

ARMY GENERALS APPLY MORE PRESSURE TO STATE

- General Fisher throws his weight behind suit by 500 former soldiers
- Says it is a matter of principle for him
- Khama, Kgosi and Masire likely to join

STORY ON PAGE 3

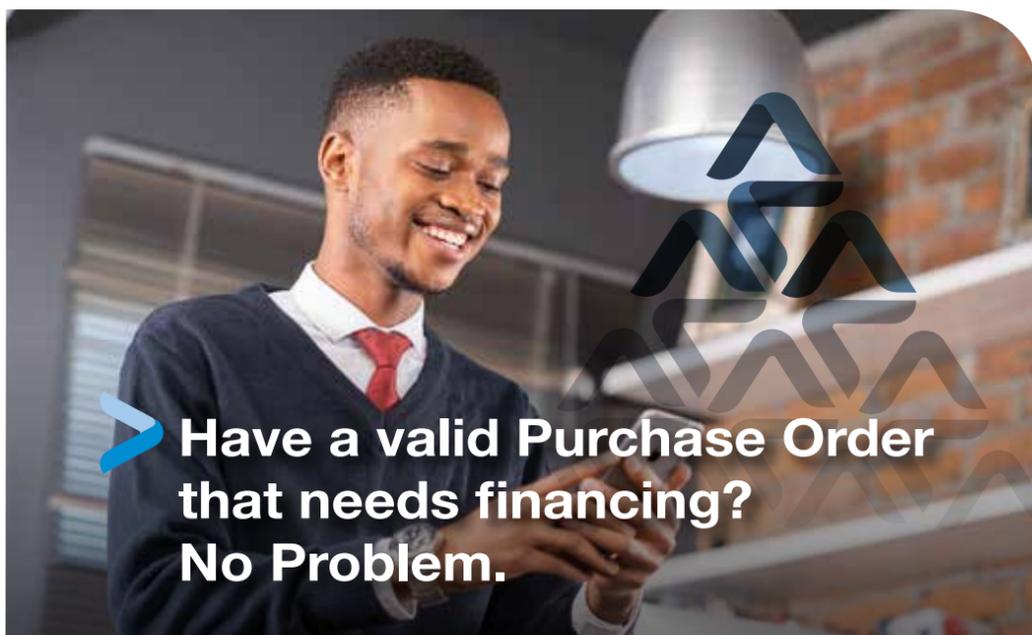


ZANU-PF "PATRIOTS" ATTACK KHAMA

PAGE 3

BPC'S HEAVY TOLL ON BATSWANA

PAGE 4



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Cleaver delivering his speech during the conference. (Pic: Monirul Bhuiyan/PRESS PHOTO)

"The International Monetary Fund also reports that domestic resource mobilization in Botswana, not including mineral revenues, has fallen to less than 10% of GDP,"

Secrecy of De Beers, Gov't deals under focus

- New report questions De Beers' unregulated pricing of diamonds
- Says health of miners is neglected because Gov't collect little tax from mining companies

SESUPO RANTSIMAKO

FRANCISTOWN: A joint report by Botswana Labour Migrant Association and other rights organizations has taken issue with the veil of secrecy that surrounds diamond mining, especially the agreements between mining giant De Beers and the Botswana Government.

According to the report, the health of mine workers is also a serious issue because the government does not generate sufficient revenue for it due to collection of very little tax from mining companies, especially DeBeers, in relation to the size of the country's GDP.

"The government must ensure strong enforcement of existing corporate tax laws and mine companies must abstain from efforts to avoid or evade taxation."

Conducted by Botswana Labour Migrants Association (BoLAMA), Centre for Economic and Social Rights and Northwestern Pritzker School of Law's Centre for International Human Rights between 2018 and 2019, the report raises concern over collection of little tax from the local mining companies as the bane of revenue for health.

The report reveals that though Botswana is an upper-middle income country and one of the wealthiest in Africa, it collects very little tax in relation to the size of its GDP. "The International Monetary Fund also reports that domestic resource mobi-

lization in Botswana, not including mineral revenues, has fallen to less than 10% of GDP," the report states, adding that the weak mobilization of non-mineral revenue, especially given the limited horizon of diamond revenues, calls for diversification of the country's economy.

The report states that though Botswana introduced VAT in 2002 to increase revenue, the tax is of little impact compared to other kinds of tax such as corporate tax. It notes that personal income tax is another key source of non-mineral revenue which is not collected in the most progressive manner possible.

"The Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) and the European Union have called on Botswana to improve its corporate tax practices, particularly as relates to corporate tax evasion and abuse at a bare minimum," the report states. "The government must ensure strong enforcement of existing corporate tax laws and mine companies must abstain from efforts to avoid or evade taxation."

Significantly, the report raises concern over the pricing of diamonds, stating that unlike other minerals which are priced based on independent benchmarks, De-Beers prices its diamonds for sale without regulation or oversight. It rounds on diamond mining being taxed in accordance with private agreements between mining companies and the government and the fact that the terms of these agreements are not public.

According to the report, while the government provides information on its total mineral revenues, it does not provide disaggregated data for the revenue it receives from specific mining companies or for each different mineral. "Botswana has also not subscribed to the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI) and does not meet its standards," emphasized the report.

BURS Closes In On Shadrack Baaitse P72m tax row

- BURS, Baaitse square off in court
- Prevailing Security alleged to have evaded millions in tax

LETLHOGILE MPUANG

The Botswana Unified Revenue Service (BURS) is demanding its share of taxes from the millions of Pula which were allegedly never declared by a local company, Prevailing Security Pty LTD during the past 10 years.

A responding affidavit filed before the Gaborone High Court by BURS General Manager Compliance Kaone Molapo on Friday 11th September 2020 alleges that the company failed to avail tax records requested by the taxman for the years 2012-2018. Prevailing Security is owned by local entrepreneur and pastor Shadrack Baaitse. The company's business activities include provision of security guard services, closed-circuit television installations and Cash-In-Transit services.

They provided these services for several government departments, parastatals. Prevailing Security is the applicant in this matter while the BURS Commissioner General and BURS are cited as the first and second respondents respectively. The company is seeking reassessment of its tax income bill from far back as 2012.

"The introductory communication to the company of the tax investigation was by way of a letter dated 17th August 2018, requiring the furnishing of information for the tax years 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017 and 2018," states Molapo's submissions.

"With the Company's failure to provide the required accounting records and the books during the course of the investigations for all the covered years, including source documents for sales, sales invoices, expenses invoices, general ledger and books of prime entry, the second respondent invoked the reconstruction technique of bank deposit method."

Molapo makes very strong claims that the company did not declare all income deposited in the Company's bank accounts and by ultimately understating its taxable income between December 2012 and 2018. The taxman says they were able to establish that "the money deposited into the company's accounts for the stated period amounted P72 420 714 39, in contrast to turnover declared by the company over the same period for VAT as P19 600 974 00 and turnover declared for income tax as P24 8222 056 00. This demonstrates the Company's incomings over the periods understated by the company in its tax returns for both VAT and income tax."

WHAT WAS DECLARED VS WHAT SHOULD HAD BEEN DECLARED

2014

The company declared taxable income of P92 144 which was offset by a brought forward loss of P 1, 576 625 resulting in a loss carried forward of (P1, 484, 481) and consequently paid no tax for the particular tax year.

BURS FINDINGS: Investigations allegedly established that the true income derived by the company for the particular tax year is P13, 910, 076, 01, with a consequent liability of P 3, 060, 216,72.

2015

The company alleged that it derived zero income and consequently paid no tax for that particular tax year.

BURS FINDINGS: The true income derived by the company for that particular year was allegedly P11, 525, 978 .35 with a consequent liability of P2, 535, 715, 24.

2016

The income tax return declared was said to have been P42, 038 and consequently paid P9, 248. 36 tax for that particular year.

BURS FINDINGS: The true income derived by the company for the particular tax year was allegedly P11, 852, 590, 13 and consequent liability of P2, 607 569, 83.

2017

The company declared P20, 377. 00 and paid no tax for the particular tax year.

BURS FINDINGS: The true income derived by the company was said to have been P16 427, 932,07 with liabilities of P3, 614, 145, 06.

2018

The company declared losses of P138, 135.00, which included a carried forward loss of P20, 377, 00 and paid no tax for the particular tax year.

BURS FINDINGS: The true income derived by the company was said to have been P18, 704, 137, 83 and liabilities of P4, 114, 910, 32

Army generals add more pressure to state

- General Fisher throws his weight behind suit by 500 former soldiers
- Says it is a matter of principle for him
- Khama, Kgosi and Masire likely to join



Lieutenant General Louis Matshwenyego (Pic: BOTSWANA GOVERNMENT TWITTER)

TEFO PHEAGE & LETLHOGILE MPUANG

Lieutenant General Louis Matshwenyego Fisher (rtd) who was Commander of the Botswana Defence Force (BDF) from 1998 to 2006 has joined the case in which former soldiers are challenging the government's "unlawful" migration of their pension benefits and pension scheme to Botswana Public Officers Pensions Fund (BPOPF).

Two more retired generals, Ian Khama and Tebogo Masire, are also reportedly ready to join them.

It is not yet known how this suit will affect the country but military experts say it has the potential to have far-reaching consequences on both the military and political establishments.

"This matter is of great national importance in that it directly hits at the doorstep and livelihood of retired members of the BDF and some of the current members," he said.

Khama was appointed Commander of the BDF 1989, retiring from the position in 1998. Masire took over from Fisher in 2006 and passed the command to Gaolathe Galebotse in 2012.

"The genesis of the problem was during our time but we have arrived at a historical juncture where a solution is being sought through a third party," he said. "The current crop is seeking a solution and one is trying to be part of the solution as the courts will rule and put the matter to a final rest. The dilemma for the generals is being accused of having put our tails between our legs and fled the scene."

According to Fisher's successor, Lieutenant General Tebogo Masire, the matter should have been addressed through the Real Retired BDF Members Association. "The matter was discussed at the last AGM but some felt that it was taking too long to be resolved, hence it has ended up

in court," Masire said.

For his part, former president Ian Khama said, "It is difficult for me to comment as I do not know all the issues they are taking to court," he added. "I only have a general idea. I have not been approached to assist them."

Major General Pius Mokgware has revealed that they currently have more than 1500 retired BDF members, among them generals and brigadiers as parties to the legal proceedings. He said they have not closed the door to any former BDF member who may want to join them, but added that they have cautioned everyone against politicising the issue.

It is understood that Isaac Kgosi, who is currently facing serious charges, is also likely to join the suit soon. Brigadier Ramadeluka Seretse, who is a former Minister of Defence, Justice and Security, has joined the suit. Kgosi could not be reached for comment at the time of going to press.

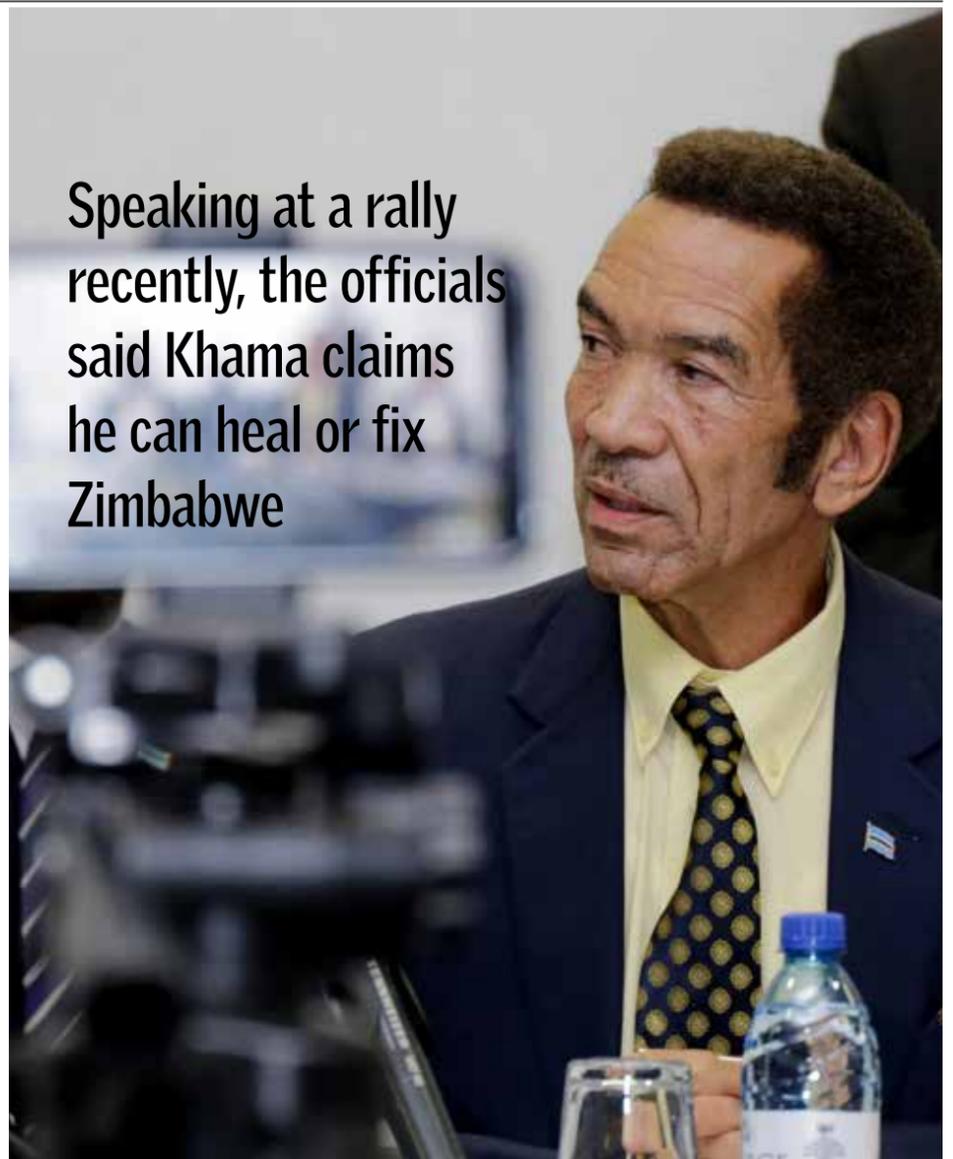
The High Court recently rejected a bid by the state to throw the case out on technicalities that the over 500 retired soldiers did not deliver their declaration within the prescribed 14-day period. However, Justice Michael Leburu excoriated the state. "This matter is of great national importance in that it directly hits at the doorstep and livelihood of retired members of the BDF and some of the current members," he said.

"At the epicentre of the dispute is alleged unlawful migration of their pension scheme and benefits from the BDF to BPOPF, which has resulted in diminution of their pension benefits. The quantum of pension payable to a pensioner is a matter of livelihood and dignity.

"Pensioners should not retire into poverty. The plaintiffs are former members and some current members of the BDF who stood sentinel over the sovereignty of Botswana for many years. Not only that, even in the arena of international diplomacy and peacekeeping, the BDF has been assembled, paraded and deployed with aplomb.

"This court takes judicial notice of one such deployment in Somalia in 1992/3 under the aegis of the United Nations on a mission aptly styled 'Operation Restore Hope.' The case is thus of national importance."

Speaking at a rally recently, the officials said Khama claims he can heal or fix Zimbabwe



ZANU-PF "Patriots" attack Khama

They want to silence Khama from criticizing Zimbabwean leaders

GAZETTE REPORTER

The Zimbabwe African National Union – Patriotic Front (ZANU-PF) Patriots, a division of the country's ruling party, has blasted former President Ian Khama's leadership qualities saying they are amongst others influenced by his failure to marry. Speaking at a rally recently, the officials said Khama claims he can heal or fix Zimbabwe "when he does not even have the courage to tell a woman that 'I love you'".

"Zimbabwe is above that level, we have better things to think of," the ZANU-PF Patriots further attacked Khama racially, accusing him of being confused on whether he is black or white. Former President Khama has been the Zimbabwean government's loudest and courageous critic even before his retirement.

He once ruffled diplomatic furthers after he called the late Zimbabwean president, Robert Mugabe to step down due to old age saying he has also overstayed his welcome. ZANU-PF Patriots are developing into the party's attack dogs. It is not only the Botswana authorities who are on

the receiving end. Recently they attacked South Africa saying SA does not have an overseer role to play with Zimbabwe further warning against forces seeking to destabilise the ANC and other liberation movements in the region.

This came a week after a delegation of the ANC, led by secretary-general Ace Magashule jetted to Zimbabwe to engage ZANU-PF on a number of issues plaguing the neighbouring country, including the decline of the economy and claims of a purge against government opposition members and journalists.

The group said it was decided during a meeting that in a diplomatic sense, South Africa was in no way linked to Zimbabwe and had no mediatory role to play. Pressure is mounting on President Emmerson Mnangagwa to fix the Zimbabwean economy amid protests suggesting that his predecessor, Mugabe was even better than him.

Efforts to get a comment from former President Khama were futile at the time of press, however should he respond this publication will publish his reaction.

BPC's Heavy Toll On Batswana

Through two separate tolls, namely the Government National Electricity Standard Cost Levy and the Standard Domestic Charge, BPC taxes Batswana a staggering average of P223 million per year to cover a part of its operating costs. In addition to this, electricity tariffs are hiked significantly every year to cover for BPC's endless losses and perennial mess. StaffWriters **KEABETSWE NEWEL** and **TLOTLO KEBINAKGABO** report



Every time Batswana buy electricity for domestic consumption, they are charged 5 thebe per kilowatt hour for the Government National Electricity Standard Cost Levy and the Standard Domestic Charge respectively. The two levies are an addition to Value Added Tax (VAT). However, they are to be used specifically to bankroll some projects and operations of the cash-strapped BPC.

According to Dineo Seleke, the Marketing Manager at BPC, the Government National Electricity Standard Cost Levy is used to subsidize the National Electricity Standard Connection (NESC). The National Electricity Standard Cost (NESC) is a uniform cost of electricity connection across Botswana. It is applicable only to new household connections in all recognized electrified settlements, villages, towns and cities.

Such households are to be within the boundaries of a locality electrified network supply area as determined by Botswana Power Corporation (BPC). The NESC was introduced in October 2010. As a result of the levy, it enables BPC to charge a standardized connection fee of P5600 that Seleke says has accelerated household connections. But quite curiously, she says BPC does not use the Government National Electricity Standard Cost Levy directly. "The Levy is used to fund connection subsidies," she offers.

The national electrification project falls under the responsibility of BPC. It is the BPC which further implements the elec-

trification. The levy is charged and collected by BPC for use. Through this levy, Batswana are charged 5 thebe per kilowatt hour, according to BPC. The way the levy works is that the more power one buys for domestic use, the more one pays the levy. As an example, when one buys P50 worth of electricity for household use, one will be taxed P2.41 in Government National Electricity Standard Cost Levy. The figure rises to P4.81 when one purchases P100 worth of electricity for domestic use.

According to Seleke, BPC makes around P165 million per year from charging Batswana for their household consumption. BPC sells around 3.3 billion kWh of electricity annually. At around 1.2 billion kWh, the household sector is one of the largest consumers of electricity and compares well with the commercial sector which consumes just around the same amount. The mining sector consumes around 600 million kWh while the rest goes to various other sectors.

But BPC does not tax Batswana only through the Government National Electricity Standard Cost Levy. There is another levy called the Standard Domestic Charge which also bills the domestic consumer a certain fee per kilowatt hour. In a year, Seleke says BPC collects P58 million from Batswana as Standard Domestic Charge but would not go into details as to what its purpose is. However, it emerges that the Charge is used by BPC to cover some of its operational costs.

The Botswana Gazette asked Seleke

about the relevance of the levies, given that BPC is funded by the taxpayer in terms of the Consumer Tariff Subsidy for the cost of its operations and in view of repeated tariff hikes. She answered that maintenance/operating costs are financed through revenue generated from BPC Operations in the main electricity sales. Seleke added that mega projects such as refurbishment of Morupule A Power Station, electrification of villages and transmission lines are financed through direct funding from government as a shareholder. She also said construction of major infrastructure projects like Morupule B are funded mainly through a long-term loan that BPC repays from its operation revenue. "The NESC/Gov't Levy specifically aims to standardize the domestic connection costs across the country by subsidizing connection costs exceeding P5000," she offered. "The Fixed Charge applies to all customer categories to cover fixed operating costs and is not a levy but part of the tariff structure."

While there is direct funding from the taxpayer, Batswana are also taxed through the Government National Electricity Standard Cost Levy to also subsidize electrification of villages. Cumulatively, while Batswana are taxed up to P223 million annually in levies to subsidize BPC operations and projects, they also feel the pinch of rising electricity tariffs which BPC recently said will be used to cover for shortfalls at Morupule B. It is the same power plant which Seleke says is financed

through long term borrowings that are repaid by revenue from BPC operations.

Two weeks ago, Seleke's principal, the Interim CEO of the power utility, Edward Rugoyi, found himself backed against the wall as he struggled to explain why BPC should be given permission to increase electricity tariffs when it has been bleeding money through Morupule B, the multi-billion pula flagship power project which is nowhere close to completion seven years ago after the scheduled date of commissioning. Rugoyi had sought permission from the Botswana Energy Regulatory Authority (BERA) to increase tariffs by 5 percent in 2021 and 4 percent in 2022. He argued that the increment was necessary in order to close the under-recovery gap between the Total Cost of Electricity Supply and the Total Sales Revenue.

"BPC continues to accumulate losses due to low availability of Morupule B and the increasing cost of importing power," he said. "This precarious financial position will continue if BPC tariffs are not cost-reflective. While it has cushioned against non-cost reflective tariffs, the government subsidy has been decreasing over the last five years, resulting in a revenue mismatch."

BPC was given P800 million last year, a decline from P1.4 billion in 2018. While over P11 billion was spent on Morupule B and a further P8 billion shared between it and the older power station on the same premises, the power plant is still dysfunctional. The money, which Seleke said was taken out as loans to finance this mega project, will be paid by the taxpayer. Two weeks ago, Rugoyi said only two units are functional at Morupule B, producing 230MW. "Remedial works at Unit 4 were delayed by COVID-19 lockdowns while Unit 1 is expected to be finished by 2023," he said.

Morupule B was supposed to have an output of 600MW. Consequently, BPC imports over 580MW of electricity mainly from South Africa, the Southern African Power Pool (SAPP) and Nampower in Namibia. The costs of the power imports pile up to a staggering P250 million per month, which means that approximately P3 billion is blown on power imports in 12 months. The taxpayer foots this huge sum of money because of the mess at Morupule B where delays never end. While the 600MW expected from Morupule B was expected to cushion the taxpayer from losing so much money, its completion remains a pie in the sky. According to Rugoyi, COVID-19 will only make matters worse. Chinese contractor, China National Electric Engineering Company (CNEEC), is busy doing remedial works at Morupule B, the 600MW power station at Palapye. The remedial works, which Seleke says will be paid for by the contractor, are expected to exceed P2 billion.



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Opposition Challenges Gov't To Prove Threat On President's Life

- Dr Gobotswang dares Morwaeng to provide proof
- Morwaeng says doing so would compromise national security



Minister for Presidential Affairs, Governance and Public Administration, Kabo Morwaeng,

GAZETTE REPORTER

MPs of the opposition Umbrella for Democratic Change (UDC) will not accept that the life of President Mokgweetsi Masisi's life could be under threat.

Led by Dr. Kesitigile Gobotswang (for Sefhare-Ramokgonami) in Parliament last week, MPs of the UDC challenged the Minister for Presidential Affairs, Governance and Public Administration, Kabo Morwaeng, to provide a full list of suspected assassins who pose a threat to the life of the President.

"Terrorism continues to be one of the greatest national security threats to many world countries, including African countries like Botswana," Minister Morwaeng returned. "Government acknowledges that terrorism poses a single most dangerous existential threat to any country's national security due to its sophistication and unpredictable nature, including how they collect information and the purpose for which they do such.

"In view of that, and based on the need to vigilantly guard the security of our nation, I am not willing to respond to the question as asked."

Gobotswang had asked the minister to state whether there are terrorists and/or terrorist cells in Botswana and to explain their mode of operation. He argued that publicising terrorists should never be too much to ask of government because such lists are often made public in established democracies.

"So why is it difficult to come and talk about these issues here in Parliament?", he queried. Time and again Director (Peter) Magosi has stated that there are threats to topple the Government of Botswana. He further went on to say that the life of the President of Botswana is

in danger. Minister, can you confirm if these concerns are there? If it is true, are there any people who have been taken to court for these offences since they are serious offences? If no one has been detained for these offences, should we believe these allegations?"

Magosi is the head of the Directorate of Intelligence and Security Service (DISS) who reiterated before the Public Accounts Commit-

tee (PAC) last July that Masisi's life was still in danger. "Yes, the life of the President is still under threat and we are making a lot of progress, quite a lot," he said. "I would not like to commit on the timeframe of arrests as yet but I assure you we will show evidence to that effect. I request not to answer on whether the threat is domestic or international but the threat is there."



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Childline Disappointed by Parly's Response on Majaga Petition

Childline Botswana is disappointed by Parliament's "business as usual" response on a petition against shamed Nata/Gweta Member of Parliament Polson Majaga, which was submitted on behalf of Non Governmental Organisations (NGOs).

GOSEGO MOTSUMI

The petition was brought before Parliament last week by Dr Kesitegile Gobotswang, the Sefhare-Ramokgonami MP on behalf of NGOs under the leadership of Botswana Child Rights Network. Childline Botswana said the response was disappointing because it is currently business as usual at the Parliamentary daily proceedings. Childline Botswana, which is the Secretariat of Botswana Child Rights Network believes that the substance of the petition was not discussed while other MPs were uninformed.

"On the other hand we are happy that the petition got some attention," said the Coordinator of Childline Botswana, Olebile Machete in an interview.

"We applaud the Speaker of the Na-

tional Assembly, Phandu Skelemani for allowing the petition to be presented in Parliament and we are happy that Dr Gobotswang delivered the petition on our behalf because the general attitude is that most people would not want to call out their colleagues. It was very principled of him."

The proposal by Botswana Child Rights Network was that Parliament should adopt a code of conduct that binds them to suspend any member of the house who is criminally charged with having sexually abused a child or having committed any form of Gender Based Violence. The petition stated that the general assembly should encourage Majaga to take leave of absence until his defilement case is concluded to protect the integrity of the house and the criminal justice process. Legislators were called on to do so, both in their private space, and if nec-

essary to demand the same from the floor of Parliament. The request was that members should unite behind this position, in a non-partisan manner to ensure that Majaga does not participate in the affairs of the National Assembly until his case has been closed but Majaga has since continued on with his parliamentary duties.

power relations between the perpetrator and the victim. In this instance, the accused is not only powerful in the context of the alleged offence, but wields considerable influence and authority over his constituents. The call was for Parliament to play its role in not only sending a message of absolute disdain for exploitation of children, but a further commitment to highest levels of integrity in its stature.

In May 2020, Nata-Gweta Member of Parliament was arrested and charged with defilement of a now 16 year old girl who is also reportedly pregnant. When Parliament resumed its sitting during the 2020 winter session, Majaga was part of the house, receiving considerable time in the National Assembly. During his presentation of the petition Dr Gobotswang said the nation is concerned that Majaga continues to participate in the proceedings of the Botswana Parliament. He recently participated in a Motion brought to Parliament by Yandani Boko, Member of Parliament for Mahalapye East, calling on the President to establish a Commission of Inquiry on Gender Based Violence. Although Majaga did not debate the Motion, he nonetheless voted on two occasions when the matter was brought to a vote by the House. Majaga voted against the spirit of the Motion as brought to Parliament by Boko.

"This is a clear case of conflict of interest within the highest level of the country's governance. Surely a Judicial Officer cannot be allowed to preside over any criminal case when they themselves have been criminally charged. We therefore posit that the continued participation of Majaga in the business of the National Assembly compromises the integrity of the house as well as the integrity of the criminal justice process that he is currently a subject of," the Petition read in part.

Majaga voted against the spirit of the Motion as brought to Parliament by Boko

"Majaga's refusal and the body language of Parliament suggests we are tolerant of the sexual exploitation of children. This is not a fight with Majaga, our position is not in any way pronouncement of his guilt as the matter is before the courts and we will not make any reference to substantive issues related to the matter. We are not requesting for Parliament to overreach and play a judicial role. Our request was for Parliament to take cognizance of child sexual abuse as a serious public health and social matter that requires attention of our highest law making institution," said Machete.

Machete went on to highlight that at the height of sexual exploitation is

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All the selected students will be expected to complete their courses by 31st December 2020 and gain certificates in the courses chosen. **More than Sixty-six participants have already graduated with a number of certificates since June 2020.**

Application process:

All interested persons are to download and complete an application form on the BOU website (www.bou.ac.bw) under student centre and then email it together with a certified copy of Omang to: director-sadc-cde@staff.bou.ac.bw

The form is to be sent in its original format

Selection Criteria

The selection will be based on a **first come first serve basis**. There will be emphasis in ensuring that all the Botswana Open University Regional campuses are represented in the number selected.

NB: Successful applicants will receive a formal invitation to join the courses from COL. The applicants will be further assisted and supported by COL experts to choose their courses as well as be given administrative and academic support.

Closing date: 25th September 2020

Gerrie Nel On Standby - DPP

- Option to sue SA Gov't remains open
- SA yet to formally acknowledge receipt of Botswana's request



South African Advocate Gerrie Nel

Pic: Timeslive

hearings have not been set down.”
He however pointed that despite the SA government informally indicating that they have received their request, it remains very unusual in the manner in which the matter is being handled.

“Normally, once the request has been received, they will issue a note to the High Commission but I am advised they indicated receipt informally.”

“I have actually asked the legal representatives that we had engaged not to proceed pending the feedback we are receiving,” concluded the DPP’s Tiroyakgosi.

LETLHOGILE MPUANG

The state has temporarily decided to sideline the services of Advocate Gerrie Nel in the pursuit of mutual legal assistance from neighbours, South Africa in a high-profile money-laundering and fraud case, in which former president Ian Khama and South African businesswoman Bridgette Motsepe-Radebe are implicated.

Head of the Directorate of Public Prosecutions (DPP) Stephen Tiroyakgosi told Parliament’s Accounts Committee (PAC) this week, that they had instructed Nel not to proceed with the court process as they have now, decided to explore the matter through diplomatic channels.

“I have actually asked the legal representatives that we had engaged not to proceed pending the feedback we are receiving,” concluded the DPP’s Tiroyakgosi.

“Communication that we have received informally is that they have looked at our resubmission,” DPP stated last week.

He continued that, “they have indeed received it but they have not given us anything in return so far. We submitted a supplementary request on the 8th of June, to kick start the request that they had not previously acted on.”

Tiroyakgosi explained that the South African government had declined to take their initial request on the account that they were restraint to accept any request due to COVID-19 protocols.

“They said they were not receiving any request from anyone, so that meant that our request stayed with the Botswana High Commission in Pretoria for quite sometime, until about two weeks back. In the meantime, we then said, we may resort to go to court, papers were filed but the



#AReBueng

Mothers, for the love of your sons, please talk to them about HIV.



Report points to unhealthy pressure on mine doctors



Fuelled by a desire to avoid having to report incidents and injuries to the Department of Mines, as well as to reduce liability for workers' compensation, health and safety personnel at mines across Botswana routinely exert pressure on mine doctors to declare mine workers in need of care and time offwork as fit for duty. According to a joint report compiled by Botswana Labour Migrants Association, threats against career advancement are used to encourage doctors to violate their ethics in this manner. StaffWriter **SESUPO RANTSIMAKO** reports

FRANCISTOWN: Mine doctors in Botswana violate their ethical standards by declaring injured workers fit for duty because of pressure exerted on them by mine companies, a scathing report on the rights of miners and ex-miners to health has revealed.

According to the report, the interference is aimed at ensuring sufficient labour force at the mines at all times. The report was compiled by Botswana Labour Migrants Association (BOLAMA) in collaboration with the Centre for Economic and Social Rights and Northwestern Pritzker Schools of Law's Centre for International Human Rights. It states that there is either direct or indirect interference from the mine companies in this pressure on doctors to violate their own oath.

"The direct interference includes corporate communication with the doctors that actively influences or seeks to influence the latter's decision about a particular patient, while indirect interference includes implicit pressure such as threats against career advancement," the report asserts. "Corporate officials expect mine doctors to prioritize production demands over their patients' health."

It warns that a consequence of this interference with healthcare in mine hospitals lowers quality care and worsens health outcomes for miners and ex-miners.

The reports cites incidents in mines at Jwaneng and Selibe-Phikwe where doctors at the mine hospitals failed to properly diagnose the miners and instead sent them back as fit for duty. Doctors have confirmed and corroborated such interference. "Dr Khumoetsile Mapitse, a former mine doctor at Debswana and BCL confirmed that at times mine company safety and health officers pressure doctors at mine hospitals to downgrade the severity of mine injuries," the report says.

"Mine doctors feel pressure from corporate management to grade injuries lower than the doctors would otherwise grade them. Corporate pressure on doctors was not always explicit. Management might speak with a doctor about a miner's injury and ask, 'Do you think this is a minor or a major injury?'" the report quotes Dr Mapitse as saying.

According to the report, former Debswana Chief Medical Officer, Doctor Anorld Onneetswe Motsamai, has similarly stated that there is lot of interference by mine companies in doctors' work. Dr Motsamai, who was stationed at the Debswana mine hospital in Jwaneng, is quoted as saying his recommendation for the mining company to recruit specialists to attend miners on site was refused, resulting in delayed access to critical care for miners.

The joint report quotes Dr Motsamai further: "There is an element of a compromise of ethics. For doctors, normally ethics is our backbone. We should not depart from ethics. That is what protects us, but there is a challenge in terms of the mines and medical ethics where you have a company policy in order to keep your job. You have to bend your patient's care to accommodate the system."

According to the report, Dr Motsamai is now in private practice, says he sees miners on a monthly basis who got injured or fell ill at the mines but were not properly diagnosed despite repeated visits to mine hospitals over months or years.



Support to Economic Diversification Project – TA

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

Consultancy Services- **Review and update of the Private Sector Development Strategy and Design and Implementation of the SME improvement Programme**

Financing Agreement reference: 5700155003151

Project ID No.: P-BW-B20-001

The Government of Botswana has received financing from the African Development Bank toward the cost of the Support to Economic Diversification project, and intends to apply part of the agreed amount for this grant to payments under the contract for Consultancy Services.

The services included under this project are as follows:

- **Component 1: Review and Update of Private Sector Development Strategy and Program.** This component aims at updating and reviewing the Private Sector Development Strategy and Programme (PSDSP) - to take into account the changes that have occurred since its formulation in 2008. Since then, a number of new issues have emerged that necessitates the strategy review and updating. These include, among others, new initiatives at national level (Vision 2036; National Development Plan 11 and its Mid Term Review of 2020 and AGOA Implementation Strategy), at the regional level (SADC Industrialization Policy and its Action Plan & Tripartite Free Trade Area and the African Continental Free Trade Area) and the international level (Economic Partnership Agreements and the advent of Covid 19).
- **Component 2: SME Improvement Programme.** This component is aimed at building an ecosystem that would, on sustainable basis support SMEs initially in Horticulture, Tourism, and Small Stock sectors. The component is divided into two sub-components namely - Institutional Support and Development; and Capacity Development Programme for SMEs.

The engagement is envisioned to be implemented over a period of six (6) months.

Business Botswana now invites eligible consultants to indicate their interest in providing these services. Interested consultants must provide information indicating that they are qualified to perform the services (brochures, description of similar assignments, experience in similar conditions, availability of appropriate skills among staff, etc.). Consultants may constitute joint-ventures to enhance their chances of qualification.

Eligibility criteria, establishment of the short-list and the selection procedure shall be in accordance with the African Development Bank's **Procurement Policy, 2015** which is available on the Bank's website at <http://www.afdb.org>

Interested consultants may obtain further information at the address below during office hours **(08:00-17:00) Monday to Friday.**

Expressions of interest must be delivered to the address below by **Friday 18th September 2020 at 17:00 hours (local time)** and mention **"Consultancy Services."** Due to the current Covid 19 pandemic, we encourage interested consultants to submit electronically.

**Attn: Business Botswana
Malefo Maldi- Procurement Officer
P O Box 432
Gaborone, Botswana
Tel: +267 3953459
Facsimile (fax): +267 3973142
E-mail: malefom@bb.org.bw**

We cannot force Majaga to step aside - Kablay

- Chief whip of BDP says the man has yet to have his day in court
- Points to Majaga's suspension from the party as demonstration that the BDP takes the matter seriously.

SESUPO RANTSIMAKO

FRANCISTOWN: The Botswana Democratic Party (BDP) cannot eject the MP for Nata/Gweta, Polson Majaga, from the National Assembly until and unless he has been convicted of his charges by a competent court of law, the chief whip of the BDP, Liakat Kablay, has told *The Botswana Gazette*.

Kablay, who is the MP for Letlhakeng-Lephephe, was speaking against the backdrop of 32 NGOs petitioning Parliament for the removal of Majaga who is facing charges of defiling and impregnating a 16-year old girl in his constituency.

The troubled MP has been slapped with a 60-day suspension from membership of the ruling BDP while the petition that sought his expulsion from Parliament was read out in the Lower House by the MP for Sefhare-Ramokgonami, Dr Kesitegile Gobotswang (UDC), and framed into a motion last week that was defeated in a vote.

In the interview with *The Gazette*, Kablay said the BDP is not bothered by the petition as it was not the first one to call for Majaga's expulsion. "As a party, we do not have the power to expel Majaga from Parliament," he said.

"I want to make it clear that as a party, we are not scared by the NGO petition because so many advocacy groups and gender activists, including some of our own members, have been putting the BDP under pressure to remove Majaga from the Parliament. Some of our own have even called for his expulsion from the party."

The chief whip of the BDP added that the recent extension of Majaga's suspension is an indication that the party takes the matter seriously. "People are piling pressure on us to expel him, this will not work because he is yet to have his day in court. Only his conviction, if it comes, will determine how we handle his issue going forward," he emphasized.

Reached for comment, the Director of Childline Botswana, Olebile Machete, expressed disappointment at Majaga's failure to do "the honourable thing" by stepping down as an MP until the matter is finalized in court. "We knew that there is no law that could force him to step down but we thought he would feel the pressure and do so until he has cleared his name in court," Machete said.

"To say the least, we are very disappointed that he is failing to honour and protect the integrity of Parliament. This has demonstrated a need for Parliament to codify its proceedings so that in future there is clear action against anyone one who defies them."

Childline Botswana was among the 32 petitioners, as was Botswana Coun-

cil of Women whose National Secretary, Caroline Matlho, has echoed Machete's sentiments that Majaga's defiance is an affront to the integrity of Parliament. In an interview with *The Botswana Gazette*, Matlho also called for a code of conduct for the sanctioning of MPs facing sex offences at the earliest stage.



Diamond Trading Company (DTC) Botswana is a 50/50 Joint Venture partnership between the Government of Botswana and De Beers. It is the world's largest and most sophisticated rough diamond sorting and valuing operation.

PROVISION OF CLEANING SERVICES AT DIAMOND TRADING COMPANY BOTSWANA OFFICES

ISSUE DATE: 10th SEPTEMBER 2020

TENDER NO: DTCB 030-2020

Prospective bidders are informed that the above mentioned tender has been amended as follows:

1. The compulsory site visit which was scheduled on the 4th September 2020 was cancelled.
2. Dimensions of the areas to be cleaned and other pertinent details can be accessed from our website www.dtcbotswana.com from the 18th September 2020.
3. The tender closing date has been extended to the 6th October 2020 at 1200hours.
4. The deadline for enquiries regarding this tender is 1200hours on the 29th September 2020. Enquiries should be emailed to tmaakwe@dtcb.co.bw.
5. All other terms and conditions of the tender remain the same.
6. Any inconvenience caused is highly regretted.

Closing Date: 06th October 2020



DTCB
Private Bag 0074

Plot 63016, Airport Road
Block 8 Gaborone, Botswana

Phone: +267 364 9000
Fax: +267 395 1150

TELEPHONE: 3601200
 TELEFAX: 3971539/3913209
 EMAIL: mitihq@gov.bw
 WEBSITE: www.miti.gov.bw
 TOLLFREE: 0800 600 760



REPUBLIC OF BOTSWANA
 ALL CORRESPONDENCE MUST BE ADDRESSED TO
 THE PERMANENT SECRETARY

PRIVATE BAG 004,
 GABORONE
 BOTSWANA

Ministry of Investment, Trade and Industry

REF: TI 1/14/5 II

9th September 2020

PRESS RELEASE

CORRECTION OF ARTICLE IN BUSINESS WEEKLY & REVIEW NEWSPAPER

1. The Business Weekly newspaper published an article titled 'SERAME ANNOUNCES END DAYS FOR LEA' in its edition of Friday 4th September 2020. The title and the contents of the article are misleading, and warrant a correction, lest they be taken to be a balanced and fair representation of the facts and the referenced sources.
2. The article reported the facts of the past LEA restructuring as the current facts including the citing of the previous financial year audit report by KPMG.
3. The Ministry found it necessary to correct and state that the contents of the newspaper article is not a reflection of the current status at LEA, but rather historical of what the LEA self-undertaken restructuring aimed to correct, a task which was well conducted and concluded in the previous financial year.
4. It is worth stating that the article has already caused instability amongst LEA staff who recently endured the painful restructuring exercise and even more is beginning to affect partnerships with external stakeholders which partnerships are geared towards SMME development.
5. The background to the article is that the Honourable MR. C. K. HIKUAMA, MP. (NGAMI), asked the Minister of Investment, Trade and Industry to brief Parliament on the rationale of restructuring Local Enterprise Authority (LEA) between 2017 and 2019, as well as the progress made thus far.
6. In responding to the question, the Minister of Investment, Trade and Industry, Honourable P. Serame, provided the background and context to the restructuring process that was conducted between 2017 and 2019 as follows;

In October 2017, LEA appointed a new CEO, and a situational analysis of the organisation was commissioned. The objective of the situational analysis was to inform the transformation of LEA into a Center of Excellence for entrepreneurship and SMME development, and to ensure that LEA's value proposition remained relevant and impactful.

The following findings amongst others; from the 2017 situational analysis revealed opportunities for transforming the organisation to be more responsive to SMME needs, and achieve greater efficiency in the deployment of resources to positively impact the trajectory of citizen enterprises.

- a) The proportion of LEA's support staff accounted for 70% of the organisation's workforce, whilst 30% were client facing staff. This imbalance curtailed the scale and scope of service delivery to SMMEs.
- b) The organisation's operating costs had grown considerably, and accounted for 94% of the annual budget. Whilst staff costs are usually the single biggest expense item in service industries, LEA's staff costs were considerably higher than they should have been, as they took up 74% of the subvention received from Government. The funds that remained to assist enterprises were not adequate for delivering the desired impact for SMME growth, which constrained the delivery of LEA's mandate, and made the organisation lose relevance.

The findings of the 2017 situational analysis warranted an urgent review and radical transformation of LEA's business model, with the purpose of building exceptional proficiency and capability to deliver the organisation's mandate. The business model review culminated in the organisation's current five-year strategy, and precipitated the restructuring exercise.

LEA has since achieved the following notable milestones since completing the restructuring exercise and embarking on the new strategic direction.

- A 47% reduction in the approved staff count, (from 357 to 190) which delivered a corresponding reduction in staff costs.
- A P30million reduction in staff salaries
- Operating costs were further contained through a reduction of P 5.67 million in rental costs (over 58%).

The reconfiguration of the organizational structure and optimization of the business model has had a real and undisputable impact on LEA assisted SMME clients. The following achievements are some of the highlights of the 2019/ 2020 financial year.

- Through a segmented and tailored approach, LEA facilitated the funding of 340 business plans, to the tune of P 54.1 million, the bulk of which (96%) were start-ups.
- 879 jobs were created, 69% of which were from start-ups, and 31% from expansions.
- LEA assisted SMMEs contributed P274.5 million towards the country's Gross Domestic Product, of which P 17 million was from products that substituted imports.
- The SMMEs graduating from LEA's incubation program during the current strategy period have maintained a phenomenal 100% survival rate. LEA is therefore in the process of expanding its incubation capacity to drive the rate of creation of sustainable SMMEs, with focus in the agricultural sector.
- More recently, LEA continued to support SMMEs during the lock down that was occasioned by the COVID-19 pandemic, and facilitated the supply of essential goods to the value of P 2.3 million by SMMEs. This assistance was in the form of establishing new supply chains, product testing and certification, and market linkages.

These notable achievements were delivered through the dedication of LEA staff, and the support and partnerships with organisations across the private and public sectors. The objective of Government to rationalize parastatals resonates with LEA's strategy to deliver greater impact with less resources. Until such time that the rationalization exercise by Government is implemented and concluded, LEA will continue to play a pivotal role in the SMME development arena. The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic poses an existential threat to SMMEs, and has made LEA's role ever more critical for the recovery and growth of SMMEs.

We therefore urge all stakeholders to remain undeterred, and to continue in their noble efforts to assist in the development of resilient citizen owned enterprises.

Thank you.


 Chandapiwa A. Baputaki
 For/ PERMANENT SECRETARY

IN PARLIAMENT THIS WEEK:

Gender Based Violence (GBV)
and sexual abuse of children
– charges against Honourable
Paulson Majaga



Honourable Paulson Majaga Pic: Tsenabw

DR GOBOTSWANG (SEFHARE-DRAMOKGONAMI): Mr Speaker, in pursuance of Standing Order 35.2, I rise to present a sad and painful petition to this House, on a social pandemic of monumental proportions; Gender Based Violence (GBV) and sexual abuse of children. This petition is advocated for by the people of Botswana under the able leadership of Botswana Child Rights Network comprised of 30 organisations.

Mr Speaker, I am quite certain that Members of this House are aware that Honourable Paulson Majaga, the Member of Parliament for Nata-Gweta was arrested and charged with defilement of a 16-year-old girl. The nation is concerned that he continues to participate in the proceedings of the Parliament. We noted that recently, Honourable Paulson Majaga participated in a Motion brought to Parliament by Honourable Yandani Boko, Member of Parliament for Mahalapye East, calling on the President to establish a Commission of Inquiry on Gender Based Violence.

Although Honourable Majaga did not debate the Motion, he nonetheless voted on two occasions when the matter was brought to a vote by the House. We further noted that on both occasions he voted against the spirit of the Motion as brought to Parliament by Honourable Boko...

MR GREEFF: Mr Speaker, is it procedural gore fa case ya ga Rre Majaga e le kwa court, re bo re tla re dira statement ka yone mo Palamenteng? Ke botsa fela, ke batla go tlhaloganya.

MR SPEAKER: Order! Order! Honourable Members. Quite clearly, the problem as I see it, has got nothing to do with Honourable Majaga. The problem is with this society, and all men in Botswana who abuse girls and women, that must be the core ka gore kamoso fa e le motho o sele, are we to...(Inaudible)...another petition as if we are naming people and not dealing with the issue? Honourable Dr Gobotswang, the crux, in terms of Standing Order 35 is re lwantsha eng, not an individual; that is for the courts, but the evil which is here. So, ke ne ke re gongwe o tlaa feta ka yone gore ba ba tshwenyegileng, ba bone eng se se ba gwehlileng and not make that the subject of the petition because clearly I would have refused to accept it.

Minding the Youth

A transformational and inclusive Botswana requires healthy minds, particularly young minds.

BY: MAPHISA MAPHISA

The threats to the healthy young minds require acute attention and immediate intervention. This article describes some of those threats based on my personal experience as a 'young' Motswana, and based on my professional experience as a university lecturer and mental health practitioner.

What is the healthy mind I write of? A healthy mind is not merely the absence of mental illness. A healthy mind is an active, resilient and purposeful state of thinking, feeling and behaving. It includes the ability to reflect on life, to critically and creatively appraise situations, to embrace emotions, to tolerate the ups and downs of living, and to will desired behaviour. A healthy mind is not just being alive (adjective) but it is living (verb), and living with a self-given purpose. And just so we are clear a healthy mind is not just being happy-- happiness is just but one of the many emotions we have the ability to experience and express. Our healthy minds can be compromised by primary mental illnesses, adversities and life stressors.

A healthy mind is an important asset for the prosperity of our country and the world at large. Productivity requires a healthy mind. Entrepreneurial innovation requires a healthy mind. Social responsibility and Botho require a healthy mind. Given its importance there should be deliberate efforts to protect the mental health of youth from some of the man-made threats. Research and my own experience has revealed to me, three significant threats to minds of the youth in Botswana. These threats are: 1. violence and abuse, 2. Unemployment, 3. Economic inequality.

Violence & Abuse.

The violence and abuse, of different harrowing forms, is rampant and even occurs in spaces of assumed safety- for example at home and work. The statistics do not quite capture the lived pain of those who survive violence and abuse. I have witnessed the immediate and long term impacts of such violence and abuse. For example, I unfortunately recall too many young women with painfully diverse responses to sexual assault, from a numbed helplessness to a ferocious vengeance. Their views of the world, others and themselves broken: the world is no longer safe, others are wolves waiting to attack, and self is a devalued object. Nearly a third of these young women will go on to develop an Acute Stress Disorder initially and later on Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder. These disorders are characterised by intrusive thoughts, images and memories of the sexual assault which feel as real as the sexual assault. They get to painfully re-live the traumatic event. Treatment for them through medication, psychotherapy and the passage is usually successful within a year. However, the scars persist and you see them in pronounced mistrust

of others, the avoidance of romantic encounters, and the depression-like relapse.

It is important to mention that another form of abuse that the

youth experience is within the workplace-bullying. I

have seen a number of cases where young people complain of outright verbal attacks, exclusion, 'neglect' by senior colleagues. In some cases it appears as if bullying is institutionalised and permitted. I have seen many patients who the thought of work is enough to elicit a headache, low mood and anxiety. Due to the threat of unemployment, many suffer in silence and stick with the job.

Unemployment

The ability to get decent work is decreasing with every cohort of graduating class from secondary school to university.

This is not without consequence. Although youth have to take some responsibility to maximise their opportunities for employment (including self-employment), I have seen many in practice take undue blame for being unemployed or underemployed. There is so much rejection one can take before they find 'faults' in themselves. The impact of being considered not good enough for jobs upon jobs produces deep doubt of self and a sense of inadequacy. Soon

enough, helplessness sets in because nothing you do seems to yield results. Helplessness breeds sadness, and all of it manifests in depressive disorders, which I personally label economically induced mental illness.

Socio-Economic Inequality

I bring up the threat of economic inequality in light of recent, renewed youth 'protests' for economic inclusion. One cannot help but think of American billionaire Nick Hanauer's 2014 unsettling Politico op-ed about the future given the growing economic inequality. He wrote: "I see pitchforks. ... If we don't do something to fix the glaring inequities in this economy, the

pitchforks are going to come for us". I am no economist, but like Hanauer, I believe that

surely the arc of inequality will break under the pressure. The economically marginalised will very soon make demands, possibly with raised pitchforks, to the wealth in their countries. One psychological theory of aggression is that aggressive acts stem from constant frustration due to denial of legitimate needs or demands. Some of the demands by the youth in Botswana have included: fair and decent wages, land ownership, and protection of significant economic ventures to locals. The mounting frustration is a ticking time bomb.

Way forward

Failure to secure the young minds will leave our country vulnerable to worse outcomes. There is a need for deliberate and urgent intervention to address the above systemic threats. The following are some suggestions.

The patriarchal culture which supports the breaking of young female minds needs to be reengineered. Boys need to be explicitly and maybe formally taught how to express and regulate whatever emotions and thoughts which lead to them bruising others.

The criminal justice system needs to be swift in disposing of cases of violence and abuse, and be sensitive to the complainants.

The correctional services needs to be resourced to deliver comprehensive rehabilitation.

Workplaces need to support junior staffers, and take stern but rehabilitative action against workplace bullies.

The touted citizen economic empowerment legislation is long overdue, and its implementation will be critical for transformation. The legislation needs to also specifically empower youth. And when passed, the law needs to be seen to be working by the youth.

The recent industrial and manufacturing regulations which localise some industries and businesses were a step in the right direction but the regulations needed to be bolder to solve the challenge of market saturation in the protected industries. The beauty of the regulations is likely to be tainted by the lived experiences of youth who will be unable to penetrate industries already strongly held by established players.

Lastly, decent work and decent wages need to be realised: government needs to actively protect workers, and employers need to realise that better work and pay benefits them as much as it benefits the employees.

*Maphisa Maphisa is clinical psychologist and lecturer in the Department of Psychology, University of Botswana. The ideas expressed here are solely his and not of his employer. The article is not intended to be a substitute for professional psychological advice.



The ability to get decent work is decreasing with every cohort of graduating class from secondary school to university. This is not without consequence



UN URGES A MORE EQUAL, INCLUSIVE WORLD, MARKING INTERNATIONAL DAY OF DEMOCRACY

The United Nations marked the annual International Day of Democracy, on Tuesday, calling on world leaders to build a more equal, inclusive and sustainable world, with full respect for human rights.

Against the backdrop of the Coronavirus pandemic, UN Secretary-General António Guterres underlined the importance of democracy for ensuring free flow of information, participation in decision-making and accountability for the response to COVID-19.

Mr. Guterres said in a message marking International Day of Democracy that since the beginning of the crisis, we have seen the emergency used in a range of countries to restrict democratic processes and civic space. This is especially dangerous in places where democracy's roots are shallow and institutional checks and balances are weak.

The crisis brought to the fore, and aggravated, long-neglected injustices – from inadequate health systems to social protection gaps, digital divides and unequal access to education; from environmental degradation to racial discrimination and violence against women.

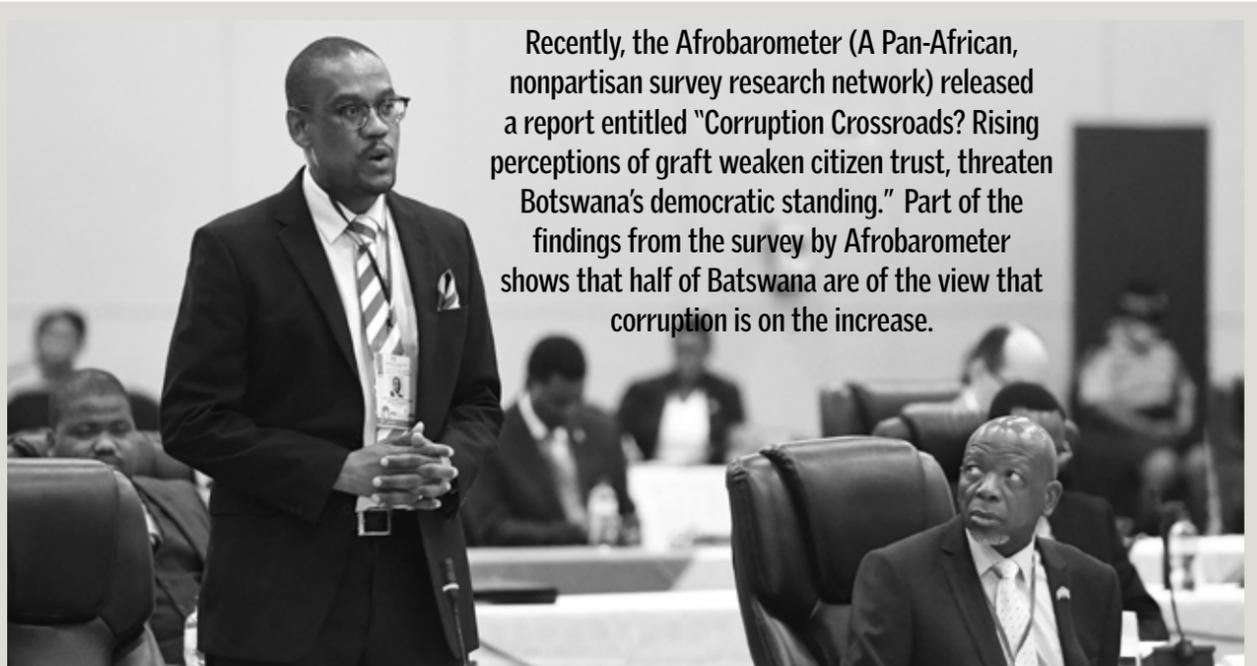
The crisis brought to the fore, and aggravated, long-neglected injustices – from inadequate health systems to social protection gaps, digital divides and unequal access to education; from environmental degradation to racial discrimination and violence against women.

Well before the pandemic, frustration was rising, and trust in public authorities was declining, and lack of opportunities was driving economic unease and social unrest. Governments must do more to listen to people demanding change, open new channels for dialogue and respect freedom of peaceful assembly.

The International Day

Commemorated annually on 15 September, the International Day of Democracy provides an opportunity to review the state of democracy in the world.

The International Day was established in 2007 by the UN General Assembly, which reaffirmed that democracy was a universal value based on the freely-expressed will of people to determine their own political, economic, social and cultural systems, and their full participation in all aspects of life.



Recently, the Afrobarometer (A Pan-African, nonpartisan survey research network) released a report entitled "Corruption Crossroads? Rising perceptions of graft weaken citizen trust, threaten Botswana's democratic standing." Part of the findings from the survey by Afrobarometer shows that half of Botswana are of the view that corruption is on the increase.

STATEMENT ON DCEC AND ECONOMIC CRIME BY LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION, HONOURABLE DUMELANG SALESHANDO

On August 26, the Permanent Secretary to the President issued a press release announcing that His Excellency Dr Mokgweetsi Masisi has transferred the Director General in the DCEC (Brigadier Joseph Moenyana Mathambo) to the Botswana Defence Force and appointed Mr Tymon Mathasedi Katholo to the position of DCEC Director General.

As the Opposition, we wish to register our concern at the frequent change of guard at the DCEC. Over a period of three years (August 2017 to August 2020) the DCEC has had three different Director Generals. Given the importance of the DCEC mandate, change in the leadership of the organization at the drop of a hat should raise eyebrows. The DCEC is expected to independently execute its duties without political interference.

International best practice for organizations that are assigned to pursue corrupt individuals without fear or favour, strongly points to the need for individuals who head the organizations to enjoy security of tenure. This is meant to insulate them against decisions that are calculated to appease their appointing authorities out of fear of being recalled from the position they hold. Security of tenure enhances the credibility of the organization in the eyes of the public that is expected to assist in the fight against corruption.

Grand corruption the world over is in the main perpetrated by leaders of big corporates that know no bounds in their pursuit of profit. Ever since assuming the highest office, it is public knowledge that President Masisi has moved swiftly to partner with different business leaders who have dominated our private sector and also competed against ordinary citizens for opportunities availed by government for economic empowerment, Banyana Farms being a case in point.

For a President that is aggressively pursuing private interests to grow his personal wealth, an objective that may conflict with the interests of the public, firing and appointing DCEC leaders without having to account for his decision is a recipe for blossoming corruption. Local and international media have reported on corruption investigations that have included one of the President's newly acquired business associates.

If not already entrenched, the ground has certainly been prepared for State Capture where the President's business associates will have their private interests prioritised over the interests of the public.

Recently, the Afrobarometer (A Pan-African, nonpartisan survey research network) released a report entitled "Corruption Crossroads? Rising perceptions of graft weaken citizen trust, threaten Botswana's democratic standing." Part of the findings from the survey by Afrobarometer shows that half of Botswana are of the view

that corruption is on the increase.

The Presidency, according to Botswana, is the leading state institution that is most widely seen as corrupt. The report concludes that perceived corruption in the Presidency is strongly associated with less trust in government institutions. As a consequence, many Botswana do not see the need to play any role in combating corruption and don't have faith in our institutions commitment to prosecute and convict the corrupt.

As is clear from the findings of the Afrobarometer, the integrity of the Office of the President is in grave doubt. We should not forget that the business partnerships that involve the President are possibly not the only factor that may fuel perceptions of corruption.

The President has been implicated in the looting of the National Petroleum Fund for which he will not be prosecuted on account of the immunity he enjoys as provided by our constitution.

As a result of the latest political moves to undermine the integrity of the DCEC, the UDC will propose amendments to the DCEC Act through a Private Members Bill during the next session of Parliament to ensure the following;

1. Security of tenure for the Director General of the DCEC
2. Removing the DCEC from the control of the Office of the President
3. Ensuring that the appointment of the Director General is subjected to a transparent process that is aimed at identifying the most competent applicant
4. Removing from the DCEC Act clauses that empower the President to interfere with the DCEC investigations
5. That the DCEC submits its reports to Parliament and not the Office of the President.

The above measures, in our view, will go a long way in empowering the DCEC to tackle the spreading cancerous wave of corruption that is taking our country to the grave under the BDP misrule. We emphasize that changing the leadership of DCEC without the reforms we are proposing, will not deliver any positive results. It is time to move from slogans to action. Corruption worsens poverty and aggravates inequality as resources meant for the upliftment of the vulnerable members of the society are diverted to line the pockets of the elite.

The UDC acknowledges that it is difficult to fight corruption when it is driven by the highest office in the land, but we want to assure Botswana that we shall not rest until corruption in our country is defeated and all the beneficiaries have returned the loot to its rightful owners – the people.

Democracy Day in the Time of the Pandemic

The unprecedented COVID-19 crisis has resulted in major social, political and legal challenges globally. As states around the world adopt emergency measures to address the crisis, it is critical that they continue to uphold the rule of law, protect and respect international standards and basic principles of legality, and the right to access justice, remedies and due process.

UN Secretary General António Guterres has urged governments to be transparent, responsive and accountable in their COVID-19 response and ensure that any emergency measures are legal, proportionate, necessary and non-discriminatory. "The best response is one that responds proportionately to immediate threats while protecting human rights and the rule of law," he said.

The Secretary-General's policy brief says states must respect and protect, among other rights, freedom of expression and of the press, freedom of information, freedom of association and of assembly. Concerns in many countries in the context of COVID-19 include:

- Measures to control the flow of information and crackdown on freedom of expression and press freedom against an existing background of shrinking civic space.
- Arrest, detention, prosecution or persecution of political opponents, journalists, doctors and healthcare workers, activists and others for allegedly spreading "fake news".
- Aggressive cyber-policing and increased online surveillance.
- Postponement of elections is raising serious constitutional issues in some cases and may lead to rising tensions.

The crisis raises the question of how best to counter harmful speech while protecting freedom of expression. Sweeping efforts to eliminate misinformation or disinformation can result in purposeful or unintentional censorship, which undermines trust. The most effective response is accurate, clear and evidence-based information from sources people trust.

Around the world civil society organizations have answered the UN's call to action to address and counteract the wide range of ways the Covid-19 crisis may impair democracy and increase authoritarianism, by:

- developing media literacy and digital safety, more critical than ever as activism is forced online, so as to address the risk of suppression, interference and closing of civic space;
- fighting misinformation, disinformation and hate speech, which have mushroomed in the crisis;
- training journalists remotely to report on the impact of the pandemic with in-depth, fact-checked coverage, while staying safe on the front line;
- empowering women against gender-based violence, which has surged amid Covid-19 lockdowns, quaran-

times, and social and economic pressures;

- helping to highlight the challenges of inequality and weak service delivery made worse by the crisis, with specific focus on the needs and rights of women, youth, minorities and other marginalized populations, so as to help hold governments to account.

The International Day of Democracy provides an opportunity to review the state of democracy in the world. Democracy is as much a process as a goal, and only with the full participation of and support by the international community, national governing bodies, civil society and individuals, can the ideal of democracy be made into a reality to be enjoyed by everyone, every-

where.

The values of freedom, respect for human rights and the principle of holding periodic and genuine elections by universal suffrage are essential elements of democracy. In turn, democracy provides the natural environment for the protection and effective realization of human rights. These values are embodied in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and further developed in the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, which enshrines a host of political rights and civil liberties underpinning meaningful democracies.

The link between democracy and human rights is captured in article 21(3) of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,

which states:

"The will of the people shall be the basis of the authority of government; this will shall be expressed in periodic and genuine elections which shall be by universal and equal suffrage and shall be held by secret vote or by equivalent free voting procedures."

The rights enshrined in the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and subsequent human rights instruments covering group rights (e.g. indigenous peoples, minorities, people with disabilities) are equally essential for democracy as they ensure an equitable distribution of wealth, and equality and equity in respect of access to civil and political rights



CEDA, STANBIC BANK BOTSWANA SIGN LANDMARK AGREEMENT

The Citizen Entrepreneurial Development Agency (CEDA) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Stanbic Bank Botswana to facilitate seamless importation of goods and services from China by CEDA-funded clients.

Stanbic Bank Botswana, a member of the Standard Bank Group, has an all-encompassing solution for Africa-China cross-border trade that enables the matching of buyers from Africa with suppliers or manufacturers in China. The solution is facilitated through the Africa China Agent Proposition (ACAP), which provides buyers from Africa with exclusive access to accredited trade agents in China.

The partnership with Stanbic Bank Botswana will enable CEDA clients to source their inputs, raw materials and machinery from China with reduced risks and challenges. Stanbic Bank Botswana will use the ACAP facility to provide solutions to challenges that CEDA-funded projects encounter when importing goods and services from China. Such problems include language barriers, price negotiations, non-delivery of goods and supplies of sub-standard goods.

"Through this agreement, CEDA-funded projects will be able to connect with reputable suppliers to ensure seamless trade. In the past, we have had very unpleasant experiences where CEDA funded projects struggled with non-delivery or poor quality goods from suppliers in China," said CEDA Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Thabo Thamane.

The partnership comes at a time when the new CEDA guidelines compel the Agency to take security over assets financed for special sectors such as manufacturing, mining, construction, transport, energy, tourism, agriculture and tourism. Thamane added that it is critical to ensure that assets purchased through CEDA funded projects are delivered in the right specifications, quality and quantity to minimise the Agency's exposure in case of default.

Stanbic Bank Botswana's ACAP offering aims to assist CEDA clients to source and validate quality goods safely and efficiently from the most competitive suppliers in China. The facility will also empower clients with sight and control of the entire importing and logistics process. Operating through accredited trade agents from China will grant CEDA clients access to thousands of suppliers who will provide them with better quality goods and favourable terms.

Stanbic Bank Botswana Chief Executive, Samuel Minta, said clients will deal directly with the Bank regarding the status of their ordered goods. Moreover, he said, clients will get favourable trade terms which will enhance their cash flows and minimise the risk of non-delivery or substandard goods. "The trade agent will facilitate travel to China if clients need to meet with suppliers. In cases where suppliers need upfront payment, the Agent will take full responsibility of ensuring that goods that meet specifications in terms of quality and quantity are delivered to CEDA clients," said Minta.

Through the MoU, Stanbic Bank Botswana will also facilitate procurement of goods from other markets such as South Africa and India by issuing guarantee/a letter of credit for payments on behalf of CEDA clients.

Yoni Steaming: Trend or Effective Remedy?

While the interminable debate continues, the practice of treating the vagina with vaporized water for any of a range reasons is already underway at Yoni Steaming BW. **THATO CHUMA** reports

The yoni has many names, some of which are vagina, sacred place, womb or even vulva. Tracing its roots, the yoni has been both a subject of adoration and worship in some parts of the world. Sometimes it is afflicted by numerous issues, mostly due to hormonal imbalance, stress, diet and other factors.

Surprisingly, in Botswana's conservative culture it appears the ancient practice

of yoni steaming is surfacing as a popular tool that women use for to enhance their reproductive health.

A yoni steam, also referred to as a vaginal steam, is the practice of sitting or squatting over a steaming pot of water infused with herbs. As an alternative health practice, this mixture is used to soothe and revitalize a female's reproductive system while offering a number of health

benefits. The moist heat is said to soften the womb's tissues, increase vital blood flow and support the womb in releasing any stagnant blood that may have built up.

According to a study on vaginal practices by the World Health Organization published in 2011, one of the ways through which women practise vaginal care is by "vaginal steaming or smoking: the 'steaming' or 'smoking' of the va-



Pic: thelayercenter.com

gina. While there's little to no scientific evidence that vaginal steaming works, Dr. Manny Alvarez, Chairman of the Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology and Reproductive Science at Hackensack University Medical Centre in New Jersey, states in an article in *Healthline* that vaginal steaming may help women relax. He says one main benefit may be that the moist heat from the steam increases blood flow to the vaginal area.

Formulated with flowers, leaves and roots, this natural organic bath steam blend helps clean and rejuvenate vaginal areas for balanced comfort. Yoni steaming or vaginal steaming is becoming popular across the world, with celebrities such as Gwen Paltrow touting it as effective for womb health. It is now being offered at some spa and massage resorts, but it can also be done in the privacy of homes.

The water is positioned beneath a seat that has a hole to allow the steam through, with the warm water including herbs such as rosemary, lavender, chamomile, marigold, basil, rose petals and yarrow. The blends are to address issues such as menstrual imbalance, perimenopause (PMS), infertility, miscarriages, fibroids, cysts, endometriosis, low libido, as well as during the postpartum period. Women are advised to take extra precautions to use the right amount of herbs and the steam in a way that does not harm them.

And the technique is here. Yoni Steaming BW, a local supplier of yoni herbs, states that the response has been great. "The feedback has been great. And like anything else, it takes time to educate customers about any 'new thing' that comes into the market.

"Although steaming is not a new thing, neither is the use of herbs as alternatives to modern medicine. We believe yoni steaming is here to stay because we are basically going back to using good natural plants as medicines. If we neglect our wellbeing, we know sooner than later that it catches up with you," the duo explained, adding that the rise of naturopathic practitioners is promising.

This method is advisable during the pre-menstrual phase of a woman's cycle. Women who are pregnant, currently bleeding or have an active vaginal infection and open wounds are advised not to use this practice while consulting a gynaecologist before use is recommended. The rule of thumb is to use organic edible herbs, either freshly picked or dried.

TENDER ADDENDUM



Subsequent to the Tender Notice which appeared on the Sunday Standard Newspaper dated: 13th September 2020, the tender is amended as follows:

All tenders are reserved for 100% Citizen Owned Companies as per the Public Procurement Asset Disposal Board (Reservation of Government Tenders for Citizens-Owned Enterprises) Order, 2020.

ITEM NO	TENDER NO	TENDER CLOSING DATE	DESCRIPTION	PPADB CODE	TENDER PRICE	RESERVATION
1	MRA-IDOC-018.0 - 2020/2021	15th October 2020	PROVISION OF MICROSOFT OFFICE 365 LICENSE	Code: 120 - ICT Technical Support Services Sub Code: 01 - Systems Development Services	P250.00	100% Citizen
2	MRA-ADOC-017.0 - 2020/2021	15th October 2020	SUPPLY AND MAINTENANCE OF SANITARY WASTE BINS	Code: 103 - Collection & Disposal of Hazardous Material Sub code 03 -Clinical Waste Collection	P250.00	100% Citizen
3.	MRA-ADOC-018.0 - 2020/2021	15th October 2020	PROVISION OF GARDEN MAINTENANCE	Code: 137 - Gardening & Landscaping Services Sub code 01 -Gardening	P250.00	100% Citizen
4.	MRA-IADOC-002.0 - 2020/2021	16th October 2020	PROVISION OF INTERNAL AUDIT SERVICES	Code: 314 - Finance Related Services Sub code 06 -Auditing Services	P250.00	100% Citizen
5.	MRA-LDOC-004.0 - 2020/2021	16th October 2020	FRAMEWORK CONTRACT FOR PROVISION OF LEGAL SERVICES FOR BOMRA	Code: 318 - Legal Services Sub code 01 -Legal Services	P250.00	100% Citizen

TENDER DOCUMENTS:

Tender documents containing details of the requirements are available for collection from Tuesday 15th September 2020.

All Payment must be made in the form of bank transfer to the following banking details and quoting the Tender Ref No and Company Name:

Bank: First National Bank, Gaborone industrial Branch
Branch Code: 281667

Business Cheque Account No: 62747456417

Youth companies shall purchase the tender document at 50% of the fee as per Presidential Directive CAB 14 (B) 2015. Youth company owners should be 35 years or below and

shall submit proof of such.

Due to the Covid 19 Pandemic and with most organizations working home, proof of payment can be emailed to the email address provided below and tender document will then be sent through email after receipt of payment proof.

Tender Documents can be collected at the following address upon proof of payment:

Procurement Section 1st floor
Botswana Medicines Regulatory Authority
Plot 112, Gaborone International Finance Park
Gaborone

Business hours: 0800hrs to 1700hrs (Monday to Friday)

Queries relating to this tender must be addressed to the following email or telephone:

procurement@bomra.co.bw
Tel: +267 373 1732

Plot 112, International Finance Park, Gaborone
Private Bag 2, Gaborone Station, Botswana
+267 373 1727/20
Toll Free : 0800 600 216
info@bomra.co.bw
Botswana Medicines Regulatory Authority
www.bomra.co.bw





PUBLIC TENDER NOTICE

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

1. BURS/ADM/SER/10/ 2020-21 PROVISION OF CASH IN TRANSIT PROTECTION SERVICES AT VARIOUS BURS PREMISES

PPADB Code & Grade under the following categories	Code 100 : Security Services Sub Code 04 : Cash in Transit
Procurement Method	Open Domestic Bidding (100% citizen owned bidders)
Fee	P150.00
Collection Date	14 September 2020
Tender closing	09 October 2020

2. BURS/ADM/SER/09/2020-21 PREVENTATIVE AND CORRECTIVE MAINTENANCE OF BURS STAND-BY GENERATORS

PPADB Code & Grade under the following categories	Grade A Code 04 : Works Maintenance (Generators) Sub Code 01 : Electrical
Procurement Method	Open Domestic Bidding (100% citizen owned bidders)
Fee	P150.00
Collection Date	14 September 2020
Tender closing	09 October 2020

3. BURS/IT/SER/08/2020-21- PROVISION OF EITHER ONE OR BOTH OF THE FOLLOWING:

- A. ORACLE SITE RECOVERY SOLUTION (SITE GUARD) IMPLEMENTATION, CONFIGURATION, DOCUMENTATION, TRAINING, TESTING & SUPPORT AT BURS HQ AND DISASTER RECOVERY SITE (STRICTLY FOR VENDOR IMPLEMENTATION).
AND
B. SUPPLY, INSTALLATION OF ORACLE X6-2 DDR4 DUAL IN-LINE MEMORY MODULE (DIMM), AND ORACLE PREMIER SUPPORT FOR SYSTEMS.

PPADB Code & Grade under the following categories	Code 120 : ICT Technical Services Support Sub Code 02 : (Server Management and maintenance Services)
Procurement Method	Open Domestic Bidding (100% own citizen bidders)
Fee	P500.00
Collection Date	14 September 2020
Site visit	29 September 2020 (Pre-scheduled) Pre-booking requests to be sent by the 25th of September to tsebonego@burs.org.bw
Tender closing	16 October 2020

4. BURS/IT/SER/07/2020-21 UPGRADE SOURCEONE ARCHIVING SOLUTION

PPADB Code & Grade under the following categories	Code 120 : ICT Technical Support Services Sub Code 02 : (Server Management and maintenance Services)
Procurement Method	Open Domestic Bidding (100% citizen owned bidders)
Fee	P500.00
Collection Date	14 September 2020
Site visit	29 September 2020 (Pre-scheduled) Pre-booking requests to be sent by the 25th of September to mmodisenyane@burs.org.bw
Tender closing	16 October 2020

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

Botswana Unified Revenue Service (BURS) only accepts Electronic Fund Transfer (EFT) or Point Of Sale (POS) as the only methods of payment. Bank details are available on request from procurement@burs.org.bw

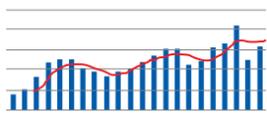
The Invitation to Tender can only be collected on production of the official receipt from; Botswana Unified Revenue Service, Procurement Unit (Motsentsela), South Block, Ground Floor, New BURS Headoffice, Lot 54379, Eastern Commercial Road, CBD, Gaborone.

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

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

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

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



Botswana's Financial Stability at Risk

The COVID-19 pandemic and the necessary disease containment measures will continue to have an adverse effect on economic performance in the short term



GABORONE 5 November 2019, Botswana President Dr Mokgweetsi E K Masis officiates the Diamond Conference 2019. Botswana's over reliance on a single commodity has been tested by the Covid-19 pandemic. (Pic:Monirul Bhuiyan/PRESS PHOTO)

KEABETSWE NEWEL

Experts say that if the pandemic becomes more protracted, it will further elevate risks to financial stability; in particular potential increase

in default of bank loans and insurance premiums payments or contributions to pension funds, as well as, early pension withdrawals emanating from loss of employment and, the Financial Stability Council (FSC) said.

The Financial Stability Council (FSC) met on August 25, 2020 to deliberate on recent developments in the financial sector, as well as to address regulatory and public interest issues relating to the stability, performance and prospects for the do-

mestic financial sector.

The FSC was officially launched in February 2019, and comprises senior officials of the Ministry of Finance and Economic Development (MFED), the Bank of Botswana (the Bank), Non-Bank Financial Institutions Regulatory Authority (NBFIRA), and Financial Intelligence Agency (FIA). These authorities have signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) for the purpose of information sharing, cooperation and communication in the implementation of a macro prudential policy framework for Botswana.

According to the FSC, overall, notwithstanding the challenges engendered by the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, the domestic financial system continues to be resilient, characterized by strong capital buffers, liquidity position and profitability. The enduring stability of the financial system according to FSC is supported by a sound macroeconomic environment, efficient market infrastructure and effective legal and supervisory frameworks.

"Therefore, these favourable conditions enable the financial sector to perform its role and support economic activity in different economic cycles. Notwithstanding this positive macro prudential assessment, the FSC noted emerging vulnerabilities and elevated risks requiring close monitoring. These risks are associated with the structure and performance of the economy, as well as the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, notably: the dependence on the external sector and, in particular, reliance on a single commodity for export earnings and related vulnerability to exogenous shocks," the FSC noted.

Trading Decelerates On The BSE in 2020

- Turnover declines by 59%
- Investors still skeptical

KEABETSWE NEWEL

Trading activity between 1st January and 31st August was lower in 2020 in comparison to the corresponding period in 2019 partly because of volatilities brought about by COVID-19, the CEO of the Botswana Stock Exchange (BSE), Thapelo Tsheole, has said.

According to the BSE market performance report for period, as at the end of August 2020, the bourse had recorded total equity turnover of P483.3 million from traded volumes of 274.3 million shares.

On a monthly basis, the report shows that the month of March experienced the highest turnover of P117.7 mil-

lion over 50.9 million traded shares, followed by June with a turnover of P89.9 million over 33.9 million traded shares. The month of August had the most traded number of shares at 99.4 million generating the third highest monthly turnover of P77.9 million.

During the corresponding eight-month period in 2019, the BSE had registered a turnover of P1.2 billion and a total volume of 378.2 million shares traded. "Therefore, the 2020 turnover amounts to a 59 percent decline over the same period in 2019," the performance report shows.

According to Tsheole, most investors held onto their shares during the COVID-19 pandemic, which reduced trading activities. "We also lost some time as a result of lockdowns, which affected trading activity as well," Tsheole said.

During the period under review, the top three traded companies in terms of value were micro-finance company, Letshego Holdings Limited, which traded shares valued at P122.7 million. Beer brewing firm Sechaba Breweries Holdings sold shares worth P69.1 million while blue chip commercial bank, First National Bank Botswana (FNBB), traded shares valued at P59.2 million during the periods under review.

According to Tsheole, most investors held onto their shares during the COVID-19 pandemic, which reduced trading activities. "We also lost some time as a result of lockdowns, which affected trading activity as well," Tsheole said.

Total turnover from these three companies (P251 million) accounted for 52 percent of total equity turnover, with the leading counter (Letshego) accounting for 25 percent of total equity turnover.

The top three companies that have had share price increases were fast moving consumer goods retailer Se-falana Group, property firm Letlole la Rona and hospitality outfit Cresta Marakanelo Group, which gained 3.7 percent, 1.8 percent and 0.7 percent respectively. The bottom three companies that experienced share price declines were Lucara, Minergy and FNBB which declined by 49.7 percent, 22.7 percent, and 17.5 percent respectively.

Local companies contributed 57.3 percent to total turnover or P277.1 million in monetary terms while local individuals contributed 6.6 percent of total turnover recorded during this period or P32 million. Foreign companies contributed 31.1 percent or P150.1 million to equity turnover while foreign individuals and brokers contributed 4.8 percent (P23.3 million) and 0.2 percent (P0.8 million) to equity turnover respectively.



First National Bank Botswana (FNBB) announced its audited summarised consolidated financial statements and dividends for the full year ended 30 June 2020 in Gaborone on 9 September 2020. FNBB Chief Executive Officer Steven Bogatsu and Chief Finance Officer Luke Woodford presented the results. (Pic: MONIRUL BHUIYAN/PRESS PHOTO)

COVID-19 Impacts FNBB Balance Sheet

- Loan defaulting, retail are the bank's difficult portfolios
- CEO Bogatsu downbeat about operating environment for finance sector

TLOTLO KEBINAKGABO

It has been a year of continued loan default by customers of First National Bank Botswana (FNBB), the behemoth bank's audited consolidated financial statement for the year ended 30 June 2020 shows.

According to the financial statement, the bank's credit Non-Performing Loan (NPL) portfolio went up by P77 million year-on-year, which is a 7% increase, in the course of the period under review. FNBB's retail portfolio, which is impacted predominantly by the labour market, also experienced an increase in defaults.

"The home loan portfolio has been underperforming for the last five years, and has continued to slow in line with trends in the residential property market and the effects of the pandemic," the bank stated.

FNBB, whose advances to customers currently stand at P14.6 billion from P15.9 billion in the prior year, decreased by 8 percent in the year under review. The bank, which is under the stewardship of Steven Bogatsu as CEO, saw its profit after tax declining by 5 percent from P732.5 million in the prior year to P695.8 million in the period under review.

Bogatsu has attributed the decline was to pressure on top line revenue and required provisioning due to increased in credit risk brought about by COVID-19. The resultant return on equity is 20.1% (22.7% in 2019).

However, deposits from customers increased by 18 percent from P19.5 billion in the prior year to

P23.1 billion. "Growth in deposits of 18% was underpinned by high growth in the call and current account portfolios," Bogatsu explained. "This was on the back of an increase in market liquidity, mainly attributed to the effects of Botswana's FATF grey listing, as well as to (the) structural reforms in the monetary policy as implemented by the Bank of Botswana in response to COVID-19."

"FNBB's funding structure has benefited from the issuance of Tier II Capital amounting to P196m, which has elongated the funding profile and enhanced the resilience of the balance sheet."

FNBB's interest income also increased, though by a meager 2 percent largely driven by the core investment portfolio which saw income growth of 12% year-on-year. But despite the cumulative Bank Rate cut of 75bps during the year, the bank's net interest income on advances remained flat.

"Interest expense declined by 14% year-on-year largely underpinned by the temporary structural adjustment in market liquidity," Bogatsu reported. "Additionally, the Bank Rate cuts reduced pricing on the money market curve across the industry, especially on term deposits."

"Interest expense declined by 14% year-on-year largely underpinned by the temporary structural adjustment in market liquidity," Bogatsu reported. "Additionally, the Bank Rate cuts reduced pricing on the money market curve across the industry, especially on term deposits."

Meanwhile, FNBB says because of the downbeat outlook for the Botswana economy, it expects credit extension to remain limited with households constrained by pressures on discretionary income and businesses deferring capex cycles until the economic fallout from the COVID-19 pandemic stabilizes.

"Further, with rates remaining low and credit default pressure remaining high, the operating environment for financial services will remain challenging," Bogatsu warns in the statement.

FNBB Rakes In P1.2 Billion In Bank Charges

Botswana's leading commercial bank charges up to as much as P10 per transaction

TLOTLO KEBINAKGABO

Leading commercial banking outfit First National Bank Botswana (FNBB) generated P1.2 billion by charging its customers transactional fees that are termed Non-Interest Income (NII) in banking sector language, FNBB financials for the year ended 30 June 2020 show.

Non-interest income is bank and creditor income derived primarily from fees, including deposit and transaction fees, insufficient funds (NSF) fees, annual fees, monthly account service charges, inactivity fees, and check and deposit slip fees, among others. Credit card issuers also charge penalty fees, including late fees and over-the-limit fees.

FNBB financials indicates that the bank's NII increased by 11 percent from P1.1 billion in the prior year to P1.2 billion in the year under review. According to FNBB, the increment is driven by a fee and a point-of-sale (POS) commission income growth of 13 percent and 15 percent respectively.

"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 FNB 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 for which it heavily charges its customers. Such digital transactional services include its flagship eWallet, which charges as high P10 per transaction.

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 FNB 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."

Audited summarised consolidated financial statements and dividend announcement for the full year ended 30 June 2020



The Directors take pleasure in presenting the audited summarised consolidated financial statements and dividend announcement of First National Bank of Botswana Limited and its subsidiaries (referred to as "FNBB" or "the bank" in this announcement) for the year ended 30 June 2020.

Basis of presentation and accounting policies

The audited summarised consolidated financial statements contained in this analysis of financial results booklet have been prepared in terms of the framework concepts and recognition and measurement criteria in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards ("IFRS") as issued by the International Accounting Standards Board (IASB) interpretations issued by the International Financial Reporting Interpretations Committee ("IFRIC") and as a minimum contain the information required by International Accounting Standard 34 ("IAS 34") - Interim Financial Reporting.

The bank's underlying audited consolidated financial statements from which the summarised consolidated financial statements have been extracted have been prepared in accordance with IFRS and all interpretations issued by IFRIC effective 1 July 2019, and in compliance with the Companies Act of Botswana (Companies Act, 2003), the Non-Bank Financial Institutions Regulatory Authority Act (Cap 46:08) and the Banking Act (Cap 46:04). The principal accounting policies and the methods of computation are consistent in all material aspects with those adopted in the most recent audited consolidated financial statements, with the exception of the adoption of IFRS 16: Leases and IFRIC 23 Uncertainty of Income Tax Treatments effective for periods beginning on or after 1 January 2019.

The bank has adopted IFRS 16: Leases and IFRIC 23 Uncertainty of Income Tax Treatments from 1 July 2019. The adoption of IFRS 16 has mainly impacted the accounting for the bank's operating leases (as defined under IAS 17 Leases) where the bank is the lessee. The adoption of IFRS 16 has had an impact on the accounting policy and reported results of the bank. The IFRIC 23 interpretation clarifies how to apply the recognition and measurement requirements of IAS 12: Income Taxes when there is uncertainty over income tax treatments. The adoption of IFRIC 23 has not had a material impact on the reported results of the bank.

In the preparation of the consolidated financial statements, the bank has applied sound business principles with key

assumptions concerning any inherent uncertainties in recording various assets and liabilities. These assumptions were applied consistently to the audited summarised consolidated financial statements for the financial year ended 30 June 2020 and have been thoroughly assessed by management to ensure the appropriateness thereof. The critical accounting estimates and areas of judgements are:

- Impairment of financial assets;
- Impairment of goodwill;
- Application and interpretation of tax regulations;
- Provisions, contingent liabilities, and contingent assets;
- Fair value of financial instruments;

The directors confirm that this information has been correctly extracted from the audited summarised consolidated financial statements from which the audited summarised consolidated financial statements were derived.

The directors have reviewed the bank's budgets and flow of funds forecasts and considered the bank's ability to continue as a going concern considering current and anticipated economic conditions. These budgets and flow of funds forecasts took the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic into consideration, including projections of the impact on the bank's capital and funding requirements. The directors further considered the bank's operating resilience, the legal and regulatory environment, and any potential valuation concerns around the bank's assets recognised in the statement of financial position. On the basis of this review, and in light of the current financial position and profitable trading history, the directors are satisfied that the bank has adequate resources to continue in business for the foreseeable future. The going concern basis, therefore, continues to apply and has been adopted in the preparation of the annual financial statements.

Significant judgements and estimates impacted by COVID-19

Due to the unprecedented nature of the COVID-19 pandemic, it is not possible to accurately predict the full extent, nor the duration, of its economic impact. Specific

areas of judgement set out in the audited consolidated financial statements did not change. However, given the dynamic nature of the pandemic and the limited recent experience of the ensuing economic and financial impact, additional judgements have been applied within those identified areas. This has resulted in changes to the estimates and assumptions that have been applied in the measurement of the assets of FNBB for the current reporting period. Further, certain balances, processes and related disclosures have been impacted by COVID-19. In these instances judgement has been applied and adjustments made on a conservative but reasonable basis, and where appropriate disclosed.

The audited consolidated financial statements contain forward-looking indicators, including a detailed explanation of the scenarios considered in determining FNBB's assumptions for the purposes of its expected credit loss (ECL). Noting the wide range of possible scenarios and macroeconomic outcomes as well as the relative uncertainty of the social and economic consequences of COVID-19, these scenarios represent reasonable forward-looking views as supported by the information available at the reporting date. The bank has not considered the impact of COVID-19 as a blanket significant increase in credit risk (SICR) trigger that is expected to result in the entire portfolio of advances moving into their next respective staging buckets. An enhanced and more systematic targeted approach to the impact of COVID-19 on the customer base has been undertaken, which is in line with the bank's existing credit impairment policies.

The valuation techniques for the fair value measurement of financial instruments have been assessed to determine the impact that the market volatility introduced by COVID-19 has had on the fair value measurements of these instruments. We also considered the appropriateness of the inputs to valuations, which include the use of correlations, price volatilities, funding costs and bid offer spread, counterparty and own credit spreads. Changes in valuation inputs have also been assessed in terms of the impact they have on the classification of exposures in the fair value hierarchy.

Audited summarised consolidated financial statements – independent auditor's opinion

Deloitte & Touche, First National Bank of Botswana Limited's independent auditors, have audited the consolidated financial statements of First National Bank of Botswana Limited from which the summarised consolidated financial statements have been derived, and have expressed an unmodified audit opinion on the consolidated financial statements. The summarised consolidated financial statements comprise the summarised consolidated statement of financial position at 30 June 2020, summarised consolidated income statement, summarised consolidated statement of comprehensive income, summarised consolidated statement of changes in equity and summarised consolidated statement of cash flows for the year then ended, and related notes. Included in the audit report on the consolidated financial statements is a key audit matter on impairment of advances.

The full set of financial statements and audit report thereon are available for inspection at First National Bank of Botswana Limited's registered office. The financial statements do not necessarily report on all the information contained in this announcement. For a better understanding of the bank's financial position and the statements of its operations for the year and the scope of the audit engagement, these audited summarised consolidated financial statements should be read in conjunction with the audited consolidated financial statements from which the summarised consolidated financial statements were derived and the audit report thereon. The audit of the summarised consolidated financial statements was conducted in accordance with International Standards on Auditing.

Forward-looking statements

Any reference to future financial performance included in this announcement has not been audited or reported on by the bank's auditors.

Economic update

Global economy overview

COVID-19 pandemic and related economic shocks – the perfect storm

The necessary protection measures related to the COVID-19 pandemic are severely impacting economic activity worldwide, and the IMF projects that global economy will contract by 4.9% in 2020 (2.9% growth in 2019). While some economies are reopening gradually, others are tightening lockdown regulations to stem the risk of the 'second-wave'. Several countries have been forced to lift their debt levels in order to combat the virus and must now proceed to stabilise economic growth and manage fiscal indebtedness. This environment remains supportive of safe-haven assets which should continue to protect the US Dollar in the near term, although this support is expected to fade further as and when the global recovery commences in earnest. While the disinflationary trend is expected to subside in 2021, inflation in the developed markets is expected to remain below target levels for some time. The IMF projects that 2021 global growth will recover to 5.4% on the premise that a well co-ordinated fiscal and monetary support policy will underpin further stabilisation of financial markets.

Regional economy

A crisis like no other

The outbreak of COVID-19 has had a severe impact on global supply chains, leaving commodity-dependent countries heavily exposed. According to the IMF, the sub-Saharan Africa (SSA) growth is expected to contract by 3.2% in 2020 (3.1% growth in 2019), before gradual rebound to 3.4% growth in 2021. The downside risks to the region's growth will mostly stem from a weak external environment which is linked to a fragile global economy and COVID-19 impact. High public and corporate debt levels continue to affect several economies in the region and could result in sovereign defaults. Further credit downgrades are likely. Across the region, we anticipate the hardest hit sectors to be tourism and hospitality, mining and oil, aviation and trade. Most economies in the region are forecast to register negative growth. We expect macroeconomic pressures with currency transferability and convertibility risk to rise sharply over 2020 due to the uncertainty in commodity prices, especially oil, together with the impact of COVID-19 on global markets. Consequently, we expect the Nigerian economy to enter a deep recession in 2020 and to last through to the first half of 2022. In South Africa, weak domestic demand and income growth has been exacerbated by COVID-19, and the fiscal space available to support the economy is limited. This demand weakness continues to depress core inflation which in turn has allowed the South African Reserve Bank to provide significant monetary policy support to the economy.

Any growth recovery for SSA in 2021 will be dependent on the continued gradual easing of the COVID-19 restrictions as implemented in the latter part of 2020 and, importantly, provided the region avoids the same epidemic dynamics that have played out elsewhere.

Botswana economy

Hopes of recovery pinned on the Economic Recovery & Transformation Plan

The bank anticipates that the disruptions to business and consumer activity associated with COVID-19 pandemic will result in an economic contraction of 10.5% in 2020 (3.0% growth in 2019). The impact on the global economy has already reduced the demand for diamonds, leading to a moderation of both diamond prices and local

production. This trend is expected to persist until the virus is sufficiently contained to allow real economic recovery. Mining activity is expected to contract by over 40%, with the additional challenge of travel bans prohibiting sightholder participation in the diamond sales cycles. The same travel restrictions are severely affecting other sectors with close ties to tourism, including hospitality and aviation. Botswana's trade sector, which has been a key driver of growth in recent years, is expected to contract by over 20% as a result of disruptions in trade patterns following lockdown measures implemented globally. The spill-over effect will be evident in manufacturing and construction with local businesses facing both procurement difficulties and subsiding demand.

The Government has drafted an economic recovery and transformation plan aimed at supporting businesses and the economy through this pandemic. The fiscal package proposes several initiatives that span most industries with the stated objective of transforming Botswana from a mineral-led, public-sector dominated economy to a more diversified, export-led private-sector economy, although this narrative for growth has yet to have shown material results. The estimated cost of the package is P20bn (10% of GDP) over 2.5 years, which in addition to the expected budget deficit over the same period of around P20bn, increases the overall budget deficit to P40bn over that period. However, unlike many of its peers in the region, Botswana has the cushion of several funding options. With sizeable foreign exchange reserves, a history of prudent fiscal governance, capacity to increase its public debt, a captive domestic capital market, and options for foreign-currency debt from various DFIs, the country remains the highest rated sovereign in SSA, despite the recent downgrades by S&P.

Scope to reduce Bank Rate further as inflation substantially declines

Headline inflation averaged 2.3% in the twelve months to June 2020, having breached the Bank of Botswana's lower inflation objective since the second half of 2019. Following negative economic growth and broad-based decline in business and consumer activity, the June 2020 inflation figure dropped below 1%. We expect headline inflation to average 1.9% in 2020, further supported by low Brent crude oil prices. The recessionary pattern anticipated in 2020 with subdued demand and output prospects, inform the bank's view that the Monetary Policy Rate will trend lower in the short- to medium-term, and dropping to 3.50% during 2020 (currently at 4.25%).

Pula outlook

While the fundamentals provide an impetus for further rate cuts, this should have minimal impact on the Pula outlook as the currency is pegged 45% to the Rand and 55% to the IMF SDR. The Pula's international value is therefore unlikely to be a primary consideration in any decision on rates. The Rand remains the dominant determinant of the Pula outlook due to the significance of imports from South Africa, and any weakness in the Rand will flow through to an extent. For 2020, we forecast USD/BWP and BWP/ZAR to average 11.51 (10.77 in 2019) and 1.43 (1.34 in 2019) respectively.

COVID-19

The bank implemented appropriate measures to ensure that employees, customers, vendors and other stakeholders are protected from the spread of the virus. The measures commenced with convening the established crisis management team in accordance with the bank's established business continuity policy. The crisis management team meet frequently to review the bank's organisational preparedness and to implement the various response tactics as appropriate. Initiatives include communication to the public to create awareness of the

pandemic, the encouragement of customers to use digital service channels, the establishment of remote working protocols as well as the continued assessment of the IT readiness plan (including remote working enablement and ensuring uninterrupted customer service through digital channels).

To offer support to our stakeholders and customers through the economic uncertainty caused by COVID-19, the bank provided cash flow relief to customers via debt restructuring and offered reduced pricing on certain transactional services. This cash flow relief was designed to enable individuals and businesses withstand immediate cash flow pressures presented by COVID-19.

The table below provides insight into these relief measures provided to clients:

	Value of exposure P'000	Number of clients
Retail	412 990	2 207
SMEs/ Business	989 597	1 268
Total	1 402 587	3 475

The bank also donated P5m to the COVID-19 relief fund in support of Government's call to action from the private sector. The FNB Foundation pledged a further P5m towards several other COVID-19 relief measures, including support for the Arts, sanitisation of public spaces and a number of other initiatives to combat the humanitarian and social impacts of COVID-19.

The directors are confident that the banks' operations will continue to remain uninterrupted throughout the COVID-19 pandemic.

Financial performance

FNBB continued to deliver a resilient performance with a quality return profile (ROE 20.1% and ROA of 2.5%). The 5% reduction in PAT compared to the previous reporting period was primarily driven by the impact of COVID-19 on the business. The consequent economic pressures resulted in significant increases in credit impairment charges so as to position the bank appropriately and prudently for both an increase in defaults and a decrease in the value of collateral.

FNBB's strategy to deliver customer-centric integrated financial services that will ensure the preservation of value, remains a core strategic focus. The bank has broadened its financial services offering through new products as well as enhancing the capabilities of its digital channels to further develop its relationship with its core transactional customers. The continued success of this strategy is reflected in the Non-Interest Revenue (NIR) growth registered during the reported period.

Statement of Financial Position

Growth in deposits of 18% was underpinned by the high growth in the call and current account portfolios. This was on the back of an increase in market liquidity, mainly attributed to the effects of Botswana's FATF grey listing, as well as, to the structural reforms in the monetary policy as implemented by the Bank of Botswana in response to COVID-19. FNBB's funding structure has benefited from the issuance of Tier II Capital amounting to P196m, which has elongated the funding profile and enhanced the resilience of the balance sheet.

For several years prior to the current economic uncertainties, FNBB had exercised caution in its credit origination which has improved its position to face the uncertainties ahead. Gross customer advances declined by

6% year-on-year with all customer segments experiencing reductions. The absence of new business growth due to the effects of lockdowns and other COVID-19 restrictions led to sharp amortisation of the portfolios, together with a halting of the working capital cycle as businesses preserve liquidity and secure affordability in a "wait and see" approach.

FNBB continued to register credit defaults over the period with the stage 3 (non-performing loan or NPL) portfolio increasing by P77m year-on-year (7% increase). The retail portfolio, which is impacted predominantly by the labour market, also experienced an increase in defaults. The home loan portfolio has been underperforming for the last 5 years, and has continued to slow in line with trends in the residential property market and the effects of the pandemic.

Efficient deployment of cash and short-term funds resulted in the bank increasing its investment portfolio by over 100% year-on-year. The surplus cash position followed increased deposits, reduced advances disbursements, and careful management of the investment portfolio to ensure liquidity risk is well within approved thresholds.

Income statement

Profit before tax and profit after tax both declined by 5% due to pressure on top line revenue and the required provisioning due to the increase in credit risk brought about by COVID-19. The resultant return on equity is 20.1% (22.7% in 2019).

Interest income growth of 2% was largely driven by the core investment portfolio which saw income growth of 12% year-on-year. Despite the cumulative Bank Rate cut of 75bps during the year, the net interest income on advances remained flat. This was made possible by a change in the portfolio mix as well as gross advances having averaged at higher levels during the period before experiencing a sharp decline towards the end of the period.

Interest expense declined by 14% year-on-year largely underpinned by the temporary structural adjustment in market liquidity. Additionally, the Bank Rate cuts reduced pricing on the money market curve across the industry, especially on term deposits.

The impairment charge for the year increased by 59% year-on-year with a charge of P421m and an overall credit loss ratio of 2.6%. FNBB recognised the economic impact of COVID-19, and undertook to restructure a significant portfolio of loans to afford customers cash flow relief and assist them in weathering the crisis. To cater for the expected downward pressure on customer risk profiles and realisable values of collateral, the bank increased provision coverage ratios through an in-depth review of all key credit risk parameters. The coverage ratios across all stages increase year-on-year, stage 1 from 1.4% to 1.5%, stage 2 from 18.6% to 19.9% and stage 3 from 55.8% to 72.5%.

NIR increased 11% year-on-year driven by fee and point-of-sale (POS) commission income growth of 13% and 15% respectively. This was supported by increased volumes across the bank's digital and electronic channels but most noticeably in merchant transactions. Both transactional volumes and values increased due to the improved connectivity on our digital channels as well as the FNB 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.

The cost-to-income ratio at 49.3% reflects FNBB's continued steadiness in balancing cost management initiatives with strategic investments. This cost is being

Audited summarised consolidated financial statements and dividend announcement for the full year ended 30 June 2020



closely monitored in the context of COVID-19, with adjustments to the bank's discretionary remuneration structures.

Looking ahead

Given the current outlook for the Botswana economy, we expect credit extension to remain limited with households constrained by pressures on discretionary income and businesses deferring capex cycles until the economic fallout from the COVID-19 pandemic stabilises. Further, with rates remaining low and credit default pressure remaining high, the operating environment for financial services will remain challenging.

Much of the bank's success can be attributed to its forward-thinking approach to technology and innovation which will remain a central focus. The majority of the bank's workforce has been enabled to work remotely with a view to long term flexible working arrangements. This strategy also facilitated the rapid introduction of responsible social distancing practices in line with the COVID-19 protocols.

One effect of the pandemic has been acceleration of the customer's journey into digital banking. The FNB App and Online Banking registrations grew notably with clients being further empowered to serve themselves in the form of convenient, value-added services. 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.

FNBB will continue to optimise and standardise its operational processes with a view to enriching job roles and functions, and providing a strong foundation for further development of technology and automation across the bank. Major initiatives such as the implementation of robotic process automation, machine learning and optical character recognition are under consideration. The improved back office processes will translate into an overall improvement in customer experience. This acceleration of the digital and remote working strategies has been and will continue to be underpinned by strict governance and risk protocols.

The bank remains a strong proponent of good governance and corporate citizenship. Subject to there being no compromise to the bank's financial stability, the intention remains to be accommodative to clients needing assistance during the COVID-19 crisis. After proving a success in extending banking services to more remote locations and multiple access points, the new Cash Plus channel will be further rolled out in line with our financial inclusion strategy. Following publication in November 2019 of the first Report to Society, FNBB will publish an Integrated Annual Report. It is fundamental to our strategy to build a shared future of prosperity through enriching the lives of our customers, employees and society in general. This is the foundation to a sustainable future and will preserve the bank's enduring commitment to create long term value.

Events after reporting date

There were no material events that occurred after the reporting date that require adjustment to the amounts recognised in the financial statements.

Corporate governance

The Board and management are responsible for ensuring that the bank's operations are conducted in accordance with all applicable laws and regulations, including the responsibility for ensuring the following:

1. Adequate and effective management of corporate governance and risk in accordance with current best practice;
2. Maintenance of appropriate internal controls including the reporting of material malfunctions;
3. The bank's continued capability to operate as a going concern; and
4. The bank's consideration of the environmental and social impact of conducting business.

FNBB will publish its first Integrated Report that will provide insights into how the bank's strategy, governance and performance, lead to the creation of value in the context of its external environment.

The Board is comprised of a majority of independent, non-executive Directors and meets regularly, reviews executive management's performance and retains effective control over the bank. The Board is assisted by sub-committees, which are responsible for different aspects of governance. The sub-committees include Audit, Credit, Directors Affairs and Governance, Remuneration and Risk Capital Management and Compliance Committees.

Social responsibility

FNBB remains committed to its social responsibility to the community, which function it performs through the FNBB Foundation. The FNBB Foundation has independent Trustees who ensure that a wide spectrum of sustainable social welfare and development activities nationwide are prudently assessed and funded.

The Foundation provides the opportunity for greater involvement and co-operation with the community within which the bank operates, specifically:

- Education
- Youth Empowerment

- Skills development/vocational training
- Support for the disadvantaged/handicapped, especially children
- Promotion of arts and culture
- Provision of sports and recreation facilities for the community

FNBB has committed to contributing up to 1% of each year's profit after tax to the Foundation. Since its inception in 2001, the bank has made grants of more than P57m to the Foundation to enable the purposes mentioned.

This year, in addition to its contribution to the Foundation, FNBB also donated P5m to the COVID-19 relief fund in support of Government's call to action from private entities. The Foundation pledged a further P5m towards several other COVID-19 relief measures, including support for the arts, sanitisation of public spaces and a number of other initiatives to combat the humanitarian and social impacts of COVID-19.

Capital management

FNBB's capital management philosophy is to maintain sound capital ratios to ensure confidence in its solvency and quality of capital during both calm and turbulent periods in the economy and in the financial markets. The bank, therefore, aims to maintain capitalisation ratios aligned to its risk appetite and appropriate to safeguarding operations and stakeholder interests.

Furthermore, the bank's capital management strategy is to ensure an optimal level and composition of capital, effective allocation of financial resources including capital and risk capacity, so as to achieve a sound return on equity and a sustainable dividend distribution to shareholders. The capital planning process for FNBB is conducted on a forward-looking basis and considers, inter alia, the organic growth requirements, and a safety margin for unexpected fluctuations in business plans and earnings volatility. Through this approach, compliance with both the internal and regulatory capital adequacy requirements can be achieved, shareholders' returns can be safeguarded, and the bank can maintain the ability to continue as a going concern even under severe stress conditions.

The capital focus has been directed to the composition of the capital structure and efficiency of the risk-weighted assets. The directors review and approve macroeconomic scenarios twice a year for regulatory and business purposes. The same process is a key input into the Internal Capital Adequacy Process (ICAAP) which in turn informs our capital management. For the financial year ended 30 June 2020, FNBB continued to operate above both the internal and regulatory minimum capital adequacy ratios.

In the context of the prevailing economic conditions, the directors have adopted a prudent approach to balancing an efficient capital position with the need to retain sufficient capital for unexpected fluctuations in earnings volatility. This has resulted in increasing the capital adequacy ratio and conserving capital, and taking into account a medium- to long-term horizon. We have thoroughly assessed the financial position of the bank and continue to review this on a monthly basis.

FNBB issued Tier II capital of P196m during the year to enhance capital efficiencies through a rebalance of the Tier I and Tier II capital composition. In line with this restructure and the conservative approach to capital preservation, the directors recommend a final ordinary dividend of 8 thebe per share. The post-dividend capital adequacy ratio at the end of June 2020 will be 21.37%, well above the regulatory minimum of 12.5%, and an increase on the June 2019 post-dividend capital adequacy ratio of 17.42%.

Declaration of dividend

Notice is hereby given that a final dividend of 8 thebe per share has been declared for the year ended 30 June 2020. The dividend will be paid on or about 7 October 2020 to shareholders registered at the close of business on 25 September 2020. The ex-dividend date is 23 September 2020.

In terms of the Income Tax Act (Cap 52:01) as amended, withholding tax at the rate of 7.5% will be deducted by the bank from gross dividends. If a change of address or dividend instructions is to apply to this dividend, notification should reach the Transfer Secretaries by 1 October 2020.

For and on behalf of the Board.


B M Bonyongo
Chairman


S L Bogatsu
Chief Executive Officer

Gaborone, 20 August 2020

Transfer Secretaries
PricewaterhouseCoopers
(Proprietary) Limited
Plot 50371, Fairgrounds
PO Box 294
GABORONE

Financial highlights



Financial Highlights

	Year ended 30 June 2020 Audited	Year ended 30 June 2019 Audited	% Change
Profit after tax (P'000)	695 806	732 536	(5)
Advances to customers (P'000)	14 686 767	15 939 047	(8)
Deposits from customers (P'000)	23 171 897	19 591 409	18
Ratios			
Cost-to-income ratio (%)	49.3	49.6	(1)
Return on equity (%)	20.1	22.7	(12)
Return on average assets (%)	2.5	2.9	(16)
NPLs to gross advances (%)	7.6	6.7	13
Dividend per share (thebe)	15.0	16.0	(6)

Summarised consolidated income statement (P'000)

	Year ended 30 June 2020 Audited	Year ended 30 June 2019 Audited	% Change
Interest income calculated using the effective interest rate	1 649 128	1 617 445	2
Interest expense and similar charges*	(310 893)	(359 916)	(14)
Net interest income before impairment of advances	1 338 235	1 257 529	6
Impairment of advances	(421 442)	(264 912)	59
Net interest income after impairment of advances	916 793	992 617	(8)
Non-interest revenue	1 267 468	1 142 315	11
Income from operations	2 184 261	2 134 932	2
Operating expenses*	(644 308)	(597 052)	8
Employee benefits costs	(612 708)	(575 549)	6
Income before taxation	927 245	962 331	(4)
Indirect taxation	(26 394)	(16 984)	55
Profit before direct taxation	900 851	945 347	(5)
Direct taxation	(205 045)	(212 811)	(4)
Profit for the year attributable to owners of the parent	695 806	732 536	(5)
Average number of shares in issue during the period (thousands)	2 543 700	2 543 700	-
Earnings per share (thebe) (based on weighted average number of shares outstanding)	27.35	28.80	(5)

*The group elected not to restate comparative information as permitted by IFRS 16. Comparability will not be achieved as comparative information has been prepared on an IAS 17 basis.

Summarised consolidated statement of other comprehensive income (P'000)

	Year ended 30 June 2020 Audited	Year ended 30 June 2019 Audited	% Change
Profit for the year	695 806	732 536	(5)
Items that will not be reclassified to profit or loss:			
Losses on property revaluation		(11 196)	(100)
Deferred income tax on property revaluation		2 463	(100)
Total items that will not be reclassified to profit or loss:		(8 733)	(100)
Other comprehensive income/(loss) for the year net of taxation		(8 733)	(100)
Total comprehensive income for the year attributable to owners of the parent	695 806	723 803	(4)

Ratios and market information

	Year ended 30 June 2020 Audited	Year ended 30 June 2019 Audited	% Change
Dividend per share (thebe)	15	16	(6)
Dividend cover (times)	1.8	1.8	1
Cost to income ratio (percent)*	49.3	49.6	(1)
Return on equity (percent)	20.1	22.7	(12)
Return on average assets (percent)	2.5	2.9	(16)
Capital adequacy ratio (percent)	21.37	17.42	23
Closing share price (thebe)	240	275	(13)
Price earnings ratio	8.77	9.55	(8)

* Cost to income is based on total non-interest expenditure including indirect taxation (Value Added Tax) and income excludes the impairment charge.

Audited summarised consolidated financial statements and dividend announcement for the full year ended 30 June 2020



Summarised consolidated statement of financial position (P'000)

	Year ended 30 June 2020 Audited	Year ended 30 June 2019 Audited	% Change
Assets			
Cash and short term funds	4 697 599	4 411 739	6
Derivative financial instruments	76 872	49 606	55
Advances to banks	-	789 903	(100)
Advances to customers	14 686 767	15 939 047	(8)
Investment securities	9 509 211	4 135 221	130
Current taxation	86 324	106 768	(19)
Due from related companies	11 684	6 388	83
Other assets*	479 314	317 627	51
Property and equipment**	601 044	481 307	25
Goodwill	26 963	26 963	-
Deferred taxation	3 706	7 054	(47)
Total assets	30 179 484	26 271 623	15
Equity and liabilities			
Liabilities			
Derivative financial instruments	36 708	14 844	147
Accrued interest payable	28 079	63 566	(56)
Due to related parties	21 322	32 898	(35)
Creditors and accruals	723 586	863 735	(16)
Deposit from banks	545 002	581 243	(6)
Deposit from customers	23 171 897	19 591 409	18
Employee benefits liabilities	81 504	85 894	(5)
Borrowings	1 765 858	1 502 642	18
Deferred taxation	207 382	200 623	3
Total liabilities	26 581 338	22 936 854	16
Capital and reserve attributable to ordinary equity holders			
Stated capital	51 088	51 088	-
Reserves	3 343 562	3 029 311	10
Dividend reserve	203 496	254 370	(20)
Total equity	3 598 146	3 334 769	8
Total equity and liabilities	30 179 484	26 271 623	15
Undrawn commitments to customers	2 233 457	2 247 847	(1)
Guarantees and letters of credit	386 300	661 218	(42)
Total contingencies and commitments	2 619 757	2 909 065	(10)

*In the prior year, these amounts were presented as accounts receivable. The description "other assets" is more appropriate based on the nature of the assets included in this line items and is in line with industry practice.

**The group elected not to restate comparative information as permitted by IFRS 16. Comparability will not be achieved as comparative information has been prepared on an IAS 17 basis. Refer to accounting policy note 1.5 for details.

The operations of FNIA were discontinued on the 15th of May 2020 in accordance with regulatory limitations.

Other contingent liabilities during the current year are adequately disclosed in the full set of audited consolidated financial statements.

Summarised consolidated statement of changes in equity (P'000)

	Stated capital	Other non-distributable reserves	Dividend reserve	Retained earnings	Total
Balance at 01 July 2018	51 088	71 677	228 933	2 640 823	2 992 521
Profit for the year	-	-	-	732 536	732 536
Other comprehensive loss for the year	-	(8 733)	-	-	(8 733)
Transfer from revaluation reserve-revaluation portion of depreciation	-	(1 514)	-	1 514	-
Dividends paid - 2018 final	-	-	(228 933)	-	(228 933)
Dividends paid - 2019 interim	-	-	-	(152 622)	(152 622)
Dividends proposed - 2019 final	-	-	254 370	(254 370)	-
Balance at 01 July 2019	51 088	61 430	254 370	2 967 881	3 334 769
Profit for the year	-	-	-	695 806	695 806
Transfer from revaluation reserve-revaluation portion of depreciation	-	(1 564)	-	1 564	-
Dividends paid - 2019 final	-	-	(254 370)	-	(254 370)
Dividends paid - 2020 interim	-	-	-	(178 059)	(178 059)
Dividends proposed - 2020 final	-	-	203 496	(203 496)	-
Balance at 30 June 2020 (Audited)	51 088	59 866	203 496	3 283 696	3 598 146

Summarised consolidated statement of cash flow (P'000)

	Year ended 30 June 2020 Audited	Year ended 30 June 2019 Audited	% Change
Net cash generated from operating activities			
Cash flows from operating activities	1 074 403	1 003 195	7
Cash generated by operations	1 248 898	1 269 950	(2)
Taxation paid	(174 495)	(266 755)	(35)
Change in funds from operating activities	3 771 957	(275 288)	(1 470)
Net cash utilised in investing activities	(44 457)	(54 539)	(18)
Net cash utilised in financing activities	(241 252)	(230 383)	5
Net increase in cash and cash equivalents	4 620 589	524 310	781
Effect of exchange rate movement on cash balances	164 640	30 351	442
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year	6 010 045	5 455 384	10
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year	10 795 274	6 010 045	80
Cash and short-term funds	76 872	4 411 739	(98)
Investment in Bank of Botswana Certificates	10 718 402	1 598 307	571

Segmental reporting

Operating segments are reported in accordance with the internal management reporting procedures to determine the performance of each segment to ensure that resources are suitably allocated. All operating segments used by the bank meet the definition of a reportable segment. FNBB has five main business segments:

- FNB Retail segment - comprising advances and deposits and the revenue flowing from individual customers;
- FNB Business segment - comprising advances and deposits and the revenue flowing commercial and SME customers;
- RMB Corporate segment - comprising advances and deposits and the revenue flowing from corporate customers;
- WesBank - comprising vehicle and asset financing; and
- Treasury - manages the bank's liquidity and funding.

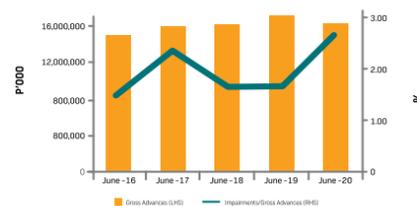
To determine the performance, profitability and efficiency of the segments, the bank presents interest income after the cost of funding and interest expenditure after the benefit of funding.

Summarised segmental reporting (P'000)

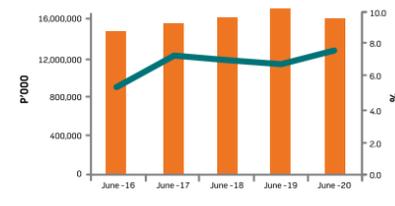
30 June 2020	Retail	Business	Corporate	WesBank	Treasury	Total
Interest income	554 688	105 387	34 495	106 420	848 138	1 649 128
Non-interest income	602 056	402 597	251 494	5 072	6 249	1 267 468
Total segment revenue	1 156 744	507 984	285 989	111 492	854 387	2 916 596
Interest expenditure	120 839	184 447	162 004	(983)	(777 200)	(310 893)
Segment operating income before impairments	1 277 583	692 431	447 993	110 509	77 187	2 605 703
Impairment charge	(202 292)	(194 472)	1 766	(26 444)	-	(421 442)
Operating income after impairment of advances	1 075 291	497 959	449 759	84 065	77 187	2 184 261
Gross advances to customers	9 028 170	2 974 174	1 817 296	2 196 838	-	16 016 478
Impairments	(525 138)	(657 672)	(29 194)	(117 707)	-	(1 329 711)
Net Advances	8 503 032	2 316 502	1 788 102	2 079 131	-	14 686 767
Deposits from customers	3 649 274	6 987 896	9 709 297	-	2 825 430	23 171 897
30 June 2019						
Interest income	536 905	102 639	31 730	103 715	842 456	1 617 445
Non-interest income	471 275	407 762	257 807	24 411	(18 940)	1 142 315
Total segment revenue	1 008 180	510 401	289 537	128 126	823 516	2 759 760
Interest expenditure	92 474	186 517	146 692	4 931	(790 530)	(359 916)
Segment operating income before impairments	1 100 654	696 918	436 229	133 057	(32 986)	2 399 844
Impairment charge	(120 337)	(102 524)	(7 891)	(34 636)	476	(264 912)
Operating income after impairment of advances	980 317	594 394	428 338	98 421	33 462	2 134 932
Gross advances to customers	9 501 885	3 252 785	1 866 649	2 363 300	-	16 984 619
Impairments	(404 815)	(504 156)	(30 964)	(105 637)	-	(1 045 572)
Net Advances	9 097 070	2 748 629	1 835 685	2 257 663	-	15 939 047
Deposits from customers	4 734 194	6 548 469	7 383 251	-	925 495	19 591 409

Financial Graphs

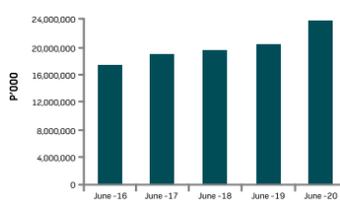
Gross Advances vs Impairments to Gross Advances



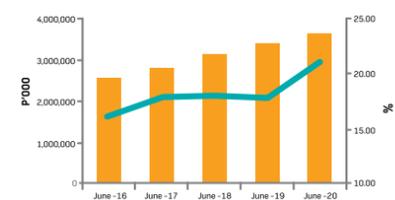
Gross Advances vs NPL's to Gross Advances



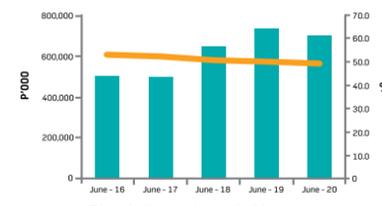
Deposits



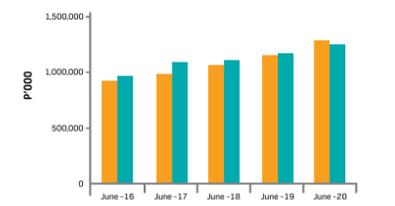
Shareholders' Funds vs Capital Adequacy



Profit After Tax vs Cost-To-Income Ratio



Non-Interest Revenue vs Non-Interest Expenses



The full booklet and additional disclosures on these results can be found here

<https://www.bse.co.bw/> and <http://www.fnbbotswana.co.bw/>



THE TAX
DIALOGUE

JONATHAN
HORE

Donate Your House to Loved Ones Tax-free

Let me be the bearer of good news and let you know that you can now transfer your house to kids or your spouse tax-free. The new tax laws have basically made house transfers free from Capital Gains Tax (CGT), Donations & Inheritance Tax and Transfer Duty. I will elaborate on this issue below. In this article, words importing the masculine shall be deemed to include the feminine.

No CGT on houses

Let me state that if one disposes his house, he potentially triggers tax on the capital gains realised (CGT). However, the Income Tax Act provides that no CGT shall be levied on an individual in instances where he disposes a principal private residence (PPR) after owning it for at least 5 years. PPR is a term that is found in the Income Tax Act but no definition of the same is provided. However, it is internationally accepted that a PPR is a person's main or sole house. If such person has one house, that house becomes his sole house and therefore qualifies as a PPR. If the person has more than one house, then the person's main house will be his PPR.

Having explained what a PPR is, I will now turn on to the exemption that I mentioned above; just for emphasis. An individual is entitled to a CGT exemption on the disposal of their PPR provided they would have owned it for at least 5 years. There is no requirement that the individual should reinvest the proceeds from the disposal in another PPR; they may as well dispose their PPR and squander all the money. A subsequent exemption can only be obtained after another 5 years from the disposal of the

first PPR and so on.

No transfer duty

Transfer duty is a tax payable to BURS whenever immovable property changes hands and it is levied on the beneficiary or acquirer of the property. Citizens pay this tax at 5% whilst non-citizens part with 30% as tax. However, there are a few exceptions where the tax is not levied and one of them is when the transfer is made to a citizen individual owning a house for the first time in their life, effective 1 March 2020. That is an obvious opportunity for parents to transfer their houses to children transfer duty free. Further, if a house is moved from the name of a husband to his wife or vice-versa, during their lifetime, there is no transfer duty to worry about. Therefore, where desirable, donations can be made by such spouses whilst they are alive, again without tax.

Donations tax

There is a law called the Capital Transfer Tax Act which levies donations & inheritance tax on the donation and inheritance of property. The tax is levied at a maximum tax rate of 5%, on properties whose value exceeds P500 000. The tax is paid by the beneficiary, just like in the case of transfer duty. Let me advise you that effective 1 March 2020, the same exemptions in the Transfer Duty Act are now applicable to the Capital Transfer Tax Act. Enough of technical jargon; the simple matter is that because a first time citizen home owner is exempt from transfer duty, no donations tax applies to them. Further, donations to a living spouse of the donor are not taxable. What that means is that any person can now donate a house to either their child or spouse tax free.

Conclusions

I have demonstrated above that the transfer of a person's principal private residence which they owned for at least 5 years does not trigger CGT in the hands of the transferor. I also went on to highlight that a citizen donee owning a residential property for the first time in their life escape both transfer duty and donations tax. I also made it ostensible that living spouses can lovingly transfer houses between each other again without any transfer duty or donations tax implications. So, you may as well spoil your child or loving spouse with that house before you check out of this life! Now, if that was useful, say this with me, 'Kudos, Yours Truly!'

Well folks, I hope that was insightful. As Yours Truly says goodbye, remember to pay to Caesar what belongs to him. If you want to join our Tax Whatsapp group, 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 consulting is advised if decisions are to be made. Jonathan Hore is a Managing Tax Consultant at Aupracon Tax Specialists and feedback may be relayed to jhore@aupracontax.co.bw or 71 81 58 36.

Botswana Parliament Votes Against Motion To Arm Wildlife Rangers

DAVID OCHIENG MBEWA

Botswana's National Assembly on Friday voted against a motion by a lawmaker which sought to rearm wildlife rangers.

Wildlife rangers had been disarmed in 2018 but a spike in poaching of rhinos in recent years had prompted the proposal to be tabled by a legislator named Kgoborego Nkawana. He argued that a rise in such incidents demanded the rearmament of the rangers.

All legislators from Botswana's ruling party, the Botswana Democratic Party, voted against the motion by Nkawana, a lawmaker from the opposition.

Nkawana described the proposal's rejection as "a big loss" noting that it would have been of significant help in the northern part of the country. Many of Botswana's poaching incidents occur in the thickets of the large Okavango Delta.

"This would have been an opportunity to save our rhinos and other animals, particularly up in the north. Maybe over time we can see how we can address the government over that issue."

It is not like in the past, the strategy succeeded because there was something different that was done. It is simply because the environmental conditions changed drastically," Koboto.

Tourism Permanent Secretary Oduetse Koboto, however, dismissed the idea that there was a link between the disarmament of rangers and a rise in rhino poaching.

"It is not like in the past, the strategy succeeded because there was something different that was done. It is simply because the environmental conditions changed drastically," Koboto said.

According to Koboto, anti-poaching efforts were focused away from the Okavango Delta, in areas where there was less of a threat from armed poachers.

A conservationist added that other measures to tackle poaching incidents were required instead of the adoption of an armed approach.

"The war against poaching will not be sorted out by military means alone," Ives said. "You need to have crime investigators, and intelligence networks need to stretch between countries in SADC," Map Ives told the Voice of America. CGTN





Botswana unveils roadmap for revival of the creative industry

- Proposes P20m investment to put creatives back to work
- Suggests tax on digital and Internet services to raise revenue



TONDERAI TSARA (PIC; TWITTER)

GOSEGO MOTSUMI

The Creative Arts and Media Sector at Business Botswana has devised a roadmap for moving the sector out of the rut of COVID-19, the Chairman of the sector, Tonderai Tsara, has said.

Tsara noted that the creative sector was one of the first to be affected by the pandemic with events being cancelled as early as April and that the sector is likely to be the last to re-open. "The sector is hurting because COVID-19 has been a severe challenge to the industry," he told journalists at a briefing in Gaborone.

Events are not taking place and the current conditions do not permit the economies of scale suitable for staging an event and making a profit when you are limited to a certain number of people and the crew that stages the event are half of the required number."

Business Botswana, which aims to ease the way of doing business in Botswana, has worked on a recovery plan for the entire private sector. It enlisted the support of the UNDP, a top Botswana economist and experts from other parts of the world to draw the roadmap. For the creative sector, they proposed taxing digital and Internet services to raise revenue.

"There is a need to inject revenue into the sector as a stimulus," Tsara said. "As we move towards the digital space such as Zoom and others, a lot of people are purchasing these services abroad and they are not taxed. So the first proposal was that government could tax these services."

For the stimulus, Tsara proposed P20 million as the amount fit for injecting into a recovery fund for the creative sector to use to mount a wide range of events that can put Botswana to work. He saw this as preferable to giving people hand-outs because it would engage them in productive work.

"Botswana still need entertainment and there is Independence to celebrate," he said. "The idea was to put a fund together so that creatives can continue in their vocation."

Other proposals include the National Arts Council Bill that was set to be presented at a Parliament session on Tuesday night at the time of press. Consensus in the sector is that the industry needs an independent organization to shepherd the arts rather than the task being done by the existing government department.

Tsara noted that news organizations, particularly the private media, are under strain due to COVID-19 and that reforms are needed to cushion the effects of the pandemic. "We do not want to come out of COVID-19 without robust media, which are channels of news and information for Botswana," he said.

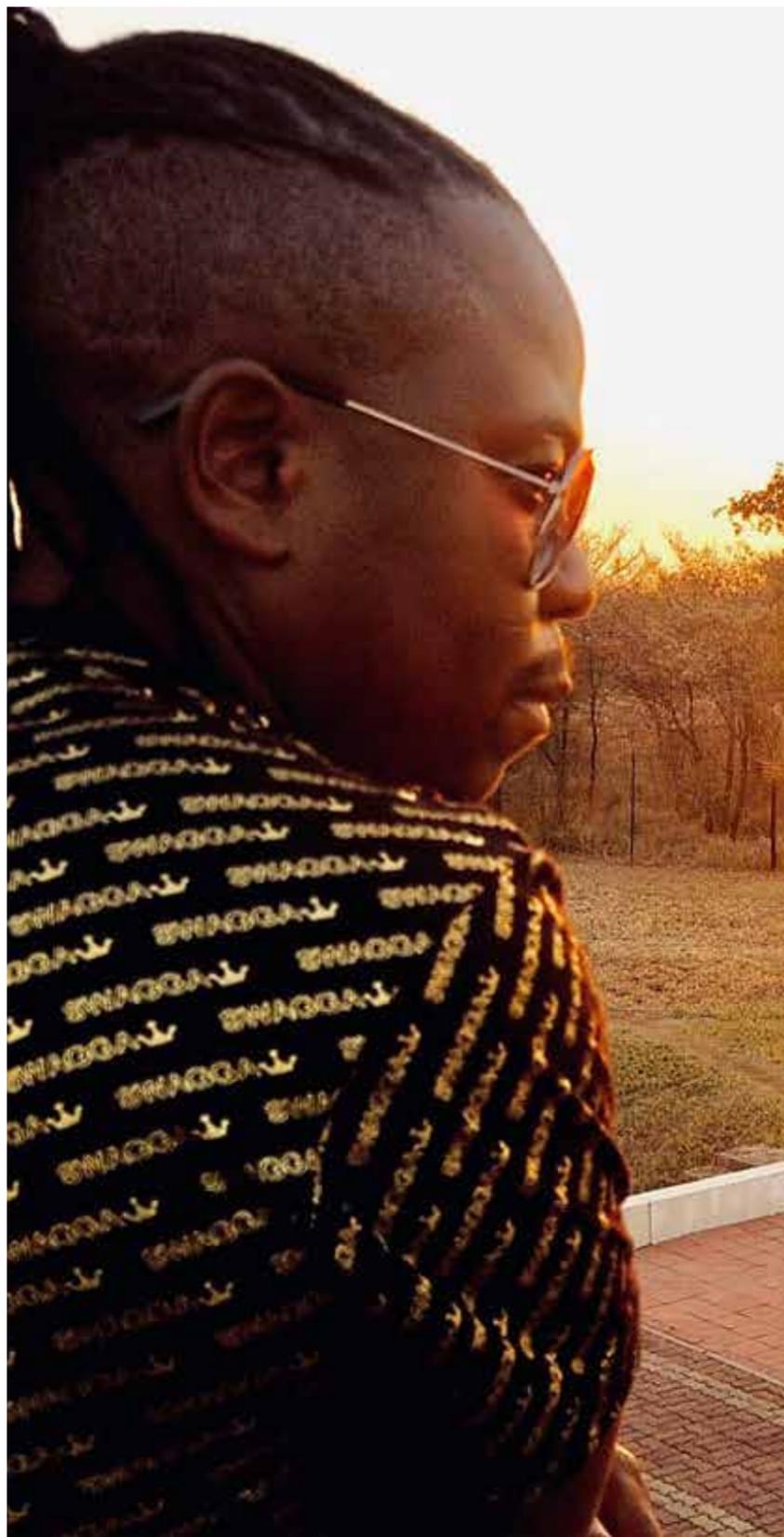
Speaking at the same briefing, Creative Arts Consultant, Gao Lemmenyane, said the creative industry has the most effective means of communicating COVID-19 messages. Putting creatives to work would ensure that people respond better to the pandemic through creative messaging as jobs are created in the industry.

"However, this does not mean that the creative sector must die. Events are not taking place and the current conditions do not permit the economies of scale suitable for staging an event and making a profit when you are limited to a certain number of people and the crew that stages the event are half of the required number."

"However, this does not mean that the creative sector must die.



CAPTION: Slowly fading away into the COVID-19 background, the media industry is facing a crisis.



Vee Mampezy is an AFRIMMA nominee

The music of the artist who gives people what they want, including the favourite of Malawians "Dololo," is finally on iTunes. Of the nomination, Vee says it is itself a victory. StaffWriter **GOSEGO MOTSUMI** reports

While artists are grappling with the uncertainty and difficulties brought on by the Coronavirus, Kwaito-king Odirile "Vee Mampezy" Sento's latest nomination for African Muzik Magazine Awards (AFRIMMA) has brought on hope for an industry that awaits light at the end of the tunnel.

The artist has been nominated alongside revered music heavyweights from other African countries under the Best Male Artist in Southern Africa category. Vee Mampezy was previously nominated under the same category in 2015 and performed his "Africa" hit song at the awards ceremony hosted at the Black Academy of Arts & Letters in Dallas, USA.

"I am honoured to be nominated alongside musical giants of Africa," the elated artist said. "This is itself a win."

This year's awards ceremony, which is slated for 15 November 2020, will be a virtual affair due to the COVID-19 pandemic. In a statement released by the organizers of the awards, this year's nominee list features a host of established talents but also stars a cohort of new talents in what seems to be a major paradigm shift on the African music scene.

The AFRIMMAs are the biggest African music award ceremony in the Diaspora that creates a platform to promote the diversity of African music by bringing top African

talents across the world to celebrate African music. The AFRIMMA Virtual Awards 2020 is set to be the first of its kind in the African music world with performances coming from different artists around the world and audiences catching the performances, speeches, and award presentations on multiple streaming devices.

"These awards are a huge deal, especially for my career and an affirmation that they believe in African music," Mampezy said. "If you vote for me as many times as you can on the awards website, we are bringing this award home."

After the long wait for him to upload his music on digital platforms, the artist recently heeded the request by uploading a compilation of his best hits on iTunes. This means that Mampezy's music is now accessible to his legion of fans that he has amassed over the years across the African continent.

"My international audience has been asking for my music online," he said. "I will be uploading my music in phases and my followers will be able to access my musical pieces that they may not be aware of. I was motivated to upload my music online because of my song, 'Dumalana,' which has garnered 7 million views on Youtube. 'Dololo' is a hit in Malawi and these two were highly requested. So I gave the people what they want."

The YAMAS 2020 To Go Virtual

- Will be hosted in an extended reality studio
- All nominees to receive token of appreciation

Following their postponement in March this year, the 6th edition of the Yarona FM Music Awards (YAMAS) will be held virtually on Now TV, DSTV Channel 290, as well as on the Yarona FM Facebook page on September 26 at 20h00. This is one of the first virtual

music awards to be held in Botswana.

The 2020 edition of the YAMAS was originally slated for the Indoor Sports Centre at the University of Botswana (UB) last March but was scuttled by the onset of the coronavirus.

"There will be no public attendance at this year's event," Yarona FM Station Manager Kelly Ramputswa, said in a press release. "It will be produced for broadcast on TV and digital platforms. The event will take place in an extended reality studio with only the hosts present. The show must go on and we still have to award artists for their splendid job."

Ramputswa added that except for going virtual, nothing much has changed. The voting lines for nominees – which opened on September 8 and will close at midnight on September 23 – remain the same. Yarona FM has partnered with the Ministry of Youth Empowerment, Sports and Culture Development

(MYSC) and First National Bank Botswana (FNBB) who contributed money to ensure that winners go home with cash prizes ranging from P10 000 to P15 000.

"We recognize the hardship that has befallen the creative industry due to the COVID-19 pandemic," said Ramputswa. "Botswana's creative sector remains resilient and Yarona FM, as a crucial player, remains committed to contributing meaningfully to developing the sector. The partnership to bring the YAMAS at this time, with cash winnings for musicians and other creatives involved in the show, is demonstration that we are all in this together."

The cash prizes are a welcome boost to musicians since live shows are no longer a source income for them, thanks to their suspension due to COVID-19. For this reason, there will also be a token of appreciation for all nominees. Yarona FM presenters Loungo Pitse and Kedi Molosiwa will host the 6th edition of the YAMAS that will feature performances by artists such as ATI, Mophato Dance Theater, Girly and FME DJs.





We're Hiring!

The Botswana Red Cross Society is a National Society that was established by an Act of Parliament in 1968, as an organization auxiliary to government in the humanitarian field. The auxiliary mandate of the BRCS as stipulated in the Red Cross Act demands that it plays a pivotal role in complimenting Governments efforts in social services, disaster management and health services. BRCS service provision aims at preventing and alleviating human suffering, protecting life and health, and restoring dignity of the most vulnerable communities in times of peace and war. The BRCS invites suitable qualified citizens to apply for the positions of:

SENIOR FINANCE OFFICER

Tenable in Gaborone

Main purpose of the job:

To ensure implementation of BRCS financial processes and procedures for compliance with relevant rules and regulations of the Botswana Government, our stakeholders and partners.

Key performance areas

- Ensure effective debtors and creditors administration
- Prepare daily and monthly schedules according to set standards and instructions within set timetables
- Ensure full cash collections and prompt banking
- Check, process and input accounting documentation into computerized accounting systems
- Prepare accounts, schedules, payments of creditors, receive cash and prepare reconciliation of books of prime entry

Key attributes

- Knowledge of computerised accounting systems
- Computer skills including the ability to operate computerised accounting, spreadsheet and word processing program
- Excellent numerical and high level of accuracy
- Ability to work with minimal supervision
- Assertive, proactive and results driven

Qualifications

Degree in Accounting/Finance or related field

Experience

A minimum of three (3) years' experience in accounting.

Remuneration: BRCS offers an attractive remuneration package and benefits commensurate with qualifications and experience

Leave: 20 working days per annum

Benefits: Optional Contributory Medical Aid Scheme (BRCS pays 50% and employee pays 50%)
• Group Life Assurance and occupational disability cover
• Group Personal Accident

2 PROJECT OFFICERS

1 tenable in Gaborone - 15 months Contract
1 tenable in Francistown 9 months Contract kindly specify preferred location in your application

Main purpose of the job:

Implement an integrated and strategy driven national society's plans on health, disaster management and social support services.

Key performance areas

- Assist in strengthening local and national programme implementation to ensure timely effective humanitarian response.
- Support staff and volunteers of Botswana Red Cross Society with technical advice in all aspects of the NS programmes.
- Assist in monitoring regional and national food security systems and provide relevant analysis and early detection of trends to identify necessary actions
- Assist in programme monitoring, including regular financial and narrative reporting as well as innovative lesson learnt, and evaluation based on programme plans

Qualifications

Degree in Social Work, Community Development, Social Sciences, or a related field.

Experience

At least 5 years previous experience in social and disaster management programme implementation.

Skills and competencies

- Ability to work effectively
- Effective communication and interpersonal skills
- Team player
- Results driven
- Emotional intelligence
- Critical and Analytical thinking
- Decisiveness and problem-solving skills
- Computer literacy
- Valid driver's license

Applicants should provide the following documents:

- Detailed curriculum vitae
- Certified copies of certificates
- Two work related references
- Certified copy of a valid Identity Card (Omang)
- Certified copy of Driver's License

CLOSING DATE: If you consider yourself the best candidate for the position, please send the required documents on or before 29th September 2020.
Note that communication will only be returned into with shortlisted candidates.

SECRETARY GENERAL
BOTSWANA RED CROSS SOCIETY
P.O. BOX 485

MultiChoice angles for local content

This year's Annual Content Showcase has a distinct accent on local content that was made more notable by the presence at the launch of Lorato Orapeleng and Masego Mohwasa with their testimonials from the MultiChoice Talent Factory in Lusaka



MultiChoice Botswana recently hosted Botswana's media, influencers and well-known celebrities in the entertainment and sporting fraternity for its Annual Content Showcase in Gaborone.

Hosted by Acting Managing Director Lorato Mwape and her leadership team, this year's showcase had notable local flair as the jam-packed event revealed new international DStv content and gave a much-needed closer peak into Botswana's own, NOW! TV (DStv Ch 290).

"This Content Showcase is a celebration of our past, our present and our future as Africa's most loved storyteller," Mwape said. "COVID-19 has presented us with many challenges in terms of the way we do things. However, we are very excited that this year we get to have our annual showcase right here in Botswana as it allows us to incorporate local elements that are critical to our commitment towards promoting local content.

"As a business, we use the slogan #Re-MoTeng to show our pride in being an entity by Batswana for Batswana. This encapsulates many aspects of our business from our workforce to our contributions to the local creative industry through the MultiChoice Talent Factory initiative and of course our footprint. We are pleased to be able to share all of this with local media and our influencers."

The event featured updates from across the MultiChoice Group (MCG), covering exciting additions to its already unrivalled entertainment and sports content offering, as well as insights into how the company is innovating to deliver a world-class customer experience.

Aligning with MCG's mission to invest in local content as Africa's most loved storyteller, M-Net raised the bar yet again recently by adding more locally scripted series to its line-up. This includes a variety of new shows, including Trackers (which is MCG's first international co-production based on the book by South Africa author, Deon Meyer), Still Breathing, Legacy and Inconceivable. With the recent streamlining of M-Net movies, it is now even easier for viewers keep tabs on all their favourite movie genres and stay up to-date with the latest releases.

With international sports resuming, MultiChoice Botswana was proud to announce a number of exclusive global football broadcasts coming this summer. Among these are the action-packed (Eng-

lish) Premier League, UEFA Champions League, Serie A and LaLiga, all exclusive to SuperSport and complete with expert commentary and analyses. DStv is now officially the home of American sports in Africa, with two new channels – ESPN 1 and 2 – joining the existing ESPN channel offering.

Guests were also treated to an exciting testimonial from the MultiChoice Talent Factory Academy's Class of 2019 Botswana cohort, Lorato Orapeleng and Masego Mohwasa. The two young women, who returned to Botswana earlier this year due to the temporary closure of the Academy in Lusaka because of COVID-19, wowed the audience with stories of their experience in Zambia.

Both Lorato and Masego stressed the importance of branding Botswana's identity when creating local productions. "Many film industries tell stories that are authentic to the people and the audiences they represent," said Mohwasa. "We as Batswana need to ensure that we identify our own unique brand when we tell our stories. This is how we will distinguish ourselves and capture audiences in the same way that Nollywood and Bollywood have captured their audiences."

Masego and Lorato are due to return to Zambia in 2021 to complete their MultiChoice Talent Factory film productions and graduate. In the meantime, they are both working on individual productions which they plan to pitch to DStv channels upon completion.

The MultiChoice Botswana Showcase also highlighted the importance of supporting growth of local content through viewing productions. Speaking on behalf of NOW! TV, Channel Head Gao Kwalate shared the successes and challenges the government-funded channel has faced since its inception whilst also highlighting the positive impact that being on the DStv platform has had on the channel.

"Since 2019 when we launched on DStv, we have been able to have our local content reach more audiences in Botswana, which is critical for the growth and improvement of our creative industry," Kwalate said. "We look forward to working hand-in-hand with MultiChoice Botswana and the MultiChoice Talent Factory to create localised learning experiences for the creative industry so that we can see our industry grow to a standard relevant to the rest of the region."

FLO-TEK
Flow better with us

A well-established plastic pipe and fittings manufacturing company having operations in Lobatse is looking for the services of qualified person for the following vacancies.

Tool and Die Design Engineer

The ideal candidate should have a Tool Room Engineering qualification or equivalent; must have qualification and experience in mould and tool designing, with a minimum work experience of 10 years; 5 years of which must have been working in a plastic pipes and fittings (eg: PVC, UPVC, CPVC) manufacturing environment and ISO standards. The candidate will be responsible for is the design, fabrication, modifications and repair of a variety of complex tooling components for manufacturing of moulds. The candidate must be willing to work in shifts.

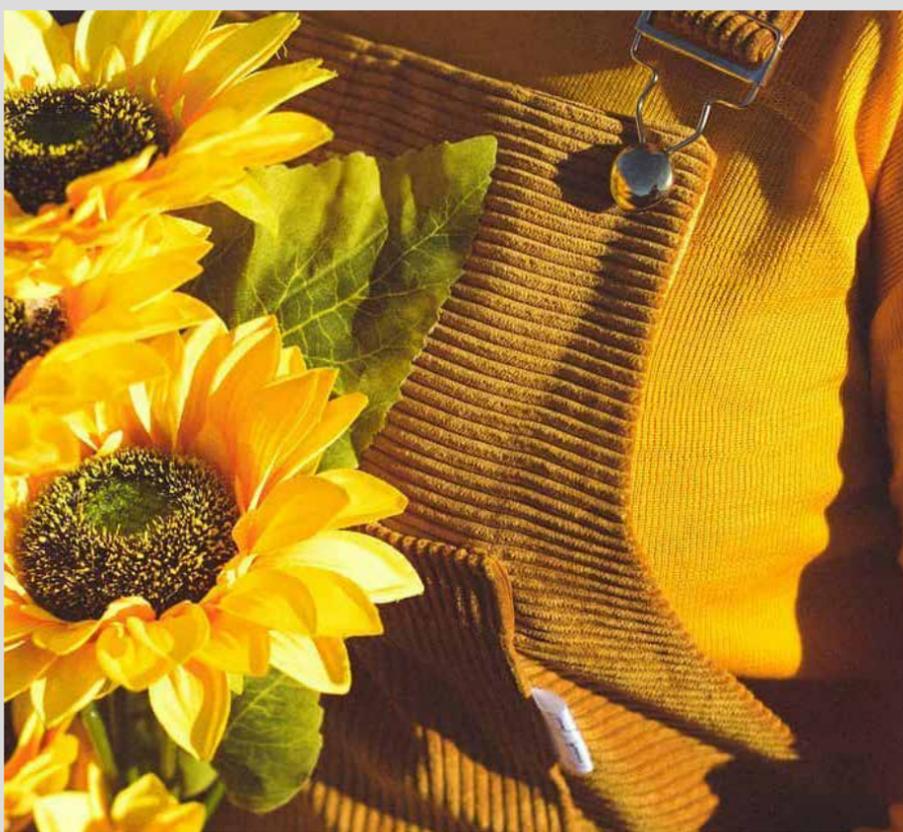
Interested Candidates: Please apply to,

The Manager, Radical Investments Pty Ltd t/a Flotek Pipes and Irrigation P.O Box 10723, Lobatse. Plot 2132, Woodhall Industrial, Lobatse.
Phone: +267 5332180, Fax: + 267 5333146

Closing Date: **25th September 2020**

Reinventing Fashion With Eco Plant Bags

Being a tad bored with the rather dull colour tone of her office gave way to a creative brain storm that in turn led to eco-friendly dresses for the plants in Opelo Letshwiti's office. As **THATO CHUMA** reports, the rest is placement of orders



At a time where many fashion designers are looking for ways to spin the effects of COVID-19 into their advantage, local fashion house Lesweedy Diaries owned by Opelo Letshwiti has introduced a sustainable and innovative product in the form of environmentally-friendly plant bags.

"I love plants, especially succulents and flowering plants," says the proprietor Lesweedy, Opelo Letshwiti. "My office feels lonely at times and I wanted to bring in some plants to brighten up the ambiance for myself and my clients. The usual clay and plastic pots for holding the plants seemed dull for me. So I decided to make a cute eco-friendly dress for my plant, and that is what inspired this range."

Because plastic is non biodegradable, it poses a serious threat to the environment when dumped everywhere. In light of this, Letshwiti started thinking around ways that fashion could become an active agent against plastic pollution. During her creative process, she took sisal plain weave material, which is wool tufted in a loop construction, and mixed it with carbon neutral dyes that pop colour to create this product.

She wanted to bring an element

of sustainability to her diversifying product line. "Incorporating sustainable practices to my business is something I am passionate about," Letshwiti says. "We need to do our part to preserve our surroundings. It is our role as profit making enterprises to nurture the environments we live in."

The trendy and chic bags made a grand impression on some of her clients and they soon started placing orders. "My clients found them to be colourful and cute and they began ordering them for their own homes," she oozes with enthusiasm. "After some research, I decided to launch the product line mainly because of the interest. I believe more people are now receptive to eco-friendly solutions and want to adopt them where they can. All our plant bags are handmade and clients can choose which colour they want to fit their office or homes"

With a new social mission, Lesweedy Diaries is also developing a few projects that speak to this. "I have about three more projects that will be launching soon," Letshwiti discloses. "We are still building capacity to ensure we can serve our customers with the care and quality they deserve."



Gaborone Book Festival 2020 Goes Virtual

The festival is once again in collaboration with the Bessie Head Trust and will highlight the story of co-founder of the Black Consciousness Movement, Onkgopotse Tiro, who was assassinated with a parcel bomb at St. Joseph's College at Kgale in the 1970s

Botswana's only book festival is going virtual this year. The annual and third Gaborone Book Festival will take place from 17 September to 19 instant on a platform soon to be announced.

As the norm, the festival will feature both Botswana-based authors and selected authors from across the African continent.

The festival focuses and dissects current and topical issues, many of which are covered in featured authors' books.

The festival focuses and dissects current and topical issues, many of which are covered in featured authors' books. This year, the festival will for the second time be in collaboration with the Bessie Head Trust and will highlight the expansive life of the literary icon, Bessie Head.

It will also highlight the story of political firebrand Onkgopotse Abram Tiro, who was assassinated with a parcel bomb in Botswana by the white minority regime during the heresy of apartheid in

South Africa.

"Apart from focusing on authors, we will also be giving space to those who support the book ecosystem, bloggers or influencers in different yet crucial spaces. As is traditional, this year the Setswana conversation will focus on *mogolokwane* and the place it occupies in contemporary and ever-evolving culture in Botswana," said Keikantse Phele, one of the co-founders and curators of the Gaborone Book Festival Trust.

The Trust has expressed its excitement that the virtual festival will attract more people outside Gaborone and Botswana who are a part of the community it has built over the past three years.

Guest authors include Nigerian writer Helon Habila, renowned and highly sought-after guide and tracker in Africa Kane Motswana and author of travel book 'Botswana's Top 50 Ultimate Experiences' and photo journalist Thalefang Charles, author and publisher Thabo Katlhoho, award winning author Botho Lejowa, as well as several notable speakers from across different industries and backgrounds.

Other areas the festival will bring focus to are black tax, mental health, migration, travel, being black, female and widowed, the state of publishing in Botswana and a conversation about why authors need to pay attention to book covers.

"The Gaborone Book Festival Trust's main mission is to foster a love for reading and share its transformative power. Secondly, GBF promotes, celebrates and highlights the work of Botswana authors through different platforms throughout the year. Reading transforms individuals, promotes curiosity and ideas needed to drive and solve problems in societies," Phele said.



Lives of exposed DISS agents in jeopardy

- Some of the agents want out of the deal
- Others are reportedly serving suspensions from their regular jobs

GAZETTE REPORTER

Several secret agents of the Directorate of Intelligence Services (DIS) are reportedly leading abnormal lives following the recent exposure of their identities to the public, *The Botswana Gazette* can reveal.

The agents have reportedly registered grievances with DISS as their side employer about how they have been publicly embarrassed and their lives thrown into jeopardy because people now look at them askance everywhere.

The Gazette is reliably informed that some have asked for termination of their contracts for fear that the worst could befall them as things stand.

Botswana's secret service has been riven by disunity since the arrival of its current leader, Brigadier Peter Magosi, who has been battling infiltration by hostile forces opposed to President Mokgweetsi Masisi.

It is understood that the top brass at DISS does not agree on how the organisation should tackle damage control after a leaked document that led to the covers of its agents being blown. In the meantime, the contents of the document are passing as fact because they have not been effectively refuted.

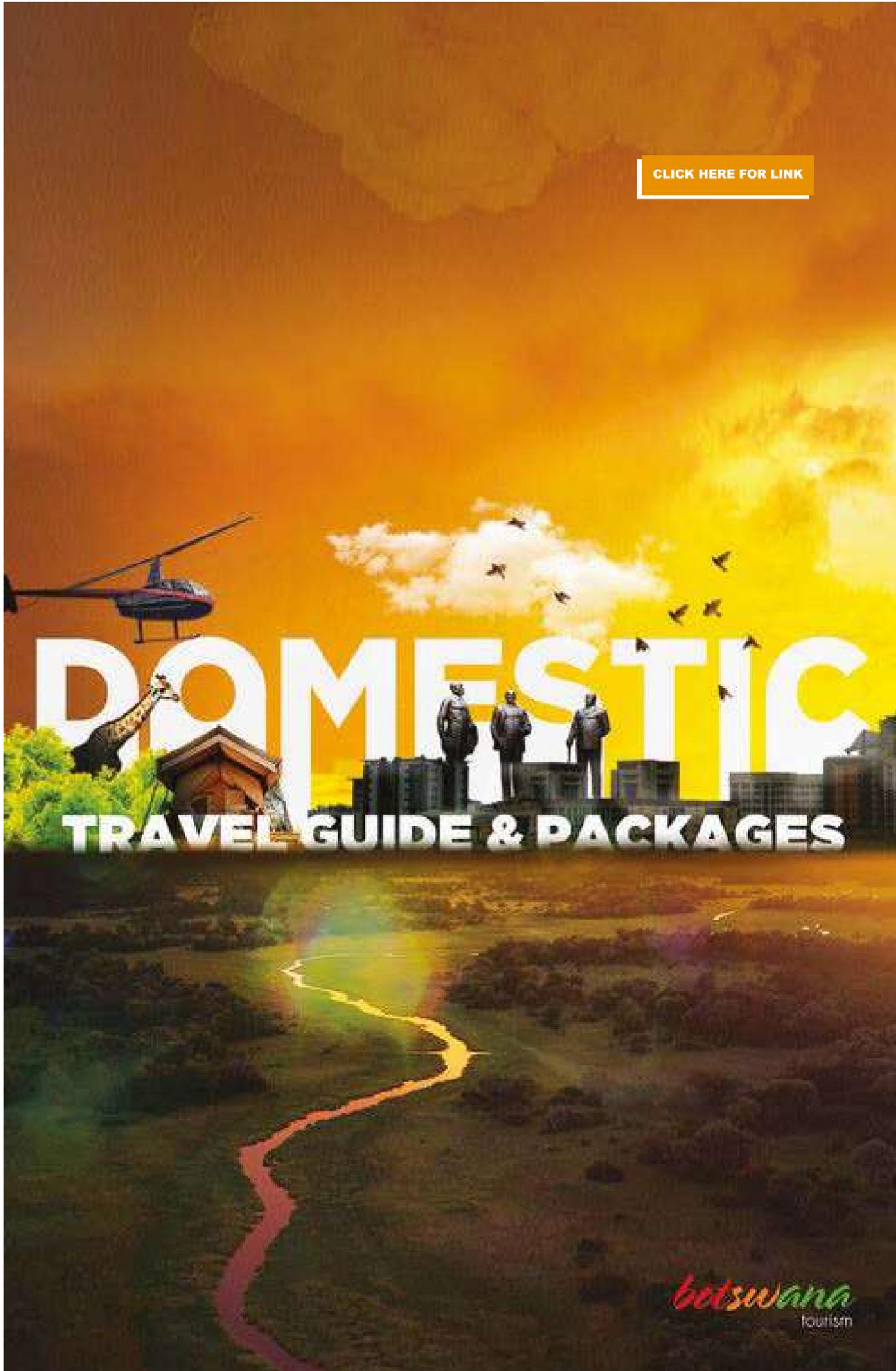
Watchers of the intelligence community blame current DISS troubles on the organization's obsession with the politics, saying the fascination will not help things because politics is inherently divisive.

"DISS has neglected crucial areas such economic information, including data on trade, finance, natural resources, industrial capacity and the GDP product and chases after houseflies," a senior agent said in an interview that cannot be attributed.

"Something needs to be done as quickly as yesterday. It beats me how such a document could get leaked when advancement in technology enables intelligence organisations to adopt new methods of collecting intelligence and new techniques of protecting secret information."

Efforts to reach DISS proved futile as its spokesperson did not answer his phone.

[CLICK HERE FOR LINK](#)





Republic of Botswana

MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND WELLNESS

Mandate: Ministry of Health and Wellness exists to promote and provide integrated, holistic and sustainable preventative, curative, rehabilitative quality health service to the nation.

EXTERNAL ADVERTISEMENT

1. CIRCULAR NO. 9 of 2020

VACANCY: PRINCIPAL HEALTH OFFICER I (HEALTH POLICY & PLANNING)
VACANCY CODE: 111300032.1.1
RE-ADVERTISEMENT

Applications are invited from suitably qualified candidates for the above position in the Ministry of Health & Wellness, Department of Health Policy Research & Development, **tenable at the Ministry of Health & Wellness, Headquarters.**

SALARY: D2 (P291, 108 – P321, 012 per annum)

BENEFITS:

- (a) Optional contributory Medical Aid Scheme (Government pays 50%, Employee pays 50%)
(b) Contributory Pension (Government contributes 15% and employee contributes 5% of basic salary)

LEAVE: 30 working days per annum.

QUALIFICATIONS: Minimum of Bachelor's degree in Economics, Health Policy, Health Economics, or any related field. Master's Degree will be an added advantage.

EXPERIENCE: A minimum of ten (10) years post qualification work experience in a relevant field, of which at least three (3) years must have been in a Health Planning or Health Economics Environment.

MAIN PURPOSE OF THE JOB: To guide and support the development and implementation of the national policies plans.

KEY PERFORMANCE AREAS:

- Provides leadership and support for effective and efficient development, interpretation and implementation of health projects and programmes.
- Disseminates national policies, strategies and implementation guidelines to the public.
- Participates in the development and implementation of health specific disaster and emergency management plans.
- Establishes the national system for monitoring & evaluating national health policies and strategic plans.
- Initiates and manages the process of formulating and reviewing operational plans.
- Guides and coordinates the development and implementation of the national health plans and policies.
- Assesses and develops training plans, conducts training in order to build Monitoring & Evaluation competencies for the staff of the Ministry and relevant stakeholders.

REQUIRED COMPETENCIES

- Functional/technical skills
- Technical Learning
- Organizational Agility
- Intellectual Horsepower
- Negotiation
- Action Oriented
- Time Management
- Ethics & Value
- Integrity & Trust
- Work Life Balance
- Presentation Skills
- Organizing
- Drive for results

2. VACANCY CIRCULAR NO. 10 of 2020

VACANCY: SENIOR RESEARCH OFFICER
VACANCY CODE: 111300013.2.1
RE-ADVERTISEMENT

Applications are invited from suitably qualified candidates for the above position in the Ministry of Health & Wellness, Department Health Policy Research & Development, **tenable at the Ministry of Health & Wellness, Headquarters.**

SALARY: D4 (P221, 076 – P243, 684 per annum)

BENEFITS:

- (a) Optional contributory Medical Aid Scheme (Government pays 50% and Employee pays 50%)
(b) Contributory Pension (Government contributes 15% and employee contributes 5% of basic salary)

LEAVE: 30 working days per annum.

QUALIFICATIONS: Minimum of Bachelor's degree in Social Sciences with Majors in Statistics & Economics or Statistics & Demography or any related field.

EXPERIENCE: A minimum of six (6) years post qualification work experience in a relevant field, of which two (2) years should have been served as Research Officer I on C1 salary scale or equivalent.

MAIN PURPOSE OF THE JOB: To manage the preparations and the execution of health research.

KEY PERFORMANCE AREAS:

- Assists graduate students with their research.
- Works closely with other independent researchers such as BOTUSA, Ministry of Health and Wellness Research Institute and other private

- organizations on health research issues.
- Appraises and recommends undergraduate and masters students' proposals.
- Trains and develops research.
- Conducts research and produces research report.
- Monitors utilization of research resources.
- Draws the budget for research projects.

REQUIRED COMPETENCIES

- Functional/technical skills
- Technical Learning
- Organizational Agility
- Action Oriented
- Approachability
- Presentation Skills
- Timely Decision Making
- Time Management
- Process Management
- Ethics & Value
- Integrity and Trust
- Decision Quality

3. VACANCY CIRCULAR NO. 11 OF 2020

VACANCY: PRINCIPAL HEALTH OFFICER I (NUTRITION)
VACANCY CODE: 111400172.1.1 & 111400199.1.1

Applications are invited from suitably qualified candidates for the above position in the Ministry of Health & Wellness, Department Health Services Management, **tenable at the Ministry of Health & Wellness, Headquarters.**

SALARY: D2 (P291, 108 – P321, 012 per annum)

BENEFITS:

- (a) Optional contributory Medical Aid Scheme (Government pays 50% and Employee pays 50%)
(b) Contributory Pension (Government contributes 15% and employee contributes 5% of basic salary)

LEAVE: 30 working days per annum

QUALIFICATIONS: A Minimum of Bachelor of Science Degree in Nutrition or Dietetics. Master of Science in Nutrition or equivalent will be an added advantage.

EXPERIENCE: A minimum of Ten (10) years work experience in the field of Nutrition, of which two years (2) must have been served as Principal Health Officer II on D3 salary scale or equivalent.

MAIN PURPOSE OF THE JOB: To coordinate effective implementation of activities of public health nutrition programmes.

KEY PERFORMANCE AREAS:

- Coordinates the development, implementation, and monitoring of national food and nutrition policies, legislation, strategies, and protocols in line with set goals and objectives.
- Develops programmes for public health nutrition strategies and tools for the monitoring and evaluation of nutrition programmes.
- Develops plans to facilitate implementation of food and nutrition programmes.
- Coordinates capacity building initiatives.
- Coordinates and conducts operational research and surveillance on nutrition issues.
- Provides leadership and guidance in the formulation and implementation of divisional plans and strategies.
- Participates in various national and international committees and task forces.
- Conducts mentoring supervisory support visits to districts.
- Mentors junior officers and assists relevant stakeholders.
- Coordinates the preparation of expenditure reports and programme manpower estimates.
- Collaborates with programme officers in estimating and developing budgets for the division.
- Coordinates in-service training of different levels of health personnel on public health nutrition issues.
- Benchmarks with stakeholders on best practices to improve programme planning and delivery.
- Assists with overall management of Nutrition and food Control Division.
- Undertakes any other related duties as assigned by management.

REQUIRED COMPETENCIES:

- Decision Quality
- Organizational Agility
- Ethics and Values
- Integrity and Trust
- Priority setting
- Process Management
- Delegation
- Building effective teams
- Organising
- Planning
- Functional Technical skills

4. VACANCY CIRCULAR NO.12 OF 2020

VACANCY: PRINCIPAL HEALTH OFFICER II (NUTRITION)
VACANCY CODE: 111400162.1.1

Applications are invited from suitably qualified candidates for the above position in the Ministry of Health & Wellness, Department Health Services

Management, **tenable at the Ministry of Health & Wellness, Headquarters.**
SALARY: D3 (P253, 656 – P279, 648 per annum)

BENEFITS:

- (a) Optional contributory Medical Aid Scheme (Government pays 50% and Employee pays 50%)
(b) Contributory Pension (Government contributes 15% and employee contributes 5% of basic salary)

LEAVE: 30 working days per annum

QUALIFICATIONS: Degree in Nutrition or Food Science or a related field. Masters in Nutrition, Food Science or equivalent will be an added advantage.

EXPERIENCE: A minimum of eight (8) years work experience in the field of Nutrition, of which two (2) years must have been served as Senior Health Officer (Nutrition) on D4 salary scale or equivalent.

MAIN PURPOSE OF THE JOB: To plan and manage activities of a specific nutrition program.

KEY PERFORMANCE AREAS:

- Develops policies, strategies, programmes and guidelines in line with set goals and objectives.
- Coordinates the development, administration and maintenance of acceptable food quality and safety standards.
- Develops plans to facilitate implementation of food and nutrition programmes.
- Monitors stakeholders' compliance to food laws.
- Coordinates and conducts operational research on food and nutrition issues.
- Coordinates in-service training of different levels of health personnel on food and nutrition issues.
- Provides guidance in the formulation and implementation of food and nutrition plans and strategies.
- Monitors and evaluates food and nutrition programmes.
- Verifies and manages programme data.
- Prepares and submits statistical reports for the programme.
- Conducts mentoring supervisory support visits to Districts.
- Coordinates the preparation of expenditure reports and programme manpower estimates.
- Collaborates with programme officers in estimating and developing budgets for the division.
- Participates in various national and international committees and task forces.
- Benchmarks with stakeholders on best practices to improve programme planning and delivery.
- Supervises and mentors junior officers and assists relevant stakeholders
- Coordinates capacity building initiatives.
- Coaches and mentors junior staff in food and nutrition skills.
- Undertakes any other related duties as assigned by management.

REQUIRED COMPETENCIES:

- Decision Quality
- Organizational Agility
- Ethics and Values
- Integrity and Trust
- Priority setting
- Process Management
- Action Oriented
- Building Effective Teams
- Drive for results
- Planning

APPLICATIONS:

Quote the number of the Vacancy Circular and provide the following details:

- Full name, address and place of birth.
- Brief summary of up to date career duties (Curriculum Vitae).
- Certified copies of certificates (Academic and Professional).
- A minimum of two current references (not more than 6 months).
- Certified copy of proof of Identity (Omang).
- Date of first appointment.
- Present post and date of appointment thereto.

Applications should be addressed to: -

PERMANENT SECRETARY
MINISTRY OF HEALTH & WELLNESS
P/BAG 0038

GABORONE

OR

Hand delivered to:

Ministry of Health and Wellness Headquarters
Office 8A21

IMPORTANT: All applications from serving Public Officers must be routed through their Heads of Departments and Permanent Secretaries. Applications not so routed will not be considered.

Only short listed candidates will be responded to.

Closing date: 02 October 2020, 1630 hours. Applications received after the deadline will not be considered.

For further information contact: Human Resource Management Unit on Tel: 3632856/2012

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

CASE NO. CCMS- 000 175-19

In the matter between:
**SUNSET LETSATSI (PTY) LTD T/A
BOOP KONO CASH LOAN**
AND
MOSIMANEGAPE DINOKO

PLAINTIFF
DEFENDANT

NOTICE OF SUMMONS FOR CIVIL IMPRISONMENT SUBSTITUTED SERVICE-ORDER 8

TO: MOSIMANEGAPE DINOKO
PLOT EU2, H5387
JWANENG

TAKE NOTICE that by Order of the Court granted on the 9th of September 2020, you are hereby summoned to appear before this Court to be held on the 14th October 2020 before **Her Worship Principal Magistrate M. Mosarwa at Court Room No. 3 at 08.30am** to show cause why a decree of Civil Imprisonment should not be made against you at the suit of **SUNSET LETSATSI (PTY) LTD T/A BOOP KONO CASH LOAN c/o CHINGWARA LAW CHAMBERS**, in respect of non-payment of the sum of **P2,000.00 (Two Thousand Pula)**, 10% interest, costs, Deputy Sheriffs costs, recovered against yourself by the said Plaintiff by a judgement of the said Court dated 5th of August 2019 together with costs of this application;

DATED THIS 9TH DAY OF SEPTEMBER 2020 AT SELEBI PHIKWE

.....
CLERK OF THE COURT

.....
CHINGWARA LAW CHAMBERS
(PLAINTIFF'S ATTORNEYS)
P.O. BOX 2129
SELEBI PHIKWE



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**


Attorneys | Notaries | Conveyancers

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

CASE NO. CCMS- 000 423-19

In the matter between:
MAPORORO CASH LOAN (PTY) LTD
AND
ONE RADIPITSE

PLAINTIFF
DEFENDANT

NOTICE OF SUMMONS FOR CIVIL IMPRISONMENT SUBSTITUTED SERVICE-ORDER 8

TO: ONE RADIPITSE
PLOT 87, PRAIN DRIVE
P.O BOX 375
SELEBI PHIKWE

TAKE NOTICE that by Order of the Court granted on the 9th of September 2020, you are hereby summoned to appear before this Court to be held on the 14th October 2020 before **Her Worship Principal Magistrate M. Mosarwa at Court Room No. 3 at 08.30am** to show cause why a decree of Civil Imprisonment should not be made against you at the suit of **MAPORORO CASH LOAN (PTY) LTD c/o CHINGWARA LAW CHAMBERS**, in respect of non-payment of the sum of **P10,000.00 (Ten Thousand Pula)**, 10% interest, costs, Deputy Sheriffs costs, recovered against yourself by the said Plaintiff by a judgement of the said Court dated 7th of October 2019 together with costs of this application;

DATED THIS 9TH DAY OF SEPTEMBER 2020 AT SELEBI PHIKWE

.....
CLERK OF THE COURT

.....
CHINGWARA LAW CHAMBERS
(PLAINTIFF'S ATTORNEYS)
P.O. BOX 2129
SELEBI PHIKWE



**IN THE HIGH COURT FOR THE REPUBLIC OF BOTSWANA
HELD AT FRANCISTOWN**

CASE NO : CCMY-000125/15

IN THE MATTER BETWEEN:
SEGOMOTSO KEITSILE
THUSEGO KEITSILE
MARRIAM KEITSILE
ATHOPENG KEITSILE
AND
OBED KEITSILE

1ST PLAINTIFF
2ND PLAINTIFF
3RD PLAINTIFF
4TH PLAINTIFF
DEFENDENT

NOTICE OF SALE IN EXECUTION

BE PLEASED to take notice that pursuant to the above Honourable court, the below property will be sold by public auction by the **DEPUTY SHERIFF M. KOOSIMILE** to the highest bidder as follows:

DATE OF SALE : 25 September 2020
TIME : 10:00hrs
VENUE : GAKGATLA VILLAGE, PLOT NO 285
PROPERTY TO BE SOLD : A piece of undeveloped land being Lot No 285 situated in Gakgatla village, measuring 32 x 25 metre square.

TERMS OF SALE : **CASH OR BANK GUARANTEED CHEQUES**

DATED AT MAHALAPYE THIS 14TH DAY OF SEPTEMBER 2020

DEPUTY SHERIFF M. KOOSIMILE
PO BOX 2244
MAHALAPYE
CONTACTS 74679389 / 72606090

KETLOGETSWE J
**IN THE HIGH COURT OF THE REPUBLIC OF BOTSWANA
HELD AT LOBATSE**

CASE NO. CVHGB-000770-20

In the matter between:
TOPMARKET CAPITAL (PROPRIETARY) LIMITED
and
GAME'S EXPLOIT (PROPRIETARY) LIMITED
LEBOPO GAME BOTLHOLE

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 movable property hereunder of the 1st and 2nd Defendants will be sold by public auction by **Deputy Sheriff KEBONYEKGOSI NTEBELE** to the highest bidder as follows:-

DATE OF SALE : 23RD SEPTEMBER, 2020
TIME OF SALE : 11:00HRS
PLACE OF SALE : In front of Choppies Shop, Ramotswa
PROPERTY TO BE SOLD : 5x Computers, 1x HP Printer, 1x Office Table and 1x Nissan Sunny with registration numbers and letters B520AWG.

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 31ST DAY OF AUGUST 2020.


RAMALEPA ATTORNEYS
NOTARIES & CONVEYANCERS

**KEBONYEKGOSI NTEBELE c/o
RAMALEPA ATTORNEYS**
 Plaintiff's Attorneys
 Plot 3171, Morupule Road
 Extension 11, Along Nelson
 Mandela drive
 P.O. Box 70567
GABORONE (UB)

NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS

IN THE ESTATE OF THE LATE MARJORIE ANNE WILSON, who died at **PLOT 6409, TATI RIVERSIDE, FRANCISTOWN** on the **18TH day of JULY 2020.**

NOTICE IS HEREBY given that Creditors and Debtors in the above Estate are hereby required to file their claims and pay their debts to the undersigned within thirty (30) days from the date of the last publication hereof.

DATED at FRANCISTOWN on this the 7TH day of SEPTEMBER 2020.

**THE EXECUTRIX TESTAMENTARY
C/O VAN NIEKERK ATTORNEYS,
DITAU STREET, PLOT 4660, PO BOX 37, FRANCISTOWN.**

2016 Jeep Wrangler for sale, Mileage 76200. Pictures available on request. (+267) 75111700

BNSC's P9 Million Facilities Upgrade

Government through the Sport Ministry aid the Commission with funds to refurbish Molepolole Stadium and the Athletes Village

TLOTLO KEBINAKGABO

The government through the Ministry of Youth Empowerment, Sport and Culture Development (MYSC) have funded Botswana National Sports Commission with P9 million to upgrade the Molepolole Stadium and the Athletes Villages, *Gazette Sport* has established.

This publication made the discovery through BNSC Chairman Marumo Morule who noted that they have secured funds to refurbish the Molepolole Stadium for two main projects; the relaying of turf and renovation of the water reticulation system. "The stadium will therefore be out of bounds when contracted companies begin their works," he said during the BNSC Annual General Meeting (AGM) held recently. "We have also closed the Athletes' Village for renovation, the project is nearing completion. Thanks to MYSC for funding these projects at P5million and P4 million respectively."

With that, Morule noted that the construction of Botswana Karate Association Training Hall is almost complete after being halted for several months due to depletion of funds. He said construction of the Football Academy with funding by an international company INEOS should be on course once all pre-contract activities are concluded. "We have already signed a contract with the company to pave way for construction," he said.

Morule also used the occasion to caution National Associations (NSAs) to desist from internal disputes noting that the quarrels are fast becoming a reputational risk to sport. He said a total of 15 cases were reported to the Disciplinary Committee, some dating back to two years. "Most of these cases are disputes within Executive Committees, grievances from individuals about unfair business practices by leadership of the Association and others are complaints from service providers that you do business with," he said further urging the NSAs to curtail the disputes. He said as of date, a total of five cases have been resolved and 10 are still on going.

Meanwhile, when commenting on the covid-19 pandemic, Morule said; "We have decided to hold in abeyance all sport related international travel and hosting of international sport events as a preventative measure. Many other international sports authorities have cancelled their events as such we cannot be spared. We will continue to assess the situation and where possible allow both training and competitions."

He said the Commission understands that athletes and others in sport have been adversely affected by the pandemic. "We sympathize with them, as Botswana Sport, we have made attempts to cushion some of the effects and as it may be known to yourselves, COVID-19 Relief fund was introduced in Sport," he said. "We acknowledge that many more people and structure needed support than those we were able to assist. While this might not have been enough, we are aware that International Sport Bodies are also providing some form of relief for which we are grateful."

Ngele's TTM Deal Not As Complicated As Feared

BONGANI MALUNGA

This past week reports from South Africa revealed that Mogakolodi Ngele signed a pre-contract with Bidvest Wits who will now transition to TTM after the Thohoyandou based club purchased Wits' status in July.

Ngele's deal will still be valid after the transition comes into effect before the start of the 2020/2021 season, there are emerging reports that his place in the newly assembled team could be in danger as the new owners will have a final say on the composition of the team.

Ngele's deal will still be valid after the transition comes into effect before the start of the 2020/2021 season, there are emerging reports that his place in the newly assembled team could be in danger as the new owners will have a final say on the composition of the team.

When owners buy teams they usually give their original squads first preference due to familiarity and they usually blend them with players from the purchased club. With many players already leaving the club, Ngele will be one of only a few players left from the soon to be 'extinct' Wits project.

Despite the worries, *Gazette Sport* was informed in recent weeks that TTM coveted Ngele and even made a move for the player without fully realising that the player was already in their books due to his pre-contract with Wits.

The pre-contract with Wits was signed in February according to South African publication *Soccer Laduma*. Ngele recently parted ways with another Thohoyandou based club, Black Leopards and he is set to stay in the area with his new team. The Zebras star has already settled into the area and his experience will be vital in helping the team try to make a name for themselves in the main league next season.





The Numbers Behind America's 180 On Athlete Activism

Michael Serazio, Associate Professor of Communication, Boston College, The Conversation.

For 50 dormant years – roughly, the period between Muhammad Ali's heyday and the Miami Heat donning hoodies after Trayvon Martin's murder – athletes, as a general rule, steered clear of politics.

Teams and leagues liked it that way, as did sponsors. Why take a stand if it might cost you a customer?

Fans seemed to like it that way, too.

In a national survey conducted in 2016, after Colin Kaepernick first took a knee during the national anthem to protest police brutality, my colleague Emily Thorson and I found that half of all American sports fans agreed with the statement that "sports and politics should not mix." Only 20% supported activism, while the remaining 30% didn't commit either way.

The reasons expressed for their reticence included, chiefly, a belief that athletes wield dangerous influence over gullible fans.

Four years later – and in the wake of this summer's massive Black Lives Matter protests, followed by a cascade of canceled NBA playoff games after Jacob Blake's shooting – those attitudes have dramatically shifted. Last month, Nielsen found that 70% of American sports fans actually want teams and leagues to support athlete activism. A similar majority expect athletes to be involved with the movement for racial justice, believing that athletes possess

"important influence" over social change.

Nielsen credits Kaepernick for the change in public opinion, even though the knee he took likely cost him his career as an NFL quarterback.

"If we don't practice one day and go back to practicing the next day, I don't know what that really accomplishes," he told The Boston Globe in late August. "I know we could take a whole day off and we could talk about a whole bunch of different things. It just hasn't mattered."

It has always been folly to believe that sports were somehow separate from issues of power and politics, despite the best efforts of owners, sponsors, broadcasters and athletes to maintain that façade. Sports delivers powerful ideological messages on issues ranging from economic inequality to militarism to traditional gender

roles. But those involved in the business of sports have long assumed that audiences just want entertainment and escapism – a respite from all the controversy and polarization elsewhere in the news.

If Kaepernick created a crack in that façade, then the athlete activism spurred by the wider Black Lives Matter protests over the summer might be causing it to crumble. This weekend, when the NFL kicked off its full slate of Sunday games, players and teams protested in a variety of ways. Some knelt during the anthem. Others scrawled messages on their cleats. Six teams stayed in the locker room during the playing of the anthem.

The guardians and guardrails that have misguidedly bracketed politics from sports – and that, even until earlier this year, had martyred Kaepernick as a professional pariah – are being obliterated. Athletes are freer, and perhaps even expected, to be political role models in a way that a young Charles Barkley – who, in a 1993 ad, claimed he "was not a role model" – might have shrugged off.

This would be cause for celebration, were it not for a bracing lament expressed by New England Patriots safety Devin McCourty.

"If we don't practice one day and go back to practicing the next day, I don't know what that really accomplishes," he told The Boston Globe in late August. "I know we could take a whole day off and we could talk about a whole bunch of different things. It just hasn't mattered."

But McCourty's hopelessness suggests a frustrating limit to the potential of symbolism. Can boycotting, kneeling or painting a slogan on a playing field reform policing practice? Professional athletes have long been told, as LeBron James was, to "shut up and dribble."

With many fans now having their back, those stars – whether it's through speaking or sitting out – will discover what leverage they actually have.

Makhwengwe, Rovers Yet To Agree Deal



BONGANI MALUNGA

Former Gaborone United coach Philemon Makhwengwe is still engaged in active talks with Debswana First Division club Mochudi Rovers SC about becoming their new Technical Director. This weekend reports filtered through stating that Makhwengwe had been appointed as Rovers' new TD but information gathered by this publication states that a deal between both parties has not been agreed yet.

The club's official social media page confirmed the news this weekend, the club's statement insinuated that he would take charge of the development structures and offer technical expertise when needed at first team level. Despite reports of a "done deal" sources close to Makhwengwe have revealed that an agreement between the two negotiating parties has not been reached yet.

"No deal has been agreed yet, what you saw circulating on social media was a premature statement that was made without a signed, sealed and final agreement. The talks between Makhwengwe and Rovers are still active, they gave him an offer and he countered that offer with his own expectations and he is currently awaiting their response," claimed the source.

Makhwengwe is an experienced coach and administrator who has served at the Botswana Football Association as a Technical Director, he has also changed the fortunes of clubs he has coached such as Gaborone United where he helped steady the ship in two different spells.

Makhwengwe also guided Prisons XI to the BTC Premiership in recent years. With an impressive track record of resuscitating teams and overseeing long term projects, Makhwengwe has been earmarked as he perfect candidate to make Rovers another prominent Kgatleng region representative to reach the top tier of local football.

Jovan Nikolic ; Young Zebras Goalkeeper Who Dreams Of Playing In Europe Top Leagues

TLOTLO KEBINAKGABO

The national football under 20 (U20) team goalkeeper Jovan Nikolic is aiming to be first the local player to ply his trade in top European Leagues which among others include the English Premier League and Spanish La Liga.

Aged 19, Nikolic currently plies his trade for CS Maritimo under 23 (U23) team. Maritimo is a Portuguese Sports Club founded in Madeira- an autonomous region of Portugal which comprises four islands. He joined the club in 2016 following a short stay in South Africa where he developed the love for football. "I moved from Botswana to South Africa for schooling in 2013 and spent almost three years there," he told *Gazette Sport* in an interview. "My love for football matured there (South Africa) as it was the most played sport at my school."

He said following his stay in South Africa, he then explained to his parents that he would like to pursue a career in football. "That is when we started exploring options in Europe and I ultimately came to Portugal in 2016 to join my current team," he said. Nikolic is of the view that ever since he joined his current team he has grown as a player. "That is mentally and physically; I mean I have grown in all aspects of the game because I am now in good hands with excellent coaches. I am in a comfortable position, I just need to work hard and maintain my focus," he told this publication.

Meanwhile, asked why he opted for the goalkeeping department instead of outfield positions, he said; "I have always wanted to be a goalkeeper from a tender age, I enjoy it while playing with my father and friends at home. There was a point where I wanted to play outfield but my friends encouraged me to continue being a goalkeeper as they felt I was good at the position." Nikolic's all time favourite goalkeeper is David de Gea of Manchester United (English Premier League).

This is the young goalkeeper who got his maiden U20 team call up last year December during the U20 COSAFA championship which was held in Zambia. "I was very delighted and I enjoyed it. I mean I got to hold the national team flag on my shoulders and play for my country; it was a big achievement for me. I felt very proud and I believe I gave my best and I enjoyed the experience as well as the responsibility," he said.



Jovan Nikolic
Pic: Instagram

The Botswana Gazette

SPORT

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Jwaneng Galaxy, TS Galaxy At Odds Over Morake

- TS Galaxy failed to live up to payment plan, clause required him to return to Jwaneng
- Player returned to Jwaneng Galaxy as per agreement, Morake now wants to go back to TS Galaxy
- Jwaneng Galaxy reportedly demanding P2 million if TS Galaxy wants to retain him

BONGANI MALUNGA

Zebras goalkeeper Ezekiel Morake is in the middle of a contractual stalemate between BTC Premiership champions Jwaneng Galaxy and South African club TS Galaxy after it emerged that the player has decided to reverse his decision to leave TS Galaxy.

The player returned to Botswana during the first lockdown and indicated that he wanted to sign for a local club and leave the South African club, the latest report states that the player was granted his wish after it emerged that TS Galaxy had not honoured their initial payment plan which required them to pay the P250 000 transfer fee in quarterly instalments.

By virtue of breaching the agreement, TS Galaxy were supposed to allow the player to return to Jwaneng Galaxy as per a clause in his contract. Morake also reportedly sent an email to TS Galaxy notifying them of his intention to leave.

TS Galaxy owner Tim Sukazi reportedly agreed the termination agreement and apologized for not honouring the payment plan, this allowed the Jwaneng club to finalize a deal with Morake in the past few weeks. According to sources, Sukazi verbally agreed to release the player and forfeit paying the P250 000 to allow the player to return to Jwaneng on a free transfer.



However, there is a sticking point as the player has now expressed an interest in returning to South Africa following TS Galaxy's purchase of Highlands Park's Premier League status which will make them a PSL team pending official approval from top South African football authorities. The chance to play in the top tier of South African football has appealed to Morake and he is set to travel to South Africa to return to camp.

Morake has also been enticed by the return of head coach Dan Malesela who was instrumental in bringing Morake and Mosha Gaolaolwe to the club last year. Malesela has also informed the club that Morake and Gaolaolwe are in his plans for the forthcoming season.

Reached for comment, the player's agent/representative Bakang Moipone stated that the player is on the way to TS Galaxy as he is building up for a season in the PSL. "It is a complicated situation but we hope the clubs will engage each other frequently about a way forward. The players are set to travel to South Africa after receiving their travel permits, they received the permits last week Friday," Moipone told Gazette Sport.

Jwaneng Galaxy are set to write a formal complaint to TS Galaxy to return the player if he travels to South Africa as expected.

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