

echo

THE AFRICAN STORY

ISSUE NUMBER 741 VOLUME 2 12 - 18 OCT 2020

ADVERTISE
WITH US **DON'T BE**
LEFT BEHIND



KAVANGO REGION ON FOOT AND MOUTH DISEASE ALERT

- Outbreak confirmed in Namibia's Kavango region
- Botswana on high alert of suspected outbreak in the Okavango

World Bank says
Sub-Saharan Africa
to contract by 3.3%
this year,



page 4

Looming Cash Crisis
Threatens Global
Airline Industry



page 4

World food price
index rise 5% year-
on-year in Sept -FAO

page 7



Performance Guarantees



Performance or contract guarantees are provided to protect contracting parties from concerns such as non performance and contractors being insolvent before finishing the contracts.

Tel: (+267) 3188015 / Email: www.beci.co.bw




News, Finance, Travel and Sport

Telephone: (267) 3933 805/6.
E-mail: newsdesk@echo.co.bw

Advertising

Telephone: (267) 3933 805/6
E-mail: sales@echo.co.bw

Sales & Marketing Manager

Ruele Ramoeng
ruel@ymhp.co.bw

Editor

Bright Kholi
kholib@ymhp.co.bw

Head of Design

Ame Kolobetso
ame.kolobetso@ymhp.co.bw

Distribution & Circulation

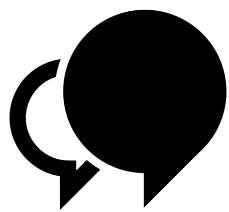
Mogapi Ketletseng
ketletsengm@echo.co.bw

Echo is published by YMH Publishing

YMH Publishing,
Unit 3, Kgale Court, Plot 128,
GIFP, Gaborone
Postal address:
P O BOX 840,
Gaborone,
Botswana
Telephone: (267) 3933 805/6.
E-mail: info@echo.co.bw
www.echo.co.bw

DISCLAIMER:

Echo Newspaper welcomes concise letters from readers. Letters must carry the full name and address of the sender. Letters must conform to the laws of Botswana and to the Press Council of Botswana's Code Of Ethics. Letters will also be edited for length, libel and language.



Read more Echo stories on our Facebook page by scanning the QR code below with your mobile phone



Kavango region on Foot and Mouth disease alert

Namibia and Botswana have both suspended movement of cloven hooved animals and their fresh products following the outbreak of the highly contagious foot and mouth disease (FMD) in Kavango region and suspected outbreak in Nxamasere extension area of the two countries, respectively.

The disease, which causes lesions and lameness in cloven hooved animals was detected in the Ndiyona Constituency in the northern Namibian region of Kavango East.

The Namibian authorities confirmed the outbreak last week, subsequently banning movement, while Botswana authorities announced a suspected outbreak in the Nxamasere extension area of the Okavango sub district. Authorities in Botswana have since suspended movement of cloven hooved animal and products through and out of the area.

The Nxamasere area lies in the Okavango region in the North Western corner of Botswana, which part of Ngamiland district and also a red zone due to its susceptibility to the FMD as a result of resident buffaloes in the wildlife rich area. The Namibian Kavango area also experiences recurring FMD outbreaks for the same reasons

Despite the Kavango and the Okavango regions both lie in the greater Kavango river basin, authorities have dismissed any possibilities that the two cases: that of an outbreak on the Namibian side and suspected outbreak in Botswana could be related,

The suspected outbreak alert was raised after animals in the area presented with suspicions

symptoms during routine surveillance.

"As a result of these findings, movement of cloven hooved animals and their fresh products through and outside of Nxamasere extension area, zone 2b is suspended is suspended until further notice," Botswana's Veterinary services Director Letlhogile Modisa said in a statement.

Modisa further called on farmers to cooperate with government as they are urged to round up their animals and also to report any sick animals.

In Namibia authorities have banned all movement of cloven-hoofed animals as well as the suspension of all animal gatherings such as auctions and cultural shows. Then only animal gathering that will allowed will be for the purposes of vaccinations while slaughtering of cloven-hoofed animals is also suspended.

Namibia's Agriculture Ministry executive director Percy Misika said last week that they had detected a Foot and Mouth Disease outbreak in the FMD protection zone. The outbreak has also led to suspension of all movement of animals across the Namibian or Angolan international borders.

He further said surveillance teams have been sent to the region to establish the extent of the outbreak, adding that investigations by officials as of Wednesday showed that 13 out of 657 cattle tested positive for FMD.

The borders between Namibia and Angola are largely porous, with many Namibian farmers grazing their cattle in Angola's southern Cuando Cubango province and vice-versa.

In May, Namibia lifted restrictions that halted the movement of cattle from Kabbe North Constituency in the northeast of the country after an outbreak of foot and mouth disease there.

What is FMD?

Foot and mouth disease (FMD) is a severe, highly contagious viral disease of livestock that has a significant economic impact. The disease affects cattle, swine, sheep, goats and other cloven-hoofed ruminants.

Intensively reared animals are more susceptible to the disease than traditional breeds. The disease is rarely fatal in adult animals, but there is often high mortality in young animals due to myocarditis or, when the dam is infected by the disease, lack of milk.

FMD is characterised by fever and blister-like sores on the tongue and lips, in the mouth, on the teats and between the hooves. The disease causes severe production losses, and while the majority of affected animals recover, the disease often leaves

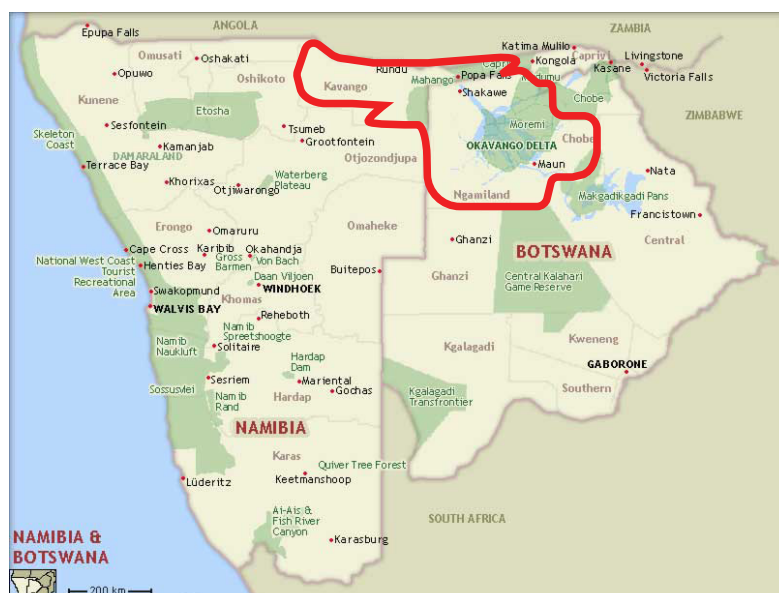
them weakened and debilitated.

The organism which causes FMD is an aphthovirus of the family Picornaviridae. There are seven strains (A, O, C, SAT1, SAT2, SAT3, and Asia1) which are endemic in different countries worldwide. Each strain requires a specific vaccine to provide immunity to a vaccinated animal.

All seven of the serotypes have also been found in wildlife, although the latter does not play a significant role in the maintenance of the disease. To date, the only confirmed reservoir in wildlife is African buffalo (*Syncerus caffer*).

FMD is an OIE-listed disease and must be reported to the Organisation, as indicated in the OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Code.

It was the first disease for which the OIE established official status recognition. Member Countries can also apply for official endorsement of their national control programmes. OIE.





World Bank says Sub-Saharan Africa to contract by 3.3% this year,

The World Bank has said the coronavirus crisis is expected to drive a 3.3% contraction in sub-Saharan African economies in 2020 and could push 40 million

people into extreme poverty. The Washington-based lender said growth in the region would recover in 2021, with economies growing by 2.1%, below 2019's

growth of 2.4%. "The COVID-19 pandemic has taken a large toll on economic activity in sub-Saharan Africa, putting a decade of hard-won

economic progress at risk," the bank said. Apart from South Africa, the region appears to have so far escaped the worst of the health

crisis, accounting for 3.4% of global infections and 2.5% of deaths, but the World Bank warned of potential risks from the virus.

"Great uncertainty surrounds the scale and trajectory of the pandemic in the region," it said, citing the experience of European nations and the United States, which are going through a second wave of infections.

The pandemic is expected to regress the economic output per person to 2007 levels by the end of next year, the bank said, and disrupt learning for 235 million students.

This year's economic growth is expected to be hit by the lockdowns put in place by governments to curb the spread of the virus, and the impact of the global slowdown.

"Disruptions in the tourism industry and lockdowns will cause substantial slow-downs in Ethiopia, Kenya, and the island nations," the World Bank said.

Economies which are not overly reliant on commodities, like Ivory Coast, Ghana and Senegal, will be spared from steep contractions, thanks to fairly robust outputs in their farming sectors, the bank said.

Governments in the region should take steps to boost their capacity to recover from the impact of the crisis, the World Bank said.

"Countries need to reconstitute their fiscal space to finance programs that can stimulate recovery, improve debt management, and fight corruption," the lender said. (Reuters.)

WE CAN'T WAIT TO WELCOME YOU TO OUR HOME!

A place where unforgettable memories are woven from genuine wide smiles and your adventures inspire a lifetime of stories to tell over and over again. Allow us to show you our places of wonder - places that not only fill us with great pride but also take our breath away, no matter how many times we see them. Allow us to take you to our favourite hangouts, restaurants, markets, hidden getaways and sites that tell our long and amazing human stories. Allow us to introduce you to the real South Africa, the one we fall in love with every day.



Looming Cash Crisis Threatens Global Airline Industry

The International Air Transport Association (IATA) has warned that the airline industry will burn through \$77bn in cash during the second half of 2020 (almost \$13bn/month or \$300,000 per minute), despite the restart of operations. The slow recovery in air travel will see the airline industry continuing to burn through cash at an average rate of \$5 to \$6 billion per month in 2021.

IATA called on governments to support the industry during the coming winter season with additional relief measures, including financial aid that does not add more debt to the industry's already-highly-indebted balance sheet. To date, governments around the world have provided \$160bn in support, including direct aid, wage subsidies, corporate tax relief, and specific industry tax relief including fuel taxes.

"We are grateful for this support, which is aimed at ensuring that the air transport industry remains viable and ready to reconnect the economies and support millions of jobs in travel and tourism. But the crisis is deeper and longer than any of us could have imagined. And the initial support programs are running out.

"Today we must ring the alarm bell again. If these support programs are not replaced or extended, the consequences for an already hobbled industry will be dire," said Alexandre de

Juniac, IATA's director-general and CEO.

"Historically, cash generated during the peak summer season helps to support airlines through the leaner winter months. Unfortunately, this year's disastrous spring and summer provided no cushion. In fact, airlines burned cash throughout the period. And with no timetable for governments to reopen borders without travel-killing quarantines, we cannot rely on a year-end holiday season bounce to provide a bit of extra cash to tide us over until the spring," said de Juniac.

IATA estimates that despite cutting costs just over 50% during the second quarter, the

industry went through \$51bn in cash as revenues fell almost 80% compared to the year-ago period. The cash drain continued during the summer months, with airlines expected to go through an additional \$77bn of their cash during the second half of this year and a further \$60-70bn in 2021. The industry is not expected to turn cash positive until 2022.

Airlines have undertaken extensive self-help measures to cut costs. This includes parking thousands of aircraft, cutting routes and any non-critical expense and furloughing and laying off hundreds of thousands of experienced and dedicated employees.

"Government support for the entire sector is needed. The impact has spread across the entire travel value chain including our airport and air navigation infrastructure partners who are dependent on pre-crisis levels of traffic to sustain their operations. Rate hikes on system users to make up the gap would be the start of a vicious and unforgiving cycle of further cost pressures and downsizings. That will prolong the crisis for the 10% of global economic activity that is linked to travel and tourism," said de Juniac.

There will be little appetite among consumers for cost increases. In a recent IATA survey, some two thirds of travelers have

already indicated that they will postpone travel until the overall economy, or their personal financial situation stabilizes. "Increasing the cost of travel at this sensitive time will delay a return to travel and keep jobs at risk," said de Juniac.

According to the latest figures from the Air Transport Action Group, the severe downturn this year, combined with a slow recovery, threatens 4.8 million jobs across the entire aviation sector. Because each aviation job supports many more in the broader economy, the global impact is 46 million potential job losses and \$1.8t dollars of economic activity at risk.

(Bizcommunity.)



Commonwealth Finance Ministers call for extended financial support for vulnerable nations

Commonwealth Finance Ministers have today issued their first joint statement in over a decade, in which they called on the G20, Paris Club, World Bank and IMF to extend financial support to vulnerable nations given the deep and widespread economic impact of the COVID19 pandemic.

The statement on behalf of all 54 member countries of the Commonwealth calls for action to support more vulnerable nations on improved access to financing and debt sustainability.

It urges the G20 to extend its Debt Service Suspension Initiative (DSSI) beyond 2020 and on the Paris Club group of countries to lead on innovative debt instruments which could help provide additional liquidity to Commonwealth and other vulnerable states.

It also appeals to multilateral development banks to be more flexible in their treatment of the impact of COVID-19 so that countries have easier access to financing.

The economic impact of COVID-19 has seen countries around the world implement much needed fiscal stimulus packages to address the emerging health and economic crises and Commonwealth nations debt levels are expected to rise significantly as a result. This presents a significant risk to those countries' debt sustainability, with fourteen Commonwealth countries already at high risk of debt distress even before the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Speaking on the issues raised in the Commonwealth Finance Ministers Meeting, Commonwealth Secretary-General Patricia Scotland said:

“This is not an issue we can ignore or wish away, and failure to acknowledge and tackle the real fiscal challenges many nations are facing right now will put economies, livelihoods and communities at real risk.

Economic impact of COVID-19 has seen countries around the world implement much needed fiscal stimulus packages to address the emerging health and economic crises

“We need to recognise that these issues are so widespread and are faced by so many nations that they have the potential to develop into a systemic risk threatening all our prosperity and that it is in the interests of us all to act decisively to support more vulnerable economies now.

“Our member states are clear on what they need: action on forging an extension of the G20 Debt Sustainability Suspension

Initiative (DSSI) to 2021, and consideration of how we expand eligibility for support to include not only low-income countries, but all vulnerable member states.

“If we are to build forward better from this crisis, while also tackling other long-term challenges we face such as climate change, we look to the G20, World Bank and IMF to show the leadership and vision that is needed and find ways of working together to support the global economy and protect all of our

future prosperity.”

The statement of Commonwealth Finance Ministers comes ahead of the G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors meeting on 14 October when major decisions on the lifespan of the G20 debt relief initiative and on its eligibility, criteria will be tabled. Currently only low-income countries are eligible for the DSSI which ends December 2020. Commonwealth countries have been pressing for an extension of the DSSI and an



expansion of eligibility criteria to include all small and vulnerable member countries.

During the meeting Ministers continued to explore how member states can work to secure fiscal sustainability and drive resilient growth and jobs, particularly through a focus on the blue and green economy and

on smart agriculture.

This is the first time that Commonwealth Finance Ministers have issued a joint statement since 2009 when Ministers joined forces to tackle the global financial crisis.

www.lea.co.bw

LEA
GlenValley
HORTICULTURE INCUBATOR
Accelerating Business Growth

The Local Enterprise Authority (LEA) invites suitable horticultural enterprises or individuals within the Small, Medium and Micro Enterprises category for incubation at Glen Valley Horticulture Incubator.

The incubation center provides practical and technical training on different aspects of horticulture enterprise management under protected environment. The center also offers business management interventions for SMMEs to grow and establish themselves as sustainable and commercially viable horticulture enterprises.

The duration of the programme is nine (9) months, and selected individuals will be provided with the following during training:

1. Production units equipped with the latest horticulture technology equipment.
2. Necessary inputs such as seedlings, fertilizers pesticides and spraying equipment as training material.
3. Business coaching services.
4. Technology coaching services

REQUIREMENTS

1. A letter of intent or motivation on how the candidate intends to utilise the skills acquired.
2. Proof of ownership or access to land with water for irrigation.
3. Successful candidates will be required to under go medical assessment and submit a medical report prior to starting the programme.

Eligible candidates should submit relevant documents to:

Selection Committee
Gley Valley Horticulture Incubator
Private Bag X035
Gaborone Village

Inquiries can be directed to Glen Valley Horticulture Incubator at 318 6309

Closing Date: 30th November 2020

LOCAL ENTERPRISE AUTHORITY

Empowering the entrepreneur to start and grow their business

BOTSWANA
Our pride, your destination

Business Advisory • Training • On-site Coaching • Mentoring • Market Access • Business Incubation • Technology and Innovation Support



GEO Park Holdings (Pty) LTD



ARTICLE BROUGHT
TO YOU BY LEA

Geo Park Holdings (PTY) LTD is a LEA assisted enterprise based in Pandamatenga. Directed by Mr. Moshe and Mrs. Esther Mabuta, the business manufactures concrete products such as bricks (4.5 & 6 inch), pavers and stock bricks. After realizing that there was shortage of building materials in the Chobe region, Mr. and Mrs. Mabuta set up this business in order to address this challenge.

Geo Park registered with LEA in 2018 as a business idea and was assisted to develop a business

plan and access funding to start the project. LEA went ahead to hand-hold the business to source relevant machinery needed for operations, and train Geo Park employees on health and safety. This training was necessary to equip employees with skills on handling and operating machinery. In addition, LEA facilitated the product testing and certification process, which is in progress.

As a LEA assisted enterprise, Geo Park Holdings continues to benefit from other LEA services

that include among others business advisory, coaching, on-site monitoring as well as mentoring services. Through LEA business development and support services, the business has grown and supplies various markets in and around the Chobe region.

Currently the business has ten (10) full time employees and engages temporary workers during peak periods.

“We are really grateful and jubilant on how LEA has stood behind us all the way from the beginning until today. I won’t

shy away from saying to fellow citizens: LEA is there to help us, if you want your business to thrive knock on LEA doors for assistance.” said Mrs. Mabuta.

CONTACT NUMBER:
77020703
EMAIL: MWALE.
CHUNGA@YAHOO.COM



www.lea.co.bw

PROJECT FACILITATION FUND

REGISTRATION

- Register your business at the nearest LEA branch.
- Fill the application form.

ASSESSMENT

- LEA assesses application for compliance.
- LEA recommends the proposal to CEDA for funding.

FUNDING

- CEDA assesses recommendation from LEA.
- Client pays contribution.
- CEDA directly pays service providers.

- LEA monitors implementation of service and the entire project.



Empowering the entrepreneur to start and grow their business





World food price index rise 5% year-on-year in Sept -FAO

World food prices rose for a fourth month running in September, led by strong increases for cereals and vegetable oils, the United Nations food agency said on Thursday. The Food and Agriculture Organization’s food price index, which measures monthly changes for a basket of cereals, oilseeds, dairy products, meat

and sugar, averaged 97.9 points last month versus a downwardly revised 95.9 in August. The August figure was previously given as 96.1. The Rome-based FAO also said in a statement that worldwide cereal harvests remained on course to hit an annual record in 2020, even though it slightly trimmed its previous forecasts.

The agency’s cereal price index rose 5.1% in September from the month before and 13.6% above its value a year earlier. “Higher wheat price quotations led the increase, spurred by brisk trade activity amid concerns over production prospects in the southern hemisphere as well as dry conditions affecting winter wheat sowings around

Europe,” FAO said. Maize, sorghum and barley prices rose, while rice fell 1.4% as fresh demand slowed. The vegetable oil price index climbed 6.0% month-on-month, thanks largely to rising palm, sunflower seed and soy oil quotations, reaching an 8-month high. The dairy index was little

changed on the month, with moderate increases in price quotations for butter, cheese and skim milk powder offset by a fall in those of whole milk powder. Average sugar prices fell 2.6% from August, reflecting expectations of a global production surplus for the new 2020/2021 season. The meat index dipped 0.9% month-on-month and was down 9.4% year-on-year, with quotations for pig meat dropping on the back of China’s move to ban imports from Germany following the detection of African swine fever in Europe’s largest economy. FAO revised down its forecast for the 2020 cereal season by 2.5 million tonnes, reflecting lower expectations for the output of global coarse grains. However, despite this reduction, the agency still expected a record harvest this year of 2.762 billion tonnes, up 2.1% on 2019 levels. The forecast for world cereal utilisation in 2020/21 was put at 2.744 billion tonnes, down 2.8 million tonnes since September, but still 54.5 million tonnes above the 2019/20 estimate. The forecast for world cereal stocks by the close of seasons in 2021 was 890 million tonnes, down 5.9 million tonnes from the previous estimate but still representing a record high. (Reuters.)



TSHOLOFELO EAST 2 BEDROOM APARTMENTS FOR SALE SOON

A property investment opportunity not to be missed.

Look out for more information on this exciting opportunity!





Economic Transformation in Africa – Renewable Energy

By Emmanuel Allotey

Africa as the poorest continent in the world is in desperate need for economic transformation. Most economies in Africa are still based on the production and export of unprocessed agricultural products, minerals, and crude oil with little to no manufacturing or processing.

Renewable energy offers a substantive opportunity to convert Africa’s natural wealth into a revenue generating industry. Africa is rich in renewable energy sources, including hydro, sun, wind amongst others, which once harnessed will significantly augment the current cost of energy demands. According to a report by

the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA), Africa could meet nearly a quarter of its energy needs through the use of indigenous, clean, renewable energy by 2030. The investment required however can be daunting as these projects require large sums of upfront capital. African governments face difficult investment allocation decisions between short term

revenue generating projects and longer-term revenue generating projects such renewable energy. Across Africa, hydropower is responsible for 84 per cent of all non-fossil fuel energy use. Africa is a continent rich in lakes and rivers however climate change and drought is threatening the sustainability of this as an energy source. Solar is particularly promising

in Africa nations: albeit with varying potentials, this type of energy could be harnessed virtually everywhere in Africa. African nations receive a very high number of annual sunshine hours and the average solar irradiation is evenly distributed. Electricity is a major overhead for many business operations. African countries have made progress in expanding electricity access in recent years, the overall state of electrification in Africa is still far from its potential. Africa with a large coastline offers huge opportunity for Wind power production. Currently, wind makes up one percent of electricity production and by 2030, wind is only expected to account for two percent of Africa’s power mix, according to the International Energy Agency. Although wind is not as popular as other renewable energy solutions it is an important contributor to nations energy mix. Economic diversification is a top priority for many African nations. There is a direct correlation between economic growth and energy consumption. Implementation of policies and strategies that support economic diversification must feature renewable energy. The integration of a renewable energy strategy will achieve multiple objections from social transformation to economic growth. A combined effort is required from private, public sector and foreign direct investment to translate economic initiatives into tangible results.



Personal Wealth Management - maintaining a healthy credit record

The importance of personal wealth management has never been so pronounced than in the

current economic environment disrupted by the coronavirus. The credit score is one of the

most important measures of financial wellbeing. Maintaining a good credit score is beneficial

if planning to apply for a loan to make a major purchase, such as a new car or home. The credit score is used by lenders to determine the how responsibly individuals use credit. The better the score, the increased probability of securing new loans or lines of credit. A higher credit score can influence the interest rates offered by Financial Institutions. Access to finance is a major challenge, especially in emerging and developing economies. A key factor behind the persistence of this problem is the information asymmetry between lenders and borrowers that encourages adverse selection and moral hazard. To address this information asymmetry, credit registries and bureaus have been established around the world to serve as information brokers. The credit score is not an endorsement or criticism of personal behaviour. Financial Institutions and other credit providers use credit score to measure their risk before borrowing to customers. Tips to maintain a healthy credit record Consistent Account payment – all outstanding payments should be paid in full. The credit report shows which accounts have not

been serviced and not being serviced consistently. Settle all negative listing – review all negative information such as judgments, administration orders issued by a court and take active steps to pay all outstanding debts in full so the information can be removed. Lengthy of credit – maintain a healthy mix of credit (e.g. store cards, credit cards, home loan) in order to establish a strong credit history. Financial Institutions are interested in knowing how long each credit facility has been open. Credit utilization ratio – is an important number in credit score calculations. It is calculated by adding all your credit card balances at any given time and dividing that amount by your total credit limit. The credit utilization ratio tells lenders you haven’t maxed out your credit cards and likely know how to manage credit well. A good credit score typically means lower interest rates, being proactive and consistent with credit payments, managing your spending habits, and paying bills on time are some simple and valuable steps to maintaining a healthy credit record.

TRAVEL

GABORONE BOTSWANA

← TO →

JOHANNESBURG RSA



Make travelling a joy



ONBOARD WIFI



ENTERTAINMENT



FOOD & DRINKS



LUXURY TRAVEL



SHANYA
LUX LINES

FOR BOOKINGS

(+267) 75048307

bookings@shanyalux.co.za

www.shanyalux.co.za

**ALL COVID-19 SAFETY
PROTOCOLS FOLLOWED**





De Beers introduces initiative to celebrate positive impact of natural diamonds

De Beers Group has introduced ReSet, a series of collaborations with jewelry designers to engage in conversations around sustainability and to offer a fresh perspective on the positive impacts of natural diamonds.

The initiative aims to help ‘reset’ perceptions and shine a light on the significant positive contribution that natural diamonds deliver for the people and places where they are found, by collaborating with established and up-and-coming jewelry designers who will set diamonds discovered by De Beers into a range of pieces, celebrating sustainability in the sector.

The initiative’s first activation – the ReSet Collective – launches today and is a collaboration with five leading US designers who share a passion for natural diamonds and sustainable sourcing – Jade Trau, Jennie Kwon, Julez Bryant, Sara Weinstock and Zoë Chicco.

The designers travelled to Botswana late last year to visit De Beers Group’s operations and a range of community and conservation programmes, learning about the company’s commitment to Building Forever, which focuses on building a positive legacy by protecting the environment, helping communities thrive, championing women and girls and being industry leaders in ethical practices.

Following the visit, each designer created a unique pendant incorporating diamonds from De Beers, which was inspired by the people, wildlife and beautiful landscape of Botswana, as well as a shared commitment to helping shape a better world. The collection of one-of-a-kind pieces will be auctioned for charity later this year, with a supporting consumer engagement campaign.

Colby Shergalis, Senior Vice President of De Beers Group Brand, said: “Through ReSet, we are connecting a community of jewelry designers to the people and places where our diamonds originate, so the designers can learn more about the journey of a De Beers diamond and the positive impact it makes. We were proud to host Jade, Jennie, Julez, Sara and Zoë at our operations in Botswana, and have been moved by their enthusiasm about sharing what they’ve learned and by their desire to find additional ways to give back. The beautiful and unique pendants they created are the result of months of work, in challenging times, spurred on by the memories of the extraordinary connections they made with one another and with the people of Botswana and we look forward to launching the collection.”

When each of the designers were asked about their experiences in Botswana, Jennie Kwon replied, “Us designers

formed such a special bond while we were out in Botswana with De Beers Group and we wanted to commemorate the experience by collaborating on a project that would live on beyond the trip. As this project started to get fleshed out, it became important to us that the project feel relevant to the times, with so many things going on this year. Once it was decided that the proceeds would go towards causes that we each felt were relevant and important, the purpose became two-fold, so took on even more weight.”

Jade Trau added, “The trip was life changing for me, so being able to memorialize it in a piece of jewelry was just the icing on the cake. It empowered and educated me in the rough diamond space, as well as the supply chain, and it makes me feel good about choosing to design and sell diamond jewelry as my career.” Sara Weinstock said, “Fine jewellery is a passion for me, and one that is rooted in the beauty, naturality, and authenticity of a diamond. I wanted to be part of this campaign because I want to highlight to consumers—young and old—the good that the natural diamond industry does and the ethical ways in which diamonds are mined since there are some outdated representations out there. The gift of this trip was seeing first-hand the process and feeling confident that I am a lucky woman to work

within the diamond industry. My dreams have been realized.”

Julez Bryant responded “I have chosen to be a part of this because the land of Botswana is sacred and it’s in my soul now. If we use diamonds from De Beers Group, then perhaps I can bring the magic of the people into my work and we can in turn contribute to their growth and empowerment.”

Zoë Chicco remarked that she was, “honored to be invited to Botswana with De Beers Group and an amazing group of my fellow

female designers to learn more about the diamond industry, De Beers’ impact and the country itself. It was truly an eye-opening experience. What De Beers is doing in Botswana is supporting and lifting up the people and providing opportunities that would not have existed otherwise. One of the highlights of the trip was getting to go on safari with the women I had become so close with during our adventure and seeing so many majestic creatures in person. It was truly a magical experience for all of us.





Climate-Menaced Nations Say Survival Depends On Stronger 2020 Action

Developing countries at risk from wilder weather and rising seas have urged all governments to meet a deadline to deliver stronger national climate action plans to the United Nations by the end of 2020, stressing that their survival depended on it.

About 195 nations committed under the 2015 Paris Agreement on climate change to submit updated plans this year, with a view to boosting so-far inadequate pledges to curb planet-heating emissions and adapt to the impacts of warming.

But the health and economic crises caused by the COVID-19 pandemic have thrown climate diplomacy off track and forced a delay of this year’s U.N. climate summit until November 2021.

Nonetheless, the effects of the pandemic should not be a reason for countries to shy away from submitting more ambitious national plans to fight climate change, said Ethiopian President Sahle-Work Zewde.

“Both challenges – climate change and COVID-19 – could be addressed in a green recovery,” she told an online event launching a campaign to press for those plans by the end of the year.

“Besides, delayed response is going to be expensive and irreversible,” she added in video comments.

Zewde and a few other leaders of 48 countries in the “Climate Vulnerable Forum” (CVF),

including Cambodia and Nepal, said they were working to submit their own updated plans this year, despite contributing little to planetary heating.

The Marshall Islands, Rwanda and Vietnam have already done so.

Patricia Espinosa, the U.N. climate chief, reiterated a call for all countries to stick to the 2020 deadline.

Doing so was “vital” because there was no time to lose in boosting efforts to limit global warming to the tightest Paris pact goal of 1.5 degrees Celsius, she told the event.

The world has already heated up by just over 1C from preindustrial times and is set for warming of close to 3C, even if emissions-cutting pledges made so far are delivered.

“The luxury of time was squandered long ago – we are now minutes to midnight,” Espinosa said.

But she added that momentum was picking up, with about a dozen updated plans already submitted and many other countries indicating they would do so this year.

The United Nations and Britain, host of the delayed COP26 climate summit, are organising a virtual event on Dec. 12 to mark the five years since the Paris Agreement was sealed, giving leaders a platform to showcase their stepped-up plans.

Bangladesh Prime Minister

Sheikh Hasina, whose country currently chairs the CVF, pointed to the efforts – and investment – made by its member countries to cut emissions and adapt to climate change within their borders.

In Bangladesh, for example,

scientists have developed crops that are resistant to salt, floods and droughts, as well as floating agriculture technology, while Costa Rica produces 100% renewable electricity for most of the year, she said.

Ethiopia planted more than

5 billion tree seedlings during this year’s rainy season, on a path to 20 billion by 2022.

But “robust international partnership” remains indispensable for vulnerable countries to minimise “the profound loss and damage” wrought by climate change impacts such as worsening floods, storms and higher seas, Hasina added.

The CVF member states, representing more than 1 billion people across Africa, Asia and Latin America, expect G20 countries – which account for more than three-quarters of global emissions – to come up with “clear and definite” plans to effectively cut those emissions, she said.

She also urged rich nations to keep a promise to raise at least \$100 billion a year from 2020 to help poorer countries develop cleanly and adapt to a warming planet.

David Waskow, of the World Resources Institute, said action on climate change was urgent but “what will count the most at the end of the day is the degree of ambition”, especially from big-emitting countries such as China.

Espinosa said that if countries submitted action plans after the 2020 deadline, they would not be included in a key February report synthesising progress towards the Paris goals of keeping warming to “well below” 2C and ideally to 1.5C.

The next formal submission date for stronger plans, under the Paris deal, is five years away, she added – “at which point, our window of opportunity (to meet the goals) may be closed.”

(Reuters.)





Safari operator conducts bird-mapping survey in Botswana

Wilderness Safaris’ completed its first comprehensive summer bird-mapping survey earlier in the year, with 293 bird species recorded in the Linyanti and Vumbura concessions from almost 3 000 individual field observations.

The 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 said.

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 checklists, over several years and seasons. It is thus imperative to continue to survey at all times and further atlas during various seasons of Botswana will be undertaken”, concludes Martin.





Four Wilderness Safari Camps listed in Top 25 Resorts in Africa category

Four Wilderness Safaris camps have been in listed in this year’s Condé Nast Traveler’s prestigious Readers’ Choice Awards 2020 Rankings – Top 25 Resorts in Africa category (not including SA):

The four are listed as follows:

Condé Nast Traveler’s Editor Jesse Ashlock said of the 2020 winners: “These are the enduring gems that can withstand the test of time and the vicissitudes of circumstances”.

Sitting at number 25 - Hoanib Skeleton Coast Camp (Namibia)



At number 12 - Vumbura Plains (Botswana)



At number 3 - Bisate Lodge; Bisate was also listed #10 in the Top 50 Best Resorts in the World! (Rwanda)

At number 14 - Mombo and Little Mombo (Botswana)



CLASSIFIED ADS

Call 3933805/6 To Advertise.

Call 3933805/6

IN THE HIGH COURT OF THE REPUBLIC OF BOTSWANA HELD AT LOBATSE

Case No: CVHGB-000719-17

In the matter between:

CHITSWANA ENTERPRISES (PTY) LTD t/a STEEL GALAXY

And

SURLYT BOTSWANA (PTY) LTD
HASSEN NOOR

PLAINTIFF

1ST DEFENDANT
2ND DEFENDANT

NOTICE OF SALE IN EXECUTION

BE PLEASED TO TAKE NOTICE that the pursuant to a judgement of the above Honourable Court the following properties of the Defendant will be sold by Public Auction by Deputy Sheriff **G. NGWAKO** as follows:

DATE OF SALE:

VENUE:

TIME:

30TH OCTOBER 2020

BROADHURST COURT

10:30am hours

PROPERTY TO BE SOLD :

TOYOTA VITZ B 980 AXL ENGINE NO LKR 0597190 SILVER, 5X BLACK DINNER CHAIRS, TURBOCHUM WASHING MACHINE, SAMSUNG PLASMA, DSTV DECODER, 2X WHITE CABINET, 2X BASE BED, SANSUI PLASMA TV, DRESSING TABLE, HEAD BOARD, CHEST OF DRAWER, LG FRIDGE, DEFY FREEZER, 8 BURNER GAS STOVE, 3X 48 CYLINDER, 1X DINNER TABLE, 1X COCACOLA FRIDGE, 1X BATTERY CHARGER TLL AIR CONDITIONER.

CONDITION OF SALE:

Details terms and conditions of sale together with details of property may be inspected through the Deputy Sheriff.
Cell 74130174/ 72902654

DATED AT GABORONE ON THE 22ND SEPTEMBER 2020.

AJAYI LEGAL CHAMBERS
(Plaintiff's Attorneys)
Office No 20B, Plot 56
Craft Market, Nakedi Road
Broadhurst Industrial
P.O. BOX 228 ABG, Sebele
GABORONE
Ref: OAA/SM

BUSANG J

IN THE HIGH COURT OF THE REPUBLIC OF BOTSWANA HELD AT LOBATSE

CASE NO. CVHGB-000695-2020

In the matter between:

FIRST NATIONAL BANK OF BOTSWANA LIMITED

And

SHARLA EGNER

Plaintiff

Defendant

NOTICE OF SALE IN EXECUTION

BE PLEASED TO TAKE NOTICE that pursuant to judgment granted in the above Honourable Court on **9th JUNE 2020**, the Defendant's property will be sold by auction to the highest bidder by Deputy Sheriff **OMPHEMETSE PETER KAISARA**.

DATE OF SALE:

VENUE:

TIME:

2nd November 2020

Broadhurst Police Station

10:30am hours

PROPERTY TO BE SOLD :

Toyota Prado, Body type: Station Wagon, Model: Prado, Colour: Black, Chassis No. KZJ950026250, Engine No. IKZ0393922, Registration No: B 478 BFG

TERMS OF SALE:

Cash or bank guaranteed cheques

DATED AT GABORONE THIS 2nd DAY OF OCTOBER 2020

Serole & Partners

ATTORNEYS • NOTARIES • CONVEYANCERS

Deputy Sheriff OMPHEMETSE PETER KAISARA
(71222244/72195113)
C/o Serole & Partners
The Courtyard, Lot 54513, Unit 1
P O Box 1679 ABG, Sebele
GABORONE

Cheptegei, Gidey demolish world records in Valencia

Ugandan Joshua Cheptegei smashed the men's 10,000 metres world record and Ethiopia's Letesenbet Gidey demolished the women's 5,000 metres mark as the Valencia

World Record Day event lived up to its name on Wednesday last week. Cheptegei crossed the line at a near-empty Turia stadium in a stunning 26 minutes 11.02

seconds to beat the time of 26:17:53 set in 2005 by Ethiopian Kenenisa Bekele by over six seconds. The achievement capped an outstanding 12 months for

Cheptegei, 24, who won the gold medal in the 10,000 at last year's World Championships in Doha, and in August took Bekele's 5,000m record at the Diamond League meeting in

Monaco. Last December, also in Valencia, Cheptegei smashed a decade-long record in 10km road racing by six seconds. Only 400 people including sponsors, journalists and staff were allowed into the event due to strict coronavirus measures in Spain but Cheptegei still savoured the moment with a lap of honour, wrapped in the Uganda flag and wearing a crown. Cheptegei's outstanding display finished off a perfect event from the organisers point of view after Gidey, 22 broke the women's 5,000 metres world record by more than four seconds, crossing the line in 14 minutes 6.62 seconds. Gidey easily beat the previous record of 14:11.15 set by her compatriot Tirunesh Dibaba in Oslo in 2008. "This is a longtime dream for me, I'm very happy, this is very big for me," said Gidey. The event was organised by Cheptegei's NN Running Team of the Netherlands and he and Gidey were helped to the finish line by pacers as well as Wavelight technology, which flashes lights on the inside of the track to indicate a specific pace. (Reuters)



Soccer-African champions Algeria win to stretch unbeaten run

African champions Algeria maintained their two-year unbeaten run with a 1-0 win over Nigeria in the Austrian Alps on Friday on a busy night of international football for African countries.

Mali upset Ghana 3-0 in their meeting in Turkey, Morocco beat Senegal 3-1 at home while Cameroon held Japan to a goalless draw in their friendly in the Netherlands. There were

also wins for Burkina Faso, Gambia, Kenya, Mauritania and Tunisia.

Rami Bensebaini's sixth-minute goal, scrambled home from a corner, was enough to ensure victory for Algeria in Sankt Veit an der Glan, where Nigeria are hosting a week-long training camp. Algeria have now gone 15 games without defeat over the last two years, including winning the 2019

Africa Cup of Nations.

They are among a host of African countries who have decamped to Europe for the international window to play friendlies ahead of next month's resumption of the African Cup of Nations qualifiers.

With the bulk of many teams' squads drawn from players based at European clubs, it has been easier to play the games

in Europe than in Africa amid

(Reuters.)



Zambia secured a narrow 1-0 win over neighbours Malawi in Lusaka on Wednesday in the first international involving African countries since the COVID-19 pandemic shut down world sport in March.

Collins Sikombe netted after 13 minutes for a Zambia team deprived of their overseas-based players by quarantine restrictions and facing a tough programme with another friendly on Friday in Nairobi

against Kenya and then away in South Africa on Sunday.

South Sudan also used the return of international football on the African continent to travel to Cameroon where they lost 2-0 to club champions PWD

Soccer-Zambia beat Malawi as international football finally returns to Africa

Bamenda on Wednesday in an encounter designed to provide match practice ahead of the resumption of African Cup of Nations qualifiers.

The qualifiers resume in November after a year's hiatus with the finals in Cameroon already put back a year to January 2021 because of the COVID-19 crisis.

There has been virtually no football across African borders since the pandemic was declared with travel restrictions curtailing plans to resume international football in September, when European

COVID-19 travel restrictions.

Mali scored through captain Hamari Traore after three minutes, with El Bilal Toure and Amadou Haidara adding second-half goals as they upset a strong Ghana side, including new Arsenal signing Thomas Partey, in Antalya, Turkey.

Senegal had to do without talisman Sadio Mane, who tested positive for COVID-19 last week, as they went down 3-1 in Rabat to Morocco.

Morocco used Hakim Ziyech as a second-half substitute despite Chelsea's new signing having yet to make his debut for his club because of an early-season injury.

Burkina Faso enjoyed a one-sided 3-0 victory over the Democratic Republic of Congo with new Aston Villa signing Bertrand Traore among the scorers.

Assan Ceesay scored the only goal as the Gambia upset Congo 1-0 in their friendly played in Portugal while Mauritania won 2-1 at home against Sierra Leone.

Tunisia were 3-0 home winners against Sudan while Kenya beat a home-based Zambia side 2-1 in Nairobi. The games were the first played by African countries since last November.

(Reuters.)



FIFA President Gianni Infantino has described preparations for the 2022 FIFA World Cup “impressive” during his tour of the country this week.

Infantino met with tournament organisers and took part in a seven-a-side match at Al Bayt Stadium, a 60,000-capacity venue designed to resemble a traditional Arab tent. The striking arena will be inaugurated in the coming months and has been confirmed as the venue for the opening game of the tournament.

“It is an absolute pleasure to play football at this amazing stadium, where on 21 November

2022, we will kick off the greatest FIFA World Cup ever,” said President Infantino.

“Al Bayt Stadium is incredible: a true football stadium. It has a real football feel and a local touch. The tented shape makes it truly unique, and the Arabic patterns in the roof are just beautiful. I am speechless.”

Preparations for Qatar 2022 have continued despite the pandemic following the implementation of stringent health and safety protocols to protect workers from COVID-19. Khalifa International, Al Janoub and Education City stadiums have all been inaugurated and are fully operational, with three

others – Al Bayt, Al Rayyan and Al Thumama – in the final stages of construction. All eight venues will be completed well in advance of the tournament.

“I am very pleased with Qatar’s progress ahead of the tournament. We have seen the plans, but when you see the reality, it is even more impressive. Qatar has been able to continue to advance during the last six months while the world stood still – from infrastructure preparations to important developments such as the recent labour reforms announced by the government. If I was confident before, now I can say I am even more,” added President Infantino.

“In 2022, everything will be close by and fans from all nationalities will have the opportunity to gather in the same public areas and enjoy Qatar’s mild temperatures at this time of the year. It’s a World Cup like no other was or ever will be.”

H.E. Hassan Al Thawadi, Secretary General of the Supreme Committee for Delivery and Legacy, echoed President Infantino’s comments and said he was proud of the foundations laid by the country in the lead-up to the tournament.

“We are immensely proud to be hosting the Arab world and Middle East’s first FIFA World Cup in 2022.

“With that pride comes a sense of responsibility, and that factor has been enhanced since the world has had to come to terms with COVID-19. We are optimistic that by kick-off in November 2022, we’ll be ready to welcome fans from every continent here in Qatar to celebrate together, united by their shared passion for football.”

Al Thawadi added: “It was a pleasure to welcome President

Infantino to Al Bayt Stadium today. Al Bayt is particularly meaningful to us as it represents the town of Al Khor as well as the culture and history of Qatar through its special design. We’re all looking forward to the first ball of the FIFA World Cup 2022 being kicked in this stadium two years from now.”

Nasser Al Khater, CEO of FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 LLC, said Qatar was in excellent shape and looking forward to welcoming fans from all over the world in a little over two years’ time.

“When it comes to World Cup infrastructure, we’re in a great position, with construction nearing 90 per cent completion across all projects,” said Al Khater. “At this point on the road to 2022, our focus is now shifting from delivering infrastructure to refining and optimising the detailed operational planning and fan experience for the tournament. We are also now significantly stepping up our promotion of the tournament to ensure as many people as possible have the opportunity to attend and enjoy this unique World Cup.” (fifa.com.)

