



UDC Says Chinese Communist Party May Help Fund Training

PAGE 04



World Bank Sees Botswana Debt Hitting 40.6% Of GDP As Growth Slows

PAGE 21



Orapa Ends Six-Year Home Jinx Against Galaxy

PAGE 37

ARTS& LIFESTYLE- Lister Paints The Pain, Rise, And Purpose Of A Great Man ON PAGE 28

Lobatse Clay Works Hit By Liquidation Bid

■ Contractor pursues P606,300 balance after clay transport deal

FULL STORY PAGE 2



YOUR LIFE-CHANGING COMPETITION

CHOPPIES

BIG BIRTH DAY BONANZA



2 WINNERS • P1 MILLION EACH

WIN

P2 MILLION IN CASH

WIN A 3 NIGHTS WILDERNESS CAMP for two adults



NO MINIMUM PURCHASE

GA 184755 Terms & Conditions Apply*

PURCHASE ANY PARTICIPATING BRAND PRODUCTS AND PROVIDE DETAILS OF PRODUCT NAME, SURNAME, I.D & CONTACT NUMBER TO THE CASHIER.

COMPETITION RUNS FROM 16TH OCTOBER - 31ST DECEMBER, 2026

P100000 VOUCHER EVERY SATURDAY

P1,000 IN VOUCHERS FOR ONE LUCKY WINNER AT EACH STORE!

Lobatse Clay Works Hit By Liquidation Bid

Lobatse Clay Works' revival has come under threat after a contractor asked the High Court to place the Botswana Development Corporation (BDC) subsidiary under provisional liquidation over an alleged unpaid P606,300 bill.

INNOCENT SELATLHWA

Bokhamo (Pty) Ltd filed the petition at the Gaborone High Court on 9 September 2026, arguing that the brick manufacturer is unable to pay its debts.

The application brings a winding-up bid against a company whose reopening was presented as a boost for local manufacturing, employment and Botswana's ambitions to reduce dependence on imports.

In May 2025, the African Development Bank reported that its financial support had helped the plant reopen in 2024. It said the revived operation had created 148 direct jobs and was producing three million bricks a month for domestic and regional markets.

Now, a dispute over payment for transporting the clay used in that manufacturing operation has reached court.

According to the petition, Bokhamo entered into a P906,300 agreement with LCW on 12 June 2026 to transport clay from Mmamabula to the



company's factory in Lobatse.

Bokhamo, represented by its director Comfort Bokhalanyane, says it completed the work and submitted its statement on 23 July. Payment was due within 30 days.

The contractor alleges that the deadline passed without payment despite repeated communication over the outstanding amount.

Its lawyers, Lawrence & Associates, issued a demand on 25 August, seeking settlement of the P906,300.

LCW subsequently paid

P300,000 on 29 August, according to the petition. A bank payment notification attached to the court papers records a payment of that amount from LCW to Bokhamo.

The contractor says the remaining P606,300 was still outstanding when it approached the court.

Bokhamo also alleges that it took the matter to BDC on 1 September, prompting a conference call involving LCW general manager Anthony Moepeng and his superiors.

During that call, according to

the petition, Moepeng was instructed to prepare and submit a payment plan for the outstanding balance. Bokhamo alleges that he failed to do so.

"The Respondent is accordingly commercially insolvent and unable to pay its debts," the contractor argues in its petition.

Bokhamo wants Laurettah Sibanda appointed provisional liquidator, pending the appointment of a liquidator by the Master of the High Court. Her written consent to act if appointed is attached to the application.

The relief sought would give the provisional liquidator control of LCW's bank accounts, excluding its existing directors and signatories. It would also authorise her to continue or discontinue the business and retain or terminate contracts.

Bokhamo argues that intervention is necessary to protect assets for creditors and prevent further indebtedness. It also warns that separate enforcement proceedings by other creditors could result in assets being sold, potentially leaving employees without terminal benefits.



Boko Sells Botswana's Stability To China In P514bn Investment Push

President Duma Gideon Boko has made Botswana's political stability a central selling point for Chinese investors as his administration seeks capital for the P514 billion Botswana Economic Transformation Programme (BETP).

RIGHT: ►

President Advocate
Duma Gideon Boko

TSAONE SEGAETSHO

Speaking during a fire-side chat at the Botswana-China Business Forum in Beijing on 14 October 2026, Boko presented the country as a secure investment destination and a gateway to African markets.

The forum brought together businesses from both countries for discussions on investment, trade and partnerships. The Botswana Investment and Trade Centre (BITC) had targeted participation by approximately 300 Chinese companies.

Boko said the elevation of bilateral relations to a Comprehensive Strategic Co-operative Partnership had created a stronger foundation for commercial cooperation and would make it easier for Chinese companies to establish operations in Botswana.

He highlighted the country's democratic record, citing the peaceful transfer of power after the October 2024 general election, which ended nearly six decades of Botswana Democratic Party rule.

"Botswana has a record that speaks for itself, the uninterrupted, undisturbed record of political stability is there for all to see and this is evidence that Botswana is safe and there-



fore, Botswana is an example not just for Africa, but for the world," he said.

Boko also cited Botswana's sovereign credit standing as part of his investment pitch.

His administration is seeking substantial private capital through the BETP to accelerate diversification, expand productive industries and reduce dependence on diamond revenues.

His remarks followed the Botswana-China Joint Statement of 13 October, issued after bilateral talks with Chinese President Xi Jinping.

The statement identifies National Development Plan

12 and the BETP among Botswana's development priorities to be supported through closer cooperation. It provides for expanded engagement in mining, energy, infrastructure, agriculture, manufacturing, logistics and digital technology.

It also encourages businesses from both countries to identify commercially viable projects. However, it does not specify how much financing China intends to provide towards the BETP or identify projects for which funding has been secured.

Minister of International Relations Dr Phenyio Butale has said Xi announced fi-

nancial support for Botswana's transformation agenda during the presidential engagements. The amount, financing instruments and intended beneficiaries have not been publicly detailed in the announcements examined.

Ahead of the forum, BITC Director for International Business in India and Asia Dipopego Tsheko said business matchmaking sessions were intended to generate joint ventures, trade and investment partnerships.

"This is not just about dialogue, it is about deals," Tsheko said.

Boko similarly presented Botswana's opportunities as capable of delivering commercial returns while contributing to Africa's development.

"You will do very well, while doing very good," he told the Chinese business community.

Diamonds featured prominently in the discussions. Shanghai Diamond Exchange Vice President Yan Jin said China's natural diamond market had undergone a sharp adjustment since 2022 but was showing signs of recovery.

Yan identified opportunities linking Botswana's diamond production with China's manufacturing, retail and consumer markets.

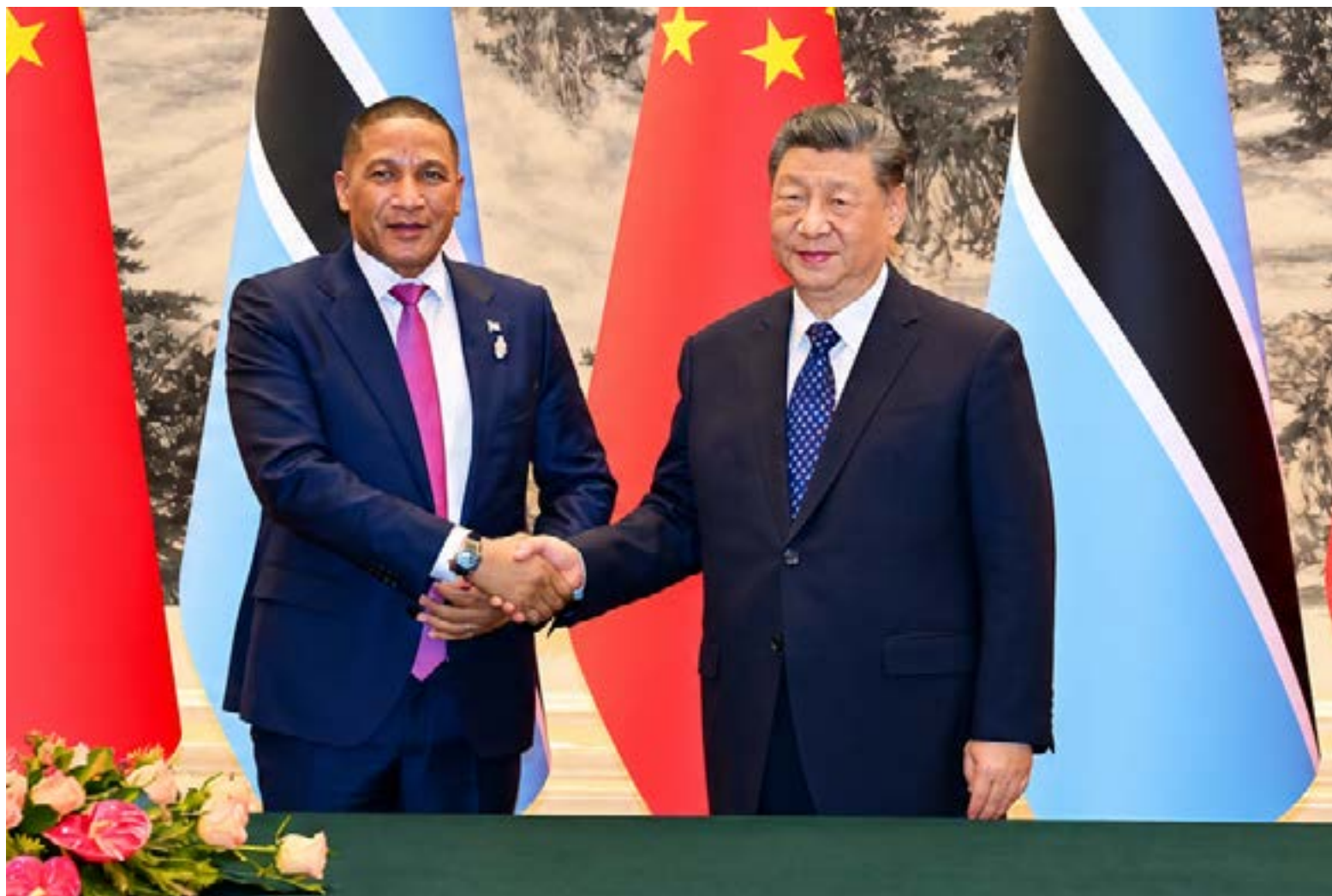
The joint statement also identifies opportunities to expand Botswana's beef, citrus and other agricultural exports through improved market access and trade facilitation. China's zero-tariff initiative for eligible African exports forms part of that agenda, although exporters must satisfy applicable technical and market-entry requirements.

UDC Says Chinese Communist Party May Help Fund Training

RIGHT: ►

Umbrella for Democratic Change (UDC) has acknowledged that the Communist Party of China may help finance its political engagements

TSAONE SEGAETSHO



Botswana's ruling Umbrella for Democratic Change (UDC) has acknowledged that the Communist Party of China may help finance its political engagements when the coalition cannot meet the full cost.

"We fund ourselves or the Chinese Communist Party may help with funding where we fall short," UDC Executive Secretary Dr Patrick Molotsi told The Monday Chronicle.

Molotsi confirmed direct relations between the two parties but did not say whether any Chinese financial assistance had already been received.

His remarks follow the inclusion of training opportunities for UDC members in the Botswana-China Joint Statement issued on October 13 after talks between President Duma Boko and Chinese President Xi Jinping in Beijing.

Paragraph six encourages exchanges between political parties in leadership

development, policy formulation, organisational development, training and institutional strengthening. It also specifically welcomes opportunities for UDC members to attend bilateral and multilateral training programmes hosted by China.

However, the statement does not identify who will finance those programmes, how participants will be selected or whether similar opportunities will be extended to Botswana's opposition parties.

Molotsi defended the relationship as normal international political cooperation, pointing to the UDC's ties with South Africa's African National Congress (ANC).

"We have a relationship with ANC for example," he said.

He also confirmed that the coalition had sent Assistant Minister of Communications and Innovation Shawn Ntlhaile to China to meet Communist Party officials.

Molotsi said state visits sometimes create opportunities for governing-party leaders to hold separate political engagements and exchange ideas.

The development follows a September 22 meeting in Beijing between a UDC delegation led by Ntlhaile and Ma Hui, Vice-Minister of the International Department of the Communist Party of China Central Committee. It remains unclear whether those discussions directly led to the inclusion of UDC training opportunities in the October joint statement. Political analyst Professor Zibani Maundeni said the arrangement should primarily be understood as co-operation between political organisations rather than an agreement involving the Botswana government in its administrative capacity. He said the intention was to strengthen relations between the UDC and China's Communist Party, with political training forming part of that cooperation.

Maundeni suggested that the Chinese side could finance the programmes, noting that Botswana's political parties do not ordinarily receive direct government funding.

Molotsi separately said party-funding legislation had not yet been passed, while maintaining that the UDC ordinarily finances its own international engagements. The distinction between party and government relations is significant because the training provision appears in an official bilateral statement. Although it broadly encourages political-party exchanges, it names the UDC as a potential beneficiary without explicitly identifying opposition parties.

Maundeni also questioned whether opposition parties would necessarily want to participate in training organised by China's Communist Party or government.

To Page 5

BCP Wrests Sefhophe Ward From UDC

GOITSEMODIMO KAELO

The Botswana Congress Party (BCP) has reclaimed Sefhophe ward after its candidate, Mokwaledi Joseph Bagwasi, defeated the Umbrella for Democratic Change (UDC) by 95 votes in Saturday's by-election.

Bagwasi secured 800 votes against the UDC's 705. The Botswana Democratic Party (BDP) garnered 291 votes, while the Botswana Patriotic Front (BPF) polled 225. Eleven votes were spoiled.

The by-election followed the death of UDC councillor Christopher Motsholapheko, who won the ward in the 2024 general election.

The victory returns Sefhophe to the BCP, which had long regarded the ward as a stronghold before losing it to the governing coalition.

The BCP had publicly vowed to reclaim the ward, turning the contest into a test of its ability to recover lost ground and the UDC's capacity to defend its 2024 gains.

For the BCP, Bagwasi's victory provides a boost

RIGHT: ►

Mokwaledi Joseph Bagwasi, defeated the Umbrella for Democratic Change (UDC) by 95 votes

in an area where the party has historically enjoyed support. It also gives the party an opportunity to rebuild its local base after the setback of the general election.

The UDC's defeat follows internal disagreements over its preferred candidate ahead of the by-election. The extent to which those divisions affected its campaign and the result remains unclear.

However, the figures show that the contest was far from a walkover. With only 95 votes separating the leading parties, Sefhophe remains competitive, leaving the BCP with work to do to consolidate its regained position.



The BDP and BPF's combined 516 votes also underline the presence of support beyond the two leading contenders, despite the contest being largely framed as a battle between the BCP and UDC.

Bagwasi, meanwhile, has pledged to push for another clinic in the area, describing it as long overdue. He said he intended to work hard

to bring development to Sefhophe and serve residents regardless of their political affiliation.

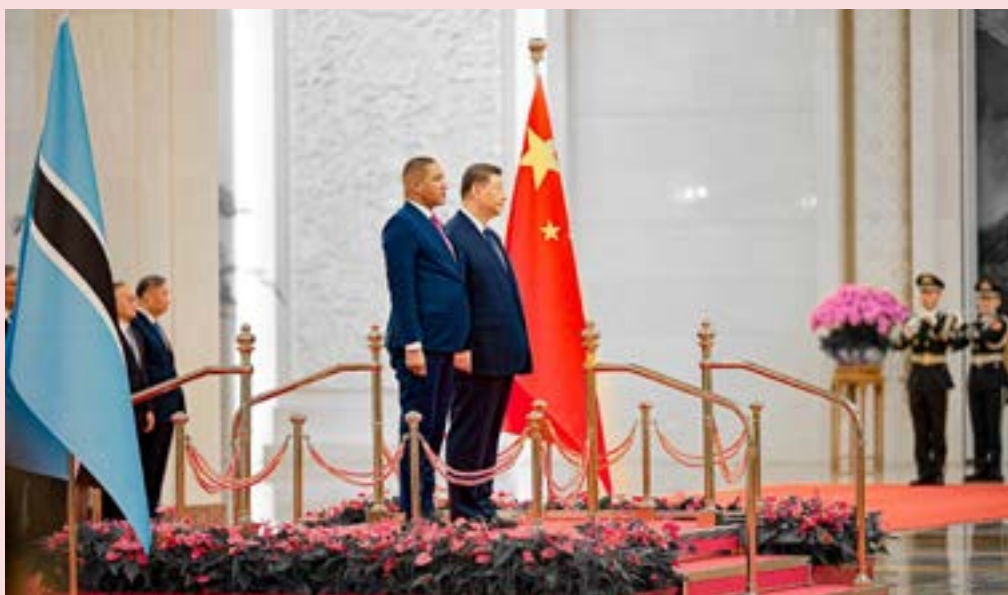
"I will also advocate for the construction of a storm-water drainage in the village. I intend to work with everyone in the village, without looking at the party affiliation towards the development of the area," he said.

UDC Says Chinese Communist Party May Help Fund Training

From Page 4

During his talks with Boko, Xi called for closer cooperation between the governing parties and greater exchanges of governance experience, according to China's official account.

The political cooperation accompanies the elevation of Botswana-China relations to a Comprehensive Strategic Cooperative Partnership, cov-



ering wider development and economic cooperation. Questions remain about whether China's Communist Party covered any costs of Ntlhaile's September visit, what future assistance might involve and whether conditions would apply. The amount of any potential funding, the number of participants and the training timetable have not been disclosed.

US Pumps \$11.9 Million Into Botswana's Digital Health System

The United States government has committed more than US\$11.9 million to support Botswana's digital health systems, including a platform designed to help health workers collect and share community health information in real time.



▲ **ABOVE:** US Embassy's acting chargé d'affaires, Christopher Gunning

BOIKANYO MATHONSI

The funding was announced by the US Embassy's acting chargé d'affaires, Christopher Gunning, during the launch of Iketse, the Digital Community Health Information System (DCHIS), in Thamaga.

The investment includes more than US\$4.3 million already spent on developing the system and an additional US\$7.606 million committed to strengthening the integration of health data systems.

Gunning said the investment formed part of a longstanding partnership between Botswana and the United States. The two countries have worked together for more than two decades to strengthen Botswana's health sector, particularly in the fight against HIV and AIDS.

"Since 2023, the United States government invested over \$4.3 million to develop the DCHIS, equip the data system, train users across Botswana, and support systems dashboards at the Ministry of Health," he said.

He added that the new funding would help connect different health information systems, making it easier for health workers and officials to access and share information.

"Through the bilateral MOU, we committed an additional \$7.606 million to Botswana to strengthen the integration and interoperability of health data systems," Gunning said.

He also announced plans to provide satellite internet connectivity to 140 health facilities, alongside 250 additional tablets and

40 Bright Boxes to improve connectivity in government health facilities.

The investment is expected to support the use of digital tools in health facilities and communities, where timely access to information can help health workers identify and respond to health threats.

Ministry of Health Permanent Secretary Dr Neo Tapela said Iketse marked an important step towards addressing longstanding weaknesses in community health reporting, which has often relied on paper records.

She said reporting delays, duplication of information and difficulties in ensuring accountability had affected the management of community health services.

"Recent public health threats, most notably, of

course, COVID-19 in 2020, have tested the readiness and resilience of our health infrastructure by exposing vulnerabilities in our traditional reporting mechanisms," Tapela said.

She explained that the system would allow community health workers and their supervisors to collect, submit and manage information more efficiently, helping decision-makers respond to health needs at community, district and national levels.

"Through this system, community health workers, their supervisors, and all in the chain of decision making in the health system will be better equipped to capture and submit and manage information so that they can make timely, informed decisions that ultimately improve the health and well being of Botswana," she said.

Tapela stressed that the system was about improving access to healthcare, particularly for people who depend on community-based services.

"Universal health coverage cannot be achieved through hospitals and health facilities alone. It requires strong networks that are part of the primary health care system. It requires empowered communities and reliable information," she said.

She said Iketse was already operational in 14 districts, with the government hoping to expand it across the country.

Tapela also emphasised the need to train and support community health workers, saying the system should reduce paperwork and allow them to spend more time interacting with the people they serve.



SMARTER BEVERAGE SOLUTIONS.

Reliable distribution and hospitality support across Botswana

Fine Brands Botswana brings together a diverse portfolio of wines, trusted retail products, coffee solutions, teas, syrups and hospitality essentials - supported by dependable service for retailers, hotels, restaurants, cafes, caterers and corporate clients nationwide.

WINE DISTRIBUTION

A carefully selected portfolio of local and international wines for retailers, restaurants, hotels, bars and hospitality establishments - with options for different tastes, occasions and price points.

RETAIL DEPARTMENT

Trusted, versatile products for everyday retail needs, including Cairns, 5-Star, Yum-Yum and Trumps. We work closely with retail partners to support reliable availability, distribution and brand growth.

HORECA SOLUTIONS

Practical products and service for hotels, restaurants and cafes. Our coffee division supplies coffee products and machines, backed by servicing and repairs that help keep your operation running efficiently.

BEVERAGE MENU INNOVATION

SloJo syrups give hospitality businesses a versatile base for mocktails, crushers, smoothies and milkshakes - making it easier to create exciting beverage options for every customer.

MORE THAN A DISTRIBUTOR

We build lasting partnerships by understanding your business and providing products, technical support and service that add real value.

“We are committed to improving the lives of our customers through quality service, premium products and solutions that earn trust and build lifetime relationships.”

QUALITY PRODUCTS • EXCEPTIONAL SERVICE

38.8 Million Faced Hunger Across Eight SADC States

Some 38.8 million people across eight Southern African Development Community (SADC) member states faced acute food insecurity between October 2025 and June 2026, according to the regional bloc.



BOIKANYO MATHONSI

More than 21 million children in the region also suffer from impaired growth linked to long-term undernutrition, as climate threats and poor access to nutritious food continue to undermine livelihoods. In a statement marking World Food Day on October 16, SADC Executive Secretary Elias Magosi called for urgent action, stressing that increased agricultural production must translate into better nutrition for the region's population.

"These figures underscore the urgent

need to increase food production while ensuring that all people have access to sufficient, safe, diverse, and nutritious food," Magosi said.

The warning comes as the region prepares for the 2026/27 rainfall season, with below-normal rainfall and above-average temperatures forecast across much of southern Africa. SADC also warned that El Niño could increase the risk of reduced rainfall, threatening agricultural production.

Magosi said countries needed to use climate forecasts to guide farming decisions and prepare for disruptions before they affected food supplies.

"Converting climate information into action

through improved water management, resilient agriculture, agricultural information systems, and contingency planning will be critical to protecting food production, livestock, livelihoods, and vulnerable communities," he said.

SADC said it was promoting greater use of science, technology and early warning systems through its Regional Agricultural Policy, which also seeks to strengthen agricultural markets and trade across member states.

"Integrating climate information and early warning systems into agricultural planning, alongside stronger

regional cooperation, is essential to building resilient agricultural systems and improving the region's ability to respond to food security challenges," Magosi said.

He said the success of these efforts would also depend on the involvement of farmers, women, young people and local communities in developing practical solutions to agricultural challenges.

"Their participation is important in shaping sustainable approaches that protect livelihoods, strengthen farming systems and ensure communities are better prepared to withstand climate shocks," he said.

Manual Workers Nursing A Bruised Ego — Justice Maripe

High Court judge Justice Bugalo Maripe has dismissed Manual Workers Union's challenge to the reconstituted Public Service Bargaining Council (PSBC), saying the case was driven by disappointment over the rejection of its preferred candidate for secretary.

GOITSEMODIMO KAELO

In a stinging judgment delivered on October 16, Maripe said the union was challenging a process in which it had participated after failing to secure support for its nominee.

"We are therefore sitting in a matter geared purely to assuage the injured feelings of the applicant over its disappointment that its preferred choice of Secretary did not curry favour with the rest of the other participants," he said.

"This is the essence of these proceedings without more."

The judge dismissed the entire application and ordered the union to pay the costs of the government and four respondent unions.

The dispute arose from a January 30, 2026 meeting at which Andrew Motsamai and Tobokani Rari were appointed PSBC secretary and deputy secretary, respectively.

Manual Workers Union had proposed Rari for secretary, but the meeting appointed Motsamai following a vote. The union's representatives walked out before voting and did not sign the resolution confirming the appointments.

The union subsequently asked the High Court to declare the meeting and its resolutions invalid, arguing that the PSBC constitution bound the original signatories and that the January meeting was unlawful. It also sought to bar the two appointees from representing the council.

Alternatively, it argued that the constitution was incurably defective and should be declared null and void, with government directed to convene a fresh meeting



to negotiate a replacement.

Maripe found that the union lacked legal standing because signing the constitution did not automatically confer membership of the bargaining council.

He explained that membership depended on fulfilling the constitution's admission requirements, including a threshold of 4,000 members. The union had not applied for admission and could not claim automatic membership through its participation in negotiating and signing the constitution.

Maripe also rejected the argument that the constitution was unworkable because it did not expressly provide for the interim structures established to operationalise the council.

He ruled that the Reference Committee and Joint Interim Secretariat were necessary to

give effect to the bargaining framework and were lawful.

"The constitution is not broken. All the applicant has to do is to apply for membership. That's all," he said.

The judge also criticised what he considered the union's attempt to elevate its role above other participating unions.

"I think in this the applicant is punching way above its weight, and arrogating to itself the

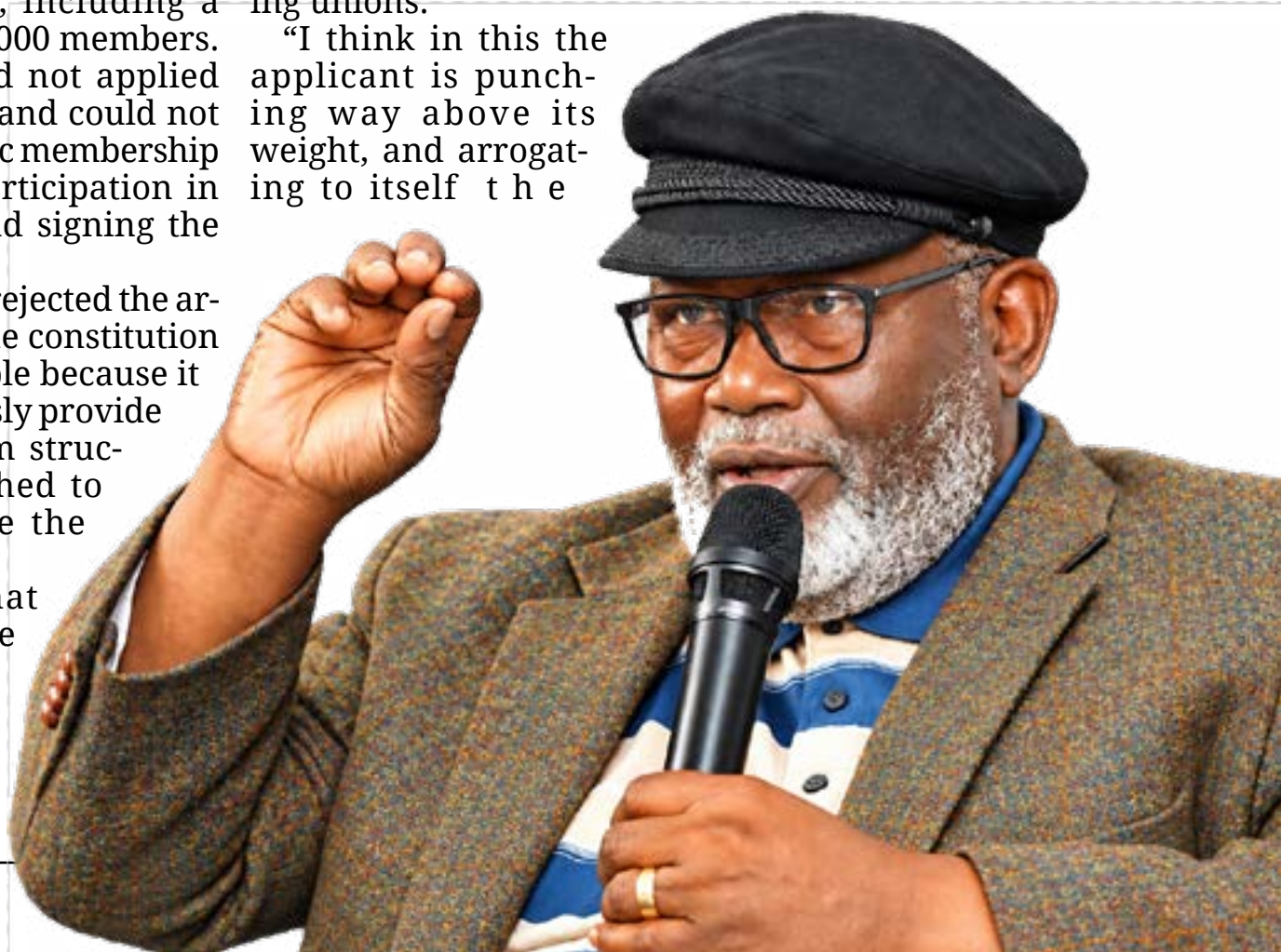
high power of the alpha and omega, without pointing to what special characteristics it has above the other unions," Maripe said.

The judgment follows earlier proceedings before Justice Lekorwe, in which Manual Workers Union sought to interdict the implementation of decisions taken at the January meeting.

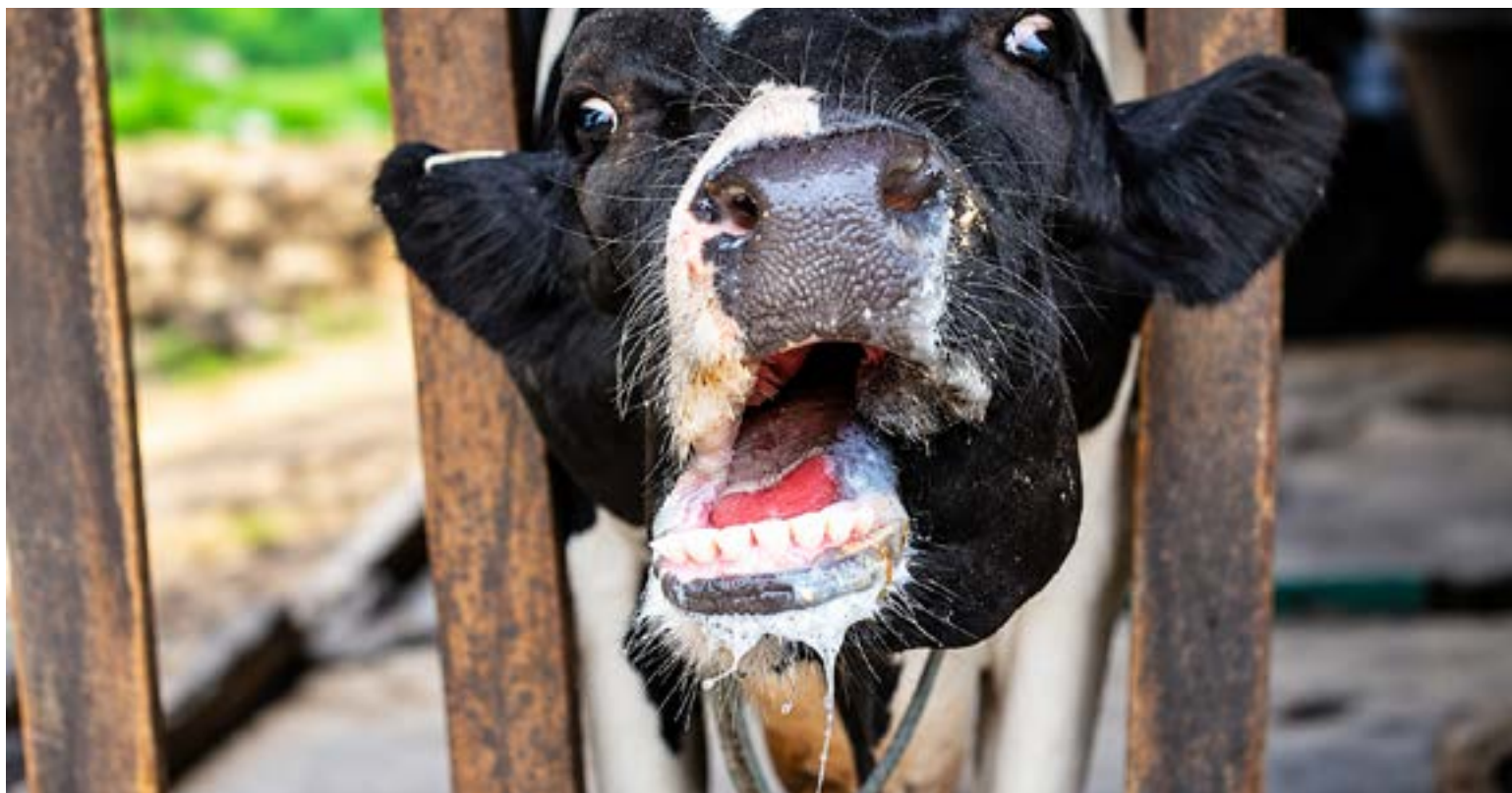
Maripe held that the constitution was legal and operational, adding that the temporary structures would fall away once the secretaries began admitting eligible unions.

The PSBC constitution was signed in October 2025 and registered with the Commissioner of Labour the following month. The council is intended to provide a platform for government and eligible public sector unions to negotiate employment terms and conditions.

The ruling leaves Manual Workers Union to seek membership through the prescribed admission process.



FMD Crisis Exposes Decades Of False Security



BOIKANYO MATHONSI

Decades of relative calm in southern Botswana may have created a false sense of security, leaving the livestock sector unprepared for the current foot-and-mouth disease (FMD) outbreak, veterinary experts have warned.

Speaking at the fourth Farmers Conference in Gaborone, IRIO VET veterinarian Dr Paula Ngwena said Botswana should have treated the disease's presence in neighbouring South Africa as a serious warning.

Ngwena said the outbreak had exposed gaps in contingency planning and farmer education, raising questions about whether the country had done enough to prepare for a disease capable of disrupting livestock production and trade.

"When you know there is

a disease of economic importance that is affecting a neighbouring country, what you do as a country is pull out something called a contingency plan," she said.

A contingency plan sets out the steps to be taken when a disease enters a country. Ngwena questioned whether Botswana had done enough to put such preparations into action while FMD was affecting South Africa.

She also stressed the need to educate farmers about the risks of bringing animals and genetic material across borders without proper precautions, warning that a lack of knowledge could have serious consequences for the entire livestock sector.

"Would you say that person is ignorant, or would you say that person lacks the knowledge? They were not informed that this is a national disaster

that you are causing," she said.

Ngwena warned that FMD could spread rapidly if infections were not detected and contained early, making surveillance and swift intervention essential.

Vet Agric Consultants director Dr Gaseitsewe Sento, however, said the crisis should not be reduced to accusations against government, veterinarians or farmers.

He argued that decades without major FMD disruptions in southern Botswana had created a sense of normality that left the livestock sector unprepared for the current situation.

Sento recalled that FMD had affected southern Botswana in the 1970s, prompting the government to seek assistance in controlling the disease. He linked that response to the establishment of the Botswana Vaccine Institute.

He said the long period of relative stability that followed had shaped how the industry viewed the threat.

"For 50 years, we then started thinking, well, this is the norm, this is how things go," he said.

Sento urged stakeholders to stop dwelling on who was responsible and concentrate on finding a way forward.

"The way out is let's stop pointing fingers at anybody. Let's look for solutions about it,"

Old Mutual Life Insurance managing director Reason Nyamambi warned that the consequences extended beyond animal health, with farmers facing financial pressure when restrictions prevented them from selling or moving cattle.

The outbreak had exposed the vulnerability of farmers whose businesses and households depended on regular livestock sales, Nyamambi said.

"When we talk about preparedness for FMD or disruptions, we therefore have to ask more than whether the animals were protected. We also need to ask whether the farm and the family could survive where their normal source of income, which is cattle selling, has been disrupted," Nyamambi said.

Nyamambi added that owning cattle did not necessarily mean having money available to run a farm or support a family when sales were disrupted.

THE MONDAY
Chronicle
— Verify. Then Amplify —

Physical Address

Plot 68303
Marula Industrial Park
Phakalane, Gaborone

Tel

+267 74 027 905 | 74 025 505

Email

info@themondaychronicle.co.bw

Website

www.themondaychronicle.co.bw

Editor

Innocent Selatlhwa
innocent@themondaychronicle.co.bw

Marketing

Kago Leso
kago@themondaychronicle.co.bw

Creative Director

Nkagisang Molefhe
molf@themondaychronicle



KASIMBA
Boutique Hotel

Graduation PACKAGES

Package 1 - P5,950.00

- Signature welcome drink upon arrival
- Luxury Overnight stay, BnB for 2
- Gourment platter for 10
- Refreshing soft drink per person
- Premium Sparkling wine for toast
- Bespoke setup & decor
- 2 Aerial drone photos

Package 2 - P4,300.00

- Signature welcome drink upon arrival
- Gourment platter for 10
- Refreshing soft drink per person
- Bespoke setup & decor
- 2 Aerial drone photos

SCAN FOR
DIRECTION



RESERVE YOUR TABLE TODAY



+267 392 0024



reservations@kasimba.co.bw



+267 72 280 137



Plot 2522, Mmokolodi 1



• Retreat • Indulge
• Experience



Editorial

Comment

Warnings Must Lead To Action

Foot-and-mouth disease threatens the security of entire households. It can interrupt a family's main source of income, leave farm bills unpaid and place years of work at risk. That is why Botswana's preparedness deserves serious public scrutiny.

At the Farmers Conference, veterinary experts questioned contingency planning, surveillance and farmer education. Their concerns call for clear answers from the authorities. What preparations were made as the disease spread in neighbouring South Africa? Were farmers told what to watch for, how to report suspected cases and which practices could put the wider industry at risk?

These questions should guide an honest review of our response. Farmers also have responsibilities, but public education must reach them in language they understand and through channels they use.

Farmers should receive regular updates explaining restrictions, reporting procedures and the conditions required for trade to resume safely.

The regional picture makes delay even more costly. SADC reports that 38.8 million people in eight member states faced acute food insecurity between October 2025 and June 2026. Its warning about the coming rainfall season demands practical preparation, including better water management and farming advice informed by climate forecasts.

For households already under pressure, another disrupted season could be devastating. Government should explain how it intends to protect production and help vulnerable families withstand interruptions to their income.

Botswana's digital health programme offers an opportunity to strengthen another essential service. The United States has backed Botswana's health information systems with more than US\$11.9 million, combining money already spent with additional commitments. Iketse, the digital community health system, operates in 14 districts.

Its value will depend on what happens after the launch. Health workers need training, reliable connections, working equipment and support when systems fail. Information gathered in communities must reach people who can act on it.

Across agriculture and health, the same duty applies: identify risks early, prepare for them and respond before avoidable harm spreads.

Public institutions must show what they have done with warnings, funding and plans. Ministers and senior officials should set out responsibilities, delivery dates and measures of progress that citizens can follow.

There is room for international partnerships, new technology and ambitious national programmes. Their success will be measured in cattle protected, families able to earn a living and patients receiving timely care.

Botswana can build that capacity. Doing so requires steady work between emergencies, when preparation attracts fewer cameras but matters just as much.

AGRIFEED
The Farmer's Friend
AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS AND ANIMAL FEEDS

MORE THAN PRODUCTS.
SUPPORTING FARMERS. STRENGTHENING BOTSWANA.

At Agrifeed, we support Botswana's farmers with quality products, expert advice and reliable solutions — from the farm to the future.

QUALITY BRANDS | EXPERT SUPPORT | A PARTNER YOU CAN TRUST

ANIMAL FEED & LIVESTOCK | POULTRY & ACCESSORIES | SEEDS, FERTILISERS & AGRONOMY | VETERINARY MEDICINES & HEALTH PRODUCTS | FARM EQUIPMENT & FENCING | PET CARE, HORSE & OUTDOOR

25 BRANCHES ACROSS BOTSWANA
Quality agricultural solutions are always within reach.

+267 390 1851
+267 7378 4558
info@agrifeed.co.bw
agrifeed.co.bw

From Seed to Success.
SUPPORTING FARMERS BUILDING A GREENER BOTSWANA.

AGRICULTURE | LIVESTOCK | PETS | HOME | OUTDOOR

THE MONDAY Chronicle
Verify. Then Amplify.

ALL EYES ON YOUR BRAND

We make your brand the headline

ADVERTISE WITH US.

+267 74027905 | 74028505 | www.themondychronicle.co.bw | Plot 68303, Unit 3, Morula Industrial Park, Phakalane, Gaborone

Series 3: Botswana's Transition to Renewable Energy and the challenge of Gender and Energy Poverty

The transition of Botswana to renewable energy is important to enhance energy security while expanding the use of modern forms of energy. However, energy poverty is not clearly defined and poorly integrated into Botswana's frameworks for renewable energy investment and risk management, particularly in relation to affordability, gender inequality and unpaid care work. As outlined in Series 2, investment choices, the cost of financing and the way risks are shared can influence electricity prices and the affordability of power. The central question is whether Botswana's energy transition can tackle gender and energy poverty.

International organisations and governments have attempted to define the concept of energy poverty but continue to have challenges in adopting a universally accepted definition. One of the main characteristics of energy poverty in many countries is the lack of energy infrastructure. However, access, cost, dependability, service quality, and the capacity to use energy to generate income and improve living conditions are important aspects of energy poverty. This also includes types of deprivation that are not measured by conventional energy-access metrics, such as households that are compelled to reduce their energy usage below target levels due to their inability to pay for necessary energy services.



Dr. Cheludo Tinaye Butale

Multidimensional frameworks are used in Botswana to measure energy poverty. Statistics Botswana's Population and Housing Census Analytics indicate that approximately 34.7% of households in Botswana are multidimensionally energy poor. The extent to which Botswana's multidimensional approach to evaluating energy poverty, which includes household energy deprivation indicators embedded in the nation's legal and regulatory structure is still unclear. Conventional measurements of access to energy and investment performance may not fully capture the implications for women, who often perform a disproportionate amount of unpaid care work.

Economic, health, socio-cultural, and behavioural perspectives are ways of understanding gender and energy poverty. Unequal pay and the fact that women live longer than men are fea-

tures of energy poverty. The health perspective includes the physiological and biological factors that increase susceptibility to energy poverty. Elderly people and young children are particularly at risk to the negative effects of heat and cold stress. These impacts have a significant impact on low-income households, informal workers, the elderly, individuals with disabilities who depend on assistive technology that needs energy, and communities that are geographically constrained by access to infrastructure.

Gender mainstreaming is seen as an important aspect in Botswana's National Energy Policy (2021). The challenge occurs when connecting the policy commitment to the decisions that influence employment, procurement, project risk management, and energy affordability.

The 100 MW Mmadinare Solar PV, the 100 MW Jwaneng and the 500 MW Maun Solar PV project that includes 500 MWh of battery storage under a power purchase agreement (PPA) arrangement raise a broader policy question of whether social and gender-related risks are evaluated as rigorously as financial and technical ones. A narrow focus on financial and technical performance can lead to the distributive effects of the investment being overlooked.

Botswana can benefit from regional organisations and nations that have more defined strategies for mainstreaming

gender in the energy sector. Kenya's Gender Policy in Energy (2019) provides a framework for integrating gender issues into energy policies, programs, and projects. M-KOPA in Kenya also provides an additional example of how financing and flexible payment plans can contribute to widening access to technologies related to energy. For Botswana, the policy lesson is to explore real affordability, repayment performance, service quality and outcomes disaggregated by gender of energy technologies. The Economic Community of West African States further adopted a Policy in 2015 to mainstream gender in all energy programmes including large scale energy infrastructure projects and investments. Botswana can build on its policy framework by creating a gender-responsive policy for energy affordability and investment risk.

In conclusion, Botswana's energy transition must be evaluated not only by higher generation capacity and financial gains but also by its capacity to lessen energy poverty, lessen the burden of unpaid care, and increase access to economic possibilities for women and other marginalised groups. Gender and social issues must be included into energy investment and risk management.

Dr. Cheludo Tinaye Butale- Socio-economic, gender and security researcher advancing enterprise development.

BOTSWANA IS RICH IN IDEAS, BUT WHO IS GETTING RICH FROM THEM?



Dr Keotshepile Motseonageng

THE BUSINESS OF INFLUENCE

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY
LAW

Botswana is not suffering from a shortage of ideas. Perhaps our greatest challenge is what happens to those ideas after they are created.

For decades, we have discussed economic diversification, entrepreneurship, innovation and reducing our dependence on diamonds. Yet, one important conversation remains insufficiently explored: How can Intellectual Property become a driver of Botswana's economic transformation?

We have spent 60 years building an economy largely supported by the wealth beneath our soil. Perhaps it is time we invested just as deliberately in the wealth within our minds.

Intellectual Property (IP)

is not simply about registering trademarks, patents or copyrights. It is about recognising that human creativity, innovation and knowledge can become valuable economic assets.

Consider our creative industries.

A musician releases a song, earns performance fees and moves on to the next project. A fashion designer creates a distinctive collection, sells the garments and begins another. An author publishes a book and concentrates on selling copies.

But what happens beyond those initial transactions?

Can the music generate licensing revenue? Can the fashion designs become part of a commercially valuable portfolio? Can the book be translated, adapted or licensed into other markets?

The difference between creating intellectual property and commercialising it is often the difference between earning once and building recurring revenue.

Now consider our universities and research institutions.

Every year, research is conducted, discoveries are made and innovative solutions are developed. But how much of that knowl-

edge reaches the marketplace?

How many research projects become patented inventions, licensed technologies or commercially viable enterprises?

Research should not necessarily end with academic publication. Where appropriate, it should also create opportunities for industrial development, employment and economic growth.

Our indigenous knowledge presents another important conversation.

Botswana possesses valuable traditional knowledge, cultural expressions and indigenous resources. Yet we must ask whether the communities preserving this knowledge participate fairly in the economic benefits arising from its commercial use.

Protection and benefit-sharing require appropriate legal and policy mechanisms, not assumptions about ownership.

Then there is government.

Public institutions commission creative works, fund research and develop innovations. Are we identifying, managing and commercialising valuable publicly funded intellectual property where appropriate?

These questions deserve serious national attention.

However, not every idea qualifies for intellectual property protection, and not every protected asset will generate commercial value. Successful commercialisation requires sound legal protection, investment, market demand, business strategy and effective management.

This is precisely why Botswana needs a stronger IP culture.

We must move beyond teaching entrepreneurs how to register businesses and begin teaching them how to identify, protect, manage and commercialise their intangible assets.

Economic diversification cannot depend exclusively on establishing more businesses. It must also involve building enterprises capable of creating and retaining value through innovation.

My dream is to help build a Botswana where Intellectual Property is understood not as a legal luxury, but as an economic instrument.

For 60 years, we have celebrated the wealth beneath our soil. Perhaps the next chapter of Botswana's prosperity lies in recognising the wealth within the minds of Botswana.

The question is: Are we prepared to invest in it?



TIRED OF SLOW GROWTH?

let us *accelerate* your success

ADVERTISE WITH US.

267 74027905 | 74028505

www.themondaychronicle.co.bw

Plot 68303, Unit 3, Morula Industrial Park, Phakalane, Gaborone

CONTACT US
NOW!

Political Weaponization Of Social Media

Social media is a powerful platform for connecting people and amplifying diverse voices. Yet what began as a tool for digital communication has also evolved into an instrument for manipulation, coercion and propaganda.

In just over two decades, it has transformed social interaction, shaped public opinion and helped mobilise movements such as the Arab Spring and Occupy Wall Street. Its influence extends into wars and political struggles across the world.

While rumours and fabricated information have always existed, social media presents new challenges to information integrity. Many users rely on Instagram, TikTok and X for news, making these platforms influential sources of information.

Social media empowers individuals to challenge dominant narratives. At the same time, it provides fertile ground for misinformation, disinformation and propaganda. Algorithms prioritising comments, shares and likes can reward sensational and inflammatory political content at the expense of accuracy. This encourages echo chambers where users encounter ideas reinforcing their existing beliefs, potentially weakening social cohesion.

Extremist groups have also exploited digital platforms to recruit, radicalise and spread propaganda. Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula's online maga-

zine, Inspire, influenced the perpetrators of the 2013 Boston Marathon bombing, demonstrating the dangers of extremist material circulating online.

The volume and speed of user-generated content make distinguishing fact from fiction increasingly difficult. Competing narratives leave the public uncertain and sceptical. The COVID-19 pandemic demonstrated this danger through conspiracy theories about the virus's origins and false claims about prevention and treatment.

Social media's dual role as an instrument of government communication and grassroots reporting reflects its complexity. Governments use it to shape narratives and manage public opinion, while citizen journalists challenge misleading official accounts and bring overlooked experiences to wider audiences.

Israel's war in Gaza illustrates this tension. Reporting by Palestinians on the ground has allowed people worldwide to wit-

ness the suffering of civilians and challenge official narratives. Supporters have used TikTok videos and platforms such as X to organise protests and express solidarity.

After the Israeli strike on a camp in Rafah on 26 May 2024, an AI-generated image depicting tents arranged to read "All Eyes on Rafah" spread widely. It attracted more than 44 million Instagram shares in less than 48 hours, demonstrating the scale of online solidarity with Palestinians.

The "Blockout 2024" movement similarly called on users to block celebrities and influencers who remained silent about Palestinian suffering. Supporters sought to use their collective influence to demand that prominent personalities speak out.

Online campaigns have also encouraged boycotts of corporations over alleged ties with Israel. Such activism intersects with the Palestinian-led Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions movement, es-

tablished in 2005 to pressure companies and institutions implicated in violations of Palestinian rights.

However, the same platforms can be used to manipulate political debate, discredit opponents and silence dissent. In the Philippines, former president Rodrigo Duterte's supporters used social media to promote favourable narratives and attack critics. In Myanmar, a military-linked Facebook campaign spread hatred against the Rohingya during the violence of 2017.

These examples show how digital communication can support public participation while enabling intimidation and division. Its effects reach beyond online exchanges, influencing political loyalties, public trust and relations between communities.

The world has witnessed internet activism and boycott campaigns against tyranny, racism and injustice. Yet social media is also becoming a tool of information warfare, with implications for future conflicts.

Platform owners, including Meta, X and Alphabet, must therefore promote free speech, combat disinformation and hate speech, and end censorship and shadow banning. They must uphold standards that allow social media to fulfil its intended role as a platform for diverse voices and informed dialogue.



The Life Of A Court Bailiff In Botswana

The life of a court bailiff in Botswana is one of responsibility, patience and resilience. Although the role may appear to involve simply serving court documents, particularly child maintenance summonses and court orders, it carries challenges that extend far beyond the delivery of paperwork. A court bailiff plays a vital role in the Administration of Justice by ensuring that court processes reach the people concerned.

Being a court bailiff in Botswana these are the responsibilities I carry daily. Although this may appear to be a straightforward task, the reality is that every document I serve carries a story of family disputes, financial difficulties, parental responsibilities and the welfare of a child.

One of the greatest challenges I face in my work is the lack of transport, which sometimes makes it difficult or rather impossible to serve documents as required. This challenge not only affects me but also my clients who sometimes travel from far to attend court only for it to be postponed and I too also miss my service deadlines and have to find other ways to serve. Apart from transport problems, I encounter people who are rude, angry and unwilling to cooperate leading to me feeling unsafe because there are times clients threaten me over



Ashley Saku

the phone before I have even reached them in person. Some threats are disturbing, such as when a parent threatens to harm their own children simply because they have been summoned to court which leaves me quiet disturbed. These experiences remind me that the work of a bailiff can be emotionally demanding and at times dangerous.

However, my work has also taught me to look beyond the surface of a dispute. There are occasions when I arrive to serve a summons only to discover that the father being summoned is living and caring for the very child or children he is being summoned for at his home. Yes some men live with their girlfriends or wives together with their children but are absent fathers. Those are not the men I am talking about right now, I am talking about present fathers who go above and beyond for

their children. Situations like these have taught me that every family has its own circumstances and that not every case can be understood from the documents alone. Through this line of work I have become more observant of people's behavior and the pain that often lies behind their explanations whether they are disputing maintenance or struggling with arrangements for parental access.

Despite the challenges, there are many rewarding aspects of my profession. I enjoy interacting with clients who are willing to communicate and understand the court process. Some are curious to understand what the law requires from them and ask questions, while others feel comfortable enough to share their personal experiences with me regarding parental access issues as well as maintenance disputes. I value these interactions because they allow me to put my legal knowledge into practice and explain the law to ordinary people who may not fully understand it. It gives them access to a court before reaching the court itself. One of my greatest satisfactions is seeing the cases I have served being completed by the Magistrate. It reassures me that my contribution, however small it may seem, plays a part in ensuring that justice is served whether in the favor of the plaintiff or the

defendant.

Being a court bailiff has also strengthened me personally. I have learned to stand up for myself when some clients attempt to undermine me because of my age and gender believing that a young woman cannot carry out her duties effectively. I have been in a situation where a client once told me to get someone older to serve him because according to my voice I am too young to understand "dikgang tsa bagolo" (adult matters) and also the fact that "ke ngwananyana" (I am a little girl) according to him. I have developed a high level of patience, self-control and the ability to remain professional even when dealing with difficult people in the field and around the office.

Ultimately, my experience has taught me that the law should not be viewed merely as a means of punishment. It exists to promote fairness, protect rights and provide a means of resolving disputes. As a court bailiff, I am not there to take sides or pass judgement on people's circumstances. My role is to carry out my duties fairly and professionally, while recognizing the humanity of those I encounter. As challenging as my work may be, I find purpose in knowing in knowing that I contribute to the Administration of Justice and in some cases to the protection and welfare of the children.



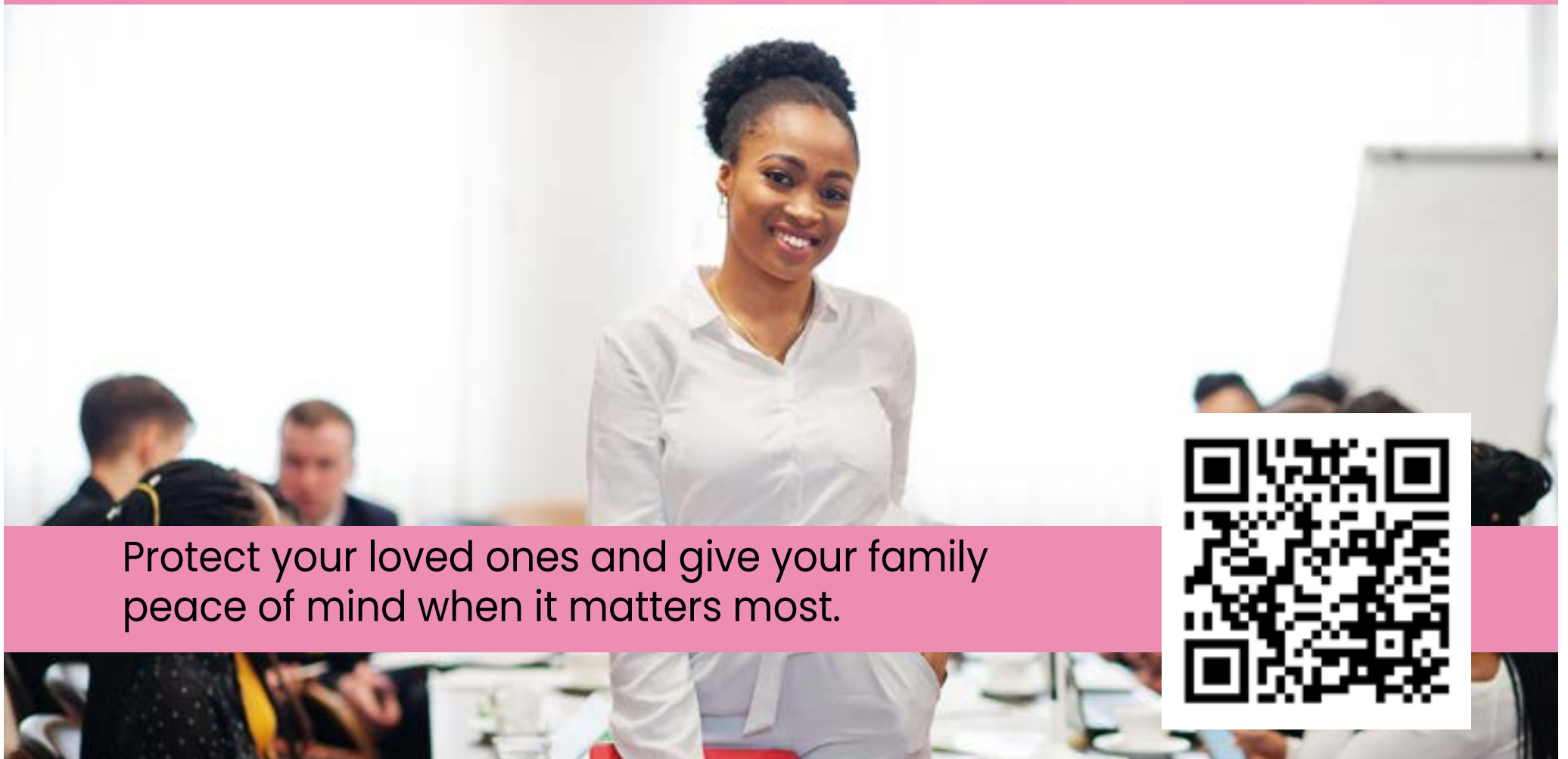
BABEREKI LIFE INSURANCE COMANY

Di Group le kae ?

✉ Get a GFS quote today! Contact Babereki Life Insurance Company (BLIC) for more information.

BLIC Group Funeral Scheme

👨👩 Plan today. Protect tomorrow.



Protect your loved ones and give your family peace of mind when it matters most.

The group must be duly registered with the relevant government authority or legally recognised registration body in Botswana, depending on the type of group.

For example:

1. Companies: Companies and Intellectual Property Authority (CIPA).
2. Trade unions: The relevant labour registration authority and Registrar of Societies.
3. Societies, Social Clubs and Associations: Registrar of Societies.
4. Choirs and Sports Teams: Registrar of Societies.

Breast
CANCER
AWARENESS
MONTH

☎ +267 321 6290 📞 +267 71 799 120 ✉ info@bliic.co.bw /marketing@blic.co.bw

in BLIC

f BLIC

📷 #BLIC

🎵 Blic

FREE HEALTH CHECK MACHINES - WHAT BOTSWANA CAN LEARN FROM SOUTH KOREA'S ZEBRA CROSSINGS

Once visited South Korea years back with other Members of the ICT Committee of Parliament. While there, I was admired to see a machine that was doing miracles by the zebra crossings. While people were waiting for the robot to give way, they were keeping busy by checking their health. There was a small machine, installed by Samsung, where any person could stop and check their sugar level, their blood pressure, their body temperature, and their heart rate. Free. Simple. No queue at a clinic.

I watched old people, young workers, mothers with children – they just placed their arm, waited 60 seconds, and got a small printout of their health status. If your pressure was high, the machine advised you to visit a clinic.

In Botswana today, people are very sick and they do not know it. High blood pressure, diabetes, stroke – these non-communicable diseases are now killing more Botswana than



**Moiseralele
Master Goya**

many infectious diseases. Yet a simple check for blood pressure at a private pharmacy costs P50 to P100. For a mother in Lethakeng or a taxi driver in Tsolamosese, that is money for food. So they do not check. They only discover they are diabetic when their foot must be amputated or as for most men when the young boy doesn't wake up. Some only discover high blood pressure after a stroke.

The Government says prevention is better than cure, but we are not investing enough in prevention.

South Korea has solved this by bringing health screening to the people,

not waiting for people to go to hospitals. Their health kiosks are integrated with their national health insurance and smart city infrastructure. The kiosks are manufactured by companies like Samsung and LG and I am told they are deployed in partnership with government. The machine I saw is called a Smart Health Kiosk, or Telehealth Kiosk.

Botswana must benchmark this given our current health situation.

I propose that the Ministry of Health, in partnership with the South Korean Embassy in Gaborone and Samsung Botswana, launch a pilot of 100 Smart Health Kiosks across the country. This will be ideal as we are about to establish the National Health Insurance Scheme.

Place these kiosks where people already walk: Main Mall in Gaborone, the Bus Rank, Rail Park Mall, Pakanye Main Mall, Kanye Main Kgotla, Francistown Bus Rank, Maun Airport, Selibe Phijwe Mall, Letlhakane, at all major zebra

crossings and clinics. Make them free, solar-powered, and connected to our own e-health system so that data can be anonymous but help the Ministry track NCD hotspots.

A single dialysis machine for one kidney failure patient costs government over P150,000 per year. A health kiosk costs less than P50,000. One kiosk can prevent ten people from reaching dialysis by catching high blood pressure early.

This is not a luxury. It is smart economics. We spend millions treating sickness that we could have prevented for free at a zebra crossing.

Let us call the Korean Ambassador. Let us call Samsung. Let us not re-invent the wheel. Let us copy what works and save Botswana lives. This is the wisdom that I am being patriotic to share. This will surely modernize Botswana.

Moiseralele Master Goya
Former Assistant Minister and Member of Parliament for Palapye

LET'S BOOST *Your sales*

ADVERTISE WITH US TODAY!

THE MONDAY
Chronicle
—Verify. Then Amplify—

+267 74027905 | 74028505

www.themondaychronicle.co.bw

Plot 68303, Unit 3, Morula Industrial Park, Phakalane, Gaborone



KASIMBA
Boutique Hotel

SUNDAY *lunch*

PINK AFFAIR



SUNDAY
25th OCTOBER 2026



DRESS CODE:
PINK AFFAIR

Dress up. Show up. Pink it up!

Pretty in Pink
Fabulous in Flavour!

Join us at **Kasimba Boutique Hotel** for a stylish Sunday lunch filled with delicious food, great vibes, and beautiful moments.

Please call or WhatsApp
+267 72280137 to reserve a table.

Adults
P355

Kids
P175

Includes a soft drink!

SCAN FOR
DIRECTION



+267 392 0024



+267 72 280 137



reservations@kasimba.co.bw

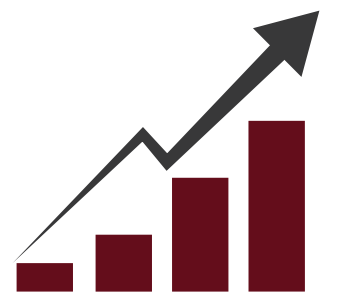


Plot 2522, Mmokolodi 1



• *Retreat* • *Indulge*
• *Experience*

Business



○ ECONOMY. STOCK MARKETS. BUSINESS NEWS ○

Botswana's P160bn Qatar Promise Faces Fresh Test As Gulf Conflict Deepens



ABOVE: President Duma Boko announced the \$12 billion Al Mansour partnership in August 2025

TSAONE SEGAETSHO

The escalating Middle East conflict has cast fresh uncertainty over Botswana's P160 billion investment arrangement with Qatar's Al Mansour Holdings, which remains without publicly confirmed financing commitments.

Oman's 500MW solar project in Maun, meanwhile, has progressed to a signed power purchase agreement and a groundbreaking ceremony.

President Duma Boko announced the \$12 billion Al Mansour partnership in August 2025, presenting it as an investment breakthrough covering energy, infrastruc-

ture, mining, agriculture, tourism, cybersecurity and defence.

However, an update to Parliament in April showed that the agreement had yet to translate into confirmed project implementation.

According to local media reports, Minister of Trade and Entrepreneurship Tiroeaone Ntsima told Parliament it was not a binding investment commitment, but an undertaking by Al Mansour Holdings to consider financing commercially viable projects.

Botswana Development Corporation (BDC) submitted 21 project proposals on September 25, 2025, but was still awaiting feedback when the parliamentary update was

given.

The disclosure contrasted with the optimism surrounding the original announcement.

"This partnership is not just about numbers on paper. It is about turning words into real projects, real investments, and real change for our people," Boko said at the time.

Boko later clarified that the announcement did not mean billions of dollars had already been transferred to Botswana. The potential investment remained subject to project feasibility and financing requirements.

The arrangement now faces a more difficult regional economic environment following the outbreak of war

involving Iran, Israel and the United States in February this year.

In its October 6 assessment, the World Bank projected that Qatar's economy would contract by 20.9 percent in 2026, while Gulf Cooperation Council economies would shrink by an average of 4.3 percent.

The Bank said Qatar's average monthly natural gas production fell by about 67 percent between March and July following damage to energy infrastructure.

Shipping disruptions through the Strait of Hormuz have added uncertainty over trade and investment. International Monetary Fund Managing Director Kristalina Georgieva warned this week that the economic effects could persist beyond the conflict, particularly through elevated energy prices.

Oman's Botswana project, meanwhile, has moved beyond preliminary commitments.

The Oman Investment Authority, through its subsidiary O-Green, has signed a power purchase agreement with Botswana Power Corporation for a 500MW solar facility in Maun, supported by battery energy storage.

The project has reached the groundbreaking stage and is expected to operate under a

To Page 24

World Bank Sees Botswana Debt Hitting 40.6% Of GDP As Growth Slows

Botswana's government debt is projected to reach 40.6 percent of GDP in 2027 as economic growth slows, according to the World Bank, which also forecasts higher inflation and a large budget deficit this year.



◀ **LEFT**

World Bank Group
President Ajay Banga

TSAONE SEGAETSHO

The Bank's October 2026 Africa Economic Update, titled Building AI Readiness, projects growth of 3.4 percent in 2026, following contractions of 2.8 percent in 2024 and 0.7 percent in 2025. Growth is expected to slow to 2.5 percent in 2027 before recovering to 3.1 percent in 2028.

The projections come as Botswana attempts to rebuild momentum following a prolonged diamond sector downturn that has weighed on exports, government revenue and economic activity. The World Bank estimates general government debt at 39.1 percent of GDP this year, up from 31.3 percent

in 2025 and 29.5 percent in 2024. It forecasts a further increase to 40.6 percent in 2027 before debt eases to 38 percent in 2028.

If realised, the 2027 figure would represent an increase of more than 11 percentage points in three years.

The rise comes as Botswana seeks capital for diversification and infrastructure while reduced diamond revenues place pressure on its fiscal buffers. Government has emphasised fiscal consolidation, domestic revenue mobilisation and greater private-sector participation in financing development.

The general government deficit widened from 3 percent of GDP in 2024 to 6.2 percent in 2025. It is estimated at 5.9 percent this

year, before narrowing to 3.6 percent in 2027 and 2.8 percent in 2028.

Inflation is expected to average 8 percent in 2026, compared with 2.7 percent in 2025 and 2.8 percent in 2024. It is forecast to ease to 5 percent in 2027 and 4.5 percent in 2028.

Botswana's projected growth trails the wider Sub-Saharan African economy, which is expected to expand by 4.3 percent this year, up from 4.1 percent in 2025. The Bank said it had upgraded 2026 growth forecasts for nearly three-quarters of countries in the region.

Botswana's debt burden remains below the regional median of 57 percent of GDP in 2025. However, the Bank cautions that debt vulnerabilities increasingly depend

on borrowing costs and structure, rather than debt levels alone.

Across the region, governments have increasingly turned to domestic debt as external borrowing becomes more fragmented. Higher interest and repayment costs are consuming resources needed for infrastructure, human capital and social protection.

External risks could also complicate the recovery. The Bank warns that escalating conflict in the Middle East could raise fuel, food and fertiliser prices, while shipping disruptions could increase transport costs.

Geopolitical uncertainty could weaken investment and capital flows, including financing from Gulf economies, as Botswana courts Gulf investors for projects in mining, energy, infrastructure and other sectors.

The Bank also expects a strong El Niño episode to intensify through late 2026 before weakening during the first half of 2027, increasing drought risks across Southern Africa.

Below-average rainfall and higher temperatures could affect crop and livestock production and drive up food prices, adding pressure on households.

Huawei Joins Botswana's Digital Push Without Funding Pledge

Chinese technology giant Huawei has signed a three-year cooperation agreement with the Botswana government covering artificial intelligence, internet connectivity, digital education and technology development, without committing a specified amount of money to the country's digital transformation programme.

TSAONE SEGAETSHO

The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), signed between the Ministry of Communications and Innovation and Huawei Technologies (Botswana) Proprietary Limited, establishes a framework for cooperation towards the government's digital ambitions under Vision 2036.

However, it contains no binding financial commitment, with both parties expected to bear their respective implementation costs. It also states that the arrangement does not con-

stitute a government procurement commitment to Huawei.

The agreement was concluded during President Duma Boko's state visit to China, where Botswana has been seeking stronger economic and technological cooperation with Beijing.

Boko visited Huawei's Beijing Research Institute, where his delegation was shown applications in cloud computing, smart education, telemedicine, public security and artificial intelligence.

He said Botswana was

seeking a technology partner capable of improving essential government services, particularly education and public security.

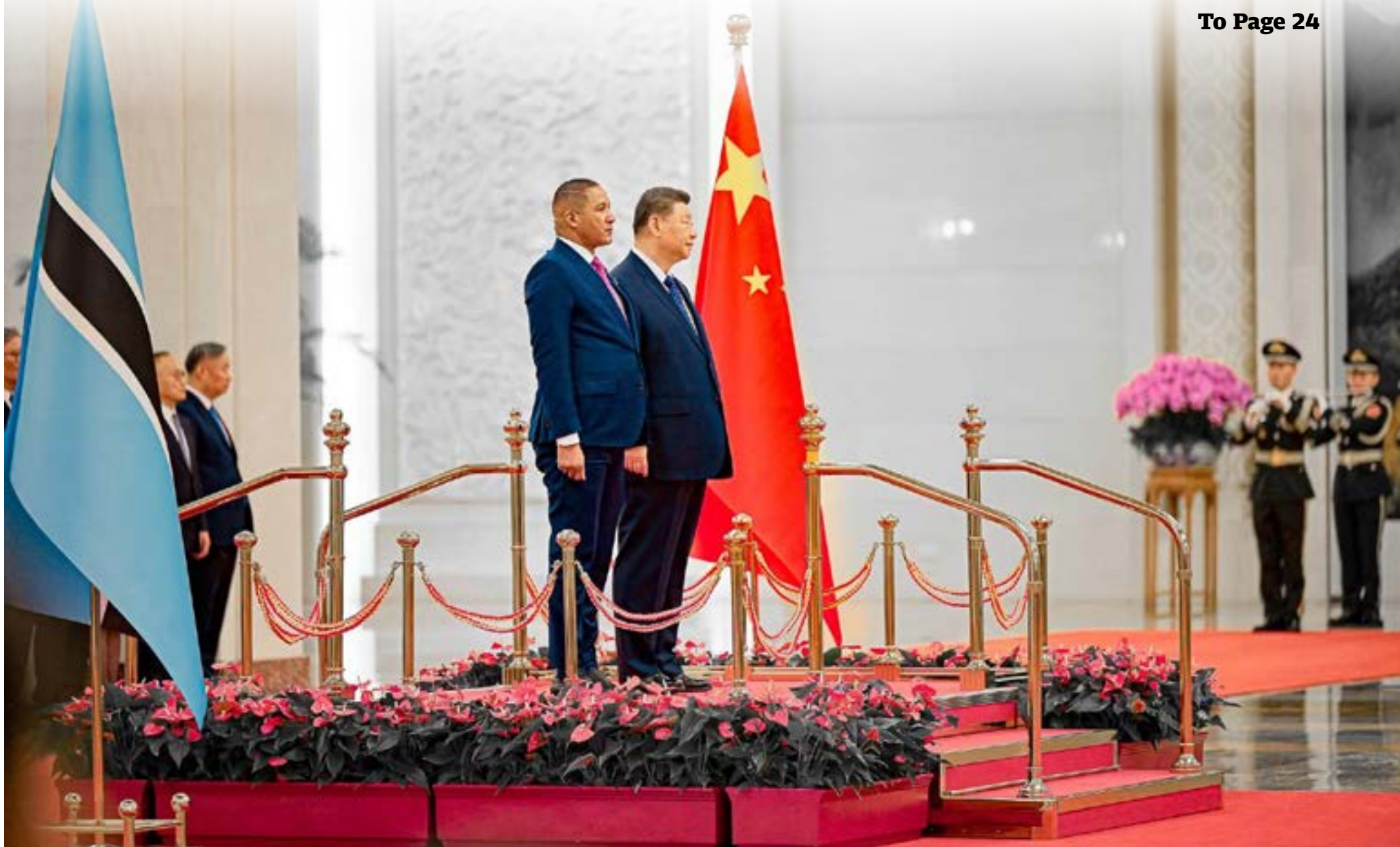
"We look forward to a department as capable as yourselves to assist us in this process because once we do this, it is not only about making education accessible and fun but those who are already making it happen can be very easily, efficiently and seamlessly updated," Boko said.

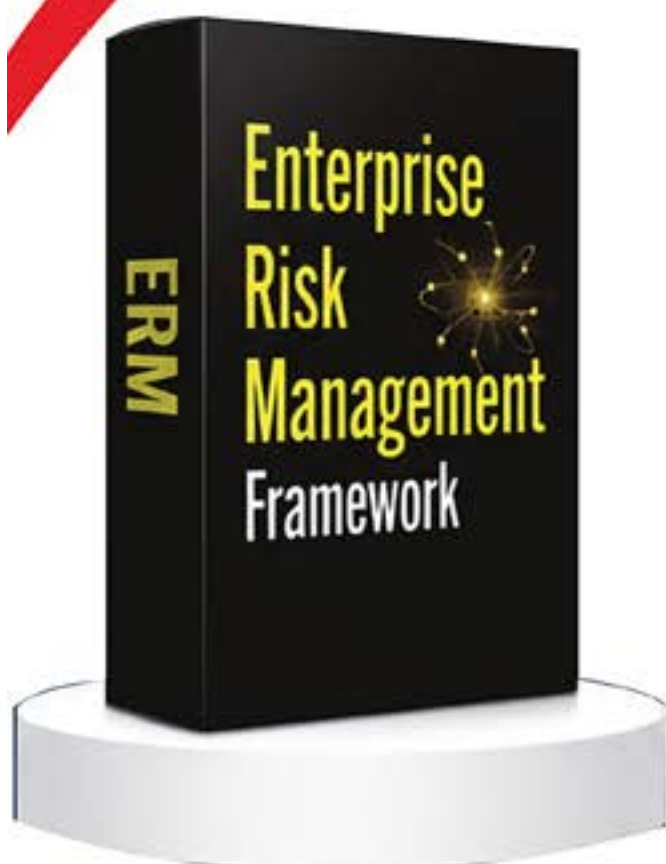
He also expressed interest in using advanced technology to improve policing.

"The commissioner of Police is here. She is eager, she is anxious to have these capabilities deployed," he said, referring to artificial intelligence-driven public security technologies demonstrated during the visit.

Under the agreement, Huawei and the government will collaborate on aligning Botswana's digital transformation and Information and Communications Technology (ICT) roadmaps, expanding affordable internet connectivity to urban and rural

To Page 24





DISCOVER THE **BEST PRACTICES** IN ERM DESIGN AND IMPLEMENTATION

TARGET AUDIENCE:

- Risk Officers
- Compliance Officers
- Risk Champions
- Line Managers
- Supervisors



FULLY ACCREDITED



DURATION

3 Days Training

MODE OF DELIVERY

- Face-To-Face
- Virtual
- Hybrid Modes Available

OUR OFFER:



**Best Practices In
Enterprise Risk
Management**



OUR VALUE PROPOSITION

"In just 3 intensive days, your team will confidently craft the ERM framework, policy and procedures essential to embed a high-risk-aware culture and robust control environment-proactively driving risk assessment, treatment, monitoring, and reporting for enhanced operational resilience and strategic success."

FOR MORE INFO:

- +267 311 5457 | 76 923 846
- Plot 13544, Tsolamosese, Mgoditshane, Block 7
- P.O. Box 25483, Gaborone, Botswana
- billysojane@gmail.com



Huawei Joins Botswana's Digital Push Without Funding Pledge

From Page 22

communities, and establishing a unified higher education and research network.

The framework also provides for Huawei's support in developing Botswana's national Artificial Intelligence Policy and implementing digital literacy programmes.

A Joint Working Committee will identify priorities, coordinate projects and review progress. No project budgets, implementation timelines or specific financial contributions have been disclosed.

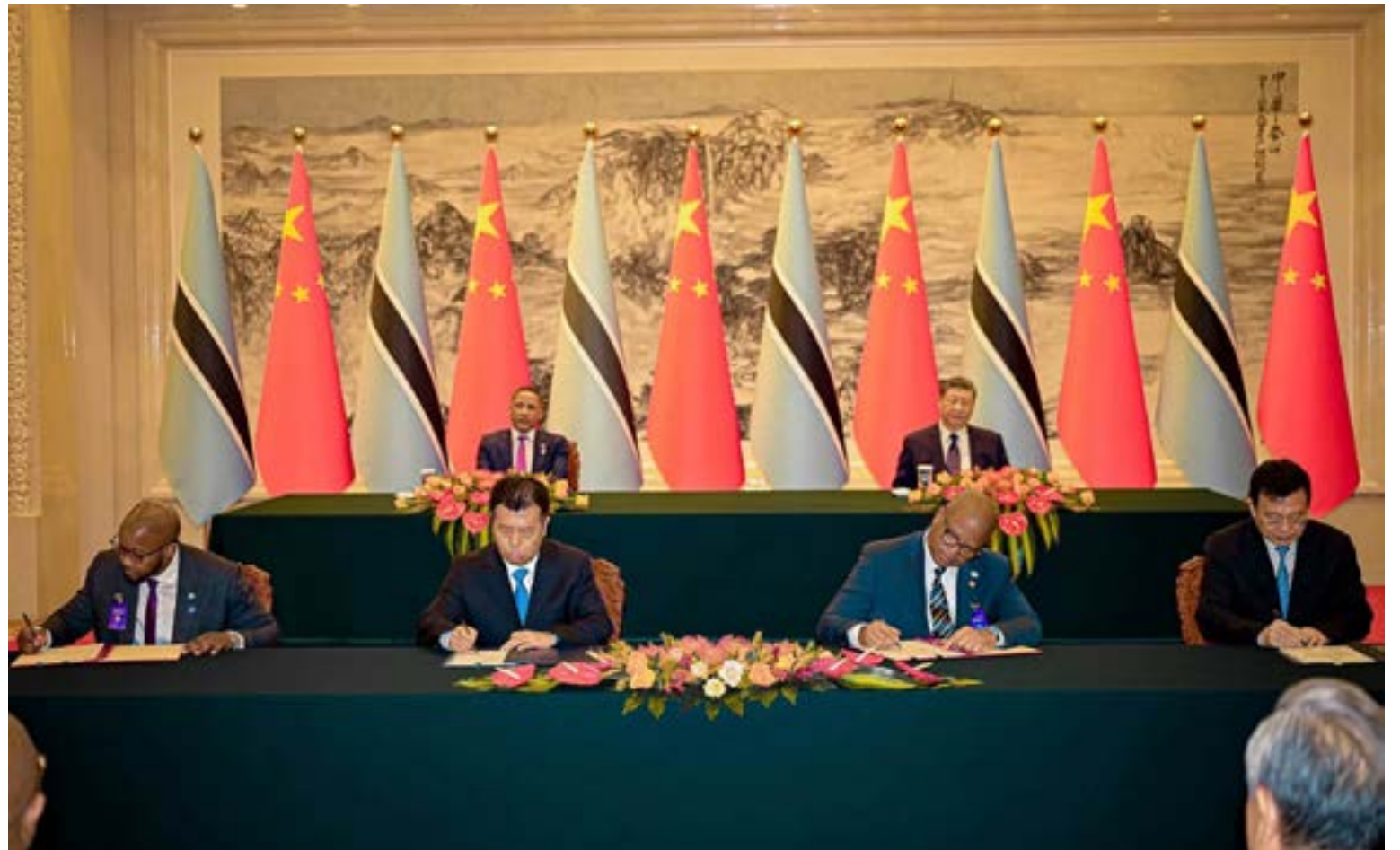
Future procurement decisions remain subject to applicable laws and procedures, meaning Huawei has not been guaranteed contracts arising from the partnership.

Huawei Senior Vice President for Public Affairs and Communications Jeff Wang welcomed the framework, saying the company looked forward to cooperation in digital government, cloud computing, education, healthcare and artificial intelligence.

Huawei entered Botswana in 1998. Its activities include the Smart Village Project in Zutshwa, rural connectivity initiatives involving schools and healthcare facilities, and a 5G-enabled smart mining project at Jwaneng.

Its Seeds for the Future programme also sent five Botswana students to China this year.

The agreement comes as Botswana advances SmartBots, its national digital transformation strategy, to improve public services, expand inter-



net access and develop a knowledge-based economy.

In his 2026 Budget Speech, Vice President and Minister of Finance Ndaba Gaolathe outlined plans to expand village connectivity and strengthen government digital services and infrastructure. Government reported that 52 public services were online, with another 179 undergoing integration testing.

It remains unclear which projects Huawei will undertake, whether financing agreements will follow or how government will fund activities identified by the committee.

President Xi Jinping also announced financial support for Botswana's economic transformation agenda, although the amount and terms remain undisclosed. There is no indication that the Huawei arrangement forms part of that assistance.

The MoU takes effect upon signature and may be renewed by mutual agreement.

Botswana's P160bn Qatar Promise Faces Fresh Test As Gulf Conflict Deepens

From Page 20

30-year power purchase agreement.

Although full financing arrangements and construction disbursements have not been publicly established, the signed agreement marks a more advanced project milestone than the non-binding Al Mansour arrangement.

There is, however, no established evidence that the conflict has directly delayed the Qatar arrangement or caused Al Mansour Holdings to reconsider its proposed investment.

During the April proceedings, Leader of Opposition Dumelang Saleshando

questioned why government had announced such a substantial arrangement before projects were ready for financing.

Ntsima defended the announcement, saying it could yield investments in future.

"We were announcing an agreement of a partnership that can yield results for us in the future," he told Parliament.

No subsequent binding financing commitment or capital disbursement under the \$12 billion arrangement has been independently established from the public information examined.

Dangote's P6.8bn Regional Offering Awaits Prospectus As IPO Deadline Nears

The US\$500 million target represents about 31 percent of the refinery's reported US\$1.6 billion IPO target.

TSAONE SEGAETSHO



The October 27 deadline for Aliko Dangote's refinery initial public offering (IPO) is approaching, while Motswedi Securities says it is still awaiting the prospectus for a proposed US\$500 million (about P6.8 billion) Southern African offering through Botswana.

Motswedi Securities' Garry Juma told The Monday Chronicle that the firm was awaiting "the publication of the DR prospectus".

The document is expected to outline the terms of the proposed Botswana Depositary Receipts (BDRs) representing shares in Dangote Petroleum Refinery and Petrochemicals.

Nigeria's Securities and Exchange Commission approved a two-week extension of the IPO from October 13 to October 27 to accommodate additional African investors and cross-border investment arrangements.

However, it has not been

established whether that deadline also applies to the Botswana depositary receipt programme or whether investors participating locally will have a separate closing date.

Juma's response leaves unanswered questions about subscription arrangements, investment requirements and the timetable applicable to investors accessing the offering through Botswana.

Botswana has been selected as the single Southern African trading venue for the proposed receipts, placing the Botswana Stock Exchange (BSE) at the centre of the regional fundraising exercise.

Access Bank Botswana will issue the receipts under an arrangement coordinated through the Committee of SADC Stock Exchanges (CoSSE), whose members agreed to consolidate regional participation through one trading venue.

The US\$500 million target

represents about 31 percent of the refinery's reported US\$1.6 billion IPO target. It is intended to come from the wider Southern African region, rather than Botswana alone.

The development follows an investor roadshow in Gaborone on October 14, where Dangote met institutional investors and capital market stakeholders alongside senior executives from his conglomerate.

"We have more than reached our target," Dangote said, according to Bloomberg. He indicated that investor interest was several times greater than the amount sought.

However, detailed subscription figures establishing how much capital has been committed through Botswana or the wider Southern African market have not been published.

Investor interest does not necessarily translate into confirmed subscriptions, particularly while the re-

gional participation arrangements have yet to be fully detailed publicly.

Botswana's selection also puts its institutional investment industry in focus. According to previously reported figures, the country's pension funds held more than P176 billion in assets at the end of June 2026.

The proposed P6.8 billion regional target is equivalent to about 3.9 percent of those assets, although the offering extends to other participating SADC markets.

No aggregate investment commitments from Botswana pension funds have been publicly disclosed.

BSE Chief Executive Officer Aupa Monyatsi has welcomed the transaction as an opportunity to strengthen Botswana's role in regional capital markets by giving investors access to major African companies through their domestic exchange.

The broader IPO comprises approximately 4.1 billion ordinary shares priced at 525 each, with proceeds intended to support the company's industrial expansion.

Juma's response does not establish whether the outstanding prospectus reflects regulatory processes, administrative preparations or the normal sequence of the regional offering.

As the Nigerian closing date approaches, publication of the prospectus and confirmation of Botswana's subscription timetable remain central to clarifying how local investors can participate.

NBFIRA Takes Control Of Minet Brokerage, Gives No Reasons

Botswana's financial services regulator has placed Minet Botswana (Pty) Limited under statutory management without publicly explaining what prompted the intervention.

TSAONE SEGAETSHO



The Non-Bank Financial Institutions Regulatory Authority (NBFIRA) appointed Thulisizwe Johnson as statutory manager, effective 12 October 2026, under Section 62(1) of the NBFIRA Act, 2023.

In a public notice dated 13 October, NBFIRA Acting Chief Executive Officer Mooketsi Ramanteba confirmed the appointment but gave no reasons for invoking the statutory management provisions.

The regulator directed stakeholders to refer all queries, complaints and claims concerning Minet to Johnson. It did not indicate how long the arrangement would remain in place.

NBFIRA has not explained whether the intervention relates to financial difficulties, regulatory compliance, corporate governance or other supervisory matters. Its notice also did not indicate whether the appointment followed an investigation, regulatory warnings

or compliance directives.

Johnson, approached by The Monday Chronicle for clarification, did not comment on the reasons behind the decision.

In a separate statement, parent company Minet Botswana Holdings Proprietary Limited acknowledged the intervention and sought to reassure clients, employees and business partners about its scope.

"We recognise the questions this development may raise among clients, employees and business partners and wish to provide clarity on its scope," the company said in a statement issued by order of its board.

The holding company confirmed that statutory management affected only Minet Botswana (Pty) Limited, which provides insurance advisory services, and not its two other subsidiaries.

Minet Botswana Retirement Solutions (Pty) Limited, which provides pension consulting and administration services, and Minet Botswana Risk Management & Consulting (Pty) Limited, which specialises in risk advisory and asset valuation consultancy, remain outside statutory management.

Both will continue operating normally, according to the holding company. It said the affected brokerage would also maintain its services.

"Further, we wish to advise that Minet Botswana

(Proprietary) Limited, despite the ongoing statutory management placement, will continue to provide insurance advisory services and support to all its clients," Minet said.

The company said the brokerage was working closely with NBFIRA and was committed to full cooperation, with due regard for the interests of clients and other stakeholders.

However, its statement did not explain the circumstances that prompted the intervention or disclose whether the brokerage had previously been required to address regulatory deficiencies.

Statutory management allows an appointed manager to oversee the affected business under the applicable legal framework. The appointment alone does not establish insolvency, financial misconduct or regulatory wrongdoing.

Neither NBFIRA nor Minet Botswana Holdings has publicly identified irregularities involving client funds, premiums or insurance claims.

The regulator has also not specified the conditions that must be met before statutory management can end or ordinary management arrangements can be restored.

Minet Botswana Holdings said it would continue supporting clients and keeping stakeholders informed, with further details to be shared through its official communication channels.

Saturday 24th October 2026.

**FUCK
CANCER**

LETSILE TEBOGO CHARITABLE FOUNDATION

MARATHON



**73
DAYS
TO GO**



Letsile Tebogo™
**Charitable
Foundation**

For more information contact :
Meshadi Tebogo on +267 75 133 441



Arts&Lifestyle

ARTS, MUSIC, FOOD, LIFESTYLE

Lister Paints The Pain, Rise, And Purpose Of A Great Man

STORY ON PAGE 29



Lister Paints The Pain, Rise, And Purpose Of A Great Man

NNASARETHA KGAMANYANE

For fine artist Tshepo Lister, MonnaTiya is more than an exhibition. It is a mirror, a memoir and a message.

Scheduled for October 24, 2026 at Cresta Rileys in Maun, MonnaTiya is Lister's most personal show to date, a visual journey through rejection, endurance and rising.

"MonnaTiya was inspired by the journey of my life and the experiences that shaped me into the person I am destined to become," he says. "To me MonnaTiya represents a great man who has been tested by life's challenges, faced rejection, endured pain and uncertainty, but refused to give up. Instead, I rose above my circumstances and continue pursuing my purpose."

It is a story many Batswana will recognise. And that is exactly the point.

"I want visitors to experience something that goes beyond looking at beautiful paintings. I want them to feel, reflect, connect and discover something meaningful within themselves," says Lister. "Every artwork carries a story, an emotion or a message that someone may relate to personally."

Lister is adamant that paintings are not just décor. They are tools for communication, education and storytelling. They preserve culture, challenge thinking and open conversations about community.

That belief is why he insists on the power of seeing originals up close.



"You can appreciate the colours, textures, brushstrokes and details, and discover the stories behind the paintings. Seeing an original artwork in person is different from viewing it on a phone or computer screen because you can experience its physical presence," he explains.

What makes MonnaTiya different is its second voice: poetry.

"The idea behind combining visual art with poetry was to create a deeper and more complete storytelling experience," Lister says. "A painting can communicate through colour, imagery, expression and symbolism, while poetry uses words, rhythm and emotion to communicate ideas that may sometimes be difficult to express visually."

When the two meet, the audience gets to both see and feel the story. "The

To Page 30

Lister Paints The Pain, Rise, And Purpose Of A Great Man

From Page 29



painting allows you to see the story, while the poetry gives you another way to feel and interpret it. I believe this combination will make MonnaTiya more engaging, memorable and emotionally meaningful."

The exhibition explores universal yet intimate themes; human journey, identity, purpose, ambition and the circumstances that shape us. Lister draws from African experiences, culture and the beauty of visual storytelling, but filters them through his own life lessons.

"MonnaTiya explores the idea that a person's journey can be difficult, unpredictable and full of lessons, yet still lead towards something meaningful," he says.

His journey as a visual artist has been no different: continuous learning, experimentation, hard work, with ups and downs.

"Building a career in art requires more than creativity. It also requires discipline, patience, business understanding and the courage to believe in your work, even when the jour-

ney is challenging," he says.

Like many independent artists in Botswana, Lister has built his audience brick by brick, with support from clients, followers and social media, which has allowed him to reach beyond his immediate surroundings. He believes Botswana's art scene has tremendous growth potential, if collaboration, exposure and investment in local artists increase.

That is why he sees a ticket to MonnaTiya as more than entry.

"Buying a ticket is more than paying to attend an event. It is an investment in local creativity and the future of Botswana's art industry. It helps make this exhibition possible and supports the resources, preparation and work required to bring the experience to life."

For those who have never attended an art exhibition, his invitation is disarmingly simple.

"You do not need to be an art expert to enjoy an art exhibition. You do not need to know the technical lan-



guage of art or understand every painting. All you need is an open mind and a willingness to experience something different."

It is a welcoming, engaging entry point to discover art, enjoy poetry, and perhaps find a piece that speaks directly to you, through its message, its beauty or the emotion it stirs.

Community support, he says, is everything for independent artists who often have to create their own opportunities. Behind every exhibition are hours of work, materials, planning and financial investment.

"Come and experience MonnaTiya for yourself. Do not just hear about it from

someone else or see pictures afterwards. Be part of the moment, experience the original artworks, listen to the poetry and connect with the stories being shared."

"Personally, MonnaTiya represents the belief that our struggles do not define our final destination," he says. "If you miss MonnaTiya, you may miss an opportunity to discover an artwork that speaks directly to you."

MonnaTiya opens October 24, 2026 at Cresta Rileys, Maun. As Lister puts it: "I Love you all my Clients, supporters and followers let meet on the October 24, 2026."

Where Botswana's Diamonds Meet The World Of Luxury



Signet Jewelers Chief Executive Officer J.K. Symancyk

BOIKANYO MATHONSI



From engagement rings that mark the beginning of a marriage to diamond necklaces treasured for generations, natural diamonds carry stories that extend far beyond their sparkle. For Botswana, they represent a resource that has helped shape six decades of independence, while for the global jewellery industry, they remain symbols of love, commitment and life's defining moments.

This connection between Botswana's diamond heritage and the international luxury market took centre stage when Signet Jewelers chief executive officer J.K. Symancyk hosted an exclusive reception at the National Museum in Gaborone on a Friday evening to celebrate the country's 60th Independence anniversary.

Visiting Botswana for the first time, Symancyk reflected on the opportunity to experience a coun-

try whose diamonds have helped establish its place in the global jewellery industry.

"I spend a great deal of time talking about the natural diamond industry, about the jewellery industry, but being here allows me to experience Botswana's natural beauty, its vibrant communities, the remarkable Botswana that are at the heart of this story. And I've long admired the transformation," he said.

Signet operates well known brands including Kay Jewelers, Zales, Jared, Diamonds Direct and Blue Nile, offering products ranging from engagement rings to jewellery designed for personal expression. Across its brands, the company operates approximately 2,600 retail locations, giving it a significant presence in the global jewellery market.

Symancyk says for consumers, diamonds often

carry meanings that extend beyond their monetary value, connecting the natural resource to the emotions and memories attached to the finished piece.

"Natural diamonds have a unique place in the lives of people around the world. They are part of some of life's most meaningful moments, from engagements and weddings to anniversaries and personal milestones. What makes them special goes beyond the stone itself. It is also the meaning people attach to the jewellery they choose to wear and keep," he said.

That connection between a diamond's origin and its eventual owner depends on an international network of producers, traders, manufacturers, designers and retailers. Rough stones extracted from the earth pass through several stages of processing and craftsmanship before reaching jewellery counters and

customers.

Moreover, he says Botswana's participation in this chain places the country within a global industry that links mineral production to luxury goods markets, making international relationships important to the journey from mine to finished jewellery.

"Botswana has an important place in the natural diamond industry, and its contribution reaches far beyond its borders. When we talk about the diamond business, we are talking about a journey that brings together the people who produce these stones, the businesses that work with them and the customers who ultimately purchase the finished jewellery," he said.

Symancyk's presence at the reception offered a retail industry's perspective on Botswana's diamond legacy as the country marked six decades of independence.

"It is an opportunity to recognise the journey the country has travelled and the role diamonds have played in its story. For me, being here for the first time makes that connection even more meaningful, because I can now experience Botswana beyond the industry and appreciate the people and communities

at the heart of it," he said.



Isago Ntle Designs: Dressed by the Gods, Rooted in Botswana

NNASARETHA KGAMANYANE

For Isago Mosimanyana, fashion is not just fabric. It is memory, identity and prophecy stitched into one.

She is the face and creative force behind Isago Ntle Designs, an Afrocentric, high-end label whose name is a hyphenated play on her own. Isago Ntle means a beautiful future, a fitting manifesto for a brand that wants to build a beautiful and transformative future for Botswana's fashion and textile industry.

"Dressed by the Gods" is its slogan, and it says everything about her philosophy.

"To me, fashion is not simply about putting together beautiful garments; it is about identity, self-expression and the stories we carry," says Mosimanyana. "Our designs draw on the past while imagining the future, reflecting where we come from, who we are today and who we are destined to become."

A Fashion Design graduate from Limkokwing University, Mosimanyana credits her training for giving her more than an eye. It gave her technique and business discipline.

"It exposed me to the many dimensions of fashion, from illustration, pattern drafting and garment construction to the business and financial aspects," she says. "I came to understand that fashion design requires more than creativity. A designer must be able to translate an idea into a finished garment and ap-



preciate the commercial considerations involved."

But the classroom was only the beginning. Like many young designers, she had to learn how to turn a final-year project into a paying brand.

"You must develop your skills, understand your market and continuously expose your work. My advice is simple: hit the ground running. Do not wait until everything is perfect before you begin," she says.

What makes an Isago Ntle piece? She calls it timeless steeze — an effortless style that doesn't depend on what is trending.

The brand designs for the self-aware and fash-

ion-forward, individuals who want clothing with character. She describes her work as having a foreshadowing and flashback attribute.

"Our pieces tell the story of the ones who came before us and the ones who are yet to come, the people we are yet to become."

Her muse board is proudly African. She cites family influence, her mother is a senior secondary art teacher and practising

artist, Botswana's climate and cultural landscape, and West African fashion, particularly Nigerian designer Hetunba, her greatest inspiration.

Material is her language. While Isago Ntle is now exploring denim and leather for their structure and texture, the brand began unexpectedly with swimwear.

"My journey began with swimsuits made from nylon Lycra. Looking back, I still regard that swimwear collection as one of my best, especially considering the Botswana fashion environment at the time and that I was fresh out of university," she says.

Instead of going completely solo after graduation, Mosimanyana chose collaboration. She is part of a combined fashion house that started with three designers, including fellow Limkokwing graduate Bokani Monei and established designer Phumzile Akolang of Exquisite Designs at African Mall.

"Our relationship began while Bokani and I were still at university. She took us under her wing through mentorship," she says. "We began collaborating and sharing bills and other expenses."

In practice, the collective shares studio costs, shows and networks, while each designer keeps a distinct identity. For Mosimanyana, it has been a masterclass in the realities of

Isago Ntle Designs: Dressed by the Gods, Rooted in Botswana

From Page 32

fashion business.

"The biggest lesson has been that collaboration can create opportunities that may be difficult to access independently," she says. "Collaboration should not be about competing for the same space. It should be about helping one another grow."

Visibility in Botswana's competitive but growing industry comes from networking, fashion events and social media. Pricing, she says, reflects the complexity and construction of each piece.

Her proudest moment so far? Walking the Fashion Without Borders Africa (FWBA) runway and later co-hosting her own fashion show with the collective.

What is next? All eyes are on the Spring/Summer 2026 collection, set to be showcased through



Fashion Without Borders Africa.

"I want every new collection to contribute something meaningful to the Isago Ntle story," she says. "Dressed by the Gods is more than a slogan. It is the spirit behind the journey, the identity of the brand and the future we are working towards."





BOTSWANA BOERBOEL SHOW & APPRAISAL



Fees & Registration Admin Fee P 300.00 Appraisal P 250.00 DNA P 370.00 Pre-registration ends on 16/10/2026 Entrance fee P 30.00 adults P 15.00 kids	Contact Details Organiser- T Pilane Cell- +267 76 913 562 Email- sabbsgabsevents@gmail.com Venue- Marabou Rocks, Plot 8755 Uranium Cres, Broadhurst, Gaborone	Show Entry P 120.00 [1-3 Dogs] P 100.00 [More than 3 Dogs]
---	--	---



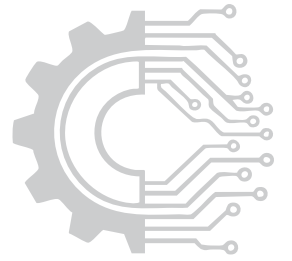
Appraisal Dates & Time

23 OCTOBER 2026 1400HRS (Free Entry)	24 OCTOBER 2026 0730HRS- Appraisal 1000HRS- Show
--	---





THE MONDAY **Chronicle** **Review**



Ideas, Stories & Voices worth Reading

Keeping Setswana Alive, One Book at a Time



Dr Naledi N. Kgolo-Lotshwao, a linguist and senior lecturer in the Department of English, Faculty of Humanities at University Of Botswana

NNASARETHA KGAMANYANE

When Dr Kgolo-Lotshwao looked around her own home, she saw a familiar urban reality. School life in English, cartoons in English, bedtime stories in English. Her children, like many in Gaborone, had countless opportunities to strengthen their English but far fewer to enjoy Setswana.

"As a linguist, I know that language proficiency develops through meaningful and sustained exposure," she said. "We cannot expect

children to become confident speakers and readers of Setswana if their opportunities to engage with the language are limited."

That personal observation became a mission. And that mission became books.

Under the theme, *Keeping A Language Alive, One Book At A Time*, Dr Kgolo-Lotshwao shared her journey as a linguist, mother and publisher behind Somarela Setswana. Her message was clear: preserving Setswana is not just the job of teachers. It is a collective responsibility.

"A language remains strong when people use it, and that

includes speaking it, reading it, writing it, and creating in it," she said. "Parents can read Setswana books with their children, schools can encourage reading beyond prescribed texts, businesses can support literacy initiatives, and booksellers can make local books more accessible."

To date, she has published four books that deliberately draw on familiar Botswana experiences: *Ithute Setswana – Learn Setswana*, *Ithute Kgomo*, *Loeto lwa ga Lobone go ya Morakeng*, and *Lewa le le Ntle*. It is a deliberate strategy. By grounding vocabulary in cattle, family

life, and the moraka, she makes Setswana relatable and enjoyable, not intimidating.

The approach resonated strongly with high school teachers at the breakfast. Bash Connektor, which hosted the event as the kick-off to its three-month campaign built on *Be Seen, Be Understood, Convert to Sales*, said it planned for 30 guests and met its target, but impact mattered more than numbers.

"Ba sokodisiwa ke bana who get to high school ba sa itse Setswana," said Basadi Masimolole of Bash Connektor, quoting feedback from teachers.

One teacher noted that students struggle with basic Setswana vocabulary, yet are expected to handle complex idioms and proverbs in class, forcing some schools to introduce Setswana Breakthrough at secondary level.

"That observation really stayed with me because it reinforces the importance of accessible reading materials," Dr Kgolo-Lotshwao said. "We cannot expect learners to engage confidently with complex language if they have not developed a strong vocabulary foundation."

For her, accessibility is two-fold. It is about where books are found, and whether the language inside can be understood. *Ithute Setswana* is already available as an e-book on Amazon Kindle, while the storybooks are

To Page 35

Keeping Setswana Alive, One Book at a Time

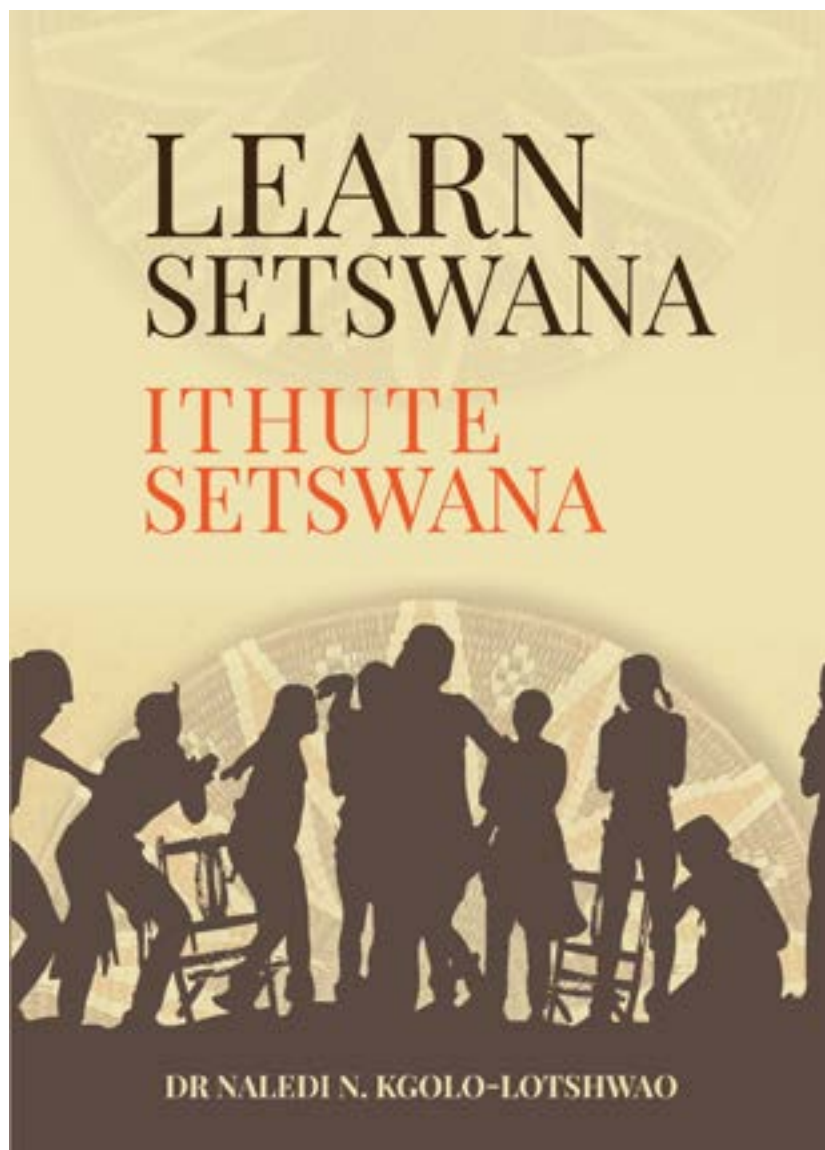
From Page 34

in print at Exclusive Books APJ, Botswana Craft, Bala Books, Pennywise at Acacia Mall, #PushaBW Store and Koncept Store at SSKIA, with digital editions planned.

But she argues the value chain must go beyond publishing.

"We often focus on producing books without giving equal attention to developing a sustainable reading market," she said. "Writers can write, illustrators can illustrate, but how does it reach schools, libraries, and homes? We need to stimulate demand, not simply increase supply."

That is why she is calling on schools, parents, corporates, embassies and NGOs to invest by sponsoring books for communities or including locally produced books in corporate gifting, especially ahead of festive season



spend, which is Bash Connektor's next campaign phase.

Looking ahead, Dr Kgolo-Lotshwao is already working on her fifth book, Dikgomo tsa Botswana, a coffee-table book expected in Q1 2027. It will document cattle colours, breeds, horn shapes, ear markings and their cultural roles and the extraordinary Setswana vocabulary that holds generations of knowledge.

"The book is a celebration of Botswana's cattle heritage, but also an effort to preserve knowledge that may otherwise become less familiar to younger generations," she said.

Her final encouragement to parents was simple: make Setswana normal at home.

"Buy your child a Setswana book. Read it together. Talk about the pictures, laugh about the story. You do not have to turn every reading session into a lesson," she said. "We want children to see Setswana not simply as a subject they must pass at school, but as a language in which they can read for pleasure, express themselves, imagine, and create."



MOPHUTHO FUNERAL PLAN

Protect your loved ones with affordable funeral cover from WestLife Insurance Botswana.

- Cover from P10,000 to P50,000
- Premiums from P12 per month for the main member
- Options to cover your extended family
- No waiting period for accidental death

Happy About Life

Chat to us on Whatsapp at
(+267) **77 531 374** for more information



Tafic Coach Vows to Fight For Everything

GOITSEMODIMO KAELO

Tafic coach Zacharia Mudzadzi says he wants to compete for everything this season despite the club setting survival as its primary target following a difficult period marked by financial challenges and player exodus.

Mudzadzi was left frustrated after his side conceded a last-minute equaliser to Extension Gunners in a pulsating encounter at the GU Stadium on Friday evening, denying Tafic what appeared to be a valuable three points.

Tafic had taken the lead in the first half after enjoying spells of dominance and created threatening situations. The second half, however, developed into an end-to-end contest, with both sides finding opportunities but struggling to make the most of their chances.

Gunners made several en-

tries into the opposition box as they pushed for an equaliser, but poor finishing and decision-making undermined their efforts. Their persistence eventually paid off when they struck a minute before the final whistle, leaving Mudzadzi ruing his side's inability to protect their lead.

The Tafic coach felt his charges had done enough to secure victory and was particularly disappointed that they conceded so late in the game.

"I feel hard done. The points were already in the bag. Thirty seconds of play, defend well. We let Gunners put in a lot of crosses. Our left back and left winger failed to coordinate. We could defend better," he said in a post-match interview.

Despite the late setback, Mudzadzi was pleased with his team's overall performance, especially consid-

ering the circumstances surrounding their preparations.

"We played a very good first half that I feel like the team is there. Imagine a team that travelled this morning and put this kind of performance. I should applaud the boys, they played a good game. I take the one point, go home and plan for the next game,"

Tafic have endured a challenging period after losing sponsors and several players following an encouraging 2024/25 season. The changes have left the club rebuilding with a relatively new and inexperienced squad.

Against that backdrop, survival remains the team's official objective as they seek to stabilise their campaign. Mudzadzi, however, has ambitions beyond simply avoiding relegation, insisting that he wants his team to approach every match with a competitive mindset.

His comments underline the challenge facing Tafic as they attempt to rebuild while maintaining the standards expected of a club that enjoyed a good season two years back.

For Extension Gunners, the late equaliser offered relief after a match in which victory appeared to be slipping away. Their coach, Paradzayi Mandivenga was pleased to leave with a point, particularly after his charges had worked hard to recover from the first-half deficit.

Gunners have made an encouraging start to the season, recording impressive away victories over early league favourites Mochudi Centre Chiefs and Nico United. Their ability to rescue a point against Tafic further demonstrated their fighting spirit, even if the performance left room for improvement.

While Gunners will take encouragement from their late comeback, Tafic will be left wondering what might have been. For Mudzadzi, the immediate task is to turn the positives from Friday's performance into consistent results, while tightening his side's defence in crucial moments.



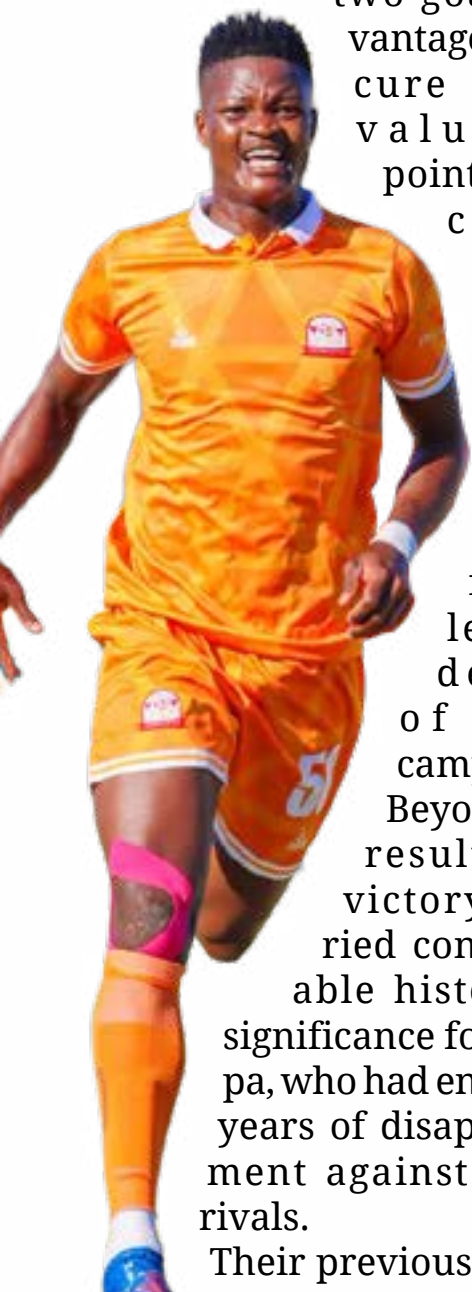
Orapa Ends Six-Year Home Jinx Against Galaxy

Orapa United brought Jwaneng Galaxy's unbeaten start to the 2026/27 FNB Premiership season crashing down on Saturday, ending a six-year-plus wait for a home league victory over their rivals with a commanding 2-0 triumph at Itekeng Stadium

CHRONICLE REPORTER

The Ostriches delivered a statement victory through first-half goals from Lindokuhle Zungu and Tebogo Letsema, ending a frustrating sequence of eight league encounters without defeating the Jwaneng outfit. Zungu fired Orapa into the lead in the 13th minute before Letsema doubled their advantage in the 37th minute, leaving Galaxy with a mountain to climb before the halftime whistle.

The hosts protected their two-goal advantage to secure three valuable points and condemn Galaxy to



their first league defeat of the campaign. Beyond the result, the victory carried considerable historical significance for Orapa, who had endured years of disappointment against their rivals.

Their previous home

league victory over Galaxy came on 14 December 2019, coincidentally by the same 2-0 scoreline. However, Orapa's last league victory against Galaxy at any venue was a 1-0 away triumph on 15 April 2022.

Since that April 2022 victory, Galaxy had established a commanding record in the fixture, registering four victories and four draws across eight league encounters. Among the most painful results for Orapa was a humiliating 5-0 home defeat on 20 May 2023, a result which underlined Galaxy's dominance in the rivalry. Galaxy also recorded a 1-0 victory in November 2022 and repeated that scoreline in May 2024. The Jwaneng side continued to frustrate Orapa during the 2024/25 campaign, with both league meetings ending in 1-1 draws.

Their dominance contin-



▲ Lindokuhle Zungu

ued into the 2025/26 season when Galaxy thrashed Orapa 3-0 in August 2025 before the sides settled for another 1-1 stalemate in February 2026. However, Saturday's result marked a decisive reversal of that trend as Orapa finally turned the tables on a side that had repeatedly denied them maximum points. The victory also extended Orapa's recent improvement

after their impressive 4-2 victory over BDF XI and a 1-1 draw against Township Rollers.

The defeat represents an early setback for Galaxy after they had preserved their unbeaten league record, including victories over Nico United and Enesia FC in their previous two assignments.



**LETSILE TEBOGO
CHARITABLE FOUNDATION
MARATHON**

REGISTRATION FEE

**2.5KM, 5KM & 10KM
P200.00**

**TSHIRTS
P300.00**

**FUCK
CANCER**

FOR MORE INFO: MESHADI TEBOGO - +267 75 133 441

Matebele Stun Popa In Weekend Shocker

GOITSEMODIMO KAELO

Matebele FC sent shockwaves through the FNB Premier League after stunning Township Rollers 4-2 at the GU Stadium on Sunday, producing the biggest upset of the weekend.

The victory was particularly unexpected given the contrasting fortunes of the two sides heading into the encounter. Rollers were favourites to collect maximum points, while Matebele arrived at the game rooted at the bottom of the standings with just one point.

However, the underdogs turned the tables on their more fancied opponents, scoring four goals to leave Popa supporters in disbelief and hand the Blues a damaging defeat.

For Matebele, the result could prove to be a turning point in their campaign. Having endured a difficult start to the season, the emphatic victory offered a much-needed boost and demonstrated their ability to compete against the league's

established sides.

The result also served as a reminder that league position and reputation count for little once the action gets underway.

Rollers, on the other hand, will have plenty to reflect on after conceding four goals in a match they were widely expected to win. The defeat raises questions about their defensive organisation and consistency, particularly against opponents who came into the weekend struggling for points.

For a club with Rollers' ambitions and following, such a result will be difficult to digest. They must now respond quickly to prevent Sunday's setback from affecting their momentum in the coming fixtures.

While Matebele stole the headlines, the weekend also produced significant results elsewhere in the title race.

Gaborone United continued their impressive start to the campaign with a victory over Nico United in Selebi-Phikwe, maintaining their



position among the leading sides after collecting maximum points.

GU's latest win reinforced their early-season credentials, as they continue to build momentum in pursuit of another strong league campaign.

Orapa United also enjoyed a memorable weekend, defeating mining-town rivals Jwaneng Galaxy 2-0 on Saturday in one of the round's standout fixtures.

The result was a significant statement from Orapa, who showed their ability to overcome one of the league's formidable sides while handing Galaxy a setback in the early stages of the campaign.

Meanwhile, Mochudi Centre Chiefs secured a 2-1 victory over Enesia in Francistown to add three valuable points to their tally.

Despite the notable performances elsewhere, Matebele's demolition of Rollers remained the weekend's biggest talking point.

The four-goal haul against one of the country's most recognisable football clubs will give Matebele renewed belief as they seek to climb the standings.

For Rollers, the priority will be to regroup and restore confidence after a result that few supporters could have anticipated.



FOOTBALL

Orapa Ends Six-Year Home Jinx Against Galaxy

ON PAGE 37



Tafic Coach Vows to Fight For Everything  ON PAGE 36

Matebele Stun Popa In Weekend Shocker

FULL STORY ON PAGE 39



PROTECT WHAT MATTERS MOST

Life is unpredictable. Your protection shouldn't be.

At Westlife Insurance Botswana, we provide **reliable and affordable insurance solutions** designed to give you and your loved ones peace of mind when it matters most.

From life cover to funeral protection, we're here to help you protect what matters most.



BE HAPPY ABOUT LIFE.
CHOOSE PROTECTION.

Get in touch with us today and find the cover that's right for you.

Cellphone: (+267) 3710619/7
Website: www.westlife.co.bw

Westlife
Insurance Botswana
Happy About Life.

Email: info@westlife.co.bw
Location: Plot 64511, Unit 8
Fairgrounds, Gaborone

   Westlife Insurance Botswana