

PARLIAMENT SENDS FIA AWAY OVER P100BN SAGA

- FIA refuses to explain what their role was and if indeed the money is missing
- FIA director says the law prevents him from sharing information with third parties
- Parliament accuses FIA director of disrespect

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Parliament of

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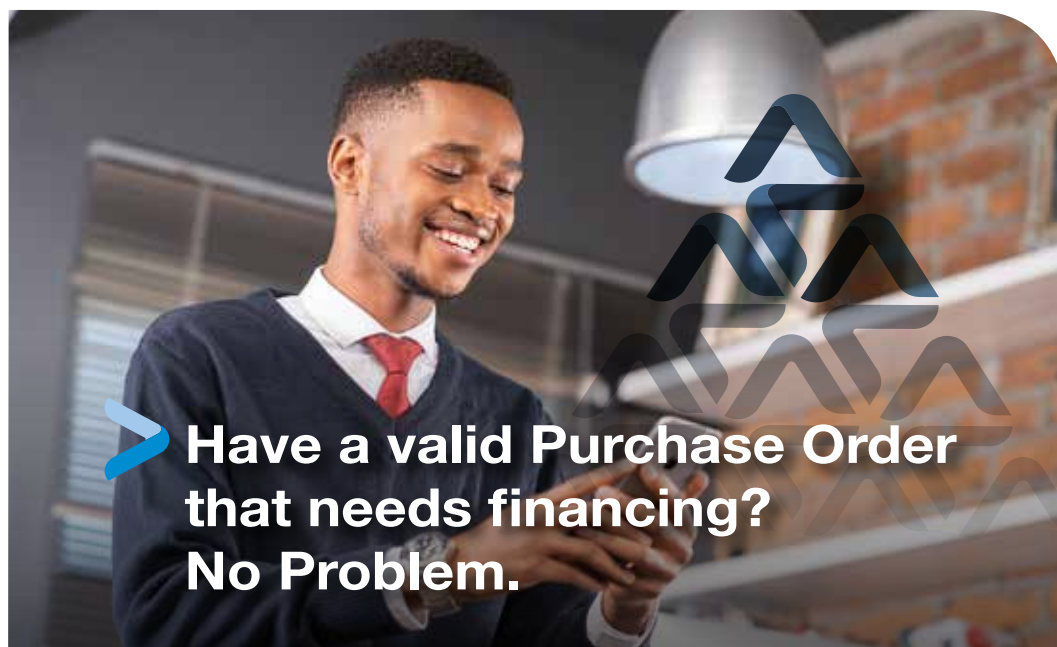
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**BMD THE 'ODD MAN OUT' AT
OPPOSITION TALKS**

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UDC Convenors Out In The Cold As Opposition Talks Begin

- Nobody is telling us anything - Mpotokwane
- The talks will be self-mediated - Mohwasa

TEFO PHEAGE

Fresh opposition talks to bring the Alliance for Progressives (AP) and the Botswana Patriotic Front (BPF) into the UDC fold are likely to take off without the convenors who played an instrumental role in uniting the opposition into a definitive bloc.

The spokesman of the UDC, Moeti Mohwasa, has confirmed that the convenors will not be involved this time around.

While the fresh talks between the parties have begun, the convenors, Lebang Mpotokwane and Emang Maphanyane, have told *The Botswana Gazette* that they last heard from UDC president, Duma Boko, in 2018.

Since then, Mpotokwane noted, the two men have never heard from the coalition Umbrella for Democratic Change or been briefed by anyone from what is the two men's tour de force. "To tell you the truth, we don't know what is happening within the UDC," Mpotokwane stated. "We don't know our position regarding whether we are still a part of them or not because nobody tells us anything."

He pronounced himself in support of opposition unity but without the BPF because, according to him, its sole ambition seems to be discrediting or removing President Mokgweetsi Masisi from office.

UDC president Duma Boko revealed over the weekend that the AP and BPF had written to the UDC on

cooperation on by-elections. The move is expected to pave the way for further cooperation and their possible inclusion in the UDC. Sources say the talks have already begun, although informally.

UDC spokesman Moeti Mohwasa has told this publication that the UDC convenors will not be overseeing the negotiations with BPF and AP. "The convenors only oversaw the birth of the first UDC," Mohwasa said.

"To tell you the truth, we don't know what is happening within the UDC," Mpotokwane stated. "We don't know our position regarding whether we are still a part of them or not because nobody tells us anything."

"The negotiations between the old UDC and the BCP were self-mediated. The same will happen with the current talks."

Yet the convenors say there needs to be closure to the relationship and a way forward.

BMD The 'Odd Man Out' At Opposition Talks

- UDC is the brainchild of the BMD – Modubule
- BMD was expelled from UDC – Saleshando
- AP does not rule out cooperating with BMD



LETLHOGILE MPUANG

The Botswana Movement for Democracy (BMD) has been excluded from negotiations for opposition parties to merge into a formidable force way ahead of the 2024 general elections, *The Botswana Gazette* has established.

The Chairman of the party, Nehemiah Modubule, revealed this week that the BMD was yet to receive an invitation to the talks. "We are very interested," he told this publication. "We have not been approached by anyone but we should state it for the record that the Umbrella for Democratic Change (UDC) is an initiative of the BMD."

Even so, Modubule said that the party awaits direction from members; "Because of COVID-19, we could not have our congress this year," he noted. "It is our members who will give us a fresh mandate. It is a very tricky one, more so that we have been expelled from the UDC."

UDC vice president Dumelang Saleshando said it was not surprising that the BMD is excluded. "They were recently expelled," Saleshando noted. "Maybe that explains why they are not a part of these talks."

He said there has never been any resolution taken regarding differences between the two entities. "I do not want to speculate," he said in response to a question about the possibility of the UDC and the BMD working together.

Meanwhile, the Alliance for Progressives (AP) - which was once a part of the BMD - has not ruled out prospects of future cooperation with the BMD despite the knotty history of the two. "At our last congress, we were mandate to look for people who we

were like-minded with us," said AP vice president Wynter Mmolotsi.

"And the mandate was clear that it should not be the BMD. Unfortunately, we were unable to achieve that before the 2019 elections. We will receive a fresh mandate from members at our next congress. If we are given the mandate to work with them, we will start the process. We are a member-driven establishment."

UDC vice president Dumelang Saleshando said it was not surprising that the BMD is excluded. "They were recently expelled," Saleshando noted. "Maybe that explains why they are not a part of these talks."

The BMD was expelled from the UDC in late 2018 for gross misconduct, leaving the coalition with three contracting partners, namely the Botswana National Front (BNF), the Botswana Congress Party (BCP) and the Botswana People's Party (BPP).

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Parliament Sends FIA Away Over P100bn Saga

- FIA refuses to explain what their role was and if indeed the money is missing
- FIA director says the law prevents him from sharing information with third parties
- Parliament accuses FIA director of disrespect



TEFO PHEAGE

The Parliamentary Committee of Governance and Oversight last week dismissed the Director of the Financial Intelligence Committee (FIA) from its presence after he declined to answer its questions about the P100 billion that allegedly went missing from the Bank of Botswana and is now the subject of a high profile court case.

The committee said it could not be right that FIA should come before Parliament and not be asked about the money which is estimated to be half of the country's GDP.

FIA boss Abraham Sethibe was asked to state what his organisation's role was and to confirm or deny whether he is aware of the case or not. The committee said it could not be right that FIA should come before Parliament and not be asked about the money which is estimated to be half of the coun-

try's GDP.

However, Sethibe would have none of it and insisted that the law does not allow him to share information about his work, particularly not with third parties. Whereupon the committee accused Sethibe of deliberately misinterpreting the law in order to avoid answering its questions, which they said to be general in nature and could not offend against the principle of sub-judice.

They told Sethibe that they were not asking him to go into details of the case but merely wanted a general overview as has been the case with the Bank of Botswana that has since said it is not aware of any money missing within its custody.

The parliamentary counsel and members of the committee subsequently said FIA should be excused to go and consult further on the matter. "I have consulted on this matter and I have been advised that FIA should be excused and attend with a senior lawyer on this matter so that they can advise this committee better at the next appearance," said Parliamentary Counsel, Merapelo Mokgosi.

The Chairman of the committee, Mabuse Pule, then said Sethibe was excused and would be advised of his next appearance before the committee.



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UDC Convenors Prefer Merger Model

- Mpotokwane says they prefer and proposed merger model for opposition parties because they are not fundamentally different
- Recalls that current model, including UDC presidency, was meant to be temporary
- Saleshando says discussion of merging ruffles feathers in the BNF

TEFO PHEAGE

Convenors of the Umbrella for Democratic Chance (UDC) Convenors are in favour of a one-party or a merger model for opposition parties and long proposed it to the UDC as the way to go, the lead convenor, Lebang Mpotokwane, has said.

“When the talks began, we proposed a one-party model or merger,” Mpotokwane said this in an interview at his home in Gaborone. “Our view is that these parties do not have any identifiable fundamental policy or ideological differences. Where there were some, we considered them minor and proposed that such be dealt with as time went on.”

Mpotokwane added that this was after a careful consideration of other models of cooperation and before the Botswana Congress Party (BCP) came into the picture. However, their proposal was rejected by the parties that opted for the prevailing model of coalition. “One thing that partners and members should know is that current set-up is temporary, including the UDC presidency,” he said.

“The principle was that a time would come when members would have to go to the polls to legitimise the set-up. The body, according to the guiding principles, is an alliance of equals. No one is bigger than another.”


The BNF youth wing recently attacked the BCP for its push for the merger model following news that the Alliance for Progressives (AP) and the Botswana Patriotic Front (BPF) were coming on board. This prompted a response from the BCP leader, Dumelang Saleshando, that adoption of the merger model was a decision from the last national UDC conference that was held on the eve of the elections that the UDC should consider a more cohesive form of cooperation after the 2019 elections.

“The proposal was simply for the loose coalition of cooperating parties to merge,” Saleshando said. “This was not a proposal from the BCP, the BNF or the BPP. It was an innocent proposal from the delegates that we consider a more permanent union that guarantees operational efficiency. There was no single dissenting voice and the proposal was adopted through a resounding acclamation.”

He added that there are good reasons for and against merging the parties: “Personally,” he continued, “I am in favour of merging the parties (including the AP and the BPF) into a single formation, but I know it’s a complex mission that will have its own challenges.”

“I know how difficult it was for the BCP to accept having to part ways with its symbol and colours for it to merge with the Botswana Alliance Movement. What is of concern to me is for comrades on one side of the debate to tell the other side that if they don’t accept their position, they should leave the UDC.”

In response to a question on merging, UDC president Duma Boko said he owed his allegiance to a consensus of UDC members.



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Churches Decry Dwindling Financial Income

- Say they cannot self-sustain due to 50 members limit
- Wonder why they are always the last to be considered

TEFO PHEAGE

The Organization of African Instituted Churches (OAIC) Botswana Chapter president, Mookami Tebogo Motlhagodi has warned that the 50 members limit per service has thrown the church into financial distress as many can no longer self sustain due to dwindling offerings and tithes.

He told this publication in an interview that he finds it shocking why the church is always the last to be considered when lifting some restrictions, saying they too are adversely affected by these restrictions economically.

Motlhagodi said churches also have financial obligations to sustain their work and role in the society. "If we don't complain nobody cares to consider our struggles. The Ministry that is supposed to be our voice and carrying our best interests always relegates us to the periphery. For how long should we suffer because nobody really cares about churches," he charged, further adding that the economic impact in many places is already changing the face of the church and the congregations.

"There are people who depend financially on the church and if the church is not making money these people will suffer. Not only that the word of God like other vocations to some extent also functions through money,"

The OAIC President advised that government should open up services and allow people to pray just as it seems to be happening with activities in other sectors. "There are people who depend financially on the church and if the church is not making money these people will suffer. Not only that the word of God like other vocations to some extent also functions through money," he said further adding that they want the government to increase the limit to 250 as most churches are sinking.

The government has been mum on the churches since the Minister of Trade allowed services to resume, leaving the limit at a scanty 50. Some churches in the country have been hosting over 200 members. The COVID 19 taskforce posits that the virus is still a serious threat to the country hence the need to remain extra cautious. The World Health Organization (WHO) has revealed that a cure for the virus may be available by end of the year.

Churches, in the meantime, have temporarily suspended their activities, while some have found new ways of reaching out to congregations.

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UDC Assigns Molapise To Tackle Moatlhodi Issue

UDC president Boko says the issue is affecting working relations of opposition MPs

SESUPO RANTSIMAKO

The Chairman of the Umbrella for Democratic Change, Motlatsi Molapise, has been tasked with resolving the issue that led to the suspension of Opposition Chief Whip, Pono Moatlhodi, and the feuding between Moatlhodi and the Leader of the Opposition (LOO), Dumelang Saleshando, that resulted from the suspension.

The president of the UDC, Duma Boko, disclosed this last weekend when he told journalists at a press conference that it was time for the leadership of the coalition UDC to get involved after the issue escalated to the Botswana National Front (BNF).



Boko is also president of the BNF, which is Moatlhodi's party and one of three contracting partners that form the UDC, the others being the Botswana Congress Party and the Botswana People's Party. Boko said the issue was affecting the working relations of the coalition's Members of Parliament.

Saleshando recently stripped Moatlhodi of his mantle as Chief Whip of the Opposition pending the outcome of a court case in which Moatlhodi has been charged with assault after he allegedly physically attacked a 16-year old boy for purportedly stealing mangoes at his Tonota home. His party, the BNF, subsequently slapped him with a 60-day suspension from membership pending a disciplinary hearing.

Boko is also president of the BNF, which is Moatlhodi's party and one of three contracting partners that form the UDC, the others being the Botswana Congress Party and the Botswana People's Party. Boko said the issue was affecting the working relations of the coalition's Members of Parliament.

This led to remonstrations by Moatlhodi who protested especially the "disrespectful" manner in which his suspension was effected in that Saleshando announced it in Parliament without prior warning to him. As the dispute degenerated into a garrulous racket in newspapers, Moatlhodi threatened to dump UDC because, as he put it, he could not be in the same party as Saleshando.

At the press conference over the weekend, Boko said the issue should not be allowed to ruin relations between Moatlhodi and Saleshando. "Molapise will compile a report of what transpired and led to the suspension of Moatlhodi as the Opposition Chief Whip," he explained. "From there he will come up with a solution to address the issue."

In an interview afterwards, Molapise said he was yet to start in his assignment and that he hoped he would find a solution. "I am hoping that after gathering all the necessary information, I will be able to resolve the issue surrounding Moatlhodi," he said.



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Time 10:30
Deputy Sheriff Uyapo Mafika - 71696997
Plot size 1,073m²
Reserve price P561,000.00
Open market value P1,140,000.00

The property comprises of three bedrooms in the main house, with an open plan lounge and a dining room fitted with air-conditioner. The bedrooms have built-in wardrobes and ensuite master bedroom. Also on the property is a detached cottage with one bedroom, lounge, kitchen and bathroom.

BNF Withdraws Moatlhodi Suspension

- Matter is at UDC level – BNF
- BDP confirms discussions to lure back Moatlhodi

LETLHOGILE MPUANG

Botswana National Front (BNF) party spokesperson Justice Hunyepa has said that the recently leaked suspension letter of Member of Parliament for Tonota, Pono Moatlhodi has been nullified.

Hunyepa told *The Botswana Gazette* that the letter, which was leaked last weekend, has been overtaken by events. “The matter is being handled at the UDC (Umbrella for Democratic Change (UDC). We have met with the constituency and discussed the matter.”

He pointed out that although the BNF constitution empowers a constituency to take any form of disciplinary action against a member, the matter needs to be addressed through adequate channels. “Unlike in other parties, our disciplinary processes are meant to build and correct one another and we usually prefer to do it very internally and also to avoid scandalizing members. All we want is an amicable resolution. One thing we should also note is that, as much as Rre Moatlhodi is a member of the BNF, he is a UDC MP and that is why we have allowed the matter to be handled at that level.”

“So, the suspension doesn’t stand,” concluded Hunyepa. For his part, Moatlhodi said he was yet to receive communication from the BNF and referred all inquiries back to the party. According to a letter issued by the BNF Tonota constituency, the veteran MP was being suspended for; “public spat with our UDC vice president, Dume-lang Saleshando which indicates gross disrespect for the

organisation”.

Moatlhodi was also accused of “bootlicking tendencies reflected in his interruption of Saleshando’s debate to query the use of the word, ‘short-sighted’”. Meanwhile, Moatlhodi is rumoured to be in talks to defect back to the ruling Botswana Democratic Party (BDP). Sources have told this publication that some members of the BDP have held discussions with him over a move back to the party.

BDP Secretary General Mpho Balopi confirmed that he has also had discussions with Moatlhodi. “There is nothing wrong with recruiting members, we want new members and I would even advise other BDP members to continue recruiting new members.”

Moatlhodi refused to entertain any questions linking him to the BDP. “Go and ask whoever told you that,” he responded.



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Woman In Court For Stealing Cattle

Accused pays P5000 compensation for allegedly stealing two cows

Forty-one-year old Tshephang Oganne of Lekgwapheng ward in Molepolole paid P5000 as compensation for allegedly stealing two cows on 12 March 2015.

She was acting in concert with Josta Ramotlabaki in Setshe cattle post whom the court has failed to locate and Onthusitse Moganana who was also absent from court.

Oganne told the court that she paid on Friday, then called Moganana who promised to go and pay on Saturday. However, she said she was not aware whether he had paid or not.

Prosecutor Batsalelwang Mosebola successfully persuaded the court to issue an arrest warrant for Moganana as they do not know his reasons for absconding. The two were to update the court on the issue of reconciliation.

Oganne told the court that she paid on Friday, then called Moganana who promised to go and pay on Saturday. However, she said she was not aware whether he had paid or not.

Magistrate Ike Raphael said since the accused had fully compensated the complainant, he would adjourn the matter to 26 October. He also issued a warrant of arrest for the other two accused. The magistrate said it would be prudent to bring only one witness, namely the complainant, to the next mention in order to save the resources of the court.



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For more information please contact the respective Deputy Sheriff or the following numbers 3671500, 71374432, 71374427 and 74004159.



STARTING BID P650,000.00

Deputy Sheriff: Nonofa Mabina
Contact: 71657100
Date of sale: 30th October 2020
Time: 1030hrs
Place: Lot 11657, Francistown
Plot size: 405m2
Developments: A three bedroomed house with en-suite, sitting room, dinning room, kitchen, bathroom, walled electric fence with sliding gate.



STARTING BID: P1,300,000.00

Deputy Sheriff: Bathusi Billy
Contact: 71607940
Date of sale: 26th October 2020
Time: 1200hrs
Place: Tribal Lot 1461, Tlokweng
Plot size: 1188m2
Developments: A 5 bedroomed house including 3 en-suite, tv room, combined lounge and dinning room, sitting room, fitted kitchen, double garage, maid's quarters, walled with electric fence and sliding gate.



STARTING BID: P450,000.00

Deputy Sheriff: Gaone Ratsoma
Contact: 72199719
Date of sale: 26th October 2020
Time: 1030hrs
Place: Lot, 7347, Gaborone
Plot size: 899m2
Developments: A three bedroomed house with two bathrooms, fitted kitchen, and outbuilding.



STARTING BID P400,000.00

Deputy Sheriff: Nonofa Mabina
Contact: 71657100
Date of sale: 30th October 2020
Time: 1430hrs
Place: Tribal Lot 5207, Tati Siding
Plot size: 1069m2
Developments: A three bedroomed house with en-suite, sitting room, dinning room, single garage, kitchen, two toilets, two bathrooms, walled electric fence with sliding gate.



STARTING BID P500,000.00

Deputy Sheriff: Gaone Ratsoma
Contact: 72199719
Date of sale: 30th October 2020
Time: 1430hrs
Place: Lot 5035, Francistown
Plot size: 975m2
Developments: An open plan workshop with office and toilets, walled with electric fence and sliding gate.



STARTING BID P2,000,000.00

Deputy Sheriff: Nonofa Mabina
Contact: 71657100
Date of sale: 1st September 2020
Time: 1200hrs
Place: Lot 32475 Gaborone, Phakalane
Plot size: 1044m2
Developments: A four bedroomed double story house with fitted kitchen, lounge, servant's quarters, paved, swimming pool, walled, sliding gate, electric fence.



STARTING BID P3,400,000.00

Deputy Sheriff: Nonofa Mabina
Contact: 71657100
Date of sale: 28th October 2020
Time: 1430hrs
Place: Portion 47, a Portion of Portion 2 of the Farm Kenmoir No.1 -KP
Plot size: 3,6484 ha
Developments: A 5 bedroomed house, sitting room, kitchen & scullery, 3x toilets, 2x bathroom 1x shower swimming pool, 5x horse block, 5 rooms hostel shower, 1x toilet, open shade, store-room, non working borehole and electric fence.



STARTING BID P850,000.00

Deputy Sheriff: Bathusi Billy
Contact: 71607940
Date of sale: 29th October 2020
Time: 1430hrs
Place: Tribal Lot 3316, Mahalapye
Plot size: 2.2438 ha
Developments: A thatched four bedroomed double storey house with the ground floor comprising 3x bedrooms including the master bedroom each fitted with built-in cupboards, the master bedroom has a walk-in dressing room, and an en-suite bathroom, an open plan lounge/dining and kitchen, paved, borehole and a swimming pool



STARTING BID P900,000.00

Deputy Sheriff: Bathusi Billy
Contact: 71607940
Date of sale: 26th October 2020
Time: 1430hrs
Place: Lot 55421, Gaborone (Phakalane)
Plot size: 775m2
Developments: A single storey three bedroomed house, kitchen, attached servant's quarter, single garage and car-port, walled, electric fence and paved entry.



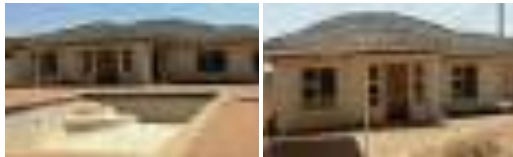
STARTING BID P2,300,000.00

Deputy Sheriff: Gaone Ratsoma
Contact: 72199719
Date of sale: 2nd November 2020
Time: 1430hrs
Place: Tribal Grant No. 1786-KP (Ramokobetwane, Kgatleng District)
Plot size: 8,3177 ha
Developments: A poultry farm with 4x boreholes, 1x 100000L resevoir, solar panel system, 3x chicken poultry house (200mx10m), a house with 8 rooms, toilet & shower, Chicken feed container.



STARTING BID P200,000.00

Deputy Sheriff: Gaone Ratsoma
Contact: 72199719
Date of sale: 28th October 2020
Time: 1430hrs
Place: Lot No. 52495, Gaborone (Old Naledi)
Plot size: 452m2
Developments: Two properties in the yard: first property is a 3 bedroomed house with sitting room, kitchen and attached 3 rooms and a store-room the second property is a two rooms with an outside toilet.



STARTING BID P750,000.00

Deputy Sheriff: Gaone Ratsoma
Contact: 72199719
Date of sale: 27th October 2020
Time: 1030hrs. Tlokweng
Place: Tribal Lot No. 2438
Plot size: 999m2
Developments: A single storey 3 (three) bedroomed house with master en-suit, sitting room, dinning room, fitted kitchen, guest toilets and bathrooms, swimming pool, car-port, walled.



STARTING BID P550,000.00

Deputy Sheriff: Gaone Ratsoma
Contact: 72199719
Date of sale: 28th October 2020
Time: 1030hrs
Place: Tribal Lot 1983, Tlokweng
Plot size: 1000m2
Developments: One block of 4x incomplete 2 beds, 1x bachelor-pad, walled with sliding gate.



STARTING BID P800,000.00

Deputy Sheriff: Nonofa Mabina
Contact: 71657100
Date of sale: 27th October 2020
Time: 1430hrs
Place: Lot No. 19501, (Phase 2 next to Masa Primary School)
Plot size: 406m2
Developments: A three bedroomed house with master ensuite, sitting room, fitted kitchen, staff quarters, sliding gate and walled.

Branches

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Mahalapye - 471 2952 | Mall - 367 1601 | Maun - 680 0810 | Molepolole - 592 1444 | Palapye - 492 4477

The effects of COVID-19 are perhaps more profound when viewed through the lens of persons with disabilities. These impacts are many, diverse and vary from country to country and across the diversity of disabilities. This article captures some of the concerns raised during conversations with disability rights activists throughout Southern Africa.

Since COVID-19 hit the Southern African region, and governments put in place COVID-19 protocols and safety precautions, persons with disabilities across the region have grappled with understanding information on COVID-19 and adhering to the safety protocols. The glaring inequalities on accessing information and guidance on COVID-19 are common throughout the region. Disability rights organisations have highlighted the information gaps in the disease, particularly the fact that this information reached people with disabilities later than everyone else, if at all.

COVID-19 task forces only acted after disability rights activists raised the alarm about information not being provided in an appropriate, disability-friendly format. This robbed people with disabilities of the opportunity to prepare themselves mentally in readiness for movement restrictions. Even where later on sign language interpretation was included on national television, persons with disabilities were still limited in accessing most of the information because of digital exclusion due to lack of access and affordability of ICT tools and equipment.

Although some governments have made efforts to ensure information is accessible through sign language interpretation, televised programmes remain inaccessible for persons with visual and hearing impairments because of the absence of transcriptions, subtitles and broadcasting of important information in local languages.

Access to information on COVID-19 is critical for persons with disabilities, who are at higher risk of developing severe symptoms. Persons with disabilities are less able to access healthcare services, and such services are seldom adapted to their needs, lacking in even basic facilities such as sign-language interpreters and ramps. Calling a healthcare service in the case of an emergency, already a difficult task for most, is even more difficult for some persons with disabilities, such as the deaf. Practical measures such as social distancing is also harder for persons with visual impairment and other disabilities who

The Impact Of COVID-19 On Persons With Disabilities In Southern Africa

COVID-19 task forces only acted after disability rights activists raised the alarm about information not being provided in an appropriate, disability-friendly format. This robbed people with disabilities of the opportunity to prepare themselves mentally in readiness for movement restrictions.

require support persons to assist them in their daily tasks.

During lockdowns and curfews, life was challenging, especially for persons with physical and psycho-social disabilities because there were no reasonable accommodations put in place to support them. There is no information and guidance to accommodate social distancing challenges that relate to persons with disability who need support. Activists noted that people with mental health conditions are not supported to protect themselves from COVID-19 infection. They are either ignored, beaten or chased away when they are found in the streets. Guardians and next of kin are abandoned to figure out how best to protect a member of the family who has a disability, without plans, information or mitigation tips.

In September 2020, a Malawi court declared the Malawi government's lockdown measures unlawful, on the basis that it failed to consider and make accommodation for the needs of citizens, including their right to access health services, to earn a livelihood and to education. The court further noted that when determining lockdown measures, the government ought to have considered the impact of the lockdown on domestic violence and abuse, especially in the case of women, children and persons with disabilities. This is in line with the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in Africa. The Protocol repeatedly emphasises that States must take effective measures to ensure persons with disabilities are protected from violence, both within and

outside the home. In contrast, the enforcement of lockdown regulations increased both domestic violence and police violence perpetrated against persons with disabilities. Women and girls with disabilities are also at increased risk of sexual abuse during a lockdown.

Access to justice for persons with disabilities worsened during the pandemic. Acts of violence against persons with disabilities are often met with impunity. Additional restrictions on movement make it even less likely that persons with disabilities will report the abuse and that the police will act on such reports. Delays in court hearings occasioned by the COVID-19 measures have created additional hardship for persons with disabilities who had urgent matters pending before the courts affecting their lives and livelihoods.

As countries re-opened schools, the school doors remained closed for children with disabilities. Whilst it may be justifiable for children with disabilities who have underlying health conditions not return to school due to risks of exposure, the inequalities of not providing plans for homeschooling for children with disabilities is glaring. According to activists, this had implications not only on their academic progression but also their health and physical rehabilitation. The children are missing out on stimulation therapy and would likely regress. Making matters worse, there are no mitigation plans and tips given to parents to support the stimulation process. Children not going to school puts a burden of care on parents, particularly women who are in most cases the sole carers of persons with disabilities. The result is families not coping on their own without the support of schools and other services. Social support services to mitigate the impact of COVID-19 measures were often not adequately geared towards households where there are members with disabilities, resulting in severe financial hardship for those families. None of these consequences was considered when making COVID-19 plans. Also, little effort was made to consult with representatives of persons with disabilities who can provide expert support in developing COVID-19 measures that recognise the needs of persons with disabilities.

Personal autonomy is something that has often been out of reach for persons with disabilities; it is a dream that many persons with disabilities have worked hard to attain over the years, despite longstanding inequalities. Coronavirus, with its strict rules of isolation, distancing, being locked in, has taken that autonomy away from most people with disabilities.

Anna Mmolai-Chalmers, Equality Programme, Southern Africa Litigation Centre

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LET'S SUPPORT EACH OTHER TO OVERCOME MENTAL ILLNESS

Most people experience mental health problems at some point in their lives, particularly in times of uncertainty such as now with the Coronavirus and its attendant lock downs that create isolation, loneliness, distress, anxiety and fear. We believe that mental health is the biggest unaddressed health challenge of our age. Intolerance and prejudice are also damaging to us all because those with mental health issues are unlikely to seek timely care and treatment for fear of being labelled and ostracised.

Mental health problems affect one in six of us at any one time and have huge costs. Mental health is shaped by the environment in which we live. We should therefore ensure that our environment protects and promotes mental health. Social networks are protective of mental health. The stronger an individual's social networks, the less likely they are to develop any of a range of mental health problems.

Physical activities also help. Physical activities like sports, exercise, dancing and even walking can help to prevent mental health illness. Studies show that physical activities can enhance mood, reduce the likelihood of developing depression and anxiety and ameliorate the symptoms of depression and anxiety. But violence, abuse, neglect and bullying cause mental health. Negative life events trigger mental health problems. Thankfully, certain traumatic life events involving violence, abuse and threatening behaviour can be prevented.

Work-related stress caused by lack of appropriate support from supervisors, colleagues and inability to talk about the problems can trigger mental health issues. Good line management and human resource practices that increase employee input and control can help to reduce work-related stress and subsequent mental health problems.



The president of Botswana Dr. Mokgweetsi Masisi officially launched the Gabz City Free wifi facility in Gaborone on 9 October 2020. The service is facilitated by the Gaborone city council with the support from BoflNet. Internet users in some areas in the city will get one hour free internet access from Gabz-city free wifi. The mayor of Gaborone Father Maphongo, minister of Minister of Transport and Communications Thulaganyo Segokgo were present among others during the launch. (Pic:MONIRUL BHUIYAN/PRESS PHOTO)

GBV: A SPIRITUAL PERSPECTIVE ON THE SCOURGE

Writing in his personal capacity, **RODRICK GAOLAPE MOGOTSI**, who is Youth President at Botswana Council of Churches, asserts that the fight against GBV must start with commitment to spiritual soundness by all of us and calls on churches to unite in prayer for the nation

It is without a doubt that just like Covid-19, Gender-Based Violence (GBV) is no longer a legislative issue but a spiritual problem. Our society is at its spiritual lowest and no one cares. The truth though is that there is no 'secular' strategy anywhere in the world that has ever legislated on spiritual matters with success!

Therefore, with rising numbers of GBV cases, all indications point to the need for a serious spiritual revival, but it seems not to matter. However, the question remains, when will it matter if it does matter when it matters?

It should matter when a politician elected by the people to represent the interests of the people becomes a perpetrator of GBV. It should matter when a police officer who is entrusted with the safety of a victim of GBV is also an accessory to the demon of violence.

It should matter when women themselves become advocates for marriages known to be the foundations of many other forms of abuse. It should also matter when faith-based organizations become institutions of worship where teachings that perpetuate GBV are taught. Some faith leaders too have lost their moral ground. "For they profess to know God, but they deny Him by their works. They are detestable, disobedient, and unfit for any good work" (Titus 1: 16).

Our youth no longer have trusted role models to look up to. Fathers can no longer be trusted with their daughters. But when Apostle Paul wrote to his minister friend in the book of Titus 2: 2-8, he reminded him that, "Older men are to be sober minded, dignified, self-controlled, sound in faith, in love, and in steadfastness." Sadly, our men have lost their senses. "Older women likewise are to be reverent in behaviour, not slanderers or slaves to too much. They are to teach what is good, and so train the young women to love their husbands and children, to be self-controlled, pure." Unfortunately, our women too have suffered a spiritual stroke. "... Likewise urge the younger men to be self-controlled".

Regrettably, our younger men have become their mothers' rap-

ists. "Show yourself in all respects to be a model of good works, and in your teaching show integrity, dignity, and sound speech that cannot be condemned, so that an opponent may not be put to shame, having nothing evil to say about us." From this scripture readings, it is quite evident that faith-based organisations such as Christianity have the ammunition to combat GBV but because we are in the last days, perilous times seem to have caught up with the Church and the Church has lost its sense of purpose.

If there was seriousness and willingness to obey the scriptures, communities of faith would play a unique and vital role in response to and elimination of Gender-Based Violence. Faith-based organizations like churches, and I can only speak of churches because I am a church member, carry the responsibility to protect and nurture the spiritual wellbeing of the community as a whole and its individual members. Victims and survivors of violence would turn to faith leaders for spiritual guidance and support because of the unique dimension they can add to the

sometimes overwhelming experience of seeking help. Faith leaders would be asked to provide spiritual guidance and counselling to both the victim and the perpetrator.

However, we have a very complex situation in our country of clergymen who also double as politicians and fail to speak truth to power when the system fails. Failure by faith leaders to choose between being true ambassadors of faith or to be clear devil's advocates is creating problems in the body of Christ. It is the duty of faith leaders to call politicians to order when there is disorder in their systems of governance or when laws of the country are anti christ.

Finally, the war against GBV will never be won in parliament or in any legislative chamber. The fight must start with commitment to spiritual soundness by all of us. May churches unite in prayer for the nation! Amen.

Rodrick Gaolape Mogotsi
Botswana Council of Churches Youth President
(Writes in personal capacity)

Regrettably, our younger men have become their mothers' rapists. "Show yourself in all respects to be a model of good works, and in your teaching show integrity, dignity, and sound speech that cannot be condemned, so that an opponent may not be put to shame, having nothing evil to say about us."

THE TAX
DIALOGUEJONATHAN
HORE

Most property owners presume that their tax affairs are very simple and as a result, some forego tax deductions linked to the cost of their properties. This results in such persons overpaying tax in the process. Tax has never been an easy subject as it has so many rules which are based on applicable laws. I want to demonstrate to you that most rental earners and property developers lose out on deductions which they could claim against their income, as provided for in the Income Tax Act (hereinafter, 'Act'). In this article, words importing the masculine shall be deemed to include the feminine.

There is no word such a tax depreciation in the Act but what you will find is what we call capital allowances. used for business.

Tax depreciation

There is no word such a tax depreciation in the Act but what you will find is what we call capital allowances. From the term, these are allowances against the capital invested by a landlord in the development of property which is lent out or used for business. The reason why tax depreciation is granted is simply in recognition of the fact that buildings depreciate over time, unlike land which never depreciates. Tax depreciation takes various forms and I will analyse each of them below.

Tribal areas and state grants

If you get land from a land board under the tribal land or state grant regimes, you technically do not own the land but the developments on it. These regimes also compel you to effect improvements on the land, failure of which the land may be repossessed. The improvements which arise from these development covenants are referred to as lease improvements. The Act allows a developer of land under these regimes to obtain tax depreciation over the lesser of 25 years or the lease period. Those who get to lease land from private owners and are compelled to effect improvements and are also eligible to tax depreciation.

Assuming that a developer spends P10m on lease improvements under a 15-year lease, he can reduce rental or other income by about P667 000 per annum (P10m/15 years), saving on tax in the process. I must point out that the tax depreciation is only granted to those who effect improvements on the land and is not available to anyone who purchases already developed property. The tax depreciation for the lease improvements can be claimed regardless of whether the property is used for residential or commercial purposes.

Freehold land

Freehold land bestows outright ownership on acquirers without a covenant to have developments made on the

Property Owners Ignore Tax Depreciation And Overpay Tax

land. Those who develop land on freehold property can claim tax depreciation over a maximum of 40 years, i.e. at 2.5% per annum. Industrial buildings such as manufacturing complexes qualify for tax depreciation over 30 years. As an example, if a property developer incurs P10m on buildings erected on freehold land, he will be entitled to tax depreciation of, for non-industrial developments, P250 000 per annum (P10m/40 years).

Residential property loses out

I must hasten to state that most property developers will not qualify for tax depreciation on the basis that they use the property to earn residential rent, especially for

developments on freehold land. However, residential developments under tribal or state grants are eligible for tax depreciation.

You overpaid tax!

Now, I am sure some of you are starting to realise that they have been overpaying tax over the years, especially those who built their properties under tribal and state grants arrangements. Well, I don't have to repeat myself, but tax is not a simple subject and you need guidance to get things done correctly. Tax gase ya bana! If you have been overpaying tax and ignoring what the law apparently puts on your table, maybe it's time to be friends with

Yours Truly, at a small fee though!

Well folks, I hope that was insightful and as Yours Truly says goodbye, remember to pay to Caesar what belongs to Caesar. If you want to join our Tax What-sapp group or to know more about our 8 Tax e-books, send me a text on the cell number below.

Disclaimer: Jonathan Hore is a Managing Tax Consultant at Aupracon Tax Specialists. This article is of a general nature and is not meant to address the particular matters of any person. Feedback can be relayed to jhore@aupracontax.co.bw or 7181 5836.



Notice: bank rate change

Subsequent to Bank of Botswana's bank rate adjustment by 50 basis points from 4.25% to 3.75%, Absa Bank Botswana Limited has reduced its Prime lending rate from 5.75% to 5.25%.

Deposit rates have been selectively reduced by the same margin. This change is effective from 8 October 2020.

For more information call 315 9575 or visit your nearest branch

MISA Urges Gov't To Subsidise Private Media

- Says publishers have lost up to 70 percent of their income
- Notes unfair competition by state media for advertising
- Media workers' union calls on publishers to introspect

SESUPO RANTSIMAKO

The Media Institute of Southern Africa (MISA) has called on the government to rescue the private media by extending subsidies in printing, wages and/or increased advertising.

Addressing Parliament on the plight of the private media under COVID-19, MISA Director Tefo Phatshwane said the proposition was being made in consideration of the negative effects of the pandemic. As a result of the harsh realities of the present times, one newspaper has had to go completely digital while the rest have cut circulation cumulatively by 40 percent as advertisers revised their spending priorities, Phatshwane pointed out.

He noted that some publishers lost as much as 70 percent of their income in the early days of lockdowns while some media companies implemented salary cuts, and reduced staff and the working week. “Considering this situation, we therefore request government to rescue this important sector in our democracy by extending subsidies in printing, wages or increased advertising in private media,” Phatshwane said.

“This proposition is in line with what

other progressive democracies are doing. We cite the case of South Africa where President Cyril Ramaphosa has acknowledged the media for playing a critical role in telling the COVID-19 story and promised that his government would increase advertising spending on the media to avoid job losses and help equip them to keep spreading the message.”

He pointed out that state media, which is under the purview of the Office of the President, enjoys a large share of the budget, footprint and advertising, disadvantaging the private media and the public at large in the process. He argued that the situation was not made any better for the private media that calls to liberalise state media by transforming it into public media for fair coverage and competition had gone unheeded.

“The fact on the ground is that private media is directly funding its competition through taxes,” Phatshwane emphasised. “State media advertising rates are below the market rate when they have a wider footprint and are not profit oriented. This situation is an anomaly for any progressive democracy and needs to be addressed urgently.

“There is a need to turn the state media, especially Btv, into a public broad-

caster with an independent board. Observations are that the state media currently acts more as a government mouthpiece than presenting balanced, investigative stories to the public.”

“State media advertising rates are below the market rate when they have a wider footprint and are not profit oriented. This situation is an anomaly for any progressive democracy and needs to be addressed urgently.”

Phatshwane noted that oftentimes there is public mistrust of journalism in Botswana around issues of sensationalism and fake news, especially at times of elections when media houses tend to take sides and use stories sponsored by politicians to discredit rivals. “The situation is not helped by the prevalence of social media where anyone can create a Facebook page and spread whatever propaganda they want,” he said. “We as MISA have a challenge to regulate and monitor such incidences mainly because of weak struc-

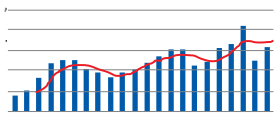
tures in place. We are of the view that all media practitioners should register with MISA to be regarded as legit.”

In a subsequent interview, the president of the Botswana Media Alliance Union (BOMAWU), Phillimon Mmeso, said instead of blaming external forces, publishers should introspect. “In the past, former president Ian Khama’s regime was blamed for all the problems of media houses. Now the world has been hit by COVID-19 and they want to blame it. Why did the publishers fail to pay well and invest in their staff in previous years when the industry was not struggling financially? I think MISA should start with the publishers,” Mmeso said.

Publisher and Managing Director of Dikgang Publishing, Titus Mbuya, said he needed to acquaint himself with the MISA proposition before he could make an intelligible comment. Even so, Mbuya said, taking subsidies from the government could have implications for press freedom. In his view, a good proposition would be for the private media to enjoy a flow of advertising from the government on business terms.

“It is great that the dialogue is coming to the forefront,” Mbuya said. “My inclination is that we do not want handouts from government. Rather, we should discuss a framework that mostly borders on government providing advertizing to keep the press alive. Government should not even be printing the Daily News when the private sector has printing firms.”





Foschini Botswana Wants To Acquire Jet Supermarkets

TLOTLO KEBINAKGABU

Retail clothing company, Foschini Botswana, is in plans to add to their list of stores by acquiring some parts of Jet Supermarkets in Botswana, a merger notice recently released by the Competition and Consumer Authority (CCA) says.

According to the notice, CCA has received a merger notification involving the acquisition of parts of the Jet business (consisting of certain assets and identified liabilities) conducted by Edcon Limited through Jet Supermarkets Botswana (Pty) Ltd in Botswana as a going concern by the Foschini Group Limited (TFG), acting through Foschini (Botswana) [Pty] Ltd.

The acquiring enterprise, Foschini Botswana, is wholly controlled by Foschini Retail Group (Pty) Ltd based in

South Africa. Foschini is in turn wholly owned by TFG, which is a public company listed on the Johannesburg Stock Exchange (JSE) Limited and is also based in South Africa.

TFG is a chain store group in Southern Africa and has diverse fashion retail brands in Botswana, offering clothing, jewellery, cell phones, accessories, cosmetics, sporting apparel and equipment, homeware and furniture, from value to upper market segments in larger urban centres across Botswana.

The Foschini Group has already managed to acquire Jet Stores in neighbouring South Africa after South Africa's Competition Tribunal gave the acquisition a green light. According to a South African publication, SA People News, the Foschini Group put an offer to buy Jet from Edcon for R480 million. "The cash-strapped Edcon

Holdings filed for bankruptcy protection in April after losing R2 billion during the hard lock down to curb the spread of COVID-19," the publication reported. "Now the merger means that at least 381 Jet stores will be retained and about 4 664 jobs saved."

Meanwhile, the target enterprise in Jet Business is solely controlled by Edcon Botswana, which is in turn controlled by Edcon, a company wholly owned by Edcon Consolidated Stores Limited, a limited liability company incorporated under the Laws of South Africa. Edcon's trading names are Edgars, Jet, Thank U, and Credit and Financial Services.

Jet Business is Edcon's discount department store division selling clothing, footwear, homeware and some cosmetics, as well as cellular products and targets lower-to-middle income consumers throughout Botswana.

Sefalana's Revenue Reaches P5.8 Billion

- Profit after tax stays at P259 million
- Group notes how it benefited from COVID-19 Relief Programme



TLOTLO KEBINAKGABO

Revenue at Botswana's largest retail supermarket by market capitalization, Sefalana Group, went up by 10 percent year-on-year to P5.8 billion in the

year that ended 30 April 2020, Sefalana's integrated 2020 annual report for 2020, released recently on the Botswana Stock Exchange, indicates.

According to the report, Sefalana generated a profit after tax of P259 million,

which is in line with that of last year. This is the retail supermarket that generated P135.6 million of profit from its Botswana businesses, a 4 percent increase on last year.

Sefalana Cash & Carry Limited contributed 57 percent and 26 percent of the group's revenue and profit before tax for the year, respectively. Turnover amounted to just over P3.3 billion, 13 percent up on the prior year.

At the beginning of the financial year, Sefalana operated four Hyper stores, 25 Cash & Carry stores and 26 supermarket retail stores across the country, giving the group a total of 55 stores in Botswana. During the year, Sefalana expanded its national footprint through the opening of an additional Sefalana Shopper retail store at Kazungula and a Sefalana Quick at Setlhoa.

Commenting on the retail supermarket's performance, Sefalana Group Managing Director, Chandra Chauhan, noted that during the first half of the year, they had noted positive signs of recovery in the market as consumer spending and confidence appeared to be improving. "Our customers began visiting our stores more often and basket sizes increased," he said. "We also noted a greater level of sophistication with our customer

base as they looked for a greater range and a one-stop-shopping experience. We are pleased to have identified this and been able to provide our valued customers with what they desire."

"The product mix also moved towards essentials and away from luxury high margin products. Net margin mix therefore reduced as a result."

Chauhan said the second half of the year was then presented with challenges as it was impacted by the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic with many of their businesses suffering as a consequence. "The uncertainty this caused resulted in a more cautious customer, initially forward buying in anticipation of the lockdown, and then reduced buying until after the lockdown had ended," he said. "The product mix also moved towards essentials and away from luxury high margin products. Net margin mix therefore reduced as a result."

He noted that Sefalana had benefited from

Choppies Looks Beyond The Solid Financial Results

- Financial experts express optimism
- Retail giant expected to calm investor fears



After posting strong financial results amidst COVID-19, Fast Moving Consumer Goods (FMCG) giant, Choppies Enterprises Limited, is fighting back to regain its lost glory. From oblivion, it seems Choppies is on the right track with an interesting set of financials that are welcome in enhancing the balance sheet. Results indicate a growth margin from 22.7 percent to 23.1 percent.

“The results will calm nerves amongst investors after what the retail giant went through in the past two years. It also gives hope to potential investors that are willing to take the risk. But the best thing would be to wait and see how things escalate

because it’s still early,” says a local financial expert familiar with the Choppies strategy.

With the positive prospects, Choppies management is looking forward to repositioning the retail outlet, especially after the past two years which were marred by boardroom fights, suspension from the Botswana Stock Exchange (BSE), and a controversial Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM). The repositioning is expected to bring back the glory days when Choppies was viewed as an exemplar of retail.

A company such as Choppies that earns continual profits is seen as a potentially good investment option. The current Choppies financial results have

been tipped to attract more investors who might see a good chance to earn an attractive return on the investment. This is because attracting investors depends on the ability to show the monetary benefits of investing in a business.

Says Choppies founding CEO, Ramachandran ‘Ram’ Otapathu: “We are particularly pleased (with) the strong growth and our ability to consolidate our continuing business in Botswana, Zambia, Namibia and Zimbabwe. Recognised corpo-

rate governance policies and structures are now in place. This continues to be the main focus area for the board. I am confident that the actions we have taken will reposition Choppies as the preferred retailer for mass grocery and financial services in the countries in which we operate, thereby maximising shareholder value.”

Upon release of the financial results, Ram noted that the Choppies was in a position for a retail transformation. This is in line with observations that

due to the COVID-19 pandemic, shopping behaviours have changed. This has led to retailers thinking of reshaping and transforming their businesses in order to stay afloat.

“New technologies and new ways to connect with consumers are transforming the retail sector,” Ram said. “To compete effectively, we should reimagine how we create and capture value. New retail models are arising out of new technologies and new ways to connect with consumers.”



INTEREST RATES FOR OCTOBER 2020

Following the 0.50% bank rate decrease announced by Bank of Botswana, First Capital Bank Botswana has revised the prime and investment rates as below:

| Type of Deposit Account | Nominal Interest Rates (Lowest to Highest) | Effective Interest Rates per Year | Minimum Opening Balance (Pula) |
|-------------------------|--|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| CURRENT | 0.00% | 0.00% | 1 000.00 |
| CALL | 0.00% - 1.25% | 0.15% - 1.26% | 10 000.00 |
| SAVINGS | 0.00% - 1.25% | 0.00% - 1.26% | 500.00 |
| 3 MONTHS | 1.25% | 1.76% | 1 000.00 |
| 6 MONTHS | 1.75% | 1.76% | 1 000.00 |
| 12 MONTHS | 2.50% | 2.50% | 1 000.00 |
| 24 MONTHS | 3.00% | 3.00% | 1 000.00 |
| OVER 24 MONTHS | 3.50% | 3.50% | 1 000.00 |
| PRIME RATE 5.25% | | | |

| Type of Deposit Account | Interest Rate per Year (USD) | Interest Rate per Year (ZAR) |
|-------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|
| CALL | 0.10% | 0.00% |
| 3 MONTHS | 0.10% | 2.50% |
| 6 MONTHS | 0.50% | 3.00% |
| 12 MONTHS | 1.00% | 3.50% |

***EFFECTIVE 9TH OCTOBER 2020**
***DEPOSIT INTEREST RATES SHOWN ARE INDICATIVE ONLY**
***FOR ALL INVESTMENTS ABOVE P1 MILLION, PLEASE CALL FOR SPECIAL RATES**

For firm rates please contact us on the following numbers:
CBD / Broadhurst: 318 5948 Francistown: 241 7689 /90 /91
Mogoditshane: 393 1324 Gaborone Main Branch: 390 7801 /03

Sefalana's Revenue

From Page 15

the government’s COVID-19 Relief Programmme where many donors selected them as their preferred supplier due to the competitive prices on offer. “We deliberately reduced margins on these orders to maximise the food being made available to those in need,” he said. “As a consequence, our turnover increased but at very slim margins.”

For Sefalana Group Chairman, Ponatshego Kedikilwe, the extent of the impact of the pandemic on the group’s operational and financial performance will depend on future developments and the treatment of COVID-19 worldwide. “No material impact has been noted for the financial year ended 30 April 2020 apart from a subdued customer demand as the national lockdown commenced in our last month of operations on 3 April 2020,” he said. “During this time, staff were enabled to work remotely from home and we continued to attend to our customers through online means.” Sefalana first operated outside Botswana in 2014 when they extended their business into neighbouring Namibia, opening their first store at Katima Mulilo in January of that year. In July 2014, Sefalana purchased the Metro Group’s (still in Namibia) 12 stores. In November 2015, they took over an additional

store in Swakopmund, bringing their total store complement to 14. According to the company’s website, they are still in a constant lookout in Namibia as they work towards their medium-term target of 20 stores across the country to the west of Botswana.

“We deliberately reduced margins on these orders to maximise the food being made available to those in need,” he said. “As a consequence, our turnover increased but at very slim margins.”

On top of the Namibian market, the company spread their investment wings to Lesotho on 2016, entering the mountainous country’s market through a takeover of its largest distribution and logistics company, TFS Wholesalers, Distribution and Logistics in Maseru. The retail giant earlier this year announced that they were tapping into the Australian market.

Sefalana has a total of 74 stores across three countries along with three motor dealerships, MAN, TATA and Honda.

Turnstar Expects COVID-19 To Impact Its Balance Sheet

Company says another impact was a P4m loss it registered when the US Dollar appreciated against the Botswana Pula during the half-year ended 31 July 2020.

GAZETTE REPORTER

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Turnstar Holdings Limited, the operators of the Game City Mall in Gaborone, say they expect poor performance in their group financial results for the six-month period ended 31 July 2020.

In efforts to combat the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic, the government implemented two lock downs, the first lock down was for six weeks from the beginning of April until mid-May 2020 while the second was in the first two weeks of August 2020. According to their trading statement published on the Botswana Stock Exchange (BSE) recently, both lock downs affected Turnstar which says there was a similar disruption of trade in Tanzania and Dubai.

"Turnstar considers its tenants as partners in its business and their existence and continuity are paramount in the success of Turnstar," says the company. "As such, a strategic decision was made to grant substantial rental concessions to our commercial tenants who could not operate during the first lock down."

"Turnstar considers its tenants as partners in its business and their existence and continuity are paramount in the success of Turnstar," says the company. "As such, a strategic decision was made to grant substantial rental concessions to our commercial tenants who could not operate during the first lock down. As such, the rental revenues of the group reduced by approximately P12,27 million (9.15 percent) during the half-year to 31 July 2020, compared to the corresponding half-year ended 31 July 2019."

Turnstar notes that the US Dollar appreciated against the Botswana Pula during the half-year ended 31 July 2020. "As such, the group had a net forex loss on the US\$ loan for the half-year 31 July 2020 of P4 million, compared to the net forex gain of P8.9 million in the corresponding previous half-year 31 July 2019 when Turnstar had a corresponding US \$ intercompany loan in Mlimani," the company states. "Stakeholders are reminded that the foreign exchange translation gains are unrealised and dependant on the US\$/BWP exchange rate at half-year end."

Meanwhile, the Group's profit before tax for the half year ended 31 July 2020 is expected to be lower by approximately 38 percent (P26.5 million) from P69,660 million for the half-year ended 31 July 2019 to approximately P43,167 million for the half-year ended 31 July 2020. "Of this, P12.27 million pertains to the rental rebates granted during the COVID-19 lockdowns, whilst P13 million relates to the unrealised forex exchange loss," Turnstar says.

But the company notes that the exchange difference on translating foreign operations has substantially increased from P20.1 million for the half-year ended 31 July 2019 to approximately P44.2 million for the half-year ended 31 July 2020. "As such, the profit after tax - total comprehensive income for the half-year ended 31 July 2020 is largely on par with that of the previous half-year ended 31 July 2019," says Turnstar.



FNBB Announces COVID-19 Loan Guarantee Scheme

First National Bank Botswana (FNBB) has recently partnered with the Botswana Government on a Loan Guarantee Scheme as part of broad measures to mitigate the economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. The Government COVID-19 Loan Guarantee Scheme is worth P1 billion and will be administered by Export Credit Insurance and Guarantee Company Botswana (BECI).

"At FNBB, we understand that the pandemic has introduced a new set of challenges for businesses. The purpose of the guaranteed facility is to fund working capital requirements to cover operating and administrative expenses to ensure stability of operations that were adversely affected by the COVID-19 pandemic", said First National Bank of Botswana, CEO Steven Bogatsu.

The Government of Botswana, as the guarantor, will cover up to 80% of the loan amount requested by FNBB. BECI will then regard the loan application valid until November 30th 2020. The tenor of the guarantee will provide cover for 24 months

from the date BECI approves. Under the Scheme, companies are eligible to borrow up to P25 million.

FNBB's participation in the Loan Guarantee Scheme, allows the Bank to offer businesses the financial support needed to sustain themselves as they navigate the challenges and changes the world is currently undergoing.

"At FNBB, we understand that the pandemic has introduced a new set of challenges for businesses. The purpose of the guaranteed facility is to fund working capital requirements to cover operating and administrative expenses to ensure stability of operations that were adversely affected by the COVID-19 pandemic", said First National Bank of Botswana, CEO Steven Bogatsu. Therefore, all businesses are eligible to apply with FNBB except businesses with direct Government shareholding and Government aided entities such as non-governmental organisations and Parastatal Entities.

"I would like to encourage eligible customers to take up this opportunity that provides financial relief to their businesses. Customers should engage their Relationship Managers or their branches for applications," concluded Bogatsu.

FNBB continues to take vast measures to ensure the economic relief and alleviate some of the negative impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic to affected individuals and businesses. The businesses who wish to apply should be tax compliant, duly registered with the Companies and Intellectual Property Authority (CIPA), have been in operation and bankable for at least a year prior to 03 April 2020, demonstrate how COVID-19 has disrupted their business, and provide a sustainable business model.

"Seipone: The Forbidden Mirror" Is An Adrenaline Rush

Inspired by the myths and stories about witchcraft, the film is set to be a rare find for thrill-seekers. StaffWriter **GOSEGO MOTSUMI** reports



A great thriller film involves the protagonist in constant and terrifying danger while juggling the concepts of life with good storytelling. The latest local film series, "Seipone: The Forbidden Mirror," which is scheduled for release early next month, is set to keep thrill-seekers on the edge of their seats and their adrenaline pumping.

Seipone chronicles the story of a forbidden mirror from the western ages that got into contact with a university student who is absorbed into the mirror's realm where a witch sucks souls to feed her evil. "We challenged ourselves to produce something different because we realised the drama genre is dominating our film spaces," said the producer of the film, Princess Mokokwe, in an interview.

The storyline follows a mirror from the 1800s given to a beautiful woman by missionaries. Obsessed with her looks, the woman uses black magic on the mirror to suck in young souls in order for her to stay youthful and beautiful forever. With numbers of missing children in the village escalating, the woman is burnt to death but her soul is stuck on the realm

of the mirror.

The main character, Rehano, who is a university student in the year 2020, is the witch's ticket out of the mirror world. "This storyline was inspired by the myths and stories told on the ground about witchcraft. This is something that people can relate to because we introduce characters such as 'Pinky Pinky' and 'Jane' that are always in the middle of horror stories or tales told in Botswana. This storyline will also bring to our international audiences the stories we grew up with," says Mokokwe.

In full compliance with the health guidelines, 80% of the 79 minute film was shot at the old buildings of Sebele in August 2020. Mokokwe says producing the thriller under the new normal of COVID-19 rules was a stretch as they had to spend more time on set and reduce the number of actors during scenes, which was a costly. "We worked with 16 actors," she explains. "The old buildings captivated us because it added to the aesthetics and we ended up with a beautiful production that we cannot wait to show to the world."

"This storyline was inspired by the myths and stories told on the ground about witchcraft. This is something that people can relate to because we introduce characters such as 'Pinky Pinky' and 'Jane' that are always in the middle of horror stories or tales told in Botswana."

"Seipone: The Forbidden Mirror" now has the option of being screened at cinemas or as sold content for any media platforms. The film targets different demographic groups from 45 to 65 years who can relate to tales of witchcraft in their upbringing and 18 to 35-year olds who can relate to the millennial lead character while the younger target market can enjoy the games and learn new tales told by the film.

Regarding the local film industry, Mokokwe says there is an increasing number of creatives willing to showcase their brilliant content that mostly does not make it to TV screens. She sees a need for more accessible platforms to support local content. "Most people are now giving up because they cannot survive with the talent they have," she asserts. "Most businesses do not understand the relationship between film and their enterprises. But the more we creatives make content that is consumed, the more we will grow."



Artists to Win Big In BTC Competitions

The annual BTC phonebook cover design and Thapong Artists of the Year Awards (TAYA) competitions are back again this year with mouth-watering cash prizes for winners.

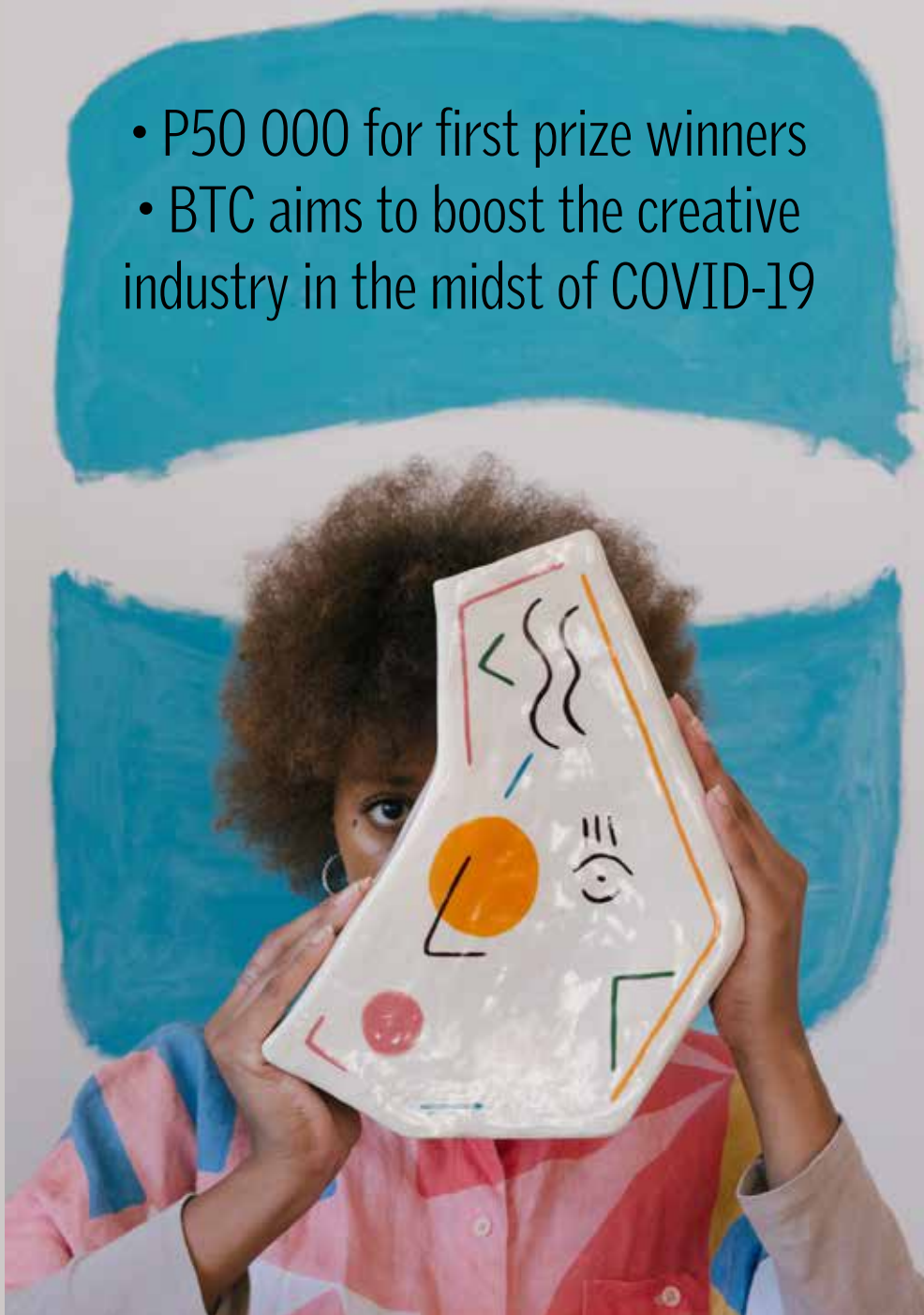
"We are excited to be collaborating with Thapong Visual Arts Centre in empowering artists yet again, especially this year when the creative industry has been hit hard by the COVID-19 pandemic," said BTC Corporate Communications and PR Manager, Golekanye Molapisi. "Most creatives have not had any income over the past nine months due to the pandemic. This is an opportunity for BTC and Thapong to give back and help cushion the impact that the virus has had on the industry."

Both competitions, attract upwards of P50 000 for the first prize. The 2021 Phone Book Cover design competition for young creatives is themed "Turning a Global Challenge into Local Opportunities with BTC@40" while the 2020 TAYA competition is styled "Go Jewa Art (Exhibit Your Best Work and Win) and targets professional artists.

The second prize for TAYA is P30 000 while winners for categories one, two and three will each receive P6 000. Other stakeholders, including the media, are also in with a P10 000 reward up for grabs. The 2nd and 3rd prizes for young creatives in the phonebook cover competition attract P25, 000 and P15 000 respectively. The closing date for the submission of artworks is 31 October 2020 at 5pm.

BTC, which is celebrating 40 years

- P50 000 for first prize winners
- BTC aims to boost the creative industry in the midst of COVID-19



of progress and social development this year, is keen to nurture local talent by offering artists a platform to unleash their potential, enabling them to make a living from their craft. Besides making public spaces more appealing and approachable, BTC believes that unleashing the artistic talent that abounds in Botswana can help the country to become the hub of the creative arts industry in the SADC region.

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

The BTC Foundation, which is a vehicle through which Botswana Telecommunications Corporation Limited (BTC) delivers its corporate social responsibility mandate, wants to develop the visual arts at the grassroots level and allow established artists to showcase their creativity towards recognition for their work.

Last year, the BTC Phone Book Cover Competition was won by Lambert Baikakedi of Kgari Sechele II Senior Secondary School who walked away with P40 000. Phenyo Moathodi was crowned the winner of the 2019 Thapong Artist of The Year Award (TAYA), beating a host of other entrants to take home P45 000.

"Mmogo" Is A An Exhibition About Celebrating Diversity And Inclusion

The Lesbians, Gays and Bisexuals of Botswana (LEGABIBO), in collaboration with the Art Residency Centre (ARC), will host a visual art exhibition on 31 October 2020 under the theme "Mmogo," meaning together and united.

The art exhibition comes at a time when there is a lot of uncertainty in the world due to the global pandemic of COVID-19, many forms of social injustice prevailing in societies, gender-based violence peaking, violence towards sexual and gender minorities, and youth unemployment, among others.

The exhibition is a way of showcasing how everyone can play a role in promoting justice and equity in society and is also aimed at inspiring communities to create a sense of belonging and unity. It therefore comes with the intention to create space for celebration of diversity and inclusion for all.

"This collaboration means creating spaces for dialogue and the visibility of the LG-

BTQI+ community building towards an all-inclusive political, social and economic environment where human rights are core to the development of our society," said Transgender and Gender diverse activist, Nelly Thobega.

In keeping with the thematic focus, "Mmogo," LEGABIBO believes that all people are born equal in dignity and rights and that this deepens Botswana's national democratic project towards liberty, justice and security for all. The collaboration with ARC is one way that they are working towards inclusion and connecting diverse communities for a mature, progressive and inclusive modern society.

The exhibition is open to everyone who loves art, social justice and unity regardless of sexual orientation and gender identity. Interested participants can send pictures of their artwork to arcbotswana@gmail.com.

'mmogo'
an exhibition of visual art



Creatives Likely To Get Their Wish

- BEPA is optimistic that patrons will soon be swinging on the dance floor
- Capacity of venues to determine the number of patrons



GOSEGO MOTSUMI

Members of the creative industry finally met with the Presidential COVID-19 Task Team last week over the safe re-opening of the events sector, *Time Out* has established. According to the president of the Bo-

tswana Entertainment Promoters Association (BEPA), Gilbert Seagile, the task force is awaiting a proposal that BEPA is putting together with the help of the Ministry of Youth Empowerment, Sports and Culture Development (MYSC) after which patrons may return to swing on the dance floor.

“We are very hopeful,” Seagile told *Time Out*. There is a light at the end of the tunnel. For now I cannot disclose the details of the proposal that we are to submit before we finalize the process of re-opening. All I can say is that it will be completed soon because the task force wants a well thought out plan, which

we will deliver. BEPA and BOMU are working on this with MYSC.”

Seagile says the proposal will include guidelines for protection of patrons from infection with COVID-19. During the meeting, creatives advocated for the numbers to be determined by the capacity of venues as opposed to a pre-fixed and standard number of patrons. Seagile noted that having the capacity of venues determining the number of patrons complies with the Interim WHO Mass Gatherings Guidelines that have been adopted by other countries.

“Dr Kereng Masupu (the head of the task force) advised us to work with MYSC who will be held accountable,” he explained. “The ministry has also welcomed the idea of working with us. It also came to our attention that the COVID-19 Task Team wasn’t aware of our request to meet with them and we are glad we pushed for it to happen.”

Asked further about their proposal, Seagile said hosting events amid COVID-19 requires the combined efforts of all stakeholders to reopen the industry. This includes the primary requirements of health and safety protocols, social distancing arrangements and adhering to extra precautions to ensure a healthy and safe environment.

“One of the areas we would like to focus on is to eliminate fly-by-night promoters who could ruin the whole arrangement chasing a quick buck,” the BEPA president said. “Events are going to be certified so that we don’t have too many gatherings at the same time everywhere. Event tickets will also be sold online where patrons’ data will be captured to make it easy for contact tracing.”

BEPA has been driving for a resumption of the events sector for some time. During these unprecedented times, the industry has been driving the new normal through virtual events, which does not seem to match the conventional way of hosting events.

Is “Xola Moya Wami” This Year’s Festive Song?

By the sound of things, it could well be

GOSEGO MOTSUMI

Hot on the heels of the global hit song, “Jerusalem,” featuring Master KG, South African vocalist Nomcebo Zikode’s latest single titled “Xola Moya Wami,” released on 29 August, is the talk of the town that is dominating the local radio airwaves where it is busting the charts. Which begs the question: is it one of this year’s festive season songs?

This is because the festive season is fast approaching and music artists are hard at work to deliver a festive “theme song” that enthusiasts can jam to and remember the year end festivities by.

Master KG teamed up with Zikode again on “Xola Moya Wami” and both artists are basking in the song’s success, witness how the smash-hit recently raked in more than five million views YouTube! On her Instagram pages, the vocalist has shared that the song - which remains one of the biggest in South Africa and enjoys an outpouring of support from Batswana - had gone gold.

“Xola Moya Wami” is Nguni for “Be at peace, my spirit.” The lyrics tell the story of someone with a hard life whose spirit still wants to do good. South Africans, and now the world, love Zikode’s music for its combination of house beats and gospel-inspired vocals, hence the catchy dance song has made it to most playlists.

Before the success of the global anthem, “Jerusalem,” which has amassed over 170 million views on its official music video on YouTube, hit-maker Zikode had collaborated with DJ Ganyani on another dance hit with religious lyrics titled “Emazulwini.” Similarly, “Jerusalem” follows the same religious lyrics, as it is a song about being led to one of the principal cities of the Holy Land, Jerusalem.

Since its release at the end of 2019, “Jerusalem” has become a global hit, reaching the top five on music charts in international music charts. It reached number 4 on Billboard’s World’s Digital Song Sales Chart. It became the most Shazammed song in history in September.



Play Lab Introduces Good Old Messy Play To Kids In BW

The idea is child-led messy play that allows children to work at their own pace with no end goal or failure, in turn building self-esteem

GOSEGO MOTSUMI

Messy play is crucial and allows children to use all their senses to discover and explore their environment. This view is expressed by the founder of sensory messy play company, Play Lab, Lianne Godfrey, who says that in today's age where children are not receiving enough sensory input and end up requiring therapy and early intervention, they learn best through the good old fashioned play.

"We encourage messy play consistently from as young as 8 months old," she said in an interview. "Messy play develops areas such as motor skills, physical development, speech and language, mathematics and science, understanding the world, socialization, hand-eye coordination, concentration, and creativity. The importance of messy play should not be underestimated."

Over the years, children's playtime has deteriorated and is continually declining partly because adults have exerted increasing control over children's activities and their obsession with technology. The Capetonian concept, Play Lab, which is now extending its footprint in Botswana, uses natural taste - safe and environmentally-friendly ingredients for little hands, mouths and sensitive skins. They focus on child-led messy play that allows children to work at their own pace with no end goal or failure, in turn building self-esteem.

Lebogang Molapisi is the new owner of Play Lab Botswana. She was instantly attracted to the prospect of owning and running her own Play Lab children's educational business. Molapisi saw a niche market

opportunity and jumped on the prospect. After doing their market research, they discovered that there was a great need for sensory activities in Botswana.

"We have been contacted by numerous schools and therapists wanting to collaborate," Godfrey said. "There is a wonderful market for party entertainment and a gap for creative activities for young children. Since advertising our launch in Botswana, we have been overwhelmed by the response and hype."

Founded in 2016 due to an overwhelming need for sensory messy play activities for young children and being an educational professional in the industry for over 20 years, Godfrey, who gained her degrees from the UK, noticed an increasing rise in sensory difficulties among young children. While based in Cape Town, she searched for a fun messy play activities for her child but there were no options on offer.

"As a result, I developed the Play Lab sensory programme based on my extensive experience, the international UK curriculum and early years' intentions as a guideline," she said. "The business proved to be a tremendous success, thus expanding rapidly to Johannesburg."

Play Lab caters to families looking at hosting educational, fun, and memorable birthday parties for ages 8 months to 10 years old. Their weekly workshops and school visits expose children to consistent messy play. They collaborate with occupational therapists, speech and language therapists, schools, party venues, and event companies.

Due to COVID-19 protocols, Digital



Messy Play Parties will be on offer to start, followed by all their exciting activities and product lines. The digital parties are aimed at children from 1 year to 12 years old and delivered directly to their homes. Each guest receives their

very own "Messy Play Kit" and Molapisi directs the party live as a group via Zoom. Bookings will soon be available for Messy Play Parties with strict health and safety protocols in place to ensure that all guests and staff are safe.

UK Firm Acquires 50% Stake In Kavango Resources

As in 21st September United Kingdom based company Power Metal Resources plc has acquired a 50% stake in Kavango to form a new strategic joint venture which secures four exploration licenses in Botswana.

On a statement he released on the company account Power Metal Resources CEO Paul Johnson said the four exploration sites licenses are at Kalahari Copper Belt and Ditau Camp Project.

Johnson said this is a step for the company to increase their activity in Botswana. In 2016 also along with Metal tigers Power Metal Resources made a major copper discovery, said the CEO.

“I will be working proactively with Kavango to launch exploration programs as soon as possible covering the new exploration opportunity,” said Johnson.

Power Metal Resources plc is a London listed metal exploration and development company which mainly focus on cobalt, copper, gold, lithium, nickel and PGM. It has further interests in countries such as USA, Canada, Tanzania, Australia, Cameroon, the DRC and Botswana (Molopo farms).

“I will be working proactively with Kavango to launch exploration programs as soon as possible covering the new exploration opportunity,” said Johnson.

Johnson also said they are looking at enlisting the new joint venture on a major exchange either in Canada or in the UK.

In an interview, CEO of Kavango Resources also a London listed company focused on mining exploration in Botswana Michael Foster said the new strategic joint venture means consolidation of common interests, more availability of capital for exploration and acceleration of their work in the company and Botswana.

Foster said the reason for the merger was to capitalize on economies of scale benefiting from consolidating some of their interests.

Foster further said they have started working on the Kalahari Copper Belt, based in Ghanzi and there will not be any changes to staff or managers of the Kavango Resources plc.



TENDER BUAN 9/2020: CLOUD DISASTER RECOVERY PLAN FOR BOTSWANA UNIVERSITY OF AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES

NAME AND ADDRESS DETAILS OF PROCURING DEPARTMENT AND ITS AGENT PREPARING THE DOCUMENTS

| PROCURING ENTITY | AGENT |
|---|---|
| BOTSWANA UNIVERSITY OF AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES (BUAN) | MANAGER, PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY PRIVATE BAG 0027 GABORONE TEL: 3650246 FAX: 3928753 |

TENDER BUAN 9/2020

TENDER NOTICE and INVITATION TO TENDER

Tender BUAN 9/2020 CLOUD DISASTER RECOVERY PLAN FOR BOTSWANA UNIVERSITY OF AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES

The Procuring Entity is Botswana University of Agriculture and Natural Resources (BUAN)
1. Tender offers are invited for the Cloud Disaster Recovery Plan for BUAN for a period of 3 years.

- Method of Procurement:** Open Domestic Bidding.
- The Procuring Entity is Botswana University of Agriculture and Natural Resources (BUAN)
 - Tenderers must, in order to be considered for the award of the contract, be registered with the **Public Procurement and Asset Disposal Board (PPADB)** in the following categories:
Code: 120 ICT Technical Support Services
Sub-code: 02 Server Management and maintenance Services
03 Data Center Maintenance & Hosting Facilities
 - Evaluation Method:** Quality and Cost Based Selection, Services
 - Submission Method:** Dual Envelope
 - Tender Validity:** 120 days
 - The physical address for collection of tender documents is:

Manager, Procurement and Supply
Botswana University of Agriculture and Natural Resources
Block 304
Office No. 2
Content Farm, Sebele, Gaborone

Documents may be collected during working hours between **08:30 and 12:30 and 13:45 and 15:30** hours on weekdays with effect from **12th October 2020 to 19th November 2020** at a **Non-Refundable Fee P 200.00**

100% youth owned companies will purchase the document at half price (P100.00).
8. Queries relating to the issue of these documents may be addressed to **Manager Procurement and Supply** at Tel: **3650246/177/384** Fax: **3928753** E. Mail: purchasing@buan.ac.bw before 1630hrs on **30th October 2020**.

9. The closing date and time for receipt of tender offers is **19th November 2020 at 1100 hours in Office 2 Block 304 Botswana University of Agriculture and Natural Resources, Content Farm, Sebele, Gaborone**.

Late tender, telephonic, fax, or electronic offers will not be accepted Notwithstanding anything in the foregoing, the University is not bound to accept the lowest or any tender offer, nor incur expenses in the preparation thereof.





Wilderness Safaris Contributes to Comprehensive Bird-Mapping Survey in Botswana

October 2020 – As part of Wilderness Safaris’ ongoing commitment to conservation and biodiversity protection in northern Botswana, the company’s first comprehensive summer bird-mapping survey was completed earlier in the year, with 293 bird species recorded in the Linyanti and Vumbura concessions from almost 3 000 individual field observations.

This vital data will contribute to a wider study by the Second Southern African Bird Atlas Project (SABAP2), the most critical bird monitoring project in the African region.

“In time, it will contribute towards a better understanding of the bird species and numbers occurring in our Botswana areas of operation, as well as seasonal dispersal trends. Unless you know the range of a species and how it is changing, you cannot determine its conservation status. The results of such a project may well include red-listing of certain species, and selecting sites and habitats critical to bird conservation”, explains Martin Benadie, Wilderness Safaris Group Biodiversity Coordinator. “The areas covered in our survey received some good rains that proved excellent for birdlife in general, for both resident species as well as passage migrants”, he continues.

The project, initially started in 2018, also includes the Jao Reserve and Chitabe Concession. In order to record as many bird species as possible within a defined area, zones 9 km long and 7 km wide, called pentads, are mapped out. Throughout Botswana there are 7 187 pentads, relying on competent birders and citizen scientists to follow the SABAP2 guidelines before sharing their sightings. However, as many of these areas are very remote, and others have restricted access due to their low impact ecotourism model, only 603 pentads have been covered to date.

“There is a pressing need for more data collection in Botswana. All other conservation initiatives depend on the results of the bird atlas. To gather meaningful data, atlas coverage needs to be as thorough as possible, so ideally, each pentad should have a baseline of at least four comprehensive check lists, over several years and seasons. It is thus imperative to continue to survey at all times and further atlas-ing during various seasons of Botswana will be undertaken”, concludes Martin.



TENDER BUAN 10/2020: SUPPLY & DELIVERY OF LABORATORY ACCESSORIES/ACCESSORIES/EQUIPMENT AT BOTSWANA UNIVERSITY OF AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES TO THE CHEMISTRY, BIOLOGY, MICRO-BIOLOGY AND BIO-CHEMISTRY LABORATORIES AND LECTURE HALLS

NAME AND ADDRESS DETAILS OF PROCURING DEPARTMENT AND ITS AGENT PREPARING THE DOCUMENTS

| PROCURING ENTITY | AGENT |
|---|---|
| BOTSWANA UNIVERSITY OF AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES PRIVATE BAG 0027 GABORONE TEL: 3650100 FAX: 3928573 | BOIPUSO-DEWITT CONSULTING P O BOX 60317 GABORONE TEL: 3170672 FAX: 3170689 |

| TENDER BUAN | TENDER NOTICE and INVITATION TO TENDER |
|-------------|--|
|-------------|--|

TENDER BUAN SUPPLY, DELIVERY, INSTALLATION AND COMMISSIONING OF LABORATORY ACCESSORIES/EQUIPMENT AT BOTSWANA UNIVERSITY OF AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES TO THE CHEMISTRY, BIOLOGY, MICRO-BIOLOGY AND BIO-CHEMISTRY LABORATORIES AND LECTURE HALLS

1. Tender offers are invited from 100% Citizen owned companies for **the Supply, Delivery, installation and Commissioning of Laboratory ACCESSORIES/EQUIPMENT at Botswana University of Agriculture and Natural Resources to The Chemistry, Biology, Micro-Biology and Bio-Chemistry Laboratories and Lecture Halls**

Method of Procurement: Open Domestic Bidding.

2. The Procuring Entity is Botswana University of Agriculture and Natural Resources (BUAN)
3. Tenderers who are domiciled in Botswana must, in order to be considered for the award of the contract, be registered with the **Public Procurement and Asset Disposal Board** in the following categories:

Code:211 General Supplies

Sub code: 09 Laboratory equipment and accessories

4. **Evaluation Method:** Least Cost Selection, Supplies

5. **Submission Method:** Single Envelope

6. **Tender Validity:** 120 days

7. The physical address for collection of tender documents is:

Botswana University of Agriculture and Natural Resources
Manager Procurement & Supply
Block 304
Office No. 2
Content Farm, Sebele Gaborone

Documents may be collected during working hours between **08:30 to 12:30 and 13:45 to 15:30** hours on weekdays with effect from **14th October 2020 to 13th November 2020 at a Non-Refundable fee of P200.00.**

100% youth owned companies will purchase the document at half price (P100.00)

8. Queries relating to the issue of these documents may be addressed to **Manager Procurement & Supply at Tel: 3650246/177/384 Fax: 3928753 E. Mail: purchasing@buan.ac.bw before 1630 hours on the 28th October 2020.**

9. The closing date and time for receipt of tender offers is **13th November 2020 at 1100 hours in Office 2 Block 304 Botswana University of Agriculture and Natural Resources, Content Farm, Sebele, Gaborone.**

Late tender, telephonic, fax, or electronic offers will not be accepted.



Children Want to Learn More From Their Parents

Botswana's children want to hear more about the important issues in life from their parents. This is according to focus groups run throughout the country, which identify that children do not believe their parents speak to them as much as they want to be spoken to about issues such as sex, their bodies, violence and more.

Children, particularly those aged 9-16 years, are exposed to increasingly more media and information than their peers in the past. From here lays learnings, good and bad, on a variety of issues which influence children in their formative pre-teen and teen years; however, the role and influence of a parent is, in many ways, the best and most substantive towards meaningful growth.

A re bueng le bana ba rona.... we want all Batswana to recognise and understand that we empower our children more and better equip them for brighter futures when we take time to talk to them about the big issues. They need to hear from their parents and guardians on matters that have a significant impact on their lives. Studies show that children who are engaged by their parents in this way regularly and effectively have better adolescent outcomes.

Children are more able to confidently navigate and deliver positive behaviours, life practices and futures when we create platforms for dialogue and progressive action for and with them.

Some of the ways parents can approach talking to children include the following:

- Creating safe environments for children to be honest and open
- Making clear that children can trust their parents/guardians
- Allowing meal-time conversation to focus on current issues in the world and the community
- Asking children what they know and want to know about sex and their bodies, about health, about appropriate and inappropriate behaviours
- Asking children if they understand their rights and sharing these simply
- Listening as well as talking, so that children feel **heard**

Children are more able to confidently navigate and deliver posi-

tive behaviours, life practices and futures when we create platforms for dialogue and progressive action for and with them. It is time to change the narrative our children face. *A re bueng ...*

A re bueng is a campaign that is part of PEPFAR's Faith and Communities Initiative, brought by the United States Government and NAHPA. It encourages conversations that matter.



REFRESH YOUR CAREER

Do you want to start an exciting career in the Bottling Industry and become one of our specialists?



Financial Accountant

PRINCIPLE ACCOUNTABILITIES

The primary role of the Financial Accountant is to provide deep financial expertise and knowledge across the financial accounting accountabilities. The GL Accountant, Accounts Payable Accountant, Cashbook Accountant and Debtors Team Lead will report into this role.

- **Accountability 1- Balance Sheet & asset accounting, including budgeting and forecasting**
 - Plan and manage the annual and 5 year budgeting process. Done in partnership with and per the timelines of the Group Office.
 - Plan and manage the balance sheet commentary and reporting process
 - Provide insightful, timeous financial reporting
 - Overall process management of approved capital investments
 - Review and control of balance sheet reconciliation process
 - Custodianship of the fixed asset governance process as agreed with the Governance and Risk Manager
 - Manage and plan fixed asset verification and reconciliation
 - Oversee completion of the financial hard close reporting requirements
- **Accountability 2-Specialist activities:**
 - Deliver the Working Capital objectives
 - Manages and ensures that customer collection targets are met, reduce the company's risks and minimise losses
 - Manage and deliver the Accounts payable & Procure to Pay processes with the operational teams including the performance reporting and query resolution
 - Manage and deliver internal control systems
 - Relevant financial and taxation legislation compliance
 - Ensure CCB Treasury mandates and strategies are executed and complied with
 - Tax accounting: ensuring tax mandates and strategies are executed and delivered
 - Manage the Import and Export process, including complete compliance and timely execution of legislative requirements
- **Functional Competencies**
 - Customer/client service orientation,
 - Business/Finance acumen,
 - Problem solving & analysis,
 - Exceptional accounting and reporting skills,
 - Ability to prioritise and meet deadlines,
 - Ability to manage complexity and deal with multiple stakeholders,
 - Strong knowledge on statutory requirements
- **Education**
 - Degree in accounting and finance, qualified CA/ACCA/CIMA and member of BICA
 - 5 – 10 years in accounting or auditing environment, FMCG experience an added advantage
 - Experience in managing policies and the chart of accounts
 - Strong knowledge on statutory requirements

Please apply to **The Country Human Resources Manager**, P.O. Box 202003, Gaborone. All applications must be accompanied by an up to date CV with valid and certified certificates. You can also hand deliver at: Plot 50642, Monamori Road, Broadhurst Industrial Estate, Block 3 Gaborone. Applications can be sent to www.ccbgroup.com

Enquiries: Human Resources Department

Important: Applications close at 17h00 on **16 October, 2020**. Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted • Consider your application as unsuccessful if no feedback is received within one month of closing date • No documents will be returned.

General Requirements for all positions: Written & oral ability of English • Computer skills in Microsoft Office applications • Microsoft Dynamics/Syspro/Floccentric experience would be a definite advantage • Code B driver's license • Botswana Citizenship only.



Coca-Cola Botswana Bottling Company is an Equal Opportunity Employer.



Vela Farm Holdings Breaks Ground In Animal Feeds And The Hatchery Supply

PATIENCE LARONA SEGOKGO

The owner and founder of Vela Farms, Bofelo Kobue says hatchery and animal feeds business has great potential in enhancing Botswana's food basket and the country's economy more so that, citizens are currently keen to produce local products. Kobue established his farming business last year, where he started his farming business supplying animal feeds for pigs,

goats, sheep, Tswana breed chickens and broilers with the aim of supplying at an affordable price. "With the passion I have for farming, I started Vela farm Holdings June 2019 with the aim of providing animal feeds at an affordable price and filling the gap the in poultry industry especially on the local breeds as they were not reproducing effectively," He said. "After observing that Batswana were struggling to purchase animal feeds due to high prices, I saw it fit to start produc-

ing my brand "Moroko".Unlike the native moroko that we know, I decided to use modernized feeds that comprise of crushed yellow and red maize, sunflower, wheat, sorghum and soy beans and I can attest that Batswana are testifying of good results to their livestock. Farmers are buying moroko at a high rate. We first had a minimal supply where we supplied Gaborone and surrounding areas. Due to our social media platforms, we are now receiving orders as far as the northern and central part of Botswana" he added. With the ambition and aspiration of becoming a farmer, Kobue says he drew his inspiration from aiming to be the first young farmer to supply animal feeds companies with locally produced feeds. He



ETHICS HOTLINE

FREE - Call Number

16133

Accessible to all local networks

NBFIRA@tip-offs.com

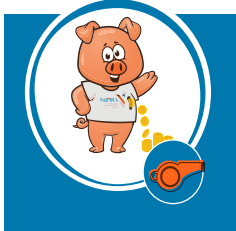
www.tip-offs.com

further noted that what distinguishes his feeds from others is the abundance of chicken reproduction, dairy and it suitable for both old and young animals. Though he might have managed to start his business, Kobue says the kick start of was a struggle as he had to depend on his family for a startup capital which was not enough to sustain the growth of the business. However, Kobue told *the Gazette* that he later on merged animal feeds supply and hatchery business to expand. He noted that lack of suitable machinery was a struggle, nonetheless, Vela Farm holdings managed to accumulate an incubator that carries one thousand and fifty six eggs. Though the business is still growing one of Vela holdings' challenges is funds and suitable environment for a hatchery and animal feeds farm. "It is every business owner's dream to expand their business but with less income or sustained income the business becomes stagnant. Up to date, Vela Farms has not been able to buy feeds processing machinery but had I accumulated enough funds, the business would have been far. With the previous lockdowns, the business has been negatively impacted as we lost clients due to the COVID-19 laws and restrictions," he added. Kobue who is operating his business at his home in Mmopane Block 1, noted that he does not have any employees at the moment as the business is still growing but intends to employ his fellow Batswana as the business expands further. "As Vela Farms, we intend to create employment for Batswana and guarantee to adhere to the employment act and industry remunerations," he said. He further stated that, due to some of poultry law enforcement, his business has been greatly disadvantaged, in terms of the hatchery business as there are some fertilized eggs that he gets from his supplier whose supply capacity has been low due to price increment, high demand and supply of fertilized eggs. Despite the fact that there is low income and covid-19 in place, this business is not seasonal as farmers tend to purchase feeds during times such as this. However, Kobue says social media platforms have been the voice of the business during this pandemic as they had potential clients around the country. As a strategist, Kobue noted that he does not hold any agricultural qualifications and currently relies on the internet on how to run a poultry.

It's easy to stand with the crowd...

It takes **COURAGE** to make a stand.

Be Part Of The Solution



Integrity | Transparency | Fairness | Accountability | Diligence

Managed by:
Deloitte.



Working Towards Financial Stability

Wealth & Finance Magazine Announces the Winners of the 2020 FinTech Awards



United Kingdom, 2020-
Wealth & Finance mag-
azine have announced
the winners of the 2020 FinTech
Awards.

FinTech is an ever-evolving – and fast-moving – industry, defined primarily by constant innovation and creativity. Whilst ‘disruption’ has almost been reduced to an oft-stated buzzword, it would be fair to describe the Fin-Tech industry as such. After all, the financial landscape is dominated by long-standing brick and mortar establishment, and new ground is ripe for the taking for those with the expertise, experience and drive to take it.

At launch, Awards Coordinator Chloe Smart commented: “I offer a sincere congratulations to all of the winners of this year’s programme. It has been wonderful to correspond with you all, and I hope you have a fantastic rest of the year ahead.”

Now in its fourth year, Wealth & Finance magazine’s FinTech Awards was launched to recognise the firms that are redefining finance and banking for the modern age, and for the modern consumer. At launch, Awards Coordinator Chloe Smart commented: “I offer a sincere congratulations to all of the winners of this year’s programme. It has been wonderful to correspond with you all, and I hope you have a fantastic rest of the year ahead.” To learn more about our deserving award winners and to gain insight into the working practices of the “best of the best”, please visit the Wealth & Finance website (<http://www.wealthandfinance-news.com/>) where you can access the winners supplement.



CRESTA
MARAKANELO LIMITED

(Incorporated in the Republic of Botswana on 23rd August 1979 registration number BW00001308618)
(Share code: CML ISIN: BW 000 000 0892)

NOTICE TO SHAREHOLDERS

The directive of the Non-Bank Financial Institutions Regulatory Authority of 2014 and the provisions in the Securities Act of 2018 require shareholders who hold their shares by way of certificate, to dematerialise such shares by way of opening a securities account, in their name, with the Central Securities Depository of Botswana (“CSDB”).

A number of Cresta Marakanelo Limited shareholders continue to hold their shares in a certificated manner and are thus requested to take immediate steps to open a securities account with CSDB by contacting any one of the stockbrokers registered with the Botswana Stock Exchange, whose details are provided herein. By dematerialising their shares, shareholders will also be able to receive their dividends electronically in their bank account.

We also urge those shareholders who have opened accounts with CSDB but have not provided their bank account details, to kindly update their records with their respective stockbrokers.

CONTACT DETAILS OF REGISTERED STOCKBROKERS

| | |
|--------------------------|----------|
| Imara Capital Securities | 318 8886 |
| Motswedi Securities | 318 8627 |
| Stockbrokers Botswana | 395 7900 |

For and on behalf of the Board of Directors.
13 October 2020

Registered Office

2nd Floor, Marula House,
Prime Plaza, New CBD,
Plot No. 74538
Gaborone,
Botswana

Postal Address

Private Bag 00272,
Gaborone,
Botswana

Sponsoring Broker



Plot 113, Unit 30,
Kgale Mews.
Private Bag 00223,
Gaborone, Botswana

Transfer Secretaries



DPS Consulting Services (Pty)
Limited. Plot 50371,
Fairground Office Park.
P.O. Box 294, Gaborone

Cristiano Ronaldo Tests Positive For Coronavirus, Portugal Confirm



The Juventus forward Cristiano Ronaldo has tested positive for coronavirus, the Portuguese Football Federation has confirmed.

The 35-year-old is said to be “doing well, without symptoms, and in isolation”, with no further positive tests reported in the squad before Portugal’s Nations League match against Sweden on Wednesday.

The PFF confirmed in a statement: “Following the positive case, the remaining players underwent new tests this Tuesday morning, all with a negative result, and are available to Fernando Santos for training this afternoon, in Cidade do Futebol.”

The PFF confirmed in a statement: “Following the positive case, the remaining players underwent new tests this Tuesday morning, all with a negative result, and are available to Fernando Santos for training this afternoon, in Cidade do Futebol.”

Ronaldo had played in both of Portugal’s matches so far during the international break. The former Manchester United and Real Madrid forward started against Spain in Lisbon, coming off late on during the second half of the goalless draw, and then played all of the Nations League A3 fixture against France in Saint-Denis on Sunday. He had scored in each of his Serie A appearances this season, including two goals in the 2-2 draw against Roma on 27 September.

Earlier this month Napoli failed to show up for a match at Juventus after their local health authority ordered players to stay at home following positive Covid-19 results returned by the club’s Piotr Zielinski and Elif Elmas. Despite facing the prospect of a 3-0 walkover victory being awarded by Serie A to Juve, legal representatives of Napoli said they would resist this outcome.

In the runup to that scheduled fixture, two non-playing or coaching staff members at Juventus went into isolation after testing positive. Those affected were outside the playing, technical and medical staff, who were all able to work in isolation after the results became known.



FRAUDULENT KAROWE DIAMOND MINE ‘LETTER OF INTENT TO PURCHASE’ AND ‘PURCHASE ORDERS’ IN CIRCULATION

It has been brought to our attention that there are **fraudulent** Karowe Diamond Mine ‘Letters of Intent’ and ‘Purchase Orders’ in circulation.

These documents are fraudulent and are not generated by Lucara Botswana, nor are they for our operations situated at the Karowe Diamond Mine in the Letlhakane area.

At present emails are circulating with the following person’s name, email and logo.

Johan Ferreira
Head: Procurement & Supply Chain
johan@karowemine.com



This person is not a Lucara Botswana employee or affiliated to us in any way. Furthermore, this is not our logo.

The use of any of these **fraudulent** documents by any Company or person is prohibited and is against company policy and procedure. Any advertisement to this effect is a scam.

Lucara Botswana follows a unique Supply Chain Management and Procurement process and any procurement documentation and/or communication will be unique per RFQ, RFP or engagement with suppliers.

Members of the public who may have received these documents and/or may have engaged in payment of monies based on these fraudulent documents are requested to report this matter as follows:

- To the Botswana Police Service

- Additionally, call the **Lucara Botswana Tip-offs Anonymous hotline** on the following numbers:
Orange – 1144
Mascom 7111 9714
BTC/Be Mobile 0800 600 644
Or complete an online form at www.tip-offs.com

- Notify us via email lucaradiamonds@bw.tip-offs.com

| | |
|--|---|
| <p>MOTHOBI J. IN THE HIGH COURT FOR THE REPUBLIC OF BOTSWANA HELD AT GABORONE</p> <p>In the matter between: BOITUMELO ONALENNA KEALOTSWA And MPHO MOSIME</p> | <p>CASE NO.: CVHGB-000931-16</p> <p>PLAINTIFF</p> <p>DEFENDANT</p> |
|--|---|

SALE IN EXECUTION

BE PLEASED TO TAKE NOTICE THAT pursuant to the judgment of the above Honourable Court, the following will be sold by auction by Deputy Sheriff, **ONKGOPOTSE MOTLHAGODI** to the highest bidder as follows:-


| | |
|----------------------|-----------------------------------|
| DATE OF SALE | : 12 th NOVEMBER 2020 |
| TIME | : 10:00 a.m. |
| VENUE | : Tribal Grant No 9380-KO |
| TERMS OF SALE | : Cash or bank guaranteed cheques |

PROPERTY TO BE SOLD : Defendant's rights, title and interest in respect of Tribal Grant No 9380-KKO, Mosonngwa, Tlokweng measuring **3,8206Ha** together with the development thereon.

CONDITIONS OF SALE : **May be inspected with the Deputy Sheriff and/or at the Plaintiff's Attorneys Office.**

DATED AT GABORONE THIS 09th DAY OF SEPTEMBER, 2020

DEPUTY SHERIFF ONKGOPOTSE MOTLHAGODI
C/O GAOBOI LEGAL CONSULTANTS
 Plaintiff's Attorneys
 Plot 121, Unit 1.2,
 Finance Park, Kgale Mews,
 P. O. Box 211327,
GABORONE

| | |
|---|--|
| <p>(Before KETLOGETSWE J) IN THE HIGH COURT OF THE REPUBLIC OF BOTSWANA HELD AT LOBATSE</p> | <p>CASE NO: CVHGB-002315-19</p> |
| <p>In the matter between: FIRST CAPITAL BANK LIMITED and EARTH GROUP (PTY) LTD MOIZUDDIN AHMAD ZUBEIDA AHMAD NENESELA INVESTMENTS (PTY) LTD AVINGTON (PTY) LTD MEMPHIS (PTY) LTD</p> | <p>Plaintiff</p> <p>1st Defendant 2nd Defendant 3rd Defendant 4th Defendant 5th Defendant 6th Defendant</p> |
| <p style="text-align: center;">NOTICE OF SALE IN EXECUTION</p> <hr/> <p>BE PLEASED TO TAKE NOTICE THAT pursuant to the Judgment granted by the Honourable Court the following immovable property hereunder of the Defendants will be sold by public auction by Deputy Sheriff to the highest bidder as follows:-</p> <p>DATE OF SALE : 3rd November, 2020 TIME OF SALE : 1430hours PLACE OF SALE : Tribal Lot 307, Kalkfontein PROPERTY TO BE SOLD : Defendants' right, title and interest on a certain piece of land being Tribal Lot 307, Kalkfontein with developments thereon being a filling station comprising of 3 underground tanks and 3 above ground tanks, six fuel pumps, 1 restaurant, 1 quick shop, 2 storerooms, 2 offices held under Deed No MA 722/2016 in favour of Ackerly Holdings (Pty) Ltd measuring 4267m² Situate at Ghanzi district.</p> <p>TERMS AND CONDITIONS : Cash or Bank guaranteed cheque otherwise detailed and conditions of sale may be inspected at the Plaintiff's Attorneys.</p> <p>DATED AT GABORONE THIS 10th DAY OF SEPTEMBER, 2020.</p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; align-items: flex-end; margin-top: 20px;"> <div data-bbox="1160 1418 1514 1512">  <p>RAMALEPA ATTORNEYS <small>(INCORPORATED IN THE REPUBLIC OF BOTSWANA)</small></p> </div> <div data-bbox="1514 1418 1889 1512"> <p>KEBONYEKGOSI NTEBELE c/o RAMALEPA ATTORNEYS Plaintiff's Attorneys Plot 3171, Morupule Drive Extension 11, Gaborone P.O. Box 70567 GABORONE(UB) (VR/mm/13341) 71694303</p> </div> </div> | |

| | | |
|---|--|----------------------------------|
| BEFORE THE HON. JUSTICE BUSANG IN THE HIGH COURT OF THE REPUBLIC OF BOTSWANA HELD AT LOBATSE | | Case No: UAHGB-000176 /20 |
| In the matter of between; | UNIBULK BOTSWANA (PROPRIETARY) LIMITED | APPLICANT |
| And | UNITED REFINERIES (BOTSWANA) HOLDINGS (PROPRIETARY) LIMITED | RESPONDENT |

PROVISIONAL ORDER

BEFORE THE HON. JUSTICE BUSANG sitting at Lobatse on the 23rd day of September 2020;

UPON reading documents filed of record and hearing Attorney K. A Moyo for the Petitioner;

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED THAT;

- That the rules of this Honourable Court relating to form, service and time limits are hereby dispensed with and this matter is declared and treated as urgent in terms of Order 12 Rule 12(1);
- The Respondent is hereby placed under provisional liquidation;
- A rule nisi is hereby issued calling upon all interested persons to show cause if any, on the 23rd day of November 2020 at 08:30am, why;
 - the provisional order for the liquidation of the Respondent should not be made final;
 - costs of this petition should not be costs in the liquidation;
- The Master of the High Court is directed, subject to the provisions of Sections 381,382 and 445 of the Companies Act Cap 42:01 inclusive, to appoint Leon Mtyambizi as Provisional Liquidator of the Respondent;
- Leave is granted to the Provisional Liquidator to exercise such powers as outlined in terms of Section 384 of the Companies Act Cap 42:01 as may be beneficial to the winding up of the Respondent pending the First Meeting of the Creditors;
- A copy of this Order is to be published twice in the Government Gazette and in any newspaper circulating within Botswana.

BY THE COURT
REGISTRAR

**IN THE MAGISTRATE COURT FOR THE DISTRICT OF GABORONE
HELD AT EXT 2**

Case No: CCMEX-000754-19

In the matter between:

BOTSWANA HOUSING CORPORATION

PLAINTIFF

and

NGUNOVANDU SAMSON NGUNOVANDU

DEFENDANT

NOTICE OF SALE IN EXECUTION

BE PLEASED to take notice that pursuant to a judgment of the above Honourable Court, the following property will be sold by public auction by the Deputy Sheriff to the highest bidder as follows:

DATE OF SALE : 22nd October 2020
VENUE : Broadhurst Police Station
TIME OF SALE : 1030 hrs
PROPERTY TO BE SOLD : 2 x sofas; 1 x Queen bed; 1 x Chest of drawers; 1 x Gas cylinder; 1 x Single bed.

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

DATED AT GABORONE THIS 8TH DAY OF OCTOBER 2020.

DEPUTY SHERIFF : OMPHEMETSE KAISARA
c/o BOTSWANA HOUSING CORPORATION
LEGAL SERVICES DIVISION
P O Box 412
GABORONE
Tel: 3605100 / Fax: 3952070



Photo Credit: BackpagePix

Bumper Year After COVID-19

GAONE KERILENG

COSAFA will this year host four (4) out of the expected six (6) tournaments. This is due to the Covid19 pandemic which has also affected the region.

The Senior men’s challenge was cancelled after some member associations did not confirm participation. The four tournaments to be held are the Women’s Senior Challenge, under 17 for boys and girls and under 20 boys. They will all be held in South Africa.

COSAFA Secretary General Sue Destombes revealed in an interview that different countries have different reasons for non-availability.

“Seychelles stated that they will not be participating this year and Botswana said it is not possible as borders have been closed but other countries confirmed.” Destombes said

Asked about the nations where they have been inactivity of football she said they said they are aware it has been difficult and some will need to determine whether they are able to participate even in the AFCON Qualifiers. Destombes said even for their competition’s teams will need to be tested for Covid prior to travel.

“Organisers will need to cater for certain health regulations. COSAFA intends to provide masks and hand sanitizers to the players and their technical teams.” Destombes explained

Quizzed about the importance of playing the tournaments she said for players who

are professional or semi professional not playing speaks to their livelihood.

“From a sporting perspective it takes time to get match fit again. And for the Women’s game in particular this long layoff may take its toll on the development of the game in some countries.” Destombes revealed

When asked about confirmations thus far the Secretary General said COSAFA is communicating once again with all member associations to provide final confirmations of participation in the various tournaments and they been affected financially because of lack of football.

Destombes stated that along with the tournaments COSAFA organises annually for the legacy programmes in the host countries.

“The legacy programmes include coaching, referees, and administration courses. These could have been done but this year it has not been a hectic one. Nonetheless done but thankfully we will be in a position to roll some out during the few tournaments that we are able to organise during the remainder of 2020.” The iron lady of football boldly stated

Asked about plans for 2021 she said they have a bumper year planned with the usual annual tournaments as well as the introduction of the COSAFA Women’s club champion’s league which will be the zonal qualifier to the CAF women champions league. She also advised member associations that it has been an extremely difficult and a trying year for all of us, but this too shall pass and together they will come out stronger and with new skills like Z oom.

SportsBriefs

With Bongani Malunga



Photo Credit: Goal.com

JWANENG GALAXY CONFIRMS MORAKE’S RETURN

Following a contractual tussle between Jwaneng Galaxy and South African club TS Galaxy over the ownership of goalkeeper Ezekiel Morake, the Jwaneng outfit has confirmed the player’s return in an official statement released this past week. Morake had terminated his contract with TS Galaxy but then sought to return to the club but he has been denied a chance to play in the DSTV Premiership as Jwaneng Galaxy challenged the SA club’s decision not to honour a contractual clause of paying his transfer fee in instalments. To date, TS Galaxy has not paid for the player’s services as agreed and this rendered their contract null and void, allowing the player to return to Botswana. Morake has signed a new two year contract with the BTC Premiership champions.

HISTORIC MOMENT AS PREMIER LEAGUE IS ON THE CUSP OF AUTONOMY

In a historic turn of events the Botswana Football Association assembly recently granted the Botswana Premier League and the First Division autonomy this past weekend. The local league body has yearned for independence for more than a decade and they will finally be given the green light to run their own affairs and negotiate deals while only using the BFA as a guiding presence. The move will see the Premier League and the First Division adopt similar independence seen in England, South Africa and many other countries. “The BFA assembly has unanimously agreed to grant the Botswana Premier League and the First Division autonomy. The structure will be admitted to the BFA as a special member. This structure will be known as the Botswana Football League,” reads a statement from the association.



We require the following:

ACCOUNT ASSISTANTS

Diploma In Finance or Business Management.

- Those registered with BICA as Accounting Technicians will have added advantage
- 2 years working experience

OFFICE ASSISTANTS NEEDED

- Applicants should have a diploma in business management.
- Must have experience in compiling tendering documents.

Email applications:
To: joshiah@heinsiteconstruction.com
Cc: info@heinsiteconstruction.com

Accounting, Taxation, Company Secretaries, Business Consulting Managers, Records Managers and Project Managers
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New League Format Rejected By BFA Assembly

BONGANI MALUNGA

After months of speculation and rumours of those in authority pondering a change in the scheduling of the domestic season format from August to May to a new February to November setting, the motion to change the schedule of local football was tabled and subsequently rejected at the Botswana Football Association Annual General Assembly this past weekend.

The idea of the change, according to unconfirmed reports, was recommended by the Footballers Union of Botswana as they had taken the devastating effects of COVID-19 into consideration as local football would need time to recover. Another stumbling block for the quick return of domestic football action was the cost of disinfection and COVID-19 testing which would have financially crippled local clubs as they would have been forced to foot

the bills on their own while they had not generated income for almost seven months. Teams around the country have been given strict guidelines by the BFA Medical Committee, should all teams adhere to the guidelines football could return soon according to BFA officials. The motion to change the league schedule was rejected as the general consensus among the assembly was to stick to the tried and tested schedule from August to May to be in line with most league formats around the world. "For football to come back we have a joint responsibility of ensuring that there is safety, health and fitness. We also have to create a proactive communication system that will keep the public informed about what is happening in that environment."

Numerous fans have bemoaned the delay in the return of local football, citing the Gauteng bio-bubble in the South African leagues as a point of reference for a system that could work during the COVID-19 pandemic. However, a BFA official who requested anonymity stated that there are financial implications that have to be taken into consideration. "For football to come back we have a joint responsibility of ensuring that there is safety, health and fitness. We also have to create a proactive communication system that will keep the public informed about what is happening in that environment. The financial burden of a quick return to football would have been tough on our clubs, they would have to disinfect regularly and hire SHE officers among other requirements. The PSL and other global leagues can sustain themselves, the dynamics are different in local football. It is natural for fans to compare and suggest that we do the same but the environment is totally different," said the BFA official.

BFA PRESIDENCY ELECTIONS IN PICS



The Botswana Gazette SPORT

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Letshwiti Retains BFA Presidency

- Letshwiti the first BFA president to have consecutive terms in the last 16 years
- Pledges to work alongside rivals for the benefit of local football

BONGANI MALUNGA

Maclean Letshwiti has successfully retained his position as the president of the Botswana Football Association after emerging victorious in the presidential elections against Tebogo Sebege and Ookeditse Malesu. The post Annual General Assembly elections were held via virtual means as delegates converged in four different areas namely; Gaborone, Jwaneng, Francistown and Palapye.

Letshwiti won the first round of voting in the presidential race as he garnered 32 votes against Sebege's 28 votes while Malesu did not get a single vote. In the first round of voting Letshwiti led in Francistown with 9 votes against Sebege's 3, in Palapye Sebege and Letshwiti were tied with 7 votes apiece, in Jwaneng Letshwiti led with 5 votes against Sebege's 4 and Sebege led in Gaborone with 14 votes against Letshwiti's 11.

The total votes saw Letshwiti edging the race. Despite leading, Letshwiti had not collected more than 70 percent of the votes in the first round which would

have made him the outright winner. A run-off between Letshwiti and Sebege was required to declare the winner. In the run-off Letshwiti won the race as he recorded 33 votes against Sebege's 27.

The two candidates' epic showdown resembled their 2016 duel which also required a run-off in an equally tense voting session. Letshwiti's victory has ensured that he will be the first BFA president to have two consecutive terms at the helm of local football's authoritative body in the last 16 years. In his post elections victory speech, Letshwiti stated that he is willing to work alongside his rivals as he values their contribution to the game of football.

"I wish to take this opportunity

to thank all of you who are here, especially the electoral board. I want to thank the delegates, all of you from all corners and from various camps. I wish to embrace Mr Sebege and Mr Malesu for their passion and contribution towards sports. I call both of them today to embrace them as the Minister of Sport said this morning that whoever wins today it is actually football which has won. This is important, football won today. We will be reflecting and we encourage all of you to not stay away. Let's work together for football, this is one country, Botswana," said the victorious Letshwiti in his address.

In other election results Marshlow Motlogelwa won the first vice president position ahead of Maokaneng Bontshetse and Ngele Ngele. Masego Nchingane won the second vice president position while Tebogo Tico Kamati was elected as an ordinary member alongside Alec Monyake who won after a run-off. Independent candidate Lobito Ncube also won the female additional member position.

