with

witnesses, and two sureties paying P500 each.

Magistrate Rosemary Khuto said because the accused had pleaded guilty, the prosecution would need only 14 days to wrap the case up and that she was surprised that they were stalling and setting bail conditions.

The prosecution was ordered to file amended facts and to furnish the accused with the documents in seven days.

Tiribe was allegedly found by a passerby after she was abandoned by the accused in the bush early in January this year and rushed

to Scottish Livingstone Hospital.

Magistrate Rosemary Khuto said because the accused had pleaded guilty, the prosecution would need only 14 days to wrap the case up and that she was surprised that they were stalling and setting bail conditions.



GABORONE 29 September 2020 , Botswana Council of churches in collaboration with other organisations launched the month of prayer which features inter faith prayer service against HIV/AIDS and Covid -19 in Gaborone on 29 September 2020. The minister of Nationality, Immigration and Gender Affairs Anna Maria Mokgethi delivered the keynote speech while US ambassador to Botswana Craigo L Cloud was present during the launch. (Pic:MONIRUL BHUIYAN/PRESS PHOTO)



accommodating your future

BOTSWANA HOUSING CORPORATION

CALL FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

1. The Botswana Housing Corporation invites proposals from 100% Citizen Owned registered companies with PPADB Registration **Code 309 – Material Testing and Geotechnical Services (Sub-codes 01, 02, 03, 04, 05), Code 310 - Surveying Services (Sub-codes 01, 03) and Code 313 – Environmental Services (Sub-codes 01, 02, 07)**
2. Documents containing details of the requirements are available for collection from **Friday 11th September 2020** at the following address:

**Procurement Office,
Botswana Housing Corporation
Plot 10236/7 Lejara Road, Broadhurst
Gaborone, Botswana
Telephone: 3605100**

Business hours are 0730hrs to 1630hrs (Mondays to Fridays)
3. Telegraphic, telephone, facsimile, email or any form of electronic tenders will not be considered.
4. Tenders shall be **HAND delivered** to the address stated in (2) above and shall be clearly marked;

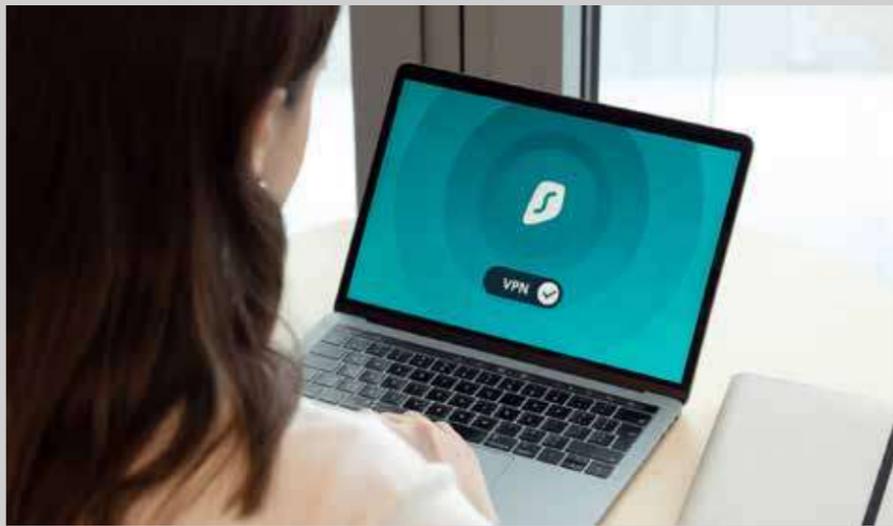
“EOI FOR GEOTECHNICAL, SURVEYING AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTANCY ”
5. Documents must be submitted not later than **0900hrs on Tuesday 13th October 2020.**







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CyberSmartBW Challenge helps young people defeat online hackers

With more and more online accounts being hacked, sometimes with devastating consequences, the Campaign will help people understand how they can stay safe

Are you cybersmart? Do you know the tricks cyber hackers rely on to get into your online accounts? That is the question posed by the CyberSmartBW Challenge, launched on Monday September 28. It is a one-month campaign that will run through the month of October 2020 targeting young people in particular. The goal is to help young people stay safe online. As an incentive the campaign is offering prizes of tablets and cash prizes.

Cyber-attacks are a rapidly growing phenomenon. Google has reported 100 million phishing attacks per day worldwide of its email accounts alone. This comes at a time when a growing number of services and transactions are available online quickly and easily. And during the lockdown, we have been spending more time online – doing homework, talking to family and friends, completing online transactions. A fact not lost on the hackers.

That is why the European Union-funded Cyber Resilience for Development (Cyber4Dev) Project came together with local partners the eBotho Cyber Awareness Campaign, Change Africa, the National Youth Council and BOCRA to launch a campaign in Botswana. The aim is to help them understand the type of tricks and vulnerabilities hackers rely on, and how they can protect themselves.

Once people have been the victim of a cyber-attack, they are vulnerable to identity theft, harassment, blackmail or even financial scams.

According to H.E Mr Jan Sadek, Ambassador of the European Union to Botswana, “young people in particular are vulnerable thanks to their curiosity and desire to connect online. As this is a relatively new technology with which often times parents and even teachers are not very expert, they are having to learn a cyber-culture and etiquette without the usual guidance’.

Throughout the month the campaign will also be organizing online information sessions and radio and tv

campaigns. Young people are also encouraged to take an online quiz to help them understand if their cyber security awareness is up to scratch.

The CyberSmartBW Challenge will comprise a competition open to anyone from the age of 14 to 21. In one short video, statement or post they will be asked to express creatively an important risk that comes from poor cyber security and give an important tip that anyone can take to help keep themselves.

A recorded statement (max two minutes). This can be a poem, a rap, a speech, a statement.

A video for YouTube, tik-tok, Facebook (max 2 minutes)

A poster of Instagram-style post design.

Entries should be sent through whatsapp to **730 33 777**, with full names and location of the entrant.

Deadline for submissions is October 30, 2020 and the winners will be invited to a ceremony in November to receive a tablet and cash prizes.

For more information, please contact David Moepeng. Email: ebotho-cyber@gmail.com. Call/What'sapp: **+267 712 11 712**

Back ground data about growth of internet use benefits and hacks

Botswana, like most emerging economies, has been on an accelerated drive to join the digital revolution. Adoption of digital technologies in various spheres of society has seen internet penetration in the country grow by over 600% between 2010 and 2020 (from 6% to 47%). This rapid adoption of internet means more Batswana are becoming vulnerable to cyber-attacks. The Cyber4Dev Project is an initiative by the EU to support developing nations develop skills and knowledge as well as national strategies for cyber resilience. Botswana is among the countries benefiting from this support.

By 2020 it is estimated that the number of devices across the world connected to the internet will reach 50 billion.



RIVERWALK MALL HOSTS CULTURAL AND ART MARKET

The 2020 Independence holiday weekend is a different type of holiday. By now all roads would be leading out of town for the much needed breather. Just what can one do to induce the nostalgia of Independence holidays past?

This is all arrayed for you at the Riverwalk Cultural and Art Display Market hosted in conjunction with Thapong Visual Arts and the local community of Old Naledi Pallet Crafters. Don't leave the children at home, there is enough joy to go around. Nqoosa Development Centre has an offering for our little Picasos

Riverwalk Shopping Mall has just the answer!

Come and indulge yourself in the

undulating landscapes of Botswana, her absorbing sunsets and the freely roaming wildlife. Immerse yourself and your family in the beautiful crafts and creativity that defines us as a people! Have your moments of serenity and excitement all packaged into one weekend!

This is all arrayed for you at the Riverwalk Cultural and Art Display Market hosted in conjunction with Thapong Visual Arts and the local community of Old Naledi Pallet Crafters. Don't leave the children at home, there is enough joy to go around. Nqoosa Development Centre has an offering for our little Picasos.

Walk around the mall and spend on some art, garden sculptures or just refresh the patio this year! Grab a coffee, a milkshake or a meal and take it all in at Riverwalk Shopping Centre.

The extensive tenant base will ensure your every need is taken care of. The food court with a view of the Notwane River and the wide open courtyards will give you the revival and stimulation that the openness of Botswana's landscapes offer.

The year is 2020 and the Independence Holiday has a new destination, Riverwalk Shopping Mall.

All Covid 19 protocols are in place.

IN THE HIGH COURT OF THE REPUBLIC OF BOTSWANA HELD AT GABORONE (Before RADJENG J)

CASE NO: CVHGB-000989-19

In the matter between:
FIRST NATIONAL BANK OF BOTSWANA LIMITED Plaintiff
 and
PENNY SIPHO NTWAAGAE Defendant

NOTICE OF SALE IN EXECUTION

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

DATE OF SALE : 28th October, 2020
TIME OF SALE : 1400hours
PLACE OF SALE : Lot 19526, Francistown
PROPERTY TO BE SOLD : Defendants' right, title and interest on a certain piece of land being Lot 19526, Francistown, measuring 399m² held under Deed of Transfer Number. 274/2014 dated 24th day of March 2014, made in favour of **PENNY SIPHO NTWAAGAE** with developments thereon being a 3 bed roomed, toilet, bathroom, kitchen, sitting room, dining room, screen wall, paved, sliding gate.

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

DATED AT GABORONE THIS 21st DAY OF SEPTEMBER, 2020.

 **RAMALEPA ATTORNEYS**
 NOTARIES & CONVEYANCERS

KEBONYEKGOSI NTEBELE c/o RAMALEPA ATTORNEYS
 Plaintiff's Attorneys
 Plot 3171, Morupule Drive
 Extension 11, Gaborone
 P.O. Box 70567
(VR/mm/10594) 71694303

IN THE SUBORDINATE COURT FOR THE CENTRAL DISTRICT HELD AT SELEBI PHIKWE

CASE NO: CCMSP-000154-20

In the matter between:
GOSEGO MATSHAMEKO PLAINTIFF
 And
CATHERINE ELIAS DEFENDANT

NOTICE OF SALE IN EXECUTION

BE PLEASED TO TAKE NOTICE THAT pursuant to judgment granted by the above Honourable Court the following property shall be sold by public action by Deputy Sheriff Mr Richard Kenosi to the highest bidder as follows;

Date of Sale : 30 October 2020
Venue : Infront of Selebi Phikwe Police Station
Time : 0900hrs
Property to be sold : 1 x Corolla white in colour REG: B555 AVC

Terms of Sale : Strictly cash or bank guaranteed cheques only

DATED AT SELEBI PHIKWE ON THIS 22nd DAY OF SEPTEMBER 2020.

 **DEPUTY SHERIFF:
 RICHARD KENOSI
 CELL: 76267273**

CHINGWARA LAW CHAMBERS-SELEBI PHIKWE

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

Case No: CVHGB-001806-16

In the matter between:
RDC PROPERTIES LIMITED PLAINTIFF
 And
GADGET HUB (PROPRIETARY) LIMITED 1ST DEFENDANT
LILIAN BADZILI 2ND DEFENDANT

NOTICE OF SALE IN EXECUTION

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 DITIRO P. GABOBAKWE** to the highest bidder as follows:-

DATE OF SALE : 20 October 2020
TIME : 10.30 am
VENUE : Broadhurst Magistrate Court
PROPERTY TO BE SOLD : 1 x motor vehicle registration number B 430 BFV Toyota Avensis, 1 x LG television 40 inch, 1 x couch, 1 x single fridge defy, 1 x Automan Chair, 1 x micro, White in colour.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS : Cash or Bank guaranteed cheque.

DATED AT GABORONE THIS 25th DAY OF SEPTEMBER 2020.

 **RAMALEPA ATTORNEYS**
 NOTARIES & CONVEYANCERS

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

Intention to Change Marital Regime
 (In terms of Section 8(1)(f) of the Married Persons Property Act, Cap.29:03)

LEATILE MEDUPE and LEBOGANG MEDUPE ("the Applicants"), married in community of property on the 17th day of **November 2005** at **Gaborone**, wish to change their marital property regime to out of community of property.

The parties intend to apply to the High Court of Botswana after the expiration of the three (3) weeks' statutory notice from the date of first publication hereof.

Any person, creditor or debtor who may have an interest in the assets and/or liabilities of the parties' Estate, should they have objections to the parties changing their property regime, are to inform the parties' Attorneys, **VERGEER LAW**, at the address below, before the expiration of the said three (3) weeks period or make representations before the High Court of Botswana once the contemplated application is lodged.

DATED AT GABORONE THIS 7th DAY OF SEPTEMBER 2020.

VERGEER LAW, Applicants' Attorneys, **Unit 63, The Office, Plot 64517, Fairgrounds, GABORONE, P. O. Box 41118, GABORONE, Telephone No: (+267) 3980363**

 **VERGEER LAW**
 Attorneys | Notaries | Conveyancers

EUROMONEY REWARDS FNBB FOR EXCELLENCE



BOGA CHILINDE-MASEBU
 First National Bank of Botswana Limited

In its true spirit of help, FNBB has been consistent in coming up with many firsts, developing innovative solutions, putting customers first and relevant social responsiveness. This help does not go unnoticed, evidenced by the Bank's win of the 2020 Best Bank in Botswana *Euromoney Award for Excellence*, for the 4th time in a row.

FNBB CEO, Steven Lefentse Bogatsu said: "We are highly honoured and humbled by this feat. Winning this award 4 years in a row demonstrates our success in recognising and responding to market and customer needs in

an innovate and efficient manner. The award motivates us to continue doing even better to provide real help to all our stakeholders. And we understand that if it were not for our hard-working and committed staff, the Bank would not be the success that it is today."

"Our journey throughout the years has been inspired by growth, innovation and listening to customer angst. From pioneering the first ATM Deposit-Taking Machines in 2015 and Cash Plus (agency banking) in 2019, to introducing e-Wallet reversal and eWallet@Till in 2020, our customer needs always come first. eWallet@Till is an extension of our already existing 24-hour convenient banking, which allows customers to use their eWallet to pay for groceries

and withdraw cash from swiping machines in partner stores," Bogatsu added.

Organised by Euromoney Magazine, which covers the development of international finance and awards the top banks in the world, the Euromoney Awards are globally recognised as the crème de la crème of financial services awards. Annually, the Awards receive over one thousand submissions from banks all over the world and covers more than fifty regional awards. This year, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, a few changes were made, allowing for banks to reflect the changes in the banking industry and financial markets.

The award is particularly important this year amidst the Covid-19 pandemic, where FNBB had to really come through for its stakeholders with various relief initiatives such as the Cash Flow relief, heeding to the call from government to donate to the Covid Relief Fund, supporting frontline workers, partnering with local youth SMEs and the Bodiragatsi Jwame, Lentswe Lame creative artist relief initiative.

Every year, FNBB looks forward to finding better ways of providing real help to its customers and ensure the highest quality of service for all its customers.

**Before Justice Tau
IN THE HIGH COURT OF THE REPUBLIC OF BOTSWANA
HELD AT LOBATSE**

In the matter between:
MOPATI KGWEENYANE
And
OBUSITSWE TSHENYEGO

CASE NO: CVHGB- 001292-19
Plaintiff
Defendant

NOTICE OF SALE IN EXECUTION

BE PLEASED TO TAKE NOTICE that pursuant to a Writ of Execution of this Honourable Court dated **18th May 2020**, the following **immovable property** of the above mentioned Defendant will be sold in execution to the highest bidder by **Deputy Sherriff D. P. Gabobakwe** in the manner hereinafter set out.

DATE OF SALE : Friday 2nd October 2020
TIME OF SALE : 10:30 a.m.
PLACE OF SALE : Tribal Lot 3567, Kopong
TERMS OF SALE : Cash or bank guaranteed cheques
PROPERTY TO BE SOLD : Certain piece of land being **Tribal Lot: 3567, Kopong**, situated in the Bakwena Tribal Territory; Measuring **48.4x45.6M²** with developments thereon consisting of **2½ House, 1 x 2 bed roomed house (Thatched Roundavel) Pitlatrine Toilet, Wiremesh fenced and water connection.**

The conditions of sale may be inspected at the Offices of Deputy Sheriff Gaboakwe

DATED AT GABORONE THIS 5th DAY OF JUNE 2020.

Deputy Sheriff D. P. GABOBAKWE
C/o MOPATI KGWEENYANE
73900288 / 72901534
P.O. BOX 405294
GABORONE

**IN THE HIGH COURT OF THE REPUBLIC OF BOTSWANA
HELD AT LOBATSE (Before DUBE J)**

In the matter between:
FIRST NATIONAL BANK OF BOTSWANA LIMITED
and
ISAACS MANDIGO
ELIZABETH MANDIGO

CASE NO: CVHGB-001742-19
Plaintiff
1st Defendant
2nd Defendant

NOTICE OF SALE IN EXECUTION

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

DATE OF SALE : 28th October, 2020
TIME OF SALE : 1100hours
PLACE OF SALE : Lot 27435, Francistown
PROPERTY TO BE SOLD : Defendants' right, title and interest on a certain piece of land being Lot 27435, Francistown, measuring 324m² held under Deed of Fixed Period State Grant No. FT 459/2014 dated 13th day of May 2014, made in favour of **ELIZABETH MANDINGO** with developments thereon being a sitting room, dining room, kitchen, pantry, common toilet, kitchen, 3 beds, bathroom x 2 plus toilet x 3, garage and screenwall.

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

DATED AT GABORONE THIS 21st DAY OF SEPTEMBER, 2020.



KEBONYEKGOSI NTEBELE c/o RAMALEPA ATTORNEYS
Plaintiff's Attorneys
Plot 3171, Morupule Drive
Extension 11, Gaborone
P.O. Box 70567
GABORONE(UB)
(VR/mm/11127) 71694303

**IN THE HIGH COURT OF THE REPUBLIC OF BOTSWANA
HELD AT LOBATSE (Before LETSIDIDI J)**

In the matter between:
FIRST NATIONAL BANK OF BOTSWANA LIMITED
and
KHUMO MANGO MOILOA

CASE NO: CVHGB-002524-19
Plaintiff
Defendant

NOTICE OF SALE IN EXECUTION

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

DATE OF SALE : 27th October, 2020
TIME OF SALE : 14:30 hours
PLACE OF SALE : Lot 6949, Gaborone;
PROPERTY TO BE SOLD : Defendant's right, title and interest on a certain piece being Lot 6949, Gaborone (Portion of Lot 6415 Gaborone) measuring 536m², with developments thereon being a house comprising of kitchen, sitting room, 3 bedrooms, toilet, bathroom, separate rooms, (3) at the back of main house, pit latrine, screen wall, paved, held under deed of transfer number 828/2003 made in favour of **KHUMO MANGO MOILOA**.

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

DATED AT GABORONE THIS 21st DAY OF SEPTEMBER 2020.



K. NTEBELE c/o RAMALEPA ATTORNEYS
Plaintiff's Attorneys
Plot 3171, Morupule Drive
Extension 11,
P.O. Box 70567
GABORONE (UB)
(VR/mm/11125)

APPLICATION FOR A CERTIFIED COPY OF LOST DEED

NOTICE is hereby given that Kinsley Kgetlwe, acting on behalf of **ESTATE LATE MOTSISI TUTU KGETLWE** intends applying for a certified copy of **Deed of Transfer No. 1870/99** dated the **28th day of October 1999** in respect of **Lot 4424, Gaborone** in respect of the below mentioned property namely;

CERTAIN : piece of land being **Lot 4424, Gaborone;**

SITUATE : in **Gaborone Extension No. 14;**

MEASURING : **613 m² (Six Hundred and Thirteen Square Metres);**

WHICH PROPERTY : is held under **Deed of Transfer No. 1870/99** dated the **28th day of October 1999** made in favour of **ESTATE LATE MOTSISI TUTU KGETLWE;**

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

DATED AT GABORONE ON THE 14th DAY OF SEPTEMBER 2020

M K MOESI & CO
Lot 2689, Extension 9
Hospital Way
P O Box 10160
Gaborone

**IN THE HIGH COURT OF THE REPUBLIC OF BOTSWANA
HELD AT GABORONE (Before MOTSWAGOLE J)**

In the matter between:
FIRST NATIONAL BANK OF BOTSWANA LIMITED
and
KGAREBE DIANA MOKOBI
ANTHONY MOMPATI MOKOBI

CASE NO: CVHGB-001057-19
Plaintiff
1st Defendant
2nd Defendant

NOTICE OF SALE IN EXECUTION

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

DATE OF SALE : 26th October, 2020
TIME OF SALE : 1200hours
PLACE OF SALE : Lot 28522, Gaborone
PROPERTY TO BE SOLD : Defendants' right, title and interest on a certain piece of land being Lot 28522, Gaborone, measuring 1039m² held under Deed of Fixed Period State Grant No. 1895/1995 dated 28th day of December 1998, made in favour of **KGAREBE DIANA MOKOBI** with developments thereon being a sitting room, dining room, kitchen, pantry, common toilet, common bathroom, 1 bedroom not fitted, 2 fitted bedrooms, 1 master ensuite, servants quarter, double garage, paved, boundary wall, electric fence and sliding gate.

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

DATED AT GABORONE THIS 21st DAY OF SEPTEMBER, 2020.



K. NTEBELE c/o RAMALEPA ATTORNEYS
Plaintiff's Attorneys
Plot 3171, Morupule Drive
Extension 11, Gaborone
P.O. Box 70567
GABORONE(UB)
(VR/mm/10530) 71694303

**IN THE HIGH COURT OF THE REPUBLIC OF BOTSWANA
HELD AT GABORONE (Before GABANAGAE J)**

In the matter between:
FIRST NATIONAL BANK OF BOTSWANA LIMITED
and
LEBOGANG MPEMPE

CASE NO: CVHGB-000524-20
Plaintiff
Defendant

NOTICE OF SALE IN EXECUTION

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

DATE OF SALE : 27th October, 2020
TIME OF SALE : 10:30 hours
PLACE OF SALE : Tribal Lot 24, Mokatse;
PROPERTY TO BE SOLD : Defendant's right, title and interest on a certain piece being Tribal Lot 24, Mokatse with some developments thereon, comprises of sitting room, kitchen, (open plan), separate kitchen with storeroom (unfinished) dining room, quest toilet, combined bath with shower and toilet, 2 bedrooms, master ensuite, fenced with diamond wire, measuring 1300m² held under notarial deed of cession No. MA 559/2015 dated 10th July 2015 made in favour of **LEBOGANG MPEMPE**.

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

DATED AT GABORONE THIS 21st DAY OF SEPTEMBER 2020.



K. NTEBELE c/o RAMALEPA ATTORNEYS
Plaintiff's Attorneys
Plot 3171, Morupule Drive
Extension 11,
P.O. Box 70567
GABORONE (UB)
(VR/mm/13765)

**IN THE HIGH COURT OF THE REPUBLIC OF BOTSWANA
HELD AT GABORONE (Before LEBURU J)**

In the matter between:
FIRST NATIONAL BANK OF BOTSWANA LIMITED
and
MAGDELINE GAOBONALE SEBIDIE

CASE NO: CVHGB-001790-17
Plaintiff
Defendant

NOTICE OF SALE IN EXECUTION

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

DATE OF SALE : 30th October, 2020
TIME OF SALE : 1030 hours
PLACE OF SALE : Lot 23607, Gaborone
PROPERTY TO BE SOLD : Defendants' right, title and interest on a certain piece of land being Lot 23607, Gaborone measuring 450m² held under Deed of Transfer No. **935/2007** dated 15th day of May 2007 made in favour of **MAGDELINE GAOBONALE SEBIDIE** with developments thereon being a sitting room, kitchen, toilet 2 bedrooms, bath room.

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

DATED AT GABORONE THIS 23rd DAY OF SEPTEMBER, 2020.



ONKGOPTSE MOTHAGODI c/o RAMALEPA ATTORNEYS
Plaintiff's Attorneys
Plot 3171, Morupule Drive
Extension 11, Gaborone
P.O. Box 70567
GABORONE(UB)
(VR/mm/1786)

**IN THE HIGH COURT OF THE REPUBLIC OF BOTSWANA
HELD AT LOBATSE (Before LETSIDIDI J)**

In the matter between:
FIRST NATIONAL BANK OF BOTSWANA LIMITED
and
KEDIBONYE MPALAWALI
VICTOR MPALAWALI

CASE NO: CVHGB-003923-19
Plaintiff
1st Defendant
2nd Defendant

NOTICE OF SALE IN EXECUTION

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

DATE OF SALE : 26th October, 2020
TIME OF SALE : 1400hours
PLACE OF SALE : Lot 20312, Gaborone
PROPERTY TO BE SOLD : Defendants' right, title and interest on a certain piece of land being Lot 20312, Gaborone, measuring 450m² held under Deed of Transfer No 1153/2008 dated 13th day of May 2008, made in favour of **VICTOR MPALAWALI** with developments thereon being a house, sitting room, kitchen, dining room, 3 bedrooms, bath, combined with toilet, separate toilet, fenced with diamond wire.

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

DATED AT GABORONE THIS 21st DAY OF SEPTEMBER, 2020.



KEBONYEKGOSI NTEBELE c/o RAMALEPA ATTORNEYS
Plaintiff's Attorneys
Plot 3171, Morupule Drive
Extension 11, Gaborone
P.O. Box 70567
GABORONE(UB)
(VR/mm/13585) 71694303

BAA To Return To Competitions Next Year

The athletics association worried by the spiking cases of COVID-19



" We have decided to suspend the activities until the situation gets better and that will be next year because as of now most athletes are in the off season, they have stopped training. The best thing is to begin next year."

TLOTLO KEBINAKGABO

Botswana Athletics Association (BAA) will only return with competitions on 2021 due to the accelerating cases of COVID-19 in the country, the Association Vice President Administration Oabona Theetso has said.

Just like other local sporting codes, the BAA towards the end of March 2020 halted their calendar of activities in order to help curb the spread of the

COVID-19 pandemic. BAA nevertheless announced on July that they took a resolution to return to competitions on August after getting a green light to do so from Botswana National Sport Commission (BNSC).

The local athletics motherbody however failed to do so as the country's COVID-19 cases began to accelerate something which resulted in a lockdown in the Greater Gaborone Zone. "The Association intends to take all the necessary steps cautiously to

ensure that we move forward without going back and forth, which has been the case with the current National Health situation (Covid 19 Regulations)," reads a statement released by BAA towards the end of August. "It is against this background that we would like to inform you that all Botswana Athletics Events/Competitions/Races will be put on hold until further notice."

Now, BAA will only return to competitions next year as according to Theetso. "The COVID-19 cases are increasing so we can't manage to endanger our athletes lives," he said. " We have decided to suspend the activities until the situation gets better and that will be next year because as of now most athletes are in the off season, they have stopped training. The best thing is to begin next year."

He said that however, should not stop athletes to compete outside the country. "BAA is not responsible for athletes' involvement in competitions like the Diamond League," he noted. "That is the athletes as well as their managers' responsibility. It is our wish that they could be competing like other athletes as they could be generating money for themselves as well as getting fit; some were also going to qualify for the Olympics."

Meanwhile, due to the COVID-19, the Tokyo Olympics have been postponed to next year, something which also forced the IOC and IAAF to suspend the athletics qualification period between 5th April until 30 November 2020. The qualification period will now resume on 1 December 2020 up to 29 June 2021. Four athletes have already qualified for the Olympics, they include Nijel Amos (men's 800m) as well women 400m athletes in Galefele Moroko, Amantle Montsho and Christine Botlgetswe.

I Have Unfinished Business At BFA – Letshwiti

From Page 35

profitable entity. It was important to be financially stable because stakeholders only want to deal companies that are clean. By fixing the financial problems, we have been able to attract new sponsors and partners such as FNB, ABSA and Orange (FA Cup), we now have access to funding from FIFA because our finances are in order. The next step now is to finalize the academy project which is already in motion as we speak. Building an academy will enable us to ensure that we tap into the development of young players who will raise our game to new levels. Every football success story begins with a good development project, look at Germany and even Iceland (when they qualified for Euro 2016) for example, they took years building their projects and we want to set up our own blueprint through our academy," the BFA president added.

Letshwiti also revealed that they are on the cusp of signing a Memorandum of Un-

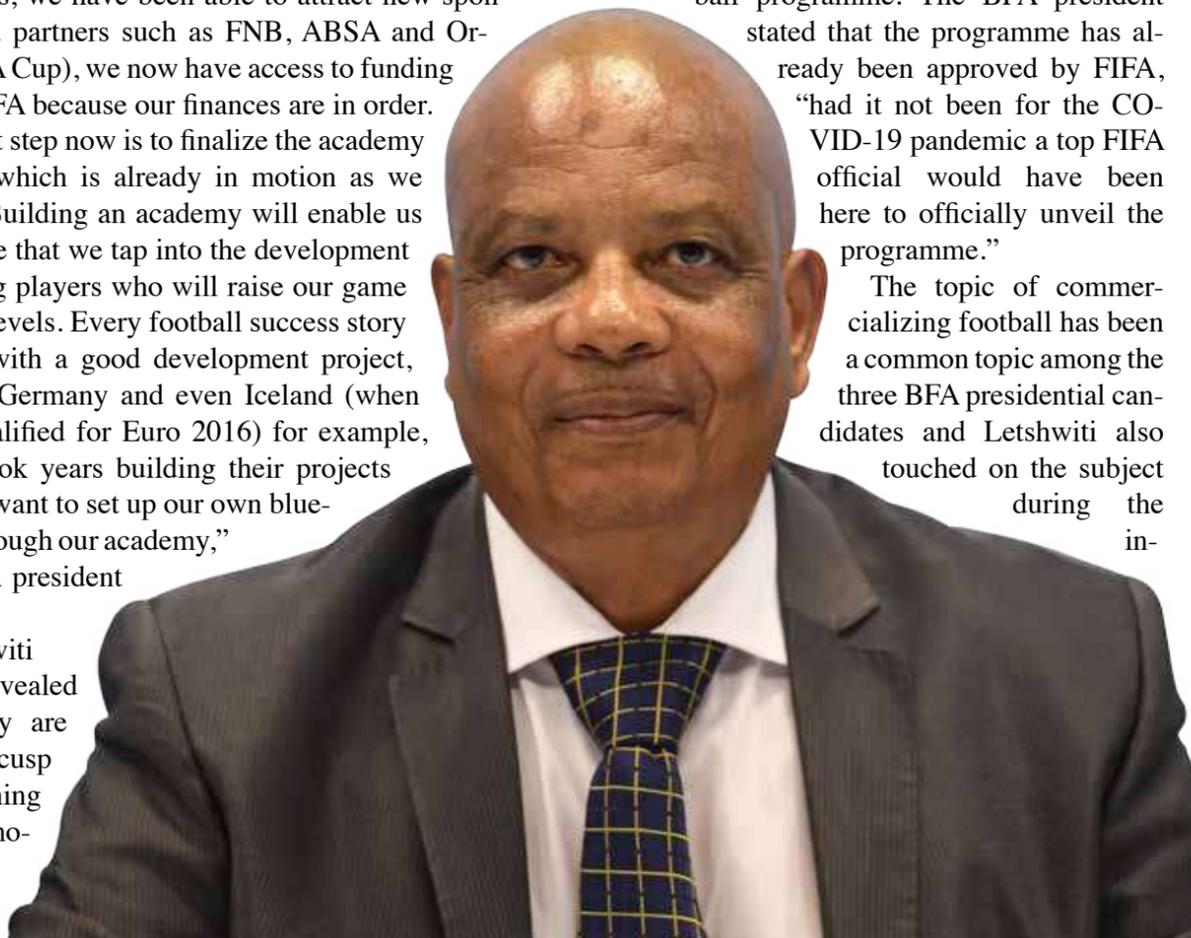
derstanding (MoU) with the Ministry of Education and Skills Development, the Ministry of Youth, Sport and Culture and FIFA to start a schools football programme. The BFA president stated that the programme has already been approved by FIFA, "had it not been for the COVID-19 pandemic a top FIFA official would have been here to officially unveil the programme."

The topic of commercializing football has been a common topic among the three BFA presidential candidates and Letshwiti also touched on the subject during the in-

terview. He stated that clubs in the Premier League have already gone through the Commercialization Drive but stressed that the onus is on the clubs to implement what they learned through the initiative.

"Commercialization of football is something we have already started pushing and we engaged all clubs in the Premier League during the recent Commercialization Drive spearheaded by Ashford Mamelodi. It was a resounding success because clubs now understand how to manage themselves in a professional manner. If clubs are ran like businesses they will be able to build excitement amongst supporters a lot more. Every club's biggest wealth is their fan base, our teams have now grasped how to utilize the aspect of fan appreciation because they were sitting on gold mines without fully realising it. Their role is to now fully implement everything they have learned," Letshwiti stressed.

Letshwiti concluded by stating that his progression as a leader has seen him hold positions such as being an executive committee member of COSAFA, the chairman of COSAFA's Legal and Statutes Committee, a member of the FIFA Disciplinary Committee as well as being in the organizing committee of Africa Cup Of Nations (AFCON) tournaments. Through these positions the BFA leader stated that he aims to further leverage on them for the benefit of Botswana football.



Players Fail In SA Because They Never Ask For Advice – Selolwane

BONGANI MALUNGA

Zebbras legend Diphetogo ‘Dipsy’ Selolwane has urged more South African bound Zebbras players to seek advice on how to make it and survive in the Premier Soccer League (PSL) to avoid failing to live up to expectations in the top tier of South African football. In the last few years only a handful of Botswana players have been able to achieve sustained success and longevity while many have been discarded as quickly as they have come through the PSL door.

The likes of Selolwane, Mogogi Gabonamong, Modiri Marumo and Mogakolodi Ngele have been able to ply their trade in South Africa for a longer spell while the new generation of players are only averaging between 10 to 18 months in South Africa before returning to Botswana. In the last five years there have been more players returning to Botswana than ever before.

Selolwane, who won numerous honours in South Africa, is of the view that the players are reluctant to seek

When we were coming through the ranks we learned valuable lessons from players such as Chandi Moruti at Gaborone United, we had to work our way to the top. Even at Zebras we learned a lot from the old guard. We are ambassadors because we have a lot to offer in terms of advice but we are rarely consulted,” Selolwane told *Gazette Sport*.

advice and tips from the older generation on how to achieve success in the highly competitive league. The former Ajax Cape Town and Supersport United player believes that the players are conditioned to believe they are better than their predecessors by a system which has marginalized from getting influential positions.

“The players do not look up to us, they never ask for advice because they have been made to believe that they are better than those who came before them. Talent alone cannot guarantee success, there are different dynamics involved and they have a lot to learn. When we were coming through the ranks we learned valuable lessons from players such as Chandi Moruti at Gaborone United, we had to work our way to the top. Even at Zebras we learned a lot from the old guard. We are ambassadors because we have a lot to offer in terms of advice but we are rarely consulted,” Selolwane told *Gazette Sport*.

Selolwane started his PSL career at Engen Santos before moving to Jomo Cosmos. After his Cosmos spell he joined Ajax Cape Town where he enjoyed his best spell of football winning the Telkom Knock-out and individual accolades along the way. From Ajax he joined Supersport United whereby he won the 2012 Nedbank Cup. Selolwane ended his career at University of Pretoria FC (AmaTuks) whereby he played a mentoring role to players such as Bongani Zungu.



BNOOC Tokyo Olympics Preps Continue In October

MYSC approves funds for the training camps

TLOTLO KEBINAKGABO

Botswana National Olympic Committee (BNOOC) will continue with preparations for the upcoming Tokyo Olympics some time in October, Chief Executive Officer (CEO) for BNOOC Tuelo Serufho has said.

BNOOC halted Olympic training camps late March just before the country effected its lockdown which was meant to curb the spread of the deadly COVID-19 pandemic. Now, after stopping preparations for months, BNOOC will in October continue to drill athletes for the Tokyo Olympics which have been postponed to next year.

“The Ministry of Youth Empowerment Sport and Culture Development (MYSC) has approved the funding for the training camps,” Serufho said in an interview with this publication. “We must be able to

continue with the camps when we return from the holidays in October.”

He said the camp will include the athletes that have already qualified for the Olympics and those that BNOOC is hopeful that will qualify. “It is however, important to note that these athletes are from different National Associations (NSAs) that have their own plans,” he said.

So far, only five athletes in Nijel Amos (men’s 800m) and three female 400m athletes, Christine Botlogetswe, Galefele Moroko as well as Amantle Montsho, have qualified for the Olympics. Keamogetse Kenosi has also qualified for the games being the first ever local female boxer to do so. The country is yet to qualify top athletes like Naomi Ruele, Karabo Sibanda and Ofentse Bakwadi just to mention a few.



The Botswana Gazette SPORT

WEDNESDAY 30 SEPTEMBER 2020

I Have Unfinished Business At BFA – Letshwiti

- “My first four years were a clean up period, the second phase of transformation starts now”
- “We do not want our existing projects to be disturbed, our mission is to finish what we started”

BONGANI MALUNGA

The incumbent president of the Botswana Football Association (BFA) MacLean Letshwiti has stated that he has “unfinished business” as seeks a second successive term at the helm of the association. In an exclusive interview with *Gazette Sport*, Letshwiti stated why it was important to seek a second term and, in his own words, finish what he started.

“Commercialization of football is something we have already started pushing and we engaged all clubs in the Premier League during the recent Commercialization Drive spearheaded by Ashford Mamelodi.

Letshwiti will pit his wits against Te-

bogo Sebege and Ookeditse Malesu for the BFA presidential seat on October 10. The unpredictable nature of the elections has seen observers regard this year’s presidential race as an “even playing field” as all three candidates have appealed to voters in various ways. Letshwiti told this publication that his biggest driving tool in the presidential race is that he has projects that are already in place.

“I have unfinished business at BFA, we have made significant strides in the last four years and we do not want our existing projects to be disturbed. Our mission is to finish what we started because we cannot leave our projects hanging. My first four years at the helm were a restructuring and rebuilding process whereby we had to ensure that proper governance was in place. With good governance as the first step we managed to discuss and implement new statutes as well as a new constitution,” Letshwiti stated.

“The second step was to ensure that we addressed the financial difficulties that the association had, we managed to balance our books and we are now a

